

*Founded
1989*



*French
Association
3035*

We have included a short questionnaire with this Newsletter. Please take the time to complete and return it. The more replies we get, the more useful the information as we plan future GT activities.

June 2024 Newsletter



Were you up until the early hours on May 10-11? We slept on in our camper van in Ireland, in ignorance of the marvellous sight lighting up the night sky. This beautiful photo was taken by Bernie Smith in Vasles. Our son in Norway said it was never dark enough there to be seen!

We have an update for those of you who came to the AGM in 2023. Helen Horton, who gave the presentation at that event on her introduction to bee keeping, has at last got her 2 hives buzzing. So far all seems to be going well - important for us as her neighbours!



Calendar of Events

Wine and Lunch Club	Tuesday 11 June	11h30	Le Retail (full)	Keith & Diane Mousdale
GT Quiz	Wed June 12	18h	Café des Sports St Gelais	Michele Hansford
Book Group	Wed June 26	11h30	Courlay	Beverley Lockett
GT Walk	Friday June 28	tbc	Parthenay	Lesley Ritchie
Summer Event	Sunday 21 July	12h00	Le Tallud	Committee

Walks Co-ordinator

Lesley Ritchie

There are no walks planned for July or August due to expected heat and to the lack of volunteer organisers

Lunch & Wine Group Tues 11 June 11h30 Le Retail Diane & Keith Mousdale

The June meeting will be hosted at Yvonne and Steve Pond's home near Le Retail. The theme of the meeting will be wines from anywhere but France. Food, a starter, cheeses or a dessert similarly can be from anywhere but France, but which item is needed should 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 the number 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 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?

GT Walk Friday 29 June TBC Parthenay Lesley Ritchie

Margaret and Geoffrey will be organising the June walk in Parthenay. Full details will be mailed when they are available. They have internet problems at the moment which is hindering planning! (I empathise) However lunch will be at the Panda Wok at 1pm and non walkers, as always, are welcome to join us.

Please contact Lesley Ritchie to sign up stating walking/no walking but no need to declare any dietary preferences.

Book Group 26 June 11h30 Courlay Beverley Lockett

Discussing *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi

The million-copy bestselling book about a small Japanese cafe that offers its visitors the chance to travel back in time.

Toshikazu Kawaguchi's moving *Before the Coffee Gets Cold*, translated from Japanese by Geoffrey Trousselot, explores the age-old question: what would you do if you could travel back in time? More importantly, who would you want to meet, maybe for one last time?

In a small back alley in Tokyo, there is a cafe which has been serving carefully brewed coffee for more than one hundred years. But this coffee shop offers its customers a unique experience: the chance to travel back in time.

In *Before the Coffee Gets Cold*, we meet four visitors, each of whom is hoping to make use of the cafe's time-travelling offer, in order to: confront the man who left them, receive a letter from their husband whose memory has been taken by Alzheimer's, see their sister one last time, and meet the daughter they never got the chance to know.

But the journey into the past does not come without risks: customers must sit in a particular seat, they cannot leave the cafe, and finally, they must return to the present before the coffee gets cold . . .

Intrigued? Read the book then contact Beverley to book a place. 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 the books we read.

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!

Bookings have been slow for the quiz. If we don't have at least 5 teams before Friday June 7 we will have to cancel. This would put the future quizzes in jeopardy. 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 July 21 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.

NO DOGS - this is a cat zone, sorry Annette!



Please contact Annette Green to book your place, at the same time telling her what you will be bringing and sharing. As always at this time of year we are happy for you to bring any guests you may have staying with you.

GT Event Reports

Chemins de la Rose 22 May Doué-la-Fontaine report by Joyce Roberts

On the 22nd of May, 24 people met at the Bistrot de la Saulaie to enjoy lunch before heading over to the Chemins de La Rose in Doué La Fontaine. We were greeted with an incredible waft of “smelling the roses” as soon as we arrived at the Roseraie. 13,000 rose bushes came in every colour and shape you can imagine. The rain luckily held off until the moment that the last of us left.

A big thank you to Yvonne Pond for coming up with such a good idea to make a great day out possible. We are hoping that this success may spark further volunteers and suggestions.

GT Walk 24 May Le Tallud Report by Steve Pond

The walk around Tallud started well with David happy that everyone had arrived on time so off we set promptly only for him to receive a call 5 minutes later asking where we were, one got left behind! A quick recovery and off we all set for the walk. After a short time together the short walkers, 4 people, separated off to leave the long group of 6 to enjoy a mixed tour through fields and small villages. Despite some minor detours and cutting off the end to make the bar for lunch on time the walk was delightful.

Afterwards we were joined by non walking members for an excellent and very relaxed lunch.

Thanks go to David for leading the walk and Suzette for sorting the lunch.



Joyce would like to thank everyone who came up with suggestions for the group and would welcome any further ideas.

What3Words

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 Sèvres take a look at www.tourisme-hautvaldesevre.fr

Charities we support:

Cancer Support Deux Sèvres

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

Association Violet

Supporting Children living with lifelong disabilities - this is a local charity run by Suzette Jeapes, an active GT member.

Association Violet HQ – Moulin Poussard, Saint Pardoux Soutier or find them on Facebook

Emergency Phone Numbers

15 SAMU (Medical)

17 Gendarmes

18 Pompiers (Fire Service – also trained for Medical Emergencies)

112 European Emergency Number

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Questionnaire

We would like you to help the GT Committee by answering this short survey.

Please email your responses to gtnewsletter79@gmail.com
or if you would prefer to remain anonymous send the completed form to Annette Green

1. How long have you been a GT member?

2. Where in the Deux Sèvres do you live?

a, North. b, Central. c, South. d, Another dept

3. How old are you?

4. What activities would you like to see offered?

5. How many GT events have you attended in the last year?

6. Which day or days are better for holding GT events? Eg weekends only

7. Do you have a preference for any particular organised event eg: active, dining, quiet social?

8. Anything else you wish to add.....