

Annexe 2
Travel Journal

Camins d'aigua

Alina Jbe Huer

28.10.2024

- Schipol Airport - 04:39am

"The Dutch love water

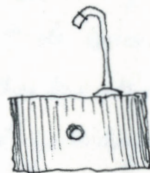
We live off the water here below sea level
and know how to make good use of water.

Such as our tap water, which is among the
best in the world. It's all-natural, crystal clear
and has a clean and fresh taste.

Try it for yourself.

You can even take some with you for free in
your own refillable bottle. Please enjoy
Dutch tap water and help reduce plastic waste.

That tastes good!"



Arriving at the airport of PMF I could already guess it had rained by the buckets of water collecting the drops from the ceiling. In Valldemossa the streets were still wet and the air was warm and humid.

Already on my first walk I met Toni our old neighbour. He presented me to his friend: "that's Mireia, she's from Valldemossa, she used to live here!"

It was nice to be back.

4:30pm - meeting with Conce

So many informations I'm already overwhelmed. She helped me to find the nerve of Miramar, where José Antonio Serrano documented the Font de Na Mas. I saw a picture and realised I knew him. He sadly passed away. I remember him still very well, he was always very kind to me. But back to water. From what Conce knows almost every house or house group had to have their own cistern in their house, to have their water independency. I didn't know under the patio where I lived is also one. It was used to water the pharmaceutical plants. Cartoixa, the monastery has its own Font, of course I forgot the name now... Right in front of my window is S'Hot de Cartoixa. It has 3 safareig one lower than the other one. They are all full now, it rained yesterday and this morning. I can still smell and feel the humid

air. Most importantly, the village was apparently built after the natural path of font de Na Mas, it explains the hilly topography of the village. A system that Conce could only tell me in pieces. You could buy in ~~advance~~ how many hours of water you would use and then it was passed on to the next one. A few years ago the priest of the village was complaining the water wasn't coming to his house anymore, showing the problem also around such a community system.

• Evening -

In the news came the rain of yesterday. Menacor suffers from heavy floodings calling it a "record de lluvians en Mallorca."

Juan had measured the rain last night, it was 34 L/m. Afterwards I looked in the municipal library for the revue of Miramar but apparently they all got stolen. Very curious.



on a walk looking for Font de Na Lambies

30.10.2024

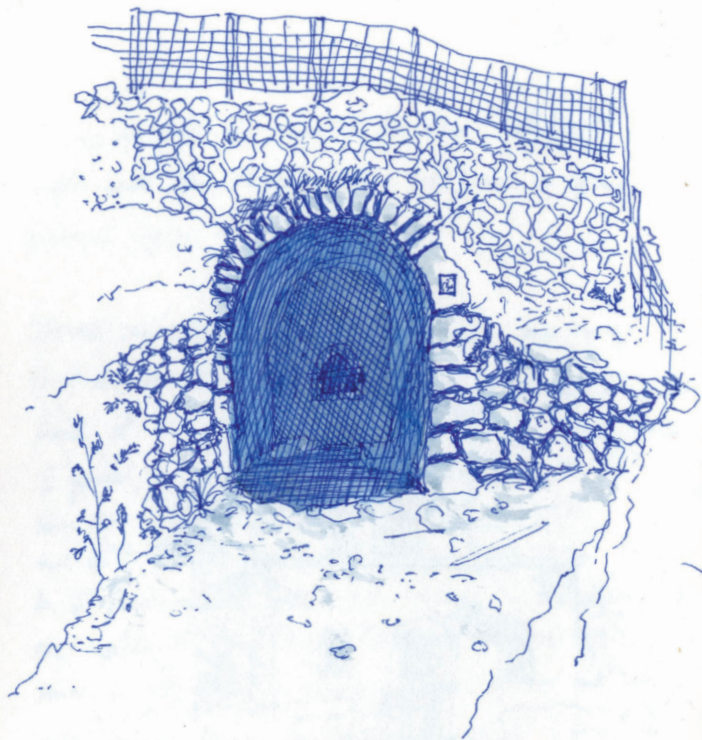
Waking up with the news of the day: "at least 51 people dead after torrential rain and floods in Spain's Valencia region"

Started my walk direction Sa Comuna, passing by Font de Na Llambies. This time with a map, I found it.

I passed by Es Molinet, which sadly doesn't have the windmill. It has been nicely renovated, but all fenced up, a clear difference to the Moli de la Beata. Santa Catalina Thomas is la Beata, the saint of the village. On every door of the house a tile ~~of~~ with a drawing reminds of her and asks. "Sta Catalina Thomas pregar per nosaltres" (pray for us).

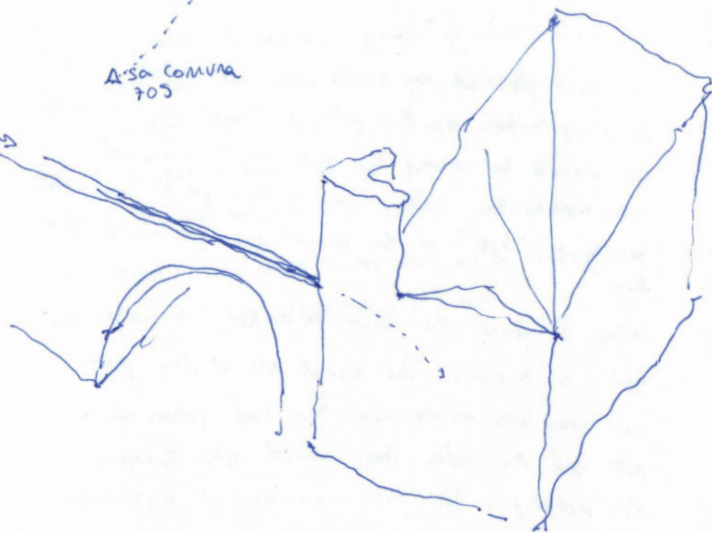
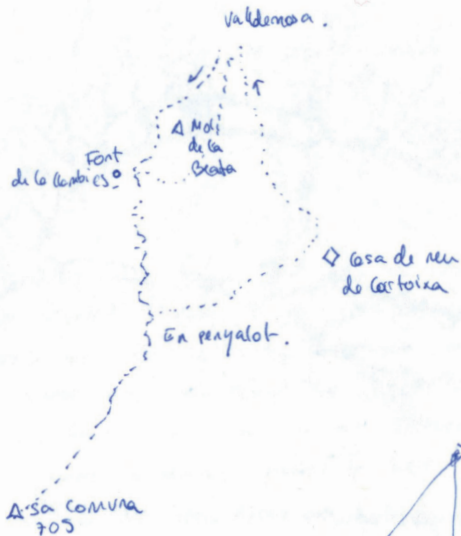


Es Molinet

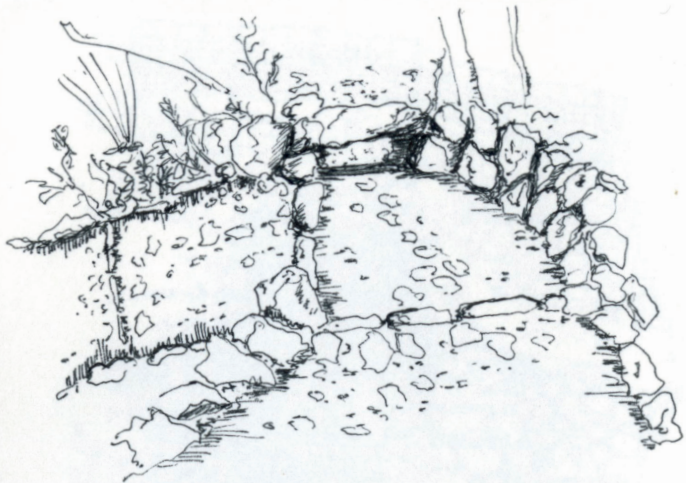


Font De Na Clambies

It's a calm, warming morning. The workers are restoring a piece of wall next to the Font and their noise breaking the pieces of stones and placing them is surprisingly calming. Always in the same rhythm.



Sa Tanlora



The first part of the walk was very well kept. At every turning of the path a thicker step of stones was placed to convey the water away from the path and to the sides. This turning point was even having a "hole" in the stone wall for water to flow.

When I found the 'casa ~~the~~ de nen' it was like finding a treasure. The second part of the path was way less maintained, trees had fallen on the path and the path itself would often disappear in the landscape. This path was also not signalled, probably not very used.

The snow house was quite impressive - Approximately about 8m deep and similarly wide. Now it's just a man made hole left, without roof, it's quite easy to fall in.

When I came back home there was no water from the tap anymore. Funny, I was chasing water the whole morning. With my friend we took 2 empty bottles and walked up the village to her grandma's house. They have a big cistern and drinking water is always picked up there. The tap is outside the house so the whole family, uncle, cousins can go and get water at any time. When we came back to the house at the bottom of the village, the water was back.

Joon said "you never know here with water, sometimes it's here, sometimes it's not."

7:15 pm - meeting with Toni

Toni used to work at Valldemossa town hall for many years, in charge of the 'medi ambient'. Together with Joan Antonio Soriano Dorres, they set up the community of Sa Font De Na Mas.

But first he started explaining the systems in general. I didn't record but I should have!

I will try my best to transcribe the informations after my notes and the natural selection of my memory will hopefully reduce the amount of information. First of all there are small systems and big systems, or called complex systems.

Each finca had usually its own water source and its water system to convey water and store the leftover water.

Son Moragues, the finca next to Valldemossa has already quite a complex systems overlapping each other.

But the systems were always following the rules of gravity, conveying water always down, never up.

Sometimes on the land of a 'posseció' there would be a source on their lower part. As they couldn't pump it up, it would continue its way down the valley

and serve another posseció. Meaning who had a source on his terrain would not always have the "dret de s'aigua" (the right to water). This was always written down in "s'escriptura", a piece of paper.



"S'oll de sa Font" is the eye of the source, the place where it comes out of the ground

Each town would usually have the "Font de la villa" (town source),



but Valldemossa does not seem to call it like that, maybe because there are multiple sources.

The oldest one is the Font de Na Mas, which is also at the origin of the creation of Valldemossa. This Font has the peculiarity to not only serve for agricultural purpose but also urban / domestic purposes. The water of the Font had the quality of being "aigua bona" (good water) and was used for drinking. At the beginning, the village was the

group accumulation of houses each with their "hort" (garden to grow vegetables). The urban development and positioning of the houses depended directly from the siques of the Fort. Additionally, each house usually had its own cistern where it would collect its own rain water from the roof. Rain water was always used for private use and consumption.

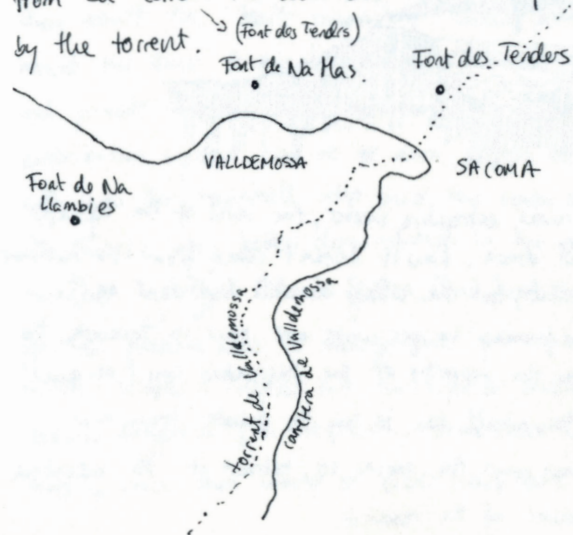


aigua de Fort de Na Mas.

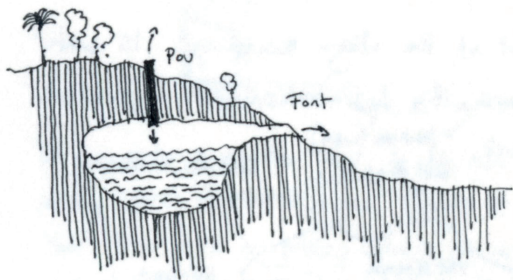
To get water from the Font de Na Mas you had to buy "horas de dret d'aigua" (hours of water rights). Your turn could be Friday evening during 3h for example. It was your responsibility to turn the tap open to fill your deposit, and turn it off again, so the next one could use it. Of course this led to a lot of fights between the neighbours if someone was using more water hours than he had bought for. At some places in the village like the rectory, water could be picked up at any time by the inhabitants. The rectory had a bigger cistern, for then others.

"People would still come and pick up water 40 years ago" said Toni. The water that the other houses were getting from Na Mas would be used for the garden and the animals. Once it was contaminated it couldn't be used for drinking purpose, which is why people would pick up water from other places. But the water from Na Mas is also not sufficient.

The other part of the village would get its water from Sa coma. The distribution was separated by the torrent.



Now comes all the problem. There used to be 1 well at Sa Coma and 'rentadors' (washers) for the small community there. The owner of the bar Meriendas in Vallademossa bought a piece of land in Sa Coma, completely run-down and worth nothing. But, someone told him, there is water underneath. He built a well and started extracting water from it.



As he was extracting water, the level of the aquifer lowered down. Now it doesn't come from its natural exit point, but the village is still dependent on it.

The only way to get water out now is through the well on the property of the Meriendas guy (Miquel)

The townhall has to buy the water from him and even pays the engine to extract it. He understood the power of the resource.

As Toni said "es benefits son privats, es costos son comuns" (benefits are private, costs are common). This luckily hasn't happened to the Font De Na Mas as nobody has damaged the aquifer by extracting water from other points.

In 2008, valldemossins started realising they had barely any water arriving to their house and looked for the responsible of the Font. At their biggest surprise, there wasn't any. Soddently they realised there was no community around the Font. With a lot of perseverance and dedication they rebuilt the 'teixit comunitari' (commune fabric) around the Font. A mixed community between townhall and private tenders. A lot of work to renovate the distribution system had to be done, which at the end, was the townhall who paid the costs for it.

All this is way better documented in the magazine Miramar by José Antonio Serrano. Toni had it.

Another problem was to manage the 'sobrant' (leftover) water. Water is needed but the leftover suddenly becomes dangerous if it's too much. Sometimes with the heavy rain there would be 100 times more water

then the Font had capacity for. The last one of the village would be the one having the biggest storage (water storage). But at times it couldn't handle it. Already at its exit point at the top of the village there would be floodings all over the parking lot and main road. Now in case of excess, the water would be conducted to a large water storage from the town hall. This water sometimes is exclusively used for 3-4 months and the wells from Sa Coma can "relax" and refill with water. It's a system that seems to be working "okay" but not ideal. What surprised me the most was that Toni said 80% of the houses don't collect rain water anymore. Instead of having the water flowing in the streets, it goes underneath directly into the dirty water. In case of heavy rains, the prifier at the end of the village would overflow and the water would go into the torrent. This water would infiltrate into the soil and be extracted somewhere else to again for usage. "We're drinking shit" ended Toni with.

- Evening back at home.

We watched the news on the TV. By now there were already 90 people dead in the region of Valencia. It's really sad to see. It was on 'alerta roja' but still people went out and didn't take the danger of water seriously.

31.10.2019

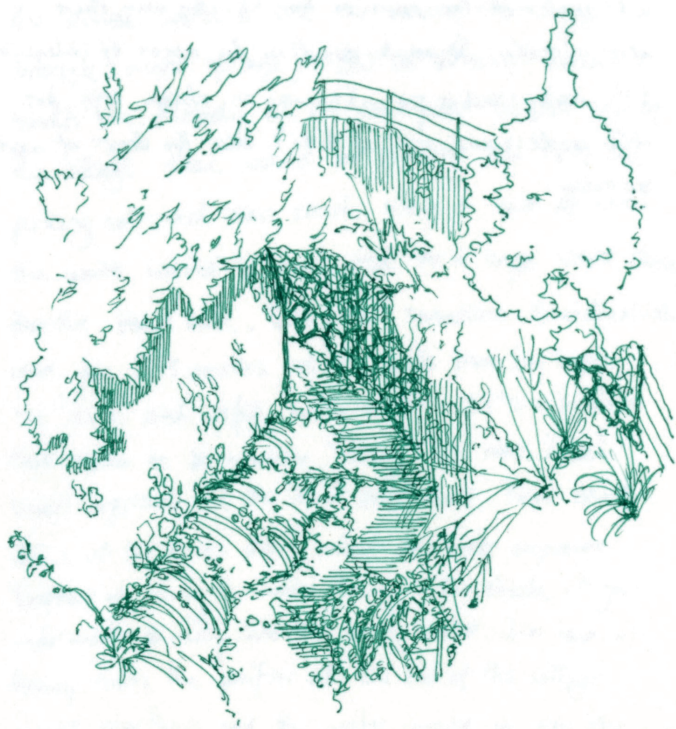
Tracing the torrent de Valldemossa.

It's mainly recognisable due to its abundant wild plants. It's more a green stripe in the landscape than a blue one. It had rained the day I arrived but no water at all can be seen. In the village the torrent is quite urbanised with stone walls from both side. But it's clear that nature is slowly taking over.

That's where the beauty lies. People build and give directions to nature, but then they let nature do its course.

Here at the bottom of the village a lot of horts are still being used. No tourist make it until here and it's a way nicer atmosphere.

It's calm. You might hear pigs or chickens.

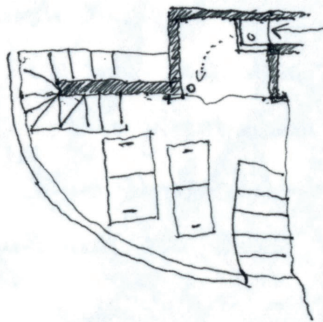


31.10.2024

torrent de Valldemossa
with no water

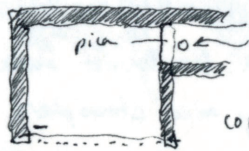
In the afternoon Toni took me around by moto.

First we went to Font De Na Mas. It's right under the old primary school where I used to go. The exit point of the source is all fenced up for hygienic reasons. We managed to climb up the first fence to see it from closer.

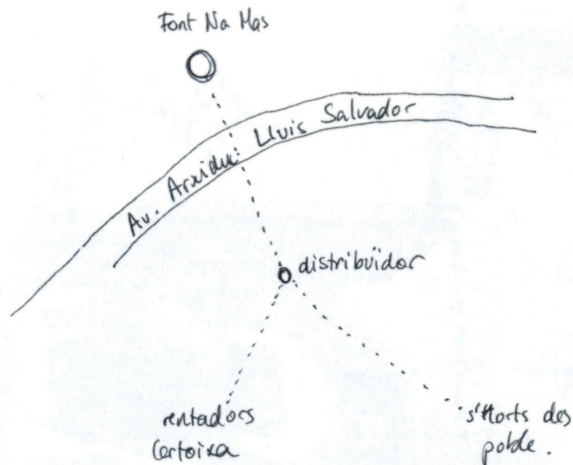
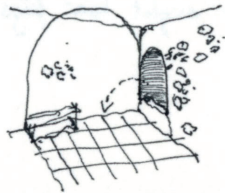


the water arrives and goes straight into the canalization.

In case of overabundance of water it goes to the second pipeline which goes to the reservoir from the townhall in Son Gual.



correction of the floor plan.



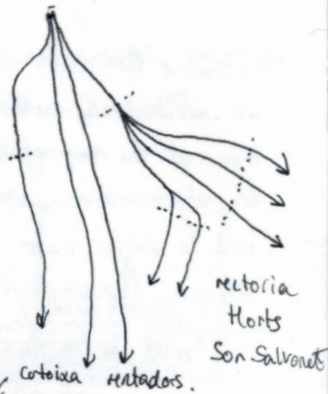
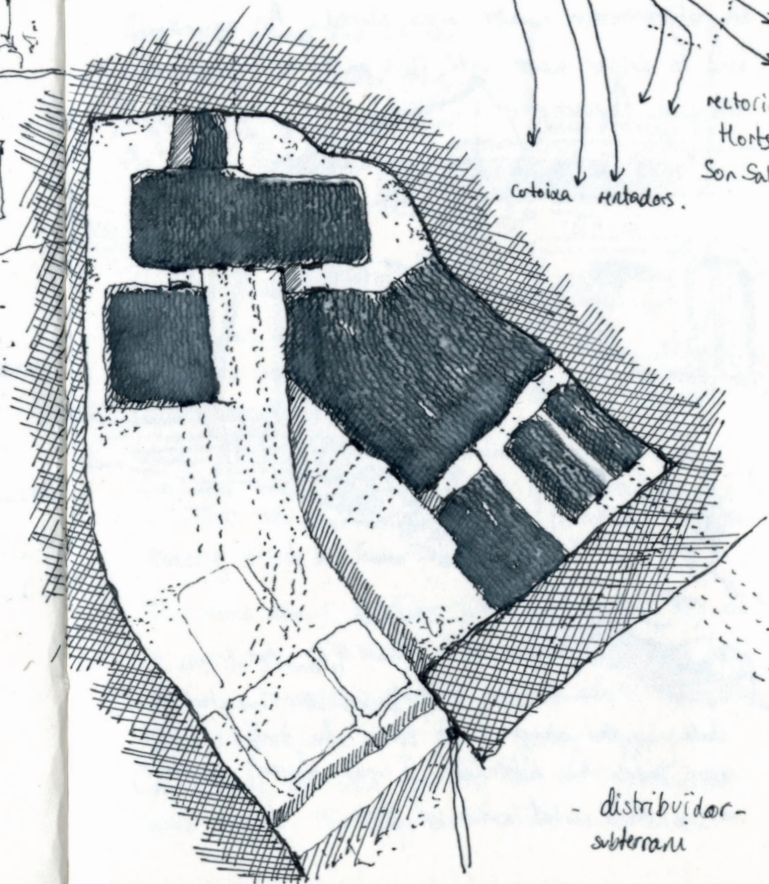
The distribuidor is a small building behind a tiny door ~~as~~ I never noticed before. I asked my friend and she had also never noticed it.

It's opposite to 16 Carrer del Rei Sanyo.

The water is distributed depending on the rights of water.



The smallest door, is the door to the distribuidor.
The door is about 1.40 m high.



- distribuidor-
subterrani

Following the water to Cartoixa, the monastery, we arrived at another smaller 'distribuidor', this time at the top of a house. This house used to be an aljób, where water was stored. An aqueduct used to deliver water until this point to surpass the changing topography.



To arrive at the distribuidor we had to walk up the steep flying stairs. The smallest little door hides the distribuidor. I was always wondering as a child what was up there.

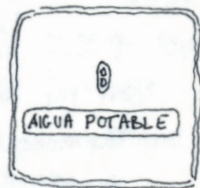
We followed the signia (which is under the street now) from Carrer Vell, Carrer de la Rosa, Carrer de la Constitució until Carrer de la Dragonera.

There we opened one of the metal plaques. Inside there was a very earthy-soily hole. The pipes were newly installed. It was wet but no water ^{from} present.

Curiously a foam tab block was inside and seemed to be in use to direct the water to their terraza or away from it. A woman came to us and asked if we came to fix the water. She's been without it for a week she said.

- Evening back at home -

The news about Valencia were getting worse. By now it was over 150 death. The weather forecast for Mallorca tomorrow changed now to 'alesta naranja'. Begoña just came back from grocery shopping at Mercadona and was reporting how the supermarket was empty. The cargo was stuck in Valencia.



01.11.2024

-Tots Sants -

Waking up and waiting for the storm.

11:50 am the first rain and thunders came.

13:40 I went for a small walk outside but the rain caught me very fast.

The torrent is still empty.

All door protections are out.



Carer de la Dragonera

The rain got worse and the thunders too.

After lunch (3pm) Begoña hurried to make coffee before the electricity would turn off.

16:30 it happend. It brought me back to my childhood. Some things just don't change.

If a storm hits the village you are almost be sure it will turn off the electricity.

We lit up candles and ate bunyols (the tradition for tot sants).

After Joon, Marina's dad started to explain me their cistern in the grandparents house.

He just opened the cistern a few weeks ago.

They say to keep it closed all the months without an "R".

Gener
Febrer
Març
Abril
Maig
Juliol
Agost
Septembre
Octubre
Novembre
Desembre

in those months it barely rains and if it does, it rains with mud.

In September you have to wait for the rain to wash away the dirt from the roof before you fill up the cistern.

The cistern is located in the ground floor.

~~It~~ It has the capacity of 600 toneladas (tonnes)

In summer its sufficient for the whole ~~entire~~ extended family to use it as drinking water.

Juan remembers when they were young...

they almost every summer had water restrictions.

Often during the day the town would cut off the water until the evening. Until "they found the second well a Sa Coma"

Begoña was commenting about the renovations of the signia de Na Mas. Some leftovers used to go to the Font de la Beata, a historic place where la Beata, the Saint of the village would get water. The story says the devil came there and threw her into a well.

After renovations, the Font de la Beata was left dry. A few months ago a neighbour changed a pipe so the Font de la Beata would have water again. "In the townhall everything is a secret... you don't really know what is happening"

17:30 now the DANA (storm) has clearly made its way to the island. Everybody is on alert. On the news floodings are already being showed in the areas from Andorra and Llívia. Valldemossa has the luck to be higher up, the water flushes down and accumulates lower in the valley.

For a period of more than 6 hours no flights were leaving the island. Marina who wanted to go to Menorca was stuck for over 7h at the airport.

At around 20:00 the weather started to calm down and some people dare to go out. I went to the torrent where there was finally some water. It was surprisingly little.

The news were reporting: 4 torrents in Mallorca were at their limits and 7 roads were blocked but no major damage was done.



02.11.2024

It's only while walking in the rain that things started to become visible to me. For example the pavement technique.

Small holes are being carved out of the stone to give it more relief to not slip when the floor is wet. Suddenly also the pipes stopping in mid-air became more visible. A post even found its way to grow where the water was hitting the wall.

The street was a torrent itself.

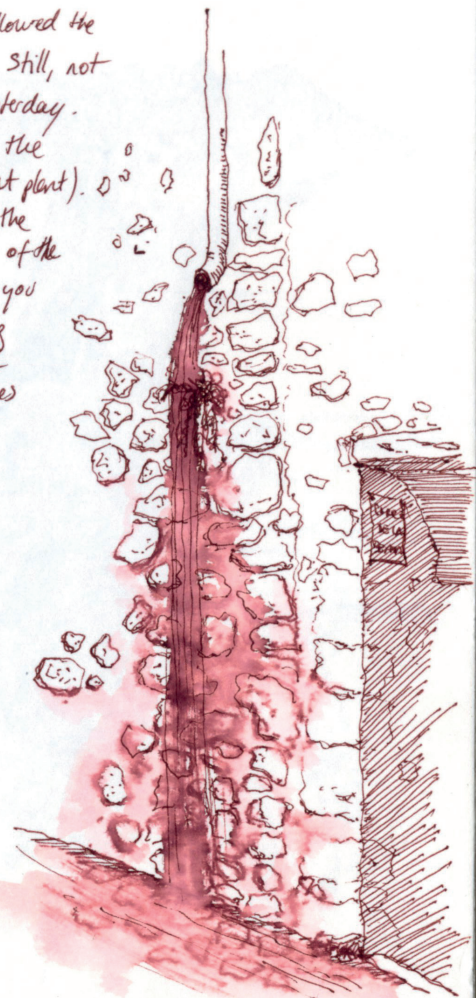
Today I heard people commenting in the streets:

"Well it wasn't that bad actually the storm, we had worse"

In the morning I followed the torrent a bit longer. Still, not more water than yesterday.

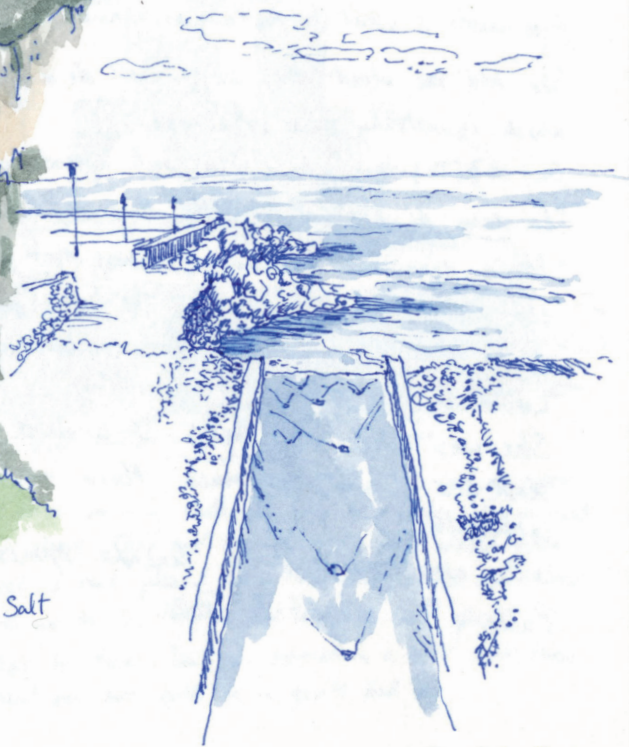
After I went to find the 'depuradora' (treatment plant).

It's well hidden in the valley at the beginning of the forest. The first thing you recognise before seeing anything is the bad smell that welcomes you.





Torrent des Salt



Torrent Sa Marina

In the afternoon we went to Sa Marina, the harbour of Valldemossa. On our way we could see from far the torrent des Salt with its beautiful waterfalls.

The name already says 'river of the jump'.

At the beach the torrent was flowing to the sea.

Afterwards I went to see Conce again.

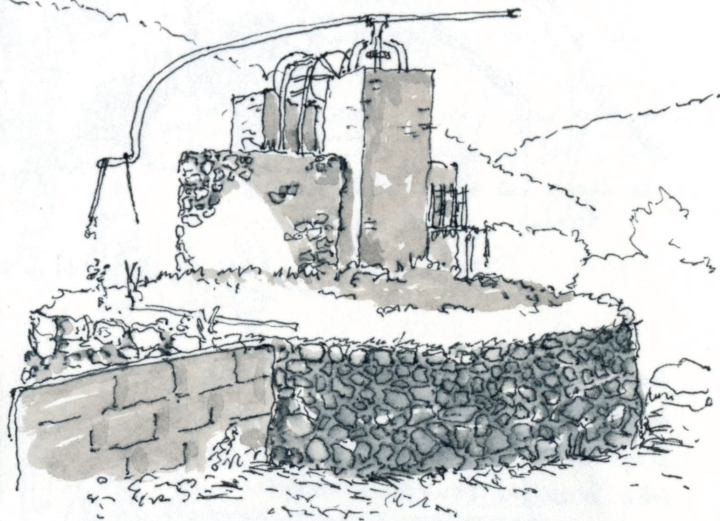
She told me about the song "Ball de sa neu" which is actually from Valldemossa.

On IB3(TV) there was also a small episode about "La dona de l'aigua". Opposite there is also

"Maria engarxa", a beautiful women that would live in the wells and cistern. The story says all of them were connected underground and she would be going from one to another.

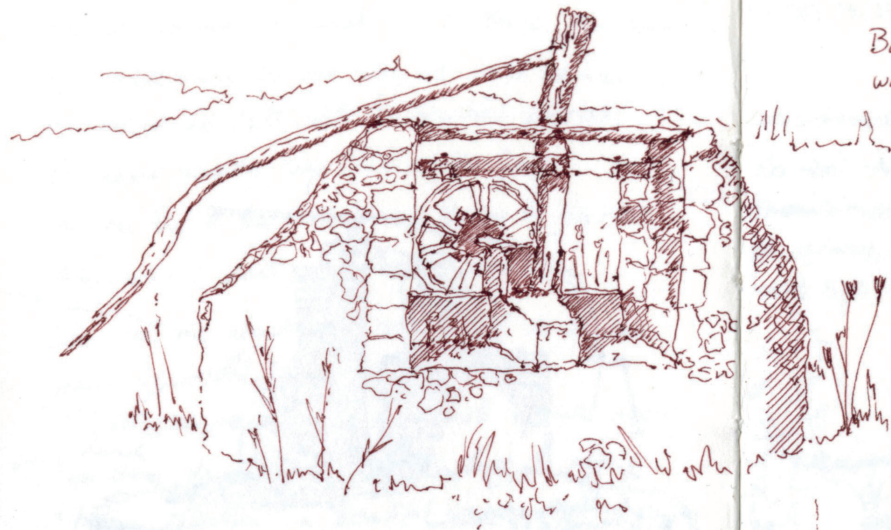
She was looking after kids. If a child would bend over a well too much, Maria would catch him.

Conce also remembered the "llegende Ahmed de Pastorix" a la font des Polls.



03.11.2024

I went on a morning walk to find two 'sinies' Conce had told me about. They had the advantage to be visible from the street. I have passed this road many times as it's the one to go to Sa Marina but I also never payed attention to them. This one seemed in a better state than the next one, but both in a quite bad one.



People passing by while I was sketching were looking with a look of wonder.

I continued my walk to Son Mas and the hike to all the viewpoints along the coast.

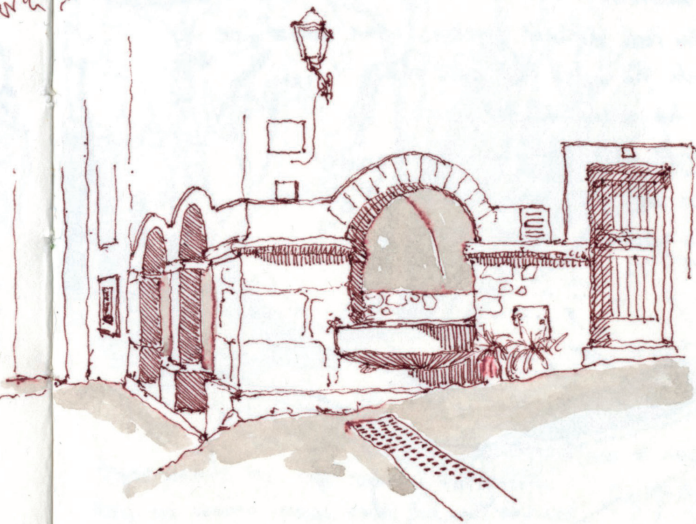
At the end of it is the Fort Figuera but the gate was clearly closed with a lock.

On my way back all my tentatives to access Son Moragues also failed. There are so many gates with locks!

Back in the village I went to Placa Cortixa wanting to sketch the well. Funnily exactly at that time a photoshooting was happening in front of the well. I still thought I could

observe it, but after some time of being surrounded by people I gave up.

At the rentadors it was way more quietly. Many tourist were passing by but I was surprised how little people had a look at it or commented on it.



04.11.2024

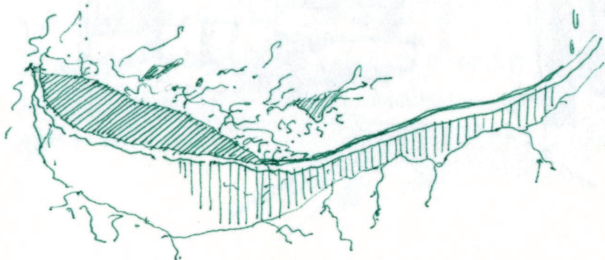
El camí de l'Arxiduc.

Today the weather forecast is sunny, 21°C with some clouds and wind. The main goal of the hike was to see Font de s'Aberrada, Pla des Pouet and Casa de neu de San Moragues. But going through and over the mountains always means discovering old human settlements. Those structures are ruins falling apart today. But they are not even that old. It had its glorious time in the 18-19th century, even until beginning of 20th. The biggest economy on the island was carbó (coal) used for heating, light, everything. Carboners would live in the mountains and only go down to the village on the weekend for example. On my path I come across a few tourist.

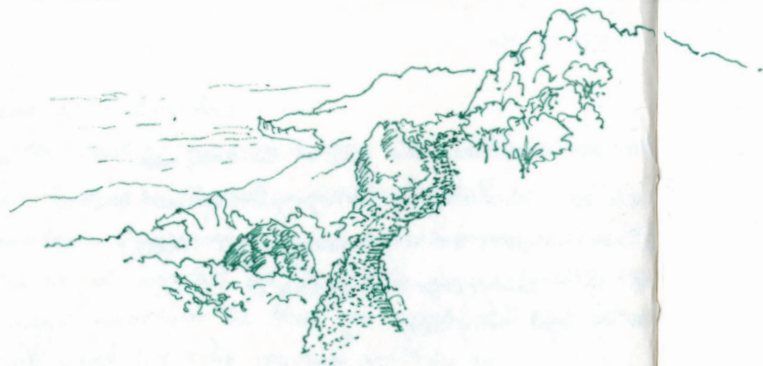
I re-discovered the Cova de s'Ermità Guillem - fascinating!

Into the rock different structures were carved into it to catch the water that was falling from the rocks above.

The Font de s'Aberrada was quite hidden and very unspectacular. A pile of rocks with a metal door.



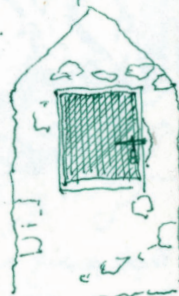
People passing by and nobody noticed it. Casa de neu de San Moragues
Only one woman looked inside and was surprised
What a big whole!



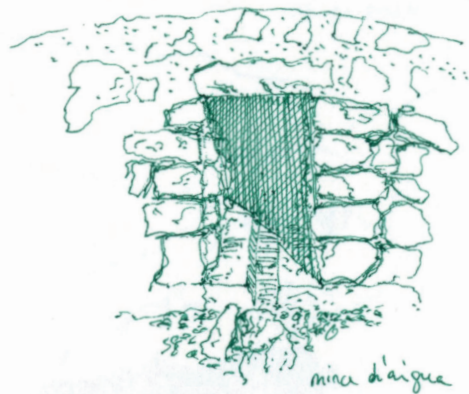
The panorama views on this path are a true wonder of nature. The winds blow strong here. But the calmness is big. Hidden, a bit further away from the path lies Sa Cova de s'Ago. A cave filled with water for the animals to drink. Up here in the mountains there is no other possibility for water. There isn't a single torrent.

The casa de neu de Son Moragues is close to the 'refugi' a hut to sleep, and the Font des Polls. Sadly it hasn't been giving water for the past 50 years.

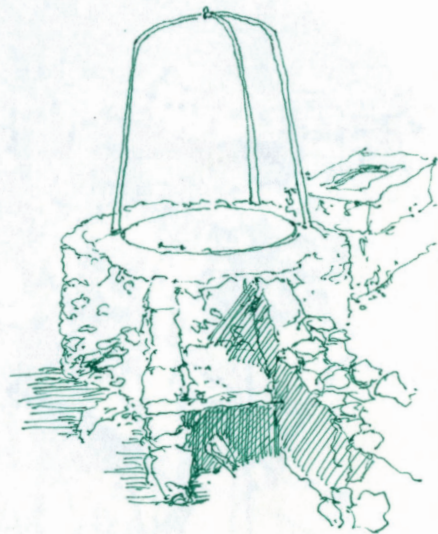
The perso in charge of the public forest area of Son Moragues said it stopped to "trovella" after they built the bigger road. Nature is delicate, especially water sources. If you touch the ground too much, it will disappear. This source has it's own legend. The legend of Ahmed de Pastorix



Font des Polls.



minca d'aigua



05.11.2024



Valdemossa



Font de Sa Coma



new adapted
siquia



beirador
for animals.

Camí de Pastorix -

In the afternoon I went on a small hike with Joan. I couldn't go alone, the path disappeared after the snow storm "Juliette" - almost a poetic name for so much damage.

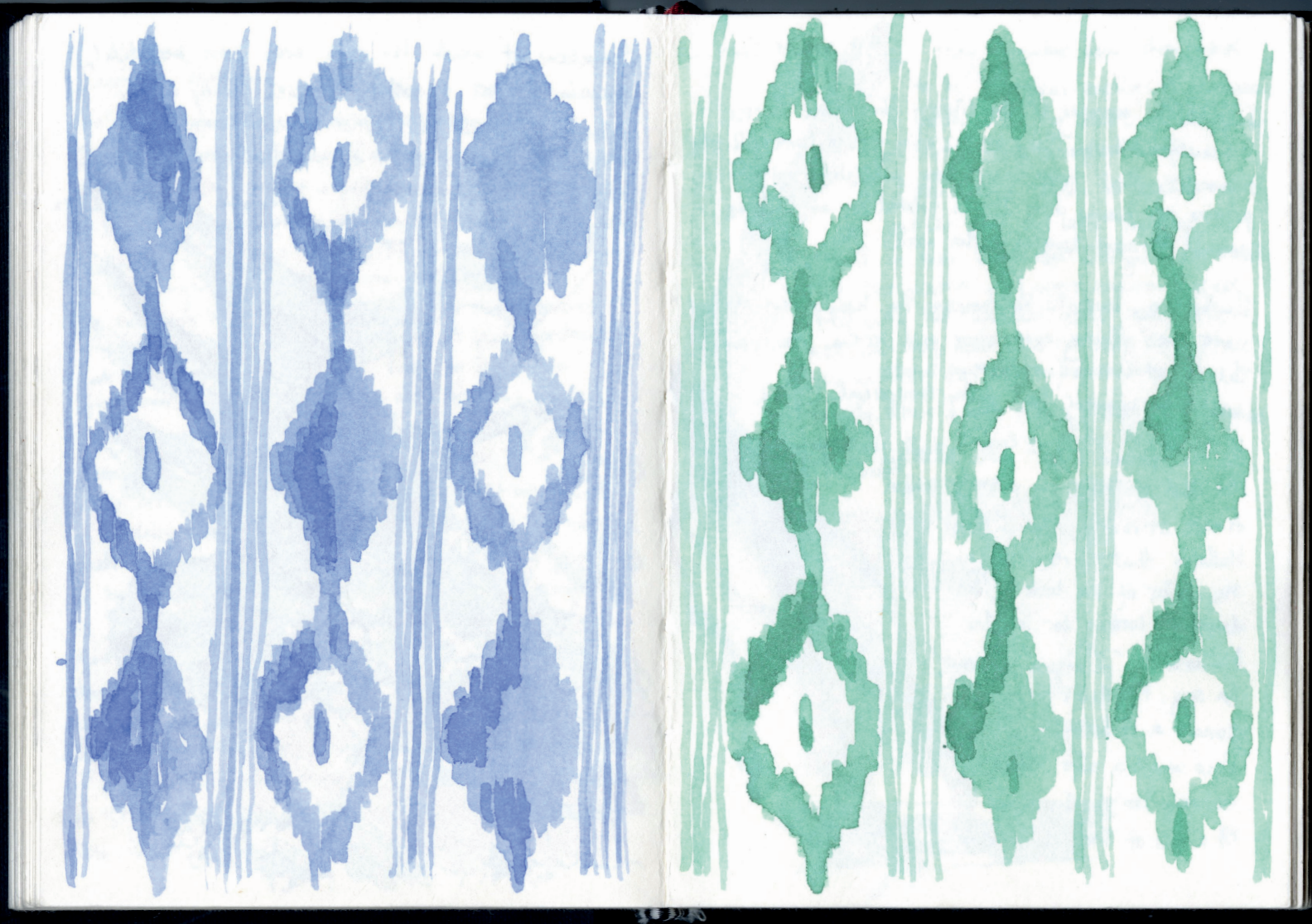
A lot of fog was moving between the mountains. We had to hurry if we wanted to have the panorama view. So we went straight up towards the mountain summit.

On our way we passed San Coma, with the rentadors, completely abandoned, and the source. A quite spectacular gate. Now fenced up all around. Near by some new pipes over what seems to be an old Siquia.

Nobody crossed our path a part from some wild goats. Everything is calm here - a profound peace. I'm enjoying every bits of it. Further up in the mountains we found a drinking pond for animals. A slope goes into the collected water so animal don't fall in. Near by a stone hut with a half-underground cistern. At the top of the mountain is a small net for hanging between trees. A set of for hunting. Joan comes here often with his friends to go hunt for a couple of days. From the top we had an amazing view over the possessio of Pastorix. Especially the aqueduct was very visible. Sadly you can't approach it any more, its private property. I would need to cross 4 or 5 gates to make it. I heard the owner is also not the nicest and has no interest in visitors.

Somehow it made the place even more beautiful, knowing it's not accessible. A secret valley away from the big road and tourist infrastructures. From this valley goes the Barranc de l'infern, not a torrent. A curious name.





06.11.2024

I spend the morning at the library Bartolomé March.
A beautiful library. They are the only ones to have all the
documents that have ever been published. After
pushing the heavy door I was greeted by an infinite
amount of maps hanging on the walls.

On the way back to Valldemossa the heavy rain started.
Water was flowing everywhere next to the street/road.
The torrent was full of brown water.
Water is not always that pretty transparent liquid.

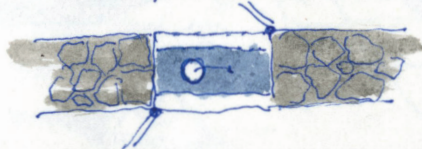
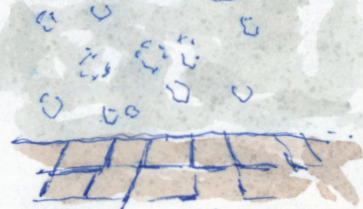
In the afternoon I met with Nicolau Canellas,
the dad of Josep, my primary school
friend. It is only since I came to
Mallorca that I realised he was
the writer of the book I was
desperately looking for in the
Netherlands. "L'aigua, el vent,
la sang, l'ús de les forces tradi-
cionals a Mallorca".

Nico and his wife told
me many stories. I will
tell a few of them.

They remember how there used
to be 'rovatives' earlier. A 'processo',
a march with the Saint to ask God
for rain. Going towards Miramar.

They don't have cistern in their house
now but in their old house they had a
well in their living room, to get water out
of the cistern. It was even a shared
well with the neighbour. Each had direct
access. But they were also not using it anymore.
Barely anybody uses them anymore nowadays.

Interestingly, when I was asking about it, she was
realising herself that it was a pity they weren't
using it anymore.



Next to the door there also used to be the place to store the 'jars' of water. The jar was next to the kitchen. In older times the animals would pass on the ground floor level to arrive to s'Hort.



Water was kept higher up from the ground and in a cool place. She remembers how her dad got water every morning out of the well. But in general, water was the task of everybody. Cleaning was a women's task.

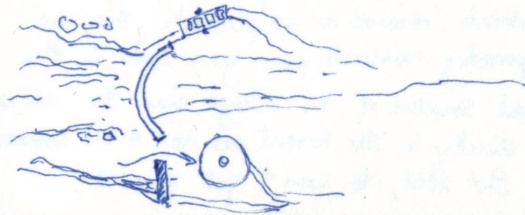


Not only getting fresh water was different before, but also getting rid of grey water. The 'clavengera' before was a 'pou negra' translated into a black well. Once a year, at night, dressed in black, men would come and pick up the water. The problem was the grey water ~~with~~ would contaminate the surrounding sometimes also the fresh water well. This water was used to water the agricultural fields, the food that was later consumed by people. A big sanitary risk that would often lead to infections.



They also remember how the torrent before used to be the place trash was placed. At the next rain fall, the water would take it away. At that time there wasn't much trash, so maybe it wasn't that bad.

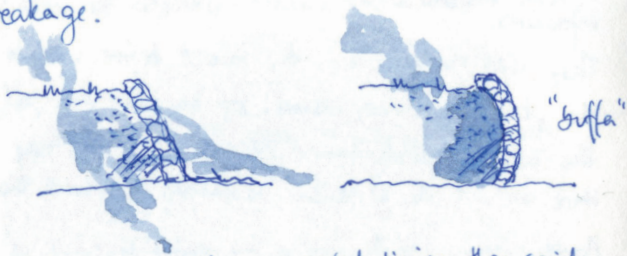
Another topic - further down the valley direction of Valldemossa they found leftovers from a water mill.



The advantage of the 'morgadas' (terraced landscape) was not only for agriculture but also to slow down the heavy and fast rain fall. "suave es pender"



The 'morgadas' are built with dry stones techniques (pedra seca) to let water infiltrate and make permeable walls. If the technique wasn't properly used the 'morgadas' would fill up with water, until breakage.



My field trip seemed to be perfect timing they said. The townhall is currently making renovations / construction on the streets 'renovas de sos pluvials'. They are finally separating rainwater from grey water in the hydrological structure of the village. Now the rainwater will flow directly to the torrent and not to the depuradora anymore. But still, it won't get collected!

After words I met Jordi, one of my primary school friends. He's family a fontaner now. (plumber) He also said it was a pity rain water isn't collected anymore. Even more unbelievable he said, was a family member of his who renovated a old house with a well. They not only closed it up completely but the constructor throw the cabbage from the renovations into it before closing it.



07.11.2024

In Valldemossa, the houses are often structured in a similar way. Especially the front facade often follows a pattern. On one side (here the right) a tile with a drawing and the following

text inscribed:

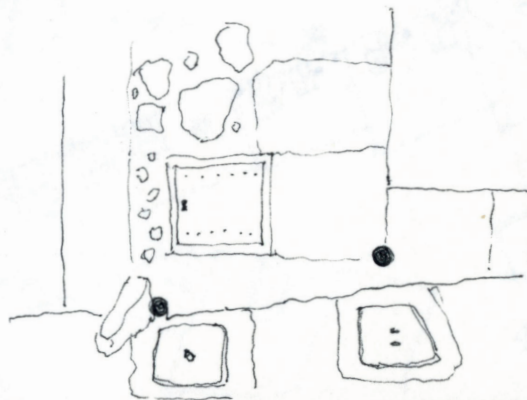
"Santa Catalina Thomas prega per a nosaltres"

translated:

"Santa Catalina Thomas, pray for us"

Catalina Thomas is the Saint of the village. She was a Spanish canon and mystic born in 1531. The plaques are commemorating the saint, always representing a scene from her life.

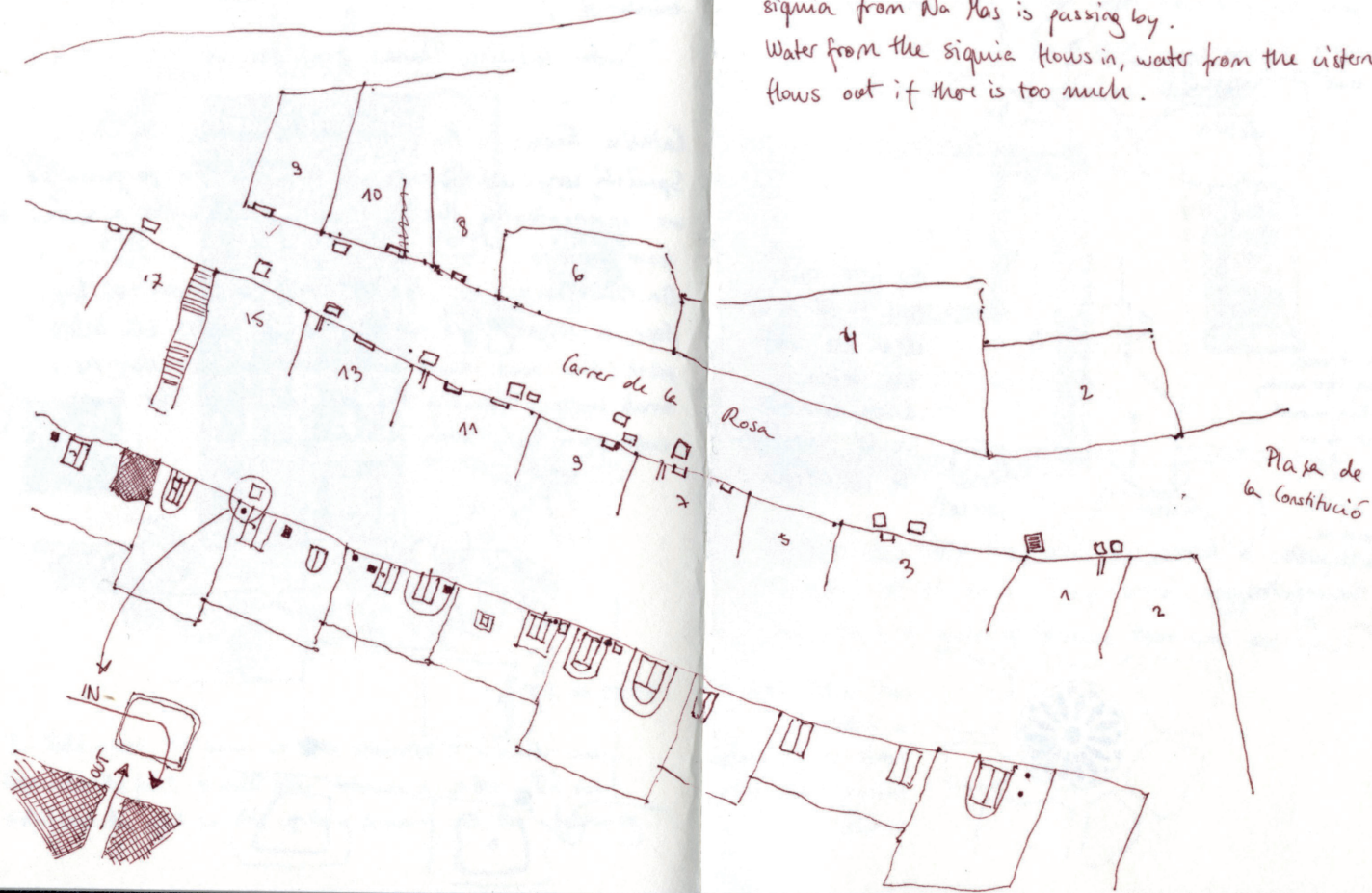
On the opposite side (here left) and lower part of the door is situated the water pipes structures and access point. Near some doors sometimes you can discover small holes. Probably the exit point for the excess water from the system in the houses.

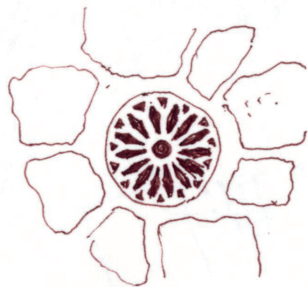
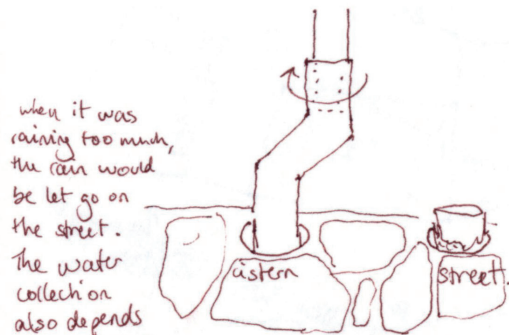


The water elements on the streets and fauces are numerous.

On Carrer de la Rosa especially, the street where the
siquia from Na Mas is passing by.

Water from the siquia flows in, water from the cistern
flows out if there is too much.

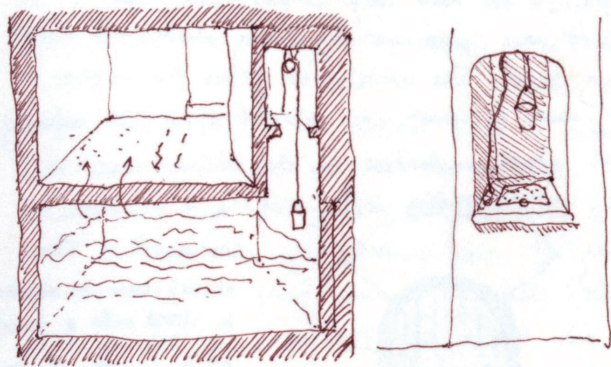




the first rain had to ~~be~~ first clean the roof tiles before drinking water would start to be collected.

exit water from a cistern in a wall as ornamented, making the whole smaller.

This information was shared by Toai, my old neighbour. He also let me in the house of his grandparents where the cistern was still intact. ~~and~~ They stopped using it because too much humidity was coming from the bottom creating cracks on the floor.



In their own house they also discovered a cistern but it was full of earth. They started digging it out but ended up giving up because there was too much earth

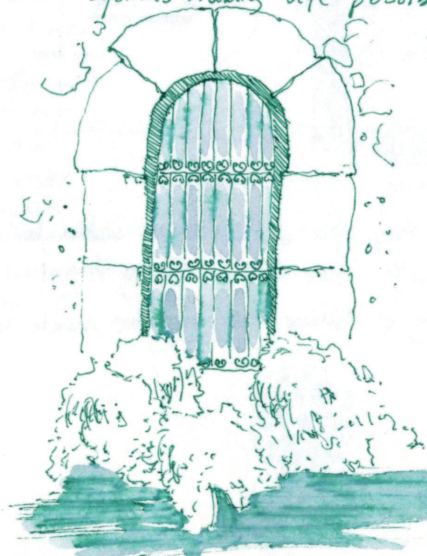
08.11.2024

visit of San Moragues

I met Llorenç at the finca at 8 am, when the sun was getting up, it was a beautiful golden light. We first went to s'Hort (the vegetable garden) of the finca where he explained me how they let the water flow.

The water was also currently running which had a very calming sound. The water came from the source right above it, which was collected in a first sifoneig.

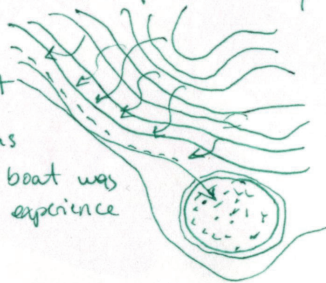
I was already enchanted by the bridge and the water systems making life possible in the area.

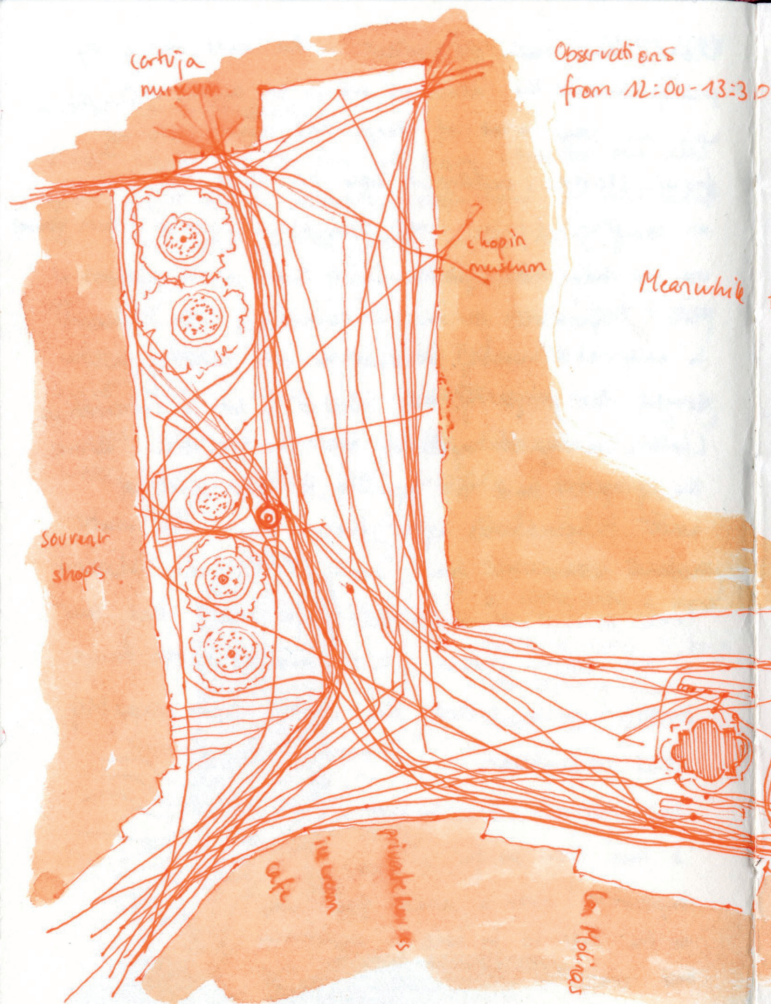


The eyes of the sources seem to always be closed with a fence, but in a way it keeps its mystery from where this water comes from.

Llorenç even took me further to the next source by pickup because the distances are so far away. On the way we saw a lot of sheeps that were walking freely. Llorenç explained how he loved his work as a pages (farmer) and how this possessó (farm house) used to have 300 people living there in its glorious time. Impossible to imagine nowadays. This place is only still running because a very wealthy man bought the property and invested a lot in restoration. Llorenç continued explaining how the mountain above the property had the capacity to hold a lot of water. Sometimes after heavy rain the water would come out from every little hole, almost like a river or waterfall. We ended the tour at the bassa redona which ~~was~~ is the huge bassin which collects the water from exactly that mountain.

This reservoir is the biggest I have seen so far, it was impressive! Even a small boat was on the side to be able to experience and cross it.





Observations
from 12:00-13:30

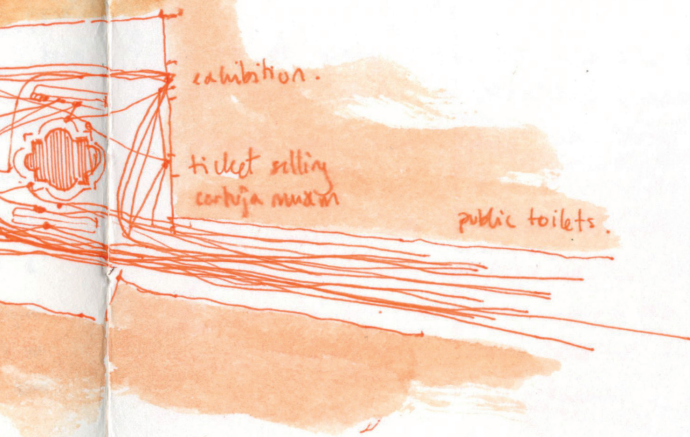
a man walks straight to the fountain to drop his bag.
It has the perfect height. He takes out a newspaper out
to write something down, using the well as a table.

a woman stops and takes a picture of the well
nobody almost pays attention to it.

Meanwhile the fountain is swarmed by people.

The wall of the well seems a perfect place to lean the
bikes towards it

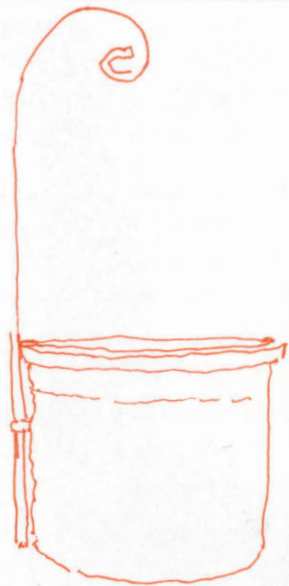
It also seems the perfect place to lean on.
A perfect place to climb up as a child.



exhibition.

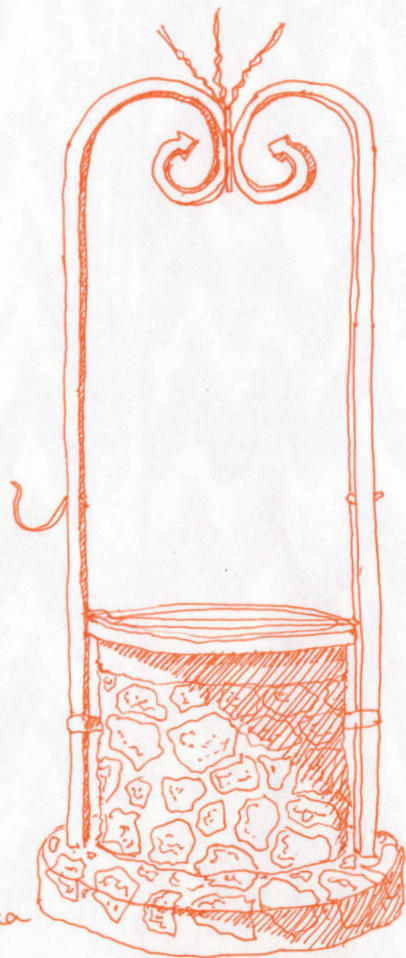
ticket selling
cortija museum

public toilets.



This well also seems the perfect place to do a photo shooting. Suddenly a whole crew was standing around the model which was leaning on the well.

I spend my last hours on the square observing people and just enjoying the view and reflecting on this ~~last~~ week which was full of information and intense but also I am also great full about everything I learned.



Well at place Cortoixa



Second field trip

I left the hotel in Barcelona in the morning. Just before closing the door I noticed the small sign on the wall saying "please use water wisely, we don't have much of it in Catalunya" with a few examples on how to do it. I closed the door.

I arrived in Palma airport at 5pm. I immediately noticed not only how empty the airport was but how changed. Everywhere constructions and a new path of getting out of this labyrinth. It looked like an unfinished movie set.

Outside a warm sun greeted me, it was a very comfortable climate.

The sun went down until I arrived in Valldemossa.

I was surprised how cold and humid it was up in the mountains, but then I remembered how uncomfortably cold it could get here. The humidity is often between 90-95%.

27.02.2025

After a traditional breakfast at Can Molinas I visited the water deposit of the village. The deposit is located at the highest point of the village so the water would run down the canalisation. I first thought the deposit would hold the water from the Font de Na Mas when this one would overflow but it also contains the water pumped up from the 2 sources of sa Coma.

It is the main water storage of the village and was build around 2002-2004 looking at the satellite images.



Afterwards I stopped by the town hall hoping they could help me with some questions and provide the drawings of the deposit. As expected nobody could really help, I was advised to send some emails. Juan had also told me that sadly the archivist of the village had left so now it would be even harder to find informations. On my way back I passed the abreuadors which seemed to have been cleared since last time I visited in October.



28.02.2025

In the morning I went to Palma to visit the 'Banys Arabs' (the arabic baths) from the time when the island was under Muslim control from 902 to ~~18~~ 1229. During that time the capital was the city of Palma then called Medina Mayurqa, before being conquered by Jaime I, Crown of Aragon, placing it under Cristian domain. This bath house has been dated approximately to the 10th century and are identical to those which existed in many other islamic cities and were used as meeting places and pleasure centres.

A minimum of five bath houses are known to have existed* in the city but this one (on Calle Sore) is the only one that has been conserved.

* and there could have been many more.

As the panel of the museum says:

"Water is one of the most important elements in Muslim culture, this led Medina Mayurqa's hydraulic system to influence its urban configuration as well as the distribution of the rural areas and farmland. The Muslims created a water supply system then enabled its transport from outside the fortifications to the city centre, especially to buildings such as mosques and bath houses (...). Due to its efficiency this Muslim system was maintained by the Cristian culture."

However, the Cristians did not maintain ~~but~~ the bath house traditions as they saw it inappropriate to share this intimate moment with others (as once told me afterwards). This explains why barely any trace of it can be found nowadays.

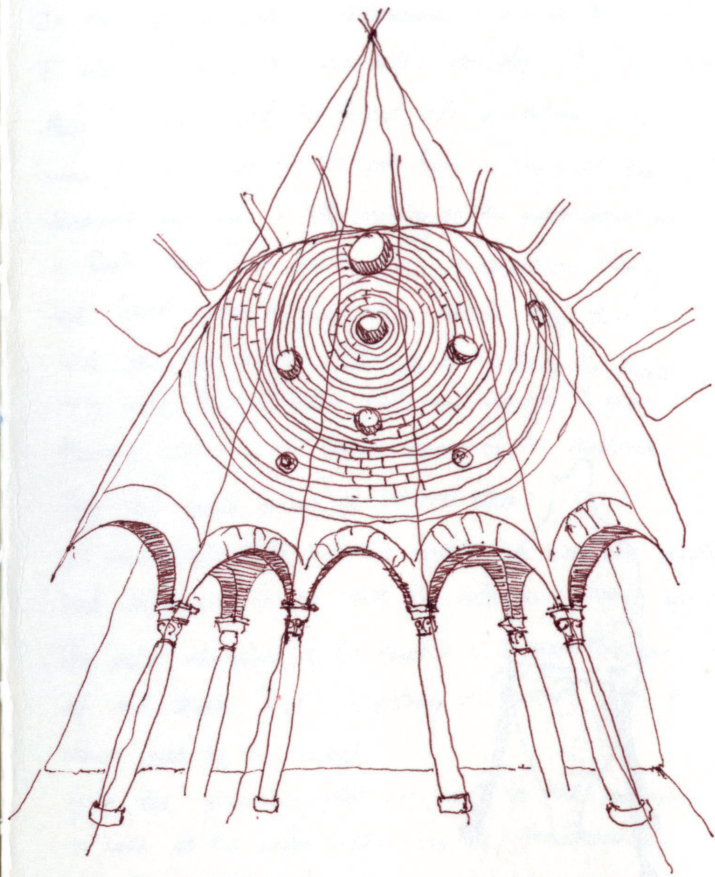
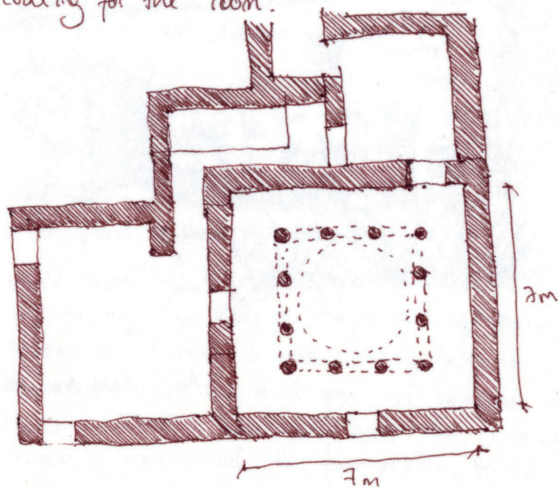


Banys Arabs from the outside

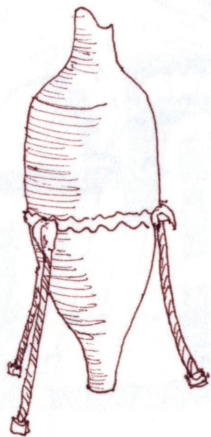
The bath house is surprisingly small but it felt like a very intimate space. It was nice proportions.

The house is organised in a traditional way composed of two main rooms and an orchard (now a garden)

The first of the two rooms is a rectangular room with a barrel vault, which could have been the cold room or used as a changing room. In this room the paint is particularly well preserved. This paint is a mixture of 'almonagra / almage' which is used as a waterproof coating for the room.



Caldarium, warm room.



recipient placed in the middle of the
Caldarium room.

In the afternoon back in Valldemossa I visited Conie and I told her about the arab baths. Precisely with her team they just discovered the second bath of Palma ("just" it was 15 years ago but it took them so long until they could excavate and she is now working on the publication of a book about it). During the excavations they had found pieces of slate stone which they seem to have been using for the floor as it conducts the heat very well. They probably must have brought it from Menorca which is the closest quarry of the material. They also found pieces of coloured glass.

It was difficult to find the location as over time people had built over it and used the bath as a storage space.

The main indication of the location is through the name of the streets. That's how they are guessing where the others could ~~the~~ be located.

After the fascinating talk we went to the monastery to look at the water system close by. The monastery has 12 "cell"/flats for each monk which would get water through the big wall at the end of their own private garden.

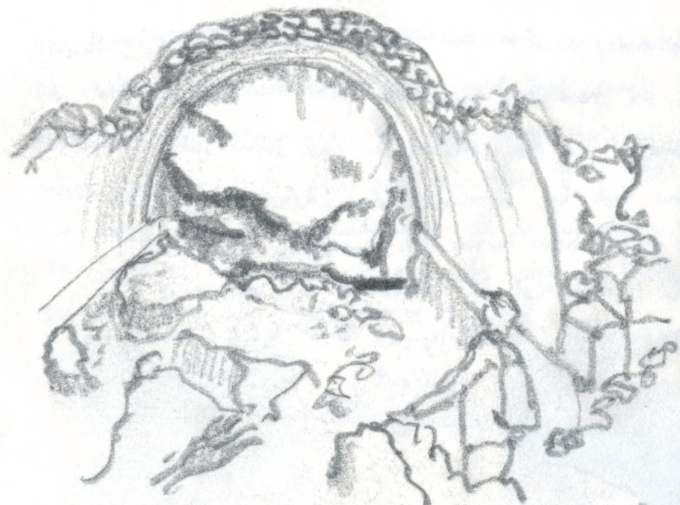
However, Conce thought the water was coming from the Font de na Umbries but we found that ~~that~~ the water was coming from the ~~other~~ opposite direction which indicates it's coming from the Font de Na Mas. We asked around but nobody could tell us for what the water of Font de Na Umbries was used and sadly the person who was taking care of it passed away.



Afterwards we also discovered the water distributor for the monastery, accessible from the main public square. In the evening I had dinner at Troni's who had the 'deshumificador' (dehumidifier) on. I forgot how high the humidity could get. He commented he would get 5L out in 8h, reducing the humidity at ~~to~~ 50-60%, making the heating way more efficient.



view from a garden's cell.



Fort de Son Vari



01.03.25



Padorix

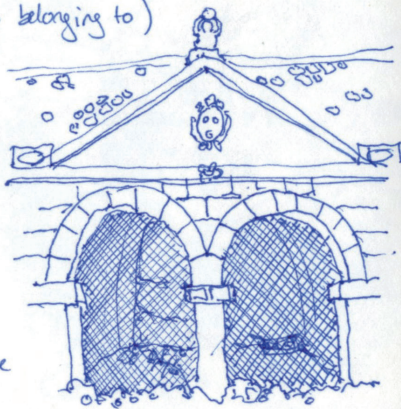


Safreig de Pastorix

01.03.2025

Today we went on a hike with Toni who took us to Pastorix until the finca of Raixa. We then had lunch in Bunyola, the place he grew up.

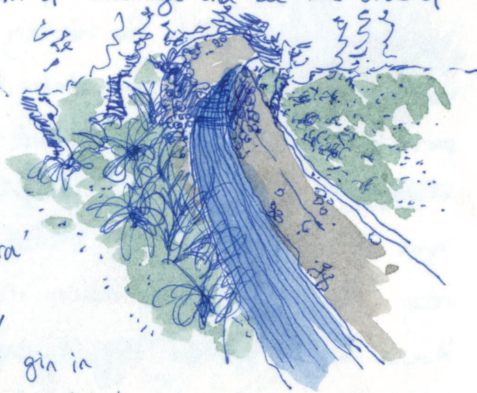
It was fascinating and very informative to be walking with Toni because he has so much knowledge about the nature of Mallorca. On our way we passed by the Font de San Veri, who sadly got destroyed by a rock falling over it. This source is the perfect example of a ~~sen~~ natural source coming out of the mountains and being celebrated by people adding ornaments (and even a shield at the top of it, showing who it was belonging to)



how it used to be
before 2008

We continued the walk to Pastorix, it was fascinating to see the system of drainage and see the size of it. There were everywhere.

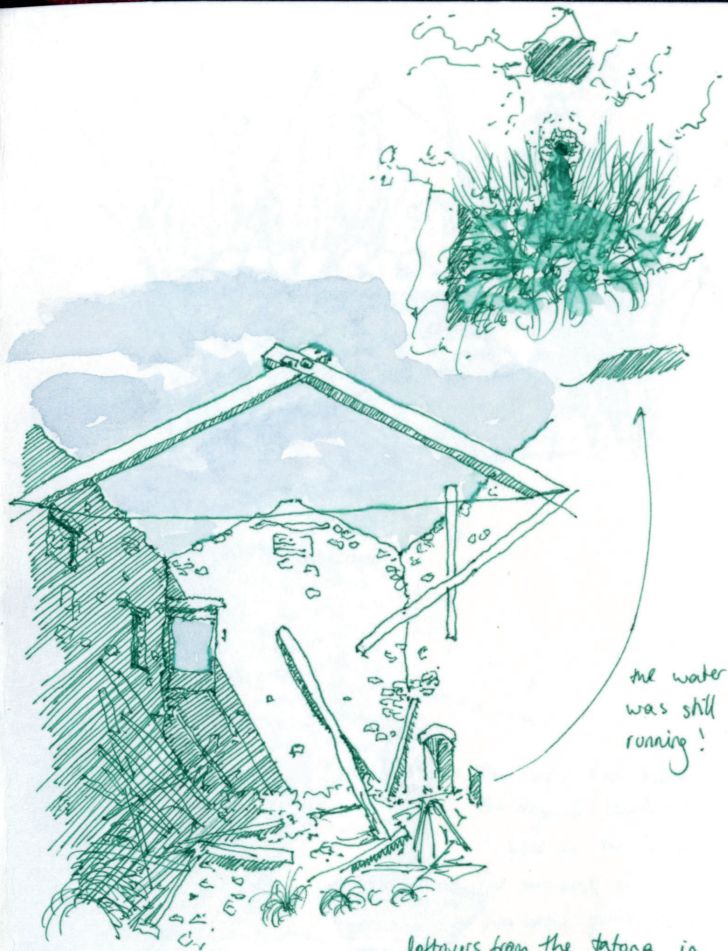
On the way Toni made us try the 'ginebra' (Juniper berry), mainly used for gin in Menorca by the british.



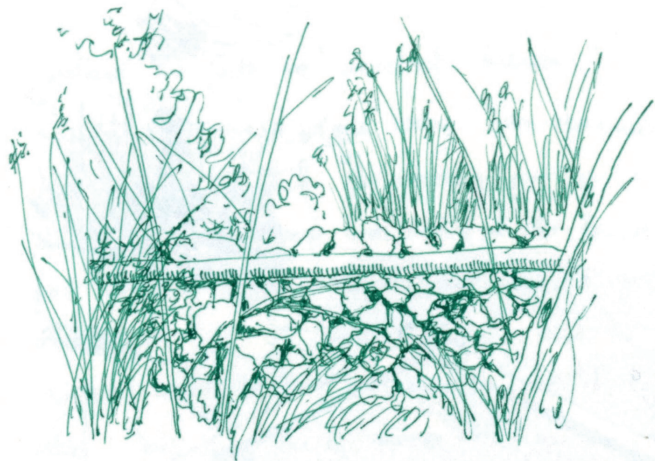
We also passed a 'forn de calç' (lime kilns). In those kilns, limestone was burned at high temperatures to produce quicklime, which was once a thriving industry when lime was an important building material.

Continuing the path we arrived at Raxeta, a sadly abandoned place today. Toni remembered going there as a kid. The interesting part of it, was that a water source ~~was~~ starting at the lowest part of the area of Pastorix ~~and~~ wasn't usefull anymore for them so Raxeta bought or had the right of water, as they were located lower in the valley. This same source makes its way even until Raxa which has the biggest safrerig of the island, having water as symbol of wealth.

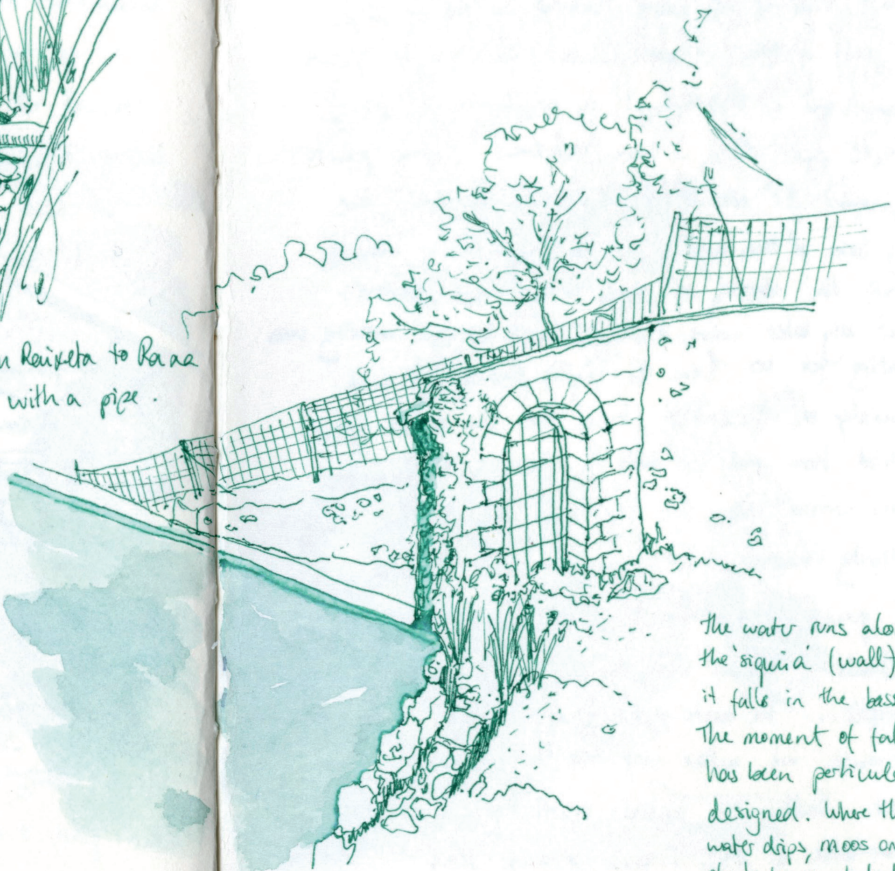
In the houses of Raxeta, on one part of the wall was a red paint which was falling apart, but still recognisable. I asked Toni and he confirmed, it was the same paint as was used in the bath house in ~~de~~ Palma. This paint was used because of its waterproof properties once applied on the wall. Toni couldn't really understand why it was used there because there wasn't any water storage on that side of the houses.



leftovers from the safona in
Raxeta, where they made oil.



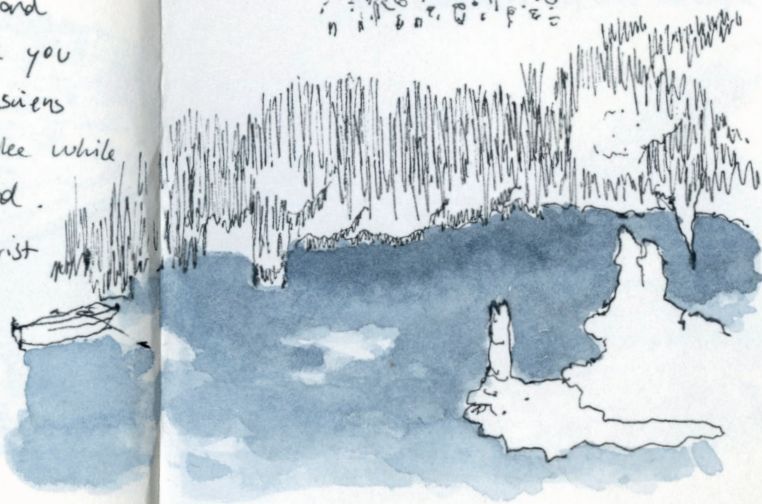
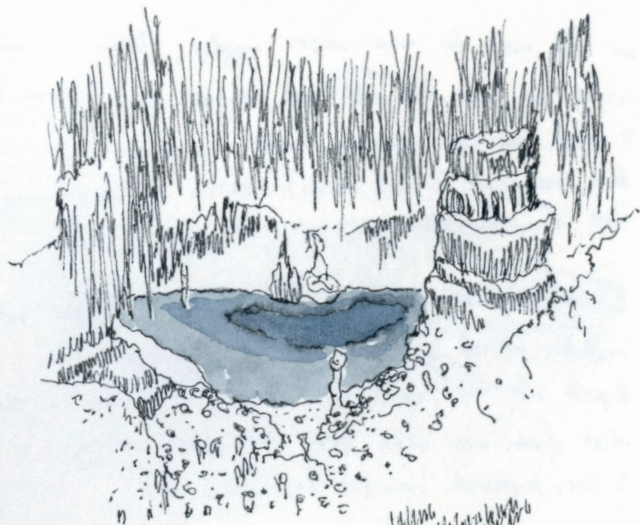
the siquia from Raxeta to Ranae
but modernized with a pipe.



the water runs along
the 'siquia' (wall) until
it falls in the basin.
The moment of fall
has been particularly
designed. Where the
water dips, moss and
plants have started to
grow.

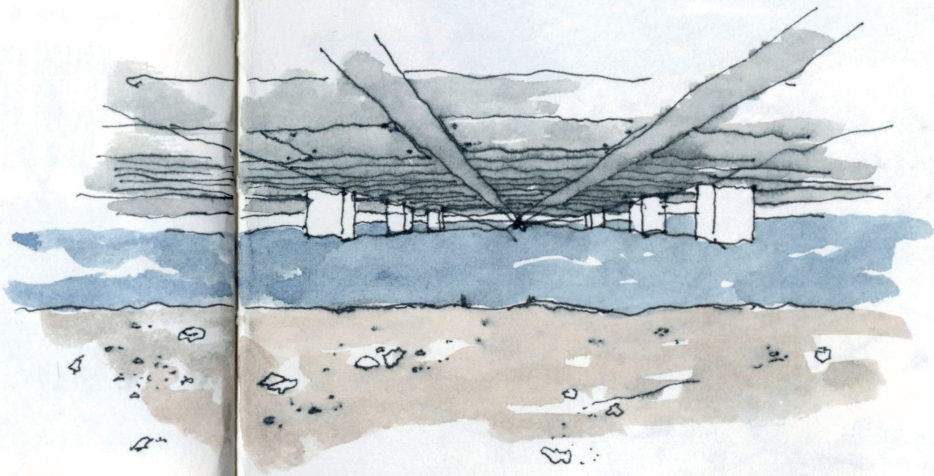
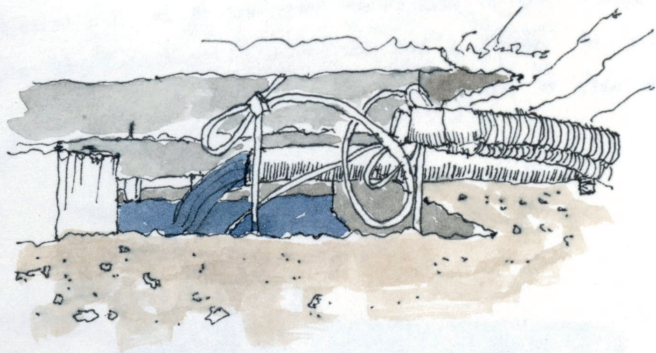
02.03.2025

In the morning I went to visit the covas del drach on the opposite side of the island. Mallorca is full of covas but only a few are open to visit. This one is quite famous and I expected it to be a tourist but I didn't expect this. I have to admit it was quite impressive the size of the covas and especially the big lake at the end. The security mens would push the stream of people to the end, towards that big lake where a huge auditorium seating was waiting for us. Then the lights turned off and mainly all the babies started the cry before you could hear and see how a boat with musiciens was arriving from the other side of the lake while playing music. It seemed quite absurd. I guess they really tried to make a tourist attraction and in some ways to enchant people... The water was quite salty because we where very close by to the sea. Sadly no inlanders are available to visit, I guess because they



are all used for the water supply. When I came out of the cave the ^{weather} ~~water~~ had changed, now it looked like it could ~~not~~ start rain any minute. It did on the drive back but it still hadn't rained in Valdemossa told me the others.

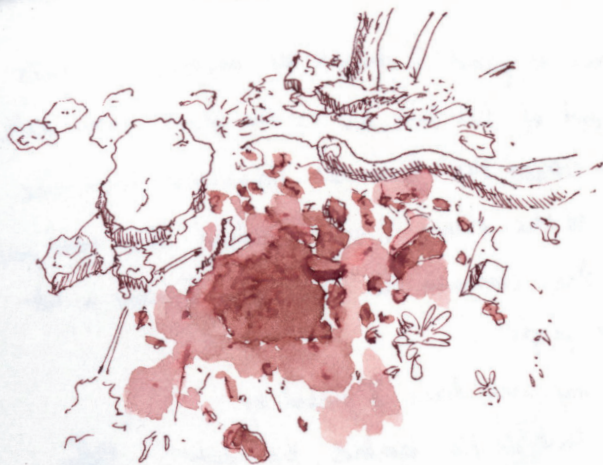
In the afternoon I went to the deposit again and immediately noticed a water sound. I went into the deposit site and approached the building. Then I saw that from one side fresh water was coming in. I was surprised how full the deposit was.



03.03.2025

On the search for almagre (red ochre)

On the hike on Saturday Toni had told me that on another mountain close to Valldemossa there used to be an extraction site of 'almagre' a long time ago. He said I would still be able to find it at a very specific spot.



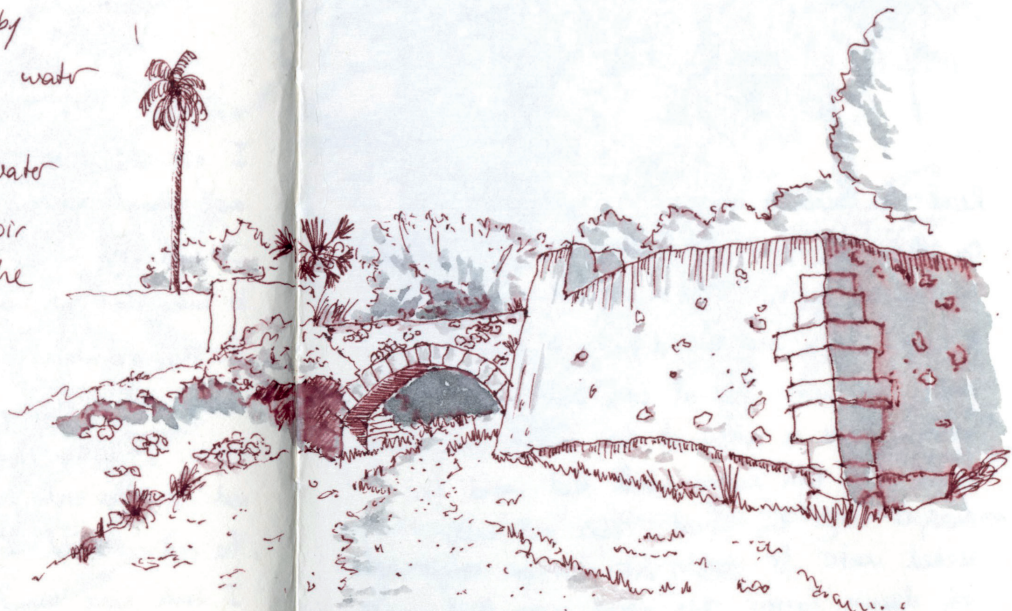
I got dropped off in Esporles, the neighbour town and started my hike back to Valldemossa at 9am. It was very windy and not the ideal conditions to hike but at least no rain was announced.

In the mountain the landscape is particularly rocky ~~and~~ with a palette of grey, dark greens and brown. It was even more surprising when the red stones and soil appeared in front of me. The red-coloured area was quite small. I took some samples and my hand was completely red!

I was surprised I didn't see anybody on this first part of the hike, as it's the famous hike path that crosses the Serra de Tramuntana from one side to the other. Once I reached the ~~com~~ peak of the Comuna de Valldemossa I saw a lot more people.

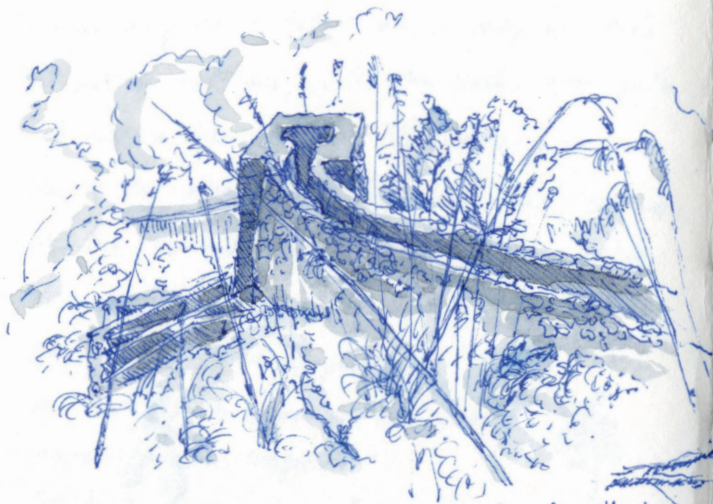
On my way down I passed by the Font de Na Llampies, the water reservoir remains impressive!

The bridge serves to bring the water from the Font to the reservoir before leading it down to the monastery of Cotoixa.



Aljib from Cotoixa

04.03.2025



view from the top
water in.

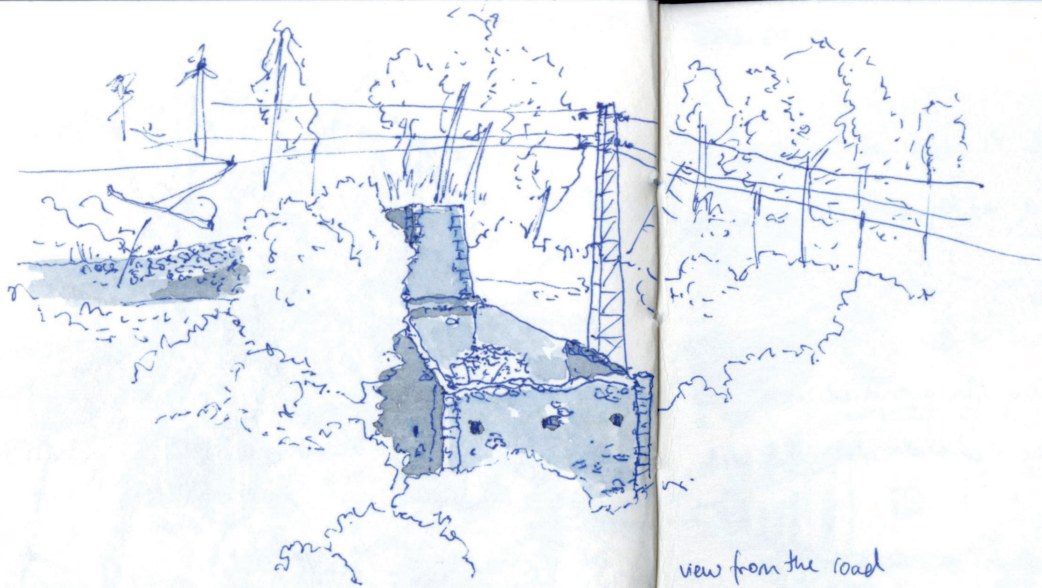
Reach the 'moli de coup'

On the way down to Palma, next to the road is located a ruin. It's a moli de coup (mill de coup) which used the difference in height to make the water fall at once and with its strenght turn a wheel at the lowest level. This would then turn another wheel that would for example crush the wheat. People not only needed water for drinking but also for its strenght and cleaning factor. This would mean that small



view from the
bottom, water out

infrastructures (small buisnesses like making flour or linen) would appear next a water flow.



the water was first stored in a saforing (bassin) before it was let out at once for the stream to be powerful enough.

It's sad to see how the ruin is falling apart, but at the same time beautiful how nature is taking it course.

The path to find it wasn't easy, I mainly walked along the water path wall which had been filled with a sort of concrete pipe that was

view from the road

nowadays broken. I still think the location of the mill has great potential as you see it so distinctly between the dense forest. It's a sort of landmark but without its function.

05.03.2025

"Diven que ha de ploure ha de ploure però no plou!"

"They say it has to rain it has to rain but it doesn't rain!"

I heard a women saying on the phone.

The clouds had been present in the village since Sunday and at the begining they announced rain from that day on. Today it's wednesday and still no drop has fallen.

Apparently it had started to rain more on the flatter part of the island than in the mountains.

"Es el mundo al revés!" ("It's the world upside down") said another women. I didn't notice it so much the first days of my stay but now it become more and more visible. People are stressed about the little rainfall so far and apparently it had been like this the whole winter.

Rain is often mentioned in the second ~~phase~~ ^{sentence} when people meet on the streets.



Torrent de Valldemosa

I continued mapping the water infrastructures lower in the village and started to finally understand the water systems around Valldemassa. The ones lower in the village were less mentioned as they only start there but continue kilometers down until they reach the houses. Toni told the story how in recent years the water system was replaced by pipes, but after some years the pipes were ~~filled~~ filled by lime which didn't let any water through. The owner ended up cutting the pipes in smaller pieces, using the lime as ~~a~~ columns, making lime a ~~new~~ construction material.

In the afternoon I went to collect herbs and things that smell. Sadly I couldn't find 'murta' (myrtus) the plant from which perfumes were made in earlier times. Conie mentioned that the Monks also had some in their flat.

On the way back I met Llorenç from son Miquel's I visited last time I was here. He was devastated about the little rain that had fallen so far. He said the aquifers in the village were 26m below the

normal level. He was already scared about the coming summer.



murta
murta