



JOHN GALLO

JOAN WAKELIN BURSARY

Offered by the Society and *The Guardian*

My project is about a beautiful set of islands in the Ria Formosa in the Algarve region of Portugal. People who live there are going to soon be deprived of their homes.

Residents were first given permission to build

their homes on the island many years ago, either by the navy or the Polis Litoral Ria Formosa, which manages the islands. Most of the families have been living there for two or three generations. Now,

authorities say it's damaging to the environment for people to live there, and so want to demolish their houses.

Meanwhile, there is evidence indicating that the Polis plan to build resorts there, hence why

they are interested in removing the houses. But time will tell ...

I started the project in June last year and since then I have visited the islands three times. My aim has been to understand how these



SEA SAUSAGE

LEFT

One of the best baits a fisherman can get; €10 a piece, they are abundant around here

THE FARM

ABOVE

No-one really knows when the tradition

started or who built the hut, but men meet here on a regular basis to have lunch together

FUSETA BEACH, MAINLAND

BELOW

The old lifeboat house, abandoned a few years ago



people live, why they are there and hear their side of the story.

Often, you hear in the news that the residents build houses that are not legal. I wanted to see if that was true ... It's not. They didn't build their houses illegally, as is sometimes claimed. They don't have documents to prove it, but the Portuguese authorities permitted the buildings at the time.

The bursary allowed me to travel to the islands and not worry about having enough money. I was able to set up the project in the way that I wanted and spend a lot of time in the field.



'THE BURSARY ALLOWED ME TO TRAVEL TO THE ISLANDS AND NOT WORRY ABOUT HAVING ENOUGH MONEY'

CHAPEL, HANGARES
ABOVE

Fishermen believe their faith will prevent the sea from taking their lives.

FISHERMAN REPAIRING BOAT AT HANGARES
BELOW



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These bursaries are offered by the Society every year. Next year's closing date will be in May. Check the Society website and Facebook for updates