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French
Association
3035

Feb 2024 Newsletter



Happy Valentine's Day!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Book Group	Wed 31 st Jan	11:30 hrs	Courlay	Beverley Lockett
Wine and lunch club	Tues 6 th Feb	11.30 hrs	Le Retail	Yvonne Pond
Book Group	Wed 21 st Feb	11.30 hrs	Scille	Beverley Lockett
AGM	Thurs 29 th Feb	11:00 hrs	Exireuil	Neil Ritchie
Bowling	Wed 13 th Mar	17:00 hrs	Chaudry, Niort	Neil Ritchie

Next Committee meeting
Reports to NLE by 27th Feb

Newsletter 29th Feb

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership fees due NOW! **LAST CHANCE – MUST BE IN BY 31ST JANUARY 2024**

Couples €12

Single €7

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.

Wine and Lunch Club – host required for Tuesday 5th March 2024.

Please contact Diane Mousdale if you are happy to host.

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

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

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

Places still available - 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?

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

The 2024 AGM will take place at the Salle de Fetes, Exireuil on Thursday, February 29th at 11am at the Salle des Familles, Rue du Stadt, 79400 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.

Please contact Michele Hansford for the Bring and Share Lunch stating what food you intend to bring. Thank you.

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.

Glory beckons

The annual GT tenpin bowling competition will take place on Wednesday 13th March at 5pm (17.00 if you've gone native) at Bowling de Chauray, Rue de Gay Lussac, 79180, Chauray. That's the one next to the monster Casino supermarket that we have used in the past (i.e. not the gloomy one we went to last time). <https://www.bowling-niort-chauray.com/> for directions. It will cost €11.50 (which includes a drink) for two rounds of triumph or embarrassment. Hiring shoes will cost you a couple of extra euros. When it's all over and you have finished chortling at all the bowls I sent hurtling into the gutter we will repair to Les Pyramides (at about 7pmish) for some sustenance and to proclaim the champion. From memory this will be €14 or so for 4 courses but it's a while since we have been there.

Contact Neil to secure your participation. The deadline will be 7th March but feel free to let us know at your earliest convenience.

GT Event Reports

Report from Julia and Peter Murray, who are touring Europe.....

We finally set off in the motorhome on Monday 15th afternoon, s
San Sebastien but didn't stay as it was raining. Had to pay 15€ to sleep in a carpark!

Tuesday arrived in Zaragoza and stayed until Friday, free motorhome parking. Nice city but nothing spectacular, nice park. 20c sun and cloud. We did alot of walking so needed a rest, 2.70€ for a coffee and a beer.



Friday was raining so we headed to La Pablo de farnal near Valencia.

Lucky that we travelled on Friday as the mountain range we crossed was closed on Saturday due to snow.

The sun has come out 15 c to 20c forecasted for the next 10 days.


Nice free motorhome parking next to the beach. Sat in the sunshine while typing this.

Besides enjoying the sunshine these are the highlights of our week so far.

Our starter motor was faulty, Peter had to lay under the van hitting it with a hammer while i turned the engine over until it started. Peter replaced it with a new one ,in the carpark, its good having a man who can do these things!

Went out for drive, we don't have a motorhome satnav. Ended up going down narrow roads through the orange groves with a dead end, low bridge and had to stop in the road in a small village as we didn't think the motorhome would fit through. The man from the car behind us assured us that we can fit through. We chatted and he was telling us he made a BBC language program called "Follow me" in the 1970s. And yes, we did fit...just!



What fun life can be 

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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