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NEWS



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di anni 11
di Borgo Valbelluna (Bl)



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di anni 11
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ENGLISH



**La Comunità Locale Wigwam
della Valbelluna**

IN COLDERÙ, CHRISTMAS LIGHTS UP WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE YOUTH GROUP

Hi! We are Enea and Vanni, two eleven-year-old boys, and we live in Colderù, a small hamlet of Borgo Valbelluna, nestled halfway up the hillside above Lentiai. This year our village came alive at Christmas thanks to the enthusiastic Youth Group, which organized the event "Colderù Lights Up Christmas!"

This event is new for the community, although throughout the year other activities are often organized for us children as well as for the adults of the village, such as the Easter egg hunt or card and basketball tournaments during the summer months, always accompanied by plenty of refreshments!

This winter, however, it is the light of Christmas that illuminates the village — from the comet star shining atop the bell tower of the small Church of Saint James to the streets of the hamlet. We invite you to discover this initiative, which officially began on December 6, the day the Youth Group kicked off the celebrations with the inauguration.

In the afternoon, the festivities began with the setup of a creative workshop for children, run by our fellow villager **Cinzia Sartoron**, where kids made a snowman by painting small wooden discs. Later on, the arrival of a pony delighted the children, who were able to ride it in the village square. But that's not all! As evening fell, Saint Nicholas also arrived, accompanied by a helper and a little goat, to greet the children, hand out treats, and officially switch on the Christmas lights!

COLDERÙ LIGHTS UP CHRISTMAS



with the Youth Group





What a spectacle! There were so many of us — both children and adults. In our little square stands a large, sparkling eco-friendly Christmas tree (it's made of metal!), lighting up Santa Claus's Office, recreated inside the wooden school bus shelter. Here, children could post their letters to the North Pole or create small Christmas crafts using the prints and materials left on the shelves. On the other side of the square stands the magical Christmas well, from which a slightly crazy Santa Claus pulls out gifts for the entire village!

Strolling through the streets, the Christmas lights highlight the nativity scenes and decorations that each family has interpreted in their own way. As we reach the small Church of Saint James — a splendid balcony overlooking Valbelluna — we find many wooden decorations, such as the choir made of painted planks depicting many singing mouths, and the large wooden nativity scene that our fellow villagers have built and enriched over the years.

Around the village, we also come across more playful and modern decorations, like the Grinch snickering from the roof of a house, or the super-creative ornaments made from plastic cups to create snowmen and candy treats! And then, once again, nativity scenes of all shapes and sizes — from tiny ones hidden among windowsills to larger ones filling gardens and courtyards. Walking through the village, we truly found countless decorations and stations set up by our Elf friends who, among hay bales, gift boxes, and wooden decorations, mark their presence with original and sweet names... such as Candy, Vanilla, and Biscuit the Elves.

And that's not all! To celebrate the lighting of the Christmas decorations, a delicious refreshment area was also set up, with plenty of panettone, hot tea, and mulled wine warmed directly on old white stoves brought into the square for the occasion. It really felt as though the village square had become a large, old-fashioned grandmother's kitchen, where villagers gathered to dine together on dishes provided by the Bon Tajer agriturismo. We were able to enjoy the famous Crosticcio (a special baked dish made with polenta crusts) and a barley and bean soup that warmed everyone present.

In the evening, the celebration moved inside the church of Colderù, always captivating with its frescoed walls and filled with people listening to the choral singing of the "Sole Voci" choir from Feltre. The songs were truly beautiful and moving — and what a surprise when one of the choir masters began playing the bagpipes, explaining to everyone how the instrument works and sharing its history.





It was truly wonderful to be able to take part in this event; all the villagers we met were happy to have contributed or even just to have participated! Let's hear some of their testimonies.

First, let's listen to what **Eliana Pitton**, President of the Youth Group, has to say.

Enea and Vanni: Are you satisfied with how the event turned out?

Eliana: Yes, I am very proud of how the event turned out. It was designed to create a sense of unity among the villagers.

Enea and Vanni: Who came up with this idea?

Eliana: This original idea came from Cinzia Sartoron, who, as you know, is always very creative!

Enea and Vanni: What was the most difficult part of organizing this event?

Eliana: The hardest part was organizing everything in time. Since it was the first time we decorated the village, all the decorations had to be designed, built, and set up from scratch. So we really had to work hard to have everything ready for the inauguration. Fortunately, we received a great deal of help from the villagers! Some people took care of making the wooden decorations, others went to collect the fir trees, and others offered to help with the set-up. Without teamwork, we truly wouldn't have been able to do everything so well and in such a short time.

Now let's hear what **Cinzia Sartoron**, a member of the Youth Group council, has to tell us.

Enea and Vanni: Hi Cinzia, how did you come up with this idea for the Colderù event?

Cinzia: I have a great passion for Christmas and I always try to think of moments that can revive the sense of community in our village. So this year I proposed this idea at the Youth Group meeting, and it was immediately welcomed with enthusiasm. I love the African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child." That's exactly the spirit with which I try to involve you in the initiatives we organize — they are designed precisely so that we can grow together.

Enea and Vanni: How long have you been working on this event?

Cinzia: We held our first meetings with the villagers in the autumn, explaining what the initiative was and what needed to be done. Everyone was involved starting in mid-October, so there was time to prepare the wooden decorations you see throughout the village. Then, at the end of November, we began decorating with the larger installations and setting up the streets with fir garlands, hay bales, little elves, reindeer, and gifts, which immediately set the mood for the celebration.

We also asked our fellow villagers **Ezio Fontana** and **Franco Mione** to share their thoughts.

Enea and Vanni: Franco, did you enjoy this event?

Franco: Yes, it was truly wonderful — the young people who organized it did an outstanding job!



Enea and Vanni: Did you help out as well?

Franco: I didn't do much, but I helped set up the wooden Nativity scene in the church and cut some fir branches for the decorations.

Enea and Vanni: Hi Ezio, did you also contribute to Colderù Lights Up Christmas? What did you take care of?

Ezio: Hi guys, yes, I helped with the organization too! I took care of creating the Nativity scene inside the church and built the candles using pieces of birch wood that you can find around the village.

Enea and Vanni: When did your passion for Nativity scenes begin?

Ezio: My passion started about five or six years ago; I mainly do it as a hobby!

Enea e Vanni: How do you manage to build such well-crafted settings?

Ezio: I use polyethylene, a type of plastic that's easy to cut with a specially designed electric machine. Then I enjoy recreating the details and I look in the woods for natural elements that can help me, such as old logs, twisted roots, bark, or moss.

Enea e Vanni: What did you like most about this initiative?

Ezio: I really liked the choirs — both the wooden one decorating the church garden and the real choir that performed!

And what do we kids think?

Enea: I really liked this initiative, especially the Nativity scenes made by Ezio, because they are incredibly detailed and realistic! Among the decorations in the square, my favorite is Santa Claus pulling gifts out of the well, because the way they recreated it is really funny! I also find the decorated roof tiles along the streets very beautiful — it's almost a shame to take them down at the end of the holidays!

I'm also very proud of the Nativity scene I built in my garden with my family, because it's very large and we all worked on it together!

As a real foodie, I also really enjoyed the refreshments prepared in the square, especially the Crosticcio, packed full of ragù! I didn't take part in the creative workshops organized in the afternoon, but I'm very happy I spent the whole evening running around the village with Vanni and the other school friends who came for the occasion!

Vanni: I really liked the Nativity scenes too, especially the ones made by Ezio! There are five of them in the village and they can all be visited for the occasion: one is inside the little church, three are in his courtyard, and one is in the neighboring courtyard. I also really liked the snowmen made out of plastic cups, especially because they decorate the entrance to my house! And then there are the decorations in the square, with Santa's office and Santa's well! I helped with the set-up too, by placing battery-powered lights along the streets!

And it was also nice to eat crosticcio in the square with my friends... even though, to be honest, I was a little sad because December 6th is my birthday and unfortunately I couldn't celebrate it since it coincided with the event's inauguration! Luckily, I made up for it the following day!

We're sure this event will continue to make Colderù even more beautiful in the coming years, so we're waiting for you! Come and discover the magic of "Colderù Lights Up Christmas"! ■

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Borgo Valbelluna, December 2, 2025



To the Dearest Santa Claus, North Pole

We are the Colderù Youth Group, a volunteer association full of enthusiasm and Christmas spirit, working with passion here in Borgo Valbelluna.

This year, driven by a strong desire to bring tangible magic to our village, we have undertaken an extraordinary and secret mission: to create entirely with our own hands a small yet welcoming Village dedicated to You and Your trusted Elves! For months, we worked hard, using simple materials and lots of creativity, to build the little houses, Your sleigh, and, of course, Your home, transforming a corner of our village into a place where dreams take shape. We wanted to celebrate the true spirit of Christmas and give the children of Colderù and all of Borgo Valbelluna a special place to experience the anticipation of Christmas Eve.

To show You the result of our work and the joy it has brought us, we are sending You a series of photographs with this letter. You will find images documenting the long but fun hours of preparation and construction, as well as shots of the completed Santa Village, now beautifully illuminated and ready to welcome visitors. Furthermore, we are honored to have been chosen as Your special helper postal workers. We would like to inform You that on Sunday, December 6, right here in our Village, the most awaited moment will take place: we will personally collect all the letters written with so much care and hope by the children of our community.

Once we have all the letters, we will take good care of them and send them together to the North Pole to ensure they arrive in perfect time for the departure of Your sleigh. Dear Santa Claus, we sincerely hope that our tribute pleases You and warms Your heart. We extend a special invitation: it would be an immense honor for us if, despite Your endless commitments, You could visit us and be our guest, even just for a brief greeting.

We wish You a magical and joyful Christmas season! With much affection and the enthusiasm of the Colderù Youth Group



The drawing by Enea and Vanni, 11 years old. Christmas in Colderù

