

ALGARVE HISTORY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY 2019

JANUARY

**MONDAY 14 at 18h00 Municipal Library
Tavira** *and*

**TUESDAY 15 at 18h00 Municipal Library
Lagoa**

Fado: Part 1
with Peter Kingdon Booker

**FRIDAY 25 at 11h00 Municipal Library
Tavira** *and*

**TUESDAY 29 at 18h00 Municipal Library
Lagoa**

Tavira: City of Churches
with Peter Kingdon Booker

SATURDAY 26 at 14h00
Sculptures Inspired by Portugal
with Robert Schad Venue to be confirmed

SUNDAY 27 at 16h00 Quintinha da Música
€25
Nikola Meeuwsen (piano)
with music by Schubert, Scriabin, Chopin

Fado

Fado is one of the characteristic sounds of Portugal. The often mournful and sad singing, coupled with the plangent twanging of the Portuguese guitar, and accompanied by the rhythmic beat on the acoustic guitar, is a hallmark of Portuguese culture. To watch a rapt audience of Portuguese wrapped in the sound of fado, and often singing along to the words they know, is to reach into the very soul of the nation. But where did the fado come from? What is its history, particularly during the Estado Novo? Does it always have the same format? Is it always sad? Why can foreigners not understand it? Peter thinks that translation of the words helps us to understand the art form and therefore this essence of national culture. He gave two presentations on Fado some five years ago, and this presentation is in essence a recapitulation, and is an aid to the foreigner in coming to terms with fado.

FEBRUARY

**MONDAY 11 at 18h00 Municipal Library
Tavira** *and*

**TUESDAY 12 at 18h00 Municipal Library
Lagoa**

The Wind and Water Mills of your Mind
with Sue Cooper

**FRIDAY 22 at 11h00 Municipal Library
Tavira** *and*

**TUESDAY 26 at 18h00 Municipal Library
Lagoa**

Tuna fishing in the Algarve
with Peter Kingdon Booker

SUNDAY 24 at 16h00 Quintinha da Música
€25
String Trio with Alex Stewart (violin), Varoujan Bartikian (cello), Chao Bin (violin and viola)
with music by Stamitz, Telemann and Haydn

Tavira: City of Churches

Tavira is an old town, and in 1520 received its charter as cidade from D Manuel I. At that time, it was the most important town in the Algarve, and at the centre of Portugal's efforts at crusading conquest in Morocco. Until after the French invasions, Tavira was the biggest town in the Algarve; it was the seat of the Governor, and it had a new barracks. And so it is easy to appreciate that its Christian citizens would prove their faith by building more churches. But how many are there? It is often said that Tavira has over thirty churches, and the booklet on the churches, which was produced by the Câmara, shows only twenty-one, yet nowhere has Peter found a definition of what they mean first, by Tavira, and second, by the word churches. In this presentation, Peter Booker makes his own definitions, does a count and comes up with some surprising answers.

Saturday 26 January at 14h00 Sculptures Inspired by Portugal with Robert Schad (venue to be confirmed)

I first came across the work of **Robert Schad** when I saw one of his sculptures just off the N270 on the road to our remote house in Morenos. I learned that it was part of a series of sculptures located throughout Portugal. During the period June 2017 to March 2018, **Robert** exhibited over 50 sculptures across 20 different locations in Portugal. The one I saw was at location 20, and it was the only one to be placed in the Algarve. **Robert** lives and works in Larians (France) and Chamosinhos (Portugal). He is well known for making the **Cruz Alta** for the Santíssima Trindade church grounds at the sanctuary in Fátima. **Robert** is one of the most renowned contemporary sculptors in steel. He has studied and won prizes in Germany, Portugal and France. It is a privilege for the Algarve History Association that Robert has agreed to make the trip to the Algarve to speak to us.

Robert Schad



Nikola Meeuswen



Sunday 27 January : 16h00 at Quintinha da Música (Covas da Prata, near Tavira).

Nikola Meeuswen (b 2002) profiles himself as one of the most notable young pianists in the Netherlands. It was after hearing a recording of Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto no 3 played by Vladimir Horowitz that **Nikola** knew he wanted to become a pianist. The NRC Handelsblad has called him a talent to keep an eye on. In 2012 he won the Steinway Competition, and in 2014 the Royal Concertgebouw Competition. **Nikola Meeuswen** gives concerts at home and abroad; recently he performed with the Residentie Orkest in the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, and he has also given solo recitals in Milan, Bologna, Trieste, Faro and Imola. He played chamber music with the Matangi Quartet, violinist Alexander Kerr and viola player Vladimir Mendelssohn, and plays duos with other pianists Igor Roma, Anna Fedorova and Thomas Beijer. **Nikola Meeuswen** is a regular guest at festivals. He has played in the Storioni Festival, the Chamber Music Festival Schiermonnikoog, the International Chamber Music Festival Ede, Festival Classique and in the new festival Classical NOW! **Nikola** studies with Marlies van Gent at the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague. Since 2015 he has also had monthly lessons with Enrico Pace at the prestigious Accademia Pianistica di Imola. **Nikola** has undertaken master classes with Jacques Rouvier, Pavel Gililov, Matti Raekallio, Ruth Nye, Edith Fischer, Jerome Rose and Dominique Merlet. Horowitz, His favourite pianists are Schnabel, Sofronitsky, Cziffra, Rubinstein, Lipatti, Sokolov, Pogorelich, Volodos and Glenn Gould.