

Yesterday the Consell de Formentera's programme to commemorate 200 years of local government began with two round tables in the Sala de Cultura-Cinema. "Governing on Formentera: the last 39 years" was moderated by Pepo Rubio and attended by mayors Victor Tur, Vicent Escandell, Vicent Serra, Vicent Serra, Isidor Torres, Juan Manuel Costa, Jaume Ferrer, Alejandra Ferrer and Ana Juan Torres. Subsequently, "Transformation and conservation: Formentera's present" included representatives of social and community organisations and was moderated by Toni Ruiz. Participants included Jordi Crespo (Santa Maria Festival Commission), Maria Teresa Ferrer (OCB), Verónica López (AVIF), business owners Antònia Ferrer and Vicent Tur, historian Santi Colomar, Jamal el Mansouri (Centre Islàmic) and Lina Mayans (Consell de Formentera employee).

Ana Juan, president of the Consell, thanked the participants and the public for attending this first commemorative event: "It makes us very excited to organise this popular celebration and these round tables. We hope that they are very enriching spaces to exchange opinions and experiences, and must use them to think about and work towards a better island for generations to come".

Events will continue today Friday with a popular festival in Plaça de la Constitució with concerts and a barbecue from 8.30pm; Monday 24 October from 6.00pm with a look at the history of the island's government in the 'Ajuntament Vell' exhibition space with photographs, objects and documents (baton, municipal books, electoral rolls, budgets, etc.) and Thursday 27 October at 8.30pm, with a concert of contemporary music and dance/movement at the Sala de Cultura-Cinema.

In addition, 30 commemorative T-shirts were sold yesterday and others will be available for purchase at upcoming events. Proceeds go to benefit Formenterers Solidaris.

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