



Issue 18 Mar 2007
www.arpo.org.uk

EDITOR'S REMARKS

The Annual General Meeting was held at Sacko's Bar on 14th February with 39 members in attendance. Nominations for committee were not contested and the elected officers for the year are:

Chairman
Jim Wood

-
Vice Chairman
Roy Coombes

-
Secretary
Mike Peters

-
Treasurer
Lawrence Bilbey

-
Ass. Treasurer
George Patterson

-
Information Officer
Lyn Organ

The outgoing Chairman, Roy Coombes, thanked everyone for their support during his term of office, and to the committee for their hard work which culminated in a very successful year. Our website has undergone many updates in the last year and I hope to make it more dynamic this year. We now have many excellent sites linked

to our site and I have received several emails from the UK saying how they enjoyed it. Part of the aims of our association is to provide information for everyone, not only residents. Visiting serving or retired officers can now easily plan to join in our social events when they choose to visit this part of Spain.

(The new Association rules and objectives were approved unanimously and can be found as a link from the homepage of our website for all to see.)

The AGM was most informative and enjoyable but for me, there was a very disappointing point when the subject of charity was raised. No one present made any proposals in favour of ARPO supporting any charity.

As you all know, I am passionate about fundraising for charity and I left the meeting with a degree of sadness and disappointment.

Perhaps the misconception that it would involve monetary donations could have been explained. I apologise for not realising this before the AGM. However, to redress this omission, there is an article overleaf which will hit the hearts of everyone and I would urge everyone to read and contemplate individual contributions of non-monetary donations to this charity.

On an uplifting note, I was pleased to present Trish Simons with a bottle of Cava and two prize winning

certificates from her successes in the summer photographic competition. It is always good to see members attend meetings when they have such a long journey to join us. We are still eagerly awaiting receipt of the registration of the Association from the governing body. I hope that many of you went to see the spectacular carnival festivities in Torre Vieja. As usual it was superb and a 'must see'. This is one event that should be highlighted in your diary every year!! We are still looking for lunch venues for May and September – if any member has any ideas or suggestions, please contact the secretary, Mike Peters.

Lyn Organ
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**STOP PRESS: TORREVIEJA
MAY FAIR 2 – 6 MAY.
ITINERARY IN LOCAL
PRESS SOON**

TREASURER'S CHEST

The annual report showed income of 2158.12€ and expenditure of 1114.27€. This leaves an income over expenditure of 1043.85€. Cash in bank is 1757.47€ and cash in hand 81.09€. It is of interest that the cost of meals at organised functions in 2002 averaged 24.50€ per head and in 2006 was only 15.40 €! Congratulations to Ron Burks, the winner of the monthly 25€ draw.

DIARY OF EVENTS

DATE	TIME	COST	VENUE	CONTACT
WED 14 MAR	10.30AM		Monthly Meeting Sacko's Bar	966786108
WED 28 MAR	1.00PM	13.00€	Grand China Restaurant, La Siesta	George Patterson 966702863
WED 11 APR	10.30AM		Monthly Meeting Sacko's Bar	966786108
TUES 24 APR	Tel. for pick up point(s) & times	12.50€	Coach trip to Jalon Valley and lunch at Monroe's Carvery.	Jim Wood 966764434
WED 9 MAY	10.30AM		Monthly Meeting Sacko's Bar	966786108

DEBRA

The following item was received from Dreena Wharton who is a volunteer: DEBRA is a charity for children in Spain with EB (Epidermolysis Bullosa). This is a very painful skin condition which is not curable. The skin blisters and has to be bandaged each day which can take up to 6 hours and some children need morphine. Babies with severe problems have a short life expectancy. Two English ladies, Val Wilkinson, who has a grandson with the condition, and Anne Wylie, opened a shop in Pueblo Bravo off the Lemon Tree Road and a few doors up from the Budapest Restaurant in April 2006 to fund specialist nurses. They have already succeeded in funding one nurse in Malaga and are hoping for a second soon. The shop is always grateful for bric-a-brac, good clean clothing and household linen and indeed, anything saleable. Any electrical items donated are tested before re-sale for safety reasons. Donations can be dropped off any weekday between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. and between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on a Saturday. Any surplus items are passed on to other local charities. So, if anyone has, or is thinking of de-cluttering, don't throw it away, DONATE IT.

Editor's comments – I have researched this terrible condition on the web and I would urge everyone to look at the following site ..

www.debra.org.uk

The video link 'Living with EB' shows the reality of this condition.

FOR SALE

Gent's Raleigh cycle, white in colour. Little used in good condition with full gears. 50€. Proceeds to ARPO funds. Contact Roy Coombes on 966761431

GREETING CARDS

Linda Peters will be providing hand made cards for sale at our meetings. 50% of proceeds will be donated to ARPO funds.

BOOK CLUB

Our grateful thanks to Angie Dewey for running this enterprise which has proved to be very popular with members since it's inception. The choice of material is growing with age.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

www.spainvia.com

Once in a while I come across a website which makes me sit up and pay attention. This site provides a wealth of information for residents and non – residents alike. At first viewing it appears to be another marketing site BUT look closely, there are many great links to explore.

CON MERCHANTS EVERYWHERE

There are too many new and old tricks to mention BUT if something appears to good to be true.....IT IS!!. Be on your guard. Retired officers are not exempt from their attempts !!!

**** This newsletter is printed to provide news and information. Every effort is made to ensure accuracy and views expressed are solely those of the editor ****