

Charity Events

Sam presents the magnificent cheque to Gina



Paloma Beach

Charity congratulations

Three cheers for the amazing efforts of the Paloma Beach Golf Society and The Penny Farthing who helped to raise the magnificent sum of €2,500 for Amate, the tinerfeñan breast cancer charity.

Sixty golfers including Sam Booth, the youngest member of the Golf Society, had a wonderful fun day, followed by celebrations, raffles and auctions at The Penny Farthing in Los Cristianos. George and Jackie Turner and Bob Martin who organised everything were thrilled at the success of the day and delighted to present AMATE representative, Gina Case, with the cheque. Sam handed over the cheque, surrounded by Amate friends and regulars from The Penny Farthing who helped to raise the donation. Jackie announced, "we were delighted to raise such a magnificent sum and I want to thank all those who helped and attended various functions at The Penny Farthing. We are delighted to support such a worthy charity. Paloma Golf Society always welcomes new players to compete in enjoyable events throughout the year".

Helping Hands

Charity bowls day

Island Connections earlybirds still have the opportunity to sign up for a day of fun and bowls at Tenerife Green Bowls in aid of charity.

Helping Hands in Tenerife are helping to arrange the event at the Winter Gardens Complex in Golf del Sur on January 16. Bowling starts at approximately 1.30pm with registration half an hour earlier. There is a finger buffet from 5pm, a raffle and a table top and clothes sale. Entertainment is in the hands of talented singer, Andy Phillips.

Entry to the event is nine euros plus six euros bowling fee for those who want to take part. All the proceeds will be put towards the purchase of a specialised wheelchair to enable disabled bowlers to play at Tenerife Green Bowls. Ticket reservations can be made by contacting liz.montague@yahoo.co.uk. Go along and support a worthy cause if you can.

Tenerife North

Los Silos

Visitors' centre

Over two thousand sightseers crossed the door of Los Silos visitors' centre in 2009.

Open since 2003, this centre in the capable hands of Oscar grows in excellence year by year.

A total of 2,426 tourists entered to find out more about the borough, its surroundings and the wide range of activities on offer in the district, especially in the beautiful natural areas which surround it. Since last year, the Visitors' Centre also issues an Excellence Club card for non residents, which gives our tourists the chance to enjoy discounts, special attention and get the feeling of the real Canary Islands.

CHARITY SHOPPING

Food, glorious food

La Mesa, literally 'the table' in English, is a privately run charitable organisation in Puerto de la Cruz which was founded in 2008 to provide essential food for those in need at a very low price.

By the end of 2009 it was helping 1,250 people who have found themselves in trouble as a result of being out of work or because of the economic crisis. When they opened their store the ladies at La Mesa, Ingrid Luettgenau and Alicia Muñoz, had just 65 needy clients. By the end



Ingrid Luettgenau and her ladies at La Mesa need donations

of 2009 they had issued 250 tons of food and 28,000 litre bottles of drinking water. The ladies told reporters

that every week between 30 and 40 people from all over Tenerife come to collect food and that most of those who come for low cost essentials are aged between 29 and 39. Only 15 per cent of them are elderly.

La Mesa has received backing from the regional government and the island council but little or nothing from local councils in the north of Tenerife. Although the councils in Santa Cruz, Puerto de la Cruz and Los Realejos have recently shown their disposition to help out, the organisation has complained

in the past that the councils should be the first to lend a hand. After all, they claim that La Mesa is actually doing the kind of job the local social services should be doing. Although the organisation is grateful for growing essential donations from large stores and other sources, it does have to pay rent for the store, and transport and other monthly costs amount to over €4,000.

So the ladies, who have thirteen volunteers helping them, could do with further donations to cope with the demand.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Bus station fire

The infamous bus station in Puerto de la Cruz was in the news again at the beginning of the year after the fire brigade was called to put out a suspicious fire.

The bus station was finally closed at the beginning of November due to its shame-

ful state of disrepair and supposedly so as to enable work to begin to refurbish it. It has been lying empty and abandoned. The new nationalist/conservative council was beginning to receive the same kind of criticism from the opposition socialists which they had

received when in office. The council, in turn, had given owners of the various shops on the outside of the station until 20th January to move, so that refurbishing work could begin.

Such a political climate gave conspiracy theorists ammunition and there were

whispers suggesting the fire had been intentional. So who started the fire and how is a matter for investigators to decide whilst rumours spread. In the meantime witnesses added fuel to the suspicions by suggesting that various windows had been left open.

LORO PARQUE

Trainer tragedy

There were shock waves across Tenerife just before Christmas after an accident involving one of the orcas at Loro Parque's Orca Ocean resulted in the death of one of the trainers.

Twenty nine year old Alexis Martinez, one of seven train-

ers, was preparing the new show, 'Skyla at Christmas', named for the youngest of the orcas, when what appears to have been a terrible accident occurred. Team members told investigators that Alexis had been practicing an exercise in which he and the whale made a deep dive together before surfacing again at speed. It was dur-

ing the dive that the trainer is thought to have received a massive blow across the chest which knocked him unconscious and kept him at the bottom of the pool.

When his colleagues noticed he had not surfaced, they immediately started their emergency procedure of getting the whales into the annexe pool before calling

upon another orca known as Keto for assistance. Keto is a thirteen year old orca who has always stood out for its remarkable and cooperative behaviour and it took them down to collect Alexis. The emergency services did all they could to save the young trainer but he was dead on arrival at the Bellevue hospital.

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