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# The Times of Campello

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## Casa Pierina

More than 2,000 Swiss francs (£1,000) was raised for the Casa Pierina Museum Fund at the Diviani and Brentini Reunion held in Campello on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Since then further donations and fund raising have brought the total to about £1,800 (Sfr.3'800).

The first step in the Casa Pierina restoration will be the removal of the old roof of "piode" (flat stones that used to cover most roofs in the local mountain villages), which is now leaking and in a very bad state. A new roof will then be put on, hopefully before the end of 2003 or at the beginning of 2004 to stop the building from further deterioration. The choice of the covering material will depend on the decision of experts who have been asked for advice and estimates of costs. The community (assemblea comunale) have already voted a credit towards this first step. It is estimated that about Sfr. 500,000 (£238,000) will be required for the complete restoration of this beautiful early 18<sup>th</sup> century house, which will include the museum, an exhibition room and an apartment to be rented. The Comune of Campello will have to provide

the money, helped by private subsidies and grants, which have been asked for as well as local, cantonal and federal agencies. Obviously, the money raised at the Reunion and any donations connected with it, is put into a Museum Fund and will be used solely for the equipping and maintenance of the proposed Museum, conservation of documents, for exhibitions to reflect Campello's past and to protect our heritage for the future.

## Reunion 2003

This newsletter is too small to include a meaningful report of the reunion. However, here is how it went in a nutshell

On August 1st, the beautiful weather allowed many of the participants to travel up to Cari 2000 by chairlift, from where the stunning view of the Alps could be admired at its best. In the evening, the festivities for the National Holiday kept everybody busy and entertained.

The following morning was taken up by visiting the various exhibitions and proposed museum. After a delicious cold buffet lunch, quite a few people walked down to Fontanedo (some also walked back up!). In the evening, the main event - the official dinner - was an experience, which will be long remembered by the many guests. Good food, music, speeches and the like kept everybody up and around till late.

Hazel and Michael, the two unlucky three-legged-race participants, have almost completely recovered from their injuries. In spite of the accident, they have good memories of the Reunion and look forward to visiting Campello again. They would like to thank family members, the people of Campello and the hospital staff in Faido for their help and support.



Some reunion attendees at lunch 02.08.2003

On Sunday, a memorable mass was followed by a moving ceremony at the cemetery where the headstone for Pietro Diviani and his descendants was unveiled. One more al fresco lunch and then a few frolics ended the three-day gathering.

The weather was fantastic throughout, and so was the food and the organisation according to the many positive comments that sprang up all around. The sale of Souvenirs, family trees and so on was appreciated and well received and on the whole everything seems to have gone well and everybody seems to have gone home happy and with good memories - and that's all that counts.

We were particularly gratified to see the enthusiasm and involvement of the visitors who came to Campello for the very first time to get in touch with their origins. They were able to go back with good impressions and fond memories, which was actually one of the main reasons for the reunion.

## Souvenir DVD

A Souvenir DVD has been prepared that has captured all the highlights and moments of the Reunion. It shows Campello and Fontanedo together with friends and families having a wonderful time. Also featured are scenes from the Reunion dinner, Brentini and Diviani "family" groups, the Mass and unveiling of the new stone in the cemetery. Superbly created by Xavier Brentini and his family, complete with audio tracks, there will be moments of the event you may have forgotten or just missed! If you weren't able to be with us this is "the complete armchair reunion". Price £16.50 all profits from this enterprise to go to the Casa Pierina Museum Fund. Payments with order please, to Milena or myself, to be received by 22 January 2004 at the latest.



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

