

INTER COMM

CLUB INTERNACIONAL D'ANDORRA

MAGAZINE / REVISTA



VOL. 9 - Núm. 3 - SPRING / PRIMAVERA 2000

CLUB INTERNACIONAL D'ANDORRA

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ADAPTED BY NINA O'BRIEN

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International Club of Andorra

Quarterly Magazine

MARCH 2000

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EDITORIAL FROM THE BOARD

Our Tenth Birthday

This is our 10th Anniversary issue – of Intercomm, that is, for the Club reached that age a year ago. The first issue came out in February 1990, three sheets of A4 paper typed on both sides, most of it about the Groups. Nos. 2,3,4,5,6 were brought out each quarter in the same format by the Editors, Jacque Crozier and Tony Hooper, still entirely in English.

No. 7 of Autumn 1991 represented a new departure in several respects: it was the first in printed form, the first to carry advertising, as a way of helping to meet the increased costs of production, the first wherein most of the contents were in Catalan as well as in English. By No. 10 only a minority of the contents were also in Catalan.

Nos. 8,9,10 came out quarterly in the same format. A new sequence was started in Autumn 1992, that number being given the label Volume 2 No. 1.

After the election of Tony Hooper as Chairman of the Executive Committee, Margaret Shaida became Editor from Volume 5 No. 1. Volume 2 No. 1 was the first to have a photograph of an Andorran landscape on the front cover which continued with occasional exceptions until Volume 8 No. 4, brought out by Brian Dore.

Two innovations in Volume 9 No. 1 – on the front cover we have a reproduction of a painting rather than a photograph of a landscape; and there are several editors, members of the Board, rather than just one individual, this sharing the work and the responsibility.

Pre-Christmas Celebration

On December 22nd the Club had a pre-Christmas celebration at the Hotel Paris Londres. This replaced our usual Wednesday coffee morning. Between us we seemed to consume considerable numbers of mince pies, a rather unusual iced variety, also many chunks of Christmas cake.

We also presented our customary monetary Christmas offering to the reception and bar staff, who unfailingly welcome us every Wednesday and care for our possessions in between. We thanked the owner Joan Albert Montané for his hospitality and support during the year. In response, he made a very charming

speech about his high opinion of club members and his admiration for the achievements of the CIA.

(Photograph by Carol Phillips-Jones – Hotel Paris Londres – Escaldes – Phone – 876876)



Members enjoying the pre-Christmas celebrations at Hotel Paris Londres – Escaldes

OBITUARY FOR KAYE HOSTE WHO DIED IN ANDORRA ON 23rd NOVEMBER 1999

by Mary Graham-Watson

I remember the first time I heard about Kaye: I had been away and when I got back Charles said he had just met a most interesting person called Kaye Hoste. Well, I suppose all wives are slightly on notice when they return after being away for some time and their husband says "Oh darling, I have just met the most interesting and fun person etc. and I would like to ask her round"!!!

Kaye first came here in 1970 while she was still living in Zimbabwe but after she retired she decided to make her permanent home in Andorra.

The Hoste family originally came from Holland and settled in Norfolk in a house in what would now be on the Sandringham Estate and there is a pub near there which is called the Hoste Arms. She was born in Canada where her father had emigrated and her early years were spent on their farm in northern British Columbia. She and her brother and sister had an ideal if unsupervised childhood, as her mother was

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never able to come to terms with the hard life in northern Canada and hated the absence of any culture. The family then returned to England for a short period only to go back to Canada, this time to Nova Scotia where Kaye went to school. The start of the Second World War saw the Hoste family back in England and Kaye joined the Motorised Transport Service and went through the Blitz as an ambulance driver. In 1945 she volunteered to go to Germany and soon became involved with ENSA, meeting all the well-known theatre people of those days. After a disastrous marriage she decided to leave England and go to Africa, where her father in his young days had travelled with Rhodes from South Africa to the then Rhodesia. After paying her passage she had £10 in her pocket.

On the boat out to Africa she met someone who gave her an introduction to a newspaper Editor in Salisbury and from then on she went from strength to strength, organising and arranging the advertising for the country's largest engineering company, a job which entailed her travelling throughout Zimbabwe and Zambia, generally alone in her baby Fiat, and meeting the interesting people who came out both before and at independence.

With Kaye one will never solve the conundrum: "Is it our Hereditary Tendencies or our Environment which influence us more?" Kaye was a mixture – her early years in the vastness of Canada – the war – Germany – and then Africa – all contributed to making her independent and self-reliant, to which she brought a great sense of humour (sometimes vulgar!!), and a love of partying and stories. Without all these, she could not have survived and would not have been the person we all knew and loved – and were occasionally infuriated by.

Her many friends will miss her. In her last months she was given enormous assistance and time by the Helpline group of the CIA and she was always grateful for this.

Requiescant in Pace.

Mary Graham-Watson

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IN MEMORIUM OF ELEANOR RICHARDSON

In our issue of October 1999 we celebrated the 90th birthday of Eleanor Richardson, and all too soon we now sadly record her demise. Born in Cumbria, Eleanor moved to London before World War II, and for many years was Personal Assistant to such stage and screen personalities as Lawrence Olivier, Vivian Leigh, the Lunts, Oliver Messel, Carol Reed. After the death of her husband, Eleanor spent some years in the south of Spain before settling in Andorra.

Our sympathy goes to her family – or you may prefer to think of it as a celebration of her life.

Preliminary Notice of Annual General Meeting

The AGM has been provisionally fixed for May 30th. Board Members, **Caroline Colvin-Smith** and **Peter Parkinson** retire under the four year rule, and intend to present themselves for possible re-election. At its meeting on 19th January, the Executive Committee co-opted as members, **Tony Dawtrey** and **Michael Burgess**, who will also present themselves as candidates for election. No doubt other Club members will also wish to stand for election. A detailed notice will be sent out in a few weeks time.

Magazine Committee

We would like to express our thanks to all the Members who provided contributions to this issue. In fact, we have probably received more than there is space for in this issue, so that some may have to be held over until the next issue. From our point of view this would be a good thing, to have a reserve of contributions available when something expected gets delayed for one reason or another.

Contributions for future issues could take the form of reports on recent events, reports on favourite restaurants, descriptions of visits locally or far away, crossword or mathematical puzzles, interesting experiences to share with others, and so on. We are always on the lookout for material, so if you have something that could be suitable, even if it is only at the stage of an idea, not completely worked out, get in touch with one of us, either by telephone or at the weekly coffee mornings. Contributions for the next issue of Intercomm should be left in the Club letterbox at the Servissim office in La Massana by latest 2nd May and addressed to the Magazine Committee.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

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

THE INTERNATIONAL SINGERS

First things first. **WE NEED MEN!** Many people have remarked favourably on the richer sound we produce when we have men but, unless we can find more male recruits, we may have to abandon our dream of a well-balanced, four-voice choir. As I write we have 3 tenors and 2 basses - and, on a good day, 19 women! So please, if you know any men who have ever toyed with the idea of joining us please urge them to do so now. Like today. They can phone either of the numbers below. They will find it helps considerably to have sung in parts before, even if only in a school choir eons ago, alternatively a good voice and some knowledge of reading music is usually fine. And if you hear a chap singing tunefully in the street, don't be shy, stop him and beg him to join us. We would also welcome women who can sing the higher notes.

Thanks to the generosity of our audiences we raised approximately 116,000pta for local people in need during our Christmas concerts. Thanks also go to all those who helped with refreshments after the Ordino concert. Talking of Ordino, apart from the fact that it was way too long, our variety show in aid of Josep Carreras' Leukaemia Foundation seemed to be well received; some people even asked us to do it again another year!

During the concert, the compere gave a background *résumé* on various participants and I thought I would, from time to time, share with you some of that information starting with our much loved and warmly appreciated director, Barbara Melin.

Barbara studied the piano and voice from age seven and continued through university. Later she sang with the choir of the famous Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra. Much-travelled, she has also directed choirs in Moscow and Jerusalem - and now Andorra!

And so to the future. As I write we are about to give a concert for the elderly living at the Residencia Sola d'Enclar and then it is all systems go for a massed choirs' tribute to Sr Clavé, a Catalan who started male voice choirs for the unemployed in the last century. This will be held on 25th March. On Sunday, 7th May we give the first performance of our summer repertoire at 6pm at La Massana Church. Hope to welcome you all there.

Anyone wishing to join us or wanting more information please call either Clare Allcard Tel 836269 Fax 836 278 or M^{rs} Teresa Raurell on 836 123.



The International Singers

SCOTTISH DANCING

Right now the Scottish dance group is suffering from lack of numbers. People have had flu, been hospitalised or been away for the millennium etc. **John Gill** came up from France one Sunday and we had a great time dancing in the gym at Anyos Sports Club which has a beautiful sprung floor.

This will be our home for the future so anyone wishing to join us please contact either Brenda Ross on 836 688 or Maureen Hunt on 837 462.

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NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

A few comments ...
of 20 currently listed members (4 inactive during 1999) 9 are over 70 years of age and 2 depart Andorra during 2000. Given the normal rate of absenteeism from Andorra it is fairly clear that this small band does not constitute a viable group.

We have made few new members over the years. Walking slowly and stopping frequently does not attract those who are not particularly interested in natural history. And we have also covered just about every site within reasonable range: the Sorteny's flowers perhaps pall, though of course they should not. A group outing is not worth organising unless it constitutes a minimum of six. To achieve this in 2000 we require the active support of present members and the injection of new ones. Perhaps those CIA members who have not previously experienced a Naturalist excursion might try us out?

The following half year programme is suggested, during the course of which the Naturalists' future may become more clear:

January 20th

SEU D'URGELL - A well-wrapped walk along the Segre River, where the wintering birds can be quite rewarding. Followed by a restaurant lunch.
10.00 on the Spanish side of the St. Julià frontier.

February 17th

11.00 VIDEOS AND LUNCH AT THE GILLERS, Xalet Vinette, El Bosquet, L'Aldosa - The final episode of Walking with Dinosaurs and its amusing how-the-series-was-made. In-Flight-Movie narrated by David Attenborough - flying with birds.

March 23rd

VILA - A walk towards the Collada de Beixalis for Andorra's wintering birds.
10.00 car park at the end of Vila (from Andorra la Vella turn left at Encamp's Motor Museum, go left off the roundabout and continue to the end of Vila village - car park to the left).

April 27th

ST. LORENÇ DE MONGAI - Spain (near Balaguer) for early migrants and flowers.
8.00 Spanish side of the St. Julià frontier.

May 6th, 7th, returning 8th

SANTA ENGRACIA Casa Guilla - A casa rural of charm, interest, good cooking and genuine hospitality (no separate bathrooms!) in a region of dramatic scenery rearing above the ancient sea bed. Dinosaur tracks on the doorstep, Pobla de Segur and its lake, the Boumort Reserve and its vultures.

June 22nd

VALL DE SORTENY - Flowers, flowers and more flowers.
9.00 at the valley entrance above El Serrat.

CARRY your binoculars (ask to borrow a pair if needed), a waterproof, hat, sweater, your lunch and a drink; your passport for trips outside Andorra. Wear boots or walking shoes, and don't forget sun lotion, insect repellent and antihistamine cream if the time of year and region demand them.

For further information please contact

Ann Matschke

841279

COMPUTER GROUP

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

To find out the date of the next meeting phone a member or **Stanley Jones** at 836972 or E. Mail - jones.stanley@andorra.ad

The Club is a reference group of persons who have similar interests or computers and to make it possible for one member to help another similarly situated.

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Brian Keep has written a very successful pamphlet which is a step by step method for joining the web.

The group includes experts and beginners and any member with computer problems is welcome. There are always new developments to discuss where computers are concerned. **Brian Keep, Peter Smith and Peter Jennings** all continue to help us in joining the Internet and solving computer problems.

We have members who have experience with every service in Andorra.

The net continues to expand in Andorra, with the CIA Newsletter now available on it for free. At present about 55 copies are sent out to members by E Mail.

Copies go to China, Thailand, France, Great Britain and Andorra.

What a great way to keep in touch with what is happening here.

For further information contact

Stanley Jones

836972

E Mail – jones.stanley@andorra.ad

THE ART GROUP

The Art Group meets on Friday afternoons (or on any other day at the convenience of Members) at the studio in Andorra la Vella. Anyone, ranging from zero experience of painting to expert, welcome.

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or Val Rylatt at 835606

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FROM THE EDITOR OF THE NEWSLETTER

There will be a few periods during the year when I am away and therefore unable to produce the Weekly Newsletter. Please would one or two of you commit yourselves to doing this for us for an occasional week or fortnight? For instance, Lisa and I shall be away for the month of May and I'd be very grateful to hear from you about this.

Caroline Colvin-Smith - 837315

LETTER TO MEMBERS

Dear Members,

We would like to thank the Committee and all members for their good wishes on our move to France. May we take this opportunity of wishing the Club every success in the future.

*Yours sincerely,
Jacquie Crozier &
Brian Dore*

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A STALL HOLDER'S VIEW OF THE CHRISTMAS FAIR

by *Clare Allcard*

The seed for that gloriously chaotic institution, the Christmas Fair, was actually planted eleven years ago on April 6th, 1988 when **Judy Hill** suggested the English-speaking Church should organise a Jumble Sale. By November it had evolved into a Christmas Fayre (later to become a Christmas Fair). Under the guidance of churchwarden **Anne Lamb**, a powerful team of women, including **Brenda Ross**, **Gill Furmston**, **Jacque Crozier**, **Joyce Le Mare**, **Joyce Turner**, **Pat Swanson**, **Maureen Hunt**, **Val Cruickshank** and **Wendy Holmes**, slid smoothly into action and, on 26th November, 1988 the first Christmas Fair was held in the La Massana Parish Hall. It had ten stalls and raised 273,246pts which was divided equally between The Meritxell Special School and The Church of England Children's Society. The latter was sent a cheque while the former received a video-recorder and some videos plus money towards holidays for the children.

In 1990 the first Catalan notices were distributed. By '92 the number of charities receiving donations had increased to six: the Associació per a la Defensa de la Natura, the Centre d'Acolliment per Infants, APAPMA, the Andorra Red Cross, La Massana Caritas and the Meritxell Special School. The take that year reached 555,320pts. The policy in those days was to donate tangible items rather than cheques, so the Red Cross received a special stretcher for their new ambulance service and the CAI received the children's shoes they had requested. In 1994 Helpline was included in the list of recipients and, in 1995, the English-speaking Church itself was added for the first time. By then the profits had risen to 694,557pts.

Those of us who participate quickly learn that Christmas fairs don't just happen. They involve lots of work - and lots of fun - with lots of people. Today, those people generously volunteer from all sections of Andorra's international community, whether connected to the church or not.

The Christmas Fair season opens shortly after the previous fair's debris has been swept into La Massana's rubbish bins. Then we hold a post-mortem to discuss what went wrong - and what right - and how things could be done differently in future. We also

decide how to divide the money raised between the chosen charities.

Every stand has a different agenda. Handicrafts seems to start work the second the old fair is over. **Brenda Ross** and **Stella Madden** collect wool and material and, along with their handi-helpers, beaver away all year to produce beautiful cuddly toys, nativity scenes, bag holders, place settings et al. Willing volunteers are always welcome. (**Ring Brenda on 836 886**)

Next comes the Raffle. Late spring, before the annual budget round, seems the best time to target wealthy banks and businesses for the top prizes. Come the autumn and a flock of letters in Catalan is despatched to local firms seeking their support. Most

are remarkably generous. Now, too, we book the hall for the last weekend in November. Raffle tickets, hot from the press, are numbered and then a frantic selling campaign begins. Friends and total strangers are lured into hazarding their pesetas on the 'Gran Sorteig'.

Organisers of the White Elephant, Books,

Toys and Gift stalls keep decent, unsold items from one year to the next. With storage such a headache, we chuck the rest out. And then, a couple of months before the Fair, there's this massive panic when we wish we hadn't and are convinced we won't have enough items to sell. Anyone who came early to last year's Fair will know how deluded we stall holders can be. We were standing, knee-deep, in a sea of goods. Indeed, next year the comú have promised us the much larger hall in the new La Closetta building where they hold the St Lucy Fair. Let's see if we can fill that!

Mid-November is Big Swap Day, held by tradition in the public car park in Aldosa. By tradition it is also freezing cold. Organisers arrive with their pantechnicons and woolly hats and, to the sound of cheerful greetings winging, frost-tinted through the air, unload all the stuff that has been passed on to them over the last twelve months, shifting it to the relevant stall holder. **Solveig**, mahout of the White Elephant, sometimes needs a trailer. Members of the public also turn up with items for 'recycling', all most gratefully received. Indeed, as a stall holder, it's a bit like opening a Christmas stocking; some of the things are great.



Now the end is almost in sight. As we rush home to wash, polish, repair, price and sometimes gloat over our latest goodies the publicity machine swings into action. Posters, handed out at the swap day, blossom across the valley like brightly coloured wallflowers. A press release is composed and then taken to **M^a Teresa Raurell** for translation. (This year she has been so busy that her kind husband, Joan, has bought her a computer.) Then comes the delicate question of timing. Release the information too soon and the public will forget it. Take it too late and inevitably you'll clash with an earthquake or a presidential assassination and no one can spare an inch of space.

Christmas Fair Eve and it's the turn of the 'just-in-time' merchants to panic. Will all those delicious, freshly-baked cakes and mince pies, granary loaves and home-made jams really materialise as promised on the day or will the stand be half empty? Will the mistletoe have withered, the sandwiches for the tea stall curled up and died?

This is also the day when the heavy brigade - i.e. men - comes into its own. Weeks before, permission to use the comú's trestle tables was granted. Now keys are collected, trailers and four-wheel drive vehicles pressed into service and the whole lot carried into the hall to mingle, higgledy-piggledy, with the piles of bulging boxes being delivered by stall holders and their assistants.

In times past the hall was only available for one day. Then, an increasingly exhausted band of men and women, boosted by cups of **Dinah Baxter's** hot coffee, toiled from 8am on Saturday morning till late at night: setting up the displays, selling to the clamorous throng of bargain hunters and finally cleaning the hall afterwards. We are all very much happier with the present arrangement which allows us to spend Saturday decorating the hall and setting up and then titivating our stands to look as attractive as possible. This leaves Sunday free to greet our public, sell everything we possibly can and then clear up and go home.

Last year, **Sarah Dawtrey's** third season in charge, the Christmas Fair boasted twelve stalls and raised a record 1,200,000pts for charity. How about some extra volunteers for next year? We have great fun. Honest!



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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 Solveig Feilberg and Samia Omar's agreement, personal and business ads, or information about items of general interest can be put on the Coffee Morning Notice Board.
4. Subject to Solveig Feilberg and Samia Omar's agreement, a small quantity of business cards, leaflets and information about items of general interest may be left on the main table at Coffee Mornings.
5. There is no advertising in the Weekly Newsletter, the purpose of which is to provide news only: local, Club & other, if considered of general interest.

ST. LLUCIA FAIR

As in previous years the Club took part in the annual pre-Christmas St. Llúcia Fair held in La Massana. Many members provided home-made goods for sale; both goodies to eat and novelties for gifts. The stall also had a wide selection of Christmas decorations, cards and bunches of mistletoe. Linda McDonnell gave several armfuls of soft toys which went to loving homes, in one case after an acrimonious discussion between two tots and their parents. Solveig Feilberg provided her delicious mulled wine much appreciated by various stall holders with frozen feet!

Helping on the stall together with Solveig were Betty Pilkington, Gaye Keep, John Shuttleworth, Helene Weatherbe, John Tabernacle and Ann Price who also shopped enthusiastically at the other stalls.



From left to right – Solveig Feilberg, Barbara Melville, Gaye Keep & Helene Weatherbe

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VARIETY SHOW FOR JOSEP CARRERAS' LEUKEMIA FOUNDATION

by Peter Parkinson

Whether almost sixty years of going to concerts, recitals, opera, ballet and other dance performances have made me a more exacting critic or a more appreciative listener and watcher is open to doubt – very possibly both are true. In 1942, while still at school in Blackpool, I saw my first opera, "The Fair at Sorochintsy", notably with the Russian soprano Oda Slobodskaya and the Welsh tenor Perry Jones; between Acts II and III the ballet "Night on the Bare Mountain", representing a dream or nightmare of one of the characters in the opera.

During my working life from 1945 to 1987 I lived wholly or partly in big cities (London, Liverpool, Paris) and made full use of my opportunities to see and listen. Now, living in villages in Andorra and France, it is something of an agreeable surprise to find out how much there is still to see and hear. Of course, it is true that in the big cities things would run for weeks or months, whereas here it is usually a case of catch it on the night or miss it. The radio programme "France Musique" transmits on average three operas a week, which means a lot of listening over ten years. And several performances of flamenco here over the past several years have demonstrated beyond a doubt that it is still a vigorous and developing art form.

Clare Allcard in her piece on "The International Singers" in this issue describes the evening of entertainment as "way too long". Well, I disagree, maybe in strict duration of time it was too long, but the programme was well-balanced and at no time did I feel bored.

I particularly enjoyed the singing of Eva Bertrand and Marc Canturri in extracts from "Fledermaus", "Don Pasquale", "Magic Flute", "Don Giovanni". Esther Esteves' pupils put on a well-conceived version of part of Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite". I should certainly like to hear more of the impish irreverence of Ian West, and I hope that Gisele Pereira Fernández will not mind my expressing the opinion that her voice has significantly improved these past two years. The Esbart Santa Anna finished with an exciting castanets number. Some think that the International Singers have improved under the direction of Barbara Melin, but I am not sufficiently expert to know. The dancer Francesc Amart was obviously very expert, the accompanying dancers being not yet as expert as one could hope, but still very agreeable. And one cannot omit our pianist Binnie Segal, who, as always, performed very well, despite the minor contretemps of having part of the piano fall on her fingers.

In sum, a successful evening in its own right and as a charitable occasion, with the additional aspects of showing many Club members integrating with Andorran life. In conclusion, to the organisers, please do something similar another year, not too far in the future!

Peter Parkinson



Above: Soprano, Eva Bertrand
Right: The young orchestra of L'LAEM



GREETINGS FROM SOUTH CHINA

by Michael and Judith Scott

We are in China for Christmas. We arrived here on 24th September 1999. We were lucky to be here on the 1st October 1999 to see the Chinese celebrating their 50th Anniversary of the Peoples' Republic. The spectacular celebration lasted for seven whole days with non-stop fire-works, dancing, singing, ballets, operas, gymnastics, acrobatics, fashion shows etc. etc. (We watched it on the TV - about 30 channels from all over the provinces of China).

Xmas 1998, we were still in Jakarta. We and Charles celebrated it with our Canadian friends. The year 1999 started very quietly for us in Jakarta, mainly because we were afraid to go anywhere because of the poor political situation at that time. Our plan to leave Jakarta on 1st May 1999, was delayed for a month because Michael was still needed there. We left Jakarta on 1st June 1999. We were very sad to leave Judith's sisters and family and all our friends, because we don't know when we will be able to live there again. On the other hand we were relieved to be able to go back home to Andorra after such frightening months in Jakarta. So many Expats left Jakarta too, just to avoid being there when the Indonesians had their Election on the 7th June 1999. Being out of the way so to speak. So we left Jakarta just in time before the election. Looking back now, we were feeling so insecure, who would not (!), remembering the riots of the previous year, but luckily the election was held peacefully, so they say!

We arrived back home in Andorra on the 2nd June 1999. Feeling so relieved to be home after 2 years assignment in Jakarta, witnessing the turmoil there and the changing of the government.

Finally we went home to Andorra via the Chunnel. Our journey from Andorra to U.K., Scotland and back was very relaxed, the road was empty, because it was early summer, the school children were not having their holiday yet. Summer in Andorra is always great. We managed to join our neighbours in Escas to have the annual party on the street - "El Festa dels Veïns", to mark the end of the summer. We are so lucky having such friendly and extremely kind

neighbours in so very small a community as Escas.

We left Andorra on 22nd September 1999 for Michael to start a new assignment in China for 15 months, a project of 260 km Guiyang - Xinzhai Expressway. Guiyang is the capital of the Guizhou Province in the south of China. We find Guiyang has a similar climate as Andorra. Guizhou Province is reputed to be the poorest province in China. We cannot find cheese, margarine, marmalade, muesli, vegemite, olive oil, ground coffee (only Nescafe), lamb, any European herb and many other things that are available in Beijing and Hong Kong etc. There are plenty of vegetables, fruits and chillies. People here plant tobacco also. The local food is chilli-hot and oily. The scenery outside Guiyang is dramatic limestone type like in the Dordogne, Pyrenees, Austria etc. and with all the inselberg peaks belonging to a karst limestone terrain, that one sees in Chinese paintings.

There is not much to do in Guiyang, and not many people can speak English either, so we are really stuck by being unable to speak Chinese. As yet we cannot be tourists, we have no driving licences yet - have car - cannot use. We keep our fingers crossed that success in processing our licences will come soon. Luckily, we joined the Guiyang Ba Ba Hash House Harriers, for us to be able to meet the local people who are members and they speak English well and go on a Monday evening run followed by a shared meal for about 8 to 12 or more persons. Good exercise up and down the mountain peaks in the local park, Qian Ling Park, don't laugh - they are 150 to 300m high and there are lots, many with paved steps and paths to their tops. There are zoo, lake, temples, restaurant, tea house, underground train, telecabines, pagodas in Qian Ling Park. Right at the entrance of the park, there is a good hotel: Qian Ling Hotel, just recently opened in June this year. We have also started to form a Scottish Country Dance Group and so far have enjoyed one session, Charles will bring out some CD's for it and a video.

Our apartment is OK, located right behind the office building, small, air-conditioned and a 6 stories



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walk up for exercise but the entrance is pretty grim and more reminiscent of council flats with a grotty shared access, we are trying to encourage cleanliness by example! Michael's office by contract is in a brand new 18 stories block, with lifts, in Beijing Lu, opposite the Qian Ling Hotel. He is on the 11th floor with masses of space, 3 piece suite etc. and a lovely view over the city and the mountain peaks of Qian Ling park. Actually the inselbergs stick up all over Guiyang and the park is so close, only 5 minutes away.

We intend to send this Xmas letter by E-mail when it is possible so that you will receive our news from China on time, because we are still not organised yet regarding mailing letters from Guiyang. There are no Christmas cards here at all. Mail sent to our Guiyang address arrives OK, but to send it out is difficult. There seems to be only one big crowded post-office and no mail-boxes in the streets. You can see, life is hard for us here, but it's a challenge. The most important thing is that we like the Chinese people. We find them very friendly, very good hearted, very sharp and hard working. In closing this letter, let us quote

here words, we picked up from one of the temples in Qian Ling Park:

"The support of father and mother, the cherishing of wife and children, and the peaceful occupation – this is the Highest Blessing"

"Not to associate with fools, to associate with the wise, to honour those who are worthy of honour – this is the Highest Blessing"

Those words of Blessing would be very appropriate for us all at this time of Christmas celebration.

Michael and Judith Scott

*Guiyang is 850km north-west of Hong Kong
This article was originally a letter to Stanley and Joyce James "and all at CIA", reprinted here without certain personal and family ties.*



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Nina O'Brien makes no claim to be a writer. She is a professional artist living in Andorra. We have asked her to write a few episodes of art history, mainly painting, to illustrate the causes and effect of the major art movements to the present day. Since we have just finished a great century, we will attempt to scan the past through Nina's eyes.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN ART

by Nina O'Brien
Part 1

Art history has been always fascinating for me but perhaps not as much as painting itself. Painting without knowledge is almost painting in a vacuum. However, it is not easy for everyone to study or even have a great deal of knowledge of art history for its intrinsic value. I will be rather brief because the magazine has space limitations, art history is very long, and I will try to avoid being pedantic. Painting itself finds its roots in pre-history as illustrated by the numerous cave paintings. However, I will begin with the Reformation as a major turning point leading us to the present day.

The Reformation

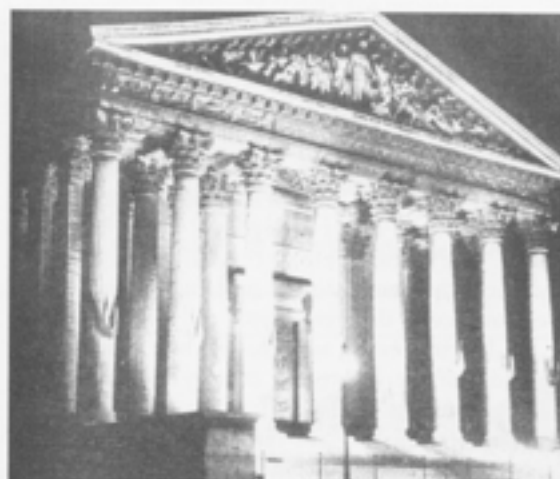
Artists were forced to look for new horizons when the Reformation put an end to images in the churches. Although apparently very significant for the artists, it did not bring about a sudden change. Most of the artists belonged to the workshops and later in their careers had apprentices. Art was a thing of beauty for people who could afford to pay. Even after the 1492 Reformation artists received and depended on commissions. Nobody seems to question the objective of the existence of art. Schools of artistic thought at that time often differed with the definition of beauty. It was portrayed by the masterful imitation of nature. Carravaggio (1565-1610) is one good example who believed in truth and beauty as he saw it.

There were others like Gainsborough, Reynolds, the Dutch painters and others who had become famous by imitating nature according to the classical ideal. There were, however, contradictions in the concept of beauty being represented. Nevertheless all agreed that, in the pursuit of beauty, one has to learn to draw from a nude model and that works of classical antiquity were masterpieces in beauty.

The French Revolution of 1789 brought the dawn of the modern times. Most of the assumptive traditions in art and architecture had to go. Men of the Revolution wanted to get away from the old happy-go-lucky tradition of Baroque and Rococo builders and decorators. Anything associated with the aristocracy was disliked and shunned.

The Neo-Classicism movement was furthered when Napoleon, posing as the champion of the Revolution, rose to power in Europe. The new movement became the style of the Empire. A Gothic

revival existed side by side with this new revival of the Greek style.



Neo Classic Church - 1804-1842 - Paris

This very definite break from the past was a little less visible in painting and sculpture than in architecture. There were artists like Hogarth, absolutely unhappy with the traditional art. He wanted and actually created a new kind of art for a new set of people. On the other hand there was Reynolds who was very earnest in keeping the tradition going. Maybe he felt threatened consciously or otherwise. There was indeed the threat to painting in that it was no more an ordinary trade, the knowledge of which was handed down from the master to apprentice. With time, instead, it had become a subject like philosophy to be taught in academies. The very word 'academy' suggests this new approach. It is derived from the name of the villa in which the Greek philosopher Plato taught his disciples and was gradually applied to gatherings of learned men in search of wisdom. Artists at first called their meeting places 'academies' to associate themselves with scholars.

Eventually, in the eighteenth century, these academies gradually started the teaching of art to students. The old method by which the great masters of the past had learned their trade by grinding colours and assisting their elders was declining. Reynolds, an academic teacher, was still urging his students to study

the classical masterpieces and assimilate the technical skills. The 18th century academies had the royal patronage. This patronage, however, did not help the arts to flourish for the ordinary people.

Those who could afford bought the 'the greatness of the past' promoted by the academies. Mostly nothing was considered worth buying from the living artists. As an alternative the academies, first in Paris, then in London, began to arrange annual exhibitions of the works of their members. In our world it is normal to exhibit, sell, promote or whatever. It is difficult for us to imagine the intensity of this change at that time.

Artists were now faced with socialites who made or unmade their reputation. Previously they had grown used to idiosyncrasies of their individual patrons. Now it was all different, they had to work for a successful show. The critics were pleased with something new to criticise. It was a totally different outlook and experience for artists. They had to think and devise new concepts in subject matter. In the past, most pictures depicted biblical subjects, mythology and the legends of the saints. Allegorical topics were also popular. Religion being the ultimate source, sometimes, the same stories or topics were painted more than once by different artists.

It is interesting and amazing how artists before the middle of the eighteenth century did not paint a romantic scene, a medieval historic story, even the contemporary history or an event. The French Revolution, however, changed the past ideals to a Shakespearean scene, or a certain topical event or anything thought-provoking. All this did not seem to help the "radicals" financially. The "conservatives" or academic artists were still selling.

The breakaway from a stereotype classical tradition in Europe is often attributed to the artists who had come to Europe from across the ocean. The French Revolutionists loved to think of themselves as Greeks and Romans re-born. Art and Architecture both sought to depict Roman grandeur. Thus was born Neo-Classicism in art. It found its chief promoters in David and Ingres.



Jacques-Louis David – 1748-1825

Among the artists of David's generation, who discarded the old type of subject matter, was the Spanish artist Francisco Goya (1746-1828). Goya was well versed with the best tradition of Spanish painting which had produced El Greco and Velasquez. Goya had to paint the State portraits in the tradition of Vandyke and Reynolds. These renderings were rather deceptive. As one scrutinises the faces of these grandees one feels that Goya seems to mock at their pretentious elegance. He was one of the first artists to have left such a record of his patrons. His work seems to reveal their vanity and ugliness. Rembrandt, earlier, had poked fun at his wealthy clients in a similar way.

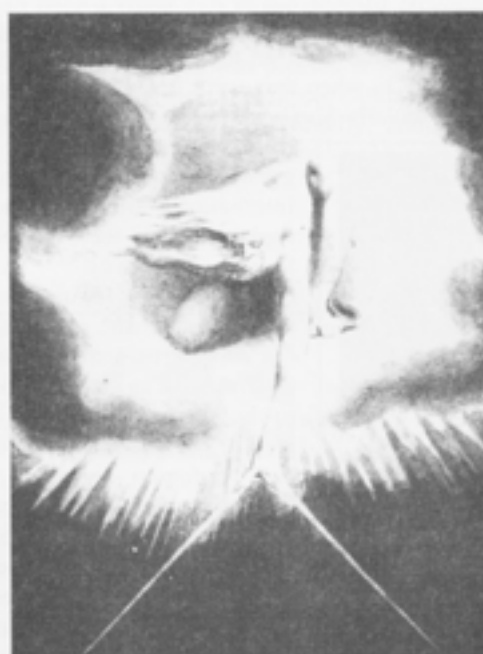
Goya showed his freedom of thought from the suffocating traditions of the past when he produced a great number of etchings like Rembrandt. Goya's Etchings of War do not illustrate any known subject – either biblical, historic, or genre. There is a depiction of his nightmares of cruelty and oppression he may have felt during that time.



Francisco Goya – 1746-1828

William Blake (1757-1827), the mystic English poet and artist, was an outstanding example of this new approach to art. Blake hated the art of the academies. He was the first great artist after the Renaissance who consciously revolted against the standards in vogue. His contemporaries often found him shocking. Painters like Turner (1775-1851) and John Constable (1776-1836) decided to concentrate on landscape. Turners paintings caused a sensation in the Royal Academy. He was very successful in whatever

he did. Turner in his paintings does not give us a record of the time but always an impression. He is not widely recognised as the forerunner of Impressionism, he was a true impressionist, far ahead of his time.



William Blake - 1757-1827

Constable, his contemporary, was somewhat different. He wanted to paint what he saw - the truth. All the previously worked out recipes to paint trees, clouds, or back ground were unacceptable to him. The painting "Hay Wain", which made him famous, was shown in 1824. It is a simple rural scene as he saw it. He wanted to be true to his vision.

Nina O'Brien



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A CONTRIBUTION FROM TOM MEAD

"I have just had an E-mail from an old friend in England. Evidently, from the 5th April there is going to be a massive increase in the old age pension which has evoked the following ditty from the Tring Pensioners Group:"

Dear Mr. Brown it's beyond comprehension,
How to spend 73 pence extra pension.
Shall I go to Majorca or maybe to Rome,
Or shall I save it and just stay at home.
If I go into town, £2 is the fare,
So keep it or give it to Tony Blair.
Hang on!! A thought has come into my head,
I'll blow the lot - on one loaf of bread.

THE MILLENNIUM LUNCH

Michael & Sarah Burgess report on a very enjoyable Millennium lunch which was held at the Hotel Arinsal

The Club Internacional d'Andorra Millennium Lunch, in honour of **Tony and Sheila Hooper**, was an event which had been planned in the Autumn of 1999. The theme was to be Scandinavian reflecting the orthodox period surrounding the birth of Christ celebrated at the end of the first week of January. So it was, **Sarah** and I, together with 46 other anticipatory members of the Club, gathered at 12.30 p.m. on Friday 7th January 2000 at the Hotel Arinsal to be greeted by our Danish Hostess with the Mostess, **Christina**.

On arrival, everyone was offered a glass of Kir in the bar where many old friends took pleasure in seeing one another again. For some it had been quite a long time and this meeting made it even that much more of a pleasure. For newer members like Sarah and I it was an opportunity to meet people we had not met before.

Anne called us through to take our tables at 1 p.m. A lot of trouble had been taken by the Board and Members of the Committee in preparing a table plan and allocating seating in such a way that a good mixture of friends and acquaintances was made. I am sure this added to the enjoyment and the success of the occasion for many.

A very well prepared contribution was made by **Lisa Fowler** with each member being given a personalised place setting and menu especially designed for the luncheon which would act as a commemorative memento of the day.

The luncheon consisted of a cold buffet with a selection of herrings, Gravad Laks, cold fresh salmon, Kott Bullar, cold meats, quiche and a variety of salads. Hot dishes followed with meat balls, pork, ham and fish. For those with room to spare, a choice of sweet from Danish apple cake, fruit flans and chocolate cake arrived as well as a cheese board. Red and white wine was served with the meal with tea and coffee to finish.

Having completed our delicious lunch, **Alan Hadden** rose to propose a toast to us all celebrating the New Year and the Millennium. Alan expressed his good wishes for the future to **Gil Lamb** who would be

leaving Andorra shortly to go and live with his son in Bangkok. Alan then went on to talk about Tony and Sheila referring to when they were first involved with the Club particularly Sheila's music activities and her

involvement with the growing success of the International Singers. Alan explained when the CIA was first formed the Government's regulations stated how it was necessary for the President and/or Chairman of an organisation to be Andorran and as a result **Su Downham**, who had Andorran citizenship, was made President. Once these regulations were lifted Tony took over from Sue. Tony will be remembered

largely for his contribution of bringing the wider community together and encouraging all nationalities, including Andorran, to become members of the CIA. Tony will also be remembered for his work with handicapped children which we will continue to be involved in. Alan also mentioned Tony's interest in

devolution not only as a result of the present formation of the Welsh Assembly! but because Tony had encouraged the introduction of the devolution of responsibilities of the Committee to the individual activity groups. Alan concluded his speech by saying how much we all love both Tony and Sheila and how much they have done for all of us. On behalf of the CIA Alan presented Tony with a splendid commemorative

silver plaque wishing Tony a 'happy retirement'.

Tony replied thanking Alan for his kind words about himself and Sheila. Tony was keen to mention how the Club had become more integrated into the society of Andorra and that credit for this achievement should be given to Members of his Committee and in particular individuals such as **Caroline Colvin-Smith** for publicity and the **International Singers** who are now recognised as making a significant cultural contribution to Andorra. In return, Tony in his capacity as Chairman of the Special Olympics Committee of Andorra made a presentation of a framed poster which had publicised the event to Anne thanking those first



Tony & Sheila Hooper and Alan Hadden



*Clare Allcard and other members
sampling the delicious buffet at the Hotel
Arinsal*

40 Club Members of the CIA who volunteered to help during the special winter event of last year. Tony finished with a toast asking us all to raise our glasses saying that it is 'our' Club, we should fight for it.

Alan drew our attention to the fact that there had been a slight slip in the planned proceedings and presented a bouquet of flowers to Sheila. Sheila commented that she was pleased it wasn't a pot plant and at least the flowers will die naturally as she tends to kill any potted plants! Finally, Alan toasted Gil Lamb's move to Thailand and wished him God Bless.

Carol Phillips Jones arrived in time to take the official presentational photographs.

I feel the day reflected the past, present and future for the Club. Here's to the Millennium defined by the Oxford Dictionary as "a future period of great happiness for everyone".

Michael & Sarah Burgess
(Photographs by Michael & Sarah Burgess)



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CHARLIE ALLEN - 102

Peter Parkinson tells us all about Charlie Allen's 102 birthday celebration

Photographs for this article are by Ann Price

In our issue of December 1999 we congratulated Dan Parsons on passing his British driving test at the age of 92. This time we celebrate the 102nd birthday of our oldest member, **Charlie Allen**, for which birthday cake and champagne were arranged at the coffee morning of 26th January 2000 in the Hotel Paris-Londres. Around 50 Club members were present, and so were several representatives of the Andorran press, which later gave good coverage to the occasion.



Charlie Allen being congratulated by Juanita, Diana Yeoman & Solveig Feilberg

Maybe we should reduce the qualifying age. We of the Magazine Committee will propose to the Executive Committee that in future any Club member reaching the age of 95 may claim as a right a celebration at our coffee mornings!!

Charlie Allen was born in 1898 in El Paso, Texas, just across the Rio Grande from Ciudad Juárez in Mexico. Like his father before him, Charlie has done a lot of travelling and enjoyed living in several different countries, from some of which he has learned the languages – French, German, Portuguese, Spanish (this last learned at the age of 98, to be able to communicate with his Spanish housekeeper, Juanita, who looks after him with great care and kindness.) It was primarily his work in the U.K. Consular Service

that took him to these countries.

He served in the two World Wars, and the human suffering he saw in these years, and later the death of his wife are among his unpleasant memories. He lived 20 years in Portugal and it was in that country that he reached retirement age. He found living in Spain too hot for comfort, but thinks the climate in Andorra perfect; he has lived here for 11 years.

He continues to surprise doctors by being so healthy, although his eye sight is not good enough for much reading or watching T.V., but he does not have much difficulty in listening to the radio or conversations. Keeping in touch with world events through the radio is part of his daily routine, and he likes to do some walking every day, subject, of course, to weather conditions. He still has a very good memory, and in conversation one senses in him an enthusiasm for life that is likely to keep him alive for quite a few years. "Keep as active as possible", he recommends, mentally and physically.



Peter Parkinson with Charlie and his birthday cake at Hotel Paris-Londres

Well, Charlie Allen is an example to all of us, especially to those such as the writer of this article, approaching three-quarters of a century, not far short of the age of his son, aged 76.

Many happy returns!

Peter Parkinson

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FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

Forthcoming activities in Andorra for March, April, May and early June, kindly provided by Culture Department of the Government, Andorran Comuns and Tourism Offices.

Many thanks to them all

Andorra la Vella

MARCH

1st Week

Carnival – Fancy dress competition for children, and Festival in Sala d'Actes of the Centre de Congressos i Exposicions (below Plaça del Poble), and snack for the children. At 17h00.

4th

at 19h00 at Placeta Monjó, "Ballarusca" – One can learn traditional dances from all over the world. And eat cake and drink wine and soft drinks. Very funny and friendly activity for everybody.

8th

Women's Day – Cineclub "Flores de otro Mundo", film by D. Bollain (Spanish), in Teatre Comunal at 22h00.

9th

"Music and Dance Season" 1999-2000 – Ballet Nacional d'Ukraine Virski. At 22h00 in Centre de Congressos i Exposicions, Sala D'Actes (below Plaça del Poble).

10th

XVI Theatre Season – "Cyrano de Bergerac" by Edmond Rostand (Catalan), in Teatre Comunal at 22h00 (1.500 Ptes.)

13th

Second course of "Lectures dramatitzades", at 21h30 in Teatre Comunal "Tres Homes Esperen", by Angels Aymar (Catalan). Free admittance.

15th

Cineclub – "Ojos Negros", by Nikita Mikhalkov, at 22h00 in Teatre Comunal.

18th

"Ballarusca"

18th

Theatre Season for children, in Teatre Comunal, in the afternoon.

22nd

Cineclub – "Among Giants", by Sam Miller, in Teatre Comunal at 22h00.

APRIL

5th

Cineclub in Teatre Comunal at 22h00.

6th

"Music and Dance Session" – "Kremerata Music", with Gidon Kremer, conductor and violin soloist, at 22h00 in Centre de Congressos i Exposicions, Sala D'Actes.

7th

Theatre Season – "Me Sale de mi Cabecita" (Spanish) by the showman Alexis Valdés. In Teatre Comunal at 22h00 (2.000 Ptes.)

12th

Cineclub in Teatre Comunal, at 22h00.

15th

Theatre Season for children, in Teatre Comunal, in the afternoon.

19th

Cineclub in Teatre Comunal, at 22h00.

23rd

Saint George's Day – The day of the Book and the Rose, at Plaça del Poble, all day, from 10h00.

23rd and 24th

Easter – Singing of "Caramelles" (popular songs) by Coral Joan Roure of Andorra la Vella, through the streets.

1st and 3rd Saturday of this month

"Ballarusca" in Placeta Monjó.

MAY

3rd

Cineclub in Teatre Comunal at 22h00.

5th

XVI Theatre Season – "Rapsòdia in Cown" (a very special and amusing show), at 22h00 in Teatre Comunal (2.000 Ptes.)

6th

"Ballarusca" at Placeta Monjó, 19h00.

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10th

Cineclub in Teatre Comunal at 22h00.

17th

Cineclub in Teatre Comunal at 22h00.

18th

Music and Dance Season – Ballet Estatal de l'Opera de Viena, in Centre de Congressos i Exposicions at 22h00.

20th

"Ballarusca" at Placeta Monjó, at 19h00.

20th

Afternoon theatre season for children in Teatre Comunal.

22nd

XVI Theatre season – second course of "Lectures Dramatitzades", by actors and actresses of Andorra, in Teatre Comunal at 21h30 – Free admittance.

JUNE

2nd

XVI Theatre season – "Rèquiem (Una al·lucinació) by Antonio Tabucchi (Catalan). Work inspired on a book written by Fernando Pessoa. In Teatre Comunal at 22h00. (2.000 Ptes.)

3rd

"Ballarusca" in Placeta Monjó at 19h00.

7th

Cineclub in Teatre Comunal at 22h00.

Canillo

MARCH

Information about skiing possibilities (snow condition, equipments, restaurants, etc) Tel: 890500 – 890501, and "Infoneu" (4 languages) Tel: 890555.

2nd Course of "Cinema de Montanya" (several films and activities about cinema with mountains as the main subject matter). Organised together with Ordino.

1st week

Carnival. Fancy dress competitions, parades about the streets for children. Tel: 852555, and balls for adults. Tel: 851002.

5th

VII San Miguel International Snowbike Competition, organised by ENSISA, Tel: 890500.

12th

II Snowvolley Competition. Same tel no. as above.

19th

IV International San Miguel Snowsurf. id id.

26th

I Snowrunning competition id id.

APRIL

1st

Concert at ski courses court, and descending with torches.

23rd

St. George's day – The children of the schools, wearing traditional dresses, will sell books and roses in the streets of Canillo.

23rd – 24th

Easter celebrations.

Encamp

MARCH

Early this month

Opening of the watercolours exhibition by M^a Carme Martínez, the place is not yet decided. If it is in the Comú, remember that the Comú is closed the weekends and holidays. The Complex Esportiu is open from early in the morning till late in the evening.

Till 3rd

(Beginning on 28th February), the Area del Jovent (youth area), organises workrooms for children and young people from 7 to 17 years old, to make their own fancy dresses for Carnival.

And from

4th to 10th

Parades, competitions and balls. During the school holidays, every morning the monitors of the Area will take out the children to several sports activities. Then, there will be a lunch service, and in the afternoon many cultural activities and games will be organised to keep the children busy while their parents are working. Well done!

4th – 8th

Carnival – Fancy dress balls in the evening and parades through the street and competitions, in Encamp and in Pas de la Casa, organised by Informació i Turisme. They organise too, probably on:

7th

Carnival celebrations for elderly people, together with all the Andorran parishes.

?

All this month continues the Indoors Football League. Open of Badminton, in Complex Sportiu.

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APRIL

During the schools Easter Holidays

The Area del Jovent organises: First week, stay in Els Cortals Refuge. 2nd week: Activities about Saint George (history, legend, etc) and the rose. The children will make handmade roses to take home.

23rd

Sant George's Day – Selling of books and roses.

29th

International Swimming Meeting in Complex Esportiu.

MAY

1st

Sant Felip and Sant Jaume dels Cortals – Mass in the recently resorted church, and then aperitif for everyone present.

?

Blacktop of Basketball, in Complex Sportiu.

?

Clinic of Basket, same place.

Escaldes – Engordany

MARCH

6th – 10th

Carnival – Several activities for children related with Carnival celebration. "Escola de Neu" – Activities about skiing and snow games for children.

Every Saturday

The usual market at carrer Santa Anna and the Church Square.

APRIL

17th – 28th

Several activities for children about Easter celebration.

Last week

Election of the "Pubilla" and "Pubilleta". They will represent Andorra and specially Escaldes – Engordany in traditional celebrations as well in Andorra as in other countries, during the next year.

Every Saturday

The usual market.

MAY

8th

Sant Miquel d'Engolasters' Day. Organised by Unió Pro-Turisme d'Escaldes – Engordany. At 13h00 Mass and Blessing. At 13h30, traditional dances by Esbart Santa Anna and after that coca and moscatell will be

offered to anybody. There will also be sardanes and a market of handicraft pieces.

During this celebration the recently elected "Pubilla" and "Pubilleta" will be presented. Several other competitions and celebrations will be held in Escaldes – Engordany, finishing with the dances by Esbart Santa Anna at Plaça Coprínceps in the evening and a ball in la "carpa" of the parking Parnal.

A free service of buses from Plaça Santa Anna will drive the people to Sant Miquel d'Engolasters, from 9h30 to 14h00.

The Patchwork Club organises an exhibition of their beautiful works for this month, but the date is not yet decided.

Every month

There are some interesting exhibitions in the Comú's first floor.



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La Massana

MARCH

5th March

Carnival – In La Closet Hall at 16h00. Traditional dances by Esbart Els Esquirols and then Fancy Dress Competition for children.

APRIL

? April

LA MASSANA COMIC in La Closeta – During several days there will be interesting exhibitions, collaborations and other activities.

8th

At 22h00 in the Church – Concert by Coral Sant Antoni and Orfeó Andorrà.

23rd

Saint George's Day – at 22h00 - Theatre in "Sala Polivalent of La Closeta".

MAY

4th

Feast of the tree – The children of the schools will plant some trees and shrubs in the countryside in La Massana area.

7th

At 18h00 in the Church – Concert by *THE INTERNATIONAL SINGERS D'ANDORRA*.

12th, 13th, 14th

ANDOFLORA 2000 – 7th year of Flowers and Plants Fair and Market.

27th

XI Competition of Fast Painting.

First – 15th

Exhibition of the works presented to the XI Competition of Fast Painting.

Ordino

MARCH

?

Carnival – Fancy dress competitions, balls and several other activities about Carnival.

?

Winter Single Tenpin Bowling Championship.

?

2nd course of "Cinema de Montanya" (several films and activities about cinema with mountain as the main subject matter). Organised together with Canillo's Comú.

APRIL

22nd

VIII "Triatló de Montanya" in the Ordino area.

MAY

20th

Last day to accept the photographs for the competition "Objectiu Ordino".

IMPROBABLE COMPETITIONS

Diet Soda

Clear your diaries for this one

The Finnish town of Sonkajarvi will be staging its fourth annual woman-carrying championship on July 1.

The plucky contestants have to carry a woman older than 17, while struggling across a 253.5 metre obstacle course. The winner – the fastest to complete the course – is awarded the woman's weight in lemonade.

Presumably, sugar-free.

1998

Ground Work

The annual World Worm Charming competition is held in Nantwich, northern England. Contestants, in teams of two, have 30 minutes to charm as many worms out of the ground as they can. The duo charming the greatest number of worms wins the Golden Worm trophy, with a Silver Worm trophy going to the charmer of the heaviest worm.

1999

Any ideas for a competition in Andorra ?



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Sant Julià de Lòria

MARCH

3rd

At 10h00 Carnival parade about the streets with the children of the schools wearing fancy dress.

Till 19th of this month

In Centre Cultural, paintings exhibition by Magda Murillo.

4th

Hanging of "Carnestoltes". And in the evening, fancy dress ball and competition.

5th

Carnival parades about the streets; with adorned floats competition and then in the sports ground, "botifarrada" (grilled sausages) for everybody. And fancy dress ball also in the evening.

6th

Festival for children.

7th

"Carnestoltes" judgement and its burning.

Ball and fancy dress competition.

17th

At 22h00 in Auditori Claror of the Centre Cultural, XVI Theatre Season - "La Presa", by Conor McPherson (in Catalan). This play received the reward "Lawrence Olivier 1999". Production by "Teatre Romea" of Barcelona. In Centre Cultural, Auditori Claror. (2.500 Ptes.)

22nd

at 20h00 Inauguration of the exhibition by José Maria Márquez García. Opened till 9th April. Centre Cultural.

31st

At 22h00 - XVI Theatre Season - "Petita mort" (in Catalan) by David Plana. In Auditori Claror. (1.500 Ptes.)

APRIL

Till 9th

Exhibition by José M^o Márquez García.

12th

At 20h00 opening of the exhibition about the Andalusian Popular Feast of "El Rocó", till 30th this month. In Centre Cultural. Organised by the Association "Al Andalus".

17th

At 21h30 Course of "Dramatic Readings" - "Aquí s'apren ben poca cosa", from the novel by Jakob Von Gunten, adapted by Robert Walser, by the students of "Aula de Teatre de la Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona". In Auditori Claror.

27th

At 22h00 - XVI Theatre Season "Tots eren fills meus" (Catalan), by Arthur Miller, in Auditori Claror (2.500 Ptes.)

MAY

3rd

At 20h00 opening of paintings exhibition by Joan Masgrau, in Centre Cultural. Till 21st this month.

12th

At 20h00 "Història i Llegenda d'Andorra Medieval" (an interesting show about Andorran History and Legend in medieval times), in Auditori Claror.

13th

At 18h00 the same show of above, in the same place.

17th

At 22h00 - XVI Theatre Season "La Comèdia dels Errors" by W. Shakespeare (in Catalan). Production by Teatre Nacional de Catalunya. Auditori Claror. (2.500 Ptes.)

20th

At 22h00 Traditional Concert of Canòlich, by Coral Rocafort and Petits Cantaire Laureadians, in Auditori Claror. Admittance free.

24th

20h00 opening of Photography Exhibition, organised by Club Fotogràfic Lauredià. Till 11th June. In Centre Cultural.

25th

Concert "Joves talents" - Traditional concert by young Andorran performers, during the Canòlich celebrations. Probably in Auditori Claror, as the precedent years.

27th

Canòlich's Day - 8h00 "Traca" (string of fireworks). Going up to Canòlich Sanctuary following the old track. At 10h00 Mass in the Sanctuary. At 11h00 Sardanes. At 13h00 blessing and distribution of the traditional bread loaf.

28th

International singing Competition Montserrat Caballé - Principat d'Andorra. In Auditori Claror. Till 4th June.

JUNE

5th

Till 9th this month, Master Classes by Montserrat Caballé.

14th

At 20h00 Inauguration of End of the Year Exhibition by Escola d'Art. Till 2nd July, in Centre Cultural.

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CONCERTS IN THE AUDITORI NACIONAL D'ORDINO

26th March (not on 25th as was announced before)

The choir **THE INTERNATIONAL SINGERS D'ANDORRA** will take part in a concert together with all the other choirs of Andorra, in remembrance and homage to the musician Josep-Anselm Clavé in his 175 birthday anniversary, 125 of his death anniversary and the 150 anniversary of the foundation by him of the first choir in Spain.

(1).

This has been an initiative of the Centre de Cultura Catalana, together with Federació de Cors de Clavé, and kindly supported by Andorran Government. An interesting exhibition about Mtre. Clavé and his work. Will be held in the Centre head office, **C. La Llacuna, 14 of Andorra la Vella**, during several days.

(1) *It was a male choir named "La Fraternitat" and made the rehearsals at a little garden in Passeig de Gràcia, near Plaça de Catalunya, in Barcelona.*

9th April

Concert organised by "Fundació Caixa Bank".

4th May

Concert by Orquestra d'Acordions Harmonia, conducted by Roser Palomero.

11th and 12th May

Concerts dedicated to the students, also organised by Caixa Bank.

There will be several other concerts in the Auditori not yet confirmed

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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 revendications". 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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(Principat d'Andorra)

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE MILLENNIUM LUNCH, THE PRE-CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION AND OF THE ST. LLUCIA FAIR

Photographs by
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