

INTER COMM

CLUB INTERNACIONAL D'ANDORRA

MAGAZINE / REVISTA



VOL. 5 - Núm. 2 - WINTER / HIVER 1995

CLUB INTERNACIONAL D'ANDORRA

INFORMATION / INFORMATIU

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

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INTERCOMM

Club Internacional d'Andorra

Quarterly Magazine

Winter 1995

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CLUB EDITORIAL

by **Tony Hooper**

The Club continues to thrive. In October, in conjunction with all the Groups, we held an Open Day in La Massana to try to show how much is going on within the Club and to encourage new members both to the Groups and to the Club itself. A full report appears on Page

A small reminder to all our members. The members of the Board, the Group Leaders, the Activities' Organisers, the Helpline Organisers, those who assist at Coffee Mornings, and the editorial staff of *Intercomm* are all volunteers who give up a lot of their own time and energy, without reward, except for the knowledge of a job well done. They are usually ready to listen to anybody who requires their help or advice. But like all of us they are human, with human frailties. They have their own lives and families outside their duties for the Club. So, please, be patient with them - and remember that we all have an off day sometimes!

Mention of the Coffee Morning reminds me that the numbers attending seem to grow week by week. This is splendid, but of course it puts pressure on the helpers, particularly now that the added duty of sending out the Weekly Newsletter

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is one of the tasks performed during the morning. If you do attend the Coffee Morning we would be very grateful for your assistance - perhaps you could help put a few newsletters in envelopes and so relieve the others for answering members' queries. Thank you in anticipation.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

by Tony Hooper

Everyone was delighted by the success of the Club Open Day on 22nd October. It was very gratifying to see so many people attending, and we have received a lot of congratulatory feedback. It was an opportunity for many members to be made aware of the variety of activities and interests within the Club.

The initial concept was to encourage more members to join a group activity and to launch any new groups. Most established groups reported that they had found new members, with the greatest, and most welcome, result coming from HELPLINE who recruited ten new helpers, a number which included nurses, a physiotherapist, and two male volunteers. Well done!

The new groups who displayed on the evening were also very pleased by the result. Eight people were interested in forming a new Bridge Group, including two near beginners, four average players and two good players, with the possibility of two or three more in the beginners' category. The Association of Modellers will certainly go ahead with an initial group of ten people with many varied modelling interests. The Philately Group attracted enough interested people for them to become a viable group. Two other groups emerged from the event - a Tennis Group, and a Computer Group which Stan Jones, an experienced teacher of computer techniques, is willing to lead. Other ideas floated included Chess, a Writers' Advice Group, and a Knitting, Lace and Crochet Group. The need for all these is for some one to come forward and take on the responsibility of the initial organisation. The Club will give anyone who wants to start a group as much support as possible.

If you are interested in any of the above new or proposed groups, here is a list of people to contact:

STATEMENT FROM THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

The President and members of the Board wish to make clear the position of the Club Internacional d'Andorra (CIA) in relation to the English-Speaking Residents Association (ESRA). Whilst as individuals we may support the formation of ESRA, as Officers of the CIA we must make clear that there is no connection between the two organisations.

The Club Internacional d'Andorra was founded to promote friendship between people of all nationalities, and is basically a social forum. Our Constitution states clearly in Article 2.2 that "The Club expressly excludes from its objectives any class, political or social revindications". Because of this clause precluding any political actions, the CIA must be seen to be non-political, and must work to further the aims of bringing together all nationalities in a friendly, social and happy manner.

We wish ESRA and all the other representative groups success in their efforts, and are sure that our members, as individuals will give their full support.

October 1995

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NEW BRIDGE GROUP, Stella Madden (837681)

PHILATELY GROUP, Solveig Feilberg (837118) and Hassan Shaida (860043)

MODELLING GROUP, Hans Kiaer (836892) and Tony Hooper (836154)

TENNIS GROUP, Ivan Stansby (836210)

COMPUTER GROUP, Stan Jones (836972)

OTHER NEW GROUPS, ring Tony Hooper (836154) for advice.

Finally a big thank-you to everyone who was involved in making our Open Day such a success, to all those who prepared such delicious food, and particularly to Clare Allcard who had the original idea.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

by Margaret Shaida

With Christmas just around the corner, we have a couple of festive features in this issue: Ursula Ure tells of us a Passion Play that used to be put on every year in Escaldes/Engordany (page 8), and we have an Andorran Quiz (page 11) with a question a day for the twelve days of Christmas. This is not a competition, and the answers are given on page 15.

We have our usual reports on Club and Group activities, including a list of the monthly events for 1996 of the Naturalists' Group as well as the calendar of services at St. George's Church. There is a report on the Carcassone Weekend (page 14), and there are also a couple of reports on events in and around Andorra during the past three months. Binnie Segal gives us the benefit of her musical knowledge in a report on the 13th Ordino Music Festival held last September (page 7) and the Fourth Ordino Gastronomy Festival is reviewed on page 12.

The winner of the Logic Puzzle (in the Summer issue, concerning numerous animals and

numerous owners of numerous nationalities!) is given on page 20.

We have another full-length feature by Peter Dunkley. We are fortunate to have such an excellent writer in our midst. The fact that he is also an enthusiastic adventurer is greatly to our advantage. In our next issue, he will be telling us all about the *castellers*, those amazing Catalan human-tower builders.

Laura Fecanin experienced the wonders of Caldea, Andorra's water temple. Her report on her visit appears on page 19. She has also discovered some interesting facts about the extraordinary structure that dominates the Escaldes scene.

And we have the first of what we hope will become a regular feature - a Restaurant Review. In this issue, Ursula Ure tells us about her favourite restaurant (page 13). To make this a varied feature, it would be good to see reviews by a great many people. We do urge you all to give us the benefit of your experience of the wonderful restaurants in and around Andorra. If you have had a good experience (a bad one might be even more interesting!), do let us know. A brief review of 500-600 words would be much appreciated.

Indeed, ALL contributions would be most welcome. The response to my call for letters was not overwhelming (see page 10), nor was my attempt to find someone to write a report about the very successful Carcassone Weekend. But lots of things happen in Andorra that I don't know about - so, please, let us ALL know about them.

I am convinced there are many budding writers out there among our members - so, please, do send in your reports, letters and articles. This is YOUR magazine. Reports (or letters) about YOUR experiences in Andorra would be most welcome. Please send, by 15th January, to:

Margaret Shaida, Teulades V, Apt. 201, Els Vilars, Escaldes,



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NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

INTERNATIONAL SINGERS

Yes, we're at it again! Practising madly for our fourth festival. Only this year, we are planning BIG TIME: two performances, not one.

The first will be held on Saturday, 16th December at 5 pm at the Santa Maria del Fener Church in Andorra la Vella. (This is the modern church which stands, set back, on the corner down the Cta. de la Borda between the main Fire Station and the big open car park.) This church was chosen particularly with those from Encamp and St. Julia directions in mind.

The second performance will be held at 4.30 pm on Sunday, 17th December at the Ordino Church as usual. We will again be singing carols in a wide range of languages and this time, for a change we have chosen instrumentalists for our guest musicians. Stella Madden has once more very kindly volunteered to organise refreshments after the Ordino concert. We will be making the usual collection for local charity after the Ordino concert but plan to raise money for an international cause after our performance in the country's capital. Do try to come and let us see whether we can fill two churches this year instead of just the one.

For further information, please ring Binnie Segal (836296) or Clare Allcard (836269).

THE NATURALISTS' GROUP

Unless otherwise stated all meetings are on the third Thursday in each month. As well as monthly local walks, the Naturalists also arrange longer visits to Reserves or National Parks outside Andorra. These usually take place over a long week-end and need to be booked in advance. If there is sufficient interest longer trips to more exotic destinations could be arranged - Morocco,

India and Senegal have been suggested, with costs in the region of £500/£900, depending on numbers and destination. Please contact one of the leaders below if you are interested. **Jacque Crozier** (835931), **Brian Dore** (835931) or **Ann Maatschke** (841279).

1996 PROGRAMME JANUARY 18

Videos and CD/slides: "The Wildlife of South and East Africa", "Uganda past and present", "Madagascar"

11.00 at Cortal de la Solana, Anyos (weather permitting). Drinks and light refreshments will be

provided for lunch. Numbers are limited, so please phone if you propose coming to this and the next meeting.

FEBRUARY 15

New identification video on European raptors,

REMEMBER!

TWO PERFORMANCES!!!

FOURTH FESTIVAL of INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC, DECEMBER 1995

Saturday 16th December
5 pm at Feners Church

Sunday, 17th December
4.30 pm at Ordino Church



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preview of proposed summer visit to this region. 11.00 a.m. as above.

If road conditions are bad, please phone for alternative venue.

March 22-25

Long weekend at the coastal reserve of Aiguamolls d'Empurda on the Bay of Roses.

Fuller details nearer time. Booking closes February 15.

April 18

The Cadi Foothills. Spring flowers and migrating birds. Meet at the Spanish frontier at 9.00 a.m.

May 23

Arcabell. Spring flowers and migrants. Meet at the Spanish frontier at 10.00 a.m.

June 27

Sorteny. Alpine flowers, birds and butterflies. Meet at valley entrance at 10.00 a.m.

July 18

Vall de Riu. Summer flowers, butterflies and birds. Meet at "totem poles" on Col d'Ordino-Canillo road at 10.00 a.m.

August

Week en Extremadura, staying in beautiful old Conquistadors' town of Trujillo where storks and lesser kestrels nest on every roof. Visits to the Belen steppes for bustards and sangrouse and to Montfrague Natural Park - the best place in Spain for vultures and eagles, including the rare Spanish imperial eagle. There will also be time, if wished, to visit Carcares and Merida.

If interested, please let us know preferred dates, as soon as possible - in any case NOT LATER than 31st December, so that we can make arrangements to suit the greatest number of people. We will also be able to let you have fuller details when we know how many members are interested.

It will be necessary to make a firm booking with the hotel NOT LATER than April 15.

September - date to be arranged.

A visit to the Cadi Park Headquarters to see the ringing of migratory birds. Full details when final arrangements are made with the ringing station.

October 17

Fungi collection and identification. Meet at Cortal de la Solana, Anyos at 10.00 a.m.

November 17

A walk along the river near Seu to see wintering birds. Meet at Spanish frontier at 10.00 a.m.

HELPLINE

During October (while Dinah Baxter was on vacation), six people called on HELPLINE for assistance, which was provided in the form of help from a retired hospital matron, as well as home and social visits from Helpline volunteers.

The Club Entertainment on 22nd October saw ten new volunteers (including four qualified nurses and two physio-therapists), plus a number of donations. We also have offers of help from people who speak Mandarin, Cantonese, Hokkien, Persian, Russian, Danish, German, Spanish, French and Catalan.

International Cookery Book?

Which reminds us. Club members come from, and have lived in, very many different countries, so we thought it would be a good idea to produce an International Cookery Book. If you have a favourite recipe or two from your own country or from one of the countries in which you have lived, please send it to Lillias Grassie, who has volunteered to gather the recipes into a single book. We hope to have this ready to put on sale at the Christmas Bazaar next year.

While most food items are available in Andorra, we would nevertheless urge you to try to give only those recipes that require ingredients we can buy here. It would also be much appreciated if all quantities are given in metric measures. If you can also give some background information on the recipe, I'm sure this would make the book even more interesting. Needless to say, all the proceeds from the sale of the book will go towards HELPLINE Funds. Please call Lillias for further information (838349).

HELPLINE is the International Club's Group that gives help and information, primarily in health care and particularly in emergencies. We can arrange meals on wheels, home and hospital visits, professional nursing care, loan of medical equipment, books and "talking books", bereavement counselling, and information on various aspects of living in Andorra.

All donations are very welcome and are put to good use. Regular donations can be made by standing order to C.I.A. HELPLINE Account No. 2100, Credit Andorra, La Massana. Remember, it could be you who might next need

to call on the services of HELPLINE! So please, your help will help us to help those who need help. Further information available from **Dinah Baxter** (836980).

WINE TASTING GROUP

The inaugural meeting of the recently revived Wine Tasting Group was held on 6th September and was attended by thirty-seven apparently enthusiastic tasters. As a result of an open discussion during the evening, it would appear that the initial objectives of the Wine Tasting Group should be:

- to meet and exchange ideas with other wine enthusiasts in Andorra.
- to provide information about, and to sample wines, of all types and qualities available in Andorra, and from all possible sources.
- to learn from wine "experts" whenever possible and appropriate
- to organise trips to wineries in France and Spain.

A second tasting "Wines for the Festive Season" was held on Thursday, 9th November. This showed the huge range of wines and wine styles suitable to accompany Christmas and New Year celebrations - traditional and modern.

For further information, please contact **Ivan and Diana Stansby** on tel: 836210.

SCOTTISH DANCING GROUP

For us, the Groups' Recruitment Evening on Sunday, 22nd October, was a great success with some eight people enquiring about membership, thanks, in good part, to all of those who were good enough to join in our final dance. We are still looking for a new leader/caller for the Sunday afternoon sessions. So, if you know any willing soul, or need further information, please telephone **Laura Fecanin** (836869), **Brenda Ross** (836886) or **Clare Allcard** (836269)

GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF ANDORRA

in four languages
(the English by **Jacque Crozier**)
is on sale at the weekly
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PHILATELIC GROUP

Despite the fact that six people showed an interest in joining the Philatelic Group during the Groups' Recruitment Evening in October, the Group will actually start regular meetings next month, in January 1996. This is because **Hassan** was away in November and **Solveig** in December. It also appeared that others were otherwise occupied in the run-up to Christmas and year's end.

However, in November, **Solveig** planned to get in touch with all those interested, to make arrangements to convene the first meeting, when time, date and frequency of meetings will be finalised, as well as discovering members' interests and levels.

It is not too late to become a Founder Member of this new Group, which will cover all types of philatelic interest, from classic single country collections, to postal history, aero-philately, and thematics or topicals, i.e. collecting the pictures on the stamps by theme.

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Dates for 1996

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Saturday, 30th March

WHITSUN/PENTECOST

Saturday, 1st June

Saturday, 13th July

HARVEST SERVICE

Saturday, 28th September

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Saturday, 12th November

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday, 30th November

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Saturday, 14th DEcember

The Toulouse Chaplain, **Rev. Laurie Mort**, is happy to visit anyone from Andorra who happens to be in hospital in Toulouse. His telephone number is (00-33) 61-85-17-67.

Further information is available from the church wardens, **Tina Goodale** (837434) and **Jo Hine** (836280).

Cultural Report

THE ORDINO MUSIC FESTIVAL

The annual Ordino international Festival of Music is greatly anticipated by many residents in Andorra. Here, Binnie Segal looks at last September's wide range of well-performed musical offerings

The first Concert of the Season at the National Auditorium of Andorra in the very pretty village of Ordino, was a delightful evening of arias and songs by Puccini, Verdi and other nineteenth century composers. The well-known tenor, Jaume Aragall, and the baritone Vincenc Sardinero, both from Barcelona, entranced the audience with their powerful and musical performances. They were very ably accompanied by Amparo Garcia Cruelkls at the piano.

The "Swingle Singes" who performed on Sunday, 17th September, are well known to the foreign community of Andorra, and were greeted with enormous enthusiasm by an appreciative audience. Their modern arrangements of the classics, and their rendering of songs by the Beatles, and Mancini, were all well received.

At midday on the 17th September, at the pretty church in Ordino, a quartet of young musicians, gave a very pleasing concert. They performed the Mozart quartet in G Major, followed by the Dvorak quartet number 12 L'America. This second work was played with great depth and musical sensitivity. It was a pity that the concert was not as well attended as others held in the Auditorium, for the Church is an ideal setting for Chamber Music.

The concert on Friday, 22nd September, was for me the highlight of the series. Joachim Achucarro played the Mozart concerto in E major, conducting the National Chamber Orchestra of Andorra, from his piano stool, with great flair and

panache. His playing, as always, was superb. He brings such profundity and intellectuality to his music, entrancing his audience with his performance. He also played the Rhapsodia Sinfonica by Turina, with the Chamber Orchestra. Gerard Claret is the Director of this very fine orchestra, and their playing of the Mozart Divertiment, was a special pleasure.

The Orchestra National D'Ile de France gave two concerts at the Festival. The first one on Saturday, September 23rd, with six young singers performing duets, trios and quintets by Rossini, was very well received by all attending.

The second concert on Sunday the 24th of September was the last of the Festival, and the orchestra began with a rousing and exuberant rendition of the William Tell Overture by Rossini. This was followed by a performance of the Paganini Violin Concerto No. 1 in "D" major, played by Regis Pasquier.

The Paganini is a very demanding concerto, and Pasquier made a valiant attempt to master the highly technical passages. It requires a virtuoso of the highest calibre to achieve the ultimate sounds that Paganini intended. Nevertheless, Pasquier played with musical insight and great verve.


The Mendelssohn Symphony, in the second half of the concert, ended this very fine Festival of Music, on a high note. We certainly cannot complain about a lack of musical culture here in Andorra.



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DEATH OF A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Pessebre Vivent

In this festive feature, Ursula Ure looks back at a delightful Christmas ceremony that used to be held in Escaldes/Engordany before the blocks of apartments spread over the village fields.

The Virgin Mary had come down the hill on her mule, guided by Joseph, the manger was resplendent with hay, the angels were scuttering around on the roof and up in the trees, shepherds poked at their sheep, dogs were cavorting, the smugglers enjoying a quick nip from a wine skin, the Devil had his fireworks primed and little Uncle Jaumet, the comedy figure, was hilarious. Snow had begun to fall. Electricians were fixing the spotlights. We came along the mud road from Escaldes - and it was like stepping inside one of those picturesque snow storm globes. *El Pessebre Vivent d'Engordany* was in full rehearsal, promising as usual to be a great success.

The first winters we spent in Engordany were greatly enlivened by local enthusiasm for the Nativity Play. The thin angular figure of Esteve Albert i Corp, local bard and present creator of the pageant, dominated the scene. With his granny's scarf around his neck, his long nose pink with emotion and cold, his eyes flashing and his mittened hands gesticulating, he was everywhere. He would write and re-write the simple verses to enhance the individual personalities of his protagonists. There was an old house along the road pullulating with energetic Andaluz children and their families. These provided the hard core of Angels and for days beforehand white crepe paper, staplers, aluminium foil, wire and tinsel and old sheets, were much in evidence. Esteve Albert had conceived the play as a rustic celebration, the little houses and lights of old Engordany providing the back drop, the fields just below the cobbled path the site for the hastily-

erected manger. Sheep, chickens, dogs, children, donkeys and mules all joined in with a will.

Tiet Jaumet of Can Panxut was the comedy star. He had to roll down the hillside fighting with the Devil, who had leaped upon him with fireworks banging and blazing, to try and upset the celebrations, and who was then stoned and put to flight by the villagers, as the Angels cheered!

Among the Angels was one bright lad whose mother never seemed able to cope: he never had a halo, his gown was disastrous and he had NO WINGS! All the other Angels gathered him into their midst, he would be hidden so that no one would notice his lack of celestial garb, but inevitably he became known to the entire neighbourhood as "Antonio que no tiens alas!" (Anthony who has no wings). He was a good singer and full of charm and the cry would go up when he was late for rehearsal. "Donde esta Antonio?" "El que no tiens alas?" He was even given wings which never survived the attentions of his younger brother and sisters. He remained wingless but enthusiastic throughout the festival.

The smugglers were much to the fore, and provided a lot of "business"! The villagers brought sticks for the fire, milk for the Baby and eggs and bread for the Virgin, a shepherdess gave wool spun from her sheep. It was acted with great simplicity and good humour, and audience participation was strong.

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Just after writing this, Esteve Albert, my old friend, died. At his funeral in the church of Sant Esteve, Mossen Blai imagined the excitement in Heaven when the angels and shepherds (and no doubt Tiet Jaumet) heard that Esteve was at last to join them! Mossen Blai summoned up the shadow of that long-legged man, scarf around his neck, marshalling his cohorts in the cold, full of enthusiasm and charm. He wrote many books and these with all his papers will go to a small town in the Val d'Aran to be sorted by an archivist. He wrote many poems, and *Posobres d'Engordany* was a collection of verse about the village and people. *Posobres* are the hours after work when people gather to chat by the fire. He is sadly missed. U.U.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Have you done anything unusual recently? Why not let us, and our readers, know?

It's not every day we bump into an English Lord at the CIA coffee morning. But when we did last October, we hastily organised a press conference at the bar! It transpired that Lord Ruddington had only just inherited his new title, and was still somewhat bemused by the fact. As CIA members passed by, some of them bowed and curtsied to him - to his deep embarrassment!

Overheard at the Club Recruitment Evening on Sunday, 22nd October.

"Do they do this weekly?"

(Better not tell all our helpers who went to so much trouble for weeks beforehand!)

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Overheard at the Coffee morning last September: "The Intercomm? Oh, is that the CIA magazine? Did it come out this month? Oh yes, I DID read it, though, bless me, I can't remember much about it." Ho hum!

We understand that Les Tres Creus Pharmacy, which is situated down in Andorra la Vella (opposite the filling station just into the one-way system past the Pyrenees on the way to Spain) has a wide range of English pharmaceutical products. The staff also speak English and German in addition to French and Spanish and of course Catalan. They also make home visits. (For further details, please see their advertisement on page 19).

Found in a Christmas cracker: "What does DNA stand for?

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Compliments, Curses and Contributions - all are welcome in this column. - along with news and suggestions, opinions, anecdotes and tales of strange experiences.

HOW ABOUT A MONTHLY TALK?

Firstly, congratulations to you and your team for your excellent Autumn '95 magazine. No criticism whatsoever, but on the basis that it would be better if more members turned up at our Weekly coffee mornings, I recalled a similar situation which arose in my 'London' days. This involved the London Club of a Scottish school (boys only!) whose Old Boys were based in and around the metropolis. This club met once a month and on average, only 15-20 of the 200-plus members turned up - rather like our Coffee mornings here!

Then a suggestion was made - why not invite a Guest Speaker to the meetings? Preferably someone well-known or at least, top of his field. This was duly implemented and sure enough the attendances grew remarkably as a result. As for speakers, the magazine suggests quite a few likely names/subjects. No doubt some members could bring along an acquaintance, say, Andorran but English speaking. (Talks, say ten minutes, ONCE a month).

So there is an idea for consideration - it's no more than that.

Yours sincerely, James Shearlaw

What an excellent idea! I have passed the suggestion on to the Club Committee for their discussion. For my own part, I certainly feel that the Coffee mornings, being our only chance to meet and socialise on a regular basis, could benefit from an occasional talk or lecture. They would attract more people, and ensure that they

may indeed attract more people, and ensure that the weekly gathering becomes a regular entry in the diaries of many more members. Watch this space!
Editor

AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY

I've just returned from the very enjoyable Cathar Country Weekend. As with all the activities organised by Ann Price, this was perfectly planned. However, three things occurred which caused me to wonder why anybody dare to take on the responsibility of organising such a weekend.

First, the dinner arrangements were changed at the last minute, so that transportation had to be arranged on both nights; second, one of our members decided to measure her length in a puddle, giving rise to fears of broken bones and medical treatment; and lastly, comments were made that more time should have been spent at Montsegur rather than at the market in Mirepoix.

In the event, the bus driver was cheerfully amenable, there were no broken bones, and most people seemed to enjoy the time at the market. However, it struck me that the efficient organisation of a weekend party to the satisfaction of forty people of different nationalities, aged between four to eighty-four, requires tact, time and a delightfully optimistic approach to life.

We are very fortunate that Ann is prepared to take on this awesome responsibility.

Name and Address supplied

I heartily agree! Roll on, Egypt!

Editor

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THE TWELVE-DAYS-OF-CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Some of the questions below are very simple, others not quite so simple, but we hope you find the answers (see page 15) informative and entertaining

1. Which is the largest parish in Andorra?
2. Who initiated the "New Reform" of Andorra in the 19th century?
3. Which church has the only round tower in Andorra?
4. Where in Andorra can you find the ruins and remaining tower of a castle built by the Arabs?
5. Where in Andorra is the house that is reputed to be where Charlemagne stayed?
6. What is the national flower of Andorra, and why?
7. Where and what is the lowest point in Andorra?
8. Where is the highest inhabited village in the Iberian peninsula?
9. Why is Escaldes situated where it is, remembering that, unlike all other villages in the galleys, it is built in the shade?
10. In what historical document is the first mention made of Andorra, and when?
11. What is the house pictured on the right, and where was it situated at the time of this postcard?
12. Which is the highest peak in the country, and in which parish is it situated?

(Answers are given on page 15)



BARCLAYS INTERNATIONAL FUNDS

John Gwilliam, the Personal Finance Manager (France) of Barclays Bank Trust Co. Ltd. is now permanently based in Nice, Alpes-Maritimes. However, following a number of requests from customers in Andorra, he travels to the Principality at least twice a year. Alternatively, if you are ever in the Côte d'Azur region he would be very pleased to meet you in Nice.

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A GASTRONOMIC GATHERING IN ORDINO

Last October, Margaret Shaida was invited to the Andorra Festival of Gastronomy. Held annually in Ordino, the festival is a rare chance to sample the finest foods from many of the best restaurants in the Valleys.

"Cuisine is a product of nature and culture. Catalonia, southern France and Italy shared a common nature and a common culture that were different in many respects from those of northern Europe..."

So said Barbara Santich in her introduction to "The Original Mediterranean Cuisine". She would have felt at home in Ordino last October, when some of the finest food from Andorra and Catalonia was the centrepiece of the *Fourth Mostra Gastronómica d'Andorra*. I had been invited along to the gathering as an interested culinary historian. It was a magnificent event, not just for historians, but also for gourmets and gourmards - not to mention gluttons.

Elegant marquees had been set up along the main street of Ordino, and the tables were all laid up. I knew we were on to a good thing when I saw the array of glassware on the table - for three wines, water and champagne.

We had arrived early, and so were able to sit and study the menu. Each of the twenty or so restaurants had set up attractively-arranged stalls along the pavement under the marquee, and each was serving two dishes. We wandered along, viewing the displays, comparing our understanding of the menu (in Catalan) with the delectable evidence before our eyes. Truly, the language of food is international!

The splendid harvest of mushrooms this year was much in evidence. A fragrantly-light

lasagna of finely-chopped mushrooms and home-made pasta was my first choice, quickly followed by a slice of mushroom pate. To my delight, a puddle of mushroom sauce was poured onto the plate which was popped into a microwave for a quick flash of heat, then the slice of pate was slid carefully onto it. Meanwhile, my hostess was deep into river trout, delicious pink filets.

I have to admit that I was not so attracted to the steaming bowls of pigs trotters and snails, but this has more to do with my own lack of taste rather than the food. Our neighbours were clearly enjoying their meals. Indeed, the quality of the cooking and standard of presentation were extraordinarily high - particularly under the circumstances. Despite its service on the street, this was very definitely not street food. This was sophisticated Catalan food at its very best. More than thirty restaurants participated, offering a choice of two dishes each.

My only complaint was the closeness of the tables which made it impossible for the diners to easily reach the restaurants or the waiters to serve. The excellent wines were supplied by IPDA of Escaldes/Engordany, Inter-Ollinac and Inter Trade of Andorra la Vella. The students of the Lycee Comte de Foix Escola d'hoteleria provided the efficient service. Wonderful bread rolls came from Forn Font of Ordino, coffee from Magatzems Lima of La Massana, and the liqueurs from Vinissim of Santa Julia.



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Restaurant Review

"CAP BO"

*In this first of our new series of reviews of restaurants in and around Andorra,
Ursula Ure takes us with her to her favourite restaurant.*

The "Cap Bo" is alive, bustling, generous with helpings, wise enough to stick to a relatively small selection of dishes, has a good house wine and is moderately priced.

It is a restaurant of habitués, clients who eat there regularly, and has only a dozen tables, each for four. The owner Monsieur David, was a sea chef and has that cheery bonhomie and complete control of his casseroles and ovens, all visible behind the bar. They have a pretty daughter, très chic and soignée, who works with them alongside her husband, Jimmy, who hails from Scotland and sported the kilt on his wedding day.

If you like the atmosphere of a family bistro, good food with no fuss, and one of the most delightful *tartes tatin*s (upside down apple pie) I have ever tasted, then the Cap Bo is a welcoming anchorage for both the greedy and the discerning.

We used to wait for October when the couscous season opened. Wednesday was, and is Couscous Day, but some of the wilier clients slip in early on Thursdays because they maintain the next day it is even better - if there is any left. If, on chilly days, you fancy a brave hot pot aswim with succulent carrots, leeks, onions, turnips, swedes, or whatever other juicy roots Monsieur has laid hands on, nudged sideways by chunks of beef, portions of chicken, gigot cuts of lamb, simmering compatibly in their own rich juices, then go for the Couscous and the delicately steaming mound of "semoule" which accompanies and creates this dish. You help yourself. The tureen and the platter are placed on the table along with the little dishes of hot chili sauce and plump raisins to season it. If you are having the Couscous, you don't need starters and it only depends on how many times you wield the ladle as to whether you can welcome the *tarte tatin*, and the fresh cream, as it deserves, or subside meekly into a lemon sorbet or a modest yoghurt, or plain black coffee with slim bitter chocolates.

Due to acclaims and demand the Couscous season has been extended to include most of the summer. If it is not Wednesday, or even Thursday, or knowing yourself too well you have

decided to forgo the temptation of the ladle and the steaming tureen, I recommend the Magret de Canard, expertly grilled on the fire to just the right degree. Seared and criss-crossed outside and pink and juicy within, it is a delight. I also like snails and often have these as a first course since I never do them at home and I love the sizzling garlic butter and parsley and plenty of fresh crispy bread to dip in the glorious gunge.

The fruits de mer, prawns and salmon in cheese sauce, lightly baked in the oven or under the grill and served in individual earthenware dishes, the leek flan, the sweet and sour spare ribs, the tender veal with cream, the various brochettes of steak or veal or kidneys, the simmered lentils, or the really crisp French fries, are all to be recommended and the vegetable soup is a first-class potage, tasty, excellent consistency.

There is a dish of the day, the atmosphere is bustling, it operates from twelve till four, and seven in the evening till nine. Closed on Sundays. It is best to phone or go early.

The Cap Bo is situated in the centre of town, a few yards from Telefonica up the side street graced by the Andorran Automobile Club, opposite the side entrance to Hiper. *Bon appetit!*



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Reports on Activities

A MEDIEVAL WEEKEND

The CIA Activity in October was a visit back in time - to a medieval walled city, to a country market in an ancient town square and to a ruined castle atop a mountain peak, all set in the glorious countryside of the deep south of France. Here, Margaret Shaida recalls the weekend.

My vague school-day memories of the Cathar heresy were stirred a few years ago when I read the *Holy Grail*. Ever since, I have wanted to visit the country of the Cathars, not, I hasten to add, with any hope of finding the Holy Grail. Rather, there is a fascination with the tragi-heroic legend of a group of medieval French farmers and weavers who followed the beliefs of Zoroaster of ancient Persia. What a small world it is!

So that when we set off in mid-October for Carcassone, Mirepoix and Montsegur, it was with an air of suppressed excitement - well, *slightly* suppressed by a chilly wait for the bus. Our first stop at Ax-les-Thermes revealed (to me, at least) the existence of a hot pool in the middle of the town square, where everyone can just wander by and bathe their sore feet in passing. Coffee and croissants revived those whose thirst was greater than their sore feet!

The medieval town of Mirepoix is a delight. Ancient, wooden gables and balconies, half-timbered buildings, a huge church which must have the widest span of arch in Europe, exquisitely decorated, its sad state of decline giving it an air of sober respectability.

A very pleasing lunch in Mirepoix. We chose from a selection of pancakes, both sweet and savoury - in our case, both! The restaurants had amazingly comfortable chairs scattered about beneath the wooden galleries, looking out over the town square. It was idyllic under the brilliant blue sky.

And then on to Carcassone, its medieval walls and towers bathed in warm October sunshine as we crossed the Doc river to our hotel - small, clean rooms with surprisingly comfortable beds. We were free until dinner.

But the walled city was just around the corner, and within minutes we were crossing the drawbridge to enter the fabled city. We stepped back in time. No museum this. Shops and homes and back gardens, squares, churches, hotels, drinking fountains, all connected by a maze of cobbled streets, lived in and alive. We felt a part of history.

But the next day, under a cloudy sky, we were taken on a guided tour of the medieval city, and we were glad that we had not been a part of history. Seen as a heretic threat to the Catholic Church, the Cathars in Carcassone were assailed in their walled city, deprived of food and water, exhausted and sick, and when they finally succumbed, they met with no pity from their crusading conquerors.

Our sombre mood was changed by a perfect cassoulet in a courtyard dappled with autumn sunlight. A couple of hours of shopping and we were quite recovered. In the afternoon, there was an optional visit to the caves, which was pronounced a great success by all those who went. Another fine dinner in the evening (how much can one eat in one weekend?!).

The next day, we were off to the Monday market at Mirepoix. Many had gone well prepared



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with large baskets. Fruit and vegetables, cheese, bread, pastries, preserved fruit, walnuts and wine were clear favourites with the CIA shoppers. In no time at all, we were off again, this time to Montsegur, the last stronghold of the Cathars. And yes, some of our group *did* go to the top - and not just the children (four of the best-behaved children in Andorra came with us on our trip.)

By now, late in the afternoon, it was time to head for home. We came back down to the main road to discover that the new road between Foix and Tarascon had been conveniently opened over the weekend to speed our return journey.

Thanks, as always, go to Ann Price for her excellent planning and arrangements. Videos about the Cathars were shown on the drive down to France, and throughout the trip, we were kept informed and advised of what was happening in a most relaxed and pleasant way. The linguistically-talented Josefina Martinez was on hand throughout the weekend, her care and constant good humour a continual source of comfort. Thanks too, go to Rafael, the young driver, who spoke English almost as well as he could drive (which was extremely well) and who cheerfully drove us to the most improbable places.

ANSWERS TO THE CHRISTMAS QUIZ

From page 13

1. The largest parish in Andorra is Canillo, amounting to one quarter of the entire country. It used to be the richest as well, its income being derived from renting out its mountain pastures in the summer months, principally to Spanish farmers. Even today, the herds and flocks can be seen in the spring making the trek up to the grazing lands, and in the autumn, returning down to the plains.
2. Don Guiliam de Plandolit d'Areny, the head of an ancient Andorran family of iron magnates. His family home in Ordino is now open to the public as a museum, and can be identified by the eighteen-metre-long wrought iron balcony. In the garden can be seen two of the heavy power-driven hammers from the old Ordino forge.
3. The only church with a round tower is the twelfth century church of Santa Coloma.
4. The ruins of an Arab castle can be seen on the left of the main road to Fance, just beyond Encamp.
5. The house that is reputed to have been "Where Charlemagne slept" can be found off the main road on the way to Spain (first on the right, just past Sant Julia).
6. The national flower of Andorra is *La Grandalla* (narcissus) (*Narcissus poeticus*). It flowers prolifically all over the mountain meadows each spring. The narcissus has six petals, which were thought to represent the (then) six parishes, while the stamens were thought to represent the two Co-Princes of the country.
7. The lowest point in the Principality is 850 metres, in Sant Julia de Loria.
8. The highest inhabited village in the Iberian peninsula is Soldeu, at 1,825 metres.
9. Escaldes, the seventh and most recently-formed parish, developed as a centre for wool-washing, the warm thermal waters being beneficial for the industry. More recently, the hot springs have been incorporated in a number of spas and hot pools (most notably Caldea) for visitors and tourists.
10. The first mention of Andorra was made in 839 AD in the Act of Consecration of the Cathedral of Urgell, when the six parishes of Andorra were listed as part of the Bishopric. There is speculation that earlier mention was made in Hannibal's records.
11. This was the Oratori de les Bons in Encamp (still standing in this postcard in 1950).
12. The highest peak is Coma Pedrosa (2,946 metres) in La Massana (see cover picture).



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A DAY ON THE SACRED MOUNTAIN

During the winter, the Pyrenees are covered in deep in snow. But in summer, they are a cool haven, the towering heights inviting the fit (and the not-so-fit) to conquer them. In this feature, Peter Dunkley recalls the spectacular beauty and sense of achievement that he experienced when he scaled the heights of Mount Canigou in the early summer months.

Mount Canigou is for many Catalans, what Fujiyama is to the Japanese or Olympus to the Greeks - a quasi-mystical symbol of their race and culture. Catalan writers and poets often refer to it as 'the sacred mountain'. Snow-capped for most of the year, its peak, silhouetted against a Mediterranean-blue sky, seems to float above the surrounding massif. It's a magical sight.

Politically, present-day Catalunya consists of four provinces of Spain. Historically and culturally, though, it includes much of France's Rousillon. It's an area for which the two countries battled, over the centuries and which they finally partitioned when the boundaries were redrawn by the Treaty of the Pyrenees in 1659. The shared heritage explains why the flag that flutters above the peak of Canigou - a few kilometres inside the French border - is not the tricolore of France, but the red and yellow-striped emblem of Catalunya.

In summer, while visitors from all over

pride themselves on being in good shape, the challenge is almost irresistible.

The 'season' for Canigou is any time after the last ice melts, usually in mid-May, up to late October when the mists swirl up from the valley, the temperature drops and there's a risk of the sudden, first snowfall of approaching winter. A

lodge - the Chalet Cortalets, located on the massif - is open from June 15th to September 30th. There's a bar and restaurant there, together with basic overnight accommodation.

June 23rd - the summer solstice - is a particularly busy day. It's the eve of the feast of St John the Baptist and at midnight, a fire is lit at the summit in a celebration repeated throughout Catalunya and

along the Pyrenees to the Atlantic coast.

An agreeable way of tackling Canigou is to stay overnight in Vernet-les-Bains, on the north-west side of the massif, book a seat in a jeep-taxi up to the Chalet Cortalets early the next morning and start walking from there.

In the middle of the last century when 'taking the waters' was in vogue, Vernet was the most fashionable spa in the Pyrenees. Its casino was designed by the same architect responsible for its big brother in Monte Carlo and the resort was so popular with the English that it was nick-named 'Vernet-les Anglais'.

Much of the town was washed away by floods in 1940, but the casino survived, together with the adjoining Hotel du Portugal. Both are worth a detour if only to admire the magnificently ornate exteriors. The interiors have been conver-



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ted and the casino now hosts the-dances and other events. The jeep-taxi from Vernet to the Chalet Cortalet takes almost ninety minutes over a rough track, but the splendour of the forest, the multi-coloured mountain flowers and the views to the valley below as the vehicle swings around the hairpins, all make the time pass quickly. Many visitors drive to the Chalet in their own 4x4 vehicles. The first hour is not bad, although things get a little rough later on.

From the Chalet Cortalets, the usual hike to the summit is along a well-marked track. It skirts a small lake on the left, not far from the Chalet, then ascends gradually along a ridge to the Pic Joffre - named in 1920 after Marechal Joffre, hero of the battle of the Marne.

First-timers on the route often mistake Joffre for the summit and start congratulating themselves on their amazing progress. Then, suddenly, they're over the ridge and there, in front - and much, much higher - is Pic Canigou. Perhaps it's only illusion but it's precisely at this point that the track seems to become steeper and more rock-strewn.

A sign outside the Chalet gives a time of ninety minutes for the ascent. It may be sufficient for younger walkers. For those of more mature age, just under two and a half hours is more realistic. It allows time to sit occasionally, nibble on an apple and contemplate views such as few will experience outside the pages of coffee-table books or travel magazines.

The walking distance from Chalet to peak is just over five kilometres. As the Chalet itself is at 2,150m and Pic Canigou, 2,784m, the 'vertical' is only 634m. That's the good news; the bad is that, somewhere around 100m (vertical) from the top, the beaten track ends and the last section of the ascent is over massive stones.

The summit itself comes almost as a surprise. You heave yourself over some boulders and find, suddenly, there's nowhere else to go. There's not much room, either. The peak is sharply conical and with much of the space taken up by the table d'orientation, a large cross with a flag and some wickedly jagged rocks, a half-dozen people can be a crowd. Indulge a sense of achievement and savour the panoramic views. On a sharp, clear day, you can see Corsica and the southern Alps in one direction and far down the Spanish Costas in the other.

By mid-afternoon, the Chalet is full of people returning to claim their reward - a cold drink has never tasted so good. Outside, the

jeep-taxis start the return trip to Vernet. Later, driving along the valley, you look up at the distant peak with a proprietary feeling.

"This is MY mountain," you say to yourself. "I was there at the top, just a few hours ago." It's an emotional moment.

For those who feel specially drawn to Canigou - as many do - and want to spend another day on the mountain, there's an interesting trek up to the Chalet Cortalets starting from the Refuge de la Pra Cabrera, on the north-east side of the massif.

To get to the Prat Cabrera by vehicle, start from the roundabout on the Perpignan side of the Prades by-pass and take the D24b to the village of Villerach. Just after Villerach, the road becomes a 'route forestiere', but the surface is quite good and there are even a few paved sections. Take the worst parts slowly and you can do it with a non-4x4 in seventy-five minutes. Since the route is prone to minor snow or rock avalanche, forest regulations keep it closed from October until May 15th. Between these dates, there's a barrier five kilometres beyond Villerach.

The track to the Chalet Cortalets branches off, about two hundred metres past the Refuge. There are a couple of signs by the roadside. One reads 'Ras del Prat Cabrera Alt 1793m'. Another says 'Chalet Cortalets GR10 1 1/2 hours'. Forget the 1 1/2. It will take you nearer two.

You start off with some giddy views down a scree-sided, sheer drop-off to the left. Then for thirty minutes, there's a steep trek, leading through a section of dead forest with gnarled, bleached-white skeletons of trees. Eerie, vaguely disturbing even, their grotesque shapes hint at another aspect of Canigou.

In October 1961, *La Depeche du Midi* ran an article headlined, *Malediction sur le Canigou*. Another journal referred to the mountain as *le maudit triangle*. The editorials were written after

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yet one more in a ten-year series of aircraft disasters in which eighty-eight people had lost their lives in the area.

For centuries, until the 1930's, iron ore had been mined on Canigou. At first, investigators speculated that the immense deposits still remaining in the mountain might be affecting the planes' navigation equipment.

When tests eliminated this as a cause, the crashes were ascribed either to pilot error or equipment failure. Many older people, though, who have lived on and around Canigou all their lives, were unconvinced and spoke openly about more mysterious and malevolent forces. Beyond the forest, the hike becomes less vertical as it traverses along the side of the mountain. Later, you see the Chalet Cortalets in the distance. The two-hour trek admittedly lacks the sense of achievement you feel in reaching Canigou's summit. Nevertheless it has its own pleasures.

As you return from the Chalet, spare a thought for the plight of a band of people who travelled this route in darkness on the night of July 7th 1944 - under enemy fire. From late 1941, the French maquis had been active around

Canigou, harassing the occupying forces and directing fugitives to the Spanish border. As the Germans tightened their grip, though, they forced the maquisards further up the mountain until, at the end of June 1944, they had them pinned down, in and around Cortalets. Reinforcements were brought up and during the subsequent siege, the Chalet was almost destroyed.

Finally, on July 7th, the maquisards were able to break through the cordon and make their escape. The route they took was the one down to Prat Cabrera and from there, east, to the village of Valmanya. The respite was only temporary, though. Three weeks later, Valmanya itself was attacked and virtually demolished with the loss of many lives.

Over the years, many people have sought to exploit Canigou's tourist potential. As early as 1901, the *Club Alpin* itself launched a feasibility study for a cog-railway from Cortalets to the peak. There was no environmental 'lobby' at the time and had it not been for the problems of land acquisition and the start of the war in 1914, the project might well have

become reality. Although government and environmentalists are now committed to limiting the development of Canigou, many feel the damage has already been done. They bitterly regret that 4x4's and mountain bikes were allowed on the mountain at all. The opposing interests of 'reasonable access' and 'total preservation' are irreconcilable. However, although more people are making the trek each year, there are still many occasions in May, most of June and from mid-September, when you can look around on your way to the summit and discover that you're a solitary pilgrim on Catalunya's sacred mountain.
©Peter Dunkley, 1995

FACTFILE

Vernet-les-Bains is on the north-west side of the Canigou massif, 8km off the main N116 from Bourg-Madame to Perpignan. Take the D116 to Vernet from just outside Villefranche-de-Conflent.

The *Office du Tourisme* is at Rue Jules Ferry, 66820 Vernet-les-Bains. Tel: 68.05.55.35, fax: 68.05.60.33.

Shop around for best prices on jeep-seats from Vernet to the Chalet Cortalets - there are signs all over Vernet - but expect to pay about FF150 per person.

If you're driving to the Chalet, take the D27 for 4.5km to Fillols. At 1.5km the other side of the village, there's a track on the right, signposted 'Massif de Canigou'. The Chalet is 14km. At Fillols, don't miss the splendid, wrought-iron bell cage on the roof of the 12th century (but heavily restored) church.

There are many hotels in Vernet. A good one is the three-star:

Le Mas Fleuri, 25 Blvd Clemenceau.

Tel: 68.05.51.94, Fax: 68.05.50.77.

Double rooms with shower or bath, TV, mini-bar, individual patios and swimming pool - from FF310.

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PLONGEZ DANS LE PLAISIR

At the end of last winter, a group of CIA members decided to accept the invitation and plunge into the pleasures of Caldea to rejuvenate themselves. Here, Laura Fecanin relates the soothing powers and the glorious experience of the Caldea waters.

We were in need of healing waters. The heady spring weather had enticed us to sample the Caldea's power to rejuvenate our winter-weary spirits. Could its magic also ease the pain in our aching bodies, we wondered.

The four of us had had traumatic experiences: Clare Allcard had been suffering from sciatica, Clare's mother, Rosemary Thompson, had painful hips, Sonia Hunter was recovering from a broken bone, while I had pulled the ligaments and miniscous muscles in my knee.

In single file, we hobbled down the curved flight of stairs, laughing at ourselves and our injuries. We gripped the steel bannister as we descended into the bowels of the spa. Blue lights gleamed eerily under each tread, concrete beams criss-crossed overhead like a giant game of tick-tack-toe.

We paid our entrance fee and received a card which records the time of entry (you are allowed three hours). Once through the turnstile, you enter ingeniously constructed booths, change into your swimsuit and exit on the other side to a wall of colour-coded and numbered lockers. Ample room is given for all your street attire while a hanging basket is provided for small items. A deposit of 500pts releases the key.

Following the obligatory shower and foot bath, you arrive at a bank of safe deposit drawers, find the number that matches your key and deposit your valuables. This means that your money is available for drinks or meals.

Clare, who had been to the resort before, led us through this labyrinth and, finally, into the Caldea waters.

A stunning sight awaits you as you enter the Gran Llacuna. Glass-enclosed peaks soar four storeys above you like a modern cathedral, the shining mass held in place by green and white metal supports. The futuristic pool of shimmering blue water on the first level is flanked by white tiles and marble columns. Towel racks line the wall at poolside. The second level balcony houses bars and restaurants. Hanging plants lend a tropical air to the upper floor which houses the Club.

As we sank into the thermal water of 30°C our sore muscles and aching limbs relaxed. We swam through the face-moisturising area into the outdoor lagoon. The air was warm and a gentle spring breeze wafted the perfume of flowers bordering the pool. Viewing Andorra La Vella and Escaldes-Engordany from this aspect made the buildings, streets and mountains seem new and unfamiliar. A winter swim in the outdoors must be spectacular. Imagine white peaks and brisk winter winds whipping snow into the warm pool - what an exhilarating sensation that would be.

Underwater jets churned the area, eddies twirled us around, massaging our bodies. As we were swept along by the current, we witnessed a delightful display of fountains in all directions, rising and falling with the tempo of accompanying music.

Swimming against the current, we re-entered the indoor pool, went up the stairs and sampled each of four jacuzzis which rise dramatically from the pool. The water temperature increases as you ascend, the fourth jacuzzi is hot. Nozzles are positioned to massage a different part of the body, from ankles to neck.

Wrapped in our towels, we wended our way along the circular hall to the Indo-Roman Baths. Terracotta walls and low ceilings were a good representation of a subterranean Indian Spa.

The first bath had a temperature of 39°C, which soothed and coddled us. After ten minutes of heavenly repose in this womb temperature, I



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FACTFILE

- In order to take advantage of the hot springs, the Comu of Escaldes-Engordany formed the group SEMTEE SA with Eurothermes Development, presided over by Dr. Ebrard, the six parishes and 1,600 Andorran and foreign resident investors.
- The architect was aquatic designer, Jean Michel Ruols; the edifice was constructed by SOVIC, overseen by Lucien Mendic. With thirteen flying steel buttresses and a total weight of 450 tons, the structure was built by the French company, Clapot.
- In the shape of a crystal, the building looks like an enormous bi-dimensional mirror which reflects the mountains of Andorra. Walls of semi-emitting glass minimize the greenhouse effect. Caldea is built in accordance with seismic regulations to seven on the Richter scale.
- Thermal water is extracted from wells at 68°F, treated and used in the pools. The heat is recaptured to heat the centre and maintain water temperature. The spire houses high-tech office space and features an outside elevator.
- Caldea is situated at an altitude of 1,000m, in a space of 25,000m², 80 m high, 65m wide.
- Eurothermes Development currently manages Caldea under the direction of Gerard Andre, former director of the hot springs in Vichy.

summoned up courage to try the cold bath. I jumped, head and all, into the bone-chilling 14°C water. I turned blue. I could have been in Finland rather than Andorra. Next we sampled the foot baths (one half hot, the other cold), dunking one foot at a time in each. Then we tried the sauna, followed by a walk through the Snow Patio, wading through ice water to the hips. After this travail, we luxuriated in the solarium on lounges under sun lamps, ending our three hours in a state of complete relaxation.

We all felt better, calm and at peace. Our aches and pains had all but disappeared (except for Rosemary's hip ache - she has since had a hip operation and is now on the road to recovery).

ANSWER TO LOGIC FOR BEGINNERS

Six correct solutions were received to the Logic Puzzle, which appeared in the Summer issue of *Intercomm*. So a draw was held for the winner at the Coffee Morning on 4th October.

The name of the Lucky Winner was
MALCOLM DUNN

and he was presented with his prize - a fine bottle of red wine - at Bridge on Monday 9th October. We would like to thank all those who participated in this competition.

(The owner of the Zebra was, of course, the German.)

If you enjoyed the puzzle, please let us know if you would like to see more of them in the magazine. If so, do you have any puzzles? Please call Margaret Shaide on 860043

Clearly the waters do not actually cure complaints, but the luxury and pampering of the body do induce a wonderful sense of peace and tranquillity. All felt the exercise worthwhile and wanted to return for more. The first heavy snow of this winter will find me in the outdoor Llacuna. Why not join me?

INFORMATION

- Caldea is open from 10 am to 11 pm
- The cost of entry was 1,800 pts for three hours. We received a fifteen percent discount on presenting our CIA membership cards.
- *Carta Magna* holders (senior citizens and residents over sixty-five) may enter for 1,000 pts between 10 am to 1 pm Mondays to Fridays while young people with *Carnet Jove* can enter for the same price and same hours Sundays to Fridays.
- It is planned to introduce a special "visitors' membership" of the Club facilities which will include beauty treatments, relaxation and body massage (I had planned to have a massage, but they were all booked when I called from the restaurant at one pm. Make an appointment at the desk as you enter to ensure you get an appointment.
- The fountain display accompanied by music takes place at quarter past every hour.
- I had parked my car outside, in the open parking area, and paid only 200 pts. The others had to pay 700pts to park within the building, and had to pay an additional amount beyond the three hours. Clearly, you save by parking outside.

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