

## Women put faces to 8th March

The Concejalía de Igualdad produced a video in which 92 women from Beniarbeig took part.



On 8th March, to commemorate Women's Day, a video was produced "Yo soy otra tú", to honour the work of local women on the long path to equality. The video was recorded on 20th February, when the recording team walked through the streets of the village looking for participants. The councillor for equality, Sara Gil Peretó explained that there was a double aim, "firstly to highlight the importance of diversity in all its forms being a woman, and doing it

from a local point of view". But also, "to do it in such a way that all participants could feel safe, so we opted for making a video, allowing us to record it in the open air and maintaining a safe distance".

The initiative was led by local producer José Mut in collaboration with the writer Jovi Lozano Seser, who wrote the text, and the singer Rebeca Mut, who did the voice-over.



## Beniarbeig joins the campaign "The sea starts here"

Coinciding with World Water Day, Monday 22nd March, the campaign "The sea starts here" was launched at the Marina in Denia, with 18 towns and villages in the area taking part, among them Beniarbeig, as well as other associations and such as Rotary clubs, AMJASA and The Isborjn Collective.

The aim of the initiative is to make citizens aware of how

cigarette ends, chewing gum, paper and other small bits of rubbish end up in the sea through the sewers and drains. So plaques in the shape of a sunfish, designed by the sculptor Toni Marí, have been laid next to drains, bearing the slogan of the campaign "Don't throw anything, the sea starts here".

Those responsible for the campaign reiterate that a lot of

rubbish continues to reach the sea through the sewers, making it dirty and polluting it. This situation is easily avoidable with steps as simple as throwing this kind of rubbish in the rubbish bins.



# Throwing wipes down the toilet; an environmental and financial danger

In recent years there has been a lot of talk in various media about the serious problems being caused by the presence of wipes. The increase in use of these products and their incorrect disposal after use, are causing real headaches for local town halls. On one hand, the serious blockages they wreak havoc in the water management system, to such an extent that one study estimates that it costs 200,000€ every year across the whole of Spain. And over the last year in Beniarbeig repairs to the pipes have cost 1,500 €. For this reason, more and more town halls have started to carry out inspections and fine householders who throw wipes into the toilet,

with fines from 700 € to 6,000 €.

But the problem isn't only financial, it's also causing concern because of damage to the environment, because the mass disposal of wipes into the sea is having a devastating impact on marine biodiversity. One of the most alarming examples is that of

Badalona, where the city's fishermen say that fishing in the area has declined so much in recent years that for some boats it isn't financially viable to go out fishing, and that the wipes which end up on the sea floor drag off the fish roe and prevent the reproduction of species like sole, cuttlefish and prawns.

## Tu inodoro no es una papelera

**Las toallitas húmedas** (higiene, belleza, limpieza...) no se deshacen en el agua. **Son residuos sólidos.**

Al tirarlas en el inodoro, además de incrementar tu consumo de agua, puedes provocar atascos que requieran costosas reparaciones en tu vivienda.

**Cuida tus tuberías**



## 8 new rubbish bins have been put in place to do away with the door to door collection

Since February there has been no door to door rubbish collection, a service which was still being offered in some streets in the village. So from now on, all rubbish must be placed in the bins provided.

In order to make rubbish collection easier, especially for those people who haven't lived so close to the bins before, the Town Hall has provided new bins for plastic, paper and, in particular, bins for other rubbish, those coloured grey and brown. The latter, although they might have the word organic on them, are not only for organic materials but also other rubbish, in other words things that can't be recycled and which covers a wide range of items, for example, a clothes hanger, a mug or a biro.

The Mayor, Juanjo Mas, justifies the measure "for reasons of

hygiene, because it's something that happens in very few villages now, plus it helps the measures in place to prevent COVID-19". The Town Hall points out that it will help to speed up the rubbish collection. In addition, according

to Mas "we have tried to minimise the effect on the people, so we have allocated new rubbish collection points in strategic places, so that nobody should need to walk more than 100 metres to throw their rubbish away."



# The Reading Club and Book Day overcome the pandemic

From the start of the year, the Reading club has adapted to the health and safety measures to combine books and safety. In fact, in December they closed the reading year with *Matèria de Bretanya*, (1976) by Carmelina Sánchez-Cutillas (from 1927 to 2009), to whom the Acadèmia Valenciana de la Llengua and the libraries of the Valencian area have dedicated the year. During the session, the members of the reading group gave their opinions on the book, emphasising in particular the great skill of the author to transmit sensations which we all felt when we were little, as well as the memories evoked when she talks about life in Altea at the start of the last century.

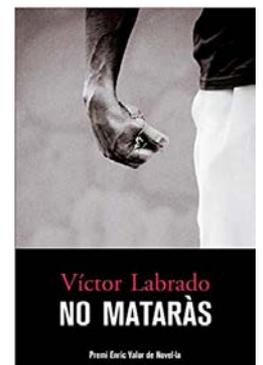
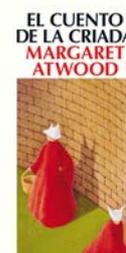
Then, the reading trip took the group to the genre of dystopia,

with *El cuento de la criada* (Handmaid's tale) (1985) by Margaret Atwood. This book provides an intense and interesting reading experience, with an oppressive fictitious society where the class system and the suppression of women is taken to the extreme, but at the same time bearing some similarity to the worst current social destitution, causing some readers to abandon the book. However, the hardness of the story is not sterile, and the members of the club were able to talk for an hour and a half about topics such as authoritarian regimes, the treatment of the whites, surrogacy and terrorism.

With the start of spring, the next book brings readers back to Valencian soil, with *No mataràs* by Víctor Labrado. A story of pelota and war based on the life

of Pepe «el Cariño» from Rafelcofer, and for which Labrado was awarded the Premi Enric Valor de Novel·la in 2014. The discussion session dedicated to *No mataràs* is scheduled for Thursday 6th May, when the readers will be able to enjoy a visit by the author, who has agreed to visit our library to comment on the book with the Beniarbeig readers.

Also, as 23rd April approaches, the Councillor for Culture, along with the library, are preparing a series of activities to commemorate Book Day. Sara Gil Peretó, said that “this year we want to organise activities which don't need people to be physically present, so we are putting the finishing touches to a short story competition and an action to highlight the importance of the library”.



## CEIP Benicadim now has air conditioning

The air conditioning system at the school has now been installed and is ready for use, turning into reality one of the greatest demands by the school community. From now on, pupils and teachers will have a hot and cold air conditioning system available in the 9 classrooms and also in the music and English rooms, which are those most used.

The purchase and installation of the system has been thanks to an investment by Beniarbeig town hall which, with its own resources from a surplus of its assets, has paid the 22.709,28 €. Staff at the school are very happy, especially because of the benefits the system will provide when the days are very hot, when the classrooms are in full sunshine. The town hall is also happy to see the project

finalised as it was one of the priorities of the current governing team for this legislature.



# THE INTERVIEW

**Joan Orozco Mulet** (Altea, 1984) is a graduate in Biblioteconomía y Documentación from the Universitat de València and has a masters in Gestión Cultural from the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya. Since February he has been the most visible face in the Beniarbeig library, where he will be in charge for some months to come.

As Book Day approaches, there are few hands through which more books will pass than those of Joan. And so in this BIM we pop into the library so that he can tell us what he does and what makes him cross the Mascarat every day.

**First of all, how did you become interested in studying librarianship?**

I have always liked the world of the library. Reading, looking through books, like they used to do in mystery films, and I am curious about the stories hidden in some books. So I didn't hesitate to choose a degree in librarianship and documentation.

Once I started, I realised that a library or information centre is much more than liking literature. A library is a social place, meeting other people, where it doesn't matter how old you are, because

there's always a little corner or activity to discover, it's a place to learn about other cultures, to listen and to make new friendships. If someone asked me today what I would study, I would choose the same.

**And how have you come to be here in Beniarbeig?**

My purpose here is twofold, firstly to replace Pau, the librarian here, during his paternity leave, but also to help to catalogue all the books in the library, because Beniarbeig has joined the network of Valencian libraries and so the books have to be catalogued one by one.

I suppose my being here has also been helped by the fact that I'm a member of the Col·legi Oficial de Bibliotecaris i Documentalistes de la Comunitat Valenciana. This organisation, apart from offering employment consulting and defending the profesión, also has a very attractive training scheme and a jobs bank through which you can contact other librarians.

I also have experience with the library management programme, as I've worked in the libraries in Benidorm and Altea, so I suppose that this has also allowed by professional profile to

fit in well here. Now I only hope to be in the library here and achieve the objectives outlined.

**After these first two months, what difference do you see between a library like Benidorm and ours?**

Without doubt, the first thing you notice is the volume of users. You must remember that Benidorm has more than 70,000 inhabitants, plus visitors, and so there are a lot more readers. In addition, the readers make different uses of the facilities. However, because of the current circumstances with the virus, here, like in all the other places, there are fewer visits, fewer loans and fewer people studying in the library. But I hope this will change sooner rather than later and we'll be able to see the library full. But what all libraries have, regardless of the volume of visitors, are two types of user, the 'clientele' as I call those users who come regularly, and the rest, who don't come as frequently

**As an outsider, how do you see Beniarbeig from the library?**

From my perspective from inside the library, I see a fairly quiet village, where everyone knows each other and it seems to be like a big family. What stands out for me is that some users of the library, although they don't come from Beniarbeig, are very well integrated and in the doorway of the building they chat with other readers. I have to admit that from the first day I came here and got to know the library I have felt like another member of the team, to such an extent that I keep recommending that my friends come to visit the village and the area.



**You mentioned that one of your main tasks was the cataloguing. What does it comprise and what are the benefits for the users?**

When I came to the library, I was told that here, the main work would be the cataloguing and automation of the library resources. The purpose of this is to have in one database all the information about all of the books and other materials that we have, with a physical and technical description of each book, magazine or DVD.

In this way, from a computer, any user can consult what we have, but can also reserve a book from home or extend the loan period. Another advantage is that we can control the books better: we can know if there are duplicates and what state they are in, as well as have statistics about use and to learn what the needs of the library are. In addition, neighbouring libraries can also access our catalogue and, if necessary, ask to borrow a book they need, thus saving money on additional library materials. .

**You say that it has to be done book by book, so inevitably it makes you wonder how many books there are in total.**

At the moment in the library we

have 2,400 books registered and I would say that we've done a third or a quarter, so I guess we have about 10,000 books. You have to remember that a library is like a living being, which feeds on the new books that are bought or donated by the readers, although of the latter we can only accept those books which are relatively new or are of special interest.

**Talking of books, how are you thinking of celebrating Book Day?**

This year for Book Day our aim is to increase the number of users, because we are now giving out new permanent library cards and there are a lot of people who still have the old cards, so we are asking all the people of Beniarbeig to call in the library and sign up as users, and they'll be given a little gift that we have prepared.

We are preparing everything with the Concejalía de Cultura, with whom we are programming a couple of activities to take our activity out into the Street, so we'll be putting in different places in the village clues with extracts of or questions about different books so that, through a QR code, you can work out which book it is. We also think that libraries should encourage the creativity we all have inside ourselves, and so we

are putting the final touches to a very interesting competition. I invite you to keep an eye on our social networks over the coming days to learn more about it. As you can see, a lot of things can be done from a library.

**Finally, of all the books in the library, which ones would you recommend?**

I think this is the most difficult question of the interview! Because everyone is a world and has different tastes. Take me, for example: I have books that I consider are the best they can be for me, and then, talking to other readers, they tell me they have different books and they say that for them, my list doesn't seem so attractive. So, who is right?

I think that the nice thing about a library is that there are as many different stories and different authors as there are readers, you just have to start reading and discover new reading matter. Everyone decides the criteria as to whether a book is good or bad.

As a musician and a lover of music, I think that there are a lot of similarities between music and reading because every book has its moments. There are days or periods when you like listening to a certain kind of music and others when you think how could I have possibly liked listening to this last year! Well, reading is the same, sometimes we are more open to trying out new formats and others when we feel safer and more comfortable with the classics.

The best way to find out what book or genre of books you might like is by visiting the library and asking, I am sure that Pau and I will be delighted to help you and together we'll find the reading matter you need. We are expecting you.



# Beniarbeig town hall joins the PARÉNTESIS programme

Within the Plan RESISTIR introduced by the Generalitat Valenciana to give financial support to those sectors most affected by the health restrictions and which have been forced to close their business, to reduce opening hours or limit their activity, with the financial losses associated with it, Beniarbeig town hall has joined the Plan Paréntesis, together with the Diputació de Alicante, with the intention of supporting the self

employed and small local businesses. From the total amount of 37,770€ given to Beniarbeig, the Generalitat Valenciana Will contribute 23,606.25€, the Diputació de Alicante 8,498.25€ and Beniarbeig Town Hall 5,665.50€.

The help will be given to the hospitality sector, as well as the catering, leisure and cultural and sports sectors. The businesses will receive 2,000€ as micro

businesses or self employed and 200€ for each worker. The town halls have been charged with the processing, as they are in close proximity to the residents.



**Pla d'ajudes directes**  
als sectors més afectats

## EMPUJU 2020 adds a maintenance worker to the town hall personnel

Within the programme Avalaem Joves EMPUJU- LABORA 2020 from the Generalitat Valenciana the town hall has contracted a person who will be in charge of maintenance tasks. This contract is for one year and is financed with 19,046.10€ through the European

Social Fund, within the framework of the Sistema Nacional de

Garantía Juvenil, which promotes work for the under 30s.



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## Grants:

- Urgent help for local town halls in the Valencia region for business and craftwork as a consequence of COVID-19, from the Consejería de Economía Sostenible, Sectores Productivos, Comercio y Trabajo de la Generalitat Valenciana. Products and protection services COVID-19. 1,149.45€

- Programme to improve the infrastructure of business parks. Improvement of infrastructure and services on

the Hortes industrial estate. 83,428.95€ from IVACE (Instituto Valenciano de Competitividad Empresarial). The Project has a total cost of 100,918.02€, Beniarbeig town hall will contribute 17,489.07€.

- Plan PLANIFICA: Investment plan and financing of infrastructures (Plan Provincial de Cooperación a las Obras y Servicios Municipales 2.020-2.023) from the Diputació de Alicante.

- Fitting out the multi-use centre (the basement of the auditorium-theatre) 89,197.63€.

Beniarbeig town hall will contribute 15,740.75€, as the total cost of the project is 104,938.38€.

- Padel court. 35,106.77€.

Beniarbeig town hall will contribute 6,195.31€, as the total cost of the project is 41,302.08€

- Fitting out of the children's playground at the bottom of the paseo Jaume I and the one in the new square. 26,358.04€. Beniarbeig town hall will contribute 4,651.42€ of the total Project cost of 31,009.46€.



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