

Newsletter JANUARY 2025

N° 2025 - 01



Anglo American Group of Provence

Published by the AAGP / Editor : Sharon LIGHTOWLERS
Distributed only to AAGP Members.

Letter from the Board - January 2025

Happy New Year! May 2025 bring joy and serenity to all our members in the region and to those who live elsewhere most of the year, but who share our love and passion for Provence.

The first cover image to launch the year is the very appropriate “new dawn” winter sunrise over Aix-en-Provence provided by Michèle Duguet-Pic. Thank you to all those who have provided photos for our cover page. Keep them coming as we will select them according to how they tie in with the time of year or relevant AAGP events.

The end of last year was a busy one.

The folk singalong was a “sell-out”, with a certain member getting so caught up in the atmosphere that she felt compelled to grab the microphone!

The library team did it again this year with an amazing number of second-hand English language books sold and well over 1000 euros raised – an amazing achievement.

The Beaujolais evening was a huge success, too, with over 20 attendees, fantastic food and even a raffle. Well done Margaret Ings and Wolfgang Niemann for your incredible hospitality.

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**.

The presentation hosted by the Honorary Consul of Sao Tomé and Principe on chocolate production on this island nation was also extremely well attended with everyone who participated finding it immensely informative and worthwhile. Our thanks to the Honorary Consul, of course, and to Marc Schiethart and Dympna Donnelly for organising this event almost overnight.

And while on the social side things were busy let's not forget the discreet, but so useful work, carried out by Nann Ricard and Deanna Littell in compiling the AAGP Recommendation List. Many, many thanks for their continued efforts in gathering so much information, which has become the 'go-to' list to both new arrivals and long-standing residents here!!

Sadly, there was no AAGP Thanksgiving event in 2024, but the Table des Amis based in Saint-Rémy kindly extended an invitation to AAGP members. The AAGP members who attended this 70-strong event at the Bistrot de Saint-Rémy (sister restaurant of the Bistrot du Paradou) found the food, company and organisation excellent – so we thank the Table des Amis for opening this up to us.

As we move into 2025 we have our weekly coffee/tea drop-in starting up. The venue and the date of our first event will be confirmed very shortly via the OneList. Our Burns Night celebration is scheduled for 25th January. Please check the calendar and the following pages for all the other events organised for January.

Due to the great success and demand for the talks organised by Trevor White, Marc Schiethart and Dympna Donnelly in November, we would like to encourage other members (or friends or associates of members) who have an interesting subject, life-story or passion to share with us to step forward. The AAGP library is available to us every Monday afternoon and on Saturdays by prior arrangement. It would be great to share the great wealth of experience and knowledge we have or could tap into within our group. So, if you have something you would like to share, please contact me directly at julieprovence13@gmail.com

Once again have a great 2025!!

Julie Wright (President) on behalf of the Board.



What's on in January 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.

6 Monday 14:30

AFTERNOON TEA

Venue : Maison Loko, 40 cours Julien, 13006 Marseille

Metro ligne 2 : Notre Dame du Mont

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

Please let me know if you are coming by Thursday, January 2nd.

Brigitte Kraus

bibik@free.fr

9 - Thursday 10:30

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Venue : Les Petits Bilingues, 5 rue des Allumettes, Aix-en-Provence

The Good Women of China by Xinran

Presented by Laura Silberstein

For eight years, Xinran negotiated the minefield of restrictions imposed on Chinese journalists to reach out to women across the country. Xinran presented a radio program in China where she invited women to call in and talk about themselves. This book, through the

vivid intimacy of Xinran's writing, reveals these women's voices confiding in the reader and sharing their deepest secrets for the first time of what it meant to be a woman in modern China. Centuries of obedience to their fathers, husbands and sons, followed by years of political turmoil had made women terrified of talking openly about their feelings.

Following an hour and a half of shared experience with the book, we break and continue conversations over a picnic lunch. If you are car-pooling, please don't forget a 5 euro donation for the driver to show your appreciation.

Let Nancy and Laura know if you plan to attend the Thursday gathering by Monday, January 6th.

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

Laura Silberstein 06 13 43 86 60 silberstein-aloc@wanadoo.fr

Nancy Ceridwyn

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

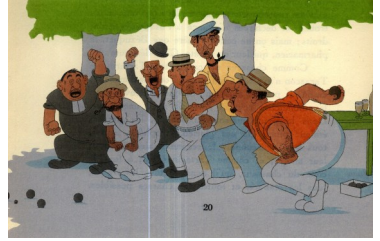
06 75 59 82 43

gilles.dreyfus@gmail.com



12 - Sunday 10:30

PETANQUE



Venue : boulodrome de Puyricard

The boulodrome de Puyricard is on avenue Jacques de Régis (toward la route du Seuil).

Because the first Sunday of January will be on the 5th, many people might be still on vacation or recovering from the "holidays festivities", we are meeting on the second Sunday of the month.

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

12 - Sunday 18:45

CINÉ CLUB

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



One, Two, Three is a 1961 American political comedy film directed by Billy Wilder. The film stars James Cagney, Horst Buchholz, & Pamela Tiffin.

It is set in West Berlin during the cold war. C.R. "Mac" MacNamara is a high-ranking executive in the Coca Cola Company, not happy about being assigned to West Berlin after a stint in the Middle East.

He has his sights set on moving up the ladder to run the European operation from London. His idea is working on an arrangement to introduce Coke to the Soviet Union. Already not too happy about his assignment, his boss from Atlanta calls to assign him to looking after his 17-year-old, hot-blooded socialite daughter Scarlett, so to impress, he must acquiesce.

Her 2-week stay is extended to 2 months & all hell starts to break loose.

Cheerfully throwing more craziness into Mac's circumstances, the screenplay by Wilder & I.A.L. Diamond seldom stops & the resulting comic intensity reminds us of Hollywood classic screwball films of the '30s like *Ninotchka* & *Bringing Up Baby*. Wilder had to stop shooting in Berlin when the wall went up on August 13, 1961 & move all this crazy stuff to Munich to complete the film.

A wild cold war farce from Wilder & Cagney. The screenplay actually suggests "a speed of 110 miles an hour on the curves & 140 miles an hour on the straight-ways."

Fasten your seatbelts & join us for pizza & popcorn & maybe the best laugh you've had for the New Year.

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

Deanna & Gilles

06 76 39 15 52

13 Monday 10:30

MORNING COFFEE

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, January 10th.

Brigitte Kraus

bibik@free.fr



13 Monday 14:30

PLAY READING GROUP

We will start 2025 with *God of Carnage* by
Yasmina Reza which will be hosted by Cheryl
Wright at 39 avenue J&M Fontenaille in Aix.

Reading will start at 2.30 pm on Monday 13th
September.

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

Dympna Donnelly



19 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), and at which point we have a commanding view over the coastline. We will then continue, following a ridge in the direction of the "Cap Morgiou". On the way we will pass a 17th century fortress and the famous "Grotte Cosquer" calanque. Just before reaching the end of the cape we will stop somewhere for our picnic lunch and then head back to the cars 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 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 just to make sure that this venue complies with all the regulations prevailing.

Many thanks.

Roderick MACLEOD

06 60 61 08 65



20 Monday 12:00

LUNCH IN MARSEILLE

Venue : Restaurant Vapiano, 20 avenue du Prado, 13006 Marseille

Métro ligne 1 ou ligne 2 : Arrêt Castellane

[https://www.vapiano.fr/restaurants/marseille/marseille-prado/?](https://www.vapiano.fr/restaurants/marseille/marseille-prado/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=mybusiness-website)

[utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=mybusiness-website](https://www.vapiano.fr/restaurants/marseille/marseille-prado/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=mybusiness-website)



Please let me know if you are coming and by Wednesday, January 15th.

Brigitte Kraus

bibik@free.fr

23 Thursday 12:00 to 14:00

DISCOVER ASIAN FOOD

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

To start off 2025, we will taste ' Pav Bhaaji' - a dish that originated in Bombay as a quick, streetside lunch for mill workers but has gone on to become very popular with young and old alike ! A thick, spicy vegetable curry, served with soft buttered buns and a dollop of butter, it's a delicious and filling meal.

Vegetarian and gluten free if you don't eat the buns (feel free to bring your own gluten-free bread if you like).

Email Dee : gayatriptodar@yahoo.com

Dee Potdar

25 Saturday 18:45

BURNS NIGHT

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



We hope you enjoyed a good time over Christmas and the New Year and are now ready to celebrate the Bard with us.

Be ready to enjoy neeps, tatties and McSween's haggis accompanied by the skirling of the pipes and Scottish country dancing.

Whisky punch apero at 6.45pm and dinner starting at 7.30pm sharp.

The cost is €30 per person (and not 25 as per the December Newsletter, sorry).

Unfortunately we can only accept AAGP members as numbers are limited.

To reserve please TELEPHONE ME on 06 86 73 43 19 after 4th January. NO EMAILS PLEASE.

Please do not wait until the last minute as we must order the haggis from abroad by 10th January.

Reservations are considered confirmed only upon receipt of payment by 18th January.

Payment can be made by

- Bank transfer / the AAGP rib is on our website in the Members section. **Don't forget to indicate your name and the event.**
- Bank cheque, made out to AAGP and received by me by Jan. 18th

We look forward to seeing you there : don't forget your dancing shoes!!

Lish Goergen 06 86 73 43 19

27 Monday 14:00

BOOK CLUB

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

This month's book is *Martin Eden* by Jack London

Please let me know if you are coming by Wednesday, January 22nd.

Please note the book for the month of February is Joanna Trollope's *A Village Affair*.

Brigitte Kraus

bibik@free.fr



29 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 Liberation 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.

Saturday February 15—evening

QUIZ NIGHT

Venue : Moulin de l'Arc, Trets



This ever-popular event is back!

Don't even think of trying to book a restaurant table on Valentine's weekend. Sign up for Quiz Night and have a wonderful evening all organised for you!

Questions are on a range of general knowledge topics accessible to all nationalities.

Competitive gamers? You may submit a ready-made team of up to eight people.

Don't know anyone yet or can't get a team together? No problem, you can sign up and we will organise a team for you with an experienced member as your team leader. Prizes for the winning team.

Provisional price at time of going to press: 30€ members (subsidised price) - non-members 40€ (Price to be confirmed in January). Price includes welcome drink, dinner (main dish and dessert) plus wine.

Preference given to members, non-members accepted if there is space.

Sign up by calling Lish Goergen 06 86 73 43 19 after Jan 15.

No emails please. Lish will give you payment options.

We look forward to seeing lots of you there.

Lish Goergen, Trevor and Valerie White

LOOKING BACK

BOOK SALE

On Sunday November 17th thousands of books and DVDs were looking for new owners. Some were lucky and some weren't. The lucky ones brought us in over 1000 euros and brought pleasure to hundreds of new owners. Some of the "unlucky" ones got a second chance, were boxed up and sent to Ammareal to pass another examination. The others got taken to *la déchèterie* down the road from the library where they were picked up by *Histoires sans fin* in Venelles for one last chance.

The sale itself was, as usual, a joyful gathering of book lovers who found new things to read and saw old friends, both of the print kind and in the flesh. The money earned will allow us to buy **more** books. The event was brought to you by the devoted library team which invites you to drop in to see what we have to offer and follow us on our library site (www.librarycat.org/lib/AAGP) to see what new books (over 120 since September 2024) have arrived.

For the library team

Cathy Kirby



PRESENTATION by the Honorary Consul of Sao Tome and Principe

On Saturday 30th November, Jean-Pierre Bensaid, Honorary Consul of Sao Tome and Principe and founder of the Foundation Micondo, gave us a very interesting and informative talk about the history and economy of these "chocolate islands", situated on the equator off the coast of Africa.

The foundation was created to help a community on a former plantation and has set up a water system and a school and, soon to open, a medical dispensary.

Following the talk we were able to taste and buy chocolate from the islands in all sorts of delicious forms. The profit from the chocolate goes to the Foundation.

Thank you so much, Dympna and Marc, for organising this talk.

Cheryl Wright

LOOKING BACK

BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU EVENING with the AAGP

What is the definition of fun? In my opinion, it's a party! And better when you have attentive hosts, twenty lovely interesting people, and food. And wine.

Yes, let's talk about the wine - after all, that was the focus of the Beaujolais Nouveau evening recently hosted by Margaret and Wolfgang in their apartment in Aix.

At this point, I need to give you my non-disclosure statement. I'm not a fan of Beaujolais Nouveau. And I only discovered this fact during the event. Perhaps I was still wearing my rose-coloured glasses - as the last Beau Jo I tried was when we lived in Paris in the 14th arrondissement, er...quite a few years ago. The local bistrot was promoting it and perhaps I was distracted, as I was looking into my lover's eyes at the time...

So, I was happy on Friday to renew my relationship with Beaujolais Nouveau. The 2024 wines we tried were:

No. 1 Domaine des Josephins - (in my opinion-stewed grass clippings)

No. 2 Domaine de Pass Loup (grass clippings with plums)

No. 3 Tirage du Primeur (alcoholic Ribena/blackcurrant cordial) - voted the favourite and winner, by the group.



To add to the fun there was a lucky draw prize - the award being a bottle of Beaujolais. Fortunately, I did not win.

Whether you like the wine or not the event reminded me of several things. Firstly, the continued kindness and big kind hearts of the AAGP members - in this case Margaret and Wolfgang, who generously opened their home, did tons of work, and provided a wonderful night for us. Many thanks Margaret and Wolfgang.

Secondly, it also reminded me why I'm a member of the AAGP. This is that it doesn't matter what the occasion is, because life should be celebrated. And we are stronger and happier with friends. And accompanied by a glass of full-bodied Bordeaux.

Joanne Tisdell

SMALL ADS JANUARY 2025

YOUR PROPERTY, MY COMMITMENT

Hello Members

My name is Magali, born in Provence, living in Aix for more than 25 years. I worked a long time for many student programs abroad (Vanderbilt, IAU, CEA, Wellesley in Aix.....)

Now I work for families who live in Provence half-time and need a trusty person in charge of their home. I have good experiences and a large and serious address book.

Maintenance, logistics... all you need to ensure that your home will never be alone.

Contact: mag.stratigeas11@gmail.com

Tel: 06 43 43 31 24

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

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

PLANNING A MOVE ?

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

Your local contact :

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

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

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



Beaujolais Nouveau
Evening Friday Nov
22nd



Sao Tome and Principe
presentation Saturday Nov
30th



Book Sale Sunday
Nov 17th

