

FROM OUR OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENT

Here is the latest report from our parishioner who spends much of his time overseas in a Spanish-speaking Caribbean country. The price for his contribution is that the Editor resumes publication of the international (internet) edition of The Burton Journal

Sosúa Signs



For those of us trying to master the language of our adopted country, it is reassuring that the local people, however well they speak it, can also run into problems with English. Some local shop signs in this holiday town on the north coast of the Dominican Republic provide examples.

Sometimes it is just a question of a misplaced letter, or space, and there is no real problem of understanding



Sometimes you have to think a bit more about what is actually meant, but it soon becomes clear.



Then again, if you don't quite know the right word, make one up which sounds what you have heard what English speakers say. (Or is "Rhom" really a word in some other language?).

Frequently the grammar is perfectly correct and the meaning clear, but perhaps we wouldn't actually say it quite like that.



Finally, here is an example of a sign in perfect English. It is provided only in order to reassure Asda shoppers and shareholders that its American parent company, Walmart, seems to have a widely-based retail strategy.

All these signs show an enthusiastic approach to selling to English-speaking residents and visitors and they add a bit of fun to life. But I guess that none of them would be allowed either in Burton Village or Burton Waters.

John Bosworth