



AMERICAN CLUB OF ESTEPONA

December
2016

Christmas is Coming

I know the headline is stating the obvious but the Festive Season seems to come around faster and faster each year. Perhaps I'm just showing my age!

However, as the old typing practice said "Now is the time for all good boys (and girls) to come to the aid of the party" The party I'm referring to is our Christmas Party (see page 3) Let's make it a big one, it's the last this year!

As well as just being a time to enjoy ourselves it's also when we have our Hamper draw. At the time of writing the hampers are empty! I do hope that by the time you're reading this they're starting to fill (all donations very welcome) and people are starting to buy raffle tickets that are available at the bar.. .

Remember; unlike other clubs I could mention, we are known for our generous contributions to various charities and all money raised on the hampers is donated to charity.

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Activities, Events

Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 6th - 1.30 pm

General Meeting

Saturday, Dec 10th 2 pm

Come on folks, please come and support your club

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Sewing Classes:

This is an informal group who meet every **Friday** at 1:30 to do quilting, sewing, etc. Come along and join the fun for what ever type of sewing you do.

Bridge:

Every Wednesday 2:00-5:00 . This is for long time bridge players to play and for those who want to learn. Cost € 1 per session.

Ronnie's Art Workshop

Tuesdays, 2:30 pm. Anyone is invited to come

Friday 16th December 2pm

Christmas Carol Concert. A choir is coming to the club to perform Christmas Carols for us, and I'm hoping we can give them a good, appreciative audience.

Past Events

Harvest Festival/Thanksgiving

24 members and guests really enjoyed their celebratory lunch on Sunday 20th Nov. Tables were laid out in a hollow u shape and were decorated by Sandra and her team.

The meal,(for those who missed it) consisted firstly of a huge variety of tapas, followed by Harvest Soup, Turkey with stuffing, Roast, mashed and sweet potatoes, roast candid carrots, cauliflower cheese and peas. This was followed by Pumpkin pie (and a welcome change to the advertised menú) delicious Apple pie and cream. All finished off with cheese and biscuits.

Trish worked the bar as well as serving, and Carol and Ana also served as well as helping Sandra in the kitchen.

The whole affair was managed by Sandra who did a magnificent job.

See photos page 11

Past & Future Events

The American Club of Estepona

69 Calle San Roque, Estepona

invite you to our **FREE**

Grand Christmas Party & Charity Hamper Draw

2pm Sunday 18th December

With live Music

featuring

Frankie Payas

(Motown, Disco, Reggae, Pop & Soul)

Party also includes

Charity Raffle & Hamper Draw

Fun Christmas Quiz, with prizes!



The afternoon is free, but we're asking guests and members to bring a festive plate of 'finger' food. Thanks.

For further information ring 652070672

Need I say more? Please note the bring a plate request. Thanks

Supper Quiz 16th November

A most entertaining quiz was presented by Ann Hardwick, with 4 rounds of questions of the type that led you to think, when the answers were given, "I knew that! Why couldn't I remember?" followed by a bonus round asking for answers to questions containing the letters 'go'. Which led to some interesting and amusing answers.

Almost everyone won a round, but the winners, with a massive score, were Sandra, John, Ronnie & Brian. Well done team Sandra.

A very tasty curry supper was provided by Pat Storey, helped by Vera & Carol who also tended bar.

22 members attended, and all enjoyed a very entertaining evening.

Many thanks to Ann and Pat

How did Good King Wenceslas like his pizza?

One that's deep pan, crisp and even!

How did Mary and Joseph know that Jesus was 7lb 6oz when he was born?

They had a weigh in a manger!



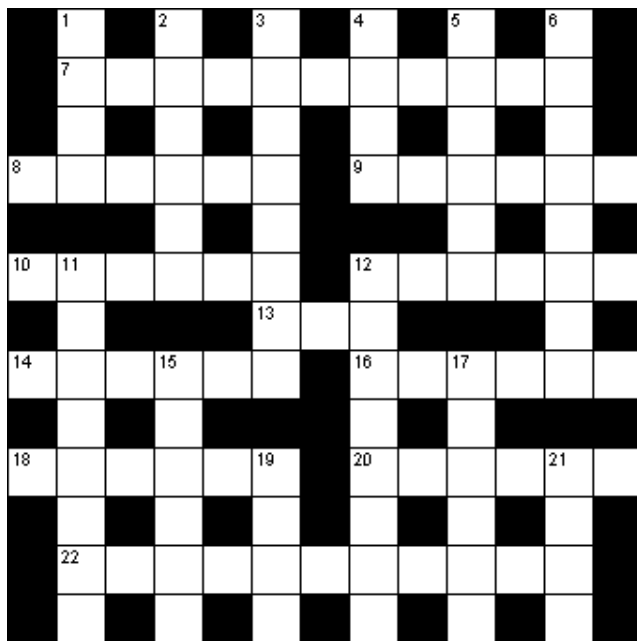
Bar notes December 2016

November bar figures were quite healthy, helped by sales at Thanksgiving, the Supper Quiz and our extraordinarily busy Fridays.

As you all must know the bar is manned entirely by volunteers and it has long been a tradition in the club that these volunteers are rewarded with a lunchtime 'slap up' meal at a nice restaurant. This is paid for by the donations members place into the glass container on the bar for 'tapas' provided by bar staff. When donations are not sufficient then the club subsidises the remainder of the cost. This is only fair, as without the bar we couldn't cover costs such as rent etc.

This years Volunteer's lunch is at El Palangre (tottering distance from the club) on Thursday 15th December, meeting at the club at 1pm. I will notify those who qualify (with a menú to choose from) and also provide menus for those who wish to come along as well (at a price!)

Crossword (as requested) answers P7

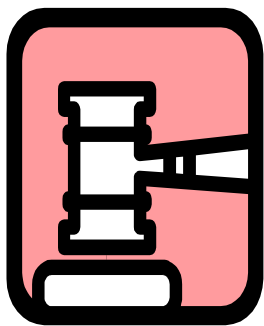


- 7 Suitable (11)
 8 Small crustacean (6)
 9 Garden hedge plant (6)
 10 Be unsteady on one's feet (6)
 12 Heavenly spirits (6)
 13 Dolt (3)
 14 Motor fuel (6)
 16 More courageous (6)
 18 Patron saint of Scotland (6)
 20 Frightened (6)
 22 Star-gazers (11)

Across

- 1 Impetuous (4)
 2 Short fast race (6)
 3 Non-commissioned officer (8)
 4 Let fall (4)
 5 Manufacturing (6)
 6 Wake-up signal (8)
 11 Eastern (8)
 12 Fire-resistant mineral (8)
 15 Layers (6)
 17 Astounded (6)
 19 Timber (4)
 21 Gaelic (4)

Down



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

MICHAEL MOSS

I was underwhelmed by the response to my request for volunteers for for the new Committee, such a pity. On bended knee I begged the current members to stay on and, taking pity on me, they agreed. Thank you Carol, Ronnie, Brian and Trish.

Things are definately improving in the club, 22 members and guests for the supper quiz, largest number for quite a time, and a fantastic Thanksgiving/ Harvest festival. My thanks to all those generous people who donated food for our charity gifts to the poor.

Next up is our Christmas Pary & Hamper Draw on Sunday the 18th December We've an entertainer Frankie Payas, and, as it's free and open to all I hope that you'll spread the Word and we'll get a good crowd (Good crowd means more raffle tickets sold for our charities, more bar sales = more profit = larger charity donations! Simples)

Mike 'the Hat's' Japan saga cont'd.

DAY 6

Went to Jimbocho, the book district, to find a great shop I'd been told about and marked on my map, they sold manga, (a type of story/comic) and I brought three books. Before that, I got myself lost, now I pride myself on having a great sense of direction, but having cut through some back streets as a short cut, I arrived at a main road that did not look right on my map. A young Japanese man of about 19 or 20 came up and asked, in perfect English if he could help. This was one of many surprises for me, the kindness and helpfulness of the Japanese people never failed to amaze me for the whole month I was there! I knew where the place was on my map, pointed to it, the guy said it was three blocks down that road (pointing), I walked three blocks and there it was!

DAY 7

The Rappongi district is famous for its nightclubs and most of the embassies are sited there, so I thought perhaps the place they always show on TV would be there, it wasn't. I saw lots of very expensive buildings used as embassies, funny how countries that always plead poverty in the West can find lots of money to spend to impress in the East. As it was during the day, I didn't see much of the nightclubs, but what I did see was impressive. Beautiful architecture, a road system that made Spain look like toy town along with people who are well mannered, helpful and accommodating. If I could live anywhere in the world, then Tokyo would be my first choice! (I'm not so sure that the extremes of weather and temperature would be to my liking through.)

.Only Two Galloping Grandmas this time, on a Pilgrimage (of sorts).

Day 1 Veuling flight to Santiago departed at 22.00hrs, arrived and picked up hire car at 22.50hrs. We drive to Hotel Garcas 1.7kms away. In the dark, with sheeting rain, and 1 Hour later we had to ask a local where the hotel was! He rang them and asked us to follow him. It was just around the corner!

Day 2 After breakfast we asked where the metallic sculptures on El Camino were located and were told they were near St Martin, a few kilometres away. We drove off, couldn't find them and drove straight into the City and ended in the pedestrianised Centro Historico of Santiago. Temporary car access was allowed so we left our bags at our lovely Hostal San Martin de Pidaro, parked our car in the pay car park and went off to explore the wondrous Cathedral. We had lunch in a bar/ bistro where we met some American pilgrims who had walked 700kms along El Camino. They told us the if we attended Mass that evening we might see the incense burning ceremony 'La Butafumeria' - Something really special! Checked into our hotel again, then off to see this moving ceremony. Has supper afterwards and were told that a group of Korean visitors had paid for this event at €400 a minute!

Day 3 After breakfast we discovered that El Camino and the sculptures were actually in San Martin on Monte de Gozo, a few kilometres from the city. Off we drove and arrived at the huge monument. Vera joined a group of pilgrims to walk up to the statues and I drove up to meet them there. I had to climb up to see them, but what a great sight, two giant pilgrims, each over 6metres tall, pointing to their destination, Santiago. Returned to our hostel and had a lovely supper in the Monk's Refectory (€10 for 3 courses including wine and wáter!) before retiring to our little 'cell' (all mod cons of course)

Day 4 After breakfast set off to drive along the coast to Finisterre, the oficial end of the Camino Km 0. Then a beautiful drive through attractive villages with the road hugging the lovely coastline. A journey of some 200 kms in all and we ended back at the airport for our 22.00hrs flight to Malaga



Pat (left) Vera (right) & friendly Pilgrim who had done the whole walk (centre).

QUE PASA?



December Birthdays

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYONE.

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Brian Buckley | 5th |
| Mike Moss | 6th |
| Hector Kleinot | 8th |
| Tony Alibert | 23rd |
| Trish Price | 23rd |
| Bibi Shorter | 26th |

¿Qué Pasa?

Trip the Lights Fantastic

D. Angeles is organising another of her coach outings, this time to Malaga to see the fabulous Christmas lights.

As others who've been will tell you they are amazing and should not be missed.

The coach leaves the Bullring at 4pm on Saturday the 10th December.

Liaising with D. Angeles is Francesca who can book seats for you. She can be contacted on 699709080.

The price is a very reasonable €15

I must apologise for the quality of the photographs in last months magazine. I was in a great hurry and foolishly failed to check the printing. The photos in the mag have never been great but the last lot were indecipherable. However, as I've said before, if you go to www.acestepona.org you'll see all the pictures in magnificent full color.

Editor



Answers to puzzle page 4

Silly Season

Santa: Knock, knock.

Elf: Who's there?

Santa: Olive.

Elf: Olive, who?

Santa: Olive the other reindeer.



THE COOKING KORNER

With the Editor

BBQ Chicken Pizza

3 boneless chicken breast halves, cooked and cubed

1 cup flavored barbecue sauce

1 tablespoon honey

1 teaspoon molasses

1/3 cup brown sugar

1/2 bunch fresh cilantro, chopped

1 (12 inch) pre-baked pizza crust

1 cup Gouda cheese, shredded

1 cup thinly sliced red onion

Preheat oven to 425F. In a saucepan over medium high heat, combine chicken, barbecue sauce, honey, molasses, brown sugar and cilantro. Bring to a boil.

Spread chicken mixture evenly over pizza crust, and top with cheese and onions.

Bake for 15 to 20 minutes, or until cheese is melted.

Beans on Toast

A Toast bread (sliced is easiest) then butter

B Heat beans (baked beans preferably)

Pour **B** onto **A**, eat and enjoy

Crockpot Cube Steak & Gravy

2 lbs. cube steak

salt and pepper

flour (for dredging)

1 sachet onion gravy mix

1 can cream of mushroom soup

2 cups water

Salt and pepper the steak to your liking then dredge in the flour. Fry steak until brown. Place in crockpot; add water, soup, and gravy mix. Cover and cook on low 6 to 8 hours.

Serve with mashed potatoes or rice.

How to Cook a Turkey

- Step 1. Buy a turkey
- Step 2. Have a glass of wine
- Step 3. Stuff turkey
- Step 4. Have another glass of wine
- Step 5. Put turkey in oven
- Step 6. Relax and have a glass of wine
- Step 7. Turk the bastey
- Step 8. Wine of glass another get
- Step 9. Hunt for meat thermometer
- Step 10. Glass yourself another pour of wine
- Step 11. Roast the wine for 4 hours
- Step 12. Take the oven out of the turkey
- Step 13. Tet the sable
- Step 14. Grab another wottle of bine
- Step 15. Turk the carvey!

Library Reviews

Brian Winder

Happy Christmas when it arrives later this month and enjoy everything the season entails. I've read a lot recently and there are lots of new books now in the library so more books reviewed albeit shorter than usual to fit in the space available.

TRUE BLUE by David Baldacci

Typical Baldacci continuing his series about two sisters – one detective and the other her chief! Good reading for the fans.

TIME OF DEATH by Mark Bellingham

Another episode in the Tom Thorne series. Hard to put down crime thriller. Even on holiday Thorne gets involved in trying to solve the kidnapping of teenaged girls – one being found dead. Compulsive!

MERCY by David Lindsey

Houston is in the spotlight – its' women to be exact! Two women murdered and an underground network of wealthy women who are linked by S & M and bi-sexuality plus a twisted perverted world of the killer. Didn't think I'd like it but it's engrossing!

THE ACCIDENT by Chris Pavone

A literary agent in New York receives an anonymous manuscript full of highly compromising revelations which will compromise national security! Very readable about how everyone seems to want it. Some to destroy and others to publish. Unusual yet partially believable!

TOOTH AND NAIL by Ian Rankin

Yet another dish for followers of Inspector Rebus. This time being sent back to the South from Edinburgh to help in a serial killer investigation. Interesting interplay between him and some of the Met. A good read-as usual

27 by William Diehl

Pre WW2 Nazi plots for long term action designed to nullify the USA in the eventual war that they know will come. Their sleeper agent and pet psychopath is '27' and only Hitler and one of his twisted group knows about it. Until things start to go wrong!!

BROKEN CLAW by John Gardner

James Bond is back on more secret service work. This time partly by accident and mainly by the devious thinking of M. Good but quick read. Whilst enjoyable, I think Bond has been done to death and is now so predictable it's in danger of being boring.





AMERICAN CLUB of ESTEPONA

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On-line magazine www.acestepona.org

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and pay for only 5.

Contact the club or a member
of the committee.

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Silly Season cont'd

One night a Viking named Rudolph the Red was looking out the window when he said, "It's going to rain". His wife asked, "How do you know?" "Because Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear."

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? Tinselitis!

The 4 stages of life:

1. You believe in Santa Claus
2. You don't believe in Santa Claus
3. You dress up as Santa Claus
4. You look like Santa Claus



Top left Sandras fantastic Serrano doll, part of the huge range of tapas on offer

Top right The Workers, Sandra, Carol, Trish & Ana



Centre and bottom left various Members enjoying the Harvest Festival / Thanksgiving meal

Bottom right Guests Professor Rev. Adrian Low and Mrs Joanna Low. The Rev Low pictured singing Grace!





Dec. 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 27 | 28 | 29 Art class 2.30pm | 30 Bridge 2:00 pm | 1 | 2 Sewing Group 1:30pm | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 Ex. Comm. meeting 1.30 pm | 7 Bridge 2:00 pm | 8 | 9 Sewing Group 1:30pm | 10 General Meeting 2pm |
| 11 | 12 | 13 Art class 2:30 pm | 14 Bridge 2.00pm | 15 Volunteers Lunch El Palangre | 16 Choir Carol Concert 2pm | 17 |
| 18 Xmas Party & Hamper draw | 19 | 20 Art class 2:30 pm | 21 Bridge 2:00 pm | 22 | 23 Sewing Group 1:30pm | 24 |
| 25 Sandra's Xmas Lunch | 26 | 27 Art class 2:30 pm | 28 Bridge 2.00pm | 29 | 30 Sewing Group 1.30pm | 31 |