



The August festa of Acqualoreto is upon us. It kicks off on Friday, August 10th with the Cena Sotto le Stelle, the traditional big supper in the piazza, preceded by the marching band Terziere Fraporta di Narni leading the way to the opening of the art exhibition, the mercatino and the exhibit of artigianal products. In addition to music throughout the week, except on Monday which is devoted to the briscola (cards) tournament, there will be a different pasta available every night through the 16th, with various members of the community taking turns running the kitchen.

This will be augmented by a complete fish dinner on Tuesday the 14th. Despite some prior doubts, there will be fireworks on the evening of Ferragosto (the 15th). To conclude, *Gli Instabili di Acquafreddo* will present a comedy, "The Party", directed by Francesca Attiglianese on Thursday, the 16th.

There are other events going on in the area in this busy season. In Todi, at this moment, the fourth edition of the Todi International Music Masters program is in full swing, with free piano recitals in the Palazzo del Vignola from August 3rd through August 17th, by outstanding young pianists from all over the world. Last year 47 participants came from ten countries and we would suppose that this year's list of performers is similar.



Other events have recently concluded, notably the 30th addition of the Arnaldo Caprai Sagrantino Italian International Balloon Challenge Trophy. The mongolfiere have flown over Todi for decades but a few years ago the Comune of Todi rescinded its sponsorship and the balloonists departed for other locations in Umbria.

Todi has reconsidered and since last year the balloons are back, this year with an extended 15 day, 30th anniversary tournament using two bases, one in Todi and the other in Gualdo Cattaneo. Eighty-seven balloon teams from all over Europe, with a sprinkling from the Americas, convened to brighten the Umbrian skies, as can be seen from some of the photos in this newsletter. We expect them again next year.

Restaurant News- We mentioned in our last newsletter that Neysa Forbiscioni had posted a sign in the window of La

Cruccola, her restaurant, that she would be giving up the business. This summer the restaurant seems to be busier than ever but Neysa will leave. However, she has assured us that someone has stepped up to take it over. That's a big relief to everyone in the village.



In nearby Izzalini, the bar now called Kairo's Korner has evolved from a village bar with some snacks to a very good restaurant with an ample menu. We also remind you that the Izzalini film festival continues through August with films projected in the beautiful piazza every Saturday night following an informal supper provided by the people of the village.

Even closer to Acqualoreto, a new bistrot, the curiously named Uva Passera, has opened in Morre, in the former site of the pharmacy. We wish all these establishments great and continued success and we urge our readers to support them.



Acqualoreto has experienced a lively spring and summer with an unusual abundance of visitors from Australia. Alan and Karen Doodson, from Melbourne, who had stayed a month or more in the



village four years ago, took the trouble to stop by for a Sunday Holy Hour at the Circolo while traveling the length of Italy. Sorry there weren't more of our members to greet them.

Then successive waves of the large Hegerty family and their friends from all parts of Australia took up residence in the village for a month, during which time Connie Fiorraventi-Wells, the Australian Minister for Development, and her husband John Wells, were visiting their Acqualoreto home, providing yet another "small world" moment at the Happy Hour.

At a Happy Hour in July, the Circolo did some fund raising for the festa with Maria Pia, Oriana and Andreina making quantities of delicious pizza for the crowds in attendance. It was popular and successful enough to be repeated the following week.



In late June, participants of the Todi Circle, an invitational week-long conference of major players in the world of photography, enlivened our Happy Hour for the second year in a row. The following week we were entertained by



vacationing Swedes, proud of the showing of their World Cup team.



Earlier, in May we were treated to the fifth or sixth visit of Lubos Malina, the Czech bluegrass musician. This time he came with Robert Krestan, his musical partner for three decades. In addition to performing, Lubos presented the Circolo with a dry point print of Acqualoreto which he had recently done. It's now hanging in the Circolo bar. A man of many talents! Thank you Lubos.





On the 8th of July the piazza of Todi was filled with classic cars. On August 24th it will be filled by a formal dinner for 1000 people all dressed in white from head to toe. Reservations opened in early July and we don't know if tickets are still available but it should be an event to remember.

If you're in the area, please come out to our festa, and don't forget the many events in Todi. The Todi Festival starts in late August. For those of you further away, we hope to see you back in our beautiful village of Acquafredda.


