

*Founded
1989*

get together
A friendly association of English speakers

*French
Association
3035*



October 2024 Newsletter

I hadn't expected to feel so far into autumn at this stage in the month. I suppose Climate Change and the effect of El Niño have combined quite dramatically to bring cold, wet weather instead of the Indian summer we were hoping for.

I hope the gardeners among you have had a productive season as I suspect we are going to see much higher prices for our fruit and veg in the shops and markets this year. You will gather from this that we are not gardeners - but our courgettes have not been a huge success this year and the butternut squash look a skimpy at the moment!

On October 10th in Fomperron you have the chance to offer your ideas, hopes, expectations of the future of Get together. As I write we have 3 volunteers to take on the role of Membership Secretary - I am delighted to say that Diane is happy to continue in her role - Treasurer and Newsletter Editor. We now need a President, Secretary and Walks Co-ordinator and the future of the Association will be safe for a few more years.

It is disappointing to see that so far very few of you have signed up to attend the meeting. You are being offered the opportunity to ensure that Get Together goes forward along a path to suit all of its members. Do please find time on your calendar to share in this discussion even if you have no wish to join the committee.

Calendar of Events

Lunch & Wine Grp Tues 8 Oct 11.30am L'Absie Diane & Keith Mousdale

The October meeting will be hosted by Michele & Eric at their home in La Bourse, L'Absie. The theme of the meeting's wine will be a selection of summer rosé to autumn red. Food, a starter, cheeses or a dessert can be anything French. Which items are needed should be in collaboration with Diane to ensure that all items are covered. A small charge is made to cover the cost of the wines, usually about €3 -4.

A maximum of 14 bookings are on a first come basis, due to restriction on size of hosts' house and how many reasonable tastings can be had 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?

Please contact Diane or Keith for directions if required

GT Discussion Thurs Oct 10 15.00 Fomperron

This is your opportunity to share your hopes and dreams for our Association with fellow members. Please join us for a fruitful afternoon chat. Teas, coffees, gateau and biscuits will be provided by the bistrot at no charge to you!

The discussion will take place at Le Bistrot des Amis, 6 Pl des platanes, 79340, FOMPERRON. The bistrot serves lunchtime meals, if you are interested. It is very popular, so I suggest booking a table.

History Talk Wed Oct 16 15h00 Fomperron

The history talk by Eric Hansford is part two of a very entertaining subject - aviation. It starts just after WW1 and takes you through the 20's and the early pioneers.

The talk will take place at Le Bistrot des Amis, 6 Pl des platanes, 79340, FOMPERRON. The bistrot serves lunchtime meals, if you are interested. It is very popular, so I suggest booking a table. [+33 5 49 95 96 91](tel:+33549959691).

There may be a small charge for the talk, which we will confirm in due course.

Teas, coffees, gateau and biscuits will be provided by the bistrot.

So more about the talk.....

Those magnificent men (and women!) in their flying machines, they go up, Tiddley up, up!

What do the names Alcock and Brown mean to you?

No, they are not a dodgy comedy act but rather two of the giants of aviation who paved the way for what we all take for granted - long distance air travel.

Come to the next history talk and hear their story and learn about other pioneers of the post WW1 era. Chocks away...

GT Walk Fri Oct 25 10.00 Verruyes Steve and Yvonne Pond

The October walk will be starting in the car park by the lake, near the campsite.

what3words: waffled.remakes.relaxing

The Lake is accessed from the D122 to the north of Verruyes

The long walk is 8.5K and the short walk is about 4K, mostly on tracks and minor roads. We can't be sure about toilets as last time they were locked

As usual, sturdy footwear is recommended.

Lunch is at La Croix des Vignes in Saint Pardoux, the menu is €14 with a buffet starter, cheese and dessert.

what3words: chunked.ovulate.snuggly

On the junction of D131 and D743

To book for the walk, lunch or both please contact Yvonne before 18th October, stating meat, fish or veggie.

Reading Group. Wed Oct 30 11.30 Chez Hansford, La Bourse

***Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books* by Kirsten Miller**

"A bracing, wildly entertaining satire about a small Southern town, a pitched battle over banned books, and a little lending library that changes everything."

In Troy, Georgia, local woman Lula Dean has campaigned to cleanse the town's reading habits. All the 'disgusting', 'pornographic' and downright 'un-American' books have been removed from public spaces. Now, the townspeople are only allowed to read 'appropriate' books from Lula's personal lending library.

But a small group refuse to be told what they can and cannot read and, unbeknownst to Lula, her personal collection is slowly restocked with banned books: literary classics, gay romances, Black history, spell books, and more.

One by one, each person who borrows the books from Lula's library find their lives changed in unexpected ways. And as they begin to reveal their new selves, it's clear that a showdown is fast approaching – one that will change the town of Troy forever ...

We will also be discussing *Mrs Van Gogh* by Caroline Cauchi as the September meeting was postponed.

As always new members are very welcome to attend - we enjoy hearing as many different opinions of our chosen books as come our way. Please contact Michele if you would like to be there. As always the meeting will be followed by a bring and share lunch.

Future Events

GT Christmas Lunch Thursday Dec 5 Le Dix-Vingt Reffannes

Details to follow. This is the same restaurant we used last year and seemed to be a very popular choice. There will be a Christmas walk first, followed by lunch, however the menu for December isn't available yet.

Association Violet Terves Christmas Market. December 1 Terves

Please book these dates on your calendars and wait to hear more.

GT Event Reports

Reading Group. Aug 28. Report by Yvonne Pond

The Bookbinder of Jericho by Pip Williams

This is a follow-up to Pip William's novel "The Dictionary of Lost Words" and we come across some of the same characters. Both books are excellent.

Just 4 of us this month and we all enjoyed the book.

Words thought to describe the book:

Appreciation
Hope
Evocative
Equality

Quotes:

'Read the books, not bind them'

'Lotte and I were gathering the sections. She'd learnt the steps that made it more efficient and I liked to watch for the moment her face softened as her body found its rhythm'

'Sprouts, butter makes everything taste good, Lotte said, Garlic makes everything taste better.'

Headline'Great Britain declares war on Germany'

'Celebrating young men'

'I'm weary with toil, I said.'

'Haste me to my bed,' Maude said'

'I watched her hands sculpt the paper into a butterfly with wings that slid over each other, as in life. You are my toil. I thought as I rose from the table. I pulled a section of leaves from the pile I had not bound, then kissed Maude's crown and whispered, 'Haste us to bed, the world has gone dark.'

'I'm ashamed to say, I expected to see the soldiers, who still smile down on us from posters all over England, but it was like walking into a church where you think there is going to be a wedding and suddenly realising you're at a funeral.'

'The gold relaxed into the valley of the impression, as if relieved to be home (Eb working on

'Women's words and their meanings)'

'I expected Maude to pull away, her tolerance for a strangers touch stretched to its limits. But this woman needed someone to hold and my sister decided it could be her'

'A new life, I thought. I'm not going anywhere, I said, to the indifferent night.' (Like the night is one of the characters in the book)

'Miriam was striding towards a family of Belgians with such gusto that all stepped closer to absorb the impact as one!'

Lunch & Wine Group Sept 10

report by Dorothy Peel

For the first lunch club after the Rentrée some 13 of us sat around the table chez Peel at Sepvret to enjoy an introduction to some very pleasant wines from the south of France and some excellent and varied food from the same area.

Good food, good wine and good company. What more could one ask.

Many thanks to Keith & Diane for organising and to Dorothy and Alan for hosting.

NonGT Association Violet Garden Party Sept 8

Despite the weather, which unsurprisingly led to a lower turnout than hoped for, the garden party nonetheless raised about €2000 which will go a long way towards supporting local families faced with the challenge of raising a disabled child.

NonGT Day at the Races Sept 15

report by Michele Hansford



Just 8 of us gathered at the race course for the trotting afternoon, along with a sizeable number of Niort residents. The sun shone, the atmosphere was good and the horses seemed to avoid breaking out of the permitted trot.

GT Walk on 27 September

report by Eric Hansford

Nineteen intrepid members turned up for a walk in Béceleuf fully expecting to get wet as well as tired. Despite expectations and forecasts the rain held off for the short walkers and even those doing the long walk managed to avoid most of it. All of us enjoyed getting out into the countryside after being cooped up inside due to the endless rain. However we were subjected to torrential downpours on the way to the restaurant in Ardin. Here we were joined by three others and had a very tasty meal to round off the experience. This is the second time we have been to this restaurant and it did not disappoint. Many thanks to Brad and Sally for organising the walk and the meal.

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 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.

Produced by Michele Hansford 12 La Bourse 79240 Scillé gtnewsletter79@gmail.com

Website maintained by Andy Walmsley 5 Jarzay79200 St Germain de Longue Chaume

The GT flyer
to print and distribute
is on the next page

- BOOK CLUB - WALKS & LUNCH - FINE DINING EVENINGS - BOWLING



get together has a variety of different monthly events. Something for everyone.

All our events are Member-Led and have various different locations around the Deux Sevres.

- if you have an idea for a get together and want to do it with other people, then let us know and an email will go out to other members to ask if they want to participate. Give as much info as possible like if there is a cost involved and the possibility of car-sharing.

Whether it be a night at the cinema, theatre trip, bowling or a monthly swim, golf game or day at the coast..... doing it with friends, old and new, makes it much more fun!

JOIN US for JUST €12 per couple/€7 per single per year

----- CUT HERE & pop in your envelope with your cheque L'order GET TOGETHER -----

NAME:..... COUPLE or SINGLE:
EMAIL@..... CHEQUE TOTAL: €.....

Send to: GetTogether: 18 La Revaliere, 79200 LeTallud or email us on gtnewsletter79@gmail.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Find us on facebook GT social group deux Sevres ~ or our website: http://www.gettogether-france.org/

- LADIES THAT LUNCH - WINE & LUNCH CLUB

- HISTORY TALKS
- QUIZ NIGHTS

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