

*Founded
1989*



*French
Association
3035*

July 2024 Newsletter

An early newsletter this month as I will be away for the rest of June. Any missing events will be sent out by email. Please sign up for the Summer Event as soon as possible so we can organise food and drink in good time.

Outcomes from the recent questionnaire: I think we have registered 2 very important issues raised by this.

Firstly many respondents would prefer daytime rather than evening activities and we will be keeping this in mind.

Secondly there are several requests for activities which would probably involve only a few members at any one time. Clearly these would need to be aimed at members living in relatively close proximity. One request was for members interested in playing bridge, another request was for a craft group. With this in mind, there will be a new section in the newsletter where members can seek out like-minded people, giving an idea of where they would like a 'starter' meeting to be held. This could be either in your own home, or perhaps in a nearby bar/café which would welcome a group on condition of course that they purchase drinks/cakes/meals at the same time. I know that the Pause Café here in L'Absie does this and I am sure they are not unique!

We have an idea, prompted by a suggestion from one member, that it might be interesting to organise an 'away' trip to somewhere of interest that is too far to be visited in a single day. We could organise the visit itself, make suggestions for possible accommodation and liaise with those interested to sort out car sharing. One current thought would be a visit to Guédelon, which is about 4.5 hours drive from here. It is close to the 'wine' villages of Sancerre and Pouilly-sur-Loire and to the medieval city of Bourges which could be a second day of visits if we were to stay 3 nights.

Another idea is a trip to the Normandy Beaches. I am sure I don't need to tell you of the things to see there which would fill 2 days.

We would be very interested to hear from you whether this might appeal. In September we thought we would have an outing to the Hippodrome de Niort to see the races. The date for your diary is September 15, it is a 'trotting' meet and in the past has been enjoyed by all. Full details in the next newsletter.

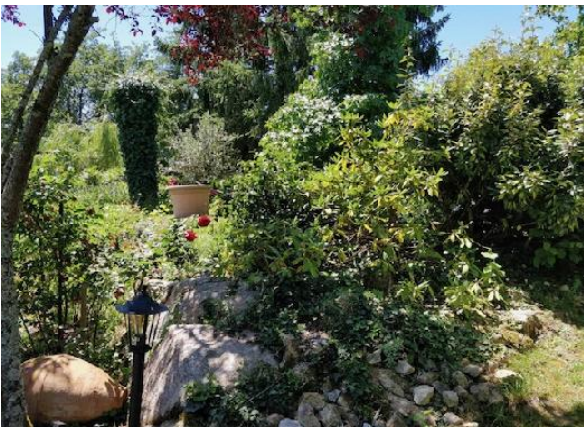
Calendar of Events

July and August are quiet months - too hot for long sunny walks, too many visitors needing entertaining but you mustn't miss out on

THE MAIN GT EVENT!

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.



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

Reading Group

May 29

report by Beverley Lockett

Catcher In The Rye

John, who chose the book, had read it 50 years before, found it life changing and wanted to revisit it. His initial thoughts were "why did I think it was life changing?"

He said that this time round the book grew on him, but he is not sure he would recommend it to adults now. Why was it life changing? Because John considered himself a conformist but he wanted to be rebel. The book was very easy to read.

Others listened on Audio they liked the narrator who did all the voices. However it was difficult to keep going back to, some wished they had read it as an adolescent. The main character had a big pull for his home - but towards his siblings and not his parents. We felt that the book interesting because naughty children are more interesting than good ones. IT was hard to read the grooming by the teacher. Holden Caulfield seemed to be a good looking kid who attracted trouble. We liked the bare faced lies he told a friends mother on the train to make her day. One reader thought that there were Holden did a lot in the few days that the novel covers and that the drinking for a 16 year old might have been unbelievable (particularly when the drinking age in USA is and was 21 years old)

Words to describe it: teenager, voice, realistic,

Lunch Club

11 June

report by Peter Murray

We have not been around that much, and it was nice to get together.

The Lunch Club was held at Steve and Yvonne's hideaway in Le Retail. I left in plenty of time, expecting that it would be hard to find, especially since mobiles don't work there! Well, it wasn't hard to find, and I arrived quite early.

Considering all the bad weather we have been getting, it was a pleasant sunny day. Keith and Diane provided the wine for our consideration, with the theme being wine not from France. They went to all the trouble of producing an A4 sheet explaining what and where the wines came from. Pity I have not got one!

I do remember that some of the wine came from as far afield as Sainsburys. Is there a customs issue?

We had two whites: Prosecco and Koha from New Zealand (very nice). Three reds: one I remember was a Rioja, after that, it's just a blur. Sorry.

The meal consisted of three savoury dishes and three sweet dishes, all very different and tasty, finishing with cheese and a beverage. After the meal, Steve and Yvonne gave a very interesting tour of the garden, explaining the thinking behind its development.

Sixteen people attended lunch, which is more than usual, but Steve and Yvonne coped very well, or at least that's what they told me.

Thanks to the Organisers Keith and Diane, Steve and Yvonne for hosting the event



and GT committee for making it possible.

Quiz June 12 report by Michele (I forgot to ask anyone to do it!)

There were just 4 tables of quizzers for this event but, as far as I know, everyone enjoyed the evening. We started at 6 with dinner and then moved over to our various tables for the quiz itself. There were 2 sheets on the tables for people to work on in their spare time and 4 rounds. For the first time we tried a music round which was challenging but by far the hardest round seemed to be The Olympics. The results were close but victory went to the Greens and the Ritchies, who went home with a couple of bottles of LIDL's finest plonk. As promised, it was still light when we left. However our next quiz will be an afternoon event to support the many people who prefer not to drive in the dark.

What3Words

This 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 July 8, though much communication via WhatsApp and email!

For walks in the Deux Sèvres take a look at www.tourisme-hautvaldeesevre.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

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.

produced by: Michele Hansford 12 La Bourse 79240 Scillé 06 21 15 85 08 gtnewsletter79@gmail.com
Website: Andy Walmsley 5 Jarzay79200 St Germain de Longue Chaume jarzay@gmail.com