

June 2025 Newsletter



Here we go with the start of another wonderful French summer, or we can at least hope. My garden is starting to produce it's early delights, asparagus, cherries in abundance and strawberries are just starting to ripen. Let's hope the pottager continues in the same way and we can restock the freezer.

The newsletter is a little early this month as I have to nip back to England for a few days but hopefully I haven't missed anything.

Calendar of Events

Lunch & Wine Group	Tues 10th June 11:30	Cherveux	Keith & Diane
Reading Group	Wed 11th June 10.30	L'Absie	Yvonne Pond
GT Walk	Fri 27th June 10:30	Sepvret	Dorothy Peel

Lunch and Wine Group Tues 10 th June 11.30am Cherveux Diane & Keith Mousdale

The June lunch group will be hosted by Lesley & Neil Ritchie at their home at Cherveux. The theme will be light Wines for light summer lunches.

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 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?

Please contact Diane or Keith for directions if required

Reading Group Wed June 11th 10h30 Pause Café, L'Absie

The book for the month of June is *Fresh Water for Flowers* by Valerie Perrin

Violette Toussaint is a caretaker at a cemetery in a small town in Bourgogne. Her daily life is lived to the rhythm of the hilarious and touching confidences of random visitors and her colleagues - three gravediggers, three groundskeepers and a priest.

Violette's routine is disrupted one day by the arrival of police chief Julien Seul, wishing to deposit his mother's ashes on the gravesite of a complete stranger. Julien is not the only one to guard a painful secret: his mother's story of clandestine love breaks through Violette's carefully constructed defences to reveal the tragic loss of her daughter and her steely determination to find out who is responsible.

The funny, moving, intimately told story of a woman who believes obstinately in happiness, *Fresh Water for Flowers* brings out the exceptional and the poetic in the ordinary. A delightful, atmospheric and absorbing tale.

As always we will be meeting at the Pause Café in L'Absie. 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.

Upcoming reads are;

The book for July will be *The Promise* by Damon Galget if you want to get ahead.


Walk and lunch. Fri 27 June 10:30 hrs. Sepvret Dorothy Peel

This walk will start at 10:30 hrs at Chez Peel - La Maissonniere, 79120 Sepvret.

Toilet facilities will be available.

There will be a short walk of approximately 5 kms and a longer one of 8 kms. The source of La Sèvre Niortaise is in Sepvret, both walks crossing the river a few times. The river is more than 160 kms long, 100 kms of which are navigable. Both walks pass l'ancienne école clandestine Protestant and le logis de Foucault.

Hopefully the weather will be good, wear shoes appropriate for the weather, and we recommend

bringing sunscreen and water  .

Lunch will be at 13:00 hrs at Le P'tit Berland, 5 Place de la Payse, Lezay, menu €15.

What3words **cucumbers.cooperate.marshmallow**

Non walkers are very welcome.

Please contact Dorothy to book your places

Reports

Reading Group. April 9th Report by Eric Hansford

Reading Group Hansford	Wed 14 May	Pause Cafe, L'Absie	report: Michele
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A select group of just 6 members met together to discuss 'The Tin nose Shop' by Don Snyder

The underlying theme of this novel was the enormous damage both physical and mental inflicted on so many young soldiers sent out to fight by their elders. The 'tin nose' of the title was the metal face masks being developed during WW1 to cover the facial disfigurements resulting from the fighting. However the attitudes of the time to supposed cowardice which is now defined as PTSD, the long lasting but invisible psychic wounds suffered by the injured but also by the apparently unhurt soldiers and the post-war prospects of life in the civilian community are all treated with empathy in this book. Everybody in the group felt it was an important read to be recommended.

Walk and Lunch report for 30th May

No report for obvious reasons



Upcoming Events

The summer event will soon be upon us and we have an update on the details below. I would encourage you all to put this in your diaries and contact Annette to let her know how many of you will be attending. It looks like a wonderful venue and we will have a fantastic day so come along, see old friends, make some new ones and enjoy the day.

GT Summer Event. Sun 27th July. 12:30 hrs. Noirlieu, Bressuire.

Annette Green

A new member Helen, has kindly offered her house and garden for this summers event. It is a little further north than usual, close to Noirlieu, however I'm sure you will agree that for the few extra kms it will be worth your while.

From Niort it's 1.10 hrs away, L'absie 45 mins, le Tallud 40 mins and Lezay 1.25 hrs. There is plenty of parking.

Les Jouteaux has extensive mature gardens, including a lake and a wet weather location if required - hopefully not!

We would encourage you to bring friends and family to this event, it's great fun, especially with the games.

We will be holding our annual horse racing game, there will also be additional outdoor games eg, molky, pétanque and giant jenga.

Food will be a bring and share event, with GT providing aperos, wine, hot drinks, cheese and bread. You need to bring crockery, cutlery, mugs, glasses for wine, and water/soft drinks.

Well behaved dogs are welcome, however cats and dogs do live at Les Jouteaux. In addition there maybe sheep in one of the fields. Dogs can of course be kept on a lead. Please email Annette to book your place and say what dish you will be bringing.

History Group

The group is still working hard on upcoming events and we hope to have more details for you soon.

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

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- 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: Stephen Pond gtnewsletter79@gmail.com

website: Andy Walmsley jarzay@gmail.com