

NEWSLETTER

Dear friends

Peter and I have decided to postpone the lunch and talk arranged for 26 August. Since the fire on 19/20 July we have been without internet and we now feel it is too short notice to continue to arrange the event. Many of you will also know that I cancelled the astronomical observation scheduled for 28 July. Please see page 2 to read the information from Maria and Antony from the restaurant *Mesa do Cume*. On page 2 you will also find a copy of an e-mail I have received from Chris Wright (coordinator of the Olhanense Expat Supporters Group). Please feel free to continue making donations. If you know of anyone in your community who has been severely affected by the fires and who may need financial support please let me or Chris know.

I would like to thank all of those people who tried to contact us to offer a bed or to check that we were safe. A big thank you too to Jean Barratt and David Trueman who suddenly found themselves with 5 extra house guests! Peter, me and 3 cats. Lily, the fourth cat, preferred to stay in our house rather than get into a cat box! She the house and the garden survived intact thanks to the efforts of the men of the Morenos Hunting Club who spent the night of 19 July protecting the houses of our village.
Best Wishes
Lynne

SEPTEMBER TALKS

MONDAY 17 at 6 pm

Municipal Library TAVIRA

Algarve Wildlife: What to look for in Autumn

by Clive Viney

TUESDAY 25 at 6 pm

Municipal Library LAGOA

FRIDAY 28 at 11 am

Municipal Library TAVIRA

Catherine of Braganza

by David Johnson

SUNDAY 19 AUGUST

**Boat Trip on the Rio Guadiana
on the *Jasmin Flor***

**departure 10 am from the Ferry
Quay at Vila Real de Santo António
lunch (including entertainment
from an accordionist) at Foz de
Odeleite**

arrive back at VRSA 5 pm

I have arranged this trip for my 60th birthday celebration

I would be delighted if you could join us. The cost is usually €45 per person. I would like to contribute to the cost so depending upon numbers it will be €30 or €35 per person

If you would like to come, could you please let me know as soon as possible and by 11 August at the latest.

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Dear friends of Mesa do Cume,

As many of you already know, we have been hit by the bushfires in Algarve. Although being in the middle of the fires, the restaurant is still OK, and our garden is still nice. But around us we see a lot of black. The pigeonloft of Tony has burnt down, as well as the vineyard and the orange orchard. Not to speak of the stretching landscape around us.

Driving up from Tavira to our place, or from Sta. Catarina, you will see the awfull effects of the fire along the road. Besides, we have lost our little cottage in Ceroles, the place where we intended to live next year.

So a lot has been changed in our lives. Together with the intention to work less next year, it made us decide to close the restaurant and not re-open it. If we were younger, we would have been able to go on with the two of us. To go on with the restaurant with the help of Ann, Maria Jose en Miquelina, our very good staff, will cost way too much. So the staff lost their jobs, unfortunately.

For the time being we will still offer you an opportunity to have a meal over here, as a friend of us, whatever day or time. You will have your meal on our terrace, or inside, as you wish. The garden is nice, the view still is not bad at all. From 8 persons on Maria will do the cooking. She offers you a couvert and three courses, water, a glass of wine or other drink, and coffee. And will ask you to contribute 25 euros each person. Knowing our menus more or less, we can talk about what you would like to eat.

If you are interested, please give us a phone call or send us an email.

We thank you very much for the kind words many of you have already spoken to us after the fire. We thank you for your visits the last five and a half year. We have enjoyed our restaurant experiment very much and are very proud of the number 1 ranking on TripAdvisor. Now we are looking to another future.

Kind regards,
Antonio and Maria

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THANK YOU' from the **Olhanense** Expat Supporters Group

(21 July)

A heartfelt 'thank you' to those who have donated to our Appeal for money to purchase bottled water, juices and food for over a 1,000 firefighters who are fighting the largest forest fires in Portugal's history. Yesterday we took a large van load of goods to the Tavira Bombeiros and will do the same again today. We have received donations from as far a field as Norway and South Africa and the total is now over €700.

