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May 2024 Newsletter



Traditionally, sprigs of lily of the valley are handed out to friends and family members on Fête du Muguet (or Labour Day). It's a tradition that has been celebrated for many years, since the 16th Century, and is seen as a symbol of good luck for the coming

What can you do to celebrate May 1st this year:

Chef-Boutonne has a swap market for lovers of old cars/motorbikes/tractors etc - could be a fun day out.

Champdeniers has the Fête des Plantes des Jardiniers du Paradis - a great opportunity to get your potager filled with interesting veg and beautiful flowers in your flowerbeds.

Chantemerle has a Randonnée des Muguet

Niort: last day of the Foire de Niort at the Parc des Expositions

Bressuire: 43rd Salon de Peinture in the château

Saint-Maixent-L'Ecole and Fressines: both have vides greniers and flea markets

Calendar of Events

Wine and Lunch Club	Tuesday 7 Mai	11h30	Scillé	Keith & Diane Mousdale
Chemins de la Rose	Wed May 22	12.00	Doué en Anjou (la Fontaine)	Yvonne Pond
GT Walk	Friday 24 Mai	tbc	St Pardoux	Lesley Ritchie
Book Group	Wednesday 29 May	11h30	La Marietière, Scillé	Beverley Lockett

Library Club	Thursday 30 May	from 14h00	La Mariettière, Scillé	Joyce Roberts
GT Quiz	Wed June 12	18h	Café des Sports St Gelais	Michele Hansford
Summer Event	Sunday ? July	12h00	Le Tallud	Committee

Walks Co-ordinator

Lesley Ritchie

URGENT - Walk organisers needed for 2024

I am currently trying to organise the 2024 walks. **Organisers are needed for 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 Lesley Ritchie if you would like to talk about it or sign up.

Lunch & Wine Group Tues 7 May 11h30 Scillé Diane & Keith Mousdale

The May meeting will be hosted by Leonie and John to be held at Joyce's home La Mariettière Scillé. The theme of the meeting is wines for summer from Provence. Food, a starter, cheeses or a dessert is anything from the south of France, but which item is needed to be in collaboration 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 are on a first come basis, due to restriction on size of 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 book to join us or would like more information please contact Diane & Keith. You do not need so 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?

Chemins de la Rose 12h00 Doué-la-Fontaine Steve & Yvonne Pond

Steve and Yvonne Pond have suggested an outing to the Chemins de la Rose in Doué la Fontaine on May 22. The idea would be to eat first at the Bistrot de la Saulaie. Those of you who came to the History Group visit at Montreuil Bellay last year will remember this excellent restaurant: 3 courses €15.90, 2 courses €13.90.

From there to the Chemins de la Rose is a short drive. Late May should be a perfect moment to see the roses in full bloom. Group entrance charge €6.50 each. We would suggest a car share as the 'greenest' option!

From the Chemins de la Rose website:

The rose garden Les Chemins de la Rose in Doué-la-Fontaine, the city of roses, is a natural haven that takes you on an enchanting walk. **This English-type garden is made up of 13,000 rosebushes**, alleys and ponds, and houses a collection of old and new roses.

Les Chemins de la Rose are open **from March to November** to the individuals visitors, the families and the groups. Visit the rose garden according to your desires and enjoy a walk in a floral universe. The visit of the rose garden, an open site, rural and surrounded by nature, will be the ideal place to go out to recharge your batteries.

If this would interest you, please contact Steve and Yvonne

GT Walk Friday 24 May TBC Saint Pardoux Lesley Ritchie

David Jeapes will be organising the May Walk. Details will be sent out soon.

Book Group 29 May 11h30 Scillé Beverley Lockett

The Catcher in the Rye by J . D. Salinger

This was first published in 1951. Originally intended for adults, it is often read by adolescents for its themes of angst and alienation, and as a critique of superficiality in society. The novel also deals with themes of innocence, identity, belonging, loss, connection, sex, and depression. The main character, Holden Caulfield, has become an icon for teenage rebellion.¹ Caulfield, nearly of age, gives his opinion on a wide variety of topics as he narrates his recent life events.

Written with the clarity of a boy leaving childhood behind, *The Catcher in the Rye* explores the world with disarming frankness and a warm, affecting charisma which has made this novel a universally loved classic of twentieth-century literature, still selling about 1 million copies a year.

The meeting is to be held at Joyce's house in Scillé,
The book group meets at 11.30, followed by a bring and share light lunch. New members are always welcome to join us and discuss opinions of this popular book.

Library Club Open Afternoon from 2pm Scillé Joyce Roberts

If you are a book lover, please book out your diary on 30 May to enjoy tea, coffee and homemade treats at Joyce's house. Joyce still hosts thousands of GT books and many of her own for you to borrow or exchange.

Please feel free to donate more books and to come with suggestions about whether/how to bring the Library Club back to life.

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 Summer Event 2024 12h00 Le Tallud GT committee

Jilly and David Rosenberg have very kindly agreed to host this year's Summer Event in their lovely garden by the river in Le Tallud. This is a bring and share meal. GT will provide aperos, wine and water. By popular request the horses will be making a return visit and we will stage the GT Gold Cup after lunch. Fine weather has been requested, but cannot be guaranteed.

The exact date has yet to be confirmed but it will be a Sunday and it will be in July! Further details and booking information to follow.

GT Event Reports

Book Group **24 April**

Report by Beverley Lockett

Becoming by Michelle Obama

Overall, most people enjoyed the book. One audio version was read by a man with lots of intonation, however the one where Michelle is reading it herself is very flat and hard making the language sound childish and annoying. Some of us preferred the first section where she was talking about her childhood and background; others preferred the second part about being in The White House. Her parents played a huge role in both her upbringing and her mother in her life in the White House as well. Her Mum was many people's favourite character. The lack of scandal in Barack's tenure of presidency was evident in the book, a stark contrast to the present situation in the USA. The Obamas come across as being motivated by values rather than money.

It also highlighted the stupidity of their political system with only short-term national planning and huge amounts of money spent on getting elected.

Words were: Heart Childish Thought-provoking Determination
Nobility Worthy Growth Sacrifice

Some quotes were:

"I was caught up in the lonely thrill of being a teenager now, convinced that the adults around me had never been there themselves"

"you can live for a hundred days beneath an iron-grey sky, that claps itself over the city like a lid. Biting winds blow ice that shellacs the sidewalks."

"do you want to settle for the world as it is or how it should be?"

GT Walk **29 March**

Report by Steve Pond

The walk around L'Absie was organised by by Michele and Eric.

Despite a little confusion over the start point, some people in the wrong car park, we all set off to enjoy our Friday walk.

Weather forecast was not good but the rain held off for most of the way round and the sun even put in a brief visit.

The shortest walk was only a couple of km and as they headed off for coffee, the shorter walk was 4km the rest of us continued through the countryside enjoying a mix of woodland and nut orchards.

Four dogs joined us on the walk and they did almost twice the distance we did!

At the end of a very enjoyable walk lunch was had at Chez Chantal where we were joined by a few more members.

Thanks to Michele and Eric for leading a marvellous morning.

GT Walk **26 April** **report by Michele Hansford**

A group of 12 members met in Sainte Ouenne for a dry walk: the first for several months! No dogs in evidence, sadly. We were evenly split between short and long walkers. The shorties did about 3km, along empty roads between fields of flowering rape and fresh ploughed fields. The roadside verges offered spring flowers, including poppies both red and orange, to delight our eyes. We then headed on for coffee at Les Terrasses sur L'Autize, where we met up with new members David and Valda and were delighted to see Keith and Diane - without crutches!

We were joined at about 12.15 by the slightly muddy long walkers who had deviated through a ploughed field and panted as they climbed a very steep track! They deserved their reward of a delicious meal at a new venue for us - which we will definitely return to!

Thank you to Steve and Yvonne for introducing us to a new are of the Deux Sèvres, and to a new restaurant.

What3Words

We have been asked to explain this odd reference.

It is an app for your smart phone which we find extremely helpful when seeking out rural venues.

Use the internet to read: <https://what3words.com/ways-to-use>.

It is to be recommended

Next Committee meeting June 12, though much communication via WhatsApp and email!

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

Cancer Support Deux Sevres

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

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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