

Rotary Club Estoi Palace

Newsletter

Volume 3
January — March
2014

Service Above Self



Estoi Palace
International



RCEPI Newsletter

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A Mid-Term Message from the President



Since I took over as President on the 1st of July, the last 6 months have flown by and it has certainly been action packed. August saw the handover ceremony for

the refrigerated truck to the Banco Alimentar in Faro and this has been doing sterling work since in the area. November saw the arrival in Portugal of the Mercedes ambulance for the Sao Bras Bombeiros and it went to Porto to be kitted out. It will be officially presented on the 18th of January.

We are looking for another project and hope to be able to work with Algarve Oncology Association in the area of breast screening.

Locally, we have supplied dictionaries to the school in Estoi and issued Certificates of Merit to students whose progress we will continue to follow. Our December milk distribution saw us reach a landmark of 25,000 litres and we also gave presents to children registered with the Food Bank. We were delighted to be able to help out with the Estoi Casa do Povo Christmas party for the underprivileged families in the area and Santa Klaus was there to deliver gifts and good cheer.

Since July 1st, we have welcomed 8 new members into our Club and we have another two ladies who are very interested in joining us. It is wonderful that we have been able to welcome a mixture of experienced Rotarians and business people together with younger Portuguese professionals.

We have enjoyed Fellowship with our 5th Birthday Party in September, a visit to RIAS in Olhaõ at the end of October and our Christmas Celebration at the Pousada in December.

One of the many excellent things about the Rotary is the ability to enjoy fellowship around the world and here we see one of our new members, Robert Levin, enjoying Rotarian Fellowship in India.



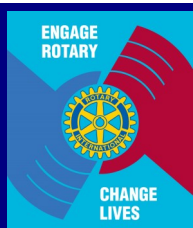
Our meetings have been well attended and we have had an interesting mix of speakers to entertain, enlighten and inspire us.

Engage Rotary and Change Lives is this year's Rotary motto and I think here in Estoi we all believe that we are playing our part in that.

Charity Events

RCEPI has a number of events already planned for 2014 to raise funds for our next project when it has been finalised.

These include a Burns Supper at the Pousada, Estoi Palace on the evening of 25th January (see article in this magazine); a Rotary Sailing Regatta off Vilamoura on 3rd May and the annual Golf Event at Monte Rei Golf & Country Club at the end of August.



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International**

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Youth Service in RCEPI



Members of the RCEPI Youth Service Committee

As a club we have been lucky in having a number of new, younger members which has allowed us to expand our interest to the younger community in our area.

Anita, Daniel, Salome and Dean have been visiting the local schools, and have found an appetite for INTERACT amongst the staff and pupils. This is the younger arm of Rotary and encourages leadership and community service.

In the New Year we will pursue our contacts with a view of settling up 1 or more INTERACT clubs in our area.

We will also look into the possibility of sending some students to summer camp as well as continuing to help the local school with dictionaries.

RCEPI Visits Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre RIAS

On Oct 29th, we paid a visit to The Wildlife Rehabilitation and Investigation Centre for the Ria Formosa (RIAS) near Olhao. Originally established in the 1990s as a bird rehabilitation centre, RIAS has been



operating in its present form since October 2009. Its main objectives are the rehabilitation of injured and debilitated wildlife; investigating the risk factors for their conservation and educating the public regarding the importance of the biodiversity and the environment.

We were shown the work they carry out and told that around 70% of the creatures they deal with have been injured due to human actions. Many birds that arrive at RIAS have been shot, trapped or have accidentally eaten fishing hooks and wires. We were told that if you

encounter an exhausted or injured wild bird or animal you should call for help right away. Waiting to see if the animal might recover on its own could cost the animal its only chance for survival.

As we toured the outdoor bird pens, we were fortunate to observe the arrival of a black eagle that had been found exhausted and unable to fly. He had been brought to RIAS to recuperate. Later, we noticed a solitary flamingo in a pen with a mirror attached to the fence. RIAS staff explained that the bird had been found in Portimao and was recovering. Since flamingos live in large flocks, a single flamingo will become stressed and unhappy on its own and may stop eating. Placing a mirror in the bird's pen fools the flamingo into thinking it has a companion, reducing its stress levels, so that it will eat and thus speed up its rehabilitation.

As we prepared to leave, the RIAS staff had a surprise for us. They had arranged for us to watch as a rehabilitated kestrel was released back into the wild. The kestrel named *Rotary* was tossed into the air and we watched as she flew higher and higher into the sky as she came to terms with her freedom. One of our number suggested it must be sad to see the bird leave, but Thijs said that for anyone involved in wildlife rehabilitation seeing the animals return to the wild is the biggest reward they can have.

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RIAS deals with over 1000 animals annually, mainly birds but also reptiles, amphibians, bats, foxes and badgers. In the summer RIAS can receive up to 50 birds and animals a day, stretching their resources to the limit. The facilities at RIAS, and much of the medical equipment is over 20 years old and needs updating but in these strained economic times the staff make do with what they have.

We were very happy to be able to assist them with their conservation and rehabilitation work with a donation of

150 Euros towards building materials and a printer/scanner to help them publicise their work.

RIAS is located at Quinta de Marim, Olhão and is on call for emergencies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

For further information :

tel: 927659313

email: rias.aldeia@gmail.com rias-aldeia.blogspot.com

rias-international-volunteering.blogspot.pt/

Early Christmas for the Bombeiros of São Brás de Ælportel

When the Humanitarian Association of Volunteer Firemen of São Brás de Ælportel (Bombeiros) held their annual Christmas party on December 14th there was much to celebrate. On December 12th members of the Bombeiros and Ian Lowe of the Rotary Club Estoi Palace International (RCEPI) drove to Porto to receive delivery of a much needed new ambulance donated by RCEPI.



To the delight of children attending the Christmas party, the Bombeiros had created a beautiful nativity scene at the fire hall. Measuring approximately three square metres, the miniature scene showed a traditional Portuguese village, complete with figures, situated on the flank of a hill. A lovely castelo sat atop the hill, and further down the mountain the landscape included village houses, terraced fruit orchards, vegetable crops, lighted caves, a waterfall and small river complete with Roman bridge. Off to one side the desert was depicted with three wise men outside a Moorish inn, preparing to depart for Bethlehem on their camels. The public is welcome to visit the fire hall and view the nativity scene.

The Christmas Party was an ideal opportunity for RCEPI President Shirley Dunne to present two pieces of equipment purchased by RCEPI, in addition to the ambulance. The first of these is an automated external defibrillator training unit, and the second a portable vital signs monitor, which can be taken from the ambulance

into a patient's home to assess their medical status before moving them.

Following RCEPI's presentation, Sr. David Gonçalves, President of the Junta de Freguesia de São Brás de Ælportel, gave a speech thanking the Bombeiros for their work in the community and then presented Sr. Flavio Martins, Presidente of the Bombeiros Direction with a cheque for €5,000.00 towards the purchase of a large generator which is required to run equipment in conditions where electricity is unavailable.

Next Sr. Vitor Guerreiro, Presidente of the Câmara Municipal of de São Brás de Ælportel stepped to the microphone to make his remarks on behalf of the Câmara, and he also presented the Bombeiros with a cheque, this time in the amount of €10,000.00, also towards the purchase of the generator.

If all of this were not enough, a lovely surprise occurred when Mrs. Margaret Matterson, came forward and contributed €2,100.00, explaining that her husband Mr. Kenneth Matterson had passed away in late May this year.



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His family and friends wished to make a donation to the Bombeiros in his memory. It seems the Bombeiros of São Brás will have a Happy Christmas indeed.

Sr. Salvador Gonçalves, Second Commander of the Bombeiros, gave a warm speech thanking everyone for their donations and compassionate support of the

Bombeiros and closed his remarks by inviting all those present to enjoy the food and drink prepared by volunteers for the festivities.

The official dedication and blessing of the Ambulance will be held on January 18th at the fire house in São Brás de Alportel, with dignitaries and supporters of the project attending.

Santa comes to Casa do Povo

Sunday, 15th of December saw the Estoi Casa do Povo host its annual Christmas Party for the underprivileged



families in the parish.

Unfortunately, the local Freguesia had no money to assist them this year, so they turned to our Rotary Club for help. We were delighted to provide some party fare with sandwiches, crisps and cakes plus soft drinks.

The children were intrigued by the face painting artist we provided and after seeing the result of the first volunteer a



large queue developed for face and nail painting. In the main room, a fun Christmas animated film was followed by a very lively

karate demonstration by local children which in turn was followed by a very energetic performance of folklore

dancing by local children who are all taught by a local volunteer. Sandra Pires the manager of the Casa do Povo presented 3 children from the Estoi school with merit awards.

We were also able to arrange for Father Christmas to call by and distribute chocolate gold coins to all of the children plus a gift for each child, who were absolutely delighted to see Pai de Natal and practically mobbed him when he announced that he had presents for all.

The Mayor of Faro and the Mayor of Conceicao and Estoi were on hand to see the festivities and praise the work of the Casa do Povo, which is vital to the community in Estoi.

This party would not have been possible without our help and the Casa do Povo team and those attending were very appreciative of our efforts.



Milk Distribution Gets a Santa Helping Hand



Our Club has been providing a monthly milk supplement of 6 litres per child and 2 litres per



adult to the Estoi families registered with the Food Bank who receive their food pack at the Estoi Casa do Povo. We started augmenting the food parcels with additional milk in 2009 and this December saw us reach a landmark amount of 25.000 litres of milk given.



In December, in addition to the milk we also make sure that all of the children registered receive a Christmas present from Santa and Mrs. Klaus.

RCEPI CHRISTMAS PARTY AT ESTOI PALACE

Our annual Christmas lunch was held at Estoi Palace on December 17th. There were 45 people in attendance including past and present members of the club, husbands and wives of current members, representatives from the Sao Bras Bombeiros, the Faro Food Bank, the Casa de Povo of Estoi, Deutschbank, friends and prospective new members.



Champagne and warm spiced red wine was served before lunch as everyone met and mingled for half an hour in one of the Pousada's beautifully appointed salons.

Five tables were festively decorated for lunch in the dining room,

complete with Christmas crackers for all. Introductions of all our guests were made by Master of Ceremonies, Robin Wilson. Following a few brief announcements concerning club matters we sat down to lunch.

Everyone crossed arms and snapped open our Christmas crackers. Paper hats were put on, mottos and jokes read out and small toys shared around each table.

Our Christmas dinner began with chicken broth, followed by roast turkey with dried fruit rice. Sonhos and bolo rei were served for dessert, followed by coffee.



During lunch conversation was lively, highlights of our Rotary year were discussed and new friendships were made. Business cards and phone numbers were



exchanged and before announcing the close of our meeting President Shirley Dunne wished us all a

Happy Christmas.

A Burns Supper

A **Burns supper** is a celebration of the life and poetry of the poet Robert Burns, author of many Scots poems.

The suppers are normally held on or near the poet's birthday, 25 January, sometimes also known as **Robert Burns Day** (or **Robbie Burns Day**^[1] or **Rabbie Burns Day**) or **Burns Night**, although they may in principle be held at any time of the year.

Burns suppers are most common in Scotland and Northern Ireland but occur wherever there are Burns Clubs, Scottish Societies, expatriate Scots, or aficionados of Burns' poetry.

There is a particularly strong tradition of them in southern New Zealand's main city Dunedin, of which Burns' nephew Thomas Burns was a



founding father.

The first suppers were held in Ayrshire at the end of the 18th century by Robert Burns' friends on the anniversary of his death, 21 July, *In Memoriam* and they have been a regular occurrence ever since.

The first Burns club, known as The Mother Club, was founded in

Greenock in 1801 by merchants born in Ayrshire, some of whom had known Burns.

They held the first Burns supper on what they thought was his birthday on 29 January 1802, but in 1803 discovered from the Ayr parish records that the correct date was 25 January 1759,^[2] and since then suppers have been held on 25 January, Burns' birthday.

Burns suppers may be formal or informal. Both typically include haggis (a traditional Scottish dish celebrated by Burns in *Address to a Haggis*), Scotch whisky and the recitation of Burns' poetry. Formal dinners are hosted by organisations such as Burns clubs, or St Andrews Societies and occasionally end with dancing when ladies are present. Formal suppers follow a standard format.

Burns Supper

In aid of The Algarve Oncology Association

Saturday 25th January 2014

7pm – 12 midnight

Bill O' Fare

Welcome Cocktail

Sparkling wine and Orange juice

"Haggis wi Neeps and Tatties"

Steak beef wrapped in puff pastry with sautéed mushrooms and potatoes

Baked raspberry & bramble trifle with Drambuie

Coffee

White or red wine JP Quinta da Bacalhôa

Programme

19:00 – 19:30 Cocktail Reception

19:30 – 20:00 Address to the Haggis

20:00 – 21:00 Meal service

21:00 – 21:15 Toast to the ladies

21:15 – 21:30 Ladies response

21:30 Coffee & raffle (Clear floor for dancing)

22:00 – 23:30 Scottish Country Dancing

Gay Gordons

Dashing White Sergeant

Canadian Barn Dance

Strip the Willow

Note: The Pousada Estoi Palace has also offered rooms at vary advantageous rates for those who prefer to spend the evening.
To book your tickets for this fabulous event please contact

email: Jim.Bell@amazing-golf.eu or **tel:** 289992591 or **tel:** 964485124

Philippines Response

Following the October 2013 typhoon in the Philippines, the club wanted to make a donation toward relief and the rebuilding of the devastated areas. Working through a



contact inside the country, Past District Governor Jess Nicdao (District 3790), it was decided to contribute € 500 from club funds via the Rotary Clubs of Ormoc and

Ormoc Bay, area clubs that are



coordinating efforts. Ormoc City is just to the south of the region hardest hit by the severe storm. RCEPI members personally donated a further €250 so a total of € 750 was transferred to Ormoc and will be used to continue with emergency assistance (especially food) and to help in the rebuilding of local schools.



Upcoming Events

January - March

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|--------------------|--|
| 7th January 2014 | <p>Meeting Estoi Palace 13:00</p> <p>New Members Introductory Speech - Dean Coleman</p> <p>P.P. presentation from Claire and Chris on Breast Screening Project</p> |
| 14th January 2014 | <p>Meeting at Estoi Palace 13:00</p> <p>Speaker will be Henrique Pinheiro (CEO Medal), who will explain about personal insurance options.</p> |
| 18th January 2014 | Handover of the new Ambulance to the Bombeiros of Sao Bras |
| 21st January 2014 | Meeting Estoi Palace 13:00 |
| 25th January 2014 | <p>Spectacular Burns Night celebration at the Estoi Palace Pousada. Rooms also available at special rates.</p> <p>See the article in this magazine for details</p> |
| 28th January 2014 | <p>Meeting Estoi Palace 13:00</p> <p>Presentation from the Oncology Association</p> |
| 4th February 2014 | <p>Fellowship visit to the Cork Factory in Sao Bras de Alportel. Followed by lunch in a local restaurant</p> <p>Details to follow</p> |
| 11th February 2014 | <p>Meeting Estoi Palace 13:00</p> <p>Guest Speaker will be Jonathan Everleigh from “Free Energy”</p> |
| 18th February 2014 | Meeting Estoi Palace 13:00 |
| 25th February 2014 | <p>Meeting Estoi Palace 13:00</p> <p>Guest Speaker will be Joao Ministro who will present aspects of “The Querenca Project”</p> |
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As event scheduling can change at the last minute. Please click [here](#) for the very latest RCEPI event information

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