

THE DREAM SCENE

Newsletter

Issue no. 33 1st of November 2009

Bienvenido to you all. Today Sunday as some of you may be aware is All Saints' Day and tomorrow is All Souls' day. This is the traditional time for Spanish families to visit the graves of their loved ones. The *cementerios* in Torre-veja and Orihuela will be packed with cars and buses. Families often bring picnics to the graveyards together with huge amounts of flowers. In Mexico it is a festival known as 'The Day of the Dead - *El Día de los Muertos*.'

We have certainly been blessed with wonderful weather lately, around 30° in the shade on the 30th. Now that the seasonal visitors have returned to cooler European climes, David the handyman has been diving in to the winter maintenance program with zeal and has done a great job in painting the perimeter wall to the top pool, covering all the graffiti. This should make the problem easier to deal with in future. Good job, Dave!

On Friday the 23rd of October, I went to a press conference given by the mayoress of Orihuela, Mónica Lorente, at the site of the new 21,000 sq. metre proposed multi-sports complex for Orihuela Costa. The complex will include a covered semi-Olympic heated swimming pool, 25m by 12.5m, basketball, volleyball, tennis and multi-use courts together with adequate changing rooms and showers. All the aforementioned are indoors. There will also be an external full size football pitch with its own changing facilities and showers together with a 400 capacity grandstand. A jogging track will encircle the whole complex with a length of 550 metres and a width of three metres. There will also be a reception area, a small cafeteria and meeting room. This very welcome new facility, which is situated off Calle Niagra near Playa Flamenca, is due for completion in the summer next year.

Other news from Miss Lorente (who by the way is an absolute stunner!) is that she promises to find an alternative site for the rubbish transfer point situated in the middle of the 'green area' in sector PAU 26 in Orihuela Costa. Mayoress Lorente said that she would get town hall technicians to identify an alternative site a.s.a.p. This will be good news for the residents of Dream Hills 2 and Entre Golf. Locating an acceptable site for a *basura area* or Eco Park can be extremely difficult as everybody screams NIMBY.

More than 42 million visitors have come to Spain over the first nine months of this year but the figures are down on last year's. The fall in visitors is accounted for mainly by reductions in the number of visitors from Britain and Germany, down 15.7% and 11.6% respectively. Excessive add-ons to air fares and scandalous car-hire rates have not helped matters. Lets hope it improves next year. All the best to you all and keep well. Mick, Editor.

Kevin has moved from the R Bar to

ALL BAR SUE

SAME GREAT ATMOSPHERE
NEW LUXURIOUS SURROUNDINGS
NEW RANGE OF BEERS &
GREAT WINE SELECTION
DAYTIME & EVENING MENU
AVAILABLE, MEAL DEALS
SUNDAY LUNCH SERVED
1 - 6 pm BOOKING ADVISABLE
NOW TAKING BOOKINGS FOR
CHRISTMAS DAY
MENU AVAILABLE
OPEN MON - SUN
11.30 AM - 1.30 AM
CLOSED SATURDAYS
*There are no strangers at
'ALL BAR SUE'
Only friends who haven't met.*
L.G. Floor Via park V.

Angela's Cartoon



She won "ugliest witch" and she hadn't even entered!

WHAT'S UP?

The International Monetary Fund has forecasted a lost five years for the Spanish economy. The expectation is that the level of wealth before the crisis will not be recovered until 2014, and that unemployment and the real estate collapse will slow down recovery.

After training all the Barca players were given a free Audi car on the 1st of October; sure beats a cup of tea! Audi is the club's official sponsor in the motoring section. Most players chose an Audi Q7, but Puyol and Bojan went for a Q5. However, things have not been going too well for their arch rivals Real Madrid. Last week they were beaten 4-0 by third-division side Alcorcón in the first leg of the King's Cup. The Real Madrid side cost 400 million euro to build, whereas none of the Alcorcón side are paid more than 1,000 euro per month!

Alicante leads in Spain when it comes to car theft - an average of 35 vehicles stolen every day - one in every six vehicles stolen across the country. In nearby Almoradi, a gang was broken up which had stolen an estimated 500 cars over the past 5 years. Remember to put that car on the drive!

Vandals in Elche cause over one million € in damages to the city every year. The replacement of uprooted plants and irrigation systems as well as playground items represents an annual cost to the Elche treasury of 500,000 euro; graffiti removal cost 70,000 euro and repairs to schools for vandalism on their fences, doors, windows and sports facilities reached 150,000 euro, while repair and replacement of the various bins cost 230,000 euro.

After a 15 year ban, the Spanish fishing fleet are to take their freezer ships to search for cod in Canadian waters once again next year. However under the new agreement the Spanish fleet has been reduced to 7 boats, but it's thought that given the scarcity of fish in the area, only 2 boats are likely to make the trip regularly.

Last week a notary in Calle Ramon Galud, Torrevieja, was shot dead by two burglars who robbed his office during business hours. No one has been arrested yet although the Guardia have a good success rate of arrests for violent crimes.

Work on the much-heralded second airport at Corvera in Murcia has now ground to a halt. Although nothing has been built yet, serious financial problems have stopped all activity on what is, at the moment, just a cleared building site. The project will certainly not be finished next year, if ever! I wonder where the millions that have been spent went.

The number of complaints lodged at the Bank of Spain against financial institutions in the Valencia region increased by more than 36% in 2008. Santander topped the list of the big banks, while the worst of the saving's banks were CajaMadrid, Bancaja and CAM.

Marks & Spencer will be opening up a new store in Marbella this November. The 1,300 sq metre shop will carry fashion, furnishings and food. The company used to have stores in Madrid and Sevilla, but they were closed eight years ago. The new store in Marbella is being established on a franchise basis by the same company which has been in Gibraltar since 1968 and is being used as a pilot study for future expansion throughout Spain.

A new public health law in Cataluña has banned happy-hours, 2 for 1 drinks offers and similar alcohol promotions in the region's bars, restaurants and clubs. Businesses who ignore the ban face a fine of more than 6,000 €! A new body (or job creation scheme), the Cataluña Public Health Agency, has been launched which aims to help people give up cigarettes and promote healthier eating. So the 'food & drink nazis' have finally arrived in Spain. Next step will be the banning of pork scratchings!

Welshman, David Hayes, 29, has died from swine flu, reportedly after contracting the disease while on holiday in Catalonia in Spain. Although he died on October 8, the cause of his death has only just been revealed.

A wheelchair-bound 92-year-old woman was arrested at Madrid's Barajas International Airport after officers found more than four kilos of cocaine taped to her body. 'What's that, Dear? But they told me it was talcum powder!' Her 44-year-old Brazilian companion was also detained after she tried to do a 'runner.'

A number of new traffic laws (reported on in the July 09 edition of the Dream Scene) are now in force in Spain. Prompt payment of fines will now attract a discount of up to 50%, but you then lose your right to appeal. Those of you with bicycles please note that you will be fined €100 for riding at night without a light. It would be suicidal, anyway!

Patches 'n' Pins

Qualified Seamstress

40 yrs. Experience



Turn-ups
to



Tailoring

Patterns taken from
your favourite clothes.

Reasonable Prices

Phone: Sandra 966 799 188

Mobile: 680 486 336

Still buying water For drinking & cooking?



Drink straight from the
tap

With a new quality
Two filter water system
for only

99€!

Also water filters changed

On any modern system

Call peter on

635 416 255

Operating from dream hills 2

How to impress a women.

Compliment her, respect her, honour her, cuddle her, kiss her, caress her, love her, stroke her, tease her, comfort her, protect her, hug her, hold her, spend money on her, wine and dine her, buy things for her, listen to her, care for her, stand by her, support her, hold her, go to the ends of the earth for her.

How to impress a man.

Show up naked, bring beer and don't stand in front of the TV.

Well the 'boys in blue' or rather 'green' have been up to it again. Four Guardia Civil have been arrested in Nerja and Almuñecar with 2,000 kilos of hashish, and four other people have also been detained. The arrests were made by the Internal Affairs division from Madrid.

A Guardia Civil from Pontevedra has been expelled from the force and given an 18 month suspended sentence after being found guilty of using the credit card belonging to a person who had died in a road accident he attended in October 2002. He used the card a total of 68 times, taking out more than 1,300 € in 'dribs & drabs.'

In another police story, a 60 year old man, has been arrested by the Murcia Civil Guard after posing as a Colonel in the force for the past nine years. Even this chap's former partner, who lived with him for five years, believed he was a Colonel in the force. The man used his supposed position to force 'backhanders' out of businesses in Los Alcázares, San Javier, los Narejos and Murcia City with the threat of closing them down if they failed to accede to his demands. The investigation began two months ago after a man whose car was intentionally set alight refused to present an official complaint for fear of reprisals from the arsonist - allegedly this 'Colonel.'

A National Policeman from Murcia has been fined 180 € for pulling the hair of a woman to get her to stand in line while she was waiting at the Foreigners Office in the Barriomar district of Murcia. The woman, who fell to the ground, needed medical treatment. The incident was captured by CCTV cameras. Whoops!

The Hacienda has announced that it has collected 12% more this year than last – to August, in its fight against fiscal fraud, despite the overall tax take falling because of the recession. The amount collected by the fiscal fraud division reached 4.4 billion. Hacienda has also been focusing its attention on the movement of high denomination notes.

In an unusual but welcome adjudication, the Provincial Court of Badajoz has condemned the developer and building contractor, Área Cyo S.A., for delivering housing in Merida one year late. The court, which also quashed the appeal, stated that the delay in delivery had led to "frustration, anxiety and disappointment of buyers not being able to enjoy a new home at the planned time with the consequential disruption to the purchasers 'life-plans'." The company had not informed the frustrated and anxious buyers the reason for the delay representing a clear breach of contract. The company was ordered to pay between 1,800 and 4,600 euro to each of the plaintiffs. A similar judgement was made in another case in Tenerife in 2003. A rare but welcome victory for the purchasers.

And here is a real eye-opener. The president of AENA, the Spanish Airports Authority, has revealed that the average annual wage paid to a Spanish Air Traffic Controller is 242,000 € and there are 2,300 controllers in all! The AENA president, Juan Ignacio Lema, also stated that the high airport charges faced by airlines in Spain are down 'fundamentally to the high wages of the controllers'. AENA have also reported that for the first nine months of the year they saw a total of 145.7 million passengers, which was 10% down on last year. They expect the fall in passenger numbers to continue but at a lower rate. Cargo shipments also fell by almost 16%.

With great candour, the official state bulletin has listed the assets of all the Ministers in the Zapatero administration. The Science Minister, Cristina Garmendia is the richest with nearly five million €, while Bibiana Aído is the poorest with just 38,918 €. The Prime Minister is listed with 209,206 € but has debts of 80,000 €. He should take some tips from his expense-fudging socialist buddies in the UK.

Excavations carried out during the last three years by volunteers at the civil war mass grave at the San Rafael cemetery in Málaga, have exhumed as many as 2,840 bodies from the 4,500 total thought to be buried at the site. The victims were shot between the years 1937 and 1954. Half of those recovered were thought to be less than 20 years old. Although the civil war ended in 1939, the murders by the nationalists continued for many years afterwards. Similar excavation work is currently being carried out in other areas throughout Spain, which includes the grave of the Spanish poet, Lorca.

In September, the socialist Sevilla town administration paid 21,000 € (of taxpayers money) to bus hundreds of Bolivian socialist supporters from Sevilla to Madrid so they could vote for the socialist leader Morales in the Bolivian elections.

Police have arrested 20 people, including the mayor and municipal auditor, as part of a corruption swoop in the town of *El Ejido* near Almeria. It seems that the town hall hired a company, *El Sur*, so it could out-source to it many of the council's services. The town mayor happens to be president of the company. What a coincidence!! The mayor was kicked out of the PP in 2005 for his anti-immigrant rants and crusades. The company manages services such as water, lighting, and pavement upkeep and makes up for 40% of the municipal budget. The Spanish newspaper, *El País*, stated that the town hall paid sums for certain works, such as 3,000 € for replacing a light bulb and another amount of 2,100 € for repairing a broken paving stone. Police state that this company and a network of 12 others have misappropriated more than 150 million € over a period of six years. Many more corruption stories but no space left!

A Day at the Beach

Three squaddies were captured by Arab terrorists. They were buried up to their necks in sand, just out of reach of a lovely oasis of sweet fresh water. The most senior said to the others, "Lads, they want us to suffer from thirst, while baking in the sun close to the water. Don't give them the satisfaction....don't give in."

After hours of this, the terrorists sitting in the shade, watching and waiting, they noticed that the squaddies' heads were moving in time, from side to side.

One of the terrorists said. "Hakim, go and see what they are doing."

Hakim returned looking bewildered and said, "Malik, they are singing."

Malik, stunned, said. "Singing, what are they singing?"

"They are singing....."

"Ooooh!, I dooo, like to be beside the seaside.....!"

Spanish Vignettes - *Jamon de Serrano* by Tid.

We have all seen these Spanish dry cured hams in shops, bars and supermarkets and to us they all look the same. But why the wide difference in price? A pack of thin sliced *serrano* can cost as little as €3.90 a pack, but a plate of *jamon Iberico* - tapas size - can cost €18 or more. I will try to explain why and the differences between the various quality of hams.

Firstly the term *serrano* covers many types of dry cured ham but the word *serrano* just means mountainous area or region, an area where the conditions and climate are ideal for the production of the common (pink or white) footed pig that is bred all year round; in other words the mass produced varieties of dry cured ham.

Curing ham is a natural process that cannot be done by machinery. To cure a ham, once the pig is the right size - approx 3-4 years old and then slaughtered - the pig is refrigerated for two days at 1-3°C before salting can begin. The hams are covered with layers of humid sea-salt and placed in stainless steel bins. They calculate one day's salting for every kilo of raw ham. Osmosis draws out the moisture allowing the salt to penetrate the tissues. The next stage is brushing, squeezing any blood or moisture out, washing and shaping the hams into the regular shape you see in the shops. Once they have been moulded, they are hung for up to 60 days, gently raising the temperature to 22°C, with humidity kept to 65%. This enables the pork fat to slowly impregnate the muscle tissue enhancing the taste and quality of the ham. The hams can then be kept at a regulated temperature of 28 - 30° until required. The minimum time to cure a ham is 7 months, but many varieties are kept at 15°C for much longer periods of time.

So the basic *serrano* ham is of the pink footed variety of pig. Going upmarket you will see *jamon jabugo* and *jamon de recebo*. These are excellent quality *jamons* coming out of the Andalusia region from the black footed variety, *pata negra*. These pigs are reared on a mixture of animal feed and acorns, which is supposed to give a superior taste to the flesh of the pig. Going further upmarket we come to *jamon Iberico* and *jamon de bellota*. These come from selected top quality black footed pigs that are reared on wild grasses, roots and acorns, then cured for between 24 to 36 months, which produces the best flavour. As it can take between six and seven years from piglet to the table, it is no wonder that the quality *jamon* can be very expensive.

Just like good wines, these superior hams have DOCs (Denominación d'Origen Controlada) which denotes the pigs are free-range, black footed and have met certain requirements.

The 'Prince of Pigs' from Albarragena reserve in Extremadura comes with DNA certification, proving that they are 90% pure breed Iberico, whereas DOC rated hams need only 70% to be rated. This is why a top quality ham will set you back €1,500 each, that is if you can get on the waiting list for one of the Rolls-Royce of hams. Only 100 legs are available annually, one or two going to Selfridge's.

Spanish cured *jamon* is supposed to be hand sliced with a long narrow blade and the leg is usually fixed horizontally into a *jamonera*, see below. There are competitions to select the best slicers every year in Extremadura and there is an association of ham cutters called *Cortadores de Jamón*, who offer their services for weddings, conferences etc. So next time you get the opportunity, try some of this fine ham on its own and savour it in appreciation of the length of time it has taken to get to your table. Don't just slap it between two slices of bread and butter. Treat it with the respect it deserves!



Night! Night!

By the time a Royal Marine pulled into Portsmouth, every hotel room was taken.

"You've got to have a room somewhere," he pleaded. "Or just a bed, I don't care where."

"Well, I do have a double room with one occupant ... another member of the armed forces, a Royal Navy officer," admitted the manager, "and he might be glad to split the cost. But to tell you the truth, he snores so loudly that people in adjoining rooms have complained in the past. I'm not sure it'd be worth it to you."

"No problem," the tired Marine assured him. "I'll take it."

The next morning the Marine came down to breakfast bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. "How'd you sleep?" asked the manager.

"Never better." The manager was impressed. "No problem with the other guy snoring, then?"

"Nope, I shut him up in no time" said the Marine.

"How'd you manage that?" asked the manager.

"He was already in bed, snoring away, when I came in the room," the Marine explained. "I went over, gave him a kiss on the cheek, said, 'Goodnight beautiful', and he sat up all night watching me!"

AFFORDABLE AIR CON



HOT & COLD SPLIT SYSTEM
SUPPLY & FIT

OR INSTALLATION ONLY
SERVICING

RE-GAS & REPAIRS

ALL WORK CARRIED OUT BY A
CITY & GUILD'S
QUALIFIED INSTALLATION
ENGINEER

Call Keith for a free quotation

Tel: 965 326 163 & 649 584 493

BROWN'S HAIR & BEAUTY

VIA PARK V

**Be sure to call in or phone
for our fabulous offers-
Treat yourself to a great
new look.**

Lots of Special Offers!

Open 10 am - 5 pm

Sat 10 am - 2 pm

Lift

Tel: 965 010 089

Ladies & Gents



Dead Dog

Farmer McCarthy lived for many years with only his dog for a companion. One sad day he found his dog dead from old age. He went to his parish priest and asked if services could be said for his dog.

The priest said "Oh no, we can't have services for a dog here, but there's a Protestant church down the road that might be willing."

"Father, do you think 500 euro might be enough of a donation?" asked farmer McCarthy.

"Well man, why didn't you tell me your dog was a Catholic?"



NEW MENU !

NEW BEERS !

NEW PRICES !

TV & SPORTS !



FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE

IN A BEAUTIFUL

VENUE

Quiz Night Sunday 8.30pm

Now taking bookings for

Christmas Day

Sunday Roast Dinner

Served 1 - 5 PM only €5.50 !

Tel: 965010076/609955902

Via Park V Dream Hills (Ground Floor)

**NEED SOME
EXTRA CASH?
THEN SELL YOUR
UNWANTED
MOBILE PHONES
ALL ELECTRICAL
ITEMS WANTED
CASH PAID**

**Tel: Sean on
630 041 815**

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



Galadriel Cafe Bar & Bistro

Via Park V

Freshly cooked Breakfasts
& Fine Food

Open Wed - Sun from 10am

Enjoy freshly prepared food
& excellent service

in attractive surroundings

Bistro open

Wed to Sat evenings

Steak & Glass of Wine Special

Wednesday Afternoon Quiz

And Open-the-Box 3 pm

Don't forget Sunday Roast is Served
from 12.00 till 9 pm

Internet, TV & Lounge Area

Now Internet with Printer!

Tel: 966 798 122

A very attractive young lady was sitting in a fine restaurant one evening and while waiting for her date. she wanted to make sure everything was perfect.

So, as she bends down in her chair to get the mirror from her purse, she accidentally farts quite loudly just as the waiter walks up.

Sitting up straight now, embarrassed and red faced, knowing everyone in the place heard her, turns to the waiter and demands "Stop That!"

The waiter looks at her dryly and says "Certainly Madam, which way was it headed?"

Ethel

Ethel was a bit of a demon in her wheelchair, and loved to charge around the nursing home, taking corners on two wheels and getting up to maximum speed on the long corridors.

Because the poor woman was one sandwich short of a picnic, the other residents tolerated her and some of them actually joined in.

One day Ethel was speeding up one corridor when a door opened and Crafty Clarence stepped out with his arm outstretched. 'STOP!', he shouted in a firm voice. 'Have you got a license for that thing?' Ethel fished around in her handbag and pulled out a Kit Kat wrapper and held it up to him.

'OK' he said, and away Ethel sped down the hall.

As she took the corner near the TV lounge on one wheel, Happy Harold popped out in front of her and shouted 'STOP! Have you got proof of insurance?' Ethel dug into her handbag, pulled out a drink coaster and held it up to him. Harold nodded and said 'On your way, Ma'am.'

As Ethel neared the final corridor, Crazy Craig stepped out in front of her, butt-naked, and holding his 'you-know-what' in his hand.

'Oh, good grief,' yelled Ethel, 'Not that damn Breathalyzer Test again.!!!' (Ken Billingham)

A Muslim was sitting next to Paddy on a plane. Paddy ordered a whiskey. The stewardess asked the Muslim if he'd like a drink. He replied in disgust "I'd rather be raped by a dozen whores than let liquor touch my lips!" Paddy handed his drink back and said "Me too, I just didn't know we had a choice!"

Q. What do a Catholic priest and a pint of Guinness have in common?

A. They both have a black coat, white collar and you've got to watch your backside if you get a dodgy one! (Both of these are from Pete Dudman, who is going straight to Hell - either the Catholic or Muslim one!)

SAM'S BAR



Los Balcones 

Completely Refurbished

Monday - Darts Night!

Sunday - Quiz

Full Live Sports Coverage

Now serving Hot Pies!

All Day & Every Day

Bottles of Bud, Pils or Becks

Only 1 Euro!

Coffee with Brandy/Tia Maria

Only €2.70

Happy Hour 3 - 7

REPAIRS TO ALL MAKES OF

WASHING MACHINES 

DISHWASHERS

TUMBLE DRYERS

FRIDGE-FREEZERS

HOBS/OVENS


BOILER REPAIRS 

ALSO INSTALLATIONS OF THE ABOVE


NO CALL-OUT CHARGE

TEL: DAVE

664-204-916



THE PHOENIX

Cafe Bar 

Via Park V

WIDE RANGE OF BEERS, WINES & SPIRITS

QUIZ TUESDAYS

FUN QUIZ FRIDAYS


& OPEN THE BOX!

BIG PRIZES

INTERNET

Tel: 667 592 477

Hangovers installed and serviced



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

New Winter Prices!

Free glass of wine or beer with each meal!

The best Pizzas on the Costa Blanca

Tel: 677242117

Via Park V

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

Special Offers !

New Halogen Ovens

€59.95

Steam Mops €55.00

Tel: 655 077 415

Raheny Bar

Ground Floor Via Park V

Friendly Family Bar

All Welcome

Breakfasts & Great Food with Daily Specials

Friday - Disco/Karaoke

Saturday - Entertainment

10th November - Stand-up Comic

Meal & Show only €5 !!

15th November from 4 - 6PM

25 piece Brass Band !!

Now taking bookings for **CHRISTMAS DAY**

Book now for

Sunday Lunch - served 1 'till 9

All live sports on TV

Pool Table / Wi-Fi

Tel: 966 722 473

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

& 966 722 120

Johnny & Jane

Little Johnny and Jane are playing in a sandbox. Little Johnny had to go to take a pee but he was told by his mother to always be polite and don't talk about private matters in public.

Then he remembered what his Mum had said at the restaurant to excuse herself from the table. So he turns to Jane and says "Will you excuse me I have to go powder my nose."

And saying that he leaps out of the sandbox and runs to the toilet.

When he comes back Jane looks up at him and asks, "Did you powder your nose?"

"Yes" said Little Johnny stepping back into the sandbox.

"Well then" says Jane, "You'd better close your compact because your lipstick is hanging out!"

The History of Spain. Part 10 - The Fall of Granada.

Shortly after their accession to the throne of Castile, Ferdinand V and Isabella I - who would later be called the Catholic kings (*los reyes católicos*) - sent envoys to Granada to demand the resumption of tribute from the Moors. The annual tribute was in the region of 12,000 gold coins together with the freeing of 600 Christians. Moorish hostages had to be substituted if there were insufficient Christians. Bearing in mind the vast superiority of the Castilian army, the reckless emir foolishly responded: 'Tell your sovereigns that the kings of Granada who paid tribute are dead. Our mint now coins nothing but sword blades!' The emir failed to appreciate that Ferdinand had more metal in him than the whole of the Granada mint. Following the capture of the Christian frontier town of Zahara by the Moors, who subsequently sold all its inhabitants as slaves in Granada, a campaign against Granada, which lasted 10 years, was started by Ferdinand. Queen Isabella vowed that she would not change her blouse until the Moorish kingdom was captured; legend has it that Ferdinand got her to drop her vow after a respectable if not very fragrant period of time.

The Catholic Kings then deployed 30,000 men to devastate the plains that grew Granada's food. Mills, granaries, vineyards, farm houses, olive and fruit groves, were all destroyed. Ferdinand then turned to the Moorish port of Málaga. However on route the Spanish army was nearly annihilated in the mountain passes of the Ajarquia range by Moorish troops. When Ferdinand eventually arrived at Málaga, he besieged it so that supplies could not be redirected through it from North Africa to Granada. Málaga held out until all the horses, camels, dogs and cats were consumed. Many died of starvation and disease until the port surrendered unconditionally to Ferdinand in 1487. He then condemned the 12,000 survivors to slavery, allowing only the very rich to ransom themselves by handing over all their possessions. The entire province of Granada, outside its capital, was now in Christian hands.

Ferdinand then returned to the siege of Granada. As most of the Christians' tents were burnt in a conflagration, they then built a veritable city of bricks and mortar for their armies (which included many Swiss mercenaries) around the beleaguered Moorish city. The Muslims appealed for help from North Africa and even to the sultans of Turkey and Egypt. However no help came as Islam, at this stage, was as divided as Christendom.

Within the city of Granada itself several rival Arab factions competed with each other. This came to a head when the emir developed such an infatuation for one of his slaves that his wife, the Sultana Ayesha, roused the populace to depose him and crown her son, Boabdil, in his place.

Eventually, Boabdil surrendered Granada and on January 2, 1492 Ferdinand and Isabella, both rode into Granada, wearing Moorish attire and accompanied by their army. The terms awarded to the Moors were extremely generous, totally unlike what happened in Málaga. The Treaty of Granada contained 55 articles guaranteeing Moorish rights. They were allowed to keep their property, language, dress and religion. They were to be judged by their own laws and magistrates and would have to pay no taxes for three years. There were many other concessions, but any Moors who wished to leave could do so and would be helped with transportation to North Africa. However within a few years all this would change and any security the Muslims felt they had gained from the treaty would be later withdrawn.

Meanwhile, Boabdil was 'bought off' with 30,000 gold coins and a piddling little mountain principality in Granada, the summit of which is still known today as *El Ultir Sospiro del Moro* - the Last Sigh of the Moor. Boabdil's mother, the Sultana Ayesha, chastised her tearful son saying, 'You do well to weep like a woman for what you could not defend as a man.'

After 781 years, Spain was finally free from Moorish rule and the golden age of Al-Andalus was no more.

Pompey Bins

When Paul Hart took over at Portsmouth, he was a bit puzzled as how to motivate the turnips.

Meeting his old friend Sir Alex Ferguson he told him the problem.

"Well", say Fergie, "Years ago I had the same problem, so I put 11 dustbins around the pitch and told the players to get cracking or else. Now that worked, because see where we are now".

Straight back to Fratton Park went our Paul and got 11 wheelie bins and put them on the pitch before telling the turnips to get stuck in.

A few weeks later, Fergie and Hart met again and Fergie asked the inevitable question. "How's it going, Paul?"

Hart shrugged, "Well, I did what you said and we've used the bins for several weeks now, and the bloody wheelies win ever time."

At Iceland

A very loud, greasy, unattractive, heavily tattooed, woman with hairy knuckles and wearing a Ranger's top walked into Iceland in Torrevieja with her two kids, yelling obscenities at them.

The Iceland greeter said pleasantly, 'Good morning madam, and welcome to Iceland. Nice children you have there. Are they twins by any chance?'

The ugly woman stopped yelling long enough to say, 'F**k naw, they're nae twins.

The oldest one's 9, and the other one's 7. Why the f**k would you think they're twins? Are you blind, thick or just stupid, Jimmie?'

'I'm neither blind nor stupid, Madam,' replied the greeter, 'I just couldn't believe you've been shagged twice. Have a good day, and thank you for shopping at Iceland.'

Restaurant Review - The Dingo Diner - Bonzer Tucker in Torrevieja.

When writing these reviews I am always aware that we do not all like the same things. Steak tartare or faggots in gravy can induce paroxysms of pleasure in some and disgust in others. As Lucretius, poet & philosopher (96BC - 55BC) wisely said, 'What is food to one is to others bitter poison.' (Lucretius, incidentally, died after taking a love potion!) The *anglosajon's* love affair with the Sunday roast, even during our scorching summers here, always mystifies me, but it's different strokes foretc. Nevertheless, it is with the utmost confidence that I can recommend The Dingo Diner to the most discerning or difficult palate.

The first thing that strikes you when you enter the diner is the welcome, usually by Nacho, who heads the front of house. When was the last time you went into a bar or restaurant and were welcomed properly? It is a most basic requirement with the most powerful effect. Nacho is ably assisted by the always attentive and helpful Samir and Nichol in the restaurant. Although not a large restaurant, it has a very spacious feel to it with a high ceiling and good views of the square through the large windows. The diner is decorated with various 'Aussie' items such as posters, photos etc and even the ubiquitous boomerangs, but the decor is not over the top. The furniture is of sturdy wood and the tables are placed sufficiently apart not only for privacy but so that Nacho can attend to all the tables in his *chariot*. All in all the place has a very comfortable feel to it, although those with a delicate *derrière* might wish to avail of one of the cushions provided, of which there is a limited number.

OK! Now you don't come to a restaurant just to admire the scenery. The kitchen is headed by the chief, Eric, who is assisted by Rob. The menu is very varied ranging from breakfasts and omelettes to steaks, burgers, ostrich, kangaroo and crocodile meat, around 54 courses in all including desserts. Starters include a selection of freshly baked breads with some tasty dips, to wings, onion rings, filled potato skins and calamari, with prices starting at €3.80. There is a wide range of choice for main courses. The Seafood Pasta Alfredo at €12.50 with generous sized prawns and real crab on a bed of tagliatelle with an excellent sauce was truly delicious. The marinated lamb cutlets, €12.50, which were served with mashed pots and grilled veg served al-dente was an equally memorable and filling dish. But if you are in need of comfort food is hard to beat their Dingo Floatie, €6.50. This is a slice of deep-filled minced-steak pie with melt-in-the-mouth pastry, served with creamy mash, mushy peas and an excellent rich gravy. This dish should be sold in chemist's shops as an anti-depressant! Eric offers many creative dishes which will tempt even the most jaded palate.

Fortunately the quality is maintained with the desserts which are usually an afterthought in Spain. Their home-made chocolate brownie cake, which is served with all sorts of *sinful* accompaniments, and the pancakes with honey and ice-cream, both at €4.60, are delicious and worth waiting for. Eric believes in using the freshest quality ingredients and produce; all the food is home-made and the care in preparation is evident in anything that leaves the kitchen from the steaks to the chutneys. Some children's meals are also available but no high chairs.

The wine list is a compact selection of affordable good Australian and Spanish wines with house wines at just €7 a bottle. There is also a good bar where you can enjoy draft Fosters, a reasonably priced spirit combo or just a coffee.

The restaurant also offers a menu del dia at €7, an evening Aussie set-menu at €12 and a very popular 3-course Sunday Lunch at €8. Now these are not massive meals but the quality remains nevertheless and a glass of wine is included.

The Dingo Diner, which is closed on Sunday evenings and all day Monday, is situated on the Calle La Calera, in Bajo 2, Torrevieja. The easiest way to get there is to travel down the Avenida de Las Cortes Valencianas (past Iceland) towards the centre of Torry. At the BP garage turn left, which takes you to a square with the Diner on the far side. There is usually ample parking in the Square. There is also a comprehensive web-site which features the full menu with prices, wine list and directions at www.thedingodiner.com

The Dingo Diner - 966 443 126 & 687 878 567

What goes 'clip-clop, clip-clop, BANG, BANG, clip-clop, clip-clop'?
An Amish drive-by shooting.

Two little old ladies were sitting on a park bench at the Chelsea Flower Show.

The thin one leaned over and said, 'Life is so boring. We never have any fun any more. For £10 I'd take my clothes off and streak through the flower show!'

'You're on!' said the other old lady, holding up a £10 note.

The first little old lady slowly fumbled her way out of her clothes and, completely naked, streaked (as fast as an old lady can) through the flower displays.

Her friend soon heard a huge commotion, followed by loud applause and whistling. The naked old lady came back to the bench, smiling and clutching a trophy while surrounded by a cheering crowd.

'What happened?' asked her waiting friend.

'I won 1st prize for the Best Dried Arrangement!'

Doña Anna's
Pasty Shack
Time to visit and try
Nachos Platters & Doner
Kebab Wrap.

Wednesday 25th November
Why wait another month?
Full Turkey "Thanksgiving"
Dinner & Quiz
Limited Spaces.

Food for Thought.
Orders being taken for all
your Christmas Meats, Ham
& Savoury Treats

So for Quality Food at affordable prices, we're so much more than just a Pasty Shack (but the Pasties are d'arn good)
Lower Ground Floor

Via Park V Tel 649 637 956

The Spanish Property Market

According to one of Spain's leading daily newspapers, *El Pais*, it's still too soon to talk of a recovery of the Spanish housing market. For a start, property prices are still too high, despite record low interest rates making housing more affordable. The average Spanish family still needs to spend almost 7 years of combined household income to buy a home, compared to 4.4 years in the UK, and just 2.7 years in the US, according to research by the international bank Credit Suisse. That might explain why Spain's Minister of Housing keeps calling for lower property prices.

Another problem is the growing glut of homes, especially newly built ones, 1.6 million of them according to one property marketing consultant. Many of them now belong to banks, who have swapped them for debt, and the problem looks likely to keep growing. But unless the banks have a cash problem, which they don't for now thanks to the largesse of the European Central Bank, they will have little reason to bite the bullet and sell at a loss. Shortly, however, the banks will have to put their accumulated stock of property back on the market.

But the main reason why Spain's property market is not about to return to normality any time soon is the unemployment rate of 19% and growing. "Whilst there is no improvement in job prospects and prices continue falling, the market will not return to normality," concludes *El Pais*.

The Spanish banks are now starting to market some of the properties they have seized as repossessions. If you go to anyone of the bank web-sites you will be able check the price and location of a selection of the properties. Unfortunately, you will also see some properties from Dream Hills.

Bank Santander have now just released details of about 1,200 of their stock of about 4,000 properties repossessed throughout Spain. Many have been discounted, some up to 40%. However the general view is that prices have still not hit rock-bottom and next year will still be a very difficult one for house prices and unemployment.

*What the large print giveth,
the small print taketh away.*

A anonymous

Bigger & Better

In a time of recession, it is good to see local businesses expand. The **Lime Bar** in Via Park 3 has taken over the bar next door and converted both into one comfortable and spacious bar. Do pop up there and take a 'butcher's'. You are assured of a warm welcome from Peter, Susan and all the staff. Both the **Lime Bar** and **Sam's Bar** have extended *Happy Hour* promotions together with other great discounts, which are very welcome during these difficult economic times.

The **R Bar** has now closed and Kevin has moved down to take over **All Bar Sue** on the lower floor in Via Park V. Kevin, who introduced many enjoyable and entertaining events in his old bar such as The Full Monty, Red Nose Day, Comedy Drag and C & W nights, will no doubt have plenty of plans for the new venue. We wish him the best of luck.

The **Raheny Bar** have planned some exciting entertainments for the coming month. On the evening of Tuesday, November 10th, they are featuring a Stand-Up Comedian, with the show and a meal costing just €! Then on Sunday the 15th, between 4 and 6 PM, there will be a 24-piece brass band playing some rousing music. Admission is free to this event.

Winning Toast

Hamish MacTavish hoisted his beer and said, "Here's to spending the rest of me life, between the legs of me wife!" That won him the top prize at the pub for the best toast of the night during a particularly boozy session.

He went home and told his wife, Mary, "I won the prize for the best toast of the night."

She said, "Aye, did ye now. And what was your toast?"

John said, "Here's to spending the rest of me life, sitting in church beside me wife."

"Och, that is very nice of you, Hamish!" Mary said.

The next day, Mary ran into one of Hamish's drinking buddies on the street corner.

The man chuckled leeringly and said, "Hamish won the prize the other night at the pub with a toast about you, Mary."

She said, "Aye, he told me, and I was a bit surprised myself. You know, he's only been in there twice in the last four years. Once he fell asleep, and the other time I had to pull him by the ears to make him come."

A bit personal!

A lady walked into a chemist and spoke to the pharmacist.

She asked, "Do you have Viagra?"

"Yes," he answered.

She asked, "Does it work?"

"Yes," he answered.

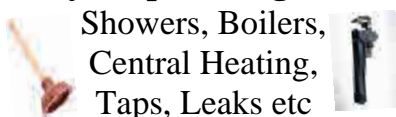
"Can you get it over the counter?" she asked.

"Yes I can" he answered, "but only if I take two."

NEED A PLUMBER?

CORGI TRAINED

All your plumbing needs!



Showers, Boilers,
Central Heating,
Taps, Leaks etc

Also installer of Solar Heating
(Grants of up to 45% poss')

Also Solar Heating for pools!

No job too small!

New Numbers!

Call Alan in Dream Hills

On 966 199 735

or 625 490 523

LIME BAR

Via Park 111

Always a Warm Welcome!

'Slimming World' 11.00 Mondays

Dominoes Mon & Thurs 5's & 3's

All Sports on BIG Screen

Speciality Coffees

All Day, Every Day-

Bottles of Bud or Becks

ONLY 1 EURO !

Happy Hour Monday - Friday

4 'till 8 pm

Tel: 659 899 831



SCAMPI'S
Fish & Chip Restaurant
& Take Away

Delicious 10 oz Cod, Haddock, Scampi, Fishcakes, Meat pies.

NEW ! MENU OF THE DAY
ONLY €5

Enjoy a cold draft beer
in an iced glass!

****New Loyalty Card****
Buy 4 Fish & Chip meals -
Get one free!
O.A.P. Special
4 till 6

Cod, Chips, Mushy Peas,
& B&B only **€4.50**
Internet.

NEW LINE: 966 722 177

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Extra charges for using credit cards

On Thursday 29th, a new law called the Payments Services Law was approved in the Spanish Congress. This new law allows shopkeepers and restaurants to add the commissions they are charged by their banks for using credit cards to the client's bill, should they wish to do so.

This means that if you use your credit cards in these establishments you could be charged around 1% extra.

The various Spanish Consumer associations have described this as a very a negative move, the main consumer association FACUA describing the measure as 'cowardly', and say they will be calling on users to stop using their credit cards. Easier said than done!

Shopkeepers will be able to add the charges if they wish from January 2010, and those who defend the charge say it is a warning to the banks not to continue to charge the current abusive and excessive commissions.

Tax Info.

The Hacienda tax authority in Spain has announced that it is to step up the use of 'preventative embargoes' where it takes money directly from a bank account to recover money owed. 37 billion € is owed in outstanding taxes but it is thought that only 12 billion is guaranteed of recovery. A British pensioner couple in Gran Alicant have had €1,300 taken from their bank account and have had an embargo placed on their car for a similar amount following a mix-up over residency.

Non residents are to pay less plusvalía tax on savings as part of the new fiscal reform in Spain. Hacienda is to apply a 19% rate and not the 21% which the native Spaniards have to pay as the Government fears fines imposed by the European Commission. Many of the very rich have their fiscal residence outside Spain and they will now pay the lower rate.

If you pay your Spanish income tax one year in arrears, you have to pay the second and final instalment by November 5.

Pay-as-you-go mobile phones

There is less than two weeks to go before lines for pay-as-you-go mobile phones will be automatically de-activated if their owners have previously failed to register their details with their operators before November 9. To date, 12.5 million people have registered their details, but some 8 million have yet to do so and could find themselves automatically cut off if they fail to register.

Registration for each user is at one of their operator's points of sale, where they must provide either their DNI identity document, passport or foreigners' residency papers.

Businesses must provide their fiscal identification card.

For Sale

Portable Air Conditioning unit, good as new. Hot & Cold - 9,000 BTU with instruction booklet. Only 50€

2 ceiling fans with lights, 1 white, 1 gunmetal. Can be seen working. Only 10€ each. Tel. Lawrence (in Dream Hills) on **966 722 522**.

Costa Blanca SAMARITANS
902 88 35 35

BEAUTIFUL VILLA
TO RENT IN DREAM HILLS
SOUTH FACING
SATELLITE TV AIR/CON
TWO COMMUNITY POOLS
FOR MORE DETAILS
CALL 0044 07904371671
www.dreamhillsvilla.com
Info@dreamhillsvilla.com
10%Discount off prices

Apartment to Rent

For Holiday Lets in
Dreamhills 2
South facing
Air/con & English TV
2 Community Pools
From 150 euro p.w.
+ cleaning

For more details
Contact
Gill 620361068

BE AWARE!
SUPPORT YOUR
SECURITY GUARDS &
NEIGHBOURHOOD
WATCH

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS AND THE WEB SITES AT www.dreamhills.co.uk/
www.dreamhills2.com/ & www.dreamhills2.ipbhost.com**

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! Remember, to steal from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research. If you must use some of my stuff, at least quote the source. No small children or animals were harmed in the making of this newsletter.

The editor, Mick, can be contacted at mick.dreamscene@gmail.com or at 586 Dream Hills.