

NEWS of ACQUALORETO for the Wider Circle



After marching around the village the band played on stage.

The 2016 Acqualoreto summer festival in August was more ambitious than some of the past. Instead of one exhibit of the work of local artists, we had a variety of shows. The openings were accompanied by Terziere Fraporta, a marching band from Narni, which we hope will become a fixture, as they suited the medieval flavor of the village perfectly. Besides the main show, which by now has become a tradition, we had a show devoted to Shakespeare, featuring the making of Zeffirelli's *Romeo and Juliet*, which won an Oscar for Danilo Donati, a long-time home owner of Acqualoreto, and the painted Shakespearian panels of Helen Ward, accompanied by a reading from Shakespeare by Ida Di Benedetti. There was also a tiny gallery showing the working of children done during the festa, under the tutelage of Carolyn In'tVeld. The cantina of Cruccola was the site of an exhibit of traditional country implements.



Entrance to the show.



kids' gallery

Our own Paolo Patrignani gave a well received jazz recital in the heart of the old village. Our theatrical production went over well enough that we were asked to do a repeat performance in Collelungo the following week. A bit of inclement weather kept the crowd size down, especially on the Shakespeare night but overall, the festa was a popular success.

Many events will enliven the area in 2017 in addition to the August festival. We've seen an increasing number of people from as far away as Australia and New Zealand taking sabbaticals here. One such couple, Rebecca and Matthew Truscott, two classical musicians from London, have been staying in the area since last summer. On March 19th and 20th, in company with Kate Semmens and Steven Devine, their usual partners in a British quartet, they



Ida Di Benedetto reads from Shakespeare

performed concerts of Baroque music in Todi and Avignano which were truly splendid. Our only regret was that the concerts were held a few weeks before the great return of the warm weather residents. Many of them would have enjoyed these concerts.

The Malina Brothers Band, the Bluegrass group from the Czech Republic, will be back in the area during the third week in May. We are hoping that the same venues in Todi and Avignano will be available but that does not rule out an additional house concert in or near Acqualoreto.



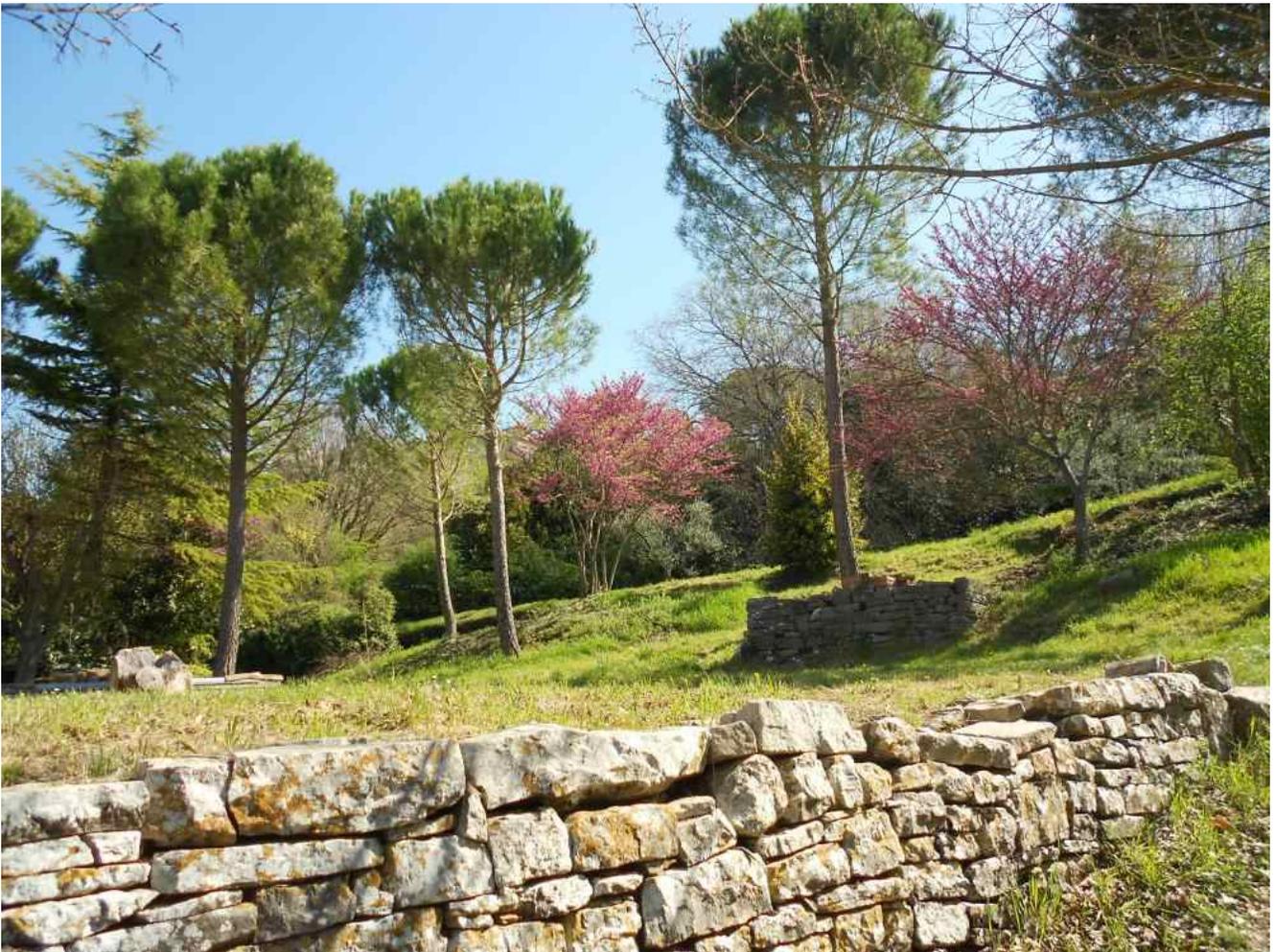
Concerto di Musica Barocca

Earlier in May, Narni holds its Festival di San Giovenale on the third, Gubbio has its famous Race of the Ceri on the 15th and Todi will be awash with flowers during Todi Fiorita, from May 20th through the 22nd. In June there is a wine festival in Montefalco from the 3rd through the 10th and then an international group of photographers, mostly from the UK, will convene in the Todi area. They will be staying in Collelungo and will show up for the weekly Acqualoreto Wednesday Happy Hour on June 21st. At the end of June a gentleman named Carducci will be organizing a kite festival in Toscolano, a few kilometers to the south. This event started last year but may extend to Acqualoreto this year. Bernardo Siciliano, a by-now New York artist, whose summer home is in Acqualoreto, will be conducting workshops and an exhibition in Orvieto with Vincent Desiderio from July 17th through 28th.

As usual, this year's festa in Acqualoreto will run from August 10th through the 15th. The grand opening of the festa will be on Wednesday, August 10th with the traditional "cena sotto le stelle", a huge supper in the piazza, in addition to the opening of the

mercantino and the “pesca” booth. Other events are yet to be scheduled but it is almost certain that the grand finale, as usual, will be fireworks on the night of Ferragosto, i.e. August 15th. For updates of the festa schedule, you can check the Acqualoreto page of the website www.punditalia.net. It also has more pictures of the 2016 festa.

We would like to thank Brigitte de Swart for some of the photos used in this newsletter. She was here all last summer to write a book. We hope she’ll be back to present her book and that many others of you will return to enjoy the beauty and the idyllic life of Acqualoreto.



RING IS HERE!