

The Sierras

December 2010

See special Xmas offer
inside



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Section 1

Local Business Services



Happy Christmas to everybody

Apologies for this months Sierras being a little later than usual. Unfortunately, I have had the usual busy period leading up to Christmas trying to fit everything in!

I would like to take the opportunity to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

For me personally 2010 has been one of the most challenging years I have ever had to experience in my life. Having gone through a lot of lows and highs I look forward to 2011 where hopefully there will be many more highs to follow.

I hope those that are trying to visit family in the UK or having family visit them successfully manage the journey. We are hoping our daughter will return to England for a few days with the grandparents but who knows. My students in Russia tell me they have temperatures reaching -45 by daytime, I cannot even imagine such temperatures! Whilst throughout the rest of Europe they are experiencing either extremely mild or cold weather! Parts of China that never usually see snow are experiencing it for the first time in years, so the question is, is it climate change or just one of those years!

Please keep your articles coming in to keep the magazine interesting and more than just a source of information.

Bye for now. Best wishes. Lorraine



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THE CAVE LIVING FORUM

Visit the local forum to talk about just about anything; from things happening here in Spain to talking about what is happening back in the UK.

There are also individual sections where you can talk about music, football, technical stuff – got a problem with your satellite , then post a question. There is also a sales/wanted section as well as up to date details on what is going on into the area and of course you will also be able to pick up The Sierras online from a link on the site!

<http://caveliving.forummotion.com>

Section 2

Local Markets



Monday	<i>Pozo Alcón / Cúllar</i>
Tuesday	<i>Cuevas del Campo / Freila / Caniles / Orce</i>
Wednesday	<i>Baza / Gorafe / Galera</i>
Thursday	<i>Huéscar / Campocámara</i>
Friday	<i>Castril Puebla de Don Fabrique</i>
Saturday <i>Baza</i>	<i>Castilléjar / Cortes de Guadix / Zújar</i>
Sunday	<i>Benamaurel / Bacor /</i>

Car Boot Sale Hotel Abadi, Baza (9 - 2pm)

Section 3

Classified Adverts





**For sale 1999 Vauxhall Astra
Estate 1.6LS 8V RHD Spanish
Registered**

Full details on next page

Call 634 343 940

Or email

Boothjendar@hotmail.com



100k With full service history
Metallic Silver with striking black interior
Electric Front Windows
Dual Airbags
Tilt/Slide Sunroof
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Rear Privacy Glass
Rear Luggage Cover

I have just had this car matriculated onto Spanish plates so comes with full ITV until Nov 2011, Tax and all Spanish Paperwork. Recent pre ITV service and inspection carried out, this car drives superbly any test or trial.

This is a lovely car in really good condition with the privacy glass making it a bit of an eye catcher. Great space in the rear even more so with seats down.

You wont find better or cheaper motoring at this price

2550 including transfer or 2450 buyer pays transfer

FOR SALE

- Fan assisted electric oven. TEKA H1625 vgc. New fan motor fitted 60x60x48cm €90 ono

Call: 958 344 643

- Double bed mattress and base as new, 50€ - Call: 610 965 143

Email

thesierrascastril@yahoo.com

to place your free
classified ad

Section 4

Events

Events

The Royal British Legion, Baza

We meet on the **4th Tuesday** of every month
at the Hotel Abadi, Baza.

11am start. Everyone welcome.

Visit our website at

www.royalbritishlegionbaza.com

* * * * *

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www.stmarkshuescar.webs.com

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Email: ronnerja@yahoo.co.uk

Section 5

Articles

Motoring in Spain

Question to Brian Deller

I wonder if you can help me please. The other evening while I was driving along a local main road with a speed limit of up to 100 kph, two dogs ran out in front of me and I could not avoid them without swerving possibly off the road. They have damaged the front of our car quite badly. The dog that hit the car was killed; the other ran away. Now I have a hefty repair bill to pay for the damage and although we have fully comprehensive cover, the first €450 I have to pay. Is there anything we can do? Your advice would be appreciated.

George Barwell, Costa del Sol. Phone number recorded.

Dear George

The law is quite specific on such matters as it is in the UK and most western countries. Sadly though too many people ignore the laws as they also do in the UK until caught, of course and then they pay the high cost if caught. The owners of dogs are responsible for keeping them under control and in a case like this, are also responsible for any damage caused. If the dogs were legally identified with an electronic chip inserted under the skin then the owners can be quickly located and you can make a denuncia against them for the “crime” of not having them under control and causing an accident.

The accident has to be reported to the police, either the policia local if in the town or pueblo, or if on an open main highway as you advise here, the Guardia Civil as you will need such an accident report number for the insurance company records and claim. Most people would phone for the police/Guardia Civil at the roadside (I would) so they attend the scene at the time and many police vehicles carry the special scanner needed to read the chip number. If not, all vets have one as they insert the chips and advise the central database of the details so with the number any vet will be able to give you the owners' details for a small donation which can be claimed back. Your insurance company should be able to chase the owners for restitution of the damage cost in total, and if you do not have the cash ready for the total repair, this will enable your car to be back on the road quickly. If any reader has a dog that may cause such a problem, it is advisable to take out Third party insurance and in fact for certain dangerous breeds, it is compulsory in Spain. If you have such a dog, talk to your agents as it is not expensive, not as much as repairing a car. Aren't you happy that you are not saving car fuel because you cannot get it out of the garage as in the UK at present?

Brian Deller, Motoring in Spain, www.spainvia.com . Or Tel. 666 888 870.

Is the Guardia Civil going to spring into action soon?

About a year ago, there were talks in government about the Guardia Civil (GC) and the Policia Nacional being merged into one organisation which would have had benefits especially for the GC, but to date it has not happened, one major reason being that there is a financial crisis now as we all know so the funds are not available and in fact, in line with many government departments the GC has had pay and benefits reduced so for the last six months or so they have been on a “work to rule” which means that they have not been issuing as many fines to wayward drivers as they could be (Note I say could, not should).

But now the rank and file of the GC is being told that as the fines income helps to support the GC, they must stop the current slow-down and we are told that the fines account for as much as €150 bonus income for each officer a month. The GC operates almost as a military organisation with subsidised living quarters these being also for the safety of the GC personnel who are the ones fighting such as the drug dealers, but the cost of everyday needs is going up, with an IVA rise soon.

So expect more activity on the roads by the Guardia Civil with Traffic offences being attended to with some zeal. Trafico advises that the highest cause of deaths and injuries on our roads is still speeding, second is due to drinking and driving as well as having the driver's attention diverted for a short spell. Using a mobile phone is another big problem and I still see people in expensive cars holding a mobile to their ear while they drive.

Why is it so many of us drivers invite either a stiff fine or an accident?

Be careful if you are a resident and driving an illegal foreign-plated vehicle because my contacts tell me that the GC will be looking for more fines income from such people. After all, three Kings approaches and there are gifts to buy.

Now some local commentators are saying that the GC is being forced to “persecute” drivers and it is amazing that anyone could think such a silly thought for if the law is not broken, they cannot catch you and we all should then be safer while driving. It is as simple as that so if you are driving this festive season and attending parties, please designate a driver who will not drink alcohol. As those who have read my book or columns in the past may recall, I have, as a volunteer police reservist in South Africa had to attend accidents where the obvious cause was drinking (the smell on the bodies was enough) and then I had to go to relatives’ homes in the early hours of the morning to tell them of their losses. It was I was told because I have an empathetic nature, but it most likely was because the others abhorred that job. That experience along with motorcycling friends when I was young in the RAF who were crippled for life by drunken car drivers who were subsequently fined about £15, I have good enough reasons to be very critical of those who still after all the publicity insist on getting drunk before driving a vehicle. So have a great Christmas and New Year, and be safe out there. Live to enjoy 2011 in good health both physically and financially.

Brian Deller, Motoring in Spain.

Murcia – a true delight

By Sue Neilson

A confession – after 9 years of living in Spain we have only just discovered Murcia and what a fantastic city it is to visit! It is small and un-touristy. Much of it is pedestrianised, making it easy to explore the delights of the old town and the fantastic tapas bars and restaurants. Cardenal Belluga Square is flanked by two of the city's most interesting buildings. The impressive cathedral, with its imposing baroque façade It was built in the 14th century, on the site of the mosque, by Alfonso X 'The Wise', who liberated Murcia from Moorish rule. This is the focal point for Murcia's famously extravagant and emotional religious festivals. Easter processions last for over a fortnight and still use the 18th-century figures made by Murcian sculptor, Francisco Salzillo. To the right is the 18th century Palacio Episcopal (Bishop's Palace), with its great doors decorated with beaten copper cherubim.

Not to be missed is the 19th century Casino in the Traperia. Its ballroom is decorated in the style of Luis 15th It boasts a stunning library, beautiful patios inspired by the Alhambra in Granada, an ornate ladies' powder room, a world championship billiard hall and an elegant Louis XV-style ballroom. After a €1.20 entry fee, pay €1 to blaze up to the hundreds of light bulbs on its magnificent chandeliers; a waltz is then played over the loudspeakers so that you can dance yourself into the 19th-century rapture. La Traperia is also one of the main routes for Marcia's spectacular September fair when the restful squares come alive with parades, pop concerts, barbeques and bullfights.

Everything worth seeing is within walking distance. The most famous commercial streets are Trapería, Platería and La Avda. Alfonso X el Sabio. The Paseo del Malecón near the River Segura is also a pleasant walk out of the city and then back again.

Spanish chefs in the know acknowledge that Murcia is home to Spain's best and most interesting tapas. The narrow alleyways of Murcia's town are lined with great bars and restaurants.

The Plazas of Las Flores and Santa Catalina, dotted with palm and jacaranda trees, tables and sunshades, is an ideal place to savour "tapas" at leisure, watching the locals meet and greet each other. Make sure you stop at the "Pasteleria Bonache", to buy the unique Murcia "pastel de carne", a short-crust pastry filled with minced beef, hard-boiled eggs and chorizo, topped with a spiral of flaky pastry.

There were so many bars and tapas to try but our favourite was "La Tapa", where good things come in little parcels, as they say. Its showcases were ablaze with shrimps, prawns, scampi from the Mar Menor, cockles, razor shells, sea-horses or grilled or batter-coated cuttlefish.

We then wandered back towards the Cathedral and discovered just around the corner Bar Los Zagales. This friendly, intimate little bar had an incredible selection of tapas on display along the bar at only a few Euros per portion. So of course, we had to try a selection!

The find of the evening however was “La Sociedad” close to Plaza Puxmarina. This was an ultra modern bar serving the most exquisite and inventive tapas I have ever seen. Our favourite tapa was Delicia de Patata con Mousse de Oca y Jamon at €3.50.

The locals eat and drink their fill of tapas and then go out for dinner. We did the same and chose to dine at Restaurante Acuario in Plaza Puxmarina. It is a small family run restaurant specializing in Basque cuisine. I had a Fantasia de Queso de Cabra con Frutos Secos y Vinegreta de la Passion to start and my husband had two starters – an Empanadillo Crujiente de Bacalao con Phi Pil de Pimiento Amarillo and Bocaditos de Magra y Foie con Salsa de Trufa. Our main courses were Perdiz en Hojaldre en Espiral and Medallones de Solomillo con Foie y Fruto del Monte. We dessert shared an Espuma de Cafe al Whisky. With a bottle of Enrique Mendoza red and two coffees our meal came to €89.86. This meal was one of the best we have had in Spain to date and I would highly recommend this restaurant.

As the night was still young we decided to try our luck at the Casino in the Rincon de Pepe hotel. Luck was with us that night and we made enough on the roulette table to pay for our dinner!

Not wanting to drive home, we had booked a room at the Hotel Hesperia Murcia (3*) on Madre de Dios, just around the corner from the restaurant, where there was a special deal for €33 for a double room, making the end to a perfect evening.

Almond Burner flues

Almond shell burners you either love or hate. We have one and I had been toying with using a sleeve to capture some of the heat from the flue and lead it into an adjoining room.

The flue is 100 mm diameter and gets all but red hot. Enclosing a section in a second tube of 150 mm provides a sleeve with a 25 mm gap between the two.

The outer tube has a 'T' at the top to extend through a wall or wherever.

Sealing the outer to the inner tube top and bottom provides sufficient stability.

A series of holes drilled around the base of the outer tube allows air to be drawn in and the lower temperature at the pipe's destination provides the suction.

The precise measurements depend on the position and situation of the installation but a total length of 1 metre of outer pipe, including the 'T' provides a satisfactory flow of heat from the illustrated arrangement. If the sleeve were further from the stove or on a horizontal section I would have gone for something longer.

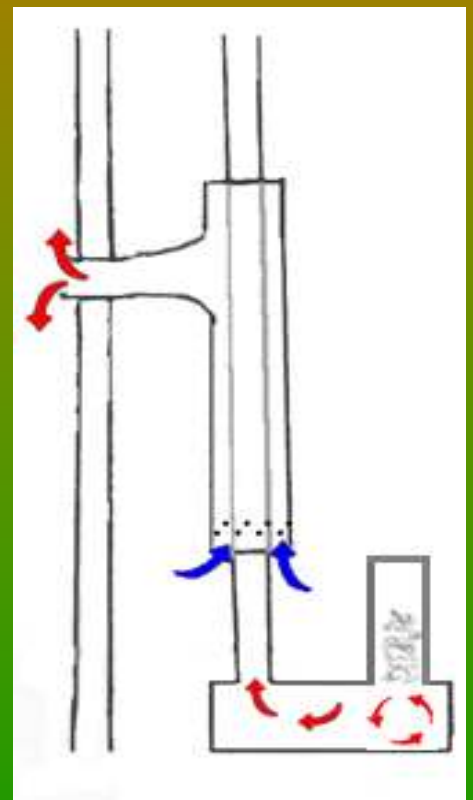
Almond Burner flues

The sleeve should not be too close to the stove but the extension from the 'T' needs to arrive at a convenient height and that will be more efficient the lower it is.

Tubes 100 mm 3.90 X 2	8.80
Tube 150 mm	8.00
'T' piece	<u>15.25</u>
	32.05
Soldering (ferreteria)	45.00
Installation (builder)	<u>40.00</u>
Total	<u>€117.05</u>

After all that someone will tell me you can buy these off the shelf!

Nick Wibberley



Jokes



One day, a man came home and was greeted by his wife dressed in a very Sexy nightie. 'Tie me up,' she purred, 'and you can do anything you want.' So he tied her up and went golfing.

A woman came home, screeching her car into the driveway, and ran into the house. She slammed the door and shouted at the top of her lungs, 'Honey, pack your bags. I won the lottery!'

The husband said, 'Oh my God! What should I pack, beach stuff or mountain stuff?'

'Doesn't matter,' she said. 'Just get out.'



Jokes

Marriage is a relationship in which one person is always right, and the other is a husband.



Section 6

Useful numbers



Guardia Civil

Emergencias	062
Baza	958704630 / 958703140
Benamaurel	958733037
Caniles	958 710 013
Castril	958747557
Cortes de Baza	958736003
Cullar	958730254
Guadix	958665181 / 958669079 958669079
Huescar	958740032
Orce	958746108

Schools

Castril Infant and Primary School	Tlf: 958 720 033 / 958 720 172
Huescar <i>I.E.S.</i> <i>"ALQUIVIRA", San</i> <i>Juan Bosco</i>	Tlf: 958 74 23 42 (Secondary School)
<i>I.E.S. "LA SAGRA",</i> <i>Avda. de Granada</i>	Tlf: 958 74 02 82 (Secondary School)
<i>Escuela de Artes y</i> <i>Oficios, Morote</i>	Tlf: 958 74 07 53 (Art School)

If you have details of your local school please email The Sierras and it will be included on this page every month.

Ayuntamiento

Baza Main Office	958 70 03 95
Castril Main Office -	958 72 00 01
Huescar Main Office	958 74 00 53

If you have details of your local Ayuntamiento please email The Sierras and it will be included on this page every month.

Hospitals

Baza Hospital

Tel: 958 031 300

Hospital Virgen de las Nieves

-Avda de las Fuerzas Armadas 2,
10014, Granada

Tel: 958 020 000

<http://www.hvn.es/>

Hospital Universitario San Cecilio

Avda del Doctor Oloriz 16, 18012, Granada

- Tel: 958 023 000

<http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/servicioandaluzdesalud/hsc/>

112

Remember this number!

It is the phone number to call emergency services throughout the EU, from fixed or mobile phones, free of charge.

On holiday but what if things go wrong?

The summer holidays should be fun for people living in Spain and family/friends and tourists visiting the local area but what happens if things go wrong.....you don't think it will ever happen to you, but what if it does?

I have recently been reviewing the Embassy website for people on holiday or living in Spain, and here is some information you may like to keep close to hand!

The main website for British people in Spain is <http://ukinspain.fco.gov.uk/en/>

The telephone number for Madrid is as follows:

During office hours call 91 714 6300

Out of hours emergency assistance 91 714 6400

If your passport is lost or stolen in Spain here is the process:

- report the loss or theft of your UK passport to the local police
- get a police report as soon as possible
- inform your nearest British Consulate which is Malaga. Telephone (34) 95 235 23 00 from 08.30—13.30hrs (call Madrid outside these hours)
- apply to the UK Regional Passport Processing Centre for a replacement passport.

Online application forms can all be found on the website. If you have an urgent need to travel, you should contact your local Consulate/Embassy to apply for an Emergency Travel Document.

If your credit cards are stolen, here is the link to the website where nearly every bank account is detailed:

<http://ukinspain.fco.gov.uk/en/help-for-british-nationals/when-things-go-wrong/credit-cards-lost-stolen>

Need a doctor in an emergency?

Call 112 and ask for an ambulance.

If you are on holiday in Spain ensure you have a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) to have immediate access to the emergency services health care at a Social Security Hospital. Private hospitals will not accept the EHIC, and will ask you to pay for your treatment or provide adequate insurance.

If you are resident in Spain, you can use your Health Card (*tarjeta sanitaria*) to gain access to full health care at Social Security hospitals. If you are not eligible for a Social Security Health Card, you must ensure you have adequate private insurance.

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All this information has come courtesy of the British Embassy Madrid.

<http://ukinspain.fco.gov.uk/en/>

If you have any worries about what to do in an emergency situation visit their website to find out more information about the following:

- Your purse is stolen - learn how to get money sent to you
- Report an accident or assault
- What happens if you are arrested?
- You need a lawyer
- Someone dies
- You are a victim of crime

Section 7

Online websites in Spain

Shopping online – delivery to
Spain

Newspapers

Learn Spanish

If you know of other useful online shops delivering to Spain please email them through!

Online Websites Spain

- **Junta de Andalucía** - <http://translate.google.com>
- (Spanish only)
- **Guardia Civil** - <http://www.guardiacivil.org> (Spanish only)
- **Police** - <http://www.policia.es/> (Spanish only)
- **Gas Supply** - <http://www.cepsa.com/> (English and Spanish)
- **Social Security** - <http://www.seg-social.es> (English and Spanish)
- **Employment** - <https://www.redtrabaja.es> (English and Spanish)
- **Airports** - <http://www.aena.es> (English and Spanish)
- **Highways** - <http://www.dgt.es/portal/> (Spanish only)
- **Granada University** - <http://www.ugr.es/> English and Spanish)
- **Handicap Persons** - <http://www.fiapas.es> (Spanish only)
- **Addictions** - <http://www.fad.es> (Spanish only)
- **Post Office** - <http://www.correos.es> (English and Spanish)
- **Town Hall Granada** - <http://www.granada.org/> (Spanish)
- **Information about other areas in Andalucía** visit www.andalucia.com
- **Telefonia in English** – www.telefonicainenglish.com

Online Websites Spain

- **Mobile Phone Companies**
- **Orange** - <http://www.orange.es> (Spanish only)
- **Movistar** - <http://www.movistar.com/>
(including Telefonica) (Spanish Only)
- **Vodafone** - <http://www.vodafone.es>

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If you have GOOGLE as a search engine on your website you can add a translator to the toolbar and it will easily translate all the above sites page by page into English.

Alternatively, go to <http://translate.google.com> and enter the url name e.g. <http://translate.google.com> and press translate. It will do the same thing.

Online Shopping

Great news!

Amazon is now delivering many products free of charge when you spend 25 GBP or more

www.amazon.co.uk

Other sites delivering to Spain include:

<https://www.argos-spain.co.uk>

(their selection is steadily increasing)

www.cdwow.com

www.play.com

www.littlewoods-europe.com

<http://www.dorothyperkins.com>

<http://www.newlook.com>

<http://www.marksandspencer.com/>

News and entertainment

- Follow the useful links below to keep up with all the news and in the UK and around the world.
<http://news.sky.com/skynews/>
- A great website for keeping up with the entertainment showbiz and soap gossip! Missed an episode of your favourite soap – don't despair, visit this site to catch up and catch sneak previews of what is coming up soon!
<http://www.digitalspy.co.uk/>
- For the youngsters and a few of us older folk! I love music and like to keep up with the latest music coming out of the UK. Visit radio 1 to see what is hot in the charts!
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio1>

Online English newspapers

- **Euroweekly News online**
<http://www.euroweeklynews.com/news/spain/>
- **The Olive Press online news**
<http://www.theolivepress.es/>
- **The Guardian Newspaper**
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/>
- **The Financial Times**
<http://www.ft.com/home/europe>
- **The Express**
<http://www.express.co.uk/home>
- **The Daily Mirror**
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/>

**If you read an online English newspaper here
or in any part of Europe and would like to
recommend it to others email The Sierras
and see it here!**

Learn Spanish online

- **Spanish Dict**
Great for translations / dictionary and free online training
<http://www.spanishdict.com>
- **Learn how to speak Spanish online**
<http://www.onlinespanishhelp.com>
- **Learn Spanish online**
<http://www.online-spanish-course.com>

If you use a Spanish online learning site and would like to recommend it to others email The Sierras and see it here!

Section 8

Medication

I thought this section might be good all year round for people on holiday.

If you know of any over the counter medication and the Spanish name, please email me and I will make a list here....

Hayfever

Tablets—Pastelles

“Alerlisin comprimidos recubiertos con película” 10mg tablets - take one a day - they cost around 4 euros.

For a stuffed up nose, take “Respibien adultos oximetazolina HCl 15ml” one spray in each nostril twice a day.

With all medication, please make sure you speak with the Pharmacist or ensure you can take it with medication you are already taking!

Section 9

Legal

They grow up so fast. Age limits in Spain...

For anyone with children living in Spain, I think this article holds very important information so I am including again for anyone who might have missed it the first time around.

A client stumped me the other day when he asked whether it was right that his fourteen year old son had been to see a doctor without him being present or even knowing about it. Was the doctor negligent or breaking the law?

I asked a colleague and ascertained that the age limit for seeing a doctor without a parent present is sixteen. There is a caveat that says if the patient is physically suffering or in need of emergency attention, then the age limit can be disregarded. It got me thinking about age limits.

As in England, the age of majority in Spain is eighteen. In Scotland it is sixteen. That is the age when a person attains the status of an adult with the right to make legal choices for themselves. In practice this mainly refers to contract law but also applies to voting. Contracts or agreements with someone below the age of majority are not valid.

But much younger age limits apply for all sorts of other activities. Some of these are lower than Britain's. The age of consent for straight and gay sex is thirteen for example. The minimum age for marriage is the same as Britain i.e. sixteen with parental consent and eighteen without it, though marriage at fourteen is possible with court permission. That is still more conservative than in Lebanon where it is nine for girls.

One of the most contentious age limits in Spain is the ever sensitive topic of abortion. The law always used to be that abortion required parental consent up to eighteen. The government has introduced a new law which takes effect this July lowering this to sixteen on condition that children inform their parents. Children can have plastic surgery from sixteen already.

The alcoholic drinking age is eighteen but this is not well enforced. Surveys suggest that three out of four attempts by the underaged to buy alcohol in Spain are successful. Galicia and the Asturias have plumped for a lower minimum of sixteen in any case. The age at which it is legal to buy tobacco is eighteen but there are no restrictions on vending machines which are ubiquitous and accessible.

The minimum age someone can legally work is sixteen but under eighteens living with their parents need their permission. Unlike the UK it does not appear there are exceptions for certain light, part time jobs, like paper rounds.

You have to be sixteen to run with the bulls like they do in Pamplona. There is no national minimum age for just attending a bullfight and kids often go with their parents. Bullfighting schools accept trainee matadors from the age of twelve.

Finally, driving. The age for taking a moped out onto public roads is fourteen, though set to rise to fifteen this September. Teenagers have to wait until eighteen to drive a car. The age when the Spanish are first allowed to use the car's indicators has yet to be determined.

**Article originally written and submitted by Advoco Solicitors
www.advoco.es**

Section 10

**How to advertise both
here and online**

What's on offer?

- **For sale / wanted without photo** - *for all your items around the home*
All classified ads will be placed on the website for 3 months
Maximum of 50 words - name and contact number
Free of charge
- **For sale / wanted with photo** - *for all your items around the home*
All classified ads will be placed on the website
Maximum of 50 words - name and contact number
10€ for 3 months
- **Motor adverts**
Advertise your car for sale
Maximum of 50 words - one photo - name and contact number
10€ for 3 months
- **Pets - home needed**
If you are returning to the UK or need to rehome a pet, you may place an advert on the website for 3 months
Photo and up to 50 words
Free of charge

These will all be copied into the online magazine which will be available for download each month in a .pdf format

Local Business Services

**For all your advertising
requirements visit the website**

**[www.castril-information-centre-spain.com/
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www.the-sierras-magazine-spain.com

**or email
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**Leave a message and if on a main
line I will call you back.**

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If you are in Spain and on a landline, please include your phone number on your email and I can call you back.

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