

# THE DREAM SCENE

## Newsletter

Issue no. 2 1st of April 2007

### GOLD IN THEM THERE HILLS!!!!



Residents awoke today to find a mini gold-rush between the swimming pools in Dream Hills 1. The recent heavy rains have washed away the top layer of soil by the small drainage gully and exposed a long but very thin vein of the precious metal. Joined by a research team from Alicante, many of the local residents tried their luck and “panned” for the golden nuggets early this morning.

By the time the Dream Scene photographer arrived, the research team and most of the prospectors had already departed leaving a few stalwarts to unearth the last of the mother-lode.

Dream Scene interviewed one prospector, attractive Mrs. Hortense Glumm, aged 87, of Dream Hills. “I hope to surprise my husband, Beauregard,” she said. “He fell and broke his front teeth in a bar in Via Park V last Wednesday. I am trying to find enough gold for two new teeth as a surprise Easter present.”

An emergency committee meeting is being convened to decide the feasibility of securing the area. D.H. residents have stated that they have not seen such excitement since the discovery, last April, of the giant barking rabbits of San Miguel!

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**Ethel! The bus stop is this side!**

# WHAT'S UP?

In the last month the **weather here** has been most un-seasonal and dramatic. Beautifully warm one day - 25° , then down to 13° the next day. Gale force winds have caused considerable damage throughout the Costas with gusts of up to 100 kilometres ph diverting air traffic from Alicante to Valencia, Murcia and even Ibiza! Main damage was fallen trees, walls, shattered glass, and the canopies to petrol stations. Local farmers are very concerned because the recent years of drought coupled with high winds have produced iron-hard ground that is unsuitable for spring planting. Most effected crops will be artichoke and broccoli.

Speaking of big winds and hot air, the **Spanish local elections** take place in May. Disappointment with the treatment of ex-pat areas by local government has led to the registration of several new political parties such as AIM, GRIP and in the Orihuela Costa Area - CLARO. Certainly, Orihuela Costa, has to date, received very little investment and support from the local authority - a situation the opposition parties have declared as scandalous. However it will be interesting to see how many ex-pats have bothered to register to vote. If there was a Monster Raving Looney Party I would join it but I may be over-qualified!

**Discontent** has also arisen as many of the **Mayors on the Costas** are awaiting trial for various alleged crimes. The offences in Marbella are well known, but closer to home the mayor of Orihuela has still to answer some 20 charges as well as answering - "Who paid for your nice new house?" The current popular mayor of Torrevieja, Mateo, has been accused of corruption by the Green Party. It appears he bought a plot of land for 180,000 euros and then sold it to a building company for 5.6 million euros. A recent charge against him and two other councillors (one of whom was in charge of building projects) regarding extraordinary expenses has this week been 'archived' temporarily by a local judge - for archived read shelved! .

You will recall how work on the newest and largest **desalination plant** in Europe, if not the world, began in Torrevieja last month. After just a few days work the regional government in Valencia ordered **all work to stop**, fined the construction company 3,000 euros and put a crash barrier around access points to the site, claiming that the plant would break environmental regulations. They have also insisted that the damaged land be restored. Notwithstanding any possible or probable environmental effects, sceptics believe that the real reason for the closure is political and linked to the cancellation of the **Ebro river water transfers**. The Madrid cabinet, who authorised the original works, have now brought the issue to the Constitutional Court, who will not rule before five months, at the earliest! Local and regional politics in Spain can be very entertaining but equally frustrating As my Granddad used to say - "Son, someday's it is just not worth trying to chew through the restraints!"

The new commercial development at **Punta Prima**, will definitely contain a large **Eroski** supermarket and a **Plus** discount store as well. No doubt a bank and a Chinese restaurant will also feature!

Some of you may recall the **horrific murder** of the Swedish couple, Lena and Erik Karlsson, at their home in the Villas del Duque urbanisation, Los Altos, (which is between DH 1, DH 2 and Via Park 3) in 2003. The Supreme Court has confirmed a 48 year sentence on the murderer, Hamed Ben M, aged 38.

A large container lorry carrying two thousand boxes of iceberg lettuce and one million cigarettes was **high-jacked** in Murcia last week. The Guardia Civil are looking for a rabbit with a bad cough!

(Continued on Page 6)

## THE PHOENIX

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 NIGHT

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I would like to say how much I enjoyed the first addition of the 'Dream Hills' newsletter. It was witty & informative.

However, the reference to Torre Vieja Hospital's Phyl Ward being reserved for Man U supporters should definitely be amended to 'Arse--na! Players' (don't you think?).

Looking forward to the next edition.

From a very honest Man U fan!

Bill.

Thank you Bill for our first ever letter, and it's nice to see a Man U fan using joined-up writing!

Ed.

**Congratulations to Pat & Ken Kemble on their Golden Wedding Anniversary this Friday, 30th of March.**

We have also received the following letter from Mags Harris of 269 DH 1 where she Advises on rubbish collection, often an emotive issue in ex pat areas.

### **La Basura - The Refuse!!**

We have rubbish clearance from the green bins **daily!!**, actually nightly, which is pretty sensible, due to climate and traffic. We have green garden collections (leave tidily next to bins) on Mondays/Thursdays or Tuesdays and Fridays weekly! House hold furniture will be collected by a lorry once a week - or re-cycled by neighbours - but some electrical goods will be taken away by the company supplying new items! **Check!**

We have re-cycling bins - yellow for plastic/tin/small batteries, blue for paper/paper cartons/cardboard and green bottle-banks for bottles, all emptied once a week and if ours are full, you can use other areas too!

There is also a large Eco-Park in Torre Vieja opposite Habaneras on the same side as Los Bomberos (the fire station), which is open five days a week - Mon to Fri - 9.30 - 2.30 p.m. It has designated places for everything but they do not collect from this area, you have to take your stuff there.

Please folks, Spain has it well organised - **so lets help** - flatten cardboard boxes before putting between bins. Crush plastic bottles (by standing on them) and plastic/cardboard cartons before putting in re-cycling bins.

Do **not** place any personal paper with Bank details - names, addresses, etc in bins. Shred well and mix up. Information can, and has been, stolen from bins! Strictly speaking, rubbish should not be deposited until after 8 o'clock at night to keep smell and rats at bay in the summer. The police have been known to correct offenders.

Always put household and food rubbish in plastic bags tied tightly, before putting in green bins. **Never** put bags on the ground by bins as dogs and particularly cats will have a go at them!

**Keep Dream Hills tidy!** If everyone did 'their bit' - we could be tidy!

Yours,  
 Maggs@269

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The above reminds me of the story told by one of the Marx brothers. When they were children, one of them shouted to his mother upstairs -  
 "Hey, Ma, the garbage men are here!"  
 Their mother thought for a while and then shouted back -  
 "Well, tell them we have enough!!"

## **RESTAURANT REVIEW**

Rodizio Brazuka, Casa Grande Industrial Estate, Avda. Delfina Viudes, next to Tecnologia Urbanistica, 03183 Torrevieja - Tel: 965708602 - www.rodiziobrazuka.com

This is a new purpose built Brazilian restaurant. Entrance is through its small bar leading to an L shaped restaurant with smoking and non smoking areas. In the middle of the dining area there is a buffet table which is laden with various pre-prepared salad items together with a cold pasta, some hot veg, various types of rice and some fresh fruit. This buffet table may vary from visit to visit.

After being seated the waiter will bring you some bread and take your drink order. You will be given a card, green on one side and red on the other. Green means keep the food coming / red means stop - enough! You then go to the buffet table and select your choices, one of my favourites is the rice cooked with chocolate, which is a savoury and not a sweet dish. You can take as much or as little as you wish and return.

One of the waiters - who all speak excellent English - will bring a large skewers (called an 'espeto') of meat to your table. He will carve pieces off the joints and if you want more do say so. Every two place settings are supplied with a small pair of tongs which you use to take the sliced meat off the joint. The waiters will keep returning with different joints of meat and sausage so do not fill up too early! They bring you beef, lamb, chicken, turkey, pork and sausage etc but no capybara! The meats are always succulent and piping hot. It is surprising how fast a hefty protein indulgence will fill you up!

When you have had enough meat turn your card to 'red' and the waiter will then offer you a skewer of hot pineapple coated in cinnamon and cut you a delicious and refreshing slice or two. As one would expect, the Rodizio would not be at the top of any veggies list. When busy it has an excellent atmosphere and it is a very popular location with the Spanish people. There is an a la carte menu which also features some fish dishes, but I have never seen anyone ordering any. It is advisable to book, particularly at the weekends.

Some may think that the price 23 euros plus per person, not including drinks, is a bit too much but when you think that a few miserable Spanish lamb chops cost from 15 to 18 euros elsewhere - well?? Beer and pop are reasonably priced and bottles of wine start at about 8 euros.

Children's menu is off the a la carte and for 10.30 euros a child gets full access to the buffet, a special skewer of meat and a simple dessert.

Would I return? Yes, already have. But it is not a place one could visit every week - too much protein!

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**Worth a look.** From Thursday to Saturday **THE BLUES BROTHERS** perform at The Temple Bar, lower ground floor, Playa Flamenca Commercial Centre. The show starts at about 10.45 pm, it is free and kids are welcome. It is great fun but very, very loud!

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### **THE KINDLY LAWYER**

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One afternoon a lawyer was riding in his limousine when he saw two men along the roadside eating grass. Disturbed, he ordered his driver to stop and he got out to investigate.

He asked one man, "Why are you eating grass?" "We don't have any money for food," the poor man replied, "We have to eat grass!" Well then," the lawyer said, "You can come with me to my house and I'll feed you." "But sir, I have a wife and two children with me. They are over there under that tree."

"Bring them along," the lawyer replied. Turning to the other poor man, he stated - "You come with us also." The second man, in a pitiful voice then said, "But sir, I also have a wife and six children with me!"

"Bring them as well," the lawyer answered. They all squeezed into the car, no easy task!

Once underway, one of the poor fellows turned to the lawyer, with tears in his eyes and said, "Sir, you are too kind. Thank you for taking all of us with you."

The lawyer replied,"Glad to do it. You'll really love my place. The grass is almost a foot high.!"

(Pam McK)



## MIND & BODY

After several years of research, a new **female aphrodisiac** will be available on prescription from next month in the UK. Called **Intrinsa**, it is a patch which, when placed on the stomach or bottom, releases testosterone into the body system. The drug is designed to help post menopausal women and others with low sex drives. However, as one counsellor observed, "If you are not interested in sex because your husband is a bit of a gorilla, Intrinsa will not change that!" The British Medical Journal noted that in one trial, the women reported one extra 'sensual episode' a month after six months on the drug. (Mind you, "She-who must be obeyed," would describe watching Hugh Jackman in "Van Helsing" while eating a bar of chocolate as a sensual experience!) So relax Chaps! You will still be able to watch the football on Saturdays! (Now is that a nicotine patch or Intrinsa?) I recall reading somewhere that the greatest female aphrodisiac in the world is a red Mercedes convertible!

It seems that hardly a week can go by without our previous assumptions about food being challenged. We all remember the advice - "No more than four **eggs** a week." The original advice was given because eggs, like shellfish, are a source of pre-formed cholesterol and the assumption was that they raised levels of cholesterol in the blood when we ate them. The American heart Association has now **revised** its four-eggs-per week restriction after research has indicated that **little of the cholesterol in eggs is absorbed** in the intestine and that eggs do not greatly influence cholesterol levels in the blood. The only exception is if you are **one in five hundred** of the UK population who are genetically predisposed to high cholesterol - a condition known as '**hyper-cholesterolaemia**' which causes you to make and process cholesterol abnormally. Eggs are a good source of easily digestible protein and vitamin D, which helps to build and maintain strong bones and iron for energy. They are also rich in choline, a type of B vitamin, which plays a crucial role in memory function. Lutein, a yellow pigment found in eggs, has been shown that in high levels in our blood, it has been linked with a lower rate of age-related macular degeneration. This is particularly important for the eyes in sunny climates where the back of the retina can be badly damaged by the sun. Eating one and a half eggs per day has been shown to boost lutein levels by almost 40 per cent. **Lutein** also helps reduce inflammatory responses on our artery walls, reducing the risk of cholesterol build-up and heart disease. However, one must be aware of **salmonella** related problems, particularly for pregnant and elderly people.

In the Journal of the American Medical Association, a recent study from the Copenhagen University Hospital in Denmark stated that taking **vitamin supplements** was a **waste of money** and could shorten life expectancy. The 68 clinical trials involved almost a quarter of million participants. It was found that people taking vitamin A supplements are 16 per cent more likely to die than those not taking supplements during the trial period, while beta-carotene and vitamin E supplement-takers are at 7 and 4 per cent greater risk.

Alicante Regional Hospital recently reported that the recent **un-seasonal weather** has dramatically increased the number of people suffering allergic reactions due to wind-borne irritants such as pollen. The unstable weather conditions are also playing havoc with some peoples mental outlook. The head of the San Juan Hospital's psychiatric department has reported that the number of people requiring treatment for **depression** has increased from 5 to 20 people daily! ( I wonder how they would fare in say, Wigan!) Within this figure the incidence of 13 to 16 year olds requiring treatment has also risen.

One of my daughters, who is a health-care professional, tells me that there is a wonderful **freebie web-site** at [www.moodgym.anu.edu.au](http://www.moodgym.anu.edu.au) which helps identify and overcome certain emotional problems and develop good **coping skills** for the future. The free course is modular, but they advise that the course be taken in sequence. The site is hosted by the Australian National University.

The Orihuela Costa Neighbourhood Watch people have issued an appeal to all Costa residents to introduce **emergency contact details** into their **mobile phones**. Emergency services staff have found that, at times, they have been unable to identify badly injured individuals or contact victim's relatives. Chris Poole, the lead coordinator of Orihuela Costa Neighbourhood Watch has recommended that people put details of emergency contacts or next of kin in the address list of their mobiles under the initials **ECE (En Caso de Emergencia)**. Additional emergency contact details can also be added using the codes ECE1, ECE2, ECE3 etc. This of course is useless if your mobile is locked. The Guardia Civil, local police and the SAMUR ambulance service is aware of the ECE system and fully support it.

## EDITORIAL

Welcome to the second issue of THE DREAMSCENE and a special welcome to new owners in both Dream Hills 1 & 2. Feedback on the first edition has been very encouraging and Internet subscribers have exceeded expectations. Many thanks to you all.

One question is “Why did I not restrict it to just DH 1?” Firstly, I have always felt that there were enough “high walls”, both physically and metaphorically, in the area. There are too many “little fortresses” around with people talking to their neighbours through locked gates. Of course there are security concerns but barriers will always restrict communications and cultivate and encourage - albeit un-intentionally - “fortress” attitudes. Good communications can only improve community spirit. DH 2 has many similarities with DH 1, and as most of them are “newbies”, we all remember what that’s like. A bit of help goes a long way. Secondly, by including DH 2, it might strengthen the appeal to possible advertisers from Via Park 3. The “dream scene” costs almost €100 each month in just toner ink and paper alone. Advertising and Internet subscribers are fundamental to its survival.

The problem of “dog-poo” can be an important issue in urbanisations. There is little doubt that dogs give their owners great companionship and joy. However, irresponsible owners who do not clean up after their dogs must somehow be encouraged to do so. One cannot blame the dogs. There are many “dog fouling signs” around (although at least 10 on DH 1 have been pulled down by local youths). I have seen some owners check offenders and then be ignored. Some have suggested “name & shame”, others - a sniper on the roof of Via Park V! I am aware of one particular case where the dog-owner refused to pick up her pet’s poo after being requested to do so. The lady who complained then collected the poo and dropped it on the offenders house-path! What an excellent idea! As Gilbert & Sullivan said, “Let the punishment fit the crime.” Taking that ladies initiative, I propose printing in the next issue a couple of cut-outs, which, in three languages will state that - if you do not collect and dispose of your dog-poo responsibly, it could be deposited on your house-path.! The cut-out could be handed to offenders who do not “pooper scoop!”

Please let me know what you think.

See you next month! Mick - Editor.

(Thanks to Marjory for advice re formatting of text)

**Any correspondence to the Dreamscene can be placed on the “dreamscene” post-box outside of number 586 on DH 1, or sent by e-mail to [mick.dreamscene@googlemail.com](mailto:mick.dreamscene@googlemail.com)**

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**WHAT’S UP?** (Continued from Page 1)

Resident in Torre de la Horadada, just south of Cabo Roig, have reported that more than 60 cats - some of them domestic - have been **poisoned**, possibly deliberately. The bodies have been turning up since February 21st. Apparently this has happened before. The growth of **feral cat colonies** has concerned residents from many urbanisations. The animal charities regularly sterilise colonies, however the problem is compounded by some residents feeding feral cats, often on other peoples’ property. Naturally, this has led to a lot of bad feeling and a certain amount of conflict.

Last week, the emergency services **simulated an oil spill** in the sea at Torrevieja to test their response and clear up techniques. The training exercise simulated a disaster arising from a collision between a fishing boat and a petrol tanker. Several thousand kilos of **popcorn** was poured on to the sea and subsequently cleared from the beach at Los Naufragos. More than 100 people from various agencies took part in the exercise. Beware an abundance of cheap, soggy and over salted popcorn at the markets!

The Valencian government have given the go ahead to an **electrified tramway system** to run from the Tabisam roundabout in Torrevieja to Mil Palmeras. It will run parallel to the N332. The Punta Prima tower will be demolished and a tunnel to accommodate the tramway will be built under the Torrejovent Hotel. As the work is due to begin on the 1st of April, I am wondering if this is a **bit of a ‘wind up!’**

Part of the N332 from Guardamar to Torrevieja is to be converted into a **dual carriageway** at a cost of 30.6 million euros. Work is due to start at the end of 2008 and will include seven new roundabouts, a cycle lane and pedestrian crossing points.

There is talk that a **Mercadona or Jumerca (Gamma)** supermarket will be built close to DH 2 with a new road bridge across the motorway but nothing is definite at this stage.

More next month.

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## The Smiling Dead.

Three dead bodies turn up at the Alicante mortuary, all with very big smiles on their faces. The Coroner calls in the police to tell them what happened. "First body: Frenchman ,75, died of heart failure while making love to his mistress. Hence the enormous smile, Inspector," says the Coroner. "Second body: Scotsman, 35, won a thousand euros on the lottery, spent it all on whisky. Died of alcohol poisoning, hence the smile."

The Inspector asked, "What of the third body?" "Ah," says the coroner, "this is the most unusual one. Mossie Quinn, the redneck and entertainer from Galway, 30, struck by lightning"

"Why is he smiling then?" inquires the Inspector.

"Well," replied the Coroner, "he thought he was having his picture taken!"

### RESIDENCIAS - CHANGES.

On March 28th, a Royal Decree came into effect which has scrapped the residence card procedure. Many of us who have experienced the whole residencia application procedure have likened the ordeal to the Spanish Inquisition.

The abolition of the card was a direct result of a European Directive which stated that member state citizens should not be treated the same as non EU citizens regarding registration.

The new decree states that EU citizens who wish to live in Spain for more than three months must personally request their signing on the Registro Central de Extranjeros register - a procedure that can be carried out at the provincial Foreigners' Office or at a National Police Station.

Residents must present a valid passport or national identity card to sign on the register and a certificate will be issued on the spot showing the person's name, nationality, address, NIE number and registration date.

EU citizens in Spain who already have residencia cards will not need to re-register until their residencia card expires, upon which they will be issued with a certificate. So basically, the card is just being replaced with a certificate. The card was and is an excellent means of identification for credit cards etc when formal ID is requested.

If future registration is not an ordeal it opens up the possibility of dual residency and better inheritance tax planning for offspring not normally resident in Spain!

But do consult a professional before making important financial decisions in what is still a murky and misunderstood area.

### USEFUL NUMBERS

#### EMERGENCY NUMBER 112

Age Concern	966786887
Airport – El Altet	966919000
Airport – San Javier	968172000
Aquagest (Water)	965702169
Ayuntamiento	966761250
Guardia Civil	965710113
Health Clinic – Cabo Roig	965322966
Help Association - emergency	965704282
Help Association - enquiries	965704282
Hospital – San Jaime (Private)	966921313
Hospital – Torrevieja	965721200
Hospital – Veja Baja	966776166
Iberdrola (Electricity)	965710248
Policia Local	966760000
President DH 1 - Stefan	966798482
RENFE Railways Alicante	965262731
SUMA – Tax Office	966761169
Tanatorio	966762249
Taxi	966761088
British Consulate	965216022
French Consulate	965228249
German Consulate	965928852
Irish Consulate	914364093
Netherlands Consulate	965217060
Norwegian Consulate	965218300
Swedish Consulate	965218123

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**Smart Ass Prize Quiz:** Name, in historical sequence, Britain's 20th-century prime ministers?

**Normal Prize Quiz.**

1. The name of which weapon is derived from the Spanish for 'pomegranate'?
2. Which singer did Diana Ross play in *Lady Sings The Blues*?
3. Who was the leader of the Roman Gods?
4. Which former monarch died in Paris 1972?
5. What is ergophobia the fear of?
6. Which novelist left an unfinished story called *The Watsons* when she died in 1817?
7. Who were the oldest brothers of Seth?
8. Which country's currency has 100 mongos to the tug?
9. Which author's real first names were Pelham Grenville?
10. How many riders compete in a standard speedway race?

Answers to be placed in Dream Scene  
post box outside 586 DH 1

or to

mick.dreamscene@googlemail.com

Entries to be in by 25th April 2007

Prizes will be held for winning  
non-residents.

DREAM HILLS PETANCA CLUB

Monday afternoon's.



As most of the residents of Dream Hills are aware, there are six petanca courts - four near the top swimming Pool and two further along the urbanisation.

In early 2006, Richard and Marjory Norris were asked to form a petanca club for Dream Hills. Notices were displayed and about 25 people turned up on the first meeting day. Several people were new to the game, but as learning is quite easy, everyone was able to join in and enjoy their game's.

Since then, we have met weekly, although the numbers fluctuate as people return to the U.K. Or have visitors staying, the members know that the club will be meeting weekly. In the winter months we play between 3 and 5 p.m., but when the weather is too hot to play, and the evenings are lighter, we move to 5 to 7 p.m.

Many people have said that it is nice to socialise with residents from other parts of Dream Hills and friendships have developed. February marked the first 'outing' of the club members, when 21 of us went to San Miguel for a dinner together. (R&M N)

#### FOR SALE

Two tall cafe tables, excellent condition.  
Only 5 euros each. The Paddocks,  
Via Park V Tel: 965991046.

The **Annual General Meeting of Dream Hills 1** will be held at the Asturias Restaurant, Calle Mosca on the N332 on Wednesday, the 9th of May, 2007 at 10.00 a.m.

Classified ads are FREE to D.H. 1 & 2 Residents except for 'services' business ads from residents which will cost 3 euros. Boxed ads for bars etc cost only 5 euros. Classified ad requests should be placed in the Dream Scene mail box outside of no. 586 in Dream Hills 1.

Requests for business adverts may be made by phoning 966798847 or by e-mailing [mick.dreamscene@googlemail.com](mailto:mick.dreamscene@googlemail.com)

Cut-off copy date for inclusion in the next issue is 21/04/07.

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