

# INTER COMM

**CLUB INTERNACIONAL D'ANDORRA**

**MAGAZINE / REVISTA**



**VOL. 10 - Núm. 2 - WINTER / HIVERN 2000**

# CLUB INTERNACIONAL D'ANDORRA

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(Cover photo: The arrival of the Three Kings: Photographs by Horst Matschke, montage by Nina O'Brien - See page No.4 )

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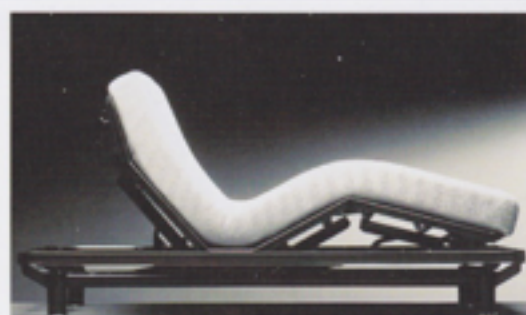
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# INTERCOMM

## International Club of Andorra Quarterly Magazine DECEMBER 2000

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**THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL CLUB WOULD LIKE TO THANK  
THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR THEIR INVALUABLE  
HELP THIS YEAR**

All the Group Leaders  
Lisa Fowler  
Linda McDonnell  
Elsie O'Shea  
Jill Lovatt  
Diana Stansby  
Sally Smith  
Clare Allcard  
Simon Binsted  
and the Staff at Servissim  
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Hugh Garner  
Denis O'Shea  
Joan Albert Montane  
and the Staff at the  
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The Comú of La Massana  
The Comú of Ordino  
The Quart of Arinsal  
Crédit Andorrà of La Massana  
and Arinsal  
Antonio and the staff  
at Impremta Envalira  
Carles Naudi  
Joan Vergès and S.T.A.  
Lourdes Olivé Bonet

**THANK YOU TO SALLY SMITH**

Dear Sally,

We were all very sorry to hear that circumstances will no longer enable you to continue as Advertising Co-ordinator for Intercomm. All of us, particularly those who have been Board Members for several years, realise what an important and intricate job it is and that especially when things had been let drift to some extent. You started on an uphill track, and have done a lot to bring order out of chaos, recover arrears of payment, bring in new advertisers and so on. In sum, a big contribution to the revival and reconstruction of the Club that has been – and still is – going on since the summer of 1999. All of this you know – so do we, and your efforts have been and are greatly appreciated.

The Board,  
Club Internacional d'Andorra.



## EDITORIAL FROM THE BOARD



A few things did not come out quite as they should in the previous issue, specifically the colour pages in the middle and at least one advertisement which lost part of its border. To put these right in future issues requires some complex computer programming which will, we hope, be achieved in time for the printing of the present issue.

Also, those of us who actually put the Magazine together inexplicably missed out from the inside front cover the names of the two newly-elected Board Members, **Mike Burgess** and **Tony Dawtrey**. One of us noticed the error shortly after taking delivery of the printed copies. Our apologies to Mike and Tony.

We welcome **Holger Hackenberg**, co-opted to the Board as Treasurer following the resignation of **Bent Dorning**. As is our usual practice, we will not print biographical details unless and until he has been elected at an Annual General Meeting.

### News from the Groups

Except for the **International Singers** and **The Wine Group**, nothing from the Groups in this issue; only the special feature on the **Groups' Afternoon**. Group Leaders put a lot of effort into making a success of that event and no doubt they will have obtained from Club Members present some useful ideas of what needs to be done in the future. So we ask you, Group Leaders, please to have something ready for the **next** issue on your recent activities and future plans.

### Arts, Crafts and Leisure Activities

There is a special feature on the Exhibition later in this issue, written by Tony Dawtrey, the principal organiser. We feel that he and all the others who put a lot of effort into making this a success deserve our congratulations. And we should place on record our appreciation of the apparently unlimited supplies of excellent food and drink provided on the first evening.

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### Contributions to Intercomm

We of the Magazine Sub-committee are always on the lookout for almost anything that can be of interest to members. Even if you have only a half-formed idea, get in touch with one of the Editors by telephone or at the Coffee Morning. Now and then we receive a mild complaint that Intercomm is too much this or that or the other. Well, the answer is obvious. Write something that *isn't* this or that or the other and we will (almost) promise to publish it.

The Magazine still has 24 pages of text plus a four-page colour-spread in the middle, and we are hoping to go back to 28 pages of text in the next issue. These extra costs are being offset by significant increases in advertising revenue and by using thinner, cheaper paper. In consequence of the reduction in the number of printed pages, some contributions handed in several months ago have been deferred, priority being given to items concerning contemporary events.

There has been no slackening in the need for new contributions. Wherever possible, one or more photographs, postcards or drawings make for greater interest.

Contributions for the next issue to be left, please, in the Club letterbox at the Servissim office in La Massana by 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2001, or handed to one of us at a Coffee Morning.

## COVER PHOTO

by Nina O'Brien

The montage of three photographs shows the Procession of the Three Magi or Kings in St. Julià, on January 6<sup>th</sup>. This is the date in Spain, Catalonia and Andorra when gifts are given to children to commemorate Christmas.

The story is of three kings, bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, paying homage to a newborn king. Guided from the East by a Star, they found the baby Christ born in the manger of a stable in Bethlehem.

It is not possible to determine the actual date of the birth of Christ, either from the evidence of the gospels, or from sound historical reference. After Constantine declared Christianity as the religion of the Roman Empire, the Church assigned December 25<sup>th</sup> as the date for the celebration of the feast, probably in about A.D. 320 or 353. By the end of the fourth Century, the whole Christian world was celebrating Christmas on the date, with the exception of the eastern churches where it was celebrated on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Giving gifts at Christmas-time stems from the ancient Roman custom of "strenae". This has survived, even in name (étrennes in French and estrena in Catalan) till today. During the pre-Christian, pagan Saturnalia, Roman citizens exchanged good luck gifts of fruit, pastry, or gold with their friends on New

Year's Day. In many European countries, as in the U.K., children believe that gifts are brought by Father Christmas or St. Nicholas, (Santa Claus in other countries), but there are exceptions. For example, in Holland, St. Nicholas visits children before Christmas, but as mentioned above, in Andorra, Catalonia and Spain, the Three Kings bring traditional gifts on the eve of their feast day, but the gifts are only found by the children early in the morning of Kings' Day itself, January 6<sup>th</sup>. In Catalonia and probably here in Andorra too, before going to bed, children leave some wine, "turrons" and fruit for the Kings and their pages, and water and carobs for the camels and sometimes they add a piece of paper with more requests that they forgot in their previous letter sent to the Kings.

Nina O'Brien

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## NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

### THE INTERNATIONAL SINGERS

#### NEWS AND BIOGRAPHIES:

The choir continues to flourish with new members joining all the time. We now have 12 men! In September we sang 'LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH' as a prologue to UNESCO's celebration of the International Day of Peace and recently enjoyed singing for many of you at the opening of the Club's Arts and Crafts exhibition in Ordino.

In the past I have introduced you to our director **Barbara Melin** and our pianist **Binnie Segal**, while our soloist, **Gisele Pereira**, had an article all to herself in the last magazine, so this time I thought it would be fun to let you know a little bit more about other members of the choir, starting with our three Andorran Singers.

We first met **Maria Rosa Gresa** when we sang at her wedding to another singer, **Desmond Allen**. Rosa grew up in Barcelona in an Andorran family but only came to live in this country after her first marriage. She has always loved music and singing but only practised the latter in the shower until someone told her about the Orfeo which she joined six years ago. In 1995 she also enrolled with the Singers. Rosa's other hobbies are cooking, hiking and skiing. She has several children and grandchildren.

In 1997, **Alba Puig** joined us having previously sung with the Orfeo and Rocafort choirs and spent 9 years studying piano, singing and music theory at the conservatoire in Andorra la Vella. Born in Manresa, Spain, Alba grew up in a nearby village until, aged 14, her whole family moved to Andorra where she started work as a secretary at Vilodomat Esport. Her father, a theatre director, then founded a theatre company here in which all the family participated. For the next three years Alba was an actress. Later she also worked as a ballerina. Her other great love, which she shares with both Maria Rosa and Rosa Maria, is walking in Andorra's mountains. Each year she and her husband act as counsellors in marriage preparation courses offered by the Church. She has three grown-up daughters.

**Rosa Maria Beal** was born in Andorra but spent her childhood in Caracas, Venezuela from where, at 16, she moved to Toronto, Canada. There she earned a B.Sc. in pharmacology. In 1967 she returned to Andorra, married and opened her own 'Farmàcia Engordany'. Before joining the Singers in 1999, she sang with the Sant Antoni choir. Her other hobbies are drawing, painting and working in *pâte à sel*. She hopes to take up writing when she retires. Rosa Maria has two sons.

*If anyone reading this enjoys singing - and can do so in tune - and would like to join our international 'family' do please contact either Clare Allcard 836 269 or M<sup>re</sup> Teresa Raurell 836 123.*

As usual there will be two performances of our

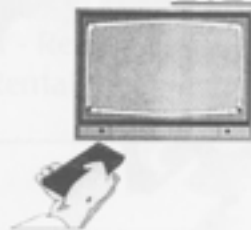
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- 2) Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> December at 4.30pm at Ordino church to be followed by wine and cake kindly organised by Solveig Feilberg and the International Club. As usual we will make a collection for local people in need.

This year, for the first time, we will also be singing in the baronial hall of 'El Castell' Hotel in la Seu at 7.30pm on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> December. This is a fund-raising event for the choir and for a school for handicapped children in Seu. Tickets are 1,500pts each which will include wine and Christmas fare in the interval. Do come and support us and enjoy an evening out in spectacular surroundings. Or why not get up a party and move on to the hotel's 5 star restaurant afterwards.

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## THE WINE TASTING GROUP

*Simon Binsted, our new Leader of the Wine Tasting Group, keeps us up-to-date*

Perhaps some of the hundreds of people who have attended the group's tastings in the past have been there just because they thought it a good excuse for a party, but the great majority do really want to learn more about the fascinating world of wine.

Members pay a modest entrance fee to each of the regular tastings and one of our goals is to offer them a larger variety of wines from around the world than might be apparent from the rather eclectic range of wines offered by local retailers. Contacts with local wholesalers are also made, so that they can consider the appeal of offering keen local wine drinkers the

occasional modest tasting "subsidy" in their eagerness to publicise their products! It is also my personal wish as Group Leader to see members benefiting much more than they have in the past from their collective buying power. The larger the number of regular attendees who succumb to the temptation, the bigger the discounts achievable! A programme of visits to winemakers and vineyards is also planned, as befits one of the Club's most active groups.

All in all, you risk missing a lot of fun if you ignore the opportunity to mix business with pleasure. We look forward to you joining us the very next time we go around the world in a glass. Do please get in touch.

*Simon Binsted - Tel: 835975*

## THE GROUPS' AFTERNOON

*by Diana Yeoman*

*(Photographs by Marco Higuero)*

Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, was the first cold wet day of autumn, and my enthusiasm for the International Club groups' tea party was not of the keenest. Nor was it increased by having to hop over a big puddle before reaching the door of the Aparthotel St. Andreu in Arinsal. But once inside the usual club welcome started to warm the cockles of my heart and coffee and a chocolate brownie contributed to my wellbeing. - All free too!

**Horst and Anne Matschke** had an attractive



*Members enjoying afternoon tea*

layout of natural history books which caught my eye first, and right beside them was Stanley and his computer display. I have seriously wished sometimes that I was computer literate, but during the few months when I owned a word processor I realised that I didn't have the basic knowledge to grasp even the simplest forms. As before, I found I could watch Stanley demonstrating various possibilities to people who had the rudiments I lacked, and marvel at the magic of it, but those ten minutes confirmed my belief that that was the sum of my pleasure in the art.

**Brenda** had a lovely display of the Scottish dancing group and before long some of their music started coming from loud speakers, which livened up

the people still arriving as the coffee and brownie had cheered me. Part of the music must have been the choir singing, which is always a delight to hear. **Clare's** display of their past achievements was a centre of attraction.

**Gill Furmston** and her companions had beautiful patchwork pieces to show us, and I was filled with admiration for the colour-blending and professional finish. My sister in law does patchwork



*Stanley Jones & Brian Keep  
The Computer Group*

and tried once to show me some of the simplest designs, but, like computers, I soon realised that my enjoyment of the skill is academic with a touch of envy for the patience required.

**Nina** and others were there to tell us about the Art class and, having been to some of the exhibitions, I know how much fun they have together and what a high standard they achieve.

### Club Internacional d'Andorra, December 2000

The Wine tasting group table was crowded every time I passed that way and when they broke open some champagne the press did not diminish.

I reckon at least fifty people turned up and I'm sure none of them went away disappointed. It really was an excellent occasion for us all to get to know our club a bit better.



*Tony Dawtrey, Liliass Grassie,  
Ann Bumpstead  
The Wine Tasting Group*

I hadn't been to the Aparthotel St. Andreu before and I'm glad I've found it. There is a friendly atmosphere and, although I penetrated no further than the bar, I would judge the appointments to be good. – No hooks in the loos, but I'm not a nit-picker. What started as a rather dismal afternoon turned out to be a very pleasant gathering.

*Diana Yeoman*

*For more colour photographs on the  
Groups' Afternoon, turn to page 16*

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# REALITY SURPASSING IMAGINATION I

by Peter Parkinson

When I took my School Certificate examination in 1940, one of the books that we had studied for the English Literature paper was an anthology "Poets of Our Time", compiled by Eric Gillett. It was sufficiently of its time to include poetry by T.S. Eliot, Robert Graves, Siegfried Sassoon. One poem, "Romance" by W.J. Turner, has stayed in my memory. Here is the first verse:-

*When I was but thirteen or so  
I went into a golden land,  
Chimborazo, Cotopaxi  
Took me by the hand*

Seven verses altogether, Chimborazo Cotopaxi and Popocatepetl in alternate stanzas as romantic symbols firing the imagination of the poet. Popocatepetl is a volcano in Mexico, Chimborazo and Cotopaxi are volcanoes in Ecuador. The Mexican volcano I have never seen, but several times I have been very close to the Ecuadorian volcanoes, flying south from Quito to Lima and Santiago de Chile, or north on the way back to Paris or Washington.

Between 1972 and 1987 I worked in Paris for the Intergovernmental Council of Copper Exporting Countries (CIPEC), most simply described as a sort of OPEC for copper. Peru and Chile were two of its most important members. My function was prosaic, complex and interesting - to help them get more money for their copper. There was of course a good deal of time for tourism in the capitals and elsewhere, as well as expeditions to copper mines, with names like Toquepala, Chuquibambilla.

Twice I went to the former Inca capital Cuzco, and nearby historic sites Ollantaytambo, Pukapukara, Saqsaywaman, Tambomachay, and Machu Picchu. I still have the tickets for my second visit in July 1982 - wonderful high-sounding names, where the reality of my experience surpassed the expectations of my imagination, especially Machu Picchu. These experiences by the man of 57 were the realisation of the imaginative hopes of the schoolboy of 14.

## MACHU PICCHU AS MYTH

Machu Picchu was never discovered by the Spaniards, it was lost to history from the time of the conquest of the Inca Empire in 1533 until its rediscovery by the U.S. explorer Hiram Bingham in July 1911. He described his crossing of the roaring rapids of the river on flimsy logs with two companions, their climb in humid heat to the discovery of the ruins, already partly cleared by some Indian farmers who had been living there for years.

What were these ruins? The myth, in which Hiram Bingham believed to the end of his life, was that he had rediscovered the lost city of Vilcabamba, where the Incas held out until 1572. More recent expeditions in 1964 and 1965 by the U.S. explorer Gene Savoy have led most people to believe that the real historic Vilcabamba is some 120 km. to the west, at an altitude of 3,300 feet in the Amazonian rain forest. To keep the discovered ruins clear of trees would be an impossible task; the site itself is almost inaccessible. So, in reality, Machu Picchu remains something of a mystery, its function unexplained.

The Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, one of the greatest poets of the last century, believed in the myth, until his death in 1973. I met him once, late in 1972 in the course of my copper work, when he was Chilean ambassador to France. I have still a bilingual copy of his poem "The Heights of Machu Picchu" (translation by Nathaniel Tarn) that I meant to ask him to sign but he was recalled to Chile and I never saw him again.

*"Then up the ladder of the earth I climbed  
through the barbed jungle's thickets  
until I reached you Machu Picchu.*

*Tall city of stepped stone,  
home at long last of whatever earth  
had never hidden in her sleeping clothes*

*In you two lineages that had run parallel  
met where the cradle both of men and light  
rocked in a wind of thorns*

## MACHU PICCHU AS REALITY

To get to Machu Picchu we had to be at San Pedro Station in Cuzco at 6.30 a.m. The train climbed slowly out of the valley surrounding Cuzco, then continued close to the Urubamba river, past the fortress of Ollantaytambo until it reached Puente Ruinas station, at the foot of the mountain on which Machu Picchu was built. Then it was advisable to run quickly to the buses waiting to take us up the mountain, unless you did not mind waiting up to an hour for a later



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ascent by the buses. The train back to Cuzco left at 3.30 p.m.

Whilst in Cuzco (11,000 feet) it is best to move slowly so as to avoid unpleasant altitude effects; you are unlikely to suffer them in Machu Picchu, similar in altitude (9,000 feet) to the top of the ski slopes in Andorra. Before the road was built along the Urubamba valley access to the area around Machu Picchu necessitated traversing a pass of 15,000 feet above sea level, which for people living at low altitudes requires several weeks of acclimatisation. In his later expeditions Hiram Bingham put a good deal of time and effort into rediscovering the network of Inca mountain roads, in ruinous condition after four centuries of neglect, often completely obliterated by rock falls. Much has been done to restore these to useable condition.

This whole area is in the Andes, and quite close there are two magnificent mountains reaching a height of 21,000 feet. From the small mountain-top plateau on which Machu Picchu is built higher mountains can be seen in all directions. Several photographs are really needed to give some idea of the splendours of the site, but limitations of space preclude more than two. Look at this one with buildings in the foreground and a small mountain in the background, right up to the top of which there are terraces for growing crops. Access is difficult, even dangerous, climbing up a slope of around 45°. One of my French colleagues was brave enough, or rash enough, to climb up to those terraces; going up was not too bad, but coming down in wet weather was terrifying, and he did not expect to survive. If memory serves me well, the other photograph of a stairway is taken in the opposite



*There are more than a hundred stairways in the ruins of Machu Picchu, but the finest of all is this megalithic flight leading from the Sacred Plaza to the top of Intihuatana Hill*

direction, behind the point from which the first photograph was taken.

If you go to Machu Picchu, bear in mind that the Inca civilisation had not invented the wheel, and that horses in South America had become extinct long before. The llama was and is useful for carrying burdens, like the camel, but the llama is much smaller, one fifth the weight of a camel. Recall also that the Inca civilisation had not invented writing, relying for their records on knot-strings or "quipus". There was a very elaborate system of roads, including one along the coast of South America some 2,500 miles in length, and the Andean road of more than 3,000 miles. The whole empire was held together by "chasquis" (runners), who ran in relays carrying messages in the form of knot-strings. Taking a message from Quito in Ecuador to Cuzco took 5 days, over a distance of 1,250 miles. Then, and now, chewing the leaves of the coca shrub has helped the Quechuas, Aymaras and other Indian groups in Peru to overcome fatigue and cold. Tourists can drink coca tea, or buy coca tea-bags.

Machu Picchu is easy of access now, by the train from Cuzco, or over the mountain tracks for those who are younger and have more time. There was a hotel there, maybe more than one by now. There seems to be little risk of its being spoiled, and tourist money will help Peru to finance further excavations, discoveries and the opening up of other historical sites, of which there are many.

No-one that I know has been disappointed by Machu Picchu.

**Peter Parkinson**

*(Reality Surpassing Imagination II will be about Bali)*



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Over the last dozen years or so, the International Club and my company have worked hand in hand many, many times. In fact, on welfare matters, we're not past calling for help ourselves! But there is a clear line between social assistance and the commercial world. The Club cannot get you the best deal on a gleaming new car. It cannot get you the cheapest reliable insurance for it, nor against a ski accident. The Club is not designed to help you argue with the plumber when your feet are wet, nor to help you make your official application in Catalan. It won't point you in the right direction with your legal problem, it won't hold your spare keys in case you lock yourself out, it won't find you a painter, not even a bad one, and it won't fight your battles either.

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

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## THE PATCHWORK EXHIBITION

*by Gill Furmston*

The annual Escaldes/Engordany Patchwork Group's Exhibition was held at the Escaldes Comú in September and the International Patchwork Group were once again invited to join in. This year the Exhibition was held in conjunction with the Escaldes Craft School and, therefore, space was limited, especially as the Escaldes/Engordany Group's Project this year was a Millennium Quilt with 2000 x 4 inch (10 cms x 10 cms) squares, taking up nearly one wall. The Club's Patchwork Group contributed a few squares to this quilt but not as many as we should have. The finished project, made up of all different squares, patterns and colours, will not go to waste, it is going to be divided into four or five quilts and these will be raffled to raise money for charity.

Unfortunately the International Club's Patchwork Group did not have one finished quilt to put

in to the Exhibition: most of our current work is either in the finishing stages or has already been given to the lucky person it has been made for, usually family in another country. We did exhibit many quilts last year

but did not feel we could show these again so soon. I must say the quilts displayed were of a very high standard and compare very favourably with quilts I have seen at National Quilt Exhibition at Ascot, England, and other Exhibitions this year. We have some very talented people in Andorra.

Quilts can take years to complete and the amount of work that has to go into the finished article is amazing, you might ask 'why bother' but once hooked on quilting you cannot stop - and they are so useful!!



*Gill Furmston  
Photograph of Elsie O'Shea, Samia Omar,  
Gill Furmston & Patricia Lewins*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Calling all dog lovers and owners

As a dog lover who owns abandoned dogs we realise the type of responsibilities we are taking on. A dog's life span is anything up to fourteen years and with mongrels particularly can go well beyond this life-span. Here in Andorra it is now law to have your dog microchipped which is an expense and then there are the initial vaccinations and yearly boosters. Inevitably there can be minor problems necessitating vets bills and sometimes major problems which can incur vast bills so all this must be taken into consideration when you agree to have a dog.

There is an added problem to encounter and that is holidays. A house-sitter to look after your dog will cost 2500 pts. a day plus your normal expenses for your home. Unfortunately we do not know the cost of

kennels but know it is considerable. When you have a dog you must not expect anyone to look after it for a pittance. This is insulting to the person who takes on the responsibility while you are away. If you are going away you should make sure there is sufficient food for your dog or money to buy food. You should make contact while you are away to ensure there are no problems and it really is only courtesy to pay before you go away and if by chance you are away longer than anticipated you can square up on your return. The dog-sitters in Andorra are an excellent group of people, honest and reliable, so please keep it this way as we need this group of people as there are no adequate kennels available for those of us who are besotted with our animals.

*An anonymous member*

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*(translated by Caroline Colvin-Smith)*

**O**ur little mountain shepherds

With their white beards, trembling with excitement,  
Joyfully set forth from their cabins.

They are going to Bethlehem to see the Holy Infant.  
And when they arrive, full of wonder they gaze at him,  
So poor and so naked.

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## A DINNER OF WELCOME

*Alan Hadden reports on the dinner to mark the occasion of the visit of the British Ambassador to Andorra.*

*Photographs by Carol Phillips-Jones (see pages 13 & 14)*

On Friday, the twenty-second of September, some seventy Club members entertained Mr. Peter Torry, H.B.M.'s ambassador to Andorra and to Spain, and Mrs. Torry to dinner at the Roc de Caldes Hotel.

The occasion began with an open bar, giving everyone the opportunity to meet and chat informally with H.E. and Mrs. Torry before taking their places in the dining room. After the loyal toast had been proposed and drunk, Mr. Torry spoke on H.M.G.'s attitudes towards the European Union and, more particularly, towards adopting the Euro. The ambassador took questions on this topic and on the situation of U.K. old age pensioners living in Andorra who are automatically excluded from receiving the normal increases in the pension granted to OAPs in Britain and elsewhere. There is clearly strong feeling against what is widely regarded as an unwarranted and unjustifiable discrimination against pensioners who live here. Mr. Torry undertook to take this up at an early opportunity, but without any great expectations of success: H.M.G.'s clear intention is to devote any available funds to the poorest sections of the community.

Mr. Albert Pintat, Andorra's Foreign Secretary, who spoke at the farewell dinner to Mr. Torry's predecessor, had regretted that a previous engagement prevented him from being with us. In his

place Dr. Josep M<sup>a</sup> Goicoechea, the Minister of Health, represented the Andorran Government and spoke in excellent English expressing the country's satisfaction at the foreign residents' growing integration and participation in the life of his country.

The only disappointments were the dinner itself and, to a lesser extent, the service – neither up to the five star standard to which the hotel lays claim. However, subsequent complaint led to apologies, a refund and assurances of a better future level of performance.

After dinner people returned to the bar for conversation, music and dancing. It was two in the morning when your correspondent eventually got into bed – far too late for his advanced years. But the dancing went on later, and if whoever charged two breakfasts to the Club's account would care to come forward....All in all, another successful and enjoyable event.

**Alan Hadden**

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## A DINNER OF WELCOME PHOTOGRAPHS

(by Carol Phillips-Jones)

*Ann Price  
& M.I. Josep Maria Goicoechea*



*In the bar before dinner*



More photographs from this dinner on page 14.





*H.M. Ambassador Peter Torry  
& Honorary British Consul Hugh Garner*



*Peter Crichton, Chris Hansen, Gerry  
Churcher, Caroline Crichton, Pam  
Churcher, Clare Allcard*



*Herr Dietram Von Schilcher, Fiona Dean,  
Peter Parkinson, Gerry & Pam Churcher,  
Caroline Colvin-Smith*



*Mary & John Berthoud, Elsie O'Shea,  
Terry & Nina O'Brien, Kirsty Young,  
Caroline Risdale*

## ARTS, CRAFT & LEISURE ACTIVITIES EXHIBITION

### PHOTOGRAPHS (See article on page 18)

(Photographs by Carol Phillips-Jones)



*Hugh Garner, Tom Hardie, Ann Price,  
Tony Dawtrey*



*'Bar Tenders' - Mike Lovatt, John  
Tabernacle, Howard Hobson  
with Ann Price*





*The International Singers*



*Irene Hancock with her Cake Decorating*



*Sheila & Tony Hooper*



*Val Rylatt with her Pottery*



*Alan Cruickshank with his Diorama*

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## A MYSTERY TOUR PHOTOGRAPHS (See article opposite)

(Photographs by Ann Matschke and Gerry Churcher)



*Gerri de la Sal*



*Distillery - Pobla de Segur*



*Lunch at Restaurant El Carro*



*Lunch at Restaurant El Carro*

## THE GROUPS AFTERNOON (See article on page 6)

(Photographs by Marco Higuero)



*Elsie O'Shea and Gill Furmston  
The Patchwork Group*



*Claire Allcard  
The International Singers*

## THE MYSTERY TOUR

*Pam Churcher reveals the destination of the Mystery Tour  
Photographs by Ann Matschke & Gerry Churcher (see opposite page)*

A part from knowing that Ann would have arranged a great trip and that the ever reliable Rafael would pick us up on the dot we certainly enjoyed a really intriguing Mystery Tour.

After collecting a coach load, 26 of us, Rafael drove us very comfortably round all the tortuous bends between Adrall and Sort, all of 46 kms thus giving us extra time to appreciate the beauty of the magnificent scenery.

Sort was our first stop, not only for coffee but to give us a chance to buy witches and lucky lottery tickets. Sort means "Luck or Good Fortune" and seldom fails to live up to its name.

By 11 o'clock we were on the road again making for La Pobla de Segur and a very small distillery "Distributions Portet". The owner Angel and his son alone prepare and bottle this interesting licor called "Ratafia dels Raiers". Entrance to this minute distillery is through a small shop manned by a lady who will gladly fill empty bottles from four enormous barrels containing wine or moscatel at very low cost. Once in the distillery Angel explained the various processes but without giving away any secrets. We were told that main ingredients apart from alcohol were walnuts; either just the skins or very young ones which are halved, together with gentian root and various herbs. Following the spiel we were offered sips and naturally a chance to buy the finished product. All most fascinating. Ann had already told us that the whole region is famous for the "Raiers". Hence the name of the licor. To this day the Rainers drift down to the river Nuegra taking their cargo of timber to the mouth of the Ebro. In olden times they had little alternative but to walk back.

Next on the agenda was to look at the steam train, so off we went to the station. No steam train and Rafael could not discover what had happened to it. All part of the Mystery Tour. So we gave that one up and started on our way back to Sort, stopping briefly at the second road tunnel to give our more energetic members an opportunity to walk along the Collgats Gorge and maybe take photographs.

One more stop before lunch to see the age old Monasterio at Gerri de la Sal. This is certainly a visit not to be missed for Santa Maria de Gerri dates back to 807 AD and probably a good deal earlier. It has recently been restored. The walk across the river albeit short is hard going and strong shoes are essential. Incidentally the town of Gerri de la Sal gets its name from the Salt Pans. These we passed by as we made our way to Barò for lunch at the restaurant El Carro.

El Carro, also situated just the other side of the river was this time accessible by coach. Here we enjoyed a truly memorable Catalan meal. Yes, tomato bread, salad, chicken, creme catalan, lots of good wine and coffee, BUT what a chicken dish. The quartered chickens are marinated in separate earthenware pots, cooked very slowly in an enormous wood fired oven, still standing in their marinade, on a rotating stone turntable. I can only say the result is mouth-watering. Apart from a delicious menu the ambience of the place is outstanding and worthy of further visits.

We left El Carro at 4 p.m. for Sort. Some of us had hoped to find the lottery shop open but were doomed to disappointment. There was still the lovely drive back to Adrall and a further scheduled stop to see the Perfumerie at Castello in the Alt Urgell. Another surprise. "Esencias del Pirineus" is housed in a very small 400 year old house owned by Salvador and Elizabeth. One of its walls is actually attached to the church. Salvador's laboratory consists of one not very large room where he distils the essences from wild flowers and plants which end up in many different health and beauty products. In the other even smaller room Elizabeth displays pictures of her pressed flowers and demonstrates her expertise. An extremely talented couple who from time to time come to the Andorran Fair, always attired in medieval dress, to show and sell their products.

By now, reluctantly, it was time to head for home. Our thanks go out to Rafael, our ever-efficient driver and last but by no means least to Ann who must have spent hours and days planning such a wonderful outing.

*Pam Churcher*



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## ARTS, CRAFTS & LEISURE ACTIVITIES EXHIBITION

*Tony Dawtrey reports on the success of this Exhibition which was held from 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> October  
Photographs by Carol Phillips-Jones on pages 14 & 15*

The exhibition was last held in March 1997 as 'The Hobbies Exhibition', at that time all the exhibitors were Club members and the objective was to show the public the wide variety of talent which often lay hidden within the Club. On this occasion it was decided to widen the participation to include members of the local community here in Andorra. I am pleased to say we had a very positive response from our local community with items of art, ceramics, clay sculptures, woodwork, rug-making and photography being exhibited. The Club was well represented with patchwork, needlepoint, knitting, rug-making, collections, AND, pottery, jewellery, silk flowers and a magnificent diorama by **Alan Cruikshank**.

The exhibition opened on Friday evening with a few well-chosen words from **Simon Binsted** followed by a rousing performance from **The International Singers**. The Sala was full to capacity for this event, Club Members turned out in force together with guests, local exhibitors and the Andorra television. Attendance over the two and a half days was between 450 - 500 people. A special thank-you should go out to those who organised practical demonstrations, all of which were well attended over the two days.

### **Dolors Novellas - Sketching with Pastels**

Dolors, who is an art teacher in La Massana, took time out from her work on Saturday morning to demonstrate the use of pastels for sketching. Working from a photograph she reproduced a portrait of a woman with the same ease and speed that can be seen on the Ramblas in Barcelona. After Dolors had completed a couple of sketches, some of the Art Group who were watching were then invited to try their hand.

### **Nina O'Brien - Creative Batik**

Batik is an ancient Indonesian craft, the work originated from the Indonesian word "Ambatik" meaning drawing and writing. Very simple batik is made by applying coloured patterns on cloth. It is a "resist" process in which areas of the cloth are covered with hot melted wax to prevent them being coloured by dyes. In recent years, batik has become more of a creative art expression instead of a traditional craft repeated time and again; every batik is unique. Many present day so-called batiks, sold to tourists in many parts of the world, are coloured designs merely printed on cloth and not batiks at all. Nina's demonstrations attempted to project the spontaneous and creative aspect as well as the ease and simplicity of a very complex and traditional technique.

The demonstrations had many participants, some coming back on the second day to continue their projects, even one male participant was noted although he didn't seem to get his hands dirty!

### **Carmé Mendia - Painting on Cotton Table Cloths, Napkins, Kitchen Cloths**

Carmé, who was one of our local community exhibitors, demonstrated the ease with which such materials can be decorated; there is however, a need to have a certain amount of artistic talent before embarking upon these projects. She assured us that anybody who could paint natural objects with a degree of detail should be able to master this technique; some of Carmé's decorative designs had amazing depth to them giving a great feel of realism.

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### Irene Hancock – Cake Decoration

Irene worked throughout both Saturday and Sunday making very delicate flowers for her cake decorations. She was heard to say, after completing her morning's work producing and fixing the most delicate petals for a carnation, "I must bring my glasses this afternoon, I can't see what I am doing!" *Irene, you must have an amazing sense of feel!!*

### Tony Hooper – Diorama of "Oberinntalbahnhof"

Tony, having struggled to complete his diorama for the Model Show in La Massana, once again relocated his working model for the Club exhibition. Fortunately he did not have as many problems with this relocation exercise and was able to have it running throughout both days. He was joined on the Sunday by our newest member, Carles Hansen, who displayed his diorama of a shunting yard (*sorry, I've forgotten the name*) and spent time demonstrating just how long it takes to paint scale size figures for these models.

### Ernesto Ledesma – Marquetry

Ernesto, who comes from Argentina and spends much of his time travelling around Spain attending Artisan Fairs and Exhibitions, displayed an amazing selection of marquetry pictures, many of which took him many months to complete. He had on hand samples of work 'in preparation' to show how the technique of marquetry is performed and answered questions from interested viewers.

### Patchwork Group

The Group, led by **Gill Furnston**, worked throughout Saturday and Sunday on their respective projects, always happy to chat about their work; there were many admirers of the varied pieces on display. I understand the ladies would like the exhibition to be on a weekly basis because their productivity was greatly increased over these two days – *sorry ladies once is enough!*

### Computer Group – "Surfing the Net"

In collaboration with STA, **Stanley Jones** and **Brian Keep** were able to spend two and a half days "Surfing the Net" at STA's expense to demonstrate what is possible if you have the time and motivation. Many questions were asked and most answered. STA have undertaken to come along to the Computer Group's meetings if required and answer any relevant questions members may have concerning their operations. STA will shortly have a Web Page in English detailing their service; this may go some way towards answering criticisms from the non-Catalan speaking residents about their poor public relations record.

There were many other static exhibits from both Club members and local exhibitors and there is not sufficient space to mention them all by name: sufficient to say a very big thank you to all the exhibitors for your time and effort, without which none of this would have been possible. We hope to see you all in about two years' time, so start working on your new projects now!

**Tony Dawtrey**



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## IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

by Sue Coleman

The dog shelter ("gossera"), which is situated at the top of the Calle Comella in Andorra La Vella, is funded and managed by the Andorran government. Two members of staff are employed at the shelter and work 7 days a week to care for the dogs in residence. The main role of these employees is to administer water and food and ensure the clean condition of the runs in which the dogs are kept. The staff are also responsible for admitting new "arrivals" into the shelter and showing around prospective "foster parents"!

Unfortunately, the shelter – which officially caters for up to 50 dogs – involves hard physical input and time from the two members of staff and so, we at LAIKA offer our services as a type of "support team" on a voluntary basis.

LAIKA (Association for the Protection of Pet Animals) is the largest and strongest animal support group in Andorra and is the result of the desire and effort of a group of individuals to achieve the extinction from our society, of cruel and degrading attitudes towards animals. LAIKA was created by a group of human beings who, after what occurred at the La Comella Dog Home in January 1999, became aware of the need for protection of the cats and dogs which were able to escape and return later to the kennels; also all the animals which are abandoned on our streets, in our mountains or in any of the many other forms of abandonment. The LAIKA Association is headed by our President – Jean Paul – and in terms of very active members, we are approximately 10 people. However, in total we have approximately 200 "passive" members and have just started a Laika Children's Club for younger members.

The Association wished to render a symbolic tribute to the sadly famous dog "Laika", that poor animal, which was sent into space in a space-suit, in a tube and tied up, without its consent. Laika was not the first animal to be sacrificed in the name of progress and, unfortunately, will not be the last, but today Laika is unique in the making of history. She was a martyr.

At the same time, in memory of this dog, the Association has also wished to set out its aims and character; the fight against any kind of torture of pet animals. Our motivation is the abolition of any attitude which implies ill-treatment and at the same time, the search for a change of mentality which will make everyone treat animals for what they are – living beings with feelings and emotions.

LAIKA's tasks from the beginning and up until today are many, but in relation to dogs, they include: a) regular visits to the shelter to ensure that conditions are as agreeable as possible and to spend time in the dogs' company – walking them, playing or simply being with them to give affection; b) the collection of toys to provide playthings and coats/blankets etc. to provide warmth in the winter, particularly for small or weak dogs who suffer from the below-freezing temperatures; c) following up on the population of the shelter, paying special attention to the veterinary care which they receive, the standard of



"Paco"

hygiene and the number of animals housed there and, d) adoptions by request.

LAIKA also organises a strong publicity campaign including the publication of texts in the local papers, displays of posters and photographs in local pet shops, the participating in local fairs and events with promotion activities related to the Shelter and the



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publication of brochures giving current information on the dogs and cats in our care.

In relation to our cats, we rescue them from the streets and take them into our homes until they can be found new owners. Unfortunately, injured and sick cats are frequent. We also liaise between owners who no longer want their pet with others who would like it.

Sadly, the abandoning of pets increases daily. In the last year and a half, some 180 dogs arrived at the shelter and Laika took in some 25 cats. However the number of abandoned animals does not stop here, as there have to be added to these totals all the animals who do not come to the shelter but are left loose to roam the mountains, lost and disorientated with no-one to call attention to their situation. The principal cause of this fact is the lack of awareness on the part of the owners of the responsibility which having animals entails, the care they need and the rights which they merit as living beings. LAIKA continues the fight to stimulate the need for greater human awareness and to re-educate those people who forget that "A Dog is Not Just for Christmas .....It's For Life".



"Kane"



"Toy"

If you think that you would like to be involved with LAIKA in any form of activity or you would like to adopt a dog or a cat, but are not sure whom to contact, we are pleased to announce that in addition to our long-standing Andorran members, we now have 2 English members who will be happy to advise you and they can be contacted on the telephone numbers below.

For those of you who would simply like to make a donation to our cause, please use the form enclosed in your Newsletter envelope. Your kindness will be appreciated by our four-footed friends.

Don't forget - you can choose to be an "active" member or a "passive" member: everybody is welcome.

**For more information about LAIKA and our activities, please contact Sue on 330 194 or Saskia on 324 309 (English-speaking) or alternatively contact our President - Jean Paul on 344 600.**

Sue Coleman



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## 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 the agreement of whoever is in charge at the desk, personal and business ads. or information about items of general interest can be put on the Coffee Morning Notice Board.
4. Subject to the agreement of whoever is in charge at the desk, 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 News Weekly, the purpose of which is to provide news only: local, Club & other, if considered of general interest.

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## "THE FUTURE ROLE OF ANDORRA IN EUROPE"

*We are sorry this article from Clare Allcard was not put in Intercomm earlier due to lack of space, but we think it is of interest to members.....*

What a joy to see la Massana's Sala Parroquial *gom a gom* (crammed to busting) with people eager to hear Foreign Affairs Minister, Albert Pintat talk on Andorra's role in Europe in the coming century.

In his wide ranging speech, Sr. Pintat pointed out that, since the new Constitution of 1993, Andorra has, for the first time, had to forge her own foreign policy; a foreign policy that acknowledges the need to adapt to its two giant neighbours who have the power to close her borders. Andorra has to reduce her isolation - most small countries shelter within some supranational organisation such as the EU or the Commonwealth - by working within the Council of Europe and the UN and, in future, within the World Trade Organisation. Andorra must learn to take advantage of globalization not try to hide from it. She must establish specialities that can withstand international competition: tourism, services, snow resorts. He particularly hopes that her highly educated, multi-lingual young people in conjunction with the nationally-owned STA will exploit a future in IT.

Sr. Pintat called for the country to be opened to foreign investment and for special 'association agreements' with the European Union. Andorra must become Euro-compatible which presumably means taken off Spain's list of 'fiscal paradises', which in turn means introducing some form of direct taxation. He also emphasised the need to be seen to be fighting all forms of international criminality. Finally, Andorra must continue as a neutral country while being nice to her neighbours.

After his speech, which was given in English, Sr Pintat answered a wide variety of questions from the floor with great charm and openness. At the end of the lecture many stayed behind for refreshments and chat while Sr Pintat was most happy to talk to any one who wanted to speak with him further. As he said, 'You are my constituents'.

This was the second in a series of millennium talks, brain child of club member, John Melin, entitled 'Visions of Andorra' and organised by the English-speaking Church. The idea behind the talks is two-fold: to inform, and therefore help integrate, international residents within the life of Andorra and secondly, by introducing a subject of common interest widely advertised in the local media, to form a bridge between the local and international communities. With the great majority of the two recent audiences being English-speaking, the first objective is so far succeeding better than the second!

The next talk in the series will probably be held on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm again in the church hall. We are very happy that the M. I. Sr. Candi Naudi, present Minister of Public Works and past minister of both Tourism and Sport has agreed to talk on 'The Impact of Tourism on Andorra's Environment.' We hope to see you there.

*Clare Allcard*



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## MAGAZINE POLICY

It will be self-evident that both text, whether editorial matter or contributed articles, and advertising must be in conformity with the Statutes and Rules of the Club. The Statutes refer to "gatherings of a linguistic, cultural or leisure nature", and to exclusions from its objectives of "any class, political or social revindications". The "aim of promoting --- friendship between the different nationalities" implies the necessity of avoiding controversy in certain areas,

in particular religion and politics. Under Andorran law, Board Members are responsible for the content of the Magazine, so they must exercise a measure of discretion in what can be accepted both for contributed articles and for advertising. We are confident that all members will realise that the Editorial Board must reserve the right to edit, in the widest sense. This may in practical terms be minimal, provided contributors will bear this statement of policy in mind.



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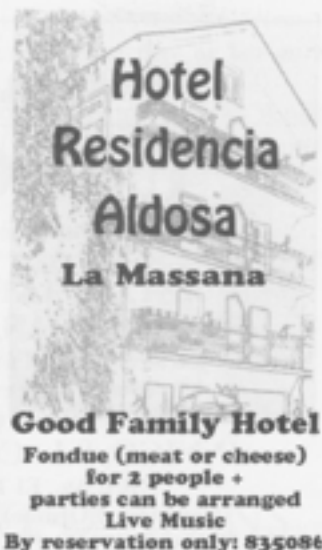
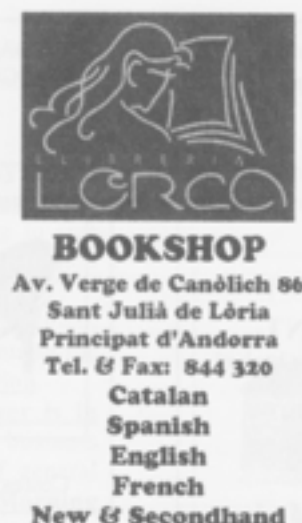
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## **FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES**

*Forthcoming activities in Andorra for December, January, February and early March, kindly provided by Andorran Comuns, Tourist Offices, and the Culture Department of the Government.*

*Many thanks to them all.*

*(by Maria Teresa Raurell)*

### **ANDORRA LA VELLA**

#### **DECEMBER 2000**

13<sup>th</sup> - Cineclub "El Viaje de Felicia", by Atom Egoyan. Canada/Great Britain, 1998. In Teatre Comunal at 22h00.

16<sup>th</sup> - "Ballarusca".

20<sup>th</sup> - Cineclub "Una Historia Verdadera", by David Lynch, EUA, 1999. In Teatre Comunal at 22h00.

24<sup>th</sup> - About 17h00, Christmas Tió (an oak log traditionally beaten by children demanding presents). Father Christmas will collect the request letters from the children.

24<sup>th</sup> - At 24h00, Missa del Gall (Midnight Mass), in Sant Esteve Church, sung by Orfeó Andorrà. Afterwards "La Condació" (Andorran tradition where everyone is invited to have mulled wine and coca (a flat cake)).

24<sup>th</sup> - Missa del Gall in Santa Coloma Church.

*Second Saturday of every month* - In the centre de la Cultura Catalana, c. La Llacuna, 14, tel. 825 673, there is a meeting for collectors. Very interesting.

#### **JANUARY 2001**

*First and third Saturday* - "Ballarusca".

4<sup>th</sup> - 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

5<sup>th</sup> - At 11 until 14h00, the Royal Postman collects 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 a special and magical evening for children... and adults as well.

17<sup>th</sup> - At 13h00, "Escudella de Sant Antoni" (a free lunch for everyone) at Plaça del Poble. One can buy a dish at the same place, but it would be a good idea to take your own spoon from home.

Second and third Saturday - "Ballarusa" in placeta Monjó, from 19h00 to 21h00. Enjoy yourself learning dances from all around the world. This is a friendly and healthy activity for people of all ages.

## FEBRUARY

First and third Saturday - "Ballarusa".

? - Theatre Season in Teatre Comunal

? - Carnival. Fancy dress competition for children.

## CANILLO

### DECEMBER 2000

During all this month - There will be many Christmas activities, organised by the different associations of Canillo, specially for children and young people.

? - Exhibition and competition of Nativity scenes, in Palau de Gel. Information in Unió Pro-Turisme, Tel. 851002.

? - Philatelic exhibition in Palau de Gel.

? - Concert by MARC CANTURRI in Palau de Gel (auditori).

? - Lecture about "Les Olles de Prats", in Palau de Gel. Several very old pottery cooking objects were found last year in the Prats area and they are being studied by the very efficient Andorran Heritage Department.

24<sup>th</sup> - Arrival of Father Christmas in the Montaup Square. 24h00 Midnight Mass. Afterwards mulled wine and hot chocolate drink for everybody.

### JANUARY 2001

5<sup>th</sup> - Evening, the Three Kings' procession through the streets, arrival at Palau de Gel.

17<sup>th</sup> - "Vianda de Sant Antoni" (A free lunch for everybody). In Montaup Square at 13h00.

## FEBRUARY

? - End of this month Carnival, up to first days of March.

Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday - At 20h15 - HOCKEY-DINNER (A Hockey Match and dinner in the Restaurant).

Every Monday and Wednesday - At 21h00 - WATERPOLO-DINNER (A Waterpolo Match and dinner in the Restaurant).

Every Friday - At 21h00 - KARTING-GEL-DINNER -

(hired karts on ice, and afterwards dinner in the Restaurant).

All these activities will be held during the whole year. Further Information at Tel. 800 840 and Fax. 800 841.

## ENCAMP

### DECEMBER 2000

In the "Biblioteca", several Christmas activities, will be organised for children and for adults.

All this month, interesting exhibitions in Comú's Hall, in Complex Esportiu and Pas de la Casa.

Area del Jovent d'Encamp, organises several activities for children and young people, from 6 to 17 years old, during the school holidays, from Mondays to Fridays. Information Tel. 834 333.

24<sup>th</sup> - Father Christmas' Procession, at 19h00.

24<sup>th</sup> - At 24h00 "Missa del Gall" in Santa Eulàlia Church. Afterwards, mulled wine and coca will be offered. (also in Pas de la Casa).

31<sup>st</sup> - New Year's celebration in Complex Esportiu. Tel. 831 405.

### JANUARY 2001

5<sup>th</sup> - The Three Kings' Procession, at 19h00.

Exhibitions in Comú's hall, Complex Esportiu, and in Pas de la Casa.

## FEBRUARY

26<sup>th</sup> - Carnival. Fancy dress competitions and balls in Complex Esportiu, the Bear's Dance (Andorran tradition), drinking hot chocolate, and several other entertainments for children and adults. Further information tel. 832 830 and 731 000. Till 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

All this month - Some exhibitions in Comú's hall, Complex Esportiu, and in Pas de la Casa, too.

### SPORTS COMPETITIONS FOR MARCH 2001

#### Dates not yet decided

Andorran Football Competition - Local teams: F.C. Encamp A and F.C. Encamp B. - Saturdays at 21h30 and Sundays at 16h00 in Prada de Moles.

Andorran Indoor Football League - Local teams: PVE and F.C. Encamp - Tuesdays at 21h00 in Complex Esportiu.

Catalan Volleyball League 2<sup>nd</sup> Category - Local team: C.V. Encamp - Sundays at 12h30 in Complex Esportiu.

Catalan Handball League 3<sup>rd</sup> Category - Local team: H.C. Parador Engolasters - Saturdays at 19h30, in Complex Esportiu.

Further information Tel. 832 830 - Fax. 832 004.

## ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

### DECEMBER 2000

1<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> - Advent Calendar on the façade ("Façana de l'Art") of a house at c. Santa Anna, nº 2. Every evening at 21h15, 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".

? - "Taller de Santa Llúcia" - To learn candle-making. Information Culture Area Tel. 890 895 and Taller Textil Tel. 860 967.

11<sup>th</sup> - Several activities for children related to Christmas in the Library of the Centre Cultural and in the Ludoteca of the Centre Social i Recreatiu, beginning at 17h00.

16<sup>th</sup> - At 17h00 Christmas Festival for elderly people. At 17h00, Club Patchwork meeting, in the hall of Centre Cultural.

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17<sup>th</sup> - at 16h30, Christmas Festival for children, with afternoon snack and other things...

24<sup>th</sup> - Missa del Gall (Midnight Mass) at 24h00. Afterwards the Unió Pro-Turisme d'Escaldes-Engordany will offer "Cremat" (a traditional hot drink made 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.

31<sup>st</sup> - New Year's Eve Ball.

Every Saturday - Market at the Church Square.

#### JANUARY 2001

4<sup>th</sup> - At 18h30, public announcement by the Royal Page throughout the streets, organised by Unió Pro-Turisme d'Escaldes-Engordany.

5<sup>th</sup> - 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

5<sup>th</sup> - 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 20h30. This is really a magical evening for children.

8<sup>th</sup> - Activities will begin in all the schools. Further information in Area de Cultura, Tel. 890 890.

17<sup>th</sup> - "Escudella de Sant Antoni", a free lunch for everybody, organised by "Amics del Pont dels Escalls".

20<sup>th</sup> - Patchwork Club meeting in the hall of Centre Cultural del Comú d'Escaldes-Engordany, from 17h30.

Every Saturday - The usual market in Plaça Santa Anna and the Church Square.

#### FEBRUARY

4<sup>th</sup> - Traditional "Encants de Sant Antoni" at 11h30 in the Church Square. The benefits will go to Càritas Parroquial.

10<sup>th</sup> - At 17h00, Patchwork Club meeting in the hall of Centre Cultural.

Every Saturday - The usual market.

#### MARCH

5<sup>th</sup> - From 15h45 Carnival. Passacaglia beginning in Prat de la Mola, through the streets. Afterwards fancy dress

competition and evening snack in the Carpa of the parking "Parnal".

6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> - Work for carnival: Venetian masks, plaster masks, "crepes", "gaufres", make-up, etc. from 16h30 to 18h30 in the Carpa. Information Area de Cultura, Tel. 890 875.

18<sup>th</sup> - Patchwork Club meeting at 17h00 in the hall of Centre Cultural.

Every Saturday - The usual market.

#### LA MASSANA

Since last October, La Massana Public Library has been moved to La Closeta. Access by the lift, on the left of the ticket window by the car park, or going up the outdoor stairs.

#### DECEMBER

16<sup>th</sup> - Saint Lucy's Fair (Fira de Santa Llúcia) in the morning, in La Closeta (Comú Car Park). Selling Christmas decorations, greeting cards, preserves, candles, etc. The Club Stall will be there waiting for us. **So don't forget!**

24<sup>th</sup> - At 19h00 Father Christmas will receive the children at the Tourist Hut's Square. (Caseta d'Informació i Turisme).

24<sup>th</sup> - At 24h00 Missa del Gall (Midnight Mass) sung by Coral Sant Antoni. Afterwards coca (flat cake) and hot chocolate drink.

#### JANUARY 2001

5<sup>th</sup> - The Three Kings' arrival and procession through the streets to La Closeta Hall.

17<sup>th</sup> - Saint Anthony's Day - Mass in Sant Antoni de la Grella chapel, at 11h00 and in Prat del Colat at 13h00 traditional auction and then serving of "Escudella de Sant Antoni" (a free lunch for everybody). At 17h00 Festival for children in La Closeta.

#### MARCH

4<sup>th</sup> - Fancy dress competition for children, in La Closeta Hall at 16h00 and snacks also for children.

17<sup>th</sup> - Concert by Petits Cantors at 22h00 in La Massana Church.

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## Club Internacional d'Andorra, December 2000

### ORDINO

#### DECEMBER 2000

Beginning the year 2000-2001 courses in the different schools for children as well as adults. Information Tel. 837 811 in the Library (Biblioteca Comunal).

*Early this month till January* - Christmas Card competition for children and young people.

16<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Concert by **The International Singers d'Andorra**, at 16h30 in the Ordino Church. Everybody will be welcome.

24<sup>th</sup> - In the evening, Father Christmas will give the gifts to the children in Ordino square.

24<sup>th</sup> - At 24h00 Midnight Mass "Missa del Gall". Afterwards, mulled wine, coca (flat cake), and hot chocolate for everyone.

#### JANUARY 2001

1<sup>st</sup> - "Concert de Cap d'Any" in the Auditori Nacional by Orquestra Simfònica del Vallès. (New Year's Concert) early in the evening.

5<sup>th</sup> - The Three Kings Procession through the streets, early in the evening.

? - IX "Borrufa" Trophy. Skiing competition for children in Camp de Neu Ordino-Arcalis.

#### FEBRUARY

26<sup>th</sup> - Beginning of "Carnestoltes" Carnival, in Centre Esportiu. "Tasting of the Soup", fancy dress competition and party for children.

#### MARCH AND APRIL

? - III Mountain Films Shows.

### SANT JULIÀ DE LÒRIA

#### DECEMBER 2000

17<sup>th</sup> - "Ball de tarda" (dancing, everybody is welcome) at about 17h00 in the Centre Cultural Hall.

20<sup>th</sup> - Opening of the exhibition XX anniversary of "Els Pastorets" by Josep M<sup>a</sup> Folch i Torres. (This is a traditional Christmas play, and its author has been most appreciated especially for his books for children and young people). The exhibition will last till 7<sup>th</sup> January 2001, in Centre Cultural Hall.

20<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Concert by Petits Cantaires Laureadians and Coral Rocafort, in the Church, in the evening.

? - Inauguration of the Pessebre in the Centre Cultural Hall.

? - In the morning, Saint Lucy's Fair, in plaça de la Germandat, or in the Centre Cultural Hall, if the weather is bad. Organised by Tourism Department of Sant Julià.

24<sup>th</sup> - Arrival of Father Christmas in front of the Comunal House, or in Centre Cultural if the weather is bad. Also organised by Tourism of Saint Julià de Lòria.

24<sup>th</sup> - At 24h00, Missa del Gall in the Church. Afterwards, the Tourism Department will offer coca (flat cake) and hot chocolate for everyone.

26<sup>th</sup> - The traditional "Tió" gifts in front of the Comunal House, or in Centre Cultural if the weather is bad.

26<sup>th</sup> - At 20h00, 29<sup>th</sup> at 22h00 and 30<sup>th</sup> at 18h00, "Els Pastorets", in Auditori Claror, of the Centre Cultural.

#### JANUARY 2001

3<sup>rd</sup> - The Orient Page Arrival in front of the Comunal House. Organised by the Tourism Department. If the weather is bad, it will be in the Centre Cultural.

5<sup>th</sup> - The Traditional Three Kings procession through the streets, in the evening. The children's requests will be collected in Auditori Claror.

6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> - At 18h00, "Els Pastorets", in Auditori Claror.

7<sup>th</sup> - Saint Julià's Day. Show for children in Auditori Rocafort of Centre Cultural, organised by Tourism Department of Sant Julià.

20<sup>th</sup> - "Escudella de Sant Sebastià" (Free lunch for everyone) in plaça de la Germandat at 13h00.

#### FEBRUARY

16<sup>th</sup> - XVIII Theatre Season, at 22h00 in Auditori Claror.

23<sup>rd</sup> - At 10h00, Carnival Parade of school children through the streets.

#### MARCH

23<sup>rd</sup> - XVIII Theatre Season at 22h00, in Auditori Claror.

### CONCERTS IN THE AUDITORI NACIONAL D'ORDINO

#### DECEMBER

17<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Concert by Orquestra Nacional d'Andorra and Cor Nacional de Petits Cantors, early in the evening.

#### JANUARY

1<sup>st</sup> - Early in the evening, New Year's Concert, by Orquestra Simfònica del Vallès.

#### MARCH

? - Concert de Carnaval, by the Orquestra Nacional d'Andorra.

Several interesting concerts are being prepared for next year, 2001, but the programme has not been finalised, because it must be approved by the new Culture Minister, after the elections.

### TEMPORADA DE MÚSICA I DANSA IN SALA D'ACTES DEL COMÚ D'ANDORRA LA VELLA CENTRE DE CONGRESSOS AT 22h00

#### 2000

December 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>

"El Sombrero de Tres Picos"

by Manuel de Falla

with Antonio Marquez and his Ballet Company

#### 2001

February 6<sup>th</sup>

"Ballet of Zürich"

March 16<sup>th</sup>

Pinchas Zukerman, violin and Marc Neikrug, piano

April 19<sup>th</sup>

"National Ballet of Holland"

May 3<sup>rd</sup>

The King's Singers

May 22<sup>nd</sup>

Murray Perahia, piano

Tickets in Sindicat d'Iniciativa. 50% reduction with Tarja Magna and Carnet Jove.

### MEMBERS' CLASSIFIED ADS. (FREE)

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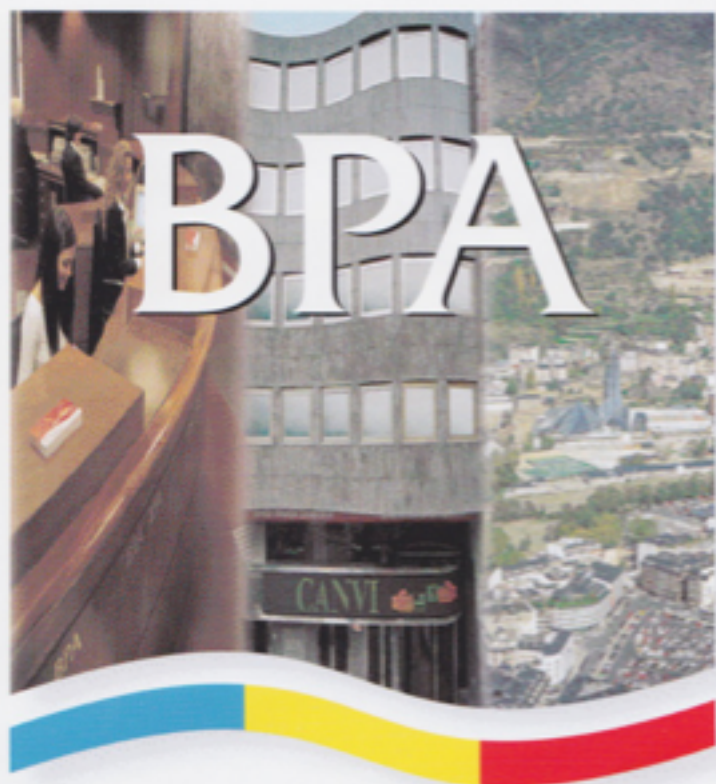
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