

Rotary Club Estoi Palace

Newsletter

Volume 14

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2016

Service Above Self



Estoi Palace
International



RCEPI Newsletter

| | |
|--|-----|
| Christmas at Estoi | 1 |
| Membership Evening | 2 |
| Katsikas Camp | 3/4 |
| Quiz Night | 5 |
| Merit Certificates | 6 |
| End Polio Now | 7 |
| Riding for the Disabled | 8 |
| Event Schedule Jan-March | 9 |



SANTA AND MRS KLAUS COME TO ESTOI CASA DO POVO



For 8 years our Rotary Club has been supplying additional milk to supplement the food packs supplied by Faro Food Bank to those families in the parish registered with them. As in previous years, Santa and Mrs Klaus were on hand to give presents and clothes to the children.



Rotary Club Estoi Palace International

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RCEPI were also delighted to help out at the Casa do Povo Christmas party for the underprivileged on the 17th of December. The Club provided food and drink for the 62 children attending, plus Santa and Mrs Klaus were on hand to give them chocolate coins provided by our Club and presents from the Casa do Povo Administration. A good time was had by all.



MEMBERSHIP PR WINE TASTING EVENING



To 'Tell our story', promote Rotary and increase our Membership, RCEPI held a wine tasting event at the About Wine Garrafeira in Faro.

20 people attended to talk about Rotary and how it can help in the community. Robin Wilson acted as MoC and delivered the 4 way test and introduced all the guests. President Jim Ditheridge spoke about what Rotary actually is and our President Elect Manuela Robinson talked specifically about RCEPI and what it has done to help people locally and internationally.

Throughout the evening Luis Figueiro from About Wine, which is a boutique wine shop run by a young couple who want to share their passion for wine, introduced a varied selection of wines accompanied by some excellent food.

The evening was completed by new member, Maria Jose Pires, Deputy Director of the Algarve Oncology Association, who spoke about 'a view of RCEPI from a new member's perspective', a fascinating, powerful and emotional talk full of interest and reasons for joining Rotary and RCEPI, in particular. "I have always wanted to help with a refugee crisis but never had the opportunity, being a member of Rotary changed that"

Meeting a Rotary member in Greece was a wonderful experience, it felt like family"

"I feel so blessed to be part of Rotary and the opportunities it gives me to serve those less fortunate"



KATSIKAS REFUGEE CAMP



Maria Jose Pires was inducted as a member in July and following a talk given to the Club by Gillie Senvers she decided to spend part of her annual leave at a refugee camp on the Macedonian border. The camp grew when the Macedonians closed the border overnight refusing to let migrants enter the country. The camp is classed as a transit one which prevents any kind of permanent facility being installed, including kitchens.



Maria Jose tells us of her experiences at the Camp. At the beginning of October, I arrived in Ioannina, a Greek town close to the Macedonian and Albanian borders, where several refugee camps were located. I was immediately informed that the Katsikás camp was considered a high risk camp. In their struggle for better conditions, i.e. a proper roof over their heads instead of just tents, the refugees had damaged a considerable part of the camp, destroying the tents and making a stand against those in charge of the camp.

The army stopped the fighting and those responsible were taken away with their families to a different place, which did have a proper roof. Winter is coming and the tents are not suitable for the low temperatures that will bring.

I arrived after the fight but the camp couldn't hide what just happened - the chaos with tents destroyed, mattresses, blankets all over... It looked as a typhoon had blown across the camp.

But life continues, as it must. Military trucks were coming and going bringing meals and water, volunteers were coming and going doing their tasks. Syrian, Iraqi and Afghani men walked around.. The government sent workers to clean up the damage and in two



Days the only reminder of the struggle that had taken place was the empty zone in the middle of the camp, reminding me of New York's ground zero.

I can't say how a normal day was in Katsikás before that, but for a place with hundreds of people living in tents next to each other, it seemed deadly quiet.

Yes, winter arrived, it was cold and the rain never stopped. I was with the NGO Lighthouse Relief and I helped in the FFS (Females Friendly Space) and MBA (Mother and Baby Area). The women and children I met, regardless nationality, shared a history of fear and sorrow that is unimaginable. That is one of the main reasons people like me volunteer - we feel the need to do something about it as ending war is not in our hands but humanitarian work is.

Knowing the time I was giving was so little, (just my holidays) I had a greater gift. I'm a Rotarian and it means I'm one member of a big 'family' with over one million Rotarians all over the world. We share an important mission and it makes no difference where or whom we help. If my Club, miles away in Estoi supported this cause then so did Ioannina Rotary Club who I made contact with after arrival.

After Katsikás I moved to a more unusual camp housing the Yazidi. My friend Gillie Stenvers, my inspiration to go and help, was working in this camp. The Yazidi are persecuted for having a different religion, and this camp was an example of how a community can stay strong

KATSIKAS REFUGEE CAMP CONTINUED



together despite the horrors of a war. I saw one woman with half her face marked by a huge scar from her ear to her lips. She was beautiful anyway!

We all know that horror prevails over nice memories. But the memory I choose to bring back with me is one that makes me smile. Whilst Gillie taught her 'creative English' adult class, I was left with responsibility of entertaining a group of children under school age so their mothers could attend the lessons.

'Gillie's Fantastic School', named by the Yazidi themselves, was in the middle of a corridor. Because it was pouring with rain outside all this kids were running around the corridor and 'stealing' their mothers school materials. Their loud voices drowned out any other conversation. These children didn't speak English, but I needed to do something - so I sat a chair in the middle of the corridor to form a barrier and sat two of the youngest ones on my lap and started singing in Portuguese. As one they immediately became quiet. All those beautiful big eyes stared at me, entranced by words they didn't understand and a melody they could feel.

I stopped and they screamed, I didn't need to understand the language to know they wanted me to continue.

After a while they were singing 'la-la' with me. We must have sung over a hundred times! When Gillie's class finished she thanked me and the mothers came over and kissed me. Together with those children's smiles, this was the highest recognition I could bring home!



HALLOWEEN QUIZ NIGHT



Rotary Club Estoi Palace International held its annual Quiz Night on Friday, 28th October at A Floresta Restaurant, in Almancil. The quiz was preceded by an excellent meal prepared and served by the hardworking A Floresta team.

73 people took part in the quiz divided into teams of up to seven. The question master was Rotarian Shirley Dunne who posed a series of challenging questions designed to test the general knowledge of participants.

A fun and competitive evening raised 1400 euros which will be used to provide a milk supplement to the food packs supplied by the Faro Food Bank to underprivileged families in Estoi.

Our Club delivers in excess of 400 litres of milk a month and over the course of 8 years have provided nearly 40000 litres of milk at a cost of around 20000 euros. The money raised at the event is enough to cover the milk for another 6 months.

We are extremely grateful to all who helped to make the evening such a success, those who participated,



our sponsors, IBC Security, Blacktower Financial Services, The Pool Shop Almancil, Cardoso Drain Cleaning Company, EasyUKTV.com, and Tempero Automatic Doors and shutters, together with Restaurant Aquarelle, Restaurant Floresta, Ultimate Look Hairdressing Salon and At Home Massage who donated prizes.

HURRICANE MATTHEW IN HAITI



Haiti was hardest hit by Hurricane Matthew with 800 people killed and buildings completely destroyed., resulting in over 60000 people going into shelters. RCEPI have responded to the Shelterbox appeal with a donation of 650 euros.

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT FOR PUPILS AT ESTOI SCHOOL



The awards ceremony was held at Escola EB2,3 Poeta Emiliano da Costa. It is started with three students singing Allalula , followed by a group of 7 playing recorders. The 5th December is a special day for the school as it is Founders day.

This was followed by presentation where 3 students from each year were presented with a certificate of Merit by RCEPI President Jim Ditheridge, this was followed by awards issued by the Library at the school for excellence. The event ended with some modern dance displayed by a group of students.



END POLIO NOW SPONSORED BIKE



As part of its commitment towards the Rotary Foundation, the Club organised a fundraising bike ride with Activity Algarve Bike Rides on Sunday 20th November. Despite the inclement weather the enthusiastic group of riders cycled all the way up to the top of the Cerro Sao Miguel on a challenging 35 km round trip starting from Estoi Pousada and ending in front of the church in Estoi. Well done to everyone who took part and contributed, donations and sponsorship raised a total of 1100 euros.

Our Club was founded in 2008 and apart from helping the local community in numerous ways, we have also been supportive of the Rotary Foundation's key project of eradicating polio from the planet, and we have



contributed over 10000 euros towards this since 2008. Rotarians worldwide have helped immunize more than 2.5 billion children against polio in 122 countries. For as little as \$0.60, a child can be protected against this crippling disease for life. As a result of this huge campaign India was declared polio free in 2012. For as little as \$0.60, a child can be protected against this crippling disease for life. As a result of this huge campaign India was declared polio free in 2012.

In 2007, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation joined the fight and from 2013 the Gates Foundation agreed to match two-to-one, every dollar the Rotary Foundation commits to reduce the funding shortfall for polio eradication through to 2018. With the 2 to 1 match from the Bill Gates Foundation our 1100 euros becomes a total of 3300 euros.. towards the End Polio Now campaign. Many thanks to Activity Bike rides for supporting us.



RCEPI SPONSOR IRINA RODRIGUES WITH HER RIDING FOR THE DISABLED PROGRAMME



RCEPI is once again supporting The Riding for the Disabled Algarve (A.E.D.A.) by sponsoring a young rider with Special Needs in training for the Special Olympics in Portugal.

Irina Rodrigues is 14 and was born with cerebral palsy and hemiplegia, affecting the right hand side of her body. For her regular physiotherapy sessions she is registered with the APPC (Cerebral Palsy Association Faro).

Irina loves horses and started riding therapy at 8. This helps those with physical and mental disabilities to develop their motor skills, raise their self-esteem, increase sensory awareness, and concentration. It also helps to promote physical perception, improve muscle tone and develop communication and cognitive skills. The main aim for Irina is to use the motivation she has through the riding to encourage her to study, and, improve her skills including learning another language, all to help in her adult life.

Irina joined the riding therapy sessions organised by AEDA in February 2016 coming with the APPC to Pinetrees Riding Stables. She quickly moved to the Adapted Sport Riding Level. In the last two years AEDA and Pinetrees have worked with the AAPACDM, school for the mentally disabled, Faro, who are the promoters of *Special Olympics Portugal*.

Last May the 2nd Special Olympics Equestrian for the South was held at Pinetrees enabling the Algarve riders to earn a place to compete at the June national event in Lisbon. The riders, representing a variety of schools for the disabled and riding schools in the Algarve picked up most of the top medals at the event!



Irina was the highest placed rider overall comparing first and second level classes. Her goal now is to pass on to the third level class and earn the chance to possibly represent Portugal abroad in Special Olympics, destined primarily for athletes with learning difficulties. RCEPI are delighted to be able to contribute towards Irina's ongoing therapy with a 300 euro sponsorship to enable her to train in order to compete.

Upcoming Events January to March 2017

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| 3rd January | RCEPI Weekly Meeting 13:00—Committee Meetings |
| 10th January | RCEPI Weekly Meeting 13:00— Preceded by Board Meeting. Speaker: to be confirmed |
| 17th January | RCEPI Weekly Meeting 13:00—Speaker: Chris Garner on E Clubs |
| 24th January | RCEPI Weekly Meeting 13:00—Speaker: To be confirmed |
| 31st January | RCEPI Weekly Meeting 13:00— Committee Meetings |
| 7th February | RCEPI Weekly Meeting 13:00— Preceded by Board Meeting. Speaker: to be confirmed |
| 14th February | Fellowship Valentines Day lunch with AFPOP at Faro Catering College |
| 22nd February | RCEPI Weekly Meeting 13:00—Visit of DG Abilio Lopes |
| 28th February | RCEPI Weekly Meeting 13:00—Speaker: To be confirmed |
| 7th March | RCEPI Weekly Meeting 13:00—Committee Meetings |
| 14th March | RCEPI Weekly Meeting 13:00— Preceded by Board Meeting. Speaker: to be confirmed |
| 21st March | RCEPI Weekly Meeting 13:00—Club Forum |
| 28th March | RCEPI Weekly Meeting 13:00—Speaker: To be confirmed |
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| | As event scheduling can change at the last minute. Please always check with our MOC for up to date info. |

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

If you wish to attend one of our meetings please let our Master of Ceremonies know by sending an e-mail with your details to MOC@ROTARYESTOIPALACE.ORG