



**Newsletter May 2024**  
N° 2024 - 05



## Anglo American Group of Provence

Published by the AAGP / Editor : Sharon LIGHTOWLERS

Distributed only to AAGP Members.

### Letter from the Board - May 2024

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.

Lots going on this month.

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May, gamble the night away at our Casino Night at the Moulin de l'Arc in Rousset. Members will enjoy a *cocktail dînatoire* whilst gambling away AAGP funds! Only joking, chips will be provided with the winners at the end of the evening receiving bottles of bubbly or wine rather than handfuls of cash. Places at the Blackjack table and roulette wheel are limited, so sign up early.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> May, Valerie Belon has organised her first gourmet lunch since temporarily taking over from Mary-Lou and Bob. The lunch is at Jardin Mazarin in Aix. Places are limited so, if you haven't already signed up, please do so to avoid disappointment.

In the evening of Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup>, 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. Again, if you haven't already signed up, please do so to avoid disappointment as this is always a popular event.

On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May, Mei Yee Lam will be hosting a flower arranging workshop at her beautiful home in Cadenet. This proved very popu-

#### 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

Library: Sue BOUTIER, Newsletter: Sharon LIGHTOWLERS, Social Events: Cheryl WRIGHT

Marseille : Brigitte KRAUS, Activities coordinator : Catherine BOURDONCLE.

lar when she organised this two years ago so, once again, sign up early so that you don't miss out on learning new skills or improving on existing ones.

All details for these events and our regular activities can be found further on - keep reading! Also, please double check dates for events and activities as some have been 'moved' due to the many bank holidays falling during the week.

Looking forward, the annual picnic/summer barbeque will take place on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June. At the time of writing this, the venue and format have not been finalised but will be very soon. Please put this date in your diary.

As you are aware, Chris West, our president, will be stepping down at the end of the AAGP year so we are actively looking for her replacement. Please do contact Chris for details of the role.

Please do show your support for all our activities and events.

Enjoy the build-up to summer.

*The Board*

### REMINDER

The AAGP needs a new president as from next September.

Proposals for candidates for the position should be received by email to Chris West at [christine.west64@gmail.com](mailto:christine.west64@gmail.com) on or before May 31, 2024.

If you are interested, or for further information please contact Chris – [christine.west64@gmail.com](mailto:christine.west64@gmail.com) or 06 74 53 13 54.

## What's on in May 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.

4 - Saturday 19:00  
**CASINO NIGHT 2024**

Venue : Moulin de l'Arc, 13530 Trets



**CANCELLED**

**5 - 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](mailto:deannalittell@gmail.com)

**6 - Monday 12:00**

## **LUNCH IN MARSEILLE**

**Venue** : L'ébénisterie 29, rue Louis Maurel, Marseille 6<sup>e</sup>

**Métro** ligne 1 or 2 : Castellane

<https://www.lebonbon.fr/marseille/bars-a-cocktails/l-ebenisterie-le-spot-parfait-6e/>

Please let me know if you are coming by Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at the latest.

Email : [bibik@free.fr](mailto:bibik@free.fr)

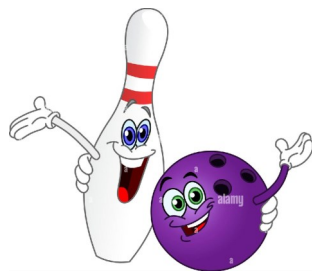
*Brigitte Kraus*



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 (10 euros including shoes).

Please email me or call 24 hours before.

*Gilles Dreyfus*

06 75 59 82 43

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

12 - Sunday 18:45

## CINÈ CLUB

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



For our May selection we will be showing *And Now Tomorrow*, a 1944 American film based on the best-selling novel by Rachel Field, directed by Irving Pichel & written by Raymond Chandler, the famed detective novelist. The film centers around one doctor's attempt at curing deafness.

Starring Loretta Young as Emily Blair, born into a very wealthy family, who becomes deaf after contracting meningitis. She has left home, trying in vain to find a cure for her deafness.

She has put her wedding to Jeff Stoddard on hold because of her illness. Dr Merek Vance (Alan Ladd) who grew up in the same town, under less fortunate circumstances, but now lives & works in Pittsburg, has been sum-

moned to Blairtown by the local doctor as he has developed several experimental methods for curing deafness in children.

Emily agrees to let him treat her, not expecting the ensuing time together will help them fall in love.

Join us for pizza, popcorn & unexpected romance.

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

*Deanna & Gilles*

06 76 39 15 52

**13 - Monday 10:00**

**MORNING COFFEE**

**Venue** : Les Gourmandines du Prado, 14 avenue du Prado, 13006 Marseille

**Metro ligne 1 ou 2** : Castellane

<https://lesgourmandinesduprado.fr/>

Please let me know if you are coming by Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.

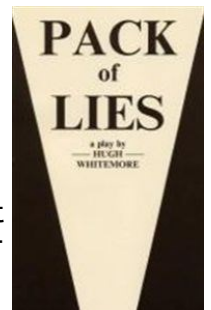
Email : [bibik@free.fr](mailto:bibik@free.fr)

*Brigitte Kraus*

**13 - Monday 14:30**

**PLAY READING GROUP**

Our reading of *Pack of Lies* by Hugh Whitmore will start at 2.30 pm on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April; 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 would like to take part.

*Dympna Donnelly*

**15 - Wednesday 14:00**

## **CHESS CLUB**

Calling All Chess Players



**Venue :** Chez Gilles Dreyfus, 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 Residence Beaufort, or the stop after called Fusains; both stops are about 300 yards from Rosaki.

Come and join. All levels welcome, bring your chessboard.

Please let me know if you are attending.

*Gilles*

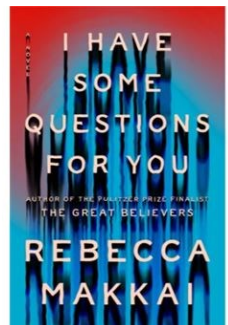
[gilles.dreyfus@gmail.com](mailto:gilles.dreyfus@gmail.com)

06 75 59 82 43

**16 - Thursday 10:30**

## **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

**Venue:** Home of Angie Pyman, 4 rue Condorcet, bât. Friedland 2, Aix-en-Provence



*I Have Some Questions For You* by Rebecca Makkai presented by Angie Pyman.

What happens when you are content to forget your past but a new job forces inspection of long-ago tragedies? Granby School invites Bodie Kane, a successful podcaster and alumni back to teach a course. Bodie is inexorably drawn to the past murder of a former roommate Thalia, the flawed investigation and possibly wrongful conviction of the school's athletic trainer, Omar. But is the real killer still out there? As she falls down the very rabbit hole she was so determined to avoid, Bodie begins to wonder if she wasn't as much of an outsider at Granby as she'd thought—if, perhaps, back in 1995, she knew something that might have held the key to solving the case.

Conversations about books will 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 and Angie know if you plan to attend the Thursday gathering by Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. Please note, due to holidays, the discussion will take place on the third and not the usual second Thursday.

Nancy Ceridwyn 07 81 84 61 29 [nancy.ceridwyn@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.ceridwyn@gmail.com)

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

## 16 - Thursday 12:15 LUNCH IN AIX (Brasserie Festive)

**Venue :** Faubourg 46, 46 Cours Sextius, 13100 Aix-en-Provence

Faubourg 46 serves both traditional French cuisine and tapas in a festive atmosphere with a contemporary ambience (loved their indoor and outdoor murals) as well as excellent service (at least in my experience). I found this review from last summer on Tripadvisor: “excellent food, service & location. We walked past this place by chance on the first night in Aix. We loved it so much, we went back again on our last night.” I suspect they'll have us coming back again and again, too.



Please reserve your spot by using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094DADA82DA2FA7-48818862-lunch>

*Valerie Belon*

SMS 07 49 75 93 49

**19 - Sunday 10:00**

**HIKE**

**Venue: Sentier Marcel Pagnol/Garlaban**



We shall meet in front of the bar/restaurant close to the war memorial at the entrance of Les Camoins. This village is located near the Valentine shopping area and lies between Eoures and La Treille. From Les Camoins we will approach by car the Garlaban mountain and park at the Puits de Raimu carpark. From there we will hike to the summit of the Garlaban (altitude 714 metres). The path rises gently and there are no particular difficulties along the way, so children used to hiking and dogs are welcome. Please however wear proper hiking gear and bring enough food and water.

We will have our picnic lunch at some appropriate point along the way and then return to the carpark, taking the same path. Expected hiking time is about four hours in all.

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

Many thanks.

*Roderick*

**20 - Monday 10:00**

## **RAMBLE - Collet Redon, Venelles**

**Venue : Maurice Daugé Sports Centre, Venelles**

This month the ramble will take place on Monday May 20<sup>th</sup>, which is a public holiday.

As the weather could be quite sunny and hot, we have chosen to offer a shorter ramble than usual and one that is quite shady. We start from the Sports Centre and follow the Arsène path around the exterior of the park to the Tennis Club. From there we take a track that goes round and past the Collet Redon hill through the woods and back to the Sports Centre.

The walk is about 2 hours long, plus picnic. There is very little climbing involved.

Bring sun-cream, sun-hats and plenty of water.

Let me know if you'd like to join us and I will send you directions to the starting point. It takes about 20 minutes to get to Venelles from Aix.

*Cheryl Wright*  
[cherylwrightfr@gmail.com](mailto:cherylwrightfr@gmail.com)

**24 - Friday 12:00**

## **GOURMET CLUB LUNCH**

**Venue: Jardin Mazarin, 15 rue du 4 septembre, 13100 Aix-en-Provence**

Located in the heart of the historic Mazarin district, place des Quatre Dauphins is one of the most visited places in the city and has become an institution. First it was the nobility and aristocracy who lived there. Today the bourgeoisie has settled there and hides its wealth behind high stone walls covered with ivy. This charming restaurant is located at the corner of rue du 4 Septembre and rue Cardinale, with one of Aix's most beautiful fountains as its centerpiece.

Already recognized in the Aix restaurant scene, Jardin Mazarin owners Joseph and Vanessa have painstakingly created a warm, friendly establishment with a cozy elegance for all gourmets looking for a revisited cuisine. We will enjoy a three-course meal for €50 per person not including wine, coffee, tea, or other drinks.

Please reserve your spot through this link on SignUp Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094DADA82DA2FA7-48955871-gourmet#/>

*Valerie Belon*

SMS 07-49-75-93-49

## 25 Saturday 18:00

# FOLK EVENING & SINGALONG

**Venue :** La Brasserie des Platanes,  
2112 route de Sisteron, Aix-en-Provence

Elaine, Michel and Rod - E2G -invite you back to Brasserie des Platanes, for the next AAGP Folk Evening and Singalong !



Just a few minutes north of Aix centre, the brasserie welcomes us into its friendly informal atmosphere, with plenty of free parking available and easy access from Aix town centre and the A51.

As usual we have lots of new artists and new songs and we will also cover as many of your « old favourites » as possible. Watch out for new songs from Joan Baez and Simon and Garfunkel, as well as newcomers Mary Hopkin and David Bowie !

A hot and cold buffet meal will be served during the intermission and wine will be served throughout the evening.

Cost per AAGP member is 20 euros which includes the buffet meal, wine and of course the music and songbook! Non-members accompanying members will pay full price of 30 euros each. Booking has already opened on the One List and will close on Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> or before if all places are taken. A reminder will also be sent out on the One List.

Please remember that places are limited, so be sure to book early to reserve your place.

Booking is by email to Elaine at [eda.blanc@orange.fr](mailto: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.

We hope you will join us for another evening of music, song and good company!

*E2G - Elaine, Michel and Rod*

## 27 - Monday 14:00–17.00

# FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP

**Venue :** chez Mei Yee Lam, Cadenet  
84160



In this workshop, Mei Yee will once again be sharing her trained florist (CITY & Guilds UK-based) knowledge.

You will learn about basic formulas to shapes, forms, texture and colours. These principles work for many settings for weddings, birthdays, receptions, presentations and more.

This event is open to 7 people - ideally 6 newcomers and one attendee from the previous workshop (May 2022) - and will cost 10 euros per person for materials. Attendees should also bring flowers of their own choice and secateurs/floral scissors.

This workshop will last about 3 hours with a break in the middle so those who come please bring a cake to share. Tea and coffee will be provided.

At the end of the workshop, participants can take arrangements home so allow some space in your car for these.

Reservations to Mei Yee at [mysarthouse@gmail.com](mailto:mysarthouse@gmail.com) were closed **on April 27th**, to allow time for preparation. All queries to Mei Yee at the same email address please.

Participants will receive all additional information after reserving.

*Mei Yee Lam*

27 - Monday 14:00

## BOOK CLUB

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

**Metro ligne 1 ou 2** : Castellane ou Notre Dame du Mont ou T3 Rome Dragon

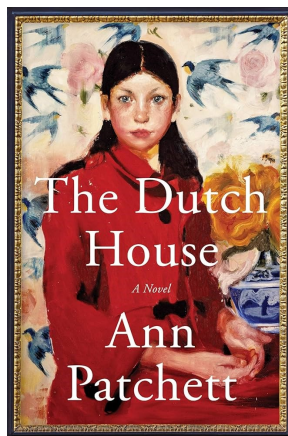
Tea, coffee, soft drinks, home-made cakes and biscuits for 5 euros.

This month's book is *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett

Please let me know if you are coming by Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Email: [bibik@free.fr](mailto:bibik@free.fr)

Please note that the book for next month is *French Braid* by Anne Tyler  
*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 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.*

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 12:00**

## **GOURMET LUNCH**

All information in your June  
Newsletter.

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June 12:00 – End of year Summer Event**

## **ANNUAL AAGP FAMILY PICNIC**

**Venue: Peynier**

Please be sure to save the date for this annual event!

We are just finalising details of the end of year summer event which will be sent out on the One List shortly. Please save the date in the meantime!

*Karen Watson*



# LOOKING BACK

## Ramble Peyrolles

Today we enjoyed a pleasant (and very warm) ramble from Peyrolles-en-Provence up in the hills and along the canal after a fascinating visit to the palm tree fossils situated under the Château de Peyrolles. Our very knowledgeable guide from the Association Peyrolles Retro Patrimoine explained the history and geology of these rarely-seen fossils, which are soon to be examined in detail by archaeologists.

The medieval Château itself is also remarkable.



## Saint Patrick's Evening

Saint Patrick's evening was a green wonder! Participants were asked to wear something green, the decorations were green, a lot of the delicious food was green, even the punch was green! A very talented young cook, Karine, made amazing cupcakes and pannacotta - green, of course! Karen Watson hosted this event in her lovely home and we all appreciated her hard work, enthusiasm and creative ideas. We played silly games and took part in a Saint Patrick's Quiz, met new members and generally had a fun evening. We all hope that this will be an event that will be repeated.



# LOOKING BACK



St Patrick's  
Evening chez  
Karen Watson



## 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](http://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](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>

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](mailto: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](http://www.aagp-provence/library.php)

« The members' 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.

## Useful Info

**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)

### **Ideas for organising a new activity or an excursion ?**

Please contact Catherine BOURDONCLE, our activities coordinator at

[cbourdoncle13@gmail.com](mailto: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



Ramble Peyrolles

