

THE DREAM SCENE

Newsletter

Issue no. 53 1st of July 2011

Bienvenido a todos, with a special mention to Andy Melhuish who is out there somewhere on the 'seven seas' battling with dodgy air-conditioning systems and probably warm beer, and to Pete Dudman, who is 'back in the saddle' again.

June here has been a scorcher, as high as 38 in the shade recently, but it can get uncomfortable at night in bed without air-conditioning. (See page 13 for Affordable Aircon.) As June appeared to be very hot, it will be interesting to see what July and August will bring us.

Orihuela now has a new mayor, Monserrate Guillén of the Green Party. Neither the Socialists or the Liberals could agree on the choice (i.e. they all wanted it) so the job was given to the leader of the Greens. However since then the alliance against the opposition PP have agreed on little else. Fiery arguments and insults between the Liberals - headed by Pedro Mancebo, and the Socialists - headed by Antonia Moreno have led to what one of the Spanish papers call 'a divorce rather than a separation' with the Liberals - the Clr Party - leaving the alliance. Eyebrows were raised when Bob Houliston of the CLARO remained with the Socialists (after receiving an appointment from the Socialists relating to the coastal area). It is interesting that CLARO broke ranks with the Clr, as CLARO would not have gained a seat on their own, based on the voting count in the coastal area alone. Relations between these two parties must now be at a very low ebb although they had joined together last month for the purpose of the election. The Spanish newspaper, *Información*, also alleged that as Bob Houliston (75) was a pensioner, he may have to forfeit either his council salary or his pension, but the mayor was waiting for further clarification on this.

The position of the council now stands with the Socialists, 6, Greens, 3, and CLARO 1 in one group, and the PP, 12 in the other, with the remaining Liberals, 3, holding the power to vote with one group or another. The Liberals have already begun to create waves demanding that the councillors take a 30% cut in wages. This of course has gone down like pork pies at Ramadan and the councillors will not be paid until some form of agreement is reached.

As I see it, the Orihuela Council is now a political 'pantomime horse' with all five parties pulling in different directions. Will it last and will it be effective? I doubt it. I cannot see the Liberals sitting back and taking a back seat for the next four years, particularly as their gains in the election were the most significant. Time will tell and it will also be interesting to see what the property SUMA will be next year, as it has remained unchanged for the last two years.

Pam and Chris, the ladies who have been running the Dream Hills book swap at La Casita for the past seven years, have received a letter on behalf of the various cat and dog charities thanking them for the regular donation of duplicate books etc to help these charities' funds. The Book Swap has been run on a non-profit basis and the ladies have done an excellent job in providing the DH residents with a regular and changing supply of reading materials. Please don't keep the good books but return them so others can benefit from a good read.

Hope you are all keeping well and remember to keep a keen eye on your property and personal security.

Mick & Tid.




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Angela's Cartoon



'Since the cucumber scare, Mr. Jones, I've had to improvise!'

What's Up?

The Government has admitted that the economic recovery is 'still too slow' and notes that the recovery has not produced the 'desirable effect' of a reduction in unemployment. Although a general election is scheduled for next year, it may be brought forward and take place this autumn. It is unlikely that Zapatero will lead the Socialists next year, his number two, Rubalcaba, being the favourite.

The 'indignant' or M-15 protest group organised a number of demonstrations throughout Spain on Sunday the 20th. One Spanish newspaper commented that although 125,000 took part in the protests, the number who voted in the regional elections was 22,971,350 which was much more significant number.

Brussels has suggested to the Spanish that social security payments be cut in order to stimulate the creation of jobs. To fund the idea the EU suggests increasing VAT/IVA and increasing tax on electricity and petrol. The EU also wants to see spending limits in all the regional administrations across the country, and to see more years taken into consideration in the calculation of pensions, along with a further delay in retirement age. Minister for Tax and Economy, Elena Salgado, has ruled out making any tax increases to fund lower social security quotas. Other experts have agreed with her, considering that a further increase in IVA would 'strangle' consumer demand.

As mentioned in the previous issue of the DS, the Spanish savings bank which Barclays has in its sights is the CAM. The news has come from Barclay's boss, Bob Diamond, who has confirmed the name and said they are studying the situation in detail, but he also said they needed some form of guarantee from the Bank of Spain in order to proceed. In the first quarter of 2011, CAM have sold or rented around 1,600 of its repossessed properties, 292 in the last week of March alone. Sales to foreigners, mostly British, exceed 11%. Their objective is to 'unload' around 5,000 properties each month, by either sale or rental.

It is worth remembering that Spanish soldiers are part of the NATO force in Afghanistan. Last week two soldiers, one female, were killed by a roadside bomb. This brings the total number of Spanish fatalities there to 97, although 81 of these were from accidents. Rubalcaba, the ruling PSOE's number two has said that they will reduce the army and navy numbers by 40,000. He also stated that no officers or NCOs would lose their job. This will mean plenty of 'Chiefs' and few 'Indians!'

The Financial Times has said that it only trusts Spanish banks Santander and BBVA, and doubts the capacity of the country's medium sized banks, and above all savings banks, to refinance. The FT considers they all need more capital. The remarks were made in the paper's Lex column. It notes that the Spanish banks have only refinanced 67% of the debt it has to meet this year

The National Court is to investigate the Botín family for allegations of fiscal fraud and falsehood. Emilio Botín, the head of Santander Group, together with 11 other members of the family are under investigation. The Anti-Corruption Prosecutor is investigating Emilio Botín and his brother Jaime Botín and their respective five children and others, relating to activities in May last year when French prosecuting authorities informed the Spanish tax authority, AEAT, of some Spaniards, including the Botín's, concerning how money was allegedly sent to HSBC in Switzerland and that the Hacienda was not informed about patrimonial tax for the years 2005 to 2009. The alleged charges are crimes against Hacienda (tax) and document falsification.

The acting President of Castilla-La Mancha, the outgoing Socialist Barreda, José María Barreda, will only be able to pay the wages for June, if the bills for social spending are left unpaid. The lack of liquidity in Castilla-La Mancha is resulting in the delays in payments to employees. The June wage bill is 275 million € for the 74,000 civil servants.

Initially Telefonica stated that they were going to lay-off 6,500 workers over the next three years. They then said that they would lay-off 8,500 workers over a five-year period. The government then stepped-in saying that Telefonica would have to fund the redundancies themselves as they were in profit and that the firm would also have to pay the sacked workers' unemployment benefits and social security payments. Telefonica then had a rethink and stated that they would return to their original proposal of a lay-off of 6,500. It has been reported that the total cost is expected to be as much as €400,000 per sacked worker.

15,491 families lost their homes in the first quarter of this year. The number compares to 5,000 or so evictions per quarter at the start of the recession. One of the Catholic charity organisations, Cáritas, is probably one of the most effective in Spain. I have mentioned some of their work before, but their latest initiative is imaginative and timely. They will now mediate to avoid evictions in Cataluña when the home owner cannot make mortgage payments. They say they want to stop more people becoming socially excluded, and will fight to convert the mortgage deal into a rental contract as a way forward. Cáritas says they will spend 60% of their funds on helping families who have lost their homes.

The number of mortgages being granted in Spain continues to fall as it has for the past year, and was down 38.2% in April compared to the same month last year; this is only 18% higher than March figure this year, which was very low.

House sales in Spain fell by 30.4% in the first quarter of 2011, compared to a year ago. Over the first three months of this year 74,540 homes were built, according to data from the Ministry for Development. The sharp fall in sales coincides with the ending of tax breaks on the purchase of a property for those earning more than 24,000 € a year. Falls were seen in all regions led by Navarra which saw a 55% fall. In absolute terms most sales were in Andalucía with more than 15,000 transactions, followed by Valencia with 10,592, Cataluña with 9,183 and Madrid with more than 8,800.

Gas *butano* bottles are due to increase by 5.7% today and will now cost €14.80 each, a rise of 12% since January.

Basil Fawlty: 'I fought in the war, you know. I killed four men.'

Sybil Fawlty: 'He was in the Catering Corp. He poisoned them.'

In an attempt to cut costs, the Mayor of Madrid, Alberto Ruiz-Gallardón, has said that he will be removing bodyguard protection from the City Hall councillors. It means that 85 municipal police will be freed for other duties and €4 million saved. Bodyguards will remain in place for the Mayor himself and a handful of others!

The City Council of Castellón has announced that they have collected 8,250 kilos - more than eight tons - of chewing gum from the streets of the city since 2007. The mayor is going to issue small bits of paper to the public...so they can put the gum in the paper and then in a bin!!

The second to last week of June saw at least four arrests for gender violence on Orihuela Costa. In one case in the urbanisation Villamartin, police witnessed a 30-year-old Romanian assaulting his 33-year-old partner and knocking-out one of her teeth. The Romanian carried five different identities for himself and was later discovered to have a long criminal record and the subject of an extradition warrant from Interpol.

Philip Morris has announced further cuts in its cigarette prices as the price war at the tobacconists continues. It's the third time in less than a month that the brands Marlboro, Chesterfield and L&M have fallen in price by between 10 and 20 cents a packet. Market leader Marlboro falls 15 cents to 3.85 €. It comes a week after rival Altadis decided to reduce the price of its brands.

It seems that even the 'rich & famous' cannot escape property problems in Spain. This time Boris Becker, the former tennis champion, has had his 2,900 square metre villa and grounds in Mallorca embargoed. For some reason he has not paid the bill to his gardener - €275,000 - he claims that it is a misunderstanding or else he has got some very big weeds! A builder who completed a number of renovations on the property is also claiming €490,000 and has placed a *denuncia* against Becker. In 2004, Becker was fined €214,000 for illegal building works on the property. New balls please!

A 15-year-old Chilean who stabbed to death a British male pensioner in early 2010 in Tenerife, has received a seven years sentence. However, there will be only three years of the closed internment, followed by 26 months of probation and 20 months of therapy. Seems that killing an older person is not so serious any more.

26 people were arrested during a single drugs' raid last month including two Colombians, who are thought to be the leaders, and who were living in Los Montesinos. Police investigations began in September 2010, when agents detected a significant increase in cocaine distribution in recreational areas of the Vega Baja, Alicante and Murcia. It seems that the cocaine was first 'cut' or diluted in Madrid. It was then packed into false compartments in the dashboards of cars and driven to Redován near Orihuela. Here the drug was 'cut' again, but whatever cutting-agent they used made the drug more harmful. Most of those arrested were Colombians, the arrests taking place in Orihuela, Alicante, Elche, Los Montesinos, Callosa del Segura Granja de Rocamora, Alcoy, Redován and Madrid. Also seized was 11 kilos of cocaine, seven vehicles, €157,000 cash, communications equipment but unusually, no weapons.

On June 18 the Guardia Civil arrested eight women who got into a fight at a roundabout on the CV-914, in Almoradi. The incident occurred in the evening and the arrests were made for allegedly disturbing public order and disobedience to authority. The women arrested by the Guardia Civil were Bulgarian, Romanian and Bosnian and they had a heated argument followed by a fight. The area where these events occurred is notorious for prostitutes, so it may have been a squabble over territory. Another Kodak moment!

The world of wine stopped being the exclusive domain of men a long time ago. For the third time in a row, a woman has won the prestigious Golden Nose Award ('Nariz de Oro') which is awarded each year to the country's best sommelier. The winner this year was Montse Velasco, a 33-year-old wine specialist from Catalonia who works at her family restaurant La Cuina del Guinardó, which serves no more than 20 diners at a time at eight tables. A proud Velasco, who had to correctly identify the contents of five dark wine glasses using nothing but her sense of smell (tasting is not allowed), identified all five wines correctly.

A contortionist and his accomplice have been arrested by the Catalan police force after a suspicious suitcase was left behind on a bus which was due to travel from Girona Airport to Barcelona last month. Officers on duty at the airport were surprised to find a man inside, with a smaller case, a head torch, and a mobile phone in his hand. Europa Press reports that he also had with him a tool he used to open up other passengers' luggage on the bus from the airport to Barcelona. The system the pair used was that the accomplice would buy a ticket for the bus and store the case with his friend inside in the luggage hold of the vehicle. Once the journey had started, the contortionist would leave his hiding place, break into the other items of luggage inside the storage area and place them in the smaller case. Dumb & dumber?

The Spanish judiciary will end this year with an estimated 3.1 million cases left to resolve. Delays in civil proceedings have reduced in number, but still often take two years to complete. The 3.1 million estimate is 0.5% lower than last year, according to the estimates of the General Council for Judicial Power, the body which oversees the judiciary. They estimate that 9,384,389 cases will be admitted to the courts this year, and 9,459,974 will be resolved as the system attempts to catch up and clear the backlog. It would be laughable if it wasn't so serious.

Following the recent drought and water shortages in Northern Ireland, Belfast City Council have closed down six of the eight lanes on the city swimming pool.

My uncle is addicted to brake fluid. Still, he says he can stop any time.

Alf is so old, when he goes into a cafe and orders a three-minute egg, they ask for the money up front.

My grandma has 'Furniture Disease'; that's when your chest falls into your drawers.

DEBT

The debt in the regional governments in Spain has jumped by 26.4% over the past year and now represents 11.4% of GDP at 121.42 billion €. It's the first time since 1995 that the debt to DGP ratio has been above 11%.

Cataluña is the most indebted region with 34.323 billion owed at the end of the first quarter of 2011, and the debt has also risen substantially in La Rioja, Cantabria and Aragón. Only the regions of Asturias, the Basque Country, Canaries and Galicia have managed to contain their debt. Five regions take more than 600 days to pay their 'facturas' (invoices) for health services. The debts in the local Town Halls have also jumped by 3.2% to reach 37.352 billion €. Madrid's debt has risen again and is now over 7 billion € - almost as much as all the other provincial capitals together. Barcelona, Málaga and Valencia have reduced their debt level.

El Mundo reports that there has been an agreement between the PSOE and the PP to lower the tension in the debate over the deficits of the regional administrations in Spain. Another newspaper, ABC, reports that the regional administrations owe more than 5 billion € in medicines alone. The paper says it is 10.8% higher than a year ago, with Andalucía heading the debt.

In Murcia, Moody's rating agency has already warned that the region deviated from its deficit objectives in 2010 and considers it will difficulties in meeting them in 2011 and 2012. The region's current debt per person is €1,441 in an area with 25% unemployment. The Bank of Spain says the region has cut its spending by 16% over recent months, but suppliers say they are still not being paid. It's estimated that about €4 billion is owed by the region to banks and suppliers.

Regional debt has doubled since a spending limit was removed, going from 56.8 billion to 121.42 billion since 2005 when the Government lifted the control.

Name

"Querétaro", the name of a city of Mexico, which means "Island of blue salamanders" has been voted the most beautiful word in Spanish, according to a poll of more than 33,000 voters who participated in a survey organised by the Instituto Cervantes. Over 500 million people speak Spanish in five continents. Why not brush up on yours?



This is 'Rex.' A 31-year-old Spaniard poured inflammable liquid over Rex's back and then set alight to him. The scumbag then boasted about it to his friends, who had the sense to report him to the police. The man could be sent to prison for between three months to a year, but as it may be his first offence, it will probably be just a token fine.

On the right is 'Faith.' You may recall that 'Butterflies' organised a Charity Day to raise funds for the animal's treatment. Faith has had to have one of his front legs amputated due to abusive treatment. The operating vet's managed to get a prosthetic limb maker to make a special limb for the horse. The horse is now adapting well to the new limb. See www.easyhorsecare.net for more info.



Some good news!

Spanish animal charities are certainly having a difficult time during this recession. Animal welfare is at 'the bottom of the list' for most of the local councils. Expat fundraising contributions are now more essential than ever. The dog pound in El Puig, north of the city of Valencia, have received an anonymous donation of €274,000! This will allow for the major expansion of the pound who have now given an undertaking that no dogs will be put down at the pound in the future.

Geordie Wisdom

According to a news report, a certain private school in Newcastle-upon-Tyne was recently faced with a unique problem. A number of 12-year-old girls were beginning to use lipstick and would put it on in the bathroom.

That was fine, but after they put on their lipstick they would press their lips to the mirror leaving dozens of little lip prints.

Every night the maintenance man would remove them and the next day the girls would put them back. Finally the Headmistress decided that something had to be done. She called all the girls to the bathroom and met them there with the maintenance man. She explained that all these lip prints were causing a major problem for the custodian who had to clean the mirrors every night (you can just imagine the yawns from the little Geordie Princesses).

To demonstrate how difficult it had been to clean the mirrors, she asked the maintenance man to show the girls how much effort was required.

The maintenance man took out a long-handled squeegee, dipped it in the toilet, and cleaned the mirror with it.

Since then, there have been no lip prints on the mirror.

There are teachers.....and then there are educators. (Pete Dudman)

Old Hamish

Old Hamish and his wife are watching an evangelist preacher on the TV. The evangelist tells them to out one hand on the screen and touch any afflicted part of their body with the other. Hamish's wife totters over to the screen, touches the glass with one hand and places the other on her arthritic hip.

Old Hamish decides to get in on the act. He totters over to the TV, places one hand on the screen and sticks the other one up his kilt.

'Hamish,' says his wife, 'were ye no listening? The man's healing the sick, not raising the dead!'

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Marriage
Harry is reading a newspaper story about a successful, but dim, footballer who is marrying a beautiful model. He calls out to his wife, 'I'll never understand how the biggest morons end up with the best-looking wives.' His wife calls back, 'Why, thank you dear!'

You always remember the first time you met the woman you'd later marry. I first met the wife in a tunnel of love.
She was digging it.
- Les Dawson

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Via Park V

A Right Charlie!

Prince Charles decided to take a healthy walk every day. At the same street he passed a hooker standing by the same street corner every day. He learned to brace himself as he approached her for what was almost certain to follow.

"One hundred pounds!" she'd shout.

"No! Five pounds!" he said from the side of his mouth, just to shut her up.

This ritual between him and the hooker became a daily occurrence. She'd yell, "One hundred pounds!" He'd yell back, "Five pounds!"

One day, Camilla decided to accompany her husband on his walk. As the couple neared the hooker's corner, Prince Charles realised she'd bark her £100 offer and Camilla would wonder what the hell he had been doing on all his past outings. As they neared the hooker's corner he became even more apprehensive than usual.

Sure enough, there she stood. He tried to avoid eye contact as she watched the pair pass by.

Then, the hooker yelled: "See what you get for five pounds, you tight bastard!"

Out & About

First of all, heartiest congratulations to Butterflies in Via Park III on reaching the final in the Newcomer's Category of The CoastRider Culinary Awards, which were held in June. Butterflies did very well among all 'the big boys' - El Mundo and the eventual winner, The Black Bull. Janet would like to thank all the customers for their tremendous support.

Still in Via Park III, Stewart Macklin, a Dream Hills resident, has taken over The Welcome Inn. Why not pop-in for a real Irish welcome?

In Via Park V, Belushi's Bar & Grill has had a relaunch after the completion of the redecoration. The theme bar is worth a visit with plenty of photo opportunities with 'Jake' & 'Elwood.' It is good to see more life now on the lower floor - why not pop down and take a look. On the ground floor of Via Park V, Galadriel's have had a reorganisation and now has a very comfortable soft-furnished area where you can relax after your meal or with your drink and watch Sky Sports or whatever takes your fancy.

Down at Cabo Roig, a large Chinese restaurant called 'YaHo' has opened where the Spanish restaurant 'Dehesa de Campamor' used to be. It is very attractive and impressive inside with a large outdoor eating area. We have only dined there once but found the service slow and the food unimpressive and expensive. The name 'YaHo' made me smile, as in Ireland if you want to describe a person as a bit of a 'head-case,' you call him or her a bit of a 'yahoo.'

On another part of the Cabo Roig strip there is the new Chinese supermarket, Europa Supermarket. While there is no shortage of Chinese outlets in this area, this one seems to stick to foodstuffs, drinks and toiletries etc. The interior is very basic with wide aisles with, disappointingly, a complete absence of Chinese foodstuffs. You still have to go into Torry for these. I did see some onions in there which looked like they were dug out of the 'Great Wall!'

While you are out take a good look at the work for the new development of Zenia Boulevard near the La Zenia toll. This is shooting-up rapidly and it will be a truly major sales outlet. It is due for completion in Autumn 2012.

The new hotel being built near Los Balcones should soon be ready for fitting-out. I am still not sure if they have the necessary approvals for it yet but they seem to be racing to finish it now.

Back in Dream Hills, the drains have received their first anti-cockroach spraying and I can testify that the water in the top pool is just beautifuuuuul!

Do take note that if you haven't paid your urbanisation fee by July 15, the debt will attract interest.

An increase in tourists unfortunately also means an increase in thieves, burglars, pickpockets and the like. Last month there were at least two incidents where caged birds were stolen from the front of houses in Dream Hills. Be careful of 'bag-snatchers' who will approach you while you are in your car to ask for directions. Keep your window rolled-up and ignore them. Just be aware!

Would you like sprinkles with that, Luv?

I went down to my local ice-cream shop, and said I wanted to buy an ice-cream. The man behind the counter said, 'Hundreds & thousands?' I said, 'We'll start with one.'

He said, 'Knickerbocker glory?'

I said, 'I do get a certain amount of freedom in these trousers, yes.'

(Tim Vine)

The Torrevieja - El Altet Bus Service

The new bus service between Torrevieja and Alicante Airport is now operational. However many are unaware that this contract is scheduled to only operate until September 23, when a report on its feasibility has to be presented by the current operators, Costa Azul to the transport authorities. When the new serviced was launched in late May this year, just prior to the local council elections, the politicians omitted to mention this fact.

However, since the announcement of the service in May by the Mayor of Torrevieja, there has been no advertising whatsoever about what should surely be a very popular service; this despite the fact that in the early stages there were as few passengers as eight each way per day.

Now a rival bus company, the Vega Bus Company, has alleged that the existing operator - Costa Azul - has deliberately under-promoted the service so as to be able to present an unfavourable picture at the end of the short contract. This would mean that the new contract would not go out to tender and that the Costa Azul would be retained for the route.

Ironically it was the Vega Bus Company who were contacted by the council when the idea of the service was first mooted and Vega Bus also recommended pick-ups at Rojales and San Fulgencio during the route to the airport. Vega Bus now plans to launch an appeal.

There can be little doubt that the service will continue in one form or another, but it would be good news for travellers if two rival companies would operate the route. This would keep the service up and the price down, that is at least until the companies would inevitably collude with each other on prices and timings!

You can read more in Spanish here - <http://www.diarioinformacion.com/vega-baja/2011/06/29/autobus-altet-funcionara-cuatro-meses/1143504.html>

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Phoenix Golf Society

A beautiful day at La Plantia, Alicante. Prize giving back at the Phoenix was as Follows,

Gold category.....Rob Hughs

Silver category.....Graham Mitchell

Bronze category....Dave Wightman

Overall winner was Mike (Amigo4Golf)

Carroll with 35 points, an inspiration to myself and our 4 ball.

Nearest the pin on hole 9 was Richard Hurst and on the 14 Dave Cahill.

Congratulations to Mike Carroll, Darryl deSilva, Pete Fraser, Graham Mitchell and Mick Slater, all winning their match plays.

The FREE games drawn from the hat went to Les Roundthwaite and Dave Cahill.

The 'Must Try Harder Award' had a new winner with Dave Everson receiving the trophy while still moaning about his handicap.

Thanks to Donna for the excellent buffet.

The Phoenix Golf Society details can be found at the bar in Dream Hills.

(John Bradbeer)



"Be honest...what do you think of my golf swing?"

Another Bug!

At least 400 cases of infection by a liver-attacking parasite, that was until recently unknown in Europe, have been diagnosed in Spain, according to data from the new, and only, World Health Organization (WHO) Centre devoted to the disease, located in Valencia.

The *fasciola* parasite, which installs itself in the liver and can cause cirrhosis, anemia and other conditions, is a big problem in poorer countries such as Bolivia, where 72 percent of the population suffer infection, but climate change is increasing its presence in the developed world.

Infection, known as *fascioliasis*, is transmitted by eating wild vegetation infected by the *fasciola* parasite, a form of liver fluke. It lays its eggs in the digestive systems of sheep and cows, which then hatch after they are excreted and reach water. The larvae look for a new host, freshwater snails, from where they leave the water to attach themselves to aquatic plants. Eating this infected vegetation installs the *fasciola* in your liver. Previously thought of as a disease of livestock, human *fascioliasis* cases have shot up from 2,500 in 1990 to 17 million today, according to the WHO, which has decided to prioritize the fight against the parasite.

As always wash all fruit and veg, not forgetting to wash herbs, parsley etc as well.

Is it Harry or Heinz?

Geneticists claim that as many as half of Britons have German blood, a consequence of Anglo-Saxon migration after the Roman Empire fell.

"There is no use in denying it," Der Spiegel, the German news magazine, wrote last week. "It is now clear the nation which most dislikes the Germans were once Krauts themselves."

University College London academics studied a segment of the Y chromosome that appears in almost all Danish and north German men. They found that half of British men also have the segment.

Researchers following up the UCL study claim that Anglo-Saxons swiftly took over Britain and changed the genetic make-up of its inhabitants.

Heinrich Härke, an archaeologist at the University of Reading, said that "up to 200,000 emigrants" came to south east England in the fifth and sixth centuries. In a study of a Saxon cemetery near Oxford, he found that a quarter of its artefacts matched those discovered along the Elbe.

So to 50% of our readers in England, 'Auf Wiedersehen und essen Sie nicht zu viel Kohl!'

(For the other 50% this means 'Goodbye and don't eat too much cabbage!')

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Mrs Cohen's boy.

Mrs Cohen is talking to her husband, complaining about their son. 'With all the trouble he's been causing recently, and now we send him to a child psychiatrist and find out he's a mental case. He's got the Oedipus Complex! Who heard of such a thing? Where did he catch it? Not from my side of the family: from yours, perhaps? Far more likely, I would have thought, what with your cousin Jacob and his disgusting habits. Oedipus Complex! My life, what am I going to tell the neighbours?' Mr Cohen interrupts. 'Ruth - enough already. Oedipus, schmedipus: as long as he loves his mother.....'

United Nations

An American, a Russian, a Chinese man and a German are standing at a bus stop when they are approached by an opinion pollster. 'Excuse me,' says the pollster, 'but what is your opinion of the current meat shortage?' The American says, 'What's a shortage?' The Russian says, 'What's meat?' The Chinese man says, 'What's an opinion?' The German says, 'What's "Excuse me"?'

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Quick-fire

- Did you hear about the fat, alcoholic transvestite - All he wanted to do was eat, drink and be Mary
- Got an e-mail today from a bored local housewife, 43, who was looking for some hot action! So I sent her my ironing. That'll keep the lazy woman busy.
- I got invited to a party and was told to dress to kill. Apparently a turban, beard and a backpack wasn't what they had in mind.
- After a night of drink, drugs and wild sex Bill woke up to find himself next to a really ugly woman. That's when he realised he had made it home safely.
- Paddy says to Mick, "Christmas is on Friday this year". Mick said, "Let's hope it's not the 13th then."
- My mate just hired an Eastern European cleaner, took her 5 hours to Hoover the house. Turns out she was a Slovak
- Since the snow came all the wife has done is look through the window. If it gets any worse, I'll have to let her in.
- I've been charged with murder for killing a man with sandpaper. To be honest I only intended to rough him up a bit.
- A lad comes home from school and excitedly tells his dad that he had a part in the school play and he was playing a man who had been married for 25 years. The dad says, "Never mind son, maybe next year you'll get a speaking part."
- Just had my water bill of £175 drop on my mat. That's a lot. Oxfam can supply a whole African village for just £2 a month: time to change supplier I think.
- 2 women called at my door and asked what bread I ate, when I said white they gave me a lecture on the benefits of brown bread for 30 minutes. I think they were Hovis Witnesses. (Sue Robinson)



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Skin cancer is on the rise in Spain. Out of every 100,000 Spaniards, two will develop melanoma each year. The incidence is rising each year by seven percent, say medical experts. If the condition is not detected in a reasonable time frame, the chances for a successful course of treatment are much lower. "It has a very surprising capacity to become metastatic quickly," said Miguel Sánchez Viera, head of the skin cancer unit at USP San Camilio Hospital.

The mortality rate is higher among people over 50. But melanoma affects mostly those aged between 25 and 29.

Experts recommend the use of sun creams with a protection factor of at least 30, while US authorities have ruled that those products with a factor of 15 or less should remove the word "protection" from the package.

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A Spanish Historical Vignette - The Great Raid

Most countries, indeed probably all, have skeletons in their cupboard; periods of injustice and cruelty which many would like to ignore and forget. Certainly Spain has many - the treatment of native South Americans during the conquests, the expulsion of the Moors and Jews, and of course a savage Civil War together with an equally savage aftermath in the twentieth century. However there is one event in Spanish history which is nearly forgotten and often ignored by historians and that is the *Gran Redada* or Great Raid.

Gypsies, Roma, Romany or *Gitanos*, have been subject to discrimination and persecution throughout most of Europe. The *Gitanos* first arrived in Spain as early as 1425 coming originally from the Indian subcontinent.

In 1492 the Romanies in Spain were included in the list of peoples to be assimilated or driven out. For about 300 years, they were subject to a number of laws and policies designed to eliminate them from Spain as an identifiable group: Romany settlements were broken up and the residents dispersed; sometimes Romanies were required to marry non-Roma; they were prohibited from using their language and rituals, and were excluded from public office and from guild membership.

During the reign of Ferdinand VI (see June 2011 issue) one of his chief ministers, Ensenada, drew up a plan to arrest and finally 'extinguish' all Roma in Spain in 1749. Since 1717, Gitano families had to be registered centrally to assist in organising their eventual 'resettlement.' Ensenada issued sealed orders to a total of 75 town and cities instructing that these orders be opened only on July 30, 1749 and the actions outlined therein carried out immediately.

On that day the various authorities arrested between 9,000 and 12,000 *gitanos*. The gypsies were split into two groups, one to contain all males over seven years of age and the other group to include all women and children under the age of seven. The first group would be sent to forced labour in the Navy arsenals and the shipyards. The second, the women and children, were sent to factories and prisons. The cost of the various moves were to be paid from the seized assets of the *gitanos*. The disappearance of the gypsies also had a marked negative effect on many local economies.

As can be imagined, the operation created absolute chaos and riots. The lack of a clear definition of 'gypsy' led to many non-gypsies who were married to romanies to be arrested and imprisoned also. In many cases legal intervention prevented some arrests. Indeed the 'orders' issued made no use of the word *gitano* as the word was banned! There were also *gitano* families which although completely integrated were arrested anyway. Orders came from Ensenada that any escapees to be recovered and hung. Fortunately the local authorities refused to obey that order.

Although the 'arrest' part of the plan was completed, the travel and detainment of the gypsies proved a headache for years to the authorities. Eventually several army commanders, who had to act as virtual jailors for the gypsies, complained about the costs and pressurised the king to end it.

In 1763, some fourteen years after the raid, the new king, Carlos III, decided to 'pardon' the *gitanos*. But once again Spanish bureaucracy took its toll and it was not until two years later after the king again ordered the process to 'speed-up', did the Navy order the release of the prisoners. Some prisoners however were not released from the Cadiz and Ferrol dockyards until 1783, thirty-four years after the raid!

In 1772, a preamble to a new law on the gypsies carried a reference to the *Gran Redada*. The king asked for it to be removed 'to honour the memory of my brother.'

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-The great thing about Alzheimer's Disease is that you never have to watch repeats on television.

-'Virus,' is a Latin word used by doctors meaning 'your guess is as good as mine'.

-The doctor looked my body over. I said, 'Is there any hope?'

He said, 'Yes. Reincarnation.' (Phyllis Diller)

-My doctor promised he would have me walking within two months. He was right. When I got his bill I had to sell my car.

-A friend of mine runs marathons. He always talks about this 'runner's high'. But he has to go

26 miles for it. That's why I smoke and drink. I get the same feeling from a flight of stairs.

(Larry Miller)

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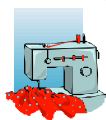


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Kite Boarding and Paddle up Surfing:

From 10th to 13th July, the beach at Santa Pola, Costa Blanca, will be the viewing area for this exciting sporting event.

INTERNATIONAL HABANERAS CUBAN DANCE AND POLYPHONY CONTEST

This internationally famous festival and contest originated from the trips that the sailors of Torreveija made to Havana to trade salt. It is now probably the most outstanding meeting of its kind in the whole country. It is celebrated in the "Eras de la Sal" enclosure in Torreveija and receives the best groups and choirs in the genre. The importance of the contest can be seen in the level of prize money allocated to some of the competitions - one having a top prize of €12,000. There are more details at www.habaneras.org

Valencia City celebrates its traditional Feria de Julio, or July Fair, with an extensive and varied programme of events. This fair, which has been celebrated each year since 1871, is a special occasion that allows locals and visitors to enjoy a variety of acts, celebrated in the warmth of the pleasant summer nights of Valencia.

<http://www.entertainmentinspain.com/index.html>

http://www.entertainmentinspain.com/July%20festivals__events_in_spain1.htm is an informative site for basic info' on fiestas throughout Spain.

Don't forget that The San Javier Jazz Festival is also in 'full swing.'

Late News

The Spanish Agency for Food and Nutritional Safety, AESAN, has issued new tough guidelines on the consumption of some fish, crustaceans and vegetables because of the high quantities of mercury, cadmium and nitrates which can be found in them.

Among the new recommendations is a ban on chard and spinach for babies and a limit of 100 grams a week for sword fish or dogfish for the under threes.

High levels of mercury are of concern in Tuna, and the advice is for pregnant women to avoid the blue fish because of the effects of mercury on the developing foetus. The agency also advises to reduce the consumption of tuna in the under 12's.

This comes after pressure from the fishing sector to relax the maximum acceptable mercury levels, but AESAN research shows that such a relaxation should not be allowed. It found that the majority of women and children are already close to the maximum levels of mercury poisoning, which simply accumulates in the body. They advise that pregnant women and the under 3's avoid sword fish, red tuna or shark entirely, and the under 12's limit consumption to 50 grams a week.

(So much for healthy tuna!)

I know that some of the Dream Scene readers rent their Spanish property and that a number of others are contemplating to do so also. The following is an extract from an informative article by a lawyer, *Raymundo Larrain Nesbitt*, taken from the Spanish Property Insight web-site. It contains a few surprises. Always consult a competent professional.

Landlord's Top Five Mistakes

Many expat landlords are unaware of the different mechanisms in place to secure rental income and often fail to implement them in their rental agreements which can leave them unprotected if the tenant does not, or cannot, pay the rent. These mechanisms are explained in detail in my article "Landlord: Keys to Successful Rental Income".

Most of the blunders made by landlords are related to their tenants becoming non-paying tenants. This can understandably exert great pressure on landlords, especially if they are relying on the rent to offset it against their mortgage repayments, which can easily lead them to take rash decisions that may come back to haunt them later on in life-

1. Shutting off utilities (water & electricity). Landlords often feel the urge of doing this on their tenant missing out on their rental. If you happen to do this your tenant can report you to the police. Doing this may be labelled as either coercion or harassment or even both. Your tenant can prosecute you criminally on doing this. So you may want to think twice before doing this. If the utilities are in the name of the landlord and he stops paying them on purpose to mount pressure on the non-paying tenant he can equally be prosecuted as it's equated to shut-off the utilities physically.

2. Changing the locks. Same as above, it may be regarded as either coercion or harassment or both and you may be prosecuted criminally for this.

3. Evicting non-paying tenants with the assistance of newly-acquired "acquaintances". Landlords may feel tempted to take justice in their own hands and break-in their own property assisting the decision-making by bringing in some ad hoc square-jawed tattooed acquaintance as backup. This is seldom a bright idea and may land you and your "friends" in a Spanish jail for unlawful entry (trespassing). The only 'legal way' to evict your tenant is to hire a lawyer and initiate a formal eviction procedure through the Spanish law courts. New laws have been enacted to help speed-up the eviction procedure. But on average it is still taking 5-9 months depending on how clogged the local law courts are.

4. Entering the property to perform a "routine check". Although it may be highly tempting to take a quick peak from time to time, especially after a noisy summer party that's kept the neighbourhood up all night, it is seldom a good idea. "It's my property and I will enter it when I please." I've often heard this line from disgruntled landlords who just cannot stand the fact they are forbidden from entering their own property in Spain if it's not with the prior written permission from their tenant. You simply need their permission following Spain's Tenancy Act regardless if they are paying the rent or not.

5. Eleven month contracts are short-term and watertight? Erm, I'm afraid not. This single blunder is responsible for many legal problems at a later date. What qualifies a rent as either short or long-term is not the fact that it's labelled one way or the other. What matters really is that the tenant and his family are not using the property as their main residence and this must be expressly built and worded into the Tenancy agreement so it's truly a short-term tenancy. Tenants can successfully challenge at court short-term 11-month contracts morphing them into long-term ones (5 years). During the next 5 years you will be unable to recover possession of the property whilst the tenant pays, being forced to rent it out. The new Express Eviction Law has now amended this and allows landlords to introduce clauses that waive the statutory long-term requirement of 5 years i.e. a clause whereby it is stipulated that the property will be needed for the landlord's own use or for that of his family. However, if after 3 months' time the landlord - or his family - has not taken possession of the property, he will be forced to re-install his ex-tenant and award him a suitable compensation to offset the expenses of the move.

Luxury rentals waive this protection as Spain's Tenancy Act does not apply to them; luxury rentals are ruled by the will of the parties involved.

Murphy

Murphy's old lady had been pregnant for some time and now the time had come. He brought her to the doctor and the doctor began to deliver the baby.

She had a little boy, and the doctor looked over at Murphy and said, 'Hey, Murph! You just had a son!'

Murphy got excited by this, but just then the doctor spoke up and said, 'Hold on! We're not finished yet!'

The doctor then delivered a little girl. He said, 'Hey, Murph! You've now got a daughter as well!'

Murphy was stunned by this and then the doctor said, 'Hold on, we're not done yet, !'

The doctor then delivered another boy and said, 'Murph, you just had yourself another boy !'

Murphy said to the doctor, 'Doc, what caused so many babies?'

The doctor said, 'You never know Murph, it was probably something that happened during conception.'

Murphy said, 'Ah yeah, during conception.'

Murph and his wife went home with their three babies.

Later, he sat down with his wife and said, 'Maureen, you remember dat night that we ran out of KY and we had to use dat dere 3-in-1 Oil?'

She said, 'Yeah, I remember dat night...'

Murph said, 'I'll tell you,it's a fkin' good ting we didn't use WD-40!'

Earlier this year, as part of the Budget, the UK Government confirmed its intention to generate a legally-binding definition of residence. The goal was to create a framework that could be used to help people easily decide with certainty whether they are resident in the UK or not, each year.

UK Residency, Part 1.

The Government has subsequently issued a Consultation Paper that provides a view on how this could potentially work. Once the consultation period concludes, new legislation will be enacted that will bring new residence rules into effect from the 6 April 2012.

Now that the Government's view on these matters have been publicised through the consultation, it is clear that the proposed changes are likely to have an impact on the UK tax planning of all British expatriates, to a greater or lesser degree. Looking at the consultation in greater detail, it is pleasing to see that Government has an appreciation of the difficulties people have faced when trying to establish whether they are considered resident in the UK or not. As a result, it is clear that the Government is determined to arrive at a new set of rules that are faithful to the principles established in case law over the years.

If there are no major changes after the consultation period concludes, the 6 April 2012 will see a new system where residence status is determined annually, with each year being viewed in isolation from the previous.

The new rules

The new rules are ultimately aiming to make it more difficult to break residence for UK taxation purposes than to become resident again or to drift back into residence.

The renowned '91 day average test' will cease to remain and the following rules will instead apply:

- Those present in the UK for 183 days or more will always be resident
- Those who are present in the UK for less than 10 days will always be non-resident
- And for anyone who falls outside of these narrow definitions will be reviewed through a series of tests

The tests include:

- Test A – a 'Conclusive non-residence test' – if certain conditions are met, the individual is definitely non-resident
- Test B – a 'Conclusive residence test' – if certain conditions are met, the individual is definitely resident
- Test C – an 'Other connection test' – if the results from tests A and B are inconclusive, the matter is determined by a combination of time spent in and a person's connectedness to the UK. Test C operates a sliding scale whereby the more a person is connected to the UK, the less time they may spend in the UK during the year. The connecting factors include whether the individual has family, employment and accommodation in the UK, how much time has been spent in the UK in the two previous tax years and whether the individual spends more days in the UK than in any other country.

The number of factors present will set the limit on the maximum number of days a person may spend in the UK in a particular tax year. For example, if someone has four or more of the factors present in the year, the maximum number of days they can spend in the UK is 44. If they have three or more factors, the maximum number of days is 89 and so on.

On the face of it, the proposed rules seem basically unchanged for those leaving the UK for full-time overseas employment, save a complication if they work for more than 20 days in the UK per tax year. This will be a great relief to many thousands of expatriates.

However, anyone leaving the UK for any other reason, for example through retirement or change of lifestyle, they may find the rules restrictive and an exit from the UK would need to be planned very carefully.

For example, in certain circumstances leaving the UK for anything less than full-time overseas employment and spending more than 10 days in the UK in the year of departure, will still mean ensuring resident status in the UK for tax purposes for that year. As a result, the timing of a departure from the UK is likely to become more important.

Part 2, next month

Please contact me on 07957360349 or mike@maypolefs.co.uk if you require clarification on the above

Always make sure that your advisor in the UK or Spain is regulated by the FSA to provide advice.

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Do you enjoy walking?

If you do, then visit the website www.topwalks.net/en/index.htm & there is also a hiking group in Torrevieja called Amigos Senderistas de Torrevieja. As a guide, in April they had a 16.8km easy walk - about four hours around the salt lake park. Anybody interested in joining their walks should email amigos-senderistas@torrevieja.com

The **chemists/pharmacists** in Los Balcones are now open seven days a week, **365 days** a year from 9am to 9pm.

'Red Days' or 'National Fiestas': The remaining 'Red Days' are August 15, October 12, November 1, December 6 and 8.

Speed Limit: The maximum speed limit on Spanish motorways returns to 120km/h on July 1, 2011 - today!
Diabetic? A support group meets on the last Wednesday of every month at 11am at Hoggies Bar in San Luis.

Stolen: African Grey Parrot, answers to name of Tetley. Substantial reward for safe return. Call Jeanette on 634 052 304 or Paul on 696 908 237

Grandparents

-A Jewish grandmother is watching her grandchild playing on the beach when a huge wave comes and takes him out to sea. She pleads: 'Please God, save my only grandson. I beg of you, bring him back.'

Just then a big wave comes and washes the boy back on the beach, good as new. She looks up to heaven and says: 'He had a hat!'

-You should have met my granny. A marvellous woman. She lived on tinned salmon, snuff and porter and never got out of bed except for funerals.

-Brendan Behan

-Grandchildren can be annoying. How many times can you go, 'And the cow goes moo and the pig goes oink?' It's like talking to a supermodel.

-Joan Rivers

-Granddad, why are you sitting in the garden with no trousers on?

Well, last week I sat out here with no shirt on and I got a stiff neck. This is your Grandma's idea.

-My parents used to send me to spend summers with my grandparents. I hate cemeteries!

-Chris Fonseca

-I played with my grandfather a lot when I was a kid. He was dead, but my parents had him cremated and put his ashes in my Etch-a-Sketch.

-Alan Hawey

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