



Newsletter April 2025

N° 2025 - 04



Anglo American Group of Provence

Published by the AAGP / Editor : Sharon LIGHTOWLERS

Distributed only to AAGP Members.

Letter from the Board -April 2025

Spring is here and life in Provence is lived very much “outdoors” for the next six months. So, whether you are exploring the beauty of the Sainte-Victoire (as depicted in the amazing image painted by AAGP member Lynn Rousseau) or discovering the villages and towns of the region, you can be almost certain that it will be under the exceptional light captured in this image on our front page.

At the time of writing, preparations for “An Afternoon in Provence” with Jennie Mayle are well underway and we have been truly overwhelmed by the response and questions fielded by those attending.

Our small groups are busier than ever, with the Aix coffee mornings and the French conversation sessions well established and well attended. A new card-playing group is now up and running, so keep an eye on the OneList for dates and venues.

We are still actively looking for two members to organise “bistrot style” or “gourmet style” lunches. These events are always oversubscribed and there is a huge demand, so if you would like to get involved, we’d love to hear from you. Once the system is in place, the work involved is very manageable. Please call me directly on 06 69 81 99 06 or via julieprovence13@gmail.com for more information.



The Board 2024/2025 :

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**.

Looking ahead we have the next Folk Evening planned for Saturday 17th May and our end of year annual picnic is pencilled in for Sunday 15th June. Full details will be given near the dates.

And as you enjoy sunshine don't forget to send in photos or images that you would like to share with other members on our front cover.

See you soon!

Julie Wright, President, on behalf of the board

OBITUARY

We share with you the sad news of the death of longstanding member Susan Stone on March 8th 2025.

Originally from the USA, Susan had been an active member of the AAGP for over twenty years and was still a loyal and much appreciated participant in the monthly book discussion group, up to and including the February 13th meeting, where she was the presenter.

Our condolences go to Susan's family and friends.



What's on in April 2025

Important : All activities will be organised to comply with the health regulations applicable on the day. Participants are required to comply with the regulations at all times.

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

3- 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



4 - Friday 10:30 to 12:00

FRENCH CONVERSATION

Venue : le Café des Artistes, 35 place François Villon, 13090 Aix-en-Provence



The first 2025 French conversation took place at *Les Artistes* on March 7th.

We were 6 of us, happy to meet. After we introduced ourselves informally, we tried using conversation dice and - no surprise - the conversation kept rolling.

French conversation now takes place every other week.

Don't worry about your level of French. We'll do our best to make everyone feel comfortable. Please let me know if you are coming 48 hours before.

Jean Louis

jeanlouis.morgenthaler@sfr.fr

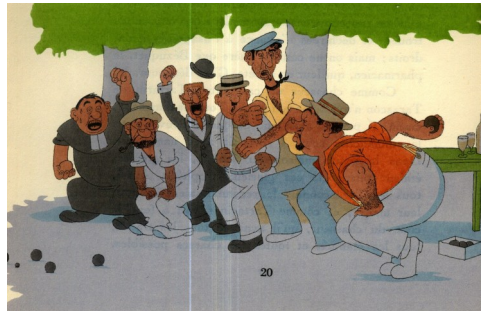
06 61 86 53 54

6 - Sunday 10:30

PÉTANQUE

Venue : Boulodrome de Puyricard,
avenue Jacques de Régis

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 Littell - 06 76 39 15 52

deannalittell@gmail.com

7 - Monday 10:30

MORNING COFFEE IN MARSEILLE

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, April 4th.

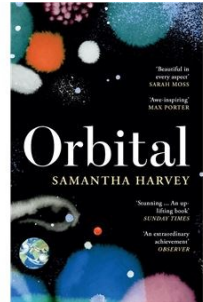
Brigitte Kraus

bibik@free.fr

10 - Thursday 10:30

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Venue : Chez Michele Pic-Duguet, 1 rue de l'Esplanade, Aix-en-Provence



Orbital by Samantha Harvey presented by Michele Pic-Duguet and Nancy Ceridwyn

A team of astronauts in the International Space Station collect meteorological data, conduct scientific experiments and test the limits of the human body. But mostly they observe. Together they watch their silent blue planet, circling it sixteen times, spinning past continents and cycling through seasons, taking in glaciers and deserts,

the peaks of mountains and the swells of oceans. Endless shows of spectacular beauty witnessed in a single day.

Yet although separated from the world they cannot escape its constant pull. News reaches them of the death of a mother, and with it comes thoughts of returning home. They look on as a typhoon gathers over an island and people they love, in awe of its magnificence and fearful of its destruction.

The fragility of human life fills their conversations, their fears, their dreams. So far from Earth, they have never felt more part - or protective - of it. They begin to ask, what is life without Earth? What is Earth without humanity? While this book does not have a compelling plot, the poetic language engages the reader in a meditative contemplation of our home.

Let Nancy and Michele know if you plan to attend the Thursday gathering by Monday, 7th April. After 14 registrations, a waiting list will be started.

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

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

Nancy Ceridwyn

13 - Sunday 18:45

CINÉ CLUB

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

Thinking of April in Paris, we have chosen an appropriate film whose

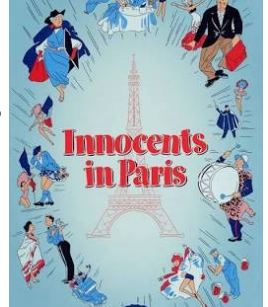
title is *INNOCENTS IN PARIS*.

An assortment of British tourists catch the plane from London for a wild and wonderful weekend in Paris. The Scotsman in his kilt, the elderly lady painter, the international negotiator and the pretty young girl, all find the city welcomes them and changes their lives in different ways, often with hilarious results.

A new restoration of this 1953 British/French classic romantic comedy directed by Gordon Parry has made this film available to us after a long absence.

Starring the crème de la crème of British cinema, it includes Alastair Sim & Margaret Rutherford and featuring Laurence Harvey, Claire Bloom and Christopher Lee.

Claude Dauphine and Louis de Funès hold up the French end.



Wicked wonderful Paris, from its garrets to its wonderful cafés.

Join us for pizza & popcorn & learn how the Brits traveled on only £25 a day- all they were allowed to take out of the country at the time.

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

Deanna & Gilles

06 76 39 15 52

14 - Monday 14:30

PLAY READING GROUP

Venue : To be advised

Our April reading will start at 2.30 pm on Monday 14th April; information on script and venue will be sent to signed-up readers nearer the date.

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

Dympna Donnelly

18 - Friday 10:30 to 12:00

FRENCH CONVERSATION

Venue: le Café des Artistes, 35
place François Villon, 13090 Aix-en
Provence



All information as given for Friday 4th.

Jean Louis
jeanlouis.morgenthaler@sfr.fr

06 61 86 53 54

20 - Sunday 10:00

HIKE CÔTE BLEUE

Venue: Côte Bleue

We shall meet on the carpark at the entrance of Niolon. Niolon is a little village on the coast just off the D5 road between Le Rove and

Carry-le-Rouet. We will start our hike from here, passing through the village and then taking the coastal footpath towards Méjean, another charming village further west. Somewhere along the way, according to weather conditions etc., we will stop for our picnic lunch. Bring enough food and water and wear proper hiking gear. I say this even though the path is not difficult and altitude changes are insignificant. Dogs and children used to hiking are welcome. In Méjean (and in Niolon) there is a bar where we can have coffee, etc.

We will return to Niolon via the same route. Total hiking time is about 4 hours.

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

Roderick Macleod



24 - Thursday 12:00 to 14:00

“DISCOVER ASIAN FOOD” LUNCH

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

Details on the OneList shortly. If you are not on the OneList and want details, contact Dee at gayatripotdar@yahoo.com

Dee Potdar

25 - Friday 18:30

CARD GAMES

Venue : Aix-en-Provence (specific location TBD based on number of participants)

Please join us for monthly easy-to-learn card games. The venue may be at a host's home in Aix or at the Le Darius, avenue Giuseppe Verdi, depending on the number of participants. Exact venue will be announced to the participants.



Please email Paula Mullineaux at pmullineaux@comcast.net if you would like to join us on April 25th.

Paula Mullineaux

28 - Monday 14:00

BOOK CLUB

Venue : You will be informed of the location before the date.

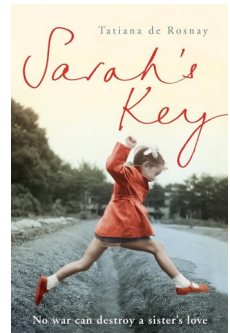
This month's book is *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay.

Please note the book for the month of May : *Herzog* by Saul Bellow.

Please let me know if you are coming by Thursday, April 24th.

Brigitte

bibik@free.fr



30 - Wednesday 10:00 to 11 :00

MORNING COFFEE IN SAINT-RÉMY-DE-PROVENCE

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

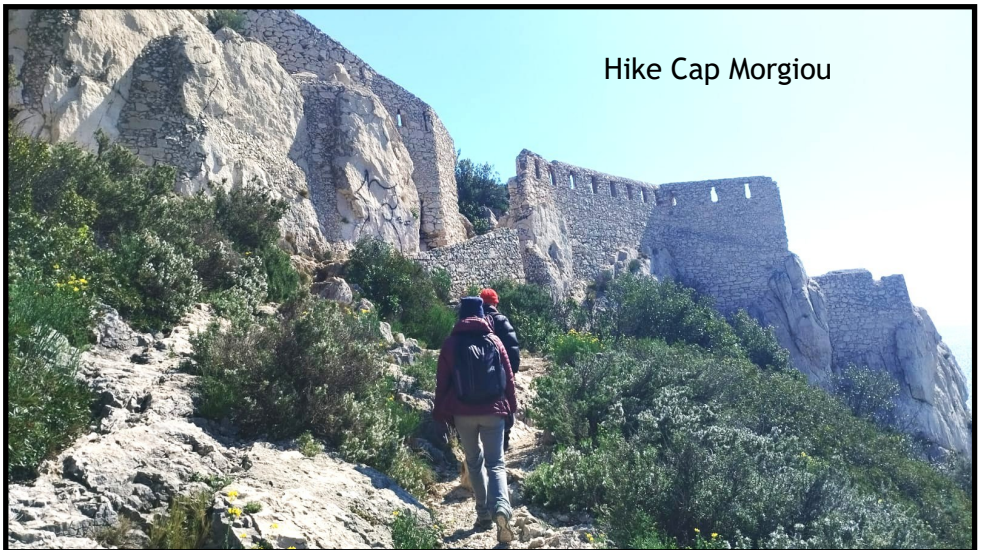
This meetup over coffee is hosted by AAGP member David Carpita and/or Sue Poole from La Table des Amis de Provence.

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

mascornud@live.com / 07 86 26 09 10



LOOKING BACK



LOOKING BACK

QUIZ NIGHT 2025

This quiz night was such a fun edition.

The Quiz Master, Valerie White, compiled an interesting mix of questions from the (what you thought were obvious) but weren't always, to some really tricky brain teasers. My first participation was in 2000 and I have done many since and I can say this one was a 'smasher'. My favourite question 'What are the most easterly and westerly American States?'

The Moulin de l'Arc was the perfect place to host the quiz, the food was copious and delicious, with the most charming staff.

Lastly and most importantly I'd (and I'm sure all those who participated) like to thank everyone who had a hand in organising, i.e. Valerie, Lish and Trevor.

Vicky Millet



LOOKING AHEAD—SAVE THE DATE

May 17th, Saturday 18:00 Folk Evening and Singalong



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

Elaine, Michel and Rod - E2G - invite you 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 songs and we will also cover as many of your « old favourites » as possible.

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 song book! Non-members accompanying members will pay full price of 30 euros each. Booking opens on **Saturday April 19th** and will close on **Saturday May 10th** or before if all places are taken. A reminder will be sent out on the OneList when booking opens.

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 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

Saturday 15th June 12:00 ANNUAL AAGP PICNIC

Save the date for this popular family event. All information will be in the next edition of your newsletter.

Julie Wright

SMALL ADS APRIL 2025

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 metres 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

PLANNING A MOVE ?

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

jpdelahaye@yahoo.com or tel : 06 44 90 83 58

SMALL ADS continued

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

DOMAINE TERRE de MISTRAL

*** Vineyard *** Wine shop *** Wine tasting ***

*** Restaurant *** Tapas bar *** Olive mill ***

Website : terre-de-mistral.com.

Tel : 04 42 29 14 84

Chemin du Pavillon, Route de Peynier,
13790 Rousset



Professional associations (English speaking)

The Bereavement Support Network (BSN) offers individual support by phone or video, to English Speakers in France who are grieving, those who are terminally ill and to their carers. BSN also signposts people to resources, information and additional help. Services can be accessed through our contact form on our website www.bsnvar.org or through our email address info@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

« 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

To advertise

smallads@aagp-provence.com

See website for terms and conditions

Website

www.aagp-provence.com

Important

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LOOKING BACK

