

García Antón lays the foundation stone for the new Alcalá-Alcossebre sewage plant

It marks the start of construction of one of the most important infrastructures in the municipality

On Tuesday, 30th December, Alcalá took an enormous step towards the construction of its sewage plant with the laying of the foundation stone. The event took place in the presence of the Environment, Water, Town Planning and Housing Deputy, José Ramón García Antón, local mayor, Francisco Juan, and the Diputación's Vice Presidente, Francisco Martínez. For the Council this "means the start of work which will be the culmination of a basic project for the future development of the town".

After nearly two years of working towards this important project for the treatment of Alcalá and Alcossebre's sewage, the Council will make it a reality. The first step was the approval of the Special Plan for the Reservation of Land in July 2007; then between the end of 2007 and beginning of 2008, all the land for the EDAR (sewage plant) was purchased for approximately 429,000 euros. This land was ceded to the Generalitat for the building. At the same time, at the beginning of 2008, all the documentation for the Integrated Environment Licence was submitted. The sewage plant, which will replace the town's current installations, will treat both the sewage from Alcalá de Xivert town and Alcossebre on the coast, providing sufficient capacity to treat current and future effluent amounts.

The end of a long process

In his speech, Alcalá's mayor stated that "In a little over 24 hours we shall say farewell to a year which has seen important changes in our town. Investments and projects which are really necessary for our future are beginning to happen. I must say that this event gives those of us who are responsible for governing the town a lot of satisfaction. Laying the foundation stone for the new sewage plant marks the start of the work, which is now a reality, and is the culmination of a basic project for our future which, if not the most important, is certainly one of the most important".

Francisco Juan admitted that "It has not been an easy process. It has come a long way and there have been many obstacles along the way. But we have now complied with all the requirements to be able to build the sewage plant - we have approved the Special Plan for the Reservation of Land, purchased all the land, ceded it to the Conselleria, the contract has been awarded and today we are laying the foundation stone, something which scarcely seemed believable two years ago".

The mayor used this opportunity to "tell people about the promise he had from the Conseller and the Autonomous Secretary. I remember the exact words of Maria Angeles when she said 'mayor, do your duty, approve the plan, buy the land and cede it to us, so that we can get on with it as soon as possible. I guarantee that before the end of the year, the Conseller and I will be in your town laying the foundation stone'. And in fact, this is how it happened and due thanks be given". According to the Alcalá mayor, "The sewage plant will mark a 'before' and 'after' in this town's recent history. With the start of this work we are seeing the biggest investment which has ever been made in Alcalá and Alcossebre. More than 15 million euros, of which 6.5 million euros are already covered in the Generalitat's 2009 budget. The sewage plant will help us to undertake some of the immediate challenges which will make us earn the future. We are passing through difficult times, and these are times when everyone's money management takes on more importance. It is time for flexible, efficient policies. It is the time when support from the different institutions is key to the projection and development of our town. As he said, many of the iconic projects, sewage plant, restoration of the bell tower, sports installations, the castle and many others which originally were only dreams are now reality, and it would not be fair if I did not publicly recognise the work carried out by the Generalitat and the Diputación in achieving them. I want to thank the Generalitat for supporting our town, support which is whole-hearted and important in all the different fields. And I am grateful for the support from the Diputación which is always at our side, helping us resolve the day to day problems of managing the municipality, and for the wide range of works which it carries out in our town".

The mayor ended his speech saying "I have always said that people do not want pretty, meaningless speeches, that people want results, they want actions, so that today we must all congratulate ourselves and feel very satisfied, because the sewage plant is now a reality, a reality which no-one can deny".

The Conseller points out the importance of recovering water

In his speech, Conseller José Ramón García Antón explained that "We have suffered vicissitudes but the ones we have had throughout the Plan Director de Saneamiento are small. In fact, there were three or four projects in this area, Vinarós, Benicarlo, Peñíscola and Alcalá de Xivert where we had problems. The first Plan Director did not include sewage plants, but a solution which was outlets. We thought, before the second Plan Director was brought in, that it could also be necessary to construct the sewage plants because populations kept on growing and the outlet was a solution but in an area like this, where there is also a need for water, it was a pity not to be able to use

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This water for other purposes". Recalling that time, García Antón stated "We set to work. There were discussions with all the mayors, and we arrived at awarding all the sewage plants. But for various reasons - administrative inefficiencies; objections from nearby residents, etc. - we could not proceed with them and we had to start again from the beginning. But we find ourselves here today, with everything resolved, and the work about to start". The Conseller is confident that everything is in order and up and running. "This is an important investment we are making through the community, but even more so throughout Castellón Province. The other day I was with the President of the Diputación, and we have been to visit the first Vice President who deals with these matters with the Generalitat several times. We were able to see that the Health Department has proposed investment of more than 250 million euros for the whole of Castellón, which will happen in the future, but if we take just the Baix Maestrat area, where they are starting works like this, and which they are soon to start in Peñíscola and Benicarlo, and others which they have completed recently like Vinaros, they have invested more than 110 million euros. These are very important matters because they are linked to a growing problem. We cannot just dispose of this water without taking the environment into consideration, particularly with a coastline such as ours. It is important because we are in an area where we have a problem with water and we have an obligation to treat the sewage, and really treat it well so that the water can be re-used. We can see that the sewage plant here will treat 18,000 cubic metres of effluent each day, which is a lot of water. Of this, approximately half, 9,000 to 10,000, will receive a third stage of treatment of a really extraordinary nature. It can all be used for agriculture and the 9,000 will be able to be used for more sensitive areas of agriculture. We are working in this direction here and in other parts of the Comunitat. I am very happy to be here in Alcalá de Xivert, as promised by the Conselleria, and the Autonomous Secretary gave a promise to the mayor and I could do no less than be here today, laying this foundation stone."

The project

The new sewage plant will serve both Alcalá de Xivert and Alcossebre. The budget for carrying out the project is 13,456,840.14 euros; it will take 24 months to carry out the work and the contract for operating the sewage plant amounts to 1,810,200 euros. It is designed to treat a flow of 18,000 cubic metres per day, of which some 9,000 cubic metres daily will be subjected to further treatment. The work was awarded to the UTE-Renos-Sedesa-FACSA. They will also have to build a new pipe with a pump to connect the Alcossebre sewage system to the new sewage plant, reversing the flow from Las Fuentes to the new pipes.

En marcha la tercera Escuela Taller de Alcalá

El primer proyecto se puso en marcha de 1998-2000 y el segundo de 2001-2003



ALCALÁ DE XIVERT EL 7 SET

El Ayuntamiento de Alcalá puso en marcha, a finales del mes de diciembre, la nueva Escuela Taller, un proyecto que, según fuentes municipales, "es una realidad gracias al esfuerzo y trabajo llevado a cabo por el actual equipo de gobierno, quien ha conseguido poner en marcha esta Escuela Taller por tercera vez".

Esta iniciativa supone una formación profesional adecuada para los alumnos que la integran, convirtiéndose en una plataforma que les facilitará, en un futuro, una rápida inserción laboral.

El Alcalde de Alcalá, Francisco Juan ha manifestado "la importancia que tiene para nuestro municipio el logro de la Escuela Taller debido a los momentos difíciles que atravesamos actualmente, ya que los jóvenes de nuestro pueblo de entre 16 y 24 años podrán aprender un oficio y obtener un salario."

La Escuela Taller "Castell de Xivert" está compuesta por 24 alumnos divididos en tres módulos formativos: Restauración de edificios; Agente de desarrollo turístico y Jardinería. Durante dos años, los alumnos se formarán en esta Escuela Taller, mientras realizan prácticas formativas.

Happy New Year from Alcossebre Singers!

Alcossebre Singers were delighted with the audience response to their "Villancicos", held on Friday, 12th December 2008 in Alcossebre Church. This was the first time that Mike Carver had come to Alcossebre to accompany this seasonal event, and we were delighted to welcome him. 'Villancicos' has become a traditional event in Alcossebre in the lead-up to Christmas and is a real opportunity to join in all those English, Spanish and German carols, as well as the 'lighter' Christmas songs such as "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" and "I'm dreaming of a White Christmas". The retiring collection raised 300 euros, which was shared between the Catholic Church, the Asociación Española Contra el Cancer, and the Alcossebre Singers' piano fund.

Sunday, 14th December, saw even more people in the Church to enjoy "A Winter Bouquet", a recital presented by Mike specially to raise funds for a new piano. He was able to point out the shortcomings of the existing piano, but is such a skilled pianist and performer that the noisy pedal and the notes which no longer play were lost in his concert. A piano fund-raising Buffet Supper and Entertainment with Grand Raffle, will be held on Saturday, 31st January 2009, at "Cheers" Bar-Restaurant - 19.30 for 20.00h. Tickets are 15 euros, and are available from "Cheers", or any member of the Alcossebre Singers.

News from Scottish Country Dancing

The last time I wrote about Scottish Country Dancing was after Dorrie's Party, all former and present dancers organized to thank Dorrie for her many years of teaching Scottish Country Dancing.

Now Dorrie isn't teaching any longer, she now enjoys dancing, though her advice continue being very important and welcome. Now teaching is organized by three of the most experienced dancers, by Sheila, Moira and Maurice. The number of members has increased considerably, mainly by unexperienced dancers, who soon started getting accustomed to the strange steps and turnings of Scottish Country Dancing - it seems that British brains and legs are better prepared for those strange dances than a German like me who continues to be the only foreigner and who is still struggling with reels - reels on the

side, reels across, reels up and reels down -. Before starting the Christmas holiday, we all organized a small party, with drinks and cold finger snacks prepared by the members. „So there won't be any dancing?“, one of the new dancers asked hopefully. „Oh, you are completely mistaken“, was the answer, „first there will be dancing and only after the lesson's end you all will be allowed to have a rest.“ So it was. The room was getting more and more crowded, as the dancers' husbands and wives arrived. A delightful „snack table" was prepared, the bottles were uncorked, and soon everybody was chatting, eating, drinking and having a great time.

We are now enjoying our well - deserved holiday. In January we will be trying once more to penetrate in the Scottish Country Dancing's secrets.

Thanks again to Dorrie for her valuable advice, thanks to the new teachers for their

struggling with the pupils and, last but not least, thanks to all the dancers for their kindness and sympathy.

Helga Wendt de Jovaní



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