

Hello everyone and welcome to our last edition. Not, of course, the end of the news letter but only of our contribution. Peggy and I have enjoyed our two years very much and hope that you have benefited from our efforts. We have tried to include a 'bit of everything' with local news, events, health and recipe ideas and would like to thank all our friends who have given us jokes, poems and their experiences of living in Spain. The Information Folders will carry on with Lynn Organ.

"Refuse collectors emptying bins, can't find the one for the Chinese Takeaway. One of the men called to the owner, 'Where's your bin mate?'

'I bin to Hong Kong' replied the owner. 'Nah; I mean where's your wheely bin?'

'Yeah, I weally bin to Hong Kong'

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February 14th Valentines Day Lunch at Portico Mar. 1.30 for 2.pm

March 1st Blanket trip to Guadalest arranged by Marie and Derek Dunham—free coach . You pay for menu del dia.

March 8th Meeting 11am. At Sackos Bar Our Speaker will be Sr Pedro Valero from Torrevieja. If you have any questions for Sr Valero, please let Mike Peters have them by no later than 28th February.

March 29th Chinese lunch at La Siesta arranged by George Patterson.(more details to follow.)

April 12th Monthly Meeting 11.am at Sackos Bar

April 26th Lunch at The Budapest arranged by Jim and Joan Wood.

Events in the Area

Torrevieja. Don't miss the Torrevieja Carnival Parades this month. Both the 11th and 25th are evening events, and the 19th February sees the Carnival start in the afternoon, approx 4.30 p.m. These are spectacular colourful- not to be missed - events, but do check the local papers for the timings and exact routes.



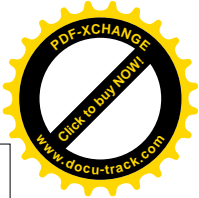
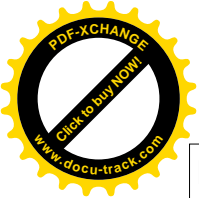
Guardamar. If it is culture that you want, well the Torrevieja Gilbert & Sullivan Society are presenting "The Pirates of Penzance" at the Casa de Cultura, Guardamar on 15th, 16th and 17th March. Ticket info from 96 572 57 31.

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This Newsletter is printed as a guide for our members. Neither the Editor nor the Social Branch accept any responsibility for any incorrect information herein. Members should always seek further expert opinion.

Ed



REVIEW OF THE YEAR.....

And what a year it has been! We changed our title to ARPO which then allowed us to welcome retired Police Officers from other National Forces.

Here are just a few of the activities members enjoyed over the year.

We had lunches at Portico Mar, The Che!!! Restaurant, Monroe's Carvery, El Patio, Restaurante Rebate, and Meson Villa Salada.



British Consul in Alicante Russell Thompson.

Other activities included a Race Night, 2 Quiz Nights, a visit to the Submarine and other Torre Vieja sights, Pig Roast, Crazy Golf afternoon and of course our very successful Christmas Party.

We also welcomed our first Honorary Member Norman Slater, and in the picture you see our Secretary Mike Peters presenting Norman with *The Cup* for the highest male score at the Crazy Golf.

(apologies if we have missed any events)

We enjoyed a visit and talk from our President, Graham Knight, and also the

THE TEA DANCE

It's the fortnightly tea dance and they'll all be here today, aches and pains forgotten, dance the afternoon away.

Foxtrots, quicksteps, waltzes, some are slow but some still nifty, with memories of how it was way back in 1950.

Norman's in the toilet, he's struggling to pee, he's got trouble with his prostate and will likely miss his tea.

Eddy's got a new love that he met in Thornton Heath, she does a lovely tango, but she hasn't any teeth.

His latest fancy footwork nearly broke her neck, she mistook his "outside swivel" for a "travelling contra check".

Ida's had her hair done and she's ready for a saunter, she had a vindaloo last night and it's coming back to haunt her.

Florry's mini-skirt's revealing when she's spinning in the jive, she really shouldn't wear a thong approaching 85.

They've had their tea, cake, chat, and had a little laugh and gamely rise with creaking knees to face the second half.

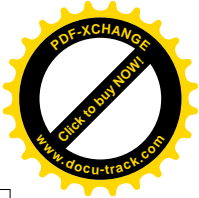
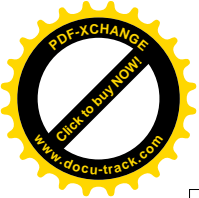
Norman's made it back in time for rumba number one, his "cucaracha's" very neat, but he's left his flies undone.

Vera's fallen over in a massive crumpling heap, Bert's got indigestion and Mabel's fast asleep.

It's last waltz time and up they all get for Humperdinck's old tune and then:

"Goodbye, good luck, take care, God willing see you soon".
Anon.

From Roy Dewey.



DID YOU KNOW?.....

Renewing Residencia.

What happens when a person is too old and infirm to queue up and go through the procedures necessary for the renewal of a Residencia? Well, it appears from local press information that if someone can walk and can travel to Alicante, but cannot stand in the queue, then a word with the attendant should allow you to go to the head of the queue straight away. You must take a letter from your doctor with you, certifying the fact that you cannot stand. Otherwise it could be abused.

However, if someone is bedridden or otherwise incapable of making the journey, then it appears that the National Police have an obligation to make a home visit to make an appointment and return to take the documents and presumably, fingerprints. This would obviously mean a call to the National Police either by the person concerned or their representative to set up the appointment and it may also be necessary to supply a doctor's letter.

The European Commission is to refer Spain to the Court of Justice over its **taxation of non-residents** from the sale of property or personal income. If Spain is forced to change its tax laws, it will benefit many expats who are not registered as residents. Under existing Spanish law, non-residents have to pay 35% on capital gains from property sales if the home has been held for over one year, whereas residents only have to pay 15%. (to see the full report—(see Folder No 2)

Vehicle Servicing -(we have covered this subject before but it is worth repeating) One of Trafico's latest reports shows that Vehicle workshops are not obeying the EU Directive in Spain and among other items, are ...

- Not displaying the costs of basic servicing of vehicles in the customer reception area.
- Not giving the work a guarantee (warranty) clearly stated on the invoice.
- Not offering accurate estimates for work as requested by customers.

The full report is available in the folder 1 under *Motoring in Spain...*

Message from Graham Knight

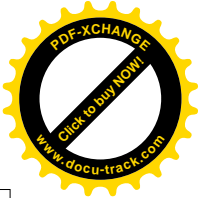
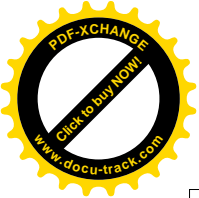


The 'Policia Local' of Torrevieja, have, once again this year, called upon the assistance of the 'Neighbourhood Watch' volunteers, through the 'Vecinos Cooperando' association, to assist as marshals in the annual 'half marathon' race which will take place on Sunday 26th February. Anyone who would care to support the association and offer their services as volunteer marshals, is asked to get in touch with the secretary, Christine Pillar on 96 571 6258. Volunteers marshals would be required to be in possession of a reflective jacket of the type required to be carried in all motor vehicles. I am assured that those who volunteered last year, very much enjoyed the occasion.

New Items in the Information Folders

Parking: Disability Permits
Black Money and buying a Property
Items in the Sales –the laws and you.

The Spanish Government have approved the first steps in their revue of the tax system. The basic rate you can earn before you pay tax has been raised from 3,400€ to 9,000€ You can now earn an extra 5,600€ before you pay a single cent in tax. (See folder 2)



TAKE A DAY OUT—WHY NOT VISIT ELCHE?

Elche is one of those cities that always welcomes tourists and visitors, but has none of the normal “touristy” trappings! Ok, for us *mountain people* - it is our local large city and we always enjoy visiting it, but there is so much to see. We have often heard people say “Yes we visited Elche on the Coach, we went to the Huerto del Cura and then visited a shoe factory”!!!! Well we feel sorry for those people as they have missed so much. Here are just a few of the delights.



The Tourist Information Office is at the lower end of the **Municipal Park** and if you start here, you can plan your day. The Municipal Park itself is wonderful for the plant lover (on Sundays the park is full of Spanish families who leave their high rise apartments and bring their lunch to the park on the numerous tables set up for this purpose) The Park has a Visitors’ Centre, and little train which will take you on a potted tour of the city, great fun. There are a maze of ancient buildings but **The Basilica** is a must to see and in mid August they stage the magnificent **Misteri d’Elx** in the Basilica. Also in August on 13th, not to be missed, is the magnificent **fire work display** (well the word display is an understatement). The old town is full of colour and sound ending on the stroke of midnight, when all the city’s lights go out, there is absolute quite, and from the tower above the Basilica, the haunting sound of a choir singing and the last coloured rockets appear. (You may need to take ear plugs with you!!) **El Huerto del Cura** is also a must with a chance to see magnificent palms and cactus in beautiful surroundings, a compact area for those who find walking a problem. Near the Basilica you will find the **Arab Baths**—free admittance and English language translation. Climb the tower and you can see over the city with the huge Palm Forests. There are also many museums to visit.

Just outside Elche we have **L’Alcudia** for the archaeological members and **El Fondo** for all those walkers and bird watchers.

Finally we understand, the Dama de Elche sculpture is due this year to be returned to the city from Madrid.

Well that is just a small taste for you. Driving— you can park alongside the Railway/ Bus Stations (a short walk from the Municipal Park) for just 1€ a day. Elche also has two train stations, so if you come from the Orihuela or San Isidro area, you would arrive at Elche Park Station. Enjoy your day!!!

January Quiz Evening

Thanks goes to Lynn Organ for arranging a very successful Quiz Evening at Saco’s Bar on 23rd January. It sounds as if it went extremely well. Unfortunately 8 people, who put their names down to go, did not attend and so their meals had to be paid for out of the raffle monies.

For those DIYers, you may in interested to know about a new product called “Mr Sticky underwater glue” which will cure and stick underwater (*hot water, cold water and even sea water for those boat owners*) Virtually the only glue to strongly bond PVC to other materials. Direct bond PVC fittings to copper, galvanized, black or even old rusty pipe! and all for around £5. For further info. www.plumbworld.co.uk