



A . R . P . O .

NEWSLETTER

Costa Blanca South

Issue 08
April 2006

www.arpo.org.uk

EDITOR'S REMARKS

Another good turnout at our March meeting at Sacko's Bar in El Limonar with a total of 49 members signing in and their guests boosting the total to around 60 and filling the function room. All enjoying the presentation made by Sr. Pedro Valero, the Torre Vieja councillor responsible for policing, ably supported by our president, Graham Knight. A most informative visit and well received by all. April marks the start of Spring (Primavera) and we are all waiting with baited breath for the onslaught of las turistas!!!! Meanwhile we should all be looking forward to the religious and cultural events/fiestas taking place at this time. A brief agenda is published overleaf. Not all events / fiestas etc. are published in local newspapers so if you live outside the town of Torre Vieja and your pueblo hosts such events please let me know. I will publish them and it will give our members the opportunity to attend. All too often we read of these events after they take place!!! How often are we awakened by the sound of explosions and coloured lights flashing across the skies for no apparent reason???? Our website has been updated drastically with far more information and is to undergo further improvements regularly. We now have a link from the site to:-

<http://photobucket.com/albums/f156/senorlyn/arpo>

Here I have started to upload pictures taken at ARPO events. If you have any photos, digital or paper, please send them to me and I will upload them onto the site. Photos will be scanned and returned undamaged. Don't worry if the

photographs are not of good quality – I will remedy most problems!!

If you want to download and/or print any photographs just double click on its thumbnail which brings up the full size photograph. Then, right click and select 'save picture as'.

Right now the association is going from strength to strength with members battling for the opportunity to run a social event. We are already looking at arranging functions for 2007!!!! ***See the events section for full details.* If you have any ideas for social functions, I will publish them as soon as possible (and ensure details are placed on the website) for you to receive feedback from members as to whether it will be supported. This will save a lot of time and worry and ensure members have plenty of time to make arrangements so they can attend. We have noticed already that future functions are likely to be oversubscribed. It is important therefore that if you are considering hosting any function that the venue can accommodate those wishing to attend. Please inform the secretary, Mike Peters on 966797015 or email mpeters@tiscali.es who will be able to assist and advise.

My website of the month is worth a visit!

www.travelinginspain.com

Enjoy the busy month ahead.

Lyn Organ
lynorgan@terra.es Tel: 966761961

◆.....◆
Paperbacks on loan! Our thanks go to Roy Dewey for volunteering to run a book library at our meetings. The cost will be just 50 centimos per book and all profits go to the association funds. Please support this addition to our services which I am sure will prove invaluable.
◆.....◆

TREASURER'S CHEST

Our current membership is 119 members of which 7 are life members, 91 fully paid up and 21 in arrears with their annual subscriptions.

At the March meeting we had 11 members join of which 6 were new members and 5 renewals. Cash in hand stands at € 1502.22.

And finally, congratulations to Ian Ronson for scooping the €25 monthly draw

DIARY OF SOCIAL EVENTS

<u>DATE and TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
Wed 26 April... 1.30pm	Rest. Dona Isabel, San Miguel	Jim and Joan Wood 966764434
Wed 10 May.... 11am	Monthly meeting Sacko's Bar, Guest speaker Terry Potter, on insurance.	966786108
Wed 24 May... 7.30pm	Country Cook-In, Formantera	Gerry Lawson 966791537 or Mike Peters 966797015
Wed 14 June... 11am	Monthly meeting Sacko's Bar Guest Maureen Evans – Natural Health Products	966786108
Fri 30 June... tba	Rocio's Palace, Benjofar	Mike Peters 966797015
Wed 13 Sept ... 11am	Monthly meeting Sacko's Bar	966786108
Sept tba	Beez Bar, Via Park 111, Los Altos	Lawrence Bilbey 966791537
Oct tba	Drive through country/ Treasure Hunt to Beniel and lunch	Andy Bassett 968309774
Oct 11	Monthly meeting Sacko's Bar	966786108
Nov 8	Monthly meeting Sacko's Bar	966786108
Nov tba	Monthly lunch	Roy Coombes 966761431
Dec 12	Monthly meeting Sacko's Bar	966786108
Dec 18 tba	Xmas Dinner	Mike Peters 966797015

The lunch at Gran China restaurant, La Siesta on 29 March was attended by 57 members and guests and was a great success. The raffle netted 128.50€. Thanks to George and Ann Patterson for arranging this event.

CALLING ALL GOLFERS

A one hour golf lesson for just 20 € for beginners or experienced golfers!! Mike Probert (966704752) is a qualified golf coach, golf psychology advisor and golf columnist for the Coastrider newspaper. Normal cost could be in excess of 60€. To arrange your discounted rate, please phone Mike and mention ARPO.

BOOK FAIR

Held between the 1st and 16th April on the Vista Alegre esplanade in Torrevieja. This is a very popular fair with many stands by the Assn of Book Shops in Torrevieja who will be showing their best classic and modern books, including books in English!. The local council also set up an institutional stand where diverse book signings are carried out.

A WORD OF WARNING

Brian White has informed me of his dealings with 'back street garages' run by British. Basically, you can be ripped off to the tune of over 100€ for a simple service compared with the main Ford dealer in Torrevieja!!!! In Spain, main dealers are generally first class...as for back street garages run by Brits!!!! Look at Phil Mitchell at the Arches. I rest my case.

CULTURAL EVENTS

May 3rd to the 7th. The May fair in Torrevieja is held in the Port Area. During the May fair, Torrevieja enjoys a week of festivities in the purest Andalusian style, with "casetas" (booths) set up in the harbour precincts, where a large gatherings of people in traditional Andalusian costume dance the famous "Sevillanas". The atmosphere is completed by processions on horseback, carriages and the tasting of fine Andalusian wines. In addition, the Association of the Virgen del Rocío organizes a "Romería" (Pilgrimage) in Honour of the Virgen del Rocío on the last Saturday and Sunday of May, with a pilgrims' mass held in the open air, and the celebrated "race of the ribbons" for horsemen. During the first fortnight of May, the Queen of the Fire is proclaimed, and in May/June the Coronation of the Queen of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

MAN'S BEST FRIEND?

Adorable healthy puppies free to good homes. They may not win Crufts but they will win hearts!! Parents are gentle natured small terrier type dogs and the puppies come in various colours. Anyone interested should contact Sue Bassett on 968309774 or contact her daughter on 609935568.

FOREIGN OFFICE GUIDE

A 42-page guidebook is freely available from the UK Foreign Office and sets out what the consular service can and cannot do for British nationals. It does help with the support it offers in different cases. The book is downloadable but it would cost too much for me to prepare copies. Just go online on click on www.fco.gov.uk And follow the links.

**STOP PRESS – DO NOT MISS*
The popular Medieval Market is being held for 4 days from 13th April btn 11am-2pm or 4pm-8pm in the Eras de la Sal, Torrevieja. There will be around 70 stalls. Go back in time and enjoy your visit to this great medieval market – you will not be disappointed!!!! Ed