

INTER COMM

CLUB INTERNACIONAL D'ANDORRA

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CLUB INTERNACIONAL D'ANDORRA

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(Cover photo: by Nina O'Brien - an early Andorran Crest - See page no. 3)

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International Club of Andorra Quarterly Magazine SEPTEMBER 2000

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EDITORIAL FROM THE BOARD

We are continuing a policy of gradual innovation in Intercomm. The issue of Summer 2000 was printed on thinner, cheaper paper than previous issues, leading to a significant economy in printing costs, which will be continued. As a result of efforts by many people, several new advertisers have taken space in the current issue. Partly to allow for new colour advertising, partly to allow for the publication of more colour photographs, we have introduced four middle pages in colour, while retaining 24 pages in black and white. Soon we hope to be able to return to 28 pages in black and white, plus four middle pages in colour. The goal of making Intercomm self-financing is looking realistic in the relatively short term.

New Board Members

We welcome as new Board members our Honorary President **Gerry Churcher**, as well as **Mike Burgess** and **Tony Dawtrey**, who will bring some younger, more dynamic thinking to the development of our Club. Brief biographies follow:-

Gerry Churcher was born in 1911 so still has vivid memories of World War I. He was educated at Port Regis, Kingsgate, Kent and Uppingham. After being articled to his father for 5 years he became a fully-qualified solicitor in 1935. Shortly after retirement Gerry was taken ill and came to Andorra for health reasons in 1982. He is married, had 5 children and has 13 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. Says Gerry, "Thanks to the lure of Andorra probably we see more of the family than had we stayed in U.K. For us Andorra has become a home from home".

Mike Burgess is 56, married. He has one son. He bought his flat in Andorra eight years ago. In Southern England he studied Architectural Design and Building Construction, qualifying as a Building Surveyor. He then worked in housing construction, rising to Managing Director level before heading a management buyout of the company concerned. After continuing a few more years in high-level management, he took early retirement in order to have more time for his leisure interests, which include historic buildings, travel, vintage cars, photography, skiing and water-colour painting.

Tony Dawtrey is 57, married with two children and has lived in Andorra for the past five years. He studied Electrical Engineering and Control Systems in the London area. Until early retirement he worked with a public utility for many years in Hong Kong, where his wife was born. From time to time he does a certain amount of consultancy. He enjoys skiing, restoration of old motor cars and used to be involved in motor racing, a sport which he still likes to watch. While in Hong Kong he was involved in providing to clubs and other organisations pop music of the 60's and 70's, in which he retains an interest.

Cultural Events in France

In a previous issue of Intercomm we referred to a plan of getting information on cultural events in France and Spain, and perhaps arranging visits to musical, dance, operatic and other events. This has taken rather longer to get off the ground than anticipated. We have recently obtained Guides to Festivals 2000-2001, published by the Regional Councils of Midi-Pyrénées (which included Foix, Toulouse, Montauban, etc) and Languedoc-Roussillon (which includes Carcassonne, Perpignan, Montpellier etc.)

Driving in Andorra

Some members have commented on the article "Driving in Andorra" published in our previous issue, which also included information about driving elsewhere in Europe, especially Spain. In a situation of continuing change, there is sometimes room for more than one interpretation of a requirement. We are grateful to those who have provided comments. Perhaps the best way of proceeding will be to continue passing on new information in the News Weekly, and periodically to publish in Intercomm an updated article on Driving in Andorra, France and Spain.

Change and Continuity

One sometimes hears expressed the opinion that members of the Board of the Club Internacional go on and on for a long time, or to put it in a less favourable form, that we are a self-perpetuating oligarchy. Is there some truth in this opinion? To test it, we have a look at Board

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membership as shown in the issues of Intercomm for the autumns of 1992, 1996, 2000, published after the A.G.M.s. How much continuity was there? Of the twelve 1992 Board members, only four were still there in 1996, and of these only one was still there in 2000. Of the 1996 Board members, only four members were still there in 2000. That high turn-over does not seem to support the idea of a self-perpetuating oligarchy.

The Rules of the Club provide that "Approximately every two years at least half of the Governing Board will resign. Board members may offer themselves for re-election." The Statutes provide that "The Governing Board will be elected for a period of four years. Elections will be held to replace half the Board every two years". In practice there have been a lot of resignations by Board members after less than four years, which has reduced the need for regular resignations. There has been at least one new Board member elected in six of the past nine years.

Any existing member wishing to continue in office must stand for re-election after four years. All twelve members of the present Board have been elected or re-elected in the three years 1998 to 2000.

Contributions to Intercomm

Brief this time – pressure on space. Contributions for the next issue to be left, please in the Club letterbox at the Servissim office in La Massana by 2nd November, or handed to one of us at a Coffee Morning.

A theme for the next issue, "Christmas in other Countries". We invite relatively short contributions on a Christmas experience in another country, recently or long ago.

COVER PHOTO

by Nina O'Brien

Outside the main door of the Casa de la Vall, set in the wall, is a small bas-relief of stone. Probably 14th century, it is the earliest known version of the Andorran Crest. In the centre are the mitre and staff of the Bishop of La Seu d'Urgell with, underneath, vertical bars of Foix and the cows of the house of Bearn all flanked by two crosses.

The shield was transferred to its present place from the old public "escrivania" and "Tribunal de Corts" store to commemorate the public nature of the building.

Although 14th century, this is comparatively recent in the history of Andorra. Man inhabited these valleys since the mists of prehistoric times, probably from the Neolithic Age and Bronze Age. Several periods of bloody struggle followed until 1278 when a treaty was signed by the Count of Foix and the Bishop of Urgell which formed the basis of the jurisdiction over Andorra until independence in 1993. After the French Revolution, the President of France became the French Co-Prince while Spain retained its rights with the Bishop of La Seu d'Urgell as joint head of state.

Nina O'Brien

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VIA GOT TO GODLY

by John Tabernacle

Ann said it would be an early start, and if you do not keep farmers' hours then 06.45 is early! Ann was already on the bus; perhaps she comes from farming stock. Pick-ups went smoothly and into Spain in good time. Routing was via the Cadi Tunnel. This provided an optional extra, (you were not obliged to look), some quite startling views down the sides of ravines. Clear of the tunnel to our first tech stop at Roser de Berga for coffee and etc., then through more open countryside and the industrial outskirts of Barcelona to Villafranca de Penedes, the capital town of L'Alt Penedes and its Wine Museum. This visit was not scheduled; but at the last moment Codorniu said they could not take us. Well, I don't know what we missed not going to Codorniu but this Wine Museum is well worth a visit. It is situated in an old building that has been carefully adapted to show off at its best the most interesting and large collection, with artefacts, models and pictures, the history of the local wine industry. Sharing the same building is a comprehensive collection of Catalan art together with a well laid-out archaeological and geological presentation of the part of Catalonia we were in.

For those of you who like your birds stuffed, then let your joy be unconfined. This very large collection is unique in Spain in that it displays the birds, their nests and eggs in the environment appropriate to the breed; eagles on mountain ledges, other breeds in trees, bushes, grass and on water. A complementary wine and its souvenir glass together with the opportunity to

purchase local wine in the museum shop nicely rounded off this interesting stop.

Back in the bus we first drove round Villafranca a couple of times as if to simulate the flight

the eagles we had just seen might have taken circling over the town. Once out of Villafranca the similarity of our progress to that of wild birds quickly ended. We proceeded to Santes Creus for lunch, not as the crow flies, but more in the manner of a distracted domestic fowl. Not the fault of our able driver; it was because the road we wanted was up and, we soon discovered, it was not

the only one. So, as an impromptu extra we explored just about every by-way and track between Villafranca and Santes Creus. From time to time re-assuring noises from those with maps confirmed we were still well inside Catalonia and every minute was definitely bringing us closer to our destination.

The diversion though was a bonus as we saw much more of the countryside and its little villages than we might have done. An added bonus was that our driver and his bus were able to demonstrate their off-road capabilities.

At last Santes Creus hove in sight and a good lunch was taken in a pleasant, bright restaurant. Then a short walk up the hill to the beautiful and impressive Monastery, its extensive grounds and the sweeping views beyond its walls. Ann's brief history of the



Entrance to Courtyard - Santes Creus



The Group in the Courtyard at Santes Creus



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monastery was a good introduction, but we were so lucky to have had a most excellent guide, who knew her subject so well and explained in great detail the many points of interest, historical, architectural, and such minutiae as the reasons for the position of the trees within the grounds.

The tour ended with a magnificently produced sound and visual early history of the Monastery that I don't think could be bettered anywhere. To call it a video is not doing it justice. It is much more in the style of Son et Lumière. Judging by the number of groups we saw from other European countries the monastery must be on quite a few tour operators' lists, and understandably so. It is well worth visiting.

The initial part of the journey home gave lovely views across the valley as the bus climbed up the road towards Pons. A brief tech stop for more coffee and the etc., and back to Andorra. A most enjoyable, interesting, entertaining and educational day out. **Many thanks to Ann.**

"Though it's good what you get, you don't get a lot in a Got. To find the answer don't miss the next run to the Villafranca Wine Museum."

John Tabernacle

Photographs by Sarah Dawtrey



Paul Wilson, Peter Parkinson, John Fecanin, Eileen Wilson, Patricia Cotterill, Shirley Hooke, Ann Price, Sue Gresham, Tony Dawtrey, Robert Dawtrey

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RAMON ARGILÉS

Extracted from an article
published in
the "Diari d'Andorra"

by Maria Teresa Raurell

Ramon Argilés, whom many of you may have met at coffee mornings and other Club functions, is a prolific ceramist and painter. He has frequently exhibited in Andorra and elsewhere. His last exhibition was in December 1999 in Encamp.

"Ramon studied Fine Arts in Barcelona. He extended his knowledge in visual arts by teaching there. Here, in Andorra, he has been sharing, demonstrating as well as teaching, without charge, the art of ceramics to people of Encamp's Casa del Poble for the last three years. Why? – the most obvious reason is that it pleases and satisfies him. In actual fact, he volunteered to teach. While he imparts his lifelong experiences he is using the materials of his creative skills – there is a satisfaction akin to that of the games of children. Of course, there is more. There is the act of discovery and sharing. There is the satisfaction that he is using his very precious time in revealing something of his inner creative world.

Stimulated by Ramon's challenging motivations, his students learn to see and sense more, to be visually aware of their environment and consequently to portray and reflect it in their ideas in a more expressive, personal form. Perhaps, they hope that their work will survive the test of time and may even be seen by future generations.

Ramon's aesthetic training and experience is not only limited to ceramics, but he also paints landscapes and portraits. An artist, according to Ramon, continually makes choices from many possibilities as he goes along. Ramon's is to bring his personal aesthetic order to his ceramics and also to his painting."

Ramon, after having worked with multimedia for a long time, now works more freely and independently by accepting a few commissions here and there – keeping the wishes of his clients in mind. Since we have observed and shared his works for a while, as an artist and a club member, we wish him much creative success in whatever he does.

Maria Teresa Raurell



Ramon Argilés Exhibitions

by Caroline Colvin-Smith

Member Ramon Argilés was born in Lleida, studied in Barcelona and has now been a resident of Encamp for several years.

He has treated us to two exhibitions since last winter. Although he is known principally as a ceramic artist, whose work can be seen in prestigious Andorran buildings, on these two occasions he was exhibiting mainly oils and watercolours of Andorran and Catalan villages and landscapes.

The first exhibition, at the Spanish Embassy, was presided over by the Ambassador himself. The centrepiece of this collection was a huge and impressive oil painting which commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Sant Josep old people's home in Seu d'Urgell.



Painting of the Sant Josep old people's home in Seu d'Urgell

Thanks to Ramon's habitual generosity, we were offered a feast of "tapas" and cava as we listened to speeches by the Ambassador, the Mother Superior of Sant Josep and Ramon himself and wandered around admiring the paintings. We enjoyed a very interesting art show and an extremely pleasant social occasion at the same time. Now we look forward to the next one!

Caroline Colvin Smith



Exhibition at the Embassy of Spain

HOW I BECAME A SINGER

All of us know Gisele Pereira Fernández, our star soloist, but we felt members might like to hear about how she became a singer. She has very kindly sent us this short autobiography

The other day I chanced upon some photos which brought back to me a chain of memories and made me re-live some of the most important moments of my life, from my childhood to the present time.

I began singing at a very early age. Our school had a choir which one joined in one's second year but ... I was only in the first and did so love listening to them sing and was always hanging around them. When they realised how keen I was they made an exception and allowed me to rehearse with them. That was my first victory.

Then at 14, I started proper singing lessons with the only teacher I have ever had, Elisa D'Agostini, who was absolutely wonderful. She was then already quite old but she fascinated the class with her vitality and her professionalism. After 6 months with her I passed the exam and was able to join the 2nd-year course where I came first and continued to do so each year thereafter. At the end of each year we gave a concert at which we sang duos trios, etc. It was an unforgettable period of my life.

During the next few years there were some changes and at 31 I found myself in the Brazilian version of "Hallelujah", singing in the chorus as well as dancing. The show was always sold out! We performed for 3 very happy years and were one big united family, always together for dinners, birthday celebrations or outings. When the season ended we all felt very sad But we kept in touch.

After this I went in for an audition to join the choir of the Municipal Theatre of Rio de Janeiro and was placed 3rd. After 3 months I was given the chance to replace one of the soloists who was ill so I sang the role of the Countess of Ceprano as well as the page's

part in Verdi's "Rigoletto". From that moment I alternated singing in the chorus with different solo parts. The chorus was an ensemble of 120 voices, 20 in each vocal range: 60 men and 60 women. We couldn't always be together but we felt very close and still write to each other.

8 of us from this chorus formed a group of 4 men and 4 women called "2 x 4". We sang at fiestas, concerts and mainly for TV. We had a permanent TV slot called the "Darcy Gonçalves Show". When the lead singer became pregnant the programme's director threatened to suspend the show until after the baby was born. She stood firm and quite calmly informed him that if "The pregnant choir" wasn't allowed to continue without pause we'd all walk out and there would be no more show ... so we continued as before.

I don't know how we managed to get through that period. Often we'd spend nearly all night recording our TV show and every Monday-Friday we had 9 a.m. rehearsals at the theatre.

Round about that time I was asked to sing with a group which could well have been called Brazil's answer

to the "The Mamas and the Papas" and was proving very successful indeed. So I joined them. This was a completely different experience for me after years of singing opera and serenades (the typically romantic Brazilian music, which in the old days was sung to the guitar under the loved-one's window) ... So off I went on a new tack. It really was worth it. After masses of rehearsals we managed to achieve good co-ordination, excellent choreography and splendid costumes. Our show did very well and we performed mainly on TV until quite unexpectedly and inexplicably one member of the group committed suicide. After this tragedy we felt quite unable to carry on.



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Then I spent a long period not singing in a group but as a soloist in shows and plays.

Eventually I came to Andorra where one day I was asked to join the Andorran Orfeo by Maestro Roure, its director. I was very pleased to accept, especially as I badly wanted to sing with other people again. I sang with them for 10 years. Then, after taking a sabbatical year, I sang at some friends' wedding (in 1995) and had the great pleasure of meeting some of the International Singers. They invited me to one of their rehearsals and I was so impressed that it is now nearly 4 years that I have been a member of this marvellous family comprising people of different nationalities. We get on fantastically well together, united by our love of music and choral singing. We're a small group in which there is no jealousy or difference of opinion. We share our joys and our sorrows. As we are such a small choir we all know each other well and feel good singing together. We work hard under Barbara Melin's direction. Though our prime objective is to enjoy the singing, we do take our work seriously and spare no effort to ensure that our performances are appreciated by the public whose support we value immensely.

I'm not sure if I've managed to express myself very well though I'm sure that if I'd been able to do it in song it would have turned out much better!!!



Gisele Pereira Fernández

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GLIDING – HOW I GOT HOOKED!

by Bent Dorning

"No Place for a Woman" is a book by Marie-Christine Ridgway. Eva, my wife, bought it, read it and told me to read it. It did not look very interesting, a book I would not buy myself. Without enthusiasm I began reading. The book proved to be an exciting narrative about adventures carried out by the Ridgway family. At the end of the book there was a description of the Adventure School in Ardmore, Scotland. Eva wrote to this very incomplete address. It worked! We received the programme of the school activities by return mail. This is how we joined the hill-walking described in a recent issue of the magazine. A joke from the book: What is the dream of a Norwegian??? A German Mercedes with a Swedish driver!

Reading this book had more consequences than just our wonderful trip to Scotland. In the tourist office in a small town I saw a leaflet from a gliding school not far from Aviemore. Gliding: One of my boyhood dreams!

This changed our planning. We ended up on the airfield in Feshiebridge after a phonecall to the chief flying instructor. The weather was bad, the sky completely covered, no thermals at all and no wind which could have provided a lift when forced upwards by the mountains. After a short introduction flight in a motorized glider, I climbed into the cockpit of a real glider, a Polish built Pucabcz, with a parachute on my back. The instructor got into the rear seat, the hood closed, cockpit check made and the wire, which should pull us up was hooked onto the plane by Eva. The other end of this l-o-n-g steel wire was fixed to a winch at the other end of the airstrip. Eva had been instructed how to be a tip holder. She lifted the wing tip from the ground, the instructor radioed a go-ahead

to the winch operator. The winch started winding up the wire on a drum accelerating the plane forwards. The plane was soon airborne and when it was above the winch, the instructor released the wire, which fell to the ground slowed down by a small parachute.

We were flying, but not for long. We landed safely in less than five minutes finding no lift. But I was hooked! A decision had been made.

One month later I joined a gliding club in Denmark. We use a towing plane instead of a winch. It makes the take-off more costly, but we can choose altitude and place for releasing the thin nylon rope. The winch can only take you to 4-500 metre's altitude.

After some lessons you get to some exciting manoeuvres. You are told to shut your eyes. Your tummy tells you that funny things happen to the plane. The instructor says: "You've got it"! You open your eyes and see how the situation is, make a quick judgement and act accordingly. The first time I was looking straight down, the plane was going vertically downwards gaining speed rapidly. The second time the plane had the nose 20-30 degrees upwards, was in a light roll and losing speed. The plane was a K-13 trainer, a very forgiving plane, but not built for aerobatics, so it should not be allowed to slide backwards as this might damage rudder, elevator or ailerons. So there was not a lot of time to consider what to do.

Denmark is a flat country so you learn to look for thermals. Under cumulus-clouds you very often find lift. I have seen six gliders under the same cloud. Or watch the birds. They know where to find the lift. Who has not admired a bird of prey hovering up there? To stay in the rising air you fly in circles, sometimes quite narrow. I have shared a thermal with a buzzard,



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we were flying in the same circle more or less. To fly in a narrow circle means a low speed. You try to keep a certain margin above the stalling speed, not always with success. When the speed drops under the stalling speed, the inner wing stalls first, because it is moving more slowly than the outer wing. This is a situation you learn to handle during training. The instructor explains what is going to happen, takes the glider into a circle, keeps the nose up a little bit, the speed drops slowly, and suddenly: the inner wing stalls, falls through and in a split-second the nose points downwards. You were expecting something drastic. Your expectations were fulfilled!

As mentioned above, the K-13 is forgiving, it does not tend to go into a spin in that situation, but many other gliders do.

The most beautiful flight, and one of the highlights of my life, took place from St. Giron near Foix, where I have been a couple of times with **David Baines** and his ultralight aircraft. That day I flew with a French pilot in a motorized glider, 1_ hours of which 50 minutes were gliding. The sky was covered when we took off, there was no wind and no thermals, very stable air. We flew between the mountain peaks. Some of them are about 3000 metres, our maximum altitude about 2200 metres. We were near the Spanish border, no roads, no houses, just Nature. And what Nature! Mountains and lots of snow around us, the sunlight started coming through small holes in the clouds making shining white patches on the snow. Alone in

the world? Oh, no. When circling over a small peak searching for lift I looked down and saw a line on the mountainside under us. A small snow-covered mountain road, and on the road four dark spots: cross country skiers!

After 120 flights I still have not gone solo; some of the youngsters do after 30-35 lessons. It does not matter. I enjoy being up there, facing the challenge of staying up there, enjoying the view over the landscape, listening to the faint hiss of the air passing the plane and feeling free!



Article and Photographs by Bent Dorning

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ARTISANS AND UNDERGROUND

by Peter and Caroline Crichton

On June 23rd 2000, Caroline and I were picked up in Ordino by bus to go on a very interesting expedition to Montgailhard and Labouiche.

Montgailhard has a very exciting and most interesting museum compiled and built quite recently. There are exhibits of glove-making, garden tools, honey extraction and wine-making, forging iron, lace-making, the first method of photography, dog-catching and wood-carving and many other things of great interest.

We were 16 of us from Andorra and full of enthusiasm and "Joie de Vie". Although the day was wet and cloudy, that made no difference: we were all there to enjoy ourselves and we did, especially the underground river, stalactites and stalagmites included. It's a river 5,000 years old but only discovered 100 years ago. The atmosphere down in this Cave/River for some people has a claustrophobic feeling. I didn't feel this, just a most fascinating feeling of wonder at the

various sculptured stalactites, the Virgin Mary, a seal to mention only two of many.

Our guide was an amusing fellow who said there were human bones dating back 5000 years, bats live in the roof of this Cave/River, splashes of blood where he'd gashed his hand no doubt or cracked his head. This blood had been there 5000 years no less. There were quite a few steps to climb - 100 I think was mentioned - perfect exercise!. We were 50 metres under ground.

At 5 p.m. we all returned to Andorra, exhausted but in high spirits, with a big thank you to **Ann Price** for organising a great outing. Last, but no means least, a great big thank you for all those nice people who helped me in and out of buses and across roads, etc.

Peter and Caroline Crichton



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P.S. Is that O.K. Ann?

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THE 8th CAR BOOT SALE

Photographs by Carol Phillips-Jones

Some people go through life repeating the same mistake over and over. Having 'good ideas' definitely comes under this heading. Your mind is telling you not to open your mouth because a chain of events leads from your good idea via others saying "how 'clever' you are" to have conjured it up and continues through master plans, coerced volunteers, strategic manoeuvres that would make an army proud, panic, stress, to hopefully a successful event. All because your mouth opened of its own volition. So are born such C.I.A. events as the **Car Boot Sale** and the **Charity Walk!!**

This, the 8th year, did not run on the oiled wheels one could expect after 7 years of practise. Even when speaking the same language we seem to have a communication problem with the 'PRESS'. The information we provide both in written form and verbally into a microphone comes out 'translated' into totally different facts and figures. 'The Car Boot Sale this year is to be held in La Massana' - Really? 'All the stallholders are English' - in fact less than a third were.

Should disaster strike - heavy continuous rain or worse - we have an oft-repeated arrangement to use the Arinsal Community Hall. This year they took the floor up two days before the event!

By the time July 2nd arrived the weary little group of organisers had sold all the spaces, allocated numbers, explained what a Car Boot Sale actually was and what was required of the sellers - all this in several different languages, distributed 450 posters throughout Andorra, collected payments, prevailed upon the police to tow away the few remaining parked vehicles and arrived at 6.30 a.m. to mark, with bio-degradable flour, the selling spaces, check in the sellers and hold back the over-eager buyers from 7.45 onwards!

The sun shone and all but one of the 51 stallholders turned up. The **PRESS** and T.V. duly arrived. It was all okay on the day or we were too exhausted to notice that it wasn't! A deputation of departing stallholders who had asked why the Car Boot Sale wasn't held every Sunday were mystified by the total horror which greeted their request!!

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THE C.I.A. IN PRAGUE AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC

12th – 22nd May 2000

Ann Matschke, Shirley Connell and Sue Gresham each give us an account of the very successful visit to Prague and the Czech Republic

(Please excuse any accents that may have been missed off names and places)

Photographs by Sarah & Mike Burgess – Ann & Horst Matschke

12th – 15th May

by Ann Matschke

Twenty six was a large group for a C.I.A. trip, not all acquainted with one another, but mixing well in the friendliness which is the essence of the C.I.A. Tribute, as ever, to Ann, whose research, effort and relaxed handling of all detail makes these longer excursions a genuine pleasure for her groups.

Those who favoured K.L.M. over Czech Airlines found themselves in Czech hands from Amsterdam anyway and were probably too breathless to notice much difference. Schipol was designed to exercise passengers between planes which arrive at A and transfer from Z, or the reverse. A floor plan giving walking times between sections is based on a fast trot not easily achieved with luggage. And of 26 bags, why did mine remain in Amsterdam?

Met by Silvia, our local guide, we were installed in comfortable rooms in the Hotel Adria, off Wenceslas Square in the heart of Prague.

The Michelin grades sites according to their beauty and historical interest and Prague deserves all its stars. It is like stepping into the pages of a medieval story book, enchanted and not quite real, an admixture of architectural style and decoration which ranges from soaring Romanesque and Gothic to humble art nouveau bicycle racks. Far too much detail, too much foreignness to absorb. To cross the Charles Bridge, for example, one walks from Křižovnické náměstí across the Karlův most which spans the Vltava river. We toured the city with Silvia by bus and on foot, chestnuts and robinia in flower everywhere, each vista charmingly different, the cobbled streets and 25°C no aid to the feet. From the Premyslid dynasty of the 9th century through the Hapsburgs of the 19th, to the brief

years of communist rule, the well-remembered Prague Spring of '78 and the founding of the Czech Republic in 1993. From Prague Castle through the development of the magnificent Gothic town of the 14th century and the founding of central Europe's first university in 1348, to the world's largest stadium, six hectares seating 200,000, crumbling, unlovely and built in 1926. Silvia was proud of her country and nationality and an indefatigable source of information which she shared with us during several days of her company. She helped a great deal.

Alive to its past and its present and with a people who are pleasant and welcoming, Prague throbs with tourists and activity. The Prague Festival had just begun and there was music everywhere – in theatres, halls, churches, clubs, bars – and we each enjoyed what little we could manage to attend. We saw Don Giovanni performed at one of the famous marionette theatres. The staging was cleverly achieved, the seating intimate, the stage set scaled down, the puppets quite large and the puppeteers seeming gigantic. None of us quite figured how this was done, and were not meant to, illusion was all. While we were there the Czech Republic beat Slovakia in the world ice-hockey championship and how Prague celebrated! Convoys of hooting cars decorated with Czech flags blocked the streets and crowds of cheering, flag-waving people took over every other space. On such a day everyone had to be happy, it was infectious, and walking the evening streets and passageways we too clapped palm against outstretched palm and cried CZECH! CZECH!

Ann Matschke



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16th – 18th May

by Shirley Connell

Prague – Tabor – Cesky Krumlov

Everybody "on parade" relatively early for a 10 a.m. start. After 90 minutes on the motorway, we arrived in Tabor. There was a little confusion at the start as Karel, our driver, had not visited Tabor before – so clutching one of Ann's photocopy town plan maps, he found a local inhabitant to point him in the right direction for the tourist coach park.

Assorted plastic 'picnic' bags in hand, we headed towards the old town, where we finally found ourselves in the main 15th century square. The cheerful red and white Budweiser Beer brollies beckoned to us from the shady side of the square and provided us with the necessary sanctuary where thirsts were slaked with the locally brewed beer. The more energetic members of the group wandered off down the narrow 15th century streets to explore the Hussite town more thoroughly. From our shady position, we looked out over the large, empty cobbled square towards the light grey and pink-tinted, gabled buildings surrounding it on all four sides. At one end of the square was the 15th century *Dean Church of the Lord's Conversion on Mount Tabor* which is mostly Gothic with a smattering of Renaissance and Baroque architectural styles added at later times. One of our keener members did attempt to climb up the stairs to the top of the belltower – but half way up Virginia realised that she would have had to crawl directly under the bell and did not fancy her

chances if it had commenced to strike the hour – so aborted her mission. Most of the buildings had been renovated relatively recently, including the old Town Hall with its 24-hour gold and black clock-face. The only "jarring" building was the pink coloured Police Station, which could only be described as unimaginative communist-era architecture.

We departed at 1.30 p.m. for Cesky Krumlov – via Cesky Budejovice – the original home of Budweiser Lager Beer. We did not stop on this occasion, as Ann had been reliably informed that the Brewery was not one to hand out free samples.

We eventually arrived in the very attractive ancient centre of "old" Cesky Krumlov at about 3 p.m. We approached by what one could only describe as the "picturesque" route via the railway station and all points north of the town, as our "in house" navigators were a little imprecise with their map-reading at this juncture. Our hotel, the Hotel Dvorak, was beautifully located, overlooking the river Vltava and opposite the old fortified castle and Chateau Cesky Krumlov with its magnificent painted round bell-tower. The hotel was lovely and very nicely appointed, with the team more or less taking over all the available accommodation. The afternoon was "spent at leisure" finding our bearings around the attractive town square and attendant narrow cobbled streets.

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Wednesday 17th May

Cesky Krumlov

Another fine day in Cesky Krumlov, though there was a little more cloud cover, so it was not quite so hot. Silvia gathered her flock together and gave us some interesting background information on the history of the town, which is registered as a UNESCO monument of world significance. Cesky Krumlov is one of the few Bohemian towns not to have experienced a major fire, so many of the original 14th century buildings remained intact, though in need of major renovation, which has been systematically undertaken during recent years. We then proceeded on a walking tour through the old town. Merchants and other wealthy individuals built their houses with gable ends and very high roofs – the higher the roof top, the wealthier one was! A great deal of reconstruction work has already been completed and the frescos and painted fascias have been carefully restored without looking too garish. Elaborate coats of arms, murals, blind (false) windows, religious "cartoons" can be found on just about every house.

We walked up (lots of cobbles) to the magnificent 14th century Gothic Church of St. Vitus which was being restored. Then back past our hotel, over the river and up to the 11th century castle, towering over the town on top of a sheer cliff of sandstone. Brown bears were in residence in the old moat – they seemed very happy and in good condition. Our group streamed on up the cobbled corridors of the

keep and gathered in a central courtyard before joining an official tour which took us through the chapel and official apartments. The various rooms we saw were superbly restored and furnished and we were able to appreciate and compare a wide variety of period styles which had been introduced over the years by the great wealthy Bohemian families – the Krumlovs, Vitkontz, Rozemberks, Eggenberks, Schwarzenbergs. In the early 20th century, the town "stagnated" and many of the buildings were left to deteriorate, though fortunately they were not knocked down and replaced with "modern" utilitarian buildings. In 1947 the old town was taken over by the Czech Republic and restored to its present tasteful and grand style.

We all enjoyed the visit and continued outside to see the extensive formal gardens behind the castle. By now it was lunch time, so we all made our way back to the town by different routes and went in search of suitable cafes. The favourite area was along a small canal where there were three restaurants, all of which did a roaring trade, courtesy of the C.I.A. members. The afternoon was spent tracking down gifts of glass, crystal and china and the "shopaholics" had a bonanza.

In the evening the weather broke and produced a short but intense thunder storm – all the more impressive as it rolled around the towering fortress opposite the hotel. However this did not interrupt the concentration of the group of bridge players, who continued with their game without flinching.



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Thursday 18th May

Cesky Krumlov – Trebon – Telc – Cesky Krumlov

The day dawned overcast with showers. We departed at 9.30 a.m. on a full-day guided excursion to Trebon and Telc. This time we had a full-sized coach – resplendent with deep mauve curtains and striped seats – there was therefore ample room for everybody to be comfortable. The roads are not particularly good and those sitting in the front were a little alarmed by the “relaxed” single-handed steering of our driver Joseph, who also made rather a lot of use of his mobile phone.

During our one-hour journey, Silvia gave us some general information relating to the cost of living in the Czech Republic. We were amazed to hear of the low wages and the high taxes imposed on working Czechs. Statistically, the money earned by a Czech worker from January to the end of July goes as tax to the Government; money earned from August to December actually goes into his pocket. The average wage for a clerk is the equivalent of US\$300 a month and a doctor can expect to earn US\$800 a month.

As we approached Trebon, Silvia pointed out the huge man-made “ponds” (Lakes) which had been constructed in the 16th century by one of the local Trebon pond builders, Josef Stepanek Netolicky, who was instrumental in creating the highly successful fish-farming industry that the area is famous for. Just outside Trebon we visited the elegant English Gothic style 19th century mausoleum of the Schwarzenbergs which was sited in a wood near one of the lakes. We reboarded the bus and drove to the town centre where we dispersed for about an hour to look around.

Trebon started life in the 12th century as a small market settlement and was developed into a fortified town in the 13th century. It successfully survived many attacks during the Hussite wars and in the 16th and 17th century Trebon prospered and leading burgher tradesmen built the magnificent “mazhouses” with elaborately decorated Renaissance and Baroque style gables. In 1562 there was a terrible fire, which destroyed many of the original properties and there were further fires in 1728 and 1781. This has resulted in a remarkable mixture of architectural styles. The

small 12th century Decanal church of St. Jilji contains one of the rare 15th century statues of the Madonna.

After refreshments, we boarded the bus and headed off to Telc. By now the skies were getting blacker by the minute – so, suitably equipped with brollies and macs, we walked from the drop-off point into the magnificent town centre. It was – as Ann had said – just like a film set. Another fortified town, founded in the 13th century, Telc is surrounded by a moat (pond). The old town centre is the largest we had seen. Once again, fires had destroyed a lot of the original 14th century Gothic buildings – so the extensive cobbled square is surrounded by gabled burgers’ houses of various architectural ages and styles. To one end of the square is the castle, which is an integral part of the fortified walls. Unlike the other castles/palaces we had seen, it had a distinct “Italian flavour” and again has been beautifully restored. Occupied at one time or another by the Hradec, Vitkovce, Slavatas of Chlum & Kosumberg and the Lichtenstejn-Kastelkom families, the estate remained in private hands until 1945. Fortunately in the 19th century, the local inhabitants of Telc realised the historical value of the buildings in the town and restoration work was carried out before the properties, with their wonderful external decorations, were allowed to deteriorate too much. The castle was fortunately maintained by its occupants and it boasts a fascinating collection of pictures and other artefacts from the 14th century through to 1945.

After our tour, we said farewell to Silvia. She was an excellent guide, her extensive knowledge of Czech history, interspersed with “little gems” of information and personal observations made her guided tours interesting and light-hearted.

Next came the serious business of lunch and at 2 p.m. there were only two hosteleries open. We were very lucky with the weather – as the skies opened just as we were heading off to get back on the bus.

Our last dinner in the hotel went well – and we think we managed to clear the cellar of Bordeaux wine (1995 & 1996) as well as champagne – all bottles were priced at 250 Crowns (£4) a mere snip – the Managers will be hard-pressed to restock at that price! An early night (apart from the bridge players who continued with their attempt to finish the champagne stocks) as we had a long drive the next day to Karlovy Vary.

Shirley Connell



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19th May – 22nd May

by Sue Gresham

Our departure from Southern Bohemia – Cesk_ Krumlov and the comfy Hotel Dvorák was pleasant and efficient. The day was slightly damp; earlier rain had all but ceased when we set out to walk through part of the town, over the bridge and then through the tunnel to the car and coach park. Not a long distance at all. (Our coach should never have gone into the town on our arrival and I am still not quite sure how he got out!)

Our nice big coach was waiting for us, but the taxi and trailer bringing the luggage from the hotel was late. Thanks to the supervision of James and others, the entire luggage arrived safely and, with expert help from our men, the luggage was eventually stored and we were on our way.

The countryside was beautiful. Soft rolling hills stretched into the distance. The roads were often lined with small trees of differing sorts – although there were no hedgerows. The fields flowed one into another; crops of grains giving varying shades of green with darker clumps of woodland here and there.

Larger forests decorated the hills tops. You could see for miles in every direction.

We got to Plzen (Pilsen) in good time for lunch, or to explore. Not time for both. Most people I think, chose food! This is the largest city in Bohemia after Prague. An industrial city famous for its beer, Skoda cars and armament production. It is not an industrial city for anyone coming from the north of England! There is a vast square in the centre of the town with a very large Gothic church (St. Bartholomew). This sits in lonely fashion in the middle. Interesting facades although rather blackened surround the square and some have amusing gargoyles. Worth seeing are the ornate railway stations; (A day trip from Prague is just about possible); the largest synagogue in the country, red brick with twin onion domes and almost opposite is the flamboyant 19th century J.K. Tyl theatre, named after the composer of the Czech National Anthem. His grave is next to that of Emil Skoda. Not far from the theatre, is a garden with a memorial to Smetana – one of many gardens



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marking the sites of the mediaeval city walls. A guided tour of the Brewery Pilsner Urquell is a recommended bit of sightseeing. (You get to keep the glass if you go in for tasting during the tour!) The Beer Festival is in early October, just before that of Munich.

A group of us opted for "cheap grub and Pilsner Urquell at the U Salzannu, the town's famous wood-panelled pub on Pražská" (Rough Guide) and very good it was too.

Just to the south of the old town, the main thoroughfare there was renamed Americká in honour of Plzen's liberation in 1945 by General Patton. There are many other buildings to see, notably No. 251 on Sedláčkova, (Baroque style); The Hotel Continental, early 20th century art deco, ornate mirrors and damask splendour; famous for being one of Europe's most luxurious hotels in the inter-war years; frequented by such as Marlene Dietrich, Ingrid Bergman and Jack Benny. Also No. 6 Perlová, one of the best preserved Renaissance homes and the entrance to an amazing underground museum.

Back on the bus again – and a lot of people dozed off. Could it have been the beer? The late afternoon saw the countryside change a bit and we dipped sharply into the riverside town of Karlovy Vary (formerly Carlsbad). The poor bus driver was in a bit of a muddle as the unfriendly looking police refused to let him near the hotel. We had amusing visions of walking our entire luggage round to one of the great hotels of Europe - The Grand Hotel Pupp ("Ultimate in wedding cake architecture"). A sharp-eyed Sarah Burgess spotted police cars ahead and further mirthful ideas issued from our inventive group. Soon a convoy of VIP cars and police with flashing blue lights sped off. With a bit of manoeuvring, our coach at last had us stationed right outside the Park Hotel Pupp (annex and extension of the Grand Hotel). A surly lady receptionist and some disappointing bedrooms marred the start of our stay. (They need to do some renovating here and more hot water please). However with a bit of re-arranging of rooms and the furniture therein, things got better. The sky became gloriously blue again. With an immense amount of mime, it was ascertained that the visitor who had held up our arrival was a princess with oriental eyes, who had merely stopped for a coffee. Our leader, with her usual indomitable ruthlessness stomped her feet at the

suggestion that we have dinner at 6.00 p.m. and we were re-booked for later. We had then time to go out and stretch our legs in the sunshine and drink in the attractiveness of the town.

Karlovy Vary is known as the Queen of the Spas. Well, most of us ventured forth the next morning to try the waters. Most spectacular was the Sprudel Spring, the oldest in the town and the hottest and highest – up to 72°C, spurting to a height of 10m and producing two million litres per day! I don't think any of our party imbibed copious amounts of the sulphurous liquid, but other visitors could be seen walking slowly along the mainly traffic-free roads, sipping from the special drinking jugs.

Denis and Shirley tried the baths, but came away sooner rather than later, owing to an excess of large naked German men. Diana and Ivan investigated the hotel's facilities regarding massage, hairdressing, manicure and all manner of steam treatments. Coming back with extensive information for us all, James and Annelise, the Connells, the Dawsons, Mike and Sarah Burgess, Liliás and Ann had varying degrees of success in the Casino. Others played Bridge or just enjoyed coffee in the amazing lounge bar adjoining the dining area. "Lounge Bar" does not give the right impression of this magnificent room, with its lofty ceiling and decorations.

All of us shopped. It was good and varied – though a lot of the pottery particularly was not to our taste. Karlovy Vary is home to the Pirkenhammer Porcelain founded in 1803 and the Moser Glassworks, founded 1889. Another industry established here in 1807 is the making of the famous Becherovka, a liqueur flavoured with many herbs. My guidebook tells me that it is "described as the town's 13th Spring and the only one which works". Pleasantly-flavoured wafers are the very thing to nibble on with this drink. Saturday morning was quite cold and occasionally wet, but there were lots of cafes to shelter in and a good choice of foods. Some of us had hot wine or chocolate at one stop. However, as throughout all our trip, the buffet-style breakfasts were excellent and no-one was too hungry, preferring to wait until dinner for the big meal of the day. A round of pre-dinner drinks in our hotel, say 6 wines and a couple of beers, cost 540K (divided by 60 = £9 approx.) Not bad for such a grand setting.

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The next day, Sunday was a great deal warmer and sunnier. It was more comfortable to stroll around the town again and enjoy the pretty gardens and attractive buildings, marred only by the concrete slab of the Hotel Thermal & Sanatorium. One of the delights of this town clinging to the steep valley sides, are the beautiful woods. Tall, elegant and mature pines and firs, oaks, beeches and chestnuts climb the hills. There are lots of paths amongst these trees. (35 named in my guidebook). Also there are many pieces of architecture ranging from elaborate summerhouses (43) and chapels (5) to tablets, benches and crosses expressing not only faith, but thanks by patients for being cured. Nowadays the spa cure is considered effective for the treatment of diabetes, digestive and intestinal diseases and disorders.

Many of us took the funicular to the Diana Viewing Tower. This starts not far from the Hotel Pupp and cost (at the time of our visit) 40K up and back; 25K up only. It takes about 4 minutes to go up. 10K to pay to go in the lift to the top of the viewing town (and down). (150 stairs). The views from the top are wonderful and a must. Clearly visible are some of the flamboyant houses and mansions; the enormous Imperial Sanatorium, built like a huge fortress in 1912 and last but not least the amazing white Russian Orthodox Church topped with gilded onion domes (6 at least). There are three other viewing towers and with more time exploring the paths in these hills couldn't fail to please. There is a restaurant near the Diana Tower, but disappointingly for those who had gone there for lunch, it was closed. There are other places to eat in the woods, notably one near the halfway stop by the funicular, known as Deer's Jump Station. This looks like a hunting-lodge and was rebuilt in the twenties.

On our last evening Liliás had the splendid idea of having a champagne reception in a small sitting room off the grand staircase. Here we presented Ann with a garnet brooch as a gesture of thanks for organising such a superb holiday. (We had had to dog her very closely to see that she did not buy anything similar for herself!) Denis gave a fine speech, slightly spoilt by the waitress dropping a few glasses!

Our last morning dawned grey and damp. We all gathered in good time in the hall waiting for our coach, which was late by half an hour. Fortunately those with connections at Prague had rearranged their schedules. We left eventually about 9.30 for a journey that takes about two and half-hours. We had the

smaller coach again, which meant we had less room for all our parcels and extra luggage. Again the journey was remarkable for the beautiful views of the Czech countryside. We saw hops in abundance for the first time. We also saw a couple of rather nasty accidents, although there is very little traffic. Indeed, there are very few people to be seen, or animals. We even remarked when we saw sheep, or goats or cattle! As before, the soft rolling countryside flowed almost seamlessly from one shade or green to another, lit by the sun occasionally. The houses and gardens along the way were neat and although there were few flowers, children's swings and toys were in evidence as well as vegetable and fruit growing.

Prague Airport is quite modern. (There is a suitcase wrapping facility and massage chairs). We said farewell to the Stansbys who were off for a private visit near Prague. And to Joan Spiller, Ann Bumpstead and the Matschkes who were extending their holiday in Berlin. It took ages to get checked through. The man ahead of our group wasn't on the computer and then our girl ran out of luggage labels! The plane was late "due to congested airways over Europe". Our luggage was still being loaded 10mins after our boarding time. This was a Czech flight in conjunction with KLM. One could not recommend the in-flight meal. At Amsterdam we said farewell to Dennis and Shirley Connell who were returning to the UK. As on the outward journey, we had the longest walk ever to our connecting flight and not a lot of time to do it in. However it also was late taking off. This allowed us to catch our breath. The flight was uneventful and it seemed minutes only before we were flying over the sunny Med. A good quote from our group was "how nice it was to hear a foreign language that we can understand". One lost suitcase "short-shipped in transfer baggage". (After an 11p.m. phone call it arrived next morning marked Expedite Baggage RUSH to Andorra). We had a glamorous Nadal coach to ourselves, now 18 in number. It was a super drive back through the evening sunshine, great swathes of poppies and other wild flowers overflowed in the meadows. After a coffee break near Pons we arrived back in Andorra. Various arrangements had been made to deliver people by smaller coaches to less accessible parts of the Principality and all got home in the well organised manner that we had come to expect. It was a marvellous trip in every respect. *Many thanks, Ann.*

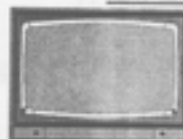
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In many issues of the Magazine we have read articles by **Clare Allcard** singing the praises of members of the International Singers.

It is now time for all to "sing" the praises of that wonderful Lady, Clare Allcard. For it has been her enthusiasm and her dedication that has kept the Choir together over many years.

Clare is the Person who organises the concerts, dealing with the administration necessary, meeting with the Authorities, the Priest that officiates at the Churches where the Choir will sing.

Clare will, before a concert, visit the Andorran Radio and T.V., the Newspapers to try and obtain as much publicity as is possible.

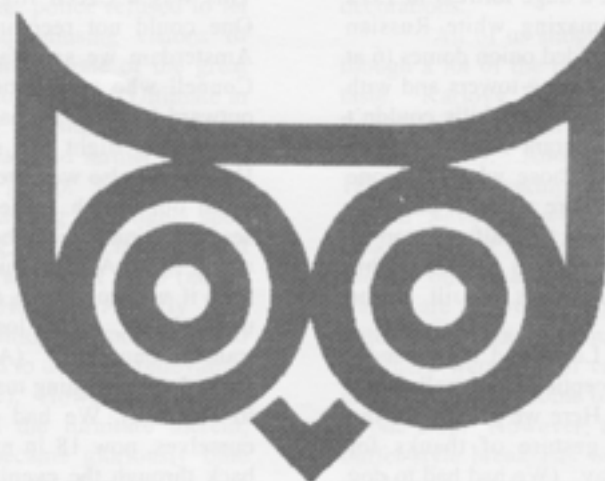
Yes, the posters and the programmes are all Clare's work, and beautifully they are presented.

Who is it that visits the stores, shops, banks asking them to display the posters? Yes, it is Clare.

One is not able to get to the rehearsal, not to worry, Clare will collect you, and so much more.

Our grateful thanks Clare for all you have done, and will, we sincerely hope, continue to do in the future, to bring continued success to the International Singers.

Joe Segal



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HELPLINE INFORMATION SHEET DEATH FORMALITIES IN ANDORRA

Samia Omar and Helpline have produced a clear, concise information sheet entitled "WHAT TO DO WHEN SOMEONE DIES IN ANDORRA". This is available to all Club members on request, either direct from a member of the board or from the Wednesday coffee morning. It covers everything: Whom to call if someone dies at home or in hospital, the names and addresses of undertakers including native, English speaker, Rick Kenmuir, the basic costs of funerals, headstones and who is entitled to buy a niche in one of Andorra's cemeteries. It tells you what documents the bank and the notary will need, and where to get them. There's even a list of florists who will deliver flowers to the undertaker. Altogether a most useful document to keep in your filing system. **Ask for one.**



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THE INTERNATIONAL SINGERS

UNESCO (Andorra) have asked us to sing a song of peace as a prelude to a youth theatre production to be performed at the Teatre Comunal, Andorra la Vella, on Sunday, 24th September, in celebration of the International Day of Peace. We're already preparing our display for the Groups' Open Afternoon at the San Andreu, Arinsal at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, 19th September. We do hope lots of you will turn up and ask questions and maybe even think about joining the choir. If you can sing, we need you!

We've also been asked to sing a couple of songs at the opening of the Club's Craft/Hobbies exhibition in Ordino on Friday, 20th October – and this is supposed to be our quiet time of the year, when we

only rehearse once a week while shifting our minds into gear for the winter! We've already chosen some rousing stuff for Christmas, though we've some sweet lullabies for you too. Dates for the Christmas concerts are not yet fixed but the Ordino one will probably be on Sunday, 17th December at 4.30 p.m. ('cos my 3-year-old grandson will be here!) and the one at Santa Maria del Fener possibly at 9.30 p.m. during the previous week. We are also hoping to give a Christmas performance in Seu Cathedral.

Clare Allcard

If you want any more information on the Singers do ring Clare Allcard 836 269 or Maria Teresa Raurell 836 123.



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FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

Forthcoming activities in Andorra, during the months of October, November and early December, kindly given by the Culture Department of the Andorran Government, the Comúns, and the Pro-Turisme Offices. Thanks to them all. – Maria Teresa Raurell

Andorra la Vella

SEPTEMBER

24th – "International Day for Peace". Celebration organised by UNESCO, in Teatre Comunal – probably at 19h00, - with a little participation by **THE INTERNATIONAL SINGERS**.

OCTOBER

This year the popular "Diada del Bacallà" (Codfish dishes competition) will be held this month instead of in November as it was previously, but it is still too early to have decided the date. The place: Plaça del Poble at 13h00.

1st & 3rd – Fridays of this month, "Ballarúsca" at 18h00 till 20h00, in Placeta Monjó.

4th & 11th – Cineclub in Teatre Comunal at 22h00. The usual discount with Tarja Magna and Carnet Jove.

? – Theatre Season, in Teatre Comunal at 22h00. Discount with Tarja Magna and Carnet Jove.

27th, 28th & 29th – Andorra la Vella Fair.

30th – Cattle and horses Fair and competition.

31st – "Castanyada" (Eating chestnuts and traditional little cakes in celebration of All Saints Day) in the evening. Probably in Plaça del Poble).

NOVEMBER

1st & 3rd – Saturdays of this month, "Ballarúsca" in Placeta Monjó, from 18h00 to 20h00.

? – Cineclub in Teatre Comunal at 22h00. With the usual discount.

? – Theatre Season in Teatre Comunal at 22h00. With discount.

19th – Probably till 19th December, "VIII Autumn 2000 Gastronomic Days of Andorran Cuisine". You can get the catalogue to know the proposed dishes by many restaurants of Andorra, in all the Unió Pro-Turisme Offices.

? – Music and Dance Season, in Sala d'Actes of the Centre de Congressos i Exposicions of Andorra la Vella (near Plaça del Poble – Comú's Car Park).

DECEMBER

? – Cineclub in Teatre Comunal at 22h00. The usual discount.

? – Theatre Season in Teatre Comunal. At 22h00. The usual discount.

? – Music and Dance Season in Sala d'Actes.

1st & 3rd - Saturday in Placeta Monjó, at 18h00 till 20h00, "Ballarusca".

Second Week - Saint Lucy Market in Plaça del Poble. Christmas cards, goods and ornaments, small statuettes to make Nativity scenes, and lots of other things.

Canillo

OCTOBER

? - Cattle, horses and sheep Fair.

? - Craftsmanship Fair.

NOVEMBER

? - "Castanyada" (eating of chestnuts and traditional little cakes in celebration of the All Saints Day).

DECEMBER

All this month - Several activities for children, about Christmas, specially during school holidays.

Encamp

OCTOBER

During this month - Squash competition for men and women, in Complex Esportiu.

29th up to 3rd November - Halloween.

From all Mondays to Fridays - Area del Jovent, organises several activities for children and young people, from 6 to 17 years old. And also every day during the school holidays. Information Tel: 832830 and 834333.

All Thursday evenings - Indoor football league, in Complex Esportiu.

Several painting (and others) exhibitions in Complex Esportiu and the Comú's Hall.

NOVEMBER

Every Saturday - Handball Catalan League, 3rd Category. Local team: Parador Handbol Club of Encamp.

Thursdays - At 20h30 and Saturdays - at 17h00 Encamp indoor football league.

20th - Some restaurants of Encamp will participate in the "VIII Jornades de Tardor de Cuina Andorrana, organised by Unions Pro-Turisme of Andorra.

In the Library - will be several and interesting activities, specially for children and young people.

? - Squash Competition in Complex Esportiu.

DECEMBER

All this month - There will be several interesting activities for children and young people organised by "Area del Jovent", mostly related to Christmas time. Tel: 834333 - 832830. And also in the Library of the Complex Esportiu.

Throughout the year, there are many interesting exhibitions in the Comú's Hall, in the Complex Esportiu and in Pas de la Casa.

Escaldes - Engordany

SEPTEMBER

14th up to 8th October - In the Comú's Exhibitions Hall, Exhibition of "Textile Sample" and glass works, by Textile studio and Patchwork Club.

OCTOBER

All this month - There will be different exhibitions in the Comú's Exhibition Hall.

Every Saturday - The usual market.

NOVEMBER

All this month - There will be several exhibitions in the Comú's Exhibition Hall.

Halloween workshops in the Ludoteca of Centre Social i Recreatiu.

Every Saturday - The usual market.

DECEMBER

Workshops for children about Christmas and the three Kings. In the Library for children of Centre Cultural and the Ludoteca.

1st up to 24th - Advent Calendar, in "Façana de l'Art".

Every Saturday - The usual market.

La Massana

OCTOBER

? - In La Closeta, III "MINI-EXPO" the highly interesting models exhibition of trains, motor cars, slot machines, ship and lead statuettes, etc.

31st - At 22h00, popular "Castanyada" (eating chestnuts and small traditional cakes - panellets) in All Saints Day celebration, in the Church Square.

NOVEMBER

4th - At 22h00, in La Closeta, Sample of traditional dances 2000, by Esbart "Els Esquirols".

11th - Saints Aciscle and Victòria celebration. At 22h00, Concert by Coral "Sant Antoni" in the Church. After this, "Botifarrada" (grilled sausages) with "allioli de Codony" (mayonnaise made with pounded garlic, quince and olive oil. Quince gives a special taste to this sauce). Then coca-flat cake. Followed by a ball in La Closeta.

12th - At 16h00, traditional dances by Esbart "Els Esquirols". After that, festival for children and "Xocolatada" (drinking chocolate).

All the activities proposed outdoor, will be in La Closeta, in case of bad weather.

Ordino

OCTOBER

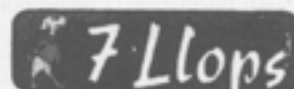
20th, 21st and 22nd - "ARTS, CRAFTS AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES EXHIBITION, organised by Club Internacional d'Andorra, in Sala Polivalent, near the Auditori, below the car park.

31st - "Castanyada" popular, at 21h00 in Iniciatives Turistiques square.

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NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

Early this month - Concert in the Auditori Nacional, organised by Comitè Nacional d'Andorra per UNICEF. Information Tel: 867100.

During this month and January - XIV Competition of Christmas cards, for children and young people.

Sant Julià de Lòria

OCTOBER

1st - From 10h00 to 14h00 "Fira del Roser", in Germandat Square.

12th - At 20h00, Opening of the Exhibition about "Centenari Escola Francesa", in Centre Cultural (up to Sunday 29th).

16th & 23rd - At 22h00 XVII Theatre Season, in Auditori Claror of the Centre Cultural.

NOVEMBER

1st - At 20h00 Inauguration of Lluís Masnou paintings' exhibition in Centre Cultural Hall.

17th (or 24th) - XVII Theatre Season, at 22h00 in Auditori Claror.

22nd - At 22h00, Opening of the exhibition by Paquita Canturri and Josep Freixas, in Centre Cultural Hall (till 10th December).

DECEMBER

7 - Early this month, Saint Lucy's Fair, in Germandat Square, and inauguration of the Pessebre. You will be able to buy Christmas cards, small figures to build Nativity scenes, ornaments, and many other things.

CONCERTS

"FESTIVAL NARCISO YEPES" in AUDITORI NACIONAL D'ORDINO

Friday 29th September

Concert Bach, in his 250th anniversary of his death
LLUÍS CLARET, cello - at 21h30 (3.000 Ptes)

Sunday 1st October at 12h00 - in Ordino Church

The winner of the Montserrat Caballé
International Competition - Andorra (1.500 Ptes)

Sunday 1st October

TRIO JACQUES LOUSSIER
at 21h30 (3.500 Ptes)

Wednesday 11th October

SYMPHONIC ABRUZZESSE ORCHESTRA
MARZIO CONTI, BARBARA HENDRICKS
Arias by W.A. Mozart and works by French authors (M.
Ravel - C. Debussy) at 21h30 (6.000 Ptes)

Sunday 15th October

Morning concert in the Ordino Church, at 12h00
The winner of the Pau Casals International Competition -
Cello, Germany (1.500 Ptes)

Friday 20th October

at 21h30 Bach Concert
by ESCOLANIA DE MONTSERRAT (4.000 Ptes)
There will be a reduction of 10% with Carta Magna
and Carnet Jove, on the tickets bought (in Crèdit
Andorrà Offices) before the dates of the concerts
*In November there will be the traditional Saint Cecilia
Concert, in the Auditori Nacional d'Ordino, and probably
other concerts not yet decided, also in the Auditori*

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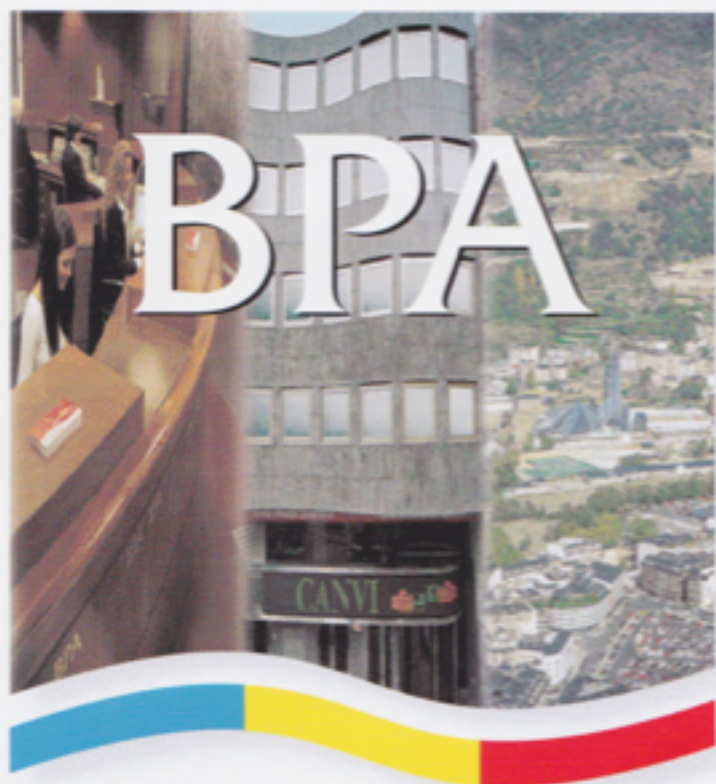
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