

Ambitious €1 million crèche project for Almancil

ROTARY || Almancil International Rotary Club (AIRC) has held a number of fundraising events in support of the Associação Social e Cultural de Almancil, known locally as ASCA. Since it was founded in August 1992, ASCA has provided, amongst many other things, a day centre and a residential home for the elderly, home care services, and social and economic support to families.

Its latest and perhaps most ambitious project is to build a crèche for up to 147 children up to the age of five. The project has already been presented to the Loulé town hall and is awaiting the building permit.

It is hoped that the work will begin during the second half of 2017 and will take approximately one year and cost in the region of €1 million excluding equipment.

"When we heard about this ambitious project," said AIRC Chair of Community Services Peter Hinze, "our members wanted to organise some events so that we could, in our small way, contribute, especially as the crèche will benefit so many local families, including disadvantaged families."

One such event was the Christmas market held in conjunction with the Almancil parish council. At a recent Rotary dinner, Chair of Club Services Mark Hulit presented a cheque for €3,122 to the President of ASCA, Hermes Alberto. Coincidentally, Alberto is also the current President of the Almancil Rotary Club.

"I had first-hand knowledge of how hard the members worked to make the Christmas market a success," said Hermes. "I and everyone at ASCA appreciate their efforts and the amount that was raised is very much appreciated. We are lucky to have the support of many local organisations and businesses large and small, and we're really appreciative of everything they do for us. We would not be able to provide the support and facilities we have without their generosity."

AIRC is planning more fundraising events for the crèche including a car rally in May and a concert in June.

AIRC welcomes like-minded people to the club.

www.rotaryalmancil.org



Mark Hulit presenting the cheque to President Hermes Alberto

Iron Dog Algarve hosts dog trial

QUARTEIRA || Iron Dog Algarve will host its first dog competition, supported by the Portuguese Kennel Club, on Sunday, April 9.

The Quarteira-based dog training centre is the venue for the 'TS/BH Trophy', which will see dogs undertaking two trials: TS (Sociability Test) and BH (Begleithund), both designed to test their temperament and obedience.

All dogs should react to commands and demonstrate that

they are well-behaved and social animals who can safely be around other dogs, people and children. They should also show no fear or aggressiveness.

The goal is to "promote dog sports in the Algarve and encourage owners to look at dog schools as more than just a place to solve behavioural problems".

"We want to show all the benefits of dog sports by encouraging dog owners to train and stimulate their

pets to be more active, confident, obedient, balanced and simultaneously happy. This trial is the result of months of training. We will keep organising other events like this in the future," Iron Dog owner João Paulino said.

The competition begins at 9am. Admission is free.

Anyone can sign their dog up until April 1.

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Choirs come together for special Rotary concert

FARO || To celebrate the centennial of the Rotary Foundation, Rotary Club Estoi Palace International is organising a concert at Lethes Theatre in Faro on April 20 at 8pm.

Three local choirs, The São Lourenço Singers, Bella A Cappella and Coro dos Amigos do Museu de São Brás, will be performing an entertaining repertoire of songs.

Tickets are available at €18

including a welcome drink "We should not live for ourselves alone, but for the joy in doing good for others" – this is the motto of the Rotary Foundation, formed 100 years ago with a donation of 26 US dollars. Since then the Foundation has donated millions worldwide to improve the lives of the underprivileged.

The Algarve has benefited from its generosity as the Foundation helped Rotary Club Estoi Palace purchase a refrigerated truck for the Faro Food Bank and a fully equipped new ambulance for the São Brás Bombeiros.

For further information and ticket purchase, call 936 933 799 or email shirley@rotaryestoiipalace.org

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