



ASOCIACIÓN PROPIETARIOS MONTGÓ JÁVEA

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APMJ NEWSLETTER MAY 2015

Dear All,

This is the first Newsletter for a few months. In the interim, I hope that I have been able to keep you up-to-date on matters of interest through my regular emails as well as at the Annual General Meeting in March, the minutes of which you should have had shortly after the event.

Before I start on the various topics, I would like to extend a big welcome to all our new members as well as those who have re-joined the APMJ after a break. Whenever I get a chance to talk to newcomers, I always advise them that they should look regularly at our website which is updated often to keep people informed about local items of interest. But back to the Newsletter, where our first topic is the ever-popular subject of roads.

Asphalting on Montgó

After seemingly numerous delays because of contracting issues, repairs to the water system, bad weather and holiday weekends, the asphalting work on the Montgó eventually started just after Easter.... and then rapidly shuddered to a halt. Do not despair, however, as the machinery and workmen will be back. I am told that the contractor was moved on to a slightly more urgent job. Perhaps only a minority of you will know where the Av. Alicante/Av. Rey Juan Carlos I are located. On the other hand, if I were to say the road leading from the Town to the Port with the four sets of faded and conflicting road markings, the majority of you will know exactly where I mean. At long last, work is being undertaken to put things right and, when I passed by the day before writing this, it all looked very good: a smooth asphalt surface with clearly marked lanes and parking bays. I will resist the temptation to make any comments about road markings being ignored anyway, especially those designating parking areas, and just say that we will now hopefully see the roads in our area being finished very soon.

Speed Limit on Carretera de Jesús Pobre

On the subject of roads, thanks to the Diputación de Alicante we now have a shiny new Formula One test track running between Jávea and Jesús Pobre. At least the road markings are better thought out than those previously and should make for a safer stretch of road. My recent letter to the provincial government about the speed limits and some possible alternatives is no doubt also being carefully considered (cough!). The sad reality is that this will remain a dangerous road and I can only advise you to be careful. In addition, if like me you actually drive at (more or less) the speed limit, then please don't become too frustrated at those driving on your bumper flashing their lights or overtaking directly into the path of oncoming vehicles.

Fire Prevention Update

Work on the Fire Prevention Project, albeit slow, is at least going in the right direction. We have now met with the technicians from the Denia office of the Parque Natural del Montgó. They fully agree with our proposals to cut back the worst of the overhanging trees and other

vegetation along the higher parts of the residential area and have helped us identify the priorities. The next step is to get permission to do the clearing. This is where it all gets a bit difficult! The vast majority of the areas under review are privately owned and we now need to involve the next level of bureaucracy above the Parque Natural del Montgó to get the necessary authority. Work on that aspect continues and I will update you more as soon as I can.

Meanwhile, there have been a number of other developments. Iberdrola, the electricity company, has recently been working to clear trees underneath and to the side of their high-tension lines. I have been keenly following progress on this, not least to ensure that all the bits and pieces of foliage left behind by the tree cutters will eventually be collected. Never the less, the workmen have done an excellent job and have created some good firebreaks, albeit that was not the primary objective.

We also have had confirmation, both from the Town Hall and the Local Police, that they will act upon any denuncias made against property owners who fail to keep their plots clear. I fully understand that some members will be reluctant to make denuncias against neighbours who fail to clear their land properly, either through fear of causing upset or from concern about the financial implications for those neighbours. As a result, it is probably best that the APMJ makes a single denuncia, or even a series of denuncias over time, against those property owners who, in our opinion, are helping to increase the risk of fire rather than reduce it. To this end, I would ask that anyone interested in helping me survey the area to start the ball rolling lets me know. We already have one keen volunteer, Aad de Zeeuw, but do need some more people to help spread the workload.

In summary, we are moving in the right direction, but there is a long way to go. I am not going to give up on this one though as it won't be too long before somebody wants to see lots of flashing lights and fire-fighting helicopters and decides to do something to 'liven up his day'. The more we can do to prevent the spread of fire when that day comes, the better.

Buzón Update

We still have a number of buzones for sale. Those of you who would like to buy one should contact our secretary, Barbara Walters, on montgo.residents@googlemail.com in the first instance, noting that the one-off purchase price is €80. One of our members, Hans Sleutjes, will then take care of the paperwork and the hand over of the keys. Once bought, upkeep of the individual boxes is your responsibility and not that of the APMJ. Any problems with, for example, the lock or door itself, should be reported to Miguel at Brico Thiviers, the company that installed the buzones. His shop is located in C/Figueras Pacheco, which is the road directly behind Tien 21 and Intersport which, in turn, are located opposite the town Mercadona supermarket. Miguel's telephone number is 96 579 4443 and his email address is bricothiviers@hotmail.com.

Renewal of UK Passports

For those amongst us who are UK passport holders but residents in Spain, you will at some stage need to renew your passport. The system is now much easier than in the past. Rather than send your application and old passport to the UK Embassy in Madrid, they should now go to the UK itself. Full details and costs are explained at <https://www.gov.uk/overseas-passports>. One of our members who renewed his passport recently using this new system praised the speed with which his passport was returned (10 days) as well as the ease of getting his passport to the UK in the first place. He had used Personal Postal, the postal and courier service located behind the Sabadell Bank on C. Cabo la Pla Nao. Their costs work out somewhere around €22 per passport.

Subscriptions

There are still a number of subscriptions outstanding for 2015. As always, we prefer the payment to be made via bank transfer to the account detailed at the top of this Newsletter. I had hoped that we would stop taking any more cash subscriptions for 2015 as from the May Montgó Morning, but recognise that this will probably not be the case.

Montgó Mornings

Talking of our Montgó Mornings, we have had some interesting talks from guest speakers this year. First was Candida Wright from the Denia HELP organisation who talked about volunteering in the community and offered some ideas for this. The following month, Candida Bourne, an insurance broker, gave us all some helpful reminders about what to look for with regards to home insurance levels of cover, amongst many other facets of insurance. Her details are on our website.

We will continue to hold our Montgó Mornings on the first Tuesday of every month. The next is Tuesday 2nd June. The one on 7th July is likely to be followed by a lunch at Le Gourmand Restaurant, but we will circulate more details nearer the time.

Please do take the opportunity to come along to one of our events as they are a good way to hear about what is going on in Jávea, even if it is only me doing the talking! As you will know, we fund the cost of a basic coffee, tea or cold drink for all those attending Montgó Mornings.

.....and Finally

I will sign off simply by saying a big Thank You to Sally Skelton for organising the recent visit to the Joan Cashimira guitar factory in Gata de Gorgos. Although we were a small crowd, the enjoyment factor was huge. I have also got my eyes on one of their beautifully crafted instruments and need only another €474 in my piggy bank (money box) before I go back and treat myself.

Best Regards,

Andrew Simmonds
President APMJ