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## April 2024 Newsletter

Rather than leave GT without a Newsletter, I have taken over until another member volunteers for the job. This will only be for 2024 however so I really hope someone agrees to step up.

Let's look forward to a dry Spring!  
Remember to turn your clocks forward.

Following the bowling this month several people mentioned that they would like a bowling outing further north and suggested Bressuire. If you live around there and would like to organise a bowling evening please get in touch. I know Lesley and Neil would be happy to support you.

Some of you may remember that Joyce Roberts had been hosting Library Club in the past, with thousands of GT books and those she has collected over the years. Joyce would like to propose an Open House to view/borrow/exchange/donate books and to discuss whether there is appetite to recommence monthly get togethers in May. Details will be confirmed in the next newsletter.

### Calendar of Events

Wine and lunch Club	Tuesday 2 April	11.30 hrs	La Bourse	Keith & Diane Mousdale
History Talk	Wednesday 17 April	15.00hrs	Café des Sports St Gelais	Eric Hansford
Book Group	Wednesday 24 April	11.30 hrs	La Bourse	Beverley Lockett
GT Walk	Friday 26 April	10.00hrs	Sainte-Ouene	Yvonne Pond

Chemins de la Rose	Wed May 22	12.00	Doué en Anjou (la Fontaine)	Yvonne Pond
GT Quiz	Wed June 12	6pm	Café des Sports St Gelais	Michele Hansford

## **Walks Co-ordinator**

**Lesley Ritchie**

### **URGENT - Walk organisers needed for 2024**

I am currently trying to organise the 2024 walks. **Organisers are needed for July, October and November.**

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.

## **Lunch&Wine Group Tues 2 April 11.30 La Bourse Diane&Keith Mousdale**

The April meeting will be held at Michele & Eric's home at La Bourse, near L'Absie. The theme of the meeting for wine is looking at the differences in Languedoc past and present. Food: a starter, cheeses or a dessert should be anything from the south of France, but please co-ordinate with Diane to ensure all items are covered. A small charge is made to cover the cost of the wines, usually around €3 -4.

A maximum of 14 bookings on a first come basis, due to restrictions on size of the hosts' house and how many reasonable tastings can be got 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 book to join us or would like more information, please contact Diane & Keith

You do not need to be a 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 Diane or Keith for directions if required.

**History Group    Wed 17 April    15.00 St Gelais    Eric Hansford**

The next History Group talk will be on 17th April at 3:00 pm at the Cafe de Sports in St Gelais. The subject will be the development of aviation after the first world war. This was a time of rapid advances in technology and feats of bravery or foolhardiness in which French and British aviators played their part. This is a continuation of my previous talk 2 years ago.

If you wish to have lunch before the meeting, please let me know your choice of meat/fish/vegetarian by Friday 12 April at the very latest.

Contact Eric Hansford

**Book Group    24 April    11:30    La Bourse    Beverley Lockett**

Book chosen is '*Becoming*' by Michelle Obama

An intimate, powerful, and inspiring memoir by the former First Lady of the United States.

In a life filled with meaning and accomplishment, Michelle Obama has emerged as one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era. As First Lady of the United States of America - the first African American to serve in that role - she helped create the most welcoming and inclusive White House in history while also establishing herself as a powerful advocate for women and girls in the United States and around the world, dramatically changing the ways that families pursue healthier and more active lives and standing with her husband as he led America through some of its most harrowing moments. Along the way, she showed us a few dance moves, crushed Carpool Karaoke, and raised two down-to-earth daughters under an unforgiving media glare.

**GT Walk    Friday 26 April    10:00    Sainte Ouenne    Yvonne Pond**

The short walk is around 3km and the longer walk around 8km.

The meal is at La Terrasse de L'Autize, Ardin, at 12.30 and, as usual, non-walkers are very welcome. This is about 15km from the walk starting place.

Please contact me Yvonne to reserve your place, please choose meat, fish or vegetarian.

I will send more details about parking etc when I acknowledge your booking.

**GT Quiz Wed 12 June 18:00 Cafe des Sports St Gelais Michele&Eric**

Several people have told us they would like to come to the quiz but don't like driving at night. I know some of our regular attendees work and can't come earlier so I am hoping that by arranging a summer quiz when it will still be light when we finish we will satisfy all.

As always there will be several rounds, the option to eat beforehand and a (hopefully) guaranteed good time for all. Please come and join us. Teams of 4 if you wish, or we can form teams on the night. Exercise those little grey cells in good company!

Contact Michele to sign up or for further information. If you want to eat before the quiz, please let me know your preference of meat/fish/vegetarian. I need numbers by Friday June 7 at the very latest.

**GT Event Reports**

**Bowling 13 March**

**Report by Neil Ritchie**

The annual GT tenpin bowling championship took place in mid-March and featured the usual range of performances, from the decidedly average to the not as good as that. That said some bowlers showed a remarkable improvement over their 2022 efforts but in the absence of any drug testing regime rumour and speculation could not be confirmed or denied.

After the event we went for some well earned sustenance at Les Pyramides transport cafe where several bewildered truck drivers were treated to the spectacle of a British prize giving. Here the extent of management failure became clear as both prizes were won by members of the same household. Hence two bottles of Lalande des Pomerol were presented to David and Suzette Jeapes and duly despatched to St Pardoux where carousing doubtless continued into the night.

Something must be done to prevent this ever happening again. The committee should be sacked forthwith for this dreadful dereliction of duty.

**Book Group 20 March**

**Report by Beverley Lockett**

Our book was *Lessons In Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus

The words used to describe it were: Inequality  
Non-Conformist  
Over-coming

Liberating  
Strength

Indomitable

Everybody enjoyed the book and we all found parts of it uplifting and eye opening. Elizabeth is a witty, forceful main character who faces many challenges but always faces them in her own way and refuses to be told she should do anything. We suspect that Elizabeth was on the autistic spectrum. The book definitely shone a spot light on an era that we hoped was all over – the huge inequalities faced by women – but from our own experiences we know there is still much inequality out there but fortunately because of characters like Elizabeth things have changed in the last 70 years!

We all like the character of the Dog especially as it gave an element of warmth and concern for others that maybe Elizabeth lacked.

Overall it was a humorous and cleverly woven story.

Several of us had read the book before so we didn't have many quotes, but one of them was: "many believe that protein comes only from meat, but where does the protein come from in meat – vegetables. The world's biggest animals eat only vegetables"

The next reading circle is *Becoming* by Michelle Obama on 24<sup>th</sup> April at 11:30

### Fine Wine Evening 21 March Report by Annette Green

Our Fine Wine event was a great success, thanks to Diane and Keith.

We started the evening with a Pouilly Fumé AOP 2022, 100% Sauvignon blanc. We all agree that we all loved Pouilly Fumé. However, the three reds that followed encountered more discussion, with roughly a third of us each liking a different wine.

We were treated to a Chateau la Tour Carnet 2021, a Bordeaux, followed by a Burgundy Beaune de Château AOP 2020 Premier Cru 100% Pinot Noir and lastly we sampled a Rioja, DOC Finca La Emperatriz 2018, mainly made from the

Tempranillo grape ☐.

The Rioja may have just edged it in the popularity stakes!

A most enjoyable evening and it's great to be able to try more expensive wines that we probably wouldn't consider buying, it gave us all food for thought



Thanks again to Diane and Keith for their hospitality and wine selection



A few of us ladies had a lovely afternoon with lots of chatting and laughter.

We ate at Bar Le Paradis in Champdeniers.

A nice little restaurant with a good selection of starters and dessert, but limited choice main at 1pm.

I would definitely go back another time.

**Update from Julia and Peter Murray on their travels:**

Well ,not much has happen since the last update on the 15th February, we spent our time zigzagging between Bezier and Carcassonne . We checked the weather forecast on a daily basis and moved to avoid the wind and rain. It's amazing the difference in the weather between the two cities. Strong winds in a high profile motorhome can be pretty scary. As a result we did have decent weather 16c and dry. Our daughter flew out again, this time to Carcassonne airport, which after turning into the carpark, driving 300m on a one way system, has a height restriction barrier! Fortunately there is a slip road for buses and taxis with an intercom system to obtain the code to lift the barrier and they spoke

English, phew!☐.

We spent the next 5 days exploring Béziers and Carcassonne. Our granddaughter aged 2.5yrs, didn't let cold spoil her enjoyment of paddling in the water feature in Bezier, they live in Yorkshire so 16c and no rain is summer to them!

When they left the weather forecast was rain, rain, rain everywhere, so we just went home.



Next Committee meeting April 10

For walks in the Deux Sevres take a look at [www.tourisme-hautvaldesevre.fr](http://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](mailto: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](http://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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