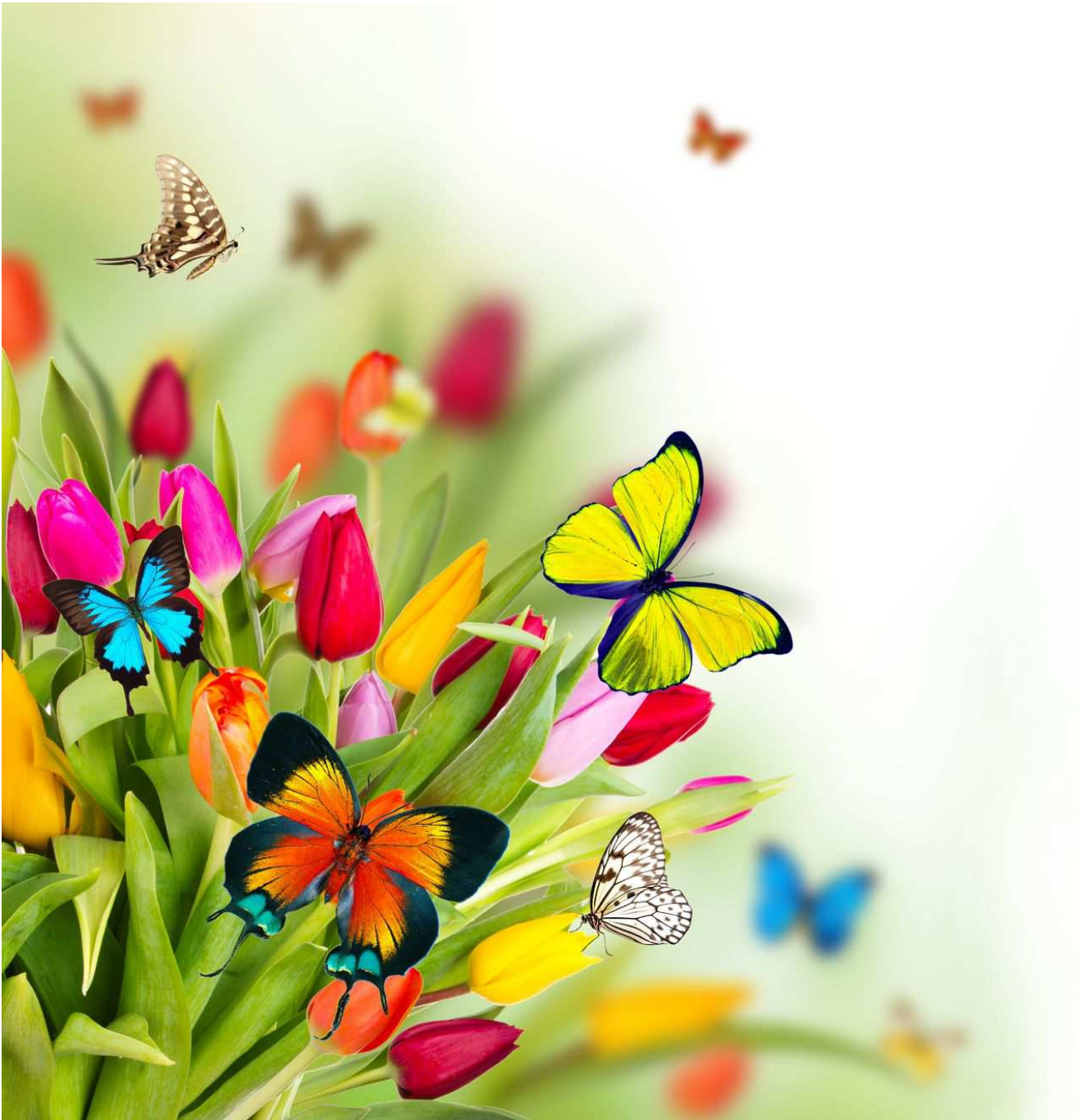




# Revista

March/April 2014

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# **Grand Summer Ball**

**Thursday  
June 19<sup>th</sup> 2014  
Lo Mirador  
19:00 for 20:00**

## **MENU**

### ***FIRST COURSE***

***Fresh pasta ravioli*** stuffed with gorgonzola, pears and walnuts

***Salad of avocado*** and anchovies with casse tomatoes

***Carpaccio of tuna*** with pine nut oil and black olives

### ***SECOND COURSE***

***Baked salmon*** with caper and mango sauce

***Veal tenderloin*** with salt flakes, virgin olive oil and porto

***Pork tenderloin*** with pineapple and rosemary honey

### ***DESERT***

***Pineapple Carpaccio*** with burned catalan cream and strawberries from Maresme

***Chocolate cake*** with mascarpone mousse

***Citrus sorbet*** with white chocolate and puffed rice

*Bread, water, half a bottle of wine per person, coffee and petit fours included*

**Cost: 27 Euros per person**

**Bookings to Pat Sturgeon by 7th June:**

**Tel: 97277 2324**

**Email: [traveller16444@telefonica.net](mailto:traveller16444@telefonica.net)**



## Dear Readers,

First the Good News ! What fantastic weather we have had in January and February and already into March. I have really enjoyed the winter. My son was on holiday in January for 3 weeks and could not have believed his luck and a friend followed with a 3 week visit to L'Escala and she had lovely weather too. Long may it

continue.

The bad news is that we have lost BBC & ITV television but as usual many of us have found a way round it. Don has bought a programme for a few dollars which allows him to watch on his computer and with a lead you can put it onto your television. I have been quite happy watching all programmes including all the sports channels on Filmon on my Ipad and computer and lots of you have invested in a box which gives you all the programmes and only costs 150€ a year and 150€ for the box. With that you have to have a Wifi connection but do not need a computer. There is always a way round these things that are sent to try us!

Thank you for supporting the Valentines Dinner which was a sell-out and a huge success. We are looking forward to our next outing to Peratalada on 20th March. Full details from Roger Arndell 972770130 [rogerdenromi@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rogerdenromi@yahoo.co.uk)

We are aiming this spring to increase our membership and are hoping that you will introduce your friends and particularly the new English speaking residents in this area.

Looking forward to a lovely Spring,

Yours Mary.



**COSTA BRAVA LADIES**

# **CLOTHES SALE**

**Wednesday March 26th 2014  
Coffee Morning 10.00 until 13.00**

**Venue-Roberts Restaurant, L'Estartit**

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can sell it for you. It needs to be clean and on  
a hanger with your name, telephone number  
and the price.**

**For more information call Ann Turner on  
972636957**

**RAFFLE**

# STUCK IN INDEPENDENCE

*Nuria Heras*

*YES Language School*

This might be the way our President, Artur Mas, feels at the moment when thinking of Independence: Stuck. Things are becoming harder than he could have expected.

On the one hand, Artur Mas received a hard blow last week during a formal lunch with the most important business group, the trade association. He was expecting to have their support in the process to independence. Their response, however, was categorical: “we are business people, we are happy to help, but getting totally involved is not our objective”. They claimed that the association’s mission is “to generate wealth and create employment”.

On the other hand, Mr Rajoy has pledged to go to the Constitutional Tribunal to block any Catalan attempts to hold a referendum. He isn’t answering or making any comments about the requests coming from Catalonia and its politicians, and even boasts about this silence, saying that he’s been able to rescue Spain from its crisis by not saying anything. Despite all this, Mr Mas has decided to “call a consultation to find out the opinion of the citizens of Catalonia regarding independence of Catalonia, not to break with the Spanish state”

All in all, hard and uncertain times are coming but meanwhile the determination of the Catalan people, the opinions and talking point in small circles and big meetings is independence and whether it is still possible.

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## Through the Lens

What happens to a photograph once it has been taken? In a majority of cases I would suspect that it is downloaded to a computer and forgotten about. Some may end up on sites such as Facebook and never seen again.

If you take pictures and they are JPEG images then you can see them on your computer and if you have any image editing software you may try to enhance them in some way. However if you use the RAW format then you cannot see them on your computer and you must use some software to be able to see them.

You should be able to see them on your camera but that is only because the camera will create a small JPEG image to allow this.

Your camera should be supplied with some software to allow RAW files to be viewed and some basic editing to be carried out. You may want to do more than this manufacturer supplied program will allow so what are the alternatives?

The best program is Adobe Photoshop but it is very complex and beyond the needs of most amateur photographers and also very costly. The current and possibly the last version is Photoshop CC which you rent from Adobe on a monthly basis. You will get all the upgrades to the program as part of the fee which is why I suspect it is the final version. The previous version was Photoshop CS6 and retailed at a price in excess of £500!

Adobe alternatives are Photoshop Elements which is a cut-down version and can be bought from sites such as Amazon for around £50-60. Also Adobe produce Lightroom which is an excellent organising and editing program and the current version is 5. Retail at around £100. For Apple Mac users there is Apple Aperture available for around £70-80.

Corel produce Paintshop in various editions and Serif also have an offering. Of course there are many other alternatives but these are probably the best known.

Some free programs are also available such as Gimp but never having used anything other than Adobe software I cannot comment further.

All of these programs will allow you to edit RAW files.

Once you have an edition of your chosen software then it is amazing how much your pictures can be improved with a few clicks of the mouse. Of course there is a learning curve involved but if you can make your picture 'pop' then there is a much greater chance that you will enjoy your photography much more and possibly become more creative.

There are sites that will supply versions of the software at less than £20 and although they may not be the latest versions of the software they can supply the previous version so the saving is well worth while. If you want details then contact me and I will supply the web address that you need.

David Brown

*Editors Note:*

You can contact David at [deexbee@gmail.com](mailto:deexbee@gmail.com)

## **Electric shocker**

Andalucia, [Business & Finance](#)

SPANISH electricity bills are among the highest in Europe – leaving some four million families struggling to pay.

Bills have risen around 60% between 2006 and now and Spaniards fork out more than all but Cypriots and the Irish.

The government blames poor regulation, which has resulted in a huge deficit for the electricity companies and the heavy subsidies to promote renewables, including high feed-in tariffs to power generators.

The Red Cross said around 40% of families who come to the organisation for help, cannot keep their homes warm in winter.



## A special bark to beat these evil weevils

THOUGH the first mention of the red palm weevil comes from India in 1891, it is thought to have originated in south-east Asia, before spreading to Europe, the Middle East, north Africa, the Americas, the Caribbean and Australasia.

First discovered in Spain in 1994, the weevil – a species of snout-nosed beetle – is only a few centimeters in length, yet it has become seen as the

single greatest threat to palm trees in the world.

Females can lay between 200 and 300 eggs inside a palm. After three or four days the eggs hatch into grubs, which bore into the palm tree by eating the soft tissue, killing it from within. After a few months the weevil then enters into a pupation period, eventually emerging as an adult beetle and starting the whole process again.

Since the 1990s, the palm weevil is thought to have killed around 20,000 palm trees in Andalusia alone.

The trade in young palm trees has led to an explosion in the worldwide weevil population, since the beetles are transported inside their favourite food supply, before being left to their own devices, usually in an area with yet more fresh food.

The damage done by these insects means that stopping them is big business – but it has proved harder than you may expect, with weevils almost impossible to stop. One solution is to inject insecticides directly into the trunk of a stricken tree, killing the weevil on contact.

However this solution relies on the ability to spot the beetles' presence early.

Weevils spend their entire life cycles inside a palm tree, and by the time any damage is visible on the outside it is likely that the palm is already dead.

Malaga City Council has come up with a more unusual solution – turned to a team of dogs for help, training them to sniff the beetles out so that they can be dealt with before they gain a foothold.

Their newest recruit, Virus – a Belgian Shepherd – is expected to graduate soon. The final stage of his training is a lesson in how to stand on top of platforms, which allow him to sniff the top of palms.

Another possible solution comes from The University of Cordoba which is researching the effectiveness of different types of fungus, which are toxic to the weevil, though it is not yet clear whether it is suitable for widespread use.

Whatever the answer, something needs to be done about the weevil.





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## **NHS AXES FREE HEALTH CARE FOR EXPATS**

**By Peter Pallot, taken from The Telegraph**

Thousands of British expats who have taken early retirement and settled in Europe will lose free access to their local health care system

The cost of living for expats on the Costa del Sol is set to rise following news that the NHS will stop funding health care for some. The British government is set to scrap a facility by which UK citizens under the state retirement age can get free treatment in countries such as Spain and France when they do not qualify through employment.

The change is likely to occur on April 1, according to the Department of Health. It is one of series of cost-saving moves under review across the National Health Service. It means that the NHS will no longer reimburse another European state for health costs incurred by non-working Britons under pensionable age.

Currently, many unemployed expats under age 65 (or women under 60) within the European Economic Area effectively pass their care costs to the Treasury.

They do so by completing Social Security residual form S1 before leaving the UK. This gives the holder, and probably his or her dependents, up to two and half years' free health care access. Claimants should have made National Insurance contributions for the past three years to qualify for the full period of cover. The changes do not affect people who already hold residual S1. However, once their current form lapses, those living in France would be obliged to buy private medical insurance.

The element of compulsion follows a 2007 crackdown on early retirees using the French system without having contributed to it. People living in the expat enclaves in Spain are likely to be similarly affected and required to buy insurance. Spanish regions with big north European communities have followed the French example. A Department of Health spokesperson said the residual S1 provisions were not part of EU law. She said: "No other European state offers an equivalent to the residual S1 and the reasons for the UK doing so in the past probably arise because the NHS is different to continental systems."

The amount of money to be saved from the S1 move is unclear. However, 2,355 residual S1s were issued in the financial year 2012/13, with many valid for the full 30 months.

As a rough guide to what each S1 might cost the Treasury, the Department

said the average cost per pensioner per month in France for health services was €372.12 in 2010 – roughly £4,000 a year at today's prices allowing for inflation. The equivalent figure for Spain (2011) was €280.15, some £3,000 a year currently.

Scrapping the facility comes as part of an NHS efficiency review which includes a drive to crack down on immigrants from all parts of the world abusing the "open door" principles of the service. According to some estimates, the total cost of medical services for ineligible persons could amount to as much as £2 billion a year. The Department spokesperson said: "We are committed to ensuring that the NHS is sustainable and fair for the British taxpayer. The changes only apply to new applications. All existing residual S1 forms will remain in place and continue to be valid until their cessation date. "We are continuing to work through the operational implications of the change and will make a further announcement once this work has been completed."

The requirement for some former S1 holders to have medical insurance will prove expensive, and potentially insurmountable, for those with serious pre-existing illness. However, when this dilemma arose in France, exceptions were made. This followed negotiations between health officials in Paris and London because Britons made up the greater part of EU citizens affected.

If April 1 is change day, Britons seeking 2.5 years "free" health cover on the Continent have a small window in which to benefit from free cover. One Briton about to move to Spain blogged on expatforum.com that he and his wife were eligible for the S1 and that "we will be both covered by the S1 reciprocal agreement until January 2016. "We have to apply four to five weeks prior to moving, no sooner, and must have a Spanish address to put on the form – a permanent address can be added later. "After March 31 the UK government will no longer be issuing these certificates and private health cover will have to be sought until retirement, when the agreement will once again cover [us]."

The blogger said he had been assured by an official, when he rang to inquire about the measure, that his timing was "perfect" as "a few months later" and the couple would not have the benefit of such cover.

The changes do not affect people over state retirement age. Neither do they affect EU citizens seeking emergency care through the EHIC – European Health Insurance Card.

## **Expatriate VOTERS, and Marginal Seats,**

As the law stands at present, expatriates who have been non-resident in the UK for less than 15 years can vote in the home based constituency where they last lived. Many fail to register this right. If they did they could have a marked effect on the outcome of the next election.

The Labour Party seems to assume that the expatriates would largely vote Conservative and you get the feeling that for that reason the Labour Party does not encourage any moves to get more expatriates to register. This attitude is quite mistaken. The leading light to get the 15 year limit removed is 93 year old Harry Shindler – a life long supporter of the Labour Party.

The Conservative Party on the whole are trying hard to get expatriates to register their right to vote. They sense an undercurrent of complacency. They also are probably mistaken.

There again, there is the feeling amongst expatriates that they do not want to vote for an MP of an existing constituency, but that they want to be Represented by an MP who is directly interested in their lives – as in the French system where Députés directly represent the expatriates.

If that idea appeals to you, then you should sign up to this petition.

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/55085>

It is very unfortunate if the overseas electorate is only considered by any political party as 'voting fodder' to obtain or maintain the power of a particular political party. But if they thought differently what then?

If such thoughts can make each party realise that the overseas citizens have needs which the UK Government should address, that they deserve the same attention and respect as citizens resident in the UK – then something will have been achieved.

Till now the citizen abroad has been considered something of a second class person. If all parties - as the election date draws near - can get themselves to change this attitude then they might just win the votes of the overseas electorate.

There are 91 constituencies which could change hands, or be confirmed, by expat voters from all over the world.

The U.K. Constituencies and their sitting MPs can be studied here;

<http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/>

More on this matter will appear in the coming weeks

*Information gathered from the Votes for Ex-Pat Brits campaign.*



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# Curious Facts about Great Britain

Great Britain has a long and colourful history which has and still creates some amazing facts and trivia. We have listed some of the submitted UK's weird and wonderful facts, amazing UK trivia and strange UK laws below.

Truth or fiction - you decide.....

- ➔ A pregnant woman may relieve herself wherever she wishes.
- ➔ It is an executable offense to allow your pet to mate with a pet of the royal house without permission.
- ➔ The phrase “rule of thumb” is derived from an old English law which stated that you couldn’t beat your wife with anything wider than your thumb.
- ➔ Up until 1752 Britain used the Julian calendar and New Years day was on 25<sup>th</sup> March.
- ➔ It is an offence to impersonate a Chelsea Pensioner
- ➔ No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver or purple
- ➔ It is legal for a male to urinate in public, as long it is on the rear wheel of his motor vehicle and his right hand is on the vehicle
- ➔ William the Conqueror ordered that everyone should go to bed at eight o’clock.
- ➔ In Shakespeare’s time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. That’s where the phrase, “goodnight, sleep tight” came from.
- ➔ In Chester you can only shoot a Welsh person with a bow and arrow inside the city walls and after midnight
- ➔ The shortest war in history was between Zanzibar and England in 1896. Zanzibar surrendered after 38 minutes.
- ➔ Berwick-upon-Tweed was officially at war with Russia for 110 years.
- ➔ Even though being the sovereign of The United Kingdom, Her Majesty the Queen is not allowed to enter the City of London with seeking the permission of its Lord Mayor.
- ➔ In England, all men over the age of 14 must carry out two hours of longbow practice a day
- ➔ There are over 30,000 John Smiths in Britain
- ➔ In York, excluding Sundays, it is perfectly legal to shoot a Scotsman with a bow and arrow.

- ➔ In 1945, a flock of starlings landed on the minute hand of Big Ben and put the time back by five minutes.
- ➔ Britain is the only country in the world which doesn't have the country's name in its postage stamps.
- ➔ Nowhere in Britain is more than 74½ miles from the sea.
- ➔ Portugal is England's oldest ally. The Anglo-Portuguese Treaty signed in 1373 is still in force
- ➔ Although the Great Fire of London destroyed much of the city, only six people were killed.
- ➔ The lance ceased to be an official battle weapon in the British Army in 1927
- ➔ There are more chickens than humans in England.
- ➔ Rudolf Hess was the last prisoner to be kept in the Tower of London.
- ➔ Dying is illegal in the Houses of Parliaments.
- ➔ Placing a postage stamp bearing the monarch's head upside down on an envelope is considered as act of treason.
- ➔ The Licensing Act of 1872 explains that operating a cow or steam engine while intoxicated carries a prison sentence
- ➔ A law passed in 1585, making it illegal for women to "cause a nuisance with abusive or argumentative language". A woman guilty of scolding had to wear a scold's bridle, or metal cage, enclosing her head. The Criminal Law Act of 1967 finally abolished the punishment, and women may now scold freely.
- ➔ In 1647 the English Parliament abolished Christmas.
- ➔ Queen Anne had 17 children, all of them died before she did.
- ➔ The military salute comes from medieval knights raising their visors to see each other.
- ➔ Winston Churchill was born in the ladies toilet during a dance.
- ➔ In the 1700s, men who ran illegal gambling houses hired a special person to swallow the dice if the police showed up.
- ➔ Buckingham Palace was built on the site of a notorious brothel.
- ➔ About 25% of Londoners were born outside of the UK and can speak over 300 different languages.
- ➔ London has been called Londonium, Ludenwic, and Ludenburg.
- ➔ The British love donkeys! In 2006 the British public gave a total of 20m to a donkey sanctuary.
- ➔ Every year the average British family throws away 6 trees worth of paper.

## **Catalan News'**

**The Economist': "it is wrong to insinuate" that Scotland and Catalonia "could never join the EU" London (ACN).**- "The prestigious publication reacted to the speculations on the inclusion of independent Catalonia and Scotland in the EU. "It is wrong to insinuate that newly independent states could never join the EU", stated 'The Economist' in its latest edition. However, the British magazine also stressed that these two cases have no precedents in Europe and therefore warned that it would be "dishonest to pretend that accession would be quick or easy" for the two nations. Indeed, according to the EU officials quoted in the article, "it would take at least four to five years to negotiate and ratify" Catalonia and Scotland's EU full-right membership. Besides, "there will be no instant betrothal to the EU, no dowry from Brussels - and no cheques guaranteed by other central banks". The Economist also scolds the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Durão Barroso, for having compared the "peaceful referendums in western Europe" to the "violent break-up of a Balkan country" during his visit to London last week-end. 'The Economist' considered that Barroso was taking sides and working against Scotland's and Catalonia's independence, and demanded him to "assess accession applications impartially".

**Full Article:** <http://www.catalannewsagency.com/politics/item/the-economist-it-is-wrong-to-insinuate-that-scotland-and-catalonia-could-never-join-the-eu>

**Extreme right organisation files a criminal complaint against Catalan President for sedition and rebellion Barcelona (ACN).**- Manos Limpias, a Spanish extreme right-wing organisation, presented on Wednesday before Catalonia's High Court (TSJC) a criminal complaint against the President of the Catalan Government, Artur Mas, for the charges of perverting the course of justice, disobeying judicial authority, rebellion and sedition. According to the plaintiffs, the Catalan President is using all means available to achieve Catalonia's independence. The far-right union notably mentions the creation of new 'state-structures', disobeying the Constitutional Court and giving statements that point towards holding a consultation vote and violating the Spanish Constitution. In the complaint, Manos Limpias is demanding Mas to be interrogated as a suspect, while several Catalan politicians would be witnesses. The organisation is also requesting to examine recent decrees and agreements passed in Catalonia, as well as the Catalan budget since 2010, as they believe certain items were established to hold a self-determination vote. Manos Limpias is a trade union of public employees, led by Miguel Bernad, who used to be the Secretary General of the extreme right party Fuerza Nueva and was close to Franco's Regime member Blas Piñar.

**Full article:** <http://www.catalannewsagency.com/politics/item/extreme-right-organisation-files-a-criminal-complaint-against-catalan-president-for-sedition-and-rebellion>



**Spanish Parliament “strongly rejects” Catalonia’s “secessionist plan” with the PP, PSOE and UPyD votes Madrid (ACN).**- It is the first time that the Spanish Parliament has “rejected” Catalonia’s self-determination. The Spanish nationalist party UPyD (Unión, Progreso y Democracia) has managed its motion against Catalonia’s self-determination to get the support of the governing People’s Party (PP) and the main opposition group, the Spanish Socialist Party (PSOE). The rest of other parties in the Spanish Parliament have opposed the initiative presented by the party led by Rosa Díez, who asked a few months ago to cancel Catalonia’s autonomy and self-government institutions. After days of negotiations to get the PP and the PSOE on board, the small party UPyD – which does not have any institutional presence in Catalonia – has accepted lowering the motion’s tone in exchange of their votes. The PP holds an absolute majority in the 350-seat Chamber and therefore nothing can be approved without their support. The PSOE is the second largest group and both combined hold 85% of the Spanish Parliament’s seats. UPyD’s motion was approved on Thursday gathering 272 ‘yes’ votes, 43 ‘no’ ballots and 1 abstention. The text states that the Spanish Parliament “explicitly and strongly rejects the secessionist plan of the Catalan Government”, mentioning two motions approved in 2013 by the Catalan Parliament. The first statement declared the Catalan people as “sovereign” to decide on its own future and the second one formally requested the Spanish Parliament to authorise a self-determination vote in Catalonia. By approving UPyD’s motion, the Spanish Parliament slams the door in the face of the Catalan Parliament and its formal petition. UPyD’s text asks “the Government of Spain to continue using all the tools foreseen in the Constitution and in the whole of the legal framework to guarantee the rule of law”. Rosa Díez stated that the motion’s support was “crushing”. She underlined that the Spanish Parliament “will use its autonomy and will decide on a matter that concerns all the Spaniards”. “They wanted to deny us, this Chamber, where the national sovereignty sits, [the right] to give its say”, stated Díez on Wednesday.

**Full Article:** <http://www.catalannewsagency.com/politics/item/spanish-parliament-strongly-rejects-catalonia-s-secessionist-plan-with-the-pp-psoe-and-upyd-votes>

**Almost 2,000 police officers will ensure safety during Barcelona’s Mobile World Congress CNA Barcelona (ACN).**- Some 1,900 police officers, both from the Catalan Police Force (called Mossos d’Esquadra), and from the local polices of Barcelona and L’Hospitalet de Llobregat (Greater Barcelona), will ensure the safety of the 75,000 visitors expected to attend the Mobile World Congress, the main international event of the mobile-phone-related industry. This trade fair and conference takes place each year in Barcelona and the upcoming edition

will run from the 24th to the 27th of February. With this safety reinforcement plan, plain-clothed police officers will be deployed in the pavilions of the Mobile World Congress, while the number of uniformed-police patrols will be increased to dissuade pickpockets. Furthermore, there will be more private security guards controlling the premises this year and a dedicated police station where attendees can report any loss or theft will be open all day long. In addition, hotels will advise on self-protection measures. Besides, public transportation will also be strengthened, starting with the number of taxis available.

**Full Article:** <http://www.catalannewsagency.com/business/item/almost-2000-police-officers-will-ensure-safety-during-barcelona-s-mobile-world-congress>

**Gas Natural Fenosa earns €1.45 billion in 2013, a 0.3% increase CNA Barcelona (ACN).**- Barcelona-based Gas Natural Fenosa earned €1.445 billion in 2013, 0.3% more than in 2012. The strong international customer base of the energy company has neutralized the “decline in business” in Spain. This fall at Spanish level was due to the fiscal pressure increase and to the impact of the latest Spanish Government’s reform of the electricity market, which led to a shortfall of €455 million in 2013 for the Catalan multinational. The aggregate EBITDA (Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization) stood at €5.085 billion, 0.1% more than in 2012. International business accounted for 44.1% of the EBITDA, while it had represented 43.2% in 2012. In addition, the Spanish market contributed to 55.9% of Gas Natural Fenosa’s EBITDA, a 1.6% drop on last year figures.

**Full Article:-** <http://www.catalannewsagency.com/business/item/gas-natural-fenosa-earns-1-45-billion-in-2013-a-0-3-increase>

**Catalan Institute of Nanoscience sets up its new headquarters at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona CNA / Carolina Pons** Barcelona (ACN). - The Catalan Institute of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (ICN2) unveiled its new headquarters at the campus of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) and aims to become a flagship in the European scientific field. The new facilities have 40 laboratories for the creation of projects in the field of medical progress. Both the Spanish and the Catalan Governments are behind the project.

**Full Article:-** <http://www.catalannewsagency.com/society-science/item/catalan-institute-of-nanoscience-sets-up-its-new-headquarters-at-the-universitat-autonoma-de-barcelona>

**Project to honour thousands of Jews who braved Catalan Pyrenees to escape Holocaust CNA / Ben Ramage / Marta Lluvich Lleida (CNA).**- The Lleida Provincial Council is promoting a project entitled ‘Persecuted and Saved’ that aims to explain the way that 80,000 fugitives, of whom 20,000 were Jewish, fled the Nazi horror during the Holocaust via the Catalan Pyrenees. The routes will include the

pathways that the terrified fugitives took through the mountains, as well as prisons and concentration camps set up to hold those who were caught. The project has already merited a strong response from Israel, with visits from the Ambassador of Israel in Spain, Alon Bar, to the key sites. Furthermore, a meeting between the CEO of the major airline of Israel, EL-AL, Walter Wascier, and the President of Lleida's Provincial Council, Joan Reñé, has also taken place, with a view to setting up weekly chartered flights between Israel and Lleida-Alguaire Airport.

**Full Article:-** <http://www.catalannewsagency.com/life-style/item/project-to-honour-thousands-of-jews-who-braved-catalan-pyrenees-to-escape-holocaust>

**Editors Note:** *We are planning a visit to The Exile Museum in La Jonquera on April 24<sup>th</sup>. See Inside Back Cover of **The Revista**.*

**PortAventura theme park to open 2014 season with latest aquatic attraction, Angkor CNA / Lorna McGinn Salou (ACN).**- PortAventura will be launching new attraction 'Angkor: Adventure in the Lost Kingdom' this year to coincide with the start of the 2014 season in early April. The new attraction will allow visitors to embark on a 300 meter boat trip through the Asian jungle, designed to simulate the historic Cambodian temple: Angkor Wat. The attraction is located in the China area of the park, near Shambhala, Europe's highest rollercoaster. The new attraction is a replicate of the temple, which is said to be the largest religious structure in the world. It occupies a space of 10,500 square meters in the resort and visitors can also embark on a tour of the temple, lasting approximately 10 minutes.

**Full Article:-** <http://www.catalannewsagency.com/life-style/item/portaventura-theme-park-to-open-2014-season-with-latest-aquatic-attraction-angkor>

**Kazushi Ono will be the main conductor of the Barcelona Symphony and Catalonia National Orchestra CNA / Pau Cortina / Rurika Hashimoto Barcelona (ACN)**- Japanese conductor Kazushi Ono was appointed the next main conductor of the Barcelona Symphony and Catalonia National Orchestra (OBC), and will take over from the current conductor Pablo Gonzalez in September 2015. The decision to appoint new chief conductor Ono has received the consent of "all parties". Joaquim Garrigosa, the Director of the L'Auditori concert hall (where the OBC is based) hopes that Ono will lead the ensemble to be a worldwide fame orchestra from Catalonia., hopes that Ono will mark a huge step forward for OBC and lead it to be an orchestra of worldwide fame from Catalonia.

**Full Article:-** <http://www.catalannewsagency.com/culture/item/kazushi-ono-will-be-the-main-conductor-of-the-barcelona-symphony-and-catalonia-national-orchestra>

## **Rain, hail, tempests, plague Europe grape harvests but wine will flow**

By Leslie Gevirtz (Reuters) -

Many of Europe's grape growers have been hit by hail, windstorms, heavy rains, cold and clouds resulting in one of the worst harvests in decades.

From France, the world's biggest wine producer, to Austria and Greece and across the Atlantic in the United States, winemakers say this has been an unusual year.

Due to weather problems in much of Europe, consumers can expect to pay more for many European wines, according to economist James Thornton, professor of economics at Eastern Michigan University who specializes in the economics of wine. But warm weather for grapes in much of the United States means prices should be lower for U.S. wines, he said.

The price of European wine should "increase relative to the price of American wine," said Thornton, author of "American Wine Economics." "So American wine should be a relatively better buy."

### **FRENCH HARVEST: QUELLE HORREUR**

FranceAgriMer, part of the French Ministry of Agriculture, said the 2013 harvest would be one of the worst in 40 years and blamed cool temperatures and heavy rains both the poor quality and lower quantity of grapes.

The ministry expects the 2013 harvest to top out at 43.5 million hectolitres. The 10-year average is 45.5 million.

In Burgundy, some vintners in the prestigious Beaune region said devastating hailstorms in July caused near catastrophic damage to their vines and destroyed their crops. A few weeks later, similar storms pelted Bordeaux with hail the size of pigeon's eggs.

It's not just quantity of the grapes, but also the quality that is lacking, according to FranceAgriMer. Tests showed low sugar content, which means the resulting wines will have less alcohol.

The weather also wreaked havoc on vineyards in Austria and parts of Greece. In Vienna, the Austrian wine marketing board blamed a combination of hail, drought, and poor weather during spring flowering for a smaller harvest, especially of its flagship varietal, Gruner Veltliner.

The Union of Santorini Cooperatives, which represents many of the Aegean island's grape growers, reported: "The performance of the vines is 20 percent lower than last year..." The group, in its harvest report, blamed "a fierce windstorm" that led to the destruction of many young shoots and compromised pruning for the poor showing.

"We won't have as much wine," Ted Diamantis, of Chicago-based Diamond Wine Imports, said after returning from a trip to the various wineries whose goods he imports to the United States.

Greece has a variety of climates. In the north, the harvest has not quite begun, but everything is looking very good, so the difference in harvests is really dependent on the weather, Diamantis said.

### **PERFECTLY RIPENED GRAPES, LATER HARVESTS**

But in parts of Spain and Italy, winemakers said they were having good harvests with lots of perfectly ripened grapes. They were just 10-to-15 days later than usual.

In Umbria in Italy, Marco Caprai, head of Arnaldo Caprai winery, said he expected to harvest about 50 percent more grapes than last year. He thinks the late harvest will result "in wines that are not too rich in alcohol and very balanced."

Beatrice Contini Bonacossi, whose family has owned the Villa di Capezzana estate in Tuscany for almost 100 years, said although the harvest has not ended, at the moment she is pleased.

"I can safely say that this year we can look forward to a nice quantity of grapes compared with last year, which was a relatively small vintage," she added.

Across the Atlantic, U.S. winemakers are harvesting their grapes two-to-three weeks early.

"Everything is coming in a lot earlier. My last Pinot Noir pick is done already. Normally, I don't even start to pick that until the 14th or 15th of September," said Kathleen Inman, whose family owns a vineyard in California's Russian River Valley, part of Sonoma County.

Across the Mayacamas Mountains in Napa Valley, Cain Winery's vintner Chris Howell said harvests of his Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot were going to be earlier.

"This year is not as perfect a year as last year ... But this year, the harvest looks good," he said.

Randall Grahm, who started Bonny Doon Vineyards on California's Central Coast 40 years ago, said the harvest was going reasonably well with grapes from the warmish regions appearing about 10 days earlier than normal.

"But (that's) by no means the earliest I've ever seen," he said.

Winemakers in Washington State, which has had second warmest summer on record, also expect an early harvest. Heat decreases the amount of time grapes take to ripen. This means the berries are smaller than usual and the flavours more concentrated.

## **Annual General Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2014**

The meeting was held at The Sotavent Restaurant. 17 members attended plus the committee. Highlights from the meeting as follows:

### **MINUTES of LAST MEETING.**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2013 were read to the committee and members on the floor by R.Ardell (Secretary). There were no matters arising. The minutes were approved by the meeting.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.**

Mary Clark (Chairman) welcomed the members present to the Annual General Meeting and presented her report.

### **MEMBERSHIP.**

The membership in 2013 was 258. At the time of the meeting there are 91 renewals. Barbara Hanson gave a brief outline of her responsibilities as Membership Secretary. Barbara said that January and February are very busy months getting all the membership contributions collected, this is coupled with the task of keeping all the members details up to date. Barbara said that her other main responsibility is the distribution of the Revista. This includes the task of finding volunteers to post the Revista in the UK; Barbara said that so far there has been no problem finding volunteers. Roger Hanson helps with the distribution of the Revista in the local area.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT.**

John Sienczak (Treasurer) presented his report. There were no questions. Liz Ardell proposed that the financial report and balance sheet be accepted, seconded by Ian Robson, carried by the members present.

### **EVENTS.**

It has been a very good year for all the events that had been arranged, they have all been very successful and well attended, apart from the Christmas Dinner and Dance.

### **ELECTION of OFFICERS FOR 2014.**

Mary Clark stated that all present members of the committee were prepared to stand again for 2014 with the exception of Alice Debbage who has resigned. Denise Fenn has volunteered to join the committee. Gerry Joyce proposed that the present committee, with the addition of Denise Fenn, be elected for 2014. Seconded by Don Flett. Carried by the membership present.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**

Des Sherriff asked how many members present used the website. He pointed out that the 'ch' on the website address refers to the provider based in Switzerland and was the least expensive. He urged that we encourage members to use the website and that he will be making available a facility using Google maps to use in conjunction with GPS to find the location of event venues.

Pat Sturgeon thanked Melanie and Alan for all their work and support during the year. Alan maintains the wheelchairs that are available to members and are stored at the Villa Services office. Pat presented Melanie with a pot plant in appreciation and with our thanks.

John Sturgeon raised the question of the low numbers of members supporting some events, in particular the cancellation of the Christmas Dinner and Dance. Gerry Joyce said that one cause was the high number of events organised at this time of the year.

One suggestion was not to hold the Dinner and Dance; this was met with some opposition.

After further discussion all comments and suggestions were noted. Mary Clark assured the meeting that the committee would discuss the co-ordination of events.

Mary Clark thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting.

### **MEETING CLOSED AT 2:40pm.**

#### **Valentines Dinner**

Another February 14<sup>th</sup>! Is it really that time of year again! The traditional Dinner/Dance seems to have been taken over by having a dinner at La Gruta in L'Escala.

The taxi duly arrived at 7pm. We drove around L'Escala and picked up 2 more couples and arrived at the restaurant where we had some very appreciated before dinner drinks. More and more people came and soon the restaurant was buzzing with conversation.

We were seated by 8 o'clock. Beautifully presented table cards showed us where to sit and told us what we had ordered. Every lady had a red rose. And there was also a lovely red bag with an individual chocolate inside, my goodness we were being spoilt.

Montse with her hardworking staff started to serve us with a superb meal. Each table was served and the time just flew by. Judging by the clean plates all the food was greatly enjoyed.

It was raffle time, Pat Sturgeon and Lynn Taylor did their arm twisting exercises and soon the raffle was underway followed by coffee.

Overall a magnificent evening! We managed to raise 285 Euros.

Many thanks to June Joyce who organised everything and made sure that the evening was a great success. We should also thank Montse, Fabrice and all the staff at La Gruta who worked so hard for us.



## Asset Reporting – A Reminder Of The Rules

By Brett Hanson, Partner, Blevins Franks Financial Management Ltd

If you are resident in Spain and own assets worth over €50,000, you cannot ignore the 31st March Form 720 deadline. The consequences for failing to report are very high, and the authorities have an increasing number of tools to find hidden assets and those not declaring themselves for tax.

If you were resident here last year, you need to report the assets you own outside Spain as at 31st December 2013.

If you submitted a report in 2013, you do not need to report in subsequent years if you do not acquire any new assets or dispose of existing ones, and the value of those already reported does not increase by more than €20,000.

There are three reporting categories, and you have to report all assets in a particular category if the value of your total assets in that category amounts to over €50,000.

You are obliged to report assets if you are the owner, beneficiary, authorised signatory, or you have the authority to dispose of the asset. This includes assets held by a company, a trust or fiduciary.

You need to report even if your personal share of assets is less than €50,000. With joint assets, each owner needs to declare the full value (not pro-rated) and indicate their percentage.

In most cases, assets are valued using the wealth tax rules as at 31st December each year. With bank accounts, you also need to declare the average balance over the last three months of the year. With property, you declare the cost and date of acquisition, current value, and sale proceeds if sold during the year.

There is no obligation to report overseas pension funds provided they do not give rise to a temporary or lifetime annuity. Where there is an annuity, the capitalised value is declared.





If you sold an asset, be it a property, shares etc during 2013, or closed a bank account, you need to report the value at the date of disposal. Do not bury your head in the sand. The Spanish tax authorities mean business. They are using information received from abroad to check whether people have declared all their overseas assets, and with automatic exchange of information increasing, there is no hiding place.

If you are found to not have declared an asset, the fines and penalties can be devastating.

This is the time to review if your assets are in the right place to be as tax efficient as they can be. You could be paying more tax than you need to. Ask an expert adviser to review your arrangements and discuss the most tax efficient vehicles available in Spain. This is a specialised area, and you need professional advice to ensure you avoid any of the consequences of getting it wrong.

The tax rates, scope and reliefs may change. Any statements concerning taxation are based upon our understanding of current taxation laws and practices which are subject to change. Tax information has been summarised; an individual should take personalised advice.

To keep in touch with the latest developments in the offshore world, check out the latest news on our website [www.blevinsfranks.com](http://www.blevinsfranks.com)

**A DATE FOR YOUR 2014 DIARY ..**

**THE 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WALRUS WALK**

The 2014 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Walrus Sponsored Walk will take place Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April.

Always Saturday a week before Easter.

Please put this date in your diary and watch out for further details.

So far we have raised just short of 10,000€ for the AECC based in LÉscala.

This charity looks after terminally ill patients and their families who are struggling through this terrible time.

A big thank you from Tony at the Walrus for your support over the past 3 years.



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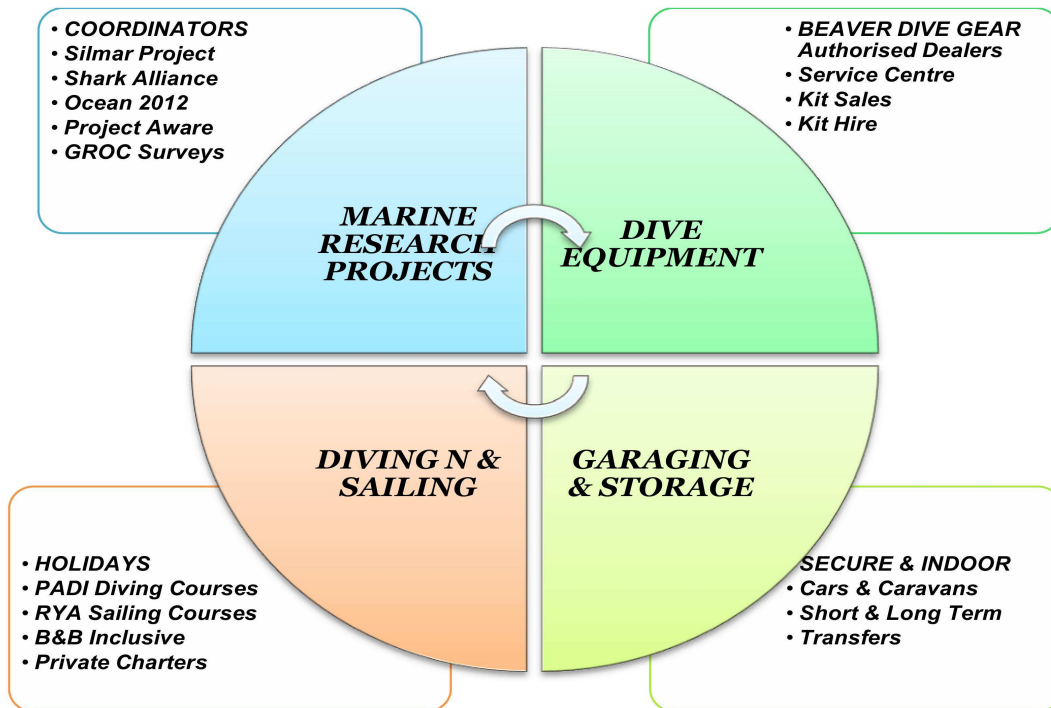
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## UK to protest over Spanish incursion into Gibraltar's waters



A Union flag flies at Europa Point in front of the Rock (rear), a monolithic limestone promontory, and the Ibrahim-al-Ibrahim mosque in Gibraltar, south of Spain August 12, 2013.

Reuters:- Britain said on Wednesday it would make a formal "high level" protest to Spain over what the British Foreign Office described as an incursion into Gibraltar's territorial waters by the Spanish Navy earlier this week.

The incident is the latest in a long line of diplomatic spats between Britain and Spain over Gibraltar, a rocky outcrop off Spain's southern coast that Madrid ceded to Britain 300 years ago, but that the Spanish authorities now want to reclaim.

"There was an incursion into British waters near Gibraltar by the Spanish Navy on 18 February, during a Royal Navy exercise," a Foreign Office spokesman said in a statement. "We are raising this at a high level with the Spanish government and will be issuing a formal protest."

Local media in the British overseas territory reported that a Spanish naval vessel had entered Gibraltar's waters using a fake name and call-sign before eventually being escorted from the area.

Tensions flared last summer when Spain complained that an artificial reef being built off Gibraltar was blocking its fishing vessels. Madrid responded by tightening border controls, causing long delays.

The European Union's executive was called in to arbitrate on the border dispute, but said it had found no evidence that Spain had broken EU law by imposing tighter border controls.



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Hello everyone . We have been so lucky with our weather this year which makes us realise it when one hears about the chaotic weather in the UK

For this issue I would like to introduce you to the wonders of

## **MINT**

Mint is the best known and widely used herb with a characteristically refreshing and cooling flavour especially in sauces and seasonings.

There are many varieties although spearmint, peppermint, apple and lemon are the most useful in the kitchen. I find that the best way to grow mint is in a ceramic pot on its own because the roots can be very intrusive. Mint can be stored by picking small sprigs and freezing in a little water in ice cube trays. Then they can be used for drinks or put into dishes while they are being cooked. Talking of drinks, a tea (infusion) made with fresh or dried mint is very refreshing and excellent for digestive disorders and feverish colds. Now for a few recipes.

### **MINTED YOGHURT SAUCE**

This recipe is featured in my cookbook” Save some for me please” This sauce goes very well with the Lamb Koftas also featured in my book.

Serves 4

You will need:

200g greek yogurt

½ cucumber, grated and placed in a tea towel to squeeze out the excess moisture

3 tablespoons fresh mint –finely chopped

Juice of a lemon

1 teaspoon ground cumin

1 lemon cut into wedges for garnish

This is what you do:

Place the yogurt, cucumber, mint, lemon juice and ground cumin in a bowl and mix together.



## **AVOCADO AND MINT SALAD DRESSING**

Blend an avocado, 4 tablespoons greek yogurt, 1 tablespoon olive oil, a handful of mint leaves and a pinch of salt

## **BROAD BEAN, TOMATO, ANCHOVIES WITH CHEESE AND MINT SALAD**

Serves 4

You will need:

150g broad beans

8 – 12 small cherry tomatoes cut into ½

1 scallion thinly sliced

6 tablespoons olive oil

1 dessertspoon lemon juice

150g fresh curd cheese or ricotta

4 salted anchovy fillets

1 tablespoon finely chopped mint

Zest of a lemon

This is what you do:

Blanch the broad beans in a pan of boiling unsalted water for about 8 minutes until tender – drain. When cool place the beans, tomatoes and scallions in a bowl and dress with 4 tablespoons of the oil, lemon juice and seasoning. Spread out into a bowl and dot with cheese and 2 anchovy strips in a criss cross on top of each other followed by the mint, lemon zest , a little black pepper and remaining olive oil.

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So until the next time

Adios amigos

Jacqy Harding





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British Society of Catalunya Empordà Branch  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM to December 2013

Name -----  
First name(s) -----  
NIE/NIF/Passport No. -----  
Name of spouse/partner -----  
Address:  
Street -----  
Town -----  
Province/County -----  
Postcode -----  
Telephone/Fax -----  
E-Mail -----  
Any other relevant details -----  
(Next of kin in case of -----  
Emergencies?) -----

Currently membership always runs from 1st January—31st December

Cheques, in Euros, drawn on a Spanish bank please, payable to *British Society of Catalunya* or transfer the money from your bank directly to Bank Sabadell l'Escala account British Society of Catalunya

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# memorial democràtic

## Visit to The Exile Museum at La Jonquera

<http://www.museuexili.cat/index.php/en.html>

Thursday 24th April Booked in for 12 o'clock

Cost Over 65's 2euros Under 65 4 euros

We would all travel by car, and hopefully can car share.

The address is:-

Carrer Cantallops 17700 La Jonquera, Girona, Spain

GPS:

N42253341

E25230274

Then Lunch at:-

Els Fogons de Canadal.

La Jonquera.

<http://www.fogonsdecannadal.es>

This restaurant is an old castle that is now a Masia, very quaint.

It's 5 mins. drive from the museum, in the mountains.

Cost is 18euros for the Menu del Dia including coffee and IVA

Bookings to Pat Sturgeon 97277 2324 OR

Barbara Hanson 97277 1679

By Monday 21st April the very latest.



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