

# ALGARVE HISTORY ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER FOR MARCH 2019

### MARCH

**MONDAY 11 at 18h00 Tavira Library**

*and*

**TUESDAY 12 at 18h00 Lagoa Library**

**My Life in National and Local Politics**

*with José Macário Custódio Correia*

**MONDAY 18 at 18h00 Tavira Library**

**Our thoughts matter more than we think**

*with Olav Dalseg*

**SUNDAY 24 at 16h00 Quintinha da Música €25**

**Birgit Wegemann (soprano) with Irene Ainstein (piano)**

**TUESDAY 26 at 18h00 Lagoa Library**

*and*

**FRIDAY 29 at 11h00 Tavira Library**

**The Reconquest of the Algarve**

*with Peter Kingdon Booker*

### APRIL

**MONDAY 8 at 18h00 Tavira Library**

*and*

**TUESDAY 9 at 18h00 Lagoa Library**

**A Short History of Food and Nutrition in the Anthropocene**

*with Roger Shrimpton*

**SUNDAY 14 at 17h00 Quintinha da Música**

**€25**

**40 Fingers Piano with Marlies van Gent, Inge**

**Lulofs, Frank Fabner and Irene Ainstein**

**Playing music by Brahms, Piazzolla, Saint Saens and more ....**

**FRIDAY 26 at 11h00 Tavira Library**

*and*

**TUESDAY 30 at 18h00 Lagoa Library**

**The Tragic History of the Sea**

*with Peter Kingdon Booker*

### My Life in National and Local Politics

José Custódio Macário Correia was a member of the PSD government of Cavaco Silva from 1987 as Secretary of State for the Environment. Elected President of the Câmara in Tavira on behalf of the PSD, he served the maximum three terms from 1998 until 2009; at that point he campaigned against the official PSD candidate for the Presidency of the Câmara at Faro. It may be surmised that this action did not please the hierarchy of the PSD. His terms in both Tavira and Faro are shrouded in scandal since he was condemned to a loss of his position in Faro as a result of accusations of irregularities committed while he was President at Tavira. We are fortunate that Sr Correia has agreed to make a presentation to the Association, with no holds barred. His views should be very interesting to those of us who reside in Tavira, as well as those of us who are interested in the planning laws as they are used in this country.

### Our Thoughts Matter More Than We Think

Thinking is the brain in action. Thinking prepares us to handle life's big and small challenges. Our thoughts influence our body down to the smallest cell. Thoughts determine our preferences and behavior. Thoughts are the basis for our personality, our self-esteem, even our health. We are our thoughts. Thoughts form attitudes, belief systems and habits. That is why they are important to friends, potential employers and policy makers.

### The Reconquest of the Algarve

Ever since the conquest of Iberia by Moslem forces at the beginning of the eighth century, Christian states had struggled to reconquer former Christian lands. Portugal of course came into being in the mid twelfth century as an offshoot of the kingdom of Leon, and it was born in the conscious effort to expand Christian dominion ever southwards. Lisbon came under Christian control in 1147; Silves was temporarily Christian in 1189. But it was in the mid thirteenth century that the Algarve was at last definitively taken by Christian forces. In his lecture Peter discusses the southward momentum of the Reconquest, and shows in detail how the Algarve succumbed to the Christian onslaught. He discusses the effects on the Moslem population of the Algarve, Moslem defence systems, which have left their marks even today, and begins the story of how Portugal pursued the infidel opponent across the water into Morocco.

The German soprano and voice teacher **Birgit Wegemann** studied classical singing at the Folkwang-Hochschule Essen (1988-1993) and at The Royal Flemish Music Conservatory in Antwerp (1993-1995). She also took master-classes with Professor Sylvia Geszty (1989) in Hürth, Professor Klesi Kelly-Moog in Cervo, Italy (2001), and Professor Hilde Kronstein-Uhrmacher in Bückeberg (1997). At the Händel-Akademie Karlsruhe she took classes in Baroque Singing with Luis Devos (1992-1994). After her studies in Essen and Antwerp, **Birgit** sang in various productions, such as with the Atelier Theatral de Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, and at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam. A short stay at the Amato-Opera in New York gave her new impulses. Performances at Kölner Philharmonie, the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, and in various broadcast events brought her singing to a wider audience. Building upon her solid formation and continuous public performances as classical singer, **Birgit** has devoted the last years of her professional activities to alternative ways of performing music of the Baroque, Classical and Romantic Age.. Since 1999, **Birgit** has devoted herself also to a special segment of the Opera universe. She began singing roles from the Opéra Comique and from Operettas. She became familiar with this genre at Düsseldorfer Operette, directed by Friedhelm Rosendorff, where she sang the role of Evelyne in *Maske in Blau* by Fred Raymond and Annina from *A Night in Venice* by Johann Strauss. Performing in Portugal after 2003, she had her first public appearance with Orquestra do Norte led by maestro Ferreira Lobo in a concert during the Deutsche Woche in Porto. Further concerts followed in Faro, Alcantarilha, Tavira and Caldas de Monchique. In 2003, she performed with maestro Richard Brunner in Mozart's *Exultate jubilate* in Porto. Most recently, she has performed with the Orquestra das Beiras and the Orquestra do Sul. She has performed in concerts in Germany, Italy, Israel, Estonia, Belgium, The Netherlands, Spain and Portugal.

English-born **Irene Ainstein** won the 1st prize in a Competition for Young Musicians after only one year of studying piano. She later participated in the Mozart Competition where she won Second Prize. After finishing secondary school in Holland, **Irene** went on to study at the Academy of Music, Het Twents Conservatorium, where she graduated in Chamber Music, as Accompanist and as Soloist. **Irene** has played in number of chamber music ensembles, and as soloist with St Petersburg Orchestra, and in 2002, she also accompanied the famous Children For Children choir. She has performed in Holland, England, Germany, Spain, Portugal and China. **Irene** has also participated in several festivals and masterclasses in Germany, England (Dartington), Holland (live music now) and has been a member of the jury in various prestigious piano competitions in Spain, Portugal and Italy. Over the years, Irene has taken classes with Johan Janssonius, Karl Heinz Kammerling, Tamas Vasary and Jan Wijn. **Irene** now continues to perform in concerts with singers such as **Birgit Wegemann**, with violinist Michael Thomas and she is an integral part of the Dutch Piano Quartet. Irene presently teaches piano in Tavira and at the Conservatório Regional do Algarve Maria Campina, where she is also part of the Direção Pedagógica.

### **Birgitte Wegemann and Irene Ainstein**

