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PAGE 1 TOPICS:

INTRODUCTION

RENOVATIONS

NEWSLETTER

Introduction....

Hello from **John and Elaine** in Spain. Six months have passed since the last Newsletter. How the time flies! I would like to report we have been hard at work for the last six months but.... we sort of had the Summer off really. ☺ Just too hot to work.... but perfect for ice cold G&T's and Bar-B-Q's!! Once again we would like to thank all of you who contacted us after receiving the last Newsletter and glad you found it interesting.

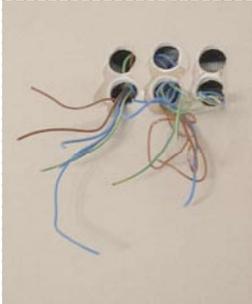
Renovations....

Eventually when we started work again we did as planned, moved inside and started renovations on the 1st apartment. It's basically one large room that we are converting to a three bedroomed apartment. The original tiles were loose so they all had to come up, along with about three inches of sandy screed. This was not in the original 'plan' so was a huge amount of extra work ☹



We then worked out where the bedrooms were going to be and erected the walls.



PAGE 2 TOPICS:**RENOVATIONS
(CONT...)****Renovations (cont)....**

Finally the first bedroom appeared. There's some fairly 'nifty' tiling (although I say it myself)... The wall lights are old roof tiles (hand painted by my mother) and each room will have a remote controlled wall mounted fan.



PAGE 3 TOPICS:**THE GARDEN****The garden...**

The garden turned out better than we expected considering it was our first Summer. It did have to be watered nearly every day because in the extreme heat things shrivel up and die very easily here.



The grapes surprised us most. We lost a lot to the birds until we discovered a spray to stop them being eaten. Our neighbour hired a grape 'squashing' machine and allowed us to use it to produce our first batch of wine. We have 10 gallons fermenting that should be ready to drink by Christmas ☺



The Garden (cont....)

The almonds did very well also. Locally a lot of trees were affected by last Winter's frost but we seem to have been lucky. We have a large older tree that produces smaller nuts with softer shells and a smaller younger tree that produces a larger nut with a hard shell. Both are delicious.



PAGE 4 TOPICS:

**THE GARDEN
(CONT...)**



THE GAZEBO FOR DINING ON THOSE BALMY SUMMER EVENINGS..



PAGE 5 TOPICS:**THE STORM****The Storm**

We get little rain here in this part of Spain. Between April and September apart from a couple of little showers (and I mean a few 'spots' of water) there was no rain at all. However when the rain did come....

These pictures I took from one of our windows.



The local river burst it's banks and left a fair amount of driftwood available for us 'locals' to collect as firewood.



PAGE 6 TOPICS:

MUTTLEY

SUNSETS

Our dawg....Muttley...

Unfortunately the local Spanish are not as fussy about their pets as us Brits and when we saw a poor starving abandoned dog we just had to adopt it. 'Muttley' is a really gentle, obedient animal. She still lives outside (as that is all she has ever known) but she has a nice warm 'casa' and a regular food supply.



'Muttley' is apparently a Spanish hunting dog. When she was roaming the village starving she had very little hair and was pregnant. She lost her pups due to her bad health so when she had sufficiently recovered we took her to the local vet and had her sterilized. She has been treated for bugs and bathed and she is now the picture of health!

... and finally.....two Castillejar sunsets.

