

ALGARVE HISTORY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER FOR OCTOBER 2019

MONDAY 7 at 18h00 (Tavira) *and*

TUESDAY 8 at 18h00 (Lagoa)

Climate change: Science or Religion?

with **Graham Chambers**

MONDAY 14 at 18h00 (Tavira)

Where Quantum Science Meets Religion

with **Olav Dalseg**

FRIDAY 25 at 11h00 (Tavira) *and*

TUESDAY 29 at 18h00 (Lagoa)

Political Prisons of the Estado Novo

with **Peter Kingdon Booker**

PREVIEW FOR NOVEMBER

SUNDAY 10 at 16h00 - Trio Bartikian: Esther Georgie (clarinet), Michel Gal (piano) and Varoujan Bartikian (cello)

with music by Beethoven, Brahms and others

MONDAY 11 November at 18h00 (Tavira) *and*

TUESDAY 12 November at 18h00 (Lagoa)

Evolution and Geography

with **Ludo Broothaers**

TUESDAY 26 November at 18h00 (Lagoa) *and*

FRIDAY 29 November at 11h00 (Tavira)

Manueline Architecture

with **Peter Kingdon Booker**

Climate Change-Science or Religion?

Year after year, the world has been subjected by the United Nations, and in particular by its International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), to a massive and unrelenting propaganda campaign. Twenty thousand assorted activists, politicians and bureaucrats travel by air to various global watering holes to tell the rest of us to stop travelling by air, to stop eating meat and to stop driving cars. We are told that we have only twelve years to save the planet from disaster caused by carbon dioxide produced by us human beings. Trouble is, climate has been changing for millions of years, sometimes very rapidly - and it wasn't us who caused it, because we weren't there! The climate change religion (let's call it Warmianity) now has its first saint - Greta of Thunberg. I think that we need a little clarity on this matter, and I shall do what I can to provide it. I approach this task with a degree of trepidation. Three and a half years ago, I gave a talk on *The UK, the EU and Brexit*. Look what has happened since!

Where Quantum Science Meets Religion

Our material world seems to be quite stable. Billiard balls, bullets and planets behave like they always have. People, unfortunately, also. Quantum physics describe a world which is unstable, unpredictable and random, that existence is dependent on observation, and that creation is a function of probability. Some observations in the quantum realm are difficult to understand, and give no meaning in our daily life. Some can contribute to a deeper understanding of what makes the world function. There still are phenomena that can be explained only by the existence of a spirit, an intelligence, a deity. Is this what we call God? Humanity plays a far greater role than we think. We are integrated, but autonomous parts of cosmos, and we do have an influence on how events develop. How can we use this influence? This is my understanding of the world as seen from a practical point of view. It is a big topic, which I've tried to make simple. You are welcome to share my thoughts!

Political Prisons of the Estado Novo

It is suspected that many older Portuguese reminisce with longing over the stability and golden days of the Salazar era, when nothing much changed, and life seemed to have a continuity. Such a view might be appropriate for the relatively rich, and perhaps for those who had not fallen foul of the PIDE, or political police. But for those at the bottom of the social order, money was scarce and life was hard. Although Salazar did not wear a military uniform, nor was he obviously the Commander in Chief of the military forces, the Portugal of 1926 - 1974 was of course a military dictatorship. The Portuguese military dictatorship lasted longer than the other more famous contemporary Fascist states in Europe, and was held in place by an efficient and widespread political police. What do we know of the repressive nature of the regime? Of the people who were imprisoned by the regime, and where they were held? There is an unspoken assumption that there was only one political prison, that at Tarrafal on Santiago in the Cape Verde Islands. But the reality is that Portugal had more than a dozen prison establishments for political prisoners. Peter Booker investigates the secret police, their prisons and their victims, and sheds light on the successful longevity of the Estado Novo.