

# Rotary Club Estoi Palace

## Newsletter

Volume 10

Oct-Dec

2015

Service Above Self



# Rotary



# Estoi Palace International



District  
1960  
Portugal

# RCEPI Newsletter

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## Rotary Club Estoi Palace International

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## RCEPI AND ACCA



asked what we could do to help. Miriam is now 8 and Sandra told us that a special chair would make a huge difference to Miriam's daily life. The cost of the chair was 3046 euros. President Robin Wilson contacted Gwenda Daud of ACCA Kids, a local charity who help children throughout the Algarve. We have worked with them in the past to help underprivileged kids in the community.

They kindly agreed to fund half the cost of the chair and together we were able to move forward very quickly and purchase the chair and present it to Sandra to make hers and Miriam's lives



## WORKING TOGETHER

Earlier in the year one of our members, Bruno Sousa Costa, arranged for Sandra Domingos who lives in São Brás de Alportel to come and talk to us about the challenges of raising a disabled child. Sandra's daughter Miriam was born a normal, healthy child in 2007. Within 7 months, following a kiss from a stranger, she contracted Herpetic Encephalitis, a virus that effects the central nervous system. This left her paralysed and her mother now needed to give her daughter 24/7 care, which meant she had to give up work and rely on benefits. All of our members present were very moved by Sandra's story and

Miriam's mother is extremely grateful to us and ACCA for helping give her daughter a better quality of life. RCEPI and ACCA were pleased to be able to work together and help this family in need.

Visit our web site at [www.rotaryestoipalace.org](http://www.rotaryestoipalace.org)

## RCEPI QUIZ NIGHT IN AID OF OUR MILK FUND



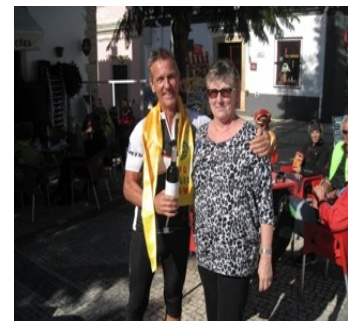
Rotary Club Estoi Palace held the second of their bi annual quizzes on Friday 30th October at A Floresta Restaurant in Amancil. Raising funds to support their milk project in Estoi, where the Rotary Club supplements the food packs provided by the Banco Contra Fome to 90 families in Estoi, by supplying an additional 6 litres of long life milk for each child and 2 litres per adult. When the project started it cost 2400 euros per annum, but now with the increase in milk prices and the number of families needing help, up by 30 from 60 to 90, it costs 3500 euros a year.



83 participants, forming 13 teams, gathered in the restaurant, where Virgilio and his team provided an excellent meal. Quizmaster Shirley Dunne oversaw a hotly contested battle with only 2 points separating the first 3 teams. Our Rotary team the Eurostars, above, flew the flag getting third place.

With the support of our sponsors, IBC Security Systems, Almancil Clima Air Conditioning and Heating, Milene Goncalves Attorney at Law, and Cardoso Fossa and Draining Cleaning and raffle prizes from restaurants, Vaults, Menta Pimenta and A Floresta and beauty salon Jayne Jackson, Universal Spa and At Home Massage, we raised 1300 euros which will enable us to supply milk to the Casa do Povo for the next 4 months. Our next quiz will be in April 2016.

## END POLIO NOW CYCLE RIDE



Paul Beesley of Algarve Bike Holidays organised his cycling group to take part in the first RCEPI sponsored bike ride in aid of the RI End Polio Now Campaign. Sunday 22nd of November, saw 15 cyclists gather in the sunshine to take part in a 35 km ride starting from Estoi Palace Pousada and going up to the top of São Miguel de Serra before returning to the church in Estoi. Kate Torkington, David Hooton and Stefan Thunman all received prizes for outstanding efforts. The ride raised 565 euros which will be double matched by the Bill Gates Foundation giving a grand total of 1695 euros towards End Polio Now. This is set to become an annual event.



## EDUCATION IN THE COMMUNITY



When President Robin Wilson took office earlier in the year he decided it was important to support the RI ideal of education and chose to help a local student from an underprivileged family achieve their dream of attending University. Beatrice, who is 19 years old, attended secondary school in Faro. Beatrice was one of 6 students, in their final year, chosen by her school as being in need of financial assistance. All students had to write a letter as to why they thought they deserved support and afterwards all candidates were interviewed by the Youth Committee and the President of RCEPI.

Beatrice was chosen as the most suitable student and she has commenced her course at the University of the Algarve in Faro. She is keen to help people in the community and is specialising in Prosthetics, an area of the health sciences that aims to train highly skilled technicians who can form part of a multidisciplinary team in physical medicine and rehabilitation. Beatrice and her family visited our Club recently to express their gratitude for the support of RCEPI in helping her achieve her ambition.



## DONATION TO CENTRO BEM-ESTAR IN OLHÃO



Centro Bem-Estar in Olhão is a non profit organisation which takes in young girls who need support, love and education which their families are unable to provide. The Centre gives the girls a chance get a good education and integrate into society.

RCEPI donated various toys and clothing to the charity to provide Christmas presents for the children.

## UK based Callington Singers choir concert



The UK based Choir, **Callington Singers**, under the direction of Musical Director Graham Williams, made a very short visit to the Algarve on the evening of 10<sup>th</sup> October to perform at the Cine Teatro de São Brás de Alportel in support of the Rotary Clubs of the Algarve's, Algarve Oncology Association project.

Graham Williams, has led the choir since its first meeting on 14th April 1983 and their first public performance was on 26th May 1983 during a music workshop at the then Callington Comprehensive School in Cornwall.

Since then the choir has performed at a wide variety of venues, including Westminster Abbey, Brittany in France and Germany and Denmark. In addition to the choir, who sang a variety of madrigals and old English folk songs, and following a short intermission, the audience had the pleasure of listening to a solo presentation by the multi-talented instrumentalist and Musical Director Howard Scott Parkin, who also leads the fantastic Algarve Ukulele Band in playing a number of current and past hits, to the delight of the audience.



Members of the Sao Bras Camara were also present at the concert which was enjoyed by all those attending and raised 2300 Euros for the Algarve Oncology Association project to purchase a new mobile breast screening unit for the Algarve.

## MEMBERSHIP EVENING IN FARO



On 27<sup>th</sup> November the club invited a number of potential new members to an informal wine & cheese party at 'About Wine' in Faro with a view to introducing them to Rotary and to let them meet Rotarians from RCEPI.

Guests were encouraged to ask questions and a lively discussion took place. One guest remarked that the evening had opened her eyes to the work and nature of Rotary both here in the Algarve as well as Worldwide. Some misconceptions were put to rest by our members, President Robin Wilson, Membership Chair Manuela Robinson, Rotarian Christine Fay, Incoming President Jim Ditheridge and Rotarian Uwe Johnsson.

The evening was deemed a great success and three of the guests indicated that they would like to find out more about how they can become involved with the club.

Similar evenings will be held during the Rotary year in future, so if you have friends or business acquaintances who you think could be interested please watch out for the announcement of our next event.



## RCEPI SPREADING THE WORD IN SÃO BRAS



RCEPI in partnership with 3 other organizations, Shankara Therapy, MAE Mobility and JNC Jovens e Natureza opened an office in São Bras on the 14th of October to promote Rotary International in the area.

90 people attended the grand opening including members of Sao Bras Council.

The driving force behind this is our Chair of Youth Service, Natacha Nowak, who is hoping to set up Rotaract and Interact groups. She is having talks with and the Director of Schools in Sao Bras to organize a presentation to students about these groups.



## SÃO BRAS MERCADINHO SOLIDARIO



On the 22nd of November, RCEPI had a stall at the 6th annual São Bras Mercadinho to Solideriade, (Solidarity Market), which had a wide variety of handicrafts on show from the local area and encourages people to support local businesses in the build up for Christmas. A number of our members were present to explain how Rotary helps in the community and nearby on show to the public was the ambulance that we purchased for the São Bras Bombeiros.



## ROTARIANS ON THE OCEAN WAVES



On the 18th of October after months of meticulous planning by RCEPI past President and ex Royal Caribbean cruise ship Captain, Kent Ringborn, 46 rotarians, spouses, partners and friends boarded the Allure of the Seas. Currently, the largest ship in the world, she was built in Finland and her total length is 360 metres. She can take 6300 passengers and has a crew of 2200.

Our Captain on board was Johnny Faevelen from Norway, a good friend and colleague of Kent's. We were treated to a very informative tour of the bridge,

with Captain Johnny telling us about the pros and cons of such a large ship.

We held our weekly Rotary meeting on board and enjoyed 2



fellowship meals together. Our group all chose to do different things at our various ports of call in Spain, France and Italy with numerous options available to us. The on board entertainment and facilities were also varied and catered for everyone. The production of Mama Mia was particularly outstanding.

Captain Kent was very proud to be able to show us what his work had



entailed during his 10 years of service with Royal Caribbean and a fascinating insight for us into what goes on behind the scenes. Kent's organisational skills, ably assisted by his lovely wife Inge, came to the fore as he made all the arrangements to get the group from Faro to Barcelona and back again, including a very interesting tour of Barcelona on our final day.

Our thanks go to Kent and Inge for arranging a fellowship event on such a grand scale, and it was a great opportunity for Estoi Rotarians to spend time together and make new friends and contacts.



# CHRISTMAS IN ESTOI



Our Christmas Meeting and Lunch was the last of 2015. 41 Rotarians including Abilio Lopes our District Governor Elect, friends and family gathered in the impressive main reception room at Estoi Palace Pousada. We enjoyed some fellowship and pre-lunch bubbly followed by acting MOC Phil leading us in a game of “Two Up”, the Australian version of “Heads and Tails” which was won by RCEPI Rotarian Angela, who received a prize of a bottle of wine and goodies courtesy of “About Wines”. Everyone enjoyed a four course Christmas meal including the traditional turkey.

Lunch was a convivial fellowship event with everyone enjoying lively conversation and companionship. Upwards and onwards to 2016.



## CHRISTMAS MILK DISTRIBUTION AT THE CASA DO POVO IN ESTOI

Santa and Mrs Claus paid their annual visit to Estoi Casa do Povo to assist in the distribution of the food packs provided by the Faro Food Bank. RCEPI was fortunate to have received many donations during the year of toys and clothing enabling us to give all the children registered with the food bank an extra Christmas present. We also supplied almost 400 litres of milk making a total of litres supplied to the Casa do Povo of 37000 litres over the last 6 years. Local businesses also donated extra items, bread, fruit, chocolate santas and the traditional Bolo Rei cake to make Christmas a little happier for these underprivileged families.



## DICTIONARIES GIVEN TO PUPILS AT THE LOCAL SCHOOL IN ESTOI



On the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2015 at the School E.B. 2/3 Poeta Emiliano da Costa in Estoi RCEPI handed out 67 English dictionaries to the 5<sup>th</sup> year students.

The event was held in the school library with the following representing the school and RCEPI

**Paulo Leandro**, Assistant Director of students from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> cycles;  
**Isabel Trindade**, Coordenador of the School E.B. 2/3 Poeta Emiliano da Costa;  
**Cidália Teixeira**, Coordenador of the school library

**The students**, delegates and teaching assistants of the 5<sup>th</sup> year classes A, B and C

President Robin Wilson, Manuela Almeida and Céline Louzeiro (representing Natacha Nowack Chairman of the Youth Committee who was away investigating another Rotary project in São Tomé)

President Robin Wilson explained to the school the work of Rotary Club Estoi Palace International and meaning of helping each other and the community. He also discussed with the teachers and Assistant Director of the school the possibility of creating an Interact group. They were very interested as they are already involved in several events inside the school to help out in the local community. DG Elect Abilio Lopes and his wife Isabel will give a presentation to the school about Rotaract and Interact in early 2016.

President Robin Wilson and Rotarian Manuela Almeida from the Youth Service Committee gave the dictionaries to each pupil

The team of Escola Estoi thanked the Rotary Club Estoi Palace International for their continued support with the donation of dictionaries, and this year the number given had increased by 30.

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## PAI NATAL BRINGS GIFTS TO THE CASA DO POVO ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY



On 19<sup>th</sup> December, the Casa do Povo in Estoi organised its annual Christmas Party for the underprivileged children of the village and surrounding area. Some 91 children enjoyed a great time and met with Pai Natal / Father Christmas (in the form of a heavily disguised Rotarian Kent Ringborn) who delivered lots of gifts to the children some of whom, suitably dressed for the occasion, later performed traditional dances on stage.

As in past years, RCEPI supplied the event with goodies, cakes and drinks and President Robin Wilson, Incoming President Jim Ditheridge, Rotarians Christine Fay and Manuela Almeida, as well as Kent were there to provide assistance and support.



*FELIZ NATAL/MERRY CHRISTMAS E BOM ANO  
NOVO/HAPPY NEW YEAR, SEE YOU IN 2016*

## Upcoming Events

### January to March 2016

5th January	RCEPI Weekly Meeting 13:00—Speaker Selma Cazes “Assertive Communications in Management”
12th January	RCEPI Weekly Meeting 13:00—2nd Quarter Review
19th January	RCEPI Weekly Meeting 13:00—Committee Meetings
26th January	RCEPI Weekly Meeting 13:00—Speaker from Blacktower Financial Management -
2nd February	RCEPI Weekly Meeting 13:00—Speaker Mike Thompson from Avalon Europe “Infinity and before”
9th February	RCEPI Weekly Meeting 13:00— Committee Reports
16th February	RCEPI Weekly Meeting 13:00—Committee Meetings
23rd February	RCEPI Weekly Meeting 13:00—Speaker:- Peter Booker “A few famousAlgarvians”
1st March	RCEPI Weekly Meeting 13:00 — Speaker:- Pedro Palmeira [architect] “New forms of design in Algarve houses”
8th March	RCEPI AGM 13:00— Committee Reports
15th March	RCEPI Weekly Meeting 13:00—Committee Meetings
22nd March	RCEPI Weekly Meeting 13:00—Speaker Anabela Gomes “Cafe Conserto”
29th March	Fellowship Outing venue to be confirmed
<b>APRIL 15TH</b>	<b>FUND RAISING CONCERT AT LETHES THEATRE FARO</b>
	<b>CONTACT <a href="mailto:agnete@rotaryestoipalace.org">agnete@rotaryestoipalace.org</a> for details</b>

As event scheduling can change at the last minute. Please always check with our MOC

For anyone wanting to know more about any of our events or to register for participation, please contact via e-mail the Secretary at [SECRETARY@ROTARYESTOIPALACE.ORG](mailto:SECRETARY@ROTARYESTOIPALACE.ORG)

If you wish to attend one of our meetings please let our Master of Ceremonies know by sending an e-mail