

Aqua Adicta Newsletter 2006

Feliz Año Nuevo de España...We hope you have all had a great 2006!

We have now just completed our first year in Spain and what a year it has been!



We opened our business in April, ready for the Easter Holidays. Things remained pretty quiet until July, we did some work but would have liked a lot more. However, the school holidays were a different story.



During July and August we were working flat out 12 hours a day and could only just keep up with the demand.

July and August went by like a whirl wind. We would leave the house at 10am and return at 10pm, often eating the sandwiches we had made for lunch at 9 or 10pm at night. Since the weather was very hot and the work very physical we didn't feel like eating much and didn't have time to stop anyway. We kept going on pan au chocolate and ice creams!

Once September hit things suddenly went quiet and we weren't quite sure what to do with ourselves, apart from sleep (as we were pretty exhausted). The work built up again towards the end of Sept and throughout October due to school half term holidays. The lower temperatures and slower pace of work were a welcome relief.

Our Equipment

We started the year with 2 sailing boats and 2 kayaks. We now have 5 sailing boats, 6 windsurfers, 6 kayaks and a small power boat - the shipping container we use for storage is pretty packed!

Windsurfing

In May we started to run windsurfing classes from Mar de Cristal, but as the beach and our calendar became busier we had to move to Playa Las Salinas where there are no swimming nets and less people, thus giving us more space to manoeuvre.



Sailing

We now have five boats, two small dinghies and three larger dinghies. The Pastinaca (Spanish sailing dinghy for 2 to 5 people) has proved to be a particular success as it is safe and stable even in the



most blustery conditions. The Magno, our lightweight teaching boat has also been very popular with several clients learning to trapeze for the first time and testing out the spinnaker during days with less wind.

Kayaking

Lesley has been busy leading Kayaking Safaris out to Isla del Ciervo and beyond. We now provide three choices for 2,3 and 4 hour excursions. They are the Island



Email: lesley@aqua-adicta.co.uk

Tel: 968 545 193 Mob: 659 434 811

Sailing & Windsurfing Lessons, Kayak Safaris
Powerboat Trips & Equipment Rentals
ALL INSTRUCTION TO RYA STANDARDS



Aqua Adicta

Water Activities La Manga
www.aqua-adicta.co.uk

Safari, Island Explorer Safari and Adventure Safari. Our largest safari so far had 11 people, I am glad to say all safely made it to and from the Island.

Unknown to many there is a source of "lodo" or black mud on the Island so you can even combine a safari with an all over mud pack! It is also a great location for snorkelling and there are plenty of fish to see.



Location

Playa Las Salinas, La Manga has proved to be a great location from which to run our business. The beach is a little quieter than



many others around the Mar Menor and it's position means we are sheltered from the North Easterly winds which sometimes blow up.

The beach also has some interesting attractions. Four poster beds may be seen on the beach during the summer months (generally after 4pm from Thurs—Sun). Also there are the "Mud People" who cover themselves in "lodo" or black sulphur smelling mud and walk up and down the beach until it dries.

The Press

Since April Lesley has been busy writing articles on the local birds for an English language newspaper. See www.aqua-adicta.co.uk/editorial/ The articles will continue in March with information about the sea-life in the Mar Menor.

We have also been featured in a couple of national UK papers; The Sunday Express and The Weekend Telegraph. We are due to be in The Mail on Sunday in January and Woman magazine in February.

Telegraph.co.uk

There appears to be a constant fascination with people who have left behind their old life in the UK and started a new adventure in sunnier climes. Since we both used to be Electronics Engineers our lifestyle change was pretty dramatic!

We have made some major changes to our website, why not take a look? You may even find your photo.

Facing Challenges

One of our biggest challenges since coming to Spain is learning the language and I'm sure we will be working on this for years to come. We completed a year of Spanish lessons at night school before we left England and have worked hard since we have been here. This however, did not fully prepare us for the shock of finding that our first sailing lessons had to be taught in Spanish. We are working with the Cartagena Council to provide youth activities and teach two courses per month for them. The lessons actually went very well, all those hours reciting verbs were worth it after all!



Crisis Day

Last July while out teaching a windsurfing class Julian suddenly realised that the dry bag holding our mobile phone and car keys had gone. It had become detached from his belt and floated away. To add a further complication to this problem our house keys were locked in the car and although we normally have a spare house key hidden in the garden, we had had a new front door fitted the previous day and hadn't yet got around to changing the hidden key over.



We racked our brains about what we could do and took two paths. Julian headed off in the power boat to see if the bag had been washed up onto a beach and our clients kindly offered to take me to the company who had fitted our new front door to see if they had a spare key.

Julian combed the beaches but they were covered in people and it was like looking for a needle in a haystack. The company who installed the door assured me that they had no spare key. However, they would send someone around to the house to help me. I met them at the house and within 5 mins we were inside! (so much for security!) I then spotted Julian approaching the beach in the power boat and ran out to give him the spare car key so that he could collect the car.



We kept calling our mobile and eventually at 10:30pm we got an answer, it had washed up on the beach and was safe! We picked it up the next day...unharmd.

And finally

We are really enjoying our life and work out in Spain and look forward to getting back on the water with you all in 2007.

*Saludos
Julian & Lesley*

