



Newsletter January 2023

N° 2023-01



Anglo American Group of Provence

Published by the AAGP / Editor : Michel PARISOT

Distributed only to AAGP Members.

Letter from the Board - January 2023

Welcome to 2023!

We hope you all enjoyed a fun festive period whether here in Provence or in other parts of the world. I'm sure you all made lots of resolutions and we hope one of them was to volunteer and help out with an AAGP activity or two!

January can often be a quiet month after all the activity in December but not for AAGP members - lots to choose from including a pot luck lunch on New Year's Day hosted by kind and generous members Margaret and Wolfgang Niemann. Our annual Scottish celebration of Burns Night on 28th January is back. This hasn't happened for two years so sign up early to avoid disappointment and start practising your Scottish reels! An excursion is planned to visit the Puyricard chocolate factory on 25th January (so much for those new year resolutions to give up chocolate!!). For those of you deciding to get fitter, there is both a hike (15th January) and a family ramble (22nd January) to choose from. Why not do both!! Members from Marseille are continuing to offer lots of activities from their book club, afternoon tea, evening drink and lunches.

Please sign up early for all events and activities to assist the organisers. 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).

Wishing all our members a very happy new year.

Best wishes

Chris West (President) on behalf of the Board.

The Board 2021/2022 :

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 2021/2022

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

What's on in January 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.

1 - Sunday 12:30

NEW YEAR'S DAY POT LUCK LUNCH

Venue : Chez Margaret and Wolfgang Niemann, 38 avenue Philippe Solari, 13100 Aix-en-Provence

Margaret and Wolfgang have very kindly offered to host a pot luck lunch in their lovely home on New Year's Day. If you would like to participate, please contact Margaret directly.

Marga.ings@gmail.com

Cheryl Wright



GOURMET LUNCH

There will NOT be a Gourmet Club Lunch in January, a brief respite after all the holiday festivities.

The February lunch will be on Friday, February 3rd at 12:30.

Location to be announced in the Foodie email around 23rd January.

We look forward to seeing you all, to share a wonderful lunch and camaraderie!

Mary Lou Mc Hugh and Bob Keltz



8 - Sunday 10:30

PETANQUE

Venue : Boulodrome de Puyricard

Attention pétanque players:

The next meeting of the *pétanque* regulars is Sunday, January 8th at 10:30 a.m. at the Boulodrome of Puyricard.

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

Gilles will be in charge of the group, but please answer by email 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



8 - Sunday 18:45

CINE CLUB

Venue : Chez Deanna & Gilles

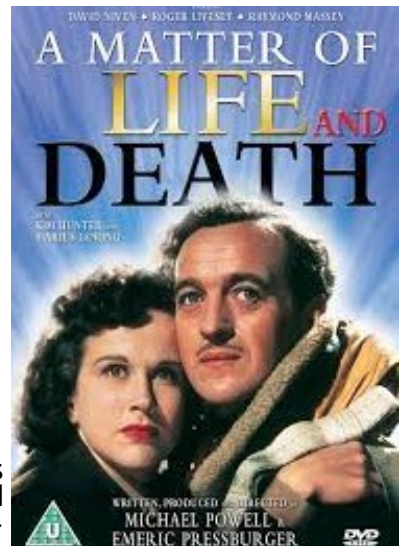
18 Allée Rosaki

Route de Puyricard (D14A)

Tel 06 76 39 15 52

After miraculously surviving a jump from his burning plane, RAF pilot Peter Carter (David Niven) encounters the American radio operator (Kim Hunter) to whom he has just delivered his dying wishes, & face to face on a tranquil English beach, the pair fall in love.

When a messenger from the hereafter arrives to correct the bureaucratic error that spared his life, Peter must mount a fierce defense for his right to stay on earth, climbing a wide staircase to stand trial in a starkly beautiful, black-and-white modernist afterlife. Intended to smooth tensions between wartime allies Britain & America, Michael Powell & Emeric Pressburger's



richly humanistic *A Matter of Life or Death* traverses time & space to make a case for the transcendent power of love.

Join us for pizza, popcorn & proof that love will out.

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

Deanna & Gilles

10 - Tuesday 12:00

LUNCH -- FULLY BOOKED

Venue : Lycée hôtelier de Marseille,

114 avenue André-Zenatti, 13008 Marseille. Bus 23 - 44 - 45 - 47 arrêt Ham-bourg Lancier ou Floralia Chiapale

https://www.lyc-hotelier.ac-aix-marseille.fr/spip2/sites/www.lyc-hotelier/spip2/IMG/pdf/conditions_d_ouverture_des_restaurants_a_la_clientele.pdf

https://www.lyc-hotelier.ac-aix-marseille.fr/spip2/sites/www.lyc-hotelier/spip2/IMG/pdf/menus_brasserie_2022_2023.pdf

Brigitte Kraus

12 - Thursday 10:30

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Venue : chez Nancy Ceridwyn, 215 bis
avenue Jacques de Regis, Puyricard. 07 81 84 61 29

nancy.ceridwyn@gmail.com

This month's book is *The Round House* by Native American author Louise Erdrich presented by Nancy Ceridwyn at her home in Puyricard.

The novel combines a mystery, a powerful coming of age story and a tender novel of family, history and culture. In the spring of 1988, a woman living on a reservation in North Dakota is attacked. Her 13-year-old son is thrust into an adult world in which he must muster strength and maturity to find answers that the official investigations are slow to reveal.

Please let Nancy and myself know if you will be coming by Tuesday, January 10th. And do bring a picnic lunch if you would like to continue the conversation afterwards with the group. kathleenlambert10@gmail.com

Kathleen Lambert



Lycée Hôtelier
de Marseille



12 - 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



15 - Sunday 10:00

HIKE

Venue : Cap Morgiou

We will meet at the "Chez Zé" bar restaurant at the far end of the Chemin de Morgiou in Marseille.

This spot is reached easily once you have passed the Baumettes prison walls. Our hike starts on a path which leads through a forest and takes us up to the Col de Morgiou (approx. 200 metres altitude), at which point we have a commanding view over the coastline. We will then continue following a ridge in the direction of the cape, passing by the ruins of a 17th century military fortress and the famous "Grotte Cosquer" calanque. Just before we arrive at end of the Cap Morgiou we will stop for our picnic lunch and then head back to the cars via the same route.

This hike presents no particular difficulties so children used to hiking and dogs are welcome. Please bring enough food and water, and wear proper hiking gear for winter conditions. Total hiking time should be about 4 hours.

All those wishing to come are required to call me the day before between 18h and 20h on 06 60 61 08 65 just to make sure that this venue complies with all the regulations prevailing.

Many thanks.

Roderick MacLeod



16 - Monday 14:00

AFTERNOON TEA

Venue : Pâtisserie - salon de thé Depuichaffray, 66 rue Grignan, 13001 Marseille

Métro : Estrangin Puget ou tram T3 Place de Rome

<https://www.sylvaindepuichaffray.fr/>

<https://mpgastrologie.fr/boutique/sylvain-depuichaffray/>

Please let me know if you are coming by Thursday, January 12th

Email: bibik@free.fr

Brigitte Kraus



16 - Monday 15:00

PLAY READING

GROUP

Venue : to be announced

What better way for the play reading group to start 2023: *The Perfect Human* by Jorgen Leth.

Reading will start at 3 pm on Monday 16th January.

Please email marcdympna@gmail.com if you wish to attend so that the parts can be distributed.

Dympna Donnelly



19 - Thursday 12:15 for 12:30

LUNCH IN AIX

Venue : Phatsara - Saveurs de Thaïlande, 4 rue Van Loo, Aix-en-Provence

We will meet at 12:15 for drinks followed by lunch at 12:30.

If you like Thai curry, this new restaurant is for you. Many options, such as red or green curry and of course the ubiquitous pad thai. Google rates it an outstanding 4.9 out of 5.

Lunch in Aix is a good way to meet new members or to catch up with old friends. It is always fun whether we are 4 or a dozen. Due to the small size of the restaurant, we must limit our number to no more than 10.

Please contact me, Valerie Belon, at BelonVL@yahoo.com as soon as you are able and I will confirm your spot by return email. I look forward to meeting and/or catching up with you.

Valerie Belon



22 - Sunday 11:00

FAMILY RAMBLE

Venue : parking du Toscan to Zola Dam

This month's ramble is shorter than usual, but with an optional extension for those who want to brave the cold (or get in shape after an indulgent Christmas!). We will start from the Toscan car park (one of the Roques Hautes car parks) and take the fire track which gently climbs up and down to the Zola dam. We will return to a viewpoint above the dam where we will have our picnic before taking a footpath back towards the car park. At one point you will have the option of going down to the very pretty Roman aqueduct and then climbing back up before returning to the car park.

2h30 without the detour to the Roman aqueduct, 3h with. Plus time for the picnic.

Please wear proper hiking boots.

Suitable for children and dogs.

Please let me or Maud know if you plan to join us.

Cherylwrightfr@gmail.com

Deffends@hotmail.com

Directions to Parking du Toscan:

From Aix, take the D17 to Le Tholonet and then continue along the D17



towards St-Antonin-sur-Bayon and Puylobier. The car park is 1.4 km after Le Tholonet, on the left, in the woods.

N 43.521669 E 5.527863

Cheryl Wright

25 - Wednesday 9:15

GUIDED TOUR OF PUYRICARD CHOCOLATE FACTORY

Venue : La Plantation,
avenue Georges de Fabry, 13540
Aix-en-Provence



As you may know, Puyricard chocolate is one of the gourmet specialities of Aix. Our excursion this month is a visit to the various workshops of this famous chocolate-making establishment which was founded in 1967 by Marie-Anne and Jan Guy Roelandts. Fingers crossed there will be some chocolate tasting, too!

Price: 8 euros per person. Limited numbers.

Please book your place by email: cherylwrightfr@gmail.com by 20th January latest.

Cheryl Wright

25 - 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

26 - Thursday 18:00 - 19:30

APERERO IN ENGLISH - JOINT AAGP & AVF

Venue: to be confirmed the week prior, au cours Mira-beau

Join our growing team of AAGP conversation facilitators for our monthly *apéro* in English - with our local AVF (Accueil des Villes Françaises, Aix-en-Provence).

Depending on our mix of AVF/AAGP rsyvs, we create a convivial mix of native anglophone and native francophone English-speaking conversation-alists at each table of four or five. Due to increasing interest, we often have a waiting list, so rsvp early!

Organizers: Chantal Graillot/AVF and Diane Envent/AVF&AAGP

RSVP required, to Diane Envent by email - dmbecal@gmail.com, by the Monday of the week of the event.

Note our future dates: 23 February, 23 or 30 March

27 - Friday 1900

EVENING DRINK

Venue : Le Bousti, 60 rue des Trois Frères Barthé-lémy, 13006 Marseille (suggested by Nicole B.) Métro : Notre-Dame-du-Mont

https://www.instagram.com/le_bousti/?fbclid=IwAR24RBy8jc0lluFcg80RMUigogCJTArR7XkHLON9oLqOZhJXILQ9QZujFvl

Please let me know if you are coming by Friday, January 20th

Email: bibik@free.fr

Brigitte Kraus



28 - Saturday 19:00

BURNS NIGHT

Venue : Moulin de l'Arc,

Rousset

Once again, we will celebrate the Bard at the Moulin de l'Arc at Rousset. where we held it the last time.

Despite Brexit we will have haggis !!
The cost is 25€ per person. AAGP members only please.

Please reserve with me by calling 06 86 73 43 19 after 4th January.

No emails please

Your reservation will then be confirmed and directions sent, upon receipt of a cheque made payable to the AAGP and sent to me before January 18th or...if you want to pay by bank transfer, please let me know when reserving and I will send you the AAGP RIB.

Don't forget to indicate your full name and the event on the bank transfer.

Marjorie, Maryna and I are looking forward to seeing you there.

*Any cancellation after the specified deadline date will **NOT** be reimbursed unless a suitable replacement has been found.*

Lish Goergen



30 - Monday 14:00

BOOK CLUB

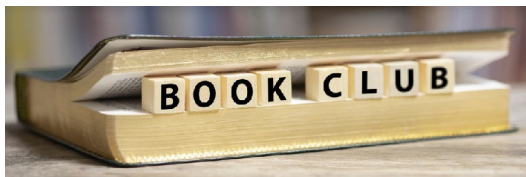
Venue : chez Brigitte Kraus, 99 cours Lieutaud, 13006 Marseille

Métro : Castellane ou Notre-Dame-du-Mont

Book of the month: *The Island of Missing Trees* by Elif Shafak (suggested by Emma)

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2021/aug/06/the-island-of-missing-trees-by-elif-shafak-review-superlative-storytelling>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/books/elif-shafak-island-of-missing-trees-review/2021/11/15/7b2dc65c-45b5-11ec-b8d9-232f4afe4d9b_story.html



Please let me know if you are coming by Wednesday, January 25th.

The books for the following months are:

February : *The Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

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

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>

Brigitte Kraus – bibik@free.fr

A gorgeous day for
the excursion to Sis-
teron Citadel.

Fabulous views and a
convivial lunch to-
gether.



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.

Monday 27 February

ITER Visit

Excursion to visit the ITER site and lunch at Château de Cadarache (optional) Monday 27th February 2023

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 St. Paul Les Durance.

Numbers are limited to 30 people and as per the rules of ITER, we will be renting a bus (at the site, NOT Aix) to take us onto the site. You need to sign up as soon as possible as I anticipate this being a popular event and send the relevant information detailed below to reserve your place. At the time of writing, we don't know the exact price of the bus as it depends on numbers but it will be approximately €6 per person. The cost of the lunch at the chateau (set menu of 3 courses plus wine, water and coffee) is €32.60 per person based on 30 attendees. We will send out the menu when received (vegetarians/allergies - need to inform in advance).

When booking please send to me by email

1. The following details: gender, surname, first name, date of birth, place of birth, department (if French), job position and company (this must be given to ITER at least 2 weeks prior to our visit).
2. A copy of your passport - if possible, please send this by email attachment as all information will be sent to ITER electronically (**you must bring your passport with you on the day of the visit - no other form of identification is allowed**).

When I have the numbers, I will send you the actual cost of the event and details of where to send your payment.

All these details can be seen on the ITER website--<https://www.iter.org/visiting/practical>. Ladies, please note no skirts, shorts or high heels to be worn. cherylwrightfr@gmail.com

Cheryl Wright

LOOKING BACK

Beaujolais Nouveau 17th November

A great time was had by all at the recent Beaujolais Nouveau Evening. As usual, no consensus was reached on the favourite wine.....too much chatter and laughter!



Thanksgiving Lunch 27th November



Gourmet Lunch 2nd December

Villa Saint-Ange - Aix en Provence



Wheat or lentils

In Provence, it is traditional to plant, on December 4, grains of wheat or lentils in 3 cups which will then decorate the Christmas table. These three cups represent the Holy Trinity.



Christmas Gala in Barbaroux Golf Club - Dec 10th



SING ALONG FOLK EVENING – Dec 3d

Bar des Platanes – Aix-en-Provence

Once again AAGP's own band EG2, Elaine, Michel and Rod, entertained us with a great repertoire of old and new songs from the 60s and 70s.

We were just over 60 to participate in this friendly and sociable evening in a new venue, la Brasserie des Platanes in Aix. The place was completely privatized and the layout of the tables gave a cosy atmosphere, not to mention the great welcome and catering.

Elaine introduced each song with a short anecdote, Michel switched from guitar to piano in a virtuoso manner and Rod sang a solo by James Taylor. Song booklets were provided so everyone could happily join in singing and clapping, creating a great ambience.

Many thanks to the band and the people who helped them in the organisation of this joyful event. We look forward to the next folk and singalong evening scheduled in about 6 months.





Saturday morning at Chateau Boisson visiting the art centre and tasting wine. Dec 3d



Ramble around Cornillon-Confoux



Art talk, Michèle Sharma.



«Les treize desserts» is an old Christmas tradition in Provence. **Thirteen desserts** are enjoyed after Christmas Eve dinner, traditionally representing Jesus and his twelve Apostles. Each guest must eat all thirteen in order to guarantee good luck for the year to come



SMALL ADS JANUARY 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

BAGGAGE OR HOUSEHOLD GOODS TO GO ?

www.fd-platinum.com offers worldwide relocation and moving solutions.

Part loads, full loads or storage London, Paris, Mougins, New York and San Francisco.

All enquiries info@fd-platinum.com or call your local contact JP Delahaye tel 06 44 90 83 58

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>

Regular events

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



Useful

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.

