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French
Association
3035

June 2023 Newsletter



A Rose

The keen gardeners amongst you will have noticed how wonderful roses are this year, glorious displays can be seen as you drive or walk around the area. The scent of honeysuckle also filling the balmy evening air. I can't wait for the sunflowers!!!

The weather has been glorious recently, but already we are warned that certain areas are red for drought issues in the Deux Sevres!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Quiz	Thurs 1 st June	18.00 hrs	St Gelais	Lesley Ritchie
Wine and Lunch Club 	Tues 6 th June	11.30 hrs	La Bourse	Diane Mousdale
Reading Circle	Tues 20 th June	11.00 hrs	Chez Beverley	Lesley Ritchie
Walk	Fri 30 th June	10.00 hrs	Le Tallud	David Jeapes
Summer Event 1 Races and Fun – Bring and Share	Sun 9 th July	12.30 hrs	Lezay	Diane Mousdale
Summer Event 2 Board Games, hats and Afternoon Tea	Sun 6 th Aug	12.30 hrs	La Chapelle Thireuil	Annette Green
Wine and lunch club (break for summer)	Tues 5 th Sept	11.30 hrs	TBC	Diane Mousdale
Ladies that Lunch	Wed 13 th Sept	12.30 hrs	Fomperron	Annette Green

Next Committee meeting Tues 6th June

Reports to NLE by 26th June

Newsletter 29th June

Quiz night Thurs 1st June 18.00 hrs (prompt) St Gelais Lesley Ritchie

Our next quiz night will be held at The Cafe des Sports at St Gelais, at 6pm for 6.30 meal before the quiz on Thursday 1st June.

There will be a choice of meat/poultry, fish or vegetarian for 16 euros, including wine and coffee.

Please sign up and let us have your food options by Sunday 28th May at the latest. You should receive an acknowledgement by email.

As usual, it will be teams of 4. There will be a charge of 2 euros each to cover the cost of the prizes.

If you need help getting your team together contact Lesley and Neil Ritchie.

Lunch & Wine Group Tues 6th June 11.30am La Bourse Diane & Keith Mousdale

The June meeting will be held at Michele & Eric's home in La Bourse, Nr L'Absie. The wines will be from the Loire region. Food, a starter, cheeses, or a dessert can preferably be from this region, but it can be from anywhere in France if unable to find one to suit. A small charge is made to cover the cost of the wines, usually around €3

A maximum of 14 bookings are on a first come basis, due to restriction on size for hosts houses and how many reasonable tastings from a bottle of wine, but in the event of over subscription anyone who cannot be accommodated will be offered first refusal for the following meeting.

If you would like to join us or would like more information or to book please contact Diane & Keith. You do not need to be culinary expert, it is just a fun social gathering with a lot of chat and lots to eat and drink so why not come along and give it a try?

Reading Circle Tues 20th June 11.00 hrs Courlay Lesley Ritchie

We are meeting at Beverley Lockett's home in Courlay followed by a bring and share lunch.

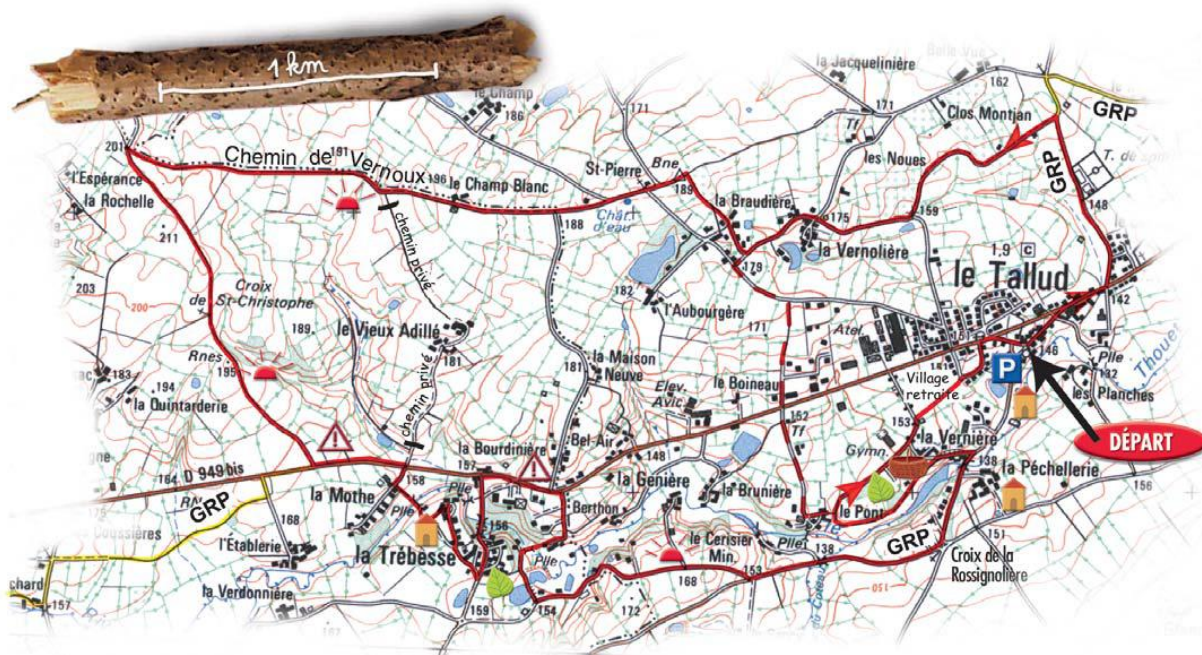
The book we are reading is *Still Life* by Sarah Winman.

Tuscany, 1944: As Allied troops advance and bombs fall around deserted villages, a young English soldier, Ulysses Temper, finds himself in the wine cellar of a deserted villa. There, he has a chance encounter with Evelyn Skinner, a middle-aged art historian who has come to Italy to salvage paintings from the ruins and recall long-forgotten memories of her own youth. In each other, Ulysses and Evelyn find a kindred spirit amongst the rubble of war-torn Italy and set off on a course of events that will shape Ulysses' life for the next four decades.

Please contact Lesley Ritchie directly if you wish to attend

Walk starts at 10.00hrs and ends in the same square as the restaurant Dynamic Club
The walk is approx. 2hrs 30 but as you can see there is a much shorter one.
The main walk is 10km the short one looks to be about 4km. If its hot please remember to bring water, sunscreen and a hat, plus of course wearing good walking shoes.

Non walkers are very welcome and can meet us at the restaurant for 12.55 hrs.
No necessary to prebook food as it'll be a choice of 3 plats on the day.
If you require a vegetarian option, please state when booking.
Last date for booking is Monday 26th June 2023



Summer Event 1 Races and Fun – Bring and Share **Sun 9th July 12.30 hrs** **Lezay**
Diane Mousdale

We are holding this event at Maureen and John's lovely home in Lezay, who have kindly offered to host.

Horse racing is on the agenda, plus some other fun games, plus of course seeing and mixing with friends – old and new.

We will ask you to provide a bring and share lunch. Aperos and Wine will be provided by GT, plus of course Tea, coffee etc

Full details will be in the next newsletter if not before! Please contact to book your place and say what you will bring to share – thank you

Summer Event 2 Board Games, hats and Afternoon Tea – Sun 6th Aug - 12.30 hrs – La Chapelle Thireuil - Annette Green

We thought we would try something a little different. Brad and Sally are kindly hosting this event at their lovely home. If you require directions can you add that when booking.

Board games will be made available or you can bring your favourite game – in our house it's 'the really nasty horse racing game'!

In addition we will be having a bring and share 'Afternoon Tea' and for a bit of fun, to wear your best hat – it's likely to be hot so you will need to wear one anyway.

We are suggesting you bring the usual fare for an 'Afternoon Tea' eg, scones, sandwiches - cucumber, cheese and pickle, ham and mustard, beef and horseradish, sausage rolls, cheese straws, cakes etc etc.

A glass of sparkly will be provided by GT to have with your afternoon tea, plus teas and coffees.

Please contact Annette Green via gtnewsletter79@gmail.com to book your place and to tell her what you would like to bring and share.

Ladies that Lunch – Wed 13th Sept 12.30 hrs Fomperron Annette Green

This will be the inaugural 'Ladies that Lunch' which will take place at Le Bistrot des Amis in Fomperron - 15 euros for a three course lunch.

The idea is to try something different, this is purely a chance to chat with old friends and make some new, whilst having a convivial lunch.

If this is a hit then we will take it in turns to organise the following lunches, could be monthly or bimonthly depending on the group.

If you are interested please contact Annette via email gtnewsletter79@gmail.com

Should any man be reading, this you could always set up your own - Men that Munch!! Just email me if you fancy setting a group up.

Reports

History Group at the Château de Cherveux on May 18th. Report by Eric Hansford

Speaker - Francois Redien



M. François Redien gave a fascinating, amusing and interesting talk on the history of the Château de Cherveux going right back to its mythical origins (it was supposedly constructed in one day by Melusine) passing through to modern times.

The castle largely dates from the period from the 12th to the 14th century, although much that you can see today is the result of a major reconstruction around 1470 by the Scotsman Robert Cunningham - hence Cherveux is often

referred to as the 'Scottish castle in France'.

François' father bought the castle and surrounding farm in 1931 and François has spent many years researching the history of his family home. It is now owned by an American lady living in Paris who makes jewellery and was bought for her by her American husband after they saw it on a television programme.

François recounted the story of the castle through turbulent times including relations with the locals, royalty and revolutionaries. The talk was given in French and translated by Michele Hansford although commendably many of the 30 members present followed the narrative in the original language.

François then conducted a guided tour of the main keep which was also very interesting. It was a pleasure to learn about this historic building from its previous owner whilst soaking in the atmosphere of the castle.

The History Group would like to thank François for his presentation.

Fine Wine event Thurs 25th May Report by Annette Green

Another successful evening hosted by Diane and Keith.

We sampled a white and 3 red wines, and not all from France!

We started off with the white wine a Bourgoyne - L'Aubaine, St Bris – 2021. France.

We all generally felt that it was an 'ok' wine. It was a Sauvignon Blanc, we discovered that it is normally Chardonnay from this region, a fresh and fruity number, perfect for a summers day.

The first red a Chateau Mongravey, Cru Bourgeois 2014 France.

This was a deep red wine. Floral with rose and violet together with red berry flavours. A medium weighted wine, elegant with fruity freshness, pairs well with lamb.

Most of the group enjoyed this wine.

Our second red was Italian. Ciabot Berton, Borolo 2018 Italy

Umm, this one received the thumbs up straight away. A bright ruby colour with flavours of strawberry and raspberry. Elegant and full bodied with aromas of roses. Pairs well with venison.

Lastly, we sampled a Spanish wine **Torresilo, Cillar de Silos, Ribera del Duero, 2019 Spain**

This was another wine that we all liked. It is an intense wine with concentrated flavours of red and black fruit and a long finish. Pairs well with Roast lamb.

Diane had prepared lots of different foods from cheeses, meats to mushrooms and pasta to go with specific wines. We were encouraged to try the wine first then eat some food and then try the wine again, it was very surprising how different the wines could taste, most of them we thought better with food.

So a BIG thank you to Keith our Sommelier and Diane the chef and also for hosting another great evening.

Non GT

Domaine de Pere are holding their 48th Fete des Plantes et du Jardin on 10 – 11th June 10 to 19 hrs. There will be 130 exhibitors. Entry fee of 7 euros.

www.fetedesplantesdepere.fr

Don Giovanni – Opera de Mozart

Performances will be on 10 -12- 14th August at Sanxay Theatre Gallo Romain. Prices range from 22 – 98 euros.

www.operasanxay.fr

For walks in the Deux Sevres take a look at www.tourisme-hautvaldesevre.fr

Cancer Support Deux Sevres

Aims to improve the lives of people affected by Cancer in Deux Sevres
CSDS direct number is 06 40 77 27 35
or contact Cancer Support France on freephone number 0800 240 200
or email Cancer Support France on helpline@cancersupportfrance.org
Cancer Support France will forward your details if you need local support

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.

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