



ChiFRA AGE CONCERN NEWSLETTER

April 2025

Welcome to ChiFRA's spring newsletter. I hope you might find some items here that interest you as members. The group would welcome any feedback or suggestions regarding things people would like to see included in this newsletter that you can't pick up from the website or Facebook page.

SEMANA SANTA

We have a late Easter this year, and the religious observance begins on 13th April, Palm Sunday. There is the usual programme of events, which, even for those of us who are not especially religious, can provide an interesting spectacle. All are listed as "weather permitting" and unfortunately the forecast is not good at present, so it is to be hoped that events are not going to be cancelled for the second year running.

New this year will be a wooden sculpture entitled *The Brotherhood of Prayer in the Garden, Our Father Jesus of Peace*, by the Sevillian sculptor Salvador Madroñal that was blessed at the end of 2023 but could not be inaugurated last year because of the weather.

The schedule can be found here:

<https://www.chiclana.es/areas-municipales/sociedad-y-cultura/fiestas-chiclana/itinerarios-y-horarios-semana-santa-chiclana-2024>



CHICLANA C.F.

(For the uninitiated: football)

Chiclana Football Club was founded in 1948 and have played in the lower divisions in Spain since then. They currently play in the Honour Division Andalucia Group 1, the 6th tier in Spain. The past two seasons have brought more success, just missing out on promotion each season. This season they have also won the Copa de Andalucia which gave them a first round cup tie in the Kings Cup against CF Osasuna from the Premier League, they also played Villarreal CF at the same stage last season. They lost both games to their superior opposition but it was a great occasion in Chiclana with both games played in front of packed houses here in town. Chiclana are once more pushing hard for promotion and with just a few games left are currently top of the league, they also have a thriving under age section. Home games are played in the Municipal Stadium just opposite the bus station in Chiclana. Plans have been drawn up to upgrade the stadium. Home games kick off usually at noon on Sundays, if you enjoy a game, then come along and support the team in white.

Vamos Chiclana! Facebook page on <https://www.facebook.com/ChiclanaCF..>



The Copa del Rey attracted large crowds with extra temporary seating installed on both occasions. The game on 30th March was a closely contested encounter with San Fernando B ending 2~2. Chiclana should have won squandering several goal scoring opportunities. The atmosphere is very family friendly and a very enjoyable time can be spent there in the sunshine.

Forthcoming matches in Chiclana are as follows:

6 th April	Chiclana Ind C.F.	U.D. Tesorillo	Campo Avenida del Velodromo, Chiclana
13 th April	Chiclana C.F.	U.P. Viso	Camp Av. Reyes Catolicos, Chiclana
27 th April	Chiclana C.F.	A.D. Nueva Jarilla	Camp Av. Reyes Catolicos, Chiclana
11 th May	Chiclana Ind C.F.	C.D. San Roque	Campo Avenida del Velodromo, Chiclana

SEASONAL TIPS FOR GARDENERS

Spring is sprung, the grass is riz. I would go on about the boids, but to be frank they can be a bit disappointing. The sparrows are always there, the swallows are building, but what else is there? A couple of doves, a couple of Sardinian warblers scuttling furtively thru the undergrowth, and something small in the bushes that goes "Tizzzittt tizzzittt" but since the damn thing never shows itself, I can't even identify it. True, if it is a good year the bee eaters take up residence in the field at the back, but that's about the best of it.

So, I am left with my plants. This year the rain has been a bit of an expletive deleted. I planted up a whole lot of chilli seedlings, sunflowers, marigolds and have been eagerly waiting for the day I can put them out. Trouble is, with the rain HAMMERING down, the seedlings would be smashed flat in an instant, but while they are in the greenhouse they get more and more etiolated which frankly is just as bad. Today was going to be the last rain for two weeks, and then tonight on the weather app I see that next week has three wet days. That rules out putting the adeniums out; though the air plants and Phalaenopsis could stand that, the next week is so cold at night that I daren't risk it.



I have my experimental sweet potato towers out. The preliminary results last year have been yielding a heavy return, so I am curious to see what this year will bring with more organised, heavy planting. The towers lift all the vines well up into the air so that the ground between the plants is kept weed free very easily, and the temptation is to plant chillies alongside the sweet potatoes to get a freebie crop. I think I will succumb, as long as I can get them out before they are too etiolated

The sweet potatoes come with an irritating catch. Beginning of January I potted up all the small sweet potatoes and so far ONE has decided to shoot. ONE out of 30 or 40 pots. I realised I was going to have problems, when I realised I had missed out on an easy way to propagate them by simply taking vine cuttings. Trouble is, at the beginning of the winter we had had two slight frosts which burned all the vines, so I was desperately running around seeking out vines that were putting out fresh leaves. These were all cut into suitable lengths and stood in glasses full of water, and every week I would pull the ones out that were rooting, and pot them up. They were then left in the cold greenhouse until they showed enough development to withstand the big wide world whereupon they were put outside in the full sun, and this week I planted out the first batch of 24 plants. Fingers crossed.



Next year I will take vine cuttings way earlier, before the first frosts, although that will mean baby sitting them in the greenhouse for 4 months. Given that Spain is supposed to be a sunny country, it never ceases to surprise me that I have the main greenhouse closed with the heaters ready for 5-6 months of the year.

Out in the countryside, this has definitely been the year of the Bermuda Buttercup, with tremendous displays of yellow flowers all over. It is almost as though most years have a favoured flower that grows 10 x more lavishly than any other. One year it was the Suya, the red clover. It was SO prolific that it was all over the central reservations of the motorway, and when it came to an end, the workmen were clearing it using a mini combine harvester which left a necklace of small compressed bales of dried

to stand up straight.

Suya all along the motorway. I assume they used it as animal feedstuff. Another year it was the Suegras, which coloured whole fields so that the cattle looked to be standing in lakes of blue paint, and it turned the olive groves into weird Alice in Wonderland images.

Thankfully, the *Ayuntamiento*, or whoever is responsible for verge maintenance and the like, because they don't use herbicide and cut the weeds back late in the year, together with the impoverished soils and no fertiliser run-off, ensures that the grasses are sparse and the wildflowers do well, year on year.

Bil Wight

WANT TO HELP OUT?

ChiFRA Age Concern is always keen to enlist the help of volunteers on whom we call upon to assist in a number of different ways. These can range from taking people shopping, or to hospital, or providing care. Anyone who is interested in volunteering should contact Lesley or Susan on:
0034 634 31 52 89

WANT TO DONATE?

Some of you may be aware of some of the overheads involved in running ChiFRA & Age Concern. We have to pay for storage, maintenance, repair and replacement of mobility equipment. We also pay for a contact phone, website hosting and email, and bank charges.

All of our committee and volunteers do so free of charge and to date we have never asked members for contributions. Now we urgently need to raise money in order to buy and repair equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers etc.

To this end we have set up a GoFundMe page and would appreciate any donation no matter how big or small you could make.

The link is - <https://gofund.me/5495b562>

FINALLY, A QUICK REMINDER WHERE TO FIND US

Website: <https://chifra-ageconcern.com/>

Email: admin@chifra-ageconcern.com

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

Telephone: 0034 634 31 52 89

Address: The Post House 100, Apartaclub La Barrosa Local 5, Los Gallos, Chiclana de la Frontera, 11130, Cádiz