

INTER COMM

CLUB INTERNACIONAL D'ANDORRA



VOL. 11 - Núm. 2 - WINTER / HIVERN 2001

CLUB INTERNACIONAL D'ANDORRA

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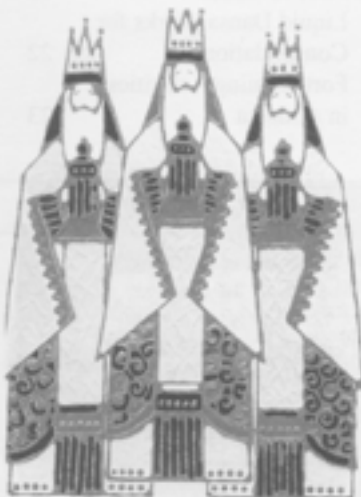
WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL



MEMBERS, ADVERTISERS

***AND ANYONE WHO HAS
CONTRIBUTED IN ANY WAY TO
THE CLUB IN 2001***

***A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
& NEW YEAR
AND ALL BEST WISHES
FOR 2002***



INTERCOMM

International Club of Andorra

Quarterly Magazine

WINTER 2001

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TENNIS	DICK GILLINGHAM	836528	WINE TASTING	SIMON BINSTED	835975

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - DIANA STANSBY - 836210

COFFEE MORNING IS HELD EVERY WEDNESDAY, 10.30 - 12.00
AT THE HOTEL PARIS-LONDRES
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EDITORIAL FROM THE BOARD

The Annual General Meeting of the Club this year was held earlier than usual, towards the end of April. We have received more praise than blame for this innovation, so we plan to repeat it in 2002; the A.G.M. will take place towards the end of April at a date to be fixed shortly. As in the past two years, it will be held in the basement of the Hotel Paris-Londres. Drinks and snacks will be available, which will, we hope and believe, encourage a large attendance.

George Stobart, of whom a brief biography appears below, will be standing for election as Treasurer, for which position he was co-opted a few months ago. Of the existing Board Members, Ann Price, Solveig Feilberg and Maria Teresa Raurell reach the end of their four-year terms. Which of them will wish to stand for re-election is not yet known for certainty. There are thus four vacancies to be filled, and those elected or re-elected will take office at the next A.G.M. after the votes have been counted.

The circular inviting other nominations will be sent out shortly, to give plenty of time for reflection and choice, by potential candidates and voters.

GEORGE STOBART

George Stobart was born and educated in England, graduating with a BA (London) degree in Modern Languages. Later qualified as Chartered Secretary and Chartered Management Accountant. Married Carla in 1951, and their son Paul was born in 1957. Lived in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) 1952-1980, apart from short spells in England and South Africa. Appointed Group Financial Director of Rio Tinto Rhodesia in 1973, and in 1980 was transferred to South West Africa (now Namibia) as Finance Director of Rio Tinto's mining operations in that country. Retired to Andorra in 1990.

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.

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 2nd February, 2001, or handed in to one of us at a Coffee Morning.



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NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

THE ART GROUP

by Nina O'Brien

(turn to pages 13 & 16 for colour photos)

Members of the Art Group had their third exhibition of paintings on 11th October to 8th November. This show of 55 paintings was sponsored by the La Massana Comú and held in their Prat de la Mola Hall. It was a great success, attracting, not only Club members but many shopkeepers, residents of La Massana and visiting tourists.

This hall, although smaller than Ordino's Sala Polivalent, used for the Group's previous two exhibitions, did not pose a problem – how to fill up the extra space with a lot of possibly poorer paintings. The Ordino exhibition were brief, being limited to two and one half days since the Comú was using the hall for various classes. However, we are very grateful to our friends in Ordino who gave the Group Members their first and second chance to share their work with the many visitors to those exhibitions.

Not apparent from the organized display of talent is the amount of "PR" and canvassing with the Comús before the event – but mind you, it is not exactly the "Salon des Refusés" where Manet exhibited his "Déjeuner Sur l'Herbe" in 1883. We have no parallel with the early Impressionists, whose work was bitterly, sometimes violently criticized and officially ignored. Our Group Members paint for a hobby, whenever they can find time from their social and personal activities and can choose to follow impressionist, surrealist or realist styles.

Even the professional artist of today is fortunate in not having to be patronized by the state, church or wealthy individuals or groups. Nor is one forced to realistic representations of nature and the social norm.

If any member of the Club has more than a passing interest in art, he or she could drop in and see our small studio in Andorra la Vella. We meet every Friday whenever possible. Space has always been a problem but most members often travel so there is always some unoccupied little corner.

There are no overnight transformations into the classical master.

Members are provided with a likely reference, or may bring their own. They are guided and advised every step of the way since many members have no previous experience of drawing, painting, or composing. In this way, the reference can be totally changed to suit the mood and technique of the member.

THE INTERNATIONAL SINGERS

by Clare Allcard

REJOICE AND BE MERRY! Yup, it's that time of year again and we're having to face a heavy schedule with just five - but excellent - men in the back row. Where's all the Club's male talent hiding itself?

This year we celebrate our tenth 'Festival de Música Internacional de Nadal' with a whole string of concerts. (See below for dates and places.) We start at Santa Maria del Fener church (near the Andorra la Vella Bombers). It's always a most lively audience with local people quite uninhibited about clapping! The following day we move to Ordino church where our Christmas concerts first began. Afterwards Solveig and her team will be providing their usual delicious food and drink so come and join in the fun.

On the 15th December we're again singing for the elderly people in the Residència Sola d'Enclar. And on the Sunday travel for the first time to Canillo.

Another first is our invitation to sing for the senior citizens of Andorra La Vella at their big Christmas party on December 18th. Then we have a slight respite until Three Kings when we've been invited back to La Seu Cathedral. That was a wonderful experience. Why not join us there too and see for yourselves.

As usual we will be making a collection for local people in need after the concerts in Fener's and Ordino.

Saturday, 8th December at 6pm (after mass)
Santa Maria del Fener church

Sunday, 9th December at 4.30pm
Ordino church Refreshments afterwards

Sunday, 16th December at 8.30pm
Canillo church (above/behind Ice Rink)

Sunday, 6th January 2002, 5.30pm
the Cathedral, La Seu d'Urgell

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ANDORRA LA VELLA

THE WINE AND FOOD GROUP

(Group Leader - Simon Binsted)

The next Meeting of the Wine and Food Group will be in **March 2002** at the Hotel Rutllan, La Massana and will have a different format. The Meeting will take the form of a 'Wine Tasting Party', where excellent wines will be drunk and food served. The wines chosen will all be ready for drinking now, but may also be kept for a while. They will be selected for their quality and value for money. All wines on offer will be available at affordable prices. However, the good news does not end there, as we hope to offer these wines at substantial discounts to normal retail prices. In addition, we hope to offer other well-known and popular wines also at substantial discounts to normal retail prices.

This will be a social occasion for everyone to come and enjoy good company, food and wine, with some soft music. There will be a FREE Raffle, with quality wines and champagne to be won. We urge all Members of the CIA to come and enjoy the occasion and to bring along their friends and non-Members are who are equally welcome. Everyone will be able to take advantage of the discounts of up to 33% offered by the wholesalers, providing they order at the time of the party. If you do not want to buy any wine, no problem, and we hope you will have enjoyed a great evening and we will be able to say thank you for coming.

The date of the March Meeting will be announced shortly and you can look forward to a fantastic evening, where the wines are to be drunk and enjoyed and will be available at substantial discounts.

If you have any suggestions or comments concerning this, or any other Meeting of the Wine and Food Group, or would like to suggest any wine be available at the March Meeting, please contact one of the under-mentioned people as soon as possible.

PS Nearly forgot - the other good news is that the price per person for the 'Wine Tasting Party' is Pts 1,250 (7.5) for Members and Pts 1,500 (9) for non-Members.

Richard Hooker: Fax: 837093 Tel: 835142
e-mail richard.hooker@andorra.ad

John Stokes: Fax: 738018 Tel: 836141
e-mail trishastokes@andorra.ad

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THE TENNIS GROUP

by Dick Gillingham

Ivan Stansby asked me to take over his position and not being able to say 'No' I now find myself writing this description of our proposed activities in the Tennis Group. From what I can see we are in a bit of a start up situation and so some of the ideas about what we can do are untested.

Following are some thoughts on what we will be doing in the Tennis Group:

Firstly, we will maintain a Tennis Bulletin board which contains information on the Tennis scene here in Andorra:

- A list of active tennis players with their telephone numbers for people looking for a game.
- A list of courts available, condition, surface, how much they cost etc
- Tennis coaches, telephone numbers, how much they cost etc.
- Tennis Calendar ATP, WTA tour where and when to see events.

Secondly, we will organise 3 or 4 times a year an American style tennis tournament. Players will be assigned numbers which are then drawn out of a hat and everybody plays everybody in matches of only 4 or 5 games. This will be mainly a 'Social Tournament'. We will aim to do this on outdoor courts in the Spring, Summer and Fall.

Finally, for those interested in the spectator aspects:

- Find venue with large TV screen for showing matches.
- Facilitate purchase of tickets for events. I am mainly thinking of the Godo Tournament in Barcelona but once we get going we could possibly broaden our horizons.

We will provide the above information automatically to people who sign up for the Tennis Group.

If anyone has any further suggestions, please contact me (tel 836528). As said earlier we are in a start up situation and we would appreciate your support.

IMMOBILIARIA PROFIMA

Edif. Font Baixos
ORDINO

Tel: 836787 Fax: 835957

Santi Marin El Busto: 331533
Lesley Pittock: 337857

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ACTIVITIES 2002

by Ann Price

JANUARY – Wednesday 23rd

Lunch with a speaker, the charismatic Cathy O'Dowd, to light up the dull days after Christmas, at the Hotel Cosmos. Lunch with a strong Italian influence prepared by the twin chefs of the Restaurant 'Il Dolce Basilico'. Wine, water and coffee included.

Cathy O'Dowd

South African Cathy O'Dowd is the only woman to have climbed Mount Everest from both south and north sides. She is a professional speaker, working with Celebritat Internacional Associats in La Massana. She moved to Andorra in April 2001.

The four years she spent on or around Everest, 1996 to 1999, was for her a degree 'in living'. The insights she discovered about herself, and about individuals and teams under intense stress in the face of overwhelming challenge, are ones she has been sharing with her corporate audiences ever since. Cathy has presented to companies in 14 countries on 4 continents.

Cathy grew up in Johannesburg, South Africa, and has been climbing ever since leaving school. She has been to southern and central Africa, South America, Europe and the Himalaya. She was completing her Master's degree in Media Studies at Rhodes University, and working as a university lecturer, when she saw an advert in a newspaper for a place for a woman on the 1st South African Everest Expedition.

She was one of 200 women who applied for the Everest place, and was the one finally selected. The team followed the route made famous by Edmund Hillary. Despite being the apprentice on the team, on 25 May 1996 Cathy reached the summit. It was, however, a tough introduction, as British team-mate Bruce Herrod was killed on the descent.

In 1998 Cathy took on the challenge of the treacherous north side of Everest, where George Mallory famously disappeared in 1924. Her attempt ended when she stopped to try and save a dying American woman. In 1999 Cathy returned once more, and succeeded, becoming the first woman in the world to climb Everest from both north and south sides.

In 2000 Cathy became only the fourth woman in the world to climb Lhotse, the world's fourth highest mountain.

Cathy has written two books about her Everest experiences, *Everest: Free to Decide*, co-written with Everest team leader Ian Woodall, and *Just for the Love of It*, which has recently been translated into German.

In between climbing and speaking, she is working on her next book, about an expedition to the Ruwenzori in central Africa. She is married to Ian Woodall, whom she met on her first Everest trip.

At the International Club lunch, Cathy will be speaking about her first expedition to Everest. Autographed copies of her book, *Just for the Love of It*, will be available for sale (,32).

N.B. Copies of Cathy's book would also make interesting and unusual Christmas Gifts. These may be ordered by contacting her by e-mail – cathy@cathydowd.com Cathy has very generously offered to donate 20% of all sales to CIA Members to the Club's newly formed Benevolent Fund. Members will be receiving details of this new area of the Club shortly.

Members 4,000 pts. – non-members 4,500 pts. We expect this to be a very popular event – 'Phone Ann now 836 653.

FEBRUARY 14th

Celebrate Valentine's Day with a very special lunch at Restaurant Can Pere, Anyos.

Price Members 2,500 pts. – non-members 3,000 pts.

MARCH

A two day visit to the Urgell region of Catalunya, including hopefully all of the following:- A Medieval Banquet with Troubadours to entertain – visit to Verdu, the pottery village, wonderful shopping! – guided tour of a Turrón Factory with more shopping in the factory shop – guided tour of the Medieval Village of Guimera – the Monastery/Convent of Vall Bonade Les Mongues is a



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treasure trove of art. Oh! and you can buy their liqueur made from herbs. This is an overnight excursion. We shall be staying in Tarrega at a three star hotel.

Prices later!

APRIL

Andorran Business Enterprises – a repeat of this very popular excursion of 3 years ago. Including:- Espluga D'Or – S.T.A. – The Arinsal Mineral Water Factory.

MAY or JUNE (Early)

The Club's own Exhibition of Arts, Crafts and Leisure Activities in Ordino or La Massana.

MAY 14th – 28th – CROATIA

We shall now be staying in the Hotel Asterea in the picturesque village of Mlini, about 8 miles from Dubrovnik. The Asterea is a 3A Star Hotel, recently renovated, set in pine, olive and orange groves, with views of the Adriatic, about 100 m. from the sea and pebbled beach. It has sun terraces, a garden, indoor heated pool and, at extra cost, sauna, massage, gym and bowling. Mlini Village is 200 m. away along a tree lined path. It has a tiny harbour lined with stone houses, coffee shops etc.

This is our first all inclusive holiday comprising all of the following:-

Return bus transport home to Barcelona Airport.

Return flights to Dubrovnik Airport.

Return transfers to Hotel Asterea.

14 nights full board, including wine or beer with waiter service meals.

Free bar – 11 am till 11 pm (local wine, beer, spirits, liqueurs, soft drinks, tea, coffee).

The following are also available free of charge – flower talk, local history talk, cookery demonstration, Croatian lesson, live music and many other entertainments throughout your stay.

6 Guided Excursions – Some full day, some half.

1. Dubrovnik.

2. Konavle – a rural area famous for its embroidery, silk production and brandy.

3. Trsteno Botanical Gardens – dating from 1502.

4. Neretva Delta – formally marsh and malarial swamp, now the most fertile bird-filled part of Croatia.

town of the same name are very picturesque.

6. Lokrum Island Cruise – the island of love!

Not included in the price:- other visits and excursions which can be arranged locally.

Tips! Local bus, boat ferry fares. Buses from near the hotel go regularly to Dubrovnik. Shopping! Lacework, embroidery, brandy with herbs! Lavender products from Hvar Island.

FLIGHTS – timing is not good, be prepared for two long days.

SAGA – have the U.K. agency for this hotel so you are free to use the services of the Saga Hotel Representative and any special facilities offered to Saga Guests.

HOLIDAY PRICE – I expect this to be between £900 and £950. There will be No Single Supplement.

N.B. – The rooms in the Asterea Hotel are only medium size and twin rooms allocated for single use may be in the less good part of the hotel. At the time of writing there are three doubles still available – no singles, but check for cancellations.

JUNE (Late)

The Car Boot Sale – We urgently need organisers for this event. (multi-lingual).

JULY

Castellar D'En Hug – beautifully restored Medieval Village. One of UNESCO'S treasures. Also, visit the spring and waterfalls which are the source of the River Llobre.

AUGUST

Picnic – another repeat. Members are invited to prepare ethnic (if possible) food to share with other members. The drinks will be provided by the Club, making this a **free event!**

SEPTEMBER

To be arranged.



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NOVEMBER

To be arranged.

DECEMBER

Early Dinner Dance.

If you are interested in the activities for January, February, March, April, May and October, please call immediately.

These all have limited places.

Ann - 836 653

Neither the CIA nor any members of the Board may be held responsible for any loss, theft or accident during the course of any of its activities. The organisers reserve the right to alter, if necessary, the schedule of events on any activity. Not all activities are suitable for all members. The CIA therefore reserves the right to decline applications.

HELPLINE

(We are sorry - some telephone numbers in the Autumn edition of Intercomm were mixed up - these are the correct numbers - our apologies for any inconvenience caused by this)

There is now an updated version of the *Helpline Handbook* and Helpline would like to invite members to order and collect copies at the coffee mornings.

Helpline Numbers

Helpline Volunteers

Betty Pilkington - 837 606

Chris Hansen - 839 563

Oonagh MacLachlan - 836 545

Sonia Hunter - 835 029

Veronika Baines - 838 142

Loan of Equipment

Gaye Keep - 839 070

Margaret Mathieson - 837 098

Talking Books

Brenda Ross - 836 886



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AN EVENING OF POETRY AND PROSE

The Club held a fund raising event for Laika and the Meritxell School on Saturday 6th October. The venue was the beautiful garden of **Michael and Susan Payne** in La Pleta, Ordino. Guests wandered round with glasses of kir in hand admiring the garden before returning to the house where Susan had prepared a delicious buffet supper.

We then settled down with refilled glasses to listen to the Poetry and Prose Reading which included works dating from 1600 to the present day. Many were, in view of the current world situation, very thought provoking. Probably for the same reason the humorous pieces were particularly well received. Several people expressed their sadness that **Ann's** departure from Andorra would deprive them of the pleasure of future performances of her 'talent - to give pleasure'. The food was donated by Susan and the wine by Ann. The evening raised a total of 110.000 pts. divided between the two charities Ann has asked us to thank **Sarah and Michael Burgess** for their help and support.



Ann Price



Susan Payne and Ian Adam

After the poetry evening the following thank you letter was received from Laika which has been translated into English by Caroline Colvin-Smith

Dear Club Members,

11th October 2001

On behalf of Laika and all animal-lovers I should like to thank you for your support.

It is encouraging to know that Laika and other charities can rely on people like yourselves Our campaign for better treatment of animals has only just begun and there is still much to do, but with your help and that of people like you we will achieve our objective, which is to make everyone aware that animals deserve the same

respect and consideration as human beings; that they have exactly the same rights.

Once again, thank you.

Jean-Paul Cuberes
(Chairman of Laika)

A SIMPLE WINTER RECIPE

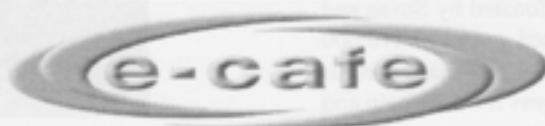
by Maria Teresa Raurell



Syrup made with fir tree cones and sugar (It seems to be very good for coughs)

Put 3 fir tree cones into a glass jar, add 500gr of sugar, or more if it is necessary to cover completely the cones. Put the lid on and let it rest in a warm place for at least 10 days. Take a small spoonful of the syrup two or three times a day. (Sorry, not recommendable for diabetics).

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THE ART GROUP'S EXHIBITION

(See article on page 4)

(Photographs by Carol Phillips-Jones - See also page - 16))



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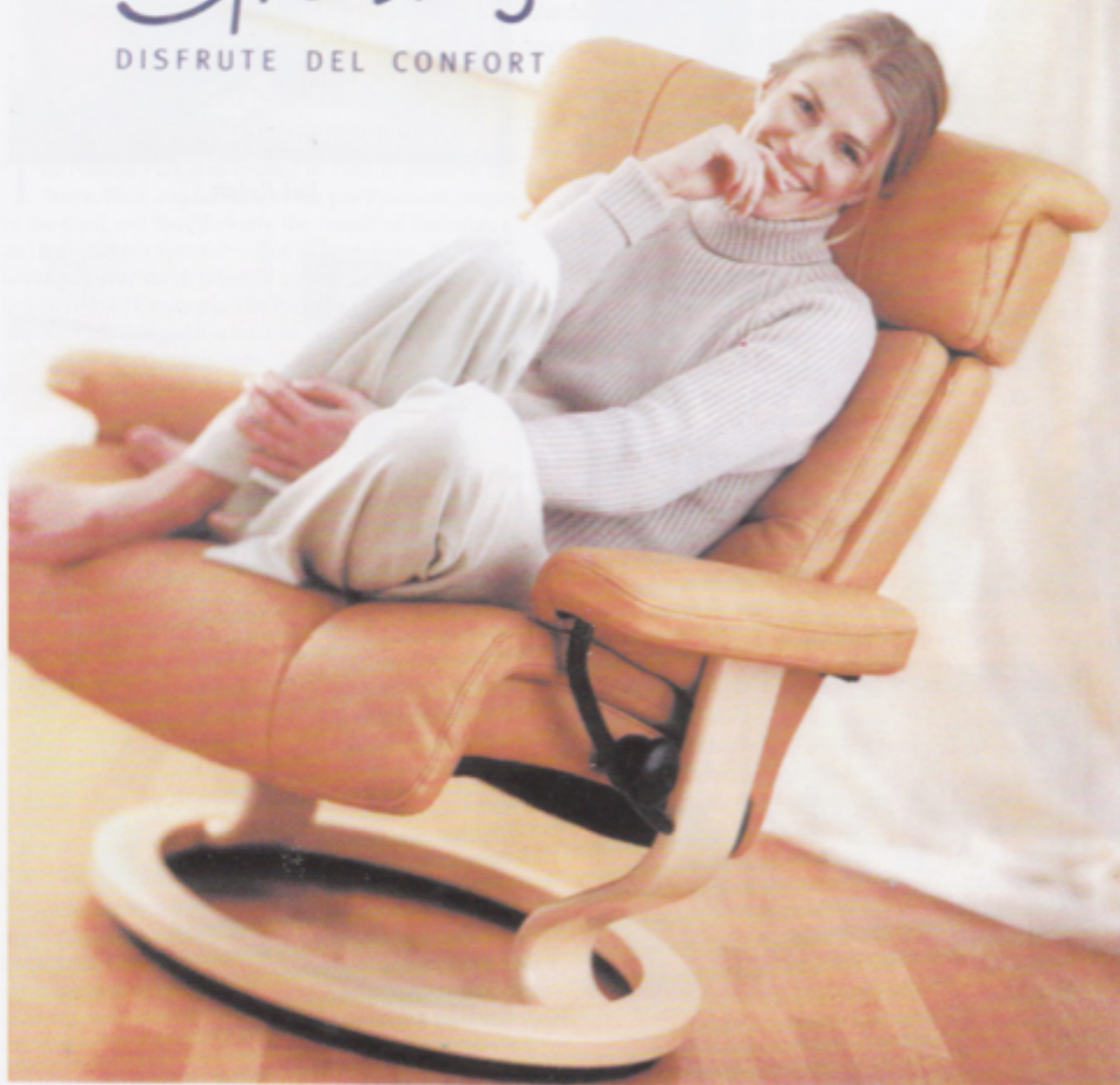
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TUIXÉN

(Due to lack of space in our last issue of Intercomm, we were unable to print the following article)

On Tuesday, August 7th a small group of members travelled into the Cadí Park to the Herb Museum in Tuixén. It was a fascinating day, much enjoyed by all of us. The excursion was ably researched and led by Ann Matschke and Barbara Melville. Below we print part of their information sheet which has been adapted from official guides.

The Cadí-Moixeró Natural Park - from Ann Matschke's information sheet

The Natural Park was created in 1983 to preserve the fauna, flora and habitats of the pre-Pyrenean ranges of the Cadí and the Moixeró, the massif of Pedraforca, and the villages which fall within its boundaries. Its 41,342 hectares cover three regional zones, Berguedà, the Alt Urgell and the Cerdanya. The Park has been instrumental in encouraging tourism to the area, from which the villages within and immediately outside its boundaries have also profited to some extent.

The former way of life of these once near self-sustaining hamlets has now all but vanished, echoing the pattern throughout Europe. The villages of Adraén, Cornellana, Forniols and Tuixén, lying in the region known as the Valls de la Vansa, were quite remote; Cornellana to La Seu d'Urgel was five hours on foot. They are approached through a broken landscape whose vegetation is predominantly Scots and Mountain Pine interspersed with Oak, Ash and Wild Cherry, with the drier hillsides given to Holm Oak and Juniper. Each village announces itself with Lombardy Poplars, their use obscure, with Walnut and fruit trees, the still-evident remains of terracing and of stone-cleared meadows almost entirely devoid of animals.

The "Trementinaires" - The Turpentine Makers - from Barbara Melville's information sheet

Stemmed out of a flourishing agricultural society of the Valleys of La Vansa - in the mid-nineteenth century, they were a self-sufficient community exchanging their produce within the Segre region. The trade was very seasonal, owing to the difficulty of preserving food and the lack of a good network of distribution. There was a scarcity of actual cash, as goods were merely exchanged.

The traditional economy was based on wheat, potatoes, vegetables, grapes, cattle, rye, beetroot, fruit such as pears, apples, cherries, walnuts, poultry, rabbits, pigs, the products of hunting and fishing, artisanal products such as honey, eggs. Sheep were kept for meat and wool. These they bartered for dried fish such as cod and herring, olive oil, rice and sugar from the travelling traders such as the market at Seu.

The least busy season was winter when they occupied themselves in the repair of tools, footwear, windows. Summer was the time for working in the fields, good weather for family reunions and fiesta time. There

were traditional jobs for either sex. Men worked in the field or woods; women in the home, the work of the kitchen garden, looking after the poultry, collecting honey, making jams, cured meats, cheeses.....

The hard life they led had its compensation in a solidarity and hospitality of community feeling and an unwritten obligation to their society within a well-defined structure.

Nonetheless, there were a variety of other jobs to be done - teachers, clergy, potters, policemen, innkeepers, carters, carpenters, blacksmiths, charcoal burners, shepherds, musicians, harness makers et. There were flour mills, forges, small workshops for making such things as the turpentine and tar from the pines and firs.

In 1857 a census recorded 2,805 inhabitants in the valley. Soon it became evident that traditional small farming could not survive in the face of large farms and increasing industrialisation. Migration began to the industrial centres and bigger, richer farmlands, both to the rest of Catalunya, France and even South America. In 1911 there were 600 inhabitants in Argentina from the region of Tuixén.

By the end of the century many trades were abandoned. It was during this last century and against this background that the Trementinaires worked, taking their knowledge of herbs, medicinal plants and oils to various parts of Catalunya. The name Turpentine-maker stems from one of their most popular remedies.

In a fairly typical case - Sofia, who made her last trip in 1982 - began to travel with her grandmother (probably one of the first Trementinaires) at the age of 10. Traditionally, women travelled in pairs - the older one as teacher and guide to the younger. Men remained at home to tend the fields and some women to look after children and the home.

In the days before their departure, the whole house was turned into a workshop. Herbs were hung from the beams to dry. On the kitchen table a small billhook was used to chop them up. They were then put into small cloth packages. These then were carried in a large "pillow-case" type bag worn like a knapsack. Oils and tars were put into special tin containers. The remedies varied according to the area, and the specialities of each "Trementinaire", who knew the requirements of the customers she would see each year on her journeys. They varied too, according to which epidemic or illness was currently prevalent.

She would carry a small scale for weighing out her medications - a rudimentary metal balance and weigh out an "unca" or ounce, of 12 "unces" (ounces) to a "lliura" or pound.

In their travels, they would go to Berga, along the industrial area of the River Llobregat, to Vic and Girona. In the other direction, they would go to Lleida and Tarragona and as far north as the Vall d'Aran, almost into France.

Their main remedy was the oil and tar of the Scots Pine, or "Red Pine" in Catalan, the most widespread of trees in that area. It was also reduced to a yellow resin, known as a remedy from the times of ancient Greece. Oils were made from fir trees, juniper, lizards, snakes, even young partridge.

Other remedies included an oil for typhoid, composed of several ingredients.

Among the herbs used were the elder, mistletoe, wild thyme, sage, hyssop, tobacco and saxifrage.

They would travel perhaps twice a year, in the autumn before Christmas and the first snowfalls, and in the winter, after the "matança", or slaughtering of the pigs, preserved and cured for winter use, returning around Holy Week and Eastertime. Summer was the time of gathering and preparation for the next season's journeys.



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NEWS FROM FAMILY-FRIENDS-BRAZIL

(Thomas and Kirsten Schneider keep us up-to-date and the children of Casa do Beijaflor thank the CIA for the support they received from the Charity Walk and wish everybody a Happy Christmas)

“Tia! Tiaah!” . Ten children come running down the little slope from the house towards me and almost knock me down. Competition is fierce, because I only have two arms, so just the first ones to reach me have the chance to get lifted up and hugged immediately. Everybody on the compound can't help but notice that tia (aunt) Kirsten is back in town. My husband Thomas is surrounded by about the same number of admirers. The same questions are being asked over and over again: “How long will you stay?”-“Three weeks”, “Will you sleep in our house?”-“Sure”, “Got sweets?”-“Of course”. Little do they know that we brought, besides five suitcases of donated clothing, a gift from the Club Internacional d'Andorra, raised by the generous supporters and participants of the *Charity Walk*. The money, which will be spent exclusively for their education, is going to improve their chances in life considerably.

Family-Friends-Brazil is the name of the small private organization which runs this orphanage called Casa do Beijaflor (Hummingbird-House). The monthly contributions of the regular donors more or less cover the running costs, but money is tight. Being the chairwoman, I was immensely grateful, when **Susanne Andersen** from CISA offered to organize a team of walkers for the *Charity Walk*, to support our project. Under the motto “Textbooks Against Poverty” - a considerable amount of money was raised. I'd like to use this opportunity to thank all walkers, sponsors and the organizing team that made the event possible.

Casa do Beijaflor is now home to 35 children from 6 months to 16 years of age. It was already covered on page 17 in the Summer 2001 edition of this magazine. I'd now like to give you some background information. Education in Brazil is based on class. Public schools are so bad that anyone with means send their children to private schools, so very few poor children reach university and the poverty cycle is renewed. The government claims a literacy rate of 80%, but realistic estimates state that only 40% of Brazilians old enough to be in the workforce are capable of reading a newspaper with comprehension. The government's definition of “literate” covers those who can write their names, know the alphabet and make out a few words. In the workplace, it has become obvious that these people are functionally illiterate. Only two out of every 10 students make it through elementary school.

With the money from the walk we will be able to employ a teacher for our house to help our children, who are far behind in school, to get back on track. Our sixteen year old girls have not progressed beyond 5th grade. Others, just a few years younger, can't read and write at all, because they lived on the streets until recently. With the individual care now possible we are confident to provide all children with a level of education that will



enable them to support themselves once they leave our project. We have already enrolled nine students for computer classes, two will in addition learn English. For those who will never earn academic merits we are looking for a more hands-on training. Two girls are now attending manicure/pedicure classes. Together with Vera, the woman we put in charge of the orphanage, a plan is made to suit the individual abilities and likes or dislikes of everyone.

Before we left Brazil after three weeks we talked to all the older ones and asked them about their plans for the future, and how they experience their stay in the Casa do Beijaflor. The best proof for us that the house is well



run came from Raquel, a fourteen year old, who lived in six different institutions before. Her main concern was to have her brothers and sisters, who live in different orphanages in the city, transferred to our place as soon as possible, because she knows about the bad treatment they receive where they are right now. During the interviews it became clear that the help from the CIA already boosted morale considerably. Many children felt for the first time that somebody was actually interested in their future.

My husband had his laptop computer with him, which made him very popular because of the games that could be played on it. But there was also a program about geography, and one of the pages displayed a map of South America, with just the national capitals inserted (Bogotá, Montevideo, Lima ...). None of the children, even the older ones, could name just one corresponding country, except for Buenos Aires, from where I sent a postcard just a few weeks ago. It is an interesting thought, that a small country in the Pyrenean Mountains is now more important for them than the rest of their continent.

Merry Christmas from the children of the Casa do Beijaflor!



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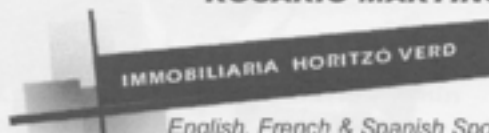


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LÍQUID DANSA WORKS FOR CONSOLIDATION

(Andorran Company of Dance Theatre)

by Peter Parkinson

Many of us will remember Maite Castro in the "Musica i Dansa" shows of a few years ago. Unsurprisingly, Maite has recently been instrumental in setting up with other people another dance organisation "Liquid Dansa", which is described as a company of dance theatre rather than of pure dance.

In December 2000 they put on a show with three dance items in the Andorra Theatre Communal, well received by the Andorran press and by the relatively small band of dance enthusiasts in the International Club. It is not useful for a quarterly magazine such as Intercomm to do critiques of particular performances, our role is rather that of bringing to the attention of members interesting developments of an ongoing nature, saying something about past and current activities with an indication of future plans.

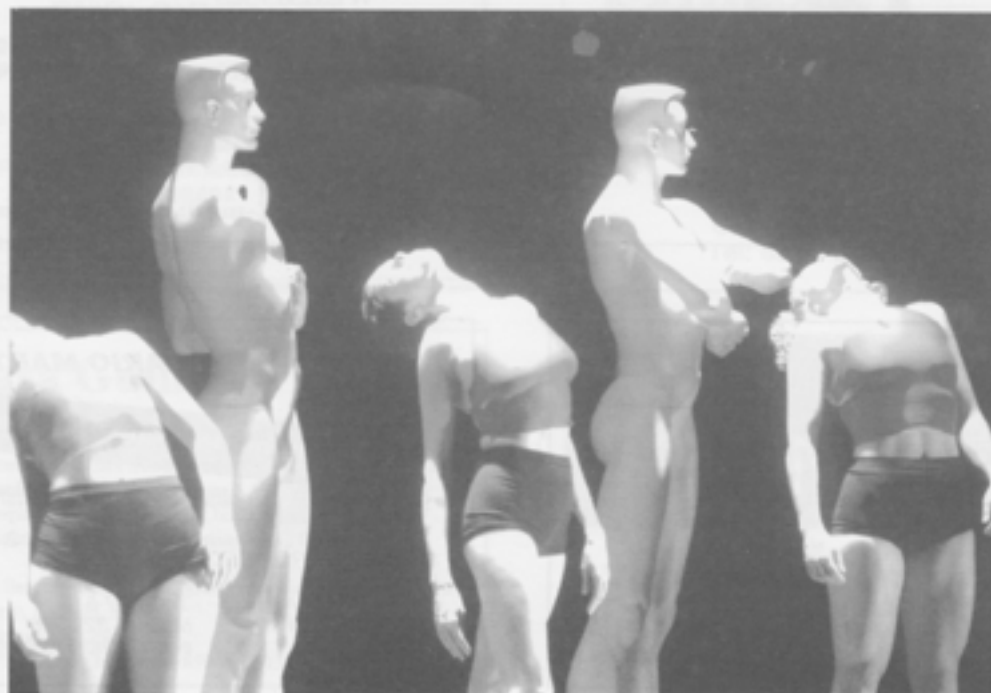
A year ago the Company consisted of five female dancers with one male dancer putting in a guest appearance. More recently they have become six, including the well-known dancer Esther Esteve. Most are professionally trained dancers, who work at some other occupation to earn their livings.

Their first programme, under the general title "How Do We Live?", linked three separate items; "Do You Love Me?" (relations, human contacts, loving, learning to love, all a part of life); "Stress of Daily Life" (living is still worthwhile however stressed we feel) and "H₂O" (liquid solid or gas, an indispensable part of life). They were mostly dance, with some text as well. Personally I have seen only an extended version of "H₂O", the performance lasting some 30 minutes in Ordino last summer, well appreciated by the audience.

In September – November 2001, Liquid Dansa took part in a production of "The Parliament of Women" by the Greek classical dramatist Aristophanes, written 393 B.C. This production was staged in Encamp, Andorra la Vella and St. Julia. If you think that the plays of Aristophanes are solemn and boring, think again, they are riotous fun (reminding one of Offenbach) just as they have been these past 2400 years. Why else have they survived?

Liquid Dansa are preparing a new show, perhaps to do with religions, likely to be on stage towards the end of 2002. They have workshops every Wednesday and Saturday. Dancers have to keep in training, more than anyone else. There will be other performances by Liquid Dansa before these full-scale new productions in twelve months from now. When we have some precise, specific news, we will pass it on to members.

Recall that there is always a difficulty in moving from one medium to another. If "IT" could always be completely translated into words, there would be no need to dance "IT". Einstein is reported to have said that he could not explain his equation, but he could play it on the violin.



FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES IN ANDORRA

(During the months of December 2001 and January, February and early March 2002. Kindly given by the Culture Department of the Andorran Government, the Comús, the Pro-Tourism Offices and others. Many thanks to them all)

by Maria Teresa Raurell

Andorra la Vella

December 2001

Till 31st this month - In the Exhibitionss' Hall of the Government, Bra. Riberaigua, Nº 5 "Remirada década dels 80". (A look at the 80s' Art). This is a collaboration of the "Museo de Bellas Artes de Alava".

5th - Cineclub in Teatre Comunal at 22h00. "Capitanes de Abril" by Maria de Medeiros, Portugal, 2000.

1st Saturday - Ballarusa in Placeta Monjó. Ask for winter-time-table in "La Puça" Tel. 827 726.

2nd Saturday - In Centre de la Cultura Catalana, c. La Llacuna, 14, meeting for collectors. From 16 to 20h00.

Probably the 2nd week - "Fira de Santa Llúcia" - Selling of Greeting Cards, Christmas decorations, candles, toys, Nativity scenes, etc. In the morning, from 11 to 21h00, in Plaça del Poble.

12th - Cineclub in Teatre Comunal at 22h00. "La Espalda del Mundo", by Maria Corcuera, Spain 2000.

20th - Temporada de Musica i Dansa - Ballet Flamenco - Sara Baras - with the ballet "Juana la Loca", in Sala d'Actes at 22h00.

21st - Cineclub in Teatre Comunal at 22h00 "Red Violin", by François Giraud, Canada, 1998.

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

24th - 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). The Midnight Mass has been established by Saint Frances d'Assis on Christmas Night of 1223 in a grotto of Greccio.

24th - Missa del Gall in Santa Coloma Church.

31st - "Cap d'Any" New Year's celebration.

January 2002

1st Saturday - Ballarusa in Placeta Monjó.

2nd Saturday - In Centre de la Cultura Catalana, c. La Llacuna, 14, Andorra la Vella from 14h00 to 20h00.

meeting for collectors.

4th - The Royal Postman will collect the request letters from the children from 11 to 14h00 in Plaça del Poble.

5th - At 18h30 the traditional Three Kings Procession with decorated floats parade the streets of Andorra la Vella and Escaldes-Engordany. A special evening for children --- and for adults as well.

17th - Traditional "Escudella de Sant Antoni" - a free lunch for everyone-, in Plaça del Poble at 13h00. Dishes and spoon can be bought there, but you can take your own from home.

25th - Temporada de Música i Dansa" - Maxim Vengerov, violin, and Vag Papiani, piano. In Sala d'Actes at 22h00.

February

1st Saturday - Ballarusa in Placeta Monjó.

2nd Saturday - in Centre de la Cultura Catalana, c. Llacuna 14, at 16 till 20h00 there is a meeting for collectors.

? - Several activities for children about Carnival. Fancy dress competitions, etc.

15th - at 16h30, in Teatre Comunal, Theatre for children.

? - Theatre Season in Teatre Comunal at 22h00.

21st - Temporada de Música i Dansa" - Orchestra da Camera Italiana, Salvatore Accardo conductor in Sala d'Actes at 22h00.

March

1st Saturday - Ballarusa in Placeta Monjó.

2nd Saturday - Meeting of collectors in the Centre de la Cultura Catalana, c. Llacuna, 14.

14th - Celebration of Constitution Day.

21st - Temporada de Música i Dansa in Sala d'Actes at 22h00, company of Maria Giménez, dance "En Blanco y Negro" (Black and White).

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December 2001

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Every Monday and Wednesday - At 21h00 Water polo dinner (a water polo match and dinner in the restaurant)

Every Friday - At 21h00 Karting Gel dinner (hired karts on ice, and afterwards, dinner in the restaurant). Further information Tel. 800 840 - Fax 800 841.

Fira de Santa Llúcia

Cinema for children in Palau de Gel.

Competition of Christmas tales for children

During all this month - The different associations of Canillo will organise many Christmas activities, specially for children and young people.

? - Exhibition and competition of Nativity scenes, in Palau de Gel. Information Tel. 851 002.

16th - At 20.30 h Concert by The International Singers d'Andorra, in the Church

24th - Arrival of Father Christmas in the Montaup square.

At 24h00 Midnight Mass. Afterwards mulled wine and hot chocolate drink for everyone.

25th - At 11h30 Missa de Nadal (Christmas Mass).

January 2002

5th - Evening, the Three Kings procession throughout the streets, arrival at Palau de Gel.

13th - "Vianda de Sant Antoni" (a free lunch for everyone) in Montaup square at 13h00.

31st - "Crema del Mai" and snack at 18.30h in Palau de Gel.

February

? - Several activities for children and adults about Carnival. Passacaglia throughout the streets by the school children. Fancy dress competitions and balls in Palau de Gel

March

? - Probably the IV Mountain Film Show in Palau de Gel, organised together with Iniciatives Turistiques of Ordino.

Encamp

December 2001

? - Tai-Kondo Competition in Complex Esportiu.

? - Several Christmas activities for children and adults in the Biblioteca (Library) of the Complex Esportiu.

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

24th - Father Christmas Procession, throughout the streets, at 19h00.

24th - At 24h00 "Missa del Gall" (Midnight Mass) in Santa Eulàlia Church. Afterwards mulled wine and coca will be offered. (Also in Pas de La Casa).

31st - From 24h00, New Year's Eve celebration in the Complex Esportiu. Information Tel. 831 405.

January 2002

? - The day of Judo in Complex Esportiu

5th - The Three Kings Procession at 19h00.

20th - At 13h00 Traditional "Escudella de Sant Antoni" in the Consell General Square. (a free lunch for everyone).

February

? - Artistic Gymnastics exhibition (women)

8th to 12th - "Carnival" Fancy dress competition and balls in Complex Esportiu, the Bear's Dance (Andorran tradition) Passacaglia and many other entertainments for children and adults. Information Tels. 832 830 - 731 000.

March

? - Rhythmical Gymnastics competition (women)

? - Aerobic Master Class

14th - Celebration of the Constitution. In the afternoon-evening, several activities for children and adults..

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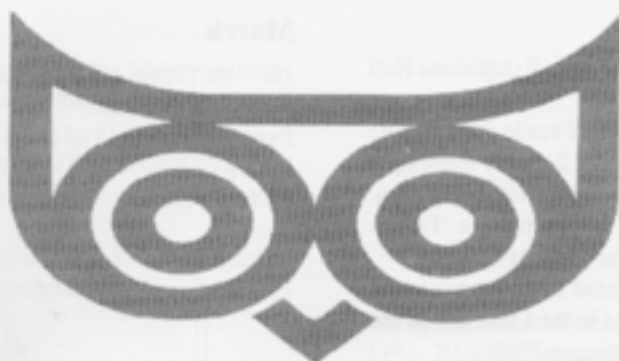
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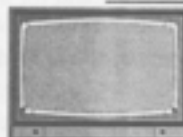
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Escaldes-Engordany

December 2001

? - Inauguration of an exhibition in the Exhibitions Hall of the Centre Cultural

1st to 24th - 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 de Comú will be present. Tickets sold in the Comú Office and in the "Façana de l'Art".

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.

14th - Club Patchwork meeting at 17h00 in the hall of Centre Cultural.

24th - "Missa del Gall" (Midnight Mass) at 24h00. Afterwards the Tourism Office of 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.

31st - New Year's Eve Ball

Every Saturday - the usual market at the Church square.

January 2002

? - Inauguration of an exhibition in the Exhibitions Hall of the Centre Cultural.

5th - In the morning the Royal Postman will collect the request letters from the children.

5th - Unió Pro-Turisme d'Escaldes-Engordany together with the Culture Department of Andorra la Vella, will organise the Three Kings Procession, with adorned floats throughout the streets of Andorra la Vella and Escaldes-Engordany. The Procession will begin at 18.30 in Av. Meritxell and will finish in Unió Street at about 20.30. This is a magical evening for children...and for adults as well.

In the middle of this month - Feast of "Agermanament" (Union) with Reunion Islands.

17th - "Escudella de Sant Antoni" at 13h00, (a free lunch for everyone) organised by "Amics del Pont dels Escalls", in the Square of Av. Dr. Mitjavila.

19th - Club Patchwork meeting at 17h30 in the hall of the Centre Cultural.

Every Saturday - the usual market in the Church square.

February

? - Opening of an exhibition in the Exhibitions Hall of the Centre Cultural.

3rd - Traditional "Encants de Sant Antoni", at 11h30 in the Church square.

9th - At 17h00 Club Patchwork meeting, in the hall of the Centre Cultural.

11th to 15th - Several activities and works for children and adults as well about Carnival. Passacaglias, fancy dress competition. Information in Area de Cultura, Tel. 890 875. Every Saturday - the usual market.

March

16th - At 17h00, Club Patchwork meeting in the hall of the Centre Cultural.

Every Saturday - The usual market in the Church square.



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La Massana

December 2001

15th - Christmas market - Nativity Scenes, Christmas trees, ornaments, Greeting Cards, etc. relating to Christmas, in the Hall of La Closeta, from 10am to 13h00.

24th - Father Christmas will receive the children with their request letters in the Square of the Comunal House at 19h00.

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

January 2002

3rd - Arrival of the Royal Page. At 26h00 show for children and afterwards the Page will receive the request letters in the hall of La Closeta.

17th - Saint Antony's Day - Mass in the Chapel at 11h00.

17th - at 13h00 "Escudella de Sant Antoni" (a free lunch for everyone) in Prat del Colat.

18th - Concert in the Church at 21h30 by The Chamber Orquestra of Lleida.

February & March

During the school holidays - Several Carnival activities for children. Information and inscriptions in the Comunal Library tel. 736 910.

Ordino

December 2001

Beginning the year 2001-2002 courses in the different schools for children as well as adults. Information tel. 837 811 in the Library (Biblioteca Comunal)

? - In the Auditori Nacional, traditional Christmas Concert by Petits Cantors and Orquestra Nacional de Cambra d'Andorra (ONCA).

Early this month - Christmas Card Competition for children and young people.

23th - Arrival of Father Christmas at 18h00 in Ordino square.

24th - "Missa del Gall" (Midnight Mass) at 24h00. Afterwards, mulled wine, coca (flat cake) and hot chocolate drink for everyone.

During the schools' holidays - Several activities for children in Centre Esportiu

January 2002

1st - Early in the morning - "Xocolatada" (hot drinking chocolate) in Camp de Neu of Arcalis, for the earliest skiers.

1st - at 19h00 New Year's Concert in Auditori Nacional, by Orquestra Simfònica del Vallès. Tickets in Crèdit Andorrà Offices.

5th - at 20h00 in Ordino

sion,



and a performance by the children of Ordino in the Church.

13th - XVI Christmas Card competition. The prizes will be given to the winners in Centre Esportiu at 17h00.

23rd to 28th - International Ski Competition for children - X "Barrufa" Trophy, in Camp de Neu d'Arcalis.

February

11th - Carnival - "Broth tasting" at 13h00 in Ordino Square, and fancy dress competition for children. "Xocolatada" and Ball at 17h00 in Centre Esportiu.

? - Carnival Concert in the Auditori Nacional

March

? - Probably this month will begin the IV Mountain Films Show in the Auditori Nacional, organised together with the Comú of Canillo

Sant Julià de Lòria

December 2001

Every Wednesday - Traditional market in Av. Verge de Canòlich (from the Molines' shops). Tel.

843 003 - 349 155 for confirmation.

12th - Opening of the exhibition about "Els Pastorets" (traditional play about the birth of Jesus) in the hall of Centre Cultural.

13th - Inauguration of the "Pessebre" (Nativity scene) in the hall of the Centre Cultural. Till 7th January 2002. It can be visited from Monday to Friday every week from 9am to 22pm, Saturday mornings and afternoon and Sunday afternoons.

26th at 20h00, 29th and 30th at 18h00 - In Auditori Claror of the Centre Cultural, the traditional play "Els Pastorets" (Tickets 1.000 Pts in the Tourism Office of St. Julià, Department of Culture and Youth -edifici Clara Rabassa of Andorra la Vella and Sindicat d'Iniciativa).

Escola d'Art - organises several courses for children (from 3 years old) and adults.

Painting course - by Carme Massana. Information and inscriptions "Escola d'Art" tel. 844 044.

Catalan language courses - in Centre Cultural. Information and inscriptions tel.866 451,

24th - "Missa del Gall" (Midnight Mass) at 24h00.
Afterwards coca and hot chocolate for everyone.
26th - Traditional "Tió de Nadal" . Gifts for children, in
the hall of the Centre Cultural. At 12.30h

January 2002

Every Wednesday in the morning the usual market.
Information tel 349 155

3rd - at 20h00 in front of the Comunal House, arrival of
the Page of Orient. (or in the hall of the Centre Cultural is
the weather is bad.

4th at 22h00, and 6th at 18h00 - "Els Pastorets" in Auditori
Claror.

5th - at 19h00 The Kings Procession, with adorned floats,
throughout the streets. The children will give the request
letters in Auditori Claror.

7th - Last day for visiting the exhibition about "Els
Pastorets" in the hall of Centre Cultural.

7th - St. Julià's Day - Free show for children at 12h00 in
Auditori Rocafort of the Centre Cultural.

? - Watercolours course - by Carme Clavero. Inf. tel.
844 044.

February

Every Wednesday in the morning the usual market.

? - Vegetarian cooking course.

Watercolours course - by Carme Clavero

22nd - at 22h00 Theatre Season in Auditori Claror. Tickets
(1.000 ptes) in the usual places.

22nd - "Carnival" - at 10h00 Passacaglia by the children
of the schools with fancy dress. Afterwards, a feast in the
Germandat Square.

23rd to 27th - the Tourism Office organises several Carnival
activities. Tel. 844 345.

March

Every Wednesday - the traditional market.

15th, 16 and 17th - "Història i Llegendes d'Andorra
Medieval" - Interesting combination of theatre, music and
traditional dance. In Auditori Claror. Tickets in the usual
places. Information tel. 844 044.

19th - at 22h00 "Theatre Season" in Auditori Claror. Tickets
in the usual places.

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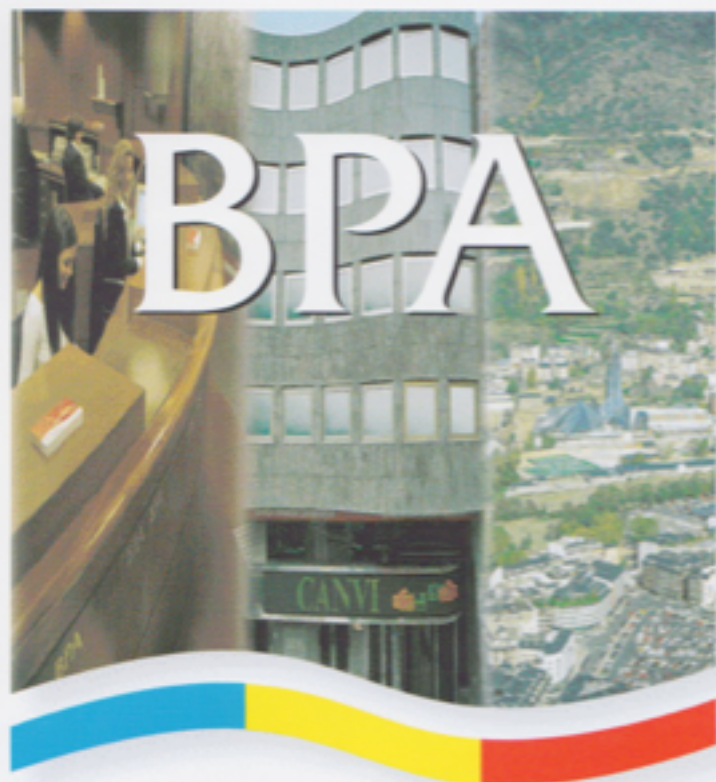
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