



ASOCIACIÓN PROPIETARIOS MONTGÓ JÁVEA

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APMJ NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2017

Dear All,

A belated Happy New Year to all of those members I have not had chance to meet or talk to so far this year. The APMJ had its usual busy year in 2016. We even managed to achieve some successes! However, when I think back to some of the events of last year, there is clearly much more to be done or to campaign (complain?) about.

AMPJ Focus for 2017

Anybody who was here in September will remember seeing the flames and smoke from the many destructive – and very frightening – fires across Jávea. Despite numerous meetings, press releases, promises and so forth, I have yet to see much action being taken to help prevent the spread of fire when the inevitable happens either this year or in future years. Likewise, I remember the many water shortages over the summer. While these are highly likely to reoccur this year, it would be nice to be told about them in advance this time instead of having to make a frustrating visit to the AMJASA offices to ask for an explanation after many nights (even days for some) without water. Far better, in my opinion, would be to solve the capacity levels of the desalination plant/local reservoirs and to stop victimising householders in the outlying regions of the town simply because somebody might water their garden (or whatever the excuse was for the night time shortages).

Okay. 'Rant switch' back to 'off' and let's look at what we might want to try and achieve this year. One of our successful campaigns was for better speed limit signage on the Carretera Jesús Pobre. Many of you will have seen the clearly visible new signs along the length of the road. In the view of quite a few people, these have had a positive effect on driver behaviour. That said, there will always be those who do not care.... or perhaps do not even understand simple things like the number '50'. Never the less, more still needs to be done to try and improve safety on this road. The first job is to get the '70' sign near the Jesús Pobre end of the road removed. To me, it seems that some workmen had one left over in their truck from another job elsewhere and just randomly placed it in front of one of the new yellow-backed '50' signs to save returning it to the depot. Whatever actually happened, it is very confusing for drivers as there is no single mention of any other speed limits anywhere along the road.

Members have also come up with other suggestions to improve safety along the road including placing high-viz marker posts or reflectors at the start of the many roads leading off it. The issue of broken white lines instead of continuous white lines at some junctions has also never been resolved (albeit I suspect that lack of support from the Guardia Civil over this issue on safety grounds might have had a major negative effect on my request). Signage about the dangers of discarding cigarette ends out of car windows while driving along the road is another good idea. Indeed, it almost seems like we need a Committee Member for Improvements on the Carretera Jesús Pobre! More practically, if anybody would like to volunteer to take on this specific project for a few weeks/months then that might be the best solution. We have a number of members able and willing to translate any letters or other documents into Spanish if you were not confident about that aspect. I would also be on hand

to give you some advice about how to best approach things. If you were interested in taking on this project, please let me know!

Meanwhile, I will make AMJASA aware that we expect better notification of any water shortages. Similarly, I will ask Iberdrola to let us know by email message about scheduled repair work to the power system. I do recall seeing some bits of paper stuck to telegraph poles ahead of the last period of scheduled maintenance. However, these badly printed notices, in an incredibly small typeface, did not really do the job, not least as the wind took many of them away. The subsequent rain then washed the surviving ones out. I will also submit some new Denuncias over parcels of land to be cleared for fire prevention – or simply cleared of rubbish – as well as re-submit others that seem to have been lost in the system (which is probably a polite way of saying it).

Emergency Contact Numbers

One of my neighbours recently asked me what the telephone number was for the emergency services. It was actually a good question as I, like many others, get easily confused on what number to call for what. The answer is quite simple. For all emergencies (police, fire or ambulance) dial 112. If unable to speak Spanish, you can request to speak in English or a number of other languages.

There are also a few other emergency numbers you can use: Local Police 092 or 96 579 0081; Guardia Civil 062 or 96 579 1085; Red Cross Ambulance 902 or 96 579 1961; and Jávea Emergency Clinic 96 579 2500.

On the subject of the Emergency Clinic, my experience is that the service is excellent, friendly and quick. If resident here, then take your SIP card with you. If visiting, then take your passport/national identity card and European Health Insurance Card (EHIC).

Lastly, some of you may have heard about or downloaded the 'AlertCops' app to your mobile phone. For those who haven't done so yet, once installed, you will be able to report any crime (robbery, vandalism, assault, etc, etc) directly to the authorities without having to speak any Spanish. The app is also able to pinpoint your location to a high degree of accuracy.

Montgó Mornings/Social Events

Over the past few months we have continued to enjoy some interesting and well-attended Montgó Mornings. In November, we heard more about the work of APASA, the dog-rescue centre in Jávea. This busy and important organisation was the third recipient of one of our charity donations last year. Our cheque for €500 was gratefully received and was going to be used to help rebuild some of the kennels at their facility.

In December, we held a Christmas-themed event, at which we were able to sample a fine selection of Christmas treats. We also heard from a number of members about how Christmas is celebrated in their home countries. Poignantly, and in contrast, we also heard how the sizeable Christian minority in India copes with the many deprivations they often suffer. On 10th January, we kick-started the New Year with a lively (and packed) Montgó Morning indoors at Le Gourmand Restaurant.

Our next Montgó Morning is on Tuesday 7th February. I have invited Telitec to come along and speak to us about the installation of fibre optic cable in the area and what it will mean for Montgó residents. Please do come along and support this event which starts, as always, at 1100 hours.

Looking ahead to other events, we are hoping to organise a lunch very soon at Los Almendros Restaurant and will publicise details as soon as possible. Other ideas for some group events

range from a guided walk through the older parts of Jávea town to a visit to a chocolate factory (of which I am all in favour!).

Annual General Meeting – 28th March 2017

We will be holding our AGM on Tuesday 28th March starting at 1030 hours. I will send out further information about the AGM in early March. That said, the Agenda will cover the usual AGM topics of finances, the election of APMJ officers and so forth. As always, the Mayor is invited to come along to address us on current events and to answer any questions you may have. To help the Mayor research the answers, it would be useful to know of your points/questions in advance. Please send them to me at presidentapmj@gmail.com. Also, at the request of a number of members, anybody asking a question will be invited to stand up so as to give others a better chance of hearing their question/comments.

APMJ Subscriptions

This item is now a regular 'cut and paste' in all my Newsletters, but is worth repeating as each year there seems to be a rush in December to pay outstanding subscriptions in response to individual reminder letters.

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. 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.

Recruitment Drive

Despite recruiting many new members over the past few years, I know we are also losing some. This may be simply as a result of them moving away from the area. There are probably also a number of other reasons, but I could only guess at those. Whatever, I would like to try and recruit more people to the Association this year. There are two main reasons for this. Firstly, more people will help give us a larger voice in local affairs. We will also be able to expand the 'pool of talent' when looking for volunteers to take on Committee posts or the one-off projects.

As has been proved many times, our best method of recruitment is by word of mouth. Could I therefore ask all members, especially those who live here full-time, to speak to new and existing neighbours in order to tell them about us. To clear up any confusion, we welcome all people of all nationalities whether they live on the Montgó side of the main road or the Valls side. Please also mention that we still have a number of buzones (mail boxes) for sale. The cost is €80 each. Once bought, the buzon belongs to the house owner. If they move somewhere else, the buzon key should be transferred to the new owner. The APMJ will not buy back your buzon under any circumstance.

Potential new members should contact Ann Hambrook on apmj.membership@gmail.com or just simply come along to one of our Montgó Mornings. Anybody interested in purchasing a buzon should contact our Secretary, Barbara Walters, on montgo.residents@googlemail.com

Processionary Caterpillars

This is another repeated article as a number of newcomers might not be aware of the issue.

This area is plagued by Processionary Caterpillars. These will soon be on the move. In brief, the caterpillars nest in pine trees. They will start moving in late January/early February in order to burrow into soft ground ready for the next stage in their life cycle. Human contact

with the hairs may cause rashes and respiratory problems. Animals, especially dogs, are susceptible to picking up the hairs on their paws, which they then lick. This can result in itching, swelling, vomiting and death. This link will tell you all you need to know about them and show what they look like: http://www.abacoadvisers.com/spain_explained/life-spain/news/processionary-caterpillars-spain. In the interim, you are advised to keep your dogs under control, especially when walking in the woods. (Indeed, you are expected to keep your dogs under control at all times anyway!) If you are tempted to try and remove nests and destroy them, then please carefully read up about the procedure on-line and take all necessary precautions.

.....and Finally

Over the past few weeks I have received or heard about some excellent service from some local people and/or companies. I thought you might like to hear about them (and, no, I don't get asked to do this by anybody, nor do I get paid or expect to receive anything in return for these mentions).

In this Newsletter I will give Fernando, at La Ermita Supermarket, a mention. I have two elderly Swedish friends who come to a house on the Montgó for occasional lengthy stays. Without use of a car here, they walk to Fernando's shop most days for their incidental groceries (I occasionally take them to Mercadona and the like for the bigger shopping trips, but then again, that's what friends are for). Fernando then kindly offers to deliver their shopping if too heavy to carry easily once the shop closes. I am now just wondering if we, the APMJ, could institute a 'Good Citizen Award' or similar. If so, I think Fernando would be the first recipient!

That's it from me. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on 7th February!

Andrew Simmonds
President APMJ