

# NEWS of ACQUALORETO for the Wider Circle

Aug. 2020

This is our first newsletter since Christmas. They say no news is good news. That old maxim does not apply here as we try to promote the activities of our area. ProTodi sends us a calendar of events every month. The last one, pre-Covid, was in March and nearly all the events that month were canceled. Finally, after months of shutdown, we have a new schedule of events for August. It's not like previous years but it's a start, with a number of outdoor movies and some concerts.

The Circolo bar closed in March, as did the restaurant in the piazza, La Cruccola. We did virtual Happy Hours for a few months on Zoom, which served to keep people in touch who couldn't get back but our reaction to them was similar to that of our grandchildren to classes at home by computer.



Thanks to Ruth Gruber for the photos

Schools, bars, restaurants, gyms and most other vital businesses have been closed down for months but Italy has worked hard to limit the spread of the virus and now we're beginning to see some results. Both the Circolo bar and La Cruccola reopened at the beginning of July, as have most

restaurants in the area. There are restrictions, such as the wearing of masks and the push to maintain social distancing. Only one person at a time can enter the bar and must be masked but our happy hours and holy hours out in the piazza have worked out fairly well, fueled by the flood of returnees from Holland. Now people are beginning to find their way back from the UK and Ireland, although not from the US, still reeling from the Fox virus.

Along with Umbria Jazz Spring in Terni, the Jazzitfest in Collescipoli, the big Umbria Jazz Festival in Perugia, various festivals in Todi and most other cultural events around the country, the summer Festa of Acqualoreto has been canceled this year, although there will be a mercatino under the campanile, and in nearby cantinas. as in past years. I enclose Rosemary's announcement for a better description.

The summer Acqualoreto Mercatino del'Usato will open its doors Wednesday August 5 at 5pm - do not delay as you might miss the purchase of a lifetime!

The clothing half of the market is in the cantina in the courtyard of Brian and Rosemary's house and the household half is in the Maria Pia's cantina in the walls of the Borgo (we had items there last year). As this is a non festa year we are unable to advertise in the normal manner so please pass the word around as we continue to try and generate some income for the Circolo.

Social distancing will be in place with only 2, possibly 3, people in each venue at one time, masks are mandatory and there will be hand sanitizer at each door.

All the clothing items have been washed/steamed and ironed and household items all wiped down as best we can - the dust in these cantina's is unavoidable but the battle continues!

We look forward to a vaccine and a return to a full schedule of events in 2021. Maybe the Circolo can organize some of those outings that were discussed for this year back in 2019.

Good news is a bit scarce this year but there is some. After years of neglect, a lot of repair work has been done on the local roads between here and Todi. E45 has had extensive repairs during the shutdown, the perfect time, when there

was virtually no traffic. There's more to be done but we do appreciate the progress made.



Right now, the hot air balloons are back, flying over Todi in the early hours of the morning, a cheering and welcome sight. Not as many this year as in the past but they're back and next year we expect there will be more of them.

The languishing real estate market seems to have picked up during the pandemic. A number of houses have been sold which had been on the market for years. For people closed up in city apartments for months, the appeal of beautiful and underpopulated countryside seems to have been enhanced.

On the restaurant front, there have been some interesting changes in the Todi area. Many of you will remember John Paterson, the remarkable chef from Cumbria who first ran the Antica Osteria della Valle in Todi, then served as chef at the Relais Todini, and most recently ran the Vecchia Cantina del Mercataccio. John has finally realized his dream, ten years in the making, of opening his new restaurant which, next year with the coronavirus behind us, will also function as a school for chefs. It's on the road down to San Damiano, unmarked but not hard to find.

With John Paterson's moving on to his beautiful new restaurant, the Vecchia Cantina del Mercataccio has been taken over by the son and daughter-in-law of Beatrice, the

delightful woman who for a number of years helped Neysa Forbiscioni run La Cruccola in Acqualoreto. Her many talents are now at the service of the new family business in one of Todi's most attractive restaurants.

This year has been a tough one for all small businesses, especially restaurants. Our best wishes go out to all of them but especially those with the determination to start new ventures in the worst of times. Support them all, new and old!

We wish you a safe and healthy and return to Acqualoreto. Meanwhile, the pandemic is not over so be careful and considerate in dealing with others.

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