



# Newsletter April 2023

N° 2023-04



## Anglo American Group of Provence

Published by the AAGP / Editor : Sharon LIGHTOWLERS

Distributed only to AAGP Members.

### Letter from the Board - April 2023

Well, spring has certainly sprung and we hope you are enjoying this most colourful season in Provence. Warmer and longer days, now the clocks have gone back! Summer is on its way.

Last month members enjoyed two excursions - the first to the David Hockney exhibition in Aix and the second to the Parc St-Pons in Gémenos. Both were 'sold out' and very much enjoyed by all participants. Many thanks to the organisers of these two successful events.

This month, Maud and Cheryl have organised an excursion at the bauxite museum in Tourves (le Musée des Gueules Rouges) followed by lunch.

Looking ahead, our Coronation celebration will now take place at the family picnic in June. May 13<sup>th</sup> is the date for our next Folk Evening/Singalong with E2G.

Details for all our events and regular activities can be found in this newsletter.

For those of you wanting to be more 'eco-friendly' and would prefer to receive your newsletter online, please let Lish Goergen know before the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month and she will arrange this ([lishgoergen@gmail.com](mailto:lishgoergen@gmail.com)). Each month, you will receive an email from our webmaster with the newsletter as an attachment (including the monthly calendar and membership updates).

Wishing all our members a very Happy Easter.

*Chris West (President) on behalf of the Board.*

#### **The Board 2022/2023 :**

President : Christine WEST, Vice President and Small Groups Coordinator : Jane STORR, Treasurer : Kathleen-Carmel KING, Secretary : Brigitte PONSARD, Newsletter Editor : Michel PARISOT, Social Events Coordinator : Cheryl WRIGHT, Membership Secretary : Elizabeth GOERGEN, New Member Welcome and Special Projects : Elaine BLANC, PR and Website : Jane WILLIAMS,

#### **Associate Members 2022/2023**

Library : Sue BOUTIER, Newsletter : Sharon LIGHTOWLERS, Social Events : Caitriona MACKLIN, Marseille : Brigitte KRAUS, Support : Catherine BOURDONCLE.

# Obituaries

We share with you the sad news of the death of Rohan Wright on February 14<sup>th</sup> 2023.

Rohan and his wife Cheryl - currently an AAGP Board Member - have been active members and contributors of the AAGP for over 25 years.

Our condolences go to Cheryl, her daughter Kirsty, and all their family and friends.

We also share with you the sad news of the death of Lydia Arnold, on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023.

Lydia was a long-time member of the AAGP and an Associate Board Member for Marseille activities, before moving back to the United Kingdom in 2021.

Our condolences go to all her family and friends.

## What's on in April 2023

**Important** : All activities will be organised to comply with the health regulations applicable on the day. Participants are required to comply with the regulations at all times.

**Cancellation policy for paid events:** Any cancellation **after** the specified deadline date will **NOT** be reimbursed unless a suitable replacement has been found.

**2 - Sunday 10:30**

## PETANQUE

Venue : Boulodrome de Puyricard

The Boulodrome de Puyricard is avenue Jacques de Régis (toward la route du Seuil).

Join us for some fun *pétanque*. No skills required.



Gilles will be in charge of the group, but please answer by email to Deanna if you are attending.

Deanna

06 76 39 15 52

[deannalittell@gmail.com](mailto:deannalittell@gmail.com)

## 2 - Sunday 18:45

*N.B. Please note that exceptionally the Ciné Club date is changed from the usual 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, which is Easter, to the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, to not conflict.*

## CINE CLUB

Venue: Chez Deanna & Gilles

18 allée Rosaki

route de Puyricard (D14A)

Tel 06 76 39 15 52



**LADY ON A TRAIN** is a 1945 American film noir crime film directed by Charles Henri David & starring Deanna Durban, Ralph Bellamy & David Bruce.

Based on a story by Leslie Charteris, the film is about a woman who witnesses a murder in a nearby building from her train window on a trip from San Francisco.

After her arrival in New York, she reports the murder to the police who quickly dismiss her story, noticing that she was reading a murder mystery novel on the train. She then turns to a well-known crime writer to help her solve the crime.

There follows a series of thrilling twists & turns in the race to solve the “whodunnit”.

Join us for popcorn & pizza & a captivating murder-mystery full of surprises.

Please R.S.V.P. as places are limited

Deanna & Gilles

**5 - Wednesday 12:00**

## **LUNCH IN MARSEILLE**

Venue : Restaurant Le République - 1 place Sadi-Carnot, 13002 Marseille

Métro Vieux Port or Tram arrêt Sadi-Carnot

<https://www.restaurantlerepublique.com/#notrecuisine>

Please let me know if you are coming by Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.

E-mail: [bibik@free.fr](mailto:bibik@free.fr)

*Brigitte Kraus*



**12 - Sunday 14:30**

## **AFTERNOON TEA**

Venue : Minoofi - 104 rue Paradis, 13006 Marseille

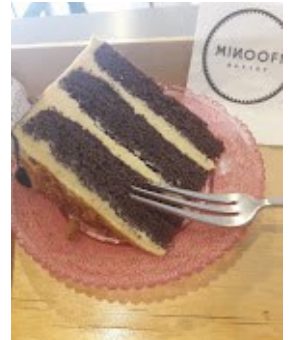
Métro Estrangin /Préfecture

<https://minoofi.fr/>

Please let me know if you are coming by Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> April.

E-mail: [bibik@free.fr](mailto:bibik@free.fr)

*Brigitte Kraus*



**13 Thursday 10:30**

## **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

Venue : Chez Cheryl Wright 39 av. Jean et Marcel Fontenaille, 13100 Aix-en-Provence

04 42 63 44 78 or 07 68 06 54 24



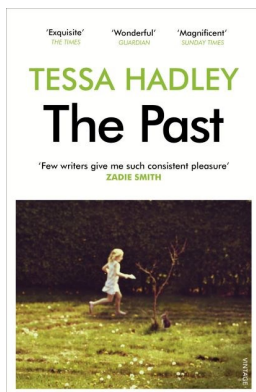
[cherylwrightfr@gmail.com](mailto:cherylwrightfr@gmail.com)

The book this month will be *The Past* by Tessa Hadley and will be presented by Susan Stone.

Four siblings meet up in their grandparents' old house for three long, hot summer weeks. But under the idyllic surface lie shattering tensions. Over the course of the holiday, a familiar way of life falls apart forever. One critic has described the book as “Poetic, tender and full of wry humour.”

Please let Cheryl and myself know if you will be coming by Tuesday, April 11. And if you wish to continue the conversation after the discussion, bring a picnic lunch.

Kathleen Lambert



**13 Thursday 14:00**

**BOWLING**

**Venue : Bowling Le Bras d'Or, 23 bd. Charrier, Aix-en-Provence**

Join us for some fun bowling. No prior skills required.

We usually play two games. (10 euros including shoes)

Please email me or call 24 hours before.

*Gilles Dreyfus*

06 75 59 82 43

[gilles.dreyfus@gmail.com](mailto:gilles.dreyfus@gmail.com)



19 - Wednesday 10:00

# EXCURSION AND GUIDED VISIT IN ENGLISH TO THE GUEULES ROUGES MUSEUM + LUNCH + RUINS OF CHATEAU DE VALBELLE

Venue : Tourves, Var

The Gueules Rouges (literally red gobs, or faces) Museum recounts the history of bauxite extraction in the Var, which lasted from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to 1980. There was a large railway station in Tourves and the village was at the heart of the bauxite industry. Former miners have contributed to the museum with their knowledge, memories and personal items. The museum celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year. In the basement is a replica of a bauxite mine gallery.



Tourves today is one of many small villages in Provence but Ad Turrem used to be an important stop along the Roman *Via Aurelia* (Rome-Arles).

After lunch at La Remise restaurant in the village, for those who want to stay on, we will walk around the ruins of château de Valbelle (the garden is presently under restoration). Through well planned marriages the de Valbelle family eventually owned half of Provence. The last count, Omer de Valbelle, was a colourful gentleman and a perfect host to the jet set from Paris. The château was used as a hospital during the Napoleonic Wars and later as a quarry. Tourves is a working-class village but some houses have very elaborate façade decorations.



Entrance to the museum including guided visit in English : 8.50 euros pp.  
Lunch at the restaurant - details to follow.  
Ruins of château de Valbelle : no charge

Directions to the Musée des Gueules Rouges, avenue de la Libération, 83170 Tourves:

Allow at least 45 minutes from the A8 motorway.

Take A8 (direction Fréjus, St Raphaël) exit 34 St Maximin. From the toll booth to first exit Tourves 5,3 km. Straight through first roundabout. Disregard exit St Maximin village, take next right exit direction Brignoles/Toulon N7. Take left to Tourves, D1, follow signs Centre Ville/Musée des Gueules Rouges. Pass bus station, take 2<sup>nd</sup> to the right (not “Entrée”), right again and you arrive at the huge parking in front of the former Cave Coopérative.

Please let me know as soon as possible, and before the 7<sup>th</sup> April, if you would like to visit this unusual museum and enjoy a tasty meal in the restaurant (which we have tested in the interests of the AAGP!).

*Cheryl Wright*

[cherylwrightfr@gmail.com](mailto:cherylwrightfr@gmail.com)

## 23 - Sunday 10:45

# FAMILY RAMBLE

Venue : The Woods above Bouc-Bel-Air

This month Marion Wahl will be our guide on this lovely, easy walk through the woods above Bouc-Bel-Air. Our route will take us along fire tracks and footpaths, with very little climbing (121m) and offering views over the hills and Gardanne. There is an orientation table at one point naming the hills and villages we can see. A nature quiz awaits us at the end of the ramble...



Bring a picnic and as usual wear good hiking boots as some of the paths are stony. There are no particular difficulties for children. Dogs (bring a lead) are welcome. The ramble will take about 3 hours plus picnic, and is 7.5km long.

Please let Marion ([marionwahl@yahoo.com](mailto:marionwahl@yahoo.com)) or me ([cherylwrightfr@gmail.com](mailto:cherylwrightfr@gmail.com)) know if you would like to join us.

**Departure Point:** car park in front of the Ecole des Pins, off Carraire du Moulin, Bouc-Bel-Air. Allow 30 minutes from Aix.

N43.452035 E5.417803

Directions (from Google Maps). Take the A51 motorway towards Marseille. Come off the exit for Bouc-Bel-Air. Merge onto the D8N. At the roundabout, take the 2<sup>nd</sup> exit onto D8N. At the next roundabout take the 3<sup>rd</sup> exit onto D59. At the next roundabout take the 2<sup>nd</sup> exit and stay on the D59. At the next roundabout take the 1<sup>st</sup> exit. Slight left onto bd Pierre Brossolette. After 300m turn left onto av. Jean Jaurès. Then turn right onto bd de la Liberté. After 550m turn left to stay on bd Jules Ferry then keep right to continue on Carraire du Moulin. Turn left into Groupe Scolaire Les Pins.



Cheryl Wright

## 24 - Monday 14:00

### BOOK CLUB

**Venue:** chez Brigitte Kraus, 99 cours Lieutaud, 13006 Marseille

*Métro* Castellane or Notre Dame du Mont - Tram T3 arrêt Rome Dragon

Tea, coffee, soft drinks, home-made cakes and biscuits for 5 euros.

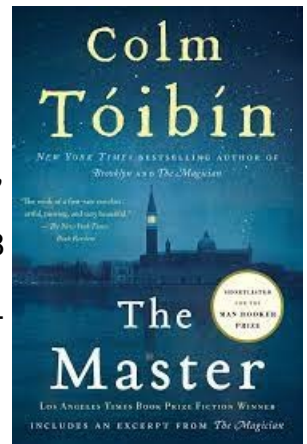
This month's book is *The Master* by Colm Toibin.

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2004/mar/20/featuresreviews.guardianreview17>

Please let me know if you are coming by Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> April.

Email: [bibik@free.fr](mailto:bibik@free.fr)

**Books for following months :**



May : *Hunting and Gathering* by Anna Gavalda (suggested by Anne)

<https://www.publishersweekly.com/9781594481444>

June : *The Daughters of Temperance Hobbs* by Katherine Howe

<https://www.danahuff.net/review-the-daughters-of-temperance-hobbs-katherine-howe/>

*Brigitte Kraus*

**26 - Wednesday 10:00–11.30**

## **MORNING COFFEE IN SAINT REMY**

Venue : La Maison du Bon Café,

4 boulevard Mirabeau, 13210 Saint-Rémy-de-Provence

This meetup over coffee is co-hosted by AAGP member David Carpita and/or Sue Poole from La Table des Amis de Provence as a joint venture of these two non-profit associations.

It is also market day in Saint-Rémy, another good reason to attend. Free parking all day at Liberation just 300m walking distance from the venue.

No need to email or phone, just drop in.

*David Carpita*

**27 - Thursday 18:00 sharp! - 19:30**

## **APERERO IN ENGLISH -JOINT AAGP & AVF**

Venue : on the Cours Mirabeau

Reservations required by email to Diane at [dmbecal@gmail.com](mailto:dmbecal@gmail.com) before 20<sup>th</sup> April.

Please note that seats are limited for our apéro soirées. (As usual, I will

reply to you with a \_\_\_\_\_ to let you know it is a go). I will send the venue on the Cours Mirabeau about a week before the event. Please watch for



the **email** update!

**Description:**

We are a growing group of AAGP conversation facilitators for our fellow Aixois/es from our local AVF (Accueil des Villes Françaises-Aix-en-Provence).

**What:** Monthly aperitif in English in a local bar/resto in Aix

**Who and why:**

- AAGP members wishing to socialize with French newcomers to Aix
- AVF members wishing to socialize and converse with English speakers in an informal, relaxing and English-only environment around drinks and light snacks (individual order)

**When:** once a month, generally the last Thursday evening at 18h00 in the cooler months

**Organizers:** Chantal Graillet/AVF and Diane Envent/AVF&AAGP

**How it works:**

- AAGP participants to facilitate conversations in English - one per table at the bar/restaurant
- AVF participants to join each table - no more than three per table
- RSVP required by the week preceding the event at indicated date
- Diane reserves tables at the bar/resto
- Participants may propose the themes or topics of conversations

**Join us and/or share your ideas?** Send an email to Diane Envent at [dmbecal@gmail.com](mailto:dmbecal@gmail.com) to join our team!

*Diane Envent*

**30 - Sunday 10:00**

**HIKE**

**Venue :** Calanques "Belvédère de Titou-Ninou"



We shall meet on the carpark of the "Décathlon" sports shop, chemin du Roy d'Espagne in the south quarters of Marseille. From there we shall proceed in

as few cars as possible to the actual starting point of the hike.

The path leads through a forest passing by the "Fontaine de Voire" and then upwards towards the "Col de la Selle" where there is a commanding view over the city on one side and the calanques on the other. We will then continue our ascension up to the "Plateau de l'Homme Mort" (altitude 350 metres approx.) before taking an unmarked track to the "Belvédère de Titou-Ninou". This is a flat ledge near the top of the cliff where there is a stunning view over the islands off the calanque coast, and it is an ideal spot for our picnic lunch. We will then return to the cars, either via the same itinerary or via a steep but more direct path. This can be decided when the time comes.

There are no particular difficulties so dogs and children used to hiking are welcome. Total hiking time is about 5 hours. Bring plenty of food and water and wear proper hiking gear. For any further information please call Roderick MACLEOD on 06 60 61 08 65.

All those wishing to come are requested to call me the day before between 18h and 20h when I will know for sure if this venue complies with all the rules and regulations.

Thanks.

Rod

## LOOKING AHEAD - SAVE THE DATE

*Important : All activities will be organised to comply with the health regulations applicable on the day. Participants are required to comply with the regulations at all times.*

Saturday May 13th 17:30  
FOLK EVENING & SINGALONG  
Venue : La Brasserie des Platanes,  
2112 route de Sisteron, Aix-en-  
Provence



Elaine, Michel and Rod - E2G - welcome you back to Brasserie des Platanes, for the next AAGP Folk Evening and Singalong !

Just a few minutes north of Aix centre, the Brasserie combines the friendly informal atmosphere of our first performances with the spacious, airy feel of our more recent evenings.

As usual a meal will be served during the intermission and wine will be served « à volonté » throughout the evening. Plenty of free parking is available with easy access from Aix town centre and the A51.

We have lots of new songs and as usual we cover as many of your « old favourites » as possible.

Newcomers this time will include Ewan MacColl and Trini Lopez, together with old favourites such Bob Dylan, Joan Baez and Leonard Cohen .....and of course the Beatles.

Booking opens on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April** and will close **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May** or when all places are taken. A reminder will be sent out on the One List.

Please remember that places are limited, so book early to be sure of your place.

Booking is by email to Elaine at [eda.blanc@orange.fr](mailto:eda.blanc@orange.fr) before closing date latest. All instructions for payment and other necessary information will be sent when your email reservation is received. All questions to Elaine at the same email.

Cost per AAGP member is 18 euros which includes wine, the buffet meal and of course the music ! Non-members accompanying members will pay full price of 28 euros each. As usual, numbers are limited, so be sure to book early to reserve your place.

We hope you will join us for another evening of music, song and good company.

*E2G - Elaine, Michel and Rod*

0612280757- [eda.blanc@orange.fr](mailto:eda.blanc@orange.fr)



## ADVANCE ANNOUNCEMENT.

This year the AAGP Annual Picnic in June will be themed specially as a ROYAL GARDEN PARTY to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. All AAGP members are invited to enjoy a fun day. More details including date and venue will be published in the next Newsletter.

*Cheryl Wright*



### **Professional associations (English speaking)**

Cancer Support France provides emotional, linguistic and practical support for English speaking people in France touched by cancer. They are also able to provide information on existing residency applications for UK nationals resident in France prior to 31 December 2020.

Tel: 0800 240 200

Email: [helpline@cancersupportfrance.fr](mailto:helpline@cancersupportfrance.fr)

Website: <https://cancersupportfrance.org>

SOS Helpline France for English speakers (similar to Samaritans)

Tel: 01 46 21 46 46 (3pm to 11pm daily)

Website: <https://www.soshelpline.org>

The Samaritans: UK based with overseas lines (not free):

Tel: 00 44 330 094 5717 or 00 44 8457 90 90 90

Email: [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

Counselling in France - a website which includes a range of English (and other languages) speaking therapists and counsellors all over France.

Website: <https://www.counsellinginfrance.com>

Red Cross Helpline in English

Tel : 07 86 28 11 99 open 09:00-17:00 Monday to Friday.

Email: [English-helpline.st-lois@croix-rouge.fr](mailto:English-helpline.st-lois@croix-rouge.fr)

# LOOKING BACK



## ITER VISIT, February 27th

At the end of February we had a very interesting and informative guided tour of the ITER site including an overview of the magnet assembly area. This was followed by a delicious lunch at the château de Cadarache.

Many thanks to *Caitriona Macklin*



# LOOKING BACK

Family ramble at Meyrargues. Many thanks to Cheryl Wright.



# SMALL ADS APRIL 2023

## BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

Are you grieving for a loved one and needing to talk? The Bereavement Support Network supports the bereaved, the terminally ill and/or their carers, face to face in the Var and Aix-en-Provence and by telephone elsewhere in France. Call us between 07.00 and 17.00 on 06 24 50 22 74 ; email : [info@bsnvar.org](mailto:info@bsnvar.org). website : [www.bsnvar.org](http://www.bsnvar.org)

## REAL ESTATE CONSULTANT

Need assistance to sell or purchase a property in Aix and surroundings? I'll be pleased to help you in your real estate project. Competitive service, dynamic local network, widespread advertising and a unique interlocutor! Contact : 06 18 46 84 77 email : [veronique.morvan@iadfrance.fr](mailto:veronique.morvan@iadfrance.fr)

Follow me on fb : VerolMMO. Insta : vero.morvan\_immo\_aixprovence

## WANTED - TO RENT

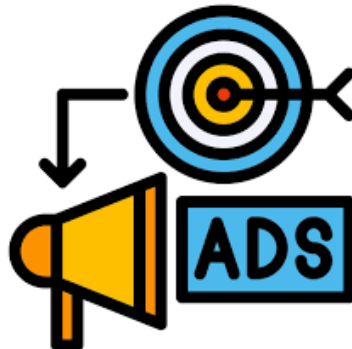
We are looking for :-

1) Summer Rent of villa with pool - big enough to sleep 6, maybe max 8, for the month of July. We could rent or perhaps do a house swap ( a house in Oxford which can sleep 7 )

2) and T1/T2 for long term rent

Will consider all possibilities!

email : [i.thomas88@outlook.com](mailto:i.thomas88@outlook.com)



# Regular events

# Useful info

## **French conversation**

In Aix

## **Bridge**

On Tuesday 14:00

Contact Lish GOERGEN

## **Library**

Wednesdays and Saturdays 9:30 - 11:30

Maison des Associations, Mairie Aix-Sud

75 route des Milles, Pont de l'Arc.

For more information, refer to :

[www.aagp-provence/library.php](http://www.aagp-provence/library.php)

## **Painting Group**

Sign up to receive our monthly information and workshop dates

Michel PARISOT

[mitch131pari@gmail.com](mailto:mitch131pari@gmail.com)



Contact the editor :

[newsletter@aagp-provence.com](mailto:newsletter@aagp-provence.com)

To advertise

[smallads@aagp-provence.com](mailto:smallads@aagp-provence.com)

See website for terms and conditions

Website

[www.aagp-provence.com](http://www.aagp-provence.com) The member's version is only accessible by password which is in the Members'List Booklet

The AAGP is not responsible for the contents of any published advertisements, nor for the quality of goods, services or products being offered for sale or otherwise.

**Look before you book !**

If you are planning an event, please contact our calendar coordinator FIRST to check that your date doesn't clash with another event.

**Important**

The civil liability insurance held by AAGP does not exempt participants in AAGP activities from holding personal civil liability insurance valid in France.

# LOOKING BACK

## *Family ramblers in Meyrargues*



**The Tate's collection of David Hockney works at Musée Granet, March 8<sup>th</sup>**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March saw an AAGP group inspect The Tate's collection of David Hockney works at Musée Granet.

The visit was organised by Cheryl and we were about 16 AAGP art enthusiasts, under the tutelage of our guide, Emilie. She gave an insightful tour, with interesting details, such as how Hockney inverted perspective: instead of seeing objects in the pieces reduce in size towards the rear of the work, he did the opposite. So a chair would be twice as wide at the back as it was at the front.

By the end, we were much better informed about Hockney's life and vision.

*Angie Pyman*

# LOOKING BACK



David Hockney Visit.  
Many thanks to Cheryl Wright.

