



British Consulate  
Alicante

# British Consulate Summer Newsletter



Dear all,

Yet another year is racing by and I cannot believe that we are already into the summer months.

As always you have all been extremely busy making a big difference in the lives of our most vulnerable. A huge thank you for all your help. We are extremely lucky to be able to rely on your support. I hope you enjoy reading about some of the amazing work that you have all been doing as well as some update from us here at the Consulate.

## HELP on the Move

HELP Mar Menor Murcia has moved their outlet from Los Alcazares to San Javier.

The new Outlet is said to be bigger, brighter and better and a

great shopping experience for customers. The address of the new premises is:

Avda. De la Union 57  
San Javier  
Murcia 30730

So please do pop in and see for yourself next time you are in the area.



## Armed Forces Day

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June, RBL Spain District North

celebrated Armed Forces Day with a service held



at La Iglesia de la Inmaculada Concepcion in Torrevieja. Elizabeth Bell was able to attend the event and led the congregation in prayer.

## MABS Evening Charity Event

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, MABS



have organised an evening fundraiser – A tribute to Dame Shirley Bassey at VIBES bar in Busot.

The concert starts at 19:00 and tickets cost €15 and include a snack. Call Sharon on 711 011 731 for reservations.

## Congratulations

On 2<sup>nd</sup> June, HMA Hugh Elliott, together with Jack Kemp, the Chairman of Spain District



North Royal British Legion, presented MABS with The Royal British Legion KNOX SHIELD. This was awarded in recognition of MABS' inspirational



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work supporting people dealing with cancer including assisting veterans.

MABS treasurer and Vice President, Beverly Thompson, was also awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for services to voluntary charity work in Spain.

## **Queens Jubilee Event Madrid**

Many of you attended the Queen's Jubilee Event that was held at the Residence in Madrid. As well as HMA, Sarah-Jane Morris and Sara Munsterhjelm were both in attendance.



General feedback had everyone saying the same, which was that it was wonderful to be able to meet with people face to face again. Especially to celebrate such a milestone.

## **Support with benefit applications from HELP Vega Baja**

HELP Vega Baja can provide free help with Attendance Allowance applications.



They can also provide advice and signposting when applying for Spanish care benefits (called La ley de Dependencia) for those who may not be entitled to Attendance Allowance.

HELP Vega Baja have been concerned to see people paying large fees to private individuals to complete the application on their behalf – this frequently includes a request for the first payment or first months allowance if the application is approved. HELP Vega Baja have undertaken a lot of publicity to let people know they can help and they have taken on new volunteers who they are training in order to meet demand.

Please do bear HELP Vega Baja in mind if your organisation cannot provide this service and you come across someone vulnerable who needs help to apply. More information on <https://helpvegabaja.com/>

## **RAFA Registered Members' Group Costa Blanca**

A small group of widows/widowers from the main RAFA Registered Members' Group have begun to meet for lunch on Sundays and a weekday dinner, keeping each other company, sharing stories and giving support where and when needed to each other during the process and after losing a loved one.



They help each other with banking problems, assembling the paperwork necessary for the Spanish inheritance process, and other problems that can arise.



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They are also going to Benidorm for 4 days at Christmas, which can be a particularly lonely time of the year without your life partner.

## **The Calpe Benissa Lions International Club – fundraising activities**

This club was founded nearly 15 years ago with the sole intention of helping the local community. They fundraise through their charity shop and by organising events.



For example funds from the charity shop (located on Pintor Sorolla, 15, Calpe) gives 1,000 euros a month, which is shared between Caritas Benissa, Caritas Calpe, and the Cruz Roja Calpe. A recent fashion show enabled the Lions to raise 1,200, which local Caritas and Cruz Roja can use to support the Ukrainian families they are helping at the moment.

The Lions also help people with problems of sight – for example training guide dogs for Spain, working with local schools and supporting a local Calpe charity, Visió sens fronteres, (Vision without frontiers). Contact Carole Saunders at Calpe town hall for more information.

## **ATLAS - New immigration support service for the Comunidad Valenciana**

ATLAS is a Valencian regional government public service that provides information over the phone about how to become a legal resident in Spain.

There are three offices, Alicante, Castellon and Valencia. Each office covers the whole of that province, with staff who are legal experts and/or social workers.



To access the service, the person needs to be living in the Comunidad Valenciana.

They have English-speaking staff and charities and individuals can contact them for impartial advice and guidance.

The public contact details for the Alicante office is:

- Telephone 900 404 403
- Email: [atlas\\_alc@cv.gva.es](mailto:atlas_alc@cv.gva.es)
- Monday to Friday, from 10:00am to 14:00pm, and Tuesday and Wednesday from 15:00pm to 19:00pm

More information can be found in their press release here (in Spanish):

[https://www.gva.es/es/inicio/area\\_de\\_prensa/not\\_detalle\\_area\\_prensa?id=989482](https://www.gva.es/es/inicio/area_de_prensa/not_detalle_area_prensa?id=989482)

## **Driving licence exchange update**

Resolving this issue remains an absolute priority. Even when we don't have much news, we publish an update almost every week regarding this issue on our Brits in Spain Facebook page.







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Please make sure you follow us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/BritsInSpain](http://www.facebook.com/BritsInSpain) so you hear any updates as soon as they are available.

## **New Contact Details for Healthcare Enquiries**

For all healthcare enquiries, please use the following contact details:

[NHSBSA](#) on  
+44 191 218  
1999



## **News to share?**

I will aim to send a newsletter every six months, with other AdHoc updates if anything urgent comes up.

I'm very happy to include any information

or updates you may have about your organisations so please do get in touch if there is anything you would like me to share.



## **Useful Links**

[www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-spain](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-spain)

[www.facebook.com/BritsInSpain](http://www.facebook.com/BritsInSpain)