Although 2022 begins as a year of emergency and change, I believe that we can use this moment to come together and create integrated and responsible development strategies. The change can and should be a positive milestone, and I believe that we will, together, deservedly improve this region that welcomes us.

Since 2017, Savannah has been writing to local communities to make known the work it is developing and clarify the entire Project. Our newsletters have been one of the various forms of communication adopted by the company to reach you.

We have reached a new phase. Our commitment to promoting transparency and creating a more active sharing strategy with the community continues to be our great commitment. We are part of the business mass of the region, but we want to go further. We want to be part of the local history, get to know Barroso and its people up close. This is how Magazine Barroso Lithium was born.

We have followed a progressive path, based on research and a lot of investment, which is based on in-depth knowledge of the population, the region and its traditions, and which aims to invest in people and the environment in order to achieve the best for each of us. We bring innovation and technology to our Project, which allows us to operate responsibly and in friendship with the surrounding communities. A mobile APP with real-time information, where each person can follow each of the parameters of the operation – this is just one of the details of transparency we are talking about.

But back to our Magazine Barroso Lithium. Here, in addition to being able to follow the development of the project with reliable information, see closely what we are doing and what is happening, you will be able to discover this territory through your eyes, through the eyes of your neighbor or remember stories that you no longer recalled, through the headings “Local faces”, “Visit Boticas” or “Around Alto Tâmega”.

Our Magazine intends to assert itself as a tool to support the community, which will be based on participation and proximity. We want to meet local people, to be integrated into the community and take Barrosã’s stories and culture across borders, promoting the region’s growth. I believe that this will be a dynamic that can make a difference and will lead to each of you a little more understanding of our values and of what is also our contribution to the municipality of Boticas.

Joana Prazeres
Head of Communication
& Community Affairs
SAVANNAH will "help" fight the fires

Savannah is committed to delivering the best to communities, the environment, the region and to the country. It is on this commitment that Savannah’s values and mission are based.

Building on a closer relationship with the community based on transparency, collaboration and accountability, Savannah believes that it can make a difference by promoting the safety and development of the region.

As an example of the application of our Good Neighbor Plan we will offer local fire brigades access to water storage areas for water for firefighting. These water storages will look much like the one recently constructed outside of Boticas in the photo. This will add to the firefighting capacities of the parishes of Covas do Barroso and Dornelas. The Barroso Lithium Project will closely cooperate with local fire brigades in the development stages of the Project and during operations so that skills can be combined and planning undertaken to improve fire safety for the communities with which we work.
Land acquisition program continues in progress

This exhaustive and very important work has been developed by a dedicated team from Savannah working with Landfound (http://www.landfound.pt/). It is this company, specialized in carrying out this type of work, that has maintained direct contact with the owners.

It is Savannah’s intention to acquire land in the area where the project will be implemented, and which is covered by its mining concession agreement. Currently, Savannah is making offers to local landowners based on a standard formula, which is intended to be fair and beneficial to them.

As Savannah has been mentioning, land identification is the first part of this process, followed by the cleaning of the areas’ boundary zones and subsequent measurement. After this first phase of work on the ground, the bureaucratic part follows, with the registrations and, if the owner wishes, the promissory contracts of purchase and sale and, finally, the deed is completed. Since this is an exhaustive and detailed process, Savannah thanks the various owners for all their help and availability.

To date, 186 hectares of private properties have been identified. Savannah has identified 347 properties, measured 162 properties, signed 24 purchase and sale contracts and carried out 15 deeds, relating to 67 properties. Five deeds are still scheduled for early March for six properties. The total investment in these contracts and deeds amounts to 1 million 700 thousand euros (€1,712.278).

The delay in the completion of the deeds is mainly due to the fact that the majority of the properties do not have up-to-date documentation and need the necessary corrections.

SAVANNAH hears the population

In order to respond to the real needs of local communities, Savannah hired a specialist consultant, S317 Consulting, to create and implement a questionnaire for the inhabitants of the parishes of Covas do Barroso and Dornelas. It is through listening to the population that Savannah will obtain the necessary knowledge about their true needs and expectations. It will be through this involvement process that it will be possible to define and adjust the broad terms of the mandate to be implemented through the Benefit Sharing Plan.

This collaborative process will provide primary information that will allow the Foundation’s leaders to build an authentic program of activities, in line with the expectations of communities and local authorities. At this stage, we will also present the creation of our Foundation, which will be the way to put an activity plan into practice and ensure that the investment is carried out according to the defined plan.

Savannah will deliver €500,000 annually to the Foundation from the start of operation. The Foundation will be run by community leaders who will consult with the communities about their needs and aspirations to best design it. The Foundation’s leadership will be defined over the coming months. Savannah is committed to delivering real benefits suited to the needs and interests of local communities, which will make a difference and enable the improvement of living conditions and attract new people.

S317 is a consulting firm, specialised in resource management, engineering and public policies, based in Lisbon. It works anywhere in the world and defines the best and most innovative solutions in four major areas: Energy, Water, Carbon and Sustainability.
The Community Information Centre was vandalised

The Community Information Centre of the Barroso Lithium Project, located in Largo do Cruzeiro, in the parish of Covas do Barroso, was vandalized. Upon arriving at the location, on the morning of February 18th, Savannah employees found the front of the building with painted words and the door glass broken, as illustrated in the pictures.

Savannah reported what had happened to the competent authorities, who took care of the situation.

The Community Information Centre opened its doors in 2018. In it you can explore the most diverse information about the Barroso Lithium Project. At the same time, you will be able to visualize how the project will be carried out on the ground through the 3D model, which we have developed especially for you.

Open to the public from Monday to Friday, from 9 am to 5 pm.

Email: centro.informacao@savannahresources.pt | Phone: +351 276 438 008

Our community hotlines remain open at:

Email: community@savannahresources.com | Phone: +351 927576 199
The Parish Council of Covas do Barroso brought a lawsuit against the State

The Parish Council of Covas do Barroso filed a lawsuit on 11 of February, in the Administrative and Fiscal Court of Mirandela, against the Portuguese State and the Ministry of Economy concerning administrative procedures involved with the Barroso Lithium Project’s mining lease.

Savannah joined the process as an interested party and the Portuguese State and the Ministry of Economy together with Savannah have already contested the action, which now follows its terms. With this lawsuit, the Covas do Barroso Parish Council, led by Lúcia Dias Mó, intends to cancel administrative acts, such as the addition of lithium to the mining lease, to be explored in that territory and the expansion of the planned area, which were made through an addition to the pre-existing contract.

“Since the prospection and exploitation of the lithium mineral had not been approved in the contract dated on May 12th of 2006, the amendment to the contract could not include the attribution of any minerals other than feldspar and quartz”, explained the the Parish Council in a statement sent to Lusa agency, emphasizing that “the lithium exploration concession should never have been awarded”.

The parish council reinforced, in the statement, that the “promoters insist on extending the scope of a concession to a mineral that was never at the origin of the concession, also expanding the areas, which violates the rights of third parties”.

Savannah’s priority is to develop the Barroso Lithium Project in a responsible and innovative way, to ensure that the impacts will have “low incidence” or will be “even eliminated”.

EIA is still under evaluation

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Barroso Lithium Project is still under evaluation by the Portuguese Environment Agency (APA), the decision will only be known when the APA finishes the evaluation and announces it publicly.

Savannah believes it has submitted a project proposal that integrates a responsible, modern and technologically innovative development. The EIA for the Barroso Lithium Project was delivered at the Preliminary Study stage, so in the event of a favorable Environmental Impact Declaration (DIA), an Implementation Project Environmental Compliance Report (RECAPE) will be carried out. This means that the DIA will define the measures to be incorporated. Savannah looks forward to the possibility of issuance of the Environmental Impact Assessment expectantly.

Portugal-United Kingdom: alliance with 650 years

Portugal and the United Kingdom have always had a policy of friendship. This “friendship” is one of the oldest in Europe, dating back to the 13th and 14th centuries, with the signature of the Treaty of Tagilfe on 10th of July 1372. Anglo-Portuguese relations are very old, sealed with the signing of a set of agreements, especially the Peace and Alliance Treaties signed in 1386 and 1661 and the 1703 Trade Treaty, known as the Methuen Treaty.

In 2023, the 650th anniversary of the Anglo-Portuguese alliance is celebrated. It is based on the set of values that have been built over several centuries of good Anglo-Portuguese relations that the British company Savannah Resources is developing a project in Portugal, specifically in Boticas, which will be a tangible manifestation of the depth of the relationship and the benefits that it brings to the people of both Portugal and the United Kingdom.
The municipal indoor swimming pool reopened to the public

Since the 2nd of March the municipal indoor swimming pool, in Boticas, is open, complying with the rules issued by the Health Authorities in the scope of Covid-19.

The population has at its disposal swimming classes with a teacher for children and adults, water aerobics and free swimming at specific times.

Registrations should be made at the reception services of the Municipality of Boticas.

Celtiberus promoted a walk through Viveiro

The event, organized by Celtiberus Association, took place on March 27th under the slogan "The Awakening of Barroso's Land".

According to the organization, during the walk through Viveiro, we walk through trails of rare beauty, millers' paths, tracks carved into the rock by the wheels of ox carts, passed? aqueducts? and mills, medieval bridges and the typical marshes and their unique? irrigation system. One of the most beautiful trails in the whole of Barroso on the slopes of Corga da Urzimeira, passing in the surroundings of the villages of Viveiro, Bostofrio and Agrelos.
Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 24th edition of Feira do Porco (Pig Fair) was not held in person, for the second consecutive year. But that didn’t stop local producers selling the best that is produced in the region.

The Boticas City Council, in partnership with the Mais Boticas Business Association, provided a digital showcase for regional products, through the BoticasTem platform, “a solution found to help smokehouse producers to dispose of the production destined for the fair”.

The online fair exceeded expectations and the platform will be available for the sale of smoked meats until the end of March.

To date, we have had more than 800 orders and a turnover of around 50 thousand euros, with consumers matching the purchase level of the previous year, which is very positive for regional products.

This is good news for local producers who, given the uncertainty of knowing whether the fair would be in person, produced more than expected, which led the organization to extend the online fair, which started on January 13, until the end of March. 90% of the platform is working for the online fair.

This platform will continue to be a showcase of the best that is being done in the municipality of Boticas, contributing to the dynamism of the local economy, being this one more channel for the excellent endogenous products existing in Boticas.

Boticas Park opens fishing season

The Aquaculture Station of the Boticas Nature and Biodiversity Park reopened to the public in March, for sport and recreational fishing activities.

Sport fishing lovers have the Fishing Post available at weekends, from 10am to 12.30pm and from 2pm to 6pm, to practice their favorite sport.

On site, visitors will be able to buy Truta Fário (local trout), one of the native species of the Beça River. The public sale is available from Monday to Friday, from 9am to 12.30pm and from 1pm to 4pm.

The Sport Fishing Park within Boticas Park is a space inserted in the Trout Nurseries of the municipality of Boticas where visitors can enjoy a fishing experience of the Truta Fário (local trout).

This area is responsible for raising more than 200,000 native Beça river trout per year.

Contact for further Information:
Sport Fishing Park - +351 276 410 206
Sale to the Public - +651 276 410 207
On the Acúrcio Amândio de Castro Street, in Covas do Barroso you will find Saint Mary's Parish Church, patron saint of the village in the municipality of Boticas, which has been classified as Property of Public Interest since 24 of January of 1967.

Dating from the 13th century, and later enlarged in the 17th century, the church is surrounded by a dirt track and is architecturally inscribed in the regions Romanesque movement.

Litoral Barroso Magazine noticed that the Bell Tower is isolated from the main building, one of the features that makes this church unique.

The bell tower is embedded in the churchyard wall in front of the main door. In the central part, there is a niche with a sculpture of Saint Ildefonso, in Ançã stone and, in the upper part, two bell towers topped by a cross flanked by two pinnacles.

Inside, on the walls and ceiling, the chancel is decorated with frescoes, paintings depicting passages from the life of Mary, of Jesus Christ, and biblical episodes, with a vaulted ogival cross vault, resting on four cantilevered corbels. One more peculiarity of this church.

The paintings, some dating from the 13th century, others from the 17th century, "portray the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and other stories related in the Bible".
Those entering through the main door, next to the altar, will find the tomb of D. Afonso Anes Barroso, buried in 1459, who was squire to D. Afonso, 1st Duke of Bragança, protected by one arcosolium a broken arch.

The original image of Saint Mary in gothic style, carved in Ançã stone that was placed on the outside wall, is currently inside the church, more specifically in the niche of the side chapel next to the Gospel.

Currently, the Church of Santa Maria de Covas do Barroso has the usual masses, Christmas and Easter, and the remaining festivities are held in the Chapel of Blessed Virgin of Health, the Largo do Cruzeiro, in the centre of the parish.
The inhabitants' mutual help as a way of life

In Covas do Barroso it is not seen as a political system, but a way of being: in community. In addition to the genuineness of the territory and the traditional way of working the land and taking care of the cattle, communitarianism was another of the factors that led the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in 2018, to classify Barroso as a world agricultural heritage.

“In the past, people helped each other”, said Napoleão Fernandes, born and raised in the village of Covas do Barroso.

In a mostly rural municipality that lives off the primary sector, agriculture was and remains the main means of livelihood, without leaving behind traditions that pass from generation to generation. “Here in the village, for example, I would take one day off to work, the other inhabitants would come to help me, the other day I would help them. That's how it worked. It wasn't every man for himself. I would plough the land with the oxen or go and get a load of wood and then in exchange go and collect olives, grapes... the help was mutual.”, said Napoleão Fernandes, warning that communitarianism, around Covas do Barroso, has been lost through time, largely due to the lack of people who, in the meantime, emigrated. “Today, nobody can be seen. It's all deserted.”

He recalls the land ploughed with yoke of oxen in the wine and oil cultures “that ended”, and others that were cultivated for their own consumption.

“There was a lot that was communal”, said the farmer and cattle breeder. One of them was the people's ox. “Some farmers had one, but it wasn't worth it.” The people's ox, usually of a Barrosa breed crossed with a Mirandese one, was a working animal, fed by the entire community.

The oven of the people, in Largo do Cruzeiro, is another of the “traces” that proves the
communitarianism that was lived, and still lives, in the village. “There are people who still use it to make bread”.

But this was not the only function of this space. It played, in other times, an important role in the sociability of the village. They also called it “people’s café”, where they gathered during the evenings, was also the hostel of the poor, beggars and pilgrims, passing through the village, who stayed there overnight.

At the entrance is a testimony by the writer Miguel Torga who once passed through Covas do Barroso, and highlighted that “communitarianism, in these parts, is not a vain word”. Words found in “Diário XV” whose 1st edition is from 1990.

Napoleão Fernandes, 87 years old, did not cross paths with Miguel Torga but he says the words of the author of “Reino Maravilhoso”, dedicated to Trás-os-Montes, are true.

He still remembers his childhood days when school students had a tradition: the rooster car.

“They bought a rooster and put it in a cage and in a small decorated car, used to transport the bread-cleaning machine, paraded through the streets singing and then offered the rooster to the teacher”. Despite his age, Napoleão still knows the anthem and the mottos that were sung by the boys who attended the school during the parade.

Now, this farmer from Covas do Barroso spends his days sitting outside his house or “tending” his vegetable garden. The memory of times gone by is still very much alive, as is the nostalgia.

“- Mr Napoleão, is there much difference between Covas do Barroso in the past and Covas do Barroso today?”

- Wow, a very big difference. In all respects, even in heaven. When, as a kid, I went from the kitchen to the bedroom, at night, the sky was all starry, clean, and now you hardly see a star.

- Why do you say that?

- That is no longer my competence”.

Rooster car parade hymn

“Cataploon, ploon, ploon
Let the battalion march
Ahead the rooster brushes the dust
Cocorocó red crested
And the chicken takes the flag
With their little children all in a row”

Napoleão Fernandes, 87 years old, inhabitant of Covas do Barroso

1. Political system that gives primary to what is community or what is doing with the participation of the community.
2. Quality or characteristic of what privileges what is communal.”communitarianism”, in Priberam Dictionary of the Portuguese Language
As part of a protocol signed on February 24 between the Municipal Council of Chaves and the Guarda Nacional Republicana, citizens with special needs will be able to participate in hippotherapy sessions, in which the GNR provides a horse and the riding arena, on its premises.

In turn, in addition to logistics, it will be up to the municipality to identify and forward potential recipients, children and young people with disabilities, linked to Private Social Solidarity Institutions (IPSS) or schools.

Hippotherapy sessions will involve the horse's handler and therapists. It is a therapeutic method that uses interaction with horses to improve or develop the cognitive, emotional or physiological functioning of people with disabilities.

The GNR currently has five horses in the Chaves Territorial Detachment, which are used in patrol actions.

---

"Emergency Services" have already opened in the hospital

Urgent care at Hospital de Valpaços has been available since the beginning of February, thus being fully operational, with the opening to the entire population of the Permanent Support Service (SAP).

The service that has long been desired by the population of Valpaços is available every day from 8 am to 10 pm, thus making the Hospital de Valpaços open to full service. The objective is that the Permanent Support Service will soon be operating 24 hours a day.
RIBEIRA DE PENA

Wire bridge has already been replaced

The Ribeira de Pena wire bridge was replaced next to the new reservoir of the River Tâmega, in Santo Aleixo, after being removed from its original location due to the construction of the Daivões dam.

The restoration and relocation of the Ribeira de Pena wire bridge as a heritage element is one of the measures of the Environmental Impact Declaration (DIA) of the Tâmega Electricity System, transforming it into a tourist attraction for the region.

MONTALEGRE

Fontes Priest celebrated 82 years with the release of two books

"Etnografia Transmontana Volume III" and "Memórias do Barroso" are the most recent works that the well-known Father Fontes released on the day he turned 82 years old.

At the Barroso Ecomuseum, where the books were launched, it was also mentioned that CTT will design a stamp with the figure of the parish priest inserted in the "Vultos da minha História, Arte e Ciência" section.

The promoter of Friday 13th, in Montalegre, and of the Congress of Popular Medicine in Vilar de Perdizes, announced that he would soon launch another work entitled "O diario do Padre Fontes".
Jales Interpretative Centre Mining rescue the mining tradition

After closing in 1992, the Minas de Jales, the last mines where gold was extracted in Portugal, “opened” their doors again, through the Interpretive Centre, with the aim of rescuing the mining tradition and preserving the history and memory of those who worked in these mines.

Outside the interpretive centre it is possible to see the old easel of the Santa Bárbara well and a map of the mine, placed on the wall in the centre, where you can see the 16 levels on which mining was carried out. The mining activity took place over about five kilometers and reached a depth of 630 meters. Inside, the museum space consists of three floors: upper, ground and lower, this being a replica of an underground gallery with access identical to that used by miners.

At the height of production in Jales, hundreds of people worked every day in these mines, many coming from other places. The documentation collected reveals that, between 1933 and 1992, 23.5 tons of gold and 81.1 tons of silver were removed.