

NEWSLETTER

THE ALGARVE'S NIGHT SKY

Clive Jackson is British, a marine engineer by profession. He is resident in Portugal and for the past 15 years has been working as the director and astronomer of the Astronomical Observatory of Tavira which he himself founded. For the past seven years he has also been operating the Camera Obscura in Tavira. Clive specialises in education and public outreach and has helped to introduce astronomy in general and the Algarve night sky in particular to hundreds of schools at all levels. The general public in the Algarve region has also been able to take advantage of his planetarium, solar system models, telescopes and others tools. Clive will explain how to identify planets, constellations and bright stars and he will focus on the planet Jupiter which will be in the southern sky all night on 15 November.

CLIVE JACKSON



DECEMBER

Tuesday 13 at 6.30 pm, Lagoa

Friday 16 at 11 am, Tavira

Stories and Myths of Portuguese History

by **Peter Kingdon Booker**

THE ALGARVE'S NIGHT SKY

CLIVE JACKSON

TAVIRA - MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

TUESDAY 15 AT 6 PM

THE RESTORATION OF 1640

PETER KINGDON BOOKER

LAGOA - MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

TUESDAY 22 AT 6.30 PM

TAVIRA - MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

FRIDAY 25 AT 11 AM

THE RESTORATION OF 1640

When we first arrived in Portugal we were puzzled by the Public Holiday of 1st December. Restoration Day? What does it mean? Why does it need a national holiday? Only when we investigated further did we find out that in 1640, after 60 years of rule by the Kings of Spain (which was not all bad), the Duke of Bragança took back the throne of Portugal from the King of Spain, and became D João IV. His statue dominates the square before the Bragança Palace at Vila Viçosa. Portuguese independence was not bought cheaply, because there was a war with Spain which lasted for 28 years. And further, Portugal had to buy an insurance for its independence with foreign alliances. How much did this proud independence cost? What was the price of the insurance policy? Should Portugal celebrate its independence, or has there always been a case for Iberian integration? Peter Booker looks forward to a national holiday, and backwards to the continuous struggle for independence

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STORIES AND MYTHS OF PORTUGUESE HISTORY

CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION

What are the stories from Portugal’s history which are taught to its youngest children? How does the man in the street remember his history? Peter Booker looks at the stories of Portugal’s varied history and sees it as a series of tales which might be true. Was Columbus really a Genovese? Who was the baker of Aljubarrota? Why does Inês de Castro occupy a prime burial site in a major Portuguese monastery? These and other tales will be discussed in our last meeting before Christmas



NEWS FOR 2012

Programme for 2012

Lagoa Tavira

24	27	January	F Oñoro & Albuera
21	24	February	Liberals in Portugal
27	30	March	Visigothic State
24	27	April	St Paul’s Cathedral
22	25	May	Arab Conquest
26	29	June	Earthquake of 1755
24	27	July	Algarve/Al Andalus
25	28	September	To be decided
23	26	October	Perkin Warbeck
27	30	November	Al Andalus heritage
18	14	December	Notable Algarveans

Please note that we propose to change the start time for the talks in Lagoa from 6.30 pm to 6.00 pm. This is to allow the library staff to get away on time and it will make for us having an earlier night! Please let us have your views.

After having such success with our talks on Portuguese culture and tradition we plan to continue in 2012. I am awaiting confirmation for the bookings in Tavira Library but these are some of the topics we shall be hearing about.

January - Algarve Gardens by *Rosie Peddle*

February - Fado by *Peter Booker*

March - Algarve Spring by *Clive Viney*

April - Algarve Summer by *Clive Viney*

May - Portuguese azulejos by *Rachel Barnard*

September - Algarve Autumn by *Clive Viney*

November - Algarve Winter by *Clive Viney*

As has become tradition, I shall be organising a meal to follow each talk.

We have hosted a number of guided walks and we plan to continue in 2012 with Vila Real and Castro Marim.

Also to look out for is a further ‘battle dinner’ - Salamanca - to continue our celebrations of the bicentenary of the Peninsular War.

WE ARE PLANNING TO HOLD OUR USUAL CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR LUNCH ON THURSDAY 29 DECEMBER AT 12.30 PM AT MONTE VELHO IN UMBRIA. COST IS €20 INCLUSIVE PLEASE CONTACT ME FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND TO BOOK. NUMBERS OF PLACES ARE LIMITED.