

THE EVENTS ARE TO BE HELD ANNUALLY DURING THE LAST WEEK OF MAY

Es Castell commemorates 300th anniversary of British invasion

Bagpipes, folkdancing, a period ball and two battle re-enactments were part of the celebrations held in the town which has strong British connections

C.M.W. Maó

In commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the first British invasion of the island and the foundation of Es Castell (then called Georgetown) in 1771, various events were held in and around the town over the weekend.

The first was a parade through the town by six pipers from the Norwich Pipe Band on Saturday. Dressed in full highland kit, the visiting musicians made their way from El Roser Church and along calle Victori to the Town Hall, delighting the spectators with military and Scottish tunes. At the junction of calles Victori and Carrer Gran, by the plaque which commemorates the military engineer who designed the town, Patrick Mackellar, the musicians gave a moving rendition of "Amazing Grace" on their bagpipes. The Norwich Pipe Band was founded in 1978 with three pipers and now has 20 members from England, Scotland and Ireland.

Following the musical performance there were two tours of the town, "Es Castell in the 18th Century", with historical and architectural information provided in English and Catalan by Marina Midgeley and Diego Pons respectively.

On Saturday night, the Hotel



PIPERS. Six members of the Norwich Pipe Band parading through the streets of Es Castell

Son Granot was the setting for a period ball with a performance by the Norwich Pipe Band and a ballroom dancing exhibition by Andrés Ferrer.

The hotel was again the scene of the action on Sunday with a folkdancing display from the group Castell de Sant Felip who performed the traditional "Ball des Còssil" which is believed by some to have been introduced

to the island by Scottish soldiers serving in a British regiment which was stationed at the Castell de Sant Felip in the 18th century. The Norwich Pipe Band again entertained the spectators.

A crowd of around 350 people enjoyed a re-enactment of the 1771 British attack on the Castell de Sant Felip which was staged on the nearby Arraval Vella by members of the Menorca Military

Museum Consortium and various volunteers, all dressed in period costume, with a commentary in three languages.

This was followed by a re-enactment of the Spanish attack in 1782 when troops led by the Duc de Crillon recaptured Menorca for the Spanish Crown.

During the day the hotel prepared samples of dishes from the 18th century.

KYOTO PROTOCOL

Balearic plan of action for climate change

C.M.W. Maó

Controlling public lighting, encouraging local shopping, creating cycle lanes and increasing public transport are some of the measures being promoted by the Balearic Government as part of the Balearic Plan against Climate Change which was presented in Menorca last week.

The plan contains 91 proposals in all, some 30 of which can be applied by the Island Council and Town Councils.

Amongst the actions included are some aimed at reducing the emission of gases in official buildings as well as residential areas and the tourist, industrial, transport and agricultural sectors. The majority of the measures are directed towards energy-saving and efficiency.

As is the case in the rest of the Spanish autonomous communities, the Balearics are far from fulfilling the commitments set out in the Kyoto Protocol with regard to the reduction of harmful gases released into the atmosphere. The protocol states that in the year 2012 the emission of greenhouse gases should be no more than 15% higher than the figures for 1990. In 2005 the Balearic Islands exceeded this figure by more than 70%, in common with other areas in Spain, which the Director General of Climate Change attributes mainly to the population explosion experienced in the islands.

RETRIEVING A BAG STOLEN BY TWO YOUTHS

British tourist to the rescue

C.M.W. Maó

British tourist Garry Fields and his wife were relaxing on the beach at Binibèquer last Friday when their peaceful interlude was rudely interrupted.

A lady from Maó had left her bag on her towel nearby whilst she went for a swim and Garry witnessed two lads aged around 17 years steal the bag and run off. The Englishman immediately gave chase and managed to catch the pair up whereupon the thieves threw the bag away and made their escape. Garry, who was here on holiday to celebrate his sixth wedding anniversary, returned the bag to its very grateful owner.

The two young thieves were apprehended in Punta Prima shortly afterwards thanks to a partial description of their motorbike's registration number supplied by lifeguards on the scene.



BINIBÈQUER. Garry Fields and his wife relaxing on the beach

FUEL STATION TO OPEN LONGER HOURS

Fornells to have 156 more moorings during summer

C.M.W. Maó

In order to overcome the problem of illegally-moored boats, two new pontoons are to be installed in the Bay of Fornells capable of taking 156 vessels of different lengths. This will increase the total number of moorings to 406.

The new pontoons, which will be located close to Sa Punta de Sa Creu, are each 100 metres long and should be in operation within a week. They will take the total number of pontoons in the

bay to six, all of which are temporary and will have to be removed on 1st November.

REFUELLING

At the beginning of June the fuel station for boats in Fornells extended its opening hours to 0800 to 1400 hrs. From the middle of this month it will remain open until 2000 hrs. In principle, these hours will apply until the end of August but may be extended into September if there is sufficient demand.

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