



Newsletter April 2026

N° 2026 - 04



Anglo American Group of Provence

Published by the AAGP / Editor : Sharon LIGHTOWLERS

Distributed only to AAGP Members.

Letter from the Board - April 2026

As we plunge into spring, and summer seems not too far away, we thank Bob Spear for the cover shot on our front cover, taken in the Calanque de Sugiton. The AAGP has a flurry of great events for you to dive into before our summer break in July and August - so pencil the dates in your diary now.

At the time of writing, we are preparing for our annual Quiz Night hosted at the Moulin de L'Arc in Trets, with over 50 members taking part. This year's event, devised and organised by Jana and Joseph Roussel, with the help of board members Lish Goergen and Jean Louis Morgenthaler, will see our first ever "Champion of Champions". Check out the photos on our Facebook page.

Looking ahead, we have the Folk Evening & Singalong scheduled for Saturday 9th May at Les Platanes, in Aix. The AAGP folk group E2G will be offering several new songs, as well as a selection of well-loved favourites. The evening, which includes a buffet and wine, is always oversubscribed, so note the date now and watch out for the booking details which will go out on the OneList shortly.

Between the 7th and 9th June, we will be holding an art exhibition at the Mairie in Pont de L'Arc, featuring work by AAGP members. Michel Parisot will be organising the event.

You will find more details on both these events in the Looking Ahead section.

Pont de L'Arc is very much the meeting point for many AAGP events.

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 WILIAMS**,

Associate Members

Library: **Sue BOUTIER**, Newsletter: **Sharon LIGHTOWLERS**, Social Events: **Cheryl WRIGHT**, Marseille : **Brigitte KRAUS**.

It is where we hold talks and presentations, and most importantly where our library is based. It holds literally thousands of books and DVDs in English. Run by a dedicated team headed up by Cathy Kirby, the library is open Wednesdays and Saturdays between 9.30am and 11.30am. There are also regular second-hand book sales organised by the team, which raise significant funds for our association each year. Look out for the large photo of Peter Mayle signed by our now honorary member Jennie Mayle, the late Peter Mayle's wife, who kindly gave us a talk last year on her life here alongside the author who put Provence on the map for English speakers.

As well as our weekly "apéros", coffee morning "drop-ins" and the numerous well supported small groups dedicated to cinema, card playing, poetry reading, to name but a few, we are planning something a bit special to end our year. To close the AAGP year, our annual picnic, which will be held on Sunday 14th June, will be an even bigger event than usual. Watch out for our announcement on this extra special event.....

Have a great month and we look forward to seeing you soon!!

Julie Lichtlé-Wright
on behalf of the board



What's on in April 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.

3 - Friday 10:00 -11.30

FRENCH CONVERSATION



**Venue : Le Café des Artistes, 35 place François Villon
13100 Aix-en-Provence**

Caution : From April to October, as the weather turns sunny and warm, our Friday French Conversation will take place every other week, from 10:00 to 11:30 (and not from 10:30 to 12:00 like in winter : coming sooner gives us more opportunities to find a place, and leaving earlier will avoid us the sometimes scorching summer midday sun of Provence).

You needn't worry about your level of French. What we do is chatting, not having a class. We are just friendly, speaking as best we can with the support of a guide-line similar to a *menu du jour*. On April 3rd, the *plat du jour* (meaning the main course in the menu) will be another role play: the French *dictée* (with a little fun twist though). Everyone will take turns to read a sentence from a book, and the others will note down what they have understood.

As you may know, we also have a WhatsApp group called “French Conversation”, to share resources, learning techniques and methods, tips and meeting details. It is a private group open only to members attending or having attended one session at least.

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

jeanlouis.morgenthaler@sfr.fr

06 61 86 53 54

3 - Friday 14:30

AFTERNOON TEA

**Venue : La Pépite, 2 place Daviel,
13002 Marseille**

Metro line 1 arrêt : Vieux Port - Bus n° 49
arrêt : Place Bargemon

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

Please let me know if you are coming by
Saturday, March 28th.

Brigitte

bibik@free.fr



5 - 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



9 - Thursday 11:00

MODERN POETRY GROUP

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



In March, we read and discussed poems about the seasons, especially spring. We read E. E. Cummings (twice), Gillian Clarke, Kay Boyle, Langston Hughes and a lovely poem by Thérèse, among others.

At the next meeting, the theme will be war/conflict. Please let me know which poem you have chosen by Monday evening of 6 April. Come to the meeting ready to introduce the poet(s.) As usual, if you can't find a poem on this theme, pick one you like on any subject.

The meeting in May will be on the 12th and the theme will be colour (s).

Angie 06 72 40 46 41

angiepyman@gmail.com

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. (14 euros including shoes).

Please email me or call 24 hours before.

Gilles Dreyfus

06 75 59 82 43

gilles.dreyfus@gmail.com

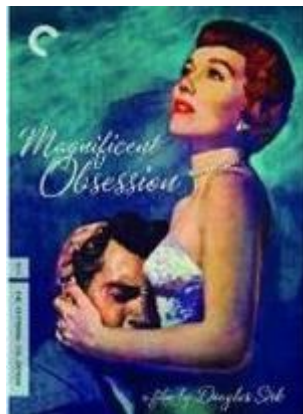


12 - Sunday 17:45

CINÉ CLUB

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

MAGNIFICENT OBSESSION is a 1954 American drama film directed by Douglas Sirk & starring Jane Wyman, Rock Hudson & Barbara Rush.



A rich playboy, Merrick, whose recklessness inadvertently causes the death of a prominent doctor, tries to make amends to his widow, and falls for her in the process.

After Merrick has a grave accident, rescuers send for the nearest resuscitator, located in Dr Phillips' house across the lake. While the resuscitator is being used to save Merrick, Dr. Phillips suffers a heart attack & dies as a result. Phillips had helped many people & when Merrick learns Dr. Phillips' secret, to give selflessly and in secret, he tries it but in a ham-handed way.

Douglas Sirk sometimes claimed that the story was based loosely on the Greek legend of Alcestis - a Greek tragedy by Euripides.

Come for pizza, popcorn to find out how love can often be full of surprises.

Please **R.S.V.P.** as places are limited are limited & note, **back to summer time.**

Deanna & Gilles

13 - Monday 14:00

BOOK CLUB

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

This month's book is *The Plot* by Jean Hanff Korelitz



Please let me know if you are coming by Tuesday, April 7th.

Please note the books for the rest of the year:

May: *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich

June: *Dear Life* by Alice Munro

Brigitte

bibik@free.fr

13 - Monday 14:30

PLAY READING GROUP



Our April reading will start at 2.30 pm on Monday 13th April. 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

16 - Thursday 12:00 to 14:00

‘DISCOVER ASIAN FOOD’ LUNCH

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



Spices, coconut, rice and seafood - in that order - dominate the cuisine of the Malabar Coast (India's west coast). Come sample some dishes from Kerala, the state Indians refer to as 'God's own country' because of the beautiful backwaters and canals and verdant paddy fields !

The menu will feature a coconut-based fish curry and vegetables on the side.

More details on the OneList early April.

Lunch spots limited to 10 participants.

Email Dee at gayatriptdar@yahoo.com to reserve.

Dee

17 - Friday 10:00 to 11:30

FRENCH CONVERSATION

**Venue : Le Café des Artistes, 35 place
François Villon 13100 Aix-en-Provence**



All information as given for Friday, 3rd, though with a different *plat du jour* - another role play inspired from *the Hygge Game*. Everyone will pick a question out of a pouch, read it, and try to answer as best possible.

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

Jean Louis

jeanlouis.morgenthaler@sfr.fr

06 61 86 53 54

17 - Friday 12:30

LUNCH IN MARSEILLE

Venue : Restaurant La Riviera, place Joseph Vidal, 13008 Marseille

Bus n° 19 : arrêt Pointe rouge

Plat du jour le vendredi : aïoli - 18 €

<https://larivierarestaurant.fr/>

Please let me know if you are coming by Tuesday, April 7th.

Brigitte

bibik@free.fr



19 - Sunday 10:00

HIKE

Venue : Sainte Victoire

We shall meet on the carpark opposite the "Relais Cézanne" bar restaurant on the main road which passes through Le Tholonet. If the bar is open, we can start with a coffee, etc. If not, we shall proceed in as few cars as possible in the direction of the Sainte Victoire mountain and park at the "Pont de l'Anchois" carpark.



From this point we shall start our hike, taking the red-marked easy path which will take us up to the summit. There are no particular difficulties along the way so dogs and children used to hiking are welcome. Bear in mind however that climbing to the summit (at 1,000 metres) represents a change of altitude of about 600 metres, and winter conditions may prevail. We shall have our picnic lunch at the summit where we can shelter in case of need. We shall then take the same path back down to the cars. Please bring plenty of food and water and wear proper hiking gear. Total hiking time is about 5 hours.

All those wishing to come are requested to call me the day before between 18h and 20h when I will know for sure if this venue complies with all the rules and regulations.

For any further information please call Roderick MACLEOD on 06 60 61 08 65.

Many thanks.

Roderick MACLEOD

20 - Monday 10:30

MORNING COFFEE

Venue : Café Massena, 1 avenue Jules Cantini, 13006 Marseille

Metro line 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, April 16th.

Brigitte

bibik@free.fr



24 - Friday 18:30

CARD PLAYING

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



Join us for card playing; the games are fun and always easy to learn for newcomers.

Please let me know by **April 17th** 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

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 Libération just 300m walking distance from the venue.

No need to email or phone, just drop in.

David Carpita



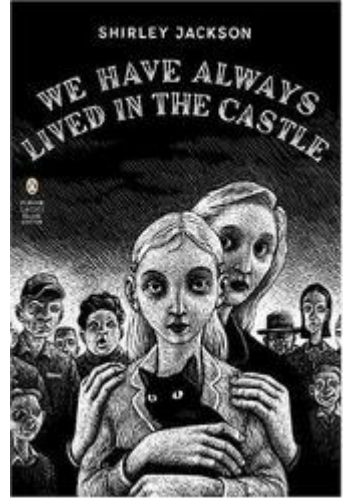
29 - Wednesday 10:30

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Venue: Home of Catherine Pernet, 6 rue Mignet, Aix-en-Provence

We Have Always Lived in the Castle by Shirley Jackson, presented by Catherine Pernet - (originally scheduled for March)

Shirley Jackson's beloved gothic tale of a peculiar girl named Merricat and her family's dark secret. Merricat Blackwood lives on the family estate with her sister Constance and her uncle Julian. Not long ago there were seven Blackwoods—until a fatal dose of arsenic found its way into the sugar bowl one terrible night. Acquitted of the murders, Constance has returned home, where Merricat protects her from the curiosity and hostility of the villagers. Their days pass in happy isolation until cousin Charles appears. Only Merricat can see the danger, and she must act swiftly to keep Constance from his grasp.



Email your reservations to Hilary and Catherine. After 12 registrations, a waiting list will be started.

Hilary Collins 07 65 26 87 08 collinshilary@yahoo.com

Catherine Pernet 06 07 47 43 90 cpernetmolloy@hotmail.com

Hilary Collins

AMERICAN COLLEGE of the MEDITERRANEAN

APRIL EVENTS

Lots going on at ACM in April ! I will forward more detailed information as I receive it, as usual.

All of the following take place at the CEF Main Hall : 2bis, rue du Bon Pasteur, Aix

Wednesday April 8, 6:30 pm

Lecture/Recital:

“American Music for Piano and Violin: Gershwin to Sondheim” Andrew Cooperstock

Monday April 13, 6:30 pm

Book Presentation/Discussion:

Colonizing Palestine: The Zionist Left and the Making of the Palestinian Nakba:

Arīj Şabbāgh-Khūrī

Wednesday April 15, 12-2 pm

“Breaking Barriers: Inspiring Stories of Women Entrepreneurial Successes”

Wednesday April 15, 6:30 pm

Lecture: “Reception and Memory Culture of Edith Wharton in Provence”: Joel Goldfield

Tuesday April 21 - Wednesday April 22

American Provence in 1940s, WWII Today, Trans. & Legacy

Wednesday April 29, 7 pm

Mille Fontaines Launch

Enjoy !

Nann Ricard

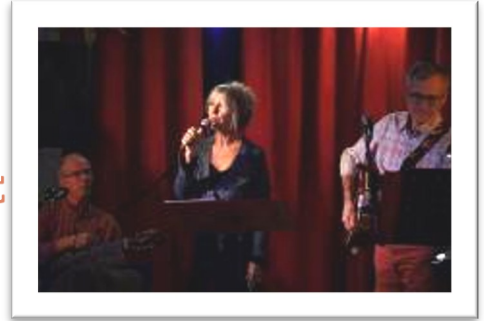
nannricard@gmail.com

LOOKING AHEAD - SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, 9th May

17:30 for 18:00

**FOLK EVENING &
SINGALONG**



Venue : La Brasserie des Platanes, 2112 route de Sisteron, Aix-en-Provence

Elaine, Michel and Rod - E2G - invite you to Brasserie des Platanes, for the next AAGP Folk Evening and Singalong !

Just a few minutes north of Aix centre, the brasserie welcomes us into its friendly informal atmosphere, with plenty of free parking available and easy access from Aix town centre and the A51.

As usual we have lots of new songs and we will also cover as many of your « old favourites » as possible.

A hot and cold buffet meal will be served during the intermission and wine will be served throughout the evening.

Cost per AAGP member is 20 euros which includes the buffet meal, wine and of course the music and song book! Non-members accompanying members will pay full price of 30 euros each. Booking opens on **Saturday April 11th** and will close on **Saturday May 2nd** or before if all places are taken. A reminder will be sent out on the OneList when booking opens.

Please remember that places are limited, so be sure to book early to reserve your place.

Booking is by email to Elaine at eda.blanc@orange.fr before closing date latest. All instructions for payment and other necessary information will be sent when your email reservation is received. All questions to Elaine at the same email.

We hope you will join us for another evening of music, song and good company!

E2G - Elaine, Michel and Rod

LOOKING AHEAD – CONTINUED

Saturday June 6 to Monday June 8

AAGP ART EXHIBITION

Venue : Salle des Réunions Mairie Annexe Aix-Sud, Pont de l'Arc, 75 rte des Milles CD9, 13090 Aix-en-Provence

Hello to all artists and art lovers! The AAGP is organizing over the weekend of June 6th, 7th and 8th its second "art exhibition" for its members, from established artists to complete beginners.

Whether you paint, sculpt, model, knit, sew, build, or practice any other craft, you are invited to participate in this exhibition.

If you only wish to visit, please come and meet other members, exchange ideas, and perhaps discover new inspiration.

Over fifteen of us have already signed up to display our paintings, art work and sculpture.

The exhibition will be held in the meeting room, ground floor, of the Mairie-annexe du Pont de l'Arc", where parking is easy Saturday and Sunday.

All questions to me please at mitch131pari@gmail.com.

I hope we will see you there!

Michel Parisot

Sunday June 14th from 12:00

ANNUAL AAGP FAMILY PICNIC

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

Jean Louis Morgenthaler

Sunday 6 September in Luynes - 18h

OPEN MIC' NIGHT

Practice and come one, come all!

Michel Parisot

LOOKING BACK



ASIAN LUNCH



SMALL ADS April 2026

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Professional with over 25 years experience working for top level organisations such as Oxford University and Haines Watts Corporate Finance.

Email or telephone Stephanie Austin for more information.

Email : stephaniempaustin@gmail.com

Tel. : 06 89 29 95 49



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

