

Beniarbeig hosts the Regional Sports Pigeons championship

After its postponement last year due to the pandemic, Beniarbeig has fired the starting pistol for the start of the Zone 3 championship, covering the central areas of the Comunidad Valenciana, in other words those in the north of the province of Alicante and the south of Valencia.

The event was launched on 10th April in the council meeting room at the Town Hall in Beniarbeig. Among those present were the Mayor Juanjo Mas, Vicent Llorenç president of the local club «La Estrella», the president of the competition committee Jaime Gil and the regional delegate Carmelo Andreu.

the final will take place. Of a total of 97 participating birds, 24 will go through to further competitions, and for the first 8 birds it will open the doors for them to participate in the national championship to be held in Vallada (la Costera), while the next 4 birds will compete at regional level and the remainder in the sub-regionals in each area.



The championship activity began on Saturday 24th April, when the referees and staff from the Federación de Colombicultura de la Comunidad Valenciana did the registration and verifications of the participating pigeons. This was followed by a non-competitive release of the birds so that they could familiarise themselves with the surroundings.

The competition calendar will continue with two weekly releases on Tuesdays and Saturdays until 15th May, when



Foto: ADN València

Poetry, bags and QR codes for Book Day

Monday 19th April saw the presentation of the poster detailing the activities organised by the Councillor for Culture and the library to celebrate Book Day. The programme was designed to avoid crowds of people in the library. The first activity was the #LLIBRESALCARRER, for which 12 cards were placed around the village, on each was the cover of a book from the library, along with some information about it and a question relating to the topic of the book. The card gave you a choice of three answers, and to check the correct answer, you had to scan a QR code.

The aim was to show the depth of the library resources and according to the librarian Pau Banyó Magraner, #LLIBRESALCARRER «was pretty successful, as through the management programme for QR codes, we were able to see how many people had seen each card, and we were able to identify that there were places where the card was seen by dozens of people, while others were seen by fewer people, so for future events we

have a better idea of where to put the cards».

The first Short Poetry competition attracted about ten participants of all ages and of such equal quality that there was only a point difference in the scoring by the panel of judges. The winning poem was *Segària*,

all beautiful and moving, and we hope to be able to share them all with the rest of the population, although it will be by publishing them on the web».

During the same week, the library started to give out fabric bags to everyone who has a library card, an initiative which,



by Juan Salvador Mallol Taverner, who won a voucher for 60 € of books. A draw was also carried out with the names of all participants, and the winner of the 30 € voucher prize was Adam Martí Garcia. The councillor, Sara Gil Peretó, expressed her gratitude «for all the contributions from those who participated, as the poems were

according to Joan Orozco Mulet, who is currently in charge of the library, «aims to encourage all users to take out a permanent card for the whole network of libraries in the Valencia region, of which Beniarbeig forms a part, and so far it is working well, because in only a few days we have given out more than 30 bags».

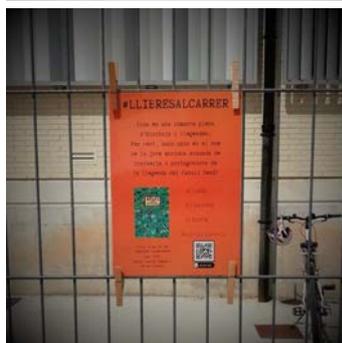
SEGÀRIA

Esplendorosa des de la DISTÀNCIA.
Essència de riquesa de la terra.
Repleta de FONTS el terme soterra.
El caminant et desitja amb ànsia.

De grisos i verds repleta la serra,
inevitablement en el cor irromps.
El VALOR dels esportistes no corromps,
qui et recorre a tu s'aferra.

Com a gegant de pedra sempre romans.
Envejosa està la mar salada.
Majestuós macís de matinada.
Patrimoni natural per als humans.

J.M.



Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

At the end of March a small group of glossy ibis set up home in the Girona for the first time. Every year we have new visitors who come to enjoy Beniarbeig, its quiet waters, its light and its good people. This spring it's their turn.

These birds have a long curved beak, dark iridescent plumage, according to the reflection of the light their feathers turn green, deep red, blue... they are practically mute, at the most they emit a faint squawk but they are more confident than the herons and don't fly away so readily.



The glossy ibis belong to a big family of ibis, in Ancient Egypt these beautiful birds were considered sacred. They live mostly in the warmer areas of the planet, on the Spanish peninsular they can be seen in Cataluña, Valencia, Andalucía... they can form flocks of more than 400 birds.

In September I spent a few days in the Delta de l'Ebre, and the arrival of these flocks at dusk, on their way to their roosting place, was a fascinating sight, like scrawling handwriting on a red and mauve sky. There, a woman told me that the glossy



ibis really likes a particular snail that has settled on the rice fields and which causes a lot of damage, so for the people of the Ebro they are a welcome visitor.

On the marjal de Pego-Oliva there are also a lot and now a small group of them, I have counted 4, have arrived at the shallow waters of the river.

Let's welcome our new visitors and respect their choice, let's try not to throw rubbish and let's try not to let our dogs splash in the water. Each species has its habitat on the planet, if we don't want any of them to disappear, for our own good we have to respect and indulge these habitats.

The glossy ibis isn't at risk. For the moment!!!!
Happy spring.

Amparo Sancho-Tello

Beniarbeig now has a recycling facility for tops and lids

Anyone who wants to give new life to plastic bottle tops can now put them in the big metal heart which has been placed in the plaza del 9 de Octubre. The initiative was born from a collaboration between Beniarbeig Town Hall and CM Plastik. For every 40 kilos of tops collected, the recycling company, located in Alginet (la Ribera Alta), will give a discount on orders for street furniture.

With the first tops that have been collected, the company will provide the Town Hall with sustainable plastic planks

to replace the damaged wooden planks on a bench on the Avenida de la Rectoría, together with a waste paper bin also made of recycled bottle tops. With this project, Beniarbeig is the first village in the Marina Alta to use recycled bottle tops to replace street furniture. The next batches of recycled tops will be used to donate money to non profit making associations.



THE INTERVIEW

Vicent Llorenç Arlandis (Denia, 1965) is currently the president of the Asociación de Colombicultura «La Estrella» de Beniarbeig, something which he combines with his professional job as estate agent. Because of the regional sports pigeons championship being held in Beniarbeig at the moment, we have spoken with Llorenç so that he can explain to us how this they are handling this event, which puts the village well on the pigeon breeding map.

Where does your love of pigeon breeding come from?

My father and grandfather were pigeon breeders. It's an inheritance. From the age of 4, I went with my father and his pigeons, especially on Saturdays when they released them, we used to go to the castle. It's in my family.

There may be people who aren't so familiar with this sport. Could you explain briefly what it is and how it works?

For anyone who doesn't know it, it's a bit hard to understand, because the first picture you have is one of seeing the pigeon breeders in the streets and in the fields looking at pigeons, looking upwards... And of course it normal for people to ask 'what are these people looking for?'

In brief, the aim is for the male pigeons to win over the female pigeon, and the one which does wins. These are the releases, but behind this there's a long process and a whole culture of breeding, selection and training of the birds, because from them hatching to competing it's two years, during which you see them develop. With all of this work, you can see that you are doing something good and it gives you great personal pride to be able to see it.

It's a hobby which you have to like a lot, because it's not like having a dog. It takes up a lot of time, dedication and space. Also, you have to be always on the look out for the dangers which pigeons bring, such as pests and predators, if you

don't take care, a fox can eat your pigeon, or high tension cables. That's why sometimes we can be seen rushing after the pigeons, but a few seconds can make a difference between saving the pigeon or it ending up in a fox's stomach.

How did you come to be president of the association?

About 8 or 9 years ago, I was president, it coincided with a championship like this one. A couple of years ago, I was vice president, and when the president retired, I took his place, more than anything because this championship was being organised and we had committed ourselves to doing it. As with all hobbies, a post like this brings a lot of work with it, but it's also an honour to work for a club which at the moment is working very well and is one of the regional models.

Founded in 1927, «La Estrella» will have passed through different periods. What is the state of the association at the moment?

I think we are in a fairly good state. There are 30 members, there aren't more because we don't want more, because there are requests from people from surrounding villages who are interested. We are a harmonious and hard working group, and the village lends itself to us being able to enjoy the sport because it's a village without too many tall buildings, it has trees and fields. It's a perfect place for pigeons.



Apart from that, the people in the village have grown up seeing us in the village and they know what pigeons are. People here are generally respectful and that's always good. What we need to do now is make aware those new arrivals who, whether they come from near or far, don't know what pigeon breeding is about and we would like them to, even if it's only so that if they find a painted pigeon they can let us or the local police know. I think that the championship, interviews like this and the work that's being done by ADN Valencià on social media can serve to help us to make more people know what we are about.

Talking of pigeon breeding and social media, how has the hobby developed from your parents' times until now?

Like everything in this world, pigeon breeding has changed too. Although the base is the same, a lot of advances have been made with the preparation of the pigeons and the technology to follow them. Now the pigeons always have a vet on hand, they have food and supplements, like vitamins, and they train more times a week than before. This means that they are physically well. As for following them, apart from walkie-talkies and radar, with GPS there's a lot more accuracy. Also the pigeons, which are the key to pigeon breeding, are now physically stronger and more intelligent.

At a financial level, the pigeons are better valued and more money changes hands, for example, we are talking of a prize of 10,000€ for this championship.



How do you see the future for the hobby? Is there a generational shift?

Pigeon breeding currently has 2 problems. The first is the disappearance of clubs, because there are places where they can no longer fly. For example, 40 or 50 years ago Dénia was number one, but now it's all tower blocks and they can't do anything there. The pigeons want villages with few houses, with countryside and trees around, like here, we have pine trees, carob trees, cypresses etc...

The other problem is the shift, because it's a hobby that needs a lot of time and young people have too many things. They also need to live in a village which meets the conditions, to have a parent or someone near who understands it all, to have a terrace, drawers and accessories. Of course, this doesn't make it easy, but it's also true that if it's a sport you have known since you were little, it will always stay. In fact what we are seeing is that young people leave it when they are 15 or 16 years old because they are at an age when they start to go and meet friends out more, but when they are adults and reach 25 or 27 years old, they come back. For us, the way to make them come back is to let them see

the whole range of activities we have and remind them that the doors are always open.

How do you foresee the championship?

The Valencian Community is divided into four regions, we are in number 3, which covers the regions to the south of the province of Valencia and those to the north of Alicante. We are in an area where it is very popular, as the villages of La Safor and La Vall d'Albaida compete at a high level and all of these villages are the ones that have come to compete here, so it will be a very interesting championship.

How can the people of Beniarbeig follow the championship?

With everything concerned with COVID-19 we can't ask people to come and watch, we can't even have an official blackboard where we can keep putting the results, but the Federación de Colombicultura de la Comunidad Valenciana has reached an agreement with the platform ADN Valencià, which will do live or pre-recorded transmissions, so we encourage anyone interested to follow it on the web.

Our intention is to make people aware of the championship and of pigeon breeding, so if you see us around the village and want to ask us something, we are always happy to explain and share our hobby.

Finally I would just like to apologise if at some point we have to close off a street, we block a street or we go into an orange grove. You can rest assured that we will always try to keep disturbances to a minimum.

The Town Hall gives 34 transport grants to students

A total of 34 university students and those studying advanced professional courses have received help to offset the costs of travelling between Beniarbeig and their places of study more than 25 kilometres away. In this way, the town hall is making it easier for these young people to study, and had allocated a total of 10,000€ from its own resources.



New investments

At the last extraordinary council meeting held on 15th April, a credit modification was approved to use the surplus to buy waste paper bins, calisthenics equipment and lighting for the Skatepark by the river. The town hall explains that with the park by the river, the idea is to improve its use and improve the security of the park.

The 20 waste paper bins will be installed mainly on the paseo Jaume I and the avenida de la Rectoría, but some will also be placed at the spots where people walk their dogs, so that dog owners can easily dispose of their dogs excrement.

The calisthenics equipment will facilitate exercise using only your own body weight, a sport with great benefit for the muscles and which is currently very popular among young people.

The Budget for the 2020 fiestas has been reinvested

The cancellation of the 2020 fiestas has led the Town Hall to adapt that part of the budget and use it invest in improvements of the public highways and other expenses arising from the pandemic.

The decision was made at a council meeting at July of 2020 as follows:

Fiesta budget 2020:

- Fiesta expenses: 10.500 €
- Contribution from the Comisión
- Fiestas 2020: 37.500 €
- Contribution from the Peña Taurina 2020: 16.000 €

Total 64.000 €

New projects:

- Pavement and services Avenida de la Rectoría: 17,034.94 €
- Purchase of hygiene material COVID-19: 6,000.00 €
- Pavement Calle Montgó: 2,500.00 €
- Retaining wall Avenida de la Rectoría: 2,168.61 €
- Road connecting Avenida Dénia with Calle Sénia: 1,915.01 €
- Contribution to the provincial 'save energy' plan 2016: 1,579.35 €
- Drainage system basement of the auditorium: 3,814.78 €
- Extension and coordination of health and safety : 12,603.36 €
- Lettering on the auditorium (the part not covered by the grant): 2,702.07 €
- Protection net at the football pitch 932.46 €
- Miscellaneous investments: 12,749.42 €

Total: 64.000 €

Grants:

- Campaign for the diffusion of music and theatre. First period. The show CONT@RTE performed by L'Oracle de l'Est.

500 € (Contribution from Diputació 400 €, contribution from the town hall 100 €)

- Help for treatment to control insects. 2.238,50 €



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