

THE DREAM SCENE

Newsletter

Issue no. 14 1st of April 2008

Bienvenido and Welcome to the Dream Scene

Dream Hills is buzzing at the moment due to a new product which is being marketed locally to test its acceptability by the public. Fortunately for us, First Choice in Via Park V, is the only outlet on the Orihuela Costa stocking the new *Agua Desecada* (dehydrated water) and stocks are being bought up faster than you can say profiteering!

The new product is the culmination of several years of research and close cooperation between the Andalusian University of *Santo Peco* and the venture capital firm *Empresas El Merfud*. It is now being test-marketed in only 100 locations throughout Spain and if successful it will be rolled out nationally to thousands of retail outlets. Environmentalists and economists are keeping their fingers crossed as this new product could go a long way in alleviating the water shortage in Southern Spain. At this stage it is planned to supply the *Agua Descada* only to small retail outlets. In due course supplies will reach the large supermarkets and scientists are currently investigating whether the product can be adapted for agricultural use. This could reduce the environmental impact caused by the new desalination plants.

I spoke with Tracey and Julian of First Choice during a lull in trading and they told me that the 'stuff was selling like hot-cakes!' Julian also told me that he had to arrange extra storage in Via Park V to meet the demand but expects to run out of supplies on Tuesday the 1st.

I also spoke to a sprightly and attractive Mrs. Hortense Glumm, 85, a resident of Dream Hills, who was very complimentary about the new product. 'You add just one pint of water to the *Agua Desecada* crystals,' she said, 'and you then have eight pints of beautiful sweet water, suitable to drink straight away or to store in the fridge.' Further details about *Agua Desecada* and web contact details are detailed in Page 9 of this publication.

Until next month, enjoy the good life! Mick

(Thank you to John, Soren, and Ann & Phil for their kind donations towards costs - Mick)

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Contact Mick on 966 798 847 or at mick.dreamscene@googlemail.com

WHAT'S UP?

If you pay income tax in Spain, the good news is that you will be getting a 400€ rebate this year. This was one of many election promises made by the PSOE. The Government is also proposing to pay the moving costs of unemployed workers who have to change their place of residence to find work. The plan comes with another measure, to pay 1,050 € to the unemployed who take part in training courses. The money will be paid at a rate of 350 € a month. The measure will cost 201 million € and immigrants and those aged over 45 will be those to benefit most from the plan, as it is aimed at the long-term unemployed. Another of the promises is that they will do away with the *patrimonio* tax.

The price of diesel is now more expensive than petrol for the first time in Spain. More than 73% of new cars currently being sold in Spain are diesel. There are also anomalies in the taxation of the different fuels. One commentator has pointed out that with the strength of the euro against the US dollar, the recent petrol price increases were exaggerated and greedy. Accordingly, if the buck (in which crude oil is priced) increases in value against the euro in due course, there could be more large increases at the pumps. The government are so concerned about the upward spiral of all prices that they have set up a commission to study retail prices and look for profiteering. Don't expect too much from this one as 'the horses have already bolted.'

Several family courts in Sevilla have reported more than 200 'divorces of convenience'. They say many couples are 'simulating a divorce or separation' so that their children can obtain extra points in the school selection process and send their children to better schools. A 50% increase in the 'divorce' numbers has also been seen this year as the school places are about to be awarded. Last year the Department of Education in the city received a total of 731 fraudulent claims regarding school placement. However there is nothing illegal in such behaviour under Spanish law.

Almost 1,000 migrants died trying to reach Spain illegally last year. These figures were provided by the Spanish authorities in Andalucia. The real figure is thought to be around 3,500. Most of the deaths occurred off the African coast. However many would-be migrants are also thought to have perished in the Sahel, an arid section of northern Africa, while trying to reach the African coastline. The Junta de Andalucía is in hot water, according to *El Mundo*, for serving pork to Muslim youngsters in an immigrant reception centre. What were they thinking?

El País reports that in the fight against town planning corruption a third of the luxury hotels on Lanzarote are in fact illegal. The paper says the Canary Island courts have cancelled the licences for 22 complexes.

Público recently reported that Madrid and the Basque Country are to have the first betting shops to open in Spain.

El Mundo reports that 70% of the 11,000 people sent to prison in Spain during the last legislature were foreigners; the paper notes the percentage of foreign prisoners in Spanish jails has risen from 17% to 34%.

British Airways has just spent 67.2 million € in increasing its shareholding in Iberia from 10% to 13.15% and a take-over bid has not been ruled out. Lets just hope that they don't plan to open a new terminal here!

A 94 year-old man was found dead, sitting at the dining table, in front of his TV in *Cataluña*. (Mind you, 'Dancing on Ice' has that effect on me too!) He had been dead for three months. His 45 year old son, who it appears is suffering from mental problems, had placed him there. The body was eventually found by neighbours.

Best Diagnosis

A young woman went to her doctor complaining of pain.

"Where are you hurting?" asked the doctor.

"You have to help me, I hurt all over", said the woman.

"What do you mean, all over?" asked the doctor, "be a little more specific."

The woman touched her right knee with her index finger and yelled, "Ow, that hurts." Then she touched her left cheek and again yelled, "Ouch! That hurts, too." Then she touched her right earlobe, "Ow, even THAT hurts", she cried.

The doctor watched her thoughtfully for a moment and told her his diagnosis, "You have a broken finger."



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What's Up? Continued.

The real-estate news continues to be depressing, and a short report on the Spanish Economy article is in this Dream Scene. Sales of tourist property in Málaga Province have fallen to an historic low. The total turnover on the sale of residential tourism property in the province fell by 50% over 2007 to 540 million €. It means that in two years the province has gone from the leader of the sector to the last place in Spain. Of course there are a few 'geniuses' here in Dream Hills who blame the depressed prices on the urbanisation president!

On a lighter note, there is a new treat in store for the adventurous gourmet. Mackerel semen is the new secret ingredient from top Spanish chef, Ferrán Adriá. He revealed the latest culinary delight at a food festival in Barcelona where the most adventurous chefs from the world had gathered. It's said that the mackerel semen has a creamy texture and a taste described as 'delicate'. Yes Ferrán, we'll take your word for it! What would make him taste it in the first place? I wonder if First Choice will be stocking it!

A widow has been told by a court in Seville that she will have to honour a cheque her late husband made out to his mistress, one in a series of regular monthly payments he made to her, and the last he made before he died. It is dated in November of 2003 and is made out for 30,000 €. The man's widow had cancelled the cheque upon her husband's death, but now the court has ruled it proved that he and the mistress had a long-term relationship and the money must be paid. The widow escapes payment of two other outstanding cheques for 2,000 and 3,000 €, as these cheques were drawn on the business account and were not authorised by the co-owners of the company, who are his children.

A court case against 16 tax inspectors who are charged with defrauding the tax authorities in Cataluña is currently in progress. The inspectors are charged with corruption and making deals with certain businessmen regarding the amount of tax paid. Among those charged in the case is the entrepreneur Javier de la Rosa, and José Luis Núñez Clemente, the ex President of FC Barcelona.

Earlier in the month the Balears newspaper *Última Hora* claims that Javier Rodrigo de Santos, the ex-Deputy P.P. Mayor of Palma, spent 50,800 € of public funds in gay clubs and on male prostitutes using a Town Hall credit card, between the end of 2005 and the end of May 2007. The newspaper said police have already spoken to staff at the clubs in question, who stated that the ex councillor was a regular customer. The ex-Partido Popular councillor and father of five, said his 'error' was down to 'health problems' and has returned the money defrauded to the accounts of Palma de Mallorca City Hall.

Nurses in a clinic in Cádiz have been told that if they wear trousers to work instead of skirts, they will have a 30 euros per month productivity bonus deducted from their salaries!!

Police arrested two boys during a fiesta in Murcia, one for drinking battery liquid and the other for eating fireworks. They charged the first boy and let the other one off.

Finally, on a sad note, Larry la Prise who wrote the 'hokey cokey' has died in Benidorm at the age of 93. The worst part was getting him into the coffin. They put his left leg in - then the trouble started!



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Women's Trouble!

It finally all makes sense...I never looked at it this way before:

MENtal illness, MENstrual cramps, MENtal breakdown, MENopause, GUYnecologist & when we have real trouble, it's a HISterectomy!

Ever noticed how women's problem start with 'effing MEN???' (Jane)

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Residencia & Taxation - Part 1

It is fair to say that the *Hacienda*, the Spanish tax authorities, have been very lax in the past in the collection of taxes, not only from earned income, but also from property related taxes, be it purchase, sales or rentals. However, things are changing rapidly. There is now a huge expat population in Spain, the taxation of whom is still very 'hit and miss'. There is also a massive and seemingly ever increasing 'black economy' which is fed by both Spanish and non-Spanish. One recent study has indicated that as much as a third of income earned in Spain goes undeclared. Many companies keep two sets of accounts and the President of the Spanish employer's federation described tax evasion as an 'entrepreneurial necessity.' A tax amnesty in 1990 brought in 1,700 billion pesetas. If you spend more than 183 days a year in Spain you should complete an annual tax return.

Although income tax avoidance appears to be accepted and tolerated, the P.S.O.E., a socialist government, now have an additional four years in control and will need to generate enormous amounts of revenue to fund their expensive promises and planned worthwhile changes such as the new 'dependency' legislation. Rising unemployment also means that the windfall of extra social security payments made over the last few years is now greatly reduced. Accordingly you can expect much greater scrutiny of your financial and property affairs in Spain in the future. Notaries, who are very much in the front line of property related taxation matters, are becoming noticeably more thorough and strict.

There is a common misunderstanding among expat's about the *residencia* or resident's permit. The *residencia* is NOT proof that you are living in Spain, as many believe. It is merely a certificate that allows you to reside in Spain, although it does not necessarily mean that you are actually resident in Spain. You can be both resident in Spain and the U.K. under certain circumstances. Another misconception is that if you have *residencia* you can then avail of the more generous allowances in relation to inheritance tax and capital gains on your dwelling. Again this is not quite correct. The actual filing of a tax return DOES give proof of residence for tax purposes. Also, it is most important to file a tax return even if it is negative i.e. there is no tax to pay. Notaries are now asking for evidence of residency status over and above the *residencia* card or certificate and are asking to see tax returns to confirm residency.

Regarding capital gains tax (CGT), it is now 18% for both residents and non-residents. But there are advantages for residents - if you are over the age of 65, are selling your property and have lived as residents in this property for more than three years, there is no CGT to pay. If you are under the age of 65, are residents, providing you are purchasing another property which is going to be your main residence and you reinvest the sale proceeds in this property, there is no CGT to pay either. CGT would only be payable on the difference that you did not reinvest. Non residents will have 3% of the sale price deducted at the point of sale to offset against the 18% of the profit that is payable.

Few of us think about Inheritance Tax when we first buy a property in Spain. In Spain, Inheritance Tax (IT) is paid by the beneficiaries, i.e. surviving spouse, and not the deceased's estate. The IT is payable by beneficiaries within six months of the death if the deceased died in Spain (although this can be extended by a further six months) or to within 16 months if the deceased died abroad. In some autonomous communities in Spain the rate of inheritance tax can be quite penal. I would be very surprised if any expat would buy in Murcia if they were fully aware of the prevailing Inheritance Tax rates there. Fortunately, in our province - Valencia, the inheritance tax is one of the lowest in Spain. In normal circumstances a surviving resident spouse would have little or no inheritance tax to pay due to generous allowances. However, the professional Spanish 'bloodsuckers' - lawyers and notaries, will certainly extract their 'pound of flesh' in transferring titles and re-registering the property for the beneficiaries.

For inheriting non-resident spouses or unmarried partners and non-resident children, inheritance taxes are of course payable and can, in certain circumstances, be very high.

In Part 2 next month, we will look at the inheritance tax payable in a number of sample cases together with a few notes on inheritance tax avoidance.

REMEMBER TO SEEK COMPETENT PROFESSIONAL HELP BEFORE MAKING ANY MAJOR FINANCIAL DECISIONS IN SPAIN. TAX LAW CHANGES FREQUENTLY AND BAD DECISIONS WILL BE EXPENSIVE!

The Further Adventures of Hortense.

Hortense went into the doctor's office in Cabo Roig. When the doctor asked why she was there, she replied, "I'd like to have some birth control pills." Taken aback, the doctor thought for a minute and then said, "Excuse me, Hortense, but you're in your 80's. What possible use could you have for birth control pills?" Horty responded, "They help me sleep better." The doctor thought some more and asked, "How in the world do birth control pills help you to sleep?" Hortense replied, "I put them in my granddaughter's orange juice and I sleep much better at night."

My uncle just got struck off the medical register for having sex with his patients, it's a real shame because he was a really good vet.

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The Spanish Economy.

Spain has been one of the European Union's success stories. The economy was growing by about 4% a year with a property boom, cheap immigrant labour and lavish EU subsidies; the future appeared very optimistic. Whereas successive Spanish governments worked hard to get the country into the euro, they then sat back accepting the benefits of lower inflation and interest rates but failed to promote the more competitive markets while maintaining very restrictive labour laws. With incredible swiftness the outlook has changed dramatically. Spain's commercial deficit at the end of January was 9.15 billion €, some 20.1% higher than a year ago and shows a growing gap between imports and exports. Inflation is now 4.4%, one of the worst in the Eurozone, prices are rocketing, growth is expected to be down to 2.4% for this year and 2.1% in 2009. The EU money is also running out, the construction industry is in depression, house prices are in free-fall and unemployment is rising rapidly and is expected to do so for the next two years. Although the Spanish banks say they have no high-risk mortgages, the banks have lost 25% of their value since last August with personal and family debt at an all time high. The banks exposure to the property and construction sector is also causing grave concern. Whereas interest rates are declining in the U.S. and the U.K., the European Central Bank is doggedly refusing to reduce interest rates. Due to another hike in the Eurobor rate, mortgage repayments in Spain are again on the increase. The average mortgage debt this January was €142,793.

When it comes to the housing market the Spanish press paint a dismal picture. *Público* says that the real estate market in Spain is collapsing with declining prices and activity. *El País* advises that property sales in many regions are down by 40%. *ABC* advise that house sales fell by 14% in 2007. Data from the National Statistics Institute, *INE*, has shown a 27% fall in the number of property sales in January this year compared to last. The fall in the sales of new property was 14.6% (but of course fewer new properties are being built now) and in resale property the fall was as large as 35.6%. A new report on the Costa del Sol shows that 45% of the newly constructed homes are without buyers. The report says the area is now suffering from an excess of supply with a shortage of both national and foreign buyers, and that resale flats along the coast are now taking nearly 52 months to sell, while villas are taking nearly 56 months.

All this, together with a credit squeeze is depressing prices significantly and the same scenario is being played out along the Spanish coastline. The lack of foreign buyers is also exacerbated by problems and uncertainties in the foreign economies and particularly by the strength of the euro, which at the moment does not make Spain cheap any more to the UK buyer. Ask any UK resident who is paying a euro-mortgage in Spain!

The Association of Constructors in Spain have asked the government to introduce tax breaks for new property buyers to stimulate demand. The government have promised to look at new arrangements to assist mortgage payers (residents) who are experiencing difficulties. Looks like we are in for the 'long haul.'

Health card notice for expats

From April 12008, British nationals who permanently reside in Spain will have to present the Spanish equivalent of a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) if they require medical treatment while visiting the UK or any other European country. Failure to present the Spanish EHIC could result in you being considered a private patient, which may mean you are charged for your treatment.

The Spanish equivalent of the EHIC is called 'Tarjeta Sanitaria Europea' and can be applied for at the Spanish social security office (INSS) in Orihuela. These cards have to be renewed annually.

UK nationals who use an E106 need not apply for the Spanish card and can continue to use their UK EHIC - BUT check for more info at www.dh.gov.uk/travellers or call 00441912181999.

Keep your motor running!

The marriage of an eighty-five year old man and a twenty-one year old girl was the talk of the town. A year after the wedding they went to the local hospital for the birth of their first child.

After the birth, the midwife came out of the delivery room to congratulate the old gent and said "I think this is amazing for someone of your age, congratulations."

The old guy grinned and said "Well, you've got to keep the old motor running" The following year the couple were back at the hospital for the birth of their second child. Again, the midwife congratulated the old chap, and again he grinned and answered "you've got to keep the old motor running"

Well, the next year came and the couple returned to the hospital for the birth of their third child. The same midwife was on duty again and after the birth she came out of the delivery room, looked at the old man quizzically then said "Well,..... this really is something else!"

The old guy swelled with pride and said " It's just like I told you before.....You've just got to keep that old motor running."

The midwife went across and patted the old guy on the back and said..... "Well, I think it's about time to change the oil.....this one's black!"

Thirsty?

A diplomat from Afghanistan visiting the UK for the first time was wined and dined at Windsor Castle. The diplomat was not used to the salt in western foods (crisps, cheeses, anchovies, etc.) and was constantly sending his manservant Abdul to fetch him a glass of water. Time and again, Abdul would scamper off and return with a glass of water, but then came the time when he returned empty handed.

"Abdul, you son of an ugly camel, where is my water?" demanded the diplomat.

"A thousand pardons, O Illustrious One," stammered the wretched Abdul,

"A man is sitting on the well."

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Benidorm Palace - Review

In the region of Valencia, if you are game for a glitzy night-out, then the Benidorm Palace is difficult to beat for entertainment and value. We responded to an ad in the free local papers and paid over the phone - very easy!

We were picked up by a coach on a Friday night, just after 6 p.m. outside the chemist's in Los Balcones. The coach had an escort, who thankfully was not at all yappy, but still managed to keep us informed about progress, arrival times and what to expect at the show etc. Further pick-up calls were made at Torry, Quesada and Guardamar and the coach arrived at the Palace after 8 p.m.

The theatre is situated about 28 steps below the entrance foyer and I was surprised when the escort told me later that there was no lift for the disabled or infirm patrons. We were shown to our tables which are probably best referred to as 'cosy' not giving a huge amount of space to move around but enough not to hinder ones enjoyment of the evening. The auditorium is large and capable of seating 1,200 people. There is a bar in the auditorium level and also one upstairs, where there is a separate smoking area with a view of the stage.

When we arrived there was a good jazz quintet playing, to which the audience was oblivious, preferring obviously to discuss Aunt Sophie's carbuncle or similar. The waiters then served the meal with practised professionalism. First course was cream of vegetable soup with bread rolls. This was followed by a small plate of smoked salmon with unpeeled prawns and some cream cheese and for the main course we were served a steak with lyonnaise potatoes and half a grilled tomato. The food was surprisingly good for such a large venue and the steak was faultless. Desert was the usual Spanish let-down - a square of nondescript sponge and filling. One drink or half bottle of wine was included in the price.

After the meal the show started with the first half being dedicated to two types of dance - Spanish and Irish. To say that it was impressive would be an understatement. The enthusiasm of the dancers was infectious and the audience lapped it up. Dancers can often project a passive outlook but this lot were having a whale of a time and it was obvious. At one time I counted 28 dancers on stage. Once the dancers left the stage there was a comedy routine with some audience participation.

There was then a half-hour interlude for dancing this time by the audience, the music provided by a 7/8 piece band playing 'middle of the road' music - definitely not Guns 'n Roses. I retired to the bar, leaving 'She - who must be obeyed' and daughter to catch up with the latest news and partake of the Cava which was included in the price.

The second part of the show started with a number of different acts, - acrobats, trampoline (very funny) and of course, never missing from this type of event - the ubiquitous juggler.

Finally the dancers came back on stage and HORROR OF HORRORS some of the ladies were topless! Seriously, it was not offensive in the least. Much the same as you would see around the pool or at the beach, except the ladies here were better looking! As Mr. Everet would have said 'All done in the best possible taste.' There followed some excellent dance routines with different props - including what looked like a medium size jetplane on stage! The sets may not have been as grand as seen in Las Vegas but the dancing was better.

Drink prices at the Palace were not too bad, coffee, water, cokes, juices were priced at 2€each, a litre jug of beer for €, a litre of sangria for 12€and several bottles of reasonable wine at 10€each. However if you want to splash out, a bottle of Dom Perignon will cost you 160€

The show finished at 1 a.m. and the bus was back at Los Balcones at about 3.00 a.m.

We travelled with Coachtrips SL and the price of the transport, meal and show cost just 49€per person. Excellent value for money we thought, but the coach trip was a bit boring. Most slept soundly on the return trip. Coachtrips SL 966785910 www.costablancalive.info
Benidorm Palace 965851660 www.benidormpalace.es

Why does mineral water which has 'trickled through mountains for centuries' have a 'sell-by' date?

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- 4.You can make chocolate last as long as you want it to.
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- 14.When you have chocolate it doesn't keep your neighbours awake.
- 15.With chocolate size doesn't matter; it's always good.



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Spanish General Election March 9

Sadly, just two days before the election, ETA, the Basque terrorist organisation, murdered a former Socialist councillor and party activist Isaiás Carrasco in the Basque region.

In the election the main players, the Socialist Party (PSOE) and the centre-right Partido Popular (PP) each gained five seats with the PSOE winning 169 seats and the PP winning 153 seats. The gains were made from the smaller more extreme parties such as the Izquierda Unida (United Left) and the Basque and Catalan nationalist parties. Although the PSOE has the most seats, it did not again win an absolute majority and will have to get support from the minority nationalist parties - the Catalan CiU and/or the Basque Nationalist PNV. In politics there is certainly no such thing as a 'free lunch' and the PSOE will be expected to award seats in the upper and lower houses to whichever of these parties supports them and to pump massive amounts of cash again into the Catalan and/or Basque regions to ensure their support.

In the Alicante Province, there was a turnout of 79%, the PP increasing their votes from 49.43% to 51.88% and the Socialists votes dropped from 42.71% to 41%.

In our area, Orihuela, there was a high 84% turnout, with the PP getting 64.81% and the PSOE 30.84%. In Torrevieja the PP got 54.7% and the PSOE 38.22%.

Taking an outsider's view, it is undoubtedly practical that the PSOE have been returned for a second four-year term. It is difficult to achieve much in just four years and a second term should give them ample time to sort something out in relation to ETA and to show if they have the capability to respond to a rapidly declining economy.

European expats cannot vote in the Spanish general elections but can in the local council and European parliament elections, provided they have registered to do so.

Cake or Bed (from Ann Ball)

A husband is at home watching football when his wife interrupts 'Honey, could you please fix the hall light, it's been flickering for weeks?'

'Fix the light?' he responds, 'do I have *Powergen* written on my forehead? Not likely! I don't think so!'

'Well,' she asks, 'could you please fix the fridge door? It won't close properly and I have been asking you for months.' 'Fix the fridge door?' he responds. 'Do I have *Fridgidaire* written on my forehead? I don't think so!'

His exasperated wife then asks, 'Can you at least repair the front steps?'

'Front steps?' he says, 'Do I have *Taylor Woodrow* written on my forehead? I don't think so! I'm off to the pub!'

Hours later and feeling rather guilty he returned and was astonished to find that the steps, the fridge door and the hall light were fixed. 'Honey,' he asked, 'How did you get all these fixed?'

'After you left,' she replied, 'I was sitting on the front steps, crying, when this nice young man spoke to me and offered to do all the repairs and all I had to do was to either bake him a cake or go to bed with him.'

'What sort of cake did you bake him?', asked the husband.

'Helloooo!' replied his wife, 'Do you see *Mr. Kipling* written on my forehead? I don't think so!'

Tough Cookie - No. 2

A little girl walks into a pet shop and asks,

"Excuth me, do you have any widdle wabbits?"

The shopkeeper's heart melts, he gets down on his knees so that he's on her level, and says, 'Do you want a widdle white wabbit or a thoft,fwuffy bwack wabbit, or one like that widdle bwown wabbit over there?'

The little girl blushes, leans forward and whispers ...

'I don't fink my pet pyfon weally gwives a kwap!'

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Monday 11 till 12 noon at Someplace Else, Via Park 3

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Kevin & Kaz Welcome you to

R Bar

Via Park V

OPEN 12 TILL 1.30am

New People-New Decor-New Deal

Fun Darts Tuesday

Bingo/Play Your Cards Right

Wednesday

Quiz Night - Thursday

Karaoke/Disco Friday

Superb Sunday Roasts

Food served daily 12 'till 12

Take-Away Service available

"There are no strangers at R Bar -
only friends who haven't met!"

Activities at La Casita.

Bridge Club.

Contact Lawrence on 966722552 or come along on a Tuesday afternoon.

Monday Art Group.

Contact Joyce on 966799544 or come along on a Monday morning.

Spanish Classes.

Various classes are now being offered.

Contact Caroline on 678751591 or Richard on 966798849 for more details.

Book Swap.

You can swap your books, have a coffee and a chat between 10 & 12 on Thursdays.

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Out & About in Via Park V

Easter was early this year and visitors were down in number from last year. Now the weather is improving most of the food outlets are extending their hours and the range of food offered. Check the adverts for details. You will be surprised at the new range and availability of the food here. The R Bar are now doing bar snacks to eat-in or take-away from 12 till 12. 'Cristine's' are also offering a take-away service of all their dishes including their excellent freshly made pizzas. 'Scampi's' - a new Fish & Chip Restaurant & Take-Away has just opened on the top floor of Via Park V.

Congrats to Dave and Ann of the Pasty Shack who have been awarded a large catering contract for the upcoming Homes & Gardens Show being held at the massive IFA Centre at Alicante Airport. The show, which attracts tens of thousands of visitors takes place on the 4th, 5th and 6th of April from 11 am until 7 pm. (Info: 952596435 or www.gemspain.com)

St. Patrick's Day celebrations also took place in Via Park V. On Saturday 15th, the Cavern featured an multi-talented Irish folk group trio called *The Liffesiders* who were excellent. The group were true 'Dubliners' and one of them could play every instrument from a banjo to a tin whistle. (It has been scientifically proven that to play the banjo properly you need 12 fingers. This is why the best banjo players come from North Carolina, isolated parts of Mayo and anywhere in Wales!)

On St. Pat's Night itself, 17th, The Phoenix was jumping! Music was provided by Dream Hill's own talented Gordon McC, who was joined by another musical reprobate. Everybody had a wonderful time, followed of course, by the obligatory sore head the next day! (The true Irish are immune from these after effects - NOT!)

Odd!

I went to the cemetery the other day and saw four men carrying a coffin.
 Hours later I saw the same four men still walking around with the same coffin.
 I thought to myself---- they've lost the plot!!!! (RickRoak and Dave & SueP)

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified Adverts are free to all Dream Hills residents for normal buying and selling transactions. Contact Mick by phone 966798847 or e-mail mick.dreamscene@googlemail.com

Doctor's Advice

Mavis, pregnant with her first child, was paying a visit to her obstetrician's office. When the exam was over, she shyly began, "My husband wants me to ask you....."

"I know, I know," the doctor said, placing a reassuring hand on her shoulder. "I get asked that all the time. Sex is fine until late in the pregnancy."

"No, that's not it at all," Mavis confessed. "He wants to know if I can still mow the lawn."

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