

Newsletter Christmas 2017



Welcome to the Christmas edition of your LBRA newsletter.

It seems incredible that another year has almost passed and the Christmas season is once again upon us. It's been an extremely busy year and as ever December is a hectic month for us. We would like to welcome new business members Karting Lanzarote and our new affiliated members. As always our members are our number one priority and we continually work hard to look after your interests. The LBRA was established as an association to work for and support its members, and to help and assist them on a daily basis whatever their needs. As an association we are a collective of like minded people who can share knowledge and information and whose aim is to work together as a united group for the benefit of Lanzarote and its future. We hope you enjoy this Christmas edition of the newsletter and as always would welcome your comments and suggestions.



Holidays

Due to the Christmas, New Year and Three Kings holidays the offices will be closed from Thursday 21st December until Monday 8th January 2017. We shall of course still be working during some of this time so if you need to contact us urgently then please email lanzaroteba@gmail.com

A year end message from LBA President, Daniel Trigg



I should firstly like to take welcome the new members who have joined us this year and to take this opportunity to thank all our members for being part of the association and for your continued support. I am pleased to report that with your support the LBRA, as well as being the only official association for Europeans on the island, and indeed in the Canary islands continues to be one of the largest. 2017 has been a busy year not only with our LBRA work which is of course primarily looking after our members and their interests, but combined with the property project and our "formal meetings" with ministers and officials etc, attending meetings and presentations at the Cabildo and Ayuntamiento's and government offices. As ever it has in all honesty been hectic at times but always extremely enjoyable, productive and worthwhile. In addition we have once again been awarded a contract to work on the promotion of tourism for Tourism Lanzarote and we continue to work for Teguiise Ayuntamiento providing translation services on their behalf.

At the risk of sounding like an Oscar winner I should also like to thank my team at the association, particularly Silvia and Rita, my family for their support that allows me time away from my own businesses to concentrate on association matters. When I formed the association in 2008 my aim was to be able to help others and I feel that this has now been successful achieved. Our members are the most important part of the organisation, and our commitment is to work hard on your behalf and take care of your interests. As ever our overall objective is to continually increase tourism, improve the facilities, standards and services that the island has to offer, and to support and create unity in the community. We have the knowledge, capabilities, enthusiasm and dedication to work on your behalf and with your support we will continue to do so. Best wishes
Daniel

Party party party



Christmas Party Day at Aqua Suites. SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER

Thinking of getting together with friends and family before Christmas?
Or have not planned your work Christmas party?
Look no further!

Well we have one **FANTASTIC** day planned for you.

Day starts at 14.00 with BBQ and Paella.

On the BBQ, Rib Eye Beef, Pork (Secret Iberico) Chicken Breast, Chorizo.

Full salad bar. Breads and Canarian Potatoes.

And also a choice of a superb sea food paella made on the spot.

You can have both!!

Fantastic food.

HIGHLIGHT of the day is

Collie Farrell and The Gathering!

10 piece band , playing by the pool.

This will take place from 16.00 to 18.00

If you have not already been lucky enough to see this Band, you should not miss out.

They are SUPERB!

On this day, if you would prefer to see the band, and have a 3 course dinner afterward,
this is also an option.

Menu will follow nearer the time.

Or why not do both? Make a full day out of it!

You could even stay overnight and have breakfast the next day!!!

We will have a DJ and dancing after dinner.

Options.

Price for Show and BBQ is 25 euro per person.

Price for Show and 3 course meal is also 25 per person,.

Kids up to 12 are 15 euro.

If you wish to stay over night,. the rate for 2 people, with BBQ and dinner and breakfast
next morning is 170 euro.

If you wish to stay over night, and just have dinner, the rate for 2 people is 140 euro.

E mail me for rates with kids or if you are 3 adults sharing a room.

We have 4 suites that will take up to 6 people (normally 2 adults and 4 kids)

All these rates are available on request.

If you wish to book, please send an email to

geraldine.mcfadden@gmail.com

Bookings essential, and band not open to people who are not booked in for BBQ or
Dinner.

10 Year Anniversary Celebrations



Susanne Zinn owner of **Auszeit Lanzarote**, based in Playa Honda was delighted to host a spectacular party to celebrate the companies 10th year of successful trading. Around 100 people attended the event which included reception drinks and canapés, a presentation from Susanne and her team, after which guests enjoyed a 5 course dinner followed by entertainment and dancing. It certainly was a successful event which was attributed to Susanne's professionalism, organisation skills and sparkling personality. Susanne has seen her business grow to a current team of 8 multilingual staff, plus herself at the helm.



The company's main business had been villa management but rather than stagnate Susanne has been proactive and has recently gained through personal studies and with the strength and qualifications of her staff the necessary attributes to be able to offer a wider range of services to both her clients and fellow business owners.

The new interactive website is brilliant and offers clients a complete profile of the island regardless of individual needs. So it is a perfect marketing tool for any local businesses to consider using.



In addition they can now offer event promotion for all occasions. If anyone would like to find out more about how Susanne can work with your business then please contact her via email at info@auszeit-lanzarote.com

Costa Teguisse Meeting



On Monday 20th November we attended the biannual meeting that was held at the Civic Centre in Costa Teguisse for English Speaking Residents and Business owners in the municipality of Teguisse. Hosted by the Mayor Oswaldo Betancort the meeting was attended by approximately 80 people and many topics and issues were discussed. Below you will find details of the meeting.

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, he spoke briefly in English and apologised for his level of English. He then introduced Silvia from the LBRA who would be translating on behalf of association president Daniel Trigg who was unwell.

Silvia introduced the other councillors Antonio Callero, Mari Paz Cabrera Méndez, Francisco Javier Diaz Gil and Agustin Mendez Delgado and there were around 80 attendees.

The mayor stated that he was very proud of the communication project and how successful the translation service provided in conjunction with the LBRA was. This is the service they offer FREE at Teguisse Ayuntamiento every Tuesday morning. This helps and encourages citizen participation in addition to the twice yearly meetings held for English speaking residents and business owners.

He then said that rather than just hear from him he would like to know the issues and thoughts of the attendees and invited questions.

The first was a question regarding the midweek markets in Costa Teguisse, Maripaz answered saying that the Tuesday morning farmers market and Wednesday evening artisan market should be back by the 2nd week of December.

Next was the lack of sunbeds on the beaches. As has been previously said this is not a local decision, the beaches are controlled by "The Costas" in Madrid and they are the ones who give the authority to call for tenders. The sunbed contract should last for 4 years at the end of this period "the Costas" have to give approval to the local council in this case Teguisse, but unfortunately they have delayed giving this permission hence the period of no beds. However the mayor expects the beds to be back within 4 months if not sooner. He also explained how the ports and airport do not belong to local authorities.

He was asked if he could try to influence the "Costas" but said that unfortunately he did not have that power. In short that is why it is important to fight for Canary island rights.

The pedestrian crossing in Calle Panama was they discussed as a resident said it badly needed painting. The mayor explained that a contract had been signed last year for building and maintenance repairs and that many improvement works were being carried out and that the crossing would be painted within 15 days. He pointed out that it is vital that residents report these issues as they cannot be everywhere and they can report problems via email or at the Ayuntamiento.

Footpaths, ramps at crossings and low palm tree branches we also discussed and again this is all part of the general improvement plan they have. They have recently taken on 40 unemployed people and 6 are already working in Costa Teguisse. It is very clear that improvements have to be made in Costa Teguisse and they are addressing these issues. When they came to power Costa Teguisse had a contract with a company called UCCT which was different from every other town. This caused problems such as basura tax which in CT was €84 but everywhere else €40. It was a difficult objective but they realised they had to take back control and cancel the contract with the UCCT which was not easy legally, however it was eventually done and they now have control of the public areas and are aware that there is much still to be addressed.

A number of people then congratulated the mayor and said that they had noticed improvements and many others agreed for which he was thankful, and said that he does listen at these meetings and takes note of what is needed and again mentioned that the Ayuntamiento need to be told about these problems and problem areas.

The problem with scooters was then mentioned. Many without mobility problems are hiring the supposedly disability scooters and driving them very fast and dangerously and there were reports of people coming out of bars drunk and driving them. Also the electric scooters are a menace and there are concerns that these vehicles could cause a serious accident particularly with the elderly or children. The mayor was aware of the problem and said that there were two premises that had them; however their licences are too only display them not for actual usage. It requires a legal process which could be lengthy however it would be done in order to get rid of them.

The Cesar Manrique wind toys/mobiles were mentioned as the one from Tahiche to Costa Teguse had been missing for a while. It was explained that this one and others had been taken away for repairs and cleaning, and whilst they recognise the importance of these mobiles the Cesar Manrique foundation is the owner of these mobiles and they are responsible for the maintenance and they only have one person authorised to carry out works so it takes time, but yes they will be back.

The showers on Playa Jabillo, one had been taken for repairs and the other hardly works, the mayor was not aware of this and again stressed that it is important to report these problems so work can be carried out. He is extremely proud of the fact that Costa Teguse has 2 blue flag awards, when for years they had none.

The repairs to the Paseo Maritimo were discussed with complaints about how long it has taken for repairs after the last poor job. As explained again this is a Government decision and they were responsible for the previous project which was very bad. A survey has been done asking residents, business owners and tourist what they would like to see and expect. The result has highlighted a number of issues, and a new plan has been drafted. The previous budget for repairs was €7,000 the new one is €1.400 million. The new plans include more toilets and play areas and two companies have submitted tenders, however as often happens the companies then demand more money and they have a stale mate situation as has happened with the football club. It is expected that the project will take about another 8 months before going ahead due to the new changes needed.

One resident then said that he has lived here for the past 21 years and that in the last 3/4 years he has noticed improvements to the gardens, footpaths etc but his complaint is that dog owners allow their pets to foul the peacon areas and not only does it look bad it is dangerous particularly for small children playing. The mayor stated that there are 8,000 pets in the area and they are aware that a number of owners take no responsibility for their animals. He said that people need responsible education and that higher fines were now being charged with fines ranging from €350 - €700. More signs are needed and these will be done. He also said that if you see a regular fouler then although it's not nice but denounce them.

Household waste, people are still dumping items at the local basuras, i.e. furniture and garden waste. This is an eye sore and dangerous and carries a large fine. The mayor urged people to use the free collection service provided by the Ayuntamiento.

The empty shells of the "Argol" houses and the golf course was discussed, the golf course belongs to a private company (not the Ayuntamiento) and it is for sale but in his opinion it will remain a golf course. There are many commercial plots for sale in Costa Teguse at good prices. 4 large hotel/apartment plots are available 2 currently have the

correct authority for investors 2 not. One party is interested at an approximate investment of 47 million. The mayor was asked if the same problems could again occur i.e. unfinished plots, but he said no, lessons had been learnt and the system had changed, there is now a committee/board that has to ensure all checks are made before anything can now be signed off, it's not just the mayor putting his signature as in previous years. The mayor said that his expectation is that the local residential population would double in the next 10 years; the major responsibility at the moment is to ensure growth in the right direction with a balance between tourism and residents. New infrastructure, schools, health centres etc. In the last 11 months Costa Teguse has seen the highest number of people registering at the town hall.

The painted yellow boxes at traffic lights were raised with complaints that people were still parking in them. It was said that there were no signs to indicate no parking but a yellow line does mean No Parking.

The problem with the music in the Pueblo Marinero was raised, the main issue is that a resident denounced the music and this is now a legal case and until it has ended nothing can be done. However he urged business owners to apply for music licences at the town hall. It was asked if this could be a joint one from all the bars in the PB for the band stand and he said they could look into it. But individual bars had to submit for a licence to be able to play music in their premises. He said that even when they held their own Ayuntamiento events on the band stand i.e. Christmas they had to have a licence. It was asked if music would be permitted on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve on the band stand and he said that a document should be produced and submitted to the town hall giving the full details and who was responsible for the event. This could then be considered. He valued how important it is to have live music but it is important to follow the law, before the denuncia there was no licence and this has now highlighted the problem so it is important for bar owners to submit licence applications asap.

The meeting then closed with the mayor thanking everyone for attending and said that he actively encourages people to join in events that are provided, i.e. the Christmas lunch for seniors being held on December 2nd as well as all the other events for young and old that comes out of the tax payers money, so take advantage and enjoy. He also highlighted that this year Teguse celebrates 600 years.



Air Europa Canarias "disappoints" Lanzarote



There will be no direct connection with Tenerife and to go to the island you will have to stay up to three hours in Gran Canaria. <http://www.lancelotdigital.com/lanzarote/air-europa-canarias-decepciona-a-lanzarote>

Canary Islands will amend the Animal Protection Law after 25 years



The Government of the Canary Islands has decided to start working on the Law for the Protection and Tenure of Companion Animals after 25 years since the last time it was modified where bullfighting was prohibited on the islands. One of the big controversial measures is the ban on cockfighting, so popular on islands such as Lanzarote or La Palma. <http://www.lancelotdigital.com/canarias/canarias-modifica-la-ley-de-proteccion-de-animales-tras-25-anos>



Not long till Christmas

A reminder if you need good quality Christmas Cards, the Bookswops in Puerto del Carmen have 100's of boxed and individual cards.



They also have gift wrap, gift bags, diaries, calendars and wall planners. With their fantastic range of new and second hand books, greeting cards for all occasions, party goods, gift wrap, stationery and much more...the [Bookswops](#) have it all!

Please note the new opening times

[BookSwop 1](#)

Address: Hotel Fariones end, corner Calle Timanfaya, Puerto del Carmen.

Tel: 928 514 931

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday 09.30 – 20.00. Saturday 09:30 to 14.00

[BookSwop 2](#)

Address: Hotel San Antonio end, C.C. Costa Luz, Puerto del Carmen.

Tel: 928 513 563

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday 09.30 – 17.00 Saturday 09:30 to 13.30



We hope you have enjoyed this newsletter and would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2018.



Danny, Silvia, Rita and the LBRA team.

