



Happy
New Year!

Newsletter January 2024
N° 2024-01



Anglo American Group of Provence

Published by the AAGP / Editor : Sharon LIGHTOWLERS

Distributed only to AAGP Members.

Letter from the Board - January 2024

Welcome to 2024!

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!

Continuing with our annual tradition, we will be enjoying the Scottish celebration of their famous poet Robert 'Rabbie' Burns with Burns Night being held on Saturday 27th January. Sign up early as places are limited and start practising your Scottish reels!

To perhaps get rid of those Christmas excesses, there are both a ramble (Sunday 14th) and a hike (Sunday 21st) organised this month. Looking further ahead, Margaret and Wolfgang are organising a ramble with a restaurant lunch in Vauvenargues on Sunday 11th February. They will need to give numbers to the restaurant quite early so please do let them know if you will be joining them as soon as reservations open on the One List. You will find all details for these activities later in your Newsletter.

All our regular activities will be taking place but please do double check the dates as sometimes these can change, exceptionally. Remember activities are not just in Aix, there is plenty going on in Marseille and in the surrounding area. Why not try something new, perhaps a little further afield?

Just a reminder, for those of you wanting to be more 'eco-friendly' and would prefer to receive your newsletter online, please let Lish Goergen (lishgoergen@gmail.com) know before the 10th of the month and she will arrange this. Each month, you will receive an email from our webmaster with the newsletter as an attachment (including the monthly calendar and membership updates).

The Board 2023/2024 :

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 : Karen Watson, Membership Secretary : Elizabeth GOERGEN, New Member Welcome and Special Projects : Elaine BLANC, PR and Website : Jane WILLIAMS,

Associate Members 2023/2024

Library: Sue BOUTIER, Newsletter: Sharon LIGHTOWLERS, Social Events: Cheryl WRIGHT, Marseille: Brigitte KRAUS, Activities coordinator: Catherine BOURDONCLE.

Finally, this is to let you know that our current President, Chris West, will be stepping down at the end of this AAGP year. Therefore, we are actively looking for her replacement. Please do contact either Chris (president@aagp-provence.com) or any board member for details of the position.

Wishing all our members a very happy new year.

The Board

What's on in January 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.

7 - Sunday 10:30

PETANQUE

Venue : Boulodrome de Puyricard

The Boulodrome de Puyricard is on avenue Jacques de Régis (towards 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 e-mail to Deanna if you are attending.

Deanna

06 76 39 15 52

deannalittell@gmail.com



8 - Monday 12:00

LUNCH IN MARSEILLE

Venue : Le Café du Tailleur, 92 rue Grignan, 13001 Marseille

Métro Estrangin

<https://marseille.love-spots.com/adresses/ou-manger/restaurants-marseille/88809-cafe-du-tailleur.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063798763661&fref=ts>

Please let me know if you are coming by Monday, January 1st.

Email: bibik@free.fr

Brigitte Kraus



9 - Tuesday 14:00 - (change of usual date)

CHESS CLUB



Calling All Chess Players

Venue : Chez Deanna & Gilles, 18 allée Rosaki, route de Puyricard (D 14 A), Aix-en-Provence

Bus stop : "Rosaki" on bus number 11 is NOT in service anymore. You can get off either the stop before called Résidence Beaufort, or the stop after called Fusains; both stops are about 300 yards from Rosaki.

Please note that we are now meeting on a **Tuesday** since this is more convenient for our players. As of February, we will meet on the first Tuesday of each month. This month we are meeting one week later on **Tuesday 9th**,

to take into account the holiday week.

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

10 - Wednesday 12:15 LUNCH IN AIX (Chinese)

Venue : No Name, 11 rue de la
Couronne, 13100 Aix-en-Provence.



Authentic Chinese cuisine. Among the flagship dishes, Chicken Gongbao, Wonton Soup, Peking Duck, and Mapo Tofu are recommended. Essential place to discover the authentic flavors of Chinese cuisine.

Please reserve your spot with me by Saturday, January 6th preferably on the AAGP Facebook page (see Events section).

Valerie Belon
SMS 07 49 75 93 49

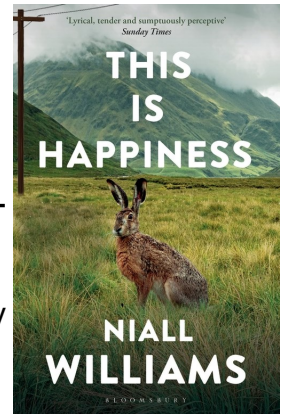
Valerie Belon

11 - Thursday 10:30

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Venue : home of Michele Duguet, 1 rue de l'Esplanade, Aix-en-Provence

This is Happiness by Niall Williams, presented by Jane Williams



This month, we venture to Faha, a small Irish parish where nothing usually ever changes, including the ever-falling rain. But one morning the rain stops and change is in the air. News reaches the parish - the electricity is finally arriving. With this monumental event, we meet Noel who is taking time away from the seminary staying with his grandparents. He ends up sharing a room with a man named Christy, who is laying cables into the village. As Noel navigates his coming-of-age by Christy's side, falling in and out of love, Christy's buried past gradually comes to light, casting a glow on a small world and making it new.

Conversations of books continue over lunch. Join the group with your own picnic lunch. If you are carpooling, please don't forget a 5 euro donation for the driver to show your appreciation.

Let Nancy, Michele and Jane know if you plan to attend the Thursday gathering by Tuesday, 9th January.

Nancy Ceridwyn 07 81 84 61 29 nancy.ceridwyn@gmail.com

Michele Duguet-Pic 06 65 10 07 81 michelepicduguet@gmail.com

Jane Williams 04 42 67 51 28 janeaix@outlook.com

Nancy Ceridwyn

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

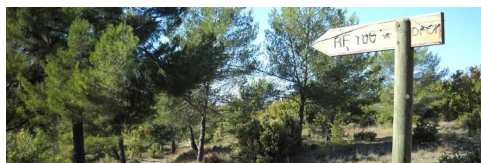
gilles.dreyfus@gmail.com



14 - Sunday 10:30

FAMILY RAMBLE

Venue : through the woods around Peynier



DEPARTURE POINT : Parking Puits de l'Auris

This lovely, totally undemanding walk takes us through the woods around Peynier and Les Michels. The circuit is about 8 km long with minimal climbing (120m) and will take less than 3 hours plus picnic. We will walk mostly along wide tracks that are conducive to conversation although there is a section along a footpath.

Even though this ramble is easy it is always wise to wear good hiking shoes, and warm clothing might be needed for January. Bring a picnic and something to sit on as there are no tables or benches for our lunch. The ramble is suitable for children. Dogs with leads are welcome.

POIs that we can admire en route : a magnificent view of the whole length of Sainte Victoire mountain, the ruins of a mining house, ancient dry stone walls built to keep wolves at bay and part of a Roman road. There is also the Auris well (which we missed when checking out the walk!).

DIRECTIONS to starting point

Allow 30 minutes from Aix.

Coming from Rousset to Peynier, turn right at the entrance to the village, signposted Les Michels. After about 400m, turn left chemin du Puits de l'Auris, red signposts. 200m further on there is a small car park in the trees on the right. Park here.

N 43.449267 E 5.629660

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING : cherylwrightfr@gmail.com

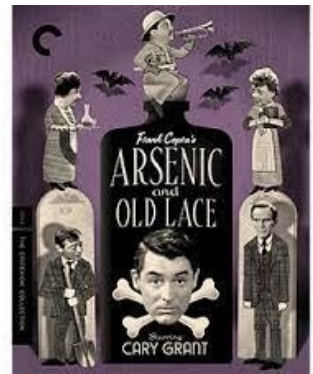
Cheryl Wright

14 - Sunday 18:45

CINÉ CLUB

Venue: Chez Deanna & Gilles

18 allée Rosaki – route de Puyricard (D114A) -
Tel. 06.76.39.15.52



ARSENIC & OLD LACE is a 1944 American screwball mystery black comedy film directed by Frank Capra & starring Cary Grant as Mortimer Brewster. The screenplay by Julius Epstein & Philip Epstein (of Casablanca fame) was based on Joseph Kesselring's 1941 hugely successful play of the same name.

Mortimer Brewster, a writer who has denounced marriage as an old-fashioned institution, falls in love with Elaine Harper (Priscilla Lane) his neighbor & proposes marriage.

While Elaine returns home to tell her father and pack for the honeymoon,

Mortimer returns to the family home in Brooklyn to the aunts who raised him as well as a deranged brother who believes he is Teddy Roosevelt.

Searching for the notes for his next book, Mortimer finds a corpse hidden in the window seat and fears the worst. Seems the aunts are putting a secret ingredient in their elderberry wine and the resulting hilarious circus has Grant in the center ring.

Join us for pizza, popcorn & find out where the bodies are buried.

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

Deanna Littell

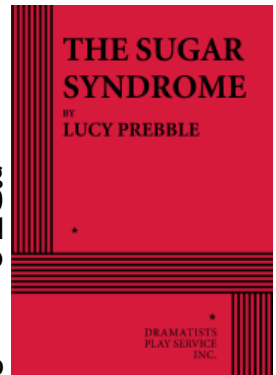
Tel - 06 76 39 15 52

15 - Monday 14:30 PLAY READING GROUP

In January we will read Lucy Prebble's award-winning play *The Sugar Syndrome*. The reading will start at 2.30 pm on Monday 15th January; information on script and venue will be sent nearer the date to those who wish to read.

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

Dympna Donnelly



19 - Friday 14:30

AFTERNOON TEA

Venue : Boulangerie-Café Pain Salvator, 32 bd
Louis Salvator, 13006 Marseille

Métro Notre Dame du Mont, Bus 41 ou 54 Arrêt
Lieutaud Salvator

<https://marseille.love-spots.com/adresses/ou-manger/boulangeries/102486-pain-salvator.html>

<https://madeinmarseille.net/51991-pain-salvator-a-la-decouverte-dune-boulangerie-100-bio-a-marseille/>

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

Email: bibik@free.fr

Brigitte Kraus



21 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 on the direction of the cape, passing by the ruins of a 17th century fortress and the famous "Grotte Cosquer" calanque. Just before we arrive at the end of Cap Morgiou we will stop somewhere 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 on a leash 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

27 - Saturday 18:45

BURNS NIGHT

Venue : Domaine du Moulin de l'Arc,
1604 route de Rousset, 13530 Trets.


BURNS NIGHT
Supper



Whisky punch apéro at 6.45 pm, and the start of the meal at 7.30 pm sharp.

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

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

Before paying, please first reserve with me by phone on 06 86 73 43 19 after 4th January.

No emails please.

Choice of payment methods to be made before Jan 19th

HelloAsso website : payment by credit card. I'll give the link to this when you reserve.

Bank transfer : the AAGP bank RIB is on the website in the Members section.

Bank cheque : made out to AAGP and received by me by January 19th.

Reservations are considered confirmed only upon receipt of payment by the 19th January.

Do not forget to indicate your name and the event with the payment.

We are looking forward to seeing you there and don't forget your dancing shoes!!

Lish Goergen

29 - Monday 14:00

BOOK CLUB

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

Métro 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 *All the Pretty Horses* by Cormac McCarthy.

Please note that the books for the following months are :

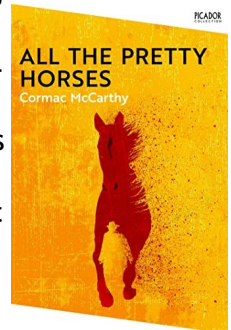
February : *Mango & Mimosa* by Suzanne St Albans

March : *How to Stop Time* by Matt Haig

April : *The Motion of the Body Through Space* by Lionel Shriver

May : *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett

June : *French Braid* by Anne Tyler



Please let me know if you are coming by Wednesday, January 24th.

Email: bibik@free.fr

Brigitte Kraus

31 - Wednesday 10:00 to 11:30

MORNING COFFEE IN SAINT-RÉMY-DE-PROVENCE

Venue: La Maison de Bon Café, 4 boulevard Mirabeau, 13210 Saint-Rémy-de-Provence

This meetup over coffee is co-hosted by AAGP member David Carpita and/or Barney Lehrer 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.

Sunday 11th February 11:00

Family Ramble in Vauvenargues followed by couscous lunch.

This is an easy circuit of about 6km on wide paths which is also fine for children and well-behaved dogs. But please wear strong shoes (and bring a lead for your dog).

With views of the St Victoire above, and the wooded valley below, we will follow the lavender fields and of course get a glimpse of Le Château de Picasso.

This will be followed by the option of lunch at the Couscoussier in Vauvenargues.

On Sundays, they have a fantastic couscous speciality at 22€ per person. This could also be shared by any members not able to do the walk.

Depending on the weather, they have a cosy interior and a dog friendly terrace with super views.

We will start the ramble promptly at 11:00 from the Vauvenargues cemetery carpark (GPS N43 33 16.9 - E005 35 51.4).

The restaurant will be reserved for 13:30. and depending on numbers, I can aim for a group price including wine and coffee.

However, to be fair on this busy family restaurant, we will need commitment to your participation in the meal before **1st February**, with prepayment to myself before **5th February**.

Reservations will open by email on the One List, mid-January. In the meantime, please contact me directly for further information.

marga.ings@gmail.com

0613922530

Looking forward to sharing this favourite walk with you.

Margaret Ings



LOOKING BACK

Sunday November 19th The Annual AAGP used book sale

The annual AAGP used book sale, held in the Mairie Annexe Pont de l'Arc on Sunday November 19, was a big success thanks to a remarkable library team's work before, during and after the sale. The proceeds of the sale will enable us to buy new books, along with some new shelf space to hold them. These new books will be in addition to the over 90 books we took from donations (thank you!)

to put directly in the library. We hope you will drop in to discover all this (Wednesday and Saturday - 9:30-11:30) or just visit the library virtually through our online catalog <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/AAGP>



If, after browsing our catalog, you see something you would like to take out, but can't get in during regular library hours, drop us a line at library@aagp-provence.com. We can arrange a pick-up at another time.

If you would like to join the library team, drop in some morning.

For the library team,

Catherine Kirby



Sunday November 26th



AAGP Thanksgiving Lunch



Venue Mas de Fauchon, Saint Cannat



Professional associations (English speaking)

The Bereavement Support Network offers individual support, by phone or video, to English Speakers in France who are grieving, those who are terminally ill and to their carers. We also signpost people to resources, information and additional help. You can access us either by calling 06 24 50 22 74 (M-F, 9-5) or 24/7 at our website www.bsnvar.org

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: 08 00 24 02 00

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 Info

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 Catherine Bourdoncle our activities coordinator at cbourdoncle13@gmail.com 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.

Looking Back



Thanksgiving Lunch

