

DRAMA GROUP

Just a note from me on behalf of 'The El Valle Drama Group'. As most of you probably know our next performance is taking place at El Trapiche Restaurant along with a meal of salad, chicken and chips at a cost 10 euros. Incidentally, if there is anyone who wishes to come and watch but who would prefer fish – please let us know. There are two Performance nights, one being Thursday 5th June and the other Saturday 7th June. Unfortunately all the Saturday tickets appear to have been sold but there are a few for Thursday still left. If you would like to come please let me know on 680 680 183 – but don't leave it too long as they are going very quickly. Possibly if we sell out in the next week or so we may well be able to perform on another night if we can arrange it. The play itself is a 'farce' so everybody should have a good laugh!!!

I feel I ought to explain the situation for our new choice of venue. The situation at El Camping' is far from ideal for play performances with the constant noise from the bar and the fact that the toilets for the whole of the building are in our section and this has been causing problems both for the audience and the performers.

The group is still willing to try to entertain the membership at El Camping' possibly with readings or sketches, and we have offered our services to the Social Committee in June but have not yet finalised anything with them.

Finally if there is anybody willing to help us or even to try their hand on stage please don't hesitate to get in touch. We now have 15 drama group members (all members of the El Valle Asociación) and are all appreciative of the support we have received in the past from the previous committee.

Finally we send our best wishes to Sue and her new committee for the coming year.

Jenny

(From the Ed. - if you attend this event and would like to do a short write-up then please contact me on 657 478 102 or by email at editor@el-valle.org)

EUROPEAN MP'S CALL ON SPAIN TO HALT DEMOLITIONS

The following was posted on the Andalusia.com Forum on 8th April 2008:-

Extract from online version Overseas Property magazine:

Members of the European Parliament have held a two-day meeting in Brussels to address the growing number of complaints from British, German, Dutch and other European citizen's whose properties have been demolished in Spain – particularly across the Valencian region.

At the close of the meeting, MEPs from both sides of the political divide in Britain have been making their voices heard and called on the Spanish government to put an end to the demolition of private British-owned property in the country.

"They [property buyers] were assured that deeds to their property were legal as advised by local lawyers, developers and officials," said British Labour MEP Michael Cashman at a press conference. "Now because of a combination of corruption and interpretation of new property laws, these people are facing ruin. Homes will either be demolished or people are now being asked to pay even more money for water and electricity supplies, which they were assured their property would receive."

Mr Cashman added that the problem is acute in Valencia, but it is also happening in Andalucía, parts of Murcia and on the Canary Islands.

Tory MEPs also waded into the discussion and called for an immediate cessation on all demolitions and future land grab developments until a solution can be finalised.

"The Spanish authorities have had long enough to talk about change," said Sir Robert Atkins MEP, Conservative coordinator of the European Parliament's Committee investigating land grab. "Now is the time for action. I am calling on the Spanish authorities to issue an immediate moratorium on demolitions and future land grab developments. The damage can already be seen both to those owning property in Spain and to the local environment. If the Spanish authorities fail to finally take action, I will be referring this case to the European Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights."

The European Parliament has previously issued four resolutions calling for action to be taken to protect property owners, and although the law was amended in the form of the new Valencia Land Law (LUV), many still face the expropriation of their land without compensation or arbitrary costs for what the Conservatives are calling "unnecessary infrastructure developments" in their region.

Another Conservative, Neil Parish MEP, accused Spanish councillors of colluding with property developers to undermine the "fundamental principles of property and human rights" and brought to attention the case of Jackie Cotterill, a Spanish town councillor, who was allegedly threatened with legal action by authorities after speaking out for property owners and local environmentalists.

"This abuse of property law is in contravention to the Charter of Fundamental Rights which Spain signed up to in the form of the Lisbon Treaty," explained Parish. "The gag on Cotterill is also a blatant breach of democracy and completely goes against the European values Spain promotes."