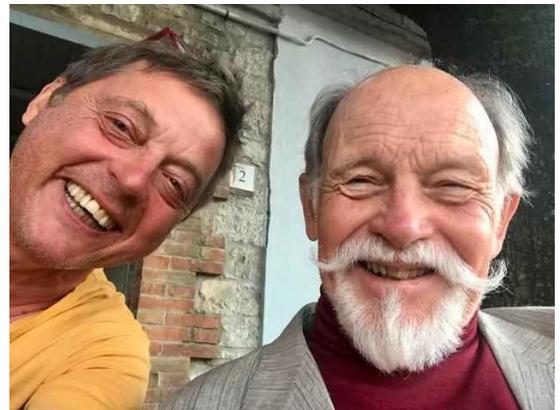


NEWS of ACQUALORETO
for the Wider Circle

August 2022

In May, before the last newsletter went out, we had a good Happy Hour at which a man from Paris named Luc Le Chatelier took many pictures and he was kind enough to send them to me. A few of them appear in these pages. I thank Luc for sharing them. Since then it has been hellishly hot here in Acqualoreto but things are looking up. We would normally be preparing for the annual August village festa which usually



Luc and I

runs from August 10th through the 16th. The full program of dinners large and small, music for dancing or pulling your hair out, and sometimes even for listening to, theatrical performances and movie screenings in the piazza and even art exhibitions and fireworks, will have to wait for a more normal year. However, this year Acqualoreto did even better. There was a wedding reception in the piazza.

In the fifty-one years since I first came to Acqualoreto, this was the first time I've seen a wedding reception in the piazza and it was a delightful event. Simone Benedetti, a native and lifelong resident of the village, married Raisa, a woman he met several years ago in Moscow and they celebrated their wedding with the impressive support of La Cruccola, the restaurant in the piazza, which appears to be thriving under its new management.



tables along the south side of the piazza



Bride and Groom

Attendees included a convivial mix of most of the current residents of the village including Simone's family, many of his relatives who have roots here even if they reside elsewhere, and a fair number of regulars at the international Happy Hours at the Circolo.

Last but not least, a number of friends of the bride who arrived from various cities around the world, despite some of the difficulties of travel in these troubled times.



with friends of the bride



The Kiss

The food and drink were abundant and good and went on and on beyond what many, especially foreigners unaccustomed to Italian weddings, had anticipated. After more than two very difficult years, we all needed this and there was a palpable sense of collective euphoria and good will among the assembled guests. We thank the bride and groom and everyone else who helped to make it happen.

The festa will be of reduced scope this year but the mercatino is now open under the direction of Rosemary Luckhurst and will be active through August 16th. After two months of unprecedented heat and drought, as I write, there has been the second heavy shower in about forty-eight hours. Once again, we were fortunate. A forest fire had gotten started in the mountains above Morrulle on the night of August 7th during the first electrical storm. It is now out.

Below are a few more of Luc's pictures from May.



On the 6th of August there were two weddings in the area. Andrew, the son of Sheila and Seamus Dooley, married his fiancée Karen after the wedding was postponed for two years due to Covid. This one took place in Massa Martana and we're confident that much joy was experienced there as well. We are happy for them and wish them all the best for a bright future, as we do for Simone and Raya.

Seamus and Adeline, who hosted Luc

In other news, Isis, ever the most elegant member of the Circolo, has moved up the hill from her house in the woods, which has been her Umbrian home for some forty years, to live right in the borgo. May she enjoy it and be the leader of the first wave in the repopulation of the village center.



Isis



Michael and Peter with Lynda Alegi

For years, the population of Acqualoreto and the surrounding territory has swelled to triple its normal size in the summer. With climate change modifying the seasons here, some of our clever members have turned the changes to their advantage. Michael and Constance Warnink,

who now live here most of the year, have gone back to Amsterdam for its pleasant summer weather, and will return when things here cool off a bit. Peter Alegi is visiting his son in the comfort of Sweden. Will this be a new pattern, with more visitors to Umbria in the spring and autumn?

Our joy at last Saturday's wedding was tempered by the news that one of our members, Suzanne Heinrich, had lost her long battle with cancer earlier in the week. Suzanne and her husband Bill had bought a medieval tower in

Morruzze a few years ago and they immediately brightened the lives of everyone who met them. Suzanne's extraordinarily positive spirit in facing medical challenges was an inspiration to many of us. R.I.P. Suzanne.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/mailtribune/name/suzanne-heinrich-obituary?id=36147595>

We hope to see many of you returning to Acqualoreto when circumstances permit.