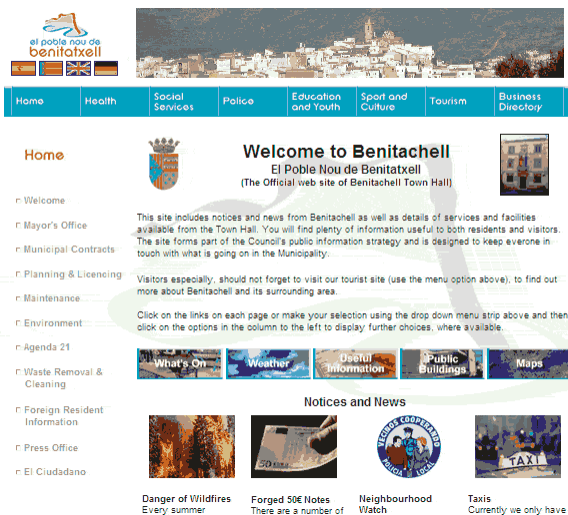


Message from the Editor

Now the Town Hall website is up and running (see the article below), the email service for “El Ciudadano” is no longer necessary. This newsletter may, of course, be downloaded through our site, in all four language versions.

Town Hall Website “online” at last



After many months of planning and hard work, the town hall website is finally on line. Currently it is only available in Castellano and English, although some information, including a downloadable version of this newsletter, can be found on the German and Valenciano holding pages.

The site now includes important town hall notices, information as to what is going on in the municipality, news about recent events, weather forecasts, details of municipal services, contact numbers, downloadable forms, useful links etc. etc. It also contains plans, maps and lots of other useful information.

Building a new website, especially one in four languages, is a long process and we are carrying out the work at no cost to the village, and so it has to be fitted in where possible. We will complete those pages still under construction (including the tourist site) and the Valenciano and German language versions as soon as possible. Please be patient.

www.benitachell.es
www.elpoblenou.es

Wanted - Volunteer Firemen

On a Sunday in August 2000 a huge fire destroyed 140 hectares of the Natural Park “La Granadella”. Due to the assistance of fire-brigades from Alicante and Valencia La Cumbre del Sol was saved from disaster.

Shortly after the Granadella fire, the association “AVIB” formed a voluntary fire-brigade “Bomberos Voluntarios Cumbre del Sol”. The main reason was because the official fire-brigade is situated in Denia and a faster response to the Benitachell area was needed.

Up to April of this year, the bomberos voluntarios have dealt with 207 calls: to house, container and car fires, to remove oil and fuel from the roads and assist with traffic incidents, to cut trees after storms, pump water from cellars after heavy rains, and even assist with tree planting in the Granadella area. Within the current project to boost employment in Valencia, (“Plan Camps”), the Town Hall plans to build a multi-functional structure which will be available for the bomberos, as a base. The building will be situated in front of the new Lady Elisabeth School at the North Entrance of the Cumbre.

The Bomberos Voluntarios need more people! If you are interested please call the secretary, Manfred Rössler. Tel.96.597.3146

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Editor: Andy Bicknell



Municipal Social Services

Through the “El Ciudadano”, Social Services want to keep you advised about the resources that they have available. To start with, in this edition, we are going to deal with the Municipal “Aid to Dependency” and “Home Aid” schemes.

Municipal Service for Aid to Dependency: For this service, we offer information, advice, direction, and assistance in the processing of an initial request for assistance. Later procedures are undertaken by the social worker for the zone, which includes Gata, Benitachell and Teulada.

The service is based on Law 36/2006, of 14 of December, “Promotion of Personal Autonomy and Attention to People in Situations of Dependency.”

Briefly, to whom are these services available:

We are referring to people in following situations: (a) those with major dependencies (b) those with psychological, physical or intellectual incapacity (c) those with mental illness and (d) children of less than three years with dependencies

The three degrees of dependency, under the Law, for initial evaluation, are as follows:

- Degree III - Great dependency
- Degree II - Severe dependency
- Degree I - Moderate dependency

The catalogue of services and economic benefits, for autonomy and aid to dependency, in the Valencian Community, will establish the services available, which are, as suitable to the applicant: (a) Services: (i) tele-help (ii) aid in the home (iii) day and at night centres and (iv) residential centres. (b) Economic Aid: This is linked to the services for people at home, with support by non-professional carers. Personal assistance is only available in degree III of dependency.

The Municipal program for Aid at Home: This service is a basic benefit of the public social services system. It has the objective of rendering, in peoples homes, a series of domestic, personal, social and educative services, where individual or family situations present difficulties that prevent these needs being fulfilled without aid. The service is for people who, for physical, psychological, social or infrastructural reasons, experience limitations in the accomplishment of their activities and elementary daily tasks. The

service is supplied due to one of the following reasons;

(a) difficulty in mobility or capacity because of age and/or temporary or terminal illness. (b) minors in situations of family conflict, who require monitoring or support which cannot be guaranteed by members of the family.

The Service operates at four levels: preventive, welfare, rehabilitative and educative, through the following benefits: (i) Basic personal attention: basic personal care, including: personal cleanliness, personal hygiene for the bed-ridden, mobilization aid, medication control, support to the doctor and others (ii) Basic domestic services: collaborating in and carrying out of household tasks, including: cleaning, washing and ironing, shopping and cooking (iii) Basic psycho-social and educative aid: training in partnership-personal relationships and coexistence, supervision of minors and support and direction for the unemployed

Benitachell Department of Social Services.

C/ Mercado nº 1. Tel: 966 493 992

Open to the Public: Monday and Wednesday between 11.00 and 14.00 hours.

Your Local ‘Team’

Whilst working as a team, each member of Josefa Rhonda’s group deals with certain issues. These are listed below.

Josefa Ronda Vallés (Mayor): Urban Planning & Control; Culture; Youth; Maintenance & Commercial & Economic Promotion (Hours: Daily)

Vicenta Nieves Garcia Iglesias (Deputy Mayor): Education; Sport; Social Services; Fiestas; Personnel & Governing Group Spokesperson. (Hours: Tuesday & Thursday)

Andrew Bicknell: Public Works; Security: Road Safety; Traffic and Foreign Press Relations. (Hours: Daily)

Stephen Kidgell: Environment; Waste Collection & Cleaning; Agenda 21; Tourism & Institutional Relations. (Hours: Daily)

Karin Mas Mut: Budgeting & Finance; Health; Assistance to Residents & Spanish Press Relations (Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday)

Wilhelmus Pragt: Community Integration & Assistance to Foreign Residents. (Hours: Wednesday & Thursday)

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

The long promised Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (Vecinos Cooperando) has been given the green light by the government team but difficulties are being experienced in recruiting zone coordinators.

The scheme, which will facilitate communications between residents and the police, relies on volunteer coordinators throughout the municipal area. Unless sufficient volunteers can be found, it will fail to get off the ground.

Coordinators should be able to communicate with the majority of the residents in their area. They should also have access to a computer and email and be able to devote an hour or two each week to the task, as well as attend the occasional meeting.

Interested? Please email "abicknell@benitachell.es"

New Traffic Lights

With help from a grant from Alicante, the Town Hall has been able to replace the old traffic lights throughout the village with a new LED system.

LEDs have a number of advantages over traditional bulbs: (a) they are bright and visible even when the sun is shining directly on them; (b) they burn much less power; (c) they are much more reliable and (d) they last much longer than traditional bulbs, saving in both parts and labour.

Andy Bicknell, Councillor for Traffic, commented "The LEDs are more efficient and save the village money. I just wish that the small percentage of drivers who treat the traffic lights as optional, rather than compulsory, signals would get with the scheme before someone is seriously injured."

Communication with Foreign Residents.

In March, Dutchman Guillermo Pragt joined the ranks of Mayor Josefa Ronda's team, working for the integration of foreign residents in the town.

Meetings for residents in English and German were held in May and now the Council would like to consolidate contacts with associations of residents in housing developments and communities in the municipality.

If you have meetings planned, for example, an Annual General Meeting, Guillermo could represent

the Council and give a report on what is happening. He also would like to learn more about your Associations.

Details of meetings can be sent to him by e-mail at wpragt@benitachell.es. He will also be available at the Town Hall on Thursdays and Fridays, from 9:00 until 13:00.

New Byelaw Regulates Maintenance of Garden Borders



An example of the problem

At the Council meeting 9th June 2009, a revision of the environmental by-laws was passed. (Subject to requisite waiting and publication periods) Some of the 38 page document containing 182 sections was amalgamating several by-laws into one comprehensive document, but there many new additions to this document closing some, if not all, of the previous loopholes and omissions.

One of the important new additions covers the requirement for maintenance of property borders and makes owners directly responsible for this, whether the borders consist of walls, fencing, trees, shrubs or hedges. Apart from the esthetical improvements it will make to our town, this will improve the safety of pedestrians and the traffic on our roads.

There is nothing worse than pedestrians and cars having to vie for space because house owners can not be bothered to repair a broken wall or cut back plants or weeds emanating from their property obstructing pavements and roads. (See photos)

How will this work? Properties will receive a notice from the town hall requiring them to regulate their borders within a specified time frame. If they fail to comply, the Town Hall, may take the necessary action, using either council employees or a recognised company. The cost will not be assumed by the tax payer but by the property owner, who may also have to pay a fine. Arrangements are in hand for both fines and costs to be collected by SUMA.

Another important addition covers abandoned or very badly maintained pools. With evermore dangerous insects arriving from other countries, it is of the utmost importance that swimming pools are maintained to a reasonable level. One of the problems that we have faced in the past is the lack of authority held by the town hall to deal directly with this type of problem, in order to ensure the protection to the public from the health risks arising.

Help us and yourselves, by ensuring that we do not have enforce any of the above. It will save a lot of time, money and paperwork and in this new found compensation culture; you will avoid liability

Dog Faeces: A Continuing Problem

We continue to receive many complaints about irresponsible, inconsiderate and antisocial dog owners who leave their animals to roam free or fail to clear up their mess from streets and other public places. (See Issue No.3)

This unacceptable behaviour inconveniences others and creates a health risk, especially to children.

The maximum fine, under the Bye-laws, is 330€ and the Town Hall will take very strong action against offenders. Our message to those dog owners concerned is (a) keep your dog under control and (b) carry a plastic bag when walking itand use it.

To the rest of the community, we would suggest that you consider denouncing anyone failing to comply with this Bye-law.

As our previous appeal for cooperation has had little effect, it would unfortunately appear that we are only going to solve this problem by taking action through the law. *You have been warned!*

David Mora Forment: the Parish Priest of Benitachell.

By Rosa Garcia Pastor



In October, "Don David", as we know him, celebrates his first year as parish priest of Poble Nou de Benitatxell, and says he is very happy and hopes to spend many years with us. He's comfortable with people of the village, which he believes is very open

and friendly and, the end of his first year of meeting and getting to know, he hopes to be integrated and able to start working for, and together with, them. He is very nice, friendly and sociable, and likes to be a part of all aspects of our customs: festivals, cultural activities and sports, etc.

David Mora Torrent Forment was born on 1 November 1974, the fourth of five children, all boys. He studied in the Public School of "Lope de Vega" and extended his education to "Torrent BUP" and "COU" at the "Tirant lo Blanc" in the same area. He holds degrees in Geography and History from the University of Valencia, specialising in Ancient History and Prehistory. He remembers those years in college as the best of his life. His vocation was not initiated until after college when he participated in various meetings and retreats at the seminary of Moncada and Siete Aguas. After some activities there in July 2000, in September decided to enter the seminary and trained as a priest. These studies were lasted six years, four of which were in Moncada and two in the "Colegio del Patriarca", in the heart of the city of Valencia.

In 2006 he was appointed as a priest and immediately, in October of that year, sent to Javea as Vicar with Don Vincent Gilabert, working there until 2008, when he was transferred to Benitachell, as our new dean. He is a young and eager to pursue his work, but always with the support and collaboration of the people.