

BRITISH CONSULAR NETWORK IN SPAIN

PARTNERS' NEWSLETTER

Pension, Benefit and Healthcare Team



USEFUL CONTACTS

Save and keep for the year ahead!

UK Public Services all in one place

www.direct.gov.uk

International Pension Centre (DWP)

UK Pension & benefit enquiries

0044 191 218 7777 www.dwp.gov.uk

Overseas Healthcare Team (DH)

S1 and EHC enquiries

0044 191 218 1999

www.dh.gov.uk or www.nhs.uk

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC)

Tax, residency enquiries: 0044 151 210 2222

Pension forecast, voluntary contributions: 0044

191 203 7010

www.hmrc.gov.uk

Instituto Nacional de la Seguridad Social – INSS (Spanish social security)

900 165 565 www.seg-social.es

Servicio Público de Empleo Estatal (Spanish Employment Office)

901 119 999 www.sepe.es

Instituto de Mayores & Servicios Sociales (Spanish Social Services)

901 109 899 www.imserso.es

HEALTHY RESOLUTION!

With every New Year come New Year's Resolutions. Some

of the most popular are centred on healthcare and healthy living, such as getting fit. But how about making a 'healthy' resolution with a difference?

As you may be aware, registering as a resident in Spain does not mean you are automatically registered for free, public healthcare. There are many ways to register for healthcare as a resident – see our [website](#) for more details – but unfortunately there are still many people who are registered incorrectly, or who are not registered at all. You never know when you might need to call on a doctor, or pay a visit to A&E, so browse our website, and the NHS choices website (www.nhs.uk) and make sure, this year, you are registered should the need arise, ensuring a healthy and happy new year for you and your family.

CLOSING IN ON BENEFIT CHEATS

Back in November we explained that although most people living in Spain are law-abiding citizens, there are unfortunately those who try to take advantage of the system and the British taxpayer, by claiming UK benefits they are not entitled to. But it's important to know they are being caught. One lady, who claimed over £28,000 of UK income support (a non-exportable benefit) for 5 years whilst living in Alicante, was recently sentenced to 18 months imprisonment at Sheffield Crown Court.

Remember, you can help to stop the benefit cheats by reporting suspected fraud to the DWP's Benefit Fraud Hotline. Call **900 554 440** in confidence and free of charge.



British Consular
network,
Spain

The British Consular Network, Spain

IMPORTANCE OF MAKING A WILL

All expatriates are advised to make a will, as intestacy can cause great difficulty or inconvenience to heirs and dependants, particularly where there are children who could be left in a foreign country with no parents or guardian designated. We at the Consulate understand it is acceptable to make a British will for any property or assets in the UK, and a Spanish will for property or assets held in Spain.

A will according to Spanish law is normally signed in front of a Spanish Notary Public. However, Spanish law is complex, and differs considerably from English law, so professional legal advice should be sought on all aspects. The British Consulates across Spain can provide you with a list of [English-speaking lawyers](#) upon request who may be able to assist with writing a will. Contact your nearest consulate to request this.

Further information about the Spanish Central Wills Register is available on the Spanish Ministry of Justice website (www.mjusticia.gob.es) under "Trámites y gestiones personales" and "Certificado de Actos de Última Voluntad".

ACASA - The National Casework Service of Age Concern España



ACASA

The National Casework Service of Age Concern España

THANK YOU

ACASA – The National Casework Service of Age Concern España - would like to say a big thank you to all those individuals who responded to our Christmas Appeal. In particular we would like to thank York Marbella - Marks & Spencers for their generous donation of 1,000€. Their Marks & Spencers store can be found on the second floor of La Cañada Shopping Centre in Marbella. If you missed the Christmas Appeal don't worry, donations can still be made via our website www.acespana.org, just press the donate button, or by bank transfer to:

Account: 0061 0038 29 0088940214
IBAN: ES5500610038290088940214
SWIFT: BMARES2M

ACASA has seen an increase in demand over the last month as those already struggling with illness, isolation and poverty struggle to cope with the excess demands brought on by winter and the holiday period. It is only with your help that we are able to respond to those in need. No amount is too small.

ACASA has two client bases – people over the age of 50, and those of any age who serve or used to serve in the British Armed Forces, and their families, as ACASA does the work of SSAFA Forces Help in Spain. Contact 902 00 38 38 or info@ageconcern-espana.org for further information.

PUB QUIZZES & BREW UPS!

ACASA are actively looking for volunteers to help publicise the vital work done by our caseworkers.

There are hundreds of ways you can get involved and help raise funds for ACASA but two of the most popular are the Pub Quiz and the Big Brew Up. If you think your local pub or café would be interested in holding an event then please email CCM@ageconcern-espana.org for your free fundraising pack and to register the event.



Official Partners of ACASA



WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IF I NEED HELP?

You can contact the Country Welfare Officer, one of our Volunteer Welfare Coordinators or a branch welfare representative. If appropriate, we will make arrangements for one of our friendly, trained volunteer caseworkers to visit you in your home in order to complete an application form and make an assessment of your needs.

Country Welfare Officer: 902 109 356 or dmwilson@britishlegion.org.uk

Volunteer District Welfare Coordinators and branch information for [Spain North](#) and [Spain South](#):

www.britishlegion.org.uk/counties

The Royal British Legion 'Shoulder to Shoulder with all who serve'

POPPY APPEAL 2011 IN SPAIN RAISES €210,675.67!!!

Districts South and North of the Royal British Legion raised **€76,544.49** and **€134,131.18** respectively: making a total of **€210,675.67** raised in mainland Spain. Not only is this a wonderful result but the figure is up on the previous year, which is heart warming in view of the current economic situation.

A huge amount of time and effort goes into the organisation and coordination of the Poppy Appeal here in Spain and our thanks must go to our Poppy Appeal Officers – Mr David Harpin (South) and Mr Tony Dengate (North) for all their hard work. Thanks also to our dedicated Volunteer Poppy Collectors, who once again took the collection boxes into their communities and encouraged people to make a donation - and of course to each and every individual who dropped a donation in the box and wore their Poppy with pride.



Remembrance Sunday Service at St. George's Church, Malaga

What's on? Upcoming events around the Network

Keep an eye on our website for details, posted as and when they are confirmed – www.ukinspain.fco.gov.uk

ALBACETE
9th February 2012 – British Consulate & PBHT Alicante road show in Caudete, 10am

ALICANTE
9th February 2012 – British Consulate & PBHT Alicante road show in Ontinyent, 12:30pm

CANARY ISLANDS
6th- 8th March 2012 – British Consulate & PBHT Malaga road shows in Tenerife, Gran Canaria, Fuerteventura & Lanzarote - TBC

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For more information on Living in Spain, see <http://ukinspain.fco.gov.uk>