

2,000 Marijuana Plants seized in Alcala

The Civil Guard confiscated a plantation of some 2,000 marijuana plants hidden in pine woodland, with drip irrigation and two drying sheds, on the 1st October. The plantation was hidden in the heart of pine woodland in a mountainous area in the Alcala de Xivert municipal area. Three lorries were needed to take the plants, weighing a total of 1,500 kilos, away, making it the greatest haul of marijuana in Spain. This year in Castellón Province, a total of 95 kilos have been seized whilst last year it was 315 kilos.

The operation, following which no arrests have been made public, started on the morning of the 1st October when several patrols went to a steep area between Raco de Giner and Tormasal, where they knew of the existence of a marijuana plantation. The officers were able to find this plantation spread over two slopes in a mountainous area with dense vegetation. It had three irrigation pools and drip irrigation with water illegally obtained via a rubber hosepipe from a garden higher up the mountain. They also found two drying sheds, one measuring 90 sq.ms, constructed from metal beams and canvas, with a lot of plants inside in the process of drying and cutting.

They also found numerous items for cultivating and treating it such as various knives, pen knives, axes, drip hoses, jerry cans, soil, bags of fertilizer, seed trays, canes, bags, etc.

The Tragsa company was awarded the task of digging up and removing the plants, some of which were over three metres high. Because of its characteristics, size, volume of production and infrastructure, this plantation is one of the largest seized in Spain.

Alcala Local Police give talks warning the elderly about crime

On the 22nd September, in Alcala de Xivert, and the 26th September in Alcossebre, Alcala Local Police held meetings in both places with pensioners.

The new Chief of the Local Police, Rubén Melia, gave those present a series of points aimed at preventing the elderly becoming easy prey to crime.

First he gave them advice on the importance of giving youngsters a sense of basic road safety. For further discussion and development at a future meeting, Melia also announced a proposal to form a Road Safety Education Group to collaborate with the Local Police on a voluntary basis to keep an eye on pedestrians or to accompany Local Police officers when giving road safety classes in schools.

Regarding safety, the Local Police Chief's maxim at all times is prevention and the collaboration of local people. Regarding advice for making things difficult for criminals, the police chief's main advice was that people should not make opportunities for crimes to be committed: they should install window bars, alarms, slide the bolt across at night when they go to bed, have a spy-hole in the door, don't open the door to strangers or people you are suspicious of, don't talk about any valuable objects you have at home, don't keep large sums of money at home, mark your most valuable possessions so that they are identifiable should they be retrieved, and other points.

What to do if your house is robbed

If your house is robbed, the maxim is to remain calm, however difficult this may be. Don't touch anything, don't close any doors or windows which may have been opened to gain entry, tell the Local Police or Civil Guard and wait for the officers without going into the house or touching anything, in case the robber is still inside the dwelling.

Once the officers are present, report the robbery,

and give the security people as much information as you can, including the most insignificant details and always ask for a copy of the report for insurance purposes.

Chief Melia "without being alarmist", prefers prevention, saying "tell the police about any anomalies, any suspicious or unusual actions or activities. The Local Police and Alcala de Xivert Council are going to start a campaign with stickers giving people telephone numbers to call to report any crime or to advise of any suspicious activity.

Thefts

It is very important to remain watchful to prevent any minor thefts. When going shopping or to the market "keep your purse closed in front of you, watch out in crowded areas, and only carry enough money in the purse for your purchases."

Scams

Be wary of goods being sold by street sellers, profitable money offers or easy business deals. Always remember the classic scams of forged lottery tickets (Tochomocho), forged banknotes (Estampita), or shady card deals (Trileros), as well as door to door sales. It is vital not to let anyone into your house. Gas (Butano)

It is very important not to let anyone into your house under the pretext of changing the rubber gas pipes or checking them. Any operator must identify himself properly, if they don't, don't let them in.

Dogs

Even if the animals are not for protection, older people's little dogs, as well as being pets, are excellent for letting their owners know when strangers are present.

Holidays

In no circumstances should you talk about any trips or holidays you are going on within earshot of strangers. Useful advice is to leave the roller shutters half-open, ask someone to collect post from your letter box, fit timers to turn on lights at certain times, ask a neighbour to keep an eye on your house, never leave the keys under the doormat or hidden in the entrance, and be aware of any suspicious marks or signs by the door, bell or gate, and if you see any such marks it is very important to tell the police.

The mayor of Alcala pointed out that "since I became mayor, I have committed myself to working to improve the quality of our management and to bring first class services to the whole town. To this end, attention to our older people plays a major part in our daily work. To do this, together with our Local Police, we have decided to organise some informative talks for older people about security measures. The aim of these talks is to offer better guidelines for certain daily behaviour and for people to take more care in dangerous situations".

Land for the Sewage Plant transferred from Alcala to the Department of Infrastructure

Alcala de Xivert Council has acquired the land for the construction of the new Alcossebre sewage plant and passed a total of 40,000 square metres to the Infrastructure Department so that work can start as soon as possible on this vital infrastructure. The mayor, Francisco Juan Mars, expressed his satisfaction at having been able to take this step forward in the process for the new sewage plant "the delays in which have been criticised by all parties but which only the PP has driven forward".

Renovation work starts on Capicorb School

On 13th October, Alcala de Xivert Council started work on the Capicorb School. This work will be

carried out with a grant from the Provincial Works and Services Plans (POYS) for 2008, with a budget of 118,840 euros. According to Alcala Council sources, the work will take three months, and will consist of repairing the roof, renovating the front of the building with new aluminium joinery and bars at the windows, clearing up the square outside and the area behind the school, installing a new utility room/washing area and gates, extending the communal areas (for classes, meetings, rehearsals), repairing the floor, installing lighting and a lower false ceiling, making internal areas suitable for an office, toilets, storage and a kitchen, and generally painting and decorating the internal walls.

The Renovated Bell Tower The in-depth restoration of the monument comes to an end

In the more than two hundred years of its existence, Alcala de Xivert Bell Tower has become the emblem for the town, and been adopted as its own distinctive symbol. Since its construction, the unique image of this separate tower on the horizon has been adopted by Alcala, like its flag, its shield or its patron saint, which crowns the summit of the Bell Tower so majestically.

In recent years the Bell Tower has deteriorated seriously, due to weather and the elements, and other erosive agents, and this has seriously compromised the integrity of the monument. Very recently, bits of the tower have fallen off, with the ensuing risk to pedestrians and to the Bell Tower structure itself.

To prevent this risk continuing and in view of the serious deterioration of the monument, Alcala de Xivert Council considered that it was an urgent matter to take action to prevent further problems. "We had to intervene to arrest the deterioration of our Bell Tower", mayor Francisco Juan Mars explained, "Since we came into power in 2007, one of our priorities was to guarantee the safety and conservation of one of the most iconic monuments for all the residents of Alcala, although to do this we required the support of the provincial and autonomous administrations, as the Council did not have the funds or materials to take on a task of this magnitude". To obtain this support, the Governing Team went to the Diputación Provincial, with the mayor saying "we approached Carlos Fabra to explain to him the urgent need for intervention to conserve the Bell Tower. The President of the Diputación immediately understood just how great the need was, and showing once again his dedication and awareness of the historic-artistic heritage of our town, as can be seen from his unconditional support for the restoration of our Xivert Castle, he instantly wrote letters on the matter to mediate with the Culture Department to obtain emergency action to consolidate the parts which were at greatest risk of more serious deterioration".

As a result of mediation by the Diputación Provincial, the Mayor explained, it was possible to obtain action to the value of 407,044 euros, involving the erection and dismantling of the scaffolding which has covered the Bell Tower during recent months, the removal of unsuitable elements and growths, the replacement of damaged pieces, the consolidation and renovation of the upper part of the tower, consolidation of cracks, installation of gutters, drainage, and the restoration and consolidation of the statue of Saint John and its base, and other work.

One of the most sentimentally relevant actions was this last, the restoration of the statue of Saint John the Baptist which crowns the tower. The statue, which was sculpted by local artisan Juan Bosch with wood from a cypress tree from Calvary, was covered with fine sheets of lead fixed with tacks to the wood, practically all of which have been replaced with the exception of Saint John's face, which had stoically

survived the passing of time and the elements without suffering any deterioration. Equally surprisingly, the cypress wood was untouched, and was just as it was on the day it was first brought out of the workshop, so that it needed no restoration. The sheets of lead have been polished to make them shine and have been given a protective coating. The result is spectacular. Since the 28th October 1901 when José Puertollano hoisted the statue, which was practically double his size, no-one has seen the patron saint's face close to. According to those who have had the privilege of doing so, the experience was so moving that it made their hair stand on end. On completion of this urgent work, it was suggested that it would be a good time to carry out some additional work, taking advantage of the scaffolding, so that the monument could be left in a state which would keep it in perfect condition for many more years. It was then that Alcala de Xivert Council decided to use the grant from the 2008 POYS to carry out a series of tasks to clean the bell tower's façade, re-point where it was in a bad state, chip away loose areas and repair with lime mortar, cleaning, drainage and restoration of the bells, improvement to the front entrance and steps, flagstone paving, illumination and cleaning of the vaulted room, cleaning and improvement to the clock room and installation of protection to ensure access to the upper tower, all this with a budget of 238,364 euros.

Two hundred years of history

Ignoring the argument over which is the highest in the Valencian Community, the Bell Tower has raised its 68 metres above the Plaza de la Iglesia in Alcala de Xivert for more than 200 years. An inscription on the front of the bell tower says "THIS WORK WAS STARTED ON 15 AUGUST 1784 AND FINISHED ON 14 JUNE 1803". In his writings, the Baron Alcahalí quotes the start date as being 1783, seventeen years after the church was consecrated, designed by and under the direction of Juan Barceló. There is also a discrepancy in the date when it was finished, giving it as 20 August 1801, although in another part of the same book it gives it as 1799. It is possible that this last date was when Barceló died, and the work was completed by Blas Teruel, who was responsible for the upper part of the bell tower. What is certain is that Barceló was unable to finish the work which was completed rhetorically with a large wooden angel on the summit, a statue which was destroyed by lightning on 25th November 1886. The current statue which replaced it is of Saint John the Baptist, the name of the church, and is also made of wood. It was sculpted in 1901 by local artisan Juan Bosch. On the 28th October that year it was hoisted up to its current position by the gymnast José Puertollano. The tower has an octagonal base which is 27 metres around its perimeter, and is 68 metres high, making it one of the highest in the Valencian Community. Its prismatic form is reinforced with buttresses at the angles, and is divided horizontally into four parts with stone cords. In the top section, where the bells are, the buttresses are replaced by eight semi-enclosed columns. The bell tower is crowned with a circular perimeter balustrade, with pedestals on the verticals of the semi-columns, balls on top of those and, at their feet gargoyles in the form of cannons. The top, or bell loft, is in the form of two superimposed octagonal floors, with windows and semi-columns at the angles. Its strange design curiously resembles the light cupola on Brunelleschi's Florentine Duomo. The current set of bells was made in 1995 by the Paccard foundry, retaining the oldest, heaviest and biggest 1869 bell known as the Sacrament of the Hours. This bell tower is a National Historic Artistic Monument, together with the parish church of Saint John the Baptist.

Bekanntlich finden im August und teilweise noch im September allorts die den verschiedensten Heiligen gewidmeten Patronatsfeste statt; die Politik gerät dabei etwas ins Hintertreffen, der Grund weshalb es dieses Mal kaum etwas zu berichten gibt.

In einem langen, humorigen Artikel befasst sich Tomás Torres mit der am 20. August in Alcalá de Xivert stattgefundenen Plenarsitzung, wo es wieder den üblichen Schlagabtausch zwischen Regierung und Opposition gab. Debattiert wurde über die verschiedensten Themen, von denen ich nur einige wenige herausgreife, die für Sie von Interesse sein könnten.

Gefragt wurde von der Opposition nach dem Grund für das Absprechen der blauen Flagge für den Manyetes Strand. Die Regierung antwortete, dass man sich zunächst das Verweigern der blauen Flagge nicht habe erklären können, da der Strand die besten Bedingungen im Hinblick auf Sauberkeit, Wartung und Wasserqualität geboten habe. Erst auf Anfrage bei der die blauen Flaggen vergebenden Institution habe man als Antwort erhalten, dass der Strand die blaue Flagge deshalb abgesprochen bekommen habe, weil das Küstengesetz nicht beachtet worden sei. Das, so entgegnete die Regierungspartei, sei nun nicht Sache der Gemeinde sondern zweier Privatleute, die man inzwischen aufgefordert habe, die Gesetzmäßigkeit wieder herzustellen und ihre Probleme mit der Küstenbehörde zu lösen, so dass

im nächsten Jahr die blaue Flagge wieder am Manyetes Strand wehen kann.

Wie Sie sich vielleicht erinnern, gab es zu Beginn der Legislaturperiode einen Riesenwirbel um das Aufstellen eines Trockendocks im Yachthafen von Alcossebre. Jetzt, nach Verstreichen mehrerer Monate, scheint die Sache in den Hintergrund getreten zu sein. Auf der Plenarsitzung fragte nun der Vertreter der GIP Partei, Manolo Pitarch, nach dem Stand der Dinge.

Der für Städtebau zuständige Dezernent Javier Tosar erläuterte die bisher unternommenen Schritte: Sofortiger Baustopp bei Regierungsantritt und Aufforderung an die Firma, innerhalb von 2 Monaten den Bau zu legalisieren; da nichts vorgelegt wird, ergeht Aufforderung zum Abbruch, für den dem Unternehmen 6 Monate eingeräumt werden. Nach nicht erfolgtem Abbruch ergeht die Aufforderung, die zwischen der Metallkonstruktion angebrachten Platten wegen des Risikos eines Loslösens und Gefährdung von Passanten zu entfernen, was dann auch geschieht. Und was passiert nun mit dem Abbruch? Da inzwischen mehrere Eigentümer gerichtlich gegen das Trockendock vorgegangen sind, wartet die Gemeinderregierung aus Kostengründen und von ihrer Rechtsabteilung entsprechend beraten, zunächst einmal das Urteil des Richters ab.

Kontroverse zwischen Regierungspartei und Opposition über Verwendung der für 2009 von der Provinzregierung gewährten Poys (Planes

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG DER NACHRICHTEN DES SET NR. 127 - H. Wendt de Jovaní

Provinciales de Obras y Servicios), Subventionen für durchzuführende Arbeiten und Dienstleistungen.

Die Regierungspartei schlägt für Alcossebre die Instandsetzung des in Capicorb gelegenen Weges Camí de Galarza sowie der in Las Fuentes gelegenen Straßen Torre Badum und Paseo del Cid vor. Kostenvoranschlag ca 30.000 Euro, an dem sich die Diputación proportional beteiligt.

Die Opposition ist der Meinung, dass es andere Prioritäten gibt, wie z.B. Asfaltierung und Beleuchtung von Ortskern von Alcossebre gelegener Straßen. Die von der PP vorgeschlagenen Arbeiten würden außerdem nur einem begrenzten Personenkreis zum Vorteil reichen, wohingegen man doch einen größtmöglichen Personenkreis begünstigen sollte.

Der stellvertretende Bürgermeister Ricardo Aguilar erwiderte, dass die Einwohner von Las Fuentes sehr erstaunt gewesen seien, dass bei der von der letzten Regierung durchgeführten Asfaltierung nicht alle Straßen asphaltiert worden seien. Der Zustand der Straße Badum sei unmöglich, und da die Wartung der Straßen Sache der Gemeinde sei, könne man von den Anwohnern auch keine Sonderabgabe fordern. Der Paseo del Cid sei ein ständig benutzter Weg zur Strandpromenade von Las Fuentes und außerdem eine wichtige Parkplatzzone. Was den von allen Bewohnern Capicorbs genutzten Camino de Galarza angehe, so sei dieser 1.200 m lang und

4 m breit, er verlöre aber ständig an Breite.

Der Vorschlag wurde mit den Stimmen von PP, GIP und PLAA angenommen.

Landwirtschaftsministerium stimmt Qualitätsbezeichnung für die „Tomata de Penjar“ zu Die für Alcalá de Xivert so typische tomata de penjar, die „hängende Tomate“ darf nun das Gütesiegel „Qualitätsprodukt“ führen, wobei bestimmte Kriterien eingehalten werden müssen: Gewicht 34-40 Gramm, Mindestdurchmesser 30 Millimeter, Alter 6 Wochen, Farbe kräftig rot.

Aufstellung eines dritten Wasserbehälters zur Feuerbekämpfung in der Sierra de Irta Das für Umwelt, Wasser, Städtebau und Wohnungswesen zuständige Ministerium hat inzwischen bereits den Bau über einen Betrag von 106.000 Euro ausgeschrieben. Dieser Behälter, der ein Mindestvolumen von 200 m3 haben wird, wird im Gemeindegebiet von Alcalá de Xivert aufgestellt werden.

Neben den dann bestehenden 3 Behältern gibt es noch andere Wasserstellen, die bei Feuer genutzt werden können, wie z.B. die zur Bewässerung dienenden Wasserbecken.

