



THE DREAM SCENE

Newsletter

Issue no. 22 1st of December 2008

Hi Neighbours,

Welcome to the second Christmas edition of The Dream Scene. Unfortunately we have not had space this month to include the third part of the History of Spain or the restaurant review, but they will return next month. On the positive side, Angela Cresswell has provided us with two top quality original cartoons. This month's issue is chock full of stuff, including the usual (ahem!) 'quality' humour and I hope you enjoy it. The newsletter has now grown far beyond it's original format, and thanks to the advertisers and subscribers, it has also covered it's costs for the last two months, but this unfortunately will not always be the case.

Every Christmas many properties in both Dream Hills and Dream Hills 2 decorate the front of their properties with special Christmas decorations and light displays. Some of them have been outstanding in the past. This year I hope to photo some of the displays and put them on the Dream Scene web-album. Also the Dream Scene will award a bag of goodies to what we consider to be the best display from both urbanisations.

**WISHING YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE DREAM SCENE TEAM**



Book-Swap Celebration

The ladies who run the Book-Swap, Chris and Pam, are pleased to invite those of you who use the 'book-swap' for a celebratory glass of wine and mince pie on Thursday the 18th of December between 10am & 12noon.



So you decided He would prefer a Playstation??!!

PILATES MAT



Get into
Great Shape
For
Christmas & New Year!
At La Casita

Every Tuesday & Friday
10:00 am to 11:00 am
Comfortable clothing
Suggested.
€5 per session
Contact: 634 820 168
& 966 116 458

LIME BAR

Via Park 111
Always a Warm Welcome!
'Slimming World' 11.00 Mondays
Dominoes Tues & Thurs 5's & 3's
All Sports on 4 Screens
Speciality Coffees
&
Well Stocked Bar
Happy Hour
Monday - Friday
4 'till 8 pm
Tel: 659 899 831



Doña Anna's

Pasty Shack

A FREE Tea or Coffee
With any food order inc. Take Away
Mon-Fri 9.30am-12.30pm
New for Fridays
Two Eat for ONLY 10 euro
Come in and see our
special menu
So much more than just a Pasty Shack
(but the Pasties are d'arn good)
Lower Ground Floor
Via Parl V Tel 649637956



WHAT'S UP?

All the titles, street names and other plaques in honour of Francisco Franco are to be removed from the town of Ferrol, where the Spanish dictator was born. No longer will he be classed as an Honorary Mayor or Honoured Son of the city. Similar titles have been withdrawn from his wife and daughter. In Nàquera, Valencia, the town hall has decided to change the name of the street named after Franco's right hand man, José Antonio Primo de Rivera, to Calle Barack Obama.

The Hacienda, the Spanish tax agency, says that it wants to monitor all banking transactions in excess of 3,000 € At present the banks only have to provide names in relation to cheques over 3,000€and cash over 100,000€ The Hacienda want to introduce the new system before January 1st 2010.

The Benidorm Town Hall is introducing tough new laws relating to its beaches. There are 71 new prohibitions and related fines in all, ranging from 150€for going to the toilet on the beach to a fine of 750€for fishing, 1,100€if you use a harpoon!! Our German friends will be thrilled to know that if they try to get up early to book a nice place on the beach - they will be fined 150€ Ballgames are banned - fine 150€ except in authorised places and there is even a regulation relating to sandcastles! A hefty fine will also be levied on anyone going on the beaches between midnight and 7 am for a pee, a snog or a hump etc! And we all thought that the Inquisition was history!

The famous La Manga Club near Murcia has filed for bankruptcy protection with debts in excess of 97 million euro. The complex was only purchased by George Soros and Perry Capital in 2004 from the P & O Group for 102 million sterling. The complex features 3 golf courses, 28 tennis courts, 8 football pitches, a spa, 1,800 private villas and apartments and a five star hotel. The club is well known internationally and has been used for training by a number of clubs in the premiership including Man U. Rio Ferdinand allegedly brawled with staff there. There was a bit of a scandal there a couple of years back which featured some fine 'upstanding' members of the Leicester City FC and a couple of 'slappers' from Germany. The footballers were cleared and the 'ladies' went back to Germany.

The city of Pamplona, home to the most famous of the bull-runs, is trying to make the public more aware of the cost of vandalism to the city by placing giant price tags on several items in the city streets. Vandalism costs the city around 200,000 euro for park benches, 40,000 euro for trees and 10,500 euro for rubbish bins, a total of about 1.5 million €each year. See <http://video.publico.es/videos/0/25557/1/recent>

The leader of the Partido Popular opposition in Spain, Mariano Rajoy, has said the proposed sale of 30% of the shares in Repsol, the Spanish Oil & Gas company, to the Russian company Lukoil, will weaken Spain. He says he opposes the sale for reasons of 'mere survival', and asks whether Obama or Sarkozy would put one of their energy supply companies in the hands of a Russian company. Repsol has operations in more than 30 countries, but mainly in Spain and Argentina employing more than 30,000 worldwide. Lukoil may still have a problem funding the five billion purchase.

'Entrepreneurs' who have been queuing from the previous night outside the unemployment office in Torrevieja to get an appointment number for the following morning. They then sell the numbers for around 20 €each!

The European Commission has decided to take Spain to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg for not taking measures to stop the amount of advertising shown on TV screens here. Despite several warnings from the EU, saturation advertising on Spanish channels regularly breaks the 12 minute per hour limit, fixed by European legislation - often by several minutes. Once while watching Spanish TV, I timed a single commercial break during a film at 15 minutes!

The anti-corruption prosecution service in Malaga has led an operation to break up a network which has allegedly cheated about 1,000 investors, most of them British and living outside of Spain, out of 65 million euros. It has been revealed that the swindle entailed the buying up of rustic land in the name of companies which are based in tax havens abroad. The land was then put in the name of various Spanish companies and investors were sold shares with the promise of high dividends when it was developed, but nothing was ever done on the land.



A Confession

Jimmy, a priest and a rabbi were talking one day and during the course of the conversation, Jimmy casually asks the rabbi, "I know that in your religion, you're not supposed to eat pork... but have you really never even tasted it?" The rabbi responded, "I must tell you the truth. Yes, I have, on the odd occasion." Jimmy then asks the priest, "I know that in your religion, you're supposed to be celibate, but..." The priest interjected, "Yes, I know what you are going to ask, and yes, I have succumbed to temptation once or twice." The rabbi then asks the priest, "Better than pork, isn't it?"

All Bar Sue

Tapas and Wines
Via Park V

Tuesday: Successful Slimming 11:30am

Wednesday: Salsa Dancing 7.30pm

Thursday: Crib Night

Sat. Night - Fun Spanish. Free!!

Sunday: Quiz Night & Bingo 9pm

Wide range of International Tapas

& Fine Wines

NEW MENU

Winter Warmers!

Open Tuesday to Sunday

Call Sue - Tel 616815360



R & J

PAINTING & DECORATING



INTERIOR
&

EXTERIOR



FREE QUOTES

NO JOB TO SMALL

POLITE

&

PROFESSIONAL

Operating from Dream Hills

PHONE 966799971 / 671778676

Counterfeit goods with an estimated value of 500 million € have been recovered by the police in Málaga, in what is being described as the break-up of the largest counterfeiting network ever detected in Spain. Watches, bags, wallets, trainers etc were recovered from an industrial estate. The case broke at the end of last year when police intercepted two lorries containing 115,000 counterfeit perfumes. The network was believed to be managed from the Indian sub-continent.

Torrevieja are to spend 330,000 euro on a study to determine whether a bus service to El Altet airport in Alicante from Torrevieja would be feasible. I am sure we could all save them some money on this one.

Residents of Dream Hills will be pleased to note that the court case brought by members of CLARO against Stefan Pokroppa (and his colleague Javier Canovas) has been thrown out of court by the judge. In another case the former mayor of Orihuela, José Manuel Medina, was finally cleared of all charges brought against him by the socialist PSOE and Green parties. Although reported in the Spanish press, you will not find any of these stories covered in the largely left-wing free local English newspapers.

Well, one is never short of an amusing story from Murcia. A plumber, Gregorio Pedreo, made contact with a woman in an internet chat room two years ago and now she will not leave him alone. Although he only met her once for a coffee, she has made his life hell since, bombarding him with about 40 phone calls and text messages every day. He has also found the tires of his car slashed on several occasions. The trouble started when she asked the plumber to come and 'fix her heater', which he declined to do.

A gay Sergeant, in the Military Police in Spain's North African enclave of Melilla, has been found guilty in the Military Supreme Court of continued abuse of authority and degrading treatment of several soldiers. The man caressed the face of one soldier with the excuse of seeing if he was properly shaved, and referred to Muslim soldiers as 'Moros de mierda'. He is also alleged to have said 'If you move, I will f*** you, but relax, you're not my type as you are much too fat'. (Maybe he would be better off in the navy!) He was given a nine month jail sentence. The Sergeant had previously been found guilty of racist behaviour by a military court in June 2007, and sentenced to six months in jail.

The evangelical 'Power of Christ' church in Málaga has been closed since early November following complaints by neighbours concerning the volume of the singing. The priest, Miracle Isaac, has now been ordered to pay a 400€ fine by the courts for disobeying orders to stop singing.

Following their recent poor run, the President of Real Madrid football team has promised players a bonus of 120,000 euro each if they win five consecutive games. After two wins they unfortunately lost 3-1 today (29th) to Getafe.

Four Catalan regional policemen in Barcelona were given jail sentences ranging from six to two years for torturing a Romanian robbery suspect and mistreating his pregnant girlfriend in a police station in July 2006. The victim, who was innocent, had been beaten up and had a pistol placed in his mouth, threatening to kill him.

A woman in Jaén has been arrested for practicing as a dentist for several years without being qualified. She had three separate clinics operating and performed a full range of dental treatments from implants to root treatments and fillings. No accounts were ever kept by the businesses and no receipts ever given.

The Spanish cabinet has just approved a Royal Decree which will give 'more teeth' to the Fiscal Fraud Prevention Plan of 2005. In the light of the current economic difficulties, rented property will be receiving considerable attention. A special task force will be studying electricity bills to determine if a house is unoccupied, as its owners declared or if it is actually being rented out and the earnings undeclared. If you own a second home and are renting it out these earnings must be reported and the tax paid, otherwise the tax authorities can levy hefty fines, together with a demand for all the back taxes and interest to be paid. More details in due course. (Source: Costa Calida Informer)




THE PHOENIX
Cafe Bar
Via Park V




**WIDE RANGE OF BEERS,
WINES & SPIRITS**
GOOD FOOD SERVED 10 am - 4pm
BRAINIAC QUIZ TUESDAYS
FUN QUIZ FRIDAYS
& OPEN THE BOX!
BIG PRIZES
INTERNET
Christmas Eve - Carol Singing
New Year's Eve
Theme Fancy Dress
Tel: 667 592 477
Hangovers installed and serviced

BROWN'S
HAIR & BEAUTY
VIA PARK V
'Christmas Crackers'
Manicure, pedicure,
Eyebrow wax/tint,
Eyelash tint and
wash & blow dry €50
Check for other great
Christmas offers
Open 10 - 5 Sat 10 - 2
Lift
Tel: 965 991 070
Ladies & Gents

FIRST CHOICE
MINI MARKET
VIA PARK V




FRESH BREAD DAILY
DAILY PAPERS
GREETING CARDS & STAMPS
UK BRANDS & MOBILE TOP UPS
ENGLISH PRODUCE
FRIENDLY SERVICE
FREE DELIVERIES FOR ORDERS
OVER €10 (INC DH2)
(POST BOX OUTSIDE SHOP)
OPEN 7 DAYS
Tel: 655 077 415



Christmas & New Year in Spain

Christmas is another one of those occasions where the cultural differences between the *anglosajon* and the Spanish are apparent. Christmas for the Spanish is not the commercial ballyhoo we are used to in other countries although it might seem otherwise in the expat enclaves in Spain. Being ostensibly a Roman Catholic country the emphasis is on religion rather than retail. I remember watching with a small crowd a nativity crib scene in a store window in London, when one woman turned to another and said - 'Fancy bringing religion into it!'

In many Spanish cities, town and villages, the focal point for Christmas will be the nativity scene or *belén*. This can be a small crib in a church or an elaborate exhibition set up in the town square. Out of season the larger exhibition are usually housed in a museum. The *belén* in Torrevieja is particularly impressive and is well worth a visit, particularly in the evenings when the scenes are lit up. It features many model scenes, some moving, relating to events surrounding the nativity and it is placed on a huge platform measuring eight metres by 22 metres. It will be on display in the Plaza de la Constitución from around 12 December until Jan 7 when it returns to the musuem. Bring the kids and a camera.

December 6th. This is a national holiday - *Constitucion Day*, to celebrate the new constitution which was enacted on the 6th of December 1978 after a referendum

December 8th. This is the national holiday of *Inmaculada Concepción*, (the feast of the Immaculate Conception) which marks the beginning of the religious Christmas celebrations.

December 21st. In many cities, and on the Torry beaches, the celebration of the *Hogueras* (bonfires) takes place. This date marks the winter solstice (shortest day of the year). The celebration involves people jumping over fires to make wishes and to protect themselves against illness.

22nd December. This is the day of the Christmas lottery and of *El Gordo* (the fat or big one) lottery draw as well. A full ticket (billete) in *El Gordo* costs 200 euro but you can buy a share, a tenth (*décimo*) for 20 euro. Total prize money this year is expected to be in the region of 2.320 billion Euro!! One year 180 tickets shared 540 million euro!

24th December. In Spain, Christmas Eve is called *Nochebuena* (Goodnight). In the evening people often meet with their friends for a brief drink but it is really the most important family gathering of the year when a meal is enjoyed at home with the family. This will often be a meal of prawn starters followed by roast lamb with *turrón* (a nougat made from toasted almonds and honey) for dessert.

25th December. A national holiday here. Not a day of great celebrations, maybe a large family meal at lunchtime possibly in a restaurant and the little ones may get a small present. Hollywood is largely responsible for adding Father Christmas to the expectations of Spanish children, but the real time for presents is not until January and the Three Kings.

28th December. This is the feast day of *Santos Inocentes* (Holy Innocents). It is also the Spanish equivalent of April Fools' Day, so be on the lookout!

31st December. New Year's Eve or *Noche Vieja*. This is a big celebration throughout the country with many lasting until breakfast-time. At the stroke of midnight it is traditional to eat 12 grapes, one on each stroke of the clock to bring good luck in the new year. You can buy little tins of these grapes, already peeled, at most Consum's and Mercadona's.

1st January. Another public holiday to allow for recuperation.

5th January. On this evening there are processions with floats throughout Spain and the one in Torrevieja is excellent. Last year the theme was 'disney' characters. *Los Reyes Majos* (the Three Kings) are carried on floats through part of the town and sweets are handed out freely to the kids. Make sure they bring a plastic shopping bag.

6th January. This is another public holiday it is the Feast of the Epiphany (*Epifania*) which for Spanish children is the most important day of the year. Santa/PapaNoel may leave a small present on the 25th of December, but it is the Three Kings who deliver the 'goods' on this day and remain the childrens' favourites.

7th January. It's back to school for the children and back to work for the parents! More on the January celebrations in next month's issue.

M.A.R. SERVICES

Specialising in taxes & advice for non-residents and residents at excellent rates.



**Wills
Contracts
Translations
Notary Visits
Rental Taxes**



Utility Bills on-line

Non-Resident Taxes

Residencia Applications

Based in Dream Hills,
Native English & Spanish staff
Visit www.modelo214.com
Or call (0034) 665466481

SAM'S BAR

Los Balcones
New Owners

Completely Refurbished
Well Stocked Bar
Tuesday - Fun Darts
Sunday - Quiz

**Full Live Sports Coverage
Special Offers !
Happy Hour 4 - 7
New Year's Raffle
Fantastic Prizes !!**

THE CAVERN

Ground Floor - Via Park V

Welcoming & Spacious
Themed Decoration
Ideal Venue for Parties,
Celebrations or just a great night out!
Thursday 10 pm Martin K.
Friday DJ GANDHI
Sunday 4 pm Davy B Rat Pack
Good Food daily - Extensive Menu

AUCTIONS

Mondays at 1 pm & Thursday at 6 pm
The friendliest Pub this side of the River Mersey
Tel: 697 650 603

pizzeria
CRISTINA
Restaurante
Via Park V



Your favourite Italian Food
Freshly cooked to order
Friendly Service
Generous Portions
Steaks, Fish, Pizza & Pasta
Take-Away Service
Traditional Christmas Dinner
The best Pizzas on the Costa Blanca
Tel: 677242117



Next, Please.

A woman and a baby were in the doctor's examining room, waiting for the doctor to come in for the baby's first exam.

The doctor arrived, and examined the baby, checked his weight, and being a little concerned, asked if the baby was breast-fed or bottle-fed.

'Breast-fed,' she replied.

'Well, strip down to your waist,' the doctor ordered.

She did. He scrutinised her bosoms, pressed, kneaded, and rubbed both for a while in a very professional and detailed examination.

Motioning to her to get dressed, the doctor said,

'No wonder this baby is underweight. You don't have any milk.'

I know,' she said, 'I'm his Grandma, but I'm glad I came.'



British Butchers
Comes to Via Park V
For ALL your Weekly and
Christmas Meat
Available to order from
Doña Anna's
Pasty Shack
Also taking orders for our
Baked Ham, Cheese,
Ponche Fruit Cake, Mince Pies..
So much more than just a
Pasty Shack (but the Pasties
Are d'arn good)
Lowe3r Ground Floor
Via Parl V Tel 649637956

Jokes to offend everyone.

Police continue to question Karen Mathews but their new investigations have nothing to do with the disappearance of Shannon. All they want to know is how the heck she managed to get 'humped' by five different blokes?

Old Austrian Proverb: Treat your women like a fine wine.....
They are best left in the cellar to mature.

'Pampers' are to be the new sponsors of West Ham F.C. This is because they have nothing but piss up-front and just total crap at the back. (Sorry, Dave)

"Just got back from Mumbai- but blow me, that Hotel Murder Mystery weekend was a bit over the top"

Inspired by recent attacks in Mumbai, Islamic extremists have turned their militant eye upon Bradford, and are hunting down anyone with a British passport. The police are on standby, but so far the terrorists are stumped.

The Irish SAS have just stormed Mumbai National Zoo and are leading out the unharmed Otriches as you read. (the cheek!!)

What is it with Indian call centres these days? You should have heard the abuse I got when I enquired if I could reserve a non-smoking hotel room for my trip to Mumbai...

A family were having dinner when the little boy asks his dad how many types of boobs there are.

"Well, son" the dad says, "there are three: when a woman is in her 20s her boobs are like melons - round and firm; in her 30s and 40s they are like pears - still beautiful but hanging down a bit; but once she's in her 50s they're like onions - just looking at them makes you cry."

The mother and daughter are a little put out at this, and the daughter asks her mum how many types of willy there are.

"There are three of those as well," says mum. "When a man is in his 20s his willy is like an oak tree - firm and hard; in his 30s and 40s it is like a birch tree - flexible, yet reliable; in his 50s though it's like a Christmas tree - dead from the root up and the balls are just for decoration."



'And that's how the fight started!

When I got home last night, my wife demanded that I take her someplace expensive.... So I took her to a petrol station And that's how the fight started.

My wife and I were sitting at a table at my college reunion, and I kept staring at a drunken lady swigging her drink as she sat alone at a nearby table. My wife asked, 'Do you know her?' 'Yes,' I sighed, 'She's my old girlfriend. I understand she took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear she hasn't been sober since.' 'My God!' says my wife, 'Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?? And that's how the fight started.

TRANSPORT SERVICES

Costa Blanca



Registered Business - Fully Insured
8 Passenger Mini Bus
Fully Air Conditioned
Available 7 days a week
Trips to Corte Ingles, Primark etc
Airport Services,
Local and Tourist Trips
Hen & Stag Nights, Benidorm, Markets
Golf Outings and Much, Much More
Party Nights a speciality!
Tel: Peter 617 096 374

And that how

I rear-ended a car this morning. So, there we were alongside the road and slowly the other driver got out of his car. You know how sometimes you just get soooo stressed and little things just seem funny? Yeah, well I couldn't believe it.... he was a DWARF!!! He stormed over to my car, looked up at me, and shouted, 'I AM NOT HAPPY!!!' So, I looked down at him and said, Well, which one are you then? And that's how the fight started.....

Girl to her boyfriend: 'One kiss and I'll be yours forever.'

The guy replies: 'Thanks for the early warning.'

And that's how the fight started....



New Medical Developments in Spain

A new survey of European healthcare has ranked Spain as number 18 out of 31 countries. The highest rated system was Holland, followed by Denmark and Austria. You can view the full report at www.healthpowerhouse.com

However, there have recently been a number of major medical developments in Spain worth reporting.

Alzheimer's patches. The Spanish Health Ministry have given the national health system the go-ahead to finance patches for Alzheimer's patients. The new patches have proved to be safe and easily tolerated by patients in mild and intermediate cases. Sickness, vomiting and diarrhoea are reported as common side effects of the prescribed pills. Using the Alzheimer's patch reduces these side effects, as the medication is more easily absorbed into the system and does not wreak such havoc with the digestive system. It may also help the medication to work as it retains its full potency. When any medication is taken orally, it gets broken down in the stomach and goes through a partial digestive process before it is absorbed in the bloodstream. To neutralize this, oral medications are usually stronger than any other form, and have a greater tendency toward side effects. They also take longer to reach the intended area of the body that they need to affect. An Alzheimer's patch does not need to go through the digestive system this way. It can be better absorbed into the bloodstream through the skin and starts to work almost immediately. Side-effects from the patch are reported as minimal. There are an estimated 500,000 Alzheimer patients in Spain, and some 24 million across the world.

Mobile radiotherapy. Specialists in the San Jaime (private) Hospital in Torrevieja have carried out the first 'intraoperative diotherapy' for a brain tumour in Spain. Normally following cancer surgery, patients were transferred from the operating room under anaesthesia and with an open wound, to the radiation therapy department for treatment. After the treatment they were returned to the operating theatre for the completion of surgery. Now using the world's first mobile, self-shielded electron linear accelerator called 'Mobetron', the patient can be treated safely and quickly in the operating room using intraoperative electron radiotherapy (IOERT). This makes the treatment of cancer patients less time consuming, less costly and less risky. A single dose of IOERT is equivalent to two to five weeks of daily external radiation therapy (i.e. 10 to 25 daily external treatments. (Source: Mayo Clinic)

HIV Vaccine. Spanish scientists are to start testing a preventative vaccine against HIV. 30 healthy volunteers will be given the jab when the trial starts in January 2009, and they will have their blood monitored over the following year. They will each be given a dose of MVA-B which uses the smallpox virus from which 31,000 pieces of nuclear DNA including four HIV proteins have been taken to guarantee safety. The theory is that with the proteins lacking should the patient later become infected with HIV the infection will develop, but only as a undeveloped illness. This Phase One Testing comes after two years of laboratory tests and two more of tests in rats and primates. In these, none of the animals which were later infected with HIV developed the illness.

A new windpipe. Thanks to the ground-breaking use of stem cells, a Colombian woman has been given a new windpipe at a clinic in Barcelona, following surgery for a massive TB infection. Using stem cell tissue engineering, and with help from specialists at Bristol University in the U.K., a new windpipe has been created and is now in place. The great advantage of the new procedure is that as the patients own stem cells were used, there was no need for immune-suppression drugs. The treated stem cells were due to be returned to Spain as hand luggage with a German student. However the crew of the Easyjet flight from Bristol thought that the stem cells grown in Bristol University may be dangerous, and refused to accept them on board. As they only have a maximum lifespan of 16 hours, a private jet had to be hired at an additional cost to the procedure of 16,000 € With this sort of thinking from Easyjet, one would not now be too surprised to see bunches of garlic hanging on board together with amulets to 'ward off the evil eye'.

And finally, **adult fat stem cells** are being used in pioneering research in a Madrid hospital to rebuild the breasts of five women after they had undergone minor surgery for cancer. The stem cells are extracted from fat taken from the patient by liposuction. The Gregorio Marañón Hospital in the Spanish capital has presented the first implants to be made from such cells, and announced that it has so far helped five patients. It's part of a Europe-wide research program, with 40 patients in total from the United Kingdom, Italy and Belgium as well as Spain.

The Spanish Economy

Although the Spanish economy is not yet officially in recession (two successive quarters of negative GDP growth), by using any other indicator, it certainly is well into recession. The OECD (Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development) has warned that the economic recession in Spain will be one of the harshest in the Eurozone. They forecast unemployment (12.8% this October) at 14.2% for Spain next year and 14.8 in 2010, when they expect the recovery to start. The European Commission takes a more pessimistic outlook saying that unemployment will exceed 15% in 2010. The property market continues to weaken and despite estate agents trying to talk the market up in the south of Spain, property sales in the Costa del Sol have fallen by 89% this year.

Whatever your shade of politics is in Spain, you have to admire the government's focus in introducing direct creative remedies to certain sections of the economy and the populace. Among the new measures is the idea to pay employers 1,500 € a year for taking on those unemployed with family responsibilities, but the main new idea is to give a partial moratorium for mortgage payers when they become registered unemployed. The help will be for a maximum of 50% of the debt that is owed, with a maximum amount of 500 € a month, which can be put off for a period of up to two years, but only on mortgages where the total amount is less than 170,000 €. The help will also be made available for self-employed or autonomous workers, but in their case they will have to be inactive and have families to support. Companies in trouble will be able to put off their IRPF income tax payments but they will have to present a guarantor and also pay the interests on the delayed payments.

In contrast to his Finance Minister and the Governor of the Bank of Spain, PM Zapatero says that spending on public investment is the best way out of the crisis and to create employment. Recognising that the tourist industry could be a fundamental catalyst in kick-starting the economy in many areas, the cabinet has agreed to make 400 million euro available to the sector to modernise infrastructure. This will be in the form of 'soft' loans to finance up to 90% of a project at the rate of 1.5% p.a. Hotels, camp-site, restaurants etc can all apply for these loans.

In Late November, the Prime Minister presented his plan to activate the Spanish economy and create jobs for the years 2009 to 2011. The new plan has a budget of 11 million euro, 8 million of it going to local City and Town Halls, with the idea that the money is spent immediately on improving local infrastructures to absorb the people who have found themselves unemployed because of the collapse of the construction and real estate markets. All the projects must start between January and March next year and fit into the category of the construction, refurbishment or improvement of urban and social spaces. The improvement of advanced technology installations is also included in the plan. The money for the local town halls is in effect doubling the budget they were expecting for 2009. The car manufacturing industry will get 800 million euro but only in exchange for express guarantees from them that jobs will be maintained. 600 million euro is allocated to environmental works, 500 million euro for research and development and 120 million euro for housing refurbishment. There will also be 400 million available to regional governments to spend on the new Dependency Law which PM Zapatero described as 'an important creator of employment'.

The Prime Minister said he also hoped that 200,000 new jobs would be created by the new measures next year. He also stated that inflation had dropped to 2.5% in October and was expected to reach less than 1% by next July

In a case of 'charity beginning at home' the political parties will get 33% more funding next year than in 2006, thanks to the financing law approved by them last year.

With a smile on his face.

Upon hearing that her elderly grandfather had just passed away, Katie went straight to her grandparent's house to visit her 95-year-old grandmother and comfort her.

When she asked how her grandfather had died, her grandmother replied, 'He had a heart attack while we were making love on Sunday morning.' Horrified, Katie told her grandmother that 2 people nearly 100 years old having sex would surely be asking for trouble. 'Oh no, my dear,' replied granny. 'Many years ago, realizing our advanced age, we figured out the best time to do it was when the church bells would start to ring. It was just the right rhythm. Nice and slow and even. Nothing too strenuous, simply keeping with the slow rhythm of the bells.'

She paused to wipe away a tear, and continued, 'He'd still be alive today if the ice cream van hadn't come along'



<p>MOBILE HAIR FLAIR</p>  <p>SALON SERVICE IN YOUR HOME</p> <p>OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE COLOURS, FOILS, PERMS, CUTS</p>  <p>LADIES AND GENTS</p> <p>CONTACT: BRENDA 965991218 / 686328397</p>	<p>REPAIRS TO ALL MAKES OF</p> <p>WASHING MACHINES DISHWASHERS TUMBLE DRYERS FRIDGE-FREEZERS HOBS/OVENS BOILER REPAIRS</p>   <p>ALSO INSTALLATIONS OF THE ABOVE</p> <p>NO CALL-OUT CHARGE TEL: DAVE 664-204-916</p>	<p>The Tavern</p> <p>Lago Jardin 11</p>   <p>Friendly Bar with Great Food</p>  <p>Meal Deal 6€ Fresh Fish & Chips</p> <p>Thurs Night – Crib Tournament LIVE Fri Night 5th - Mike Loveit Children's Menu Sunday Roast €4.95 966 722 872 Closed Saturdays</p>
---	---	---

Out & About

The recent very cold weather has put an end, hopefully temporarily, to the cafe pavement society. Everybody is tempted inside 'for a warm' and it has tended to make the whole area look a bit desolate.

Locally, the bars and restaurants are preparing for Christmas and Karen from 'Stallions' tells me that they are laying on a 'snowfall' for Christmas Day.

Sam's Bar in Los Balcones has changed hands and it has been completely refurbished. There certainly seems to be a bit more life in there these days. A new MacDonald's with drive-thru is almost completed in Punta Prima next to the closed 'Plus' supermarket.

It is fair to say that much of the restaurant trade on the Costa has been decimated by the current economic climate. The Spanish restaurants have been particularly hard-hit in the *Menú del Día* trade as nobody is building houses any more and the workmen are all at home. Frankly, it is the expat trade that is keeping some of them going. The evening trade in many Spanish restaurants has also been particularly poor and the wise ones are introducing special meal deals. We visited two large Spanish restaurants during the last two weeks on a Friday and Saturday evening, but we were the only ones in there.

The tabletop market in the Celtic Isle was closed down by the council after only one opening and the quality of the Christmas market in Asturias this year was very poor compared to last year.

There will be a new Christmas market on the waste ground by Consum at La Zenia. It is scheduled to run from the 13th to the 24th of December. This is apparently, a 'toe-in-the-water' test to see if it will be feasible to have one every year. What is interesting about this market is that it is not restricted to professional market traders only. There will be no charge for the pitches although the pitches will have to be applied for, so that there will not be too much duplication and to filter out junk-traders. Therefore charities, associations and private individuals can also all have a stand. (Might be a good opportunity to unload all those back issues of Mayfair you have been hoarding.) You will have to provide your own stand and table-tops etc. It is also planned to have a large decorated Christmas tree there with Santas, free gifts and special events. There will also be a marquee erected where actors will perform nativity scenes.



Christmas at Galadriel

Christmas Day

A seven course extravaganza for 75 Euro including

Champagne Cocktail & Canapes on arrival

Arrive at 1.00 for 1.45 sit down

Enjoy a leisurely Christmas Day



Only a few places left so book now to avoid disappointment

Can't make Christmas Day?

Why not book a party for Lunch or Dinner any day throughout

December

Ring for details on 966 798 122

To apply for a space/pitch you should contact Stefan Pokroppa at the Playa Flamenca Ayuntamiento on 966 760 000 ext. 34

If it is found that there is not much interest in registering for pitches, the scheduled opening dates may very well be shortened to just a few days.



STEAK HOUSE

Open Nightly 6pm till late

Beautifully Designed Restaurant

Full A La Carte Menu, famous for our
Steak, Pasta and Fish specialities

Sunday Roasts served 12 till 5

3 Course with

Free bottle of wine per Adult Couple

€11.50 Adults & €7.50 Kids

**A few places left for Xmas Day
'Guaranteed Snow!!'**

Book now for New Year's Eve

Private parties catered for

Tel: 965991047/609955902

Via Park V Dream Hills (Ground Floor)

SCAMPI'S

Fish & Chip Restaurant



& Take Away

Delicious Cod, Haddock,
Scampi & Fishcakes
NOW! Succulent Steaks &
Homemade Meat Pies
½ Rack of BBQ Ribs
Kebab Wraps

Sausages, Saveloys,
Chicken & Beef burgers etc

Open Mon - Sat

3:00 to 10:30

3 Course Sunday Lunch

€9.95 12:30 till 5

Now taking bookings for

Christmas Day

Tel: 692 331 262

Kevin Welcomes you to the

R Bar

Via Park V

OPEN TILL 1.30am

Tuesday - Fun Darts

All Welcome

**Wed - Liver & Bacon or
Bangers & Mash**

Quiz Night - Thursday

**Friday - Live Entertainment Saturday -
Home-Made Curry**

Superb Sunday Roasts

Food served daily 10.30'till Late

Take-Away Service available

BOOK NOW FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

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

Tel: 608 010 759



BEAUTIFUL VILLA
TO RENT
IN DREAM HILLS
SOUTH FACING
AIR CONDITIONED
SATELLITE TV

TWO COMMUNITY POOLS
FOR MORE DETAILS
CALL 0044 07904371671
www.dreamhillsvilla.com
Info@dreamhillsvilla.com
10% Discount off prices
Quoting ref: Dreamscene



Mighty Thor

Mighty Thor came down from Valhalla and spied a beautiful young maiden in the Norwegian woods. He assumed the form of a handsome big muscular young man and "accidentally" bumped into her. She fell for his dashing good looks and invited him back to her cottage where they made mad passionate love all night long – and you know how long the nights are up north. The next morning Mighty Thor awoke to find the young lass brushing her hair. He felt he should introduce himself properly and said, "I have something to tell you, my comely wench: I am Mighty Thor!"

"You're Thor?!" she exclaimed. "YOU'RE THOR?! I'm tho thore I can hardly pith!"

A few words from the 'States.

"Once he becomes president, Barack Obama will not be allowed to use his Blackberry, or even his email anymore for, security reasons. Obama says, even if he can't email, he still wants to be the first president to have a laptop on his desk in the Oval Office. See, Bush thought he had a laptop. Turns out it was just an Etch-a-Sketch." --Jay Leno

"The auto executives for the Big Three are being criticized now, because, before they asked Congress for billions of dollars, they all flew to Washington in private jets. Yeah, separately, in private jets. In their defense, the executives said, 'We would have driven, but our cars only get three miles to the gallon.'" --Conan O'Brien

"President Bush has exactly two months left in office. His team is already hard at work packing his Legos for the long move back to Texas." --Jimmy Kimmel

"Been a lot of stories from Germany about how America has come to terms with its past and is beginning to make up for it. Now look. I know our country is not perfect, but we do a pretty good job working out our problems. Do we need a lecture from Germany? When they elect a Jewish chancellor, give me a call. Okay?" --Jay Leno

"Listen to this, a guy in North Carolina, a mailman, a Federal employee, a postal worker, was arrested and put in jail. You know why? He would deliver regular mail, but he wouldn't deliver junk mail. They got the guy, they arrested him, and they put him in prison. We got that guy, but still no word on bin Laden." --David Letterman

"Everyone's talking about the American auto industry right now. A new study just came out and found that the Ford Motor Company makes the cars with the highest safety rating. Of all the cars, yeah. Yeah, apparently, Ford cars are so safe because they never leave the dealer's lot." --Conan O'Brien

"Barack Obama is putting his team together to take over the Administration. So far, he's got his mother-in-law, who is going to be living with him, and they are talking about Hillary for Secretary of State. You have your mother-in-law and Hillary Clinton. Sounds like smooth sailing to me." --David Letterman



The editor can be contacted at mick.dreamscene@gmail.com or at No. 586 Dream Hills.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS AND THE WEB SITES AT

www.dreamhills.co.uk/ &

www.dreamhills2.com/

AND REMEMBER THAT A PUB IS NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS!



DISCLAIMER

Please note that any information provided is of a general interest & often also of a frivolous nature. You are advised to contact a professional for advice specific to your circumstances, in relation to legal, financial, health, medical or any other matters. The Dream Scene, its editor or any of its contributors, do not accept responsibility for any claims by advertisers, purchasers or anybody - and remember the old adage - "If something looks too good to be true - it generally is!" You must be really bored if you are reading this! Dream Scene is plagiarized from a multitude of sources, however no part of this publication may be used or reproduced without the consent of the editor - so there!

Don't sleep with a drip -
Call a plumber!

FOR ALL YOUR
PLUMBING NEEDS

CALL YOUR LOCAL
PLUMBER
LIVING IN
DREAM HILLS

CORGI TRAINED

Showers, Boilers,
Central Heating,
Taps, Leaks, etc
No job too small!

**Call Alan on 966 799 650
or 635 080 129**

