



# Newsletter March 2025

N° 2025 - 03



**Anglo American Group of Provence**

*Published by the AAGP / Editor : Sharon LIGHTOWLERS*

*Distributed only to AAGP Members.*

## Letter from the Board - March 2025

Thoughts can now truly turn to the warmer spring and hot summer days ahead of us, with the prospect of the clocks going forward on the 30<sup>th</sup> of this month. To prepare you for a move into lighter clothes we couldn't resist featuring a glimpse of Rod Macleod's knees on our front cover, captured here while he was performing with Lylian Ben Yedder at a Saint Patrick's Day Celtic concert last year in Marseille. Members may also be familiar with Rod's knees if they have participated in any of his regular hikes organised in the region ..... a genuine AAGP all-rounder!!

The annual Quiz Night organised by Trevor and Valerie White and Lish Goergen over the Valentine weekend in February was a wonderful evening. Many thanks to the organisers and to the vineyard Terre de Mistral in Rousset who donated the prize for the winning team.

The informal coffee mornings in central Aix every Tuesday are also proving very popular, with around a dozen participants "dropping-in" over the course of the two-hour slot to catch up with old friends and to welcome new arrivals. Details and a reminder go out on the OneList every week, so do pop by if you're in Aix that day or fancy a trip to the market that could tie in with this event.

### **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 to the 24<sup>th</sup> March we have the talk from Jennie Mayle, wife of the late author Peter Mayle, scheduled to take place at the AAGP library and on March 28<sup>th</sup> we have the first edition of a card playing event, which will hopefully become a new monthly activity. More details on these and all March events can be found in the “What’s On” pages of this Newsletter. We are also hoping to shortly announce the return of French conversation sessions led by a new member. All details to be announced on the OneList.

Calling all “foodies” .... Unfortunately, because of other commitments, Valerie Belon will no longer be available to organise the lunch in Aix and gourmet lunches and so we are looking for someone to step into her very capable shoes. We are actively looking for two potential members to fill these roles, one to organise “bistrot style” and another to take on “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. Please call me directly on 06 69 81 99 06 or via [julieprovence13@gmail.com](mailto:julieprovence13@gmail.com) for more information.



Enjoy the longer spring days and we look forward to hearing from you or seeing you at one of the events soon!

*Julie Wright, President, on behalf of the board*

## What's on in March 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.

**2- Sunday 10:30**

### **PÉTANQUE**

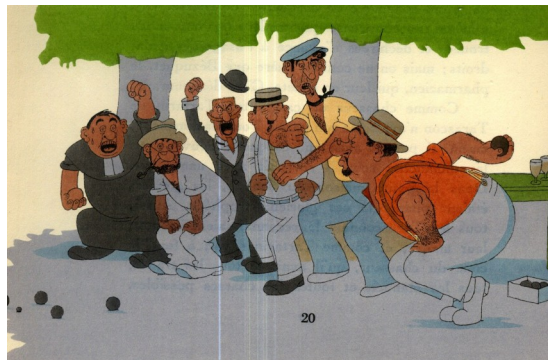
**Venue : Boulodrome de Puyricard, avenue Jacques de Régis**

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](mailto:deannalittell@gmail.com)



**6 - Thursday 12:00**

## **BRUNCH IN MARSEILLE**

**Venue** : De Bon'heur café, 206 bd Baille, 13005 Marseille

Metro ligne 1 : arrêt Baille

[https://www.instagram.com/de\\_bonheur\\_cafe/?hl=fr](https://www.instagram.com/de_bonheur_cafe/?hl=fr)

This gathering will be specially dedicated to our late friend Lydia, who passed away 2 years ago on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023, and who meant so much to all those who had the chance to meet her and appreciate her kindness and availability to everyone.

Please let me know if you are coming by Thursday, February 27th.

*Brigitte*

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

**9 - Sunday 18:45**

## **CINÉ CLUB**

**Venue** : Chez Deanna & Gilles,

18 allée Rosaki, route de Puyricard (D 14 A), Aix-en-Provence

*SUSPICION* is a 1941 American romantic psychological thriller directed by Alfred Hitchcock & starring Cary Grant and Joan Fontaine as a married couple.

For her role as Lina, Joan Fontaine won the Academy Award for Best Actress in 1941.

In the film, a romantically inexperienced well-to-do woman marries a charming playboy after initially rejecting him. She does so against her family's wishes.

He turns out to be penniless, a gambler & dishonest in the extreme. She comes to suspect that he is a murderer and that he is trying to kill her.



After a lavish honeymoon and returning to an extravagant house, Lina discovers that Johnnie has no job and no income and habitually lives on borrowed money.

Cary Grant, playing against type, makes Johnnie Aysgarth an imposing charmer, wastrel and cad.

Like the glass that may or may not contain poison, Johnnie's words and deeds may or may not be laced with menace.

Join us for pizza and popcorn and to find out how this suspenseful film noir unfolds.

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

*Deanna & Gilles*

06 76 39 15 52

**10 - 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](https://www.facebook.com/massenacafe/?locale=fr_FR)

Please let me know if you are coming by Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.

*Brigitte Kraus*

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

## **10 - Monday 14:30**

### **PLAY READING GROUP**

**Venue : To be advised**

Our March play reading will start at 2.30 pm on Monday 10<sup>th</sup>; 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.

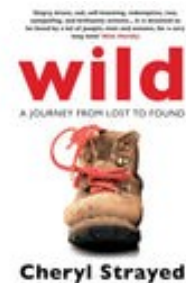
*Dympna Donnelly*

## **13 - Thursday 10:30**

### **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

**Venue : Home of Cheryl Wright, 39 ave.  
J&M Fontenaille, Aix-en-Provence**

*Wild: A Journey from Lost and Found* by Cheryl Strayed presented by Cheryl Wright



*Wild* is the 2012 memoir by the American writer, author, and podcaster Cheryl Strayed. At twenty-two, Cheryl Strayed thought she had lost everything. In the wake of her mother's death, her family scattered and her own marriage was soon destroyed. Four years later, with nothing more to lose, she made the most impulsive decision of her life. With no experience or training, driven only by blind will, she would hike more than a thousand miles of the Pacific Crest Trail from the Mojave Desert through California and Oregon to Washington State—and she would do it alone. Told with suspense and style, spar-

klings with warmth and humor, *Wild* powerfully captures the terrors and pleasures of one young woman forging ahead against all odds on a journey that maddened, strengthened, and ultimately healed her.

Let Nancy and Cheryl know if you plan to attend the Thursday gathering by Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> March.

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

Cheryl Wright 07 68 06 54 24 [cherylwrightfr@gmail.com](mailto:cherylwrightfr@gmail.com)

*Nancy Ceridwyn*

**13** - 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)

**16 - Sunday 10:00**

## **HIKE CAP MORGIYOU**

**Venue : “Chez Zé” bar restaurant, chemin de Morgiou, Marseille**

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), and at which point we have a commanding view over the calanque coastline. We will then continue, following a ridge in the direction of the "Cap Morgiou". On the way we will pass the ruins of a 17th century fortress and the famous "Grotte Cosquer" bay. Just before reaching the tip of the cape we will stop somewhere convenient for our picnic lunch, and then head back to our starting point following the same route.

This hike presents no particular difficulties so children used to hiking and dogs on a leash are welcome. Please bring plenty of food and drinking water and wear proper hiking gear. The total hiking time is about 4 hours.

All those wishing to come are requested 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.

*Roderick Macleod*



**19 - Wednesday 14:00**

## **AFTERNOON TEA + VISIT OF THE MUSEUM**

**Venue: Musée Regards de Provence, avenue Vaudoier, 13002 Marseille**

Metro ligne 1 : arrêt Vieux-Port / Hôtel de Ville

Bus : Lignes 82 - 83 - 60 - 49

<https://www.museeregardsdeprovence.com/>

Please let me know if you are coming by Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.

*Brigitte*

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



**24 - Monday afternoon (exact time to be notified on the OneList)**

## **“AN AFTERNOON IN PROVENCE” - a conversation with Jennie Mayle**

**Venue : AAGP Library room, Mairie Aix-Sud, 75 rte des Milles CD9, 13090 Aix-en-Provence**

What more fitting place to welcome our next guest speaker than the AAGP Library - a longstanding and integral part of our English-

speaking association, and a home of many of Peter Mayle's books on Provence?

Mrs Jennie Mayle - wife of the late Peter Mayle - has graciously accepted our invitation to meet with AAGP members and share her experiences of the years before and after the incredible success of books such as "A Year in Provence", "Encore Provence", "Toujours Provence", "A Dog's Life", "Hotel Pastis" or "The Vintage Capers".

When signing up, participants will have the opportunity to send in a question they would like to be submitted to Jennie Mayle. Hopefully, there will be the opportunity for more informal exchanges during the light refreshments to be served at the end.

Booking will be by HelloAsso only, and there will be a small charge of 8 euros per participant, which will be donated to a charity of Jennie Mayle's choice.

As usual, places will be limited for this members-only event, so book as soon as possible via the HelloAsso link posted on the OneList. If you are not familiar with HelloAsso, please ask a friend to sign you up.

For any questions, please contact Elaine Blanc at [eda.blanc@orange.fr](mailto:eda.blanc@orange.fr).

*Julie Wright*

**26 - 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](mailto:mascornud@live.com) / 07 86 26 09 10



**27 - Thursday 12:00 to 14:00**

**‘DISCOVER ASIAN FOOD’ LUNCH’**

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

All details will be posted on the OneList shortly.

*Dee Potdar*

[gayatripoydar@yahoo.com](mailto:gayatripoydar@yahoo.com)

**28 - Friday 18:30**

**NEW ACTIVITY: CARD - PLAYING**

**Venue : to be announced**

We are initiating a new small group activity - card-playing (American style). No need to already have card-playing skills; we have several

easy-to-learn games which we are ready to share.

We plan to hold the game-playing on the last Friday of each month and the location will be rotated among guest hosts.

The inaugural event will be Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at a home next to Aix Center. The specific address will be provided to those who wish to participate.



Please email Paula Mullineaux ([pmullineaux@comcast.net](mailto:pmullineaux@comcast.net)) if you would like to join us on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

*Paula Mullineaux*

## 31 - Monday 14:00

### BOOK CLUB

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

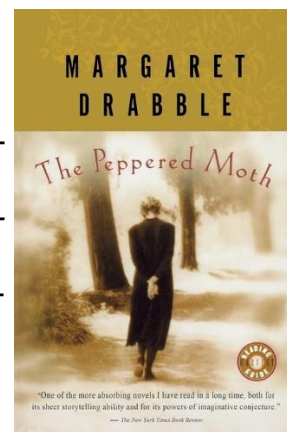
This month's book is *The Peppered Moth* by Margaret Drabble.

Please note the book for the month of April : *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay.

Please let me know if you are coming by Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

*Brigitte*

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



## LOOKING BACK

### BURNS NIGHT

Great Scottish vibes carried all of us away during our AAGP Burns night here in Provence! While Burns Night is distinctly Scottish, it has spread far beyond the borders of Scotland as we celebrated the life and works of the national bard ROBERT BURNS. The AAGP members in Provence continued this traditional supper at the Domaine du Moulin de l'Arc with friends from all over the world.

Kicking off the night with some delicious nibbles and Whisky punch catching up with some acquaintances and making new friends then Andreas Hartman set the tone for the evening with formal "piping in" of the haggis, by the playing of the bagpipes. The centerpiece of the celebration was the Burns Supper, a special dinner featuring the iconic haggis. During the procession, the bagpipes' music continues until the haggis reaches its destination at the table! Before the haggis was served, Maryna Blankenstein recites the Burns' Address to a Haggis, a humorous and heartfelt tribute to the Scottish dish. Then Marjorie says the Selkirk grace.

We all then raise a glass to Robert Burns and enjoy the traditions that make this night so special! Thanks to Jan Delahaye for donating the small Whisky tots! After the meal with glasses charged it's time for more Scottish entertainment, such as breaking into a typical Scottish dance or two led by Majorie Desorgues. A big thank you to Michel Parisot for organising the dance music and technical aspects!

The evening ends with the usual Auld Lang Syne and the invitation for "same time, same place next year". Lish Goergen did the vote of thanks to the owner and chef of the domain for a fantastic supper as well as to every one attending the event! Thank you Lish Goergen for organising another fantastic Burns night in Provence! Thanks too go to Marjorie Desorgues for directing the enthusiastic dancers, no easy job!, Maryna Blankenstein for the Address to the Haggis, Andreas Hartman the piper. Thanks also to Dany Wathlet and Trevor White for the taking the photos which embedded the fun evening into our memories!

*Ronél Wathlet Steyn*



## LOOKING AHEAD—SAVE THE DATE

**May 17th, Saturday 18:00**

**Folk Evening and Singalong**

**Venue : Les Platanes, Aix-en-Provence**

Save the date! All information on this event and how to reserve your place will be in your April Newsletter.

*Elaine, Michel & Roderick « E2G »*



## SMALL ADS MARCH 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](mailto: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 : [emilylix@gmail.com](mailto:emilylix@gmail.com)

Tel : 06 84 81 08 47

## SMALL ADS continued

### PLANNING A MOVE ?

We are there for you [www.fd-platinum.com](http://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 rates. Your local contact :

[jpdelahaye@yahoo.com](mailto:jpdelahaye@yahoo.com) or tel : 06 44 90 83 58

### PROVENCE EXPAT SOLUTIONS

Originally from South Africa, I've lived in France for over 30 years, currently in St. Rémy de Provence. I offer property management to help you enjoy your home in Provence without the hassle, along with administrative and translation services to make settling in the heart of Provence easy.

Website : <http://provenceexpatsolutions.com>

Tel : 06 29 32 22 16. email : [woodford-beth@hotmail.com](mailto:woodford-beth@hotmail.com)



### DOMAINE TERRE de MISTRAL

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

\*\*\*

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

Website : [terre-de-mistral.com](http://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](http://www.bsnvar.org) or through our email address [info@bsnvar.org](mailto: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](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)

### **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



QUIZ NIGHT