

THE DREAM SCENE

Newsletter

Issue no. 54 1st of August 2011

Bienvenido a todos.

Our sincerest condolences to our Norwegian readers and neighbours on the tragic events in Norway.

The weather has been beautiful to date, although too hot for some. As the holiday makers arrive, many expats return to cooler climes in Northern Europe. July 17th was a particularly hot day with 90% humidity and warm winds from the Sahara seeing temperatures of 39.3° in PAGO and El crevillentina Realengo, with 41.3° at Carcaixent (Valencia) and 35° on the coast. I wonder if the temperature records in our area will be broken in August?

The hot weather often tends to lead to short tempers in some locally. To date it has been a small handful of extremely bad-mannered Spanish, stirred-up by a known 'jerk' in the urbanisation, to rant and rave about nonsensical issues. These are just some of the *Madridleños* who arrive for a month and like most empty vessels, make much noise, particularly about the number of non Spanish and non Spanish activities at La Casita. If these *Madridleños* would pick-up their dog poo and litter, it would be a vast improvement. The resident Spanish and the resident non Spanish get on very well, and the friendliness and cooperation within this urbanisation is admirable.

Much has been happening here on the political front. A early general election has been called for this November instead of March next year. This may herald a change of national government here as the regional and local elections in May indicated that the ruling Socialist Party, the PSOE, would be replaced, even in some of their strongholds. The President of Valencia Region has resigned the presidency - see page 2 - and finally, after two months of 'wandering in the dark,' our local council, Orihuela, have got their act together at last and named a ruling council, see page 13.

Some new ads in the newsletter this month while some others have dropped off. I think we are at the maximum number of adverts now - not that there isn't room for more - but the compilation and chasing-up of the adverts appears to be taking up an ever increasing amount of time. Of course if you are now reading a free copy of The Dream Scene, it is because the businesses have paid for it.

The Phoenix is holding a Charity Day on August 28 for the Jersey charity 'Hope for John.' The purpose is to raise funds for research into a deadly and rare disease called 'Lafora' which effects around 200 children worldwide. Please give generously.

Most of the supermarkets are now open on Sundays for August and September, but some may have shorter hours. Both Carrefours in our area are now open seven days a week from 9am until midnight, in August and September.

Great to see Geoff Fisher back in Dream Hills after his successful triple bypass and valve op in Elche.

Hoping you are all keeping well. Mick & Tid

€50 Reward

...for the name of the person who ran over my Burmese cat and left him on the road on the morning of the 29th of July, between Dream Hills and Residencial Inspiracion.

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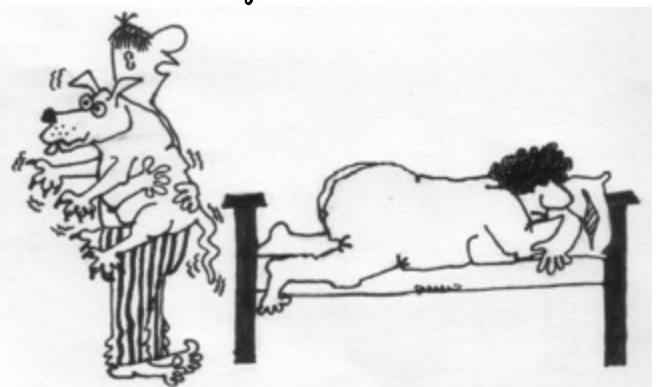
Tel: Sue 965 319 812 or 699 046 154

www.dreamhills2holidayrentals.com

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Angela's Cartoon



'If you must sleep nude, lock the dog in the bathroom!'

What's Up?

Aside from the tragic events in Norway, it has been the Spanish economy and the resignation of the president of the Valencia Community (Generalitat) which has dominated the front pages here. Fear of contagion from the Greek crisis has pushed up the interest rate of Spanish bonds to around 6.35%. This means that the Spanish government are now paying a risk premium of 3.7% above the rate payable by Germany, making the national debt very expensive to finance.

After a two-year investigation and preliminary hearings, a court has decided that there is enough evidence to try the Valencian premier, Francisco Camps, in "la causa de los trajes," roughly translated as "Suit Gate." Camps, who is also head of the regional branch of the Popular Party (PP), is accused of accepting expensive articles of clothing worth over 14,000 euros from a corrupt business network that operated nationwide and bribed numerous PP officials in exchange for government contracts. The Valencian High Court initially closed the case for lack of evidence but the Supreme Court later decided to reopen it. According to the anti-corruption attorney's office, between late 2005 and 2008 Camps accepted 12 tailored suits, four jackets, five pairs of shoes and four ties worth over 14,000 euros. The attorney considers that Camps accepted bribes and calls on him to pay a fine of 41,250 euros. Camps has now resigned and will fight the case in court. He could have paid the fine and avoid sitting on the accused bench but that would have meant accepting a guilty verdict. Camps's successor is Alberto Fabra. He is a cool, calm individual, and is not known for any scandal in his career - a notable achievement for a Spanish politician. But his 'inheritance' is problematic. Millions of euros are owed by the region to suppliers, together with around €53 billion to the banks, the opposition alleges.

IKEA has announced it is to delay the opening of ten stores in Spain because of the 'excessive regulation' here. 20,000 jobs would have been created in the new stores, but the company Chairman of the Swedish Multinational, Mikael Ohlsson, told The Wall Street Journal that 'it will have to wait five years'.

In a superb example of 'shutting the stable door after the horse has bolted' the Spanish government has approached the Romanian authorities with a view to reintroducing work permits for immigrant Romanians. Spain lifted the restrictions on the free movement of workers from Romania and Bulgaria in 2009. Romanians are the largest non-Spanish ethnic group in Spain. Regrettably, too many are often associated with organised criminal gangs and forged documentation, with many criminals 're-inventing' themselves when they arrive in Spain.

The Mayor of the Catalan town of Salt, has proposed setting a quota on the number of immigrants living in the town. The mayor has stated that its main purpose is to correct the 'make-up' in their city, which has 31,000 inhabitants and an immigrant population of 45%, a percentage that is considered too high. Feeling among the indigenous Spaniards in the area has been running very high after the murder of a Spanish youth by a Muslim.

There are 5.7 million foreign nationals resident in Spain, making up more than 12% of the population. Germany takes top position in the EU for foreign nationals in 2010 with 7.1 million, although the percentage of the country's total population is lower than in Spain, at 9%. British citizens made up almost 7% of Spain's foreign population in 2010. More than half the foreign nationals resident in Spain came from outside the European Union.

The Joint Committee established by Royal Decree, 'to take urgent action and repair the damage' caused by the earthquake in Lorca in May has received 14,192 applications under the decree for assistance. To date only 217 grants have been awarded, just 1.5% of the total applicants. So not too urgent obviously! More than one million euro has been paid-out to date. There are an additional 24,660 cases with the Insurance Compensation Consortium, who have to date 'addressed' almost half of these claims.

12 Spanish football clubs are to lose their place in the league and will be relegated because they have been unable to pay their players. They teams are Alicante, Castellón, Cultural y Deportiva Leonesa, Ejido, Palencia, Rayo Vallecano B and Universidad de Las Palmas GC, which now all fall to the Third Division. Benidorm, Cerro Reyes, Unión Estepona, Jumilla and La Muela fall even further from the third and lose the category of being in the national league, and return to their regional competitions. This is a because of the General Rules of the Spanish Football Federation. It's a clear indication of the economic problems experienced in the lower divisions of Spanish football.

Telefónica will probably freeze its basic landline rental charge in 2012. It will remain at 13,97 € plus IVA/VAT in 2012. It will be the fourth consecutive year not to see an increase. Unfortunately, their ADSL service is still among the most expensive in Europe with users leaving the service at a rate of in excess of 20,000 per month.

Quickies: The price of produce in the shops is currently six times that at the farm gate.

Cataluña are to close 25% of the region's hospital beds - 1,000 - until October to save money.

During the peak summer season, the emergency unit of Torrevieja Hospital handles an average of 226 referrals daily.

The builder and former president of FC Barcelona - José Luis Núñez Clemente - and his son, have been sentenced to six years in prison and a fine of two million euros each for bribery and other offences. The Head of Inspectorate of Finance in Catalonia who assisted them in the 'jiggerypookery', received a sentence of 13 years. Six others were also jailed.

The EU is to pay Spain €71million to compensate farmers for the E.Coli cucumber scare. I wonder how much the politicians will sieve-off before it gets to the farmers.

As anticipated, PM Zapatero has announced an early general election for November 20, this year.

The Spanish State has collected 1.65 billion € in the latest auction of mobile phone frequencies. The amount is higher than their reserve, but short of the 2 billion set as an objective.

Overhear on the bus to Playa Flamenca last week.

'My Bert tried to put the magic back into our love life last night.'

'Really?'

'Yeah, but his wand wasn't up to it.'

The newspaper El Mundo reports that a divorced woman has won a settlement of €108,000 for dedicating 16 years to looking after the home. The Supreme Court says that housewives will have to be compensated now if they divorce.

Imagine what a nightmare the following must have been. Last year, José Vincent Piera Ripoll, a homeopathic doctor from Gandia, Valencia, was arrested in Spain on a warrant issued by the Italian courts. He was extradited from Spain and sentenced to 15 years in prison in Italy for drug trafficking. José Vincent always denied the charges. While in a jail in Opera in the north of Italy, he met a prisoner who admitted that he had stolen the Spaniard's passport from his consulting rooms and sold it on to a Columbian drug trafficker. Poor José was confused with the Colombian drug trafficker who was using his passport. A court in Milan ruled in July that the doctor was wrongly imprisoned in a case of mistaken identity and received compensation of €85,000 for the eight months he spent in jail. If you saw this in a movie you would believe it was implausible in this day and age!

The prosecution service in Málaga is studying a possible case of medical negligence in the case of a woman who decided to undergo breast lift surgery after giving birth but, when the dressings were removed, discovered she had had breast implants. She consulted a surgeon after the wounds became infected and it was then clear that that the private clinic which had performed the operation had hollowed out both her breasts and inserted implants. She has had to have the implants changed on five occasions since the initial operation. The Patients Ombudsman has described the surgery as 'savage'.

A 29 year old man from Cataluña has been sentenced to four years in prison for causing serious injury to a police officer during streets riots in the Ardoyne district of Belfast in July 2010. Roger Jorro Costa is a politics and journalism resident in Belfast and was originally charged with attempted murder, but the charge was dropped after he pleaded guilty to taking part in street violence. He admitted to throwing a concrete block during the disturbances on July 12 last year, causing head injuries to the policewoman who was hit. The judge also ruled that he could not impose a sentence which would allow the Catalan to return to his home country in the near future, as he 'still owes a debt to our society'.

Four Moroccan children have been intercepted by the Spanish authorities in the Strait south west of Tarifa on board an inflatable toy boat. The boat was spotted by a Navy frigate who they alerted the coastguard.

In the early afternoon of Saturday July 2, a 25-year-old man set fire to the mattress in his bedroom in a second floor flat in Torrevieja. He then closed the bedroom door and telephoned the emergency services. A dozen residents had to be evacuated from the other flats while the fire department dealt with the blaze. When the police arrested the man and asked why he did it, he stated it was just 'to get attention!' Hopefully he is now enjoying the undivided attention he is getting from 23-stone gay Juan, with whom he is sharing a cell.

It seems that Spaniards are defrauding insurance companies to the tune of €780 million a year through car insurance. The number of cases of fraud has jumped up 30% over the last year, which Línea Directa puts down to the recession and unemployment. Nearly 23,000 fraudulent claims were found over the past two years.

You may recall that a number of doors to post boxes in Dream Hills and other urbanisations were stolen by scrap-metal dealers last year. A man was arrested in Teulada, Alicante, last week after he was caught red handed trying to dismantle two disused railway bridges to sell them on for scrap. Each of the iron bridges weighs more than 30 tons. The suspect was at the site on a private property in early July near the N-332, leading a team of workmen with two lorries and a crane, when he was arrested by the Civil Guard for attempted theft. Officers had previously checked with the land owner that no-one had been authorised to carry out the work. An accomplice was arrested two days later for falsifying the documentation which had been presented to a dealer to scrap the 60 tons of metal. The Civil Guard said in a press release on Monday that the two men had sold through their business almost 80 tons of scrap iron within the past month, which had been stolen in two robberies in Benidorm. They are also charged with the theft of a crane and six tons of construction material.

33-year-old David Rivas from Madrid became the first European to be allowed to drive with his feet when he passed his driving test in July. He was born with no right arm and a very small and weak left arm, and has been attending a driving school which has adapted vehicles which are steered by a lever instead of a steering wheel. David is able to steer with his left foot, and brake and accelerate with his right. He failed his first practical exam earlier last month after failing to stop at a give-way junction, but passed a week later on what is described as 'a very demanding route' which took him through the city centre of Bilbao.

In sharp contrast to the above, the 'Idiot of the Month Award' goes to the Spanish gentleman who walked into a branch of Unicaja in Málaga City and held the cashier at gunpoint and demanded €120. He then told the cashier that he would be waiting for the police in a nearby bar. The police arrived within a few minutes and 'Billy the Kid' informed them that he robbed the money to pay his bar bill of €120 there.

The Alicante town of Algueña experienced a minor earthquake, 3.8 on the Richter scale, in early July. Nothing was felt in our area, although the earth did move for Mrs. Hetty Haddock of 902 Dream Hills after her husband, Chief Petty Officer Harry Haddock, returned from a six-month-long naval tour of the Gulf; the second thing he did was to drop his suitcase!

Picked up this beautiful lady in the pub last night. Told her I was going to make passionate love to her in the living room, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. She was very keen and said "Wow! You must have incredible stamina!" She seemed quite disappointed when we got back to my caravan.

Good News!

4 Although I often report on the less savoury shenanigans in Spain - mainly because they are more interesting, I would hate you to get the impression that we are living in a country swamped with turmoil, corruption and bureaucratic nightmares. It is certainly not the case. Spain is an intriguing and fascinating country which rewards those who are prepared to enjoy the differences and get 'stuck in!' So, as an antidote to bad news, here is a full page to help counteract news of 'dodgy' politicians, recessions and the latest tragic news from Norway.

An attractive red-headed 48-year-old Dutch woman, Mary Anne Goosens, went rambling in the mountains behind Nerja in Andalucia last month and fell into a gully. Although unhurt, she was unable to climb out. Here she remained trapped for 18 days and nights at an altitude of 1,500m, suffering high temperatures during the day, and because of the altitude, freezing temperatures at night. She protected herself from the cold at night by putting leaves and grasses inside her clothes. Fortunately there were two small waterfalls in the gully which provided plenty of water. She contemplated eating ants but could not bring herself to do so. Three students from Malaga who were walking in the area - and who were unaware that a person was missing - heard her cries at around 8pm one evening. They were unable to reach her but left her with a blanket and a sleeping bag, together with a chorizo roll; but it was not until the following morning at around 8am that they found mobile phone coverage and were able to alert the authorities. A Guardia Civil helicopter from Granada was scrambled and easily found the spot thanks to the students' clear directions. The Guardias reported they had to drill two anchor points in the rock in order to gain access to where she was, but amazingly despite being disorientated Mary-Anne (see right) still found the energy to walk, helped by the agents. After a check-up at the hospital, Mary Anne was released having no more than slight sunburn and scratches to her feet.



With the corruption, inefficiency and general 'cackhandedness' that one encounters in Spain, one must not lose sight of the other side of Spain, where dedicated professionals continue to push the boundaries of human achievement and scientific endeavour, often in the field of medicine. A medical team led by the noted surgeon Pedro Cavadas (see left) has carried out the world's first double leg transplant, in an operation at Valencia's La Fe Hospital. This was authorised by Spain's transplant commission last year. The patient is a young man who lost both his legs above the knee and is unable to use prostheses. The operation, which began on Sunday night July 10, and concluded on Monday July 11, was the only alternative to his spending the rest of his life in a wheelchair. This surgeon carried out Spain's first face transplant in 2009. During one of his earlier pioneering operations, he kept a patient's severed leg alive by temporarily implanting it on his other leg, first at the groin and then at the ankle, before it was reattached permanently in the final natural position.

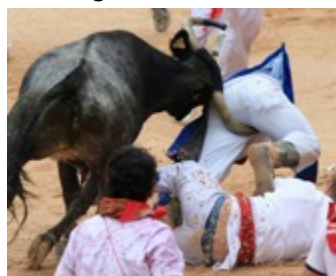


Read more here in Spanish -<http://www.elmundo.es/elmundosalud/2011/07/11/noticias/1310379298.html>

After two decades of legal battles, the family of Antonio Meño, the Madrid man who fell into a coma 22 years ago due to medical negligence following a rhinoplasty procedure, stands to receive 1.075 million euros after reaching an out-of-court settlement with six insurance companies, lawyers announced on Thursday. It was a bittersweet victory for the Meño family, which has been dealt a series of legal blows during their quest to seek indemnity for their son.

Meño, then a 21-year-old law student, fell into a coma in 1989 following cosmetic nose surgery at the Nuestra Señora de América clinic. The family has always blamed the anaesthetist who was on duty at the time. The family, together with Antonio, camped outside the justice ministry for 16 months to publicise their plight. (See photo on right.)

Last year, after a series of legal setbacks for the Meños, Ignacio Frade, a trainee doctor at the time, came forward to testify that the patient had breathing difficulties before the operation. When he was taken into surgery, Frade said that the anaesthetist noticed that a breathing tube had been dislodged. The hospital, however, had long claimed that Meños choked on his own vomit after the procedure. In 1993, the anaesthetist was found guilty of negligence but five years later the conviction was reversed by a higher court. The family appealed the decision but in 2008 the Supreme Court upheld the acquittal and ordered the Meños to pay 400,000 euros to the anaesthetist to cover his legal fees. The family had to sell their home to meet these costs. Last November, the top court reversed its decision and ordered the case reopened when the new witness came forward. It was then that the clinic and the Meño family decided to reach an out-of-court settlement. The family had hoped for €1.7 million, but are now frankly worn-out from their ordeal to pursue their claim for a higher award.



Ouch! Now that looks painful! The San Fermin Bull Run took place in Pamplona in July. Although several of the runners were gored, there were thankfully, no fatalities. It was Hemingway who made the Pamplona Bull Run famous, although he himself never managed to take part in the run. However this year his grandson 'did the run'. So why is the 'bull run' in the 'Good News' page? Well, the Spanish press reported that this year, among those gored was a Frenchman AND an Australian! What joy! This leads me to believe that God must live permanently in Pamplona. If that is not cause for a celebratory libation, what is?

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Via Park V

Would you like your property deed in English?

If you are a property owner in Spain or just a prospective buyer, you can now request online a copy of the Land Registry certificate (a *nota simple*) of a property in both Spanish and English from the Colegio de Registradores (College of Registrars). The certificate, including the translation fee, costs €29 (plus 18% IVA) and can be requested from the Colegio de Registradores website at <https://buyingahouse.registradores.org>

After filling in and submitting a simple online Information Request form, a dedicated support team will assess the request and forward it to the correct Land Registry Office. From here an ordinary Information Extract will be issued within hours of receiving the request. This Extract will be then passed on to a team of skilled translators who will translate (usually within two working days) the Extract into English. In case of discrepancies regarding the translation, the Spanish version of the Extract will stand.

The *nota simple* contains a lot of information on the property, together with any charges, embargoes etc; one will also be able to see whether there are or have been any legal proceedings against the property, such as proceedings which may result in fines or demolition. It will now be obligatory for town halls to provide registrars with this information. If town halls fail to provide this information, they will be held responsible for economic damages affecting third parties who bought in good faith.

The website mentioned above is in English and is easy to navigate. I am not sure if the service is available in other languages as well but I can't see why not. The new service is part of a late but still very welcome range of new services and laws introduced in a decree by the government to protect both property purchasers and home owners. The decree states that it is not possible to register a new property on the Land Registry unless it has a licence of first occupation, a construction licence and a technical certificate which states that the property corresponds to the plans for which the licence was granted.

The full decree, all 39 pages in Spanish, can be read in PDF here, if you have the stomach for it -

<http://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2011/07/07/pdfs/BOE-A-2011-11641.pdf>

Quick Fire!

Yoko Ono has been signed up for the next series of 'I'm a Celebrity! Get me out of here!' Show bosses think she will do really well since she's been living off a dead Beatle for the last thirty years.

I got sacked last night from the Salvation Army soup kitchen, ungrateful bleeders, all I said was, 'Hurry-up for f**ks sake, some of us have got homes to go to!'

My granddad always used to tell me that it's not the winning, it's the taking part. But then again, he is German.

Got myself a new Jack Russell puppy, he's mainly black and brown with a small white patch, so I've named him Birmingham.

Split up with my wife last night. She said I think about football more than I think about her.

I was devastated; I've been with her for 6 seasons.

I was sat in a restaurant and got hit on the back of the head by a prawn cocktail. I looked round and this bloke shouts, 'That's just for starters!'

My next door neighbour knocked on my door at 2:30am this morning. Can you believe it? 2:30am!

Luckily for him I was still playing my drums!

Experts have spent years developing weapons which can destroy people's lives but leave buildings intact. They're called mortgages.

(Jeremy Hardy)

(Peter Fraser)

PHOENIX GOLF SOCIETY

After a late start due to the inability of our transport manager to find the course, and on a hot day the results were as follows -

Overall winner of the Phoenix Trophy was Rob Hughes who also was nearest the pin on the twelfth.

Gold category went to Tim Ryan with the silver taken by Graham Mitchell.

Bronze went to Ron Smith and the best guest was Stewart Colman who must have been keen as mustard.

Other nearest the pins went to Dave(handicap) Everson, Mike (Amigo4golf) Carroll and vice captain Pete Brain.

In my absence the Must Try Harder award was keenly fought between Jim Waddell and Les Roundthwaite with Jim still polishing the trophy.

Details of the society are to be found in the Phoenix Bar in Via Park 5, Dream Hills.



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VIA PARK V**



Hot Dog!

Two Irish nuns had just arrived in USA by boat, and one says to the other, "I hear that the people in this country actually eat dogs."

"How odd?" her companion replies, "but as we now live in America, we might as well do as the Americans do."

As they sit, they hear a pushcart vendor yelling, "Hot Dogs, get your dogs here," so they both walk towards the cart.

"Two dogs, please!" says one. The vendor is happy to oblige and wraps both hot-dogs in foil and hands them over. Excited, the nuns hurry to a bench and begin to unwrap their 'snacks.'

The oldest nun is the first to open hers. She begins to blush, and then staring at it for a moment, leans to the other nun and whispers..... "What part did you get?"

(Simon Kennefick)

What have the Spanish banks been up to?

CAM Bank - Caja Mediterraneo - has now been taken over by the Spanish central bank, the Bank of Spain. The board have been sacked and the Bank of Spain will be injecting €3 billion into the ailing bank with another €2.8 billion available. The bank is now state owned but they hope to sell it off later this year or next. All deposits in Spanish banks are guaranteed up to €100,000 each. The newspaper, El País, reports that the savings bank gave cheap loans of €161 million to its board, between 2004 and 2010, some of them setting up lucrative businesses. Since that report was published it has been revealed that some of the rates charged were just 2.5% p.a., with some loans at 0% interest! The central bank now plans to increase these interest rates. Its Director General, Roberto López Abad, was paid €3.8 million on retirement (Failure at Spanish banking obviously carries rewards) and the bank has spent €18 million on new headquarters 100 metres from the current building. The Bank of Spain has now banned the ex Chairman of the CAM, Modesto Crespo, from entering the headquarters and plans to sack a further 853 bank clerks in August. Hopefully they will also pursue the sacked directors for negligence. It is now alleged that some directors received substantial attendance payments for fictional meetings. Another question that might be asked is why the savings bank, just two days before the Bank of Spain took it over, gave a loan of €200 million to the Valencian government (Generalitat). As mentioned in a previous issue, the savings banks were often used as political tools being under the control of regional politicians. Hopefully this will soon cease with the remaining banks becoming public companies or being taken over by the large banks. Allowing politicians to 'dip in the honey pot' is just asking for trouble. The Bank of Spain has today, July 29, ordered a new audit of CAM. Expect more surprises.

Banks in Spain have claimed that if returning the keys was able to clear the owners liability of mortgage debt in Spain, the amount of bad debt would increase by 8%. The Spanish Banking Association state that accepting the keys back would generate the banks losses of €4 billion. They claim that means they would have to put up the cost of an average mortgage by between 60 and 150 € a month. 'It would provoke a new wave of mortgage failures for the banks and savings banks', they said. About 300,000 property embargoes have been carried out in Spain since the start of the recession. Despite this, Bankinter has launched a new mortgage where, in the case of default, returning the keys would clear the debt. The bank is offering 80% finance over 40 years. The product is called *Hipoteca sin más* (Mortgage no more!) with interest during the first year at just 4%.

But it is not all bad news with the Spanish banks. Santander has announced it is to suspend the mortgage payments from clients who have suffered a loss of income or become unemployed. Individuals or the self-employed who find themselves out of work or who have lost 25% of their income will be given three years grace. The measure was announced by the CEO, Alfredo Sáenz, who said the scheme comes into effect in August. The bank has also announced 5,000 places for university students seeking work experience.



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Sexagenarian Socialist Senator in Sordid Sauna Scene

Pardon the excessive alliteration above, but with the 'News of the World' now gone I just couldn't resist it.

Police arrested Senator Casimiro Curbelo, 60, and his 26-year-old son Casimiro Adys Curbelo Montañés, after they allegedly threatened and punched two officers who tried to intervene early one morning during a scuffle at a sauna*.

"I want to see you all die of cancer and with my own eyes see how your children-of-whores also die," the senator reportedly told them, according to a police report. "I am a senator and I am going after you one by one. Your careers are finished." During the altercation, one of the suspects tore an officer's shirt. The father and son were charged with assaulting police officers before and after their arrests.

According to the report, the incident began at 4.30am one Thursday morning when Curbelo, his son and another man were inside the Gola sauna near the Santiago Bernabéu stadium in Madrid. (Same old game but different balls, I suppose!) The manager noted that the two were very drunk and began to harass the girls working at the bar. When he asked them to leave, they refused, so he called the police and the scuffle began.

The senator has since resigned before his political party kicked him out.

*The Spanish press used the term 'sauna' but I prefer the correct English technical term - 'wanking-parlour.'

Spanish Official Translator



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In England, an elevator is called a lift, a mile is called a kilometre (?), and botulism is called a steak and kidney pie.

Greg Daniels

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A woman said to her husband. "Go into the garden and cut me a nice cabbage for our roast lunch". He was gone some time and she found he had died of a heart attack.

She was relating this to a friend some time later and the friend asked, "Good Heavens, what did you do?"

"I had to open a tin of peas" replied the widow.

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Out & About

After several 'groundhog days' it is great to see that J.J. and Rob are now running Belushi's Bar & Grill on their own. The air conditioned bar is very well stocked; delicious food is also now available and a range of activities are being planned. Do pop in and say 'hello!'

Down at Cabo Roig, opposite the (disappointing) Yaho Chinese restaurant, is the new *Asador Don Mariano*. This is a truly Spanish restaurant with hams hanging from the ceiling, noisy, no toilet paper etc - no, just joking! A coffee here cost just €1 and a large beer €2.50. The real value in the drinks is the Irish Coffee at just €2! I tried one and it had a reasonable shot of whiskey - probably that second rated Scottish stuff! *Asador* means 'spit' as in 'spit-roast.' The menu is typically Spanish with two high profile dishes; one a large plate of mixed grilled fish for two; the other a large cut of beef for two; both priced around €28 for two. The *bocadillos* there seem to be very good value with prices ranging from €2 each.

Hisumer, a liquor distributor which is based in Orihuela, is hold cocktail demonstrations outside the Supercor supermarket at the La Mosca Centre. These are held on Fridays and Saturdays from 12 noon to 15:00 and again from 18:00 to 21:00, throughout July and August. No doubt there will be freebies.

From July 1 to September 15, the local police will be enforcing the laws relating to where dogs are allowed to go. Under no circumstances are dogs allowed on any beaches and they must be on leashes at all times when outside your home. Dog owners are also reminded to pick up their dog excrement. Local police will be watching beaches, parks and other public areas where dogs are not allowed. Dog owners will first receive a warning from the police, but if they are caught again they will be fined. The fines start at €30 and can reach €3,000 for a serious offence. Personally, I cannot see the police enforcing these rules unless of course they have a lot of time on their hands. Also the fact that a warning is issued first makes it highly unlikely that the police will wait for another time to catch the culprit. Many laws in Spain are 'on the books' but not enforced.

A Deal with the Devil.

A golfer is in a competitive match with a friend, who is ahead by a couple of strokes. "Boy, I'd give anything to sink this putt," the golfer mumbles to himself.

Just then, a stranger walks up beside him and whispers, "Would you be willing to give up a quarter of your sex life?"

Thinking the man is crazy and his answer will be meaningless, the golfer also feels that maybe this is a good omen so he says, "Sure," and sinks the putt.

Two holes later, he mumbles to himself again, "Gee, I sure would like to get an 'eagle' on this one."

The same stranger is at his side again and whispers, "Would it be worth giving up another quarter of your sex life?" Shrugging, the golfer replies, "Okay." And he makes an 'eagle.'

On the final hole, the golfer needs another eagle to win. Without waiting for him to say anything, the stranger quickly moves to his side and says, "Would winning this match be worth giving up the rest of your sex life?"

"Definitely," the golfer replies, and he makes the 'eagle.'

As the golfer is walking to the club house, the stranger walks alongside him and says, "I haven't really been straight with you because you don't know who I am. I'm the Devil, and from this day forward you will have no sex life."

"Nice to meet you," the golfer replies, "I'm Father O'Malley."
(Pete Dudman)

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A Hot Number!

I booked into a hotel on a business trip and thought I'd get the best out of it, so I decided to call one of those girls you see advertising in phone booths. I grabbed one of the cards. It was an ad for a girl calling herself 'Erotica Erica,' a beautiful, golden-haired Scandinavian minx with long legs, all the way up to 'the promised land.'

So, when I got up to my hotel room I decided to give her a call. 'Hello?' the woman answered in a sexy honeyed voice.

'Hi,' I said. 'I hear you give a great massage and I'd like you to come to my room and give me one. No, wait, I have to be straight with you. I'm in town all alone and what I really want is sex. I want it hard, I want it hot, and I want it now. I'm talking kinky the whole night long. You name it, we'll do it. I am going to cover you with chocolate syrup and whipped cream and lick it all off.

Now, how does that sound to you?' She replied, "That sounds fantastic, but for an outside line you need to press 9."



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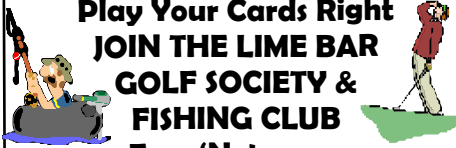
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Rolls In, Rolls In, My God How the Money Rolls In!

The above line from the bawdy rugby song came to mind when I read about the latest escapades at the **Sociedad General de Autores y Editores, SGAE**, one of the most unpopular organisations in Spain and one of my pet-hates. They are the main collecting society for songwriters, composers and music publishers in Spain. I have often commented in the past on the heavy-handed and aggressive methods of this organisation, the Spanish equivalent of the British Performing Rights Society.

Back in 2007, the society's main opponent - the Spanish Internet User's Association - took out a *denuncia* against the SGAE, accusing the directors of the SGAE of unjust enrichment and the crimes of misappropriation, fraud, and fraud in grants. The police eventually took an interest in the society and after a two-year-investigation arrested eight members of the organisation on July 1, 2011, together with the president of the SGAE, Teddy Bautista, on charges of fraud and corruption. To date the investigation has revealed that a number of 'parasite' companies, with a parallel business structure, were allegedly set up by the accused, who then diverted funds from the SGAE to these companies. One of the accused, J.L. Rodríguez Neri, has increased his personal assets with apartments and properties and received more than three million € from these 'opaque' companies. One lawyer has commented that €400 million (seems a bit high to me!) has vanished from the SGAE and the Ministry for Culture has simply looked the other way! A newspaper commented that the Ministry of Culture was warned 18 months ago about the diversion of funds at the SGAE.

It has been revealed that the deputies in the **Madrid regional parliament** are not declaring 20% of their wages for tax, considering them as 'travel expenses'. This is happening despite the deputies being given 3,000 € for taxis and a transport season ticket. The chamber spends at least 390,000 € a year on taxis. The minimum wage for the 129 deputies in the Madrid parliament is 49,042 € gross a year. Note that the deputies are not required to pay the workers' quota for the Spanish Social Security which is paid for them by the Assembly. And the gravy train rolls on!

Christine Lagarde, is now the boss at the **International Monetary Fund**. She will be paid €381,000 a year, and will put emphasis on appropriate conduct after the Strauss-Kahn scandal in New York. Público printed the story, highlighting that Lagarde takes up her post being paid 11% more than her predecessor. It says she will get €324,000 free of tax. In addition she will be paid €58,000€ a year for non justified costs, travel for her husband will be paid for when his presence is convenient; she will be reimbursed reasonable leisure costs when related to IMF activity; she also gets a pension plan and her wage will rise in line with the IPC with no link to productivity. Then the paper notes that she is demanding 'Ethics, integrity, discretion and effort'. The IMF has now asked Spain to raise IVA rates and reduce public workers salaries.



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In the event of bankruptcy, up to what amount do Spanish banks guarantee deposits? In the wake of Lehman's financial meltdown, which threatened contagion to the entire financial system, the Bank of Spain raised in 2008 the protected amount to €100,000 per account holder. The ensuing widespread fear brought the spectacle of fellow European countries frantically raising national deposit guarantees in a clumsy competition to attract each other's savings' deposits. This unleashed an undeclared war of liquidity as was the case of Britain and Ireland, with British citizens flocking frantically to Irish banks as its Government had raised unexpectedly, amid growing public concern on the state of its banks, the safeguarded deposit limit to well above that of its UK counterpart.

Subsequently the EU, to thwart this budding deposit dickering, put an end to it by adopting the €100,000 cap as standard for all EU banks. This ensured that 95% of all deposits were now safeguarded under the protection of national deposit-guarantee schemes.

Any money you have exceeding said amount, will be forfeited in the event of your lender's insolvency. Which is why, following the saying, you should not put all your eggs in the same basket. I would advise, depending on your wealth, to spread your risk opening accounts in different banks with a capped amount of 100k in each account. Just to be on the safe side. I'd rather err in the safe side than being overconfident in the wrong side, wouldn't you agree? Better safe than sorry.

In Spain, there are three Public institutions tasked with guaranteeing saver's deposits. The FGDEB oversees banks, the FGCDA savings banks and finally the FGDCC guarantees deposits at Credit Unions.

Spain's weakest financial link is deemed to be its regional Savings Banks (Cajas de Ahorros, in Spanish) which have invested heavily in the real estate sector. For this reason, the FGCDA has been allocated with the highest amount of –tax payer's- funds in view of unexpected losses, or maybe not. The FGDEB comes close in second place with slightly over 3 billion euros (as of 2009) in provisioned funds.

Notwithstanding the above, the Bank of Spain, on the wake of EU and IMF recommendations, has fostered Spanish Savings Banks into a frenzy of merging and acquisitions with the idea of propping up their beleaguered coffers. The theory behind this is to create huge supra regional financial institutions with a healthy balance sheet that are deemed too big to fail by the market. Sounds familiar? A prominent example of this ongoing process would be Bankia. I'll make a huge effort of self-restraint and bite my tongue –hard– so as not to make some witty criticism on the flawed logic behind this reasoning such as the ones we are regularly treated by the FT's Alphaville blog and which make for some enjoyable reading for their ever ingenious sarcasm.

This is part of an article by *Raymundo Larrain Nesbitt Lawyer – Abogado*, taken from the Spanish Property Insight website. If you would like to read the remainder of the article, go to <http://www.spanishpropertyinsight.com/buff/spain/faq/10-useful-tips-in-uncertain-financial-times/>

Farm Kid

A Missouri farmer in his pickup, drove to a neighbour's, and knocked at the door.

A boy, about 9, opened the door. "Is your Dad home?" "No sir, he isn't; he went to town."

"Well, is your Mother here?" "No sir, she went to town with Dad."

"How about your brother, Howard? Is he here?" "No sir, He went with Mom and Dad."

The rancher stood there for a few minutes, shifting from one foot to the other, and mumbling to himself.

"Is there anything I can do for you? I know where all the tools are, if you want to borrow one, or I can give dad a message." said the boy.

"Well," said the rancher uncomfortably, "I really wanted to talk to your Dad. It's about your brother Howard getting my daughter Suzie pregnant."

The boy thought for a moment. "You would have to talk to Dad about that. I know he charges \$500 for the bull and \$50 for the hog, but I don't know how much he charges for Howard."

(Pete Dudman)

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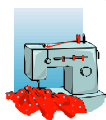


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Other News

A 32 year old British tourist, named with the initials G.S.O. was arrested in early July after climbing into the bed of a Spanish tourist couple in an apartment complex in Viver, Ibiza.

The man is reported to have been drunk, or on drugs at the time, and it is a mystery how he managed to gain access to the apartment complex without being seen by the security guards, as he was not even a guest there.

The first the Spanish couple heard about it was when they all woke up at the same time, when the British man started shouting swearing 'F***, F***'. The couple advised reception and the police arrested the man who spent Saturday night in the cells.

On Sunday he went before the court where the prosecutor said he wanted to demand a six month prison sentence and the payment of 1,000 € compensation for the couple. The prosecutor said that the man could avoid prison until the case comes to court, by paying the compensation to the couple.

Mind that tree!

We bought a Suzuki jeep and my wife turned it over. I asked, 'How did it happen?' She said, 'There was a pine tree, and I went to the left, and it swung to the left, I went to the right and it swung to the right.'

I said, 'It was the air-freshener, you twit!'

(Roy 'Chubby' Brown)

The History of Spain. Part 24. Carlos III, the enlightened despot.

As Ferdinand VI died in 1759 childless, his half-brother Charles came to the throne. Charles (Carlos), now Charles III, was an experienced ruler by the time he came to the Spanish throne and his credentials as a reformer were impressive. He had ruled as King of Naples and Sicily between 1734 and 1759. In 1738 he married the Princess Maria Amalia of Saxony. She gave birth to 13 children, eight of whom survived to adulthood. He was a proponent of enlightened absolutism or enlightened despotism. This was a form of absolute monarchy or despotism in which rulers embraced the principles of the Enlightenment, especially its emphasis upon rationality, and applied them to their territories. They tended to allow religious toleration, freedom of speech and the press, and the right to hold private property. Most fostered the arts, sciences, and education. He was a popular king among the Neapolitans, building an independent and sovereign kingdom and he was very supportive of the people's needs, regardless of class.

The problems Carlos had grappled and dealt with successfully in Italy, now awaited him in Spain, except on a much larger scale, together with the additional burden of a world empire now under pressure from the British. Spain still had a system of government which was inequitable and inefficient; a powerful clergy and nobility which challenged the authority of the monarchy, and a moribund economy in urgent need of revitalisation.

Carlos, (see right) started by introducing an able team of astute ministers, often Italians or Spanish francophiles. There followed a raft of reformist initiatives designed to boost royal revenues and authority. He was also determined to bring the powerful Spanish church to heel and to keep papal interference to a minimum. While in Italy he came into direct conflict with the Pope in Rome on a number of occasions and never backed down. Now in Spain, he brought the collection of the ecclesiastical tax under the control of the government; royal permission had to be granted before papal documents could be published in the kingdom and the ecclesiastical institutions were barred from acquiring further property. The powers of the Inquisition were also curbed (though it still remained active and vigilant) and the volume of cases it heard slowed to a trickle during the latter half of the eighteenth century.



In the centre of the country, the major force driving the economy was Madrid. Here was the home of the government and royal court, the wealthy absentee landlords and aristocrats and the still wealthy religious institutions. Unlike other major European cities it could not be supplied by water and an average of around 700 carts and 5,000 pack animals were needed daily to supply food and fuel to the city's 200,000 residents. As the roads in Spain were notorious and had outraged travellers for years, Charles now started on a program of 'enlightened' public works, which took precedent over church buildings for the first time. A new corps of road engineers began a road network shooting out of Madrid like spokes in a wheel. The great canal of Aragon was finally completed (after two hundred years) and a model port was built near the mouth of the Ebro. New agricultural colonies were established in the Sierra Moreno and Andalusia, 6,000 Bavarian immigrants being brought in to settle 13 new villages in the former, an area previously riddled with bandits. However, there was always virulent opposition by the landed interests to agrarian reform.

Carlos introduced the first census in Spain in 1768 (Britain's first was not until 1801) and a total of 10.2 million residents were recorded, a healthy increase after the decimation of the Habsburg years. Also in an effort to bolster the army, one man in five was obliged to spend an eight year stint in the service.

It was in the foreign policy area that Carlos, an anglophobe, choose to abandon the prudent policy of neutrality adopted by his half brother. In 1762 he decided to enter the war on the side of France against Britain. It was a disastrous decision as France was already on the brink of defeat and there was little that Spain could do to improve the situation. The British swiftly captured Havana and Manila, to the great embarrassment of Spain. When the conflict ended the following year with the Peace of Paris 1763, Spain had to surrender Florida and all the Spanish territories in America east of the Mississippi as well as commercial rights in the Honduras, to Britain. Spain however got Havana and Manila back and acquired Louisiana (a huge area encompassing modern day California) by way of compensation for her losses from France. However, the British still retained Gibraltar and Menorca.

The military defeat was soon followed by domestic upheaval, when a popular uprising broke out in Madrid in March 1766. During the four days of anarchy, the king was forced to flee the city. The Madrid riots were followed by disturbances in over 60 other Spanish cities and towns. There is some debate as to the cause of the uprising; whether it was caused by food shortages because of the disastrous harvest of 1765 after which the price of bread soared; or resentment at the taxes introduced to finance the recent war with Britain; or whether the nobles & clergy instigated and manipulated the riots as they saw their own wealth and position being eroded, no one is sure. Although nothing changed after the disturbances, a culprit or scapegoat was sought and suspicion soon rested on the Jesuit Order. A government document compiled condemned the 'spirit of fanaticism and sedition, falser doctrine and intolerable pride' of the Order, which was identified as 'an open faction which disturbed the state with interests directly opposed to public welfare'.

In February 1767, a royal edict was published which expelled the Jesuits from Spain and its territories overseas. Jesuit property was expropriated and Jesuit university chairs were abolished and attempts made to bring the universities under more governmental control and to encourage reform of university curricula. The banished priests and novices sailed out of Spain for Rome. But, in an ironical twist, the Jesuits - who took a vow to the Holy See - were forbidden by the Pope to land in Italy, with the papal troops threatening to open fire! Most of the Jesuits went to Corsica and then were allowed into Italy in later years.



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. This is the second part of a two part article. If you would like a copy of the whole article, please email me at mike@maypolefs.co.uk

UK Residency, Part 2.

Already non-resident?

For individuals already non-resident and who are not working full-time, advice will be needed as to the strength of connections to the UK, and the maximum amount of time that can be spent in the UK per annum. An annual review will almost certainly be required. Those who claim non-resident status whilst undertaking 'substantive' employment in the UK and who have other connecting factors are likely to be the most at risk of becoming resident.

The Government appears focused on applying new guidelines to those who are trying to claim non-resident status whilst everything in the way they live their life points in the opposite direction. Therefore, it is a question of how carefully expatriates plan their overseas lives.

For those British expatriates not working full-time abroad, whose main home may be in the UK, whose families continue to be in the UK, and who are keen to spend as much time as possible in the UK, the proposals are not much more concerning. And, for those who reside overseas with modest connections to the UK, the proposals look to be good news.

What is clear is that the final rules may potentially be rather different to what is in the consultation and so only time will tell just what British expatriates will have to face in terms of residence rules. Watch this space for updates.

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.

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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Grandma's Oranges

Lulu was a prostitute, but she didn't want her grandma to know.
One day, the police raided the brothel and took all the girls outside and made them line up.
Suddenly, Lulu's grandma came by.
Grandma asked, "Why are you standing in line here, dear?"
Not willing to let her grandma know the truth, Lulu told her that the police were passing out free oranges and she was just lining up for some.
"Why, that's awfully nice of them. I think I'll get some for myself,"
Grandma said, and she proceeded to the back of the line.
A policeman was going down the line getting details from all the prostitutes. When he got to grandma, he was bewildered and exclaimed, "Wow, still going at it at your age? How do you do it, old girl?"
Grandma replied, "Oh, it's easy, dear. I just take my dentures out, rip the skin back and suck 'em dry."
(Stefan Pokroppa)

Sound Off!

I said to my three-year-old son, "Now, what noise does a cat make?"
"Miaow!"
"Good, but do you know what noise a dog makes?"
"Woof woof!"
"That's right! Now tell me what noise a cow makes?"
"If you even think about going out to that bloody pub with your friends again, then you can forget about ever getting back into this house at all hours!"
That's my boy!

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Also for sale: 3 bedroom triplex with a huge front patio. Avnde Londres. Price 120,000 Euros. Both sold furnished, one with car. No agents or time-wasters.
Contact: slocombephil@hotmail.com

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Books

I gave my young nephew a book for Christmas, He's spent six months looking for where to put the batteries. (Milton Berle)

I know a guy who reads mystery novels backwards. He knows who did it, but he doesn't know what he did. (Sandy Sherwood)

A man came to my door and said, 'I'd like to read your gas meter.'
I said, 'Whatever happened to the classics?' (Emo Philips)

Paradise Lost is a book that, once put down, is very hard to pick up again. (Samuel Johnson)

I'm bringing out a book for the building trade called *The Dictionary of Ludicrous Quotations*. (Barry Cryer)

From the moment I picked up your book until I put it down I could not stop laughing. Someday I hope to read it. (Mark Twain)

Last time I went to Portugal I got through six Jeffrey Archer novels.
I must remember to take enough toilet paper next time. (Bob Monkhouse)

Many thanks for your book. I shall waste no time in reading it. (Benjamin Franklin)

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