



Newsletter December 2024

N° 2024 - 10



Anglo American Group of Provence

Published by the AAGP / Editor : Michel PARISOT

Distributed only to AAGP Members.

Letter from the Board - December 2024

As 2024 draws to a close and everyone's thoughts turn to Christmas, I'd like to mention those who have given so much of their time and energy to the AAGP throughout the year.

Firstly, to Trevor and Valerie White whose work at the door and in collecting the votes at the AGM made the event run so smoothly. I'm sure, too, that everyone who attended the Steve McCurry presentation will join me in expressing our gratitude for Trevor's research, preparation and skill in putting together such an informative and thought-provoking session.

There's a big call out "thank you", too, for all those who generously volunteered to help Lish send out the Newsletter each month when we asked for help at the AGM. Thank you to Judith Butler, Patricia Burkhardt, Gilles Dreyfus, David Hedley, Mark Pyman, Marie-Alice Roesch, Paula Mullineaux and Vivienne Hamill.

The library team receive our sincere thanks for all they do. The annual used book sale is now a huge event for us. At the time of writing, we haven't yet had confirmation of this year's level of attendance, but we will update on this in the New Year.

And I feel that a final thank you is more than due to Chris West, who despite relinquishing her role as President is still helping in the production of this Newsletter!

November's events were very well attended, perhaps as many were associated with wine and entertainment! For those who didn't make it to the Beaujolais evening hosted by Margaret and Wolfgang Niemann there will be a red wine tasting evening on 11th December in central Aix. Details can be found in this month's newsletter.

The Board 2023/2024 :

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

Associate Members

Library: **Sue BOUTIER**, Newsletter: **Sharon LIGHTOWLERS**, Social Events: **Cheryl WRIGHT**
Marseille : **Brigitte KRAUS**.

Watch this space!! And of course, as 2024 comes to an end we can start to plan for 2025. From next year our Newsletter's front cover will feature a photo or an image provided by you, our members. If you have something to share a piece of artwork you created, a photo of your garden looking its best, a group event you attended, etc, please send it to me at julieprovence13@gmail.com. Each month the board will chose one of the images for our front cover. Full details on submitting your photo/image can be found in this month's Newsletter.

In addition to the scheduled events and small group activities in January we will be launching a weekly "drop-in" coffee morning in central Aix. The day and venue will be announced on the One List shortly.

Finally, and on behalf of the board, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. And if you want to extend the festive spirit into January don't forget to pencil the AAGP Burns Night into your diary for 25th January.

Happy Holidays!!

Best wishes

Julie Wright (President) on behalf of the Board.

Watch this space !

Calling all hidden talents!

Do you have an amazing garden? Do you create unique artwork? Is your cheese soufflé or homemade Tarte Tatin a wonder to behold? Did you capture a scene in Marseille that you believe could have made it on the cover of National Geographic? If so, then the AAGP Newsletter would like to showcase your talent.

Each month the board will select one photo sent in by you, our members, for our front cover. If you aren't selected for the first month you enter, your contribution will be automatically submitted to the next month's choice. We will then ask all members to vote for their favourite cover image just before the annual picnic and a prize will be awarded to our winner at this event.

Please send your contributions directly to :

Julie Wright at julieprovence13@gmail.com

Julie

What's on in December 2024

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.

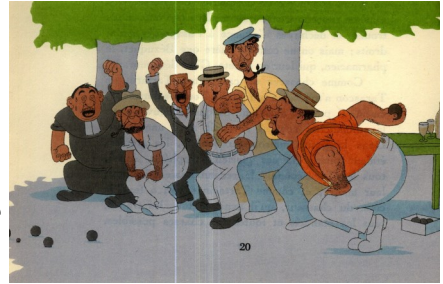
Cancellation policy for paid events: Any cancellation after the specified deadline date will **NOT** be reimbursed unless a suitable replacement has been found.

1 - Sunday 10:30

PETANQUE

Venue : Boulodrome de Puyricard

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



Join us for some fun pétanque. No skills required.

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

Deanna - 06 76 39 15 52 - deannalittell@gmail.com

Gilles

2 - Monday 10:30

MORNING COFFEE

Venue : Café Massena

[1 avenue Jules Cantini, 13006 Marseille](#)

Metro ligne 1 ou 2 : Arrêt Castellane

https://www.facebook.com/massenacafe/?locale=fr_FR

Please, let me know if you are coming by Friday, November 29th.

Email : bibik@free.fr

Brigitte



4 - Wednesday 12:00

DISCOVER ASIAN FOOD

Venue : Chez Dee, 66 Chemin de Rapine,
Aix-en-Provence

'Tis the season to be jolly ...and to eat through enormous festive meals! So, for my December Asian lunch,

I shall make various small snacks rather than a big meal - we'll enjoy some Indian street food and mulled wine (to celebrate spices and the festive season)! We all know the ubiquitous 'Samosa' but have you tried Bhel (puffed rice and garnishes) or Aloo Tikki (potato patty) or Ragda (chickpeas with spices)? Or my favourite - Bombay Sandwich! Come taste some lesser known yum snacks and drink a cuppa cheer with us!

Lunch spots limited to 10 participants. Cost 20 euros per person.
Email Dee: gayatripotdar@yahoo.com

Dee



8 - Sunday 18.45

CINÉ CLUB

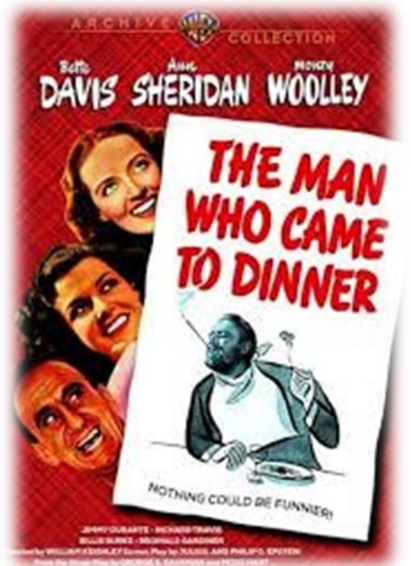
Venue: Chez Deanna & Gilles

18 Allée Rosaki, Route de Puyricard
(D114A) - Tel 06 76 39 15 52

For our December selection we thought some laughs were in order so we shall be showing The Man Who Came To Dinner, a 1942 screwball comedy film directed by William Keighley & based on the 1939 Broadway play of the same name by Moss Hart & George Kaufman. Famed author Sheridan Whiteside, on a lecture tour in Ohio, injures his hip after he slips on the ice on the steps of the Stanleys - a prominent family with whom he was supposed to dine that evening. He insists on recuperating in their home over the Christmas holidays to which they agree to avoid a lawsuit.

In the titular role Monte Woolley reprises his Broadway triumph as the imperious Whiteside in this delightful, lightning paced farce.

The overbearing, self-centered celebrity soon comes to dominate the lives of the residents & anyone else who happens to enter the household. A



who's who of Hollywood talents ranging from Gertrude Laurence to Harpo Marx, portray thinly veiled real-life luminaries while Bette Davis shines as Whiteside's unflappable secretary.

The Man Who Came to Dinner is a feast of wit and sophistication.

Come join us for some bubbly & some pizza & some popcorn.

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

Deanna & Gilles

11 - Wednesday 14:30

AFTERNOON TEA

Venue: Café Coogee

100 bd Baille, 13005 Marseille

Metro ligne 1 : Arrêt Baille

Bus 54 : Arrêt Baille Lodi

<https://www.instagram.com/cafecoogee/?hl=fr>



Please, let me know if you are coming by Wednesday, December 4th.

Email : bibik@free.fr

Brigitte

11- Wednesday

14:00 to 17:00

CHESS CLUB

VENUE: Chez Gilles Dreyfus

18 Allée Rosaki - 13090 Aix-en-Provence

(D 14A Route de Puyricard)

Bus stop : "Rosaki" on bus number 11 is NOT in service anymore.

You can get off either the stop before called **Residence Beaufort**,

or the stop after called **Fusains**; both stops are about 300 yards from Rosaki



Come & Join,

All levels welcome, bring your chessboard

Please let me know if you are attending

gilles.dreyfus@gmail.com / 06 75 59 82 43

Gilles

11 - Wednesday 18:00

WINE TASTING

THE GREAT RED WINES OF FRANCE

Venue : 39 avenue Jean et Marcel Fontenaille, 13100 Aix-en-Provence



Following on from the popular Rosé wine tasting presentation in June, Bob Wallace has kindly offered to come back and give us a chance to taste some red wines.

This is an introduction to the great red wines of France: Bordeaux, Burgundy, Rhône Valley. The world's greatest reds, each of these celebrated wine regions produces wines with different grapes and distinct characteristics; and each wine region is divided into separate wine districts, each again with unique qualities. We will compare wines from two or three districts of all three regions (e.g., in Burgundy: Côte de Nuits, Côte de Beaune, Côte Chalonnaise). En route we will cover some basics: e.g., the temperature of serving wines; breathing; shaking (vs. stirring); aging.

The wine tasting will take place again at my house and is limited to 20 people. Contribution: 15 Euros pp for the wine and nibbles.

Please let me know by 4th December if you wish to come. I will then send my bank details to you for payment.

cherylwrightfr@gmail.com

Cheryl Wright

12 - Thursday 10:30

Book Discussion Group

Venue: Home of Liz Chevalier, 17 ave du Pignonnet, Aix-en-Provence 13090

Intimacies by Katie Kitamura

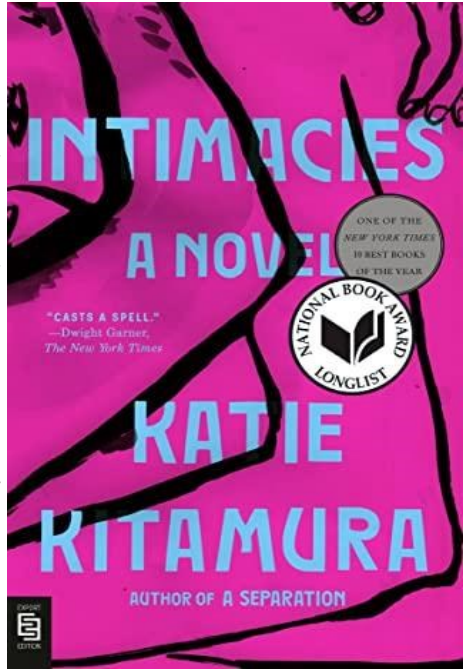
Presented by Michele Pic-Duguet

An interpreter has come to The Hague to escape New York and work at the International Court. She's drawn into simmering personal dramas. She's pulled into an explosive political controversy when she's asked to interpret for a former president accused of war crimes.

A woman of quiet passion, she confronts power, love, and violence, both in her personal intimacies and in her work at the Court. She is soon pushed to the precipice. It is her drive towards truth and love, that throws into stark relief what she wants from her life.

Join the continuing conversations over a picnic lunch after the main discussion. If you are carpooling don't forget a 5-euro donation for the driver to show your appreciation.

Let Nancy, Michele and Liz know if you plan to attend the Thursday gathering by Monday, December 9th..



Nancy Ceridwyn 07 81 84 61 29 nancy.ceridwyn@gmail.com
Michele Duguet 06 65 10 07 81 michelepicduguet@gmail.com
Liz Chevalier 06 20 80 19 15 lise.Chevalier@wanadoo.fr

Nancy Ceridwyn

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. (12 Euros including shoes)

Please email me or call 24 hours before.

Gilles Dreyfus - 06 75 59 82 43

gilles.dreyfus@gmail.com

Gilles

16 - Monday 14:00

BOOK CLUB

Venue : Chez Brigitte Kraus

99 cours Lieutaud - 13006 Marseille.

Metro ligne 1 arrêt : Castellane ou ligne 2 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 book is : The sense of an ending by Julian Barnes

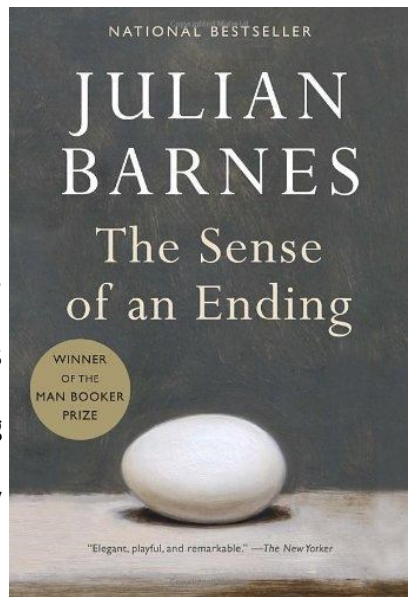
Please let me know if you are coming by Wednesday, December 11th **AT THE LATEST.**

Email: bibik@free.fr

Please note the book for the month of January :

Martin Eden by Jack London

Brigitte



18 - Wednesday 12:00

LUNCH

Venue : Restaurant Ourea

72 Rue de la Paix Marcel Paul

13006 Marseille

Métro ligne 1 : Arrêt Estrangin

Bus 41 : Arrêt Puget Fortia

Parking : Marseille Monthyon

<https://www.ourea-restaurant.com/>

Please let me know ASAP if you are coming and by Monday, December 9th **AT THE LATEST.**

Email: bibik@free.fr

Brigitte



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.

BURNS NIGHT

Saturday 25th January

Once again, we will celebrate the Bard at the Domaine du Moulin de l'Arc, 1604 route de Rousset, 13530 Trets

Be ready to enjoy, neeps, tatties and McSweens haggis accompanied by the skirling of the pipes and Scottish country dancing.

Whisky punch apero at 6.45pm and dinner starting at 7.30pm sharp.

The cost is €25 per person. Unfortunately, we can only accept AAGP members as numbers are limited.

To reserve please TELEPHONE ME on 06 86 73 43 19 after 4th January. NO EMAILS PLEASE

Please do not wait until the last minute as we must order the haggis from abroad by the 11th

Reservations are considered confirmed only upon receipt of payment by 18th January.

Payment can be made by Bank transfer / the AAGP rib is on our website in the Members section. Don't forget to indicate your name and the event. Bank cheque, made out to AAGP and received by me by Jan 18th

We look forward to seeing you there: don't forget your dancing shoes!!

Lish



**Burns
NIGHT**

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday February 15 evening

Moulin de l'Arc, Trets

Whether you're a rookie or your local pub quiz champion, seasoned teams or newly arrived singletons, you'll be welcomed and entertained by fun ideas and trivial facts you've never heard before (and may never hear again!)

Save the date, and watch for full details of how to sign up in your January magazine.

Lish, Valerie and Trevor



October Ramble, Thanks to Mary and Pierre for organizing



LOOKING BACK

AGM and New Members

Welcome Party

Friday 11th October 2024

The 2024 AAGP Annual General Meeting was held at the Novotel Beaumanoir hotel in Aix and was exceptionally well attended with over 50 members present.

The minutes of the 2023 AGM, the president's report, the treasurer's report and a roundup of the AAGP's events and small group activities were covered and full approval of the various reports was given by a show of hands (please see the minutes of the AGM and the appendices on the website for full details of the reports).

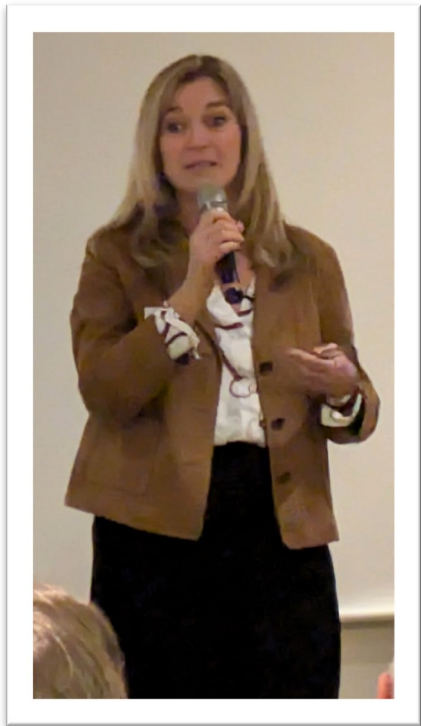
Time was made for questions and answers, with several questions relating to the newsletter. The main point that seemed to emerge was that it is possible to switch to the online version to avoid receiving it by post and that, in this case, the newsletter should be attached to an email which is sent out at the same time as the posting of the newsletter. Lish Goergen made an appeal for help with the monthly dispatch of the newsletter, and she has since had an overwhelming response from volunteers many, many thanks for this.

This year's AGM was a little special as it was with regret that we said goodbye to Chris West after eight years at the helm. She expressed her thanks for an experience that had often taken her out of her comfort zone, but which had been extraordinarily enriching. She particularly thanked her fellow board members for all their support and "laughs" along the way. Catherine Bourdoncle, the Activities Coordinator, also resigned and was thanked in her absence.

Julie Wright was elected as the new president and members were asked to approve the Board for the coming year. This was carried unanimously, and Chris West was presented with a gift and flowers.

The meeting closed at 7pm and it was time for drinks and canapés for long standing and new members. Thanks to Karen Watson for finding this venue! The food was good, and the wine was plentiful!!

Julie



ART TALK on Steve McCurry by Trevor White

Monday 4th and Saturday 9th November 2024

Back by popular demand, AAGP member Trevor White packed the house on Saturday, 9th November—for the second time in one week—with his fascinating slideshow presentation of American photojournalist Steve McCurry. Also known as a “visual storyteller” for his powerfully soulful portraits and images of landscapes, war zones, and cultures in the Middle East, Africa and the Indian subcontinent, Mc Curry is best known for his captivating photo, *Afghan Girl*. The photo of a young refugee’s haunting green eyes has intrigued the world since it appeared on the cover of *National Geographic* in June 1985. Along with dozens of McCurry’s famous photos and photography composition tips, Trevor highlighted McCurry’s use of a technique called *bokeh* whereby sections of a photo are blurry, leaving others sharp—to striking effect. Do you agree? Further, Trevor asks, “What does make a good photo?” To decide for yourself, head to the Steve McCurry exhibition, *Regards*, at the Caumont Centre d’Art, ending on 23rd March 2025.

Gayle Padgett



Saturday, November 16

Folk Evening and Singalong

A huge thank you to our very own AAGP group E2G - Elaine, Michel and Rod - for leading us in song last Saturday at the Brasserie des Platanes. Many old favorites were sung from Blowin' in the Wind to Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da to Abba's Super Trouper. Before each song, Elaine gave us lots of interesting background information on the piece they were about to play and sing : I finally learned the meaning of "Super Trouper". Who knew it referred to the spotlights used by the lighting crews during concerts?! An intermission during the evening gave us the time to enjoy a delicious hot and cold buffet prepared by the brasserie.

Ending the evening, we all sang enthusiastically to John Denver's Country Roads and requested an encore of the song...which was led by none other than our new President Julie Wright!

Music, song and good company: the perfect evening.

Lucile Scoffoni



The Book Sale on 17 nov was a great success !



The Librarians at lunch



SMALL ADS DECEMBER 2024

YOUR PROPERTY, MY COMMITMENT

Hello Members

My name is Magali, born in Provence, living in Aix for more than 25 years. I worked a long time for many student programs abroad (Vanderbilt, IAU, CEA, Wellesley in Aix.....)

Now I work for families who live in Provence half-time and need a trusty person in charge of their home. I have good experiences and a large and serious address book. Maintenance, logistics... all you need to ensure that your home will never be alone.

Contact: mag.stratigeas11@gmail.com / Tel: 06 43 43 31 24

FAMILY HOUSE NEAR AIX-EN-PROVENCE

For rent NOVEMBER 2024 through JULY 2025 (dates negotiable, minimum stay 4 months)

Rent: 1950 euros/month includes all utilities except heating fuel. The three-bedroom plus home, 100+ square meters is in a gorgeous "site classé" on two hectares of land, a fifteen minute drive from Aix. It features three main bedrooms, a bathroom and a separate toilet and sink combo, a large living room/dining room with a wood-burning fireplace. There is also a sleeping attic with several beds, suitable for children or shorter-term visitors. Fully and tastefully furnished including linens, washing machine, microwave, TV etc as well as many shelves of English and French language books. Meals can be taken on the sunny outdoor patio most of the year. Bus service to Aix is available nearby, but a car is necessary.

For photos and more information please send email to scm@northwestern.edu

US EXPAT TAX

Do you need to file a US Tax Return?

Even if you are living outside the US, you may have a US tax return to file if you are a US citizen or green card holder.

I am an Enrolled Agent based in the Paris area, providing US individual income tax return preparation services through my own firm. I have more than thirty years of experience with PWC in the US and France as a tax practitioner assisting individuals residing both in the US and outside the US with their income tax filing obligations.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need assistance with your US income tax return.

Emily Lix E.A. / EML Expat Tax

Email: emilymlix@gmail.com - Tel : 06 84 81 08 47

Planning a Move ?

We are there for you. www.fd-platinum.com has you covered with offices in France, the UK, the US, Dubai and Hong Kong. Our free video survey allows us to provide competitive door-to-door rates.

Your local contact : jpdelahaye@yahoo.com or 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>

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

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

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.

Ideas for organising a new activity or an excursion ?

Please contact the board at least one month in advance of your event and before you advertise it.

Important

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

FOLK EVENING SINGALONG

