

## **Figaro Forest Walk 15 June & Concert 16 June 2024**

On Saturday Ron, Christine and I went on a 7km guided (group) walk through the forest of Figaro. Figaro is a small town about 40km north-west of Barcelona. The town goes back to medieval times but it is now best known as a summering place. From the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the well-off from Barcelona spent their summers up in the hills in Figaro, and towns like it, escaping the heat and humidity. As this co-incided with the modernisme period in architecture, Figaro boasts many fine houses in this style.

Figaro lies in a narrow valley and the surrounding forest, now a national park, is very popular with hikers. Our walk took us through a haven of green, past trickling brooks and medieval ruins.







We had a perfect day for this walk: blue skies, no wind and the temperature was in the mid 20's – in the sun this was quite warm but as you can see there was plenty of dappled shade. It was rated as easy and although it was quite hilly not too much exertion was required!



Beautiful wildflowers.











The walk finished about 1 o'clock so we decided to stay in Figaro for lunch. Strangely, given the number of summer visitors, Figaro only has one restaurant and it is 1.5km out of town. [With the 7km walk, plus 3km to and from the restaurant plus all the walking entailed in getting to and from Figaro by public transport we ended up walking about 13km. We all collapsed when we got home!]

Anyway, the restaurant was quite good and we had a very pleasant, leisurely lunch.



We sat in covered area – shade and open air.

We stopped to look at some of the town's architecture on the walk back to the railway station.







After a quiet, restful Saturday evening, we had recovered sufficiently to attend a music concert early Sunday afternoon.

The musicians were Marta Albiol Serra, singer and flutist, and Rai Jimenez Tejero, who plays acoustic and electric guitar, composes and sings a little. They are both about 17 years. The music ranged from Bach to jazz to contemporary, and included a number of Spanish composers, including Rai himself.



The musicians.

It was a delightful concert musically, made even more special by being held in the courtyard of the Frederic Mares Museum.



The museum regularly holds concerts, often for young musicians.



The Museu Frederic Marès is a unique collecting museum that houses the collections assembled of its founder, sculptor Frederic Marès (1893-1991). Mares was a very successful Barcelona sculptor with a passion for collecting a wide – very wide – range of objects. In 1946 he donated his collections and many of his sculptures to the city of Barcelona, which then created The Frederic Mares Museum to house the donation.

A significant part of the Museum's display is an extensive Hispanic sculpture collection which ranges from the ancient world until the 19th century.

In addition, the Museum is home to a display of tens of thousands of objects; vast collections that document past lifestyles and customs, mainly from the 19th century. There you can find amusing, unique items like fans, pipes, clocks, jewellery, photographs, toys, keys, pharmacy bottles and reliquaries, all presented in an intimate atmosphere evoking Marès private universe. (*from the Museum website*)

For anyone who is a collector (and I know a couple!) it is truly amazing – and will make you feel a lot better about having too much ‘stuff’. After donating his collection in 1946 he continued to collect (to save you the math, he was 53 yrs in 1946 and he lived to be 99 yrs). The Frederic Mares Museum ran out of room to house the additional pieces so they’ve boosted the collections of a number of other museums in the city.