

*Founded
1989*



*French
Association
3035*



Photograph taken by Eric Hansford 1

July 2022 Newsletter

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Reading Group	Tues 26 th July	11.30 hrs	Cherveux
Walk	Fri 29 th July	10.30 hrs	L'Absie
GT Summer Event	Sun 28 th Aug	12.30 hrs	Exireuil
History Talk	Thurs 15 th Sept	15.00 hrs	Cherveux

- Next Committee Meeting Thur 4th Aug via Zoom
- Final Copy Date May Newsletter Items 31st July 2022
- (gtnewsletter79@gmail.com)
- for publication by 31st July 2022

New and returning members

We would like to welcome back Tanya Lazar from America!

Craft Club - Advance Notice

Any keen crafters out there?

I'm planning on setting up a new and invigorated craft club in the autumn. There will be an inaugural meeting on Wednesday 14th September 2022 at 10am at 14 La Bourse. Please feel free to bring with you anything that you are currently working on and we can have a convivial sharing of ideas over coffee and cake.

If interested, please contact Helen Horton

We are inviting any member to send in their photographs, can be funny, beautiful or magically with a little caption to go with it. Its just for a bit of fun - NOTHING political! Send them to the newsletter editor qtnewsletter79@gmail.com - Thanks

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Reading Circle - Tues 26 July 2022 - 11:30 hrs - Chez Ritchie - Lesley Ritchie

Our next meeting will be at Lesley Ritchie's house in Cherveux on Tuesday 26th July at 11.30am, where will be discussing *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. This will be followed by a bring and share lunch.

If you are interested in joining us or would like more information about the group please contact Lesley.

L'Absie Walk Friday July 29 10.30 hrs L'Absie Eric and Michele Hansford

We will meet in the carpark in the centre of L'Absie. There are toilets there. For non-walkers there is an English café: 'Pause ' where you can get tea and coffee or the hotel bar should be open.

The 8km walk will take us round the Abbey gardens in L'Absie and then along the road to the L'Absie forest, so a mixture of quiet road and forest track. You will need to think about sun screen and hats - or maybe umbrellas! depending on the weather and obviously suitable footwear. There will be a short walk of about 3-4km.

Lunch will be at Chez Chantal on the right on the road out of L’Absie in the direction of Niort at 1pm. Please indicate when booking whether you would like meat, fish or vegetarian. It is priced at €14 for 3 courses and wine. Coffee at your own expense. Non-walkers are very welcome. Contact Michelle to book your place

GT Summer Event – Sun 28th Aug 12.30 hrs Exireuil Martin Hughes and the Committee

We will be holding our Summer event at Annette and Leslie's home in Exireuil.

We will start proceedings with Aperos at 12.30 hrs, there will be The really Nasty Horse Racing Game, croquet and Molly to entertain you.

We ask that you bring and share a variety of salads and desserts, a couple of BBQ's will be alight for you to cook your own meats, fish or veggie kebabs.

Details on chairs and tables will be nearer the time but we ask that you bring your own glasses, soft drinks, crockery, cutlery and candelabra (only joking!)

GT will provide aperos, wine (rosé, white and red), teas and coffees, bread and cheese.

For those who wish to swim, please bring your cossies, sadly no dishy lifeguard will be on hand to save you!

To book your place please contact Michele

History Talk Thursday 15th Sept 15.00 hrs Chateau de Cherveux Martin Hughes

Georges Simenon in hiding, talk by Jocelyn Simms

Between 1943 and 1945 Georges Simenon was living in obscurity in the village of St Mesmin-le-Vieux on the Deux- Sèvres /Vendée border. He was hiding from the Gestapo but other interested parties were also pursuing him. How he escaped capture is the subject of this unique archive.

Formerly a convivial man (with a pressing need for the company of women) he died a recluse at the age of 86 in Switzerland.

Fascinated by shady characters and misfits Simenon said that he didn't need imagination as he had witnessed the scenes he recounted in his novels. Almost 500 books were published in his lifetime. He corresponded with many famous authors: André Gide, Colette, Thornton Wilder and T. S. Eliot to name but a few.

We will take a look at his place in the canon of 20th Century literature.

Jocelyn Simms lives in St André-sur-Sèvre, once part of St Mesmin-le-Vieux, where she discovered this previously unpublished story. Jocelyn is a published poet and with her husband Gordon (poet and playwright) has put on writers' workshops, events and festivals in the UK and France.

Teas, coffee and biscuits/cake will be provided after the talk

There will be a charge of €5 to cover the cost of the venue and refreshments.

The 6 steps leading up to the grand hall do not have a hand rail, but rest assured

assistance will be on hand to those who require assistance.

Please contact Martin Hughes to book your place

[Event Reports](#)

Chateau Bourdin walk on Friday May 27 report by Michele Hansford

About 16 of us, excluding the hounds, met in the car park outside the church and set off to



explore the byways of Chateau Bourdin.

The weather was great, the views were excellent, the company entertaining so all in all a very good walk.

The restaurant in Monplaisir opened especially for us - tho a few non-walkers crept in as well! Our meal was delicious and very welcome after all our exercise. A big thank you

therefore to Keith and Diane for all their planning.

Jubilee Celebrations Sunday 5th June 2022 Report by Annette Green



The tables were set, bunting was waving in the breeze and flowers adorned every table – the Queen would have been proud! So, with aperos flowing, the chatting started to increase and you could tell that everyone was starting to relax and enjoy themselves.

Almost everyone had sported red, white and/or blue and we had a special treat – Margaret Balwin had worn her Pearly Queen outfit that she had made for a Carnival in Parthenay 20 years before! (See Margaret's article at the end of the report)



Everyone had pulled out all the stops regarding the food and there was certainly plenty of delicious food available.

Several new members attended and a couple who had just rejoined having travelled from America.

Later, Martin Hughes proposed a toast to the Queen, we were all upstanding with a glass of bubbly with 'Dancing Queen' by Queen playing in the background.

Most importantly, we must give a huge thank you to John and Maureen Buckley for opening up their home and garden to us all, we couldn't have done it without their generosity and the help of a few of their friends in setting up for the event.

Wine and Lunch Club Tues 7th May Report by Julia Murray



13 cheerful folks gathered at Martin's for June's lunch club. The theme was "spring time". Keith had chosen 4 bottles of rose wine from various regions of France. We all had a glass of sparkling wine from bordeaux and a good chat before sitting and eating some delicious food, while sampling wines from, provence, Loire and Touraine.

The superb 6 course lunch was lentil and feta salad, bread topped with mediterranean vegetables and salmon & asparagus salad. Followed by Eaton mess, lemon tart and Apple pie. To finish ...coffree and after eight chocolates.

Everyone went home very full and groaning but happy!

A big thank you to Martin for hosting the event and well done to all the superb cooks.

Fine Wine Encounter Tasting No3 Wed June 8th

Twelve worthy souls gathered to take on the task of giving our expert advice on the four carefully selected wines by our worthy Sommelier Keith Mousdale.

Our first encounter was a Sancerre, Henri Bourgeois-Grand Reserve, 2020, Appellation Sancerre AoP, Cepage: 100% Sauvignon Blanc, Alc: 13% .

A medium bodied dry white wine, with hints of green in its appearance. I found the flavour rich and fruity distinctly citrusy rather than grape fruit

And so fresh and satisfying. Nine out of ten. Around 18 euros a bottle. Pairs well with fish Cheeses and white meat.

Next a Rioja. Vina Real Grand Reserva 2014. Appellation Rioja DOCa, Cepage: Tempranillo 95% Graciano 5%, Alc, 13.5% . An elegant red wine from Spain. After spending 2 years in oak barrels this is finely blended with the fruity flavour of the Tempranillo. I found it slightly oaked with the flavour bursting out as it warmed in the mouth and improving as one got used to the depth of taste, with a light finish. Seven out of ten a lighter that some Rioja I have tasted. Around 26 euros a bottle. Pairs well with Duck, Chicken stew Mature Cheeses.

Then we have the Haut Medoc. Chateau Belgrave 2016. Grand Cru Classe 1855. Appellation: Haut Medoc AoP. Cepage: Cabinet Sauvignon 69% Merlot 28% Petit Verdot 3%. Intense red/purple robe with deep bouquet of black fruit and spices. The flavour is powerful and full and evolves as it is swallowed and warmed in the mouth. With a long and lasting finish. Eight out of ten as I found the tannin a touch strong however I could see that it would be a great after dinner wine to savour for its own sake. Pairs well with classic meat dishes but I'm not sure with white meats as the wine is so strong. Around 28 euros a bottle.



Lastly, a Bourgogne. Chateau De Beaune, Volnay 2016. Appellation: Volnay Premier Cru AoC. Cepage: Pinot Noir 100%. Alc: 13%.

A more distinguished wine with a clear ruby appearance. A fine bouquet of cherry and red fruit. I found with a lighter flavour for a red wine, a classic Burgundy. Seven out of ten, the Haut Medoc still a little dominant in my mind perhaps. Around 30 euros a Bottle. Pairs well with most meats and Poultry.

Our thanks to Keith for his excellent research and selection and Diane who supplied the pairing meats and cheeses . Our thanks also to our hosts Lesley and Neil Ritchie .

History Talk Thurs 16th June Report by Annette Green

We were treated to a very interesting and informative talk from Anthea Libby, who is herself an excellent artist and a GT member. The theme was a History of French Art from about 1700 to the 1850's

Anthea provided us with examples of their incredible work, and an insight into their techniques and related them to the political, social and cultural scenes of their day. We also learnt that a lot of artists had several apprentices, who would in fact do most of the work, especially the really large painting e.g. The Last Supper. Some of us

felt that this was a con, a famous painter putting their name to a painting which a lot of others had contributed to! However once we thought about it, it would have taken many years to complete if the apprentices had not been there.

The artists often had several paintings on the go at any one time.

We also gained an insight into the importance of the 'Salon' and its control.

The period Anthea spoke of covered the Rococo, neo-classical, Romantic eras, spanning the French revolution and the Napoleonic times, and finally realism, which became the precursor of the Impressionist painters and the breakaway from the strict regimes of the classical salon art classes. I decided there was nothing romantic about the Romantic paintings!

Anthea also demonstrated the techniques required to go from a small sketch to a larger painting.

So a big thank you to Anthea for her fine presentation and all her hard work in putting the presentation together.



Teas and coffees followed plus a much needed yummy biscuit or two!

Walk Friday 24th June St Maixant l'Ecole Report by John Buckley



On a bright, but not promising morning, 66 legs (or thereabouts) set off on what promised to be an extremely interesting and pleasant walk along the side of the Sèvre Niortaise. The early part of the walk proved to be on level, smooth tracks shaded by

lots of trees. Shortly after the start we stopped for the obligatory photograph, this time posed on a humpbacked pedestrian bridge over the river – no trolls in evidence fol-di-rol! Shortly after the photo-stop, four legs departed to continue the short walk

The next couple of kilometres or so were somewhat dampened by light showers which were not unpleasant. The leafy track provided some shelter. However, the dampness rendered the going tricky at times with parts of the track becoming a little slippery

After re-crossing the river via a rather rickety bridge, we realised the walk wasn't to be hill free, with a number of ascents, none which were too strenuous.

As we climbed, the vista opened up, and we had some

lovely views across the valley.

The six dogs thoroughly enjoyed extended periods off the lead and were pretty well behaved.

Soon we were back at our starting point, and, when shoes and boots had been changed, we departed for le Petit Toqué in Nanteuil. The two

“short walkers” and two non-walkers joined us for a very enjoyable, if noisy, lunch.

Thanks are due to Annette and Leslie for a most interesting and enjoyable walk and lunch.



Two tired dogs after their walk!

Walk fitness

We have been advised by our insurance company that we do not need a doctors certificate from each member to participate in physical activities, for us that is mainly walks, but could include bowling etc.

However, it is each members responsibility to ensure that they are fit enough to partake in any physical activity organised by GT.

NON GT

Cancer Support Deux Sevres

Aims to improve the lives of people affected by Cancer in Deux Sevres.

Cancer Support Deux Sevres has recently merged with Cancer Support Vienne, and we are now known as Cancer support Vienne and Deux Sevres , we are still here to help if you need us but contact is now via Cancer Support France, 0800 240 200, or helpline@cancersupportfrance.org , please note we no longer have a direct phone number for contact

Emergency Phone Numbers

15 SAMU (Medical)

17 Gendarmes

18 Pompiers (Fire Service – also trained for Medical Emergencies)

112 European Emergency Number

Don't Forget to Download the 'In Case of Emergency' Leaflet off the Get Together website, gettogether-france.org, move your mouse to 'information', then click on 'Useful Links'. You will find the ICE leaflet at the top of the list. Why not keep a copy by your phone and in your car.

Produced by: Annette Green, 2 La Gaconniere, 79400, Exireuil 06 69 40 12 94
gtnewsletter79@gmail.com

Website: Andy Walmsley, 5 Jarzay, 79200 St Germain de Longue Chaume
jarzay@gmail.com