



Newsletter May 2023
N° 2023-05



Anglo American Group of Provence

Published by the AAGP / Editor : Michel PARISOT

Distributed only to AAGP Members.

Letter from the Board - May 2023

Welcome to the month of May, the month of bank holidays which is popular for school children and workers as it usually means lots of extended leisurely weekends to enjoy the Provence weather and provides opportunities to explore our beautiful region.

This month, on the 10th May, an excursion has been organised to the Château de la Buzine on the outskirts of Marseille - once owned by Marcel Pagnol and now owned by the city of Marseille and dedicated to cultural events and activities.

On the 13th, we will enjoy the musical talents of **E2G** with an evening of folk songs and ballads to listen or sing along to. Once again, it will take place at the Brasserie des Platanes in Aix. All your favourite songs and new ones. Sign up early as this is always a popular event.

The 21st sees the reprise of a pre-Covid event - the showing of National Theatre plays. A new venue has been found in Aix, all the necessary behind the scenes administration has been finalised and now we can look forward to watching *Jack Absolute Flies Again*.

All details for these events and our regular activities can be found further on - keep reading!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank two members: Eleanor Sheil and Valerie Belon. Eleanor has organised several activities over the years including the popular monthly Aix lunches. After 6 years of dedication, she has decided to hand over the reins to a relatively new and enthusiastic member, Valerie Belon. On behalf of the Board and all our members, we are very grateful to both Eleanor and Valerie for giving their time so generously and freely.

Looking forward, the annual picnic/garden party celebrating the Corona-

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.

tion of King Charles III will take place on Sunday 11th June (more details to follow in the June newsletter).

Enjoy.

Chris West (President) on behalf of the Board.

Obituary

We share with you the sad news of the death of Denys Laurence on March 5th 2023. Denys and his wife Norma were active members of the AAGP before moving to the UK in 2016.

Our condolences go to Norma and all their family.

BECOME ONE OF OUR AAGP WEBMASTERS.....

The webmaster for AAGP is the person who creates the website, creates pages to place online, uploads everything to the web, monitors and updates the web pages, troubleshoots where/when issues arise and deals with all aspects of the online AAGP Newsletter. The webmaster team works as directed by the AAGP Board and advises the Board on internet issues.

Currently there is one webmaster and an assistant but we need another webmaster to share the load, bring new creativity and ensure there is cover throughout the year.

Routine activity is the monthly update of the web pages to reflect the new Newsletter, Calendar and list of new members - these are created by other teams in the AAGP and the web team reformat, as necessary, to make them suitable for placing on the website. Normally this takes between 1.5 and 4 hours - this could be split and work rotated to keep the approach fresh.

Additional activity involves adapting web pages to changing requirements, placing AGM minutes on the site, creating new pages for new or changed activities and reviewing the entire online AAGP presence to keep it current, interesting and relevant.

The software packages used at present are XARA (website design), Filezilla to move files to and from the web servers, MS Office (mainly Word, Publisher) to view, modify and create text, a PDF reader or editor to help with reviewing pages, Windows Paint to re-size photos and other work as necessary. The use of XARA is purely because the current website was written using that package but it could be changed if there were a better way; no knowledge of web programming languages such as HTML, Java etc. is needed.... but if a volunteer had that knowledge we could put it to good use.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the AAGP web activity and become one of the webmasters please contact Tim Williams at webmaster@aagp-provence.com 06 72 82 72 77

The Board

What's on in May 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 - Wednesday 19:00

EVENING DRINK

Venue : Le 44, 44 rue Sainte,
13001 Marseille—Métro Vieux Port
<https://www.le44restaurant.com/>

Please let me know if you are coming by
Friday, 28th April.

E-mail: bibik@free.fr

Brigitte Kraus



4 Thursday 12:15

LUNCH IN AIX (sushi/ramen)

Venue : Koi, 4 rue Paul Doumer (one block north of the Cours Mirabeau), Aix-en-Provence

Refined Japanese restaurant with sushi, teppanyaki, and ramen.

<http://koi-aixenprovence.com/>

Please reserve your spot with me by Tuesday May 2nd, preferably on the AAGP Facebook page (see Events section).

Looking ahead: Please mark your calendar for the next “Lunch in

Aix” which will be held on Thursday, June 1st, starting at 12:15 pm, at Tita, a charming and laid-back Israeli restaurant offering falafel, hummus, and shawarmas. The June 1st lunch is already posted as an event on the AAGP Facebook page if you want to RSVP now.



Valerie Belon

SMS 07 49 75 93 49

5 - Friday 12:30

GOURMET CLUB LUNCH

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

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

Mary Lou McHugh and Bob Keltz



7 - Sunday 10:30

PETANQUE

Venue : Boulodrome de Puyricard

The Boulodrome de Puyricard is on 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

8 - Monday 14:30 PLAY READING GROUP



We will start our May play reading with the second act of *Man of the Moment*, continuing with *The Virtuous Burglar*, our first time to read a Nobel prize winner Dario Fo play.

Reading will start at 2.30 pm on Monday 8th May; 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

10 - Wednesday 11:00 WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCEL PAGNOL, PICNIC, AND GUIDED VISIT IN ENGLISH OF THE CHATEAU DE LA BUZINE

Venue : Château de la Buzine, 56 traverse de la Buzine,
13011 MARSEILLE

The three « châteaux », La Buzine, La Reynarde and Le Régis, belonged to the brothers Victor and Louis Régis, wealthy shipowners in Marseille in the 19th Century.

As a boy, Marcel Pagnol and his family would walk past these three châteaux (and trespass) to reach their weekend hideaway (as recounted in



his book *Le Château de Ma Mère*). Later, as an adult, Pagnol bought the Château de la Buzine and recognized it as one of the châteaux the family used to walk past. He purchased it in 1941 (bad timing) with the idea of turning it into a “City of Cinema”. That did not happen. The City of Marseille bought the establishment in 1995, by then run down, and has finally made Pagnol’s dream come true.

We propose a leisurely morning walk between the three castles (two are not open to the public), followed by a picnic in the garden. After lunch we will have a guided tour in English of La Buzine on the theme of Pagnol, of course. There is currently a temporary exhibition on Steven Spielberg that we can also visit on our own.

Maud Hansson is organising this interesting outing, but let me, Cheryl, know if you would like to participate. **We will ask you to pay 9 euros in advance by bank transfer or cheque for the guided tour. Details when you sign up. Deadline is 28th April.**

Cheryl Wright

cherylwrightfr@gmail.com

For further information : <https://www.labuzine.com/>

11 Thursday 10:30

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Venue : Chez Brigitte Ponsart, 2670 rte de la Ste-Baume, Auriol

06 87 01 05 89 ponsartbrigitte@cloud.com

The book this month is *The Lamplighters* by Emma Stonex and will be presented by Brigitte at her home.

The Sunday Times bestseller is inspired by mysterious real events.

Cornwall, 1972. Three keepers vanish from a remote lighthouse, miles from the shore. The entrance door is locked from the inside. The clocks have stopped. The Principal Keeper’s weather log describes a mighty storm, but the skies have been clear all week.

What happened to those three men, out on the tower? The heavy sea whispers their names. The tide shifts beneath the swell, drowning ghosts. Can their secrets ever be recovered from the waves?

Twenty years later, the women they left behind are still struggling to



move on. Helen, Jenny and Michelle should have been united by the tragedy, but instead it drove them apart. And then a writer approaches them. He wants to give them a chance to tell their side of the story. But only in confronting their darkest fears can the truth begin to surface . . .

The Lamplighters is an intoxicating and suspenseful mystery, an unforgettable story of love and grief that explores the way our fears blur the line between the real and the imagined.

Please reply to Brigitte and myself and bring a picnic lunch if you wish to continue the discussion.

Kathleen Lambert

11 - Thursday 12:00 LUNCH IN MARSEILLE

Venue : OYAT, 61 rue de la
Palud, 13001 Marseille

Tram T3 arrêt Place de Rome

https://www.instagram.com/oyat_marseille/

Please let me know if you are coming
by Wednesday, 3rd May.

E-mail: bibik@free.fr

Brigitte Kraus

11 - 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

13 - Saturday 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.

Plenty of free parking is available with easy access from Aix town centre and the A51.

As usual a meal will be served during the intermission and wine will be served « *à volonté* » throughout the evening. The space available has been reorganised since last time to allow easy access to the buffet during the intermission.

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 Cohenand of course the Beatles.

Booking opened on **Saturday 15th April** and will close **Saturday 6th May** or when all places are taken

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 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 address.

Cost per AAGP member is 18 euros which includes wine, the buffet meal and of course the music and song sheet ! 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 fun evening of music, song and good company.

E2G - Elaine, Michel and Rod



14 - Sunday 18:45

CINE CLUB

Venue : Chez Deanna & Gilles, 18 allée Rosaki, route de Puyricard (D14A)

Tel: 06 76 39 15 52

Dark Journey is a 1937 British spy film directed by Victor Saville & starring Vivien Leigh & Conrad Veidt. The action starts in the spring of 1918 when a Dutch freighter is stopped by a German U-boat looking for a spy. One of the passengers questioned is an attractive Stockholm dress shop owner named Madeleine Goddard (Vivian Leigh) who is returning to Stockholm from a business trip to Paris.



She is a German spy providing Allied troop movements she acquired in Paris. The information is cleverly hidden in the gowns she has purchased there. While the Germans consider her their top spy, she is in fact a French double agent.

She meets & falls in love with a German spy Baron Von Marwitz (Conrad Veidt). The rest unfolds into high drama.

This tale of espionage blends high adventure & romance for a thrilling wartime drama.

Join us for pizza, popcorn & an unexpected spy thriller.

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

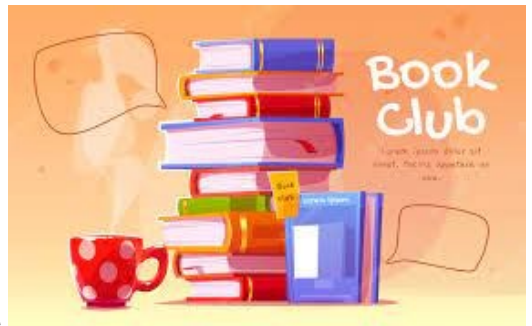
Deanna & Gilles

15 - Monday 14:00

BOOK CLUB

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

Métro arrêt Castellane ou 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 *Hunting and Gathering* by Anna Gavalda (suggested by Anne)

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

Next month's book: *The Daughters of Temperance* Hobbs by Katherine Howe

Please let me know if you are coming by Thursday, 11th May.

Email: bibik@free.fr

Brigitte Kraus

21 - Sunday 10:00

HIKE

Venue : Sainte-Baume

We shall meet on the village square in Nans-les-Pins and from there proceed in as few cars as possible to the starting point of our hike. (A 5-minute drive from the village square).



On foot we shall follow the Huveaune river through woodlands until we reach the "Grotte de la Castelette", which is one of the sources of the Huveaune. From there we will take a path which will lead us up to the "Hostellerie du Plan d'Aups", which is a famous site dedicated to the worship of Sainte Marie-Madeleine. We will have our picnic in the area, using the possibility to have coffee etc. at the *hostellerie*. There is also a shop for pilgrims and tourists wishing to buy souvenirs and/or books. We will then take the same route back down to the cars.

Count about 4 hours hiking time and a change of altitude of about 300 metres. There are no particular difficulties along the way, so dogs and children used to hiking are welcome. Bring plenty of food and water and wear proper hiking gear.

All those wishing to come are invited 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 on the date.

Roderick MACLEOD.

21 - Sunday 14:30

London National Theatre Transmissions Return to Aix

Venue : Galerie-Théâtre Ruban Vert



We are delighted to announce that the National Theatre transmissions will restart in May. Our new venue is the easily accessible Galerie-Théâtre Ruban Vert at 4 traverse Notre Dame, just around the corner from parking Pasteur in Aix. For those of you who are new members, for about 4 years prior to the pandemic, we were fortunate to be able to obtain DVDs of live theater performances of plays produced by the National Theatre. Our previous venue is no longer available but we are so pleased to have found a new one.

Our first transmission will be the staging of *Jack Absolute Flies Again** at 2:30 pm on Sunday, May 21. We decided a COMEDY was called for, so perhaps *after* a Sunday lunch or *before* an “Après Apéro” you would like to join us in this cosy atmospheric theatre for an afternoon of laughter.

Tickets will again be available by a ticketing website, accessible from Thursday 4th May (don't worry you will get a one-list reminder! Simply click on the link and you can pay by credit card.

<https://www.helloasso.com/associations/anglo-american-group-of-provence/evenements/transmission-of-london-s-national-theatre-staging-of-the-comedy-jack-absolute-f>

Ticket price remains at 15 euros. Due to the size of the theatre, we can only accommodate 45 persons so first come first served.

Karen Wildau

*Described by the National Theatre as a “rollicking new comedy by Richard Bean (One Man, Two Guvnors) and Oliver Chris (Twelfth Night) featuring a cast including Caroline Quentin (Jonathan Creek), Laurie Davidson (Guilty Party), Natalie Simpson (Three Sisters) and Kelvin Fletcher (Emmerdale)”. After a 1940 dog fight, Pilot Officer Jack Absolute flies home to win the heart of his old flame, but Jack's advances soon turn to anarchy when the young heiress demands to be loved on her own, very particular, terms.

24 - Wednesday 14:30

EXHIBITION : Paola Pivi - It's not my job, it's your job/Ce n'est pas mon travail, c'est votre travail

Venue : Musée d'Art Contemporain [MAC] - 69, avenue de Haïfa, 13008 Marseille

<https://musees.marseille.fr/paola-pivi-its-not-my-job-its-your-job-ce-nest-pas-mon-travail-cest-votre-travail?museum=musee-dart-contemporain-mac-0>

Bus 23 - arrêt Haïfa Ollivary or bus 45 - arrêt MAC - from the Rond-Point du Prado

+ **AFTERNOON TEA** after the visit

Please let me know if you are coming by Wednesday, 17th May.

E-mail: bibik@free.fr

Brigitte Kraus

24 - Wednesday 16h30-18h
(earlier than usual)

(Pre!) **APERÓ IN ENGLISH**

JOINT AAGP & AVF

Venue: Hotel de Gallifet, 52 rue Cardinale

Reservations -- required by **EMAIL ONLY** to Diane at dmbecal@gmail.com before 19th May.



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

will reply to you with a 👍 😊 to let you know it is a go). This month our day and time have changed due to a program conflict and the availability of the Gallifet. Please watch for the **email confirmation/** update which will be sent to all RSVPs.

Diane Envent

28 - Sunday 10:45

FAMILY RAMBLE

Venue : Ventabren

This ramble is packed with POIs : beautiful views over Eguilles and

the surrounding countryside, the Canal de Marseille, the TGV, a Celto-Ligurian oppidum, the Aqueduct of Roquefavour... Partly along wide fire tracks that lend themselves to conversation, partly on bucolic footpaths along the canal, this is an easy walk with very little climbing.

However, the paths (as often the case in Provence) are stony so good hiking shoes are necessary. And care should be taken with children and dogs along the canal and at the viewpoint over the aqueduct (steep drop). The walk starts off on a plateau with no shade, so if it is a sunny day, bring sun hats, sun cream and plenty of water.

The ramble is approximately 9 km and will take about 3 hours, plus picnic.

Please let me know if you would like to join us.
cherylwrightfr@gmail.com



Departure Point

Parking des Chasseurs, off Chemin des Marseillais, Ventabren.

Type in Parking des Chasseurs, Ventabren and Google will take you.

N43.530476 E.3103255

Allow about half an hour from Aix.

Carpooling is a good idea as the car park is small.

Cheryl Wright

31 - 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 Libération just 300m walking distance from the venue.

No need to email or phone, just drop in.

David Carpita



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.

ADVANCE ANNOUNCEMENT.

At the time of going to press, we are still waiting to hear if we can rent the park from the Town Hall of Vitrolles (venue of our very successful 2022 picnic) for our special ROYAL GARDEN Party in June to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III.

As soon as we have further news, we will announce the details on the One List.

Cheryl Wright

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.

Other photos :

Ramble around Meyrargues



Saint Pons Park



SMALL ADS MAY 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 : VeroIMMO. Insta : vero.morvan_immo_aixprovence

WANTED - TO RENT

We are looking for :-
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)
And T1/T2 for long term rent
Will consider all possibilities !
[email : i.thomas88@outlook.com](mailto:i.thomas88@outlook.com)

LOOKING BACK

RAMBLE - Vitrolles Plateau

A breezy ramble, lovely views and wild irises, plus, what luxury, we had a table for our picnic in the sunshine! Thank you, Mary Falconnier, for leading us, and Pierre Falconnier for the photos.



EXCURSION TO SAINT PONS PARK

What a fascinating nature walk we all enjoyed around Saint Pons Park! Vincent, our guide, was so knowledgeable. We can now prepare a menu and stock our medicine cabinets with wild plants. Thank you, Maud Hanssen, for organising this outing.

*Cheryl
Wright*

