

INTER A COMM
CLUB INTERNACIONAL D'ANDORRA

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CLUB INTERNACIONAL D'ANDORRA

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INTERCOMM

International Club of Andorra Quarterly Magazine DECEMBER 1999

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COFFEE MORNING IS HELD EVERY WEDNESDAY, 10.30 - 12.00, AT THE HOTEL PARIS-LONDRES
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CONTENTS

Group Leaders	1	Summer B.B.Q.		The Art Exhibition		Auditori Nacional	
Editorial from the Board	2	Pam Churcher	6	Nina O'Brien	14	D'Ordino	27
Advertising Policy	3	Fira Concurs		Mare de Déu de L'Oratori			
News from the Groups	4	Peter Parkinson	7	Ramon Argilés	16		
Computer Group	4	A Finnish Sauna		Andorra 2025	17		
Art Group	4	Shirley Towgood	7	A Fantasy J. Crozier			
International Singers	4	Leprosy Work in India Bill & Val Erry	8	Festa Magna			
Otti's Brainwave	5	Dan Parsons	10	P. Parkinson	19		
Clare Allcard		Recipe for Turrón		Why I joined the Singers	20		
		M.T. Raurell	11	Alba Puig			
		The Tió C.C. Smith	11	Restaurant Report			
		Adventure in Scotland		Peter & Sally Smith	21		
		Bent Dorning	12	Forthcoming Activities	22		
				Musica & Dansa	27		

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EDITORIAL FROM THE BOARD

There were rather more mistakes than we would have liked in the last issue, notably in the Editorial. We wrote about the French proverb translated into English as "nothing endures like the provisional", which was printed as "nothing endures like the provincial". Those of us who were born in the provinces of whatever country may indeed feel that we endure better than those born in the metropolis or capital city, but no such discriminatory statement was intended. The typesetter has purchased a complex technical device called a scanner, which will we understand reduce errors in this and future issues.

By the time this issue goes to print, **Brian Dore** and **Jacque Crozier** will have left Andorra to take up residence in France. Our good wishes go with them, combined with gratitude for their very considerable efforts on behalf of our Club over many years. No doubt we shall see them in Andorra from time to time.

In the last issue we welcomed new members of the Board, and this time we wish to express a similar welcome and appreciation to **Margaret Mathieson** who is looking after Helpline; to **Diana Stansby**, as our first Membership Secretary, following the separation of this function from that of Treasurer; to **Sally Smith** as our first Advertising Co-ordinator, which function has in the past sometimes suffered from uncertainties.

We announce with regret the death of **Alex Campbell**, at the age of 81, who had lived in Andorra since 1971. His distinguished war service in the Spanish Civil War and in the Second World War with the S.O.E. in France and with Force 136 in Burma where he became a great friend of the Karen nation, earned him an O.B.E., M.C. and bar, Croix de Guerre with Palme. He was born in France, of a Scottish father and a French mother and educated in England. After the war he became a foreign correspondent for the Daily Mail, covering the partition of India and the foundation of Israel. Later he took up rubber planting and administration in Malaysia. Our sympathies go to his widow **Noelle** and their daughter **Sarah** in Andorra, to their son **Patrick** and his other son by a previous marriage in England.

Leisure Exhibition

Many members will recall the very successful Hobby Exhibition, held on 14th to 16th March 1997 in the Sala Polivalent in Ordino. Thirty-four members put on an exhibit of their hobby. Over 600 people came to look, and it was estimated that about 70% were local residents. We had good publicity in the press and on T.V.

At its October meeting, the Executive Committee took the decision in principle to repeat the exercise next year, although the time and place have not yet been fixed. This time we are thinking of calling it a Leisure Exhibition, rather than "Hobby" as last time, but that is a change of name rather than a change of substance. In the course of the next few weeks we shall write to all members of the Club in the hope of finding at least as many exhibitors as in 1997.

"Hobbies" last time included glass engraving, batik, cake decoration, patchwork, pottery, tapestry, knitting, photography, model-making, many different collections, art, writing and publishing, costume design, dried flowers, silk flowers, rug-making, lace-making, sketching, aeroplane-building, macramé. As well as static exhibits there were demonstrations, and samples of, many delicious recipes.

Cultural Events in France and Spain

The "Forthcoming Activities" section of our magazine Intercomm provides information for the next two months on various activities arranged in Andorra by parish authorities and others. At its meeting in October the Board agreed to initiate what may be seen as an extension of this to a wider geographic area. Various towns and cities in France and Spain put on cultural events such as concerts, operas and ballets, often in the form of a festival lasting for a week or more. In France these include Prades, Carcassonne, Toulouse, Perpignan, Montpellier, for instance; and in Spain Seu d'Urgell, Lleida, Barcelona, Tarragona. This information is usually available well in advance. We plan to obtain and circulate this information, maybe through Intercomm, via the Newsletter or via routine mailings. We hope that enough people will be interested for the Club to arrange, say for ten people to go in a minibus, paid driver, to Prades, for instance,



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This year **The Traditional Danish Christmas Buffet**
will be held on **Sunday the 5th & Sunday the 12th** of December at 1 pm.

Please be sure to reserve in advance by calling Tel. 835 640

returning late in the evening. We should be glad to have any expressions of interest or other comments on this proposal.

We of the Magazine Committee would like to thank all the Members who provided contributions to the October issue as well as those who so kindly rang to congratulate us on our first effort. Despite our meticulous proof-reading beforehand the printer's scanner made a few errors but we hope to be able to eliminate this type of problem in the future.

The Editorial Committee really welcomes contributions to the Magazine. These could take the form of articles, letters, photos, reports on favourite restaurants or beauty spots, crossword puzzles, etc. We are always on the lookout for material, so if you have something that could be suitable, even if it is only at the stage of an idea not completely worked out, get in touch with one of us, either by telephone or at the weekly coffee mornings. Contributions for the next issue of Intercomm should be left in the **Club letterbox at the Servissim office in La Massana** by latest 1st February and addressed to the Magazine Committee.

A REMINDER:

As in previous years the CIA is having a stall at the St. Llúcia Fair in La Massana on December 11th.

St Llúcia Fairs are a pre-Christmas tradition - Some CIA members visited several of the Barcelona venues last year. Their main purpose is to sell Christmas trees, decorations, the figures for cribs and many similar items.

For the CIA stall we would welcome from members any of the following: home-made foods, jam, jelly, pickle, cakes, biscuits, chocolates, sweets. Also Christmas decorations, home-made or mass produced, and small gift items, particularly unused furry animals or toys. If possible please donate these items with 'Christmasy' ribbon etc.

Please phone Solveig - 837118 or Ann - 836653 with details of your contribution.

ADVERTISING POLICY

A reminder about the various ways in which members can advertise through the Club.

1. Members and non-members may place advertisements in the quarterly magazine Intercomm. Charges vary according to size and colour and cover 4 editions, i.e. a period of 1 year.
2. Members may place, free of charge, small, personal (non-business) advertisements in the magazine's new Classified Ads. Section.
3. Subject to Solveig Feilberg and Samia Omar's agreement, personal and business ads. or information about items of general interest can be put on the Coffee Morning Notice Board.
4. Subject to Solveig Feilberg and Samia Omar's agreement, a small quantity of business cards, leaflets and information about items of general interest may be left on the main table at Coffee Mornings.
5. There is no advertising in the Weekly Newsletter, the purpose of which is to provide news only: local, Club & other, if considered of general interest.




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NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Group activities, including the coffee morning, are organised for the benefit of Club members only. However, subject to the group leader's approval, non-members may be present on up to three occasions after which we must ask them to take out Club membership

COMPUTER GROUP

The Club holds regular meetings every other Thursday at the Rutllan Hotel, La Massana at 11.00 am.

The Group includes experts and beginners and any member with computer problems is welcome. There are always new developments to discuss where computers are concerned. The present interest is in the possibility of having a Web Page.

Brian Keep and Peter Jennings both continue to help us in joining Internet and solving computer problems. The Club is a reference group of persons who have similar interest in computers and to make it possible for one member to help another similarly situated. The most common service is for people who are thinking of getting on the net, to be put in touch with someone who is on, and can show how it works. We have members who have experience with every service in Andorra.

Of interest is the fact that a recent visit to a primary school in La Massana revealed that every class had its own computer, and all the printing needed in the class had been done on the computer.

The net continues to expand in Andorra, with the CIA Newsletter to be available on it, at 30 ptes per copy.

At present about 35 copies are sent out free to members by E-Mail and in future the actual sending out will be done by The Computer Group.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Stanley Jones - Tel: 836 972

E-Mail - jones.stanley@andorra.ad

THE ART GROUP

See Nina O'Brien's article on page no. 14

THE INTERNATIONAL SINGERS

THE INTERNATIONAL SINGERS CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME, 1999

VII FESTIVAL OF INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS MAGIC

Thursday, 9th December at the church of
Santa Maria del Fener at 21.30h
and

Sunday, 12th December at Ordino church
at 16.30h with refreshments to follow.

4th CONCERT OF FRIENDSHIP AT SANTA EULÀLIA CHURCH, ENCAMP

Wednesday, 15th December at 21.30h
(This is a shorter, more Catalan version of the
above)

PARTICIPATION IN THE
LEUKAEMIA CHARITY FESTIVAL
OF MUSIC AND DANCE (see other ad.)
Friday, 17th December, National
Auditorium, Ordino, 22.00h



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OTTI'S BRAINWAVE

Last summer, club member **Otti Hoëbig** had a brainwave. After the free Josep Carreras concert, she wrote to his International Foundation against leukaemia offering to organise a concert here in Andorra to raise funds for his cause. On 17th December you can see the results.

Otti has managed to draw together an excellent selection of soloists such as Ian West (pianist) Gisela Pereira (mezzo soprano), Marc Canturri (baritone), Eva Bertrand (soprano), plus one of Andorra's best folk dance groups, the Esbart Santa Anna; the charismatic Flamenco troupe of Francesc Amat; Esther Esteve and her dancers who will perform part of The Nutcracker; the cream of the spirited Harmonia players led by Roser Palomero, past European champion accordionist and the Conservatoire's young orchestra which has gone from strength to strength in recent years. Oh yes, and your very own **International Singers** who have been doing most of the organising.

Crédit Andorra is backing the project, funding the programmes, posters, tickets to say nothing of the incredible cost of hiring a grand piano! The tickets will be available from all their branches and cost 1,000 pta.; all of which will go to the Foundation. There will also be a collection at the door as you leave. Perhaps you'll be away or perhaps you'd simply like to make a further donation.

The government has allowed us to use the National Auditorium free of charge which is wonderful – comfort and good views for you and marvellous acoustics for us. Unfortunately, being so near to Christmas, many of the participants will be working till late so the performance will start at 10pm but we do hope you will not allow this to deter you from coming to what promises to be an excellent evening's entertainment in aid of a very good cause.

Clare Allcard

FROM THE EDITOR OF THE NEWSLETTER

There will be a few periods during the year when I am away and therefore unable to produce the Weekly Newsletter. Please would one or two of you commit yourselves to doing this for us for an occasional week or fortnight?

I'd be very grateful to hear from you about this.

Caroline – Tel: 837 315

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SUMMER B.B.Q. NEAR PAL

Pam Churcher reports on a very successful summer B.B.Q.

A more beautiful site for a B.B.Q. would be hard to find, but oddly enough more than a few of us – some resident in Andorra for years – were totally unaware of its existence. That said, probably all of us must have passed it many times, situated as it is on the left-hand side of the road just after turning right towards Col de la Botella and away from Pal Ski Station.

Access to the site is by means of two rustic stairways complete with handrails which take one up to level one. Here an enormous B.B.Q. has been constructed measuring over 2 metres in diameter and divided into 4 sections. Also there is a good supply of natural water.

On arrival Ann was awaiting us and Fiona and Marco – well-known for their culinary expertise at the Micolau Restaurant – were already busy cooking, and Carol, the official photographer. We were supplied with a very welcome liquid refreshment and each were given 6 free raffle tickets.

From level 1 there are stairways to levels 2 & 3; these are an added bonus though not entirely necessary as the young enjoyed the short scramble and it was by no means impossible for the aged!

These wonderful open areas were well-equipped with large wooden tables complete with benches, all well spread out and protected from the elements by overhanging trees. We never felt too hot and the mountain views are quite magnificent. What more could we want? Maybe food! Well, food in the capable hands of the Micolau more than lived up to expectations and there was plenty of it. Nobody went hungry or thirsty. The extra-large table on level 3 was laden with dishes of chicken, sausages, jacket potatoes etc., all freshly cooked – super salads, gorgeous garlic bread, not to mention drinks – wine, beer, soft drinks and, last but not least, loads of bucks fizz.



I gather we numbered 36 adults and 10 children excluding organisers and helpers. Did this include babies? If so there were four generations present and the net result a truly lovely family atmosphere. All we needed was a clown and there she was in the shape of Nicky – splendidly attired. She was a tremendous success and how the children loved it when she allowed them to sit around her (this after lunch) when she painted their faces brilliantly and produced a whole lot of little clowns. Meanwhile the grown-ups enjoyed their coffee and the surroundings.



I have heard it is possible to hire Nicky to entertain our children when we have a party for them. What an asset she would be. Following on all this excitement Ann produced a bag of toys for the children and then asked them to draw the ten winning raffle tickets.

Our thanks go very specially to Ann for organising this event and also to Fiona, Marco and all their helpers. I have yet to meet anyone who didn't appreciate to the full all of you responsible for the smooth running of this memorable occasion, and to think the site is just on our doorsteps!

Thank you all for a great day.

Pam Churcher





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FIRA CONCURS

All of us know about the FIRA in Andorra and many of us will have visited the XX1st FIRA, held as usual on the car park in Prat de la Creu, this year on 22nd, 23rd and 24th October. But how many of us know about or visited the FIRA CONCURS in Andorra?

Until a few years ago this used to be held on the same site and at the same time as the FIRA, but recently it has become a separate function held on the sunken car park just opposite the government building. Essentially it's a horse and cattle show, to which anyone is welcome without formality. As an additional incentive, "breakfast" is available free to anyone who asks throughout the morning. Coffee of course, and on a coldish morning what better than to fill up your coffee cup with Spanish brandy, or to have another cupful of Spanish wine? Solid food as well, in plenty.

The FIRA CONCURS lasts one day, this year 27th October. It was the subject of separate posters but maybe not all of us in the Club were aware of the difference.

Peter Parkinson

A FINNISH SAUNA EXPERIENCE

by Shirley Towgood

Whilst I was sitting in the sauna at Anyos Park this morning, my mind went back to my first "proper sauna" in Finland in the 70's. It happened like this. My husband was chairman of a small family owned mill making speciality papers, and he regularly purchased wood pulp from the Finnish Cellulose Union. He made fairly frequent visits to the country, usually accompanied by his papermaker, but on one occasion he was invited to visit Finland as a guest of the F.C.U. and bring his wife. We were to journey there on a cargo boat "The Finpine" (whisky as cargo Hull-Helsingfors and pulp as cargo Helsingfors-Hull!).

The visit took place in September. The boat was just 1300 tons, and the only passenger apart from ourselves, was a pretty young Finnish girl. The tale of that voyage is a story in itself!

We enjoyed the visit to that lovely country in beautiful mild, sunny weather. My husband was very occupied visiting pulp mills and lecturing on the subject of his special papers. I was charmingly entertained by the wives of the F.C.U. directors.

One weekend we spent in an hotel on the banks of Lake Aulanko. The lake was famous especially as the home of the Finnish composer, Sibelius. The first morning we were told by our hosts that we **must** enjoy a Finnish sauna. Always game, we agreed and were escorted to a wooden hut on the banks of the lake. There we were greeted by a female attendant of vast proportions, invited to strip, and put in a wooden room, where, with gales of laughter, she proceeded to pour water on the hot stones over the wood fire, which caused so much superheated steam I had difficulty in breathing. Then, we were let out into another room where we were supposed to beat ourselves with birch branches, and also take turns in being laid on a table and scrubbed hard by this terrifying woman.

At last, she opened the door of the hut, and pointed to a plank path leading out over the lake, from whence we were to jump into the lake and swim. I have never been so eager to jump into icy waters. Our two naked pink forms were loudly cheered by the passengers on a ferry which happened to be passing. We were then wrapped in lovely warm towels, and, having dressed, returned to the hotel, where we drank endless cups of tea, and retired to bed where we fell into a dreamless sleep for hours - until (thankfully) we were awaked by some kind person in time for us to appear for the reception and dinner that evening.

We were presented with a certificate certifying that we had endured temperatures of 100 degrees C. The next two days my body was covered in pink circles, which I was assured would vanish in time, and which, much to my relief, did. Our kind hosts were much amused by our, to their minds, exaggerated tales of our "Finnish sauna experience". Need I say, we did not accept any more.

LEPROSY WORK IN INDIA

by Bill & Val Erry

After having given a talk on the above subject in July we have been requested to write something of our experiences. We were engaged in missionary and charity work in India and other countries for some thirty years and 14 years ago we became involved in Leprosy work, accidentally or by the guiding hand of a higher power, depending upon your point of view!

A colleague and I were trying to find an address in Bangalore. Our information was incomplete resulting in our asking directions from all sorts of people who directed us in all sorts of directions. When we were on the point of giving up hope someone told me to "go into that building over there and ask them, they are sure to be able to help". I walked into the building and encountered a nun. She said she did not know where the address was, but she knew a man who did, whereupon she disappeared into the depths of the building. Shortly afterwards a young man appeared asking me if I was the one needing directions. The result was, he offered to accompany us in our search. We both thought it was extremely kind of him to put himself to so much trouble. Well, we never found the address, but we certainly found a good friend. Michael (that is his name) was employed in the building which turned out to be a Church Leprosy Eradication Unit.

Our friendship with Michael developed over the following year or so which caused some annoyance to his employer who resented him being involved with people from another Church. This resulted in Michael getting the sack. A disaster for a man with a wife and 3 young children in a country with endemic unemployment! Of course, I felt personally responsible for this dramatic turn of events.

My friends in our Churches in Europe joined together in coming to our rescue. At my suggestion, we decided that the talents and skills this young man had acquired in the treatment of leprosy should not be

wasted. We decided to start our own Leprosy Eradication Program. Of course, we did it all through the proper channels with the Indian Ministry of Health, but Michael was a man who 'knew the ropes'. In due course we were allocated a section of Bangalore and surrounding countryside approx. 30 miles long in which no leprosy program existed and in which 100,000 people lived. We set up our main clinic in a small town called Sarjapura just outside Bangalore. Our clinic was officially opened on 30th August 1985.

The Minister of Health for Bangalore and his entourage presided as our guests of honour.

The Apostle Paul had a wonderful knack of being able to say something in such a special way that it was unique to him. This made his expressions of particularly meaningful thoughts so easy for us all to remember that his phrases have assumed the everyday usage of proverbs in many languages: such an expression is "Faith, Hope and Charity". When the Apostle Paul said Charity, he described a very special kind of love. Love can be passive, but

when love takes action and does something, such as actually helping, serving and otherwise expressing sympathy for others in a positive manner, then we have the kind of love the Apostle Paul was talking about. Small wonder that he said this Love was even greater than Faith and Hope.

The picture of our Leprosy Patient shows a young Indian boy on the verge of becoming a teenager. His right cheek has a large, light-coloured patch on it. He is clean, tidy, nicely dressed and smiling happily, because he is in blissful ignorance of the time-bomb inside him which is ticking away his time of health and happiness. Young Ashok is full of Faith and Hope in what life holds in store for him, and because of the Charity which has been extended to him by the many donors to the United Apostolic Leprosy Eradication Program his Faith and Hope were not in vain. The

Ashok



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young boy was detected by one of our para-medical workers on a routine door-to-door search for such afflicted persons. His leprosy time-bomb is no longer ticking away within his small body. Charity has stopped the clock. Modern multi-therapy drugs swiftly brought the teeming millions of Hansen's bacilli in his blood under control. They are no longer multiplying; indeed their numbers are already diminishing and the white patch is beginning to fade and with it the possibility of the horrible consequences to which it could have led.

Ashok was an exception in that he was already fairly well cared-for when we found him and diagnosed his leprosy. Unfortunately, most of our patients come from very poor circumstances and quite often other members of their families are afflicted too.

All those who came under the care of the United Apostolic Clinic are treated with equal respect and dignity however poor or disfigured and handicapped they may be, irrespective of caste, creed or religion. This is how we all know Jesus would want it to be.

Few of those who visit our Clinic or Sub-Stations comprehend much about the teachings of our Apostolic Church, but nearly all recognise the love and dedication with which they are received. It encourages us all to perceive how our work brings forth such a reciprocal appreciation and respect. We do not labour in vain. Everything each of us has done comes

under the words of Jesus "In as much as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

The United Apostolic Clinic is now housed in a single storey building exclusively for our use, standing right in the middle of Sarjapura, opposite the bus station and the main school and next door to the Police Station and the Government Health Office. This is the best position we could have wished for where everyone can see us and our patients can easily find us. Additionally 15 Sub-Stations have been established to minimise the distance our patients have to travel.

Our examination room and laboratory are now fully equipped. We have an office for our records in supplying us with the modern multi-therapy, anti-leprosy drugs free of charge, and these kinds of drugs, apart from being the most expensive, are also the fastest in bringing the disease under control and to an ultimate cure.

The Ministry of Health in Bangalore were so pleased with our work that some time ago they asked us to take on another district adjacent to the one in which we already worked and which doubled the number of persons covered by our programme, bringing the total up to 200,000.

To date approx. 2,000 persons have been written off our books as totally cured since we started our programme fourteen years ago.

Bill & Val Erry

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DAN PARSONS PASSES HIS BRITISH DRIVING TEST

Most of us know Dan Parsons who, until he left Andorra last year, was an extremely active member of the Club. Here are 2 cuttings from the Bexhill Observer

Driving test joy at 92

DANIEL Parsons can afford to smile ... he's just passed his driving test at the first attempt at the age of 92. Instructor Derek Ansell described him as a model pupil. Full story and another picture - see page 4.



Driving test a doddle for Daniel ... at 92

DANIEL Parsons has passed his driving test at the first attempt ... at the age of 92.

He took just 18 hours' driving lessons and sailed through the practical and theory tests.

Mr Parsons, of Terminus Road, only ever had a red licence when driving licences were first issued in the early 1930s.

These had to be updated every six months but he let it lapse on moving to Andorra with his wife.

Even though he drove abroad, on returning to this country after 40 years in Andorra, Sudan, Egypt and the Middle East as an irrigation engineer, he found his licence was not recognised in England.

Undaunted, Mr Parsons - awarded the OBE for services to humanity - then booked driving lessons.

Derek Ansell of Town and County Driving School gave him the lessons. Asked how he felt on passing his test, Mr Parsons said: "I'm relieved!"

"I've always driven over the known world. I'm not going to tour the British Isles now but we will be looking for a house in the West Country so we will be going off down there."

Mr and Mrs Parsons' family live in Somerset and they want to move there to be near them.



He paid tribute to Mr Ansell's teaching. "He's very good. It's thanks to him I passed."

Mr Ansell said: "He is the oldest pupil I've ever had. He was a very good pupil, no problem at all - I wish they were all like that!"

"He was marvellous, he never gave up. He had to take the new test, too, which is quite difficult."

Mr and Mrs Parsons are seen above with Mr Ansell.

THE RECIPE FOR TURRÓN

Maria Teresa Raurell has passed on to us her recipe for a delicious home-made turrón the Spanish answer to nougat, regarded by them and the Andorrans as the Christmas "sweet" par excellence. There are very many, in fact almost too many, varieties but this is the most traditional Jijona version. Jijona is a small mountain village in the province of Alicante and is famous for its turróns.

Preparation time: 30 minutes

For 8 people:

500 gr.	Sugar
500 gr.	Liquid honey
400 gr.	Toasted & peeled almonds
400 gr.	Toasted & peeled hazelnuts
6	Whites of egg

1. Crush the almonds and hazelnuts into tiny pieces.
2. Beat egg-whites stiff. Then add to the crushed nuts. Mix in really well until you have a uniform consistency.
3. Heat the honey and sugar in a saucepan on a low heat and when they come to the boil add the mixture (2) stirring continuously for 10 minutes with a wooden spoon.

Leave to cool.

4. Optional: Sprinkle with powdered cinnamon.

However – If you can't be bothered to make it you can always try the Andorran way.



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THE TIÓ

*The tió is a large, hollowed out trunk of wood.
(In brackets is the politer version for the last line
of each verse)*

The Andorran tradition of the tió is very well explained on page 127 of the book "Andorra – Festivals, Traditions & Folklore" published by the Andorra Writers Circle in 1998, so we will not repeat it here. But these are some of the chants sung out by the children while they beat the log demanding their torró & other presents.

The Tió's "Prayer"

We pray to the tió that
for many years God may give us
festive holidays,
nosey women,
pine-kernel turróns.
Go on, tió, sh--!! (come on, tió)

Christmas Tió

Now we've fed you well with food and decent wine,
if you don't want to be hurt you'd better
sh - - almonds and turró (give us almonds and turró)

Tió, tió, tió,

I've got my stick ready
and if you haven't got anything for me
I'll thump you really hard

About a week before Christmas the tió must be placed in a quiet corner and fed with oranges, dried fruit, biscuits, some wine and water, replaced daily. It must also be covered with a warm blanket and not disturbed at all until the day on which it is due to churn out the presents. After the beating ceremony the children pull out the presents and then suddenly an onion. This is the sign that the poor tió has had enough and is exhausted.

Caroline Colvin-Smith



ADVENTURE IN SCOTLAND

by Bent Dorning

In June 97 Eva and I joined a hillwalking course at John Ridgway's Adventure School, Ardmore, Scotland. John is an adventurer, who crossed the Atlantic in a rowing boat together with another man. This is just one of many spectacular adventures.

Ardmore is situated in the wild NW-Scotland near Laxford Bridge. When asking for brochures about the region at the Inverness tourist office, we got the reply: "We haven't any, there is nothing up there!"

When we arrived at Ardmore, John and some of his instructors were waiting for us. We and the six other participants parked our cars, the luggage was carried down to the water, we scrambled over the slippery stones and climbed on board one of the school's boats. This was an exercise, which took place a few times during our stay, inevitably at low ebb it seemed to us.

The engine was started and the boat left. Some minutes later John pointed at some buildings and said "That's the school. We put you on shore on the other side of the peninsula and you walk across to the school."

When arriving on the other side of the peninsula we climbed the rocks to get on shore. An important point had been proven: None of us suffered from vertigo! On a walk some days later we walked on a ridge with some sidewind. A fall could end after rolling 100-200meters down the mountain side. Accompanied by some instructors and without our luggage we crossed the peninsula and eventually reached the school. We were accomodated in a wooden building, where we got our own room with a bunk bed. The water was less than a stone's throw from the window and across the fjord we could see the next peninsula with Ben Stack not knowing we would walk to the top 2364ft above sea level the next day.

The supper was served in another wooden building, there were two chandeliers, each with three candles, on the big dining table. One wall had a big window facing the water and the mountains, almost the same superb view as that of our room. John took part in our suppers, except the last evening where all the

instructors were present. The six other participants had been there before with maybe one exception. To say they were fit would be an understatement. Fortunately the course can be split up into two groups depending on how fit you are. Eva and I are not very fit so we became one group having two instructors.

The next morning at 6 o'clock an instructor woke us up bringing us a mug of hot tea, after that "stretchies" with John. After breakfast in the dining room we made our packed lunch, finished our rucksack with our needs for the day not to forget the mackintosh.

There is no access to the school by road, so to reach the transport car, we went by boat to save time. From the two landing craft we climbed the slippery rocks with the aid of a rope already fixed there. We passed our compulsory life jackets back to the boats, got our rucksacks and donned them. John was very careful with the equipment. On one occasion he had difficulties anchoring the two boats. The rest of us already up on the rocks heard his voice: "This is how we lost the Empire!"

Then by foot to the transport car and off to Ben Stack. Eva and I were not so fit, so together with two instructors we approached the top from a different side. On the top we met the other group. After admiring the view and enjoying our lunch we went down to the car. Eva's foot got stuck behind a stone when she took a deep step and she strained a muscle or ligament. It happened so fast that the ever present instructor could not prevent it. The instructors were omnipresent during the activities. During the rest of the course Eva had to take it easy. After a short drive we walked 6 km along the Laxford River.

After supper the next day a delicious cake with lots of candles was carried in. Eva had arranged it for my 60th birthday. She had also arranged telefax messages and phone calls from my children and grandchildren. An unforgettable birthday!

The Wednesday walk was short. After crossing a small mountain we came down to a loch near Kylesku, where John's 57 ft ketch arrived a little bit later. The dinghy brought us onboard. After some

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mental exercise there was a little competition: Who could climb the 70 ft mast fastest?

The boat was heading for the Atlantic while we climbed the mast one by one, our safety secured by a harness with a wire attached to it. The winner took 1 minute 30 seconds. Fortunately the sea was very calm and we had some hours of sailing along the beautiful and wild coast with an abundance of sea birds. Also two Tornado jets came into eyesight, but not for long.

During the stay we walked, occasionally using our hands too, to the top of Ben Stack, Suilven, Quinag, and Ben Hope. The last walk took place near Sandwood Bay on a miserable, rainy and windy day, a contrast to the previous days. While walking through moors, heather, turf against the wind and rain the joke about the tourist in Bergen, Norway, came into my mind: He had spent a few days in Bergen. Walking in the street he met a boy and asked him: "Is it always raining in Bergen?" The boy answered: "I don't know. I'm only 10 years old."

During the walk we passed a plateau overlooking the sea. Far away loomed Cape Wrath in the mist. A slender rock, 50-75 m tall, with shelves full of birds was nearby in the sea. One of participants wanted to get nearer to the edge of the plateau to have a better view but was stopped by John: "Don't go near the edge. The rock is fragile. We have already lost several this year."

Another example of John's humour: At the school there is a little shop where you can buy a.o. T-shirts with the school's logo. You take what you need and enter your purchase in a little book. I noticed that the colours of a T-shirt just inside a window facing south had faded a little. When told, John replied: "We don't get that much sun here, kid!"

How to describe the week we spent in Ardmore? It was hard, but first and foremost a great experience. The scenery was magnificent, the atmosphere warm, the food excellent. The instructors were mostly young Americans, great guys. I made the toughest walk only because of the continuous, gentle encouragement from one of them during climbing a steep, exhausting slope.

We spent another two weeks touring Scotland by car. Beautiful country, lovely people.

Bent Dorning

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THE ART EXHIBITION

by *Nina O'Brien*

Photographs with Nina O'Brien's article – Courtesy Carol Phillips-Jones

If the number of people attending determines the success of a particular show, then the Art Group's Exhibition was a great success. There were times on the opening evening when it was difficult to move in the large hall packed full of spectators. Considering that exhibitions in Andorra tend to be thinly attended, this was particularly heartening. Our exhibition opened on 30th September in Ordino's Sala Polivalent and continued until 3rd October. The opening night brought more than 400 people (Andorrans, resident foreigners and tourists) and probably surprisingly more than 200 on the final day. The Andorra Media gave great support. Andorra TV showed and commented three times and newspapers covered the event for two days.



It takes a lot of courage to show one's work whether professional, student or hobbyist. However, it is good to show your work with others. Of course, not everyone responds in a similar manner. This is particularly so in Andorra where many exhibitions show attempts at photographic reality trapped in heavy gilt frames. Had the great modernists tried to emerge and evolve in Andorra we would still be painting Rubenesque, well rounded nudes or excellently rendered Stags at Bay!!!

"It is a free world" – "art is free" etc. Is it? Are we really free? Are not we all trapped in "what" we want or expect to see? This is, of course, the way



we are programmed from the day one.

I overheard someone say that it was difficult to come to terms with the perspective and some figures in a painting. I must confess that the first time I saw a Nash painting, with a parallel road widening away from the front of the painting, rather than narrowing towards a mathematically defined vanishing point, I was somewhat puzzled, to say the least of it. That I remember the painting seen more than twenty years ago makes me wonder. Are the people who pay millions of dollars for distorted Picassos or Dalis just rich and foolish? I do not think so. Perspective is a mechanical rendering of objective reality. When one looks at an architectural rendering of a planned building it is not exactly the way one reacts to a painting which is planned to create impressions on the mind.

Unless one softens the linear perspective in a painting, it will be stiff and lacking in emotion – better use the more precise camera. Most retired architects and draughtsmen tend to paint rather mechanical paintings. I am not against a knowledge of perspective in the training of an artist providing this is not practised to the exclusion of artistic expression and impact. It may even be that those with minimal or no knowledge of the mathematical perspective may paint something more emotive than one with the "expert" knowledge – quien sabe?



A lot of thanks from members of the Group to those who came to the opening night or later. We will not describe the burned, cut, bruised hands and greasy kitchens that went into the table laden with food or the search for a chateau plonk wine at a price that would

serve and often refill well over 300 glasses. Wines, food and pictures was a great excuse to get together. People had a good time. Some loved spices, others did not – vegetarian or otherwise. At one point a big group make their own party – but this was exactly our objective – come and see our efforts – like them or not – there would be “enough” to make up your one good evening. After all, it was just an art show! If we can not sell our paintings, we may accept more profitable party catering contracts – but would we then be the Art Group?

Before I finish I must expose the martyrdom of the Group under my “tuition”. They have, somehow survived Nina’s relentless slave driving. To be told to “white out” ones masterpiece of two months’ effort can be hard to take. To me, everything is a shape, be it a human being, tree or a building. There can be trouble

between us when they want these shapes to look like a photographic rendering. All in all, however, we are a good friendly group of people enjoying the creative urge – particularly when we see the results in an exhibition and receive abundant compliments on our work.

The Group presented a large painting, done by the members, to the Ordino Comú as a token of their thanks for the use of their fine hall.

If anyone wishes to join, we meet on Fridays in Andorra la Vella. Full details and registration from Val Rylatt or Anne Bumpstead. We follow no definite curriculum and some excellent work has been produced from those starting from scratch or those already well advanced.



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MARE DE DÉU DE L'ORATORI

Further to **Maria Teresa Raurell's** account in the last Intercomm of the ceremony at the shrine to the Virgin of Ecology, Club member **Ramon Argilés**, painter, ceramics artist, has written as follows:

On 4th September, Encamp celebrated, for the second consecutive year, the Day of the "Mare de Déu de l'Oratori". This was on the second Saturday in the month, as it will be every year in the future. This new image is placed in a little shrine – also called an oratori – on the old track to Meritxell, that starts in Encamp at the bridge near Les Bons.

There a Club member asked me when and why was I asked to make this image as well as the image for the "Mare de Déu de l'Ecologia".

Well, I made both of them after the Honorable Consellera of Culture, Sra. Helena Picart, (also a Club member) arranged for the Encamp Comú to commission this from me.

Approximately 150 years ago, on the old track to Meritxell, there was a little chapel which had been built to allow pilgrims going to the Sanctuary on Meritxell Day to stop and take a rest. From this place they could already see the Church, and this gave them the courage to continue their trek. We do not know what the first image was like as with time it disappeared.

This is why the Comú decided to make a new image and restore the ancient practice of devotion at the shrine. They had only one request: I should make a Virgin with a "beautiful face", different to the other Virgins in Andorra which, being Romanesque, are not very attractive. All the rest was left to my imagination.



Ramon & Consul of Encamp



De La Mare de Déu de l'Oratori

I put a bunch of white daffodils – called "grandalles" in Andorra – to show the typical flowers of Andorra and in that particular place there are a great many of them in springtime. Little Jesus bears a reproduction of the old Sanctuary in His right hand, showing that this is the way that leads there, and with His right hand he greets the people passing by, wishing them a good journey.

I made it with ceramic tiles, in the same way as the one for the Mare de Déu de l'Ecologia. In this case I did not have to invent the image, as I was given a replica of the Virgin already being used for worship. Only the ornamentation framing the image is my own creation. This represents Andorran flora and fauna.

The technique used for both is called "flat ceramic". The difficulty is the same as for any ceramic work. The artist must use the right kind of glaze and the correct firing process. In this case I make what is called "ceramic of third fire", and the temperature for firing goes from 720° to 810°, depending on the colours used and on the number of pieces cooked together. But one must be very careful during this operation, because the fire is quite important in any ceramic work. In my speciality it is essential to dominate the art of drawing and painting.

Before finishing, I'd like to highly recommend to everybody, to go to visit these two shrines; not just for their sake but to enjoy the lovely views from both places. They are easy to find and people can always ask for information at the Encamp Tourist Bureau.

Ramon Argilés

ANDORRA 2025 – A FANTASY

by *Jacque Crozier*

*(As the new millennium approaches, many people have been speculating on what the future holds, especially the next quarter of a century. I thought it might be amusing to attempt an imaginative scenario of Andorra twenty-five years on. I wrote the original version for **Poble Andorra** in December 1993 and re-reading and revising that draft, which I discovered when clearing out my files, it was fascinating to see what has already come about and what I got wrong – quite a lot!)*

The Cap de Govern looked out of his window in the Casa de la Vall and sighed; the continual roar of helicopters taking off and landing at the Comella heliport opposite disturbed his concentration as he tried to compose his New Year speech for press and parliament. It was so hot too! Although it was the end of December there was no snow to be seen on any of the peaks visible from the window. Global warming was gathering pace and rapidly becoming global over-heating. So many changes in the past twenty-five years, he thought. Andorra had been very different when he first came to take his seat in the government at the end of the last century as the youngest Minister of Education the country had ever had. There certainly had not been a heliport then, although there had been plenty of talk about one and of Andorra's need for an airport. Where the heliport now stood on the hillside above the capital used to be a dogs' home, he seemed to remember, next to an ancient incinerator that spread a pall of pollution over the valley. He looked down at the gleaming monorail running above the river. Its central station had been a disused bull-ring, a dilapidated red and yellow metal building, he recalled. Certainly the busy station was an improvement, and at least the monorail did not make a noise. Unlike those helicopters, he thought, as another one passed by seemingly only inches from the window. Still, they brought in the tourists and the business executives and much needed revenue.

From his viewpoint, high above the valley, the Cap de Govern could not see the faces of the many individuals scurrying into the station or taking the cablecar to the heliport but he knew many of them would be Asian. Who would have guessed in 2000, he

mused, that in twenty-five years time almost a quarter of the population would have come from the Far East? Why, in 2000 the Andorrans were worrying that there were almost as many Portuguese in the country as there were Andorrans. He doubted if there were even a hundred Portuguese here now.

The death blow to the tourist trade had been global warming. Ever since 2010 winters had been getting noticeably shorter and warmer with less and less snow. With night-time temperatures way above freezing it had proved impossible to even make the artificial stuff. In the Alps now there was never any snow below 2500 metres and in the Pyrenees the situation was even worse. All the ski stations had gradually closed; no-one skied in Europe any more. One had to go to the Andes or the Himalayas for guaranteed snow and then heli-skiing was the only way to get high enough. Tibetan ski resorts were fashionable at the moment and many Andorran instructors were working there. Chinese travel agents in Andorra were offering huge numbers of cheap package tours – only a thousand euros for a week in Nepal or Tibet over the New Year..

The Cap de Govern looked up to where once a ski resort had stretched from Madriu to la Rabassa. It had barely been built when the snow stopped. After several years of lying empty and decaying, a real blot on the landscape, it was now a hive of industry again. He watched cable cars carrying citizens up and down. With no snow it had become easier to build higher and higher and there were now thriving luxury developments all around the old ski resorts. And high-tech industry too. Andorra had to thank the Asians for the fact that Andorra now led the world in the manufacture of domestic robots which had started to

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catch on in a big way about fifteen years ago, once every home had a computer to programme them. The Cap de Govern glanced idly down into the street and then looked more closely. What a strange-looking animal that Chinese woman was walking on a lead. Surely it could not be – yes, it was a robot! As everyone now had a domestic robot in their homes to clean and cook, some manufacturers were turning out "pets". The craze seemed to be catching on; they were much easier to look after than real animals and could be programmed to act as very efficient burglar alarms or even catch and immobilize anyone sufficiently foolhardy to try and break into a robotically guarded flat.

Ten years after the turn of the century there had been only half the number of Spaniards in Andorra that there had been in the nineties. And then the Germans had moved in. After effectively taking over Majorca they had looked about for a combined financial and winter holiday centre and nearby Andorra had fitted the bill nicely.

Still, things were very much better nowadays, he congratulated himself. It still seemed strange to see German or Chinese names over the banks lining both sides of Avenue Meritxell. Still, he mused, both nationalities were extremely efficient, he had to give them that. When he was young, he remembered, school children and bank staff were learning English as their fourth language. Now German and Chinese lessons were all the rage. When he had visited the infant class of one of the Andorran schools the other day, the pupils had performed a play in Mandarin! Admittedly, almost half the class was Asian.

That thought recalled one of his most pressing problems – the nationality Bill now in front of Parliament. Andorra's new citizens, now far more powerful and wealthy, were pressing hard for dual nationality. They had a vote in the European parliament, of course. They could elect their Euro M.Ps but not content with running Andorra financially, they wanted a say in running the country too. Automatic right to Andorran citizenship after five years' residency was what they were demanding, with no question of renouncing their original nationality.

The Cap de Govern looked across to where the gleaming new Casino stood on the hillside opposite, just below the ski resort that stretched from Madriu to la Rabassa. None of that would have been built but for money and expertise, he mused. Neither would Caldea, Escaldes' glass-mountain spa.

In spite of the Constitution which had been drawn up well over a quarter of a century ago, the co-princes had more say in international affairs than the Andorrans felt purely constitutional figureheads should have. But as they were usually at loggerheads, Andorra managed to manipulate them to achieve what she needed.

All in all, the Cap de Govern decided, as a pretty little robot brought him in a cup of jasmine tea and an apple strudel, this new cosmopolitan Andorra of the 21st century was a better place to live in than it had been twenty-five years ago.

Jacquie Crozier

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Ctra d'Ordino – LA MASSANA

FESTA MAGNA – BIG DAY FOR THE OLD FOLKS

by Peter Parkinson

This is an annual event held in October or November, consisting of a Solemn Mass at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Meritxell followed by a lunch and dance. Those who have not participated in a Festa Magna might be surprised by the energy and vigour of the dancers, all of us over 65. The oldest participant that I know is a very sprightly man of 90 plus, who lives in Ordino. I hope that I shall be in as good shape as he is when the time comes. The Festa Magna is of sufficient importance for the Cap de Govern himself to attend and make a speech. Total attendance seems to be in the region of 700 to 800, brought in by coach from our towns and villages, although a few people prefer to use their own transport.

There are enough of us to fill the seating in the church, with perhaps 50 to 100 obliged to stand. No doubt as the population ages there will be more participants. Well, if you look out of the church towards the north you will see that already quite a lot of construction has been done to enlarge the church.

The old, much smaller, Sanctuary of Meritxell was burnt down on the 8th September 1972 and the new building was inaugurated in 1994. The old building has been reconstructed and functions as a museum – you can see, for instance, the carbonised remnants of some wooden images destroyed in the fire. I have a little envelope of six nails from the old building that I collected in 1974. Communion may be taken by those who wish. This year, for the first time, there was a collection – I find it a little surprising that this was not done before. In the partly-constructed part of the new Sanctuary there were this year many photographs of the 775th anniversary of the Sanctuary of Canolic.

As you may imagine, there are not many places in Andorra that can accommodate 700 or 800 people for lunch. Lunches used to be held in the large marquee by the car park in Escaldes, but more recently we have used the Sporting and Socio-Cultural Complex in Encamp. The organisation of the meal was entrusted to the Lycée Sante de Foix and the Hotel Roc Blanc. We sat down to lunch around 13.30 and were back home in our towns and villages by 19.00. Probably few of us needed dinner that evening.

This year I must admit to some disappointment at the low level of participation of Club members in this event. I counted only seven, including myself, plus two other Brits who do not belong to the Club. Invitations are sent out by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, I believe to holders of the Tarja Magna, which I obtained several years ago from that Ministry. To actually participate in a Festa Magna you need to make a reservation at your local Llar a few days in advance and ----- well, yes, there is a small catch, it will cost you 1000 pesetas! Cheap for a good day out!

Enjoy the event for itself and, if you like, add that it's a good way of integrating ourselves into the country in which we have chosen to live. For the luncheon, people from each village sit together at tables seating between 8 and 10 people. It is not essential to speak Catalan, someone at your table is sure to know Spanish or French, and we all of us learned one of those at school, didn't we?

TARJA MAGNA – OTHER BENEFITS

In the course of a year there are many other events organised by the parishes collectively or by each parish on its own. They can range, for instance, from a short-distance local event such as a barbecue in the Incles Valley, (to which I was foolish enough to go without a hat so that the top of my head got sunburned), to a week in Tenerife that took place a few weeks ago.

Last September there was a day trip to Encamp starting 09.00 (from Ordino – some other villages participated), returning at 20.30. We visited two churches and the museum attached to one of them, a sausage factory, and Cal Custi: an agreeable, unpretentious house willed to the Comú and left just as it was in 1947. This was the first time that I had seen the old part of Encamp. Then we went on the Funicamp lift towards the Grau Roig ski slopes; unfortunately, it was a foggy day and cold, so that visibility was not good. A good lunch at the Hotel Guillem and a gift from the sausage factory. We had been promised the possibility of a trip in a hot-air balloon, but perhaps because of wind the balloon could not be made sufficiently gastight for take-off. That trip cost 3,000 pesetas, clearly not the full cost.

Possessors of the Tarja Magna also get reductions of 10% to 50% on the cost of tickets to the National Auditorium in Ordino or to the Centre in Andorra la Vella. For some of the events, more local, you need a Carnet d'Or from your Comú, but this I believe is readily obtainable if you have a Tarja Magna.

Peter Parkinson

WHY NOT ADVERTISE IN THIS SPACE?

It will cost only 6,000 pts per year

CONTACT: SALLY SMITH

837636

WHY I JOINED "THE SINGERS"

Alba Puig, an Andorran member, tells us why she joined the Singers & gives us some of her impressions:

What were my impressions when I became a member of the CIA Choir? Well, for some time I had been feeling the need to try something different, make new friends, find some sort of challenge. And all I had to do was apply and take a little singing test (at which we noticed that I very occasionally sang out of tune). However, I was delighted to be accepted and must say that everyone in the Choir was absolutely marvellous to me. They all seemed to want to help and encourage me and my expectations were more than fulfilled. If it wasn't one singer inviting me to her home it would be another suggesting a private practice together somewhere where there was a piano.

I enjoyed the rehearsals and the way they were run with such good humour and was impressed by the fact that everyone got on so well together. This friendliness soon helped me over any initial difficulties. I also appreciated the very serious and orderly method of rehearsing with everyone trying their best. As a result I just **had** to continue and I did this with great enthusiasm as all the women there (at that time we were all women) had infected me with theirs.

In fact, there were 2 challenges: on the one hand the musical difficulties and on the other the language, but now apart from enjoying myself thoroughly I'm learning English. Isn't it fantastic?

What I very much hope is that my little voice will continue to please and that I shall be as necessary to the Choir as all its members are to me.

Alba Puig



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RESTAURANT REPORT

by Peter and Sally Smith

"La Guingueta", Carretera de la Rabassa, Sant Julià de Lòria

Probably the best food in Andorra is a somewhat contentious statement with which to begin any restaurant review, but I didn't make it – a friend who numbers the Roux brothers amongst his personal friends did, and he really should know. And there's ample justification for his remark. To begin with, Jacques Muller, the chef and owner of "La Guingueta" is a *Maitre Cuisinier de France* – a qualification held by no other chef in Andorra, and only by three in the United Kingdom, one of whom is Michel Roux. Words written on bits of paper, of course, don't always ensure the quality of the food on the plate, but meals at "La Guingueta" are exceptional.

The restaurant is rustic, with stone walls and wooden beams, and on two floors, allowing ample room between tables. The walls are decorated with paintings by Jacques, for he is an accomplished artist as well as a great chef. Outside is a large sun terrace where summer lunches and dinners can be enjoyed.

We have eaten at "La Guingueta" many times, and our last visit was typical. We chose one 'menu surprise' – the inspiration of the moment using fresh products of the day' (6,500 pesetas), and a 'menu dégustation' – a selection of specialities chosen according to market availability' (8,500 pesetas). One of the delights of these menus is that you never know exactly what will be served, so each course comes as a surprise.

The wine list ranges from Coronas and Torres at 2,200 pesetas a bottle to Chateau d'Issan – a fine Margaux – at 9,000 pesetas, but with many very good French and Spanish wines priced at around 3,000 pesetas. There are also some excellent champagnes, and Sally chose a half-bottle of Louis Roederer at 3,500 pesetas.

The meal began with appetizers – single mussels cooked in a curry sauce topped with puff pastry and served in tiny ramekins. Then the first course; terrine de lapin with foie gras and pine nuts, all beautifully garnished, on the 'surprise' menu, and foie gras with sliced truffle, green salad and diced strawberries as part of the 'menu dégustation'; both served with toasted brioche.

The fish course was hake with mushrooms and a sauce which had probably started as hollandaise, but which had been given a certain 'je ne sais quoi' by Jacques – quite delicious.

The lucky partaker of the 'menu dégustation' was then treated to an extra course – a king prawn chowder with a quite beautiful sauce.

To clear the palate before the 'carn', melon sorbet was served in tiny wine glasses.

The main course was lamb, full of flavour and so tender you almost didn't need a knife to cut it, accompanied by a jus and a selection of vegetables, all

beautifully arranged to delight the eye as well as the palate.

If anything, the preceding courses paled into insignificance beside the sweets. Sally had specifically requested one from the à la carte menu that she couldn't resist – hot baked peach with lavender flower and apricot liqueur sorbet, brandy snap, redcurrants, strawberry coulis and almonds. It looked every bit as good as it tasted. The other sweet, from the 'menu dégustation' was another confection to delight the eye – chocolate tart surmounted by a crown of filo pastry filled with chocolate ice cream, and surrounded by crème anglaise and grated chocolate.

To finally banish any thoughts of diets or calories, a plate of petit fours was presented. Like everything else served at "La Guingueta", including the bread, these are all prepared in the kitchen upstairs.

Altogether an excellent meal; a superb and well-chosen selection of dishes, each big enough to satisfy but small enough to allow room for the next course. Expensive, perhaps, by Andorran standards at 19,000 pesetas for the two of us, but very reasonable considering the quality of the food and the excellent service.

Some of our other favourites from the à la carte menu include marinated salmon with lobster filigree (2,800 pesetas), fresh hake with cider vinegar and caramelised apple (2,600 pesetas), and tournedos of free range Andorran veal Rossini (3,000 pesetas).

One of our past visits was for a special birthday party, and on that occasion Jacques had decorated the table with red and white rose petals and had prepared a delicious chocolate fudge birthday cake.

"La Guingueta" is probably not a restaurant one would visit every day, or even every week. But for that special occasion or celebration, it is unrivalled in the Principality.

Restaurant
La Guingueta
- Jacques Muller -
Maitre Cuisinier de France

Carretera de la Rabassa - Can Nagol
Téléfon 842 945 - Fax: 843 945

SANT JULIÀ DE LÒRIA
(Principat d'Andorra)

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

Forthcoming Activities in Andorra for December, January, February and early March, kindly provided by Andorran Comuns, Tourism Offices and the Culture Department of the Government. Many thanks to them all

Andorra la Vella

DECEMBER

1st, 8th, 15th

Cineclub de Les Valls, in Teatre Comunal

3rd

Theater Season in Teatre Comunal

9th

In the Santa Maria del Fener Church, at 21h30, Christmas Carols Concert by **The International Singers d'Andorra**.

11th - 12th

Fira de Santa Llúcia (St. Lucy's Fiar) at Plaça del Poble. One can buy miniature figures to make Nativity scenes (Pessebres), Christmas decorations, candles, traditional sweets (torrons), Greeting cards etc.

18th

Theater for children.

24th

about 17h00 at Plaça del Poble, Christmas Tió (an oak log traditionally beaten by children, in demand of presents. Father Christmas will collect the request letters from the children.

24th

at 24h00 "Missa del Gall" (Midnight Mass), in St. Esteve Church, sung by Orfeó Andorrà. Afterwards "La Condació" (Andorran tradition where everyone is invited to have mulled wine and coca (flat cake).

24th

at 24h00 Missa del Gall in Santa Coloma Church.

JANUARY 2000

4th

at 18h30, Public announcement by the Royal Page throughout the streets. Organised by the Culture Department of Andorra la Vella together with Unió Pro-Turisme d'Escaldes-Engordany. They will also organise on

5th

at 11h00 up to 14h00, the Royal Postman will collect the request letters from the children. At 18h30, the traditional Three Kings Procession with decorated floats, through the streets of Andorra la Vella and Escaldes-Engordany. This is really a magic evening for children.

17th

at 13h00, Escudella de Sant Antoni (a Free Lunch for everyone) at Plaça del Poble.

FEBRUARY

Beginning late this month Carnival, until March.

MARCH

First week

Fancy Dresses competition for children probably in Centre de Congressos i Exposicions - Sala d'Actes of the Comú (next door Car Park lift). In the afternoon, and snack for children.

Canillo

DECEMBER

8th

Opening Competition of Tales, Poems, Christmas cards, and miniature Nativity scenes. AINA Tel: 851434

10th

Evening, traditional "Quinto" (a popular sort of lottery) in Palau de Gel. Associació Pares d'Alumnes.

18th

at 12h00 "Nadal Jove" Blessing and Inauguration of the works in AINA.

18th

Travel Agencies Trophy, in Soldeu-El Tarter.

18th

at 15h00 skiing excursion to bring the "Pessebre" in the junction of lakes Juclar and Siscaró. AINA

21st

Arrival and visit of Father Christmas to the Schools

?

Pessebres Competition. Information and inscription Unió Pro-Turisme Tel. 851002

?

Artistic Skating Christmas Festival in Palau de Gel.

English course for children. Elisabet Monjo Tel: 839500

24th

Father Christmas will go through the streets with presents for the children.

24th

at 24h00 "Missa del Gall" (Midnight Mass) and afterwards mulled wine and hot chocolate for everybody.

28th

at 10h30 snow games, competition of ice sculptures, sleigh races, etc. And brotherhood lunch. At dessert Father Christmas will offer some presents to everybody and afterwards singing of Carols. At 15h00 all the Pessebres taking part in the competition will be visited.

31st

Dinner and New Year's Eve ball in Palau de Gel. Tel: 800840

31st

Goodbye to the 1999 year. Skiing excursion in the evening. Information AINA

JANUARY 2000

Interesting for skiers

New access from Canillo to Forn area, La Solana, Pas de la Casa-Grau Roig, Pla de les Pedres, new ski-lift with 6 places to Tossa dels Espiolets. "Infoneu (4 languages) - Tel: 890555

5th

evening, The Three Kings procession through the streets, arrival at Palau de Gel.

16th

at 13.00 h "Vianda de Sant Antoni" (Also called Escudella, a traditional Andorran and Catalan stew). Free for everyone.

29th-30th

European Cup of Bumps Competition.

31st

"Crema del Mai" (Andorran tradition) The Christmas Tree is burnt at the Square. This means that the Winter Season is finished and the warm season is coming.

FEBRUARY

3rd

Evening Pirena race.

19th

The first world wide castle on snow.

End of this month Carnival.

MARCH

First week

Carnival. Fancy dresses competitions and Parades through the streets, and Balls.

5th

VII International "San Miguel" Snowbike Competition.

12th

II Snowvolley Competition.

Encamp

DECEMBER

Up to 17th

Squash Competition in Complex Esportiu

IX Saló de la Infància. In all the areas of the Complex Esportiu i Socio Cultural, there will be many interesting activities for children during the Christmas Holidays.

8th

Concert by the Orfeó Andorrà in the Complex Esportiu. Probably in the evening.

Indoor Football league until March.

Fullcontact Exhibition (sportive combat modality).

15th

21h30 Concert by the **International Singers d'Andorra**, in Santa Eulàlia Church. Christmas Carols.

21st

In the Comú Exhibitions' Hall, **Ramon Argilés**, member of the Club, exposes a wide range of Ceramics, works in pastel, oil paints and watercolours.

Opening about 7h30. This exhibition will last three weeks.

24th

Father Christmas Parade through the streets of Encamp and Pas de la Casa. In the latter there will be presents for the children in the Sala de Festes.

24th

Missa del Gall (Midnight Mass) in Encamp and in Pas de la Casa.

31st Evening

New Year's Eve celebration with Balls, in Encamp and Pas de la Casa.

JANUARY 2000

5th

Traditional Procession with the Three Kings of the Orient, with adorned floats, through the streets.

17th

Escudella de Sant Antoni (Traditional Free Lunch) in Pas de la Casa, at 13h00.

19th

Escudella de Sant Antoni, in Encamp, at 13h00.

FEBRUARY

Indoor Football Open Competition.

Badminton Open Competition.

24th - 29th

Carnival. Several activities for children. Fancy dresses balls for children and adults.

MARCH

6th

Carnival in Pas de la Casa.

Table Tennis Open Competition in Encamp.

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Richard & Sandra Loder

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Les Escaldes-Engordany

DECEMBER

2nd - 17th

Advent Calendar in front of the "Façana de l'Art" (c. Santa Anna nº 2) Every evening at 20h15, raffle of works of art by several Andorran artists. Some authorities from the Comú will be present. Tickets sold in the Comú Office and in the "Façana de l'Art".

Every Saturday

The usual market at the Church Square.

2nd - 17th

Several activities for children related with Christmas in the Library of the Centre Cultural and in the Ludoteca of the Centre Social i Recreatiu.

24th

at 18h30 Father Christmas will go through the streets.

24th

at 24h00 Missa del Gall. Afterwards the Unió Pro-Turisme d'Escaldes-Engordany will offer "Cremat" (a traditional hot drink with rum, coffee, lemon, sugar, cinnamon and sometimes fruit) and "coca masegada" (a traditional flat cake, very popular in Andorra), for everyone. At Church Square.

31st

New Year's Eve Ball.

JANUARY 2000

4th

at 18h30 Public announcement by the Royal Page, about the streets. Organisers Unió Pro-Turisme d'Escaldes-Engordany.

5th

11h00 to 14h00, the Royal Postman will collect the request Letters from the Children, in Unió street. Organisers Unió Pro-Turisme d'Escaldes-Engordany, together with the Culture Department of Andorra la Vella. They will also organise on

5th in the evening

The Three Kings Procession with adorned floats, through the streets of Andorra la Vella and Escaldes-Engordany. The Procession will begin at 18h30 in Av. Meritxell and will finish in Unió Street at about 20.30. A really magical evening for children.

16th

"Escudella de Sant Antoni" - A Public free lunch of a traditional Andorran and Catalan stew, at 13h00. Organised by "Amics del Pont dels Escalls".

From the second week all the schools in the Culture and Sports areas, will work again, after Christmas holiday, as well as for adults as for children.

Every Saturday the usual Market.

FEBRUARY

6th

In the Church Square, "Encants de Sant Antoni". An auction to raise money to help people in need.

During the school holidays, "Escola de Neu" for children.

Several sports activities and games related with snow.

Information - Tel: 890880

Every Saturday the usual market.

Last week and

MARCH

First week

activities for children about Carnival. Fancy Dresses competitions for children, and balls for adults. Ask for special programme.

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LA MASSANA
(Principal d'Andorra)

La Massana

DECEMBER

11th

"Fira de Santa Llúcia" in the morning in La Closeta area (Comú Car Park) Selling Christmas decorations, greeting cards, preserves, candles, etc. **HELPLINE** will be there waiting for us, *so don't forget!*

24th

At 19h00 Father Christmas will receive the children at the Information Hut's Square (Caseta d'Informació).

24th

at 24h00 "Missa del Gall" (Midnight Mass) sung by Coral Sant Antoni. Afterwards coca (flat cake) and hot chocolate, for everybody.

JANUARY 2000

3rd

at 16h00 Show for children and arrival of the Royal Page in the Parish Hall.

5th

at 19h00 The Three Kings arrival and procession through the streets until La Closeta Hall.

17th

Saint Antony's Day. At 11h00 Mass at Sant Antoni de la Grella Chapel. At 13h00, Escudella (a Free Lunch for everyone) at Prat del Colat. At 17h00, Festival for the children in La Closeta Hall.

FEBRUARY

26th Evening

Concert by Cor Nacional de Petits Cantors d'Andorra, in the Church.

MARCH

5th

at 16h00 in La Closeta Hall, short performance by Esbart Els Esquirols. Fancy dresses competition for children. Afterwards, afternoon snacks for children. All organised by Unió Pro-Turisme of La Massana.

HELPLINE

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Ordino

DECEMBER

Beginning the year 1999-2000 courses of Judo, English and probably dance, for children, and Taixixuan qui gong, Italian, Photo Club, French and English, for adults. Also, other different courses throughout the year. Information - Tel: 837811 in the Library (Biblioteca Comunal).

12th

at 16h30, Concert by **The International Singers d'Andorra**, in Ordino Church. Christmas Carols. Everybody will be welcome.

24th

Father Christmas will visit the children of Ordino at 18h00 at Ordino square.

24th

"Missa del Gall" (Midnight Mass). Afterwards, mulled wine and coca for everyone.

JANUARY

5th

The Three Kings Procession through the streets.

IV "Font Blanca - Arcalís"

VIII "Borrufa" Trophy. Skiing competition for children.

FEBRUARY

"Carnestoltes" (Carnival) in Centre Esportiu

Probably II Mountain Films Shows organised together with Canillo.

MARCH

Probably II Mountain Films Shows.

Tenpin bowling championship of winter. Individual.

Sant Julià de Lòria

DECEMBER

Until 5th

Exhibition by Photo Club Lauredia, in the Centre Cultural Exhibitions Hall. Mondays to Fridays from 9h00 to 13h30, and 15h30 to 22h00 Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons.

The inscriptions for Montserrat Caballé Singing Competition of year 2000 are open. Information - Tel: 844047

Every Friday and Saturday 22h30 and Sundays at 16h00

Cinema in Auditori Rocafort of Centre Cultural

??

Inauguration of the Pessebre in Centre Cultural Hall.

??

Fira de Santa Llúcia, in Plaça de la Germandat, or in Centre Cultural if the weather is bad. In the morning.

18th

at 22h00, Traditional Christmas Concert by Coral Petits Cantaires Laureadians, Coral Joves Veus and Coral Rocafort, in the Parish Church. Free admission.

??

In front of the Comunal House, arrival of Father Christmas. In case of bad weather, in Centre Cultural.

??

Christmas Tió in front of Comunal House. In case of bad weather, in Centre Cultural.

24th

Missa del Gall (Midnight Mass) in Parish Church. Afterwards, coca and hot chocolate free for everyone.

26th

"Els Pastorets", Traditional Christmas play, in Auditori Claror of the Centre Cultural. Tickets in Tourism Office. Department de Cultura i Joventut (Edifici Clara Rabassa, Andorra la Vella) and Sindicat d'Iniciativa.

JANUARY

2nd, 6th, 8th and 9th, at 18h00

"Els Pastorets", in Auditori Claror.

2nd

The Page of the Orient will arrive in front of the Comunal House. Date and time to be confirmed.

5th? Evening

The traditional Three Kings Procession through the streets. The children's requests will be collected in Auditori Claror.

??

Show for children in Auditori Claror. Tel: 844 345. Admission free. Celebration of Saint Julià's Day.

19th

Opening of the Season's Exhibitions in the Hall of Centre Cultural.

20th

VII Anniversary of the Library. Activities for children.

20th

"Escudella de Sant Sebastià" (Free Lunch for everyone) at Plaça de la Germandat at 13h00.

FEBRUARY

18th

at 22h00, XVI Theatre Season in Auditori Claror.

MARCH

3rd

at 10h00, Carnival Parade with the children of the Schools, through the streets.

4th - 7th

Carnival activities. Shows, Fancy dress competitions, Balls, etc.

24th

Second play of the XVI Theatre Season in Auditori Claror at 22h00.





VI "Temporada de Música i Dansa"

Organised by Comú d'Andorra la Vella. All the performances will take place in Sala d'Actes of the Centre de Congressos i Exposicions in Andorra la Vella (next door to the Car Parking).

Probably at 22h00

Tickets at Sindicat d'Iniciativa – Tel: 820214

PROGRAMME

Thursday 11th November – Victor Ullate and his Company (Danse)

Tuesday 21st December – Radu Lupu, piano

Thursday 17th February 2000 – Maria Bayo, soprano, Brian Zeger, piano

Thursday 8th March – Ballet Nacional d'Ucraïna Virski

Thursday 6th April – Kremerata Musica, Gidon Kremer, violin

Thursday 18th May – Ballet Estatal de l'Opera de Viena

AUDITORI NACIONAL D'ORDINO

10th December at 21h30 – The Georgia Mass Choir. Gospel

17th December at 21h30 – Festival de Música i Dansa with several Groups and soloists performing in benefit of the Josep Carreras International Foundation to Fight Against Leukaemia.

Organised by **The International Singers d'Andorra and Crèdit Andorrà Foundation**

19th December – Christmas Concert by Cor Nacional de Petits Cantors and Orquestra Nacional de Cambra d'Andorra, in the evening

1st January 2000 – In the evening (probably at 19h00) Traditional New Year Concert, by Orquestra Simfònica del Vallès. (Waltzes and Polkas)

?? February or March – Carnival Concert by Orquestra Nacional de Cambra d'Andorra

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