The non-partisan
(Gruntmore. The obligatory Englishman)

Alqueria has, like so many Spanish villages have, a resident if not obligatory Englishman. In Alqueria's case, one Blythe Gruntmore. Blythe appeared in the village some five years ago as if by magic. Popping up like the Fairy King and trying hard to assimilate.

An average man in most respects. One could say his physique was of a standard pattern as were his features. The only discernible difference between him and the hordes that walk the damp streets of north eastern England was his longing too leave. The fog on the Tyne could be someone else's as far as he was concerned. Blythe, a Geordie liked the idea of a one month winter and so crossed the Pyrenees.

Blythe was however no linguist and couldn't appreciate the importance of verb conjugation. This weakness and his strong Geordie accent made his English incomprehensible and his Spanish a complete mystery to all including himself. While the future of the village fountain was being discussed, Gruntmore made an impassioned speech in its favour. However despite his rehearsals and preparation the Spanish finally delivered bore no resemblance to that which he intended. The most astute in the audience deciphered the gobbledegook as "The big round bottom of my Aunt has been struck by a runaway wardrobe". Gruntmore was in high glee at his oratorical masterpiece and viewed the worried and disbelieving glances as sympathy for his cause.

Gruntmore is looked upon as a simpleton and cared for by the villagers. Horacio Stranglardeganso, who owns the Bar La Casa Devante keeps a bottle of HP sauce for the exclusive use of Gruntmore. While the elders of the village ease his progress and keep a watchful eye on their resident Englishman.

Gruntmore's house in the Calle Horno is easy to find. The entrance is through a door on the gable end of a row of properties that front onto the Avenida de Naranjas, among El Gente del Cerro to the south west of the village. Perhaps the 1.2 metre satellite dish hanging precariously just below an upstairs window is another give-away. His devotion to Coronation Street and News at Ten is directly proportional to his distance from the programmes' source.

Blythe Gruntmore is however an integral part of life of Alqueria as others of his like are collectively part of the overall community of southern Spain.

How he reacts with the dysfunctional folk of the Pueblo and how they fell about his presence is matter for later.