

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER

Helping to keep expat's informed.....and smiling.

Issue no. 77 1st of July 2013

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the July edition.

Weather beautiful at the moment but expected to be much warmer next week. There were two minor earthquakes locally but no one was hurt and there was no damage.

The government will receive around two billion euros from the EU over the next few years to help try and reduce youth unemployment, which now stands at around 57%. One can only hope that the money will be allocated wisely without the politicians, unions and bureaucrats dipping into it.

The government also plans to save some 37.7 billion euros over the next three years under its restructuring of public administrations. 'This includes the mergers and elimination of 57 public bodies and organizations,' said Deputy Prime Minister Soraya Sáenz de Santamaría. Although this is a great idea, getting the regions to cooperate with Madrid and with one another is unlikely, as they all like to have their own little empires. The Catalans are being encouraged to close their 'embassies' abroad - which they have no intention of doing - and the Basque Country will not even study some of the proposals relating to the closure of duplicated functions in their region. Failure to follow the cost-cutting recommendations will mean that Spain will remain moribund due to expensive duplication in the regions.

Looking at some dates: July 16th is a Fiesta Day in Torreveja and the 17th and 19th are Fiesta Days in Orihuela. Most shops remain open on these dates. The next National 'Red-Day' is not until August 15, *Asuncion de Maria*. And speaking of dates, do you know that Monica Lewinsky turns 40 on July 23 this year! Can you believe it? They grow up so fast don't they? It seems like only yesterday that she was crawling around the White House on her hands and knees, putting everything in her mouth.

Many expat's will be disappointed to hear that Amazon.co.uk will no longer deliver post-free to Spain. This is a shame as Amazon.es is still in its infancy with very few products and little for the expat.

Something for everyone in this issue, although I had to drop the history article this month. Sorry to those who told me they enjoy reading it. Belushi's in Via Park V are donating a prize for the randomly selected correct answers to the quiz on page 11 and CK1 in Via Park III are including a bottle of wine with their special Fish & Chip for 2 meal, when the voucher on page 10 is used. Exceptional value! Also check out the Sunshine Sunset Cruises on page 9. I have been on one and they are great fun! See Bank Charges on page 8 & DH residents, see the street party invitation on page 22.

There are also articles on the high-speed rail link, new traffic reg's and a chance to read a free new e-book on page 17.

One of the issues with the Dream Scene is the quality of the printed photos. Whereas they are excellent on the online copies, they look very poor in printed form. I have tried to improve the quality of these colour photos in the black & white copies but to no avail. The only solution would be to produce colour copies of the newsletter. But even as this is a non-profit publication - most of the ads cost just €! - The production cost would be very high and would probably quadruple the advertising rates, which is unthinkable anytime but especially in a recession. But no more ads please, they are beginning to be almost unmanageable. But email me if you want a copy of any of the photos.

Get well soon to Rik in Galadriel's, who had a painful accident in the kitchen, and thanks also to Stefan for helping to deliver the Dream Scenes during the past two months. Believe me, it is very hard work in the hot weather.

Have a great month and I hope we will see you all soon.

Mick & Tid

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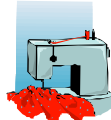
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Congratulation to Darren Lilley of The Lounge and to Kevin Green on their raising of €600 for the Paul Cunningham Nurses' charity during a Sunshine Sunset Cruise. Also thanks to Robbie & Charlie (The Faith) and the wonderful Venus Duo, who all performed gratis.

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There's one good thing about being bald: it's neat.

Milton Berle

Hundreds of thousands of people with mortgages are to be freed from the so called 'ground clause'. This is when interest rates fall below a level mentioned in the contract, where the mortgage interest rate is held above the real current interest rate by the bank. Now the Supreme Court has ruled that the BBVA, NCG and Cajamar must stop this practice, and it is estimated that clients could save about €1,000 a year. The Association of Bank Users ADICAE, celebrated the news that around 460,000 people in BBVA alone will no longer be affected by the 'ground clause', however they have highlighted that the banks will not return the excess money taken to date. This is because the court said that if the decision was applied retroactively, it would cause "serious disturbances" to "public economic order." What they really mean is that there will be more huge losses in the banks! The Supreme Court also condemned the banks for their lack of transparency. Other banks may now also remove the 'ground clause' and although the government would like the banks to do so, they will leave it to the individual banks to decide. If you have a mortgage, it is worth checking with your bank. More pressure on them will work wonders. Remember, the banks will volunteer *nada*.

After I wrote the above, I came across a new court case in Bilbao which was resolved on June 24. Here a court ordered Novagalicia Bank to repay a couple €12,000 in respect of a 'ceiling clause' in their mortgage since September 2006. They believe that forcing the bank to repay the money does not place it at 'serious economic risk.'

The Constitutional Court, Spain's top legal body, has now been re-shuffled, its judicial panel which will produce an ideological shift from left to the right. The support of the majority of the magistrates in this panel is essential to PM Rajoy in pushing through his policies relating to the labour market and pension reforms, healthcare policy, Catalonia's independence drive and a new abortion law. The reshuffled panel will also have the power to annul austerity measures imposed by the IMF, EU and ECB of up to 10 billion euros, in line with the decision of its Portuguese counterpart to ignore the diktats of the "troika."

The Supreme Court has rejected an application from the ex Director of the CAM bank María Dolores Amorós who was asking for 10 million € compensation after she left the bank. Neither did the court grant the €369,497 pension she awarded herself. Some people have no shame. The FROB bank rescue fund has accused Amorós of falsifying the accounts at the bank, and she has now been called to testify at the National Court with other members who were in other high positions in the bank.

The great fanfare from the Government recently saying that non-EU entrepreneurs who come to Spain with €500,000 to invest in property or business would be given residency, is not what it seems. Residency is only a two year 'investments visa' which can be repeated, but this visa is not a work permit and does not provide admittance to the health service. So basically, not worth cat-shit in the long run!

The Valencian Regional Health Ministry has installed 25 credit card terminals in selected health centres; 16 in Alicante, six in Castellón and three in Valencia. The new machines are part of a pilot scheme to charge foreign visitors who do not have a European Health Card or who are not covered by the Spanish national Health service. If the trial is successful it will be extended to other clinics.

Around 30,000 students could be thrown out of universities in Spain shortly. This is because of the fall in the number and amounts of grants awarded and the higher tuition fees which have resulted in many students and families being unable to pay the fees. Pressure from parents and teachers has forced the Education Minister, José Ignacio Wert, to revise the levels after which grants can be awarded.

It was a very messy divorce because there was a baby involved. Him. Wendy Liebman

The Portuguese Parliament has passed a law — similar to one introduced in Spain — to grant nationality to descendants of Sephardic Jews who were forced to leave the country at the end of the 15th century. Six months after announcing a significant easing of the naturalization process for Sephardic Jews, the Spanish government has yet to put the rules into practice, leaving many applicants for citizenship frustrated. Since November, the Justice Ministry has granted citizenship to 20 Sephardic Jews under the existing naturalization rules, with 2,900 Sephardic citizenship requests under review, most filed before the announcement.

The president of the Union of Islamic Communities of Spain, Riay Tatary, denounced the "exile" that "some municipalities" want to "punish" their places of worship by establishing in their zoning plans the relocation of neighbourhood mosques to "uninhabited areas like industrial sites" or "the suburbs."

The Spanish Government has ruled out the need for an Independent Regulatory Watchdog to oversee the Television Broadcasting Industry - a move which will make it one of the few European countries not to have one. Lack of funding has been blamed. This leaves the regulatory control of the TV sector in the hands of the National Markets and Competition Commission, which also oversees the Railways and Electrical sectors. Broadcasters are obliged to give 5% of their revenues towards subsidising the Spanish film industry.

Lorenzo Alonso, President of the Spanish Confederation of Bread Producers (CEOPAN) said it would be 'an authentic absurdity' if IVA on bread went up. He said that Spain is already at bottom of the list in Europe for bread consumption at 34 kilos a year per person. He lamented the times in the 60's and 70's when the average individual annual consumption in Spain was 134 kilos.

The European Parliament is to present the European Citizens Prize 2013 to the PAH, the Spanish pressure group for those subjected to mortgage abuse and evictions. Now this has gone down like a 'lead balloon' with the Spanish Government. Minister for Foreign Affairs, José Manuel García-Margallo, called the award 'an error' and the PP Euro Deputy, Carlos Iturgaiz, described the award as a 'scandal.' The PAH have become a real 'thorn in the side' to the PP ministers, demonstrating outside ministers' houses and occupying bank branches to highlight evictions. In many cases they have succeeded in stopping them. They have also single-handedly brought to the public's attention the inadequacies and injustices of the current mortgage legislation, much of which dates back to the early 1900's. There have been over 350,000 evictions in the last four years, some of these of course, would be for non-payment of rent. An unemployment rate of 27% and rising, means that growing numbers of people will be unable to meet their mortgage payments.

The 'dodgy Duke' is still in the news with more alleged fraud being revealed. The Hacienda (income tax authorities) has accused the Aizoon group, owned by the Duke and Duchess of Palma, of defrauding €826,000 with ghost companies. The paper says the Dukes reduced their tax base by taking out false documents for 15 people as staff, but none of them actually worked for the company.

Expect alcohol and tobacco price increases shortly.

The Roofers.

Paddy is doing some roofing work for Murphy He nears the top of the ladder and starts shaking and getting dizzy. He calls down to Murphy and says "I tink I will have to go home, I've come over all giddy and I feel sick."

Murphy asks "Have yer got vertigo?"

Paddy replies "No, I only live round the corner."

Susan Robinson

4 What's Up? continued

The new contract for the Grua Tow-Truck in Alicante has been granted for 10 years with a price of 41.6 million €IVA included, of which 5.5 million correspond to possible bonuses. Alicante traffic will reward the tow-truck company with an extra reward if they tow away more than 15,000 vehicles in a year. That works out at about 4 and a half a day. If you are unfortunate enough to see your car towed away in Alicante it will cost you €103 to get it back.

Three stray cats attacked a woman who was walking her Boxer dog on one of the main streets in the city of Elda, Alicante. This is a most unusual occurrence as cats will normally flee, particularly from a Boxer. The woman had to be treated at the *Salud* for very deep scratches and the dog was treated at the vet's. Animal experts are perplexed by the incident as cats usually only attack if cornered or feeding.

A pit bull with rabies attacked and bit a six-year-old girl and then a twelve-year-old boy. But it was a two-year-old boy in a local park who suffered the worst injuries after the enraged animal bit him in the face. Another boy, 17-years-old, was bitten by the infected dog which was not on a leash nor was it wearing a muzzle. The pit bull's owner bought the animal from a supplier in Barcelona. Given that the incubation period for rabies is a month and the animal had only recently made it onto Spanish soil, experts believe the pit bull probably picked up rabies in North Africa. Spain has been a rabies-free country since 1978, but its North African enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla have still registered the occasional incidents in recent years.

The austerity cuts have been eroding into all sectors of the Spanish establishment. One of the most surreal and amusing however is that of the shortage of toilet paper in the police stations in Palma in the Balearics. Here, despite cut-backs to salaries, there are no funds available, even to repair damaged police cars. The toilet paper ran-out a month ago and morale is, if you pardon the expression, at rock-bottom. (Maybe they should now use parking-tickets.) So if you are stopped for speeding in Palma, you might try this line, 'Officer, if you forget about the speeding ticket, there could be a couple of rolls of four-ply in it for you!' They have a similar situation in the police stations in Cádiz in Southern Spain. Here due to a change in suppliers they will be out of toilet paper for some time. Although they have ordered 1,000 rolls they will have to wait a month for delivery! The local Chief of Police promises to get to the bottom of this sticky situation. And as an aside, I have just read that there is also a national shortage of toilet paper in Venezuela. Imagine, all that oil and no *bumf*!

But of course post-Chavez Venezuela continues with his brand of lunacy. There, the looney-Left are proposing to the National Assembly that mothers who do not breastfeed their babies for up to six months, be fined. They want to 'promote breastfeeding and sensitise mothers.' The opposition has described the new proposed legislation as 'coercive' and highlights that the fines to 'offenders' will range from the equivalent of €255 to €38,000! The new bill will also ensure that the advertising of pre-prepared baby formulae and other related products face the same restrictions as tobacco advertising. What in God's name is going on there? You can read more of this madness here in Spanish -

<http://www.elmundo.es/america/2013/06/17/venezuela/1371474486.html>

If you can't stand 'grisly tales,' then read no further. The remains of a 34-year-old man were discovered in his flat in Madrid where part of his body had been devoured by his two pit-bull terriers. The coroner said it took some time to identify the body because his face had been eaten-away and that the man had died three days previously of a heart attack.

The Headstones.

A husband and wife are having a bitter argument. The husband yells, 'When you die, I'm getting you a headstone that reads, "Here Lies My Wife - Cold As Ever."'

'Yeah?' she replies. 'Well, when you die, yours will read, 'Here Lies My Husband - Stiff At Last.'"



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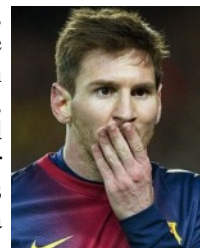
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The PSOE Socialist party is the only one not to put their party accounts online. The PP, CiU, IU, and UPyD have all done so.

Despite another loss in the polls, the independence-hungry president of Cataluña, Artur Más, has decided to nominate 'Catalan ambassadors' who will each be paid €100,000 to promote Cataluña abroad. No doubt the unemployed and the ailing health service in his region are very impressed. But then the voracious unions (see page 11) got in on the 'independence act' also. La Razón reports that the Catalan President, Artur Mas, 'purchased' the support of the big unions, UGT and CCOO, for support on sovereignty with 10.4 million € of aid.

The World Player of the Year, Lionel Messi, and his father Jorge allegedly filed fraudulent tax returns for the years 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009, according to a spokesman for the prosecutor's office for tax crimes in Catalonia. Messi, who was 26 in June, is one of the world's highest-paid footballers with a salary of just over £12m a season, according to Forbes magazine. On top of his Barcelona wages, he pulls in a similar amount in endorsements from sponsors including Adidas, PepsiCo and P&G and he is 10th on Forbes' latest list of top-earning athletes. If charged and found guilty, Messi and his father could face a fine amounting to 150 percent of the concealed earnings and 2-6 years in prison, although an out-of-court deal is another possible outcome. No doubt all at Real Madrid F.C. are saying the Rosary in the hope that he gets 'banged-up' with Big Gay Juan in Cell 69. But the latest is that Messi has now made a voluntary payment of €10 million to the *Hacienda*, in the hope of doing a deal and averting charges.



A hospital in Murcia had to cancel 25 operations in one day due to rubbish in the corridors because the cleaning staff are on strike. Health professionals in Madrid are also complaining about a 30% cut in cleaning staff. Vomit, they say, is not cleared up until the following day. Matters may also soon grind to a halt in Castellón General Hospital. Here, the alarm system within the patients' rooms are not operating as the maintenance-system bills remain unpaid. The patients are given a urine-sample cup with paper-clips inside. The patient has to rattle this to get the nurse's attention. The intercom system has not been working for a month and is not expected to be repaired until late summer.

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I'm not upset about my divorce. I'm only upset I'm not a widow.
Roseanne



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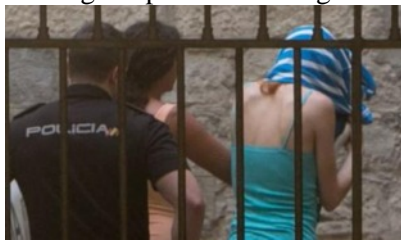
My husband and I divorced over religious differences. He thought he was God, and I didn't.

Vera Foster

The group *Stop Desahucios* (Stop Evictions) have occupied several vacant floors in a building in Calle Caballero de Rodas in Torrevieja. They have already installed a number of homeless families in the building although they have no electricity at present. SabadellCAM, the owners of the building, plan to speak to the pressure group shortly. A spokesman for the pressure group commented that 'although Torrevieja has 35,000 empty properties, society is happy for evicted people to sleep under bridges.'

Torrevieja council plan to demolish around 200 illegal builds and will delegate the 'dirty work' to an outside company. Some of these builds are particularly 'cheeky.' In one case a house-owner built on a large ground floor extension and then converted it into a public bar. No doubt many of these cases will drag through the courts for some time before anything is knocked down.

As I write this, the *Fiesta de San Juan* is in full swing. Unfortunately, there are sometimes dangers associated with these fiestas. During a bull-run you are quite likely to get a bull's horn up the backside and jumping over bonfires can also have its risks. A close friend of mine had one of her feet very badly burned doing this one year during *San Juan*. It is the same with the ubiquitous fireworks. An organised display is always exciting and almost always quite safe. But giving fireworks to kids is as dangerous and dumb as giving a fast sports car to a teenager. During a celebration of the Hogueras, for the Día de San Juan in San Blas, Alicante, a 10-year-old boy was killed on Sat' June 22nd, after a firecracker in a drink's can was thrown. An exploding piece of metal from the can struck him in the neck causing a rapid haemorrhage.



A newborn baby has survived 40 hours in a drain in Alicante after being thrown there by his mother. A neighbour called the emergency services. She thought she heard a cat crying in the drain. Firemen and police freed the two-day-old baby who still had his umbilical cord attached. Although suffering from a fractured forearm and other injuries, his life is not in danger. His mother, (photo - Jose Navarro) a 26-year-old Spaniard, has been charged with attempted murder. She told the police she did not want the baby and couldn't afford an abortion. The baby was wrapped in plastic, but fortunately, there was a hole in the bag so the infant could breathe. Naturally, the emergency services are pleased with the rescue and they have dubbed the baby "*el pequeño superviviente*" - the little survivor.

Pharmacists in Alicante are reporting that sales of the morning after pill have increased the day after the *San Juan Hogueras* celebrations in the town. The pharmacists say that most to make a purchase are young girls who arrive in a very distressed state. The consumption of alcohol soars in the fiesta particularly with youngsters, and hangover remedies are also in demand at the chemists. Each year the *Hogueras* send an image of Alicante of *botellón* drinking parties in the street, not quite the image the city wants to portray.

Orihuela Council, that is the taxpayer, now has a contingent debt of over €7 million hanging over their heads. A regional court in Valencia found that the awarding of the *basura* (rubbish) contract award in 2007 was done so irregularly. Four companies tendered for the contract but three of the four had the same owner, who was eventually awarded the contract. The then unsuccessful applicant, Urbaser, will now have to be compensated with the full amount, or given the contract. The council will obviously appeal the decision, which is probably just postponing the inevitable.

The Invisible Man and the Invisible Woman happily celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary yesterday; mind you, their kids were nothing much to look at.

Ken Figg



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The mayor and councillors of Bullas in the nearby wine-growing region in Murcia have been encouraging recycling by exchanging plants for recycling items such as scrap and plastic. My wife wants to exchange me for a plant, similar but more manageable - spikey, easy to upset and in constant need of fluid replenishment!

45 Britons have launched a charity service in Torrevieja called 'Reach Out.' The group is currently helping some 40 homeless people, offering them breakfast and a meal every day of the year. They are also given the chance to use the showers. They are located in Calle Bella Antonia, near the Plaza de la Habana. The group also has two flats which can be used as a refuge in extreme cases.

The average waiting time for a surgical procedure in Valencia is now 81 days, according to *El Mundo*. Cancers, tumours and high-risk conditions will continue to get priority treatment while non high-risk op's such as varicose veins and bunions will be delayed. By extending surgical procedures to the afternoons in the summer, an additional 5,000 op's will be performed.

38 people were injured in a coach crash in Alicante last weekend, six of them seriously. All the coach passengers were Moroccan. The vehicle left the road and dropped down a 5-metre gorge.

Now Hear the Word of the Lord!

A vicar goes to the dentist for a set of false teeth. The first Sunday after he gets his new teeth, he talks for only eight minutes. The second Sunday, he talks for only ten minutes. The following Sunday, he talks for 2 hours and 48 minutes. The congregation had to mob him to get him down from the pulpit and they asked him what happened. The vicar explains that on the first Sunday his gums hurt so bad he couldn't talk for more than 8 minutes. The second Sunday his gums hurt too much to talk for more than 10 minutes. But, the third Sunday, he put his wife's teeth in by mistake and he couldn't shut up. (Derrick Green)



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Students.

- A freshman at Oxford University was looking for the library, so he approached a senior student and asked: 'Excuse me, but where's the library at?' The senior student looked down his nose at the freshman and replied haughtily: 'At Oxford, we never end a sentence with a preposition.'
- 'Sorry,' said the freshman. 'Where's the library at, asshole?'
- A student was fed up. 'What's the matter?' asked his flat mate. 'I wrote home asking my parents to send money so that I could buy a laptop.....and they sent me a laptop!'

SE VENDE **ASTRID'S** **SE ALQUILA**
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BANK CHARGES & YOU.

One of the better Spanish consumer associations, FACUA-Consumers in action, has come up with a report on bank charges in Spain. The study looked at 12 banks in all and the user profile used in their analysis is a consumer who pays monthly six bills by direct debit, carries out seven payments with a debit card and at least one with credit card every month and makes two transfers, pays in two cheques and pays another two standing orders every year. Read this informative report here.*

The banks that charge the most out of those in the study are Barclays (200.40 Euros), Santander (177.40 Euros) and Unicaja (176.20 Euros).

The study refers to accounts where users are not obliged to state or pay-in their salary or pension or to contract other bank services, conditions under which some banks eliminate a large part of their commission fees.

Only one of the banks surveyed did not apply commission fees to current accounts for maintenance, administration, paying in cheques and transfers, and that was ING Direct.

Of the twelve banks analysed, the average annual charge for maintenance was 47 Euros, Barclays being the highest, which reached 72 Euros, followed by the 60 Euros that Sabadell, Unicaja, Banesto, Banco Popular and Santander charge.

Two of the twelve banks do not charge commission fees for maintenance, ING Direct and Activobank.

I used to bank with CAM, but when Sabadell finally took them over, many expat's started to accrue account charges. I went to Sabadell and told them that if they did not stop charging I would move my account. They then said that if I took out an insurance policy with them, they would reconsider it. I refused, telling them that I was paying in enough money every month anyway! Within a week they changed the account to a no-charge 'Experience' account.

The FACUA report is informative and worth reading. You can read the report [in English](http://www.facua.org/es/noticia_ant.php?Id=7587&IdAmbito=22&idioma=1) here - *http://www.facua.org/es/noticia_ant.php?Id=7587&IdAmbito=22&idioma=1

'Síndrome del vestuario'

Okay, this is a very, very serious subject and I don't want any giggling at the back.....well, not too much anyway.

While trawling through the Spanish press online, searching for literary and cultural nuggets for our erudite readers, I came across an article about the ever-increasing demand for penis surgery in Spain. Basically, there are a lot of blokes out there who feel that their pecker is just not large enough to 'cut the mustard' or indeed anything else. The director of the Institute for Sexual Medicine, Mariano Rosselló, explained that the increased consumption of pornographic films and porn on the Internet showing oversized penises "distort what is considered normal" and causes great discomfort in some men who become obsessed by the size of their member. This has led to the number of operations to lengthen penises, if you pardon the expression, shooting up. This feeling of inadequacy the experts call 'Locker Room Syndrome' - '*síndrome del vestuario*'. Maybe this title of the condition is not a good one, because mindful of my rugby-playing days any gawking at another chap's 'jewels' would surely earn you a black eye. Dr. Rossello, has performed about 400 penis enlargement operations and notes that this procedure is performed on men mainly between 30 and 40 years. According to Rossello, 15% of men have a penis "smaller than normal", and "as a woman can increase the size of her breasts, a man can also increase the size of his discreet member", between 2 and 4 cm according to the type of individual and anatomy. He advises that there are individuals who are "psychologically balanced" but have a self-esteem problem and, after being analysed by a team of psychiatrists, can undergo this cosmetic intervention. He also carries out this op' between 15 and 20 times a year for 18-year-old boys!

It was then while reading my Google translation of this El Mundo article that my jaw dropped. Dr. Rossello went on to say that the size of a normal erect 'todger' is 15 inches. 15 inches!!!! Where's that ruler? Now, this kind of information can upset a bloke for days, so I quickly went back to the original article in Spanish. It read 15 cms in Spanish, which Google translated as 15 inches! Phew, panic over! Now I am sure that a lot of you guys will want to check your's out, but remember, it seems size doesn't matter. Like hell it doesn't! Well you know what they say about men who wear big shoes? Now I don't want to boast or anything, but I wear size 11 (Spanish size 46!).....and these are pinching me!!

*Look at Cher. One more face lift
and she'll be wearing a beard.*

Jennifer Saunders

And the next flight.....

A crowded airline flight was cancelled. A single agent was re-booking a long line of inconvenienced and testy travellers. Suddenly, an angry passenger pushed his way to the desk. He slapped his ticket on the counter and said, "I HAVE to be on this flight and it has to be FIRST CLASS." The agent replied, "I'm sorry, sir. I'll be happy to try to help you, but I've got to help these folks first; and then I'm sure we'll be able to work something out."

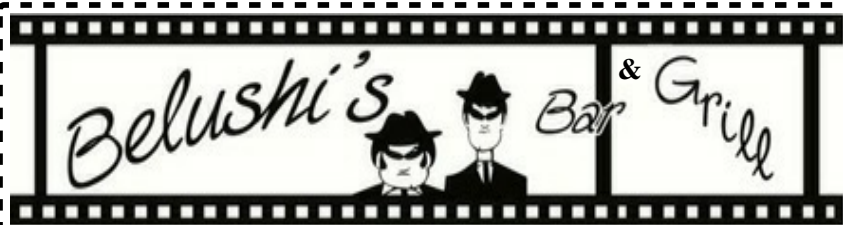
The passenger was unimpressed. He asked loudly, so that the passengers behind him could hear, "DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO I AM?"

Without hesitating, the agent smiled and grabbed her public address microphone. "May I have your attention, please?", she began, her voice heard clearly throughout the terminal. "We have a passenger here at Gate 14 WHO DOES NOT KNOW WHO HE IS. If anyone can help him with his identity, please come to Gate 14".

With the folks behind him in line now laughing hysterically, the man glared at the United Airlines agent, gritted his teeth, and said, "F**K You!" Without flinching, she smiled and said, "I'm sorry sir, you'll have to get in line for that, too."

Life isn't about how to survive the storm, but how to dance in the rain.

Stefan Pokroppa



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- August 14, Ladies Night with JJ Soulman and guest.
- August 16, Boat House Party with Soulful House Inc.
- August 18, Torrevieja F.C. Party.
- August 21, U2/Bono Tribute / Lynden B entertains.
- August 23, Boat House Party with Soulful House Inc.
- August 30, Showaddywaddy Tribute & more!
- September 6, Boat House Party with Soulful House Inc.
- September 13, Ladies Night, Lynden B entertains.
- September 14, The Faith - **ROCK THE BOAT!**
- September 20, Boat House Party with Soulful House Inc.
- September 28, TBA.

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CUT-OUT AND PRESENT WITH ORDER.

A man is about to have sex with an absolutely huge woman. As he climbs on top of her, he says, 'Do you mind if I turn the ceiling light off?' 'Why?' said the big woman, 'are you feeling shy?' 'No,' replies the man, 'it's just that the bulb's burning my ass.'

COMPETITION!

Belushi's Bar & Grill (JJ, Rob & Liam) at Via Park V have always been generous supporters of The Dream Scene. This month they have volunteered an excellent prize for a competition for the Dream Scene readers. The prize is a meal for two of Fish, Chips & Mushy Peas, eat-in only on a Friday evening. I enjoyed a Fish & Chip dinner there last week. The cod had big white moist flakes and the batter was beautifully light and tasty, not the coronary-inducing gunk you get in some establishments. All in all, feel-good food and a great treat!

COMPETITION QUIZ:

1. What legendary soul singer sang 'Think' in the movie *The Blues Brothers*?
2. What famous Spanish writer was born in September 1547 and died in April 1616?
3. The creators of which cartoon characters were threatened by Oasis with legal action in 1996 if they covered any of their songs?
4. Which sauce is named after a river and state in Mexico?
5. What was the main news story the day after the 13th December 2003?

Okay, there may be a couple of stinkers in there but have a shot at it. You can send your answers by e-mail to mick.dreamscene@gmail.com or if you are not on the 'net', you can drop them into the black post-box marked 'DreamScene' outside house number 586 in Dream Hills (1). Remember to include contact details with your answers. Winner will be advised before end of July. **Entries close on July 15, 2013.**

Layoff-scam judge accuses labour unions of complicity in massive fraud. (Extract from El Pais)

The judge investigating the so-called ERE case in Andalusia, Mercedes Alaya, has accused leading labour unions CCOO and UGT of profiting from the slush fund set up by regional government employees that drained money meant to help companies in financial trouble to meet the severance pay of workers laid off as part of a labour-force reduction plan (ERE).

It is alleged that some 136 million euros of public money was embezzled by high-ranking regional government officials between 2001 and 2010. The case has so far netted some 80 suspects including two former Socialist labour chiefs in Andalusia and the former directors of the Eurobank group, whose subsidiary, Vitalia, was responsible for processing layoff applications submitted to the regional government. It is alleged that the suspects employed a system of awarding early retirement packages and grants to individuals and firms who did not qualify for assistance.

Now, Alaya has accused the very institutions whose job it is to protect workers' rights of complicity in the racket.

"The unions, in addition to membership fees and public subsidies, during a decade also found another formula in Andalusia for irregular financing." According to the judge's report, Vitalia and its partner companies Uniter and legal firm Estudios Jurídicos Villasís, paid 7.6 million euros in commissions to UGT and CCOO in "periodic payments that do not correspond to any definitive service."

When questioned, the former chief of Vitalia, Antonio Albarracín, who also said the unions carried out actuarial work and were paid a commission of 0.5 percent from the money allotted by the regional government to cover the ERE. "It's not just in Andalusia - this happens in all of Spain," said Albarracín, who added that the payments to the unions were "a genuine pressure tool" and that if the fee was not paid "the unions go in person to the company and say they will not sign off on the restructuring agreement."

The two big unions, UGT and CCOO deny any wrongdoing.

The judge alleged that González Mata is the author of a series of financial crimes based on the payment of unnecessary commissions, adding that he acted in cahoots with former regional employment chiefs, Javier Guerrero and Juan Márquez, plus Antonio Fernández, a former director of the Andalusia Development Institute. All three men are in prison awaiting trial. Alaya stated that González Mata's companies - Uniter, Ingotor and Cureña - received 32.9 million euros of regional government funds, of which 20 million came through overcharging for commissions.



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Too Much Mercury!

Spanish women have six times more mercury in their hair than the EU average. A study carried out in 17 countries with 1,848 couples with children has revealed high levels of ambient contaminations*. The consumption of fish has its effect on mercury levels.

Another study, carried out in 2003 by the Spanish Oceanographic Organisation revealed the presence of mercury in sword fish, shortfin, and shark. These animals were shown to have more than a milligram of metal for every kilo of fish.

Mercury and other contaminates passes from mother to baby before the child is born and after through breast feeding. Another survey carried between 2004 and 2008 analysed 1,883 umbilical cords, and 64% of them had levels higher than 5.8 milligrams of mercury per litre of blood, a level considered to be high. In Spain mercury levels are highest in Asturias, Sabadell, Valencia and Guipúzcoa. A world pact was signed last January to restrict the use of mercury but you can bet that any new recommendations have not filtered down to those who dump the metal particularly in certain regions. Whereas I love *panga*, I am often concerned that it comes from waters around places like Vietnam and Cambodia, where the control relating to the dumping of toxic chemicals and metals is not very rigorous.

The above must surely cast a shadow over what used to be the 'healthy Mediterranean diet.'

* The study also revealed that Spanish children have a high indication of cotinine. Cotinine is an alkaloid found in tobacco and is also a metabolite of nicotine. The high readings may come from passive smoking, although people of African descent routinely register higher blood cotinine levels than Caucasians.

I'm so hungry I could eat a nun's arse through the convent railings.
Lily Savage



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Housework!

- As far as I know, a single man has never vacuumed behind a couch.
- Don't cook. Don't clean. No man will ever make love to a woman because she waxed the linoleum. 'My God, the floor's immaculate. Lie down, you hot bitch.'
- I buried a lot of my ironing in the back yard.

Rita Rudner

Joan Rivers

Phyllis Diller

IDIOT OF THE MONTH.

José Laparra (photo), was a former president of the Deportivo Castellón Football Club. José, a 46-year-old bachelor with a heart condition, had 'the hot's' for Sandra, a young secretary who works in a building in Valencia where Laparra had an office.



Poor José, who was not having much success in attracting the young lady, decided to enlist the assistance of a fortune teller/seer/oracle, Lucía Martín, 27, who 'peddles her wares' on TV and online. It was agreed that Lucia would make a 'love spell' for José so that the lovely Sandra would be his. For this José paid the fortune teller €165,000!

Anyway, it seems that José's love remained unrequited and eventually his common sense for once surpassed his passion, so he decided to get his money back. Fortune teller Lucia would have none of it, so José decided to step-up his demands and turned up at her house with three friends - Carmen, 50, and two men, Youssef and Juan José, 25 and 27. Somehow they got into Lucia's house, allegedly let in by her father, but their efforts to get the money back resulted only in the payment of €2,500. Not happy with this they created a bit of a fuss, while Lucia (photo) hid under her bed and called the police. I guess she didn't see this one coming!



When the police arrived, they found several computer-linked plasma TVs, electrical communication's equipment, brand-name bags and shoes and a Vietnamese pig called Valentino, acquired in emulation of the actor George Clooney and the heiress Paris Hilton. They also found cakes and pastries, which Lucia claimed she sold on the Internet. Obviously the pig wouldn't eat them! The police confiscated the €2,500 held by José and a further search of the house revealed a further €167,000 in cash, which the police also confiscated on suspicion of tax evasion.

Lucia, who describes herself as 'running a psychological assistance service,' has been living the 'good-life' for some time. She has a 700 sq. metre property in Andorra and her fortune telling income was sufficient to pay for first-class travel, luxury hotels and brand-name clothing and accessories — especially handbags, one of her obsessions, according to her Facebook profile.

But it has now also emerged that the heartbroken and significantly poorer José Laparra also has some 'history.' José, who is involved in real-estate promotion and geriatric care (God help them!), is facing charges for embezzlement from the soccer team, whose executive board is accused of siphoning-off between four and six million euros derived, in part, from public subsidies.

But, I will leave the last word to Lucia's father who, being fully aware of his daughter's business said, 'If there are people dumb enough to pay for this.....'

And I suppose, it is hard to disagree with him!

Lending a hand.

A group of 3rd, 4th, & 5th graders, accompanied by two female teachers, went on a field trip to the local racetrack, to learn about thoroughbred horses and the supporting industry, but mostly to see the horses.

When it was time to take the children to the bathroom, it was decided that the girls would go with one teacher and the boys would go with the other. The teacher assigned to the boys was waiting outside the men's room when one of the boys came out and told her that none of them could reach the urinal.

Having no choice, she went inside, helped the boys with their pants, and began hoisting the little boys up one by one, holding on to them so they could direct their wee-wee into the bowl.

As she lifted one, she couldn't help but notice that he was unusually well endowed. Trying not to show that she was staring, the teacher said, 'You must be in the 5th grade.'

'No, ma'am', he replied. 'I'm a jockey riding Silver Arrow in the seventh race, but I do appreciate your help.'

SOLUTION TO DOG-POO PROBLEM?

The town hall officials in Brunete, Madrid, have come up with a novel idea for irresponsible dog-owners who leave the sidewalks messy by refusing to pick-up after their pet goes to the toilet.

They have been sending the droppings they find in a small box directly to pet owners' doors, along with a notice warning them that the next time they refuse to clean up after their dogs they will face fines between 30 and 300 euros.

The idea, which was the brainchild of the McCann advertising firm, was put into practice as part of a week-long pilot program launched in February. Volunteers are employed to spot the uncooperative canine owners, and chat to them in order to find out their dog's name. From the municipal register of pets, the owner's address can then be determined. The next day, a town hall official calls at the dog-owner's door delivering a package of "lost items." "Sign here, please," the official tells the bewildered owner.

"We were tired of not being able to solve this problem, so last year we spoke to McCann to see if they could come up with a creative idea," said a Brunete town spokesman.

After a total of 147 deliveries, Brunete officials report that paths and public spaces are now 70% cleaner.

(El Pais)

There is a video on the story here -

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3cViKly604>

GROWTH OF 'EYEBALLING' & 'TAMPODKA.'

Health authorities have warned that a dangerous 'drinking' trend detected in the UK, USA and Germany is becoming rife in Spain – pouring alcohol into the eye or various orifices so that it gets into the system more quickly. (Surely it must hurt like hell! Mick)

This way, young revelers become drunk almost immediately, and their breath does not smell of alcohol. Head of Toxicology at Valencia General Hospital, Benjamín Climent, says the practice known as 'eyeballing' – pouring shots of spirit, generally vodka, into the mucous membranes of the eye – can cause serious long-term damage, particularly to the cornea, and lead to blindness.

Oxy-shots, whereby alcohol in inhalers mixed with oxygen is taken in, allows spirits to be absorbed quickly by a larger area of the body and almost instantly, since it bypasses the natural filtering process performed by the liver.

'Tampodka' and 'Tampax on the Rocks' are two other trends now being seen regularly in Spain and leading to a number of teenagers and young adults being admitted to hospital in alcohol-induced comas. Here, a tampon is soaked in a high-proof spirit, mainly vodka, and inserted into the vagina or the anus.

Cases have been seen in Valencia, the Canary Islands, Galicia and Navarra, and in recent months hospitals in Asturias have treated three teenage girls – under aged drinkers – who had fallen into a coma through alcohol after inserting tampons soaked in alcohol.

The regional government of the Balearic Islands managed to stop dispensers of 'inhaleable' shots from being set up two years ago, and say the practice is particularly rife in the 'party capitals' of the region, such as most of Ibiza, and Magalluf (Mallorca).

You can read the full article here in ThinkSpain - <http://www.thinkspain.com/news-spain/22812/eyeballing-oxy-shots-and-tampodkas-dangerous-and-growing-drinking-trends-among-spains-youth>



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LIME BAR GOLF SOCIETY, LOS ALTOS, ORIHUELA COSTA

The golf societies venue for the 12th June 2013 was held at the Mar Menor Golf Course. The weather could not have been better and players looked forward to this interesting and likeable course. The competition was in the Stableford format and the scores recorded were as follows:
 Longest Drive on the 5th hole was Norman Dobson.
 Nearest the Pin in two on the 12th Hole was Bryan Archer.
 Nearest the Pin on the 17th hole was Mick Slater.
 Best guest with a score of 36 points was Tim Brown.
 Silver Class 3rd place was Norman Dobson with a score of 32 points (on count-back).
 Silver Class 2nd place was Don Martin with a score of 35 points.
 Silver Class 1st place was Barry Sawyer with a score of 37.
 Gold Class 3rd place was Paul Abbott with a score of 34 points .
 Gold Class 2nd place was Mike Heighway with a score of 34 points.
 Gold Class 1st place was Les Henderson with a score of 36 points.
 We would like to wish Damien Steed a speedy recovery following his recent illness.



I found a wood
 that can 
 lower my score.
 It's called
 a pencil.

A very good day in pleasant company, thank you to Captain Mick Slater and for organising the event and also thanks to the staff at The Lime Bar and ladies for a most enjoyable meal. Anyone wishing to join our friendly society just needs to phone Mick on 659866468.

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Wise Italian Grandfather.

An old Italian man in Brooklyn is dying. He calls his grandson to his bedside, "Guido, I wana' you lissina me. I wana' you to take-a my chrome plated 38 revolver so you will always remember me."

"But grandpa, I really don't like guns.. How about you leave me your Rolex watch instead?"

"You lissina me, boy! Somma day you gonna be runna da business, you gonna have a beautiful wife with bigga boobies, lotsa money, a big-a home and maybe a couple a bambinos. "

"Somma day you gonna come-a home and maybe finda you wife inna bed with another man. "Whatta you gonna do then? Pointa to you watch and say, 'Time's up!?"

(Pete Dudman)

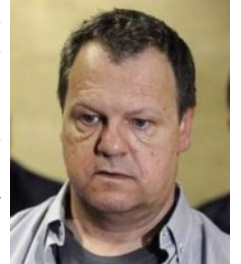
Some Really Bad Eggs!

The Guardia Civil have arrested two managers of an elderly residential home in Galapagar, Madrid. The detainees, a Spaniard and a Peruvian, both 39, are charged with defrauding the elderly of more than €400,000. It seems that this couple of rats persuaded an elderly woman to sign power of attorney to them so that they could purchase some medical equipment for her. They then sold a property she owned, cleared out her savings and fixed-deposits, together with the jewels and valuables she deposited for safe-keeping when she first arrived at the residential home.

The deception only came to light when the woman was transferred to another nursing home following an inspection of the original home. This brought to light certain irregularities and violations which led to closure of the home. The first time the woman was aware of the sale of her property was when a local woman informed her. The whereabouts of the sale proceeds - €153,000 - are unknown. Similarly, the old woman said that after the death of her husband last March, she commissioned the managers to process her husbands funeral. However, she does not know where he is now buried or where his wedding ring is.

I have no doubt that these two villains have also defrauded others.

The man known as the Porter of Olot has been sentenced to prison for 126 years for the murder of 11 pensioners during a trial in Girona. But under Spanish legislation the maximum time he will serve is 40 years. He was also ordered to pay between €5,000 and €39,000 to the victims of the families, some €369,000 in all. He had been working at a convalescent home as a security guard in Olot Girona for five years. There, Joan Vila (photo-EFE) poisoned his victims with bleach, de-scaling acid, overdoses of insulin and various fatal pharmaceutical cocktails, causing them extraordinary suffering. Investigators only became suspicious when an 85-year-old woman, Paquita Gironès, was transferred in agony to hospital after Vila had given her an acid to drink.



A number of points strike me about this. What is the point of giving long jail sentences when the existing legal system reduces them significantly anyway and what is the point of levying fines which the offender will never be able to pay, nor indeed have the will to do so. But much more seriously, why did it take 11 murders in just five years within a single institution before the authorities began to wake up? Such incompetence is stunning.

In this case, the murderer's defence team 'pulled out all the stops.' First they said that at the moment of killing, the accused suffered some sort of 'psychic' breakdown. They then stated that he just wanted to end the suffering of the ill and elderly patients and killed them out of kindness. Now that all this got the creative juices of the defence lawyers flowing they came up with a few more gems. They stated that Vila was a repressed homosexual and that he was 'a woman trapped in a man's body'. They also said he had been a sufferer of medical negligence. Fortunately the jury ignored all this.

Joan Vila's last words to the court were 'I only want to say sorry for what I did, and for allowing it to come to this extreme. I don't want to say anything else.'

Both stories above show that, all in all, some nursing homes are downright dangerous to the vulnerable.

At every party, there are two kinds of people - those who want to go home and those who don't. The trouble is, they are usually married to each other.

Ann Landers



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HIGH SPEED RAIL LINK COMES TO ALICANTE.

The AVE, *Alta Velocidad Española*, finally links Alicante with Madrid. This new link to the high-speed rail service operated by RENFE was officially opened in Alicante by PM Rajoy and other assorted suits including Prince Philip of Asturias in mid-June. This new and long overdue link to South East Spain will operate Alicante - Villena - Albacete - Cuenca - Madrid. This route will take two hours and 40 minutes. The direct Alicante - Madrid service takes just two hours and 20 minutes but RENFE hope to have this journey-time down to two hours and five minutes early next year. There will be nine trains daily from Alicante with an extra train on Fridays. The basic one-way fare is €64.90, although if tickets are bought well enough in advance a 70% discount can apply. This, together with other special offers can lower the price to as little as €9.45.



All the new AVE lines have been launched with much ballyhoo and promises of good times to come. When the Valencia - Madrid AVE line was launched, an annual traffic of 3.6 million passengers was predicted. During its first year it barely reached 1.9 million travellers, dropping to 1.7 million the following year. It was also predicted that the drastic unemployment figures would be improved by 136,000 new jobs. Once again an illusion. Whereas it was expected that the AVE would be an economic engine for the region, one of the stops on this line, Requena, is down to 50 passengers a day! It is felt that Villena on the new line might suffer the same fate. Although the new station here cost more than €1 million, it is located in the middle of nowhere with dreadful road links. When the Valencian regional government came to link the station to the motorway, it ran out of money! Unfortunately, many of the minor stations on the AVE lines have been a disaster financially.

The link between Albacete and Madrid, approx. 165 kilometres, cost 1.92 billion euros, that's 11.6 million euros per kilometre. However, the new Alicante-Madrid route plans to be the most profitable of all the AVE routes in Spain. The official projection for passenger capacity on the route was raised by 40% to put it at 2.2 million people every year, twice the number of people who used the 50-minutes-slower existing train service in 2012. This projection may prove to be too ambitious.

One newspaper, ABC, claims that only China has a larger high speed network than Spain. Far from scaling down the previous Socialist government's plans, the centre-right administration of PM Mariano Rajoy intends to invest more than €25 billion over the next decade to almost double the existing 3,100-kilometres high-speed network to reach regions such as the Basque Country, Galicia & Murcia.

Name That Tune?

An 11-year-old boy was doing his violin practice at home and the torturous noise was making the dog howl. Upstairs, the boy's father was trying to work on the computer. After putting up with the combined racket of violin and dog for 20 minutes, the father eventually called out: 'Billy. Can't you play something the dog doesn't know?'

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- DRIVING LICENCES
- COURT
- TOWN HALLS
- SCHOOL MEETINGS

COMPUTER TRAINING

- WINDOWS XP, VISTA, 7
- MICROSOFT OFFICE (WORD, EXCEL, POWER POINT, ACCESS, ETC.)
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Quick Review - 'Why are we always late in Spain?'

The above is the title of a short e-book written by David Ruiz, whose advert appears alongside this. Although the subject of the e-book is about 'lateness' David also touches on a number of issues which will be new to many.

He starts with a brief bio' on himself followed by a short look at the early Spaniards. Then he gives us a brief and poignant look at what life was like under the dictatorship of Franco.

In the following chapters, he touches on the arrival of democracy in Spain, the effect of the weather, the notorious Spanish bureaucracy and the reason for and benefits of that wonderful Spanish custom, the 'siesta.'

David concludes with a recap in what was an entertaining and informative short read. The e-book is only 14 pages long and you will be able to get through it in about 10 to 15 minutes. (If you are a reader of *The Sun*, make that an hour or so.)

I forgot to mention that the e-book is **free** and you just have to register on David's web-site for access to the download. Go to -

http://torreviejatranslation.com/

David's e-book brought to my mind that other nation which has many traits similar to the Spanish. The talented Hugh Leonar said that, "In Ireland we have many words which equate to the Spanish word 'manaña.' However, none of them manage to convey the same urgency."

Letters & e-mails to the Editor



Hi Mick,

Re the article about overweight submarines. It must be the same team who designed the Armada.

Regards,
W.A. Sly

You are probably correct, Bill. Why does the modern Spanish Armada have glass-bottomed boats? So they can see the old Spanish Armada! Mick.

DONKEYS IN MIJAS TO CARRY ID!



Officials in the popular Andalusian resort town of Mijas, on the south-west coast of Spain, have demanded that local donkeys and their drivers wear identification plates as part of a push to improve the standard of the town's taxi service.

"In the event of an accident or complaint, the donkey or driver will be able to be identified," said councilman Juan Carlos Gonzales.

"These rules were made not just to regulate an iconic tourist industry but to improve the quality of the service, protect the rights of customers and guarantee that the donkeys meet health and safety requirements."

Fifty-two taxi donkeys, 12 horse-drawn carriages and 17 donkey carts have been issued with the new plates according to local daily Sur.

No decision has yet been reached as to whether the 'donkeys' in the local council or regional government should also carry ID.

Worth her weight in.....

A wife was watching the television news and said to her husband: 'Did you hear that? A man from xxxx swapped his wife for a season ticket to Manchester United. Would you do a thing like that?'

'Hell no,' he says, 'the season's half over!'

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Henry was trying to sell his battered old car for €1,500. His friend, Tom, said he would pay 10% less than the price Henry was asking for the car. Bt Henry was not very good at figures so he said he would think about Tom's offer. That evening, when he was in his usual bar, Henry asked the barmaid: 'If I offered you €1,500 less 10%, what would you take off?' The barmaid hesitated slightly, then replied: 'Everything except my ear-rings.'

The prostate exam.

An old guy goes to his doctor for his physical and gets sent to the Urologist as a precaution. When he gets there, he discovers the Urologist is a very pretty female doctor.

The female doctor says, "I'm going to check your prostate today, but this new procedure is a little different from what you are probably used to. I want you to lie on your right side, bend your knees, then while I check your prostate, take a deep breath and say: '99'." The old guy obeys and says: "99."

The doctor says: "Great, now turn over on your left side and again, while I repeat the check, take a deep breath and say: " '99'." Again, the old guy says: "'99'."

The doctor said, "Very good ... Now then, I want you to lie on your back with your knees raised slightly. I'm going to check your prostate with this hand, and with the other hand I'm going to hold on to your penis to keep it out of the way ... Now take a deep breath and say: '99'."

The old guy begins: "One ... two ... three....."

SOME CHANGES TO SPANISH HIGHWAY CODE.

In early June, the DGT traffic department presented a host of new reforms to Congress entitled 'General Rules of Circulation.' It may take some time for these changes to filter through the system. I have outlined just a few below.

Speed: The most controversial part of the new code is the lifting the speed limit to 130km/h on straight sections of motorways. 'It will be exceptional and restricted' said the traffic chief. Panels will be used to change the speed limit in bad weather conditions.

Bicycles: Bicycle riders will have to wear a helmet when in the city. The opposition parties and some 20 town and city halls have opposed this saying it will cut down on the number of cyclists, but a spokesman says there is no way back.

Seat Belts: All the previous reasons for not wearing a seatbelt have been removed with just two exceptions left. When you are parking or reversing you can take your seat belt off. Before taxi drivers, merchandise deliverymen, and the drivers of passenger vehicles were allowed not to wear a seat belt, but no longer. I am not sure when this becomes effective.

Child seats: If the child is 1 meter 35 tall or under, he or she must travel in the back seat. Those aged under four must use an adequate seat for their weight.

Radar Detectors: The new law expressly prohibits the use of radar detectors, some which recently have been capable of detecting mobile detectors. The GPS systems which warn you about any fixed radar will still be allowed and the DGT prints on its website the location of these fixed radar points.

Drugs: The new code brings in a saliva test for the detection of drugs while driving. The person who is stopped can ask for a complementary blood test which he will have to pay for if the result is positive.

Pedestrians: Now I can't quite get my head around this one. In the old code pedestrians were obliged to walk on the right hand pavement in the direction they were walking. Those who walked on the left pavement would have to give way to those approaching. ??? This code may now be removed.

Overtaking: The new law says the riders of motorbikes, mopeds and push-bikes can overtake but only inside the central line of the road, circulating with precaution between the rest of the vehicles.

RV vehicles: Until now where RV vehicles could park depended on the decision of the local council, but now their parking will be limited, presumably to special areas, as the dimensions of these vehicles affects other car parking. Once parked the RV driver and passengers must not set up outside the perimeter of the vehicle and must not dump any fluids or connect to any electricity supply.

The above is for general information only. If you are going to act on any of it, check it out with the appropriate authority. DON'T BLAME ME!

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The Progress Reports!

Three virgin sisters were all getting married within a short time period. Mum was a bit worried about how their sex life would develop and made them all promise to send a postcard from the honeymoon with a few cryptic words on their first impressions of marital sex.

The first girl sent a card from Hawaii two days after the wedding. The card said nothing but: "Nescafe". Puzzled at first, Mum went to her kitchen and got out the Nescafe jar. It said: "Good till the last drop". Mum blushed, but was pleased for her daughter.

The second girl sent the card from the Maldives a week after the wedding, and the card just read: "Rothmans". Mum went straight to her husband's cigarettes to read from the pack: "Extra Long. King Size". She was again slightly embarrassed but still happy for her daughter.

The third girl departed for her honeymoon in New Zealand. Mum waited for a week, nothing. Another week went by and still nothing. A month passed; still nothing... A card finally arrived from Auckland on which was written with shaky hand, "Air New Zealand! "

Mum took out her latest travel magazine, flipped through the pages with a beating heart, and finally found the ad for Air NZ. 'Five times a day, seven days a week, both ways.'

Mum fainted!

(Stefan Pokroppa)

Keeping the Beat!

Life just gets better as you get older doesn't it.

I was in the Coffee Club recently when my stomach started rumbling and I realized that I desperately needed to pass wind. The place was packed but the music was really loud so to get relief and reduce embarrassment I timed my farts to the beat of the music. After a couple of songs I started to feel much better. I finished my coffee and got up to leave when I noticed that everyone in the café was staring at me...I suddenly remembered that I was listening to my Ipod.....and how was your day?

(Brian)

The Jewish Elbow.

A Jewish grandmother is giving directions to her grown grandson who is coming to visit with his wife.

"You come to the front door of the apartments. I am in apartment 301. There is a big panel at the front door. With your elbow, push button 301. I will buzz you in. Come inside and the elevator is on the right. Get in, and with your elbow, push 3rd Floor. When you get out, I'm on the left. With your elbow, hit my doorbell. OK?"

"Grandma, that sounds easy, but, why am I hitting all these buttons with my elbow?"

"Whatyou're coming empty handed?"
(Pete Dudman)

ILLEGAL POLITICAL FUNDING WIDESPREAD.

The funding of political parties in Spain has always been a contentious issue. The long-standing Gürtel case into illegal party funding of the ruling PP continues to shock. The latest revelation here is that the former treasurer of the PP, Luis Bárcenas, who had already admitted to holding €38 million outside Spain, has now had the carpet pulled from under his feet as during June, one of the Swiss banks has admitted that the figure is actually €47 million. It also emerged that an Argentinean painter recently revealed that she was paid to sign false art-sales contracts worth €560,000 to create a respectable front for some of Bárcenas's shady dealings. Bárcenas, you may recall, was found to have kept secret ledgers reflecting donations to the PP and payouts to senior party members and leaders between 1990 and 2008.

The Catalans, who like to think that they are a law unto themselves have also been sticking their fingers in the pot. El Pais reports - The anti-corruption attorney believes there is sufficient evidence to prove that Convergència Democràtica de Catalunya (CDC), one half of the CiU coalition that governs Catalonia, has been guilty of illegal funding activities. The money was channeled through a landmark Catalan cultural institution, Barcelona's Palau de la Música auditorium, whose longtime chief Félix Millet has already admitted to systematically sacking its coffers for years.

The attorney puts the total amount paid by *Ferrovial*, a large construction company, at 6.6 million euros, adding that, in all, almost 10 million euros have vanished somewhere within the Palau's accounts over the years. But rather than pay this money directly into CDC accounts, Ferrovial used the Palau as a go-between institution, with Millet and an aide serving as intermediaries. The construction company pretended to be a sponsor of the arts by giving money to the Palau, but rather than spend it on arts programs, Palau managers rerouted it to CDC representatives. The main form of payment, writes the attorney, were "opaque cash deliveries," with these alone worth 2.3 million euros between 2002 and 2008. The current Catalan premier and torch-bearer for Catalan independence, Artur Mas, is today's CDC president. The other half of the ruling coalition, *Unió Democràtica de Catalunya* (UDC), recently admitted to misusing over €388,000 of European Union funds **meant for jobless training programs** between 1994 and 1999. The historical admission was aimed at preventing the six defendants in the case from going to jail.

The Spanish Socialist Party was involved in an illegal funding case in the late 1980s (Caso Filesa), as established by a court in 1997. In this case, millions were paid into PSOE foundations.

Efforts were made in 2007 with the Parties Funding Act, amended in 2012, to improve the situation and limit illegal funding with more openness and regulation. But even today the system has all the transparency of a lead coffin and is subject to constant abuse. This despite the fact that the political parties AND the unions receive massive funding from the state, i.e. from you, the taxpayer. According to the current law, the maximum legal donation by person or entity in one year is €100,000; all donations exceeding €50,000 have to be reported to the Court of Auditors with the sums donated reported by the Court in June of the following year. However, it usually takes between five and six years before the report is finally released by the High Court! The current legislation on party funding is patently ineffective.

Whereas the PP (Partido Popular) appear to be the main champions of illegal funding, it is events relating to the Socialists (PSOE) and now the big unions who provide us with the latest jaw-dropping revelations in relation to the current investigations into the ERE scandal in Andalucía. See report on page 11 for the latest news on this.

Politics.

One day the 'don't-knows' will get in, and then where will we be?
Spike Milligan

ATTITUDES: THE GERMANS AND THE SPANISH.

I suppose it could be said that Spain has been a bit of a magnet for the Germans. First of all there was the Visigoths who established a kingdom here in Spain in the 500's AD. These were nomadic tribes of the Germanic peoples. Their kingdom survived in the Iberian Peninsula until their monarch, King Rodrigo, was killed during the Muslim invasion in 711, the peninsula coming under Islamic domination by 718.

The Germans came again during the Spanish Civil War 1936-39, although not in any great numbers, when they supported the Nationalists and helped them towards victory against the Republicans. More on this in the future history articles.

But the real German invasion came with the tourist boom in the 60's and has continued ever since. Now that many Germans live here and indeed millions visit every year, a number of publications and surveys have been highlighting nuances in the relationship, particularly now in these austere times.

A 2013 survey by the Pew Research Centre has pointed out that while the Spanish picked Germany as the "most arrogant" and "least compassionate" nation in Europe, they also indicated that it is the country most deserving of trust. Spain's unhappiness with Germany is believed to be related to its prominent role in Europe's response to the ongoing economic crisis, with 57% of Spaniards claiming that German Chancellor Angela Merkel has done a bad job. She still fares better than Spain's own Prime Minister, Mariano Rajoy, who is believed by 72% of surveyed Spaniards to be handling the EU crisis badly!

But then a new pole on "Brand Spain" run by Spain's Real Instituto Elcano, raised some concerns on modern German attitudes to Spain. It showed that back in 1996, during the days of the so-called 'Spanish miracle', only ten percent of Germans mistrusted the Spanish. But this figure now stands at 50 percent. Germans are also now much more likely to call the Spaniards lazy.

Back in the mid-1990s, two out of every ten Germans thought Spaniards didn't work much. Now that figure has doubled so that four out of ten Germans believe Spaniards to be lazy.

But the real bombshell reached the Spanish press on June 24, when El Mundo reported on a story in the Sunday edition of Germany's *Bild am Sonntag*, the World's best selling newspaper. Whereas the *Bild* noted that Majorca was a popular holiday destination for Germans and a favourite retirement destination, it went on to say that the economic crisis is ruining the island. They go on to say that: "Swindlers, pickpockets and cheap prostitutes dominate Palma beach after sunset," before going on to claim that Majorca's crisis-related 30 % unemployment level has left it in the hands of criminal gangs. A total of 74,573 crimes were reported on the island last year, the co-owner of Real Mallorca Football Club, Utz Claasen, stating that "Majorcan justice is overwhelmed."

But job-seeking Spaniards still look to Germany. Spanish emigration to Germany has taken off to the levels last seen 40 years ago. Last year 29,910 Spaniards moved to Germany for a job, 45% more than in 2011.



Bloody typical!

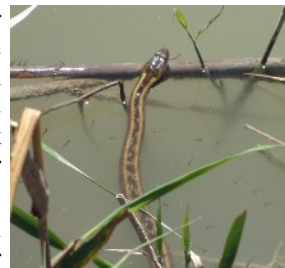
Lime Bar Fishing Sunbathing Club.

Well the club is getting it's money's worth from the local hospital. Jim the "butcher" this time, slicing his hand while sharpening his knife. You might want to adapt your technique Jim!

A relaxing day at the Eden – The Springwatch episode.

I was sat there watching my float when I caught some movement out the corner of my eye.... Slithering towards my trainer was an anaconda (fisherman's tale = 3 foot snake). I normally ignore them as they are in the water and about 18 inches long, but this was a granddaddy snake & he was heading for my bait. A few choice swear words later (from me not the snake) & he slithered back into the bamboo. A bit later, Fagin Dave popped along to tell me how much money he had. As I turned round to speak to him, granddad was back, under my rod bag & heading towards my seat. Jesus! Dave said he'd never seen me move so quick! A well-directed pebble from Dave & that was the last we saw of granddad. It certainly got the ticker going though. Afterwards, I spent more time watching the bamboo rather than my float.

When I got home & checked on the web, it was a viperine. A non-venomous, semi-aquatic fish eating snake. I feel a right wuss now! I took a photo of his sibling later on. See right. Some other bits we have seen include a grass snake, rats, terrapins, kingfisher, black legged stilt, little bittern, loads of little birds, dragon flies & of course, our old mate the mossy.



This month's match was at the Eden. It's definitely fishing well with no blanks. Well done to Ron Salisbury (new boy & hustler) with 18.4 lbs followed closely by Mike (the scribe) Jobbins with 15.4 lbs.

We had a "pan day" at Benijofar after clearing 5 more swims. Fagin Dave catered for 20 but only 10 turned up. Needless to say, we didn't waste any food. See the bellies in the photo, left. We then dipped our lines and lost a few "good" fish.

Anti social Baz & Ron the nomad organised a "half-it" darts night. It was a great night and very well attended. The buffet was an "American Supper" (everyone brings some food & raffle prize). The variety and quality of the food was fantastic. Thank you to everyone for the huge effort. Geoff wants to thank who ever made the corned beef & potato pie. It is his favourite. As we are a friendly club, we allowed a guest to win the €30 bar chit, another guest (Sue Fisher) to win the ladies' darts and then we fed everybody! Anti social Baz lived up to his name though! He cheated the scoring & won the men's darts. See photo, right, of Sue F & Anti Baz.



We have liaised with 3 other angling clubs in the area, and between us we have cleared 24 swims at the Eden. It was hot & hard work, but now it is done we can hopefully keep them clear. See before & after photos below.

A busy month & thank you Mick for including these photos.



Before.

Next meeting is at The Lime Bar @ 17.30 Mon 1 July.

Fishy fingers!
The Ghost.

*Good fishing is just a matter of timing.
You have to get there yesterday.*

Milton Berle.



After!

Reel 'em in!

A woman walked into a bait and tackle shop to find a blind man serving behind the cash desk. She asked for a fishing line for her husband but, taking advantage of the blind man's disability, craftily slipped a €100 reel into her bag. The blind man was just starting to ring up her purchase when the phone rang. It was the store manager who was watching the store on CCTV. The manager whispered into the phone: 'The lady whose purchase you are ringing up just put a €100 reel into her bag. Don't make a big deal about it but just make sure you charge her for it.'

The blind man put down the phone and told the woman: 'That'll be €6 for the line and €100 for the reel.' The woman was so embarrassed at being caught out that she gave a loud nervous fart.

The blind man continued: 'And that'll be another €5 for the Duck Call and €3 for the Badger Scent!'

World's 'most racially intolerant' countries mapped.

The World Values Survey asked respondents in more than 80 different countries to state the type of people they did not want as neighbours. Over 40% of respondents in India, Jordan, Bangladesh and Hong Kong said they would not want a neighbour of a different race.

The British were among the most tolerant, along with former colonies the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. People in Latin American countries were also prepared to embrace racially diverse neighbours. The data from the survey by Niclas Berggren and Therese Nilsson was mapped for the Washington Post by Max Fisher.

In India, 43.5% said they did not want someone of a different race as their neighbour. In Jordan it was 51.4%, while in Hong Kong and Bangladesh, over 70% said someone of a different race was their biggest concern in a neighbour.

Europe showed widely varying results, with France coming out as notably racially intolerant at 22.7%. Former Soviet states such as Belarus and Latvia proved to be more tolerant than many of their European neighbours, according to the study.

Less than 10% of the Spanish did not want a neighbour of a different race.

You can read the interesting report by The Washington Post here - <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/worldviews/wp/2013/05/15/a-fascinating-map-of-the-worlds-most-and-least-racially-tolerant-countries/>



DREAM HILLS (1) FIESTA!

JULY 6TH

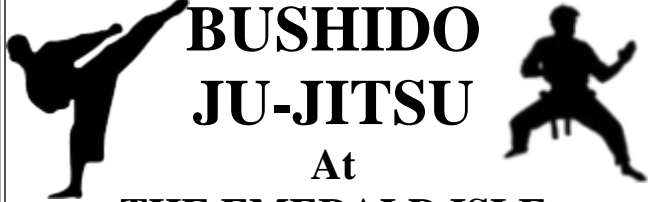
THE PRESIDENT AND COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME ALL DREAM HILLS (1) RESIDENTS TO A STREET PARTY OUTSIDE

LA CASITA ON JULY 6th 2013 AT 2.00PM.

THERE WILL BE FREE SANDWICHES, SNACKS etc., AND DRINKS WILL BE SUPPLIED.

AS WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MANY WILL TURN UP, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF SOME OF YOU COULD BRING SOME FOOD AND WINE AS WELL, JUST IN CASE THE NUMBERS EXCEED OUR EXPECTATIONS.

THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO MIX WITH YOUR FRIENDS, MAKE NEW ONES AND WELCOME IN THE 2013 SUMMER.




BUSHIDO JU-JITSU

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**THE EMERALD ISLE
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Suitable for all ages.
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I got stung by a bee this morning - €5 for a jar of honey!

GALLERY



The rain in Spain...While we have been enjoying some beautiful weather, there have been some dreadful floods in Northern Spain. Above is a photo of some flooding in Pamplona in June, ironically close to the swimming club!



Some of the 'shenanigans' at CK1's second anniversary party. (I was afraid to ask!)



On the left is a scene from one of the Sunshine Sunset Cruise's, see ad on page 9. On this particular one it was Rock the Boat, with Robbie & Charlie - The Faith - not only rocking the boat but the harbour as well. This was also a charity gig for Paul Cunningham Nurses. An admirable €600 was raised. It could have been a lot more but the 'piss-heads' forgot to organise the raffle! Still, a wonderful evening and a tremendous amount raised for this particular charity.



THE PHOENIX



Via Park V



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR SPORTY SUMMER SPECIALS!

WIMBLEDON FORTNIGHT:

STRAWBERRIES & CREAM & JUGS OF PIMMS!

RELAX AND FEEL LIKE YOU'RE THERE! ALL TENNIS IN HD.

CRICKET - IT'S THE BIG ONE - THE ASHES!

FOSTERS ONLY €1 A BOTTLE - FAIR DINKUM!

SAT EVENING 20TH JULY - HOG ROAST!

SUNDAY 28TH JULY CARIBBEAN NIGHT!

LIMBO DANCING - JERK CHICKEN, RICE & PEAS. YEEEAH MAN!!

FANCY DRESS AND DISCO!

TUES' & FRI' - FUN QUIZ WITH PRIZES

(FRIDAY WITH *PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT!*)

WEDNESDAY - FUN DARTS WITH BRIAN.

ALTERNATE SATURDAY NIGHTS -

ANNIE'S GOLDEN OLDIES ROADSHOW

SIT-BACK WITH A COLD 'UN AND ENJOY

ALL YOUR OLD FAVOURITES.

SUNDAYS FROM 4PM DISCO & KARAOKE

GIVE US A SONG AND A DANCE!!!

BREAKFAST SERVED 10AM - 3PM

FRESHLY COOKED DAILY SPECIALS

SUPERB SUNDAY LUNCH SERVED 12 - 7

GENEROUS PORTIONS OF MEAT

WITH SEVEN VEG'!!

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QUIZ NIGHT

Golden Oldies



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Late local News:

•A friend of mine checked with the council offices in Orihuela and confirmed that a new urbanisation is to be built at the back of Lago Jardin II. At the moment there are a number of large excavators doing the groundwork for the roads. One road will open near the 'dartboard' roundabout on the Torry-Orihuela road, another coming out at the side of Dream Hills II towards Entre Golf. Don't expect to see houses zooming up in this plot. Once the basic roadways are down the developers will probably sit back for the market to improve.

•Mercadona are now ensuring that their supermarkets near the coast in Alicante will receive daily supplies of fresh fish. This will mean that their supermarkets will receive supplies of oily fish - sardines, anchovies and mackerel - in the mornings, and supplies of white fish - whitebait, mullet and octopus - in the afternoons. Mercadona describe this initiative as 'one more step' in their model for a sustainable food chain.

•Local robberies seem to be increasing as summer arrives. Three houses were robbed in Dream Hills in a six week period. The grill & front door was forced open and these robberies took place during the afternoons. In Lago Jardin II there have been four robberies in one day, all taking place during the evening. There may have been many other incidents I haven't heard of yet. Be careful!

Holidays!

A friend of mine said, 'You want to go to Margate, it's good for rheumatism.' So I did and I got it. Tommy Cooper

A bikini is not a bikini unless it can be pulled through a wedding ring. Lou Reard

Limits!

Despite reaching the grand age of 55, Harry has acquired a new teenage girlfriend. One evening, she whispers in his ear, 'Let's go upstairs and make love.' Harry eyes the stairs, then says, 'Which one would you prefer? I can't do both!'

Remember, you can have a colour copy of the Dream Scene sent to you by email each month for just €5 for one year. Black & white hard copies can be delivered to your local postbox for the same amount.

SAMARITANS in SPAIN

Lines open 24 hours a day, every day.
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Nudists are like people who do amateur dramatics: those who are most enthusiastic are those who should do it least. Jeremy Hardy

-Who's the most popular guy at the nudist camp?

- The one who can carry two cups of coffee and a dozen doughnuts at the same time. Anon

True, you can sit outside in Paris and drink little cups of coffee, but why this is more stylish than sitting inside drinking large glasses of whiskey I don't know.

P.J. O'Rourke

You can find archived copies of The Dream Scene together with lots of helpful info, at Pat Farnaby's website - <http://www.heddon.co.uk/dhills/>

Images in this newsletter from El Pais, El Mundo, Informacion, Wikipedia, EFE.

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