

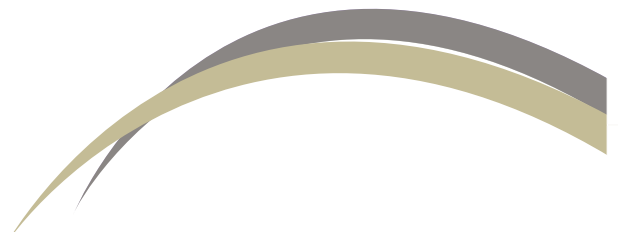


Newsletter May 2016



Welcome to the May edition of your LBRA newsletter.

Well once again another month has flown past and April was a very busy month for the association with lots of meetings and helping our members with day to day assistance and advice, and May looks like being an even busier month. As usual we have plenty of meetings to attend and as part of our working contract with the Ayuntamiento the Mayor of Tegui has asked us to once again arrange a meeting for English speaking Tegui Residents and Business owners on the 11th May. Our new website is now live and we have so far had only positive feedback, and we hope all our members are happy with the site. The Lanzarote Ironman takes place on Saturday 21st May and we wish all entrants the very best of luck. The daylight hours are lengthening and the temperatures are getting higher, so with lots to look forward to we wish you all a very happy and enjoyable May.



EU Referendum (Brexit) It is a subject that has caused a lot of controversy and it will not be long until Thursday 23rd June is here and the public vote on something that could affect us all. The association has been asked by a number of press agencies for its views and comments, but Danny feels it is not in the association's interest to speak publically on this subject. The British Consulate however had invited him to attend a private meeting with Consular Regional Director, Will Middleton and Vice Consul, Esther Martín, the meeting took place on the 4th May and many interesting issues and comments were discussed. If anyone would like to talk to Danny privately on this matter then please let us know.

The EU referendum voter registration deadline is approaching. The British Embassy in Madrid has asked us to forward a reminder and encourage you to share with British colleagues and residents alike. Below is a copy of a recent news release from the British Embassy, On social media, you can use the following link to signpost others to where they can register to vote: <http://bit.ly/22zIEZp>.

News release 29 April 2016

**More than 1000 expats per day in Spain are clicking on www.gov.uk/register-to-vote
Ambassador Simon Manley urges Brits to have their say in EU referendum**

Deadline to register for a postal vote is 16 May

More than 1000 expats per day in Spain are going online to the UK government webpage where Brits can register to vote in the EU referendum.

The British Ambassador Simon Manley today (Friday 29 April) described the strong interest among British expats in voting in the referendum as 'very encouraging'. Speaking to partners of the British Consulate and local authority foreigners' departments, who are helping to spread the voter registration message, Mr Manley said:

"The Foreign Office is supporting the Electoral Commission's campaign to encourage Brits overseas to register to vote, and I'm pleased that so many are already preparing to exercise their democratic right.

"Whether your view is that the UK should remain in or leave the EU, I urge all eligible expats to register to vote in this historic referendum. You may have spent many years working or living in the UK and perhaps still have strong ties: family, property, or a pension. Whatever your circumstances, the chances are the referendum outcome will affect you or your family.

"So make sure you can have your say. It is for the British people to decide whether we're stronger, safer and better off as part of the European Union, or on our own."

Clicks on the www.gov.uk/register-to-vote from computer users with Spanish IP addresses have averaged more than 1000 daily since the overseas voter registration campaign began on 4 February. Since the beginning of the year, a total of over 80,000 people in Spain have visited www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

More than a quarter of a million Brits live in Spain and the large majority are thought to be eligible to vote. You must have been on the UK electoral roll within the last 15 years, or if you were under 18 when you left then at least one of your parents must have been on the electoral list.

The deadline to register for an overseas postal vote is 16 May, in order for ballot papers to be sent out from 23 May in time for them to arrive and for you to send them back. Simply visit www.gov.uk/register-to-vote with your passport, National Insurance number and last UK postcode. The process takes just 5 minutes. If you do miss the deadline, you can still apply for a proxy vote.

Even if you registered as an overseas voter for the General Election last year, you do need to do it again. That's because - just as in the UK - you must register every year in order to vote in UK elections and referendums.

Expats who want to know more about the EU referendum can visit www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/eu-referendum.

You can find out more about voting at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/frequently-asked-questions/overseas-voters.

Consular partners and expats who want to use social media to signpost to others where they can register to vote can use this link: <http://bit.ly/22zIEZp>

Expats who left the UK more than 15 years ago are unfortunately ineligible to vote, because legislation intended to remove the time limit cannot be passed before the referendum date.

Property Update



The Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sports, Teresa Lorenzo, announced recently in the full Parliament of the Canary Islands that she expects to have a draft to amend the decree on homes for vacation rental before summer. Danny has been focusing and spending a lot of time on the property project and having many talks and discussions in respect of the forthcoming legislation which we are told will be announced prior to the summer. We hope that this time it will be beneficial for most holiday rental owners, and will of course keep you updated. A reminder as mentioned in last month's newsletter the authorities have announced they will focus their interest this year on what they say is the amount of tax unpaid due to rental property owners not declaring it.

Property Meeting



ASCAV (Asociación Canaria del Alquiler Vacacional) Have done so much work to help solve the holiday rental property problems and they are hosting a public meeting in Lanzarote to discuss the situation, it is an open meeting so everyone is welcome, however the meeting will be in Spanish. We shall of course be in attendance and will share details afterwards. If you would like to attend the details are below.

Date: Tuesday 24th May

Venue: Salon de la Camera de Comercio (Chamber of Commerce)

Carretera Arrecife a Tinajo 48 (Main San Bartolome Road – just by the hospital)

Time: 5.00pm – 7.00pm

Emergency Health Assistance

We have been asked to share the following information by the British Consulate.

Calling an ambulance or making an appointment with a doctor when you don't know the system or speak the lingo can be daunting at the best of times. Most residents and some temporary visitors to the Canary Islands are not covered by private insurance, but this should not stop anyone from receiving medical assistance when needed.

Sadly, time and again we assist British nationals who find themselves in vulnerable circumstances which could otherwise have been avoided if they'd just had some basic knowledge about who to call in an emergency assistance, how to set up a doctors' appointment or even where the nearest public health centre is. This trend has been reiterated by feedback from British nationals we've met in person or via our important contacts such as yourselves.

That's why the British Consulates of Gran Canaria and Tenerife jointly created this guide to Healthcare in the Canary Islands for all British tourists, swallows and residents. We hope it will serve as a helping hand to anyone that needs medical assistance, whether in an emergency or otherwise.

Today, we've launched this important information via social media and would greatly appreciate your help to share it via your own channels. It's available to view and download at <http://bit.ly/1XIiOfu>

Tesco comes to Spain

We may not make a difference to us living in Lanzarote, unless we are visiting Gran Canaria or other Spanish cities but we thought you might be interested in this recent article in the Guardian newspaper, regarding Tesco trading with El Corte Ingles.

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/may/09/tesco-to-sell-british-favourites-in-spain-via-el-corte-ingle>

Blue Flags for Spain

Good news 586 beaches in Spain have been awarded a blue flag this year. The Canary Islands have received a total of 50 Blue Flags in recognition of the quality of the islands' beaches and marinas.

Tenerife achieved 15 of the flags awarded, three more than Gran Canaria. Lanzarote and Fuerteventura both received 6 each. In Lanzarote they are Tías: Matagorda, Los Pocillos, Pila de la Barrilla and Playa Blanca. In Yaiza: Playa Blanca and in Tegui: Las Cucharas

Member Interview

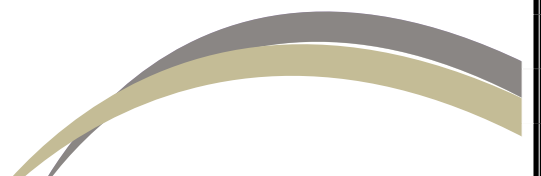
This month's member interview is with Linda and Richard Barrie from Property and Maintenance Company "Total Developments". Richard and Linda are a very positive and extremely friendly, outgoing and pleasant couple so we are sure this is what makes people respond so well to them. We think those smiles say it all...



We have been trying to arrange a coffee and catch up with Linda for months and at last we have made it.

LBRA. Hi Linda and Richard thanks for making the time to meet us as always can we firstly ask how long you have been here and why Lanzarote?

LB. We have actually lived here for 12 years but had been holidaying here for 22 years. We visited in March and October every year and it got to the point that we did not want to go home. We had talked a lot about retiring here but the pull was so strong so we thought why not consider moving before retiring. It was an idea that grew, the company Richard was working for were threatening redundancies and the company I worked for was going through a merger so we thought maybe now is the time. We decided to put our house on the market; we had done so two years previously and had no interest so we were not really expecting it to sell quickly. As luck would have it or typically when you are still making decisions it went on the market on the Friday and by Monday we had a firm offer, so that was it, decision time, and we decided to go with it. The whole process moved quickly from the sale in March till August when we were installed in our new Lanzarote home.



LBRA. Did you have the business and property before you moved here?

L&RB. No we decided to make the move, settle and then see what would happen, initially we thought about early retirement, but changed our minds. We were fortunate that Richards daughter Claire was already living on the island and had been for many years. She was able to source us an apartment for us to move into and help us with numerous moving over tasks. Once we were settled we started to think about business ideas and as the island is touristic decided to work in that field. We considered bars and restaurants but as both our previous backgrounds had involved working with the public and customer service we decided to go with Property Management. Sadly for us after about 18 months of us being here Claire relocated to the UK where she is happily settled, but her initial support was great and we are thankful for that.

LBRA. You work together and run Total Developments can you tell us more about the business and how it works?

L&RB. Well as you know its property management and maintenance and we cover the full spectrum. Ensuring properties are ready for clients, meet and greet, being on call 24/7 for problems or emergencies as well as decorating, gardening, maintenance and pool repairs, and full refurbishments etc; really whatever a property needs we can deal with it. It is a very family oriented business with our daughter Andrea assisting. Linda explains that she tends to deal with the management and administration and overseeing the cleaning with the assistance of Andrea, although they maintain a very hands on approach and stress that team work is the key to their success. Richard takes care of the maintenance side of the business and is also involved with the meet and greets as they like to ensure clients are happy and know that they have the support of a team on the island should any problems occur. Linda's brother Ken and sister in law Jackie moved to the island about 18 months ago and they also work alongside the team, although Ken is in the process of buying his own business but still hopes to be able to help out occasionally.



Linda and Richard with Ken and Jackie



Head of Housekeeping Andrea

LBRA. Has Lanzarote met your expectations?

L&RB. Definitely and more; we found the friendliness of people to be amazing, something that we noticed when we came on holiday here, and one of the factors that made Lanzarote our destination choice. We have found people very amiable and always will to help with advice or assistance

LBRA. How easy/difficult have you found setting up a business in Lanzaote and any advice you could offer to others?

L&RB. We have to say we found the process fairly easy; of course we were lucky that Claire was already established on the island and could point us in the right directions. We were also lucky that the Asesoria we chose guided us through all the paperwork (and still does they joke.) So our main recommendation would be to get a good Asesoria. We started with a small number of apartments and gradually our reputation and portfolio of properties grew and we now look after a considerable amount of apartments and villas. We concentrate on the Puerto del Carmen area as we feel it would be difficult to maintain our high level of personal service if we spread ourselves too far across the island.

LBA. What if any changes would you like to see in Lanzarote?

L&RB. Well the amount of “red tape” one has to go through can be annoying and off putting and of course the problem with the private holiday rental law has been very detrimental, and we all hope it can be resolved soon.

LBRA. Best things about living in Lanzarote?

L&RB. Sunshine, the way of life, it's so family oriented. We just love seeing families out enjoying themselves, on the beach, in restaurants, it reminds us of what England used to be like in the 50s and 60s. The people are so welcoming and of course there is no high rise, its less commercial than other islands and just very relaxing.

LBRA. Is there anything you miss from your previous lifestyle in the UK?

LB. Of course family and friends, it's funny though we often remark that we see more of them now that when living in the UK, as they mostly visit us at least twice a year and we all talk regularly on Skype etc. There used to be the odd item but with all the new stores I think we have everything we need. (We have a little joke about Marks and Spencer and underwear, ladies you know what we mean)

LBRA. How do you like to relax, sports, hobbies etc?

L&RB. Haha that's a funny one, we don't have a lot of free time, but that is our choice and we are happy with that. We like to socialise with family and friends and as most of our free time is after work we tend to have lots of evening barbeques at our villa, sitting around the pool with a little music and just enjoy life.

LBRA. I expect you have had lots of family and friends visiting you where do you like to take them?

L&RB. We like to visit less touristy places, most of our visitors have done the main attractions over the years and like to get a flavour of the real Lanzarote and its values. A pleasant stroll around the villages and then lunch at Arrieta or Famara would be perfect. We do also like to have a drink or lunch in Puerto Calero which we find very relaxing.

LBRA. 5 words to describe Lanzarote?

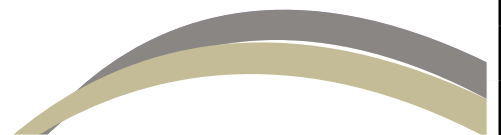
LB. Stunning, friendly, relaxing, scenic, and home.

LBRA. And your plans for the future?

L&RB. Well for the moment we are very happy and hope to continue as we are, maintaining our business and offering a dedicated, personal service to our clients. Our long term aim is to retire here (one day they laugh) and spend time together and with the family enjoying life and Lanzarote.

LBRA. Linda and Richard thank you so much it's been a delight to meet up with you both and we wish you every success for your future and for your "eventual retirement". If you would like to contact Linda or Richard, details are below

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Report on Active Tourists

The following report has been published and it would seem that "active tourists" are generating money for the Canary Islands. Please note this is an automated translation.

Active tourism makes about 1,410 Canary million per year La Palma (SAUL SANTOS)

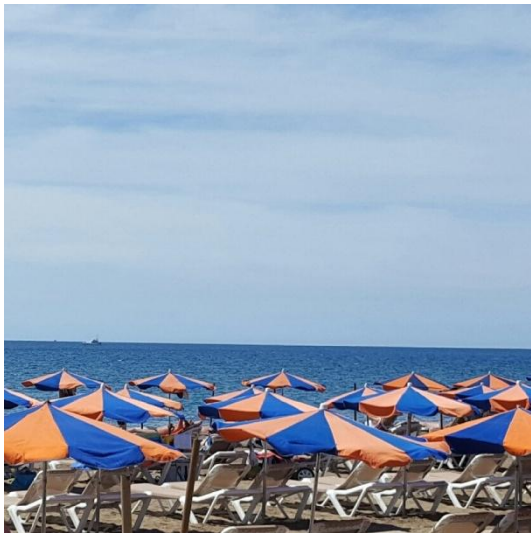
The active tourist generates a turnover of 1,410 million euros in Canary per year, representing 10.2% of total tourism turnover amounted in 2015 to 13,854,000 euros.

04/30/2016 this follows from an analysis by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sports of the regional government through Promotur, Turismo de Canarias. In this sense, to active vacationer who goes to a destination to practice, as the main motivation, hiking, climbing, mountain biking or road, paragliding; -Surf water sports, windsurfing, sailing, diving, fishing or golf height-. The Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sports of the Canary Government, Maria Teresa Lorenzo said that "this is a tourist who has a high profitability for the destination have a higher than average stay -10.2 days versus 9 5- and tourist and travel expense also above average -139.40 euros compared to 133,60- which means they spend more on accommodation, transport, food and entertainment in general. " "A Canary she went last year reached 1,148,634 tourists motivated by active sports tourism, a figure we intend to be increasing."

PROMOTING TOURISM IN THIS TYPE OF CANARIES

The Ministry of Tourism has provided in its 2016 Marketing Plan various communication platforms, some already underway and others about to begin, specialized in promoting Canary for this type of tourist.

Holiday Update



Once again we are experiencing a high number of visitors and the trend looks set to continue for the remainder of 2016. Rafael Gallego President of the Spanish Travel Agents Federation suggested that locals planning a holiday would be advised to book sooner rather than later in order to avoid no vacancies and higher prices. So it looks like a busy time ahead for everyone involved in the tourism industry which is great news for the island. There was a nice article about Lanzarote recently published in the Daily Mirror . <http://www.mirror.co.uk/lifestyle/travel/europe-short-haul/lanzarote-luxury-makes-blissfully-grown-7798798>

Assistance for Foreign Tourists.

It has been announced that the tourist resorts of Lanzarote will have the Service Foreign Tourist Assistance (SATE) in order to assist visitors with complaints/problems and when and if necessary translation assistance. It is anticipated that the new service will improve quality and standards for visitors.

Worldwide InstaMeet

The first Worldwide InstaMeet to be held in Lanzarote took place on Saturday 23rd April and it was a huge success!



"The first Worldwide InstaMeet to be held in Lanzarote was a huge success! The event was organised by Centros de Arte, Cultura y Turismo (CACT Lanzarote) and included a guided tour around the Timanfaya National Park, delicious lunch, and afternoon photography session at Volcan Del Cuervo. It was a great opportunity to meet new friends, enjoy the spectacle of Lanzarote's amazing landscape and take a lot of photos! Thanks to our blogger Simon Turkas and congratulations to everybody involved in the organization. Read Simon's blog <https://www.instagram.com/p/BEoHzsAqIE8/?taken-by=simonturkas>

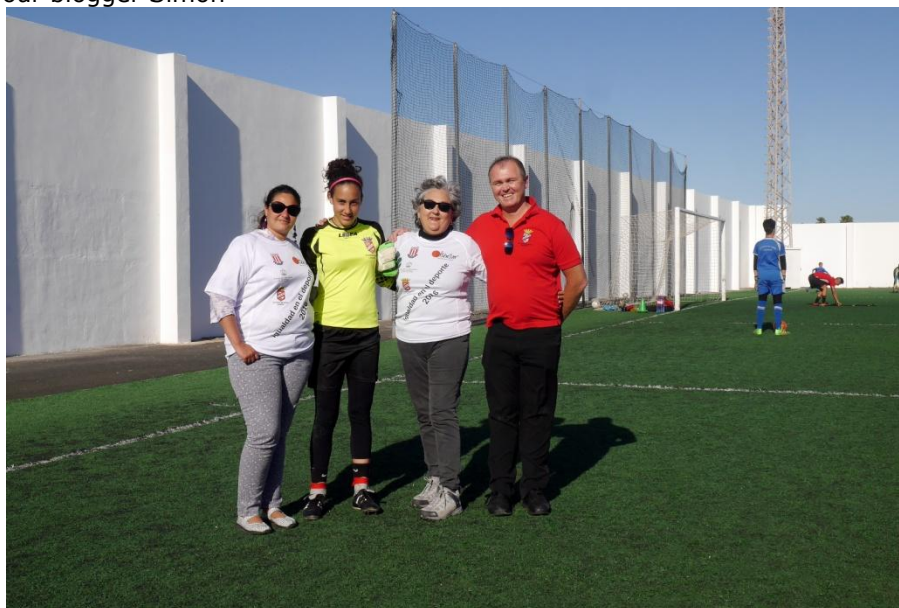
<http://whats-simon-saying.blogspot.com.es/2016/04/friends-fun-and-lots-of-photos-during.html>



Arrecife has been announced as the pioneer city in declaring itself Veg-Friendly. This great unprecedented step is seen as a major promotion for Arrecife and it is expected that many other major cities will shortly be announcing that they are Veg-Friendly. For full details see the following link <http://www.masscultura.com/mass/archivos/17107>

Women's Football

Organised by our president Danny who is also president of FC Puerto del Carmen, and written by our blogger Simon –



Last month there was a brilliant celebration of equality in sport here in Lanzarote, as Stoke City Ladies FC were here for training, friendly matches, and to experience life in Lanzarote. This was fantastic for female sport in Lanzarote and the Canary Islands, as Stoke City are one of the best female teams in the UK, competing in the English women's Premier League!

Due to growing health problems across the world such as obesity linked to lack of exercise, it is more important than ever to promote sport and physical activity, in order to help people try to overcome these issues. A big factor in this is through the promotion of equality within sport, and showing girls and women that gender should be no barrier to participation.

Football is very popular in the Canary Islands, and women should have exactly the same opportunity to play as men. This has been part of the aim of this visit from Stoke City Ladies FC who came here not only to train and enjoy themselves, but also to collaborate with local female football teams, and local gender equality charities to help promote football and sport to women and girls

Although the matches were friendly, they were definitely competitive and all the teams involved played with grit, determination and skill. The matches were played at FC Puerto del Carmen's football stadium to large crowds of enthusiastic fans. Both matches were excellent promotions for women's football on the island, and show that many people are interested to come and see the matches. Hopefully this will act as great encouragement for more girls to take part in sport such as football!

In Lanzarote there are two associations that support women's issues such as equality in the workplace, healthcare and education: Tiemar and Mararía. The LBRA cooperated with both of these organisations and with the football club CDU Club Deportivo Unión Puerto del Carmen with funding and promotion of the matches played here in Lanzarote. The Stoke City Ladies FC stay in Lanzarote and the matches played were a big success, and hopefully will be just as successful.

We hope you have enjoyed this edition and as always would welcome your comments and suggestions.

Best wishes

Danny, Silvia, Rita and the LBRA Team



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