



Dear Members and Friends,

For those of us who were lucky enough to see the Lagos Dancers at Valverde, didn't we get a treat! They were all fantastic and showed why they are Gold Medallists from the World Championships. If you missed it, you will be pleased to hear that they are putting on 4 concerts in Lagos. On 8<sup>th</sup> March, they will perform at 16.30 and 18.30 at the Auditório de Escola Julio Dantas, which is in front of the Santo Amario market, and tickets are €10 at the door 30 mins before the show starts. And on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June, they will be at the Cultural Centre, Lagos. Tickets will probably be on sale there.



And so, to March announcements. For a start, I will be 75 by the end of the month which means that I have been organising **afpop** events for 24 years. With me branching out and doing daytrips, holidays – which can take a lot of time to sort and arrange – then the grape-treading and wine orders, I feel I would like to take things a bit easier due to my old age!

I don't want to stop completely but think I perhaps do too much for your entertainment so I am looking to see if anyone will volunteer to organise an occasional event during the following season. One kind lady has already arranged something for May 16<sup>th</sup> – which will be a walk/hike through beautiful countryside followed by a meal and there will be more details about that in the next newsletter. So, my question to you is, would you like to take a turn in sorting something and if so, please contact me so we can have a chat.

For my March event, we are returning to an old favourite that always gets fully booked – Alloro in Praia da Luz – on **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March**. The meal will be served at 1pm and the menu is Leek & Potato Soup, followed by your choice of Chicken Parmigiano OR Smoked Salmon Ravioli OR Vegetarian Lasagne, then Sicilian Lemon Mousse OR Fresh Fruit Platter plus half bottle wine, water and coffee and the price will be €21 (€23.50 for guests). Payment for this can be made in person to me or my letter box or straight into the Lagos events bank account:

Patricia Allen (PT50) 0045 7194 4030 1600 2393 9 Swift: CCCMPTPL

I take the money in advance and not on the day is because it can take a long time to gather it in, count it etc. I took money at the door at my first Christmas event, which took me an hour and half to get 100+ Members through the

door delaying the meal, seating, and my enjoyment of it so I like to do the accounting beforehand. I will occasionally take cash if people put the correct money in an envelope with their name on so that it goes straight into my bag and I can deal with it later but obviously I prefer to have it pre-paid.

And regarding meals – if you order meat, then meat is what you must have so please do not try and change it on the day. It was at Alloro a few years back that about 5 people saw the fish dish coming out and told the waiters that is what they had booked - instead of the meat dish they had originally asked for, which caused shortages, great embarrassment to the restaurant and a lot of extra work for the kitchens. So please, you must stick with what you tell me because that is what the restaurants prepare.

Also, booking with me is essential for all activities – do not just pay and turn up hoping for a place. I have to let venues know the numbers so if I haven't agreed that there is space for you, you are not included. Also, you must book before sending payment – paying does not reserve your seat – and if it is full then I have to say No. Anyway, enough nagging from me.

As we get nearer to the **Douro Cruise - April 14<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>** - there may well be last minute cancellations so if you may be interested, please contact me to put your name on the Reserve list.

**BEWARE:** A warning. There is now another 'contractor' who is conning people out of deposits working along the Algarve. Having been a victim myself, I have got details of these rogues so if you want to check if you are thinking of hiring a 'builder', let me know the name of the company and any details so I can confirm if it is one of them. The best advice I can give is to NOT pay in advance for supplies or services whatever tale you are told - a reputable builder would not ask for this.

Anyway, let me know your meal choices when you book for Alloro and please let me know if you wish to volunteer to arrange an activity.

Kind Regards,

**Pat Allen**

Your aged AEO for Lagos area – 75 is just a number – right?

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