



# Newsletter September 2025

N° 2025 - 07



## Anglo American Group of Provence

*Published by the AAGP / Editor : Michel PARISOT*

Distributed only to AAGP Members.

### Letter from the Board - September 2025

It's "Back to School", otherwise known as "La Rentrée". And as the weather finally cools, we can turn our thoughts to lots of events for our new "School Year".

In addition to the many monthly activities, several events are already lined up, including an excursion to the Memorial of the Débarquement et la Libération de Provence on the 9<sup>th</sup> September, organised by Deanna Littell and Gilles Dreyfus. At the time of publication this event may already be fully subscribed but keep an eye on the OneList for updates. Our regular coffee mornings in Aix will also start up again from Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

Our Annual General Meeting followed by our welcome party of new and "old" members will take place on the evening of Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October at the Novotel Beaumanoir Hotel in Aix (same as last year's venue). This year's Meeting is particularly important as two new board members, our board secretary and our events co-ordinator, will be voted in. So do come along to review the AAGP's activities over the last year, vote, and, most importantly, welcome our new members over a drink and canapés.

Looking ahead, the hugely popular Folk Evening and Singalong at Aix Les Platanes with the AAGP group E2G is now scheduled Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November. Save the date in your diary now!

#### **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**.

Memories of the Summer may now be fading, but it was a busy one for the AAGP. The weekly Thursday evening “apéros” were held throughout the entire Summer thanks to the dedication of Margaret Ings. There were often around 20 participants, which is a testament to Margaret’s fantastic hosting skills.

The AAGP also trialled a participation in the “Dîner Blanc” in the centre of Aix in June. Feedback was very positive, and we hope to roll this out to a greater number of people next year. Our annual picnic was oversubscribed again this year and in line with the end of school-year theme we had a fun “prize-giving”, with Katherine Modesti receiving the prize for the most votes for her Route du Tholonet painting used for our February front cover, Trevor White receiving the “Outstanding Service to the AAGP” award, and Paula and Michael Mullineaux awarded the “Most Promising Newcomers” for the creation of the popular card-playing group.

So “Bonne Rentrée à tous”! All the information you need to attend forthcoming events is in this month’s “What’s On” and “Looking Ahead” pages later in this Newsletter.

We are again looking for artwork, photos, interesting images provided by members for the front cover of our newsletter. Please send them directly to me at [julieprovence13@gmail.com](mailto:julieprovence13@gmail.com) I look forward to receiving your contributions and seeing you again soon!!

*Julie Wright, President, on behalf of the Board.*

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## **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 **September 30 2025**.

## DUES RENEWAL 2025-2026

No yellow slip this year, they regularly got lost. You will find the dues renewal request form on the back of the monthly calendar. You must sign this to confirm that you have civil liability insurance and send it back to me. Email will do.

Thanks, *Lish Goergen, Membership*

## What's on in September 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 - Monday 14:30**

### PLAY READING GROUP

Our September reading will start at 2.30 pm on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September; 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*

**5 - Friday 12:30**

### GOURMET LUNCH

**Venue : To be announced**

Gourmet lunches on the first Friday of the month are being revived following the big turnout at the July lunch in Aix. It being impossible to find someone with the commitment, knowledge and tenacity of Mary Lou McHugh and Bob Kelz to organize every month, responsibility has now been split between a group of regulars. Check the OneL-ist for information posted by the individual organizers on upcoming Gourmet lunches.

## 9 - Tuesday all day

### EXCURSION TO THE MEMORIAL OF THE DEBARQUEMENT & LA LIBERATION DE PROVENCE - TOULON

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 28th 1944.

This will be an all-day trip to arrive in Toulon at 12:00 for lunch. The restaurant will be announced to the attendees, closer to the time.



By car it is about 1 1/4-1/2 hour from Aix. Cars must be parked in the public parking Liberté. From there it is just a short walk to the restaurant to arrive in time for our 12:00 reservation.

The Museum is accessible by a *téléphérique* from the town. After lunch, we shall take a public bus, 5 meters from the restaurant to the *téléphérique* (cable car) 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).

If you don't like heights or cable cars or a very scheduled day, this is not the trip for you.

There is no charge for the museum and just a small charge for the bus and *téléphérique*.

Booking is open. Reservations to me please at [deannalittell@gmail.com](mailto:deannalittell@gmail.com)

Numbers are limited to 20 persons and a waiting list will be opened. Carpooling is encouraged.

Please feel free to ask questions to my email.

*Deanna & Gilles*

*deannalittell@gmail.com*

11 - Thursday 10:30

## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Venue : Home of Judith Butler, Les Lofts d'Entremont, 1355 ch. de Bouenhoure, Aix-en-Provence

*The Café with No Name* by Robert Seethaler presented by Judith Butler

It is 1966, and Robert Simon has just fulfilled his dream by taking over a café on the corner of a bustling Vienna market. He recruits a barmaid, Mila, and soon the customers flock in. Factory workers, market traders, elderly ladies, a wrestler, a painter, an unemployed seamstress in search of a job, each bring their stories and their plans for the future.

As Robert listens and Mila refills their glasses, romances bloom, friendships are made and fortunes change. And change is coming to the city around them, to the little café, and to Robert's dream.

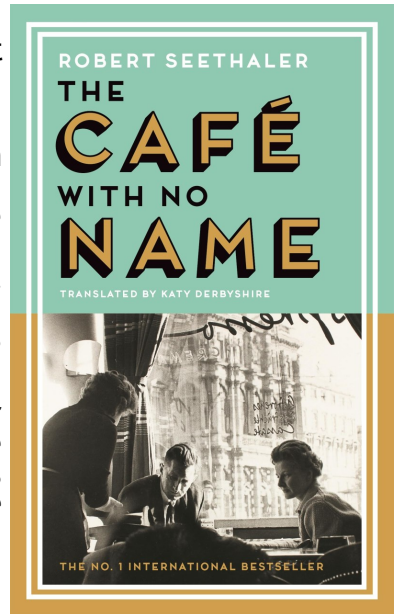
This is a novel exploring the hopes, kindnesses and everyday heroism of one community, and how we carry each other through good and bad times. Even the most ordinary life is, in its own way, quite extraordinary.

Reservations by email taken from September 1 to September 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)

Judith Butler 06 24 70 06 99 [judithbu123@gmail.com](mailto:judithbu123@gmail.com)

*Nancy Ceridwyn*



11 - 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. (14 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)

**14 - Sunday 10:30**

## **PÉTANQUE**

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

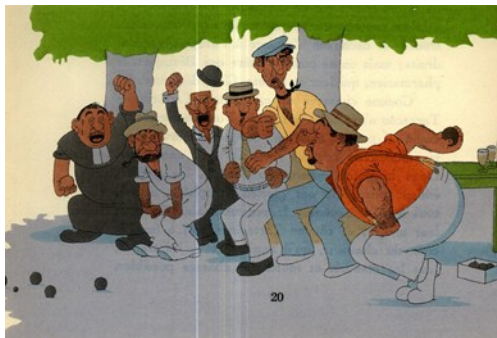
Join us for some fun pétanque. No skills required.

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)



**14 - Sunday 18:45**

## **CINE CLUB**

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

*THE 39 STEPS* is a 1935 British spy thriller film directed by Alfred Hitchcock, starring Robert Donat & Madeleine Carroll. It is loosely based on the 1915 novel *-The 39 Steps -* by John Buchan.

It concerns a Canadian civilian in London, Richard Hannay (Robert Donat), who becomes caught up in preventing an organization of spies called "The 39 Steps" from stealing British military secrets. Mistakenly accused of murder of a counter-espionage agent, Hannay goes on the run to Scotland and becomes tangled up with an attrac-

tive woman, Pamela (Madeleine Carroll), while hoping to stop the spy ring and clear his name.

Since its initial release, the film has been acknowledged as a classic. Filmmaker Orson Wells referred to it as a "masterpiece". Screenwriter Robert Towne remarked "it's not much of an exaggeration to say that all contemporary spy thriller genre entertainment today stems from *The 39 Steps*".

Acclaimed for its suspenseful narrative, clever twists & engaging humor, it showcases Hitchcock's signature style.

Join us for pizza, popcorn & the secret of the 39 Steps.

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

*Deanna & Gilles*

06 76 39 15 52



**16 - Tuesday 14:30**

## **AFTERNOON TEA**

**Venue : Bricoleurs de douceurs, 27 avenue du Prado, 13006 Marseille - Metro ligne 1 ou 2 : arrêt Castellane**

<https://www.bricoleursdedouceurs.fr/>

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

*Brigitte*

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

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

## **FRENCH CONVERSATION**

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

French Conversation takes place every other week, starting September 19th. 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

# 21 - Sunday 10:00

## HIKE

### Venue : Calanques

We shall meet at the Kedge school carpark at the Luminy University complex in Marseille and from there proceed on foot to "La Leque" 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 my climbing rope) to reach our destination. This should be taken into account by those who suffer from vertigo. Furthermore it would be prudent not to bring children or dogs.

We shall enjoy our picnic lunch by the sea so bring plenty of food and water. There is also plenty of shade any time of year. 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. It's also a good spot for scuba diving.

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 only. 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.

*Roderick Macleod*

**22 - 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 Thursday, September  
18<sup>th</sup>

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



**24 - Wednesday 10:00 to 11:00**

## **MORNING COFFEE IN SAINT-RÉMY-DE-PROVENCE**

**Venue : La Maison du Bon Café,**

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



**29 - Monday 14:00**

## **BOOK CLUB**

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

This month's book is *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro

Please let me know if you are coming by Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.



Please note the books for the rest of the year :

**October :** *Vinegar Girl* by Anne Tyler

**November :** *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge

**December :** *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

**January :** *How to Fly a Horse: The Secret History of Creation, Invention and Discovery* by [Kevin Ashton](#)

**February :** *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

**March :** *The Plot* by [Jean Hanff Korelitz](#)

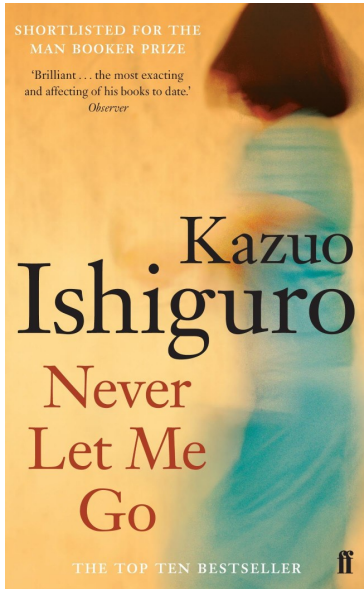
**April :** *The Sentence* by [Louise Erdrich](#)

**May :** *Dear Life* by Alice Munro

**June :** *Trespasses* by [Louise Kennedy](#)

Brigitte

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



LOOKING AHEAD

# SAVE THE DATE

## CARD PLAYING

No card games in September as Mike and I will still be in the United States. See you all in October !

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

*pmullineaux@comcast.net*

**October 10, Friday 18:30**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and WELCOME PARTY

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

The AGM will start at 6.30 pm and will be followed by the Welcome Party at the same venue.

The AGM will commence with a short report by each Board Member of the events that took place in the year 2025-2026, the financial situation and future plans of the group. Julie Wright will review her first year as President and two new Board Members (Secretary and Social Events Coordinator) will be voted in to replace Brigitte Ponsart and Karen Watson who are stepping down. And as usual, there will be time for members to ask questions.

Please do come along to support your association, ask any questions you may have, offer ideas, volunteer your help and meet the Board. Your presence is crucial at this annual meeting. However, if you are unable to attend, you will be able to sign a proxy voting form to give to a member who is attending. More details and the proxy form will be sent out on the OneList.



Following the AGM, we will be hosting our annual Welcome Party in

the same room where new members can meet existing members over a glass of wine and canapés.

The AAGP will be subsidising this event with members contributing 15 euros per head.

More details on how to reserve and pay plus directions to the venue will be sent out on the OneList and in the October Newsletter.

The Novotel Beaumanoir has a large car park and the conference room we have rented is easily accessible on the ground floor.

**So, put the date in your diaries now!**

*Cheryl Wright*

## FOLK EVENING AND SINGALONG

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

**November 15th Saturday 18:00**

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

*Elaine, Michel & Roderick « E2G »*



# LOOKING BACK

## Annual Family Picnic, June 15th

First, let me introduce myself. I am Aniko Marshall, member of the AAGP for only a few months. My husband, Todd and I joined after moving to Aix from Buffalo, NY in February. I am Hungarian, born and raised, but we lived in the US for the past 30 years.



Now about the picnic: What a lovely event in a beautiful setting! Having met only a few of the members before, we did not know most of you, but we were very lucky to sit at the table with new to us members and get to know more people. We felt welcomed by all, including Julie, whom we met previously in Aix for one of the coffee mornings, Sacha, who reached out when I asked about places that allow dogs, JP who offered his services when we mentioned that we are moving to our new house in Rognes, .... And really all who we interacted with. Thank you all for being so welcoming and friendly. Hope to meet more of you in the future.

This picnic gave me an opportunity to try a new recipe as we brought our own lunch (Let me know if you are interested in the recipe), and also had the chance to try cheeses I never tried before. Yum!

France has a lot to offer: obviously the gastronomy, the weather, the architecture, the culture, ....but we should add the English-speaking community as well, including the AAGP group.

Thank you for including us and many thanks to Cheryl and the organising team.

*Aniko Marshall*

# Aperitifs in Aix

A big thank you to Margaret Ings for regularly organising the Thursday evening aperitifs in Aix throughout the summer. Like the coffee mornings that Julie Wright holds on Tuesday mornings the rest of the year (and a big thank you to Julie, too), the pop-in formula has proved to be very popular with our members. These occasions offer a great opportunity to meet new people, exchange information and see friends in an informal atmosphere.

*Cheryl Wright*





# SMALL ADS September 2025

## 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

## DAY TRIPS ON WEEKENDS WITH "DECOUVERTE DE LA PROVENCE"

Every weekend "Découverte de la Provence" proposes day trips to various destinations in Provence e.g. Avignon & Pont du Gard, Monaco, St Tropez & Cap Taillat, Isle-sur-la-Sorgue etc. for foreign students of all ages from 18 to 80s and anyone else who would like to join !

Depart Aix centre 8h30 return to Aix around 18h00. An ideal opportunity for a relaxing hassle-free day out with no driving !

Cost per person : 35-40€, includes transport and George Tudose's amusing tour guiding / anecdotes - *en français*. For more info and to sign up :

[www.decouvertedelaprovence.com](http://www.decouvertedelaprovence.com)

or contact [vivienne.hamill@gmail.com](mailto:vivienne.hamill@gmail.com)



## THE FREDERIC GAILLANNE FOUNDATION AT ISLE-SUR-LA-SORGUE

We invite you to visit one of our Open Days for Guide Dogs :

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September from 14h to 18h and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September from 9h to 17h. More information is available on our website ( <https://www.fondationfg.org> ) and on our facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/FondationGaillanne> )

# CHARMING COUNTRY HOUSE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Summer/Autumn weekly vacation rental in July/August/September. Can host 3 couples or 2 couples with a few children - dates negotiable. 180 m<sup>2</sup> four-bedroom plus villa (comfortable beds!) with a large 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 online. 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.

## Professional services

**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 and information 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)"

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 open 09:00-17:00  
Monday to Friday. Email: [English-helpline.st-lois@croix-rouge.fr](mailto:English-helpline.st-lois@croix-rouge.fr)

