



ARPO NEWS

Association of Retired Police Officers
Costa Blanca South

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Meeting Report

The last meeting of ARPO was held at Sacko's Bar on 9th January, 2008 when 37 members attended. There were 2 new members John and Wendy Henry formerly with Derbyshire Constabulary. Jim Wood welcomed back Tony and Moira Cross. Richard and Kate Jackson who had recently returned from UK. Maureen Forsyth was the lucky winner of the 25 euro draw.

The Treasurer reported that we had 697.14 euros in the current account and 1171.52 euros in the deposit account.

Members were asked to consider any item they would like to raise at the forthcoming AGM. Also informed that nominations for committee members would close at the end of the meeting. Nick Bradford spoke about replacement of passports should you lose or have them stolen. Brian Smith informed the meeting that he had been talking to the organiser of the Sunday Zoco market who was unaware that it was closing.

Committee Members 2008

Chairman / President	Jim Wood.
Vice Chairman	Fred Wharton
Secretary	Mike Peters
Ass sect	Susan Haycocks
Treasurer	Lawrence Bilbey
Ass Treasurer	George Patterson
No nominations for information Officer	
No nominations for Social Secretary.	
Web Master	Gerry Lawson

George's Travels

Over the last year George and Ann Patterson pushed the boat out and undertook two holidays. As many will remember the first was to China (probably inspired by his love of Chinese food!).

George has no doubt reiterated his adventure to many of you and has recommended this destination to all. The lady tour guide was Helen and she has now formed her own travel company taking visitors to China. Anyone interested can contact her at Quintessential Travel on 0845 257 0688

George's second holiday was to Northern Spain. Discounted holidays are run by Torrevieja Town Hall and successful applicants receive a 65% discount on the costs. So, if you fancy trips around Spain at a nominal cost do speak to GP who will tell you all about his experience.

To qualify you must be a resident of Torrevieja and have been listed on the padron for at least 2 years. The only other criteria is that you must be aged 55 or over. Application forms can be obtained from Torrevieja Town Hall. Successful applicants are notified by telephone.

The holidays run from the middle of September onwards for 4 weeks. Travel is by coach and the tour includes hotel and 3 meals per day.

The following is a shortened account of the trip by GP.

We were the only two English people on the bus, so brush up on your Spanish. We got adopted by several couples and they made sure we were kept informed. There is a welcome meeting the first day. Included in the total price are three half day trips out. One, Pontevedra, nice town just north of Vigo. Two, Santiago Compostela, there you have the biggest cathedral next down from Rome. Three, O Grove Y La Toja. a very pretty fishing town with a boat trip to the mussel islands, finished off with three large cartons of fresh boiled mussels, and all the wine you could drink. All in total price I will add. The Hotel was very comfortable, and three nice cooked meals every day. You did not need money at all apart from buying trinkets to take home for presents. Our weather was very good, shorts on every day, that nine days while we were away.

Sounds like a bargain not to be missed. There is no information on whether similar arrangements exist in other local areas.

Do you need computer instruction

If so then classes consisting of six one hour lessons at a cost of 40 euros are being arranged by the Torrevieja Computer Club. They meet each Wednesday at Hotel Cabo Cervera at various times. Anyone interested contact Ann Brace 966 7866281 or visit their web site at www.torrevejacomputerclub.com Lessons are for all levels of computer literacy starting from absolute beginners.

Denuncias

If you are unlucky enough to be the victim of a crime or accident and need to report this to the Police then remember you will need to have someone who speaks Spanish to assist you. Another way around this is to telephone 902 102 112 and request to talk to an English speaker. You can then make a report for the denuncia and the operator will give you a reference number for you to take to your local police station.

If you are claiming on insurance you will need this as proof.

Upcoming Events around Torrevieja

Don't miss the February carnival in Torrevieja! There are two parades in this 'carnival' that should be noted, the first one is on Sunday the 3rd of February and starts at 16:00 from the Plaza Maria Asuncion, proceeding south down Calle Ramon Gallud (this is the main shopping street in Torrevieja town centre) and ending at Calle Patricio Perez.

The second parade is on Saturday the 9th of February at 21.00 and begins at Calle Patricio Perez travelling north up Calle Ramon Gallud (the main shopping street) and then onto Calle Patricio Zammit (in the direction of the coast) and then takes a right into Calle Ulpiano and right again into Calle Moriones. They are fun parades and include many eye catching fancy dress costumes.

Stages of Service in the Police

FASCINATION STAGE Years Service 1 - 4

For most officers, this is their first time outside of the middle class bubble. They have never seen a dead body, never seen life threatening injuries, never dealt with a family disturbance, never witnessed the shit some people call "home life", and never really understood the phrase "Man's Inhumanity To Man" until now. Everything is new to them. You can identify them by the amount of fancy new equipment they carry. A ten billion candlelight power torch, pens that write in the rain, a ballistic vest rated to stop tomahawk missiles, and an equipment bag large enough to house a squad of marines. They love it, they show up early for their shift. They work way past the end of their shift without even considering an O/T slip. They believe rank within the job is based only on ability and those in the upper ranks got there by knowledge and skill in police work only. They believe everyone is competent, everyone is on the same page and working towards the same high minded goals. When they finally go home to their significant other, they tell them everything they did and saw. Some of the more "eaten up" purchase a police scanner so they can hear the radio calls while at home.

SUPERIORITY STAGE Years Service 5 - 7

This is when cops are at their best. They have survived changes in administration. They know how the political game is played, both inside and outside the job. They know who they can trust and who they can't. They have select friends within the job, and stay away, as best they can, from the nuttters and boot-lickers. They know the legal system, the judges, prosecutors, defence solicitors, etc. They know how to testify and put a good case together. They are usually the ones that the gaffers turn to when there is some clandestine request or sensitive operation that needs to be done right. These cops are still physically fit and can handle themselves on the street. They will stay around the station when needed, but have other commitments, such as a second spouse, a second girlfriend (sometimes both), and most of their friends are non job.

HOSTILITY STAGE Years Service 7 - 16

They now show up for work about 2 minutes before their shift, and they are hiding about 30 minutes before end of the shift, writing reports so they can just throw them in the sergeant's in-box and leave ASAP. They have to get to their second job to earn money to pay for the divorce that is pending. They gripe about everything, drink excessively, chase women, and hate the public, politicians, media, etc. They feel they have more in common with the hookers, thieves, druggies, etc. but hate them too. Those pens that write in the rain are no longer needed. Writing traffic tickets can be a lot more trouble than they are worth, even on a nice day. To write one, or to write anything while standing in the rain, is a sure sign of an insane person. Their spouse is no longer interested in hearing about all the gore and heartache. They get the "you spend more time with the cops than you do with me" speech.

ACCEPTANCE STAGE Years Service 16 - to Retirement

Now the cops have a single objective... retirement and pension. Nothing is going to come between them and their monthly payslip. The boss, the force, the idiots around the station, and the creeps on the street can all go to hell, because they could come between them and "sitting on the beach". There is no topic of discussion that can't somehow lead back to retirement issues. These guys are usually sergeants, detectives, scenes of crime officers, community, or some other post where they will not be endangered. They especially don't want some young stupid cop getting them sued, fired, killed, or

anything else causing them to lose their "beach time". They spend a lot of time having coffee, hanging around the station, and looking at brochures of things they want to do in retirement.

The retired cop usually dies within five years of retirement, saving the force a bunch of money. Of course, nothing is ever 100% true, but if you are a cop, were a cop, know a cop, then you will certainly recognize some of the above statements!!!!

Make your day interesting

Working people frequently ask retired people what they do to make their days interesting.

Well, for example, the other day my wife and I went to Cheltenham and went into a shop. We were only in there for about 5 minutes. When we came out, there was a policeman writing out a parking ticket. We went up to him and said, "Officer how about giving a senior citizen a break?" He ignored us and continued writing the ticket I called him a Nazi turd. He glared at me and started writing another ticket for having worn tyres.

So my wife called him a shitead. He finished the second ticket and put it on the windshield with the first. Then he started writing a third ticket. This went on for about 20 minutes. The more we abused him, the more tickets he wrote.

Personally, we didn't care. We came into town by bus.

Valentines day Lunch

Thursday 14th February at Portico mar 12.30 for 1 pm Jack Clayton will provide the music. At the moment there are 45 people signed up (a bit less than Christmas) so we won't have exclusive use. We are using Richard's Menu del dia so its order and pay on the day and there is no seating plan Pat Bilbey is doing A carnation for the ladies.

Still plenty of time to put your names down so please contact Mike Peters on 966 797015.

March Arpo Lunch

This will be held at Down Town Quesada Restaurant Tuesday 25th march 1 pm for 1.30 pm. Please note the day this is not a mistake. 12.50 euros per head. Menu:

Starters

Home Made Soup of the day. Garlic Mushrooms.
Egg Mayonnaise. Tomato and Basil Bruschetta.

Main Courses.

Roast Shank of Lamb Beef & Ale casserole with Pasty top
Chicken Breast with cream and bacon sauce. Vegetable Lasagne.

Sweets.

Profiteroles Trifle., Strawberry slice Fruit salad.

To Include glass of house wine or small beer or soft drink and to include coffee.

Reservations telephone Mike Peters 966 797015

This newsletter is printed to provide information and every effort is made to ensure accuracy. All planned and future events contain contact details of the organiser(s) and they should be contacted direct for up to date information