



*photo by Caroline van Agteren*

Covid has put social life on hold for about two years in much of the world and Acqualoreto is no different. However, the village seems to be coming back to life. The Circolo bar has been closed on and off through much of the winter but in April it reopened with two new people, Roberta and David, tending the bar. On May Day, there was a little celebration in the piazza to mark the fifteenth Anniversary of the Circolo.

The bar now has at its disposition an adjacent garage opening onto the piazza. The new annex serves as a welcome retreat on those rare occasions when rain interrupts one of our weekly Happy Hours or Holy Hours. The pandemic has made





people apprehensive about gathering in tight quarters such as the back room of the bar so as things stand now, we will try to stay outdoors as much as possible.

Most of the people who have been away during the pandemic have returned and travel restrictions to Italy have ended.

Unfortunately, the wave of Irishmen which swept in about the time the Circolo was established seems to be flowing back to Dublin. The Corcorans, the McHales and the Carrs have already left or are leaving and others may follow. They will be sorely missed and we can only hope that all will return regularly. Fortunately, the growing Conor O'Toole clan continues its annual pilgrimage to Acqualoreto. Perhaps we'll have to get serious about a Zoom link with the Circolo Happy Hours in Dublin, which on at least one occasion have already outdrawn the concurrent gathering here in the piazza. Another option would be to pursue a grant from the EU for subsidized cultural exchange activities between Dublin and Acqualoreto.

Spring has been atypical this year, arriving late and turning into summer early. However, although it seems there has been less rain than usual, there has been no shortage of flowers, with the Judas trees doing their thing, followed by an abundance of tulips, roses and many wild flowers. Then came the



*poppies everywhere*

poppies, the symbol of Memorial Day in some countries after WWI, in quantities we've never seen for twenty or thirty years. They are beautiful but are they omens of a repeat of the grim era initiated more than a century ago?



On a happier note, La Cruccola, the restaurant in the piazza, reopened on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. It will run by Giulio, the proprietor of the agriturismo, Podere Acqualoreto, in the village, and information and reservations will be through him at tel. 328 404 2909 and at his website which is:

*refreshments at the reopening of La Cruccola*

[podereacqualoreto@gmail.com](mailto:podereacqualoreto@gmail.com). The day of closing will be Tuesday. It will be open for lunch from Thursday through Sunday. Giulio and Gemma, who ran the restaurant over the past couple of years, are still proprietors of the restaurant and just how the changes will develop within the new team remains to be seen. The menu will be simplified and the large influx of hikers in the area, successfully promoted by the local organization Cammino dei Paesi Silenziosi during the pandemic, may provide a larger clientele. The restaurant needs to improve its signage regarding menu and opening times. The reopening came just a day after a well attended Happy Hour at the Circolo, at which there was no mention of the opening of the restaurant.

The summer festa will again be in somewhat reduced format this year. The Mercatino will be going strong and Rosemary Luckhurst will be happy to receive contributions of books, clothing, furniture and other household items ready for a new home. There will be some meals in the piazza between

August 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> but it seems we'll hold off the dancing for another year. If there are further changes, we will try to keep you updated.

In other regional news, Umbria Jazz will be making a full comeback after two years wiped out by the pandemic. The stadium concerts feature some celebrity performers from jazz and related fields but there will be a wide range of concerts in other venues as well, such as the Teatro Morlacchi. The schedule is available on the [Umbria Jazz website](#). In mid-September, UJ will also have a three day weekend mini-festival in Terni.

Join us at our weekly Happy Hours on Wednesdays at 18:00 and our Holy Hours at noon on Sundays.



*Acquafredda from the southwest*

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