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Newsletter – December 2024

Since we are sure you will have lots of things to fill your time with during December, we have only 2 events organised: The Christmas Walk and Lunch and the Reading Group. You need to make your lunch menu selections and book in with Annette by Sunday at the latest. If you aren't already on the list...do it now. All the details are below.

It is also the season to renew your membership -details for that are at the end of the newsletter.

Calendar of Events

Christmas walk /lunch	Thurs 5 December	10.30 walk 1.00 lunch	Exireuil/Reffannes	Annette Green
Reading Group	Wed 11 Dec	10.30	Pause Café L'Absie	Michele Hansford
AGM	Friday 28 Feb 2025	11.30	Le Tallud	Neil Ritchie


Christmas walk and lunch Thurs 5th Dec 2024 Exireuil and Reffannes

Note to all - this event is on a Thursday.

Two walks will be available on the 5th, a 30 mins and a 1:30 hrs walk. Please arrive in Exireuil (79400) for a 10:30 start.

The short walk is very easy with a mix of country lanes and a very small stretch of road (but there is very little traffic). The longer walk has the same mix of terrain, with the added feature of a couple of up and down sections. Wear walking boots as the weather is unpredictable!

Coffee and teas will be available to the short walkers at chez Annette, plus a warming fire (if necessary

) to wait for the other walkers return or you can go directly to Le Dix Vingt in Raffannes, they are open from 9:00 hrs.

The restaurant is approximately 15 mins away from the walk location, lunch is booked for 13:00 hrs, the walk should finish by 12:30 at the latest.

The restaurant is the same as last year, the popular Le Dix-Vingt, 14 Avenue de la Grande auberge, Reffannes, 79420. It offers superb value with its all inclusive menu.

The two menus are listed below, Le Gourmand and Le Végétarien both are €32 and include, tea, coffee, still water, plus bottles of red, rose and white wine. As it's Christmas it would be great to see as many Christmas jumpers or hats on display plus we will be giving away two bottles of champagne in our free raffle.

Please contact Annette with your meal choices and if you are walking which walk you intend to do by December 1 at the latest, but preferably asap!

Menu gourmand €32

Cocktail Manhattan et son trio de toasts

Craquant à la fourme d'Ambert et ses chips de magret fumé

ou

Sphère de lieu curry, coco, coriandre

Filet de rouget mariné à la mandarine et au yuzu

ou

Secreto de porc sauce sriracha

Duo de fromages et son mesclun

Cookie caramel beurre salé aux noix de pécan

ou

Tarte mangue et sa boule de glace citron vert

Café, thé, boissons comprises (vin jusqu'au fromage)

eau plate, vin blanc, rosé et rouge en bouteille

Menu Vegetarien €32

Cocktail Manhattan et son trio de toasts

Houmous et ses crackers au graines

ou

Tartare de légumes de saison et sa vinaigrette au calamansi

Risotto et ses légumes croquants

ou

Boulettes de lentilles

Duo de fromages et son mesclun

Cookie caramel beurre salé aux noix de pécan

ou

Tarte mangue et sa boule de glace citron vert

Café, thé, boissons comprises (vin jusqu'au fromage)

eau plate, vin blanc, rosé et rouge en bouteille

Reading Group. Wednesday 11 Dec 10.30 Pause Café, L'Absie

After discussion, current members have agreed that we would prefer a fixed date for Reading Group meetings, and a fixed venue. Therefore, starting with the December meeting we will meet on the 2nd Wednesday each month in the Pause Café in L'Absie. It is easy to find as it is on the D949bis, in the centre of town, opposite the Credit Agricole Bank. There is plenty of parking available.

The book we have chosen for December is *Me Before You* by Jo Jo Moyes. One reviewer wrote:

“It is rare to find a book that has the ability to make the reader look at life through a different lens, forcing us to re-examine our values, prejudices, morals and ethics. This book, is such a book. 'Me Before You' is a book that will touch your soul and may change your life.” I haven't read it yet but glancing through comments on Goodreads I think it may turn out to be a marmite book: will I love it or hate it? Read the next newsletter to find out - or come to the meeting! Contact me to book yourself in. New members are always welcome - and we can then let you know the books we have lined up already for the next few months!

GT AGM 28 Feb 2025 Le Tallud Neil Ritchie

We have booked a large room at the Maison d'Associations in Le Tallud. It is easy to find, has plenty of parking and is a central location for all our members. Please make a note in your diary.

The 2024 AGM will take place at the Maison d'Associations in Le Tallud on Friday February 28th at 11am. It will be followed by a bring and share lunch so raid your recipe collection to prepare something truly scrumptious (vegetarian if you want me to be effusively grateful and enthusiastic).GT will provide liquid refreshments to satisfy all tastes. Further details on this to follow to make sure that not all of you bring sausage rolls and cheese and pineapple on a cocktail stick.

A formal agenda will be prepared and circulated in due course together with the minutes of last year's meeting. If you have any issues which you want to see (and hear) discussed at the AGM please notify the Secretary Neil Ritchie by Thursday 1st February. All the usual delights will feature, including matters arising; President's report; Treasurer's report and adoption of accounts; Co-ordinator's report; appointment of auditor; AOB etc. Not forgetting Election of Officers. We have enough volunteers to be sure that a new committee will be elected, so you can attend secure in the knowledge that no arms will be twisted! However if you would like to volunteer your services we are more than happy to add to the excitement with an election!

Contact the Secretary forthwith to ask for a nomination form which you should return by Thursday 1st February. Any of the existing officers will be very happy to talk to you about what's involved if you would find that helpful. Feel free to get in touch.

Reports from recent events:

Walk and lunch Oct 25th Verruyes report by Eric Hansford

We all assembled at the lakeside in Verruyes under threatening skies, which fortunately cleared up as the day went on. The early start confused some of us but we got the quorum together and set off on the walk through the surrounding countryside. After a while the guides split off from the short walkers leaving us with a map to get back the the lake - we only took one wrong turning as I forgot to consult the map but it just meant we took a different route to that planned! After a chat lakeside we moved on to the restaurant passing Steve and Yvonne as they were finishing the long walk. The meal was at the restaurant in Saint Pardoux where we were joined by six more for a bon repas (wine included). Thanks to Steve and Yvonne for organising the outing.

Walk & Lunch Nov 15th Cherveux/St Gelais report by Eric Hansford

Ten intrepid walkers turned up at the Temple (or close by) for a pleasant walk around Cherveux. Again the short walkers outnumbered the long walkers - a sign of increasing age and infirmity I am afraid - but we all had a good bit of exercise in relatively fine weather. Those of us on the short walk had time to admire

views of the chateau and surrounding countryside before going back to Lesley's for coffee and loo. We all met up again at the restaurant and had a very tasty meal joined by some welcome non-walkers. All in all a good day out. Thanks to Neil and Lesley for organising the event

Lunch and Fine Wine 21 Nov 2024. Exireuil report by Steve Pond

The omens were, perhaps, not good. Amid pouring rain and winds of gale force, we arrived chez Annette and Leslie, carefully preserving the makings of the meal. The omens were wrong. Keith had chosen a series of fine French wines costing more than most of us generally spend, especially at restaurant prices. We started with a taste of a red Rully with the charcuterie, followed by a Saint Joseph.

As we continued with Chateau Moulin du Cadet we agreed that we all liked all the wines though we, quite properly, had different favourites among them. The food and wine complimented each other well and despite some unfavourable comments on the desirability of courgettes, (your correspondent maintains a discreet silence on the subject) we all enjoyed ourselves. The dessert wine was a Sauterne to accompany a tarte tatin and a pavlova.

Good food, good wine, fine hosts and good conversation made it a thoroughly enjoyable occasion. Thank you to Keith & Diane and to Les & Annette for organising/hosting.

Reading Grp Wed 27 Nov L'Embruinière report by Michele Hansford

Our chosen book this month was Remarkable Creatures by Tracy Chevalier, a fictionalised retelling of the fossil discoveries for which Lyme Regis is now famous. It is only when reading a book such as this that we can begin to see how difficult life was for women in the 19th century and for those men and women who had no money, little education and no rights. This is the remarkable story of a poor woman who struggled against both these constraints, aided by another, richer woman and uncovered remains of the prehistoric world which cast doubt on the accepted story of creation. A definite recommendation by our group.

Thanks to all members for a delicious Bring and Share lunch and to Yvonne and Steve for hosting.

Renewal Details

It is membership renewal time. You will be pleased to hear that the rates remain unchanged at €12 for a family, €7 for a single membership: a real bargain. Please pay asap, but definitely before the end of the year.

You can set up a credit transfer to the GT account – see the photo above with the account details. It is really important to put your name as a reference. This is our preferred way to receive your renewal. It would be appreciated if you could also send an email to Diane to let her know you have renewed so she can keep track. Please also include your mobile phone number so we can contact you if necessary even when you are away from home.

You can pay with cash or cheque at any event and please give to any Committee Member though preferably the treasurer, in an envelope with your name clearly included. This is essential for accurate accounting.



What3Words

This is an invaluable 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-hautvaldesevres.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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