



Welcome to the Age in Spain May Newsletter



Fantastic volunteer support for Friendline

Over the Easter period the Friendline volunteers took it on themselves to support the wonderful Friendline service by getting involved in some fundraising activities. To lend a bit of spice to their efforts they divided into teams (*Ambassadors, Escuchamos, Legends and Pioneers*) and competed to see who could raise the most money. For the record, team *Ambassadors* came out on top.

Activities included a pet photo competition, a raffle, selling unwanted items online, an online quiz night, afternoon teas, an opportunity for Spanish people to practice their English conversation as well as donations from

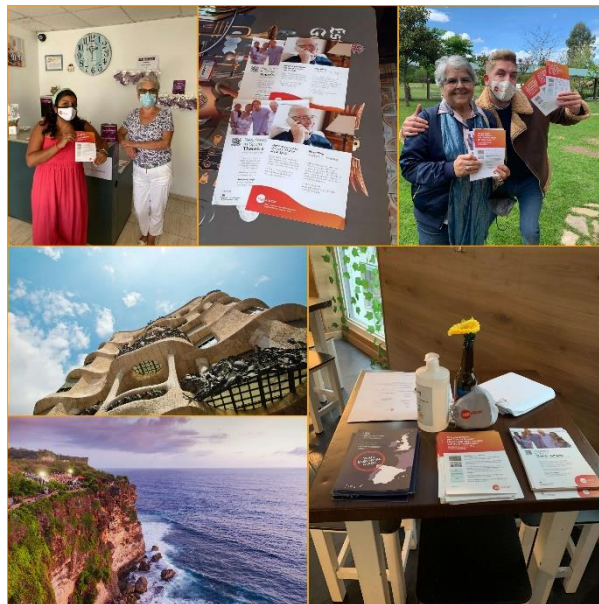
volunteers' friends and families. In total 1,279.41€ was raised to support Friendline. Thank you so much to everyone involved.

Pictured is Shelly, a rescue French Bulldog who is deaf and who lives with her owner, Emma Rebbetts, in Xatvia. Emma won the pet photo competition and the prize was a painted portrait of the winning pet by A Coruña based artist, and Friendline volunteer, Marisa Hunter-Toms.

If you or someone you know would appreciate a regular Friendline call from a volunteer then you can find out more [here](#)

[Find out more about Friendline](#)

Know your rights, secure your rights, live your life – Age in Spain residency events



Throughout May, the Age in Spain team will be engaging with British people and helping them with their residency concerns. This involves both face-to-face events and online support. Below are all the opportunities to get support with your residency issues. Also remember to check out the [Events](#) page on our website and follow us on [Facebook](#) for all the latest on Age in Spain events.

Please note, advance booking is only required where specified for a particular event.

The Canary Islands

Gran Canaria. Weds 5 May - Club Inglés 11 am - 1pm Calle León y Castillo, 274, 35005 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Las Palmas. Advance booking required. Please email residency@ageinspain.org and put "Event Club Ingles" in the subject line

Gran Canaria. Thurs 6 May - Warriors Charity Shop, 10am - 2pm Calle Río Piedra, 2, 35130 Mogán, Las Palmas (next to Atlantic Clinic and Pharmacy). Advance booking required. Please email residency@ageinspain.org and put "Event Puerto Rico" in the subject line

Gran Canaria. Thurs 6 May - The English Bakery Café, 4pm - 6pm JUMBO shopping centre, Avenida de EEUU 35100, Maspalomas.

Tenerife. Weds 12 May - Polígono Industrial, 11am – 1pm, Avenida Ten Bel, nº22, 38639 Las Chafiras, Santa Cruz de Tenerife

Tenerife, Tues 18 May - Complejo Island Village, 11am – 1pm
Avenida Austria, nº72, 38660, Costa Adeje, Santa Cruz de Tenerife

Lanzarote. Thurs 27 May, Iceland Overseas, 11am – 1pm
Calle Las Palmas, nº8, local 1, 35580, Playa Blanca, Las Palmas

Catalonia

Barcelona. Fri 14 May Flaherty's Bar, 2pm – 5pm
Plaça de Joaquim Xirau, s/n, 08002 Barcelona

Lloret de Mar. Fri 21 May, BFI Market, 11am – 4pm. Avenida Américas 24, Avinguda de Fenals, 17310 Lloret de Mar

Mora d'Ebre. Fri 28 May Shop & Stop, 10am – 3pm. Av. de les Comarques Catalanes, 69, 43740 Móra d'Ebre

The Balearic Islands

Mon 17 May, 11am – 3pm. Online Zoom surgeries for UK nationals in the Balearic Islands
Please email residency@ageinspain.org in advance to book a 20 minutes Zoom slot to speak to our Regional Co-ordinator, Brad. Please quote "Zoom Meeting Brad" in the subject line of your email and tell us a bit about what you would like to discuss.

North of Spain

[Facebook live – 13 May, 5pm – 6pm](#)

This will go through the some of the specific issues facing people applying for residency in Aragon, Asturias, the Basque Country, Cantabria, Galicia, La Rioja and Navarra. Find out more about the event and how to join [here](#).

[Contact our Residency Helpline](#)

Access to Covid 19 Vaccinations



(Pictured is Age in Spain volunteer Anne Culpa receiving her vaccination in Barcelona.)

Obviously, many UK nationals in Spain have been concerned about how and when they will access vaccinations against Covid19. While many of you will have already seen the following information on the UK Embassy's Facebook page we felt that it was important enough to reproduce here.

The Spanish government has been very clear that they will provide the vaccine to everyone in Spain as a matter of public health, regardless of nationality or how someone accesses healthcare in Spain. Those who are already registered for state healthcare will be contacted by their regional health service to make an appointment when it is their turn to be vaccinated.

However, because Spain operates its health system regionally, the way people access the vaccine differs, depending on where people live.

The Embassy has recently published the following information (from the Spanish regional healthcare authorities) for those who are *not* registered for state healthcare. While the information does not yet cover every Spanish region, the embassy team is still seeking to clarify the advice for people in all parts of the country.

- Andalucía: You can register for the vaccine here: <https://www.sspa.juntadeandalucia.es/.../alta-en-bdu-para...> More information is available at: <https://www.andavac.es/campanas/covid/>
- Balearic Islands: To register for the vaccine, please call 971 211 999. For more information see: <https://www.ibsalut.es/vacuna-covid-19>
- Cataluña: If you are already registered on the padron, you can apply online here: <https://canalsalut.gencat.cat/.../vacuna.../convocatoria/>
- Madrid: To register for the vaccine, please call 900 102 112. For more information see: <https://www.comunidad.madrid/servicios/salud/coronavirus>
- Murcia: You can register online for the vaccine here: <https://portalsalud.carm.es/portalsalud/principal/inicio...> or call: 900 121 212
- Comunidad Valenciana (Valencia region): You will need to go to your local health centre to register. You will be given a provisional health card to cover the vaccination and any other public health needs

If the region where you live in is not listed above, the Embassy team is aware that some people have managed to be added to the vaccine list in their region by registering temporarily at their health centre with their residency document. This is known as an 'alta temporal'. You should contact your local health centre for further information. The Embassy will continue to seek more details from those authorities that have not yet confirmed their specific arrangements.

The Spanish authorities are asking insurance companies to coordinate with regional health services in order to provide vaccines to their customers. UK nationals living in Spain with private insurance, who do not live in the areas listed in this post, can contact their local health centre or private insurance company for more information.

The full Spanish government vaccination strategy is available at <https://www.vacunacovid.gob.es>

Volunteering opportunities with Age in Spain



Living in Spain is not always the sun-filled dream that many imagine and sometimes it's hard to know where to turn for help in a foreign country. Age in Spain is here to help with free information in English provided by kind, helpful and professional volunteers, on the phone and in person.

Age in Spain aims to help all English speakers in Spain live as full a life as possible, for as long as possible. Join our team of fantastic volunteers and you could be the friendly voice that helps to ease someone's worries and provide them with the information and support they need.

At the moment we are particularly recruiting Casework Volunteers in the following areas

- Canaries (All islands)
- Andalucia - Granada, Almeria, Malaga, Marbella, Estepona, Cadiz
- Murcia - Murcia, Cartagena
- Baleares - Ibiza
- Valencia - Valencia City, Alicante, Torrevieja, Benidorm, Denia
- Catalonia - Tarragona

We are also looking for volunteer Residency Helpline Assistants. The time commitment for Casework Volunteers is flexible, we ask Residency Helpline Assistants to commit 4 hours per week.

For more details of these roles and to apply <https://www.ageinspain.es/volunteer>

Residency documents 101

One of the things that can be most frustrating about dealing with bureaucracy in Spain (or, let's be honest, anywhere) is the number of acronyms people have to deal with and how important documents are referred to.

For Spanish people and for those who have lived in Spain for a long time this may be very basic, but for those just starting to deal with the residency process there is often some confusion. So here is a quick review of a few key documents that sometimes get mixed up.



This small (and fairly flimsy) piece of green paper is the *Certificado de Registro de Ciudadano de La Union*. It is the residency document that was previously issued to UK nationals in Spain (and still is issued to citizens of EU countries). Some people were also issued with an A4 size green document which is, legally, exactly the same. The Spanish Government has said explicitly that if you hold a valid green certificate (either credit card size or A4) then there is no need to exchange it for the new TIE (see below). That said, we have heard reports of some authorities in some parts of Spain not accepting the green certificate as valid proof of residency. That should not be happening.



Above is the new biometric *Permiso de Residencia* card that has been issued to UK Nationals applying for residency under the protection of the Withdrawal Agreement since July 2020. It is commonly referred to as a TIE (*Tarjeta de Identidad Extranjero*) although those words don't, in fact, appear on the card.



Finally this white piece of A4 paper is the notification of your NIE, (*Número de identificación Extranjero*). While having the NIE is essential for almost every aspect of life in Spain, this white piece of paper has no status as an identification document or as proof of residency. NB. UK nationals who don't yet have an NIE will be assigned one as a part of step one of the residency process. **Remember**, the NIE is the tax identification number in Spain. It is not a document per se, but the personal ID number of a foreigner that is living in Spain. The NIE will appear on your TIE, Medical Card, driving licence and you will be asked for it many, many times.



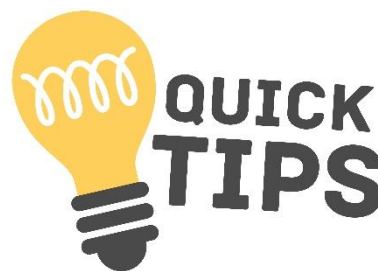
Rejected Residency Application - Survey

Asociación Babelia is one of our partner organisations in the United Kingdom Nationals Support Fund (UKNSF). They provide residency support in Alicante, Castellon and Valencia and are currently conducting a survey for people who have had their residency applications rejected by the Immigration Office

(Extranjería).

This is to help us all to understand the problems people are encountering and so we can raise any concerns with the UK Government and the Spanish Authorities.

If you have found yourself in the distressing situation of having your residency application turned down then please help Asociación Babelia (and everyone involved in providing UKNSF support understand) understand the real-world issues people are facing by completing the survey. It is completely anonymous and takes only 3 to 4 minutes of your time. Find out more and [complete the survey](#).



Recently, we have come across a number of examples of UK Nationals being asked to provide an up-to-date copy of their marriage certificates as part of their residency applications. This can come as something of a surprise to British people who tend to think of the marriage certificate as something that doesn't expire.

However, the simple solution if you're in this situation is to get a new copy of your marriage certificate from the UK General Register Office (GRO) which you can then get translated and certified in the same way as any other document. The process of requesting a certificate is relatively straightforward and can be done online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/order-copy-birth-death-marriage-certificate>

We also thought it would be worth calling your attention to the part of the UK Government's Living in Spain guide that deals with benefits and, particularly, clarifies which UK benefits people can continue to claim when living in Spain. You can find out what you or your loved ones may be entitled to here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/benefits->

[and-pensions-for-uk-nationals-in-the-eea-or-switzerland](#)

Of course you should also keep an eye on the [Information Guide](#) section of our website for issues relating to Spanish and UK benefits.

Want to help?

We are now recruiting volunteers for our Residency Helpline Service.
Read more about how you can get involved here [Volunteer with Age in Spain](#)



Did you know that Age in Spain provides many kinds of support including:

Information to people growing older in Spain

Help in dealing with health, care and financial problems

Assisting older people who face losing their independence or going through major change.

Feel free to get in touch with us at any time. We are here to help.