

Newsletter

Issue 20 May 2007

EDITOR'S REMARKS

Despite the worse spell of weather in Spain for many years, 47 members attended the April meeting and were looking forward to the planned social

events ahead. Bob Thorogood gave information about his book, (see overleaf) and the committee asked for suggestions for a charity the association should support in the forthcoming year. I would collate replies and the committee will make the choice at the next committee meeting. A little piggy has been purchased and will attend all our meetings and social events. George Patterson gave an explanation of Spanish holidays and a guide is included herein.

The coach trip to Jalon Valley was fully subscribed and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The raffle raised the grand sum of 76 euros towards association funds. Thanks to Jim and Joan Wood for arranging this trip. Those who could not

attend this one will have another chance to go to Cartagena later in the year.

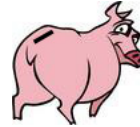
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NAME OUR ORPHAN



All that remains is to give a name to our new member!!!

So, names for piggy to me please, winning entry (and possible Godparent!) will receive a bottle of cava with my compliments. End date is 28th May.

TREASURER'S CHEST



Cash in bank 1563.95 € Subsidy for coach trip to Jalon Valley 467.50 € Cash in hand 143.59€ The 25 € monthly draw was won by Dreena Wharton.

PENSIONS

Members of the 'old pension' scheme - were you aware that male and female members of the police service are not treated equally when it comes to pension rights?

For example: a male and a female officer retiring today (or in the near future) having completed 30 years continuous service in the rank of constable would commute approximately £85K and £98K respectively.

Furthermore, the female officer would be about £200 better off a month! This disturbing fact came to light recently when a colleague attended his resettlement course and compared his pension prediction with the female officer that he had joined with in 1977!

Please visit <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/policepension> website and add your name to this worthy petition and 'start the ball rolling.'

GOLF

At the end of the last month's Chinese banquet, members asked if ARPO could arrange some games of golf (off season, of course) . I am sure there are several members who would love the occasional game. So, whether you are a member of a Spanish golf society or just enjoy the occasional game, would you support an organised game? There are good practice facilities at many clubs and we could arrange for sessions to get together and 'tone our skills' followed by a discussion about the training at the nearest 19th !



If anyone is interested in playing 18 holes of golf at La Marquesa golf course in mid October, please let Fred Wharton know by email ..

fred-dreena@telefonica.net

Fred will arrange it and the cost will be approx. 55 - 60 euros to include a buffet afterwards at The Olde 9th which overlooks the 1st fairway. Buggies would be extra but can be provided if necessary.

I am aware that not all members have broadband internet connection and that some files I send out can sometimes be too large and take ages to download. Therefore, all future files will be in .pdf format for quicker download and access. If you don't have Adobe Reader installed, just visit www.adobe.com and download the free software, it only takes a few seconds. If you need any further advice do not hesitate to contact us.

Details of Torrevieja's Pensioner's Day on Tuesday 1st May has been emailed to all and details entered on website.

This is worth a visit !!

****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 **

BOB THOROGOOD'S BOOK

Bob gave us an update on his book sales and informed us that he had sold 1,070 copies, 50 of which were in Spain. More importantly, he is researching his next book based on a fictional P.C. whose stories would encompass all the funny things and stories which we all have. Please send details to Bob on bob@rltservices.co.uk

He is hoping to publish in a couple of years and I, for one, will look forward to the fictional P.C.'s life story. But if anyone is considering venturing into writing etc., Bob will be pleased to pass on the knowledge he has gained from the thought to publication etc..

My thanks to Graham Knight for providing some tickets to see The Glenn Miller Orchestra at the teatro municipal in Torrevieja on 20 / 21st April. Membership numbers were drawn and the lucky winners were informed. Those who attended on both evenings were treated to a superb night of entertainment.

I.C.E. UPDATE

Following last months item on emergency phone numbers PLEASE repeat all your ICE numbers by entering ECE (en caso de emergencia) before the numbers!!! This was advice received from Vecinos Colaborando. Wish I had thought of that earlier.



SPANISH HOLIDAY DATES

	Red	Pink
May	1	2 30 31
June		9
July		25
August	15	
September		8 11 15 17
October	12	9
November	1	
December	6 25	

The reds are to be treated as Bank Holidays, building workers for example can be heavily fined by the Guardia Civil. The pinks can be much more mild.

*There are two items of important security information which has been received and deserve publication.
These relate to 'Hotel Room Cards' and ' Hire Cars ' .
Details are attached hereto.*

DIARY OF EVENTS

WED 9 MAY	10.30AM		Monthly Meeting Sacko's Bar	966786108
TUE 22 MAY	1.30PM	10.00€	Restaurante Down Town Quesada	Mike Peters 966797015
WED 13 JUN	10.30AM		Monthly Meeting Sacko's Bar	966786108
FRI 29 JUN	8.00PM	25.00€	Restaurante Portico Mar Guadamar	Mike Peters 966797015
WED 12 SEP	10.30AM		Monthly Meeting Sacko's Bar	966786108
WED 26 SEP	1.30PM	14.00€	Ruby's Restaurant - Indian Meal Playa Flamenca	Lol and Pat Bilbey 965482252
WED 10 OCT	10.30AM		Monthly Meeting Sacko's Bar	966786108
WED 24 OCT	t.b.a.		Restaurante Villoriens Rojales	Fred and Dreena Wharton 966 715 353
WED 14 NOV	10.30AM		Monthly Meeting Sacko's Bar	966786108
NOV t.b.a.			Coach Trip to Cartagena	Jim Wood 966764434
WED 12 DEC	10.30AM		Monthly Meeting Sacko's Bar	966786108
DEC t.b.a.			Xmas Dinner Dance Portico Mar	Mike Peters 966797015

ED'S WEBSITE OF THE MONTH



Pour a long cool drink and enjoy searching this site
www.costablancaive.info/index.html

HOTEL KEY CARD

Ever wonder what is on your magnetic key card? Answer:

- a. Customer's name
- b. Customer's partial home address
- c. Hotel room number
- d. Check-in date and out dates
- e. Customer's credit card number and expiration date!

When you turn them in to the front desk your personal information is there for any employee to access by simply scanning the card in the hotel scanner. An employee can take a hand full of cards home and using a scanning device, access the information onto a laptop computer and go shopping at your expense.

Simply put, hotels do not erase the information on these cards until an employee re-issues the card to the next hotel guest. At that time, the new guest's information is electronically "overwritten" on the card and the previous guest's information is erased in the overwriting process. But until the card is rewritten for the next guest, it usually is kept in a drawer at the front desk with **YOUR INFORMATION ON IT !**

The bottom line is:

Keep the cards, take them home with you, or destroy them. NEVER leave them behind in the room or room wastebasket, and NEVER turn them in to the front desk when you check out of a room. They will not charge you for the card (it's illegal) and you'll be sure you are not leaving a lot of valuable personal information on it that could be easily lifted off with any simple scanning device card reader.

For the same reason, if you arrive at the airport and discover you still have the card key in your pocket, do not toss it in an airport trash basket. Take it home and destroy it by cutting it up, especially through the electronic information strip!

HIRE CARS

As the 'season of tourists' approaches, more security advice is being published regarding hire cars from airports. I make no apologies for repeating this advice as it is still a very effective way of stealing from you!! If you are bumped from behind **DO NOT STOP** until you get to a well lit / populated area as sometimes cases, bags and even the car is stolen. Also, be vigilant when arriving at your destination as thieves will follow you and steal items when you are unloading!!