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PAGE 1 TOPICS:

INTRODUCTION

RENOVATIONS

NEWSLETTER

Introduction....

Hello from **John and Elaine** in Spain. Another busy three months have passed since our first Newsletter was sent out. We would like to thank all of you who contacted us after receiving it and glad you found it interesting.

Renovations....

We have had a few visitors recently and the distraction (although most welcome) combined with the increasing heat has slowed our progress somewhat. I put our thermometer out in direct sunlight the other day and it got to 110 Fahrenheit before it split and leaked everywhere! ☹

The rear garden, walls, drive and decking are now complete. The vines, fruit and nut trees are laden, although some were slightly damaged by early frosts.



The front of the main house has had about 20 layers of old whitewash scraped off and has had an Oxford Blue 'makeover' too!



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

This summer we will move inside and concentrate on the accommodation. The building work associated with the pool area will be tackled this autumn when the weather is cooler. The pool itself will hopefully be installed early next spring.

The flowers in the garden have become an attraction for all that pass by and we were never short of advice from the neighbours when planting - as you can see!!



The Yoke....

As I mentioned in our previous publication our neighbours are very friendly and it was during a visit to them late one evening (after 'mucho vino') I offered a favour without realizing the consequences. ☺

As you saw in the last newsletter Huto has a cart pulled by two large Toros. However, the Yoke that straddles their necks was a little small which caused their bodies to rub together. Huto told me he had approached the local carpenters in Castillejar, Huescar and Galeria and they all refused to make him a new one as the job was far too labour intensive and basically was not worthwhile. With a picture in my mind of a length of 4" x 2" with two conveniently spaced arches (to fit their necks) cut out I bragged I could knock him up a new one in a few days. There would be no charge! Oh, how Vino loosens the tongue!!!

I never heard anymore until a couple of weeks later when he presented me with a piece of seasoned timber 18" square and 5' in length along with an old Yoke (full of woodworm) to use as a template for the 'new build'!

It was then that the enormity of the task hit me. After all, I only possessed two handsaws a jigsaw and four chisels! Oh, and a chain saw!!

I spent the next six days working dawn to dusk to complete my promise.

PAGE 3 TOPICS:

THE YOKE



PAGE 4 TOPICS:

IT'S NO 'YOKE'
(CONT....)

LOCAL SIGHTS

The Yoke....cont

When I had finished we held a Bar-B-Q and invited English and Spanish friends to see Huto presented with the finished article. His whole family agreed it was a work of art. I felt very proud of my achievement (especially as I had failed GCE woodwork miserably at school.)



THE FINISHED ARTICLE

Recently I noticed the Yoke leaning against the wall in the entrance hall to his house so I asked a Spanish-speaking friend to enquire as to why this was. I thought perhaps I had the got the measurements wrong or something. Huto's reply was that he had not started using it because he enjoyed admiring it too much!

Local sights...

It's a shame most tourists only see the coastal areas of Spain. The interior has some stunning scenery. A few minutes drive north of us is the town of Castril. Built on a hillside it is a most picturesque place.



PAGE 5 TOPICS:**LOCAL SIGHTS (CONT)****CAVE HOUSES****Local sights cont...**

Also at Castril there is a huge dam that holds backwater from a series of Aquamarine lakes that run for miles through a National Park. This area is a walkers paradise and 'twitchers' will be amazed at the birdlife especially the giant birds of prey.

**Cave houses...**

Granada is famous for its cave houses (Cuevas). It might be difficult to imagine what they look like. These are some newly reformed Cuevas in the nearby village of Huescar (*Wecker*)



And finally...

One of our English friends rang us and asked if we were going to the orchestral concert on Friday night? "Where" we said. "In the Castillejar Concert Hall" he replied. "Where's that then....?" "It's the big building next to the post office, it seats 220 people!" "Ohh, well, yeah, great....love to go...."

It was brilliant! The Orchestra was most professional and (here's the best bit).... **5 Euros (£3.50)**

AYUNTAMIENTO**DE****CASTILLEJAR****CONCIERTO****DE LA ORQUESTA
CIUDAD DE GRANADA**

VIERNES 10 DE JUNIO DE 2005
A LAS 22:00 HORAS
CINE TEATRO DE CASTILLEJAR

PROGRAMA**- CONCIERTO SIN INTERMEDIO-****Wolfgang A. Mozart** Obertura de *Le nozze di Figaro***Gioacchino Rossini** Obertura de *La cambiale di matrimonio***Gioacchino Rossini** Obertura de *Il signor Bruschino***Ludwig van Beethoven** Sinfonía núm. 7 en la mayor,
op. 92- *Poco sostenuto*- *Allegretto*- *Presto*- *Allegro con brio***ORQUESTA CIUDAD DE GRANADA****DANIEL MONTANÉ**, Director