

## SUMMER SCHOOL 2020

The Summer School has finished. Running it has been different because of COVID-19, we have only done one month as there weren't enough children to enable it to run in August. However, the month of July was rewarding for the boy, girls and the families who made use of this service offered by the Town Hall.

As the selection of photos shows, each day from 9am to 1.30pm the boys and girls, along with the two teachers, Joan and Sheila, practised the skills of memory, creativity, imagination, inventiveness and learned values of sharing, celebrating, coexisting and getting on together. All of these values are important in the children's development.

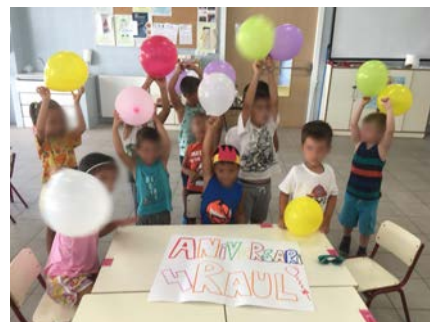
We are sure that if we hadn't gone through the crisis, the number of children attending would have been like last year, or more. We hope that next year the situation will be normal.

We are happy with the behaviour of the boys and girls, every day they accepted the routine of hand washing on arrival, having their temperature taken, each of them went to their group, they were divided into two groups: Juan had 8 children and Sheila had 11, each class was separated from the other. Joan's group went to the swimming pool on Thursdays and Sheila's group on Fridays.

And let's not forget the two birthdays that were celebrated, Raül, 4 years old, from the younger group and Carla, 7 years old, from the older group, congratulations to both!!!

The Councillor for Education, Anna Gallart, for the second year, thinks that being able to organise and then deliver the Summer School was a success for the village and for the families which were able to take advantage of the service. Although there was some nervousness and intrigue at the start because of the

exceptional circumstances that we are experiencing, the School worked very well and there was no unexpected change of plan. Anna G. is very grateful to the teachers Joan and Sheila for their hard work and hopefully next year there will be more teachers, more boys and girls and more Summer School.



Left: Joan's group



Right: Sheila's group

## THE INTERVIEW

Through the BIM we are starting a section of interviews with the members of the governing team with the aim of getting to know more about their activity and their decisions within their respective responsibilities.

On this occasion, as this year will be the first August devoid of fiestas, we have spoken to Mario Ortiz Fuentes.

He currently works for a multinational company with its HQ in Denia. The company deals with the lighting sector and exports to more than 45 countries around the world. He is head of production, a job which goes well with his areas of responsibility in our Town Hall.

**Why did you decide to accept the responsibility for fiestas? What do you think is the importance of fiestas for a village?**

Firstly, rather than accept, it was the other members of my team, along with the Mayor, who trusted in me for this councillorship, saying that I was the most suitable person, and I was thrilled! Fiestas in a village are even more important when the village is small. Also, because of the way in which Beniarbeig celebrates its fiestas, an occasion to meet up with friends, spend time with them, with family, make new friends. In brief, living alongside others in the street.

**Although you were at the helm for last year's fiestas, this year has been the first full year that you have been responsible for the whole organisation of the fiestas. How was the decision to have to cancel all the events?**

These are the worst moments for a Councillor for Fiestas, they



*Mario Ortiz Fuentes, Councillor for Fiestas*

were moments of uncertainty and fear because of everything that was facing us. The fiestas were cancelled by force majeure and in line with the instructions from the Ministry of Health.

**The Fiestas de San Roque are the fiestas that involve most people; Festeros, Pre-Festeros, Comisión de Toros, Unió Musical Beniarbeig, Coral, Portadores de San Roque, Festerets, etc. How did they take the decision?**

From the start all the people and associations involved were sorry to receive the news, but they understood the situation and offered their help with everything possible.

**Some towns have kept some symbolic events such as firework displays and street processions. Are you looking at this option?**

It's very hard to programme anything in times like these, as the rules are changing every week and you have to improvise a lot. For us, the most important thing is the safety of the people.

**What will be done with the budget allocated to the fiestas?**

Firstly, we had to ask for a credit modification, which was passed and approved at the council meeting. The money has been allocated for small building jobs to be carried out in the village, giving work to our own self-employed people. We have also bought hygienic-sanitary material against COVID-19, helped Social Services and several other actions to improve our village.

**When the decision was announced to cancel the Fiestas, you also indicated that the age of the quintos would be put back one year, as has been done in many towns in the area, but there are other towns which opted to put two groups of quintadas together for 2021. What were the motives for putting back the age of the quintos?**

Every quintada deserves to experience a whole year as pre-quintos/as, and the Comisión 2020 had already done too much work to join together two quintadas; and the new pre-quintos/as wouldn't experience a



whole year. We all know that we live in a small village and there are some small quintadas that could join together, assuming, of course, that both groups are in agreement. Then the age of being a quinto/a would return to 18. This year's Comisión 2020 is very big..

**Apart from the Fiestas Patronales, the Santo Domingo fiestas also had to be cancelled. Will there be any change with these?**

No, the comisión de Santo Domingo will also be the

comisión in 2021.

**And finally, do you want to devote any words to the people of the village?**

Yes, I would like to make an appeal to the people. Please let's try to avoid big crowds during fiestas week. If we do meet up, it should be following the correct measures in accordance with the current situation. The Policía Local will be doing more patrols that week to avoid any kind of gathering on the public highway. In 2021 we will be able to enjoy our fiestas in honour of San Roc.



## The municipal pool adapts to the pandemic

From the start of July and right through August the facilities at the pool are open to the public in a year in which public spaces and services have had to introduce changes to prevent the spreading of COVID-19.

In the case of the swimming pool, this year there wasn't the option to have a day pass, access is only with a season pass, which can be obtained from the Town Hall at a price of 15€ for an individual, 25€ for two people from the same family and 30€ for families of 3 or more. This decision was made to be able to meet the number limitations and to control the users in line with the guidelines from the health authorities, as a strict control is necessary to track contagion if there are any further outbreaks.

Added to this, the water has to

be analysed twice a day and treated, for which the town hall has acquired some new multi parameter equipment which complies with current regulations. The users have to have their temperature taken and also disinfect their hands with sanitising gel before entering the pool.

Implementing this series of measures has resulted in a split opening time from 10am to 1pm and from 4pm to 8pm, to enable the hygiene tasks to be carried out effectively. And so we have had to increase the number of personnel, this year there are 3 workers who, apart from doing their job as lifeguards, have to carry out these special measures. In addition, to increase safety, two new lifebelts have been bought to replace those which were in a poor state.





# The Unió Musical Beniarbeig resumes its public activity

During this non-typical summer, the cultural agenda has been considerably reduced, but some events have survived, such as the concert offered by the local band on the evening of 6th August. The event had to be adapted to the current situation, so both the musicians and the spectators had to comply with social distancing measures, leaving spaces between the chairs and taking up practically the whole square.

More than 100 people attended and the presenter expressed his gratitude for their presence and for acknowledging the work done by the musicians, all the more because it was the first public event carried out by the band this year.

At 10.30pm the conductor of the group, Filibert Mira i Ortega, raised his baton for the musicians to play the first notes of the pasodoble *A María* (2006) by Juan José Poveda, which would be followed by a further three pasadobles and four compositions which were interspersed with each other and played one after the other, as the prevention measures of COVID-19 mean that there couldn't be an interval, in order to maintain social distancing. Worthy of note from the repertoire was the composition *Clarinet Candy* (1962) by Leroy Anderson, where the clarinetists had a demanding and pleasing leading role. Also the pasodoble *Larga Cordobesa* (1997) by M. Gallego, with an interpretation dedicated to the imminent wedding of Ana Picornell Tous with Pep Llopis Álvarez,

president and treasurer respectively of the band. To close the performance, the musicians played *Muralles* (2002) by Juan-Gonzalo Gómez Deval, a composition in three parts with which the Unió Musical Beniarbeig won first prize in the Certamen de Bandas de la Diputació de Alicante de 2007 held in Mutxamel (l'Alacantí).

Just two days later, on the Saturday afternoon, the band once again filled the streets with music with street procession through the village. On this occasion the event formed part of the Campaña de Intercambios organised by the Federació de Societats Musicals de la Comunitat Valenciana, and which, because of the current pandemic, has given priority to street processions and acts in the open air.

On this occasion, the band designed a special route, and the thirty or so musicians performed in streets like Blasco Ibáñez, Sant Antoni, Sant Vicent, Colòmbia, along the paseo



Jaume I and the avenida de la Pau, roads which are not part of the usual route. The aim of the Unió Musical Beniarbeig was to bring music to as much of the village as possible, something which they think was achieved if you consider the large number of people of all ages who applauded the passing of the band from their doorways, windows and balconies.



*Start of the street procession from Calle Escoles*

# Santo Domingo, without a fiesta but with music

The current health crisis has meant the suspension of the Fiesta de Santo Domingo, like the rest of the fiesta acts programmed for this summer. But in spite of the absence of the games, procession, dinner and dancing which make up the day, the Festeros de Santo Domingo 2020 wanted to commemorate the fiesta in a symbolic way, especially as this year the fiesta was on 8th August, the day of Santo Domingo de Guzmán

(Caleruega, 1170 - Bolonia, 1221).

So the Festeros and the Unió Musical Beniarbeig agreed to do a short street procession in Carrer Sant Domènec, Carre Marina Alta and Carrer Major, in order to show the importance of a fiesta which, in spite of its small size, is well supported by the people of Beniarbeig.

*Picture: Festeros and the band during the street procession*



## The Maleta Lila ends its stay in Beniarbeig

In the middle of May, the purple suitcase stopped off at our library. Carefully put together by the libraries in Altea and Gata de Gorgos, this project which brings together equality, diversity and reading arrived in Beniarbeig with 60 books of all kinds; novels, essays, children's books, illustrations etc. all with the common denominator of aiming to advance towards a more inclusive society.

For more than 2 months, all of the reading material was at the disposal of the Beniarbeig library users, who made good

use of it. According to the Biblioteca Municipal de Beniarbeig «the books have been well appreciated both qualitatively and quantitatively, because the feedback from the users has been generally good and more than half of the books were lent out, which isn't bad when you consider that during the summer months the use of the library is always lower».

From now, the purple suitcase will continue its tour of libraries, with Callosa d'en Sarrià as its next destination.



## New timetable and telephone number for medical appointments



From now, you should call 96 564 86 04 between 8am and 8pm to ask for an appointment in any health centre of the Marina Alta.

You can also do it through the app GVA Salut, available for tablets and mobiles.

Also, remember that local medical services have returned, but with certain limitations. The health centre here will only open its doors on uneven days and you can only attend by making a prior appointment on 96 564 86 04.

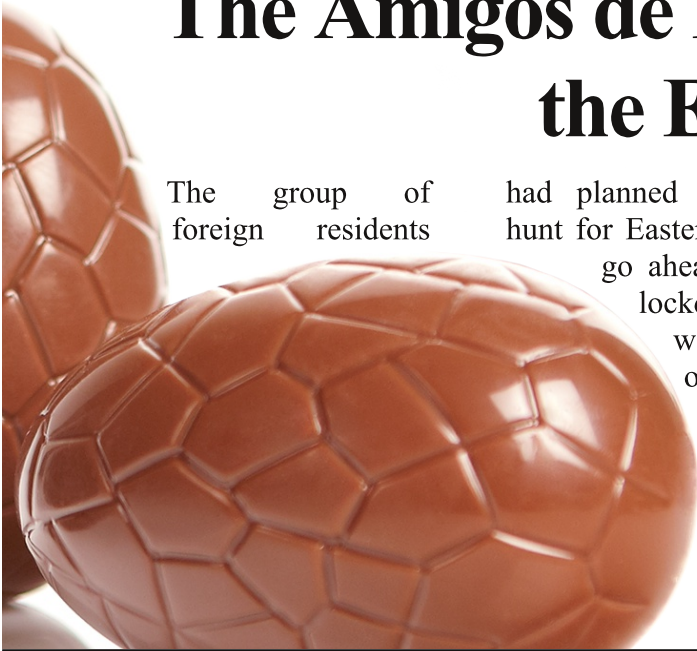


**App**  
**GVA+Salut**





# The Amigos de Beniarbeig 'recycle' the Easter eggs



The group of foreign residents

had planned a chocolate egg hunt for Easter, but it could not go ahead because of the lockdown. Everything was ready and the organisers had bought two boxes of chocolate eggs to be hidden around the village.

As it was impossible to use the eggs during Easter, the members of the group decided to give them to the library, where they were given out to users of the library before their best by date.

The Amigos de Beniarbeig hope that you enjoyed the chocolate and hope to be able to do an Easter egg hunt next Easter.

La pandemic and everything associated with it, like social distancing and the lock down, has shown that in times of great difficulty, the real value emerges of those services called 'essential', among which and at the head of which is the public health system.

But we have also been able to see how useful it is to have local businesses, and when mobility wasn't recommended or desired, they offered us a good quality service close to home.

And we mustn't forget that they play a key part in local life, so their value can't only be measured from a business point of view.

Their daily activity enriches the social dimension of the village and encourages neighbourly cohesion, something which shouldn't be underestimated, as it gives us an identity as a village and at the same time weaves a real safety net for neighbours in situations of great vulnerability.

**AJUNTAMENT DE BENIARBEIG**

## DONA SUPORT AL COMERÇ LOCAL

*Ells estan per a tu, com tu per a ells.*

**FES POBLE. FES BENIARBEIG.**

**RECORDA MANTINDRE LES MESURES DE SEGURETAT.**

**DU LA TEUA MASCARETA I RESPECTA LA DISTÀNCIA DE SEGURETAT.**