



A.R.P.O.

NEWSLETTER

Costa Blanca South

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ARPO Committee wish to extend to all members and their families Seasonal Greetings, we wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous 2010.

Meeting Report

Minutes of the ARPO meeting held at Sacko's Bar 11th November, 2009. There were 47 members present including 1 new member who introduced himself (ex South Yorkshire).

Treasurer's Report: Lol Bilby reported that:
At the beginning of October: Cash in the Bank: 1340.04 Cash in hand: 657.08 Float: 52.08 Total: 2049.20
During October: Income: 17.12 from Angie's books (thank you very much!) 179.00 was received from the raffle at the Portico Mar event in September
Total Income: 196.12
Outgoings: 25 for the monthly draw, 2.50 for the Newsletter photocopies; the raffle prizes for the Portico Mar lunch of 55.00 and tip for Portico Mar (taken out of raffle income - making a profit from the raffle of 74.00). Total Outgoings: 132.50
At the beginning of November: Cash in the Bank: 1343.15 (including 3.11 interest) Cash in Hand: 657.08 Float: 115.70 Total: 2115.93. All amounts are in Euros.

The Vice Chairman reiterated it was agreed at the last meeting that it was far easier for members to arrange to purchase raffle prizes themselves and take the amount of expenditure from the raffle money collected, giving the receipts and 'profit' to the Treasurer on the day. Mike Peter's comments were also voiced that he thought the raffle prizes should be of 'quality' rather than 'quantity', i.e. rather than having a dozen single bottles of 'cheap' wine. It was also mentioned that any donations to the raffle prizes would still be very welcome.

Social Functions:

Many thanks to Mike and Trish for the doing the raffle at Portico Mar, as well thanks to Keith for arranging the coffee. Keith explained that coffee wasn't originally included in the deal but by rounding up the price from 14.95 per head to 15.00 Euro this made it easier for members and staff alike.

The **Christmas** event to be held on **18 December** at Stan & Ollie's, El Raso, is being arranged by Jim & Linda Neville. Again, so far, there is a much reduced number signed up for this (approx 46 to date). It will be •26 per head and includes Bucks Fizz on arrival and the usual wine, coffee etc, as well as a tip. Also Jack Clayton has, once again, been booked for the evening entertainment. The restaurant can take up to 90 people and the list and menu is available if you wish to sign up. The event timing is 7.30pm for 8pm and it was thought that this time there wouldn't be a table plan so that we can all 'mingle' as a social club. **All menu choices and money by the December meeting please.**

It was brought up that Mike Peters has suggested we dispense of the 6 x Euro 50 members draw at the Christmas event this year, to rather spend it one 'good' prize and the rest on better items from Ikea. It was put to the meeting whether anyone had any objection to this?

In view of the small numbers signed up for the Christmas event, Linda Neville suggested she advise Stan and Ollie's and they may then open up the rest of the restaurant to the public. The Vice Chairman made a proposal to the meeting that no matter how many (or few) are attending, we will hold the event rather than cancel. There was a unanimous vote in favour of holding the event.

2 minutes silence was observed by the meeting at 11.00am for Armistice Day.

The Treasurer mentioned that the investigation into a new bank for the ARPO funds and any associated funds had proved that nearly all the banks make maintenance charges on accounts – the cheapest found at the moment is Halifax. Mike Peters had sent Lol and email saying that Bankinter

would be free but Lol thinks this maybe because he is a customer at La Marina and the Treasurer feels that this would not be viable in location and that the Secretary has indicated he is resigning in February '10. It was also mentioned from the floor that Bank Caja do not make any charges for accounts held with them, which may be worth investigating.

The ARPO AGM will be held in February 2010 and we do need have nominations for the Committee positions of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. A volunteer to continue as Newsletter Editor would also be appreciated. We will need some new officers, so would members please give it some serious thought and contact Mike Peters if you wish to stand.

Congratulations were also given to two members who recently got married in Scotland on 7 November – Pat and Archie Millard. Best wishes for the future from all at ARPO.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 9 December 2009.

The winner of the 25 Euro draw was no. 2 – Phyllis Smith.

Money Matters

Watch your change. On the 1st January, 2010, Turkey is



changing its coinage and replacing it with coins similar to the European Euro. As will be seen below, the two euro coin is very similar to the new Turkish one lira coin, the latter not valid currency in the European Union. The Turkish coins look to be the same size as Euro coins. A quick conversion shows 2 Euros would buy you 4.57 Turkish Lira.

More money woes!

Public Sector Pensions (which include all emergency pensions) are to be increased by 0 (Zero) percent. Yes you did read it correctly, zero percent. This is based upon the fact that the RPI at the end of September 2009 was standing at -1.4%. As all public sector pension schemes are based upon this particular figure, The Chancellor has decided we will get nothing. The old age pension element though is being increased by 2.5%.

A little better cheer!

If you receive the Winter Fuel Allowance you will be pleased to know that the payment for 2009 will be £250 per household (£125 each for 2 persons).

Social Functions

If you have not already reserved places for the Christmas Dinner at Stan and Ollie's please contact Jim or Linda Neville as soon as possible with numbers and menu details.

The first lunch of 2010 will be on Wednesday the 27th January at the Captain's Table Quesada, 13.00 hrs for 13.30 hrs. The lunch is been organised by Joan and Jim Wood and will cost 10 euros per person inclusive of tip. I am sure that most of you will know the location of the restaurant it was called Down Town Quesada and is on the old Lemon Tree Road.

MENU.

Starters :- Homemade Soup of the Day or Garlic Cheese Bread or Pate & Toast.

Main Course :- Chicken Breast wrapped in Bacon served with white wine sauce.

Pork Chop served with Apple and Cider Sauce.

Gammon With Egg or Pineapple.

Cod, Chips and Side Salad

All above served with Chips or Mash potatoes and Fresh vegetables.

Dessert :- Apple Crumble & Custard or Cheesecake or Ice Cream.

Drinks :- Half a Bottle of Wine per person. A small beer or soft Drink.

Cost per person is 10 Euros including tip.

You can put your name and choice of menu down at the December and January meetings or simply contact Joan or Jim Wood on 966764434.