

# THE DREAM SCENE

## Newsletter

Issue no. 9 28th of October 2007

### Bienvenido! Welcome!

The quality of the health service in Spain has been coming in for a bit of a hammering recently.

The newspaper, El País, reports that the Spanish health service has two Achilles heels – waiting lists and the lack of respect for the rights of patients. A European-wide health survey of 29 countries puts Spain at 14th place, despite the belief in Spain that the health service is one of the best five or six in the world. Austria is top of the list.

In a separate Spanish report, the health services on offer in Valencia, Murcia, Madrid and the Canarias, were all described as deficient. The latest annual report from the Federation of Associations in Defence of Public Health (FADSP) also reports that the health service in the Valencia region is the worst in Spain. Points were awarded for areas such as health expenditure per person, the pharmaceutical budget, beds per one thousand inhabitants, and the ratio of general medical doctors and nurses per capita. The service was considered to be good in Aragón, Asturias, Cantabria, Cataluña, Navarra and the Basque Country.

In early October, the paper Público advised that there is a crisis in the health service and that more than 25,000 additional doctors are needed in Spain. The paper also stated that each family doctor sees 800 more patients than the ideal number and that they are badly paid - €40,000 here, compared to €60,000 in Portugal. I think the figure is more like £stg. 100,000 in the U.K.! Público also claims that 6,000 doctors have left Spain to work elsewhere. Whereas Spanish doctors can receive certain adulation from the public and have streets named after them etc, when it comes to their own job the general practitioner has little say as to where and when they work. They can be quite happy treating sunburn in Cabo Roig one week and then be transferred permanently to treat bunions in Bigastro the next week, depending on the whim of the Valencian authorities.

My own opinion is that the local health services cope extraordinary well considering the problems associated with large un-anticipated increases in the local permanent population and huge increases in tourist numbers in the summer. The lack of planning at local council levels also means that the health services can never get realistic statistical data to help them plan for future increases in the population.

**Book Swap:** On Thursday Dec 20th during Book Swap (10-12), Pam & Chris would like to offer their 'friends' of the Book Swap a pre-Christmas get together with cheese & wine and maybe a mince pie or two! Put it in your diary! (Pam & Chris)

**Notes from La Casita:** Monday 10.00 Watercolour art classes. Unfortunately the art teacher can no longer take the classes. However, the class will continue as a group. For further details contact Joyce Sinclair 966799544

**The Petanca club** continues to meet on Monday afternoons, now from 3.00 to 5.00. To join in, please arrive early, 10 mins, to allow for team draws.(M.N.)

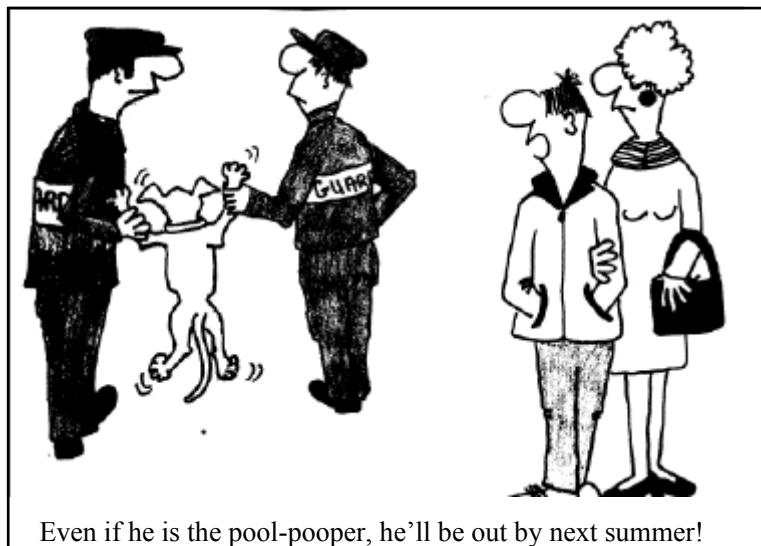
Thanks to all the contributors to this issue, and a special thanks to Angela, who produced the cartoon while both herself and Pete were suffering badly from 'the lurgy!'

(The Dream Scene is early this month because of personal commitments. Mick)

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## WHAT'S UP?

There is now some doubt as to whether the 2009 America's Cup in Valencia will be going ahead. The winning Swiss team, Alinghi, has, as is its right, changed the rules (protocols) to allow for a larger 90 foot boat design. To date there have been only five teams entered for the 33rd America's Cup, which is fairly dismal. There is a civil law suit pending against the Swiss team by the Golden Gate Yacht Club and the U.S. team BMW Oracle. Also, the major event sponsor, Louis Vuitton, withdrew its support a few months ago. Cancellation or postponement would be a severe blow to the Valencian community as hundreds of millions of euro are contributed to the local economy leading up to and during the race.

A new decree has been drawn up by the *Junta de Andalucía* which will allow for more golf courses to be built in that region, but only if they will be public courses and not part of any housing development. They will also have to comply to current regulations and use only recycled water. There are currently 95 golf courses in Andalucía but the municipalities want to build 300 more! No date for the implementation of this decree has been agreed yet.

Illegal African immigrants continue to flood into the Canaries. 303 immigrants from four boats were arrested on Wednesday. Also on Wednesday a Spanish fishing boat rescued one survivor from a boat 300 miles off the coast of Senegal. Unfortunately there were seven corpses on the boat and another 50 missing. The Spanish captain of the fishing boat described the Africans boat as 'horrific' and 'Dante-esque' estimating that the passengers had died some seven days previously. One recent weekend saw 607 immigrants reaching Spanish shores. So far this year 11,867 immigrants have reached the coasts of the Canaries and the Spanish mainland. This is well down on the 33,000 who reached shore this time last year.

A new vaccine against cervical cancer and the VPH virus is now available from *farmacias* in Spain. It is called *Gardasil* and the three doses cost a total of €464.58. It will be introduced progressively by the National Health Service in the regional *saluds* from the 1st of January next year. The current plans are to make the vaccine free to girls between the ages of 11 and 14 and to hopefully extend it later to ladies under the age of 26. Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women in Spain, killing more than 700 every year.

The police have been noticeably active during the last month. A gang of 14 Algerians were arrested in Orihuela. This was a particularly violent gang, who were attacking the occupants of houses and restaurants with axes and knives. They were also in possession of several stolen cars. This is the third violent Algerian gang arrested since early September, several police officers being injured during the arrests.

Three pensioners from Estonia have also been charged with credit-card cloning in Orihuela. They are charged with defrauding 12 banks from the U.S. and two from Scandinavia. A quantity of firearms, ammunition, cloned cards, components of bank cash-machines and two stolen cars were seized by police.

A 28 year-old Dutch national was arrested in Orihuela with a ton of cannabis resin in a stolen BMW X-5. Several other cars were damaged as he tried to escape. Personally I doubt that any car could carry a ton - 2,200 lbs - even a 'beamer!'

On Tuesday, the manager of an Elche estate agency was shot in his office by a disgruntled client. Initial reports stated that there was a disagreement over a €50 electricity bill! The man is recovering in hospital from shotgun wounds to the legs. This reminds me of the Al Murray joke - Why do you never see an older estate-agent? Because they all die young - of shame!

### Little Tommy

Little Tommy watched, fascinated, as his mother smoothed cold cream on her face. "Why do you do that?" he asked.

"To make myself beautiful" said his mum, who then began to remove the cream. "What's the matter?" asked Tommy, "Giving Up?"

*Kevin & Kaz Welcome you to*

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## What's Up - continued.

Figures from the College of Architects show a major decrease in new building starts in most areas of the Costa del Sol. *Diario Sur* newspaper reports that the building industry in Málaga province is now in crisis with an 80% slowdown in many areas. Latest figures show an equally dramatic reduction in the number of mortgages being granted in Spain. Some families are spending 40% of their income on mortgage payments. The mixture of higher interest rates and more expensive property has led to a major market downturn, with September now the tenth consecutive month to show a reduction in the number of new home loans. The data, from the **Bank of Spain**, is even more dramatic when compared to just 18 months ago when new monthly credits were increasing at a rate of 41%.

Three in ten real estate agencies in Spain are set to close this year, as the sector enters into a crisis following a significant fall in demand. It's now forecast that there will be more than a 20% fall in sales this year, and the construction of new property will be much lower.

The President of the Network of Real Estate Experts - REI, Eduardo Molet, has said that more than a third of the 60,000 real estate promoters in Spain will have problems next year. A survey from the network says that as many as 75% of agencies could close between 2009 and 2014. Molet said this year would end with 700,000 new homes built in Spain, a crazy number if compared to the rest of the EU. In the U.K. for example, the number is only 187,000.

Currently there are 3.1 million empty properties across the country, according to the National Statistics Institute, and this number will increase unless there is a major boost in demand. Already many companies are in trouble. Six companies from the Valencia **Group Llanera** have applied for bankruptcy protection. The company's debt was 748 million at the end of last year. **Don Piso**, one of the main companies in the sector has closed 26 of the 364 offices it had, sacked workers and cut back on advertising. Don Piso says demand is down 75% and it is the banks and savings banks who are to blame, 'for no longer giving 100% mortgages'. **Fincas Corral**, expects to close half of their 350 offices this year, according to the business paper *Cinco Días*. The newspaper *Público*, states that more than half a million Spaniards are now reported to have property for sale. In terms of property price appreciation it looks like we are 'in for the long haul!'

They are at it again in Murcia. The Murcia High Court of Justice has stopped a marriage between a woman and a transsexual, after it came to light that the couple were born as sisters. *La Opinión de Murcia* reports that one was given up for adoption as a baby and that they only met later on in life after one had gone through a sex change operation. Neither had any idea that they shared the same mother, a fact which was only discovered by a clerk at the Civil Registry.

Last week the Catalan police arrested Juan P.M., who was driving at 175 kphs on a 100 kph limit road. Juan, who tested positive for alcohol and cocaine, was not wearing a seat belt and had only just passed his test! He will now have 21 points removed from his licence! A driving licence only carries a maximum of 12 points!

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## Alaska Story

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Tom had been in the bar business for 25 years. Finally sick of the stress he sold up and bought 500 acres of land in Alaska as far from humanity as possible. He sees the postman once a week and gets groceries once a month. Otherwise it's total peace and quiet. After six months or so, of almost total isolation, someone knocks on his door. He opens it and there's a huge, bearded man standing there.

"Name's Lars, your neighbor from forty miles up the road. Having a Christmas party Friday night... Thought you might like to come. About 5.00?"

"Great", says Tom, "after six months out here I'm ready to meet some local folks. Thank you." As Lars is leaving, he stops. "Gotta warn you.....be some drinkin'."

"Not a problem" says Tom. "After 25 years in the business, I can drink with the best of 'em."

Again, the big man starts to leave and stops. "More 'n' likely gonna be some fightin' too."

"Well, I get along with most people, I'll be all right. I'll be there. Thanks again."

"More'n likely be some wild sex, too," said the giant.

"Now that's really not a problem" says Tom, warming to the idea "I've been all alone for six months! I'll definitely be there. By the way, what should I wear?"

"Don't much matter ..... Just gonna be the two of us."

## Guest Restaurant Review - Chinese Woks by Tid C.

The rapid expansion of the latest concept in Chinese dining is the WOK. These outlets are proving so successful that many previously mediocre restaurants are increasingly barren of customers. One no longer needs to select the *menu del dia* or set menus to be price conscious. The WOK allows you to try everything, or just your favourites, in large or small amounts and go back for more as often as you wish.

The selection of goodies offered is extensive but varies slightly in every establishment. You will often find Duck with plum sauce and pancakes, sweet and sour soup, chicken satay, skewered prawns, battered chicken and chasui pork to name but a few and this is just on the starters! Next you can tackle the fresh selection, beef, chicken, fish, prawns and squid etc, plus vegetables which you pile onto your plate and take up to the cooks, who will wok it with the salsa you choose or place the pieces of meat or prawns on the griddle if that is your fancy - not everyone likes the sauces! Once the cook returns your food on a fresh plate you can return to the starter section to add rice, noodles, salad, potatoes etc. You can repeat this process as many times as you like... it truly is unlimited amounts. Desserts can be a little disappointing but are seldom required. All of the above for only 8.95€ to 9.50€ Children's prices start from 5.95€. Drinks are not included in the price. A quite palatable house wine priced at 5.50€ is reasonable, but a large beer or lager will set you back around 3.25€ which is a bit pricey. All of the woks visited advertise that they open at 12 midday which is a little deceptive as not one has had food out and ready at this time nor at 1.00pm either, so I would seriously recommend that you do not go before 1.30pm. So, which one do you go to? I have visited 6 recently, all within a twenty minutes drive, all in the name of research of course, or at least that's my excuse. My own brief ratings follow .....

<u>RESTAURANTS</u>	<u>VISITS</u>	<u>STAR RATING</u>
1) Oriental Wok, Via Park IV Guardamar Lift- nonsmoking inside, smoking in glassed area -staff pleasant – service good – comfortable seats - difficult parking at night – selection good.	5+	* * *
2)Wok Asia, El Horizonte. Upstairs – lift – nonsmoking only – poor selection of food - staff pleasant, not recommended so not one revisited by me. May have improved.	1	*
3)Oriental Wok, opposite Habanaras, Torrevieja . Sister restaurant to the one in Guardamar, but not as spacious – food identical - nonsmoking - up a few steps – parking underneath-pay by the hour – staff pleasant.	3	* *
4)Wok Asian Garden, Cabo Roig. On N332 just after Pyramid roundabout. Parking difficult at night – disabled ramps – nonsmoking –staff extremely pleasant – excellent décor – you may want to take a cushion – food selection slightly different.	5	* * * *
5) Wok Asia. Punta Marina at Punta Prima. Sister to no. 2 above, recently opened – upstairs – lift – no-smoking – parking - staff indifferent – tables too close together – bad access to food displays – smallest selection of food on offer compared to the others – not greatly impressed - but only visited once – may improve.	1	*
6)Gran Mundo. Pilar de la Horadada. Twenty minutes down N332, Alpuente Bricolage turn off, then back over the bridge towards the sea. Plenty of parking – smoking and no smoking sides – big spacious area –comfortable seating – very pleasant staff – excellent range of food.	5+	* * * * *

As you can see from the above, at the moment the Gran Mundo is by far the best in my opinion - well worth the twenty minute drive down the N332, but the only one that closes in the afternoons reopening at 7.30pm. They offer an extensive food range and two extra salsas – Black Bean and Thai. It is also suitable for those visitors you get when one is not keen on Chinese but the rest of you love it! (It is also located next to a good quality Consum - certainly better than the one in Los Altos) Highly recommended.

### The Adventures of Beaugard & Hortense

Beaugard took his wife to an Agricultural Show and one of their first stops was the breeding bull exhibit. They went up to the first pen and there was a sign attached that said, "This bull mated 52 times last year." Hortense playfully nudged her husband in the ribs and said, "See, Beau...he mated 52 times last year... once a week!" They walked to the second pen which had a sign attached that said, "This bull mated 120 times last year!" Hortense gave her husband a hearty jab and said, "That's more than twice a week! You could learn a lot from him." They walked to the third pen and it had a sign attached that said, in bold letters, "This bull mated 365 times last year." Hortense was so excited that her elbow nearly broke her husband's ribs and said, " Beau! Beau! That's once a day! You could REALLY learn something from this one." Beaugard looked at her and said, "Horty, go over and ask him if it was with the same cow!"

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## Domestic/Gender Violence in Spain

The newspaper, ABC, has reported that there are now more than 100,000 people on the domestic violence register in Spain, and that 9,000 of the aggressors are women. A staggering 49,968 people, is the total figure given in Congress, for the number who have been sentenced for domestic abuse in the past two years. Montserrat Comas, a member of the judicial overseeing body and President of that body's council against gender violence, is pleased with the new legislation stating that 70% of those brought to court had been sentenced. She was concerned, however, with the number of gender violence murders - which average 58 a year - calling for increased protective measures and improved education on the issue. ABC also report that there are 3,453 people in prison currently on domestic violence charges.

The statistics quoted above are indicative of a major problem in Spanish and of course ex-pat society. Because a lot of domestic violence is never reported, the problem has to be much larger than the statistics indicate.

I found this interesting comment in a Spanish/English web-site and have repeated it in its entirety - hope you enjoy it. Sorry for the small print. (Mick - Editor)

### Moaning Man - the pastime of litigation, or let's make a *denuncia*.

I suppose that the fashion of suing whenever you find any sort of inconvenience in life started in the United States. And then somehow, through the influence of television, I guess, it made its way to Britain.

Hard to define, you could say it's when people try to use the law for personal gain, despite common sense clearly showing such law to be an ass. So, now in the United States we have surgeons retiring because they are too scared to operate, just in case they get sued, and so on. It's like an illness creeping across the western world, and looking at the way it is spreading, it must be a close relative to that other modern illness, political correctness. While laudable on many occasions and in theory, it is now sometimes taken to extremes when common sense is shown the door. This week we heard that the British musician, Michael Oldfield, has decided to sell up shop in the U.K. and come and live in Spain. Fed up with the smoking ban, he says the regulations in Britain have become 'ludicrous'. He says he is fed up of living in a country where the old lady who looks after the village green has to wear a luminous vest and a hard hat. I have a mental image of Miss Marple dressed in that way... But I wonder, Will Oldfield find Spain any better? The progressive Government of José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero has done a great deal to modernise the country over the past four years. New equality legislation, and the much needed dependency law for carers, are just two examples of the new modern Spain.

But I am worried that with this progress and defence of the genuinely needy, we will also get some of the other crap.

Already here in Spain there is this culture of 'placing a denuncia' when you feel aggrieved. If you get denounced, the best thing you can do, say some, is denounce the person who is denouncing you. And so it goes on. Can you imagine what would happen if this popular Spanish pastime became just a bit more litigious?

But what is this story I see today from Torrevieja? A man has gone to the local Guardia Civil barracks to place a denuncia against the owner of a property in San Pedro del Pinatar, in Murcia. According to his claim, while he was 'manipulating' the electrical transformer on the property, in an attempt to remove the copper wire, (which it seems is easy to sell on at a good price), he suffered a severe electric shock. As a result he has lost a hand, and suffered serious injury to a leg. He claims the owner of the house was at fault, and is demanding compensation!

I will keep an eye on this case. I hope that the Spanish judiciary will ensure that common sense remains, and that this time it is moaning man who is shown the door. Watch this space.

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### Check-Up

A 90 year old man was having his annual checkup and the doctor asked him how he was feeling.

"I've never been better!" he boasted. "I've got an eighteen year old bride who's pregnant and having my child! What do you think about that?"

The doctor considered this for a moment, then said, "Let me tell you a story. I knew a guy who was an avid hunter. He never missed a season. But one day he went out in a bit of a hurry and he accidentally grabbed his umbrella instead of his gun."

The doctor continued, "So he was in the woods and suddenly a grizzly bear appeared in front of him! He raised up his umbrella, pointed it at the bear and squeezed the handle." "And do you know what happened?" the doctor queried.

Dumbfounded, the old man replied "No".

The doctor continued, "The bear dropped dead in front of him!"

"That's impossible!" exclaimed the old man. "Someone else must have shot that bear."

"That's exactly what I'm getting at..." replied the doctor.

## A light-hearted look at Boagainvilleas. { Love it or loath it! }

Boagainvilleas typify our image of Spain, along with bright skies, beautiful days, warm winters and glorious colours in the garden. The numerous shades of the boagainvilleas flowers, which are called bracts as they are not truly flowers at all, provide us with hues of pink, red white, mauve, purple and a very pretty peachy colour and possible a few that I have missed. Glorious I thought, must have some of those. So once we had arrived in Spain off, I trotted to the garden centre. Being a non-gardening type I was impressed by the low maintenance, easy to grow, beautiful coloured plant that required little watering. I now know that firstly it is a vine not a plant, that it was brought back to Europe after one of his sea ventures by Admiral Louis de Boagainvilleas and that Admiral "what's his name" has a lot to answer for. Hello! I can hear you thinking what is she going on about! Wait for it! There's more to come!

What a misconception I was under. It took a very short space of time to realise what a foolish choice I had made. Firstly the colourful bracts drop off constantly and they are so light that they blow all over the place collecting in ever possible nook and cranny, behind heavy pots, in corners, by steps, all over my front porch. They pile up by the front door and when it is open and you are not looking they silently drift across the living room to surprise you in the downstairs loo! Now there is a point to the next bit which I will elaborate on later. Have you noticed how they get caught up in your trees and other plants - also if you have light coloured tiles how, when it rains you come out later to find purple streaks running down the driveway. Well I think you have guessed by now that my fondness for the blessed boagainvilleas had waned away, and if this was not enough to put me off, the deciding factor was the nasty white sticky bug called *Cochinillas*, (believe it or not known to the English as wood lice.) which seems to be quite prevalent around these parts. "Not many people know that!" well, I certainly didn't. Off to the garden centre again for advice. "Cut it right back and spray it with this solution", they said, "and all will be well." So I did - cut and spray, cut and spray, again and again ....and again!. My next port of call was the *podas* skip where I ceremoniously dumped my blessed boagainvilleas. Naively I thought that was the end of my problems.

That was two years ago now and loads of leaves are still plaguing me and my garden, many dead and diseased with cochinillas. As they get caught up in your plants and trees they tend to infect them, often they go brown before you realise anything is wrong. Well I know they are not mine! So..... they must be drifting in from other peoples' gardens. Over the last two years I have lost, due to this nasty little pest, an orange tree, two evergreen shrubs, a jasmine and a pine tree. So while pottering around the urbanisation, I noticed the numbers of untreated and infected boagainvilleas sitting in many other gardens, which has prompted me to write this tale.

Back at the garden centre I was told that the products sold last year are not now effective as cochinillas has built-up a resistance to previously sold products. This time I purchased a product called CUSPIDE ® 48. I sprayed everything in sight including two of my neighbours plants, with their permission of course, and low and behold, just one spray and all is gone! This time spraying really worked.

Basically what I am trying to get across to both full-time and part-time owners is that you may not always be aware of what is going on in your garden. This pesky little bug survives the winter here and gets about very easily, thanks to insects and high winds. So save the unpleasantness of falling out with neighbours over something as silly as a plant (vine). Keep them trimmed back and save the day - just spray, spray away.!

Post note. Unfortunately they haven't developed a spray yet to stop the leaves dropping off, - perhaps a type of hair spray or fixative! Oh well! One can only hope! (Submitted by Eagle Eyes)

### Valencia's new Formula One circuit.

Work, costing 40 million euro, has begun on the new urban Formula One street circuit in Valencia. Bernie Ecclestone, the F1 head-honcho, discarded the earlier suggestion of racing at the nearby Ricardo Tomo circuit, where many F1 teams test during the winter. That circuit is almost certainly too tight for F1 cars to race properly. The Valencia street circuit will be the first urban venue to join the F1 calendar since the short-lived U.S. Circuit at Phoenix, Arizona, which ran from 1989 to 1991.

The finished track, which is due for completion in May next year, will be 5,473.5 metres long, with 25 bends - no part of the track will be less than 12 metres wide. When completed, there will be capacity for 135,000 spectators. The race, called the European Grand Prix, will continue every year, at least until 2014. A new bridge will also be built as part of the course across the port. Estimated lap time for an F1 car would be approx. one minute 37 seconds, with speeds up to 323kph achievable on the straight crossing the port. The Formula One Association have described the planned circuit, designed by German Herman Tilke, as one of the safest tracks in the world. Tilke has designed the sport's most modern tracks. The complete works are being funded by the building companies around the area and the companies who will take on the concessions of the future marina, meaning that no public funding is required.

Understandably, most of the hotels in the immediate area are already booked out for that weekend - August 23 and 24 - this despite a trebling or quadrupling of the normal high-season rate. One, Hotel Neptune, has increased its rate for the weekend from €155 per night to €625!

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### Out & about in .... Via Park V

This Friday morning saw the start of a new market/table top sale in the lower ground floor car-park at Via Park V. There were about 18 stalls there ranging from bric-a-brac, greetings cards, to bed sheets etc. It is of course early days yet, but it will be interesting to see if it will develop into something larger and better, particularly with Christmas approaching.

After checking out the market briefly (I hate shopping!), I thought it would be a good idea to visit all the bars/restaurants in the 'Big 5' who advertise in Dream Scene and to, once again purely for research purposes, check out their beers (The things I do for the Dream Scene!!).

First port of call was the newest bar which is the **R Bar** on level 1. Operated by Kevin and Kas (& assisted by their teenage son and daughters), they have refurbished what was 'Paddocks' with warm and welcoming decor and furniture. They offer draft Spitfire, Bud, a Spanish lager and a cider. Soon bar snacks will be on offer and they have already started Sunday roasts and despite major equipment problems last weekend, they are now back on track offering a superb Sunday lunch. R Bar is having a Halloween Party on the 31st Oct with a free hot supper and optional fancy dress.

Then on to **The Phoenix** where Donna and Neil were unfortunately elsewhere (Have you ever noticed that Neil never seems to be around in daylight hours?

Hmmm! I wonder where Buffy is right now?) Seriously, Donna and Neil - having the longest established bar - are always keen to do their bit for the community and charities. This Sunday sees the 2nd International Poker Tournament there with the proceeds going to breast cancer charities. Even if you don't play, go along, have a drink and support the charities.

Next call was to **The Cavern**, hosted by Jane and Gordon. The Cavern is a large spacious bar with high ceilings and loaded with Liverpoolian paraphernalia, offering a wide range of beers and good quality food.

In association with Renegade 106.1 FM, there is quality entertainment five nights a week.

Then to Dave and Anne in **Donna Anna's Pasty Shack** which celebrated its first year on Thursday. The Pasty Shack will now be open on Tuesday evenings, and Thursdays will now feature Pie, mash and liquor! Dave has added a new range of bottled ales and chutneys.

Next to **All Bar Sue**, where Sue has now taken over from Granville and Pam - to whom Mark wishes to express his thanks and best wishes. Sue plans to introduce a completely new menu together with 'tapas' from around the world! There will be lots of organised events together with a 'big pot' poker evening in the near future.

I was also lucky to meet Karen and Mark from **Stallions**, who are very pleased with their restaurant business. The newly added Sunday Lunch menu is proving to be very popular and is available from 1 - 5.30. Bookings are now being taken for Christmas Day.



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Via Park V Dream Hills (Ground Floor)

### The Man in the Mirror

When you get what you want in the struggle for self,  
And the world makes you long for that day,  
Just go to the mirror and look at yourself,  
And see what THAT man has to say.  
For, if it's not your father or mother or wife  
Whose judgment you surely must pass  
That fellow whose verdict counts most in your life  
Is the one staring back in the glass.  
Some people might think you are a  
straight shootin' chum and  
call you a wonderful guy,  
But the man in the glass says you're only a bum,  
If you can't look him straight in the eye.  
He's the fellow to please, never mind all the rest,  
For he's with you right up to the end. And  
you have passed your most dangerous, difficult test  
If the guy in the glass is your friend.  
You may fool the whole world down the pathway of  
years, and get pats on the back as you pass.  
But your final reward will be heartaches and tears  
If you've cheated the man in the glass.

( Submitted by JaredE)

### Smart Kid

A father asked his 10-year old son if he knew about the birds and the bees. "I don't want to know," the child said, bursting into tears. "Promise me you won't tell me." Confused, the father asked what was wrong.

The boy sobbed, "When I was six, I got the 'There's no Easter Bunny' speech. At seven, I got the 'There's no Tooth Fairy' speech.

When I was eight, you hit me with the 'There's no Santa' speech. If you're going to tell me that grown-ups don't really get laid, I'll have nothing left to live for!"

### Cheers!

This guy had been sitting in a bar all night, staring at a blonde, who was wearing the tightest pants he had ever seen she seemed to have been poured into them. Finally, his curiosity got the better of him, so he walks over to her and asks, "How do you get into those pants?" The young lady looks him over, smiles and replies - "Well, you could start by buying me a drink." (HughG)

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Help Association - emergency	965704282
Help Association - enquiries	965704282
Hospital – San Jaime (Private)	966921313
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Hospital – Veja Baja	966776166
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**Odd Jokes!**

OK, not everybody shares the same sense of humour. I often get into trouble with mine. Indeed my wife, psychiatrist, social worker and probation officer have all told me that my sense of humour is very, very weird. No one seems to like the following joke, but I think it is a cracker - so here goes .....

Dog walks into a bar and asks for a job. The barman is stunned, drops the glass he is polishing, and when he finally gathers his breath says, “I ...I...I can’t give you a job! Why don’t you go off and join a circus?”  
“Circus?”, replied the dog, “what would a circus do with a plumber?”

(OK, I’ll get my coat.)

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