



SAMARITANS IN SPAIN

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2021

Welcome to the Feb 21 Newsletter. Once again the year seems to be flying past, which is odd seeing as we are all still living restricted lives. I hope that you are all staying safe and well.

If there is anything that you think should be included in it please do not hesitate to email me at Treasurer.spainsams@gmail.com

COVID 19

First the serious stuff. This is put in again as a reminder for everyone to adhere to all the Covid guidance wherever you are based. Volunteers who attend the Punta Marina Centre, please, if you **do have** Covid symptoms, test positive, or are told to isolate due to contacts having the virus you should of course stay home until given the "all clear" to return to work. Your wellbeing and health and safety of fellow volunteers and our customers must be the top priority!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS

The Board of Trustees and the Admin Team all have new email addresses as listed below, please can you use the new addresses with immediate effect for all correspondence:

Lynda Brettle - President.spainsams@gmail.com

Jan Knight - Secretary.spainsams@gmail.com

Ade Webster - Treasurer.spainsams@gmail.com

Donna Williams - igmarketing.spainsams@gmail.com

Les Holloway - igretail.spainsams@gmail.com

Terry Crandon - Listenerdelivery.spainsams@gmail.com

Karen Lock - Office.spainsams@gmail.com



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A LITTLE SPANISH QUIZ

The answers are contained on a later sheet so have a go at it but no cheating!!

1. In Spain the El Gordo is the Christmas Lottery but what does El Gordo mean?
2. The marriage of which two Spanish monarchs unified the country in the 15th century (they also sponsored the first voyage of Christopher Columbus)?
3. Which Spanish actor was the first to win an Oscar?
4. Which range of mountains forms a natural border between France and Spain? And can you name the highest peak in this range?
5. Name the second most populated island of the Canary Islands?
6. Costa Blanca means 'white coast' but what does Coast Brava mean? And which 'costa' means the Golden Coast?
7. Name the largest city in the Basque Country?
8. What is the most common surname in Spain?
9. The Plaza de Espana and Maria Luisa Park are in which city?
10. What term is used to refer to the soldiers and explorers of the 16th, 17th and 18th century Spanish Empire that colonized much of the world for Spain?

VACANCIES/VOLUNTEERING

We are always on the lookout for volunteers so if you know anybody that would like to volunteer as a Trustee, a Listener or a Shop Volunteer then please either pass their details (name, phone no and email) to any of the Trustees or ask them to contact us.

DIARY DATES

Sat 27 Feb 21 – All Volunteers Meeting – This will start at 2 pm and will be held on-line via Zoom. If you would like to participate and have not already notified Jan Knight, then please send her an email.



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We have been lucky enough to be selected by the British Consulate for a one-off grant of £7000 to help us with the cost of running our phone lines and paying for our freephone calls for the period Nov 20 – Mar 21. This grant was received on 8 Feb 21 and after conversion the final amount was for €7736.67. The Consulate have requested no external media publicity so it would be appreciated if this fantastic news could be kept internal.

LOBSTER

As you may be aware, Lobster have now become an official supporter of Samaritans in Spain which is great news and should really help in getting our message out there as well as provide much needed funds. As part of this arrangement, Lobster have donated a number of Sim cards for volunteers to use when they are both on and off duty. These cards provide unlimited local calls and texts totally free of charge. It is also possible to keep the same number instead of switching to a Lobster one!

If you would like a Lobster Sim please get in contact with Les Holloway – les.spainsams@gmail.com or igretail.spainsams@gmail.com for further information. Please note that cards will be provided on a first come first serve basis although more can be requested if there is a high demand for them.

SAMARITANS UK

One of our volunteers listeners has recommended the book, 'How to Listen' which has recently been released by Samaritans UK and Ireland.

<https://www.samaritans.org/news/samaritans-publishes-new-book-titled-how-listen/>



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VOLUNTEERS NOTICEBOARD

Each month we would like to give our Volunteers the opportunity to advertise what you do outside of Samaritans (businesses etc); highlight any social clubs/events; advertise any large items for sale.

If you wish to have anything included in the next issue of the Newsletter, please send it to me at Treasurer.spainsams@gmail.com by no later than the 10th of the month.

CALL DATA COMPARISON 2021

Below is an extract from the Call Logging Database (as at 18 Feb 21), I thought you would find the figures to be an interesting read.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Difference	
							prev. year	%
Jan	80	77	109	91	97	252	155	160
Feb	74	84	96	165	75	205	130	173
Mar	92	93	118	107	85	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
Apr	94	122	74	98	120	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
May	136	111	165	93	143	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
Jun	109	112	161	64	111	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
Jul	123	124	123	115	140	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
Aug	90	155	90	112	190	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
Sep	85	175	107	84	242	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
Oct	85	186	111	69	255	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
Nov	68	171	98	59	320	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
Dec	165	198	67	74	263	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
Total	1201	1608	1319	1131	2,041	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!



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I hope that you haven't cheated!! The answers to the quiz are below:

1. El Gordo means 'fat one'
2. Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile.
3. Javier Bardem (Oscar for Best Supporting Actor for the 2007 film No Country for Old Men. Also, his wife is Penelope Cruz)
4. Pyrenees. Aneto is the highest peak.
5. Gran Canaria
6. Wild Coast. Costa Dorado.
7. Bilbao
8. Garcia (Fernandez is second, and Gonzalez third)
9. Seville
10. Conquistadors