

Sport & Cultural Group, Lusignana

Circolo ANSPI Madonna dell'Arpa, Lusignana

6 April 1985 – 6 April 2005: the 20th anniversary of its foundation.

The Sport & Cultural Group, Lusignana has happily completed its 20th year of activities. It was founded on 6 April 1985 as an umbrella organisation to coordinate the informal social and recreational activities that from 1982 onwards had been arranged for the benefit of local youngsters, especially during the summer months.

It has the ethical objectives of promoting better use of free time, of developing team-based sports, arts, cultural, tourism and recreation initiatives, and of encouraging all forms of activity that might enhance the moral fibre and the intellectual and physical capabilities of its members. Participation in the the Group is free but from the start practically everyone involved was drawn from the village. All the members (whether active or passive) have the right to vote. From 1990 the Group has been known as the Club of the Madonna of the Harp and has been affiliated to the National Association of St Paul Italy ANSPI, a non-political and non-profit making association.

In its twentieth year of activity, undertaken exclusively on a voluntary, self-financing basis, the Group, either alone or in collaboration with other organisations, has promoted a wide range of initiatives to safeguard the heritage of the village and the farming, forestry, pastoral and religious traditions of the area.

Specifically:

- It has created a football field, a tennis court and a play area for little children on land owned by the Parish of Saints Vincenzo & Anastasio.
- It has equipped, in accordance with public health & safety legislation, the premises of the defunct Elementary School (on free loan as a focal point for the village) and laid out the surrounding area in a manner appropriate for celebration of the Sagra of Saint Rocco.
- It has taken charge of efforts to record current rituals, commemorations and celebrations within the local area. In this regard it has produced an illustrated booklet containing three separate works – the second being a history of the village and the third being a report on the archaeological excavations at Monte Castello produced through active collaboration between certain members of the Group and the Institute of the University of Genova who undertook the excavation work.
- It has contributed to the restoration of the stable and the cantina of the former rectory of the parish church.
- It then created in these same buildings the Mario Nadotti Ethnological Museum which recorded the traditions and agricultural, pastoral and religious life of the inhabitants of the High Lunigiana. In the museum, which is open to the public and may be visited by appointment, are hundreds of artefacts, items of furniture and furnishings which reveal the old ways of village life. These have been collected together and displayed as a permanent reminder to future generations of the traditions and customs of their forebears.

The core activities of the Sport & Cultural Group – Club ANSPI Madonna of the Harp, Lusignana - the only local social club – comes alive during the summer with many and varied activities for old and young alike so as to provide them with a pleasant and welcoming stay at Lusignana and to put appropriate sports equipment at their disposal.

At the heart of the summer programme is the Sagra of Saint Rocco which generally takes place from 12 to 17 August every year and is timed to encompass the religious festival of the same name.

The Sagra – which takes place in the open near to the Elementary School in an area prepared by the Sport & Cultural Group – is renowned gastronomically for the quality and variety of food offered, the unique uncontaminated environment, and the natural beauty in which one can unwind. Consequently it has achieved a pre-eminent position among festivals of similar kind. Finally, it is worth a mention that amongst the initiatives of the Sagra, is an amateur cycle race that attracts many participants from the surrounding region because of the beauty of the setting and the quality of the course on which for many years and the Group has sponsored a National Championship for Amateur Cyclists.



Source: Comune di Filattiera – Official Site

<http://www.comune.filattiera.ms.it/root/VivereLacitta/associazionizoom.asp?idassociazione=35>

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