Aware of our goal to contribute to and promote in a responsible way the energy transition in Europe, and with the ambition to achieve it in a fair and conscious way, both socially and environmentally, we have been in constant development and search for innovations for our Barroso Lithium Project. And it was exactly with the future and the energy transition in mind, that Savannah, while maintaining its identity, invested in a visual renewal of its brand, and now presents itself with the color blue, associated with technology and innovation, which is used to operate in a responsible, safe and inclusive way the Barroso Lithium Project.

It was with great satisfaction that we received very positive comments from the first edition of the Barroso Lithium Magazine. Making the population aware of some of the local services that allowed everyone to have a more comprehensive knowledge of what is happening in the region or to remember the stories of its people, makes us more and more included in the community of Boticas. This motivates us to continue with this work, increasingly meeting the needs of the population.

We believe that quality information is a fundamental right, so we see this project of our magazine as a public service, where we want to bring more up-to-date information to the people of Covas do Barroso and Dornelas.

I hope that this second edition is as well received as the previous one. We will continue to mark our presence in the community through high quality work that reflects in gains for the Barroso region.

Joana Prazeres
Head of Communication and Community Affairs
**LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM**

The cadastral map continues to be “designed”

Savannah, in partnership with Landfound (http://www.landfound.pt/), continues on the ground developing work under the land acquisition program, with the preparation of a cadastral map of the concession area of the Barroso Lithium Project.

The Barroso Lithium Magazine accompanied António Alves, Landfound’s technical engineer, in the survey of a property in Romainho, in Covas do Barroso.

“In the first phase we identify the land and, if necessary, later we clean it. Then we measure, because normally the areas don’t correspond to what is registered,” explained the technician, adding that the work that Savannah is doing, under the Land Acquisition Program, allows the owners to rectify the areas in the Digital Land Registry (BUPi), Tax Authorities and Land Registry Department.

“This survey is done without any commitment. Savannah is making the data available regardless of whether or not the owners want to reach an agreement with the company. It is a way for them to formalise their situation, valuing their buildings”, said António Alves pointing out that “it is an added value for the owners, since it allows them to know what they really have and where they have it”.

Manuel Loureiro accompanied the engineer in identifying the limits of his land, but has not yet decided whether he will sell it. “I’ll see”, said the 51-year-old farmer whose property he uses to “harvest hay” and “for his cows to graze.”

Savannah is currently making offers to local landowners based on a standard formula, which is intended to be fair and advantageous to them.

So far, 196 hectares of private properties have been identified, 360 properties recognized, 163 properties measured, 26 purchase and sale contracts signed, and 21 deeds executed for 75 properties. The total investment in these contracts and deeds amounts to 1 million 758 thousand euros (1,757,996 euros).

The delay in the completion of the deeds is mainly due to the fact that most of the properties do not have up-to-date documentation and need the necessary corrections and registrations.
Last March, Savannah announced a specially designed decarbonisation plan for the Barroso Lithium Project, in partnership with Portuguese consulting firm Ecoprogresso, which it expects to implement in the second quarter.

By initiating a decarbonisation strategy at the Barroso Lithium Project, Savannah takes another step towards ensuring that the lithium supplied to the European value chain results in the production of carbon-neutral lithium-ion batteries.

Ecoprogresso, the Portuguese consulting firm of the Quadrante Group, is used to dealing with multiple aspects of environmental management, such as carbon management, mitigation strategies or adaptation to climate change.

According to Savannah Resources CEO David Archer, “This commitment is not only an appropriate action for Savannah with regard to its own environmental responsibilities, but also helps the Barroso Lithium Project to be recognised by the growing number of consumers who place great emphasis and value on minimising the environmental impact associated with raw material sourcing.

We emphasise that the priority is to develop a project for Barroso Lithium that will ensure that the impacts will be of low incidence or even eliminated.

Memorandum of understanding for the construction of a production facility

Following the announcement of the Decarbonisation Plan, Savannah signed a memorandum of understanding to assist with development of the Barroso Lithium Project with technology company ABB.

Savannah’s strategic vision is to build a state-of-the-art mineral production operation to achieve an ultra-low carbon spodumene concentrate, a strategic raw material in Europe’s battery supply chain.

ABB will apply its technical expertise to design production control, processing solutions for lithium concentrate production and integrated spodumene mining operations in line with Savannah’s goal of having a carbon neutral operation by 2030.

The choice of ABB was due, according to Savannah CEO David Archer, to the fact that “it is at the forefront of the automation and electrification we need for our decarbonisation journey as we move forward with project development.”

In the future, Savannah will also work on binding agreements with ABB regarding electrification, automation and digital solutions.

“This is another step as we continue to enable more sustainable, fossil fuel-free mining operations,” he stressed.
The monitoring and quarrying works continue

In order to maintain the existing concession license (C-100), the Savannah team continues in the field developing several works, necessary to continue with the evolution and progress of the Barroso Lithium Project.

During the month of March, groundwater quality and water level monitoring activities were carried out at the piezometers* and surface water levels, through the collection of samples.

In the NOA area, work remains active with the quarrying of rock, which in this region is lithiniferous pegmatite. It is this material that, after being loaded and transported from the site, has been supplied to the ceramic industry.

Remember that, according to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), environmental impacts are reduced and will be managed in a comprehensive manner with a responsible development strategy compatible with the territory, the promotion of the environment and the quality of life of the local population.

Savannah guarantees that the Barroso Lithium Project will be an example in this sector in Portugal and more widely in Europe, through the use of technology and innovation and with the use of global best practices, a responsible operation will be guaranteed.

* (submersible measurement sensors, designed to detect pressure and groundwater levels)
Lithium is a relatively abundant metallic element that is widely distributed in very low concentrations in various mineral compounds and salts in the earth’s crust and in seawater.

Lithium is never found in its elemental form, but it occurs in over 100 different mineral compounds that pose no threat to health. The USGS has estimated global lithium reserves at 14 million tons in 2018, however, deposits that are economically viable for exploitation are relatively rare and fall into two broad categories - hard rock (including clays) and brines.

The industrial applications of lithium and the minerals it is found in are diverse. From the glass and ceramics industry, where it helps to lower the melting point temperatures, to the construction of modern aircraft, where its application allows a good relationship between strength and weight. But it is for the production of lithium batteries that its extraction is increasingly necessary today. The global relevance of lithium has increased significantly in recent years, as it is a key metal in the composition of batteries, which are indispensable for the energy transition. Its application has become indispensable for the electric vehicle industry and for the storage of green energy, in addition to other more common uses, such as in cell phones, computers, and pharmaceuticals, among others.

Lithium is extracted from hard rock deposits in underground galleries or in the open air, depending on the depth at which it is found, using specialist equipment. The mineral does not exist in nature in its pure state, but is exploited in mineral deposits of petalite, spodumene or lepidolite. It is from these minerals that lithium hydroxide or carbonate is produced in a chemical process called refining.
The United States Geological Survey says that Portugal has the sixth largest national lithium reserves in the world and the most important in all of Europe, with about 60,000 tons of the alkaline metal.

The ore has been mined in Portugal for decades, but its use has been almost exclusively in the ceramic industry, where it is used to reduce firing temperatures.

Portugal is currently a low-risk country in the mining sector, as it has tight legislation, an established mining industry, excellent energy and transportation infrastructure, and a well-educated population.

The worldwide demand for lithium, used in the production of car batteries and for green energy storage, is increasing and Portugal is recognized as one of the countries with sufficient reserves for economically viable commercial exploitation.

Portugal could be the first producer of spodumene in Europe, helping to anchor upstream the value chain of lithium batteries and contribute to the overall goal of increasing European competitiveness and security in the extraction of raw materials.

At a time when successive oil price increases are the order of the day, lithium exploitation takes on greater importance. Portugal has the potential to be a key player in the lithium value chain in Europe, and could unequivocally help in the process of transition to green energies, already defined by the European Commission as the current major purpose.
“As the owner of the Barroso Lithium Project, the most significant spodumene lithium project in the EU, Savannah is committed to becoming an integral part of Europe’s burgeoning lithium battery supply chain and putting Portugal at the heart of this new European Industry. Savannah is making strong progress in engaging with the European Union’s Lithium Value Chain Initiatives, such as the European Battery Alliance, including its industrial development programme EBA250, and EIT RawMaterials to position the Barroso Lithium Project within the wider European lithium industry.”

David Archer, CEO da Savannah Resources

The European Battery Alliance (EBA) was launched in October 2017 by EC Vice President Maroš Šefčovič. The EBA is building a strategic value chain for batteries in Europe starting with raw materials and progressing all the way to electric vehicles. For Europe, the establishment of a complete domestic battery value chain is imperative for a clean energy transition and a competitive industry. The annual market value is estimated at €250 billion (US$290bn) from 2025 onwards.

Following the output of the EBA250 Stakeholder Meetings to date and feedback from EBA250 members (including from Savannah) on how to bridge the gap between financial institutions and businesses, EIT InnoEnergy has, with the support of selected financial institutions and industrial partners, designed a Business Investment Platform (BIP) to accelerate the transactions between investee and investors in the lithium-ion battery value chain including mining. The BIP was launched at an event in Brussels on 25 September 2019 which Savannah staff attended. EIT InnoEnergy is targeting €70 billion of transactions through the BIP between 2019 and 2023.
The appeal was made by Joana Prazeres, the day Savannah opened the Information Center in the village of Boticas. This is the second space that the company opens, the first opened in 2018 in Covas do Barroso, with the aim of increasing direct contact points with the community.

“We decided to open in the center of the village to maintain this relationship with the communities and we believe that, here, we are more central and more people can get to know our project. We invite everyone to visit us here, too. It is important to be closer and closer to the communities”.

At the entrance of the Boticas Information Center, Savannah placed a 3-dimensional model of what, in the future, is expected to be the Barroso Lithium Project. Through this new space, images of what it is designed to do at the concession site can still be seen.

Those who enter the space, now open in the village, can see examples of the rock, the pegmatite itself, the ore, and even a demonstration of what Savannah has been doing in drilling, with the exhibition of final products such as feldspar and quartz, “that are being removed from the NOA area” and some examples of what lithium is used for.

In addition, Savannah makes available all the documentation related to the Lítio do Barroso Project, from studies, monitoring, the Environmental Impact Study, which was delivered to the Portuguese Environment Agency, and also the newsletters that the company has sent to the population and which were recently transformed into the magazine Lítio do Barroso.

It is based on transparency and clarity that Savannah bets on the opening of this second Information Center of Boticas, and in this sense that Joana Prazeres addresses the community, appealing for them to visit the space, in order to get to know, in fact, the project and clarify any doubts.

“Come talk to us, we are here to welcome you, clarify and especially to deliver reliable information about the project. I believe that Savannah has been transparent and has always tried to maintain an open relationship with the community”, said the communications director.

Despite being aware of the existence of “a small group that is not in favor”, and that it respects, Savannah wants, through the centers, to fight against counter-information.

“We invite everyone to come to know the real facts and ask them not to search the internet for information that has nothing to do with what we are developing here, in Lítio do Barroso. Our project is different. I think it is in our centers, by talking to us, that people will know real, credible and reliable information about our project”.

Regarding the reaction to the Information Centers, Joana Prazeres says that it has been positive and stresses that “it is with this interaction that we will increasingly get people to understand what we are designing has been done correctly, respecting the environment and people, and it will be a benefit to the region”.

NEW INFORMATION CENTER in BOTICAS VILLAGE

“Visit us, we are here to enlighten you!”

Photos: Savannah
“Living Easter” took thousands of people to Boticas

On April 9th and 10th, the “Living Easter” returned to Boticas, after a two-year hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The weekend was filled with activities for all ages and tastes, with emphasis on the Easter Corner and the fair of local products set up in the Praça do Município, which featured lots of street entertainment and music, an egg hunt, a folar* workshop, an Easter workshop and face painting.

The highlight of the event, organized by the Mais Boticas Business Association, was the Gigantic Folar made by four local bakeries, Sabores da Montanha, Padaria e Pastelaria Carreira da Lebre, Produtos Caseiros Maria do Carmo and Pastelaria da Lena. This year with 100 meters, the “Gigantic Folar” delighted the thousands of people who came to Boticas to taste the gastronomic product ex-libris of Easter.

The “Living Easter” event exceeded expectations, and traders and visitors were already “missing” and even “somewhat thirsty” for this type of initiative whose goal is to enhance and boost local commerce.

* Note: Folar is a traditional Portuguese bread served at the Christian holidays of Easter.

GD Boticas athlete proves that dreams come true

Between the 2nd and 6th of April, Margarida Mota, athlete of the Boticas Sports Group (GDB), was in Rio Maior, where she joined the National Under-17 Female Futsal Team.

The athlete shared on social networks some moments of the three days that were in training with 19 other teammates and said “dreams come true”.

The young Botiquense has had a remarkable career at district level, with numerous appearances in the futsal and soccer teams of the Vila Real Football Association (AFVR).

When the call was released by the selector André Teixeira, the club that Margarida Moa represents, GD Boticas, congratulated the athlete, stressing that the moment was deserved. “You are our PRIDE! Deserved award to our star player. Magic in the feet, body and mind. We are with you to your limit! CONGRATULATIONS MAGUI FERRARI”, was the message on the club’s official Facebook page.
By motorcycle, moto 4 or buggie, nearly 500 pilots “ventured” into Barroso, in the 15th edition of the TT Ride, which took place on April 16th.

Throughout the 90-kilometer ride through the slopes and valleys of the Boticas county, the participating pilots, besides showing their expertise in driving motor vehicles, could also appreciate the landscapes that the region offers.

Being a charity event, Savannah also wanted to join in the sporting event. Therefore, the company participated in the initiative sponsoring 29 local riders, from Covas do Barroso, Dornelas, Carreira da Lebre, Quintas, Codeço and Carvalhelhos.

This was yet another sponsorship that makes Savannah very satisfied: supporting members of the local community. Savannah will continue to support local initiatives as a business in the region.

In a note posted on the official Facebook page, the organization noted that “The 15th TT Ride in Boticas made a difference” and stressed that “all participants and public transmitted a very positive message”.

15TH EDITION TT RIDE
Savannah Sponsored 29 Participants

Photos: Savannah

Edition 2 - April 2022
A Chinese Martial Arts Federation competition featuring national titles for veterans in the disciplines of Tao Lu and Tai Chi took place in Boticas, organized by the Boticas Kung-Fu club. It was possible to meet the two European champions, one of them two-time defending the champion title.

“It was an official competition that we had wanted to bring to Boticas for some time and finally the federation gave us the approval”, revealed Celso Barja, president of Kung-Fu de Boticas club that on April 30th hosted the Galician Warrior Kung Fu Competition.

The national titles were also disputed in the discipline of Sanda, in which Telmo Marinho, athlete and coach of Kung Fu Boticas, became national champion in the 80 kg senior men’s category.

Besides the official competitions, the Galician Warrior Competition took place, in which associations from Lisbon, Porto, Ribeira de Pena, Alijó, and Mondim de Basto took part. It was held in a gala format, where the competitors were grouped by weight category.

“This was the second edition of the Galician Warrior Competition and we can say that it was a success, with the stands full and with 32 athletes disputing the Galician warrior belt”, said Celso Barja, adding that the choice of the club he manages to host such an event “is the result of the work that our athletes have shown in the national championships. We are starting to have some trust from the federation and that means a lot to us”, referring to the fact that the president of the Portuguese Federation of Chinese Martial Arts was present at the event.

“There is a very strong core of practitioners here, led by Celso. We try to take the events to the various groups that exist around the country. It is important to promote the sports and it ends up providing local clubs with moments to advertise their activity in a more comprehensive way”, said Augusto Pinto, president of the Federation that manages the Chinese Martial Arts in Portugal.

At the end of the tournament, Celso Barja was a president satisfied with the work done there, with the feeling of duty completed and “with the will to repeat it in the near future”.

Galician Warrior Kung Fu Competition “was a success”
Triple certification for the Boticas Sports Group

In a ceremony that took place on March 18th, at the headquarters of the Vila Real Football Association (AFVR), the Boticas Sports Group was triply distinguished, with the achievement of certificates in the disciplines of Men’s Football, Women’s Futsal and also as a Basic Training Center for Men’s Futsal.

With this triple certification, the Botiquense club was the most awarded in the district of Vila Real, and is the only club at district level with certification of the Portuguese Football Federation (FPF) in Women’s Futsal.

Note that the distinction of a three-star training entity in soccer, came through a joint application between GD Boticas and C.D.C. Montalegre, which allows the Montalegre club to compete in League 3.

In this event, the plaques and diplomas for the 2020/2021 season were distributed, as part of the certification process of clubs as Training Entities, promoted by the Portuguese Football Federation (FPF), represented by President Fernando Gomes.

At the ceremony, the president of AFVR, António Marques da Silva, said that “the certification process of clubs’ training entities is a structuring project, launched by the FPF, which allows a better organization of clubs and contributes to a better social and sports training of young people and also of their families”, taking the opportunity to congratulate the awarded clubs for the “work developed”. The leader, on behalf of the AFVR, was “very pleased” by the level reached as well as the number of certified clubs.

“We will continue to work in partnership with our officials to increase the qualification of our clubs,” he concludes.

In total 24 Training Entities affiliated to AFVR were distinguished. Representing the Boticas club were Paulo Aleixo, president, Ana Rita Castro, general secretary and Mauro Teixeira, director.

“the certification process of clubs’ training entities is a structuring project, launched by the FPF, which allows a better organization of clubs and contributes to a better social and sports training of young people and also of their families”
Almost everywhere, there are legends that explain its foundation, but in Dornelas there are facts that prove it. An example of this is the book, Liber Fidei, from the 13th century. Written in Latin, this important manuscript, whose content, as the name suggests, is worthy of faith. In this case, legal, as the book contains the transcriptions of 954 documents from the Archbishopric of Braga, such as royal letters, elections, letters of couto*, donations, sales, wills, commitments, exchanges, agreements, sentences, among others.

“The stories that are told are oral memories. It is the ‘word of mouth’, but it is historical. However, what is oral is distorted, is corrupted, while what is written is factual,” César Magalhães began by telling the Barroso Lithium Magazine.

Born and raised in Dornelas, César Magalhães is an enthusiastic scholar of his hometown’s history, much due to the fact that he is President of the Community of Baldios. And it is on the facts presented in Liber Fidei that he bases himself to determine the historical chronology of the village and its importance over the years.

From this book are part of the letters where the donation of the Couto made between 1127 and 1135 by the Infante D. Afonso Henriques, first king of Portugal, to the “Dornelas Hospital” is expressed, in favor of the Cathedral of Braga and that prove that this “small” locality pre-dates the foundation of the country.

**The boundaries of the Dornelas Couto**

Besides its foundation, the book, which can be consulted through the Braga District Archive, from the University of Minho, also contains the documents where the limits of the Couto de Dornelas are expressed.

“There is a book called “Memórias Paroquiais” (Parish Memoirs), by the abbot of Cerdedo, Vicente Ferreira, from 1758 where, throughout 12 pages, the history of the Couto and its geographical limits are reported, where he reveals the conflict with Covas do Barroso,” said César Magalhães. He believes that this conflict “increased” in 1703.

At the time, Couto de Dornelas belonged to the Archbishopric of Braga and Covas do Barroso to the county of Montalegre.

In that year, 1703, in the month of April, the document, known as ‘Tombo’, was released, with the geographical/administrative boundaries:
An example of a dorna at the entrance of the Parish Church

Magalhães, adding that Covas do Barroso “never swallowed it”.

**The extinction of the Dornelas Couto**

After more than 700 years as the county seat, the Couto of Dornelas, ended in November 1836 with the formation of the county of Boticas, under the administrative review made by Mouzinho Silveira, when it became a parish.

But, and despite centuries passing, there are still those who refer to the town as Couto and the conflict with Covas do Barroso remains due to the subjective conception of the limits of both parishes.

“The current administrative boundaries are not as it says in the Tombo”.

Regarding the Pelourinho, it was “hidden” for years, but was rebuilt by António Joaquim Gonçalves Sanches, better known as Toneca. “It had fallen down and Toneca was the one who put it up on a pruning day. The base is not original, it is a cross from a calvary that he fixed. He told me that “it sat down very well”, recounted César Magalhães’.

It has been classified as Property of Public Interest since 1933.

**The toponymy: why Dornelas?**

Dornelas means small dorna. The dorna represented the measure of honey or wax that the parish delivered annually to the Cathedral of Braga as a contribution. “What was passed on to me orally is that the dornas were used to measure beeswax for the manufacture of candles for the Cathedral of Braga,” said César Magalhães, concluding: “It was the tithe that was paid.”

At the door of the Parish Church, there is an example of these dornas.

Translate:

“In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. I, the servant of God the Infante Dom Afonso, make a couto to God and to Santa Maria to her hospital of Dornelas for the remedy of my soul or of my relatives and that couto ends first by Lucença and then to Portela de Felgueiras and then to Pena de Boi and then to Carvalhosa and then to Suberoso and then to the fraga de Grezalios and then to Pena de Estrivil then to the arch of Lagena then to the edge of the city of Genestosa then to Lucença from where we first started”.

Donation of the “Dornelas Hospital” made by D. Afonso Henriques (Document that defines the limits of the Couto de Dornelas at the time of its foundation)

Judicial sentence that established the new limits of the Couto.

“The Tombo reveals our boundaries with the village of Montalegre. This new geographical demarcation was requested by the Archbishop of Braga to the king because of the confusion that existed”, explained César
“What is the secret to your longevity?
– The conservation instinct!”

Domíngos Magalhães

“He who is young does not escape being old,” Domíngos Magalhães said peremptorily in a conversation with Barroso Lithium Magazine. A very old Portuguese proverb that can be contrasted with another: “old are the rags”. Not least because the age of this “elder” in no way corresponds to the spirit he demonstrates.

– “What is the secret to reaching 90 years old?” we asked.

– “Conservation instinct!”, Domíngos Magalhães quickly replied, and explained. “Any animal tries to conserve itself. When it’s sick it goes to the hospital, when it breaks a leg, it goes to the orthopedist..., we always try to last longer and longer and longer. Always with quality of life. And that, he says, he doesn’t lack. “I have the minimum, I don’t need much. I’m neither ambitious nor hateful, that is, I know how to forgive. These are two things I have in me.

Sitting on a stool by the fireplace, in the company of “the boss” Olímpia Magalhães and her second cousin Zélia Judite, Domíngos had an encyclopedia at his side, through which he said he was “going over every country in the world”.

“I like to situate myself in the world. If there’s something going on in the world, I know, given the 40,000 kilometers the earth is, how far it is from one point to another.

This is how he tries to spend his time, “doing the so-called brain exercise, because besides keeping Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases away, it makes us more resistant.

But it’s not only because of the cursed neurodegenerative diseases that Domíngos Magalhães tries to remember his knowledge. He does it so that when people visit him he can “say things. The so-called “I hope the mountain comes to me” tactic.

- “And what do you mean by that?”

- “I hope they come to tease me so that I can then express myself and say things!”

One day, said Olímpia Magalhães, Domíngos’ wife, an engineer came to their house to measure a water hole and left impressed and amazed. “He started explaining to him that one of the fracture lines of the earth passed through there and telling him about the effects of seismic movements and tectonic plates... the man even jumped up and down,” says Olímpia, laughing about the episode.

“I like to know things and keep up to date,” said the nonagenarian, who still drives his Renault 4L.

Domíngos’ love for knowledge has turned him into an encyclopedia. His ability to memorize anything and the fact that he was a “more or less student, more for the good than for the bad” led him to the seminary. “They said: this boy could become a priest.”

He did the whole course in Vila Real, but at the end he discovered that he didn’t have the profile for it, and also because “in the meantime I started talking to my lady”. He says that this was the “cause” for not having given himself to the church.

He went into the army and got married on his return. He has five children.

After some time doing “odd jobs” in mechanics and electronics, he took the ad hoc exams to embrace the teaching profession. For 23 years he taught Portuguese, History, and Geography of Portugal to the 1st cycle in Chaves.

He was also vice-president and president of the Boticas City Council after April 25, 1974, and was one of those responsible for building the county courthouse.
The Vila Grande of his childhood

- Do you miss your childhood?
- I am a person who misses nothing and misses everything,” replied Domingos Magalhães. “What’s past is past and remains to be remembered. But if you ask me if I would like to go to the past? No.”

Despite the “no,” he remembers the times when he was a boy and the village was divided into two neighborhoods: the rich one, Vila Grande, and the poor one, Couto.

Domingos was from the rich neighborhood and lived “in a small house” on Carreiras Street, where he grew up with his six siblings, and was raised together with Zélia Judite, his second cousin.

“We often slept in a wooden bar or in family members’ houses, we managed,” said Domingos Magalhães speaking of the difficulties that were experienced at the time.

The two remember the village with “the streets always full of people” and the school, where the parish council’s headquarters is now, “had many boys”. “The desks were always full. All the couples at that time had many children,” said Zélia Judite.

“We used to leave school and go to the churchyard to play traditional playground games ...”.

Despite being kids and going to school, Domingos and his cousin also helped with the work in the fields.

Besides the school that gave it life, the village had several shops, including a butcher shop, a kiosk, and a grocery store that belonged to Zélia Judite’s husband where “everything” was sold.

“There was everything here, Olímpia, Domingos Magalhães’ "lady", began by saying. “Stores, butchers, bakeries, dressmakers... and now there’s nothing, it’s all gone, due to emigration.”

Of a contrary opinion is her husband who said that the village has evolved with the times. “Things are progressing for the better, regardless of the fact that it has lost population.

The richest neighborhood now is Couto, where the emigrants who have returned to the village have settled. On the other hand, Vila Grande “is deserted”.

But Domingos Magalhães maintains his idea. “It’s getting better and better.” And he explains why.

“We have electricity, which there wasn’t,” he starts by saying, pointing to an old lamp on top of a cabinet he has in the kitchen. “We have piped water. The roads were made here. Everything has been for the better.” He adds, “Back then we were isolated out here in the desert, we ended up being self-sufficient. But then things expanded and now we’re in this situation. The stores closed, there is a coffee shop around, but people now have cars, there are good roads and they go to Cabeceiras de Basto, Chaves, Boticas to get supplies.”

And for those who don’t have this possibility, there are street sellers who go from door to door to bring the essentials to the population. “I’m surprised they haven’t whistled around here yet today,” said Domingos.

If his cousin says he doesn’t miss anything, Zélia Judite does. “From her youth.”
The Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro Hospital Centre (CHTMAD) has already started the New Home Hospitalisation Unit, in Vila Real and Chaves.

In a statement, available on the official website, the National Health Service (NHS) states that “in an initial phase, the new unit will provide 10 inpatient beds at home that will allow patients, who meet the admission criteria, care with greater comfort and well-being in a family environment.”

The new Home Hospitalisation Unit of the CHTMAD will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and has a multidisciplinary team composed of physicians, nurses, a social worker, a technical assistant and an operational assistant.

In order for the team to be able to carry out its daily work, two vehicles, clinical materials and computer equipment have been made available.

The CHTMAD, with its head office in Vila Real, is the 36th hospital unit of the National Health Service to create the home hospitalization service, which since its launch in 2018, has already supported about 20,000 patients.
STUDENT HOUSING PROGRAM AT AFFORDABLE COSTS
University residences could be a reality.

With the ambition to create two university residences in the municipality, and to meet the accommodation needs of students in the city, the Municipality of Chaves and the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança have submitted a "manifestation of interest for funding" under the Recovery and Resilience Program (PRR), under the Affordable Student Accommodation Program.

AquaResidence and Residência Madalena were two of the 154 expressions of interest selected, nationally, for admission to Phase 2. After Phase 2, two other phases will take place.

According to the Government, it represents "a total funding amount of about 476 million euros, higher than that available for the present funding program of 375 million euros, and which corresponds to 20,723 beds, which includes supplying 14,222 new beds and rehabilitating 6,501 existing beds. By 2026, the government intends to create 15,000 beds in university residences under the PNAES, with a financial package of 375 million euros."
The Municipality of Ribeira de Pena is “in the running” to open a Citizen’s Store

The Municipality of Ribeira de Pena is among the nineteen candidates for the opening of new Citizen’s Shops by the end of 2023 in a tender under the Recovery and Resilience Plan (PRR). The tender has an allocation of 12.5 million euros. Once the application is submitted, the process of admission and evaluation of the applications by the Agency for Administrative Modernization (AMA) will follow, the Agency will communicate the financial support. The Citizen’s Shops will be set up by the municipalities in coordination with AMA, providing various services from Public Administration entities in a single location. The Citizen’s Shops funded under this notice must open no later than the end of 2023 and cannot be located in a municipality where another Citizen’s Shop already exists. The maturity of the project, the range of services and the number of service points to be set up, accessibility and location criteria, the population residing in the municipality, and the distance to existing Citizen’s Shops will all be taken into account in the funding decision. The goal is to promote the expansion and complementarity of the network of Citizen’s Shops, ensuring their presence in most of the country’s municipalities, in a way that complements investment in digital transformation and the large-scale availability of digital public services. The government plans to open 20 new stores, 300 Citizen Spaces and 10 Mobile Spaces by 2026.

The International Show Jumping Competition is back at Pedras Salgadas

It is one of the most prestigious and emblematic tracks in Portugal and is getting ready to host the 2022 edition of the International Jumping Competition (CSI)**. After two years of hiatus, due to the pandemic by Covid-19, the International Show Jumping Competition returns to Pedras Salgadas, an international competition always highly appreciated by riders and that in 2019 received a letter from the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) itself, after the positive comments communicated by international officials present at the event, praising the “excellent” organization of those involved in the competition held in the parish of Aguiarensense. This year, the contest is scheduled for June 10th, 11th and 12th.
After two years of hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the doors of the Multipurpose Pavilion of Valpaços opened again to the Folar Fair. About 80 exhibitors from the county, gave a taste of the Folar de Valpaços IGP and other local products, thus returning to the old way of doing business.

“It’s killing the feeling of nostalgia”, said Marisa Frade to Lírio do Barroso Magazine, in a mixture of relief and happiness, shared by Daniela Conde who confirmed that the contact with the public was already missed. “It’s an adrenaline rush to be here. Although we have a local business and work all year round, this fair attracts a lot of people, from various parts of the country and it’s always good.”

Although Covid-19 prevented the big folar festival from taking place for two years, many producers have not stopped doing business. In March 2021, the municipality of Valpaços launched a platform for online sales of the county’s products, which are usually available at the fair, which takes place the week before Easter.

“It was a success, I exceeded the volume of business I do at the fair, much because the sale of products on the site was available throughout the year,” said Marisa Frade.

Daniela Conde’s family business also suffered with the pandemic, but the difficulties were circumvented and the subscription to the platform was, “from the first moment”, a winning bet.

“The folar in Valpaços is eaten all year round, but not in the rest of the country. We had a lot of interest during the whole year”.

For three days, thousands of people passed by the Multipurpose Pavilion of Valpaços where they could taste and prove the excellence of local products, not only the certified Folar de Valpaços, but also smoked meat, “rotten” cake, dried fruits, honey, wine, olive oil, among others.

Besides the exhibition space, the fair also had a tent dedicated to restaurants, where visitors could enjoy the typical dishes of the municipality.

For those who did not have the opportunity to buy any of the county’s products, you can do it online through the platform www.folarvalpacos.pt, which the municipality keeps active.
The Rabaçal River Beach won the Five Stars Regions 2022 Award, in the category “Beaches”. “It is with pride and satisfaction that we receive this award, which defines the Rabaçal River Beach as a tourist reference and a destination of excellence,” said the municipality, in a note on its official Facebook page.

Located about 8 kilometers from the city of Valpaços, the Rabaçal River Beach presents excellent natural conditions for sports and leisure. It is a beach that is totally accessible to the riverbed, through footbridges, so that everyone can enjoy the comfort, safety and quality of that space.

The Rabaçal Ecovia Interpretive Center is located there, the meeting point of the three routes that are part of the pedestrian trail that gives it its name. The Rabaçal River Beach has a lifeguard present during the summer months. It also has bar service, picnic area, a playground, among other facilities such as Wi-Fi Hotspot, besides being located next to the Rabaçal Camping Park.

The Five Stars Awards differentiate and value what’s best in Portugal, in different regions, from north to south and on the islands, in several categories.
Montalegre International Circuit hosts World Rallycross Championship

On September 17th and 18th, the Montalegre International Circuit will host a double round of the World Rallycross Championship and the two European Rallycross categories, EuroRX1 (SuperCars) and EuroRX3 (Super1600).

The official 2022 World Rallycross Championship calendar has been revealed and presents some new features. The 2022 World RX season contains 12 rounds in seven events, each in a different country. The action begins at the iconic Swedish Höljes circuit in early July, before heading to the Nürburgring in Germany at the end of the month. After these two single-round events, the remaining five take the form of double rounds. These begin with a welcome return to Hell, Norway, in mid-August. The historic Bikernieki circuit in Riga, Latvia, hosts the World Cup in early September before the Championship comes to Montalegre in mid-September.

In a statement, Orlando Alves, president of the municipality of Montalegre, revealed that “we are especially pleased and honored to be on the calendar of the World Rallycross 2022. Montalegre is, once again, in the key seasons of Rallycross, this time with the revolutionary debut of the ultra-fast electric RX1. A weekend not to be missed by motoring lovers and a return of the super busy race days we were used to in the pre-Covid era. Two days not to be missed by all motoring enthusiasts.”

• CALENDAR •

FIA World Rallycross Championship
02/03 July - Sweden (Höljes)
30/31 July - Germany (Nürburgring)
13/14 August - Norway (Hell Lake) DH
03/04 September - Latvia (Riga) DH
17/18 September - Portugal (Montalegre) DH
08/09 October - Belgium (Spa Francorchamps) DH
October - South Africa (Cape City) DR *
DR - Duble Race

FIA European Rallycross Championship (Euro RX1)
21/22 May - Hungria (Nyirád)
18/19 June - (Not confirmed)
02/03 July - Sweden (Höljes)
03/04 September - Latvia (Riga)
17/18 September - Portugal (Montalegre)
08/09 October - Belgium (Spa-Francorchamps)

FIA European Rallycross Championship (Euro RX3)
21/22 May - Hungria (Nyirád)
18/19 June - (Not confirmed)
02/03 July - Sweden (Höljes)
30/31 July - Germany (Nürburgring)
13/14 August - Norway (Hell Lake)
17/18 September - Portugal (Montalegre)
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