

Butlletí d'Informació Municipal

BENIARBEIG

December 2020 - No. 153 II Epoch

Christmas in Beniarbeig is more Christmas



This year your Christmas shopping bears a prize, as from 1st to 23rd December, with any purchase in the local shops and bars, you will be entered into a draw for a basket of goods with a value of more than 200€. To take

part, you have to collect receipts for a total value of 40€ from the participating establishments, then pop them into an envelope with your name and a telephone number. The draw will take place on 23rd December. By doing this,

Beniarbeig Town Hall is encouraging people to buy locally at a key time for these businesses, and at the same time helping to launch the creation of Beniarbeig's Asociación de Comerciantes y Empresarios.

The three Kings will give out the presents from house to house

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and respecting all the safety measures, the Concejalía de Fiestas wants everyone to be able to celebrate Christmas in a safe and respectful way. So we are organising Christmas events with everyone's safety in mind, especially that of the children, who have been heroes and heroines in the way in which they have come through such a difficult situation. First of all, the children from the CEIP Benicadim will decorate the Christmas tree in the Plaza del 9 de Octubre with their hand made decorations.

Thinking of the children, the Town Hall contacted Father Christmas and the Three Kings and they have all confirmed that they will visit our village bringing presents for the boys and girls. Firstly, father Christmas will visit our Town

Hall on Tuesday 22nd December from 5pm to receive their letters. To avoid crowds of people, Father Christmas has decided to spend more than two hours with us.

As far as the Three Kings are concerned, they have told us that they still have to decide whether they will do a procession or not. But in any case there will be no welcoming of the Kings in the Plaza del 9 de Octubre on 5th January. And on 6th there will be no giving out of presents in the square. The Three Kings are very concerned about the health of the village and don't want to invite crowds of people. What they will do is put a Royal letterbox in the doorway of the Town Hall from 1st to 4th January to collect the children's letters. On 5th January at 5pm, Melchor, Gaspar and Baltasar will visit our village to give out

the presents from house to house. In addition, on 6th January they will attend Mass and then will make their way to the East.

The Three Kings will leave a telephone number for everyone so that you can contact them a few days before they arrive and remind them of the address where they should take the presents. So there is no confusion, the phone number is 680 347 501 (call between 3pm and 8pm).

Thank you for your understanding. Next year we will return to the traditional celebrations without changing any of the events and with more emotion and magic than ever.

Mario Ortiz Fuentes
Regidor de Festes



The Reading Club kicks off the season with *El imperio eres tu*

On Thursday 19th November the members of the Reading club from the Biblioteca Municipal de Beniarbeig met to talk about *El imperio eres tú*, (2011) by Javier Moro. The session started with a first round of impressions, in which each member was able to share their opinion on the book in general or one aspect of it, such as the theme of slavery, the move from absolute monarchists to constitutionalists at the beginning of the XIX century or the role of the woman at that time. As far as more literary questions are concerned, although there was no consensus on Moro's writing style, the participants agreed positively on some of the touches of humour in the novel and the fact that it is set in Brazil at the beginning of the XIX century, when the court of the Portuguese Crown was installed in Río de Janeiro, an original geographical and historical framework which adds value to Moro's book.

On the other hand, on Monday, December 7, the exhibition "Carmelina Sánchez-Cutillas: des de les fronteres del silenci" was inaugurated at the Centro Cultural, with 12 panels showing

the life and work of Carmelina Sánchez-Cutillas (1927-99). A career that ranges from her time as a student of medieval Valencian history to her role as a poet, with renowned creations such as *Els jeroglífics i la pedra Rosseta*, 1976. In addition, the Reading Club's next reading will be the novel *Matèria de Bretanya*, (1976) since this year has been declared the year of the author by the Valencian Academy of Language. A commemoration that libraries have also wanted to adhere to through the Official College of Librarians and Documentalists of the Valencian Community.

The session on *Matèria de Bretanya* will take place on Thursday, December 17 at 6:00 p.m. in the library and whoever wants to join needs only to contact the library, from where any questions about how the activity works will be clarified.



Del 7 al 10 de desembre
al centre cultural

Horari:
16:00-20:00



Ajuntament de
Beniarbeig



CADE
MIGEL ANTONI
LA NGUA



Presentation of the Land Bank

On Friday 20th November, the Centro Cultural welcomed the presentation of the Bank of agricultural lands in Beniarbeig with some twenty people from the village interested in local agriculture. The act opened with a talk by the Mayor, Juanjo Mas, who explained the situation with the growing of citrus crops, which had been a real economic activity for previous generations but which currently presents a lot of problems in respect of the payment of costs and commercialisation.

Then the word passed to Joan Carles Caldentey, technical director of ADR Buscaterrias, who presented the results of a study carried out in Beniarbeig and which identified 9 hectares

of agricultural land currently lying idle. In addition, Caldentey pointed out that a large part of this land has irrigation and a system of drip irrigation, which makes it potentially very productive. Then it was the turn of Toni Cardona, member of the Asociación de Emprendedores Rural, who made some observations on the abandonment of land and how this has repercussions for nature

and for the families, and on what have been the obstacles that local agriculturalists have found when trying to make the land profitable.

According to all three, this meeting was only a general presentation of the subject and a first point of contact, and they encourage anyone interested to look on the web portal to find out more about it.



25N Day for the elimination of violence against women

During the week of 25th November, the Concejalía de Igualdad headed by Sara Gil Peretó, wanted to commemorate this international day with a homage to the victims, which comprised the hanging of purple coloured clothes on the balconies and windows by the people in the village. The town hall lighting was changed to that colour. According to Gil, «we opted for a symbolic celebration, trying to avoid events in person and crowds of people, however small they may be». The councillor also wanted to thank the people who collaborated by filling their balconies and windows, and expressed her hope that «next year we can

return to some kind of event in person, because the problem of domestic violence continues to

be one of the worst faces of our society».



Help with transport costs for those studying in higher education

The town hall is offering financial help to alleviate the travel costs for students from the village who are studying at university or doing advanced professional courses in centres outside Beniarbeig.

Requirements:

1. To have been on the padrón in Beniarbeig for at least one year.

2. To be enrolled for the academic year 2020-2021 and be studying at a university establishment or an advanced professional course at a centre at least 25 kilometres from Beniarbeig, and having to travel there daily or regularly.

3. The head of the family, or the applicant if he/she is independent, should be up to

date with all municipal payments.

The value of each grant: To a maximum of 500 euros.

Applicants can submit their application by handing it in at the town hall from 9.30am to 1.30pm, or electronically

through the town hall at www.beniarbeig.es. The paperwork, along with the requirements, can be obtained from the town hall or on the town hall's webpage www.beniarbeig.es.

Applications can be submitted between 9th December 2020 and 29th January 2021.



The Justice of the Peace renews his contract

On Wednesday 9th December Salvador Roselló Llopis and Beatriz Llopis Castells were appointed JP and deputy respectively. The taking up of their posts came after the approval by the Tribunal Superior de Justicia de la Comunidad Valenciana of the proposal presented at the council meeting on 12th November. The decision was published in the

BOP in Alicante on 3rd December, and permits Roselló and Llopis to take on the role of Justice of the Peace in Beniarbeig. In the case of Llopis, it's the first time that she is taking part in this, a debut which contrasts with Roselló, who has nearly four decades of uninterrupted service since he first became Justice of the Peace in 1982.

Programme ECOVID 2020

The grant consists of four contracts to people over the age of 30 who have been long-term unemployed, preferably coming from sectors affected by the COVID-19 crisis. Among their tasks are support for CEIP Benicadim, for sports and cultural activities and disinfecting public spaces in the village. The contracts are for 6 months, from 25th November 2020 until 24th May 2021, and the grant has a value of 36,652€, provided by the Generalitat Valenciana through LABORA, the Servicio Valenciano de Empleo y Formación.



From left to right: Salvador Roselló, Juanjo Mas the mayor, and Beatriz Llopis

THE INTERVIEW

Juan José Mas Escrivá (Beniarbeig, 1961) is the fourth Mayor of Beniarbeig since the democracy was restored. His professional career has been mainly connected with the transport sector, in which he currently works as a professional driver. Among his hobbies are walking, padel and football, very linked to the sports sector which is his responsibility, along with town planning, personnel and the Policía Local.

Among his political experience are almost two decades of dedication to local government, since he became councillor for agriculture and sport in 1995 in Luís Gil Pastor's team, for whom he also acted as deputy mayor in the 2007-2011 term of office.

After a year and a half in the post, how do you evaluate it? Is being Mayor what you expected?

The truth is that with the current pandemic, there is more pressure



in the job because new problems have emerged or existing ones have intensified. All of this gives the job an extra dose of exigence, which means that when something doesn't turn out well, you go home upset, but when you manage something difficult, you have a sense of satisfaction and it helps you to carry on working to solve people's problems, which is what we always try to do. I know that we can't solve everything, as there are a lot of things out of our hands, but what we have to do always is listen.

25 years ago this year you became a councillor for the first time. What changes are there in the way politics functions and the way local government is run between then and now?

I think the base is the same; looking for the common good, maintaining a good relationship with the people, associations, businesses etc. But what I am aware of is new technologies, as in the case of social media, which enable us to make contact more easily with the people. It's easier to get to know what they want and at the same time ensure that everyone is aware of how local government works and is up to date with what's happening in the village. I think transparency has been achieved.

How do you evaluate the repercussions of COVID-19 in Beniarbeig and how do you think it might affect our village?

You have to remember that we have come from a situation in

which everything closed; the school, the doctor's surgery, bars and restaurants, and we had no fiestas. The situation was very serious and we have been trying to recover from it, but it is obvious that we are still in a delicate situation. In fact the town hall is still working to an appointments only system.

As nobody knows how things will develop, we don't know how far the crisis will reach, but what we can see is that it's affecting all aspects of our life, at a municipal level too. For example, the completion and the opening of the Theatre-Auditorium has been delayed much more than anticipated and more than 15,000 € have been invested so that some of the people in the village can meet their basic needs. Obviously this has repercussions for the 2021 budgets, because on one hand there have been expenses which we hadn't anticipated, and on the other hand some income will be lost. We have help from the Diputación de Alicante and the Generalitat Valenciana, but we will have to make a lot of effort to try to avoid it all having too big an affect on the lives of the people in Beniarbeig.

Over recent years the sports schools have been disappearing to such a point that only pilota is left. What is the problem with local sport and what can be done about it?

At the moment we have a very unbalanced situation in sport, because on the one hand we have what is considered to be the best pilota school in the

Comunitat Valenciana, with all the prizes it is being awarded.

But on the other hand, the rest of the sports have disappeared because there aren't enough children. For our part, we are trying to do something about it, this summer we organised a multisport activity for 4 consecutive weekends, and now with the new offer of extra curricular activities, as have also included multisport for two reasons, firstly so that the absence of local teams isn't an obstacle to the children having contact with sport and at the same time it can serve to sow the seed for future sports team.

At what stage is the PGOU (Plan General de Ordenación Urbana)? How will its approval affect the village?

The PGOU was born almost 20 years ago, when Luís Gil Pastor was Mayor, and all being well it will at last be approved at the start of the new year, we don't know the exact date as it depends on the Generalitat Valenciana.

Having it approved means reclassifying the urban model of the village, basically because it will shape the future as to where and how the village should grow. In this way, some land which is currently agricultural land will become building land and also it will limit the maximum height of buildings to a ground floor and two more floors, a measure which the previous government approved. It will also enable us to give land to the owners who gave up land where there are now municipal facilities, such as the sports centre and the school, as they have been waiting for a long time.

As for the municipal infrastructure, when is the Theatre-Auditorium expected to be opened and what is the next project?

In January we would like to open the auditorium, because it's finished inside and the accesses are being finished. We think that the first performance should be by the Unió Musical Beniarbeig, so we are talking to them to see how and when we can do it. Of course it will be opened with half the capacity, which will be 150 people, so I suppose we will do two performances.

As for future infrastructures, in the short term we have thought about providing a second padel court, as it's being used a lot. We are also going to replace the children's playgrounds as the current ones are in a bad state, and we also need to close off the basement of the auditorium so that the band can rehearse there. All of these projects will be managed through the Plan Planifica from the Diputació de Alicante.

As you can see, at the moment the priority is to finish existing infrastructures, which is no mean feat, for example at the start of the new year we will install air conditioning in the

classrooms of the CEIP Benicadim, with a cost of almost 30,000 € and which will be paid for from the town hall's last year's surplus.

Finally, with Christmas just around the corner, do you want to give a message to the people?

I think I have already said this on many occasions, but I want to take the opportunity to publicly thank everyone again. I'm very proud of the behaviour of the people during the lockdown. It was really exemplary.

We are now approaching a complicated period, and while I don't really want to explain what we can do and what we can't, I would like to remind everyone that Christmas is a time of solidarity and a time to think of others. So I want to appeal to people to be responsible, and I also want to ask for a special effort. I know that the people of Beniarbeig are capable of doing it, because they demonstrated it during the first lockdown period. We have to think that not only does our health depend on it, but also the health of our loved ones, and both I and the rest of the governing team hope that you all spend a happy Christmas and New Year.



The Town Hall is offering three types of extra curricular activities

From January, the boys and girls will have three new extra curricular activities organised by the Concejalía de Educación. First of all is multisports, through which the participants can learn about the main sports first hand. Then, extra support classes, which will give the children the tools to help them get the best out of their education. Both are offered by Com A Casa. Finally, "Reconnect with nature" will bring the children closer to environmental education at the Baladre Farm School.

The activities are free and registration closes on 23rd December. Priority will be given to children on the padrón or those who live in the village.

-MULTISPORT: Learn

technical and tactical aspects of different sports through a wide variety of motor experiences. Overcome and accept your own limitations. Learn to work in a group with respect and cooperation and discover from your experience which sport you will identify with in the future. Maximum group of 15 participants aged 6 to 12 years. Hours: Wednesday from 3.30 to 4.30 p.m. Place: CEIP Benicadim.

-SCHOOL Reinforcement: Revise school educational content, teach and practice techniques so that the children can acquire positive study habits, form values and become aware of the importance of the environment and the planet through more play-based activities. Maximum group of 15

participants for primary education. Hours: Wednesday and Friday from 3.30 to 4.30 p.m. Place: CEIP Benicadim.

-GRANJA SCHOOL BALADRE "Reconnect with Nature": Encourage activities in nature by giving the children closer contact with a rural setting. Promote experimental activities. Educate children in sustainability values. Promote the relationship with different types of animals as an instrument for teaching values, thus promoting harmony between living beings and humans. Maximum group of 10 participants aged 3 to 6 years. Maximum group of 15 participants aged 6 to 12 years. Hours: Tuesday and Thursday from 3.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Place: Baladre School Farm.

Grants received:

From the Diputación de Alicante :

- 300 face masks.
- 100% electric vehicle for Local Police.



From the Generalitat Valenciana:

- Activities to promote reading

in libraries. € 2,002.08

•Equipment for libraries. € 600.20

•Educational support activities and other extracurricular, cultural and sports activities aimed at schoolchildren from three to eighteen years of age to compensate for the negative effects of the lockdown. 5,542.40€

•ECOVID - LABORA programme. Hiring of 4 unemployed people over 30

years of age to carry out works and services of general interest € 36,532

•EMPUJU-LABORA 2020 Program 12-month contract for a maintenance worker under 30 years of age, within the framework of the National Youth Guarantee System. € 9,046.10

These details are informative, full information can be found in the Transparency portal of the municipal website www.beniarbeig.es



LABORA

Servei Valencià d'Ocupació i Formació



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L'FSE inverteix en el teu futur

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