

Alicante OLA and Partner Charities Quarterly Newsletter

Dear Our Local Ambassadors, and welcome to our partner charities,

This is the first of our quarterly newsletters that is also being sent to our partner charities. *If anyone does not wish to continue receiving this newsletter, please let me know and I will remove you from the mailing list.*

It looks like we have another busy summer in store for us this year in Alicante!

Over the last few months although we have been issuing lots of Emergency Travel Documents and assisting vulnerable British Nationals we have also managed to arrange lots of different events and visits.

PADRON AND RESIDENCIA

We have continued to work closely with the local authorities over the past months regarding padron and residencia. We know there have been some issues in Murcia around appointment times, and Vice Consul Sara Munsterhjelm recently met with Extranjeria in Murcia who are already working on a solution to make more appointments available to EU nationals.

We have also heard rumours about changes to residency cards and certificates. We have confirmed with the local authorities that there have been no recent changes to residency cards or certificates in our areas of Spain and local authorities also confirmed that they are not aware of any future planned changes at this stage.

Please do continue to look at our website www.gov.uk/living-in-spain for up to date information on residency and padron registration and do please let us know if you come across any issues or problems with the registration process.

TOURISM

We recently invited the newly recruited holiday reps from Jet2 to the Consulate in Alicante so they could see the effect misplacing a passport has on customers and the process they have to go through to receive an Emergency Travel Document. Remember that if someone needs an Emergency Travel Document to travel urgently, they will have to come to the Consulate but can complete the application form online here: www.gov.uk/emergency-travel-document

BREXIT EVENTS

We have managed to squeeze in a number of Brexit outreach events over the past couple of months including one in a large campsite in Benidorm where many British nationals live all year round.



Whilst holding these events we have also been trying to encourage expats to register correctly with their town halls so that they are able to receive the correct support and assistance from local authorities should they require it in the future.

Off the back of this other town halls are now

contacting us requesting similar meetings which we are looking at holding in September and November – we will make sure you are all aware of any upcoming dates near you.

As always, please encourage all your friends, neighbours and fellow volunteers to go to the original source for all Brexit related information - www.gov.uk/world/brexit and to sign up for email alerts if they haven't already done so.

CHARITY MEETING

In May, we held a charity event in San Juan, Alicante that gave British charities a chance to discuss issues openly, exchange ideas and contacts. We had positive feedback from the event and we are hoping to make this an annual event.

HONORARY CONSULS

Did you know that the Alicante Consulate also has three Honorary Consul who support us in delivering our consular work? As we cover the area from Murcia to Castellon, we have three voluntary Honorary Consuls who help us with assistance work and would often be the first people to respond if there were a crisis situation in their area.

Our Honorary Consuls are based in Valencia, Murcia and in Denia. This month they came to the Consulate in Alicante to take part in some training on how to support vulnerable British

nationals and to spend some time with the team. We don't publicise their contact details directly, but sometimes do ask them to attend events or carry out visits if we can't do so.

We really encourage feedback and ideas, so please feel free to contact me, especially if you have some news or information you would like me to include in the next bulletin, which I will send out in the early autumn.

I hope you all have a great summer!

Michaela