

The Front Desk



October 2008

Dear Clients,

This month's newsletter is a little later than usual. Unusually September has been a particularly busy month for us – not so much with the arrival and departure of guests, but with the administrative issues related to planning applications and licences for clients undertaking major upgrading of their properties.

Also we have been very active in assisting clients with the payment of their IBI tax calculations and payments, sorting out electricity accounts and handling insurance claims. I am ready for my holiday!!

Fiesta

This month we have two public holidays. On Sunday 12th it is Spanish National Day, also known as *Día de la Hispanidad* ('Day of Spanishness'). It is also the holy day of La Virgen del Pilar, the patron saint of the Guardia Civil and is celebrated uniquely by them, and anybody lucky enough to have the Christian name, Pilar, while the rest of Spain focuses on its National Day. Because the fiesta falls on a Sunday this year, it means that Monday (13th) will be a public holiday throughout Spain.

The next date for your diary is the Feria for San Pedro de Alcantara on Sunday 19th October. There will be lots of partying, events and a big fun fair – and rain (according to tradition). As the Feria falls on a Sunday this year, Monday (20th) will be a local public holiday in San Pedro and Marbella, but life in adjacent towns and villages should carry on as normal.

Our office will be closed on both Monday 13th and 20th, but we will be contactable on our 24 hour number in case of emergency.

Autumn Weather

The weather is now distinctly autumnal. Apart from a couple of days when we had very heavy storms, the daytime weather has been generally warm and pleasant. It has been warm enough to sit in the evening sun until around 7.30 pm, but after that the temperature drops and you will need a sweater or light coat for the evenings and early mornings. It is also worth packing a light waterproof jacket.

However, even now the tanning effect of the sun can be quite fierce, so don't forget your sun cream! It is quite easy to forget how strong the sunlight can be here when the temperatures are a little cooler.

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“Credit Crunch”

We have had a number of enquiries from clients about how we are faring in the light of the global economic crisis and the property “slump” in Spain. I am pleased to say that the work we have done over the past (almost) four years to improve the way we operate, has helped us to weather the storm. While we are not immune from inflation and the general downturn in the property market, we have made a number of cost savings and efficiencies to the benefit of the business and of our customers.

We are, however, seeing a number of “black economy” operations – including some “property management” outfits – disappearing from view. On the other hand we are confident about our future and have just upgraded our office computer system to give us a more secure service. Michael has even promised to buy me a new desk when I come back from my holiday (see below).

Dive! Dive! Dive

Now that you have all had your summer breaks, Jamie and I are about to take ours. As many of you know, we are quite keen on diving and will be going to the Maldives in order to explore the underwater life of the Indian Ocean – and perhaps discover some sunken treasure!! Who knows?

Our last day in the office will be Friday 31st October and we will be back in the office on Wednesday 19th November assuming we don't find any treasure. We are currently planning the work schedule for the period that we are away and I shall be grateful if you will let me have details of any travel plans you or your guests may have (however tentative), so that we can plan ahead to prepare your property. Similarly if you have any golf and car hire requirements, I shall be able to organise these.

Maintenance Programme

We have a number of painting and general maintenance projects under way at the moment. In particular a number of clients have requested us to arrange the cleaning of items of upholstery and soft furnishings, including bedspreads and duvet quilts. If you are thinking about freshening up your home in Spain, please let me know if we can organise this for you.

San Pedro Road Improvements

The project to improve the flow of traffic through and around San Pedro continues. It amazes me how well the project has progressed and how little additional (if any) congestion there has been. The original timetable has been extended because of further planning enquiries and revisions and additions to the original project. The current finishing date has been set at October 2010. You can see the plans in the San Pedro Town Hall, where a very helpful official explained the project to me.

Hasta la vista

Kind regards,

Beverley

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