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*French  
Association  
3035*

## April Newsletter



Welcome all to my first attempt at the newsletter. After receiving a thorough handover from Michele I am now sat looking at a set of instructions that appear to be in Mandarin or possibly Dutch I'm not quite sure. Please feel free to point out any errors and I'll try to keep them in single figures.

With an almost completely new committee we will be looking for guidance and ideas on what events and functions you all want to see as well as some ideas of our own, let us know what you think.

Enjoy the hopefully better weather and see you all soon.

## **Calendar of Events**

Lunch & Wine Group	Tues May 6 11:30	La Gacconiere	Keith & Diane
Reading Group	Wed April 9 10.30	L'Absie	Yvonne Pond
GT Walk	Fri April 25 10:00	Cherveux	Lesley & Neil

### **Lunch & Wine Group    Tues 6 May 11h30    Diane & Keith Mousdale**

The May lunch group will be hosted by Annette and Leslie Green at their home at La Gacconiere The theme of the lunch is spring into summer with French wines.

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?

### **GT Walk                    Friday 25 April around Cherveux led by Lesley and Neil**

The April walk will be around Cherveux meeting at the Temple opposite the school at 1030. As usual there will short and long walks, nothing too strenuous. Lunch will be at Les Pyramides on the centre routiers, La Creche at 1pm

Diner or walker: If you would like to sign up, please contact Lesley at 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'.

Our book of the month is *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn.

1940 Bletchley Park, three very different women are recruited to the mysterious centre where the best minds in Britain train to break German military codes.

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.

Upcoming reads are;

*The Tin Nose Shop* by Don J Snyder May 14th,

*Fresh Water for Flowers* by Valerie Perrin June 11th

## **GT Event Reports**

*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 7 excellent books in the series so if you enjoyed *Dissolution* do read on.

## Walk Report March 28<sup>th</sup> report by Michele Hansford

The sun was nearly shining as 8 of us set off for the March walk around Saint Christophe-sur-Roc, near Cherveux. We were all toggged up, obediently, in our sturdy walking boots. Our 2 accompanying dogs were keen and clean. All went well to begin with until we arrived at a questionable junction. Should we carry on along the road or take the grassy track? Sensibly? we opted for the track. I am pleased to announce that nobody drowned, nobody fell over and no boots were lost. However the dogs were no longer clean (still keen!) and neither were our boots. For the short walkers that was the end of the excitement and we arrived back after our 4 kms happy, not over tired and ready for coffee. I am not sure what happened to the 8km walk but I gather it was more like 9 1/2 - I am so glad I stopped at 4.

Our party was increased to 12 for lunch at the Café des sports in Saint Gelais and we thoroughly enjoyed our meal, the company and the fact that the rain held off until the drive home. Our thanks to Steve and Yvonne for organising everything.



## **Upcoming Events**

**Bowling.                      Wednesday 30th April or Saturday 3rd May.                      12:00**  
**restaurant & 14:30 bowling                      Bressuire Bocapole                      Leslie Green**

We are looking to arrange bowling in Bressuire on either of the two dates above, depending on demand.

The plan is to eat at **Planet Panda (Chinese)** at 12 noon - 5 Rue Jacqueline Auriol, 79300, Bressuire, then move onto the bowling which is a few mins away.

**Wednesday lunch is €19.90**

**Saturday lunch is €25.90**

Drinks are not included, except for table water.

The prices are as follows for:-

Wednesday 8€ for two bowling sessions or €10 which includes a drink. BUT we need 20 people.

Saturday is €6 per session no discount/deal for groups.

**Can you please email Leslie to express your interest and preferred day.**

**Bowling events have been very popular in the past and although this is a different venue it would be lovely to get a good turnout.**

### **Summer Event**

Yes I know it's early April but Christmas is coming so we have got to start thinking about the summer now before we turn around and another year has gone. At the moment we are just asking if anyone is willing to host the event bearing in mind you will have to have sufficient parking and a wet weather option just in case. We have had one volunteer and thank you Helen for that but somewhere central would be marvelous.

[As I said earlier the committee are looking for new ideas and suggestions so please feel free to contact me or any of the team to pass on your ideas.](#)

## **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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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.