



Partners' Newsletter - May 2010

PENSION BENEFIT AND HEALTHCARE TEAM

CALLING ALL NEWSLETTER RECIPIENTS

Since the Partners' Newsletter began back in January, we have received a lot of positive feedback regarding the topics we have so far covered.



To help us continue to improve the newsletter and ensure the information remains relevant to the British community in Spain, we would like to ask all those who receive the newsletter on the mailing list from the Consulate to let us know the nature of your organisation (are you a social club, branch of a charity or town hall department) and how you are using the newsletter each month. For example, do you forward it on to all your members by email? Do you put a copy up on a notice board? Or perhaps you print off copies to hand out at your monthly meeting.

Please also let us know how many people receive the information we provide, for example, the number of people on your own mailing list or the number of members who regularly attend meetings.

Please send this information to lorna.geddie@fco.gov.uk. By collecting information on your organisation, the role you play in the community and the number of people we reach through you, we will be able to continue to improve our service to British residents.

EHIC UPDATE

Those of you who are resident in Spain and registered for healthcare under an E121 or E109 form, and your dependants, should now be aware that as from 1st May you apply to the UK for your European Health Insurance Card, rather than to Spain.



There has been some confusion around the new process for applying for the EHIC and the nature of its use. Please be assured that, if you are registered for healthcare as stated above, you are now entitled to the UK-issued card and do not need to return it to the Department of Health. Also remember that this card is only for use when you are on a temporary visit outside your country of residence and is not for use in Spain. Your normal medical cover in Spain is not affected in any way.

If you are experiencing problems in getting your UK-issued EHIC, please contact the Overseas Healthcare Team on 0044 191 218 1999

GOOD NEWS STORY!

A customer contacted PBHT as she was thinking of returning to live in the UK after 19 years in Spain and needed advice. The team were able to answer her healthcare and benefit queries and signpost her to the ['Returning to the UK'](#) factsheet on the website. The customer thanked the team for clarifying her situation.

WHAT IS EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT ALLOWANCE (ESA)?

ESA is a UK benefit for people who cannot work due to illness or disability. It was introduced in October 2008 to replace incapacity benefit for new applicants.

The focus of ESA is different to that of incapacity benefit. Rather than looking at what a person cannot do, the emphasis is on providing support to help the customer back into appropriate work, if they are able. ESA involves a medical assessment called a Work Capability Assessment which looks at what the person can do and the personalised support they require.

If you suffer from an illness or disability that affects your ability to work, and you have worked in the UK in the last 3 years, you may be entitled to ESA. Contact the International Pension Centre on 0044 191 218 7122 for details on how to apply.

However, if you last worked in Spain, you could be entitled to Spanish benefit. Apply at your local INSS office (www.seg-social.es) making sure you include all periods of work in the UK on your application form

PROBLEMS WITH YOUR POST?

Those of you who have lived in Spain for a number of years may have experienced problems in receiving your post at one time or another and blamed it on Correos.

However, before jumping to this conclusion, it is important to remember that due to re-development in certain areas, some addresses are changing or have changed already, whether it be the house number or street name. As the Department for Work and Pensions and Department of Health may need to contact you from time to time, make sure you know your correct address and update the UK authorities accordingly.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The PBHT are holding the following events in the coming months:

- 19th May – Open day in Nerja, Málaga
- 25th May – Open day in El Perello, Catalunya
- 26th May – Open day in Torroella de Montgri, Catalunya

See ukinspain.fco.gov.uk for more details

British Consulate/Age Concern España Partnership Project (BC/ACPP)



BRITISH CONSULATE SPRING GARDEN PARTY IN AID OF AGE CONCERN ESPAÑA

On 27 May the British Consulate will hold a Spring Garden Party at the Castillo Sohail in Fuengirola. The evening event is in aid of Age Concern España, who hope to raise enough funds to provide training for 60 volunteers.

The party will take place between 6pm and 9pm and promises to be a fun event for all ages. As well as enjoying musical performances, attendees will have the chance to win impressive prizes in a raffle draw. British Ambassador to Spain, Giles Paxman, British Consul to Malaga, Steve Jones, and various local public figures will also be present.



The event is being held to celebrate the ongoing British Consulate/Age Concern Partnership Project and to raise essential funds for the charity. Volunteer caseworkers for Age Concern España offer

assistance to over 15,000 British Nationals over the age of 50 living in Spain. The role of volunteers can range from advising on benefit entitlements to arranging activities for the socially isolated. Sarah Rogers, casework manager, says: "Volunteers need ongoing training to ensure they offer a really beneficial service to elderly people. Kind contributions from the public make this possible. At this event, we will be having fun at the same time as making a real difference."

All proceeds from entrance and raffle ticket donations will directly benefit Age Concern España's caseworker project in Spain. If you would like to buy a ticket for the Garden Party please contact Bookworld España or Euroweekly News on 952561245. If you have other queries about the event, or if you would like to donate a raffle prize, contact Sarah Rogers, Country Casework Manager for the British Consulate/Age Concern Partnership Project, on 917 146 439 or 606 522 915.

If you cannot come to the event then you can still make a difference by making a donation at www.acespana.org. We would like to thank our main sponsors Euro Weekly News, as well as those companies who have donated funds and prizes to the cause.

The Royal British Legion

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR LEGION MEMBERS AND BENEFICIARIES AND ALL THOSE OVER THE AGE OF 65 IN ANDALUCIA: **The Andalucía Junta Sesentaycinco Card.**

This card is available free of charge to those aged 65 and over who are registered on the Padron - and is provided by the Junta de Andalucía through the Andalusian Social Services Foundation.

There are two types of card:

The basic card available anyone 65 yrs or older living in any municipality of Andalucía.

The Gold Card available to those 65 yrs or older whose personal income does not exceed 75% of the minimum wage.

BENEFITS OF THE CARD INCLUDE:

- Between 40% & 100% discount on the Andalusian Telecare Service.
- 50% discount on long distance bus journeys in Andalusia.
- 30 to 35% 30 to 55% discount on the purchase of spectacles.
- Reduction on the purchase of hearing aids.
- Multiple discounts in hotels, cinemas, sporting events, monuments & theme parks.
- Access to the legal guidance service – totally free-get information in the Andalusian Regional Government Day Centre closest to your home.
- Large discounts on the Day Care or family respite service.
- Access to the Canteen Service in Andalusian Regional Day Centres-at 50% of the set meal price (only Gold)
- Grants for the functional adaptation of your home- request information at the Regional Ministry of Public Works & Transport closest to your home.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE CARD?

By Internet or By Post

You can collect the application form from the local Town Hall, Social Services Office or Day Centre, or download from the internet

www.juntadeandalucia.es/fundaciondeserviciosociales .

Once you have completed the form send it to:
Consejería para la Igualdad y Bienestar Social
Apto.Correos 1.130
41080-Sevilla.

For any welfare enquiries relating to Legion beneficiaries please contact:

Donna Wilson
Country Welfare Officer – dmwilson@britishlegion.org.uk

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