



**ChiFRA AGE CONCERN
NEWSLETTER
February 2024**

I would like to say I'm picking up the reins from the redoubtable and multi-talented Dave Fisher, but, unlike Dave, my aspirations extend only as far as this newsletter, in which I'm going to attempt to keep the membership abreast of what's going on in Chiclana on a bi-monthly, or possibly monthly, basis.

I would welcome any feedback and any suggestions regarding things people would like to see included in this newsletter that you can't pick up from the website or Facebook page.

A quick reminder where to find them:

Website: chifra-ageconcern.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100071300016978>

Keith Adamson

A FRESH START

The last time I spoke with Dave Fisher at an event in the Hotel Azahar Costa, I asked him who was going to fill his shoes if he ever decided to throw in the towel. Well, that day came, our former president having now returned to the UK, and predictably, a gaping hole was left, although others stepped bravely into the breach, notably David Dransfield who unfortunately passed away last summer. Between them, vice president Bob Hamilton, treasurer Lesley Kew, and secretary Christina Koss-Gilliam have been keeping the ship afloat, but they're unable to attend to all ongoing matters.

This year Lesley took the initiative to round up some members and seek volunteers to fill the vacant posts on the committee. We had a very positive and lively meeting in Hotel Antonio, El Colorado, on Saturday 10th February, and, as a result, we have a new committee as follows:

President	David Hazeldine
Secretary	Christina Koss-Gilliam
Treasurer	Jack Stafford
Other members	Keith Adamson, Fabienne Baert, Bob Hamilton, Lesley Kew, Glyn Watkins, Liz Wilson, John Wilson

The committee is very keen that ChiFRA and Age Concern continue to support the English-speaking community in Chiclana and surrounding areas, and is optimistic that we shall see renewed interest in and take-up of the facilities on offer.

WHAT IS ChiFRA?

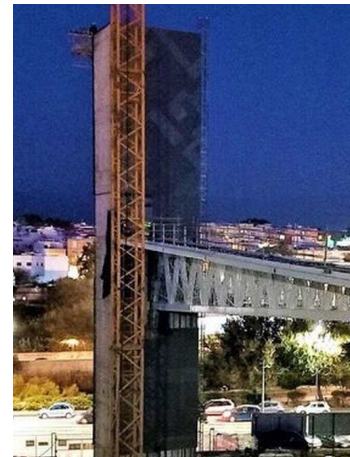
ChiFRA stands for Chiclana Foreign Residents Association, and was set up to provide help and support for ex-pats encountering the many challenges facing those who choose to live in this part of Spain. There is a labyrinth of regulations and administration that many of us have negotiated, with varying degrees of success, and those who volunteer to work with ChiFRA are happy to pass on their experience to others.

WHAT IS AGE CONCERN?

Age Concern used to operate under an international umbrella, in which Age-Concern Chiclana was included. This is no longer the case and each country now has its own autonomous organisation. Since the volunteers involved in Age-Concern Chiclana have been the same as those who worked in ChiFRA, it made sense for these two organisations to amalgamate. One of the services ChiFRA Age-Concern offers is the loan of mobility equipment (wheelchairs etc.) for a period of up to 3 months, for a small deposit, and this service has proved very popular.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CHICLANA?

You can't have failed to notice there's a lot going on in our town at the moment: the riverside improvements, the new bus station, the outlook tower, all funded by grants from the EU. These are only the tip of the iceberg, so to speak, for there are a grand total of 19 ongoing projects including a new cultural centre planned for 2025. The tower, *la Torre Mirador del Cerro del Castillo*, is possibly the most exciting of these, because it leads to the new museum situated at the top of the hill behind the Church of San Bautista. This *Centro de Interpretacion* provides a link with Chiclana's ancient past from 3000 years ago – the Phoenician settlement, of which there are excavated remains adjacent to the new museum. Once the new lift tower has been inaugurated, you will be able to access all this from the Avenida de Los Reyes Catolicos, but in the meantime, you can approach it from Plaza Mayor, by walking up to the back of the church.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CADIZ?

Carnival has come and gone, and you may have been able to take advantage of the increased tram timetable over the 10 days of the festival. The trams have been proving very popular, especially as a way of accessing the province's capital without having to worry about which member of your party has to stay off the alcohol. The last departure for Chiclana is at 11 pm. The trams have excellent provision for wheelchairs, and can even accommodate mobility scooters.

WISE WORDS FROM OUR FORMER PRESIDENT

During his time as the president of Chifra, Dave Fisher circulated many newsletters, the content of many of which remain relevant today. Here is an extract from one of them from May 2021:

I have been advised that the LISTA law replacing the LOUA has passed its first hurdle and is now on the path to get put into law, but some changes are expected by the Spanish Government (playing politics). In the meantime, I have translated the whole document should anyone want a copy. I will put out a precis of what it contains later, but in the meantime, whilst going through the LISTA I came across this:

“In order to put an end to the proliferation of irregular buildings on rustic land, guaranteeing the social, environmental and economic sustainability pursued in this Law, we proceed to reinforce territorial discipline and regional urban planning through the creation of the Sub-Inspection Body for Land Management, Urban Planning and Housing in the Junta de Andalucía. The aim is to create a specialised body of officials who, in support of the Corps of Inspectors of Spatial Planning, Urbanism and Housing that already exists, guarantee a greater presence in the territory, detecting irregular actions in their first phases and, with it, the rapid adoption of measures to prevent its consummation.

“Finally, title VIII is dedicated to the measures of environmental and territorial adaptation of the irregular buildings. Failed discipline is inadmissible, socially and environmentally, not to regulate those situations, in which, due to the expiration of the period for the exercise of the recovery action of legality, it is not possible to adopt disciplinary measures and re-establish urban legality. Even if these measures no longer fit, the Law proposes collecting the content of Decree-Law 3/2019, of 24th September 2019, adopt the measures to minimize or reduce the impact of these actions, especially serious when it comes to groups of irregular buildings and not isolated dwellings. The title regulates the regime applicable to irregular buildings considered individually, the treatment through special environmental and territorial adaptation plans, for groups of irregular dwellings and, finally, the possibility of incorporating these buildings into the city model through action by new urbanisation, either in the planning instrument or later.

“A shorten version says that the regime of inspectors intend to stop all illegal building (of new houses) and it is hoped to recognise or even legalise some of the existing illegal builds by use of the old AFO system or special plans.

Dave Fisher,
President,
Chiclana Foreign Residents Association