



ASOCIACIÓN PROPIETARIOS MONTGÓ JÁVEA

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APMJ NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2016

Dear All,

I had been hoping to get a Newsletter 'out on the streets' a while ago but, as usual, I have been delayed by a number of things outside my control, looking after visitors being but one of them. However, we now have a few weeks to ourselves to catch up on some essential jobs and let the car cool down from running back and forth to the airport. As far as the APMJ has been concerned, we have not exactly stopped these past few months. Our monthly Montgó Mornings have proved more popular than ever, thanks mainly to some interesting guest speakers. Away from the regular meetings, a number of individuals have been given help with their specific problems. Lastly, we have also managed to sort out a few issues with the Town Hall as well as the provincial government. I will cover these subjects, as well as a few more of interest, in this Newsletter. Please also don't forget to keep up to speed with things on our website which can be found at www.montgoresidents.com

Fire Prevention Update

You will recall that last year we lodged a Denuncia with the Ayuntamiento about a number of overgrown private plots that we considered to be a fire hazard. It took a while for some manpower to be allocated to this task, but in the end, one of the Local Police officers was given the job of documenting evidence, identifying the owners and so on. Indeed, I spent a pleasant morning with him helping him out (and being told not to fiddle with all the extra buttons, light switches, etc, in the police car). The work is now definitely bringing about some results, as any of you who have seen the huge tract of cleared land behind C/Pic de la Batalla will know. We just need some of the other plots to be cleared, and I guess this will happen eventually albeit not exactly quickly.

For the next round of clearance I think we need a slightly smaller focus. To this end we will first concentrate on the areas around C/de Piscis and C/de Auriga. Here we will not just be asking for the various overgrown plots to be cleared but also all the litter to be picked up. I have a volunteer (many thanks) busy documenting and photographing the problems and will place the Denuncia very soon. Likewise, I will be placing one about the overgrown barrancos, fallen trees, etc, in the area around C/Ermita and C/Hércules.

Again, it took a long time but we finally received permission from the provincial government to clear the trees at the edge of the Montgó Natural Park. Amongst the huge list of things that can and cannot be done in the way of a clear up, is a limit on exactly when the trees can be cut so as not to disturb nesting birds. That's very thoughtful! I just need to find a spare moment to get over to the Park offices in Dénia to sort out who, how and when (and who's going to pay).

I will hopefully be in a position to update you a bit more about 'Operation Cleanup' at our General Assembly in late October (see below)

Water Shortages

Just in case you were unable to see my email earlier this week about the problems with AMJASA, here's a quick summary of the issue. The water supply to the Montgó area has been cut off on numerous occasions recently. AMJASA tells me it is a problem across the whole of Jávea because of high usage, shortages, broken machinery and so on. The company asks that we all do our bit to help conserve water, especially in our gardens and swimming pools. The campaign is called "Every Drop Counts".

Could I ask therefore that everybody does their best to help out and try and conserve water where possible. Reporting leaks quickly to AMJASA will also help enormously. I have had a huge number of leaks recently near my house. Every time I report one, some workmen arrive very quickly, weekends as well, to sort the problem and so it is worth making that call or sending an email. Lastly, my other complaint about the sheer lack of information on the AMJASA website has produced some immediate results, with the current problems being highlighted both in Spanish and English.

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Matters

At the moment there is not much to add to all the information we have been receiving over the past few months through the NHW system, so I will just add a few things from my perspective. It would seem that the law enforcement agencies are enjoying a number of successes against the criminal gangs that seem to plague the Costas (thanks and well done guys and girls!). What is less encouraging are the frequent mentions in the subsequent news articles that the courts have released the suspects on bail with a view to them returning to court another day. Perhaps I am missing something here, but it occurs to me that all that is going to happen is that the criminals will either just carry on with impunity or return to their home countries (and I don't want to single any particular country out, but one that rhymes with Domania seems to crop up with alarming frequency) for a 'well-deserved' break.

The other thing that worries me is the recent report in which some suspicious characters in a car sped off and were followed by some residents until those being followed managed to disappear into the town. I very much appreciate the thought behind this, especially as the residents managed to make a note of the all-important car registration. On the other hand, perhaps the best idea is to just simply call the police, unless of course you are driving a red and white Ford Gran Torino, your name is either Starsky or Hutch, and you are legally carrying a weapon with the famous numbers '357' stamped on the side of it! As a reminder, the local Guardia Civil can be contacted on 96 579 1085 or you can just call the national emergency number, 112.

Montgó Mornings/Christmas Lunch

We have had some excellent Montgó Mornings this year, both because of the interesting speakers and the sheer number of attendees. In recent months we have heard from:

- Juan Crisostolmo of Asociación Amigos Europeos de Jávea, who not only explained how their ambulance service works (very well by the sound of it) but also brought one of the ambulances along for us to see.
- Juan Antonio Chorro from Viveros Chorro, who explained about the new laws governing the purchase of weed killers, pesticides, etc, and gave us some good hints about how to look after some of the plants in our gardens.
- Manuel Salmeron, who is a licensed drone operator. Manuel told us who could fly such devices, why they were being flown and what to do if we were being plagued by seemingly rogue operators. He was briefly demonstrated one of his drones flying as well as showed us some of the (impressive) results that could be obtained with the onboard camera.

Looking ahead, we will be holding Montgó Mornings on the first Tuesday of every month throughout the rest of the year. Our next is on Tuesday 6th September at which we will be presenting a cheque to help local schoolchildren purchase books for the new academic year. Each year, the Centro Social helps organise the fundraising for the purchase of books and we will be making a small donation to this cause.

The October Morning will be held on Tuesday 4th. At the next one, 1st November, we hope to present a small cheque to one of the local charities as well as hear more about their work. I will not mention who at this moment as they are unaware of this donation, and will remain so until I find a moment to go and see them.

We will remind everybody about the dates by email as we get nearer each event. In the meantime, please note that because of conflicting events around Christmas time, we will probably not be holding our Christmas Lunch in December (attendance at last year's Lunch was particularly low because of other events). Instead, we will look to hold a "Happy New Year" Lunch in January once all the festivities are over and there are fewer conflicts in our diaries. Again, we will send out more information as soon as we can pick a date and venue.

General Assembly – 25th October 2016

Each year we hold two major meetings: the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in March and a General Assembly in October. The AGM is where we review our achievements over the past year, discuss the finances, elect the committee members and so on. The General Assembly is more about two-way flows of information. The Mayor also normally comes along to both meetings to update us on key issues in the town and to hear our concerns. I am hoping that he will be able to join us at our General Assembly on Tuesday 25th October this year.

I have also invited Christine Betterton-Jones along to talk to us. Christine is highly involved with citizen participation in Jávea's development/Agenda 21 and will tell us more about how the future of the town is being shaped, as well as how we can become more involved in that development. As usual, the meeting will be held in the Centro Social in the town. Registration and coffee start at 1000, with the meeting proper getting underway at 1030. We will send a reminder out to everybody in the second week of October. Meanwhile, please do put Tuesday 25th October into your diaries now.

Help With Problems

This is just to remind members (or to inform new members) that Sally Skelton is still available to help you with a variety of issues and problems with the local authorities and utility providers. Some good examples would be catastral issues or problems with changing electricity meters. As advised at the AGM in March this year, the first consultation/visit with Sally is paid for by the APMJ, with any subsequent charges being a private matter between the individual and Sally. Sally can be contacted by email at sallysa30@hotmail.com

APMJ Subscriptions

The annual €15 membership fee covers the period January to December each year and should be paid at the start of the year rather than on the anniversary of the last payment. As summer draws to a close, we still have many members who have not paid their subscriptions for this year. Could I please therefore ask you to pay any outstanding fees now. If you have problems in getting to one of our meetings to pay in person then please do contact Ann Hambrook, our Membership Secretary, on apmj.membership@gmail.com to find out about alternative methods of payment.

Buzones

We still have a number of buzones (mail boxes) for sale. The cost is €80 each. Once bought, the buzon belongs to you/your house. If you move on somewhere else, the buzon should be transferred to the new owner. The APMJ will not buy back your buzon under any circumstance. Likewise, once bought, the maintenance of the box is down to you. Anybody interested in purchasing a buzon should contact our Secretary, Barbara Walters, on montgo.residents@googlemail.com

.....and Finally

As previously advised, I will be stepping down as President next year. If you are interested in taking on this role in 2017, then please do let me know via presidentapmj@gmail.com Even better would be for someone to step forward now and work with me on a few of our ongoing projects, with a view to taking over completely in due course.

Hasta la próxima

Andrew Simmonds
President APMJ