



# Newsletter June 2025

N° 2025 - 06



## Anglo American Group of Provence

Published by the AAGP / Editor : Michel PARISOT

Distributed only to AAGP Members.

### Letter from the Board - June 2025

As we reach the month of June the poppies are gradually replaced by the vibrant colours of the famous lavender fields of Provence - as illustrated in this month's cover photo provided by Aix based artist Christine Chang. AAGP member and member of the "Website team", Christine, who was born in New York and previously worked in computer animation for films and games, paints a wide range of subjects. You can check out her gallery of works, which include some great street scenes in Aix, at [christinechangart.com](http://christinechangart.com)

May was punctuated by our weekly *apéro* evenings which have proved very popular, with anywhere between 20 to 40 members dropping by to chat over a glass of wine on the Cours Mirabeau. It's great to see such a mix of nationalities, with new and long-standing members coming together.

The Folk Evening was full to capacity as the photos show - great choice of songs, great food and marvellous atmosphere. We extend a huge thank you to Elaine Blanc, Michel Parisot and Roderick Macleod for their musical talents as well as their organisational skills in making this event possible.

This month of course, we have the AAGP annual picnic which will be held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June, in Peynier between 12pm and 4pm. So, mark this in your diary now! This year's event will have a few surprises in store and plenty of refreshments - full arrangements and details will be sent out on the OneList.

Finally, it is with great regret that we will be saying goodbye to our board secretary Brigitte Ponsart, who is moving over to Fréjus. She will be swapping her monthly board meetings with wonderful sea views! We would like

#### 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**.

to thank her for her patient efficiency and her thoughtfulness throughout her tenure. We wish you every happiness in Fréjus. You will be sorely missed.

Brigitte's departure means that there is now a vacancy on the board and as you will see in the announcement following this letter, we are now inviting applications for the position. This is a great opportunity to join the team and make your contribution to the group.

This is the final newsletter before the summer break. Many members will be away through July and August, but a number of AAGP activities and events will continue. Details will be given via the OneList. And remember, the AAGP recommendations list can be an invaluable source of information should you need a specialist doctor, plumber, during the summer break, and can be accessed via the members section on our website. Access codes, member contact details are all available via the AAGP Directory.

On behalf of the board and I would like to wish you a wonderful summer wherever you are. Main activities start back up in September with our Annual General Meeting and new member welcome party scheduled for October. See you then!

*Julie Wright (President) on behalf of the Board.*



*From Katherine Modesti exhibition Le Tholonet*

## **OBITUARY**

*We share with you the sad news of the death of longstanding AAGP member Wolfgang Niemann on May 17th 2025.*

*Wolfgang and his wife Margaret joined the AAGP over twenty years ago, becoming well known as regular supporters of many AAGP activities over the years, and welcoming members to events in their home in Aix-en-Provence.*

*Our condolences go to Margaret , and to all their friends and family.*

## **AAGP BOARD VACANCY**

The position of **Secretary to the Board** will be vacant as of September 2025

This interesting position is open to all AAGP members, new as well as long standing-ones (all nationalities welcome and in fact this is the ideal role for someone who would like to use and develop their English in a fun but professional environment). Each board member shapes the nature and direction of the AAGP.

For more information and a full description, contact Julie Wright by email at [julieprovence13@gmail.com](mailto:julieprovence13@gmail.com), or phone her at 06 99 81 69 06.

Proposals for candidates for the position should be received by email to Julie on or before **June 30 2025**.

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## **DUES RENEWAL 2025-2026**

As usual the renewal slip will come with the September newsletter.

However, if you are going to be away at the beginning of September, you can use the renewal dues form that is on the reverse side of the calendar.

No bank transfers before the 1<sup>st</sup> of August please.

Enjoy the summer.

*Lish Goergen*

# What's on in June 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.

## 1 - Sunday 10:00

### HIKE

**Venue : Calanques - Belvédère Titou Ninou**

We shall meet on the carpark of the "Décathlon" sports store, Chemin du Roy d'Espagne in the southern quarters of Marseille. From here we will proceed in as few cars as possible to the starting point about 1 km away.



The path leads through the forest of the "Fontaine de Voire", and then upwards towards the Col de la Selle, where there is a commanding view over the city of Marseille on one side and the calanques on the other side. We will then continue up another path to reach the "Plateau de l'Homme Mort" (altitude 350 metres approx.), before taking an unmarked path to the "Belvédère de Titou Ninou". This is a narrow ledge near the top of a cliff overlooking the sea and the islands off the coast and where we are likely to stop to enjoy our picnic. We will then return to our starting point via the same route or via a shorter but steeper downhill climb.

Total hiking time is about 5 hours. There are no particular difficulties along the way so dogs and children used to hiking are welcome. Bring plenty of food and water and wear proper hiking gear. For any further information please call Roderick MACLEOD on 06 60 61 08 65.

All those wishing to come are requested to call me the day before between 18h and 20h in order to check that this venue complies with the rules and regulations prevailing.

Many thanks.

*Roderick Macleod*

1 - Sunday 10:30

## PÉTANQUE

Venue : Boulodrome de Puyricard, intersection avenue Jacques de Régis & boulevard de Carelle

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)

*Gilles*



2 - Monday 10:30

## MORNING COFFEE

Venue : Brasserie La Samaritaine  
2 quai du Port, 13002 Marseille

Metro ligne 1 : *arrêt* Vieux Port

<https://www.la-samaritaine-marseille.fr/>

Please let me know if you are coming by Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>.

*Brigitte* - [bibik@free.fr](mailto:bibik@free.fr)



2 - Monday 14:30

## PLAY READING GROUP

Our June reading will start at 2.30 pm on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June; 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*

8 - Sunday 18:45

## CINÉ CLUB

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

*FIRE OVER ENGLAND* is a 1937 London Film Productions film drama, notable for providing the first pairing of Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh on screen.

Leigh's performance in this film helped to convince David O. Selznick to cast her as Scarlett O'Hara in his 1939 production of *Gone with the Wind*.



Usually for a June film we try to choose a film having to do with the war as June 6 is on our minds. This film will show us another kind of victory of England.

The film is an historical drama set in the 16<sup>th</sup> century during the reign of Elizabeth I focusing on England's victory over the Spanish Armada. The acclaimed costume drama stars Olivier as a British naval officer who spies on Spain's Philip II (Raymond Massey) for Elizabeth I. His fervent devotion to the crown & his sweetheart, a lady-in-waiting to the Queen, lead him to battle for England's victory over the Spanish Armada in 1588.

Join us for pizza, popcorn & a different wartime remembrance.

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

*Deanna & Gilles*

12 - Thursday 10:30

## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Venue : Home of Marilyn Campbell, 22 route de Peynier,  
D57, Puyloubier

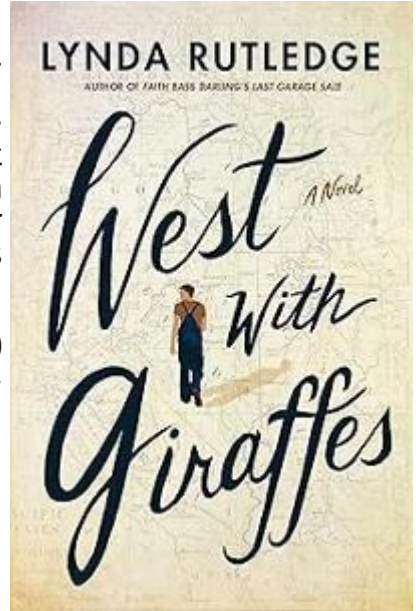
*West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge presented by Marilyn Campbell  
It's 1938. The Great Depression lingers. Hitler is threatening Europe, and world-weary Americans long for wonder. They find it in two gi-

raffes who miraculously survive a hurricane while crossing the Atlantic. What follows is a twelve-day road trip in a custom truck to deliver Southern California's first giraffes to the San Diego Zoo.

Behind the wheel is the young Dust Bowl rowdy Woodrow. Inspired by true events, the tale weaves real-life figures with fictional ones, including the world's first female zoo director, a crusty old man with a past, a young female photographer with a secret, and assorted reprobates as spotty as the giraffes.

Reservations by email taken from May 30 to June 9. After 18 registrations, a waiting list will be started.

Nancy Ceridwyn 07 81 84 61 29  
[nancy.ceridwyn@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.ceridwyn@gmail.com)  
Marilyn Campbell 04 42 66 37 56  
[marilynjcampbell2yahoo.com](mailto:marilynjcampbell2yahoo.com)  
Nancy Ceridwyn



## 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 - 06 75 59 82 43

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



## 13 - Friday 10:00 to 11:30

# FRENCH CONVERSATION

Venue : le Café des  
Artistes,

35 place François Villon,  
13090 Aix-en-Provence

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](mailto:jeanlouis.morgenthaler@sfr.fr)

06 61 86 53 54



**15 - Sunday 12:00 - 16:00**

## ANNUAL AAGP FAMILY PICNIC

Venue : Peynier

For this year's annual event, the picnic will be a **PICNIC!** But with a dessert or cheese to share.

The AAGP has rented a venue for this event which has inside and outside space with tables and chairs, shady areas and a boules ground.

Everyone will bring their own sandwich/salad/quiche picnic to eat at their table, plus either some cheese or a dessert for 4-6 people, which we will serve as a buffet. Please also bring your own plates, glasses and cutlery. The AAGP will supply wine, soft drinks and bread.

Numbers are limited, so please reserve as **soon as possible** and **BEFORE 5TH JUNE** by email to [cherylwrightfr@gmail.com](mailto:cherylwrightfr@gmail.com) saying



how many people are coming and what you will bring to share. Priority will be given to members. If there is space, non-members are welcome at a charge of 10 euros.

Directions and GPS coordinates to the venue will be sent out at a later date.

There is a car park, but please carpool if possible.

*Cheryl Wright*

**16 - Monday 14:30**

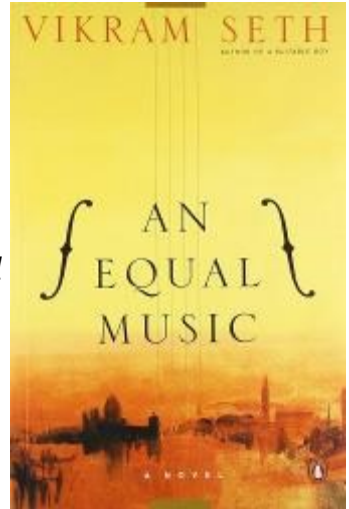
## **BOOK CLUB**

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

This month's book is Vikram Seth's *An Equal Music*.

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

*Brigitte* - [bibik@free.fr](mailto:bibik@free.fr)



**18 - 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](mailto:gayatripotdar@yahoo.com)

*Dee Potdar*



**27 - Friday 10:00 to 11:30**

## **FRENCH CONVERSATION**

**Venue : le Café des**

**Artistes**

**35 place François Villon, 13090  
Aix-en-Provence**

All information as given for Friday 13<sup>th</sup>.

*Jean Louis*

[jeanlouis.morgenthaler@sfr.fr](mailto:jeanlouis.morgenthaler@sfr.fr)

*06 61 86 53 54*



**27 - Friday 18:30**

## **CARD GAMES**

**Venue : Le Darius, 115 avenue Giuseppe Verdi, Aix-en-Provence**

Our last card-playing evening before our summer break will be on Friday, June 27. We will be taking a three-month break, through September, as Mike and I will be in the US.

We plan to review and play some of the games we have already learned, so the competition should be intense, but fun! And new players are always welcome!

Please let me know by June 20<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend, so I can notify Le Darius of the number of participants.

*Paula Mullineaux*

*07 68 53 38 22 or 240-602-7978*

[pmullineaux@comcast.net](mailto:pmullineaux@comcast.net)



# LOOKING AHEAD SAVE THE DATE

**Tuesday 9th September**



## **Excursion to Toulon to the Memorial of the Débarquement et la Libération de Provence.**

Perched on the top of Mont Faron, the Memorial Museum commemorates the Allied landing and overlooks the bay of Toulon.

Open onto the sea, this remarkable view invites you to imagine troops during the liberation of the town, on August 28<sup>th</sup> 1944.

This will be an all-day trip to arrive in Toulon around 12:00 for lunch. Restaurant to be announced closer to the time. By car it is about 1 hour from Aix. The museum is accessible by a “Téléphérique” from the town, after lunch, to arrive on time for our group visit at 14:30. The museum has bilingual titles in French/

English & the visit will be self-directed (no guide).

Booking will open on the OneList in early **August**.

Numbers are limited to 20 persons—carpooling will be encouraged.

Please feel free to ask questions to my email in the meantime.

*Deanna & Gilles*

*deannalittell@gmail.com*

## LOOKING BACK

### A successful Folk Evening & Singalong

What do you need to successfully stage a friendly Folk Evening with everyone singing along? AAGP's recipe is: talent, friendship, enthusiasm, an experienced band, an extensive list of no fewer than 30 songs with lyrics printed in a booklet, a cool, informal, and welcoming venue, and more than fifty good-humoured fans. The 12th Folk Evening & Singalong since 2018 took place at La Brasserie des Platanes, Route de Sisteron. They truly deserve our thanks for their warm welcome and dedication. Of course, Elaine—the voice—Michel and Rod—the guitars—did an impressive, outstanding job that was much appreciated. A huge thank you to them for their commitment, talent, and relentless energy! **“One more song! One more song!”**

Everyone clapped and chanted at the end of an enchanting revival of artists and bands no one has forgotten: Bob Dylan, The Beatles, Leonard Cohen, Elton John, Harry Belafonte, Joni Mitchell, Frank Sinatra, Cat Stevens, The Kingston Trio, Joan Baez, Gordon Lightfoot, Simon & Garfunkel, The Dubliners, Dolly Parton, Woody Guthrie, Dire Straits, Bee Gees, Bruce Springsteen, Neil Young, Petula Clark, Peter, Paul and Mary, Kenny Rogers, and John Denver.

There were two parts with an intermission so everyone could enjoy a buffet meal while chatting with fellow guests. As a new member, I was so happy to be part of this wonderful event and to sing along to songs I also knew and remembered quite well—songs that have been worldwide hits and milestones, inspiring many guys and girls like me to learn and practise English. So, when I was asked whether I could write a short piece for the “Looking Back” section of the AAGP Newsletter, I was happy to do so—as a way to say thank you, E2G, in my own name and on behalf of every guest.

*Jean-Louis Morgenthaler*

**With a Little Help from (our) Friends**, the **Forever Young** crowd enthusiastically enjoyed this spring's Folk Singalong which took place **Downtown** at the Brasserie des Platanes. Thankfully, we all weren't just **Blowing in the Wind** since Elaine, Michel and Rod (AAGP's very own **Black Velvet Band**) were there to lead and entertain us with well-loved songs as well as teach us some new ones. But the evening was more than just **Words** - the dinner buffet and free-flowing drinks kept us on a **Rocky Mountain High**.

A big **Hallelujah** shout out to the staff and organizers! We're already looking forward to the next time we can travel down these **Country Roads**.

*Jana Roussel*



## Aperitif in Aix



Want to keep the little people entertained during the coming long weekends ( and gray ' ? Come grab some books and DVDs at the AAGP Library - we have a lot of Children's books a bunch of new arrivals for older readers too ! )

Some drawings two of our 'very young' readers made this morning at the library ..



## Asian Lunch



# SMALL ADS June 2025

## BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

Are you grieving for a loved one and needing to talk? The Bereavement Support Network supports the bereaved, the terminally ill and/or their carers, face to face in the Var and Aix-en-Provence and by telephone elsewhere in France. Call us between 07:00 and 23:00

on 04 94 84 64 89 or 06 24 50 22 74 ;

email: [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](tel:0786281199) open 09:00-17:00 Monday to Friday.

Email: [English-helpline.st-lois@croix-rouge.fr](mailto:English-helpline.st-lois@croix-rouge.fr)

## 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)

## 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

## CHARMING COUNTRY HOUSE on the OUTSKIRTS OF AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Summer/ Autumn weekly vacation rental in July August September. Can host 3 famicouples or 2 couples and a few children. Dates negotiable. 180 square metre four bedroom plus villa (comfortable beds!) with a grand swimming pool on a 1 hectare lovely wooded property 6 kms from Aix. Fully equipped kitchen plus scullery, TV, stereo, vast music library, English and French books galore, peace and quiet. Bus service to Aix in walking distance, though a car for trips in the vicinity is best. Can send additional photos on line. Rent : 3000€/ week.

[christopher.carsten@orange.fr](mailto:christopher.carsten@orange.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)

## Useful

**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)

« 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 the board 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.

## SINGALONG MAY 17



## APERITIF IN AIX

