

Trevo Alegre

As always, music was an important aspect of the Conference. This year we enjoyed not just the singing and playing of **Trevo Alegre** but also the presence of these lively, friendly young musicians among us for the weekend.



Trevo Alegre is a music group from the small village of Valdozende (photo left) in northern Portugal. It consists of 15 young people (11 of whom came to Swanwick) plus their leader and founder Bishop Sifredo. The group started 18 years ago, when Sifredo was minister at Valdozende. He told us they play mainly for enjoyment and to help popularise the traditional music of the Minho area. They have also been able to introduce a different music style in worship.

"We are very much a family affair," said Ana Maria, who plays the *cavaquinho*, a small guitar with four strings. "My two sisters, Marlene and Lurdes, are also here as is my cousin Paulo and my brother, Fernando who plays the accordion. We play mostly at festivals and special events." The singers nearly

all double up as instrumentalists. There are also three guitars, a drum, a tambourine, a triangle and a curious instrument called a *rec-rec* which looks like a branch of a tree, held over the shoulder and scraped rhythmically with a stick.

Trevo Alegre's lively singing and playing at the Saturday night Festa soon had everyone's feet tapping and a good number on the floor dancing. They also made an important contribution to morning prayers on Saturday and the Sunday Communion Service when they sang "Amor è viver" – "To love is to live to love".

Thank you Sifredo and Trevo Alegre for bringing so much joy to our Conference!

Margaret Nicholas

