
Il Times di Campello

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Congratulations



Winifred Dwerryhouse (nee Wilkins) (left) and Ivy Hills (nee Keene) (right) both celebrated their 90th birthday in October 2001. Their mothers, Ada Louisa Diviani and Mary Elizabeth Diviani respectively, were sisters. Winifred and Ivy's grandfather John William Diviani (of the Sebastiani branch of the family) was born in London in 1859. Winifred and Ivy were both born in London in 1911 but Winifred emigrated to Australia with her parents as a small child. She now lives in Victoria, Australia. She has 2 sons, Ken and Bruce and 5 grandchildren whilst Ivy, who lives in Scotland, has 1 daughter Enid, 2 sons Derek and Keith, 6 grandchildren and 1 great granddaughter. I look forward to reporting details of their centenary celebrations in 2011!

Campello

Facts and Figures.



The name "Campello" appears in documents as early as the thirteenth century and is probably based on the word "field" - "campo". It is situated in the Leventina valley, 1370 metres above sea level, on the left side of the Ticino River, above Faido; it is like a balcony with a beautiful view overlooking the middle Leventina Valley and the Alps.

In the valley there is the railway line and the motorway which, 20 km further north, exits from the mouth of the St Gottard tunnel and continues towards Italy.

Most of the houses are built of wood over a stone cellar in the traditional Leventinese style. A few of the bigger houses are all stone and these were constructed mainly by emigrant Ticinesi with their savings. In summer the windows have a colourful display of bright geraniums.

The highest number of inhabitants recorded was in 1881, when there were 277 adults living in the village. There are currently about 60 inhabitants living all year round (including the hamlet of Cari), although there are many other families who have a weekend/holiday home in Campello and visit there regularly. During the summer months and at Christmas the population goes over 1000.

The current church building was inaugurated in 1837 and was constructed mostly with the help of donations from the emigrants of Campello. The church was modernised in 1961 and is dedicated to Saint Margherita, the patron saint of the village whose feast day is always celebrated in July.

The commune/parish was originally linked with Calpiogna (the village below Campello on the road from Faido to Cari) until the separation, first from the parish (1837 and then from the village council (1853). Nowadays it is a combined community with Cari, small ski resort 4km higher up the mountain.

Who am I?

I am Attilio Brentini (Giovannitt) born in 1935 in Sorengo, Switzerland, the youngest of four children of Maurizio Brentini and Clotilde Croce. I am married to Jacqueline Pally. We live in the outskirts of Lausanne and have one son, one daughter and four grandchildren.



Since 1962 I have been president of the Lansa Group of companies that operate from Ecublens, Lausanne. My company exports its products through its subsidiary companies in France, Germany and the United

Kingdom as well as the rest of the world. I am fortunate to have my wife Jacqueline as president of the French subsidiary in Gex near Geneva. I have invented and patented many of Lansa's famous products and am involved with the design and development of the company's goods. In addition to inventing, my hobbies are skiing, tennis and ballroom dancing.

I am looking forward to the reunion of the Brentini and Diviani families in Campello in August 2003 and hope to be active in arranging some of the events of the meeting. I hope to meet you there.

Questionnaire Please complete the enclosed questionnaire to give me some idea whether you and or your family will be attending the reunion in Campello that is scheduled for the weekend of 1-3 August 2003. A firm programme of events will then be drawn up from the information given and will be published in the next newsletter (August 2002)