

Newsletter February 2023

N° 2023-02



Anglo American Group of Provence

Published by the AAGP / Editor : Sharon LIGHTOWLERS

Distributed only to AAGP Members.

Letter from the Board - February 2023

February already and with the mimosa coming into bloom, spring must be on the way!

As per usual, lots of activities to keep us busy so keep reading on through your newsletter.

At the end of the month (27th), an excursion has been organised to the IT-ER project in Manosque. Several members paid a visit back in 2017 so it will be interesting to see how the project has progressed over the past 5 years.

Lynn Rousseau has contributed an informative article on the upcoming David Hockney exhibition at the Musée Granet in Aix. This will give a good introduction prior to the visit organised for March (see 'looking ahead').

As you will have seen, Deanna, Karen and Gilles have now updated and greatly extended the 'members recommendations list of services'. Many thanks to you for your tireless hard work. Please remember to check this list before sending out an SOS via the One List as many times you will find just what you're looking for. The list can be found in the members section on the AAGP website.

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 10th of the month and she will arrange this (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).

As usual, lots of regular activities to keep you busy. Enjoy.

Best wishes

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.

What's on in February 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.

3 - Friday 12:30 GOURMET LUNCH

Venue : to be announced

Location to be announced in the Foodie email around 20th January.



8 - Wednesday 12:00 LUNCH IN MARSEILLE

Venue : Gingembre, 39 rue d'Aubagne - 13001 Marseille (suggested by Nicole B.)

Tram T3 : arrêt Cours St Louis ou T2 Canebière Capucins ou Métro M2 : Noailles

<https://www.lebonbon.fr/marseille/bo-bun/gingembre-bistrot-vietnamien-plus-stylee-marseille/>

<https://www.le-grand-pastis.com/gingembre-restaurant-marseille-rue-aubagne/>

Please let me know if you are coming before Wednesday, February 1st .

Brigitte Kraus

9 - 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.

Please email me or call 24 hours before.

Gilles Dreyfus

Cell : 06 75 59 82 43

Email : gilles.dreyfus@gmail.com



12 - Sunday 10:30

FAMILY RAMBLE

Venue : Meyrargues



This ramble takes us through the forest up in the hills above the village of Meyrargues, down to the railway line, through the Pas de l'Etroit gorge and past the remains of an old Roman aqueduct. The climb (215m) is rewarded by views of the surrounding countryside, the Luberon hills and the XVth century château.

The walk should take about 2h30 + picnic and is approximately 9.5km long, with no particular difficulties. Proper walking shoes are required though as some of the paths and tracks are stony.

Suitable for children and dogs.

Bring a picnic.

We will set off at 10:45. Please let me know if you plan to join us.
cherylwrightfr@gmail.com. Phone : 07 68 06 54 24

Directions to Meyrargues Cemetery.

Allow 20 minutes from Aix.

From Aix, take A51 towards Sisteron/Gap. Come off at exit 14 and follow the D96 towards Meyrargues. Turn right at the 2nd roundabout towards Meyrargues Centre Ville. As you enter the village, take the first little road on the right "Montée du Château" towards château de Meyrargues. Pass the entrance to the château at the top of the hill on the left then go down the hill to the cemetery. Park just before the cemetery on the right.

GPS : N 43.633649° E 5.53243°

Cheryl Wright

12 Sunday 10:30

PETANQUE

Venue : Boulodrome de Puyricard

The next meeting of the *pétanque* regulars is Sunday, November 6th, at 10:30 a.m. at the Boulodrome of Puyricard.

The boulodrome is at the exit from the village towards the route du Seuil.

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

No previous skills required

Deanna

06 76 39 15 52 _

deannalittell@gmail.com

Gilles

06 75 59 82 43



12 Sunday 18:45

CINE CLUB

Venue : Chez Deanna & Gilles
18 allée Rosaki
Route de Puyricard
Tel. 06 76 39 15 52



WOMAN OF THE YEAR

This 1942 film, an American romantic comedy/drama directed by George Stevens, is the first screen pairing of this now famous couple-Spencer Tracy & Katherine Hepburn. This Metro- Goldwyn-Mayer film was from a screenplay by Ring Lardner, Jr.

The plot centers around the relationship of Tess Harding (Katherine Hepburn) an international affairs correspondent, chosen "Woman of the Year" and Sam Craig (Spencer Tracy) a sportswriter at the same newspaper. Conflicts large and small arise over Tess's priorities and Sam's place in her life.

In this Academy Award winner about a meat and potatoes sportswriter and a world-renowned political pundit, Tracy & Hepburn show what chemistry is all about.

He said, she said, takes on a whole new light with these two.

Join us for popcorn and pizza & some of the best banter you'll hear at the movies.

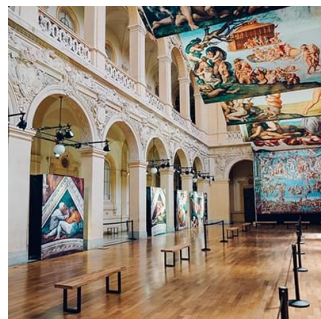
Please **R.S.V.P.** as places are limited

Deanna & Gilles

13 - Monday 14:00

EXHIBITION + AFTERNOON TEA

Venue : Exposition Chapelle Sixtine de Michel-Ange, Palais de la Bourse, 9 La Canebière, 13001 Marseille



Métro M1 Vieux Port

[https://feverup.com/m/123656?
cp_landing_source=sistinechapel&utm_campaign=118913_ord&thm=75&
cp_landing_term=cta_hero&cp_landing=cta_hero](https://feverup.com/m/123656?cp_landing_source=sistinechapel&utm_campaign=118913_ord&thm=75&cp_landing_term=cta_hero&cp_landing=cta_hero)

Venue : Afternoon tea : Aglaé & Sidonie, 18 rue Beauvau, 13001 Mar-
seille

Métro M1 : Vieux Port

[https://www.chezaglaeetsidonie.com/restauration-salon-de-th%C3%A9-
afterwork/](https://www.chezaglaeetsidonie.com/restauration-salon-de-th%C3%A9-afterwork/)

Please let me know if you are coming by Friday,
February 3rd at the latest (in order to get a group
rate for the exhibition)

Brigitte Kraus



13 - Monday 15:00

PLAY READING GROUP

Our February play will be *Man of the Moment* by Alan Ayckbourn.

Reading will start at 3 p.m. on Monday 13th Febru-
ary; information on script and venue will be sent to
signed-up readers nearer the date.



Please email marcdympna@gmail.com if you wish to
attend take part.

Dympna Donnelly

16 - Thursday 12:15 for 12:30(Please come at 12:15 for a drink before lunch).

LUNCH IN AIX

Venue : La Crep'Sautière, 18 rue Bédarrides, 13100 Aix-en-Provence

This creperie is recommended by my neighbours and we had a very jolly lunch there in March 2022.

Lunch in Aix is a good way to meet new members or to catch up with old friends. It's always fun whether we are 4 or fourteen ...

Please contact me on elsh1958@gmail.com when you receive the magazine to pencil yourself in and I will reconfirm with you by Tuesday 14th February. Looking forward to meeting you. If you have a favourite place that you would like to share or would like to organise a lunch, kindly let me know.

Eleanor Sheil

19 - Sunday 10:00

HIKE

Venue : Calanques

We shall meet at the "Bar de la Grotte" in Callelongue. Callelongue is a little fishing port at the end of the coast road leading southwards from Montredon in the south quarters of Marseille.



From here we shall climb to the Col de la Selle (altitude about 200 metres) where there is a commanding view over the calanques on one side and over the city of Marseille on the other. We shall then take a gentle path downwards through the Malvallon forest until we reach the Calanque de Marseilleveyre, where we will have our picnic lunch on the beach. At this beach there is a rudimentary bar/restaurant which may be open. In this case we can buy refreshments and/or coffee, etc. From here we will take the "sentier de la douane", following the coast, back to Callelongue. Total hiking time is about 4 hours.

There are no particular difficulties along the way so dogs (on a leash) and children (used to hiking) are welcome. Bring plenty of food and water and wear proper hiking gear for winter conditions. All those wishing to come are invited to call me the day before between 18h and 20h to make sure that this venue complies with all the prevailing regulations.

Roderick Macleod

06 60 61 08 65

20 - Monday 14:00

BOOK CLUB

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

Métro : Castellane ou Notre-Dame-du-Mont

Book of the month: *The Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

<https://william-golding.co.uk/books/lord-of-the-flies>

Please let me know if you are coming by Wednesday, February 15th.

Brigitte Kraus

The books for the following months are:

March: *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2021/oct/22/small-things-like-these-by-claire-keegan-between-happiness-and-ruin>

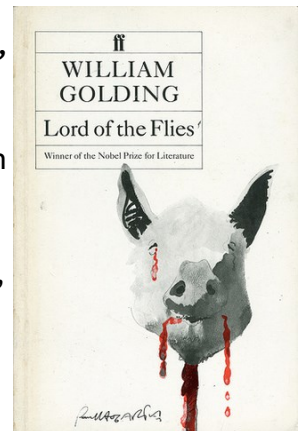
April: *The Master* by Colm Toibin

(already planned for November but postponed due to lack of participants)

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

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

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



22 - Wednesday 10:00

COFFEE IN SAINT REMY

Venue : La Maison du Bon Café,

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

This joint venture with La Table des Amis de Provence will take place on the last Wednesday of each month co-hosted by AAGP member David Carpita and/or Sue Poole from La Table des Amis de Provence.

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

If you wish to attend please send an email to David at

mascornud@live.com or just drop in - 07 86 26 09 10

David Carpita

23 - Thursday 18:00 - 19:30

APERERO IN ENGLISH - JOINT AAGP & AVF

Venue : to be confirmed - on the Cours Mirabeau (via email to those who have rsvp'd.), Aix-en-Provence

Reservations required by email to Diane at dmbecal@gmail.com before Jan 20th .

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 Graillot/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 to join our team! Or SMS at 0753323932.

Diane

27 - Monday

ITER VISIT

Fully booked

Venue : The ITER site - Cadarache

Many of you will be aware of the huge nuclear fusion project being researched and engineered by a collaboration of 35 nations at Cadarache near Manosque. By popular demand, we have arranged a visit to the ITER site which will include a presentation of the project and tour with a knowledgeable ITER representative. Afterwards, for those of you who would like to join us, we will enjoy lunch at the Château de Cadarache, a 15th century restored castle at Saint-Paul-lez-Durance.

After having a fantastic response to this event following last month's announcement, the event is now fully booked and we have a waiting list in place. All questions to Caitriona at brian.macklin@orange.fr

Caitriona Macklin



February thru May

DAVID HOCKNEY AT THE GRANET MUSEUM

The Granet Museum, the flagship institution of Aix-en-Provence, presents in association with the Tate Gallery, from January 28th through May 28th 2023, a major retrospective covering more than 700 m² of the well-known British artist David Hockney.



He is one of the best known and influential artists of the 20th century. He was born in Bradford, United Kingdom, in 1937. He studied at the Bradford School of Art and the Royal College of Art in London. Over the course of the last 60 years Hockney has produced some of the most famous paintings in contemporary art.

Since his first retrospective exhibition organized at the Whitechapel Gallery, London in 1970 when he was 33, the artist has not stopped attracting the interest of art critics as well as the general public worldwide. His inspiration comes from numerous sources: popular images and masterpieces by both old masters and modern artists. He is inspired by the great classics of art (still life, portraits and landscapes) and especially by his obsessions: representation and perspective. He has always been on the cutting edge and avant-garde in questioning our perception of the world. Hockney has highlighted all of the traditional possibilities in painting, engraving and design but also in photography and digital techniques.

The exhibition is divided into nine sections retracing his career from the middle of the 1950s to today. The paintings presented come principally from the Tate Collection but also from private collections. These paintings illustrate the unique journey of David Hockney and the numerous ways that he questions nature and what surrounds us. The exhibition moves from his beginnings as a gifted student through his journey to the creation of his later masterpieces. He is now acknowledged as one of the world's most prominent living artists.

Lynn Rousseau on behalf of Les Amis du Musée Granet

Keep reading for information on the AAGP guided tour of this exhibition in the « Looking Ahead » section of your newsletter.

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.

Wednesday 8 March 15:15 - 16:30

GUIDED VISIT IN ENGLISH - DAVID HOCKNEY EXHIBITION

Venue : Musée Granet, 18 place Saint Jean de Malte, 13100 Aix-en-Provence



We are delighted to offer a guided visit in English of the wonderful David Hockney exhibition currently showing at the Musée Granet. More than 110 works lent by the Tate Gallery in London are on show, giving a broad panorama of his artistic life. For more information on the artist and this exhibition, see Lynn Rousseau's article earlier in this Newsletter.

Our guide will be Emilie Kassentini. Those of you who have been fortunate enough to have had a guided tour of the Granet Museum by Emilie before, will know that her enthusiasm and passion for her subject make her tours vivid and alive as well as hugely informative.

Numbers are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment, and in any case before 3rd March 2023 by email : cherylwrightfr@gmail.com

Price for entry to the museum + guided visit : 12,50 euros

Cheryl Wright

LOOKING AHEAD continued

Wednesday 15 March 10:00

GUIDED NATURE AND HISTORICAL VISIT OF SAINT PONS PARK

Venue : Saint Pons Park, Gémenos

How about a guided walk (plants and history), of 4 km, in this beautiful and interesting setting of lush greenery, waterfalls, historical buildings, abbey and picnic area? We propose a guided visit of a couple of hours plus a picnic in this pretty and unusual park.

The Cistercian Abbey, built in 1205 as a convent for nuns, was the 4th of the Provençal sisters (the others being Silvacane, Sénanque (AAGP outing in March last year) and Le Thoronet). In 1426 the nuns moved to their community in Marseille but Saint Pons maintained a religious function until the revolution.

Within the park there are lots of old paths used to transport wood, coal, pine resin, ice, lime, oil, and cereals to the mill which has a horizontal water wheel.

A nearby oppidum (hilltop village) shows human habitation since 1000 BC. Above Gémenos there is a grotto with traces of human presence 80,000 years ago.

Please let us know as soon as possible and **before 10th February** if you are interested in coming along as we need enough people to book the guide. The price will be 12-15 euros depending on the number of participants. Bring a picnic.

Easy walking in the park. Dogs are not allowed.

Please email Maud Hansson at deffends@hotmail.com if you are interested. Directions to the meeting point will be sent to participants nearer the time.

Cheryl Wright



Information on the area

Sunny Peyrolles Harnesses Solar Energy

Article courtesy of www.aixcentric.com

With 2022 now declared the second hottest year in Provence since records began in 1900, more and more effort is going into the capture of that precious solar energy.

The commune of Peyrolles moved fast, even before the current energy crisis: it now has one of Europe's largest 'grands parcs photovoltaïques flottant' in Europe.

Many will be familiar with the big artificial lake (le plan d'eau du Plantain) which has a beach, boats, picnic and games areas. But it was news to me that there is a second lake which has been used for industrial purposes. Called Les Chapeliers, the enterprise Durance Granulats had been extracting water, sand and gravel for concrete production. Once this activity ended, the terrain was returned to the community who decided to use it for environmental purposes. Seven years, and lots of work later, the park has opened - a first for Bouches-du-Rhone.

Some details:

- * It's spread over 12,6 hectares of lake, 30% of the total surface
- * There are 43 776 panels
- * It took 9 months to install
- * 600 1-tonne blocks were needed to anchor the panels
- * Per year, it will produce enough electricity for 6,400 households, 20,000 inhabitants. Plenty for Peyrolles which numbers 2,000 households.

What a splendid feat of engineering!



Carrières des Lumières - Private Tours Available

December 28, 2022 by aixcentric

Calling all tour-organisers

After the Carrières close to the general public, you can take part in an exclusive, behind-the-scenes experience. You will enjoy: the theatre, a viewing of the current show and a glass of champagne. Price upon request. Min 15 people—Advance booking required at + (0)4 90 49 20 03 or receptions@carrieres-lumieres.com

March to September: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. /October to January: 6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

Just a reminder that the new show at the Carrières des Lumières starts in the spring: **De Vermeer a Van Gogh**, with the accompanying short programme featuring **'Mondrian'** (24 Feb 2023 - 7 Jan 2024)

Article courtesy of www.aixcentric.com

Many thanks to Lynne Alderson

What's on in the area

The colourful Nice carnival is one of the highlights of the winter in the South of France

Fri, Feb 10, 2023 - Sun, Feb 26, 2023



11-26 February The Fête du Citron in Menton celebrates all things lemony



Les Oursinades festival

Les Oursinades 2023 takes place on Sunday 5, 12 and 19 February at the port of Carry-le-Rouet from 10h to 17h.

Park and ride with bus to town centre for €2 return. First departure 9h45 from Rouet / last departure 17h from town centre.



Les Oursinades festival a Carry-le-Rouet institution

In 1952, fishermen and visitors were tasting the fruits of their labour at the beach in Cap Rousset when the fishers offered the mayor at the time, Jean-Baptiste Grimaldi, his weight... in urchins! The event became the stuff of local history and the urchin was elevated up the ranks.

In 1960, mayor Alfred Martin launched 'La Journée de l'Oursin' (Urchin Day) in February when the 'chestnuts of the sea' were at their fullest. Their orangey gonads with their strong iodine flavour of this shellfish are considered by many a delicacy. The objective to boost local business outside the summer months was accomplished. In the 1970s, thanks to this growing success, the day became a tradition and February became Urchin Month.

Half a century later and Urchin Month has become a key event in Carry-le-Rouet's calendar. Year on year the festival attracts more and more visitors and is even extending outside the town's borders.

How to eat sea urchin

The best way to eat an urchin is with your feet in the water!

Scissors are the most effective way to open one. Shake the urchin briskly to remove any impurities around the gonads.

Traditionally the urchin is eaten 'au naturel' by removing the orange segments with a tasty chunk of bread. The delicious fingers can also be cut out with a teaspoon, with a little lemon juice, or served on a buttered cracker.

The Mediterranean coral, as it is also known, can also be served in a variety of dishes. Scrambled eggs, omelettes, soufflés, crêpes and more, there are so many ways to savour this spiny but flavoursome shellfish.

Throughout the month of February, visitors flock to Carry-le-Rouet port to take part in this fun and friendly event and celebrate the urchin through tastings and special events.

SMALL ADS FEBRUARY 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 23:00 on 04 94 84 64 89 or 06 24 50 22 74 ; email: info@bsnvar.org 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

Follow me on fb : VerolMMO Insta : [vero.morvan_immo_aixprovence](https://www.instagram.com/vero.morvan_immo_aixprovence)

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

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

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

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

Painting Group

Sign up to receive our monthly information and workshop dates

Michel PARISOT

mitch131pari@gmail.com



Contact the editor :

newsletter@aagp-provence.com

To advertise

smallads@aagp-provence.com

See website for terms and conditions

Website

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



Pot luck New Year's celebration lunch.

Thanks to Margaret and Wolfgang.

