

*Founded
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get together
A friendly association of English speakers

*French
Association
3035*



March 2025 Newsletter

Spring is here, the primroses are flowering everywhere. It is the sign of a new year. It is also a new year for GT, following yesterday's AGM. It was lovely to see so many of you in Le Tallud. We have our new committee, duly elected. You will get the Minutes from the AGM shortly but at this stage I can tell you who they are.

President: Roger Hull
Secretary: Keith Mousdale
Treasurer: Yvonne Pond
Membership: Diane Mousdale
Events Coordinator: Karen Hull
Newsletter Editor: Steve Pond.

We welcome them all and look forward with interest to the years ahead.

Calendar of Events

Lunch & Wine Group	Tues March 4 11h30	Souvigné	Keith & Diane
Reading Group	Wed March 12 10.30	L'Absie	Yvonne Pond
GT Walk	Fri March 28 10h00	Saint-Christophe- sur-Roc	Steve Pond
Lunch & Wine Grp	Tues April 1 11h.30	La Bourse	Keith & Diane

Lunch & Wine Grp Tues 4 March 11h30 Souvigné Diane & Keith Mousdale

The March lunch group will be hosted by Sue and Paul Woods at their home at Place de la Mairie, Souvigné. The theme of the lunch will be wines of Italy with food, if possible to be Italian.

A maximum of 14 bookings on a first come basis, due to how many reasonable tastings from these bottles 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 more information about the lunch & wine group 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?

The March meeting is now full but keep your eyes peeled for the next one - details lower down

GT Walk Wed 28 March 10h00 Saint-Christophe-sur-Roc Steve Pond

The March walk will be around Saint-Christophe-sur-Roc. The start point is near the church, which has plenty of parking. There is a sign for public toilets but Steve couldn't find them!

Place de l'Église, 79220 Saint-Christophe-sur-Roc.
What 3 words is: mimed.anglers.flowerbed.

As always there will be a long walk around 8km and a short walk around 4km. The route is a little wet and muddy near the beginning but not too bad. It's a mix of track and small roads. Suitable footwear is essential. Non-walkers are more than welcome to join us for lunch at Restaurant Johan Faucon 238 Rue des Herpens, 79410 Saint-Gelais at around 12h30.

Diner or walker: If you would like to sign up please contact Steve Pond stating fish/meat/vegetarian and also including a mobile number so you can be contacted on the day. We have had a few instances of people going astray and need to be able to contact you when you are 'on the move'.

Reading Group Wed 12 March 10h30 Pause Café, L'Absie

Our next read is Peter Høeg's Miss Smilla's delicious, icy-cool, Scandinavian detective story *Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow*. One snowy day in Copenhagen, six-year-old Isaiah falls to his death from a city rooftop. The police pronounce it an accident. But Isaiah's neighbour, Smilla, suspects murder. She embarks on a dangerous quest to find the truth, following a path of clues as clear to her as footsteps in the snow.

I read this when it came out in the 90s and loved it. I hope all those who come to the discussion feel the same!

As always we will be meeting at the Pause Café in L'Absie on the 2nd Wednesday in the month. New members are always welcome. Please bring along any recommendations of books to discuss or to be read purely for pleasure. Please contact Yvonne Pond to let her know if you plan to be there.

Lunch & Wine Grp Tues 1 April 11h30 La Bourse Diane & Keith Mousdale

The April, lunch group will be hosted by Michele and Eric Hansford at their home at La Bourse, near L'Absie. The theme of the lunch will be wines of the Rhone Valley.

A maximum of 14 bookings on a first come basis, due to how many reasonable tastings from these bottles 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

GT Event Reports

Reading Group. February 12 Report by Lesley Ritchie

Dissolution by C.J.Samsom

Although historical fiction is not everyone's preferred genre, we agreed that *Dissolution* is an excellent novel in that it is well researched, historically accurate and extremely well written.

The story is set at the point and in Henry VIII's reign when, having established himself as head of the Church of England, he embarks on the dissolution of the monasteries, engineered by Thomas Cromwell his chief minister. Cromwell sends Shardlake, the central character, to an isolated monastery in Suffolk to investigate a murder and find evidence to justify the destruction of the monastery.

The characters are interesting, realistic and very well drawn. Shardlake himself is an honest, honourable lawyer striving to do the right thing in an increasingly corrupt system and a dangerous world. He has no taste for the task but no-one refuses Thomas Cromwell. He is highly intelligent but lonely and vulnerable, physically disabled and increasingly disillusioned. As he investigates, he finds that nothing is as it seems. He becomes increasingly aware of the corruption and laxness within the monasteries but fears for what will replace them.

The plot is compelling and C J Samson's considerable ability brings the story, the time and place to life and draws the reader in.

There are seven excellent books in the series so if you enjoyed *Dissolution* do read on.

Walk Report 26th Feb 2025 Report by Alfie, a visiting black Labrador (aka Annette!)

How exciting, I've been travelling in a car for several hours and now I've been invited on a 8 kms walk with 4 others dogs, 2 being young ladies!

We started off on a rather muddy path, taking us through an large apple orchard. We were off the lead and great to sniff my new friends.

Once back on the lead we walked along country lanes, some being quite hilly. At around 4 kms I lost my owner, but a very kind lady with a biscuit encouraged me to carry on, it was tough at first, but then we came across some water and you know how labradors enjoy water! What fun! We still had a bit of walking to do, but Neil let me sniff wherever I liked and very quickly we were last on the walk.



Unfortunately, as we passed Chez Chantal restaurant it began to rain, it didn't bother me but all the humans were stopping to put on coats and hats. After another 2 kms we were back home and I found my owner again.

I understand that the meal was excellent, great value for money with plenty of choice.

A big lick and a woof to Michele and Eric for organising my fun walk and allowing me to stay at their warm and cosy home.

About @Association Violet:

Association Violet is dedicated to supporting children with lifelong disabilities and their families in the Deux Sèvres region of France. Through various fundraising events, they provide essential services, therapies, and equipment to those in need.

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

For possible 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

Association Violet is dedicated to supporting children with lifelong disabilities and their families in the Deux Sèvres region of France. Through various fundraising events, they provide essential services, therapies, and equipment to those in need.

- 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.

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