

NEWSLETTER

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN SPRING

Clive Viney is the author of *Algarve Wildlife - the natural year* published in 2009 but he is best known as the author of *The Birds of Hong Kong and South China*, which is available in English and Chinese and is the standard regional guide. Clive is a chartered surveyor by profession and also a keen naturalist and bridge player. He spent almost his entire working life as a civil servant in Hong Kong, where, as a trustee of World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong, he was editor-in-chief of their magazine *About Life*. Clive has written many articles and provided natural history input to *Lonely Planet* guides. He has lived in the Algarve for 15 years and as a member of the *Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves* he has participated in most of their major bird-survey projects. Clive spoke to a full house in September 2011 on the subject of Birds of the Algarve. This year he plans to share more of his knowledge with a four part series: Algarve Wildlife: What to look for in Spring (5 March), Summer (21 May), Autumn (17 September) and Winter (19 November). Although there is no charge for attendance at the talk, monetary contributions for the expenses of AHA are welcome.

Following the talk, there will be an informal dinner in a local restaurant and Clive will be available to discuss points of interest. If you would like to book for this dinner please contact me by noon on Saturday 3 March.

APRIL

Monday 2 at 6pm, Tavira Library

Archaeoastronomy

by Clive Jackson

Tuesday 24 at 6pm, Lagoa Library

Friday 27 at 11am, Tavira Library

Christopher Wren and St Paul's Cathedral/Napoleonic War Memorials in St Paul's by Chris Allen and David Hooper

Monday 30 at 6pm, Tavira Library

Portuguese Sporting Legends

by Chris Wright

ALGARVE WILDLIFE: WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN SPRING

CLIVE VINEY

MUNICIPAL LIBRARY TAVIRA

MONDAY 5 AT 6 PM

FADO

PETER KINGDON BOOKER

MUNICIPAL LIBRARY LAGOA

TUESDAY 20 AT 6 PM

THE VISIGOTHIC STATE

PETER KINGDON BOOKER

MUNICIPAL LIBRARY LAGOA

TUESDAY 27 AT 6 PM

MUNICIPAL LIBRARY TAVIRA

FRIDAY 30 AT 11 AM

ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATION

WITH CLIVE JACKSON

MESA DE CUME RESTAURANT TAVIRA

SATURDAY 31 AT 7 PM

THE VISIGOTHIC STATE IN IBERIA

As Roman Imperial authority waned in the West, Emperors looked to the German Christian barbarians for help in re-establishing order. The Visigoths, allies to the Romans, discovered that the weakened Roman state was incapable of survival, and instead founded their own kingdom, centred on Toulouse, which eventually took in the whole of Roman Hispania. For the first time in history, the whole of Iberia was united under its own monarch, and nationalist Spain under General Franco looked back on the Visigoths as the forerunners of a strong central government of a united Iberia. What are the legacies of the Visigoths? How have they been seen in history? Should we look to them for any historical lessons? Why did their state apparently collapse so suddenly? Peter Booker looks more deeply into this darkened corner of Iberian and European history.

Fado Ever since we arrived in Portugal, I have been fascinated by *fado*. What is it? Who sings it? What do they sing about? How can we tell whether a song is a *fado*? I have begun to look a little more deeply into the world of Severa, of Amália and Mísia and Marisa, of Marceneiro, Carlos Ramos, Max and Vicente da Câmara and I have discovered that *fado* is properly a Lisbon phenomenon, and that *canção de Coimbra* with its different style and instrumentation was a later development. The song subjects of the *fado* tradition are many but they were originally concerned with royalty, nobility, bullfighting as well as lost love, melancholy and *fado* itself. As *fado* is a living art form, style and subject matter are always evolving as new artists arrive on the scene and recently *fado* has been recognised as an example in UNESCO's list of World Intangible Heritage. Join me on my journey of discovery of the purely Portuguese world of *fado* and *saudade*.

Peter

NEWS

Cultural talks: There have been requests for our speakers to appear in Lagoa. Jackie Billings has kindly offered to help host these talks which will usually be on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the Municipal Library.

Astronomical observations: This month Clive Jackson will be hosting the first of four planned observations. The venue is the Mesa do Cume Restaurant in Alcaria do Cume. The price will be €22.50 per person to include a three course meal and the guided observation by Clive. (Meal includes couvert, choice of: chicken stew with cinnamon and apricots with rice and vegetables; baked fillets of white fish with a herb crust served with rosemary potatoes and salad; tofu piri piri with stir fried vegetables and sweet chili sauce and rice. Choice of lemon meringue fool or chocolate cake; glass of wine, beer or lemonade; water, coffee, tea). As places are limited, please book as soon as possible.

Website: I am delighted to announce that Sue Simons has offered to make some translations into Portuguese of items on our website - it just requires me to learn to use the software!

Other: Mediterranean Garden Society Spring Conference (March 23,24, 25 at Hapimag Resort, Albufeira) where the keynote speaker will be Oliver Racham OBE-contact: rosie@thebtf.net/289 791 869.

Heidi and Johannes at Quinta da Arte near Hortas, Tavira have an estufa to sell: 15 x 7.15 x 4.7 m. Contact: info@quintadaarte.com

After my experience with Katerina, I recommend to you the professional therapies offered by Katerina Sarah of Refúgio Divino in Tavira. She offers professional massage, reiki, acupuncture, naturopathy and she runs courses for Reiki levels I and II. contact: 918 053 997/961 354 706.

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