

THE DREAM SCENE

Newsletter

Issue no. 55 1st of September 2011

Bienvenido a todos.

Well, August has been gloriously hot with daily temperatures peaking around 32 to 33°. However over last weekend we had our first decent rain shower in months, and almost on cue, temperatures eased by around 2 / 3°. But don't put your *thermals* on yet as there are some high temperatures predicted for the coming weeks. The high sea temperatures now being experienced should herald some *gota frias* later this year.

By any standards or measurements, the economy here continues to deteriorate. Unemployment is expected to be on the increase again and July saw a historic collapse of the mortgage market, with 42% fewer mortgage loans being granted than in the same month last year. What hope is there for the housing market in such an environment? Little I am afraid. See page 5 for more news on the property market.

The British Government is now concerned about the number of Spaniards who are signing onto the British Social Security system. Immigration to the U.K. from Spain has risen by 85% over the past twelve months to April, and now stands at nearly 25,000 people. It makes Spain the country which has produced the largest increase in immigration to the U.K., ahead of Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Lithuania and Ireland and this figure does not include the high number of Spanish students in the U.K., or temporary workers who are not registered at Social Security offices. Spain is now 6th on the list of immigrant workers in the U.K., a list led by Poland and India, followed by Pakistan, Lithuania and Latvia.

I have heard that a number of British and Irish businesses in the Cabo Roig area have been harassed by the police recently, whereas the Spanish businesses there have not. Prior to the local election, Pedro Mancebo, leader of the CLR/CLARO alliance campaigned that he would be good for the various business interests on the Costa and met several of the expat business owners. Now it seems that the police, instructed by the new councillors, are demanding payment to the council for chairs and tables on pavements etc, but only from the non-Spanish it seems.

Lots of people to thank this month; Dave Hope for organising a supply of emergency toner from the UK and Val & Ken from Residencial Inspiration for yet more donations towards printing costs. I would also like to thank H.F.S. of Calle la Rambla in Benjofar who, after an appeal from the Dream Scene, kindly resolved a situation relating to a purchase by a customer in Dream Hills. Many thanks Graham.

Many of you will be very sad to hear that Pauline Brookes (from the 500's) passed away in the U.K. on August 6 after a long illness. Our deepest condolences to Eric and family.

There have been a number of thefts from Dream Hills over the summer, the latest being a handbag snatch at the bottom of the urbanisation on August 29. Fortunately the ruckus brought all the neighbours out who descended on the villain, who dropped the handbag and drove off in what may have been a light blue Peugeot. 'Have-a-go' hero, John Breen, a sprightly and ruggedly handsome 55-ish resident, tried to give chase in his own vehicle but was hindered unfortunately by a four-wheel-drive vehicle. (John would like it to be known that he is now available for TV interviews, personal bodyguarding, motivational speeches and bar mitzvahs.)

All the best from Mick & Tid.

Note: Your I.B.I. Suma in Orihuela Costa (property tax) is payable on Sept. 12, 2011. The actual amount remains the same as last year.



Eco Build

Wall Insulation and Damp Proofing Specialists

REDUCE HEATING COSTS BY 45% !!!

Call Now 634 009 109

or email : ecobuildspain@gmail.com

Angela's Cartoon



"Just turn 'Big Brother' OFF for three minutes!!"

What's Up?

Pope Benedict XVI visited Madrid in mid-August. There were a number of demonstrations against the visit - some because of the expense and others because of ideological issues - but the authorities were determined that it would all go smoothly, which it did.

32.3 million foreign tourists have visited Spain over the first seven months of this year, 7.4% higher than for the same period last year. Information from a survey of tourist movements shows that almost 7.6 million of them came from the UK, accounting for an increase of 7.2%.

The Prime Minister proposed at an extraordinary session of Congress that a limit on deficit and public debt be included as part of the Spanish Constitution, in a move designed to guarantee budget stability for the medium and long term. (The country's 1978 constitution, introduced after the death of Franco three years earlier, has been changed just once, in order to incorporate a treaty giving residents from other European Union countries the right to stand as candidates for Spanish town councils and vote in local and European elections.) The main opposition party, the PP, agree with this - having proposed it some time ago - however this would not come into force until 2018 or 2020. Congress has now approved a package of emergency measures which were outlined by the Cabinet recently. These include reducing IVA/VAT on new housing from 8% to 4% until the end of the year, reducing expenditure on pharmaceuticals and bringing forward the payment of company taxes for companies with a turnover of more than €20 million a year.

Two of Spain's regions have saved substantial health costs this year by not giving free medicines to holidaymakers from other regions - they two regions are Cataluña and Valencia.

The German CDU Christian Democratic Union, and the FDP German Liberal Party have meanwhile proposed that Spain and Italy sell their gold reserves, with the opinion that the two countries should use their own assets to pay their debts before they turn for help from others. Gold reserves in Spain are as much as 1% of GDP or 11.15 billion €

The leading Socialist candidate for the November election, Alfredo Pérez-Rubalcaba, has suggested that more sovereignty should be handed over to Europe in the area of economic policy. He said the system would work better if the geography was forgotten. He also states that he would do away with the Diputación Provincial tier of provincial government and replace them instead with committees of local Mayors for provincial issues. He says it would mean savings of approximately 1 billion € a year. (An excellent idea, but even if this does go ahead - the opposition PP are less than enthusiastic - in the future it is unlikely to be extended to some of the regional governments and reduce some of the horrendous bureaucratic duplication that exists in Spain.)

Spain's Defence Ministry has been forced to restructure the terms of payment on a 25-billion-euro debt it owes for new equipment including tanks, military aircraft and ships. The repayment will be extended five additional years until 2030. The terms of repayment were set up so that instalments were lowest during the first few years, a period that coincided with Spain's most recent boom years. The debt may have to be rescheduled even further if Spain does not meet its deficit targets.

The amount of money unpaid by the local and regional administrations in Spain has reached €50 billion according to reports in *El País*. Others say the amount is greater. Suppliers to public administration bodies are owed the amount, which is four times bigger than it was just two years ago. Suppliers say they are at their limit and the consequences of the debt remaining unpaid will be 'devastating'. See report on page 13 & 14.

In a change of government in the Castilla-La Mancha area, it has emerged that the previous Socialist government there ran up huge deficits. (This is unfortunately the case with every town hall and region.) 83% of the pharmacies in the region went on strike for one day as they say that they are owed €125 million by the junta.

The OCU - Spanish Consumers and Users Organisation - has challenged five airlines in the courts for what the OCU considers as 'abusive' clauses in their general conditions. The companies concerned are Ryanair, Iberia, Spanair, Air Europa and Vueling, who between them have 40 clauses the OCU sees as detrimental to passengers. They include cancelling a passenger's return ticket if the ticket for the outward journey has not been used, setting a maximum number of children who will be allowed on a flight and charging passengers for their hold luggage. Another is that some companies reserve the right to decide which identity documents the passenger must present and the OCU has asked the judge, in the case of Ryanair, to stop the airline's practice of demanding DNI identity cards for children who are travelling with their parents.

In an effort to curb volatility in bank shares, Spain has joined Italy, France and Belgium in temporarily banning the short-selling of bank stocks on their exchanges. (Short selling is a mechanism used by stock market speculators who bet on shares in a company falling. They sell shares now - which they don't have - and purchase them at a lower price later - to complete the deal.) Brussels has said that it wants to extend the measures against short selling across the entire EU. On August 25, Spain's stock market regulator decided to extend its temporary ban on short selling for another month, until September 30, as Italy also decided to do. France has given an extension until November 11, but will review it at the end of next month. Belgium has an indefinite ban and does not need an extension. The move was criticised by investors, and one fund manager described it as a 'nightmare' for the clients. This did not help CAM, whose shares dropped 62% in just two days but had a recovery later of 14%.

Little Larry attended a horse auction with his father. He watched as his father moved from horse to horse, running his hands up and down the horse's legs and rump, and chest. After a while, Larry asked, "Dad, why are you doing that?" His father replied, "When I'm buying horses, I have to make sure that they are healthy and in good shape before I buy." Larry, looking worried, said, "Dad, I think the Milkman wants to buy Mum" Pete Dudman

The summer months have certainly seen the 'crazies' come out of the 'woodwork.' First there were the savage events in Norway. Then the lunatic yoboo riots in the UK. One of the tragic stories in Spain has been the death of three disabled children at a care centre in Valladolid, in Northern Spain. The victims were suffocated by their carer with plastic bags. The carer, a 55-year-old Uruguayan female, said she killed the children 'out of compassion' according to the Guardia Civil. The children were aged three, nine and fourteen.

The Guardia Civil are investigating the burglaries of six homes in the Colinas de Proculus urbanisation at La Cala del Moral, near Rincón de la Victoria in Málaga. The same gang attacked all the homes on August 5, using sleeping gas to put out the occupants. Most people were sleeping with the windows open and the burglars threw gas canisters in through the windows to knock-out their victims. When they awoke, in most cases with a sore throat, and even vomiting, they found that wallets, jewellery and other small items of value had gone. Curiously the thieves did not take any of the vehicles in the urbanisation, despite the keys being available to them. Residents say they are worried, especially for their children. (There has been an increase in opportunistic burglaries in our area, including one of our neighbours. Do not drop your guard, and if you are going upstairs for anything remember to lock your front door.)

A group of union members set fire to tires in La Línea de la Concepción (Cádiz), close to the border with Gibraltar. The protest, which saw access to the British territory closed off for around half an hour, was prompted by the failure of the Spanish local authorities to pay municipal workers their salaries. Around 50 union members have been holding daily protests since last week, and have decided to step them up given the council's failure to honour payments. "We've been protesting every day, but we have had to come and burn tires and cut off the access to Gibraltar, like we did last week, because there is no other way to get them to listen," said José Porras, of the UGT union in Cádiz. The municipal workforce is 850-people strong. They have not received their salaries since the end of April.

The town of Moratalia in Murcia is nearly broke, according to its mayor. Since April, 120 public employees have not been paid and Moratalia's debt is listed at 28 million euros, Mayor Antonio García reported during August. The mountainous town of 8,500 inhabitants owes at least 9 million euros to local suppliers, and has a 600,000 euro loan debt with the Industry Ministry.

The mayor of Las Rozas de Valdearroyo (Cantabria), the independent Francisco Raúl Calderón, has awarded the job of Councillor for the Environment to an official convicted of starting a forest fire in 2001 which burned five acres of woodland and scrub. Juan Carlos Perez Lantarón was sentenced on February 6, 2006 to six months in prison and a fine of €1,800 after pleading guilty to a crime of forest fire minutes before the hearing began. Lets hope they keep the matches away from him up in Cantabria.

Two British men, one aged 40 the other 38 (C.J.M. And M.A.F.) , were arrested in Torre Vieja for operating a protection racket. They are believed to have set fire to around 15 commercial premises, cut power cables and intimidated several business owners. They also set fire to the rubbish bins outside their own property as they were unhappy about their location! Hopefully their new cell-mate, Big Gay Juan, will be sticking some 'fire' into them this winter.

In early August, police arrested six people who had conned more than 180 men with false offers of work as gigolos. The group, which operated out of Fuengirola in Málaga province, extracted more than 53,000 euros from the would-be 'Valentinos'. The men were duped by advertisements in the Spanish press, in which work as an escort was offered in return for attractive financial gains. Once the false company had been contacted, the group directed the interested parties to websites supposedly detailing the conditions of the job. In order to register with the company, the victims were told to deposit money - between 200 euros and 1,000 euros - in various accounts, whereupon the fraudsters were meant to put them in contact with potential clients. These introductions never materialized, and the money went un-refunded. One (or several) born every minute!

The Hacienda Tax Authority has decided to give a fiscal amnesty for those with tax debts of less than €3. YIPPEE! Break open the champagne!

A Spanish multimillionaire is reported to be paying €2.4 million to Christina Aguilera for the US star to perform a private concert for him. She'll be flying over to Spain for the performance, but it is not known when or exactly where it will take place. What is known is that the concert will be a rather short one. Europa Press reports that it will only include four songs, each of them costing him more than half a million € The identity of her fan remains a mystery, unlike the fact that the guy appears to have more money than sense!

Idiot of The Month Award goes to a Mexican who was arrested for drug smuggling at Madrid Barajas airport, carrying 42 kilos of cocaine in his suitcase. The 40-year-old was co-pilot on a flight from Mexico; he told the Guardia that he had attempted to smuggle such a large amount of cocaine into Spain because he had assumed that officers assigned at the airport would have been diverted to reinforce security for the Pope's flight, which landed with the Pontiff in Madrid for World Youth Day at the same time as his.

Missionary?

During a weekly church meeting, a friend of mine was scheduled to read a list of people who had asked to be included in the congregation's prayers.

Since another church member, Madge, had mentioned that she and her husband were struggling with a big decision on whether they should become missionaries, my friend offered to include them on the prayer list.

So at the meeting, my friend announced in front of the whole congregation, "Let's all pray that Madge and Eric can make a decision soon about the missionary position."



LOS BALCONES

**ALEC AND SUE WELCOME YOU
PREMIER AND CHAMPION'S LEAGUE**



**FOOTBALL SHOWN ON
2 LARGE SCREENS**

**HOLLAND'S PIE AND PINT
FOR JUST €3.50!!**

WHILE YOU WATCH THE FOOTIE.

**QUIZ NIGHT ON SUNDAYS
STARTS AT 9PM**

**COME AND JOIN US AT 8:30PM ON
THURSDAYS FOR FUN DARTS.**

Fable of the Porcupine

It was the coldest winter ever. Many animals died because of the cold. The porcupines, realizing the situation, decided to group together to keep warm. This way they covered and protected themselves; but the quills of each one wounded their closest companions.

After awhile, they decided to distance themselves one from the other and they began to die, alone and frozen. So they had to make a choice: either accept the quills of their companions or disappear from the Earth.

Wisely, they decided to go back to being together. They learned to live with the little wounds caused by the close relationship with their companions in order to receive the warmth that came from the others. This way they were able to survive.

Moral of the story: The best relationship is not the one that brings together perfect people, but when each individual learns to live with the imperfections of others and can admire the other person's good qualities.

The real moral of the story.....

**LEARN TO LIVE WITH
THE PRICKS IN YOUR LIFE.**

A hunting we will go!

A young man from the city goes to visit his farmer uncle. For the first few days, the uncle shows him the usual things; chickens, cows, crops, etc.

However, it's obvious the nephew is getting bored so the uncle suggests he goes on a hunt. 'Why don't you grab a gun, take the dogs, and go shooting?'

This cheers up the nephew and he goes off with the dogs in trail.

After a few hours, the nephew returns.

'Did you enjoy it?' asks the uncle.

'It was great!' exclaims the nephew. 'Got any more dogs?'

House cleaning getting a bit too much for you or would you just prefer someone else to do it?

We are the same friendly crew every time and we have several satisfied regular customers in the Dream Hills area. References available. Why not phone for a quote. Call Carol on 677 191 886.

Local Council Issues

The new administration in Orihuela are having a 'field day' outlining the shortcomings of the previous PP administration. First Deputy Mayor of Orihuela, Antonia Moreno (PSOE), said at a news conference that the City is completely drowned by debt "inherited" from the former government team, and that the bills 'left in the drawers' by the previous Mayoress, Monica Lorente (PP), come to as much as €17 million spent without budget, plus another €15 million claimed in court disputes with suppliers. To this must be added another 58 million owed to banks including interest on loans. In total, a debt of some 90 million euro paints a bleak picture in terms of management options for the current government team, and with it the socialist deputy mayor wanted to explain that the next municipal budget (for 2012) will be expected to be "realistic" with priority given to the payment of suppliers.

Among the excesses unearthed by the new administration has been the spending of €5,668 on invitations for the Orihuela Costa sports centre, the mayor's car has been handed back and her chauffeur/body-guard let go. It also seems that some council employees have been using the council credit card for refilling their petrol tanks without permission or accountability. The fee paid for the running of the new sports centre in Orihuela Costa - €25,000 per month - has also come under scrutiny. The additional problem here being that a 10-year contract was signed by the previous administration and the only way the management company can be dumped is if they are found to have breached their contract. The town hall also plans to revamp a number of other sports' facilities on the Costa which have fallen into disrepair.

The new administration has claimed that the PP signed many new contracts just a month before the local election. Moreno pointed out that it was all too easy for the PP to sign contracts and make promises, but the new council would now have to deal with these excesses - *pero nos ha tocado bailar con la fea* (but we have to dance with the ugly!)

But of course it is very easy to sit on the throne and criticise the previous king. It will be interesting to see what the new administration will actually deliver. It was good to see that all the big posters on the pedestrian bridges on the N332 have been steam-cleaned off. These, which usually advertised nightclubs in Torrevieja, were a real eyesore. Let's hope that their removal is a permanent feature and not just a cosmetic change for the La Vuelta bike race.

The new socialist-led council are also proposing a new 20-seat minibus service from Orihuela Costa to Orihuela. This will be a weekly service with two trips to Orihuela and back every Tuesday, stopping at Playa Flamenca, San Miguel de Salinas and Orihuela city centre. A three month trial period will run from October to December to evaluate the new service. There will be no charge for tickets during the trial period. I cannot make out whether this is a service or a sop. Two buses once a week is scarcely a service.

Galadriel

Cafe Bar & Bistro

Open from 9:30 am everyday
Serving quality food all day,
including breakfasts from €2.50

Our Original Homemade
Burger Stacks, Fresh Salads,
Wallet Watchers Meals, Filled
Baguettes and Jacket potatoes
Comprehensive Children's Menu.

Evening Bistro

6.00pm -10pm (not Sunday)

Tuesday Evening – Steak'n'Ribs

Friday Evening – Surf and Turf

Sunday Roast served

12 noon - 9 pm

or alternative Sunday Menu

Now with Sky Sports

We also sell milk, Walls ice cream,
phone cards, freshly baked

baguettes,

English chocolate &

handmade greeting cards

Sunday Newspapers to order.

Via Park V

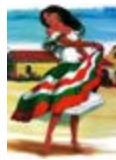
Tel: 966 798 122 or 696 285 861

We now accept all major credit cards

Donna & Richard

Welcome you to

THE PHOENIX



Monday - Darts

Tuesday - Fun Quiz with Music Clips +
Open the Box

Wednesday - Fun Darts

Friday - Quiz + Open the Box

CARAMBA!

THURS SEPT 1 - MEXICAN NIGHT!

ALL FOOTBALL ON GIANT HD SCREENS

Now open for great food Mon to Sat

9am to 9pm

New Evening Menu

Via Park V



Where are Spanish house prices heading?

So where are Spanish house prices heading? Down, according to Nouriel Roubini, the bearish economics professor of NY University who correctly predicted the financial crisis. "Spain is the reality that everyone is ignoring," he warned, speaking at a recent conference in Madrid. Thanks to high unemployment and the housing bust he forecasts prices will fall another 25pc.

Another 10pc down, implies the Bank of Spain, saying the market will bottom out 25pc below the 2012 peak, having fallen 15pc so far. If so, this crisis will have been as bad as the 70s, when Spain went through wrenching change after a property bust and its transition to democracy.

Josep Oliver, economics professor at the University of Barcelona (UAB) also says that prices have fallen 15pc and will fall another 10pc if past housing busts are anything to go by, and if housing affordability is to return to "reasonable" levels.

As for Angel Cano, a Director of BBVA, one of Spain's biggest banks, prices have already fallen 30pc since the peak and have another 5pc to 10pc to go before they bottom out. He also says prices have fallen 50pc in some coastal areas, with large concentrations of holiday homes.

José Blanco, Minister of Public Works, has other ideas. Prices won't fall much more because "they have already fallen enough," he argues.

In its latest economic report, the Spanish Banking Association (AEB) says only that the real estate sector adjustment is not yet over, and that both prices and stocks have to fall before things will get better.

(Above from Mark Stucklin of Spanish Property Insight)

The amount of credit awarded to families, the self-employed and companies in Spain is at its lowest level since 2003. Banks and savings banks have added strict restrictions on lending to families and the fall in mortgage loans is of particular note. Although less than before, companies still get the largest percentage of loans granted. Data from the Bank of Spain shows that bank loans are half they were at the start of the recession in 2007. The Partido Popular has said that it wants to recover the tax breaks on the purchase of property, which were removed by the Socialists on January 1 this year for those who earn more than 24,000 € a year. The PP Secretary General, María Dolores de Cospedal said that property was not selling now because there was no fiscal incentive. She said a plan was needed with the banks to get rid of the excess stock.

The value-added tax on new housing purchases was cut from eight percent to four percent, but only until December 31. However very few believe this will have any effect on the market. (The government is also aiming to save five billion euros from cuts in spending on medicines and through higher revenues from amendments to the corporate tax system. The latest budget measures come on top of an austerity drive already in place that includes public sector wage cuts and a freeze in pensions that aims to further reduce the shortfall in the government finances from 9.2 percent last year to six percent this year.) There is an estimated pile of some 700,000 unsold new housing units built up during the excesses of a decade-long boom that burst over three years ago. (Add to this the large stock of empty older property units and there is well over a million for sale.) Although houses prices have fallen continuously since then, experts believe they need to drop more to get the market moving again. House sales have remained anaemic despite short-lived jumps in anticipation of a rise in the VAT rate for new housing from 7 to 8 percent in July of last year and the removal of tax benefits for the purchase of the main residence at the end of 2010.

A report from consultancy firm Oliver Wyman has revealed that 250,000 families in Spain owe more money to the bank on their mortgage than their property is worth. The figure was 100,000 two years ago. Which ever way you look at it, it will be several years before the property market recovers in Spain to show even moderate increases.

You know you're getting old when you have too much room in the house and not enough in the medicine cabinet.

Phoenix Golf Society

On a very hot day at Font del Llop near Alicante the society once again tried a new course. Very undulating with spongy greens was the overall opinion.

The Gold was won by Dave Cahill, Silver by Dave Everson in his new category and the Bronze by Ron Smith.

Overall winner with 35 points was Rob Hughes and best guest was young Martin Hayes.

Pete Brain overcame Captain Dave Whiteman in their match play. Nearest the pin on the 3rd and 8th and nearest in 2 was Graham Atkinson, with Ron Smith nearest on the 12th and 17th.

A special prize went to Paul Green for the shortest drive from the tee of 6 inches (sideways).

The Must-Try-Harder award became a welcome relief for myself, Les Roundthwaite and Dave Whiteman, when Jim Story stormed in with a mere 5 points.

Info on the society to be found in the Phoenix bar in Dream Hills.
John Bradbeer

'Julie! Stop talking!
Just shut up or
you'll drive me out
of my mind!'



'That wouldn't be a drive. That would be a short putt!'



Belushi's Bar & Grill

**J.J. AND ROB WELCOME YOU
TO THEIR FULLY AIR CONDITIONED
BLUE'S BROTHERS THEME BAR**

**LARGE SELECTION OF BEERS, WINES, SPIRITS,
J.J.'S COCKTAILS & SPECIAL SANGRIA
FULL MENU WITH ALL YOUR FAVOURITES!**

**Wednesdays - Curry night - 6 curries!
Thursday night - fun darts**

**FRIDAY NIGHT IS FISH & CHIP NIGHT - only
€5!**

Regular KARAOKE

**ALL MAIN SPORTING EVENTS INCL.
PREMIERSHIP FOOTBALL ON SCREEN**

**WHY NOT CHECK US OUT & HAVE YOUR PHOTO
TAKEN WITH JAKE & ELWOOD!**




**693 985 122
VIA PARK V**

A Texan Abroad.

A Texan tourist looked in awe at the London Eye millennium wheel. 'Wow,' he said, 'we have nothing so enormous back home.'

His London host replied, 'If you think that's big, wait until you see the size of the hamster!'

Fancy a 'flutter'?

Serious declines in the gambling industry indicate that this crisis is tougher than ever. Spaniards do not have much play money, and companies who run gambling operations have seen their profits drop 4.97 billion euros since 2008.

In the last fiscal year alone, the industry made 27.34 billion euros, which is 15.3% less than in 2008 according to data collected in the Annual Gambling Report (*Informe Anual de Juego* in Spanish) put together by the Ministry of the Interior.

It is a difficult time, especially for Loterías and Apuestas del Estado (LAE), the public operator that is attempting to go public with 30% of its capital at the end of October. The sale will take place between October 18 and October 30 if everything goes as planned. But the news is not all bad. On the bright side, the management team headed by president Aurelio Martínez has managed to turn the situation around completely. There are no indicators that the Spanish economy is improving, or worsening for that matter, but nonetheless Loterías has successfully slowed down its profit losses since the first quarter of the year.

But it is the Christmas raffle which is the big 'earner,' when nearly a third of the registered tickets are in play (ticket sales began in July); the company has confirmed that the downtrend has reversed for the first time since 2009. "In the first two quarters we saw a slight improvement with respect to the same period last year."

If you're playing a poker game and you look around the table and can't tell who the sucker is, it's you. Paul Newman



Property Management and Holiday Rentals

1 Week - 3 Month Holiday lets

Dream Hills 1 and 2

Tel: Sue 965 319 812 or 699 046 154

www.dreamhills2holidayrentals.com

www.rentals-costablanca.com

www.propertyservices-costablanca.com

The headmistress of a girl's school asked a male friend, who was an author, to give a talk to the pupils about sex. After much persuasion, the man agreed but was too embarrassed to tell his wife. So he told her that he was addressing the school on sailing and wrote the appropriate entry in his diary for that day.

The day after the talk, the headmistress met the wife in the street. 'Your husband was wonderful yesterday, so illuminating. I know my girls learned a lot from him.'

'I can't think how,' said the wife. 'He's only tried it twice. The first time he was sick and the second time he lost his hat.'

Azuretel

Television • Internet • Telephone



BBC World News	Sky News	BBC1, 2 & 3	Cbeebies	
CBBC	ITV1, 2, 3, & 4	CITV	Channel 4	
E4	More 4	Five	Film 24	
Fox Movies	Vault Music	MBC Action	Food Channel	
Travel Channel	True Movies	Clubland Music	True Entertainment	

The vision of the future Connecting you



Internet

The Azuretel system provides a secure 2mb broadband service.



Telephone

Azuretel's technology offers customers a telephone service with either a local Spanish telephone number or a UK number, or both.

Azuretel call rates are more competitive than Telefonica, just cents per minute for calls to the UK and Eire.

Best Offer Yet. 3 For Free

Free Installation. Free 1st Month. Free Mobile Phone.
(connected to Mas Mobile Pay as you go or Contract, port your own Number)

- UK TV
- 2MB BROADBAND
- TELEPHONE WITH UK OR SPANISH NUMBER
- NO INSTALLATION CHARGE

ALL 3 JUST €37,50 PER MONTH

2MB BROADBAND
+ TELEPHONE with UK or SPANISH Number
€29.99 per month
NO INSTALLATION CHARGE

www.azuretel.com

965 999 201

Azuretel S.L. Local 17, Via Park 3 cc, Calle Panticosa - Los Altos, Orihuela Costa 03189 Alicante

Television has brought murder back into the home - where it belongs. Alfred Hitchcock.

Other News

Coverage on the Duchess of Alba has appeared in the Dream Scene on a number of occasions. Greedy kids, pressure from the royals and gossip, has hindered her from marrying her beau in recent years (see photo). But she has always been a persistent 'old gal' and she has finally got her way. The following has been taken from a number of articles in El País. "Considering the latest news stories that have appeared in the media, I am hereby announcing that my marriage to Don Alfonso Díez will be in early October," begins a press release that finally puts an end to all the rumours. At age 85, the Duchess of Alba, Cayetana Fitz-James - who is in the Guinness Book of World Records for holding more titles than any other noble on earth, and whose personal fortune is estimated at anywhere between 600 million and 3.5 billion euros - is about to get married for the third time in her life.

A staple of gossip magazines for decades, the duchess had most recently hit the headlines because of her six children's opposition (all of whose marriages ended in divorce) to watching their mother wed a 60-year-old civil servant at this stage in her life. But Cayetana de Alba's decision to hand over her personal fortune to her progeny while still alive has gone a long way towards smoothing things out. They had long vetoed the match, and on one occasion they reportedly enlisted the support of King Juan Carlos, who allegedly made a discreet phone call to the octogenarian Duchess, suggesting she hold off on the nuptials. The Spanish royal family has traditionally had a deciding voice in matters concerning the House of Alba, so the duchess sought an audience with Queen Sofía to enlist her support.

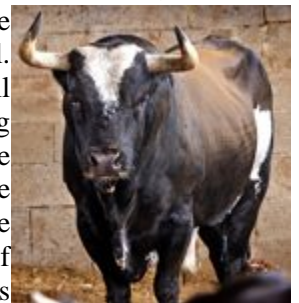
On July 4, the duchess gathered her kids at a notary's office in Madrid and shared out her wealth in front of them: her eldest, Carlos Fitz-James Stuart, will receive the House of Alba Foundation upon her death; her other children (Alfonso Martínez de Irujo, Jacobo Fitz-James Stuart, Fernando Martínez de Irujo, Cayetano Martínez de Irujo and Eugenia Martínez de Irujo, all born to Cayetana and her first husband, Luis Martínez de Irujo, who died in 1972) will receive estates, palaces, mansions and country homes. For his part, the groom has already signed a statement renouncing any assets of the Alba family. All her children were born to her first husband, engineer Luí Martínez de Irujo, son of the Duke of Sotomayor. She has also left land and property to her nine grandchildren.

In 1978, six years after her first husband died, she shocked many in Spain by marrying an illegitimate defrocked Jesuit priest, Jesús Aguirre. Over the years there have been rumours of lovers from the worlds of bullfighting and flamenco. The wedding will apparently be a small affair with just the duchess' personal doctor and her children in attendance "with their current wives, previous daughters-in-law and my son-in-law Francisco," a reference to Francisco Rivera, who is in fact the ex-husband of the youngest daughter Eugenia, but remains close to the duchess.



Some of you may recall John Lumsdon. John has had considerable experience with the Royal Navy and the British police and was one of the first security guards we had on Dream Hills. He was very popular with the residents in Dream Hills and we were all sad to see him return to the UK. He has written a spy thriller called *Choke Point* and you can now order a hard copy of the book from Amazon or you can get a Kindle/ebook download of the thriller for just 86 pence! A great read and well worth it!

On the right is an image of *El Ratón* (The Mouse!). *El Ratón* has already gored two young men to death, the first in Puerto de Sagunto in 2008 and the latest two weeks ago at Xativa, Valencia. You can see the latest incident here - <http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2011/08/19/valencia/1313770857.html>. The bull has made 90 appearances at various events and has gored five people to date. The bull does not appear at bullfighting events, he is much too valuable for that, but at events in the ring where locals test their bravery by running in front of the bull. One of the problems with these events, and indeed with bull-running events in streets such as Pamplona, is that many of the participants are as drunk as a fiddler's bitch and easy prey for the aggressive bulls. The 500-kilo *El Ratón* is a big attraction around the country and his owner has no intention of retiring him yet. The bull commands a fee of around €6,000 an appearance and promoters know that they can double the cost of the usual entrance tickets because of his popularity and notoriety.



Groan joke!

Roy Rodgers got a brand new pair of cowboy boots. He leaves them out on the porch of his ranch house and, in the morning, discovers they've been gnawed by a mountain lion. Roy grabs a rifle and his horse and goes out to kill the varmint. Three hours later Roy's back with a dead mountain lion tied across his saddle. A ranch-hand goes up to him and says, 'Pardon me Roy, is that the cat that chewed your new shoes?'

Tonto & the Lone Ranger

Tonto goes missing and after two days of searching, the Lone ranger finds him lying down with the side of his head to the ground.

'What happened?' asks the Lone Ranger.

Tonto replies, 'White men come this way, on four horses, also have stagecoach with lady in black. Third horse only wear three shoes.'

The lone Ranger is impressed. 'Tonto I'm amazed. You can tell this from listening to the ground?'

'No Kimo Sabi,' replies Tonto, 'they ran me over two days ago.'

It's a riot!

Some views from the U.S. -

"There have been huge riots in England the past couple of days. People are fighting, throwing rocks, smashing windows. And they're doing it the hard way, without a soccer game." -Jay Leno

"After all the rioting in London this week, officials are worried that it could mean security problems for the Olympics next year. On the bright side, the guy running with the torch will just blend right in."

-Jimmy Fallon

"Here's what I don't understand about rioting. If you're going to destroy a city for no reason, why destroy your own city? Move one city over."

-Jimmy Kimmel



(Image from Pat Chambers)

More views (some extreme) from the UK -

"I have a dream, a dream that one day black people will all own plasma TV's and dress in the latest trainers." Martin Looter King
The recent riots in West Bromwich caused over £1 million worth of improvements!

I saw a black guy carrying a TV down the street yesterday so I smashed him over the head with a shovel.

I'd just like to take this opportunity to apologise to Argos and wish their delivery driver a speedy recovery.

Ngongon Mwambi now has to travel 5 miles everyday for fresh water and 7 miles for food.....This is because Ngongon torched the Peckham Spar and the Tottenham KFC and now has to walk to Holloway for breakfast.

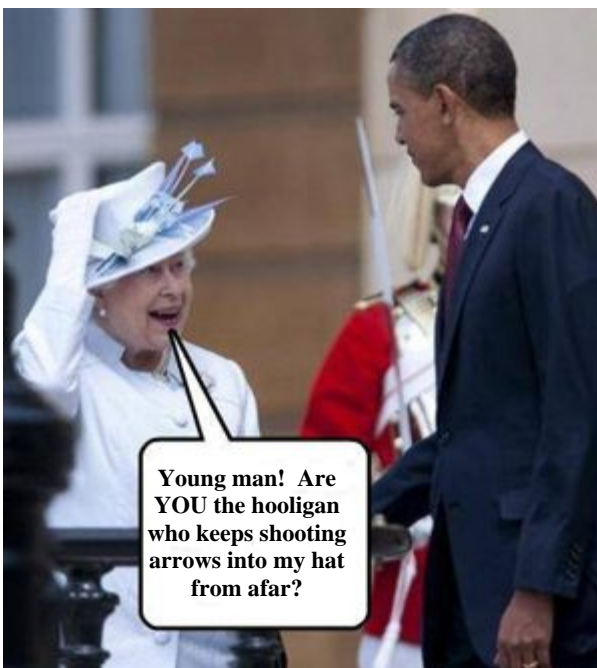
Liverpool just bid for Carlos Tevez. Apparently they've offered 200 plasma TVs, 6 rolls of carpet and 72 pairs of Reebok Classics.

Everton have refused to travel to play Tottenham on Saturday - they claim all the best gear has gone.

Thieving and looting across the country. London calls it 'an abomination', Birmingham calls it 'a disgrace', Liverpool calls it 'a Tuesday.'

It has been announced that the police are going to be allowed to use water cannons on the rioters. They are putting some Persil in the water though to stop the coloureds running.

Tottenham Hotspurs have signed a new Italian striker.... Grabatelli!
(Enough already, Editor.)



A warm welcome awaits you at the



SUN



BAR & GRILL

Eat in or Take-Away

Great food at unbeatable prices!

Breakfasts from €2; Small pizza from €2

Chicken breast, chips, salad €4.95

Half Chicken, chips, salad €6.95

Delicious Doner Kebabs - only €4

Slushy €1.50, with Vodka €2.50

Ice Creams from €1.25

Internet, printer, photocopier

Pool table, Widescreen TV

Bingo & Quiz Nite Saturday 9pm

Tel: 966 848 667 & 672 804 905

OPEN 7 DAYS - 10AM 'TILL LATE

Via Park V

Awkward Customer

Man went to the dentist's office to have a tooth pulled. The dentist pulls out a needle to give him an injection

"No way"! No needles! "I hate needles", the man said.

The dentist starts to hook up the 'laughing gas' and the man immediately objected.

"I can't do the gas thing either; the thought of having the gas mask on is suffocating me"!

The dentist then asks the guy if he has any objection to taking a pill.

"No objection", the man said. "I'm fine with pills".

The dentist then returns and says, "Here, take a Viagra tablet".

The gentleman, almost totally at a loss for words says, "Wow"! "I didn't know Viagra worked as a pain killer"!

"It doesn't", said the dentist, "but it will give you something to hold on to when I pull your tooth out!"

Two women were playing golf. One teed off and watched in horror as her ball headed directly toward a foursome of men playing the next hole. The ball hit one of the men. He immediately clasped his hands together at his groin, fell to the ground and proceeded to roll around in agony.

The woman rushed down to the man, and immediately began to apologise. 'Please allow me to help. I'm a Physical Therapist and I know I could relieve your pain if you'd allow me', she told him.

'Oh, no, I'll be all right. I'll be fine in a few minutes', the man replied. He was in obvious agony, lying in the foetal position, still clasping his hands there at his groin.

At her persistence, however, he finally allowed her to help. She gently took his hands away and laid them to the side, loosened his pants and put her hands inside.

She administered a tender and artful massage for several long moments and asked, 'How does that feel?'

'Feels great,' he replied; 'but I still think my thumb's broken!'

Pat Chambers



Via Park III

Always a Warm Welcome!

4 LARGE HD SCREENS

Slimmer's World 11.00 Mondays

DOMINOES & CRIB NIGHTS

Mondays & Thursdays at 9pm

All welcome!

FUN QUIZ NIGHT Friday 9 pm

With Stand-Up Bingo &

Play Your Cards Right

JOIN THE LIME BAR

GOLF SOCIETY &

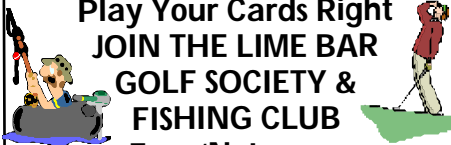
FISHING CLUB

Free 'Net access

Happy Hour Monday - Friday

4 'till 8 pm

Tel: 659 899 831



THE RENDEZVOUS



Cafe & Newsagent



Via Park III

Large range of newspapers,
greeting's cards, stationery
and much more!

Breakfasts from €2.50!

Menu del Día

Monday to Saturday only €5!

Sunday Lunch

3 course €9.50; 2 for €8; 1 for €6.

Choice of 6 starters & 6 desserts!

(Includes ½ bottle wine, small beer
or glass of pop)

Great views & al fresco dining.

Phone: 626 098 953

2GB

**INDIAN RESTAURANT
& TAKE AWAY**

VIA PARK V

SPECIAL OFFER

4 COURSE MEAL

ANY STARTER

ANY MAIN COURSE

CHOICE OF: PILAU OR PLAIN

RICE OR NAAN BREAD

ICE CREAM OR COFFEE

FROM 6PM TO 8PM ONLY €9.95!

EXTENSIVE MENU WITH A WIDE

VARIETY OF COOKING

STYLES & FLAVOURS

Open from 6pm to 11pm

965 993 479 & 688 238 164



A Window to the Past. By Ken Higham

(Ken, one of our neighbours in Urbanisation Inspiration, gave me permission to reprint the following article which appeared in *The Idle Toad* in 1999. Ken took to the hobby of metal detecting in 1973 and has found many fascinating objects over the years and has lots of interesting stories to tell.)

The following unusual chain of events took place in 1981.

It was a typical autumn day and I was conducting a search in a narrow stretch of woodland which topped a steep embankment. After searching for over an hour I had finds of coins, buckles, and buttons in my pouch. Unfortunately it started to drizzle, which made it necessary for me to cover the control box of my machine. Standing with my back against the trunk of a tree, I covered the control box with a plastic bag and propped by detector against the trunk. I immediately heard a faint but positive signal in my headphones.

After many minutes walking around and under the the roots of the tree I unearthed a small wedding ring. Later, at home, while washing the ring, I was dismayed to find pit-marks on both the inner and outer sides, and no mint mark was visible. The ring was later confirmed as gold - but gold does not corrode, does it. Further investigation revealed that the ring had been subjected to heat, such as having been burnt in a fire. Even though pitted, it had retained its shape, which I found rather strange.

One evening, some days later, my wife picked up the ring and - no doubt out of curiosity - placed it on the third finger of her right hand. Within a few minutes she experienced pain in her hand, arm and shoulder. Even when the ring was removed, her arm and shoulder ached for a short time afterwards.

The following day, while in conversation with a senior female member of my staff (I was the manager of a business in Preston before retiring), I mentioned the effect the ring had had on my wife. I took the ring from my pocket to show her - my wife had told me she felt uncomfortable with it in the house - and since my fellow worker liked it, I gave it to her.

Next day she insisted I should take it back, as her experience while wearing the ring at home had been worse than my wife's. Her arm and shoulder ached throughout the day and she felt quite ill.

The ring became a matter of concern, because several women on my staff wore it - and they all suffered the same very unpleasant experience. It was constantly being returned to me and I felt it was time to get rid of it. The situation was resolved when a friend at Croston took it, tried it, and buried it in a field there. I felt I had to learn more about the site where I found the ring. Research revealed that it was in an area where poor souls accused of witchcraft were burnt centuries ago. Could the ring hold a curse? Could it have been some strange sort of auto-suggestion? Or could it all be pure coincidence? I will leave you to decide. One thing you may be assured of: to this day I do not know where the ring now lies - and I have no desire to find out!



Butterflies



Tea Room & Coffee Shop

Finalists in CoastRider

Culinary Awards!

8 item Breakfast just €3!

Special Evening Menu

3 courses only €9.95

Home Cooked Meats, Pies, Cakes

From Burgers & Ploughman's
to Fresh Salads & Jacket Pot's.

Hog Roast Dinner €7.95

(Incl. fresh veg & stuffing)

Sundays September 4 & 18

Booking essential!

Via Park III, Los Altos

Tel: 634 052 304

welcome to

TONY'S

MUSIC & KARAOKE BAR

Top Floor

Via Park III



3 DRAFT BEERS

1 DRAFT CIDER

ALL BOTTLES OF BEER JUST €1

HOUSE SPIRIT PLUS MIXER €2.50

HAPPY HOUR 2-8PM

EVERY DAY!



It's always Party Nite

at Tony's!

Letter to the Editor.

Dear Mr. Editor,

I couldn't help but identify with your comments in last month's Dream Scene about the holidaying Spanish. For 11 months of the year we tend to live in a clean pleasant neighbourhood, resident Spanish and us foreigners residing in harmony without incident. Then August arrives with the Madrilènes descending here. They are loud, arrogant, demanding, swearing and extremely rude to say the least. "I want, I demand, I'm Spanish and I come before you, as this is my country" is the attitude frequently displayed. They want the rules that we all live by here, changed just for them in August so they can party and cause havoc. Why on earth did they buy here? Dogs are harassed by random fireworks at any time of the day or night. They play their music so loud nobody else can hear themselves, but the law is on their side 'till one in the morning', so we have to put up with it. Consideration for others is not in their code. They throw litter on the ground and expect others to pick it up. Some will not even put their dogs on leads or pick up their dog-shit and they have the audacity to say this place is dirty. Come on!

They do not want us here! They resent us using their health service, "Get out!" seems to be the message. But they want our money to build houses and provide jobs. They need our money to prop up their economy and they are now able to buy the once overpriced house of those who have fled, for next to nothing. If they get into the majority ownership of an urbanisation, standards will rapidly decline.

Enough said. They have now gone, September is here and peace reigns for another 11 months, Thank God! Am I prejudiced? I wasn't when I first came here, thankful to live in their pleasant country. Have I changed my mind? Not completely yet. Would I go back to the UK? No, never. After all it is only one month of the year.

Anon. Dream Hills Owner.

(Name & address supplied.)

What's New?

A new 'wok' called 'Wok House' has opened up next to the N332 at Mil Palmeras. You can't miss it, it is a huge red and green building next to the roundabout. Most woks in our general area are very average or poor, the best being the *Wok Gran Mundo* outside Pilar de Horadada. However this new wok has to date been far superior to any of the others, even the *Gran Mundo*. This large building has been completely refurbished throughout with an attractive wood finish and tiled floors, the eating area being split into two to cater for large numbers especially in summer. The food available here is very good with plenty of choice, that is if you can get to the impressive shellfish display before the Spanish! The *sushi*, mainly *Nigirizushi*, is very impressive as is the fruit table and the pre-cooked food.

As woks go, it is a bit expensive - €12.95 every evening, and Friday, Saturday and Sunday lunchtimes. Other lunchtimes it is just €9.95 and I have not seen any prices for children. As you would expect the drink prices are heavily loaded, €2 for a water, a can of coke or sprite €2, bottle of Heinekin €2.50, shot of Bacardi or Larios gin €3.25 and house wine at €6.50. I asked for a large beer and got a glass with just over half a pint, for €3.25! I am still in shock! Still, it is well worth the trip particularly now that the Spanish will be thinning-out in the area. Reservations on 966 798 174.

Most of you will be aware of the new hotel which is still being built in Los Balcones, close to the entrance to Dream Hills and Lajo Jardin 2. (I believe that the Pyramids of Giza went up quicker than this hotel!) However, there is a new bar and restaurant opened on the ground floor of the hotel called *El Cucharón* - The Bucket. Just had a coffee and look-around there. Very attractive and spacious. Small beer €1.50, coffee €1.20, starters at around €6 each and main courses at €12 plus. Good value bocadillos at €3 each.

More on both these venues in the future.

Macklin's
Welcome Inn
Via Park 111

Snooker Happy Hour 
Monday to Friday 12pm – 6pm
€2.50 per hour
Bookings please phone 965 319 512

 **Monday - Dart's**
Players welcome Team needed.

Wednesday 
Texas Hold'em Poker from 6pm

Friday - Karaoke
with 'Miss Ellainous'

Come along and have a laugh 

Saturday - Karaoke
with Paul Howard from 9pm

All major sporting events shown
on plasma TV's
Internet booths with printer

All Bar Sue
Via Park V 

Sveiki atvykę!
The warmest of welcomes
await you!

Enjoy freshly cooked food in
comfortable surroundings
Tapas, Pizzas, Lamb, Fish,
Salads and much more.
Lithuanian Specialities
Menu del Dia 2 courses:
Just €6.50 
Childrens' Menu

Thursday - Gordon's Quiz
Fridays - Fun Darts
SUNDAY EVENINGS -
Barbecue &
GORDON'S FUN QUIZ
HAPPY HOUR 6 - 8 DAILY
Tel: 633 480 559



World's first iPad Caricature artist

Only at Villamartin Plaza & at
Villamartincaricatures@gmail.com
Get your full colour digital caricature
on glossy paper, A4 size which can be
sent to your email, Facebook/Twitter.
Also great for calendars, stickers etc.

LITTLE PIECE OF HOME

WE SUPPLY GOODS FROM ANY UK BASED HIGH ST. STORE YOU ORDER AND PAY FOR YOUR GOODS ONLINE AND HAVE THEM DELIVERED TO OUR UK WAREHOUSE.

WE WILL COLLECT THEM MONTHLY AND DELIVER THEM TO YOU IN SPAIN.

WE TAKE NO MONEY UNTIL YOU RECEIVE YOUR ITEMS.

I GUARANTEE THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR GOODS IN THE SAME CONDITION THEY LEFT THE UK STORE.

WANT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SPECIAL DEALS IN THE UK? NOW YOU CAN BUY THOSE BARGAINS AND I WILL DELIVER THEM TO YOUR HOME HERE, TAKING AWAY THE HASSLE AND EXCESS BAGGAGE CHARGES

amazon.co.uk



SATISFACTION GUARANTEED!
WE HAVE LOTS OF HAPPY CUSTOMERS
IN YOUR AREA.

REFERENCES AVAILABLE.

CONTACT US VIA PHONE OR EMAIL
FOR A QUOTE AND OUR WAREHOUSE ADDRESS.

WE ALSO DO RETURN TRIPS TO THE UK EVERY MONTH WITH AN EMPTY VAN, SO IF YOU REQUIRE ITEMS TRANSPORTED BACK, PLEASE CONTACT US

FOR A QUOTATION.

CALL DAVE HOPE ON 693 986 378
OR EMAIL littlepieceofhome@hotmail.co.uk

Argos

HOMEBASE

PC WORLD
The Computer Superstore

TESCO
direct

Currys

DEBENHAMS

SMYTHS

halfords

The following is an article which appeared in The Sunday Telegraph on August 21, 2011. It is an interesting anecdotal report on what is happening in the smaller towns in Spain. As I see it, no one has yet 'got a handle' on the true level of debt in the country as a whole. It is only now that the true scale of an iceberg of debt is beginning to be uncovered as recent events in Castilla la Mancha have illustrated.

The hilltop Spanish town overshadowed by a debt mountain by Harriet Alexander

Nestling in the pine-clad hills above Barcelona, the ancient terracotta-tiled town of Moia could be straight out of a fairy tale. Narrow cobbled streets wind up towards the honey-coloured church in the centre, where the main plaza is decked with streamers and flags from the recent fiesta.

But for all its Disney-esque charm, Moia is rotten to the core. "We are broke," said Dionís Guiteras, the town's newly-elected mayor. "We managed to pay the council staff on July 31, but I don't know if we will be able to on August 31. We haven't got any money to pay the electricity company, so maybe the street lights will go out. All of our buildings could be for sale."

In a bleak warning to residents, Mr Guiteras even prophesied that, unless Moia's residents rapidly adopted money-saving measures, the town would not be able to bury their dead. "We cannot keep our heads in the sand," he said.

This apocalyptic vision of the Spanish economic meltdown may seem pessimistic - but the near-bankruptcy of Moia town council is far from unique.

Several hundred miles south, near Murcia, police in Moratalla have been told to walk rather than use their patrol cars. The vehicles would not be much use, anyway, as the town's two petrol stations are owed €120,000 in town hall fuel bills and refuse to fill up municipal cars. The 120 council workers were finally paid last week, after a three month delay, but Moratalla's list of angry creditors goes on and on - the council owes local businesses €9 million in unpaid bills.

In Barbate, near Cadiz, 180 tonnes of rubbish has accumulated on the hot streets after the council's workers went on strike, having not been paid since June.

Back in Catalonia, the wider region around Barcelona, ten further councils are thought to be on the verge of financial collapse.

The impact of Spain's crippling €39 billion debt, and the need to make huge cuts in local and national government budgets, is beginning to be felt among ordinary Spaniards. Backed by seemingly limitless credit, town councils, or *ayuntamientos*, embarked on lavish spending sprees before the 2008 financial crisis, buying voters' affections by building brand new theatres, dance schools, and astro-turf football pitches in even the smallest of villages. But now the party is over, the debts must be paid, and Spain's 8,115 municipalities are waking up with a colossal post-boom hangover.

"We are indeed the Greece of Spain," said 40-year-old Mr Guiteras, an independent mayor who was one of the first to openly admit his administration was in financial crisis. "The simple fact is that we have no money left."

Clad in jeans and canvas Catalanian *espadrilles*, and running his hands through his shock of grey-streaked hair, he told how, on taking over the town hall, he uncovered a mountain of debt. "We knew it was bad," he said with a wry smile. "But we didn't realise quite how bad."

Local elections in May saw many of the ruling administrations swept from power, as public anger at the financial crisis mounted. And with fresh governors in many municipalities came a new - and deeply worrying - assessment of the country's finances. The finger has been pointed mainly at councils under the control of prime minister Jose Rodriguez Zapatero's socialist PSOE party, although in Catalonia, regional pro-Catalan parties have also been blamed. Moia, with a population of 5,800, owes €25 million - almost 400 per cent of its annual budget. The money is owed to everyone from banks to office suppliers, local businesses and even musicians for the fiestas - some of whom have been waiting for payment since 2005. The town is unable to refinance its debt, owing to the scale of the problem, nor can it raise taxes as these are already at national limits. Mr Guiteras fears the crisis could even spell the end of *ayuntamiento* itself, with consequences for democracy in rural Spain. "That's what I meant about not being able to bury the dead," he said. "We need to change our way of thinking and acting, or else the consequences really will be the bankruptcy of the *ayuntamiento*. Do we really need a dance school, a music school? Is it essential? Can we share facilities?"

"We have cut our politician's salaries by 65 per cent, and turned off the lights illuminating the church. We are going through everything, shaving off costs." Police will be soon driving around in smaller, cheaper cars, Mr Guiteras added, while even the chair upon which he sits in his office could be sold. The stunning town hall itself - an early 18th century mansion, built on top of the hill by a wealthy local businessman - could also go under the hammer.

"Why not? In the past, people used to sweep their own doorsteps when it snowed. But now, they wait for 'Papa Ayuntamiento' to come along and do it for them. We need to change this mentality."

Despite Mr Guiteras's crusading zeal, not all of Moia's problems can be solved with a change in mentality. Indeed, a few minutes walk away lies a €6 million reminder of the scale of the problem. Behind locked steel barriers is a brand new town medical centre, gathering dust since completion over a year ago. Piles of sand are left on the terrace, and broken glass scatters the forecourt.

The previous mayor built the centre, plus a three-storey underground car park, but upon completion the financial problems remained, and the property has remained locked up ever since.

"It is bad management, pure and simple," said Rosa Soler, 63, sitting in a nearby park. "They spent like mad, but without the money to pay for it."

Continued at bottom of page 14.

AFFORDABLE AIR CON



ALL AIR CON SYSTEMS
HOT & COLD - SUPPLY & FIT
OR INSTALLATION ONLY
SERVICING
RE-GAS & REPAIRS

ALL WORK CARRIED OUT BY A
CITY & GUILD'S
QUALIFIED INSTALLATION
ENGINEER
Call Keith for a free quotation
Tel: 965 326 163 & 649 584 493

M.A.R. SERVICES

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



Wills
Contracts
Translations
Notary visits, Rental agreements
Taxes, Utility Bills on-line,
Non-Resident Taxes
Residencia Applications
Based in Dream Hills
Native English & Spanish staff
Visit www.marservicespain.com
Or call 0034 658 549 029

TRANSPORT SERVICES Costa Blanca



Registered Business - Fully Insured
8 Passenger Mini Bus
Fully Air Conditioned
Available 7 days a week
Trips to Corte Ingles, Primark etc Airport
IKEA, Services, Local & Tourist Trips
Hen & Stag Nights, Benidorm, Markets
Golf Outings & German Beer Keller!
Party Nights a speciality!
Tel: Peter 617 096 374
& 965 994 660

Patches 'n' Pins Qualified Seamstress

40 yrs. Experience



Turn-ups

to

Tailoring



Patterns taken from
your favourite clothes.

Reasonable Prices

Phone: Sandra 966 799 188
Mobile: 680 486 336

ELECTRIC BOILERS

Repaired - Replaced - Resited
Same Day Service



**POWER SURGE
PROTECTOR**

Your whole home protected
TV's, Computers, Appliances.
€150 fitted.
Tel Keith: 965 326 163

RENT
THIS
SPACE
JUST
€!

Quickies

Two friends are fishing near a bridge. Suddenly a Hearse and two funeral cars go over the bridge so one of the men stands up, takes off his cap and bows his head. When the cars have gone he puts his cap back on, sits back down and carries on fishing. His mate turns to him and says, "Dave, that's one of the nicest most respectful things I've ever seen" Dave replies, "Well we were married for nearly 20 years "

Paddy says "Mick, oy'm tinkin' of boy-in' a Labrador darg."
"Fook dat" says Mick, "have you seen how many of dere owners go blind"

Went for my routine check-up today and everything seemed to be going fine until he stuck his index finger up my rear! Do you think I should change dentists?

What's the difference between Iron Man and Iron Woman? One's a superhero and the other is an instruction.

Phil H.

Continued from page 13.

At the bottom of the street, the town's two ambulance drivers told *The Sunday Telegraph* that they were on strike. The regional government had reduced their salaries by 16.5 per cent, and so they – like their colleagues across Catalonia – were officially downing tools, even though they continued to provide emergency cover. "We have to keep working, as we provide an essential service. But it is terrible how we have been treated," one explained. And yet, for all the malaise simmering in the town, some resigned residents have taken heed of the mayor's words. Last week's annual town fiesta was organised at a fraction of its usual cost, with performances mainly by local volunteers rather than expensive outside acts.

Meanwhile Bernat García de Mendoza, 43, the leader of a local parent-teachers association, was sweeping the school playground after it had been hired by a group of French students. "Before, we would have contracted cleaners to come in," he said. "Now we do it ourselves. The problem is that Spain in many ways is still a Third World country – we joke that Africa begins when you cross the Pyrenees. We should have been living within our means, renting houses, driving old cars, developing slowly and securely. But we went crazy." Back in the town hall, Mr Guiteras now has just days left to negotiate with the regional authorities to find a way to pay his staff. He has staked his reputation on being frank with the public about the crisis, but so far his only consolation is the certainty that he is not the only mayor suffering sleepless nights. "Many politicians are embarrassed to admit the scale of the problem, or are afraid of losing voters. But Moia is a reflection of what is happening across the country. "It's a real moment of crisis, and all of Spain needs to wake up to that."

PRE PAID FUNERAL PLANS --- WHY?

Death procedures in Spain are completely different to what happens in the UK and a typical example follows -

If death should occur at home, then the local police would attend the house, ask the relevant questions [may not know any English] and then advise the local Tanatoria [Funeral Director] who will collect the body. This is the first big expense but more importantly, do you want this pressure put on your loved ones?

On arrival at the Tanatoria they would want to know, immediately, whether a burial or cremation is required and then that procedure would be arranged and normally occur within 24 -48 hours!!!!

Does this give you time to arrange for family and friends to get to Spain to pay their last respects?

A pre-paid plan takes this pressure away by prearranging what you would prefer and even extend the timescale of the funeral.

A single phone call to the English speaking Pre Paid Funeral Company would be all that was required to get the process moving and take the pressure away from your loved ones

Another important part of taking out the plan is that you are also securing the cost of the funeral at today's rates being safe in the knowledge that you will not have to pay any further inflationary costs

People ask me what happens if I return to the UK. You can use it in the UK!!!

There are a few companies offering these schemes, again care must be taken on who we choose and I would guide you to the most appropriate company

The cost of this can be as little as 54 Euros per month

The above is very compact, but very important, and I will be more than happy to discuss the above with you in more detail either by phone 07957360349, by e-mail mike@maypolefs.co.uk or in the comfort of your own home.

Mike Heighway.



MAYPOLE
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Independent Financial Advisors

- ✓ Investments
- ✓ Onshore & Offshore Investments
- ✓ Pension & Retirement Planning
- ✓ QROPS
- ✓ Life Insurance & Critical Illness
- ✓ Health Insurance
- ✓ Funeral Plans
- ✓ Tax planning*
- ✓ Inheritance Tax Planning**

Maypole Financial Services offer impartial advice and as we are independent we are able to advise on products from the whole of the market.

Initial discussions are **FREE** and always without obligation.

**Telephone Mike Heighway
Your LOCAL Financial Advisor
Registered for Advice in Spain.**

Office: 00 44 1384 352345

Mobile: 07957 360349

Spain: 650 787 629

Email: info@maypolefs.co.uk

www.maypolefs.co.uk

Maypole Financial Services is authorised and regulated in the United Kingdom by The Financial Services Authority. FSA No. 457971

***These services are not regulated by the Financial Services Authority**

****Not all of these services are regulated by the Financial Services Authority**

Different Bird.

The teacher was telling the kids about the birds and the bees and she explained that when a man and a woman meet and fall in love, nine months later the stork usually brings them a little baby from its nest. Little Gemma at the back of the class put her hand up and asks the teacher, are you sure about the stork, miss? I think you're getting your birds mixed up 'cos my big sister just got a little baby and she said it was from a shag at the beach..!!!

STOP!

A truck driver was going down a steep incline when, at the foot of the hill, he was able to make out a couple having sex in the middle of the road. Five times on his descent he sounded his horn, but they didn't move. He finally brought the truck to a halt inches from the couple. The truck driver got out and stormed; 'What the hell's the matter with you two? Didn't you hear me? You could have been killed.'

The man replied nonchalantly, 'Listen, I was coming, she was coming, and you were coming. But you were the only one with brakes.'

CLASSIFIED ADS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC.

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

Lovely Apartment
to Rent
FOR HOLIDAYS / SHORTLETS
IN DREAMHILLS 2
South facing
Air/con & English TV
2 Community Pools
Competitive Rates
For more details
Contact: Gill 620361068
Or Dave 00441132529884
www.dreamhills2apartment.com/

REMEMBER!
 Don't miss out on your copy of the Dream Scene.
RESERVE A COPY - delivered to your property or post box for only € for a year's issues.
 Or if you prefer it can be sent to you by email for the same amount.
 Your contribution towards costs helps us to continue this newsletter.
 Contact Mick at no. 586 Dream Hills or at mick.dreamscene@gmail.com

BE AWARE!
SUPPORT YOUR
SECURITY GUARDS &
NEIGHBOURHOOD
WATCH

Costa Blanca SAMARITANS
You Talk. We Listen!
902 88 35 35

Mobile Hairdresser. Competitive prices and hairdressing in the comfort of your own home. Ladies & Gents. Call Jules on 666 029 257.

Cars, boats, motorbikes: Friendly mobile mechanic for all your repairs. Fully qualified Nissan mechanic. 25 years experience.
 General repairs, Pre ITVs, ITVs. (We can take your car to the ITV test.)
 Call Rob on 664 035 545 or 965 328 299.

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

Songs & Singers

Elton John performed at Amy Winehouse's funeral with a beautiful rendition of 'Candle...Under The Spoon.'

The closest thing to Roseanne Barr's singing the national anthem was my cat being neutered.

Johnny Carson
 (on Bryan Adams) As far as his love numbers go, I'm afraid someone who sings like he's got a throat infection is not going to get me smooching. Laura Davies
 Celine Dion's in a 4,000-seat auditorium (in Las Vegas) built specially to handle her voice. But it doesn't work. I could still hear her.

Lewis Black
 I can hold a note longer than the Chase National Bank.

Ethel Merman
 Cilla Black's voice is like labour pains set to music.

Bob Monkhouse
 You've got to have smelled a lot of mule manure before you can sing like a hillbilly.

Hank Williams
 (on his singing role in the film *Love Actually*) That was the beginning and end of my singing career. The British public has suffered enough.

Bill Nighy
 Yoko Ono; her voice sounded like an eagle being goosed.

Ralph Novak
 Leonard Cohen gives you the feeling that your dog just died.

Q Magazine

Riotous events in the UK have led to a new version of the Lord's Prayer.

Our father,
 Who art in prison,
 My mum knows not his name,
 Thy Riots come,
 Read it in "The Sun"
 In Birmingham, as it is in London,
 Give us this day our welfare giro
 And forgive us our looting,
 As we are happy to loot those
 Who've got more stuff than us.
 Lead us not into employment
 But deliver us free housing,
 For thine is the Facebook
 The Blackberry & the Twitter,
 Forever and ever...
 Innit !!!! (Dave Hope)

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS
AND THE COMMUNITY WEB SITES AT

www.dreamhills.co.uk/

&

www.dreamhills-2.com

There is also a Facebook page, Dream Hills - Costa Blanca

DISCLAIMER

Please note that any information provided is of a general interest & often also of a frivolous nature. You are advised to contact a professional for advice specific to your circumstances, in relation to legal, financial, health, medical or any other matters. The Dream Scene, its editor or any of its contributors, do not accept responsibility for any claims by advertisers, purchasers or anybody - and remember the old adage - "If something looks too good to be true - it generally is!" You must be really bored if you are reading this! Dream Scene is plagiarized from a multitude of sources - El Mundo, La Verdad, TypicallySpanish, El Pais etc - however no part of this publication may be used or reproduced without the consent of the editor - so there! Remember, to steal from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research. If you must use some of my stuff, at least quote the source. No small children or animals were harmed in the making of this newsletter.

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