

Newsletter February 2026



Anglo American Group of Provence

Published by the AAGP / Editor : Sharon LIGHTOWLERS

Distributed only to AAGP Members.

Letter from the Board - February 2026

We recently put out a message asking members if anybody would be interested in exhibiting their artwork, so that AAGP members could share their talents and expertise. We were blown away by the response. The talent of many of our members is indisputable as this month's front cover entitled Julia by Katharine Modesti proves. Please do continue to send in photos or images you would like to share to julieprovence13@gmail.com

January was exceptionally busy, starting with the Open Mic evening, an idea from Michel Parisot and Rod Macleod, with Michel responsible for organisation as well as musical support, whenever necessary. Patricia Burkhardt's granddaughter, Constance, stole the show with her interpretation of Amy Winehouse's "Valerie", and there were honourable performances by several AAGP members. At time of writing, we are eagerly anticipating the ever-popular annual Burns Night Dinner in Trets organised by Lish Goergen, who somehow manages to recreate the charm of Scotland in the heart of Trets each year. Bringing the month to a close will be the special talk organised by Mei Yee Lam on sleep and the numerous ways we can improve the way we manage this essential aspect of our lives. Many members have signed up for this event held at the AAGP library and requests for another similar event have already been received.

Again, all the hard work of the Recommendations List team came to fruition in January with the publication of the updated list. This resource is invaluable, and it covers a vast number of specialists as well as everyday services - so please check it out and remember to consult it before asking

The Board 2025/2026 :

President : Julie WRIGHT, Vice President and Small Groups Coordinator : Jane STORR, Treasurer : Kathleen-Carmel KING, Secretary : Patricia BURKHARDT, Newsletter Editor : Michel PARISOT, Social Events Coordinator : Jean Louis MORGENTHALER, 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.

for a recommendation via the OneList. I would also like to thank once again the entire library team for their continued work and dedication. They organised a “Mini-Flash” book sale in December which not only sold a good number of second-hand books but raised our profile in the wider community and brought in new people to the AAGP via our associate membership for use of our library.

February the 12th is the date set for a very special Pre-Saint Valentine’s Apéritif to be held at the Hôtel des Augustins in central Aix, organised by Trevor and Valerie White. This occasion, entitled Shakespeare on Love, will celebrate and present a selection of his words on love. Full details of this event can be found in this month’s Newsletter.

And in 'Looking Ahead' we now have all the details for the annual Quiz Night, which will take place on Saturday the 21st March at the Domaine du Moulin d’Arc in Trets and the date for our next singalong folk evening, which will be held in Les Platanes on the 9th May. And of course, more information for these events will be published on the OneList and in the Newsletter next Month.

If you come to any of our events and you use Facebook, don’t forget to post your photos on the site so that we can put it on our AAGP Facebook page.

There’s lots going on and we like to share!!

Julie Wright, President on behalf of the Board

What's on in February 2026

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.

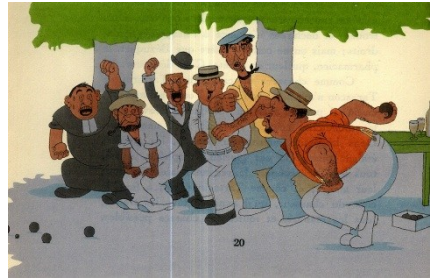
1 - Sunday 10:30

PÉTANQUE

Venue : Boulodrome de Puyricard, intersection avenue Jacques de Régis & blvd 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

2 - Monday 14:00

BOOK CLUB

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

This month's book is *How to Fly a Horse: The Secret History of Creation, Invention, and Discovery* by Kevin Ashton.

Please let me know if you are coming by Friday, January 23rd.

Please note the books for the rest of the year :

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

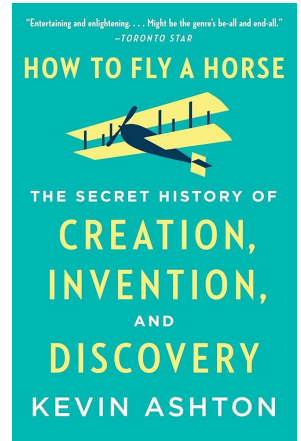
April : *The Plot* by Jean Hanff Korelitz

May : *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich

June : *Dear Life* by Alice Munro

Brigitte

bibik@free.fr



6 - Friday 10:30 –12:00

FRENCH CONVERSATION

Venue: Café La Rotonde, 2A place Jeanne d’Arc, 13100 Aix-en-Provence

French Conversation takes place every other week, from 10:30 to 12:00. Caution: we now meet up at **La Rotonde** (more space inside, better acoustics).

You needn’t worry about your level of French. We always do our best to make everyone feel comfortable and enjoy a friendly conversation. In addition, so to share resources, learning techniques and methods, tips and meeting details, we now have a WhatsApp group called “French Conversation” which is a private group only open to AAGP members attending or having attended our conversations.

Please let me know if you are coming 48 hours before.

Jean Louis

jeanlouis.morgenthaler@sfr.fr

06 61 86 53 54

9 - Monday 12:00

LUNCH IN MARSEILLE

Venue : Ciccino, 110 rue Paradis, 13006 Marseille

Metro ligne 1 : arrêt Estrangin Préfecture

<https://marseille.love-spots.com/adresses/ou-manger/restaurants-marseille/219008-ciccino.html>



Please let me know if you are coming by Saturday, January 31st.

Brigitte

bibik@free.fr

9 - Monday 14:30

PLAY READING GROUP

Venue : will be sent to readers nearer the date



Our February Reading will start at 2.30 pm on Monday 9th February; information on script and venue will be sent to readers nearer the date.

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

Dympna Donnelly

12 - Thursday 11:00

MODERN POETRY GROUP

Venue : Chez Angie Pyman, 4 rue Condorcet, Friedland 4, 13100 Aix-en-Provence

In January, we read poems that tell stories and also looked at the poetic form: there were ghazals, a sonnet and haiku; and home-grown poems from three of us!

The theme for February is, of course, Love. Please let me know which poem you have chosen - title and author - by the previous Tuesday evening (10th February) and be prepared to introduce the poet briefly and to read the poem to the group.

Angie

06 72 40 46 41

angiepyman@gmail.com

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. (14 euros including shoes).

Please email me or call 24 hours before.

Gilles Dreyfus

06 75 59 82 43

gilles.dreyfus@gmail.com



12 - Thursday 17:30 –19:30

SHAKESPEARE ON LOVE

Venue : Hôtel des Augustins in central Aix, near la Rotonde

A Pre-Saint Valentine's Day Apéritif and celebration of Shakespeare on Love at the beautiful Hôtel des Augustins in central Aix, near la Rotonde.

Valerie and Trevor will present a selection from Shakespeare's works on love. Open to all, not just couples!

Price: 20€ including two drinks and nibbles. Limited space. Sign-up will be announced via the OneList.



Trevor

13 - Friday 12:00 –15:00

GOURMET LUNCH

Venue : Le Magnan, Gulf of St Tropez

20 of us will lunch on Friday, February 13 at LE MAGNAN along the Route du Mimosa, in the countryside near St Tropez and Sainte-Maxime. To learn more about its interesting history and current operations, follow this link:

<https://www.lemagnan.fr/lelieu>.

Reservations via SignupGenius/Diane Envent.

Diane Envent

dmbegenbus@gmail.com



15 - Sunday 17:45

CINÉ CLUB

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

TOP HAT is a 1935 American musical comedy film in which Fred Astaire plays an American tap dancer named Jerry Travers who arrives in London to play in a show produced by Horace Hardwick (Edward Everett Horton). While practicing a tap dance routine in his hotel bedroom he awakens Dale Tremont, Ginger Rogers, on the floor below. She storms upstairs to complain & he falls hopelessly in love.

Directed by Mark Sandrich with songs by Irving Berlin, *Top Hat*, *White Tie and Tails* and *Cheek to Cheek* have become American film classics.

The *Cheek to Cheek* number has often been nodded to in many other films.

Astaire & Rogers made nine films together for RKO, but *Top Hat* was the most successful of their partnership. The film has appeared on the American Film Institute's list

of 25 greatest musicals at number 15 & *Cheek to Cheek* appeared on their list of 100 top songs of American Cinema.

And of course we cannot forget the famous feather dress. Rogers was intensely interested in her wardrobe & was determined to wear this dress of her own design. When Astaire saw how the feathers fell off around them as they danced, he tried to ditch the dress & made her cry, but her mother came to the rescue & the rest is history as they say.

In Feb 2020, *New York Magazine* listed *Top Hat* as one of the Best Movies that lost Best Picture.

Come for pizza & popcorn & don't forget your feather wrap.

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

Deanna & Gilles

06.76.39.15.52



16 - Monday 10:30

MORNING COFFEE

Venue : Brasserie le Longchamp, 4 rue Bailli de Suffren, 13001 Marseille

Metro ligne 1 : arrêt Vieux Port

<https://brasserielongchamp.fr/fr>

Please let me know if you are coming by Wednesday, February 11th.

Brigitte

bibik@free.fr



20 - Friday 10:30 –12:00

FRENCH CONVERSATION

Venue : Café La Rotonde, 2A place Jeanne d'Arc, 13100 Aix-en-Provence

All information as given for Friday 6th.

Jean Louis

jeanlouis.morgenthaler@sfr.fr

06 61 86 53 54

20 - Friday 12:00 –14:00

‘DISCOVER ASIAN FOOD’ LUNCH

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

A nod to the Chinese New Year of the Horse, we will taste a comforting winter soup popular amongst the Singaporean and Malaysian Chinese - 'Bak kut Teh' !

Literally translated 'Meat Bone Tea', there is no tea involved but a slow-cooked broth made with pork ribs, lots of garlic and pepper as well as a host of herbs like goji berries, star anise, cinnamon and some roots and barks with complex names that are all good for some ailment or the other ! Unlike any tastes and flavours encountered in the restaurants here, come try this unique soup served with rice and pickled mustard greens.

More details on the OneList early February.

Lunch spots limited to 10 participants. Email Dee at gayatripotdar@yahoo.com to reserve.

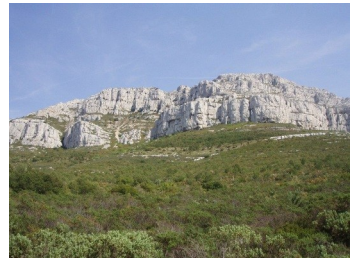


Dee

22 - Sunday 10:00

HIKE

Venue : Mont Puget



We will meet on the carpark of the Luminy University complex. For those who take the coast road from Marseille to Cassis via the "Col de la Gineste", the Luminy complex is signposted shortly before the road rises steeply.

We will take a gentle path, initially leading us to the "Col de Sugiton", and then upwards to the summit of Mont Puget. The path becomes steep just before reaching the summit but there are no particular difficulties along the way. Dogs on a leash and children used to hiking are welcome. The change of altitude is about 320 metres and, weather permitting, we will

enjoy a magnificent view over Marseille on one side and over the calanques on the other. We will have our picnic in a suitable place on or near the summit.

Bring plenty of food and water and wear proper hiking gear for winter conditions. We will return to the carpark via the same itinerary. Total hiking time is about 4 hours.

All those wishing to come are requested to call me the day before between 18h and 20h just to make sure that this venue complies with all the regulations prevailing. For any further information please call Roderick MACLEOD on 06 60 61 08 65.

Rod



23 - Monday 14:30

AFTERNOON TEA

Venue : 7-VIE-EST-BELLE Café, 9 rue Caisserie, 13002 Marseille

Metro ligne 1 arrêt : Vieux Port ou bus 49 arrêt : Place Bargemon

<https://www.7vbcafe.fr/>

Please let me know if you are coming by Wednesday, February 18th.

Brigitte

bibik@free.fr



25 - Wednesday 10:00

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

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

Every Valley: The Desperate Lives and Troubled Times That Made Handel's "Messiah," by Charles King presented by Jana Roussel.

The Messiah was not the product of a lone genius scribbling furiously on a musical staff. It came about because of a depressive dissenter stirred to action by an ancient prophecy; an actress plagued by an abusive husband and public scorn, whose painful escape involved a risky return to the stage; an Atlantic sea captain; a penniless philanthropist on a quest to rescue other people's children; an African Muslim man held captive in the American colonies; and Handel himself, composer to kings, but at midlife, in ill health and straining to keep an audience's attention. Their struggles led directly to a creation that manages to be both transcendent art and practical philosophy—What is the point of suffering? Will the future bring justice? Where does redemption lie?

Email your reservations beginning February 1 to Nancy, Jana and Judith.

Nancy Ceridwyn 07 81 84 61 19 nancy.ceridwyn@gmail.com

Jana Roussel 06 83 47 01 14 janaroussel@gmail.com

Judith Butler 06 24 70 06 99 judithbu123@gmail.com

Nancy Ceridwyn



25 - Wednesday 10:00 to 11:00

MORNING COFFEE IN SAINT-RÉMY-DE-PROVENCE

Venue : La Maison du Bon Café, 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

26 - Thursday 12:00 for 12:30

LUNCH (just outside) AIX

Venue : Le Tourangeau, 4715 route d'Avignon (D7), Puyricard

I have been asked to organise another lunch so here it is: traditional French home cooking at Le Tourangeau, 4715 route d'Avignon (Nationale 7), Puyricard. This is a truckers' restaurant where the helpings are generous and the food is prepared on the premises. The déco is vintage but if we are having a good time, what the heck.

Denis and I went to try it out on my last day at rehab. Actually, I met Robin, who owns the restaurant, at rehab. We had salad bar (self-service) aioli, squid, chocolate mousse and tiramisu (served at the table) wine, beer and coffee. Varied grilled meats with chips and salad available too. The bill came to €50 for two. Great value in my humble opinion.



I will book 3 or 4 tables of four. First 16 diners to sign up by email 24th February will be accommodated. I confirm with the restaurant 48 hours before.

Booking by email will open on the OneList mid-February. No reservations can be taken before.

Eleanor Sheil

elsh1958@gmail.com

27 - Friday 18:30

CARD PLAYING

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

Join us for easy-to-learn and fun card games.

Please let me know by February 19th if you plan to attend, so I can notify Le Darius of the number of participants.

Paula Mullineaux

07 68 53 38 22

+1 240-602-7978

pmullineaux@comcast.net



LOOKING AHEAD—SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, 21st March - evening

QUIZ NIGHT

Venue: Moulin de l'Arc, Trets

The ever-popular event is back! Sign up for Quiz Night on March, 21st and save the date.

The 2026 Quiz Night is organized for you. Questions are on a range of topics accessible to all nationalities and follow a red thread you'll discover on your arrival.

You may submit a ready-made team of up to 8 people.

If you are a new member or can't get a team together, don't worry! You just have to sign up and we'll organise a team for you with an experienced member as your team leader.

The winning team will get a prize. Icing on the cake: this year, the three best teams will then choose a champion to compete in a run-off with an additional prize for the run-off winner and their team.

And of course we will do our best to organize car-pools for those without their own transportation.

Prices to participate in this popular event are: 35 euros for members (subsidised price) and 50 euros for non-members. Prices include a 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 February, 15th.
No emails please.** Lish will give you payment options.
We look forward to seeing lots of you there!

Your Quiz Team : Lish Goergen, Jana & Joseph Roussel, and Jean-Louis Morgenthaler

And even further ahead...

Saturday, 9th May - evening

FOLK EVENING & SINGALONG



E2G - Elaine Blanc, Michel Parisot and Rod Macleod will be back on stage at Les Platanes.

Be sure to save the date. All details later as usual.

Elaine, Michel & Rod



LOOKING BACK

LUNCH WITH CAROL DRINKWATER

It was a real pleasure to welcome author, actress, and filmmaker Carol Drinkwater to speak to AAGP members over lunch in Aix-en-Provence on 16 December 2025. Her talk was both engaging and enjoyable, making for a memorable occasion.

Carol shared a number of anecdotes from her time on the much-loved BBC series *All Creatures Great and Small*, which many in the audience remembered fondly from their younger years.

She also spoke about her life in the South of France, where she writes from her olive farm, and described how she and her husband transformed a group of rundown buildings into their home. This experience sparked her interest in olive trees and led her on a fascinating journey to learn more about them. Carol spoke about her travels in search of the oldest living olive tree, eventually discovering a remarkable tree in Beirut believed to be around 6,000 years old.

Hearing about her travels and research into these ancient trees was both interesting and informative, and it was easy to see how this passion led to her Olive series, now comprising seven published books.

Carol also talked about her love of fiction and read an extract from her latest novel, *One Summer in Provence*. She kindly stayed on afterwards to sign copies of her book for members.



Many thanks to Katrina Donaldson and Tim Molyneux for organising such an enjoyable event, and to the Board for pulling it all together. We look forward to Carol's next novel, which is set to feature a young woman from Marseille.

Abi Treanor



COOKIE EXCHANGE

Although it is February, our memories remain of the delightful afternoon celebrated and hosted by Suzanne Cochet. It is always a pleasure when we are invited to her special cookie exchange.

With Suzanne the spirit of Christmas is celebrated as friends arrive, their two and half dozen holiday cookies in hand and a « Santa gift » wrapped to be shared amongst all.



We give our thanks to Suzanne, who each year makes a delicious egnog, has her table and apartment bursting with decorations and this year's theme was England. So many of her trimmings were beautiful English scenes and objects she has collected over the years.

A cheerful, happy holiday beginning for all of us to share.
Thank you, Suzanne.

Liz Chevalier

OPEN MIC

Sunday 11 January marked a memorable milestone for AAGP as it hosted its very first open mic event, a new idea from Michel Parisot and Rod Macleod—and what a debut it was!

With a packed room and an electric atmosphere, the evening showcased **over 20 acts** spanning an impressive range of styles, from crowd-pleasing pop songs to foot-stomping bluegrass and soulful blues. The stage came alive with both solo performers and full bands, and the variety of instruments on display—**guitars, kazoos, drums, banjos, and keyboards**—kept the audience constantly engaged and delightfully surprised.

The strong turnout created a real buzz throughout the night with performers and audience feeding off each other’s energy. Midway through the event attendees enjoyed a **light meal of cheese, pizza, and charcuterie**, adding to the warm, community feel of the evening.

For a first-ever open mic, the event was an undeniable success—full of talent, enthusiasm, and great company—and it has firmly earned its place as an event that will **certainly be repeated in the future**. □

A big thank you to Michel for the organisation and musical support.

Jana & Joseph Rousset





ASIAN LUNCH



SMALL ADS February 2026

PLANNING A MOVE ?

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

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

ANNA CAPPELLINI - PSYCHOLOGIST in MARSEILLE

Hi, I'm Anna, a clinical psychologist working in central Marseille and online. As an expat myself, I recognize the value of therapy in a familiar language. My integrative approach is based on open and authentic dialogue, in which I actively participate.

RDV : psy.annacappellini@gmail.com

More info : <http://www.psy-annacappellini.com/en/contacts>



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

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

« 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 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



OPEN MIC NIGHT