

*Founded
1989*

get together
A friendly association of English speakers

*French
Association
3035*



PARIS 2024



September 2024 Newsletter

Well, the first round of Olympics is over and the Paralympics is due at the end of August - more time spent glued to the TV, open mouthed at the talents of the athletes! However don't forget to book for upcoming GT events. They are organised for your delectation and delight!

Lesley Ritchie has asked me to tell you that we have walks organised until the end of the year, but no offers so far for 2025. Any suggestions?

It is time to bring up again the question of GT's future. Everyone on the current committee has been actively involved in organising events for some 10 years now - 35 years for Diane!, whether on or off the committee. We are not the only members with the skills to do this! Frankly we have had enough. There must be people out there who value what GT does to support its members and have some time to offer our community. When we announce the date of the next AGM we need new volunteers to step up to the line. We need new ideas, new energy. We are more than willing to support a new committee. However if nobody puts themselves forward then unfortunately GT as an association will cease to exist.

Calendar of Events

Reading Group. **Aug 28 11.30** **Chez Yvonne, Le Retail**

The Bookbinder of Jericho by Pip Williams

When the men leave for the Western Front, Peggy and her friends must shoulder the burden at home.

As she moves between her narrowboat full of memories and the demands of the bookbindery where she works, Peggy's dreams of escaping for a new life feel ever more remote.

But the war brings people together in unexpected ways. New friends and lovers offer new opportunities but also present difficult choices – and Peggy must write her own story.

As always the meeting is followed by a bring and share lunch. Please contact Beverley if you plan to attend, letting her know what you will be bringing. New members are always welcome.



Non GT Event we are happy to support:

There will be so much going on. This is a not to be missed day out. Please support this event.

Wine and Lunch Club **10 Sept. 11.30** **Sevret**

Just a reminder: with rare exceptions this is the first Tuesday in the month

The September meeting will be hosted by Dorothy and Alan at their home in La Maisonnière, Sevret. This is a rare exception: Second Tuesday!

The theme of the meeting will be wines from the South West of France. Food to be brought should be a starter, cheeses or a dessert preferably from that area but must at least be French. Contact Diane to discover which items are needed are covered and to avoid duplications. A small charge is made to cover the cost of the wines, usually around €3 -4.

STILL PLACES AVAILABLE - book now!

We accept a maximum of 14 bookings on a first come first served basis, due to restriction on size of host's houses and the number of 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?

Niort Horse-racing Sept 15 14h30

This is not a GT activity, but since some of us will be there we thought we would share the info. We haven't been for a few years - since Covid - but it has always been a fun afternoon, better when shared with friends.

Parking is free, entry for men €6, women and children free! There is a bar with snacks available and also a restaurant that you have to book by phone the week before.

Betting is not obligatory but is cheap - a couple of euros I think. There are 5 races - this session is trotting - starting at about 2.30. This is NOT Ascot: dress for the weather, silly hats not required.

We often go for a meal afterwards - there is an all you can eat Asian restaurant not far from the hippodrome: Sunday evening it opens at 7pm, €19.90pp (not sure if that includes drinks or not)

Reading Group Sept 25 11.30 La Bourse Beverley Lockett

Mrs Van Gogh by Caroline Cauchi. (currently 99p on Kindle Amazon UK)

She's been painted out of history...until now
Who tells her story?

In 1890, Vincent Van Gogh dies penniless, unknown, a man tortured by his own mind.

Eleven years later his work is exhibited in Paris and his unparalleled talent finally recognised. The tireless efforts of one woman gave the world one of its greatest creative minds.

But twenty-eight year old Johanna Van Gogh-Bonger, Vincent's sister-in-law and the keeper of his immense collection of paintings, sketches and letters, has, until now, been written out of history. This beautiful, moving novel finally gives this extraordinary woman a voice...

As always the meeting is followed by a bring and share lunch. Please contact Beverley if you plan to attend, letting her know what you will be bringing. New members are always welcome.

GT Walk Sept 27 10.30 Béceleuf Brad & Sally Warden

This is a new walk for us and we hope it will be a fresh route for other members too. We will start from the car park in Béceleuf which is opposite the Mairie.

What3words - partners.runes.agreeing. Please note that the toilets in the car park are **NOT** useable. Although open, they are of the hole in the ground variety and were in a terrible state when we checked them out.

There are two walks, one approx. 4km and one around 8km. Both are delightful, mostly through woodland on tracks and road with watering holes on route for any four legged walkers. Sturdy footwear is recommended.

Lunch will be at La Terrasse de l'Autize, 3 Place des Acadiens, 79160 Ardin at 12.30pm. What3words: varnish.tatty.beefed. The cost of a 3 course lunch is €18.95 excluding drinks. To book for the walk, lunch or both can you please contact Sally. There is a cut off date of Thursday 19th September for reservations. It would help if you could book earlier than that though!



**Lunch & Wine Group Tues 8th Oct 11h30 La Bourse Diane & Keith
Mousdale**

The October meeting will be hosted by Michele & Eric at their home in La Bourse, Scillé. (Another rare exception!) The theme of the meeting's wine will be a selection of summer rosés to autumn reds. 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 around €3 -4.

A maximum of 14 bookings are on a first come basis, due to restriction on size of hosts' houses and how many 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?

Events in the pipeline:

Afternoon quiz

History Group talk

GT Event Reports

Reading Group July 31 report by Beverley Lockett

Live Free or Die by John Ringo

This was another marmite book, some liked it and some didn't. But most people said how humorous it was with a full of witticism and good descriptions of the characters - especially the aliens. Descriptions were also written 'succinctly'

Those that didn't liked it thought it was too political and obviously written by a Trump supporter. They thought that there was nobody to sympathise with. Roger (who recommended the book) likes sci fi because the stories are basically about people and their reaction to events, which this book displays.

Words used to describe book:

Complex

Far-fetched

Interesting

Maybe
Alienating

Quotations:

"God knows NASA can't manoeuvre its way out of a wet paper bag without a 5 year study to study what they're going to have to do a 10 year study on"

"The door dilated and a bipedal lizard even larger than Mr Haselbauer filled it. It looked like a velociraptor with a toothache""

"What he saw was a mass of numbers that to the uninformed would look something like a really huge mass of indecipherable numbers."

"If a person wants to survive and tries to survive and is smart about it, I'm all good, I hope like hell they survive."

"One death is a tragedy, a billion is a statistic."

We asked for recommendations into the sci fi genre for those of who were unfamiliar with it and here are some suggestions:

The Expanse - a series by James Corey

Enders Game - a series by Orson Scott Card

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 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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