



Newsletter September 2024

N° 2024 - 07



Anglo American Group of Provence

Published by the AAGP / Editor : Michel PARISOT

Distributed only to AAGP Members.

Letter from the Board - September 2024

Welcome back to all our existing members and a warm welcome to all our new members, perhaps recently arrived in Provence. We hope you all enjoyed a relaxing and peaceful summer.

At the time of writing this, (late July), I am hiding indoors out of the *canicule* that is affecting much of France and enjoying the sporting talents of those incredible athletes competing in the Olympic Games. I'm sure many of you did the same thing.

So, as of September 1st, all our regular monthly activities start up for another AAGP year and, as ever, our thanks go to the organisers of all these activities.

Of course, our big event at the start of the AAGP year is our AGM and Welcome Party to be held on Friday 11th October at Novotel Beaumanoir Hotel in Aix. This year we will be holding our own presidential election. If you missed out on voting in the UK, French or the upcoming US elections, now's your chance to vote. We have 2 candidates who have put themselves forward to replace myself. They are Julie Wright and Timothy Molyneux - both longstanding members with lots to offer our association. You will find their biographies and manifestos along with their contact details should you want to ask more questions in the next few pages. The election of our new president will be by secret ballot and you can vote by being present at the AGM, which we highly recommend, or via a proxy vote. More details can be found in the Looking Forward section of this newsletter.

Following our AGM, we will enjoy meeting with old friends and making new ones at our annual Welcome Party. Please endeavor to attend both events.

Looking further ahead, in November we will welcome the Beaujolais Nou-

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.

veau, celebrate Thanksgiving and enjoy the musical talents of E2G at the first of their biannual folk evenings/singalongs. This is on top of all our regular activities and I'm sure there will be several new ones added over time.

Looking back, we enjoyed a variety of events and activities prior to ending our AAGP year. These included our annual family pot luck picnic, the folk evening and singalong with E2G, a flower arranging workshop, two cooking classes/lunches, a library evening and a rosé wine tasting event. This was in addition to all our regular monthly activities. Head to the back of your newsletter for a reminder of what you enjoyed and will hopefully enjoy again this coming year.

This leads me on to remind you that we are a member to member group in that we rely on the ideas and the actioning of these ideas from our members. So, if you have an idea for an activity, event, excursion or would like to host an event such as a pot luck lunch or organise a family ramble, please do let us know. We will provide the help and support needed to get it organized.

It's that time of the year, so if you have not already paid your annual dues, please do so NOW and please don't forget to complete and sign the enclosed slip to confirm that you have French civil liability insurance. This needs to be returned to Lish by snail mail or email. All details can be found in the following pages.

Best wishes to you all for a great AAGP year and **thank you** for your continued support during my 8-year tenure as your president. I couldn't have done it without you.

Chris West (President) on behalf of the Board.

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2024/2025

I hope you have all had a good summer and are ready for another AAGP year of fun. You will find the yellow dues request slip with this magazine with all the details about payment. Web readers will receive it with the newsletter email.

Please fill it in, SIGN it and return it with your payment for €45 before September 14th. **If you have already paid or are going to pay by bank transfer please send me the form anyway. Email will do, to membership@aagp-provence.com, we need this for our insurance policy.**

Please remember no dues by 14th, no October magazine -- unless you contact me first. If you are changing address or not rejoining, please let me know.

Thanks

Lish Goergen (Membership Secretary)

Presentation of candidates for the position of President of AAGP

Hi, I'm Julie Wright, and I'd like to introduce myself and present what I can bring to this position

I was born on the London/Essex borders (yes, Essex girl jokes are welcome!) and have lived full-time in France for 26 years and have three grown-up sons, who all, thankfully, still live in France. Some members might know me through my property sales work in and around Aix, although my role has often been in assisting people when they leave the region to return to the UK or the States.

The annual quiz night was my first introduction to the AAGP, and I was immediately impressed by the great sense of friendship and sharing of our common culture and humour

For me the AAGP must remain, at its heart, a friendship group founded on the sharing of knowledge and support to all the English-speaking community. This unique level of knowledge held and shared by the group is vital and something we can promote further.

Chris West, who has steered the AAGP brilliantly with dedication, patience and diplomacy, has asked me to be brief. So here are the key goals I would like to work towards as president:

- 1. To maintain the AAGP as a friendship group, providing support and shared knowledge to the English-speaking community of Provence.**
- 2. To promote the group to the wider community, becoming more outward facing through charity partnerships and associations linked to Provence. This should in turn increase our profile and membership numbers.**
- 3. To showcase the exceptional talents, skills, experience of our members (artists, writers, entrepreneurs) bringing them greater visibility and raising the AAGP's profile at the same time. This could be done via spotlight profiles in the AAGP newsletter and organised conferences, seminars.**



4. To add real value for members. In addition to the regular annual events (annual picnic, Thanksgiving, Burns Night) membership of the AAGP will include special offers and price reductions for members in restaurants, shops, entertainment venues and for relevant services in the region.

5. To draw more members into becoming actively involved in events and AAGP specialist groups, harnessing their energy and expertise to develop the organisation.

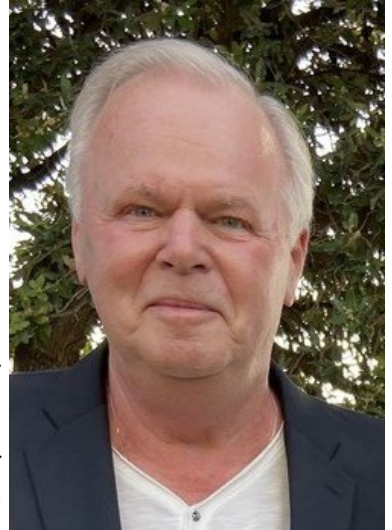
The AAGP has a loyal and active membership to be proud of, and a wealth of knowledge from which many more could benefit. My role as president, if I am elected, is to ensure that more people know what we have to offer and to add value to what is already an invaluable resource to the English speakers of our region.

I would love to hear your ideas for our future and would be delighted to be contacted my email at

julieprovence13@gmail.com or on 06 99 81 69 06.

Julie Wright

Timothy Molyneux is a dual Canadian and Irish National residing in the Var with his wife Katrina Donaldson and their 3 dogs and cats. For the last 30 years he has been the Director of Teldata Consulting Ltd. - an International Telecommunications and Data Consultancy organization. In addition to being a member of the Anglo-American Club of Provence for several years he is President of the American Club of the Riviera, a member of the Steering Committee for the Association of American Clubs, and an Honorary member of the Riviera Business Club as well as the Communauté Hellenique de Monaco. Timothy is also a member of the Lions Club of Brignoles - St. Maximin. He and his wife Katrina are also members of several organizations including the British Association of Monaco. He was the past President of The Canadian Club of Monaco. His hobbies include charitable works, swimming, skiing, biking, computers, martial arts and amateur radio. His French amateur radio call sign is F4WBS.



Katrina and I, have thoroughly enjoyed our years of membership in

the AAGP, the events and the welcoming nature of AAGP members. I would like to continue supporting the Board in their endeavors while looking to grow the organization so more people can experience the AAGP.

Since most members of organizations and Associations today are highly mobile, I would like to work with similar organizations across Europe and the UK establishing reciprocal privileges so members of the AAGP can attend events at local member rates when travelling, for example in Rome, Paris, Lisbon, Barcelona and London. And the same in return for those travelling to events hosted by the AAGP.

The DNA of any club is based on the volunteers that it can attract. So, I would like to recognize and grow the volunteer base of the AAGP in return creating new, exciting and varied events for our members.

I look forward to meeting more of you in the days to come.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or ideas that you would like to put forth on the AAGP please do not hesitate to contact me.

Email: teldata.consulting@gmail.com

Tel France: +33 (0)6 95 87 5815

Tel UK: +44 (0)2 08 90 7203

Tel Canada +1 403 668 9556

Timothy Molyneux



What's on in September 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 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



5 - Thursday 12:15

LUNCH IN AIX

(French Cuisine)

Venue : Grenache, 2 place Joachim Gasquet, 13100 Aix-en-Provence

A favorite among resident gourmands, Grenache serves delicious, refined French cuisine in a casual atmosphere. With an emphasis on Mediterranean specialties and seafood, the menu offers many options to enjoy. Comfortable ambience with friendly and informative staff. The unassuming entrance in a quiet corner of Aix opens to a pleasant informal and excellent dining experience, with a very well-appointed grotto salon for intimate dining.

Please reserve your spot by using this SignUp Genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094DADA82DA2FA7-50743221-lunch#/>

Valerie Belon

SMS 07 49 75 93 49

9 - Monday 14:30

PLAY READING GROUP

Venue : Our September play will be hosted by Valerie and Trevor White at 67 cours Gambetta, bât. 21, in Aix.

Reading will start at 2.30 pm on Monday 9th September; information on script and venue will be sent to signed-up readers nearer the date.

Please email marcdympna@gmail.com if you wish to sign up.

Dympna Donnelly



11 - Wednesday 14:00

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 / 06 75 59 82 43

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 (10 euros including shoes).

Please email me or call 24 hours before.

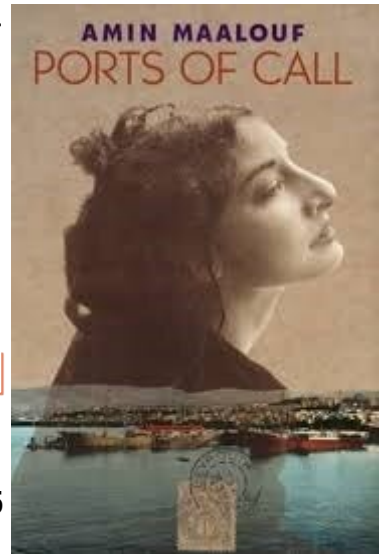
Gilles Dreyfus

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

12 - Thursday 10:30

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Venue : chez Kathleen Lambert, 565 vallon des Lauriers, Aix-en-Provence



Ports of Call by Amin Maalouf

Presented by Kathleen Lambert

In the opening pages, Ossyane, a young Lebanese man and Clara, an energetic Jewish woman meet. But, don't expect this love story to go where you think. Amin Maalouf unfolds a tale of hopes, joys and disappointments, in which the deserving stumble and fall, the undeserving rise up - or is it the other way around?

Set in post-World War II as peace opens in Europe, war breaks out in the new-born state of Israel. From their home in Haifa, Ossyane is forced to go to Beirut.

The border with Israel closes behind him and he becomes separated from his wife. The narrative within a narrative shows how the human will can struggle against overwhelming odds. The tribulations of star-crossed Muslim-Jewish lovers - Ossyane and Clara - keep the drama on edge.

Join us for continuing conversations over lunch. Bring your own picnic lunch. If you are carpooling, please don't forget a 5 euro donation to the driver to show your appreciation.

Let Nancy and Kathleen know if you plan to attend the Thursday gathering by Tuesday, September 10th .

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

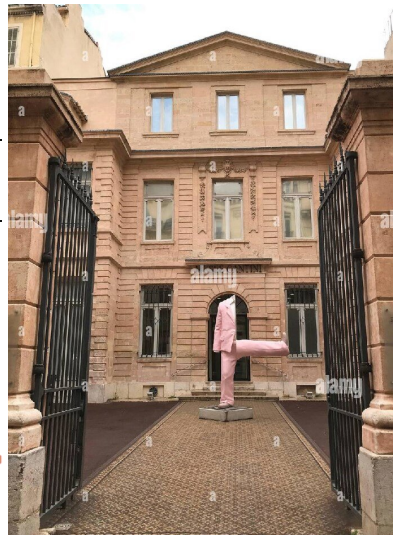
Kathleen Lambert 04 42 21 08 07 kathleenlambert10@gmail.com

Nancy Ceridwyn

13 - Friday 14:00

**EXHIBITION & AF-
TERNOON TEA**

**Venue : Musée Cantini,
19 rue Grignan, 13006 Marseille**



Metro ligne 1 : arrêt Estrangin

<https://musees.marseille.fr/loeil-objectif>

The exhibition is free.

AFTERNOON

TEA

(approximately 15:30 - 16:00)

Venue : La Folle Epoque,
10 place Félix Baret,
13006 Marseille

Metro ligne 1 :
arrêt Estrangin



Please let me know if you are coming by Friday, September 6th.

Brigitte Kraus

bibik@free.fr

15 - Sunday 10:00

HIKE

Venue : Les Calanques

We shall meet on the Kedge school carpark in the Luminy University complex in Marseille, and from there proceed on foot to La Lèque which is a flat rock surface by the sea between the Calanque de Sugiton and the Calanque de l'Oeil de Verre. The path goes down a gentle slope but please wear proper hiking gear. The only difficulty is the fact that there is a vertical cliff of about 5 metres to descend using a rope (mine) just before reaching our destination. This should be taken into account by those who suffer from vertigo. Furthermore, it would be prudent not to bring dogs or children.

We shall enjoy our picnic lunch by the sea so bring plenty of food and water. It would also be a good idea to bring towels in case bathing conditions prevail. (The sea is deep at this spot and the water is clean). We shall in any case return to the carpark via the same route. Hiking time is about 4 hours in all and the altitude changes by about 200 metres.

All those wishing to come are requested to call me the day before be-

tween 18h and 20h just to make sure that this outing complies with all the regulations prevailing on the 15th September.

Roderick Macleod 06 60 61 08 65

15 - Sunday 18:45

CINE CLUB

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

For our "Back-to-School" film we bring you *Fifth Avenue Girl*, a 1939 RKO comedy film directed by Gregory La Cava and starring Ginger Rogers, Walter Connolly & Verree Teasdale.

The film is about a rich industrialist with business problems who feels neglected by his family and hires a young woman to stir things up.

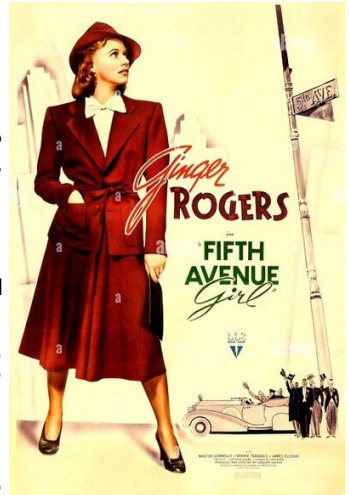
Manufacturing executive Alfred Bordon (Walter Connolly) walks through his luxurious Manhattan home singing "Happy Birthday" to himself - from inattentive wife (Verree Teasdale) to insouciant son (Tim Holt) to giddy daughter (Kathryn Adams) drawn to the family's Marxist-leaning chauffeur - all ignore the day.

Then Alfred brings home a jobless, level-headed working girl (Ginger Rogers) he meets in Central Park, provides her lodging and the Bordons fall under the influence of this savvy Fifth Avenue girl.

Director Gregory La Cava (*My Man Godfrey*) amiably skewers the rich again with this witty, star-filled romp that makes Fifth Avenue the place for classic screwball fun.

Join us for pizza, popcorn & this bonbon of a film. We might even serve some bonbons too.

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



23 - Monday 10:30

MORNING COFFEE

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

Metro ligne 1 ou 2 : Arrêt Castellane

<https://lesgourmandinesduprado.fr/>

Please let me know if you are coming by Thursday, September 19th.

Brigitte Kraus

bibik@free.fr



30 - Monday 14:00

BOOK CLUB

Venue : chez Brigitte Kraus, 99 cours Lieutaud, 13006 Marseille, Metro ligne 1 ou 2 : arrêt Castellane ou Notre Dame du Mont ou Tram T3 : arrêt Rome Dragon

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

This month's book is *Money* by Martin Amis.

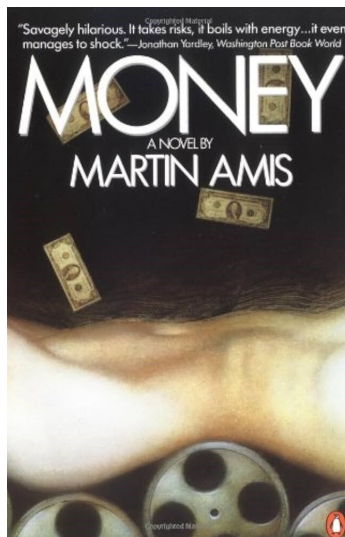
Please let me know if you are coming by Wednesday, September 25th at the latest.

May : Bellow, Saul : *Herzog*

June : Vikram Seth, *An Equal Music*

Brigitte Kraus

bibik@free.fr



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.

October 11, Friday 18:00

Annual General Meeting (Presidential Election) **and Welcome Party**

**Venue : Novotel Beaumanoir Hotel, rue Marcel Arnaud,
13100 Aix-en-Provence**

The AGM will start at 6pm and will be followed by the Welcome Party.

Please do come and meet the board members, provide feedback and constructive suggestions, ask questions and offer support to our voluntary association. This year we will be voting to elect my replacement - the **new AAGP President** - and we have 2 members who have offered their candidacy. Please do read their own biographies in this newsletter along with their vision for your AAGP. Voting for this position will be done via ballot paper (anonymously) rather than the usual raising of hands. If you cannot attend, please do use the proxy voting form which will be sent via the One List later this month, and will also be available on the Members pages of the AAGP Website. On this form, you will be asked to vote for the candidate of your choice by ticking the relevant box. Please remember that the person holding your proxy **MUST** attend the meeting and that it is **ONE** vote per **FAMILY**.

Following on from the AGM, we will be hosting our Welcome Party in the same location. Please see Karen Watson's article below for more details.

If you need a lift to get to the meeting, please contact a board member as soon as possible and we will do our best to organize this.

Chris West

The annual Welcome Party will take place following the AGM (see above) and at the same venue : Novotel Beaumanoir Hotel,

rue Marcel Arnaud, 13100 Aix-en-Provence

We have a change of venue for this year. There is a large carpark and everything is on the ground floor so access should be easy. The hotel is also easily accessible whether coming in from Aix centre or from outside Aix as it is just after the Val Saint André exit off the A8 motorway if travelling west to east.

The event will be subsidised by the AAGP with a contribution of 15 euros per member. More details on how to reserve your place and more detailed directions will follow shortly on the One List and of course in your October Newsletter.

We look forward to seeing both old and new faces there! Save the date !

Karen Watson

BOOK CLUB

Please note the list of books for 2024/25

October : Bradbury, Ray : *Fahrenheit 451*

November : Garmus, Bonnie : *Lessons in Chemistry*

December : Barnes, Julian : *The Sense of an Ending*

January : London, Jack : *Martin Eden*

February : Trollope, Joanna : *A Village Affair*

March : Drabble, Margaret : *The Peppered Moth*

April : de Rosnay, Tatiana : *Sarah's Key*

November 16, Saturday 18:00

Folk Evening and Singalong

Venue Les Platanes, Aix-en-Provence

Save the date ! All information will be in your October Newsletter



LOOKING BACK EVENTS FROM MAY & JUNE

May 25th Folk Evening & Singalong

Mike and I attended our second Folk Evening on May 25 and it has become one of our favorite AAGP activities. There was a lively full house and everyone participated in the singalong. It sounded wonderful. We loved the mix of songs, including old favorites, some less familiar tunes and of course, a Scottish ballad - My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean.

We liked the venue at Les Platanes and the service was outstanding.

The buffet meal at the intermission was just what was needed after a few glasses of wine. And last but not least, our three gifted musicians were amazing! See you all next time!

Paula Mullineaux



May 27th Flower Arranging Workshop



The Flower Arranging Workshop took place once again in Cadenet in May.

This time, both beginners and seasoned enthusiasts participated, bringing along delightful cakes to share during our break time. It was a perfect opportunity to take in an array of flowers and foliage, considering their shapes, sizes, colour coordination, and how to construct them into a shapely display.

The three hours we spent together were almost meditative. Our ladies took home not only their stunning floral creations but also the fun, knowledge, and tips to continue their creative exploration in their own time.

Mei Yee Lam

June 14th Library Evening

To celebrate some recent improvements in the AAGP library, the library team decided to hold a library evening June 14th, with delicious nibbles and fun and games.

Attendees were challenged with a quiz to identify famous first lines of



books, asked to compose haikus using book spines, and offered blind dates with books.

Prizes for attendance were awarded and special book worm candy was on hand.

The Library Team

June 16th Annual Picnic

The AAGP Annual Picnic returned to its usual format this year, although the word "Picnic" is an understatement! The venue - Terre de Rosé in Peynier - was perfect, offering various indoor and outdoor seating possibilities in grounds surrounded by vineyards, plus facilities for all types of weather, including an indoor air-conditioned room, shady terraces, a kitchen, tables and chairs, ample parking and toilets. The AAGP supplied drinks while members contributed their delicious salads, quiches and desserts for us all to enjoy. It was a great event to end the year's activities. Thank you, Karen, for finding the domain for the AAGP to rent and for all the organising that was involved.

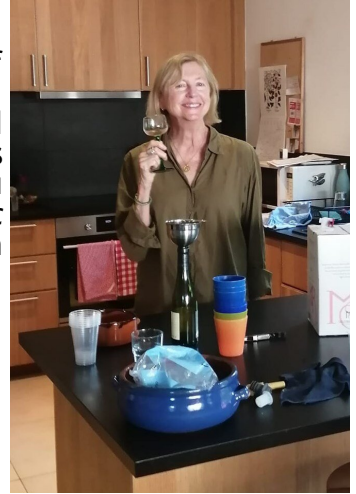
Cheryl Wright



June 27th Rosé Wine Tasting Evening

Bob Wallace shared his extensive knowledge on local rosé wines with 20 members of the AAGP, explaining how Provençal rosés had evolved from the wine he used to buy at the local cooperative for 1.50 euros per liter if you brought your own 5 liter jug.

Typical co-ops now often have hundreds of contributing farmers, following set rules including grape types, sugar/alcohol levels, and harvest dates. One advantage of the co-ops is that, unlike supermarkets or wine shops, you can taste before you buy, both *vin en vrac* (“bulk” wines) and any bottled wines which they produce and market.

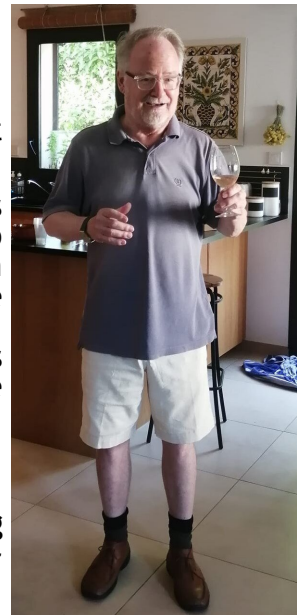


Bob also gave us many useful tips and techniques on how to bottle and store wine bought *en vrac*.

Thanks to the generous contributions of rosés brought along by the participants (too many to try!), we were able to taste and comment on about 15 wines. Les Vignerons d'Aix on the Route de Berre was highly noted by the group. Calissanne and Virant are two other wineries that Bob recommends, plus Fonscolombe, made from three noble grapes: chardonnay, merlot, and cabernet sauvignon.

Many thanks to Bob for giving us such insight into Provençal rosés in particular and wine-tasting in general. We look forward to another *dégustation* of red wines in the near future.

Cheryl Wright



May and June

« Discover Asian Food Luncheons » chez Dee

Have you ever been in an Indian or Asian restaurant and wondered if the food that they served was truly authentic? Thanks to Dee Potdar, the AAGP had a chance to find out. Dee created two events; an Indian, and an Indonesian meal and she invited two groups of ten in May and June.



For Dee's Indian meal, we learnt that India had many provinces, and each one had its specialty. Dee showcased her province of Maharashtra in mid-western India, serving us a worker's breakfast called *misal pav*. It comprised a sprout-based curry served with soft buns and

garnishes of onions and chillies washed down with a cup of Indian tea *masala chai*.

A month later, for her second meal, Dee presented an Indonesian staple *nasi padang* - a rice-based meal served with various accompaniments. This time with grilled fish and side dishes: roasted peanuts, crispy onions, tomatoes and onion, and my favourite - crunchy coated egg served with a spicy sauce/sambal.



Many thanks to Dee for two convivial afternoons, discovering a new world of dishes. Her enthusiasm, hard work and effort made the afternoons a foodie success.

Joanne Tisdell

AAGP member carries Olympic Torch in Aix

AAGP member Ronél Steyn Wathlet was chosen to carry the Olympic torch in Aix-en-Provence on May 12th. She was selected out of 100 000 applications as one of the 10 000 torch bearers in France, based on the volunteer work that she does for childhood cancer in South Africa. Despite a fractured femur she still decided to carry the torch and in her words:

“Carrying the torch was an unforgettable experience, filled with intense happiness and sadness or rather overwhelmness. I'm an active ambassador for “Cupcakes of Hope” - the non-profit organisation supporting childhood cancer fighters.”

Should you wish to know more about “Cupcakes of Hope” or make a donation, please contact :
Ronél at steynronel9@gmail.com.



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 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.

