



fans, even though he now no longer plays with the side. A quiet goodbye was also said to our football correspondent, Jonathan Pitman, aka The Poet, who sadly died during 2009. A tragic accident saw the loss of two lives, when large stones from a section of the cliffs at Los Guíos beach in Los Gigantes fell during a hot October Sunday afternoon. Two women, a Briton and a Spaniard, were killed instantly.

Other goodbyes, though not so sad, were made to a number of diplomatic personnel. Stephen Jones had only been the British Consul to the Islands for a few short years but gained many friends in that time. His move to the Spanish peninsula saw the arrival of the new man at the helm, Matthew Vickers. The Irish community and beyond also saw a change in their representative. Jaime

Willis has given long and faithful service to them and the Irish consular service in Spain and will be very fondly remembered.

His replacement Ward Woods is already a well known member of the local Irish community and is an excellent replacement to Jaime, who will remain a friend to the many he has got to know over his years of service.

Another Irish person to make headlines here was Audrey Fitzpatrick, mother of teen Amy who went missing from near her Costa del Sol home on New Year's Day 2008. Audrey was in Gran Canaria early in 2009 to join with the mothers of Canarian children Sara Morales and Yéremi Vargas, also still missing, to make sure their children are not forgotten. Closure for another son was finally achieved – Sam Johnson, son of Welsh couple Brian and

Tina Johnson, was in court in Gran Canaria to see Carmelo Santana convicted of his parent's murder in July 2006. Good news for one child and his parents was forthcoming during the year, and we were delighted to be able to report that young Joshua Bliss, a child who earned a place in the hearts of thousands in the islands during his struggle against Leukaemia, was given the all clear. We wish Joshua, his parents Colin and Gemma and extended family a healthy 2010.

Visitors to the island, though perhaps down on previous years, were still more than welcome, some big names among them.

Music legend Rod Stewart played to thousands of delighted fans at the Costa Adeje Golf venue in May, confirming the Sun Live consortium's faith in South Tenerife as a viable concert location for

Pictures

- 01. Cristo Marrero is carried off the pitch as he plays his last game for newly promoted CD Tenerife. Credit garyhill-photography.com
- 02. The new Agromercado in Adeje opens its doors
- 03. The Benchi Express links the ports of La Gomera and Tenerife
- 04. Commissioner for Miami-Dade, Rebeca Sosa arrives on the first direct flight to Tenerife
- 05. Lamborghinis take to Tenerife's roads. Credit Gerard Zenou
- 06. Matthew Vickers, the new British Consul
- 07. Jonathan Pitman, aka the Poet, RIP
- 08. Joshua Bliss
- 09. Sarah Darwin
- 10. Francisco Fabelo, one of the islands' winning cheese makers
- 11. Regional health minister Mercedes Roldós

