

THE DREAM SCENE

Newsletter

Issue no. 37 1st of March 2010

Bienvenido to the start of the fourth year of the Dream Scene. This month's issue almost had to be delayed due to Tid's spinal operation and continuing recovery. Her thanks for all the cards and messages. Thank you also to the neighbours who volunteered to help with this issue if required.

Torrevieja now plans to build 20 thirty-story tower blocks along the beach front. The council gave approval for the blocks to be erected in six areas next to the beach; however, this decision still requires the approval of the Generalitat Valencian Government. A number of applications for high-rises have been rejected in the past. The areas concerned are reported to be Campico San Mamés between the Acequión beach and the International Marina, the Playa de los Náufragos, the Curva del Palangre, next to the Los Locos beach, or Las Lomas in La Mata. The decision was made by the PP, who hold a majority in the town council, with the opposition parties all voting against it. No doubt many existing sea views will be ruined by these developments.

This of course will do nothing for the aesthetics of the area - look at Benidorm - a hodgepodge of ugly high-rise buildings shoehorned into every available space. Regrettably, as the Spanish have too often illustrated, they have no interest in the environment unless it is concrete. Even if approval is granted, it could be some years before work commences.

Torrevieja has announced the date and timings of the processions for Semana Santa, Holy Week. All the processions depart from the Inmaculada Church in Constitution Square at the following times - Palm Sunday, 28th March 10.00 am; 29th, 30th and 31st, all at 10.00 pm; April 1st (silent procession) 11.00pm; Good Friday April 2 7.30pm; Sat April 3 10.00pm - Tamborada - the noisy one, bring a drum!; and finally Easter Sunday, April 4 at 7.45 am - Domingo de Resurrección. Although these parades/processions do not have a carnival atmosphere, they are very impressive and can be quite moving, a touch of the real Spain.

Don't forget, Mother's Day is on March 14th and St. Patrick's Day is on March 17th. (There is a little known Spanish by-law which states that, if you see an Irishman on March 17th, you have to buy him a drink or pay a fine.....honest!!!)

Do note that some of our advertisers have changed their telephone numbers.

If you find it difficult to get your copy of the Dream Scene, remember you can have it delivered to your property or post-box for just € for 12 monthly issues beginning in March. Alternatively, you can have it sent to you by email. I can be contacted at mick.dreamscene@gmail.com or at number 586 in Dream Hills (please respect siesta hours!).

Thank you to all those who said that they are enjoying the history articles and many thanks to Terry and Judy for their kind donation towards costs.
Bye for now, Mick, Editor.

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

New Halogen Ovens €59.95

Steam Mops €55.00

Tel: 645 087 111

Angela's Cartoon



'Chap here wants to know if anybody fancies a game of football?'

What's Up?

The main topic in the Spanish press during last month was, as you would expect, the state of the economy. The government believe that the economy will shrink this year by a further 0.3%. This is at odds with the European Commission and the IMF who believe that the shrinkage will be double that at 0.6%. When it appeared that the British media were linking the Spanish and Greek economies, the Minister for Tax and the Economy, Elena Salgado, raced to London to demonstrate the underlying strength of the economy. The charm offensive worked but the Economist has now stated that 'It's the moment for the Prime Minister to show leadership', and considers that the main concern of the Spanish Government is avoiding any social unrest resulting from the state of the economy. The magazine says that José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero is practicing 'political zapping' with his policies, and until now has used tactical movements to placate the unions, the autonomous regions, and lastly the markets concerned about the debt.

The government is now looking at pensions in Spain and may extend the normal retirement age from 65 to 67. It may also heavily restrict early retirement. The unions, who are very unhappy with all of this, have planned a number of demonstrations, the ones to date being poorly supported. The government says it plans to replace only one in ten of the civil servants who will retire in the future. The cutback in central Government spending because of the crisis has been greeted with alarm in Alicante province. Minister for Development, José Blanco, has given an undertaking that the only project which will remain untouched are the plans to bring the AVE high speed train to Alicante. However there are now doubts on the progress of other works in our province including the extension to the airport, the Júcar-Vinalopó water transfer, the desalination plant in Torrevieja and road improvements between Ibi and Alcoy.

Foreigners now make up 42% of the surgery patients at the District Hospital in Torrevieja. The largest group is the British, who made up 16% of the 22,640 operations carried out in the hospital in 2009. Next group, but with no more than 5% of the total, come the Germans, then the Norwegians and Moroccans.

Next time you forget to pay our 'lekky' bill don't be too embarrassed. The Iberdrola power company on Wednesday cut the electricity supply to some of the annexe offices of Madrid City Hall in the Junta de la Latina, because of an unpaid bill of 12 million € in the Ayuntamiento. The municipal offices were without power for several hours according to reports. The Ayuntamiento says that it is not a liquidity problem - yes I'm sure they are sitting on 12 million euro in petty cash!

Vatican sources have confirmed that Pope Benedict XVI will visit Barcelona before the end of this year to dedicate the central nave of the Church of the Holy Family (Sagrada Familia Expiatorio). The church is probably better known to you as the 'Antonio Gaudi Church' having been designed and worked on by the famous architect. Work started on the church about 127 years ago and is still not completed. Millions of visitors visit the cathedral, 2.7 million visitors last year.

The Catalan Government are continuing to be a pain-in-the-ass about their language. Many Catalans do not consider themselves to be Spanish. This has led to a strong but peaceful independence movement over the years. There is a lot of what they would refer to as 'positive discrimination' against the main Spanish language, which is Castelliano. Heavy fines are issued if signs are not written in Catalan. At least 50% of the movies being shown in Cataluña must now by law be dubbed or signed in Catalan. The public is being urged to inform on businesses which are not adhering to the new laws relating to the language.

Last year 414,811 homes were sold across the country. The number of property sales in Spain fell by 24.9% in 2009 according to the National Statistics Institute. The Bank of Spain has given instructions to banks and savings banks across the country to reduce the value of their real estate assets by 20%. However it appears that some savings banks do not have the sufficient reserves to meet the request.

The Spanish residential rental market used to be one of the slowest in Europe. However since the start of the real estate crash in 2007, rentals are zooming up. In Madrid and Barcelona, apartment rentals have increased in volume by 213% and 243% respectively, particularly at the lower end of the market. Since 2007, the number of properties available to rent at less than 1,000 euro per month has increased by 663% in Barcelona and 413% in Madrid. The number of rental properties is expected to grow nationally during 2010 and rental prices are also expected to ease further. (Source:El País)

653,173 new mortgages were granted over 2009, 21.9% fewer than in 2008. Banks and savings banks lent nearly 40 billion less over the year.

Spain has paid a five million dollars ransom to Al Qaeda terrorists in the Magreb (North Africa) for the release of the three Catalan aid workers. The payment was made, allegedly, by a British ex-intelligence officer.

FACUA, the Spanish Consumer Association, is organising 'The Worst Company of the Year Awards' in Spain. The final five nominations are Air Comet, Ryanair, Telefónica Movistar, Vodafone and Orange, and consumers can vote for who they consider worst until March 15th, the World Consumers Rights Day. If you would like to vote you have to register first on <http://www.facua.org/lapeorempresa/>. I will let you know who the 'winner' is next month.

One of the top chiefs from the Camorra mafia has been arrested in Marbella on Feb 26. Ciro Figaro is described as one of Italy's most wanted and has been on the run since 1995.

A three-year-old boy was examining his testicles while taking a bath. "Mum" he asked, "are these my brains?" "Not yet," she replied.

Authorities in Haiti have just returned a container with 250,000 Manchester City shirts back to Nike with this message: "We have no homes, no food and no money, but we still have our dignity"

Despite the 'thrower' being given a €2,100 fine for cruelty last year, this year's Fiesta of Día de San Blas again took place in the Jaén village of Cazalilla. During the fiesta a hen turkey is thrown off the top of the local church tower, a height of 35 metres. The person who catches the turkey as it falls is said to have a year's good luck. This year's winner, a 21-year-old, showed that the turkey was not injured and said that the turkey would now live to a ripe old age on the family land.

Although the Spanish economy may be decending into a 'black-hole,' this did not stop the Spanish MPs taking a 48-day Christmas break, returning to work on February 9. They should not find the return too taxing as between Feb 9 and June they are expected to sit for only 45 days in Congress (Parliament). Crisis! What crisis?

The Catholic church expects to collect 252.6 million € from the revenue authorities in Spain this year. This is due to the option taxpayers have of having part of their tax paid to the church and not to the *Hacienda*.

The Spanish Supreme Court has ordered the annulment of several clauses in the contracts for credit cards, loans and mortgages, taken by clients of the Santander, BBVA, Bankinter and Caja Madrid banks, as they may be 'abusive', disproportionate' or 'confusing'. In particular the Court will not accept any clause which exempts the banks of all responsibility in the case of the theft of the card. They have also described restrictive clauses which stop the owners of mortgaged property generating an income from it as 'abusive'. Also a bank cannot cancel a mortgage and call in the loan on a whim.

The Guardia Civil from San Juan de Azalfarnache in Sevilla have denounced a man for riding a children's toy tricycle 'in a dangerous fashion'. The rider was coming down a slope in the El Manchón Industrial Estate in Sevilla 'at full speed and without lights' in the early hours of Monday morning. The agents stopped the rider who was on 'a non-catalogued vehicle', and said that he was 'putting his own and the lives of others at risk'. This policeman (as well as the cyclist) is obviously a special kind of idiot. Can you imagine the ribbing he must be getting from his colleagues?

The bumper olive harvest and wide distribution resulted in a collapse of olive oil prices. Producers are now getting only 1.90 euro per kilo. It would be nice to see the fall reflected in supermarket prices!

The newspaper ABC reports that the PP has accused Laura Seara, who is director of the Spanish Women's Institute, of fiddling her expenses. She has been claiming mileage and 31.000 € for petrol, but the paper reports that she does not have a driving licence! (Probably a broomstick!)

The president of SGAE, (which is similar to the Performing Rights Society in the UK) Eduardo Bautista, is retiring in May. He will get a pension of 24,500 € a month! The SGAE are very aggressive in the collection of fees/dues. They charged one hotel more than 2,000 euro for playing music during a wedding reception. No doubt in time they will visit the bars and restaurants on the Costas and they will have a hay-day.

The PP spokesman in Congress on Road safety, Nacho Uriarte, has been involved in a traffic accident when he collided with a stationary car at a traffic light while he was drunk. He was twice over the legal limit and has now resigned.

A judge in Cádiz has ordered a man to leave his home for three years because he was too noisy; for the past few years the owner of a flat on the third floor used to play his music or radio at full volume both day and night. He had already received several warnings from the police who, on one occasion, taped-up his stereo system. The judge considered the complaint placed by the community of owners as 'totally justified' as it disturbed their right to sleep and rest.

A 27 year old priest who has only been in the priesthood for less than a year has been suspended by the Catholic Church in Noez y Totanés near Toledo. It appears that he has spent 17,000 € on erotic phone calls and internet pages with sexual content and in local brothels. It seems he took the money from the 'brotherhood' funds (these are the lay organisations who organise religious fiestas etc) which the diocese will now have to reimburse. Reminds me of the story of the vicar who was saving fallen women. He would save you a blonde for a tenner!

A woman who lived alone in the Canaries has died and left 9 million euro to three animal charities. The money is being divided equally between Amigos de los Animales, the Association for the Defence of the Borrico de Rute (donkey protection) and to an association which deals with the protection of the endangered Iberian Lynx.

The town of Salt in Gerona province has been experiencing escalating lawlessness so a public meeting was called by the town hall. At the start of the meeting, the mayor requested that all mobile phones be turned off and one of the public shouted, 'We haven't got any phones, they've all been stolen!' The meeting had then to be abandoned after some 200 residents were involved with an altercation with the police. (Bit like urbanisation AGMs I suppose?) The town hall will try and quell the public outrage by employing three extra policemen and installing a €90,000 closed-circuit camera system.

Life on Mars

DCI Hunt: I think you've forgotten who you are talking to.

DCI Tyler: An overweight, over-the-hill, nicotine-stained, borderline-alcoholic homophobe with a superiority complex and an unhealthy obsession with male bonding.

DCI Hunt: You make that sound like a bad thing.

Brekkie

A German exchange student comes to stay with the Cohen family in London. On his first morning, the student comes down to breakfast and is given a fresh toasted bagel.

'Mmmmm, delicious,' he says. 'Ve are not having bagels like this in Germany.'

Grandma Cohen stands up and yells, 'And whose fault is that, y'bastard?'

The 'Beckham Law'

In January 2004, the Spanish P.P. Government under PM Aznar (and later endorsed by the subsequent Socialist administration), introduced a new tax law. The main purpose of this law was to attract the high-flyers from the international scientific and business communities to Spain. It enabled high-earning foreigners working for Spaniards, who had worked abroad for more than 10 years, to pay a maximum 24% income tax rate on their salary earned in Spain, rather than the sliding scale of up to 43%. The new tax break was referred to as the 'Beckham Law,' because David Beckham was one of the first to take advantage of it. (See, you don't have to be intelligent, but the people who work for you, do!)

After a review last year, the government decided to make some amendments to the legislation as it was not having the desired effect of attracting the anticipated skilled human resources. Of the 1,960 professionals who filed their taxes claiming this tax break in 2008, only 60 earned more than €600,000 a year, of whom most, 43%, were foreign footballers playing in Spain.

From January 1 2010, a change to the law was introduced whereby any new employees from that date who earn more than €600,000 p.a. cannot benefit from this legislation and must pay income tax as normal, on a sliding scale. People who are already in the system and earning more than this figure will continue to benefit fully from the original legislation.

When the change was announced, the squeals came from the football clubs and not the players! Why? Well, when top class football professionals join a club in Spain, it is usually part of their contract that the club will pay all their taxes and social security payments, not the players! Consequently, the clubs who have these new high earners will now find that they have to fork out millions of extra euros to Señor Taxman for each of these players.

(All together - 'Well, BOO-HOO!)

Out of the mouths of

A teacher was reading the story of the Three Little Pigs to her class.

She came to the part of the story where the first pig was trying to gather the building materials for his home.

She read. 'And so the pig went up to a man who had a wheelbarrow full of straw and said:

'Pardon me sir, but may I have some of that straw to build my house?'

The teacher paused then asked the class: 'And what do you think the man said?'

One little boy raised his hand and said very matter-of-factly ...'I think the man would have said -

'Well I'll be f**ked!! A talking pig!'

The teacher had to leave the room.

The Orihuela Medieval Market

The Medieval Market was held in Orihuela from the 5th to the 7th of February. Free transport from Playa Flamenca was arranged by the town hall, to and from the event. I went for a few brief hours on the first day to what was being heralded as the largest medieval market in Spain.

The history of Orihuela stretches back to Roman times, and throughout the medieval period it served as an important local and provincial capital. It was the capital city of the Visigothic kingdom of Thudmir during the eight and ninth centuries until they were ousted by the Moors. It then remained under Moorish control until it was annexed by Jaime 1 of Castilla in 1473.

These markets were a very important part of medieval life, were highly regulated and often licensed by the monarchy. Whereas most villages and towns had bakeries together with some fruit and veg grown locally, it was the markets that attracted the suppliers and purchasers of the harder-to-get goods, luxuries and of course a wide range of the staples as well.

This year Orihuela certainly pulled out all the stops to make this a memorable market, even the weather was beautiful. A free 16 page glossy informative program of events, including a map of the market, was issued by the sponsors. Many streets were closed off, and the market took place in the northern (?), older and more attractive part of the town, just under the hills; there were 368 stalls over four and half kilometres, offering all sorts of products from the perplexing to the mundane. Most of the stalls had sculptured canopies with all of the stall holders being dressed in medieval costumes. There were plenty of refreshment and food stalls as well. A small (plastic) glass of beer or wine cost €1 and snacks were reasonably priced as well. These ranged from hot pork rolls to paellas.

The main activities took place around three landmarks, the Arch of Santo Domingo (the gates to the city), the Cathedral and the Ayuntamiento, all striking buildings. There were also roving groups of entertainers and musicians, all dressed in superb costumes together with knights duelling and various odd-ball characters entertaining the crowds. For the little 'uns there was also an area with lots of small animals - ducks, chickens, rabbits etc which could be viewed up close (not sure if the bunnies didn't end up in the paella) - together with five lovely very small donkeys. (I have a weak spot for donkeys - may be related!)

Check out this link for some photos -

<http://picasaweb.google.com/mick.dreamscene/MedievalMarketOrihuela#>

The market was an undoubted success attracting, according to the town hall, around 500,000 people. The market was much quieter in the mornings/lunch times, the bulk of the people going in the evenings.

After four hours of walking the market, my 'pins' were beginning to scream at the ballast they were carrying and I was lucky to get the last seat in the bus back to Playa Flamenca!

As long as you don't mind a bit of walking, I would highly recommend this annual event - a feel-good experience - for both young and old.

Good Value

An Indian chap goes to the local paper to place a notice advising the death of his wife. The girl on the desk says it's £1 per word, but as he only has £4, he says put in " Sanjit Patel is dead".

She has a quick word with her supervisor and tells him that as it's his wife and as he only has £4, as a special deal he can have double the words. Gratefully he says "Thank you, make that 'Sanjit Patel is dead. Shop open as usual!'"

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

M.A.R. SERVICES

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



Wills
Contracts
Translations



Notary visits, Rental agreements
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 665 466 481

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

TRANSPORT SERVICES

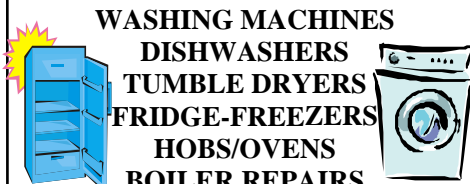
Costa Blanca

Note
New
Number!



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 & Tourist Trips
Hen & Stag Nights, Benidorm, Markets
Golf Outings and Much, Much More
Party Nights a speciality!
Tel: Peter 617 096 374
& 965 994 660

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 Water Filter Co.

Turns your tap water
into drinking water
Quality dual filter system
only 95€ fully fitted
Filter changes from only
30€ all systems including
Pureflo, Watergem ETC

10€ OFF WITH THIS AD
Not valid for filter changes

635 416 255

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 693 972 309



JULES

MOBILE



HAIRDRESSER

(Formerly of Brown's
Hair & Beauty)

Competitive Prices!
**Hairdressing in the
comfort of your own
home.**

Ladies & Gents

Tel: 666 029 257

RENT THIS SPACE ONLY €

White Goods?

'Mom, why are wedding dresses white?'

The mother looks at her son and replies: 'Son, this shows your friends and relatives that your bride is pure.'

The son thanks his Mom and goes off to double-check this with his father.

'Dad why are wedding dresses white?'

The father looks at his son in surprise and says: 'Son, all household appliances come in white.'

All the police found later was some hair, car keys and an eyeball.

(Ken Billingham and Pete Dudman)

Bye Bye

Two women met for coffee. One noticed that her friend seemed troubled, and asked, 'Is something wrong? You look stressed.' Her friend sighed. 'Well, my boyfriend just lost all his money and savings in the stock market crash. He's totally bankrupt,' she explained.

'Oh, that's dreadful,' her friend sympathised. 'You must feel really worried about him.'

'Yes I am,' replied the lady, 'I don't know what he's going to do without me.'

SAM'S BAR



Los Balcones



Completely Refurbished

Monday - Darts Night!

Sunday - Fun Quiz

Plus Open the Box!

Full Live Sports Coverage

on BIG Screens

Lots of Special Offers!

Speciality Coffees

**Coffee with Brandy/Tia Maria
Only €2.70**

CRISTINE

Bar & Restaurant

Via Park V



Great English & Italian Food

Freshly cooked to order

Generous Portions

Tuesdays: Fun Night with Quiz

Steaks, Fish, Pizza & Pasta

Take-Away Service

Roast Dinner every Sunday

1 - 5 PM

The best Pizzas on the Costa Blanca

Tel: 664 642 304

LIME BAR



Via Park 3



Now Bigger & Better!

Always a Warm Welcome!

Slimmers' World 11.00 Mondays

Dominoes Mon & Thurs 5''s & 3's

QUIZ NIGHT Friday 9 pm

With Stand-Up Bingo PLUS!

All Live Sports on 4 BIG Screens

Speciality Coffees

Good Deals EVERY Day

Bud, Becks only €1!!

**Happy Hour Monday - Friday
4 'till 8 pm**

Tel: 659 899 831

Galadriel

Cafe Bar & Bistro

!! Half Price Friday

and

Galadriel Bingo!!

Don't forget Wednesday Quiz

at 3.00p.m.

Steak and Wine Evening -

Wednesday and Saturday.

Wallet Watchers' Meals 6.50€ for

main course or 8.95€ for 3 courses

incl tea or coffee

Sunday Roast available

12.00 till 8.00

Great Value & Great Service!!

Internet, TV & Lounge Area

Now Internet with Printer!

Via Park V

Tel: 966 798 122 or 696 285 861

ALL BAR SUE

DAYTIME & EVENING MENU

MEAL DEALS

TUESDAYS - FUN DARTS

QUIZ - THURSDAYS



SUNDAY LUNCH SERVED



1 - 6 pm BOOKING ADVISABLE

MARCH 5 PETE CRESSWELL

MARCH 19 KEV TYLER

MARCH 26 LENNY MITCHELL

March 17 - St. Pat's Hog Roast

Booking essential only €10!

All Sports on BIG Screens

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.

Tel: 633 418 292

**Karen & Mark, formerly of
Stallion's, would like to thank all
their customers for their support
during the last few years. They also
wish Pia, Scott and family the very
best of luck in their new venture.**

THE PHOENIX



Via Park V

**WIDE RANGE OF BEERS,
WINES & SPIRITS**

**Neil & Donna's
Farewell Bash March 20**

FUN QUIZ FRIDAYS

& OPEN THE BOX!

BIG PRIZES

INTERNET

HAPPY HOUR! 5 - 8 pm

Hangovers installed and serviced

Doña Anna's

Pasty Shack

Open at 9.30am

Quality All Day Breakfast.

Great Menu from Pasties to

Pies to Panninis and Pasta,

plus much, much more.

Why not try our Home Made

6oz Burgers, simply the

best around

Eat In, Sunny Terrace or Take Away.

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



SPORTS BAR

All Football, Rugby, Boxing etc

available EVERY day!

HAPPY HOUR 4 - 7 pm

Special offers on beers & spirits

Great Homemade Food incl.

Breakfasts & Bar Snacks

with Daily Specials.

Sunday Roasts served 1 till 5

Only €6 incl. wine

!!Mothering Sunday March 14!!

Booking advisable

St. Patrick's Day March 17

BARBECUE

Regular Entertainment

March 20 - Dodgy Diva

Tel: 965010076

Via Park V Dream Hills (LG Floor)

Look & Learn

A man was watching a football game on TV, during half time he started flicking through the channels and found a porn film featuring a man and woman partaking in some 'horizontal jogging.'

He says to his wife "I don't know whether to watch this or the game", to which the wife responded "For heavens sake, watch this. You already know how to play football".

Electrickery!

Well, it seems that *Catweazel* was correct after all. If you went to Pilar de Horadada to sign a new electricity contract in order to save some money, it was not only a waste of petrol but you may have also inadvertently 'signed-up' for a higher than normal increase as well!

Whether you have a 3.3 kw or a 5.5kw supply the old rate charged per kw was 11.473 cents.

If you had NOT signed a new contract, the new rate charged for January was 11.7759 cents per kw, the scheduled 2.64% increase. However, after checking a number of neighbours' bills who have signed new contracts at Pilar, I have found that in all these, their kw charge has been increased to 12.1113 cents per kw, more than twice the advertised increase! So if you signed a new contract you are probably paying a higher rate than those of us who have not.

Thousands of people have signed new contracts believing that they would be spared increases this year. The power of groundless gossip. (Also, if you are on the 'green' tariff - Factura de Energia Verde - marked on the top right hand corner of your bill, you will be paying an even higher rate.) CLARO had a lady outside the Salud early mornings urging people to sign-up at Pilar, the blind leading the blind! Check this site for electricity rates in English <https://www.iberdrola.es/webibd/corporativa/iberdrola?IDPAG=ENWEBCLIINSASELEGTAR>

The Spanish government have introduced a scheme, Bono Social (Social Bond) to assist people who are having difficulties paying their electricity bills. It is means tested and only applicable to consumers who have contracted a supply of under 3kw, are retired and over 60 with minimum pensions, families, or households where all members are unemployed. A number of British people have tried, unsuccessfully, to claim this.

'My wife is a very ignorant woman. For years she thought the Charge of the Light Brigade was an electricity bill.'

Les Dawson.

Microsoft comes to Torrevieja

Despite lobbying from at least eleven other locations in Valencia, Microsoft has now decided to locate its Health Innovation Centre in Torrevieja. Camps, the president of the Valencia region, originally preferred the centre to be located in Valencia, but at a meeting with him in Seattle in mid-Feb, Microsoft confirmed that they have opted for Torrevieja as the location; Microsoft executives had already visited the Torrevieja Hospital on Feb 5th, which uses its specialist software program, *Florence*, as their management and digitised record system. This is a very sophisticated networked health management system ranging from the recording of 3-D MRI scans to printing the personal records of patients and even their menus! Florence was named after the first patient whose records were put on the system. Unfortunately the lady has since passed away.

Torrevieja Hospital has also offered Microsoft 15% of the space in the hospital as a temporary location for the headquarters of the new centre pending completion of its own new building. It is thought that this may be located close to the hospital. CAM bank and Telefonica (God help us!) will also have some involvement in the project. (Wait until Microsoft discover the slow speeds and high cost of Telefonica broadband services here!)

A few weeks ago, the CEO of Microsoft Innovation Centre Technologies, Peio Oiz, said the centre would consist of about 300 square meters with just ten professionals, not quite the Silicon Valley proportions that the local press would have you believe. Construction of the new location is expected to start this year and the Government will contribute 800,000 euros over the first two years to the operation.

Hopefully this new development will stimulate a number of new ventures, attracting technology businesses to the area as well as stimulating research. If it only improves our broadband service, it will be worth it!

Hunk

During a trans-Atlantic flight the plane was passing through an incredibly violent storm. The plane was being pushed from side to side and up and down. People were praying and crying. Finally one lady stood up and said, 'I'm too young to die,' she says, 'I've had plenty of love making in my life, but no one has ever made me really feel like a woman! Well, I've had it! Is there ANYONE on this plane who can make me feel like a WOMAN???' With that a hush came over the passengers and eventually a man stands up in the rear of the plane. 'I can make you feel like a woman,' he says. He's gorgeous. Tall, built, with flowing black hair and jet black eyes, he starts to walk slowly up the aisle, unbuttoning his shirt one button at a time. No one moves. The woman is breathing heavily in anticipation as the stranger approaches. He removes his shirt, muscles ripple across his chest as he reaches her, and extends the arm holding his shirt to the trembling woman, and whispers: 'Iron this.'

NO KICKING!

Little Paddy comes down to breakfast. Since they live on a farm, his mother asks if he had done his chores.

"Not yet," said the little boy. His mother tells him he can't have any breakfast until he does his chores. Well, he's a little ticked off, so he goes to feed the chickens, and kicks a chicken. He goes to feed the cows, and he kicks a cow. He goes to feed the pigs, and he kicks a pig.

He goes back in for breakfast and his mother gives him a bowl of dry cereal.

"How come I don't get any eggs and bacon? Why don't I have milk in my cereal?" he asks.

"Well," his mother says, "I saw you kick the chicken, so you don't get any eggs for a week. I saw you kick the pig, so you don't get any bacon, for a week either. I also saw you kick the cow, so, for a

week you aren't getting any milk."

Just then, his father comes down for breakfast and kicks the pussy-cat as he's walking into the kitchen.

Wee Paddy looks up at his mother with a smile, and says, "Are you going to tell him, or should I?"

(Pat Chambers)

Out & About

The new works on the N332 on Orihuela Costa have now been completed, but Torrevieja have scarcely touched theirs, which means a bottleneck in busy times. What is scandalous though is the state of the road by Inspiration and Lago Jardin 2. It has so many potholes, it looks like one of those bomb-cratered landscape photos from WW1! Again this road is Torry's responsibility not Orihuela Costas. Torry appear to be more concerned about their new sports' complex and music conservatory, which are scheduled to open next month. Torrevieja intend to spend 10 million euros on resurfacing its roads. Not all roads will be repaired and although the roads in Lago Jardin 1 & 2 and Los Balcones are not included in the first phase of resurfacing, they will be done at a later stage, or so they say.

The much reported news about Microsoft coming to Torrevieja is covered on Page 7.

The exterior metal frame for the new Mercadona supermarket in Los Balcones has now been erected. Works to the exterior of the small commercial centre by DH2 are now almost completed and judging by the layout there may be space for some very small retail units at the front. The design is a little confusing, so who knows?

300 pine tree (seedlings) have now been planted by the council in what used to be the rubbish dumping area between Entre Golf and the motorway .

There have been a number of robberies and attempted robberies in the lower half of Dream Hills last month. Do not drop your vigilance and watch out for strangers. A villain, nicknamed 'Mono Azul' or Blue Monkey by the police, has been responsible for five armed robberies in a month in the Rojales - Quesada - Benijofar area. Fortunately no one has been injured to date.

Both swimming pools in Dream Hills have now been emptied with repair works being carried out on dry tiling. Unfortunately there are still plenty of processional caterpillars about, some even crossing the pavements in Dream Hills 2. I had a good walk around the attractive paved and planted area near the children's play area in DH2 and it was a shame to see far too much dog crap on the recently cut grassy areas. It blighted the whole image of this very pleasant relaxation area.

The local council is pioneering the idea of having mobile containers for specialist recycling throughout the Orihuela Costa. These would be for the out of the ordinary items such as old cooking and engine oil, glass, drugs, batteries, florescent tubes etc, i.e. items which should not be placed in the ordinary bins. The container, which holds many different compartments, would come to a specific area for say one day a month. If existing arrangements remain unchanged, the container for our area is likely to be placed at Via Park 3 on the second Wednesday of every month.

Neil and Donna are holding a farewell party at the Phoenix in Via Park 5 on the evening of March 20th, which promises to be a great evening. Richard and another Donna will be taking over the Phoenix and we wish them the very best of luck in their new venture.

Stallion's has now reopened as a 'Sport's Bar' with lots of new faces behind the counter. It is headed by Pia and Scott, who are ably assisted by their two sons, Josh and Jack, together with their daughter Francesca. Mark & Karen, formerly of Stallion's, are holding a farewell party on March 7th. It will be starting at the Sport's Bar and continuing at Nikaz in Via Park 3.

Starting on the 15th of March, Jane Cronin - the well known Spanish language teacher - is once again holding a series of six lectures or talks entitled 'A Portrait of Spain.' They are well researched, entertaining and cost only €4 per lecture. I attended most of the lectures last December and found them very enjoyable. They will be held at the Los Arcos Restaurant, Avenida Baleares, Torrevieja, on Mondays and Wednesdays and cover a range of subjects from Spain under Franco to Contemporary Society. You can find out more by ringing 968 18 32 58 or 619 488 903, or by looking up www.janecronin.eu

Footie

A Primary Teacher in Liverpool explains to her class that she is a Liverpool fan.

She asks her students to raise their hands if they too are Liverpool fans.

Everyone in the class raises their hand except one little girl.

The teacher looks at the girl with surprise and says, 'Mary, why didn't you raise your hand?'

'Because I'm not a Liverpool fan,' she replied.

The teacher, surprised, asked, 'Well, if you are not a Liverpool fan, then who are you a fan of?'

'I am a Man Utd fan, and proud of it,' Mary replied.

The teacher could not believe her ears. 'Mary, why pray tell, are you a Man Utd fan?'

"Because my mum is a Man Utd fan, and my dad is a Man Utd fan, so I'm a Man Utd fan too!"

'Well,' said the teacher, 'That is no reason for you to be a Man Utd fan. You don't have to be just like your parents all of the time. What if your mum was a prostitute and your dad was a drug addict, what would you be then?'

'Then,' Mary smiled, 'I'd be a Liverpool fan.'

The History of Spain , Part 13 - Other New World Discoveries .

It is somewhat ironic that Columbus never set foot on the American mainland, north or south. He did however catch sight of Venezuela and came within 30 miles of Panama, just a whisker from discovering the other great ocean, the Pacific. Another Italian, Giovanni Caboto (known in English as John Cabot), received support from the Italian community in London and from King Henry VII of England, enabling an expedition which left Bristol reaching the coast of North America, probably Newfoundland, on June 24, 1497. On his return to England, the king gave Cabot a reward of £10!

For almost a generation, Spanish exploration restricted itself to the Caribbean. It was not until April 1513, that Juan Ponce de León, a Spanish explorer, stepped ashore on the North American mainland. He named it *La Florida* in recognition of the lush landscape and because it was the Easter season, which the Spaniards called *Pascua Florida*.

In September 1513, Vasco Núñez de Balboa, a Spanish conquistador and explorer crossed the Isthmus of Panama, braving snakes, insects, swamps, diseases and hostile natives. On September 25, after climbing a ridge on the western side of the Isthmus he sighted a great 'south sea.' Balboa was a colourful character who escaped from his creditors in Santo Domingo in 1509 by stowing away in a barrel with his dog, on a boat bound for Panama. His dealings with the natives in the Isthmus ranged from humanitarian to savage. One one occasion he saw a large group of natives males dressed in women's clothing and practising homosexual acts; he had 40 of them - some of them the native king's brothers - torn to pieces by his dogs. Although Balboa was made Governor of Panama, his scheming and jealous father-in-law has him arrested on 'trumped-up' charges and beheaded for treason in March 1519.

Although Balboa suffered a premature death, his actions and deeds are honoured by history. Several parks and avenues throughout Panama bear the name "Vasco Núñez de Balboa," and a number of monuments honour his discovery of the 'South Sea.' The Panamanian currency is called the Balboa, and his likeness appears on the obverse of some coins. His name is also attached to Panama City's main port, Balboa. Parks in San Francisco and San Diego are named after him, as is a street and underground station in Madrid. A lunar crater also bears his name.

In 1519, the Portuguese explorer, Ferdinand Magellan, left Spain on a historic voyage financed by Castilla, which would be the first circumnavigation of the globe. After rounding Cape Horn in 1520, he renamed the 'South Sea', the Pacific Ocean, because of its calm waters.

Meanwhile, in the Eastern Mediterranean, the status quo was preserved by the Turks, when the navy of the Ottoman Empire soundly defeated the Venetian fleet at the Battles of Zonchio (1499) and Modon (1500), often referred to as the first and second battles of Lepanto. This enabled the Turks to continue to control the spice trade to Europe and make any attempt by Western Europe to trade with the east both dangerous and expensive. This of course stimulated much interest in a new 'Atlantic' route. A shrewd Queen Isabella announced that 'all those lands discovered and yet to be discovered, conquered or yet to be conquered, shall remain in possession of my kingdom of Castilla and Leon.'

Meanwhile King Ferdinand used his sons and daughters to cement alliances with the remainder of Europe. Their daughter Princess Isabel was married to Alonso, the heir to the Portuguese throne, and at a famous double wedding, Juan, the Spanish male heir, married the Habsburg , Princess Margaret, while his sister Juana was wed to Archduke Philip (Margaret's brother), the Habsburg heir. Another daughter, Catherine of Aragon married King Henry VIII of England and gave birth to Mary Tudor, the future queen. However, you will probably recall that Ferdinand and Isabella were first cousins and their offspring ensured that the various royal families of Europe would, in due course, be effected by differing degrees of madness for many generations.

Unfortunately none of the Catholic Monarchs' children would rule Spain. The male heir, Prince Juan, loved his new red-haired wife so passionately (and often) that the royal doctors encouraged the newlyweds to sleep apart temporarily. Queen Isabella refused to intervene saying that 'She could not pull apart what God had joined.' Within a few weeks Prince Juan collapsed and died from sexual excess.

Next in line to the throne was Juana who was married to Philip the Fair of Burgundy. Philip, the Habsburg heir, was a notorious womaniser while his new wife is said 'to have boasted few attractions.' She was madly in love with Philip but descended into despair and madness when confronted by his many affairs. The royal heiress soon acquired the name Joanna the Mad (Juana la loca) and there was no way that Isabella was going to allow a lunatic to take the Castilian throne on her death..

You will recall that although all unconverted Jews were banished from Spain in 1492, the Moors were given various guarantees and freedom to practise their religion following the surrender of Granada in the same year. A remarkable cleric and soldier called Cardinal Gonzalo Jimenez de Cisneros secured the influential position of confessor to Queen Isabella. He was a fiery and brave character who launched many clerical reforms including enforcement of the celibacy laws; a very unpopular reform which caused more than a thousand monks to flee to Morocco with their mistresses! He was a ruthless persecutor of the Moors and personally led armies against the Muslims in Oran and Tripoli, North Africa. Now only 10 years after the fall of Granada and under his influence, Queen Isabella withdrew all the guarantees and assurances given to the Moors, and in 1502 demanded that all Muslims in Castilla either convert to Catholicism or go into exile. Her husband, Ferdinand, a much more pragmatic royal, refused to extend the ruling to Aragon.

When you eat a lot of spicy food, you can lose your taste. When I was in Mexico last summer,
I was listening to a lot of Michael Bolton. - Jimmy Carr

**Lovely Apartment
to Rent**

**FOR HOLIDAYS / SHORTLETS
IN DREAMHILLS 2**

**South facing
Air/con & English TV
2 Community Pools
Competitive Rates
For more details
Contact: Gill 620361068**

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****

Just picked up my new Toyota Prius
Chat later can't stop.

My wife was hinting about what she
wanted for our upcoming anniversary.

She said, 'I want something shiny
that goes from 0 to 150 in about 5
seconds.'

I bought her a bathroom scale.

And that's when the fight started...

Very Naughty

A man was sunbathing in the nude on the top of his villa, when he badly sunburned his todger.

His doctor in the Salud told him that the best way to ease the pain was to bathe it regularly in a bowl of cold milk.

Later his wife came home and found him crouched on the floor treating his burnt appendage.

'Good Heavens,' she says, 'I always wondered how you reloaded those things!'

My doctor's refused to give me Viagra. He said it would be like putting a new flagpole on a condemned building.

**BE AWARE!
SUPPORT YOUR
SECURITY GUARDS &
NEIGHBOURHOOD
WATCH**

**www.dreamhills-2.com
Your Community Website
for all the latest news about DH2**

**Costa Blanca SAMARITANS
902 88 35 35**

**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.

SOLD
For Sale
50 leather bound gold embossed volumes by Dennis Wheatley in excellent condition for €30 or near offer. Contact Ann Wightman 965 010 063.

Spanish Classes

There are four Spanish classes held every week in La Casita, ranging from basic to experienced.

For more details contact Carolina on 678 751 591.

The Dream Scene Sports Supplement

John Terry has lost the England captain's armband. Capello has asked Wayne Bridge to check under his bed for it.

At the end of February, Chelsea play away from home between two European legs. Something John Terry is familiar with.

What have the England team and a piece of MFI furniture got in common?
A few dodgy screws and they both fall apart!

So Tiger Woods has finally made a grovelling apology. It's about time someone accepted that golf's not a real sport!

The Winter Olympics: Letting white people win at sports no one else can afford to learn.

You'd think women would be better at Curling. What with all the sweeping.

Chaos reigns at the Winter Olympics after the death of Nodar Kumaritashvili in the luge. The Irish Bob Sleigh team are now refusing to compete until the course is gritted first!

Well done British gold medallist Amy Williams. I hear her success is due to coaching from David Beckham, as he's been riding a skeleton for years.