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January 2024 Newsletter

New Year Blessings

Here comes a brand new year,
Lots of new things to explore,
A clean, blank slate to write on,
Fun happenings galore.

To you we wish the best of things,
All the blessings a new year brings.

By Joanna Fuchs

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wine and Lunch Club	Tues 7 th Nov	11.30 hrs	Lezay	Diane Mousdale
Ladies that Lunch	Tues 16 th Jan	13:00 hrs	Raffannes	Diane Mousdale
Walk	Fri 26 th Jan	10:30 hrs	St Ouenne	Yvonne Pond
Book Group	Wed 31 st	11:00 hrs	Courlay	Beverley Lockett
Wine and lunch club	Tues 6 th Feb	11.30 hrs	Le Retail	Yvonne Pond
AGM	Thurs 29 th Feb	11:00 hrs	Exireuil	Neil Ritchie

Next Committee meeting
Reports to NLE by 24th Jan

Newsletter 26th Jan

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership fees due NOW!

Couples 12 euros

Single 7 euros

You can set up a credit transfer to the GT account – See the photo below with the account details. It is really important to put your name as a reference. This is our preferred way to receive your renewal.

You can pay with cash or cheque at any event and please give to any Committee Member.



For those of you wanting to send a cheque by post to the membership secretary, please send to Diane Mousdale.

Walk organisers needed for 2024

I am currently trying to organise the 2024 walks.

Please let me know if you are willing to step in. We can help you plan the walk or organise the restaurant if you've never done it before.

Please contact me if you would like to talk about it or sign up.

Lesley Ritchie, walks co-ordinator.

Ladies That Lunch Tues 16th Jan. 13:00 hrs. Refannes Diane Mousdale

Proving to be very popular with GT ladies.....LTL has been organised for Tuesday 16th January 2024 at le Dix- Vingt in Refannes, 14 Rue de la Grande Auberge, 79420. (Christmas lunch location).

The table is booked for 1 pm. €14 for the meal, buffet starter and dessert with a choice of mains on the day.

Please contact Diane to book your place.

GT Walk Friday 26th Jan 10:30 hrs Sainte Ouenne Yvonne Pond

January walk. - Sainte-Ouenne

Yvonne and Steve are organising the January walk on Friday 26th January, meeting at the Mairie at 10.30am.

The short walk is around 3K, the longer walk around 8K.

As usual at this time of year come equipped for cold weather and possibly mud.

The meal is at La Terrasse de L'Autise, Ardin, at 12.30 and as ever, non-walkers are very welcome.

Please contact Yvonne for more information, and to reserve your place, choosing meat, fish or vegetarian.

Please book your place by email, which we will acknowledge.

Book Group Wed 31st Jan 11.00 hrs Courlay Beverley Lockett

A Single Thread by Tracey Chevalier

1932. After the Great War took both her beloved brother and her fiancé, Violet Speedwell has become a "surplus woman," one of a generation doomed to a life of spinsterhood after the war killed so many young men. Yet Violet cannot reconcile herself to a life spent caring for her grieving, embittered mother. After countless meals of boiled eggs and dry toast, she saves enough to move out of her mother's place and into the town of Winchester, home to one of England's grandest cathedrals. There, Violet is drawn into a society of broderers--women who embroider kneelers for the Cathedral, carrying on a centuries-long tradition of bringing comfort to worshippers.

Violet finds support and community in the group, fulfillment in the work they create, and even a growing friendship with the vivacious Gilda. But when forces threaten her new independence and another war appears on the horizon, Violet must fight to put down roots in a place where women aren't expected to grow. Told in Chevalier's glorious prose, *A Single Thread* is a timeless story of friendship, love, and a woman crafting her own life. Please note: we changed the book for January as originally we had one chosen by Helen

but she would not be able to lead the discussions.

To be hosted by Beverley Lockett in Courlay (79440) – car park is behind the church and opposite the house.

February Meeting:
21st February
Cloud Cuckoo Land by Anthony Doer
Hosted by Joyce in Scille (79240)

Lunch & Wine Group Tues 6th Feb 11.30am Le Retail Yvonne Pond

Tuesday February 6th, 11.30 for 12.00.

The theme is Local Wines so any dishes specific to the Gatine would be good.

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 Yvonne and Steve.

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?

Please contact Yvonne and Steve directly for directions if required.

AGM Thurs 29th Feb 11:00 hrs Exireuil Neil Ritchie

The 2024 AGM will take place at the Salle de Fetes in Exireuil.

It will be followed by a bring and share lunch so raid your recipe collection to prepare something truly scrumptious (vegetarian if you want me to be effusively grateful and enthusiastic). GT will provide liquid refreshments to satisfy all tastes. Further details on this to follow to make sure that not all of you bring sausage rolls and cheese and pineapple on a cocktail stick.

A formal agenda will be prepared and circulated in due course together with the minutes of last year's meeting. If you have any issues which you want to see (and hear) discussed at the AGM, please notify the Secretary - Neil Ritchie by Thursday 1st February 2024. All the usual delights will feature, including matters arising; President's report; Treasurer's report and adoption of accounts; Coordinator's report; appointment of auditor; AOB etc. Not forgetting the Election of Officers.

Apropos of which I should invite you all to consider whether you are interested in occupying one of these positions. No perks, just lashings of prestige. Strictly speaking the only position which becomes vacant this time around is the walks co-ordinator but all the incumbents are serving their second or third tour of duty and are consequently tired old

has-beens who could usefully be replaced by young, vigorous and dynamic people like you. And anyway the Newsletter Editor has indicated that she is minded to hand over the reins of GT's principal means of communication with members to someone else.

So would be Presidents and Treasurers and Secretaries and Editors this is your big opportunity. Don't delay. Contact the Secretary forthwith to ask for a nomination form which you should return by Thursday 1st February. Any of the existing officers will be very happy to talk to you about what's involved if you would find that helpful.

Feel free to get in touch.

GT Event Reports

LTL Nov report by Julia Murray

For Novembers Ladies That Lunch we went to le petite Torque in Nanteuil near St Maixent. A venue we have used many times with the GT group, as usual the atmosphere and food was very good. 8 ladies met for the lunch, everyone arrived on time except for me! . 3 courses, wine and coffee for 18.50€ plus constant discussions on family, holidays, politics and life in general. All that talking and no arrangements were made for the next meeting although it was agreed that it should be in January.



History Group report Wed 15 Nov Report by Phil Taylor

A very good talk presented by Michele on the history of France from 1789 to the 5th Republic getting set up in 1958.

In summary, the Paris Commune was created in 1871 and was literally the centre of the talk.

The 1st Republic was created in 1792, the 2nd in 1848 and the 3rd in 1871 following the Franco-Prussian War. The Paris Commune was all part of setting up the 3rd Republic. The 4th Republic was not until 1946 and then General De Gaulle set up the 5th Republic in 1958.

An excellent presentation which was enjoyed by all of us who were there!

Thank you to Michele for a most interesting talk.
Thank you to Lesley and Neil for organising everything.



GT walk October report by John Chard

For the first time in what seems like years a group of 17 walk Super U car park at Saint-Léger-de-la-Martinière for a south there were no dogs in the group.

We set off along the route around the arboretum on a nice walk. The walking was mainly flat and on made paths. At half way for the short route returning via the town centre with a short break on Boulevard.

The reunited group went to the "o'rest'o" restaurant in St R. we enjoyed a very pleasant lunch.

November Walk report by Julia Murray

We all met in the car park in cherveux next to the protestant church, we're we split into 2 groups and set off in opposite directions. The group doing the short walk finished at Neil and lesleys house for coffee .We're assured they did walk! The rest of us had a lovely walk through the countryside and around cherveux's plan d'eau which has a water park, treetop trail and swimming. We even saw some freshwater cormorants and an otter!

Surprisingly we didn't get wet on today's walk, there was short period of drizzle as we set off , but plenty of squelchy mud and wet grass. My feet were definitely very wet !

Lunch was at le sporting in St Gelais and as usual the food and service was very good.



Thank you Neil and Lesley for organising the walk and restaurant.

Christmas Walk and Lunch report by Yvonne Pond



The Christmas walk around Saint Lin attracted a good crowd despite the weather forecast with 16 people and 3 dogs. We started with a slow climb uphill to get a to a view point back across the valley to our start point and it was shortly after that the short walk spilt off to head for nearest hot coffee.

The long walk with just 4 people and the dogs had a wonderful if rather wet walk along quiet lanes and fields with the added entertainment of both Yvonne and I taking falls into the mud, no injuries!

Thanks go to Les and Annette for sorting the walk for us.



After the walk we went on to the Christmas lunch at Dix-Vingt in Reffannes. The restaurant provided an excellent meal and some lovely wines and a long, leisurely meal was enjoyed by all. There was an attendance of over 35 people and it was marvelous to see so many members gathered together.

A big thank you to the staff at Dix-Vingt and to the committee for organizing of the event.



Book Group Report by Beverley Lockett

A small bunch of us met at Clare's on Wednesday, thank you Clare for hosting and your warm welcome.

The book was *Love After Love* by Ingrid Persaud as recommended by Clare

The book is about a 'family unit' made up of Mum, son and a lodger. It explores many themes including sexuality, self-harm and what it means to be a family.

A few of us thought that the language was difficult to follow, but after a few chapters this did improve. The book was written with dialect that we were unfamiliar with. Discussions centred around language, love, being a misfit, misunderstood and fear. I'm making it sound like a depressing book which it wasn't at all. We all thought the characters were really well rounded and brilliantly painted. The word 'authentic' was used a lot – the book showed us many authentic discussions and characters and was refreshingly open. However some of the themes were also overwhelming to some readers.

The end was sad, lovely and hopeful. One expression discussed was that the book showed you that you "have to press on with life, even if you can't see a way out"

Words were : authentic; forthright; loneliness and awkward

Favourite quotes from the book:

"You don't own shame"

"We are forever getting more than we can bear. Always. It's just that we don't have a choice in the matter."

Non GT

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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