



# Newsletter March 2023

N° 2023-03



## Anglo American Group of Provence

*Published by the AAGP / Editor : Michel PARISOT*

Distributed only to AAGP Members.

### Letter from the Board - March 2023

It's official, spring is here. The days are getting longer and the nights shorter - our gardens and the countryside are coming alive and more colourful. It's time to get outside and enjoy the warmer Provençal weather.

At the end of January members enjoyed our annual Burns Night celebration - the Scottish celebration included the piping in and addressing of the haggis - thanks to our piper Andreas and our mistress of ceremonies Maryna. This was followed by dancing to Scottish reels, ably lead by Marjorie and Lish. A great time was had by everyone.

Last month we enjoyed an excursion to the ITER complex to see the progress being made with the international nuclear fusion project. Many thanks to Caitriona Macklin for organising this outing along with a very enjoyable lunch. As this was vastly oversubscribed, we are hoping to organise the same outing later in the year for those members who had to miss out this time.

We have two further excursions taking place this month:

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March, a guided visit has been organised to see the much-publicised David Hockney Exhibition.

On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March, a guided walk has been arranged in the very pretty Park Saint-Pons at Gémenos. Amongst the lush greenery there is a meandering river and waterfalls, historical buildings and a Cistercian Abbey. And on 18<sup>th</sup> March, we are hoping to welcome back regular transmission of National Theatre productions. Our thanks to you Karen, and all involved, in organising this.

Full details for all these events can be found further on.

#### **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

Looking ahead, we are hoping to organise our annual quiz evening in April and further ahead we are planning a Coronation Party to take place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May. And just one week later on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May, E2G will be back with their next Folk Evening and Singalong. Watch this space for more details.

All regular monthly events will be taking place as usual - please double check your calendar for dates as sometimes these do change, exceptionally!

For those of you wanting to be more 'eco-friendly' and who 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).

And last, but not least, Happy Saint Patrick's Day to all our Irish members  
Best wishes

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

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### **Obituary**

We share with you the sad news of the death of Ronnie Ciregna in December 2022, at the age of 91.

Ronnie and her husband Serge were active members and contributors of the AAGP for many years, before moving to the US.

Our condolences to Serge and his family.



# What's on in March 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 - Wednesday 12:30**

## GOURMET CLUB LUNCH

**Venue : to be announced**

Exceptionally, the March Gourmet Club Lunch will be on the first Wednesday of March, and not the first Friday! We're sorry for the change, but our trip dates have been changed by our hotel. Location to be announced in the Foodie email around 20<sup>th</sup> February.



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

*Mary Lou McHugh and Bob Keltz*

**5 - Sunday 10:30**

## PETANQUE

**Venue : Boulodrome de Puyricard**

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

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

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

*Deanna*



Deana : 06 76 39 15 52 - [deannalittell@gmail.com](mailto:deannalittell@gmail.com)

Gilles : 06 75 59 82 43

## 6 - Monday 14:00 AFTERNOON TEA

Venue : PATISSERIE AMANDINE - 69  
bd Eugène Pierre, 13005 Marseille

Tram T1 : arrêt Eugène Pierre

<https://patisserieamandine.fr/amandine-salon-de-the.html>

<https://tarpin-bien.com/lieu/patisserie-amandine/>

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

*Brigitte Kraus*



## 8 - Wednesday 15:15 - 16:30 GUIDED VISIT IN ENGLISH DAVID HOCKNEY EXHIBITION

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

**FULLY BOOKED**

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 in last month's 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. This event is fully booked at time of writing.

*Cheryl Wright*

## 9 - Thursday 10:30 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



**Venue : Chez Angie Pyman 4 rue Condorcet, bâtiment Friedland 2, 13100 Aix-en-Provence**

06 72 40 46 41 [angiepyman@gmail.com](mailto:angiepyman@gmail.com)

The book this month will be *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell and will be presented by Mary Falconnier at the home of Angie Pyman.

England, 1580: The Black Death creeps across the land, an ever-present threat, infecting the healthy, the sick, the old and the young alike. The end of days is near, but life always goes on.

A young Latin tutor—penniless and bullied by a violent father—falls in love with an extraordinary, eccentric young woman. Agnes is a wild creature who walks her family's land with a falcon on her glove and is known throughout the countryside for her unusual gifts as a healer, understanding plants and potions better than she does people. Once she settles with her husband on Henley Street in Stratford-upon-Avon, she becomes a fiercely protective mother and a steadfast, centrifugal force in the life of her young husband, whose career on the London stage is just taking off when his beloved young son succumbs to sudden fever.

"Of all the stories that argue and speculate about Shakespeare's life ... here is a novel ... so gorgeously written that it transports you." -*The Boston Globe*

Please let me and Angie know if you will be coming by Tuesday March 7<sup>th</sup>. And if you wish to remain after the discussion for more friendly conversation, bring a picnic lunch.

*Kathleen Lambert*

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.

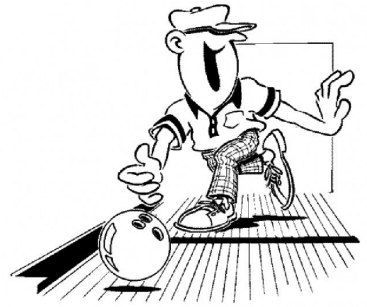
We usually play two games.

Please email me or call 24 hours before.

*Gilles Dreyfus*

Cell : 06 75 59 82 43

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



12 - Sunday 18:45

## CINÉ CLUB

VENUE: Chez Deanna & Gilles

18 Allée Rosaki, route de Puyricard (D14A)

Tel. 06 76 39 15 52

*All This & Heaven Too* is a 1940 American drama film made by Warner Brothers & directed & produced by Anatole Litvak, starring Bette Davis & Charles Boyer in their only screen pairing. The screenplay was adapted from the 1938 fact-based novel by Rachel Field. Mademoiselle Henriette Deluzy-Desportes, is a French governess to the 4 children of the Duke (Boyer) & Duchess (Barbara O'Neil) de Praslin in Paris in the last years of the Orleans monarchy.

When governess & nobleman are drawn to each other, the Duchess erupts in fury & meets a bloody fate. Soon Henriette & the Duke face a world eager to believe the Duke murdered his wife & that Henriette was a willing accomplice.

A plot rich in mystery & grand emotion. A powerful period drama,



honored with three 1940 Academy Award nominations, including Best Picture.

Join us for pizza & popcorn, scandal & forbidden love.

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

*Deanna & Gilles*

## 13 - Monday 15:00 PLAY READING GROUP



**Venue : to be announced**

Our February play will be *Alarms* by Michael Frayn.

Reading will start at 3 pm on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March; information on script and venue will be sent to signed-up readers nearer the date.

Please email [marcdympna@gmail.com](mailto:marcdympna@gmail.com) if you wish to attend and take part.

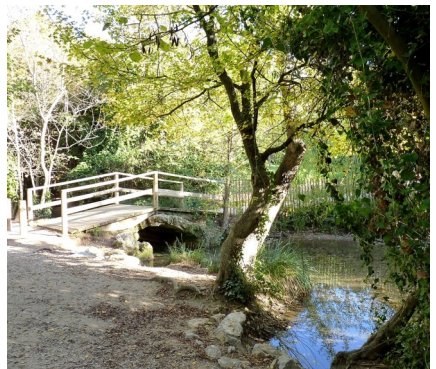
*Dympna Donnelly*

## 15 - Wednesday 10:00 GUIDED NATURE AND HISTORICAL VISIT OF SAINT PONS PARK IN ENGLISH

**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, an 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 are Silvacane, Sénanque (AAGP outing in March last year) and Le Thoronet. In 1426 the sisters 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 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](mailto:deffends@hotmail.com) if you are interested. Directions to the meeting point will be sent to participants nearer the time.

*Cheryl Wright*

# 17 - Friday 19:00

## EVENING DRINK IN MARSEILLE

**Venue : MATZA - 13 place Notre Dame du Mont, 13006 Marseille**

Métro Notre-Dame-du-Mont

<https://www.lebonbon.fr/marseille/cuisine-du-monde/matza-la-nouvelle-cantine-levantine/>

<https://www.instagram.com/matza.restaurant/>

**Please let me know if you are coming before Friday, March 10th.**

*Brigitte Kraus*



18 - Wednesday

## National Theatre program

**Venue : Galerie Gallifet**, 52 rue Cardinale,  
Aix-en-Provence



We are so pleased to announce that we have arranged to restart the National Theatre program here in Aix. Those of you who have been members of AAGP for a while will, of course, remember the program. For those of you who are new members, until just before the pandemic, we were able to arrange transmission by DVD of plays produced by London's National Theatre.

We were fortunate to have been able to use the facilities of the Renaissance Hotel for a number of years but were then advised that the hotel no longer wished to host us. Just as we were searching for a new venue, Covid hit. But now I am delighted to let everyone know that the Galerie Gallifet, a beautiful venue in the center of Aix, has agreed to allow us to use its facilities. Not only is it perfect for our program and well located, but it has the added benefits of wonderful changing art exhibitions and a restaurant and *salon de thé* should you wish to have something to eat before the transmission. If all goes as I foresee, an email will soon follow with details, but we expect the first transmission to be on Saturday afternoon, March 18<sup>th</sup>.

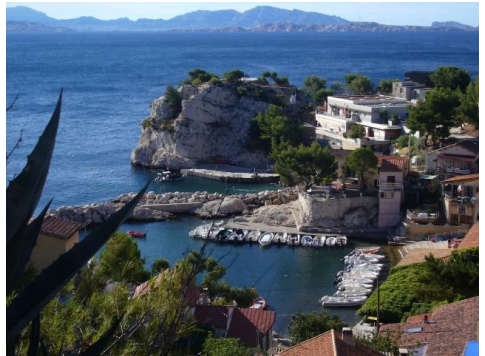
*Karen Wildau*

19 - Sunday 10:00

## HIKE

**Venue : Côte Bleue**

We shall meet on the carpark at the entrance of Niolon. Niolon is a little village on the coast just off the D5 road between Le Rove and Carry-le-Rouet. We will start our hike from here, passing through the village and then taking the coastal footpath towards Méjean, another charming village further west. Somewhere along the way, according to weather conditions etc., we will stop for our picnic lunch. Bring the necessary food and water, and wear prop-



er hiking gear. I say this even though the path is not difficult and altitude changes are insignificant. Dogs and children used to hiking are welcome. In Méjean (and in Niolon) there is a bar where we can have coffee, etc.

We will return to Niolon by the same route. Total hiking time is about 4 hours.

All those wishing to come are invited to call me on 06 60 61 08 65 the day before between 18h and 20h just to make sure this venue complies with all the regulations prevailing on the 19<sup>th</sup> March in that area.

*Roderick MacLeod*

## 22 - Wednesday 12:00 LUNCH IN MARSEILLE

Venue : MADAME JEANNE, 84-86  
rue Grignan, 13001 Marseille

Métro Estrangin

[https://www.maisonbuon.com/?fbclid=IwAR0\\_58tFon\\_s1oflXW3XSwA8OXir32UEC\\_hFIF2y06ULYjZn\\_g\\_6JTAzRPXE](https://www.maisonbuon.com/?fbclid=IwAR0_58tFon_s1oflXW3XSwA8OXir32UEC_hFIF2y06ULYjZn_g_6JTAzRPXE)

<http://www.marseille-en-bouche.fr/2021/12/madame-jeanne-marseille.html>

Please let me know if you are coming before Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Brigitte Kraus*

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

## LUNCH IN AIX

Venue : Delhi Délice, 22 rue Félibre  
Gaut, 13100 Aix-en-Provence



The group met for a first time at this charming Indian restaurant in November 2019. I am looking forward to returning because we had such a wonderful experience.

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](mailto:elsh1958@gmail.com) when you receive the magazine to pencil yourself in and I will reconfirm with you by Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March. 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*

## 26 - Sunday 10:45

### FAMILY RAMBLE

#### Venue : The Plateau of Vitrolles

This month we'll be exploring le plateau de Vitrolles. It offers easy walking with lots of wide paths that take us to good views of L'Etang de Berre and the old village with its chapel. We should spot the arrival of spring, and even a few rabbits, now the hunting season is done. There are no giant hills to climb and a choice of places to picnic.



The ramble is not more than 7/8km in distance and is perfect for March, when it shouldn't be too hot.

Children and dogs (with leads) welcome. Please wear hiking boots as the paths are quite rocky in places.

Let us know if you are planning to come. We'll set off at 11:00.

Parking and departure point:

Les Collets Rouges, 13127 Vitrolles.

GPS Nord 43.4573230 Est 5.2767720

Coming from Aix you pass the TGV station, come down the hill and take the exit for Les Pinchinades. There you come to a roundabout where you take the first exit right and follow, the slightly rough road to its conclusion.

Mary & Pierre Falconnier

[Maryk3486@gmail.com](mailto:Maryk3486@gmail.com)

Mary: 06 74 67 04 30

Pierre: 06 80 20 18 63

**27 - 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 : *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>

Please let me know if you are coming by Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Books for following months :

**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>

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

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

*Brigitte Kraus*



**29 - Wednesday 10:00 to 11:30**

## MORNING COFFEE in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence

**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*



**30 - 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 23 March.

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 Grailot/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! Or **SMS** at 07 53 32 39 32.

*Diane Eve*



# 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 6<sup>th</sup> 18:00**

### DRINKS PARTY

We are organising a drinks party to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III, on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 6-9 pm. More details to follow...

*Cheryl Wright*



**Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> 17h30**

### AAGP FOLK EVENING & SINGALONG

Elaine, Rod and Michel - AAGP's E2G - will be back to play and sing at the Brasserie Les Platanes, on Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup>.

So calendars out please to save the date for the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of your favourite folk songs and other memorable « evergreens » of the 60s and 70s.

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

All details for booking will be in your April Newsletter.

Hope you will be able to join us for another great evening of music and good company!

*Elaine, Michel & Rod - E2G*



# LOOKING BACK

## GUIDED TOUR OF PUYRICARD CHOCOLATE FACTORY Wednesday January 25<sup>th</sup>

An interesting - and delicious - visit to the various workshops of this Puyricard establishment, busy preparing for St. Valentine's Day.

*Cheryl Wright*



## BURNS NIGHT Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup>

As one could imagine: after three years "without Burns" we were more than glad to reunite at the "Domaine du Moulin de l'Arc" for this traditional Scottish dinner dance. This event was attended by 46 members, and it was a success by all accounts.

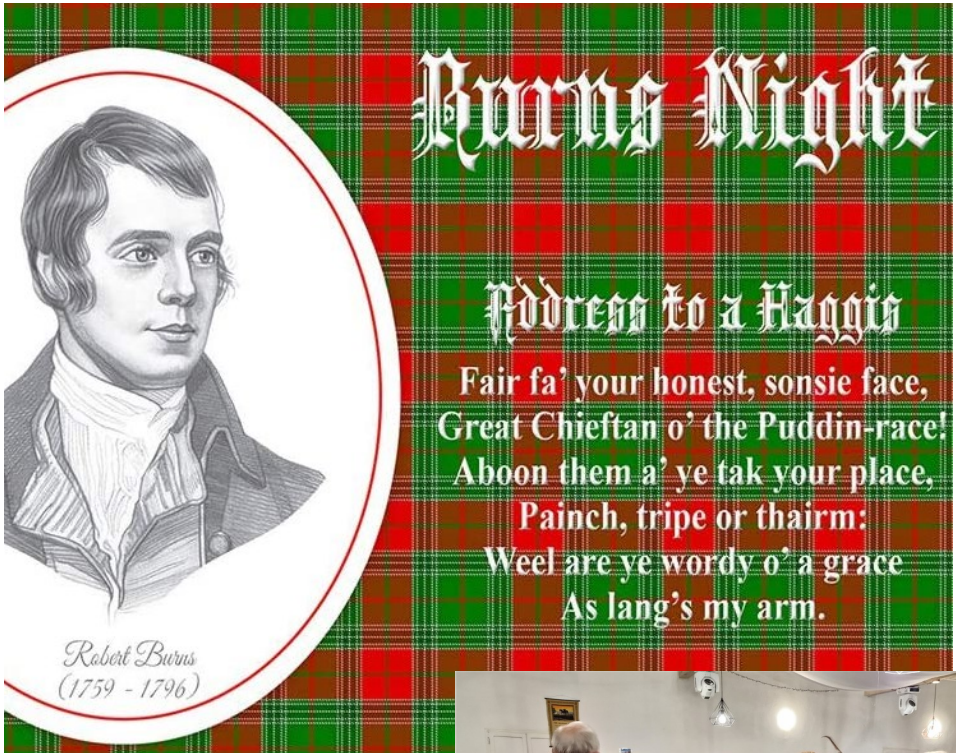
Thanks first of all to the AAGP Burns Night team for all the organisation involved, including the haggis (imported exceptionally from Ireland) and to Sébastien and Thomas of the restaurant for their warm welcome and catering skills. I would like to add on the subject of our banquet that it was Jan Delahaye's company who sponsored the individual whisky bottles. Likewise, our gratitude



goes also to the AAGP for their support. Even after three years, Andreas proved he had not lost his mastery over the bagpipes, nor had Maryna lost her theatrical skills as a speaker. With Marjorie's experience as a dancing instructor, we managed to "reconnect" with our favourite Scottish country dances. I also noticed that Jean-Christophe Millet, one of the dancers, was able to manage his steps and to manage the sound system at the same time. I was impressed.

I'm already looking forward to next year!

*Roderick MacLeod*



# Burns Night

## Address to a Haggis

Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,  
Great Chieftan o' the Puddin'-race!  
Aboon them a' ye tak your place,  
Painch, tripe or thairm:  
Weel are ye wordy o' a grace  
As lang's my arm.

*Robert Burns  
(1759 - 1796)*



# SMALL ADS MARCH 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](mailto:info@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 *interlocuteur* !

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

### **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>

# 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](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)



# Useful

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.

# Other photos :

## Puyricard Chocolate factory



## Apero in english AVF-AAGP



# Burns Night :



