

# The Front Desk



**December 2009**

Dear Clients,

Well, this year has flown by quicker than ever, and it's hard to believe we have reached December already.

## **Fiestas**

The next dates to note in your diaries are Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December (Constitution Day) – celebrated on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> - and Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December (Immaculate Conception). Later in the month we are, of course, looking forward to Christmas. A little further ahead are New Year's Day and January 6<sup>th</sup> (Three Kings' Day) are also public holidays.

Over the Christmas and New Year period we shall operate the usual 24 x7 out-of-hours service, but will only operate a "skeleton" staffing of the office. If you are planning to visit your Spanish home during this period, and in order to minimise any costs, please give us as much notice as possible in order that we can prepare for your arrival and avoid the need to call staff in on public holidays or weekends.

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Office Opening Hours</u></b>
7th December (Constitution Day)	Closed
8th December (Immaculate Conception)	Closed
24th December	9a.m. until 1.00 p.m.
25th December (Christmas Day)	Closed
28 <sup>th</sup> , 29 <sup>th</sup> , 30 <sup>th</sup> & 31st December	9 a.m. until 1.00 p.m.
1st January	Closed
6 <sup>th</sup> January (Three Kings Day)	Closed

## **Water Meters**

November is normally a time when we can catch our breath after a busy summer and early autumn. Not this year – the Benahavis town hall sprang a surprise on us by introducing a uniform method of charging for water supplies. In the past many urbanisations charged the cost of water as a part of their community fees. Now properties are to be individually metered and, whilst this is a fairer system of charging, the amount of administration required in a short timescale has been very substantial.

## **Hottest Autumn on the Costa del Sol**

Average temperatures of 21.4° C were registered in Malaga in the month of October, the highest since meteorological information was first recorded for the area over 70 years ago. The weather was similar to that typically expected during September and continued well into November, although evenings are now noticeably cooler.

**Tel: (0034) 952 78 49 83 (3 Lines), Fax: 952 78 34 08, Emergency Helpline: 00 34 606 97 58 33**

Web site: [www.spanishrental holidays.com](http://www.spanishrental holidays.com) E-mail: [enquiries@spanishrental holidays.com](mailto:enquiries@spanishrental holidays.com)

**Head Office Address:** HPS Property Services Siglo XXI (SL), Urb. El Alto N° 16, Los Arqueros Golf, Benahavis, 29679, (Málaga), España.CIF N° B – 92606953

## **Driving and Mobile Phones**

The Guardia Civil Trafico has launched another campaign against the use of mobile phones when driving a car. In spite of the risk of heavy fines and penalty points on the licence, chatting while driving continues to be a national sport.

## **Forest Fire**

One feature of the continuing fine weather has been the recent incidence of forest fires. Incidents recently occurred in the Mijas and Benalmadena areas. Fortunately these appear to have been isolated and were quickly dealt with by fire fighters using helicopter water chutes.

## **Parking Charges**

Marbella town council is introducing a parking "blue zone". By the end of the year motorists will have to start paying to park in 2364 parking spaces in almost 60 streets in Marbella, San Pedro and Puerto Banus. These parking bays will be administered by a private company which also operates the town's tow truck (grua) service, so please be mindful of where you park in the future.

## **Argos in Spain**

Last month we reported the arrival of Marks & Spencer at the La Cañada shopping centre in Marbella. This month you may be interested to know that Argos has set up an on-line shopping service dedicated to delivery in Spain. It is very easy and inexpensive to use with a nominal delivery charge. We have made our first purchase of household goods on behalf of a client and we are happy for you to use our office as a delivery address should you wish to purchase any items. The link is:

[www.argos-spain.co.uk](http://www.argos-spain.co.uk)

## **Christmas Festivities**

This year's festivities include Michael taking part in a Pantomime, with his Play reading group. He has been cast as one of Snow White's Dwarfs. This will be a challenge for someone of his height (6' 2"!)

For the more serious minded amongst you, there are bound to be several International Carol Services all along the Coast, so for more details, please feel free to call me and I will investigate further for you.

Finally, please let me thank you all for your continued support during 2009. We really appreciate your loyalty, and hope that we continue to go from strength to strength in 2010.

My very best wishes to you and your families for a wonderful Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Feliz Navidad,

*Beverley*

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