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INTER COMM

CLUB INTERNACIONAL D'ANDORRA

NEWSLETTER/BUTLLETÍ INFORMATIU



VOL. 2 - Núm. 3 - SPRING / PRIMAVERA 1993

CLUB INTERNACIONAL D'ANDORRA

INFORMATION / INFORMATIU

PRESIDENT	:	Su Downham	35 4 72
VICE-PRESIDENTS	:	Desmond Allen	36 0 43
SECRETARY	:	Maria Carme Ardiaca	38 0 87
BOARD/JUNTA DIRECTIVA	:	Jacque Crozier	35 9 31
		Brian Dore (Treasurer)	42 8 49
		Pop Goldsteen	35 6 21
		Tony Hooper	36 1 54
		Ralph Husband	43 4 59
		Annegreta Nissen	36 4 97
		Peter Parkinson	35 3 94

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THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE THOSE OF THE EDITORS AND/OR THE CONTRIBUTORS. THEY DO NOT NECESSARILY EXPRESS THE VIEWS OF THE BOARD OF THE C.I.A.

LES OPINIONS EXPRESSADES PELS EDITORS EN AQUEST BUTLLETÍ INFORMATIU, O PELS LÍDERS DE GRUPS EN ELS SEUS INFORMES, NO SÓN NECESSÀRIAMENT LES DE LA JUNTA DEL C.I.A.

COVER PICTURE BY TONY GEE

Members are invited to submit seasonal photographs for use on the front covers of future issues.

■ Un Club per a gent de totes les nacionalitats que viuen al Principat. Actualment hi ha membres de 25 nacionalitats. En aquesta varietat de membres la llengua més comuna és l'anglès. L'objectiu principal del Club és reunir a gent en un esperit d'amistat i companyonia. El Club ofereix als membres l'oportunitat de conèixer-se socialment i/o a través de les diferents activitats que els Grups organitzen.

■ A Club for people of all nationalities living in the Principality. Membership now covers some 25 nationalities. With this diversity the major common language is English. The main aim of the Club is to bring people together in a spirit of friendship and comradeship. The Club offers members the opportunity to meet socially and/or through the many diverse activities to be found in the Groups.

■ Un Club pour personnes de toutes les nationalités qui habitent dans la Principauté. Actuellement il y a des membres de 25 nationalités différentes. Parmi cette variété de membres la langue la plus commune est l'anglais. L'objectif principal du Club est de réunir les personnes dans un esprit d'amitié et camaraderie. Le Club offre aux membres l'opportunité de se connaître socialement à travers des différentes activités que les Groupes organisent.

INTERCOMM

CLUB INTERNACIONAL D'ANDORRA

QUARTELY NEWSLETTER SPRING 1993

EDITORS: Jacquie Crozier and Tony Hooper

EDITORIAL

Llegiu aquesta revista quan la rebeu? Us agrada el contingut de cada trimestre? Responen al que s'ha escrit?

Òbviament no puc donar resposta a les dues primeres preguntes, sense conèixer la reacció dels lectors. Puc respondre a la darrera pregunta gràcies als pocs comentaris o a la manca total dels mateixos que rebem, o no rebem de vosaltres, els nostres lectors. Aquesta és la setena edició de la revista en el seu nou format. En aquest temps hem rebut potser, unes set cartes. Ens agradaria satisfer els vostres desigs però sense la vostra col·laboració això és impossible. Si torneu a mirar les sis edicions precedents, veureu que en diverses ocasions hem cercat la vostra opinió en unes quantes de les publicacions. En primer lloc us hem demanat què en penseu de la nostra publicació, però també hem volgut conèixer la vostra opinió sobre la continuïtat del nostre cafè matinal setmanal, sobre el tipus d'activitats que us agradaria que el Club organitzés en nom vostre, també us hem demanat que participéssiu en la revista (estem segurs que molts de vosaltres compteu amb experiències o informació que interessarien als membres del Club), recentment vam buscar fotografies estacionals per posar-les a la portada, i us hem demanat que poseu el llapis sobre el paper, encara que el que escrigueu sigui una queixa. Normalment el Editors i publicadors d'una revista poden aconseguir molta resposta gràcies al potencial de venda del seu producte. Nosaltres no venem aquesta revista. Es distribueix gratuïtament a tots els membres del Club. Només amb les vostres reaccions podrem realment calibrar el nostre èxit.

En aquest número trobareu detalls de la Reunió General Anual del Club. L'any passat només van assistir-hi 28 membres. El que es decideix en aquesta reunió us podria afectar a cadascú de vosaltres en el futur. Si us plau, feu tot el possible per assistir-hi i no tingueu por de venir preparats per expressar les vostres opinions. Només d'aquesta manera el Club podrà continuar essent una organització sana i viva.

Tony Hooper

EDITORIAL

Do you read this magazine when you receive it? Do you enjoy the contents each quarter? Do you respond to what is written?

Obviously I cannot answer the first two questions without some feedback from the readers. I can answer the last question since we receive little or no feedback from you, our readers. This is the seventh edition of the magazine in its new format. We have received perhaps seven letters in that time. We would like to respond to your wishes, but without your input that is impossible. If you refer back to the previous six issues you will find that we have, on various occasions sought your views on a number of issues. Primarily we have asked what do you think of our publication? But we have also sought your views on where should we hold our weekly coffee morning, what kind of activities would you like the Club to organise on your behalf, we have asked for your contributions to the magazine (we are sure that many of you have experiences or information which would interest members), we recently sought seasonal photographs for printing on the front cover, and we have asked for you to put pen to paper, even if what you write is in complaint. Normally the Editors and publishers of a magazine can obtain their major feed-back from the sales potential of their product. We do not sell this magazine. It is provided free to every member of the Club. Only by your responses to us can we really gauge our success, or otherwise.

In this issue you will find details of the Annual General Meeting of the Club. Last year only 28 members attended the A.G.M. What is decided at this meeting could affect each of you in the future. Please make every effort to attend, and do not be frightened to come along prepared to express your opinions. Only in this way can the Club continue to be a healthy, living organisation.

Tony Hooper

NEWS FROM THE BOARD Annual General Meeting

You are invited to the Annual General Meeting which will take place at Hotel Paris-Londres

on 29th March 1993

The Agenda will be

Arrivals	19,00
Start of Proceedings	19,30
President's Opening Address	
Minutes of last A.G.M.	
1992 Accounts & 1993 Budget	
Report on Groups & Intercomm	
Activity Programme 1993	
Any Other Business	
Approval of New Statutes	

Copies of the New Statutes will be available at Wednesday coffee meetings & from members of the Board

NOTÍCIES DE LA JUNTA L'Assamblea General Ordinària

Em plau convocar-vos a l'Assamblea General Anyal que tindrà lloc al Hotel Paris-Londres

el dia 29 de març de 1993

L'Ordre del dia

1a. Convocatòria	19,00
2a. Convocatòria	19,30
La Presidenta obre la sessió	
Actes de l'Assamblea General 1992	
Comptes 1992 i Pressupost 1993	
Informe dels grups i Intercomm	
Programa d'Activitats 1993	
Preguntes i Respostes	
Nous Estatuts	

Es podran obtenir còpies dels nous estatuts a les reunions del cafè dels dimecres i a través dels membres de la Junta.

International Club of Andorra

ACCOUNTS 1992

	General	Intercomm
Balance 1/1/92	531062	74760
INCOME		
Subscriptions	535000	
Advertisement		359700
Loan - Cookery Group	14232	
Interest	32527	
Sundry Income	2050	
Refund of Grant Social group	20000	
	<u>1134871</u>	<u>434460</u>

EXPENSES

Grants to groups		
Art	90000	
Languages	20000	
Naturalist	5000	
Translations	8975	48360
Printing		255000
Stationery	9955	23405
AGM Cost	38925	
Prizes		2000
Photocopies	70750	
	<u>243605</u>	<u>328765</u>
Balance 31/12/92	891266	105695
	<u>1134871</u>	<u>434460</u>

Club Internacional d'Andorra

COMPTE 1992

	General	Intercomm
Saldo 1/1/92	531062	74760
INGRESSOS		
Subscripcions	535000	
Publicitat		359700
Préstec grup de cuina	14232	
Interès	32527	
Varis	2050	
Reemborsament subvenció	20000	
	<u>1134871</u>	<u>434460</u>

DESPESES

Necessitats dels Grups		
Art	90000	
Idiomes	20000	
Naturalistes	5000	
Traduccions	8975	48360
Impremta		255000
Paper	9955	23405
Assamblea despeses	38925	
Preus		2000
Fotocòpies	70750	
	<u>243605</u>	<u>328765</u>
Balanç 31/12/92	891266	105695
	<u>1134871</u>	<u>434460</u>

International Club of Andorra

BUDGET 1993

Balance 1/1/93	891266
INCOME	
Subscriptions	500000
Sundry Income	30000
	<u>1421266</u>

EXPENDITURE

Printing, Stationery etc	100000
Translations	50000
Secretarial Expenses	50000
AGM Costs	50000
Intercomm	100000
Modification of Statutes	70000
Contingencies	100000
	<u>520000</u>

Balance 31/12/93	901266
	<u>1421266</u>

Club Internacional d'Andorra

PRESSUPOST1993

Balanç 1/1/93	891266
INGRESSOS	
Subscripcions	500000
Varis	30000
	<u>1421266</u>

DESPESES

Impremta, paper etc	100000
Traduccions	50000
Secretària	50000
Assemblea	50000
Intercomm	100000
Modificacions d'Estatuts	70000
Varis i Imprevistos	100000
	<u>520000</u>

Balanç 31/12/93	901266
	<u>1421266</u>



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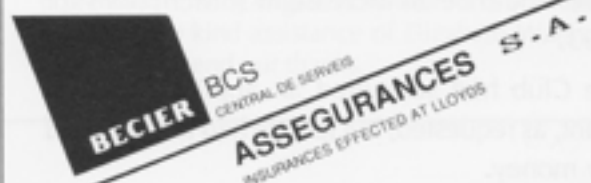
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SANTA COLOMA (Principat d'Andorra)

Attendance record at meetings of Board members

Number of meetings held from August 1992 - February 1993 = 7

Attendance:

7. - T. Hooper
6. - J. Crozier, B. More, P. Goldsteen, R. Husband
5. - P. Parkinson
4. - D. Allen
3. - A. Nissen
2. - R. Kroos
1. - M. Kroos

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Club held on 24th June 1992 at the Hotel Roc Blanc, Escaldes at 7.30 p.m.

The President, Su Downham, opened the meeting and welcomed those present. Apologies for absence were received from Sarah Downham, M. Carme Ardiaca and Pop Goldsteen. Aminda Saludes had resigned as vice-president.

The minutes of the last A.G.M. were read and approved.

The Treasurer, Brian Dore, made his report; commenting that in spite of the reduction in income caused by the introduction of a family membership and altering the renewal date for subscriptions, the Club's finances were still on a sound basis due to the action taken by the Board to reduce expenditure. He did not anticipate that there would be an increase in subscriptions for 1993.

The Club had submitted an application for a Grant, as requested, but to date had not received any money.

After some discussion on the subject of grants, it was agreed by the majority of those present that the Club should not apply for a Grant from the Andorran Government but that if the Government proposed to give the Club a Grant, it should be accepted.

Tony Hooper then reported on Group Activities

and the Newsletter. He outlined the current state of the groups, which mainly showed a declining membership and explained how the cost of the English classes had been reduced. The cost of the Newsletter had been met by advertising revenue and the Editors would welcome assistance in obtaining advertising, as the costs of each issue is about 100.000 Pts. or 285 pts. per copy.

There followed some discussion over the cost of the English Classes but it was agreed that the present arrangement is satisfactory

Desmond Allen reported that there had been a considerable increase in the Social Activities, which showed a small surplus at the moment, although the AGM's dinner was running at a loss. He commented on some of the highlights of the year and outlined the future programme, adding a plea for more organisers for some events.

There being no further business, the elections to replace vacancies on the Board were held, as follows:

Mini Kroos, Peter Parkinson and Annegrite Neilson were elected to the Board, and Robert Kroos was elected as a Vice-President.

There were no further nominations.

Doreen Woolton expressed the Member's very grateful thanks to the President and Board.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

International Singers

At the A.G.M. of the International Singers it was decided to divide into two groups for better rehearsal conditions. The men will have Rene de Knight as music advisor while the women will continue with Ken Law as pianist and Sheila Hooper as our ever-patient conductor. The two groups will get together in future to give concerts and to revive the Festival of Christmas Music in Ordino.

The Women's group is very happy to see its numbers growing once again and will give a warm welcome to anyone else who would care to join. We are still hoping to find a permanent musical director who has

some formal musical background preferably, but by no means essentially, in singing. If anyone is the least bit interested do please ring me for a chat. We continue to meet every Tuesday between 6 and 8 pm and, once a week, those that wish to also take singing lessons with Teresa Vidal.

We plan to sing a mixture of traditional melodies, Spirituals and extracts from well-loved musicals.

The Men's group intend to concentrate on Gospel and Barber shop music.

Anyone interested in joining either group should contact Hans or Clare.

Group leaders:

Hans Kiar 36892

Clare Allcard 36269

Teatre Internacional d'Andorra

The Drama Group were very pleased with the reception of their production of "Music Hall" last December. There was a good audience for each performance who obviously enjoyed themselves, and this indicates that the formula is one that will bear repetition.

The group held it's A.G.M. in January when the Executive Committee was re-elected. Plans for the future were discussed at great length. However the cry from the Group continues to be for more people to come forward to help in putting on the productions. In order to try and encourage those who might be interested but not sure of what involvement would or could entail, the Group are planning to run a series of WORKSHOPS where the professionals such as Ron Richards and Rene de Knight can help people to understand theatre better, and, if people want, to improve techniques. Even if you will not want to join the Group after attending a Workshop, you will have the opportunity of increasing your knowledge of the workings of Theatre which will enable you to gain more enjoyment from the productions.

Although specific dates have yet to be decided, the Group plans to present two shows during 1993 - a play in early May, and another musical show in December.

If you are interested in obtaining more information about the proposed Workshop please contact Ron on 35 5 86 or Rene on 35 6 27

Tony Hooper, Group Leader.

Stop Press:

The Group will be presenting "The Importance of being Earnest".

This is planned for May 7th, 8th & 9th

Watch out for advertising in April

Scottish Dancing Report

Interest in the group has continued to grow. Each session is attended by twenty to thirty members and total membership comprises ten different nationalities. Therefore, persons who are not Scottish should not hesitate to join us.

There was a special event on 8th November, attended by forty member, when we enjoyed the musical accompaniment of an highly accomplished Scottish piper from Britain, Angus McAllister. This was arranged with the kind assistance of Elizabeth Wallis, to whom we extend our thanks.

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John Gill has been persuaded to undertake the arduous task of dance instruction, in which he is greatly experienced. His competence, encouragement and great patience are greatly appreciated. His participation gives Clare Allcard a well-deserved respite from instructing- and, we hope, the opportunity to restore her voice.

We meet each Sunday 4.30 - 6.30 p.m. at the Sala de Comú, in La Massana (which is opposite the Parc Infantil).

Marjorie Temple, Group Leader

Languages

At last we have a teacher for Spanish! Josefina Martinez will commence classes as soon as possible. All classes will have a maximum of 4 students, and will be at Beginners and Advanced levels. Josefina is offering two one hour lessons (at each level) per week, at a cost of 4.000 pts. per month i.e. 8 hours. With small classes there will be a total of 16 places available (2 classes x 4 for Beginners and the same for Advanced students).

If you wish to join please ring Josefina on 23 5 99 as soon as possible.

Class times will be:

Advanced Group 1 - Mon. & Thur. 4.30 - 5.30

Advanced Group 2 - Tues. & Fri. 4.30 - 5.30

Beginners Group 1 - Mon. & Thur. 3.30 - 4.30

Beginners Group 2 - Tues. & Fri. 3.30 - 4.30

Tony Hooper, Group Leader.

Exhibition

Nina (Nighat) O'Brien, our "Professora" of art, plans her first exhibition of paintings in Andorra at the "LLAHI GALERIA D'ART", Carrer de l'Obach, Escaldes-Engordany.

The opening will be on Friday 2nd. April at 8 p.m. (20h00) and the exhibition runs until 29th. April. All members of the Club and friends are cordially invited to the opening.

The opening hours of the Galeria are 10.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Sundays.

Art Group

The Group continues to flourish with members participating in the Christmas Card Competition in La Massana. The work of Val Cruickshank was selected for the Andorran contingent which competed in Barcelona in an Olympic Competition. The Andorran entries were subsequently exhibited in Encamp.

Every Year at the "Mostra d'Art", where works of artists from all over Andorra are exhibited, several works are selected by eminent art critics for special mention on behalf of the Govern d'Andorra. This year we are pleased to be able to tell you that Nina O'Brien's work "Voyage to Jerusalem" was one of the "Top Ten" selected.

Our congratulations to Nina.

As you can see by the information above (Exhibition) Nina will be exhibiting her work at Llahi's Galeria in April and we hope that you will all come.

To conclude - since in the studio we are limited in subject matter to paint or draw from, we would like to ask if anyone has photographic magazines on any theme e.g. travel, scenery, figures, magazines such as the National Geographic, which they may be thinking of "clearing out". The group would be pleased to have them. Just telephone any member or the Group Leader and we will arrange to collect.

Barbara Melville, Group Leader.

Petanca / Boules / Botxes

In the last issue I asked if anyone was interested in playing Petanca. I was pleased that there was some response, and by the time you read this we should be meeting to play every Thursday afternoon in the Parc Central, Andorra la Vella. If anyone would like to join us please ring me on 36 1 54.

Tony Hooper.



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Recent Functions

On New Year's Eve eleven members and two guests joined the party organised by the Hostal Poblado, Arinsal. In total there were some 100 people present, divided by area on the single table into our group, a large French contingent, Spanish and Andorrans. This seemed to work very well and the various nationalities certainly mixed well. All our members enjoyed the evening (or should I say night!) The disappointment was that after enquiries from a number of members about the Club organising an event for New Year, and much effort to obtain 30 places at the party for

members, there was such a poor response. Still those who went have all asked for a repeat in 1993. Perhaps we will enjoy a bit more support next time.

The first social event of the year was held at the Topic Restaurant in Ordino on January 21 st. Excellently organised by Pop Goldsteen, over 40 members enjoyed a very good buffet meal, with many having the energy for an excursion to the dance floor after dinner. By the time this is in print the second event will have been held, a Luncheon at Can Pere, Anyos, on February 12 th. With 30 places available, we hope that a full house enjoys this event.



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ST GEORGE'S, the English Speaking Church Diary Dates

Wednesday, 7 April, 1993

Easter Service with Holy Communion will be held at the La Massana Church at 11.00 a.m. to be followed by a social gathering. All are warmly invited to attend.

Saturdays

"Meet & Greet" coffee mornings are held at the Hotel Font, La Massana on the last Saturday of each month from 10.30 a.m. Come and meet old and new friends!

Saturdays

Junior Church (4 to 11 year olds) meets at the Biblioteca, La Massana (next to the Parish Hall) from 11.00 a.m. to 12 noon. For further information phone: 37 9 95

Letters to the Editors

Dear Sir,

My dear husband died 7/01/93 in the Clinica Sta Coloma after suffering a massive stroke 19/11/92..

So often in this life we are quick to criticize and not always ready to be grateful for services rendered and kindness shown. I want to express my gratitude for the excellent technical care, nursing and express my gratitude for the excellent technical care, nursing and comfort he received whilst in the Clinica.

My grateful thanks go first to Dra. Julia Illescas, who has cared for Bernard's health since 1987, Dr. Crespo the duty doctor who received him after the stroke, Dr. Latorre for his constant vigilance and efforts throughout the seven weeks of his hospitalization. To each and everyone of the nurses and student nurses on the third floor for their care and devotion to duty, always smiling, always willing, and always working.

To Pere Canada for his kindness and consideration when arranging the Funeral Service.

To you all, from myself and on behalf of my dear late husband, thank you.

Doreen Woolton.

Dear Sir / Madam,

The above letter was printed January 13 in the daily Informacions. I would like, through Intercomm, to express my gratitude to the members of the Club and my many friends here in Andorra for their support throughout this very difficult time. To the many people who left messages of comfort on my answerphone, who sent cards and letters, who were with me as Bernard was buried, from the bottom of my heart, I thank you.

At my request there were only family flowers, but as so many of you wanted to send flowers, a flower fund was started for St. Georges, the English speaking church here in Andorra.


As many of you are aware, the church is always decorated for the services held in La Massana and thanks to friends and family both here and in the U.K. there is now a sum of money for this purpose.


To you all, from myself and on behalf of my dear Bernard, thank you.


Doreen Woolton

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Moving to "tranquil" Andorra

By Mari De Knight

If you've been in Andorra any length of time at all you've probably heard one of the locals say something like, "Ah, Andorra, es muy tranquilo, verdad?" to explain why foreigners move here. I always smile a bit. Tranquil has never been a word that comes to my mind when I'm inching along in traffic or jostling throngs of tourists in Andorra la Vella. However, once out of the Sant Antoni tunnel heading toward Ordino and the snow capped peaks ahead on a bright sunny day, a bit of euphoria does tend to take over sometimes, even now, and that's what happened to me and to my husband, René, when we first visited here in 1986.

It was summertime, with the countryside lush and green and dotted with flowers. The chaos and gridlock of Andorra la Vella in August faded from our minds as new-found friends showed us the mountains, meadows, ski resorts and rustic villages of Andorra.

We were entranced; it was all so wonderfully different from the smoggy air and high-rise buildings of Los Angeles. At the end of five days we'd opened a bank account, taken an option to buy an apartment, and decided to move here. My family was certain I'd gone mad. But we were looking for a kind of tranquility, a slower pace, a gentler way of life, and Andorra looked like the place to find it.

When we finally left for our "Paradise in the Pyrenees" though, the trip was an incredible ordeal,

and our first week here was anything but tranquil. It took us nearly a year to wind up our affairs in the U.S. By the time we'd finally gotten all our furnishings and most of our personal belongings started on their way here by ocean freighter and bought our plane tickets, it was the first week of October in 1987. And that week Los Angeles had a major earthquake that shook us to the point where we wondered if our rented flat would stand. We felt relieved to be getting out before the whole town crumbled in a heap. We'd set the alarm clock for 4.30 a.m. the morning of our departure. At 4 a.m. we were rocked by a 5.5 or so aftershock that sent us staggering off our mattress on the floor (the only remaining furnishing) and to the nearest doorways to protect ourselves.

As I stood braced against the shaking a fearful little thought flitted through my mind "Lordy, maybe we've waited too long to leave this place".

Thoroughly awake and adrenalin pumping, we were ready ahead of time when a friend picked us up to go to the airport, lugging some \$230 worth of excess luggage, all the many things we'd forgotten to ship ahead. Our TWA flight left on time and after 5 1/2 or 6 hours arrived in New York on schedule. But then our real problems started. Printed on the airport information board next to the number for our connecting flight to Lisbon then Barcelona was the word "cancelled". More specific information seemed unavailable. All we could find out was that there was "bad weather" in Barcelona. How bad could it be, we wondered. My limited knowledge of

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Barcelona was that it was in "sunny Spain". Only after many restless hours of airport waiting did we learn that there had been 12 inches of rain that day in "sunny" Barcelona, flooding, and a mini-hurricane that knocked out the control tower.

After 7 hours in New York we were finally put on an alternate flight and dropped off in Madrid to catch a flight on Iberia whenever one left for Barcelona. Our luggage, which was to have gone straight through on TWA, now had to be handled by us. Those bulky boxes of bedding, lampshades and the like were now a major inconvenience that became harder to deal with as we became tired and tired.

Once in Madrid we were told even less than in New York (admittedly our ineptness in Spanish made explanations particularly difficult). No one seemed to know anything, or if they did they weren't telling the many groups of confused passengers milling around, then intermittently scurrying off to check with some reputed information source, always getting a different version of the situation.

We were stuck in the Madrid airport from 9 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. with no breakfast and no lunch after a trans-continental flight in the U.S., 7 hours in New York, then our inter-continental flight to Madrid. I was falling asleep standing up or sitting even on the marble floor of the airport terminal with my head against our luggage. René was exhausted but still managing to say upright.

We finally got on the first flight allowed out to Barcelona. After arriving about 7.30 p.m., with dogged determination we collected what luggage had made it there with us (the lampshades arrived days later in Andorra), rented a car and headed for Andorra. Our rental car was small, though, with not enough room for René's long legs. About an hour out of town his tired leg muscles cramped and we stopped at the only hotel in miles, the "Bruc". We were cold and hungry. Naively thinking in U.S. terms, we expected food and warmth. Wrong! By now it was too late to get anything but a cold croissant and some tea, and the first week in October was too

early in the season for the hotel to have its heating system on. A hot bath would have warmed us up, but the water was barely tepid, who knows why! We skipped the bath and crawled into bed, huddling under my fur coats for warmth, and slept until late the next morning. When we finally arrived in Andorra we evidently came in at the beginning of a 4 day Spanish fiesta, with the resulting traffic and congestion making applications for papers, banking, etc. a slow proposition.

The first night in our new apartment the special air mattress we were sleeping on until our furniture arrived sprung a leak and left us flat and, after repair, did the same thing the second night. The building heating was not on yet (a big surprise to us, still thinking American). We spent the first couple of nights under my fur coats again, then bought a new mattress and a couple of electric heaters and carried on.

Four days after our arrival in Andorra, and 15 minutes after returning from a trip to La Massana in our rental car to make a phone call, the mountainside at the point of the rock quarry between La Massana and Escaldes-Engordany where we lived fell down with a thunderous roar. Back in our apartment, we were shocked by the sound, and not understanding what had happened, could only mutter to each other, "It can't be another earthquake. They don't have earthquakes in Andorra".

The next morning we learned the extent of the disaster and realized how close we'd been to being part of it. The road between Escaldes and La Massana remained closed for a month.

From earthquakes to a flood and mini-hurricane to an avalanche of earth and stone, all within a week's time we'd had a traumatic entry into Andorra. There really is no safe place on this planet, I guess. But looking at the rest of the world, especially the U.S., Andorra looks pretty good, no muggings, violent crime, war, or lethal weather patterns. We've been content here for more than five years now, content and, yes, almost tranquil. Now, let's see what the next five years will bring.

POETRY PAGE

Once again we are printing a poem from the collection written by Elise Kellett. This collection was written as a poetic diary of her thoughts and impressions, influenced by her life and travel within Saudi Arabia over a period of eight years.

DANCE OF THE DESERT MORNING

Silver moonlight ends her dance of darkness
Ripling the palms in pools of light,
Dipping her graceful curtsy to the morning,
Bowing her silvery head, she flees the night.

Desert morning heralds in the dawning,
Spreads her dappled cloak before the dunes,
Golden satin spreading out before her
Where earlier the voice of moonlight crooned.

Sparkling ripples play across the water,
Yellow diamonds crown the silvery sea.
The cormorant dives, salutes the golden morning
And leaves the world to nature and to me.

The pale trees bend their fronds in exultation,
As nature's dance of hours is almost done.
The orange sun bows low in salutation
The desert mornings dance has now begun.

The pas de deux of night and day together,
Would dance a ballet perfect to behold,
So sad these artists cannot dance together
And name the dance of silver and gold.



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A CRY FOR HELP!

On the afternoon of 30 th. December a fire broke out in the basement of a hotel in Soldeu. Smoke soon billowed throughout the hotel. On the 3rd. floor there were three young ladies, here in Andorra to enjoy a ski-ing holiday. Conditions became so bad that their only way to escape was to jump from the window. With the slope of the ground at the rear of the hotel this meant a leap of 20 metres, a leap which could only result in serious injury. All three were soon in intensive care in Santa Coloma Hospital.

Members of the Club became involved by accident. The girls were all South African, although they were all living in England. The father of one flew over from Durban and was heard discussing his problems by a taxi driver, who put him in touch with the only South African he knew of in this country, Jill Rawdon. The major problem at that moment was that his daughter, now discharged from hospital with a broken leg and arm, was a virtual prisoner in an apartment in Encamp. Could we find a wheelchair? I was approached, and with the help of several members, located

one and delivered it to the young lady.

Now we heard of some of the other problems. The other two girls were still in hospital, and whilst the care there was excellent, they were feeling very isolated, both by language and by lack of visitors. Soon a number of willing helpers were making sure that as much help as possible was being given. When it was realised that both girls were suffering from extreme nightmares, a rota of ladies stayed with them overnight to soothe their fears, and be immediately available. Thanks for this service must go to Jill, Dinah Baxter, Sonia Hunter, Monica Henue and Sheila Hooper. I hope that an accident of this severity will not occur again in the near future, but this case illustrates that we in the Club can play a valuable part in such a situation with our knowledge, expertise, or just our time. I have approached the Board and with their blessing intend to let the representatives of the tour operators know that, in a real emergency situation, we are ready to come forward. I am sure that I will be supported by all Club Members.

Tony Hooper

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SPORT IN ANDORRA

I am constantly amazed when talking to fellow members how little most of them know about the sporting life of Andorra. There can be very few areas of a comparable size to Andorra which can offer so much sport of a high quality.

Before writing about the actual sports which can be enjoyed in the country, I think that a few words about the available facilities might open a few eyes. I have been involved in sport at all levels throughout my life, yet I have never lived in a place where so many top class facilities are available in such a small area. This is partly because of the Parish set-up in the country, with each Parish not wanting to be left behind in the provision of facilities. Only in the recent past have facilities been built by the Government, and some of these were constructed to accommodate the 1991 Games for the Small States of Europe. The two best known of the facilities built for that event are the Olympic swimming pool, well worth a visit, and the Shooting Range at Rabassa, said to be the best in Europe.

What about the actual sports that are played? If your only interest is as a spectator you have plenty of top-class sport to choose from. In basketball Festina Andorra are playing their first season in the Spanish 1st. division, a division which includes such well known teams as Real Madrid, F.C. Barcelona and Joventut Badalona, all teams which are known to the basketball enthusiast throughout the world. Volleyball is another major sport here with the Andorra team playing in the Spanish 1st. division, and qualifying last season to play in the European Cup.

The local football team plays in the Catalan League, whilst the Indoor Football Team from La Massana plays in the Spanish 1st. division. For rugby fans there are several teams in the country with the Andorra club playing in the French championship. In addition there are regular international games, including the staging of one of the preliminary rounds of the Rugby World Cup this season.

In addition to these regular sporting meetings, the country has many occasions played host to European and World event. One of the most recent was the staging of the World Cup, Group B, in Roller Hockey. Canillo Ice Rink has presented top class Ice Galas and indoor Motor Cross! The secret is to keep your eyes open for adverts for these events since as seems to be usual here the announcements are only made at the last minute.

What about sport at grass-roots level? This would seem to exist in all the sports that I have mentioned, but I can speak from personal experience about basketball. Although there has been some changes this year since Festina Andorra gained entry to the 1st. division, and more spectator accommodation had to

be provided at the Andorra Sports Hall, thereby restricting the available space to one court, instead of the three which were fully occupied by junior teams for five hours every Saturday, there is still a very large number of youngsters competing each week. Last season when we were all in the same venue I would regularly see 250 children playing. This still continues but in several venues. At the start of February a new Catalan Cadet League started with four teams from Andorra competing. As one of the two Andorran referees appointed to this league I am looking forward to some interesting encounters.

Tony Hooper.

"COME QUICK! DON'T MOVE! I'VE LOST A LENS!"

by
Clare Allcard

You may think that investing in contact lenses is a simple transaction enabling a vain person to get from one end of a room to the other without tripping over the dog. Not a bit of it. Ask anyone with lenses and they will tell you that they are the open sesame to both drama and comradery.

One friend dropped a lens on a cruise ship. To help bewildered well-wishers in their search, she removed the other to show them what to look for. A mistake. The breeze promptly blew it overboard.

I, myself, started grappling with contact lenses in my teens. By the time I was twenty I had lost one pair diving wide-eyed into a municipal swimming pool, and yet another when my landlady, for some inscrutable reason, decided that the heart-shaped porcelain dish of water in which I kept them was for false teeth. In a rare moment of housewifely zeal, she flushed both water and lenses down the lavatory. How she came to imagine that someone would actually pay to have teeth like mine was never revealed.

Not all lens dramas end in disaster. Take the time when I was returning from a public firework display in Auckland, New Zealand. Thousands of people, plus their hobnailed boots, were tramping past when my lens fell out, right next to a

parked car. It did seem a trifle unfair that, just as I knelt to rummage for it, the automobile's owner returned looking distinctly paranoid.

I rushed to explain. It was quite simple really; all I was doing was searching a black road on a moonless night for a transparent piece of plastic the size of my little finger nail. He understood at once; produced a torch and to my utter amazement we found it, winking up at us half an inch from his rear wheel.

My most embarrassing adventure, however, took place when I was eighteen. Living in London, I was enjoying my first taste of independent city life. On that particular evening I had a date and so was dressed to kill in a startling creation in pink of which I was inordinately proud.

At Oxford Circus underground the rush hour was in full swing. I had almost reached the ticket counter when my right lens fell out. Panic-stricken, I crouched amongst the tired shoes and discarded sweet papers. A few commuters became restive as I fumbled around their feet but, being British, they tried valiantly to pretend that my behaviour was quite normal. I couldn't find the lens.

What I needed was a brush... and the Ladies' lavatory must have one. There, sure enough, stood a long-handled broom. The problem was to persuade its custodian to set it free.

"No! I'm sorry! My broom does not leave these premises!"

"Oh but PLEASE can't you help! I've lost a

contact lens! It cost a fortune! My parents will be furious! It's right by the ticket office. Any minute someone will tread on it".

For a moment she looked me over with world-weary eyes, then relented. Not completely mark you. She went to the Men's lavatory and took their's.

Clutching the broom, and with my Angel of Mercy in close attendance, I marched towards the crowded booking hall and its interminable rush-hour queues.

Only when I caught curious glances cast in our direction did it dawn on me how very peculiar I must look: teetering on high heels, swathed in slinky pink and brandishing a broom.

To this day I recall with shame how quickly I caved in to my most cowardly instincts. Squinting sideways at my saviour I said "The trouble is... with only one lens... I can't see the floor".

I need not have worried. She knew just what I meant.

"It's alright, Luv. I'll sweep".

She then turned to the crowd, a woman whose time had come. Rescued from the anonymity of the Ladies toilets she was, for one glorious moment, in control of a considerable part of London's busiest subway station. She needed no megaphone as her voice rang out.

"One moment Ladies and Gentlemen! This lady's lost 'er contact' lens!" With that she held up the whole queue, making those nearest the ticket

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booth move to one side. While she swept up the litter I squatted over it, as puce as my dress, poking warily with one impeccably painted finger nail. Then, just as I thought neither my knees nor my teenage sensibilities could stand the strain another moment, I saw it; squigged between a stubbed-out cigarette butt and a piece of chewed gum, my precious, most beloved contact lens.

Lenses not only add zest to life, they can also bring new friendship. I was in Singapore, riding in a hotel lift, when my attention was arrested by the woman opposite me. She was a slim and pretty blonde. But it was her eyes which were riveting. They were the most glorious shade of Violet.

Much moved, I blurted out "What fantastic coloured eyes you've got!" The other occupants stared straight ahead, shocked rigid by such casual socializing, but the woman in question chuckled.

"They're contact lenses".

Naturally the next time I visited my specialist in London I, too, wanted fantastic violet eyes.

"Oh no Madam! Violet would not suit Madam, not at all!"

Madam insited. After all I was slim and my hair was almost blonde. And what did he know about it anyway? To humour me he put them in. It needed but a glance in the mirror to realize that, actually, he knew quite a lot. Blazing violet eyes stared back at me like some monster from a horror movie. Indeed I gave myself a nasty fright

and have stuck to plain blue eyes ever since.

With more experience I now have fewer mishaps though recently the cat walked past just as I dropped a lens and I watched aghast as that tiny glint of glass carried off on his fur.

There was a time when I envied people with perfect sight. Now I'm not so sure. How dull life must be for those poor souls who can never conjure up a little chaos, never give a small shriek in a crowded foyer, cry "Come quick! Don't move! I've lost a lens!" and in a matter of minutes have a band of friendly strangers groping around on the floor searching for something they quite possibly have never seen: that tiny plastic miracle, a contact lens.

An Animal Family

I was brought up with lots of animals. We lived with my grand-father who bred Pembroke-shire Corgis (docked tails) as a hobby. So there were always plenty of puppies around the place (He had two breeding bitches) He was a well-known breeder and even exported one or two to the States. One of his puppies even ended up at Buckingham Palace!

Our first pet came to us just two weeks after we got married. Tony wasn't very fond of cats, but I foolishly mentioned at school one day that I liked cats and lo and behold the next day one of the girls in my class brought me a tiny black and white, female (a fact we discovered later) kitten, barely able to feed herself. I fell in love with her and took her home. We named her Blackie, not very original but suitable! That cat did everything

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with us, went long walks in Derbyshire and later, after a move, in Shropshire, train journeys down to Wales, and became a "ships cat" on our canal cruiser. One thing that she hated was crossing water, so over streams we had to carry her! She had a wonderful built-in clock. We lived at the end of a country lane and didn't own a car, so if we went out for the evening Blackie would follow us up the lane until we came near other habitations. Invariably when we returned she would be waiting at the spot where we had last seen her, some four hours before. This concerned us until we learnt that she always spent the evening in front of our neighbour's fire. Then at 10.15 she would arise, ask to go out, and be in position to meet us off the last bus! As in all families they were interested in hearing "good news", but when we had not produced any offspring in the first few years the cry was, "Haven't they got children yet?". My mother-in-law's answer was always, "No! But they have a cat that nearly talks" We were to have Blackie for eighteen years.

Blackie was eight when we had our first dog. We decided to give a stray a home and went to the Blue Cross Kennels in Harpenden, to look at a Labrador. This animal proved to be just slightly smaller than a donkey, so we came home with a Border Collie / Corgi. He looked like a tan and white Collie when he was lying down, but when he arose his short legs only lifted him as high as a Corgi. A curious mixture. He was once mistaken for a St. Bernard puppy! He had an inferiority complex, and always liked to fight with bigger dogs. He was also a wanderer, but loved being brought back home in the car. We lost him once in Birmingham whilst canal cruising. Tony collected him two days later from the Dog's Home where he was sharing an enclosure with eight

very large German Shepherds. We thought that the experience might cure his fighting habits, but I am afraid that we were mistaken. He was never injured in his bouts because he had a very thick coat. We always told people that he was an E.S.N. (Educationally Sub-Normal) dog. This went well with his owner being Deputy Head of an E.S.N. school at the time.

Our next acquisitions came when farmer friends left to emigrate to New Zealand. They owned an old Collie and a younger cross-bred dog. So rather than having them put down we agreed to have them—we also acquired at the same time six Muscovy Ducks, six Khaki Cambells, a bantam cockerel, and a pony—but that is another story! Old Floss lived with us for two and a half years until she died at sixteen. The young dog decided that the grass was greener elsewhere and departed, never to be seen again although we searched hard. Actually some two years later we did see him with another "owner", but he appeared to be happy so we did not even approach the lady.

By now Blackie, the cat, had died. "No more cats" said Tony. "We'll never have one to live up to Blackie". So for two years we only had the dog, Micky. Then we went camping in North Wales on a farm, where they had a little black and white female kitten, which the farmer gave to the children. "She will have a better home with you". Tony was adamant, but as the holiday progressed Siân and Gareth had worn down their father's resistance, and Sian joined the family. At the time we lived in the country at a school which had a farm unit. We also had a house in a nearby town where we spent our weekends. Siân, true to her heritage, was a "farm cat" during the week at school, and a "house cat" at weekends. On Fridays Siân was told to be in by

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lunch time as we would be going down to the house. Amazingly she was always there, except for those occasions when I had forgotten to remind her. Another cat with a built-in clock. If I had not experienced it myself I would have found it hard to believe.

We were happy for some four years with one dog and one cat. Unfortunately Siân was killed just a couple of months before Siâron was due to sit her "0" levels. Whilst we were all upset, Siâron was heart-broken. Every effort was made to find another black and white female kitten. This proved to be very difficult, but finally we were successful, although we had to wait eight weeks for her to be weaned. The weekend before we were due to collect her we went to an International Wheelchair Basketball Tournament at Kirby near Liverpool. Tony was refereeing whilst I and Siâron were Table Officiating. Kirby is a terrible place, and the entry to the Sports Centre was like that to a prison. There was a Security Guard, with large dog, on the Car Park. Without him one was likely to lose every "loose" part of one's car, including the wheels. All weekend a lovely dog was wandering around. He was completely white except for tan ears, and obviously a Collie X. After enquiries we discovered that he had been around for two or three weeks with no one

claiming him. The next stop would be the Police pound and then...! We spoke to the police who were very happy to see us take him home. So we had acquired Sion, a dog who had been beautifully behaved all weekend, but was to be an "aboriginal" dog for the rest of his stay. "Aboriginal"? Well he loved "going walk-about", although he always returned, sometimes after several hours, sometimes after several days. Now we had acquired a dog and a new kitten within two days. They became great friends, but Sooty, the cat, was always boss.

We still had these two when we first came to Andorra, but felt that it would be unfair to bring them here to be confined to an apartment. Sooty lives very happily with Siâron in Lincolnshire and is now 13 years old. Sion, unfortunately, went for one "walk-about" too many in Nottingham, where he was living with Gareth.

Living in Andorra in an apartment we decided to have no more pets, but as many of you know we have succumbed again. Still strays, one dog, Taffy, found abandoned in La Massana, and a gorgeous Siamese cat, Pushkah, who found us! We think that she was fed up with producing off-spring and ran away. They are delightful together and devoted to each other. So now we are a happy animal family again.

Sheila Hooper



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Gascony starts south of the river Garonne and due west of the city of Toulouse. The climate is warm and dry and the countryside open and rolling. Bastide villages and hamlets hold the high ground giving immense views - often to the Pyrenees shimmering on the southern skyline. Perhaps more importantly, the Gers has avoided the weight of foreign ownership and tourism which is now a feature of discovered France. Here the sense is much more "la France profonde". As a consequence, the cost of living is low and eating out remains delightfully good value.

The Gers benefits from the same high standard of infrastructure that exists throughout France; excellent rail and air travel and impeccable telecommunications. City-life too is near when needed; the elegance of Auch and Pau, the bustle of Tarbes and the history and culture of Toulouse and Bordeaux.

In summary, the appeal of Gascony is simple; the people the climate and the feeling of space. In addition, history has endowed the region with a rich

FRANCE

INTRODUCING THE GERS

The Heart of Ancient Gascony



heritage of fine architecture and parkland. The attraction to own a property in France is seldom a matter of capital appreciation or investment return, although both are increasingly valid rationales. To own a home in France is much more an affair of the heart. And when the heart is touched by an entrancing old doorway, the magic of noble old beams or mellow "vieilles pierres", a new affair has already begun.

AUCH, ELEGANT CAPITAL OF THE GERS

West of Toulouse by 77 kms, Auch (pronounced "osh") is a classic French provincial town, also by tradition the capital of Gascony. Its population of just 25,000 are proud guardians of a remarkably well preserved heritage.

The wealth of architecture from the middle ages and 18th century give Auch its feeling of elegance and intimacy. The 15th century cathedral and prefecture buildings, floodlit at night, dominate the skyline and are linked with the river Gers below via the "Monumental Stairway" on which d'Artagnan's statue stands guard halfway.

Stroll in the narrow alleys adjoining the cathedral and past the half-timbered 15th century Syndicat d'Initiative. In summer visit the Maison de Gascogne displaying a cornucopia of regional produce, then relax in the pavement cafés by the ornamental fountains and when hungry treat yourself to the best of Gascon cuisine chez André Daguin, Claude Laffite, or one of their many confrères.

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Bordeaux, 2 daily scheduled flights - BA & AF.



Ian Purslow started in property after a short service commission in the British Army. He co-founded a leading property company in Andorra in the Pyrenees. After twenty years of experience in taking care of the needs of British and expatriate clients, he moved to the Gers in South West France and now specialises in the sale of the fine old country houses of Gascony.

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Who was Polybius?

Credit Andorra brings out annually a leaflet about the country in which we live including "A Short Historical Overview". The first written mention of the inhabitants of the Valleys is provided by the Greek historian Polybius (2nd. century B.C.) who when describing Hannibal's passage of the Pyrenees notes that the presence of the tribes called Andercini, Ilesgetes, Aeronosini, etc. So who was he?

He was the Greek statesman and historian Polybius, who lived from about 200 to 118 B.C. His "Histories", published in forty books, were mainly concerned with the years 220 B.C. to 145 B.C., and their principal purpose was to describe and explain the tremendous increase in the power of Rome during that period. Most of what he wrote has perished, but enough has survived to show his "Histories" to be a work of compelling interest and continuing influence the greatest of the classical historians in my opinion.

What did Polybius actually write about Andorra? "Having crossed the Ebro, (Hannibal) set about subduing the tribes of the Ilesgetes, Bargusii, Aeronosii and Andercini as far as the Pyrenees. He made himself master of all this territory, took several cities by storm, and completed the campaign with remarkable speed, but he was involved in heavy fighting and suffered some severe losses. He left Hanno in command of the whole territory north of the Ebro, and placed the Bargusii under his brother's absolute rule; this was the tribe he distrusted most on account of their friendly feelings towards the Romans". This quotation, taken from the Histories Book III section 35, relates to events in 218 B.C. at the outbreak of the Second Punic War between Rome and Carthage. Not much, but that is all there is about Andorra in Polybius, or more accurately in all that has survived of his Histories. In an earlier version of the Credit Andorra leaflet, Aeronosini and Bargusii are equated with Araneses and Berguedans, Andercini with Andorrans. The passage in Polybius relates to a sizeable part of Catalonia, not just Andorra.

The Carthaginians did not go through Andorra on their way through France to invade Italy, but used instead the Perthus pass, through which now runs the main road and motorway from Barcelona to Perpignan, at a maximum altitude of 300 metres. Barcelona, incidentally,

was founded by the Carthaginians, and was named by them Barcino after the family name of Hannibal, Barca. After the conquest of Greece and Macedonia by the Romans in 168 B.C. Polybius was one of a thousand prominent Greeks summoned to Italy for investigation, and detained there for sixteen years. He had the good fortune to become a close friend of Scipio Aemilianus, son of Aemilius Paulus who had just conquered the Greeks, and grandson of Scipio Africanus, who had finally defeated Hannibal in 202 B.C. at the battle of Zama, not far from Carthage. About 150 B.C. Polybius accompanied Scipio to North Africa at the outbreak of the third Punic War, and was present at the sack and destruction of Carthage in 146 B.C.

Then there were renewed hostilities between some Greek states and Rome. Polybius acted as intermediary between the winners and the losers, managing to achieve a fairly satisfactory settlement, and having statues in his honour raised in several Greek cities. Even his gravestone has survived, in a some battered condition. He settled down to write his "Histories". His lengthy experience of military and political affairs has made them one of the most practical and least fanciful history books ever written.

What has survived has never ceased to be studied. By the end of the sixteenth century there were translations into Latin, French, Italian, English and German. Machiavelli drew extensively on Polybius in writing his "Discourses" and "The Prince", and the two writers have similar styles. In the seventeenth century the military ideas were closely studied. In the eighteenth century it was the turn of his political ideas, especially in relation to the merits of a mixed constitution, so that he contributed to the climate of opinion in which the Constitution of the U.S.A. was evolved.

More recently the French novelist Flaubert used Polybius as the principal source for his Carthaginian novel "Salammbô". A somewhat neglected aspect of Polybius is his theory of the cycle of political revolutions, still of practical value in helping one to understand the numerous revolutions of our present century.

(Penguin Classics brought out an abridged version of the "Histories" in 1979 and the full surviving text is available in the Loeb Classics, Greek and English on facing pages)

Peter Parkinson

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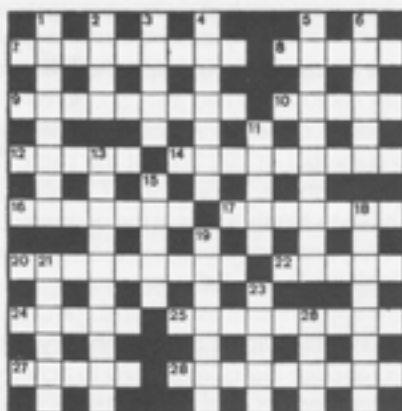
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Crossword Puzzle

No prizes this time, but the correct solution will be in the next issue

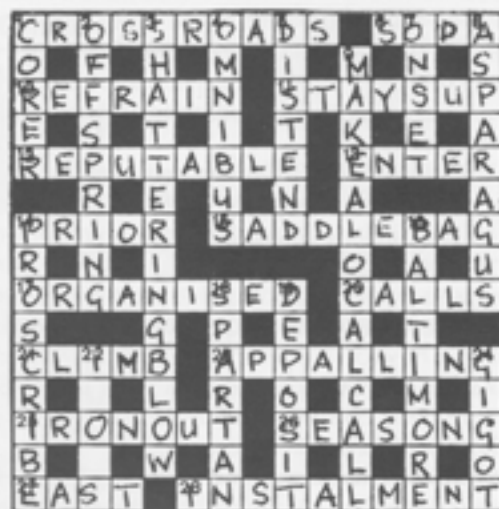


Across:

7. Letters providing you with accommodation (8); 8. Isn't corruption; it is corruption (5); 9. One new in the sequence is the leader (6); 10. Regan, I suspect, may well show it (5); 11. Form of social distinction (5); 14. Outstanding parts of the country (5); 16. Get ready and shave beforehand! (7); 17. Are they mostly preferred for being fat? (7); 20. Made more than a first impression, presumably (9); 22. Are about to do what, lovers (5); 24. Unthinking worker who is all for automation (5); 25. Always be brave and don't worry (5,4); 27. Optical student (5); 28. Palmsy manuals? (6).

Down:

1. Composer has a part written up for a single man (8); 2. Side having the advantage (4); 3. There's a great deal to this game (5); 4. South a lover may make a maid of (7); 5. Made claim that was upheld (10); 6. Really engrossing work may be found here (6); 11. Clergyman in drink is confused (5); 13. Very rapid form of percussion (10); 15. Old woman is little credit to one (5); 18. Allocates a corner some forgiveness (8); 19. Officer who is not particular (7); 21. Big racial issue? (6); 23. Pick out the best ones, having growth potential (5); 26. It's evidently bad form not to (4).



Solution to the Crossword set in the Winter issue.

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Clare Allcard

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