

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER

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

Issue no. 79 1st of September 2013

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the September edition.

After a sweltering August, we have at last been getting some rain in the late evenings and early mornings. Temperatures have also dropped by a couple of degrees, which is also welcome. I often think that September is one of the best months in Spain. The *Madrileños* have raced back to their residences leaving the rest of us on the Costa to enjoy the peace, quiet and lack of traffic jams!

The Gibraltar affair remains in the news, along with Syria, corruption and the alleged illegal financing of the ruling Partido Popular. Make no mistake but the Gib' issue is an attempt by the Spanish government to divert attention from its own appalling performance of mismanagement and graft. See page 13.

The average waiting time for a hospital procedure has now increased from 73 to 100 days. In some areas, Extremadura and Catalonia, it can be twice that! The number of patients waiting more than six months for an operation is 7% despite the fact that this is the maximum time set by government for certain pathologies. Economic austerity and the policy on human resources are said to be responsible.

The Spanish economy remains in the doldrums with little sign of a positive economic 'wind' in the near future. The staggeringly high unemployment figures will take another negative hit after the temporary summer jobs disappear. Mortgages awarded against residential properties slumped in June, suggesting that a recovery in the country's housing market may be further away than initially thought down 42.2% on the same month last year. The IVA increase to 10% on the purchase of new property and the increase to 10% on the resale transfer tax will do nothing to improve the abysmal performance of the property market here. Inheritance Tax in Valencia has also been increased. More on this next month.

If you have an SIP (health) card in Spain, there are now several services you can access on line which allow you to access some of your data. Electronic prescriptions are also expected to be introduced in this area within the month of September. Next month I will include a review of these new changes together with an 'idiots' step-by-step guide to accessing them. This is not because you are an idiot but I am and I need these guides!

Sorry to see that the 'old' Rendezvous has closed down, but glad that the Rendezvous Snack Bar and Take Away has opened in its place. Locally, it is also sad to hear that Bar Labas is also closed and that Belushi's Bar & Grill will be closing for family reasons at the end of September.

There are no Spanish 'Red Days' or local holidays in Orihuela or Torrevieja during the month of September.

Reminder: Your IBI - *Impuesto sobre Bienes Inmuebles*, the municipal real estate tax, is due for payment by October 4th, 2013. Late payment usually incurs a fine of 20%.

I will finish with some wise words from my mate Harold: "I've often been asked, 'What do you do now that you're retired? Well.....I'm fortunate to have a chemical engineering background and one of the things I enjoy most is converting beer, cheap Spanish wine and whiskey into urine. It's rewarding, uplifting, satisfying and fulfilling. I do it every day and I really enjoy it." Harold should be an inspiration to us all.

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

Mick & Tid



This year's Tomatina was held in Buñol on August 28. For the first time it was decided to limit the numbers by charging €10 to each of the 20,000 revelers.

Angela's Cartoon



"This heat makes me feel like a good bonk!"

MAR 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 locally.

Native English &

Spanish Staff

Visit www.marservicespains.com

Or call 0034 658 549 029

Patches 'n' Pins

Qualified Seamstress

40 yrs. Experience



Turn-ups
to
Tailoring



Patterns taken from
your favourite clothes.

Reasonable Prices

Phone: Sandra 966 799 188

Mobile: 680 486 336

TRANSPORT SERVICES

Costa Blanca



Registered Business -
Fully Insured

8 Passenger Mini-bus
Fully Air Conditioned
Available 7 days a week

AIRPORTS
SHOPPING CENTRES
GOLF OUTINGS

Tel: Peter 617096374 & 965994660

SPANISH OFFICIAL TRANSLATOR

A friendly multi linguist

(Spanish, German, English, Swedish)

With over 20 years experience.

Reasonable rates for a fast
and efficient service

Hospitals/Padrons/Residencias/NIEs

Trafico/Town Halls/Police/Notries

FREE CONSULTATION

SPECIAL SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR
REGISTRATION AT HOSPITALS
AND FOR TRANSLATION OF
LEGAL DOCUMENTS

References available.

Many clients in Los Altos & Dream Hills

Personal assistance over the phone -

Let me make those problematic Spanish
phone calls for you for just €20 a year.

Call Maria Sonia on (0034) 966 926 217

www.spanishofficialtranslator.com



Man walks in to a bar.

There I was sitting at the bar staring at my drink when a large, trouble-making biker steps up next to me, grabs my drink and gulps it down in one swig. "Well, whatcha' gonna do about that?" he says, menacingly, as I burst into tears. "Come on, man," the biker says, "I didn't think you'd cry. I can't stand to see a man crying."

"This is the worst day of my life," I said. "I'm a complete failure. I was late to a meeting and my boss fired me. When I went to the parking lot, I found my car had been stolen and I don't have any insurance. I left my wallet in the cab I took home. I found my wife with another man ... and then my dog bit me. So, I came to this bar to work up the courage to put an end to it all, I buy a drink, I drop a capsule in it and sit here watching the poison dissolve and then you show up and drink the whole damn thing! But, hell, enough about me, how are you doing?"

Pete Dudman

'I was tired one night and I went to the bar to have a few drinks. The bartender asked me, "What'll you have?" I said, "Surprise me." He showed me a naked picture of my wife.'

Rodney Dangerfield

A man walks into a bar, then discovers he has to use the toilet. To stop anyone stealing his drink he puts a note on it saying, 'I spat in this beer.' When he returns he finds another note saying, 'So did I!'

A penguin walks into a bar, goes to the counter and says to the barman, 'Have you seen my brother?' The barman says, 'I don't know. What does he look like?'

The Barber Shop

@

THE HAIR STUDIO

Via Park 2

Modern & Traditional
Barbering

Hair Care For Men,

Styling gel's and waxes sold here

O.A.P. Day Every Mon' & Wed'

APPOINTMENTS NOT ALWAYS NECESSARY

966 730 691

Clever Dick.

Dick took his date to a posh restaurant and ordered the entire meal in French. Even the waiters were impressed - especially as it was a Chinese restaurant.

FEELING **HOT** OR **COLD**?
WE HAVE THE SOLUTION!
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 INSTALLER.
MANY SATISFIED CLIENTS IN YOUR AREA.

Call Keith for a free quotation.

Tel: 965 326 163 & 649 584 493

I could tell my parents hated me. My bath toys were a toaster and a radio.

Rodney Dangerfield

The two main story lines in the Spanish media during August were the Gibraltar affair and alleged illicit funding of the ruling PP administration by Barcenas, the former PP treasurer. On the latter issue, Prime Minister Rajoy agreed to address Congress on the issue on August 1st, but as expected there was precious little transparency, truth or information. Basically, Rajoy hung his friend Barcenas out to dry, showing that with politicians, friendship is a disposable commodity. On Barcenas the PM commented: 'I was wrong to maintain confidence in someone who did not deserve it'. The PM did confirm however that some PP officials were paid additional salaries and bonuses but that all these payments were declared to the taxation authorities. The PM spoke from a prepared brief and would not answer any questions on the matter then or since.

According to the survey conducted by Sigma Dos for El Mundo, 78.3% of respondents felt that the Prime Minister did not tell the truth. With PP popularity sliding further in the polls, they came up with the idea of stirring the 'Gibraltar pot' once again to try and divert attention from the skullduggery in Madrid and the worsening economic misery throughout the country. More details on the Gib' story on page 13.

Spain registered an outflow of capital of €5.06 billion in May according to data published on by the Bank of Spain. This is bad news for Spain, compared with a capital inflow of €1.95 billion in April. Spain had registered an outflow of capital in March, after six consecutive months of capital inflow that had started in September 2012.

Spanish retail sales fell by 5.1% year-on-year on a calendar-adjusted basis in June. This marked the 36th month in a row of falling retail sales.

La Vanguardia reports that the bad bank, SAREB, wants to demolish uncompleted homes on its lists. They highlight 100 blocked projects which could end up being demolished.

Olli Rehn, the European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs in Brussels, is supporting the idea from the IMF, that wages in Spain have to be reduced by 10%. (Olli, by the way, is paid €23,000 a month!) Whereas Spain has not fallen down the abyss, the IMF certainly believe that it is still on the brink.

The CCOO and UGT unions and the CEOE business organisation in Spain have said that 'now is not the time' for the IMF and others to be looking for a 10% wage cut across Spain. The unions described the idea as 'preposterous' as it would condemn Spain to 'misery'. Personally I believe that to cut police wages once again would only lead to more corruption and probably to greater absenteeism in the multitudinous local, regional and national government positions.

The (German) Bundesbank has criticised the slowness of the reforms in Spain. They say Spanish progress is too slow and the European Commission is being too benevolent instead of applying more sanctions.

Meanwhile the massive UGT trade union, which is already reeling from allegations of irregularity concerning the ERE retirement scandals, is now being hauled over the coals concerning grants they were given by the regional government in Andalucia and the EU. These funds were meant to be spent on training courses for the unemployed but were spent instead on banners, transport and other costs relating to the General Strike in 2010. It also seems that funds destined for the unemployed were spent in propping-up the union magazine. It seems that in this magazine, a full page advert is 16 times more expensive than one in the main, widely distributed newspapers in Andalucia. Rampant skullduggery I think!

If you want to know what God thinks of money, just look at the people he gave it to.

Dorothy Parker

I remember my staff asking me when I was going to retire. I said when I could no longer hear the sound of laughter. They said: "That never stopped you before".

Bob Hope

Whereas it is unusual to come across a political new's item in Spain that does not involve corruption, deceit or incompetence, August brought a welcome 'first' to Spain and one they can be proud of. In the town hall of Valladolid, the capital city of Castile and León, 30-year-old Angela Bachiller - a young lady with Down's syndrome - was appointed a PP town councillor. (Photo-Europapress) Angela replaced another councillor who will be appearing in court on corruption charges. Although Angela will carry out her duties competently, paradoxically, she has no right to vote in local, regional or national elections.



The Spanish Airports Authority is finalising the purchase of Luton Airport from Abertis. Abertis has recently sold the airports at Belfast, Stockholm and Florida in a strategy of revising their portfolio to optimise their asset base.

Mobile phone calls in Spain are the 4th most expensive in the EU, with Holland the most expensive. The Dutch pay seven times more than the Italians!

You might think that the arrival of cruise ships in a port would bring increased sales and profits to local traders. Well not, according to Julia Martinez, the manager of the Downtown Merchants of Historic Valencia. She reported that the expenditure of the cruise passengers on land varied from just 'two to 12 euros' - which would equate to a key chain, a fridge magnet, a t-shirt or a slice of pizza. The main problem seem to be that the cruise liners stop-over is usually for just a few hours, giving the passengers time only for a quick visit to the 'sites' and not enough time to shop around and have meals etc. The large cruise liners also have good shopping facilities which does nothing for the trade in the local shops.

The Valencia region has suffered 259 wildfires since January 1. There were eight serious forest fires in just one day in Spain during August.

The High Court of Valencia has confirmed prison sentences of less than two years for a pharmaceutical official and two nurses. The case dates back to early 2005 when a 32-year-old man was admitted to hospital with pancreatic cancer. After an unsuccessful operation the man was put on a chemo' course to shrink the tumour pending another operation. However, the patient was given a dose 10 times greater than the normal dose and he died within a few days.

The Spanish department store chain El Corte Inglés has reached an agreement with its creditor banks to refinance €3.8 billion of its debt. That figure represents 76% of its outstanding loans, which stand at around €5 billion, according to company sources. An improved financing structure in terms of costs and repayments will allow it to push forward with its development plans. The firm's portfolio of properties, most of which are in prime locations, is valued at in excess of €18 billion. El Corte Ingles is one of Spain's largest employers with nearly 97,000 staff. 2012 was not a good year for the privately held company. Profits fell by 18% and revenues fell by 8%. Other food retailers have been quicker to implement price-cutting strategies to counter the recession. Last year unlisted supermarket chain, Mercadona, saw sales and profit rise 7%.

The PP mayor of Baralla, a small town in Lugo (Galicia), will not be stepping down from his post, despite having said that those who were condemned to death during the Franco dictatorship "would have deserved it." Mayor Manuel González Capón said 'Although I am not proud of what I said.....They know me and they know that it was a subject that got out of hand and out of context. However, it was badly phrased.'

My wife sent her photograph to the Lonely Hearts Club. They sent it back saying they weren't that lonely.

Les Dawson

4 What's Up? continued

The nationalized bank Novagalicia (NCG) said that it would return €9 million in excess mortgage payments made by some 90,000 clients after deciding to eliminate so-called interest-rate floor clauses from its home loan contracts.

A 76-year-old female resident in Madrid was murdered by a shot to her temple on the morning of August 20. The woman had been previously arrested on 10 occasions for drug dealing. The body was found by her son who also has a lengthy rap sheet for drug offences, violent robbery and car theft.

Feuds between gypsy clans are commonplace in Spain, particularly in Andalucia. These are often drug related. In a tragic case in Sevilla in August, one family intent on taking revenge on another, got the address wrong and shot a seven-year-old girl dead and injured both her parents. 20 bullet cases were found at the home and eight men and one woman from a gypsy family have now been detained by the police.

It is alleged that Bernie Ecclestone may want €33 million in compensation for the cancellation of the Formula 1 race from Valencia. Valencia and Barcelona agreed to hold the race on alternate years but President Fabra of Valencia would prefer to cancel the event altogether, it being another grandiose scheme of the previous president, Camps.

The police have arrested a 29-year-old Columbian in the Valencian town of Paterna. It seems this chap had been practising as a dentist for some time, but he has no qualifications or permits! One of his patients experienced considerable pain after a procedure and wisely went to another dentist for a second opinion. The botched work led to an investigation and his subsequent arrest.

Police became suspicious of a shipping container in Valencia docks which arrived from China. The manifest stated that the container contained only shoes. The police followed the container to a warehouse in Fortuna, Murcia, where ten people were awaiting to unload the cargo. The subsequent raid by the police uncovered no shoes but 465,500 boxes of fake Marlborough cigarettes, worth about €2.2 million. It is thought they were destined for France as the writing on the packets was in French. Six Poles, two Spaniards and two Chinese men were arrested.

12,000 golf balls, valued at around €10,000, were stolen from El Club de Golf Las Rejas in Benidorm. The golf balls had a distinctive markings of a yellow flag and black stripe. Most of the golf balls were later returned anonymously with a note saying 'Les pedimos disculpas. Nos arrepentimos de nuestros actos' - 'We apologise. We repent our actions.'

The police have identified 136 organised crime groups in Málaga and Cádiz. These criminal groups concentrate mainly on drug trafficking, but are usually also involved in money laundering, robbery and people trafficking. GRECO - The Special Response Team Organised Crime - states that most of these groups operate on the coast. The province of Alicante is reported to have 100 of these criminal groups or gangs.



A modern police station in Alicante has been closed because of a bed-bug problem. The facility, which can house up to 100 detainees, has been closed for fumigation and the prisoners located to another facility. The station was built in 2009, costing €2.2 million, and hailed as the most modern in Spain. The use of the cells in the main police station in the centre of Alicante was ruled out because they are in such a poor condition it makes it difficult to close the doors to the cells!

It seems that road building in Spain is twice as expensive as that in Germany. Projects audited in Germany had the lowest cost per 1,000 square metres (€287,043) compared with €496,208 in Spain but there was no evidence that this was a result of lower labour costs. The European Court of Auditors recommended that the cause of the "considerable differences" should be analysed.

A good mate of mine is convinced he didn't get a job because he's black and is quite uptight about it.

I told him to 'lighten up.' Now he's not speaking to me.



THE LOUNGE



Lago Jardin II
Coffee, wine, food, WiFi, property, relax.....

OUR COMFORTABLE LOUNGE AND LARGE SUNNY TERRACE IS AN IDEAL SPOT TO ENJOY YOUR RELAXING AFTERNOONS.

GREAT PRICES!



GREAT VALUE BREAKFASTS, SNACKS & LUNCHEES.



EVERY THURSDAY FROM AUGUST 8, QUIZ & OPEN THE ENVELOPE FROM 8PM BIG PRIZES!!

PROFITS TO PARKINSON'S RESEARCH

Check out our multi-lingual website at - **WIFI**
www.coastalpropertyspain.com

Darren Lilley Tel: 638683941

The mistreatment of greyhounds is a particular recurring problem in Spain. On August 10, the Guardia Civil were called to a house in the Valencian town of La Font d'en Carros. There they discovered 47 greyhounds chained in a small room of 15 sq.metres and three more hounds chained outside. The longest chain used was 25 centimetres! The state of the room and animals was horrific. The dogs, all in a poor condition and most with mange, were surrounded by faeces and flies in unbearable heat. There was no water or food present and some of the chains securing the dogs were only between 10 and 20 centimetres long. See photo. These dogs are now being cared for by *Galgos 112* who are trying to re-house the animals. You can read more in English here - www.galgos112.com What is also tragic is that the owner or should I say former-owner of these dogs may only face civil charges and not criminal charges, according to the Guardia Civil. He was not even arrested as the police said that the law relating to animals is 'ambiguous.' It may be the 21st century but animal protection laws in Spain remain feudal. You can read more details of this case here in Spanish http://ccaa.elpais.com/ccaa/2013/08/12/valencia/1376335487_998302.html



While in Orihuela Town recently, I noticed two rescued greyhounds obviously adopted and being walked by a young Spanish woman. One of the dogs had only three legs and the other had severe muscular damage to one of its thighs; so one must never tar all people with the same brush!

Tonto's Funeral

Tonto dies, and at the funeral the Lone Ranger turns to one of Tonto's brothers and says "He always called me "Kemo-Sabe", but I never knew what it meant?"

"Horse's arse" says the brother.

THE HAIR STUDIO

UNISEX HAIR & BEAUTY SALON

SPECIALISING IN COLOUR
AND EXTENSIONS.

BARBER ON PREMISES
6 DAYS PER WEEK.

SEMI PERMANENT MAKE-UP
BY JANE HUTCHINSON

Get beautiful frizz-free hair
This summer with our ULTRA
SMOOTH ADVANCED KERATIN
SYSTEM that can last up to 12 weeks!
SPECIAL OFFER FOR AUGUST - €65 !

To book an appointment please call
96 673 06 91

C/. Salvador Dali 13, Via Park II
(Opposite Zenia Boulevard)

ELECTRIC BOILERS

REPAIRED - REPLACED - RE-SITED



POWER SURGE PROTECTORS

YOUR WHOLE HOME PROTECTED
TV's, COMPUTERS, APPLIANCES.

€150 FITTED.

TEL: KEITH: 965 326 163

OR 649 584 493

The Water Filter Co.



DUAL FILTER SYSTEM
FULLY FITTED
ONLY €99
FILTER CHANGES
ONLY €30

NEED YOUR FILTERS
CHANGED
CONTACT US

655 310 752

www.thewaterfilterco.com

I had a ploughman's lunch the other day. Then he punched me.

THE RENDEZVOUS SNACK BAR & TAKE AWAY



VIA PARK iii

BREAKFAST FROM €3!

CHEESY CHILLI NACHOS FROM €4

COMBO PLATTERS; PIZZAS; SOUTHERN FRIED CHICKEN & CHIPS
RODEO BURGER & CHIPS; LAMB KEBABS ON WRAPS OR PITTA
CHUNKY CHEESY CHIPS €2; CHIP SHOP CURRY AND CHIPS €3

ALL EAT IN OR TAKE AWAY

3-COURSE SUNDAY LUNCH - €9.95

GREAT VIEWS & AL FRESCO DINING

COME AND SEE OUR FULL MENU

Open 9 till late

Phone: 600 635 960



NEWSPAPERS
DAILY

My mum attended the karate school of cookery. She could kill with just one chop!

La Asociación de Vecinos, The Association of Residents of San Miguel, have launched a campaign of free advice for people who want to go to their banks and request cancellation of the ground or floor clause imposed on their mortgage loan. The Association also provides a specific schedule for this service every evening from 17.00 hours to 19.00 hours. Unfortunately, I don't know the venue. If you are in a position where the 'ground clause' is effecting you or even if you are not sure if you have a 'floor clause' in your mortgage, I strongly suggest that you read this linked article which is in English. (Note: You will not be able to copy & paste the article.)

http://www.murciatoday.com/consumers-affected-by-mortgage-floor-clauses-can-now-see-their-removal_18184-a.html

If you find that there is a 'floor clause' on your mortgage, go to the bank with a translator (so there are no misunderstandings) and **get it removed**. Don't expect your bank to be helpful about this. It is up to you to chase them. Similarly, if you have money deposited in the bank, do make sure it is in the type of account you requested. All too often I hear about expat's who, when they come to move their money, find it is usually tied-up in some sort of financial instrument which was something they did not want and it was not properly explained to them. Check it out now!

A 28-year-old Spanish woman has been arrested and held in custody after a hit-and-run outrage earlier this year killed a British male. She did not have a driving licence.

A mobile radar speed-trap is in operation on the road linking Zenia roundabout on the N-332 to the access road to Zenia Boulevard. This is because of complaints from neighbours regarding speeding vehicles. The speed limit in this area is 30kph.

Many of you from this area will be familiar with, what can only be called the ruin - the *Casa de los Balcones* - by a roundabout near Lago Jardin on the Orihuela/Torre Vieja road, see photo. Its restoration is being championed by a young Danish architect, Henriette Baden Lander, who has no financial interest in the project. Henriette believes that there is little respect for the cultural heritage in Torre Vieja and that she would volunteer her services for free if there were plans to restore, what could be a wonderful example of a 19th century Spanish manor house. The owners have been forced to spend €3,000 on emergency works to shore the building up, but its restoration would need a budget of around €700,000.



Orihuela Costa has now been declared an Area of Great Tourist Influx and according will be allowed, from November this year, to open its shops etc 365 days a year. Torre Vieja, which has scores of small business shops was not happy with this and wanted the permission withdrawn. Their efforts being unsuccessful, they have now decided to apply for the same 365 status themselves. There is no doubt that the opening of Zenia Boulevard has hit the shopping trade in Torre Vieja, both large and small outlets. The Habaneras can be deserted while the Boulevard can be 'jumping.'

It is planned to extend the natural gas supply line from Orihuela Costa into Torre Vieja. Gas Natural Cegas will have the franchise for this section and plan to invest more than €5 million. They hope to attract 2,500 clients.

Officials from Torre Vieja say that an area of municipal land in Los Balcones (2,900 square metres) has been fenced-off or absorbed illegally by private properties in the area. This plot is, I believe, close to Calle Monte on the border with the Orihuela Municipality. The Greens say that this is typical of the chaos and lack of control during the 26 years of PP rule in Torre Vieja.

Following the tragic death of the Human Cannonball at the Circus in Benidorm Palace, a spokesman said, 'We'll struggle to get another man of the same calibre.'



JUKE'S

VIA PARK V

MINI-MARKET - DELICATESSEN

DELICIOUS SNACKS - COFFEE LOUNGE

SPECIALISING IN ENGLISH PRODUCE.

FRESH BREAD, BEERS, WINES, SPIRITS.

LARGE RANGE OF FROZEN FOODS -

ALL THE BRANDS YOU KNOW

TAPAS! NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES,

GREETINGS' CARDS

& MUCH, MUCH MORE!

DELICIOUS QUALITY HOME-COOKED FOOD

TO EAT-IN OR TAKE-AWAY

THEME NIGHTS EVERY OTHER

THURSDAY EVENING!

SEE BOARD FOR DETAILS.

call 603355615

LAST FOOD ORDERS 5:30pm please.

OPEN: DAILY 8am - 7pm SUNDAYS 8am - 4pm







The regional authorities have requested tenders for a study on an Alicante/Valencia coastal rail link. The study will also investigate the feasibility of linking Torre Vieja to the proposed line. (Unfortunately, when the plan was being mooted, the PP council under Monica Lorente 'forgot' to register their interest and will not now be included in the study.)

It is likely that the new train line, when it is built, would shadow the AP-7. A budget of one million euros has been allocated to the study which although expected to last 24 months is likely to be completed much sooner. The benefits of a 'Mediterranean Corridor' has been debated for many years. I would have thought an efficient railway and road link from the south of Spain up to the coast of France would have tremendous advantages. All too often the various transport links, including the AVE high-speed trains, lead in to Madrid, as if that city was the 'Mecca' for all. And it certainly is not!

There have been a number of cases of 'kamikaze' drivers (driving in the wrong direction) on the AP-7 this summer. The latest was on the Torre Vieja stretch at kilometre 742 on Monday August 19 at 23:30, when one person died as a result of a frontal collision.

If you live in San Miguel de Salinas and want a document from the town hall, you will now have to pay for it! This will include copies of the *padrón*, *residencia* etc. Residents will have to pay between one and twelve euros, depending on the certificate the require. I think this is a mean and tight-arse attitude by the PP-run council, as most of these certificates are compulsory anyway. The conservative PP are taxing like socialists!

Fare's Fair!

A Scotsman got on a bus in London, put his suitcase under the stairs and said 'Tower of London, please.'

The driver said, 'That's 60p plus 10p for the suitcase.'

'What!' exclaimed the Scotsman. 'I'm not paying for the suitcase, ye thievin' bastard.'

The driver said: 'if you don't pay up, I'm throwing the suitcase off the bus.' Still the Scotsman refused to pay so the driver picked up the case and threw it off the bus - straight into the River Thames.

The Scotsman was furious. He screamed: 'You're not satisfied with trying to rob me, you English crook, but you're also trying to drown my wee boy as well.'



LIME BAR



VIA PARK III

ALL SPORTS ON 7 LARGE SCREENS!

CATCH 3 GAMES AT 4pm EVERY SATURDAY!

SLIMMER'S WORLD EVERY MONDAY AT 11.30am.

MON & THURS AT 9PM DOMINOES & CRIB NIGHTS

FRIDAYS AT 9PM

FUN QUIZ NIGHT

WITH MEAT RAFFLE,

STAND-UP BINGO &

PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT!

GREAT
PRIZES!



Formula 1

FREE
Wi-Fi!

JOIN THE LIME BAR
GOLF SOCIETY & FISHING CLUB

Happy Hour Mon - Fri 3 'til 7 pm

Tel: 659 899 831



LIME BAR GOLF SOCIETY, LOS ALTOS, ORIHUELA COSTA

The golf societies venue for the 14th August 2013 was held at the Mar Menor Golf Course.

About twenty-six players participated in very hot sunshine, but the course was in good condition considering the continuous dry weather.

The competition was the 'The Lime Bar Open' played in Stroke Play format and the scores recorded are as follows.

Nearest the Pin on the 2nd Hole (par 3) was Tony Jones.

Nearest the Pin on the 11th hole (par 4) in two shots was Dave Latham.

Nearest the pin on the 17th hole (par 3) was Dave Cahill.

Best guest was Derek Mountfield with a score of 75 net playing under a 7 handicap.

4th place with a score of 72 net was Mick Slater.

3rd place with a score of 71 net was Paul Abbott.

2nd place with a score of 70 net was Dave Latham.

1st place with a score of 67 net was Dave Cahill

A very good day in pleasant company; thank you to Captain Mick Slater for organising the event.

A special mention for Mick's wife Angie who helps considerably behind the scenes. 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 659 866 468.



Sex Education - a Primer.

The virginal and somewhat naïve Assumpta O'Connell is soon to be wed to 'Big Red' O'Shaughnessy. In dire need of advice she decided to approach the local parish priest, Father Murphy. 'Father,' she said, 'Yesterday I spotted 'Big Red' coming out of the shower, but what is that long thing between his legs?' 'Ah, that my child,' says Father Murphy, 'is his penis.' 'I see, and what is that purple bulbous thing at the end of his penis?' she asks. 'That my child is the glans penis or what the altar boys call the bishop - the knob-head,' replies the priest.

Assumpta has a think for a few minutes and finally asks, 'And what are those two hairy round things 18 inches back from his knob-head or glans thingy?'

Father Murphy gently holds Assumpta's hands and replies, 'Well, young lady, for your sake I hope you are referring to the cheeks of his arse!'

DREAM HILLS PLUMBING

A PROFESSIONAL PLUMBING SERVICE



**BATHROOM CONVERSIONS,
MOVING OUTSIDE TAPS,
REPAIRING FAULTY TAPS,
CISTERNS, VALVES, WC'S ETC**



SUMMER SPECIAL -

BOILER CHANGES FROM €40 PLUS PARTS!

INSTALLING GARDEN WATERING SYSTEMS,

SHOWERS, AND MUCH MORE!

NO CALL-OUT CHARGES LOCALLY!

**ANY PLUMBING PROBLEMS JUST CALL ME AT
653553715 & dreamhillsplumbing@gmail.com**

SPANIARDS UNDER 30

TOO POOR TO FLEE THE NEST!

Spaniards have a reputation for leaving their parents' nest later than their European counterparts, but the country's recession is only serving to aggravate the trend even further.

A new study by Spain's Youth Emancipation Observatory shows that 1.8 million young Spaniards between the ages of 16 and 29 who are in work are not capable of fending for themselves financially speaking. Low salaries are stopping the vast majority of them from being able to afford to rent, as the report shows their average wages can only cover rental costs in two of Spain's least wealthy regions: Extremadura and Castile-La Mancha.

Young Spaniards would have to earn a staggering 80% more than their average salaries to be able to afford to buy a house (keeping in mind that only 30% of their wages should go to paying a mortgage).

In a country where home ownership has long been viewed as a quintessential element of financial and social stability, "young Spaniards are being almost systematically excluded from the property market". "Most young people view home ownership as a kind of utopia," Sheyla Suárez, one of the study's authors, points out. However, Suárez's research has picked up on a buck in the trend among Spaniards aged 30 to 34. "Aside from Andalusia, Asturias, the Canaries and Galicia, 70% of Spaniards in this age group no longer live with their parents," she adds.

But young Spaniards in both demographics are often overqualified for their job positions, with 53.9% of 16 to 29-year-olds and 56.2% of 30 to 34-year-olds carrying out jobs that are below their skill set.

(alex.dunham@thelocal.com)

•A dwarf goes to a very good but very busy doctor and asks "I know you are busy but do you treat dwarves?"

The doctor replies "Yes, but you will have to be a little patient".

•Due to the current economic crisis, Greece is cancelling all production of humus and Taramasalata. It's a double dip recession.

•A government survey has shown that 91% of illegal immigrants come to Britain so that they can see their own doctor.

•Paddy & Mick stagger out of the zoo with blood pouring from them. "B*ll*ks to that" said Paddy. "That's the last time I go lion dancing" Mel Bettell

In Japan everything is miniaturised. The women are none too pleased about it.

Ken Dodd

CARS! CARS! CARS!

Car-hire firms fined for price fixing; registering vehicles in another area & ITV tests in Valencia.

The National Competition Commission has placed large fines on a number of car-hire firms. Fines of €35 million have been given to 23 car hire firms, six of them operating in the Alicante province. The firms formed a cartel which fixed prices and conditions for a period of six years, between May 2005 and October 2011, before they were detected. Additionally, those involved had created a structure to avoid detection of their illegal practices with early warnings to alert each other of any potential investigation.

Goldcar, with a fleet of 30,000 vehicles and 42 offices nationwide, received a fine of €15 million. Other car-hire firms (many in our region) to receive fines were Centauro Rent a Car SL - €5.56 million; Dickmanns Rent a Car SL - €32,000; Drivalia Car Rental of Orihuela - €103,000; Sol Mar Alquiler de Vehículos SL - €800,000 and Avis - €1.5 million, for their part in the cartel.

A small Spanish town has clinched the title for having the most number of registered vehicles per person, a whopping 62 cars per inhabitant. Aguilar de Segarra, a tiny town in the province of Barcelona with a population of just 475, has one of the lowest rates of initial registration and annual tax charges. One individual living in the village pays only €50 a year for the 3 vehicles he owns. And no, these are not all lottery winners as most of the vehicles do not belong to the locals. The vast majority belong to lease hire and rental companies who have taken advantage of the heavily discounted tax rate. Individuals wishing to take advantage of the tax break must be registered on the padron and businesses must register themselves as tax domicile in the village, needing only a *buzon* (a p.o. box). Another town, Rozas de Puerto Real in Madrid, has more than 9200 registered vehicles yet there are only 470 inhabitants - averaging around 20 cars per person. Again, lease hire and rental companies make up the numbers whilst individuals pay on average just €18 per car, with many paying at little as €10. There are many other towns throughout Spain who attract extra revenue from hire & rental firms by charging lower vehicle taxes, which can save some firms up to €200,000 annually. The reason behind the huge disparity is a discount applied to the City Council Vehicle Tax (IVTM), the old vehicle taxation system. Under the system, municipalities are entitled to apply a discount of up to 75% by law. As cash strapped local councils sought new ways to raise capital, an explosion in registration competition ensued between municipalities.

An interesting anomaly has arisen regarding the ITV vehicle inspection process. If you have a vehicle which is registered in the Valencia region but have an ITV inspection certificate from another region, say Murcia or Andalusia, then the ITV is not adequate and you could be fined. The reason for this is the Valencia region is the only autonomous region in Spain which stipulates a noise-level test on vehicles as part of the ITV. If your non-Valencian ITV is still in date, you can have the noise test for around €12 locally. If you purchased a second-hand vehicle in the last couple of years, it is probably worth checking the ITV to make sure it is a Valencian one.

Many expat's and Spaniards based in Alicante have their ITV test done in Murcia as they are much cheaper there. A study by the consumer association FACUA in 2012 reported that the Valencia region had the highest prices for tests on both petrol and diesel cars in Spain. The price for a test of a petrol car with a catalytic converter is €48.54 in Valencia, but only €27.76 in Murcia; a diesel car test in Valencia is priced at €63.23 and €38.64 in Murcia. Re-tests are also significantly cheaper and more accommodating in the Murcia Region.

"I was adopted at birth and have never met my mum.

That makes it very difficult to enjoy any lapdance."

Edinburgh Fringe 2013



J.J. & Rob welcome you to their Blues Brothers theme bar
NEW, LARGE & VARIED MENU
FROM STEAKS & CHICKEN
TO PASTA AND KEBABS
ALL FRESHLY COOKED.
FRIDAY NIGHT IS
FISH & CHIPS NIGHT!
ICELANDIC COD €6-50!
SUNDAYS - BARBECUE
ON THE TERRACE
FROM 1 TO 4PM





Now, more than ever -
Support Help for Heroes; wristbands €3
D.L.T.R-H.G.Y.D.
ALL SPORTS ON BIG SCREENS!
693 985 122
VIA PARK V



Rob and JJ would like to announce the closure of Belushi's Bar on the 30th September due to family circumstances. We would like to thank all our customers for their support & friendship during the last 2½ years. We have had an amazing time here and will take some great memories with us. All the very best.

Rob & JJ

Letters to the Editor



Friday Night at Belushi's

Thanks to winning the Quiz Competition in July's Dream Scene we booked in for our prize of the Fish & Chip Supper.

We took along a friend with us and the three of us sat down and ordered our drinks. On looking at the menu, I decided to order the Hunter's Chicken, whilst Jo and Dave had the Fish & Chips.

The thick piece of cod was so large it hung over the plate, and was covered in a light crispy batter, served with chips and mushy peas. Jo and Dave both said it was the best they had eaten.

My Hunter's Chicken was cooked to perfection and served with baked potato, salad and coleslaw.

Our thanks to Rob and JJ for an excellent meal – we would recommend you try Belushi's for your next meal.

Jan and Dave Knight

A leak!

Little Johnny is approached by the lifeguard at the public swimming bar. 'You're not allowed to pee in the pool,' says the lifeguard. 'I'm going to report you.' 'But everyone pees in the pool,' said little Johnny. 'Maybe,' says the lifeguard. 'But not from the diving board!'

Diet?

I've just been to the gym. They've got a new machine in. Only used it for half an hour, as I started to feel sick. It's great though. It does everything - KitKats, Kinder, Mars Bars, Snickers, Crunchies, the lot....."

After *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, people think the psychiatric ward is where an evil and sadistic person humiliates depressed people. This is actually a far more accurate description of Weight Watchers.

Jo Brand.

A warm welcome awaits you at



SUN
BAR & GRILL
 Eat in or Take-Away
OPEN 7 DAYS -
10AM - 1AM.





Great food at unbeatable prices!
Breakfasts, Pizzas, Pies,
Burgers, Kebabs, Wings,
Roast Chicken, chips & salad.
Fish & Chips
SELLING MILK, BREAD, SUGAR,
SAUCES, SALT, WINE, WATER,
DOG FOOD, ICE CREAM, SWEETS....
Bingo & Quiz Nite
Sat. 9pm
Tel: 966 848 667 & 672 804 905
Via Park V

2GB INDIAN RESTAURANT & TAKE AWAY

Freshly Made Indian Food

CHICKEN WRAP €4.50!

CHICKEN TIKKA WRAP €5!

LAMB TIKKA WRAP €5.50!



SPECIAL OFFER

4 COURSE MEAL SERVED

6PM - 9PM

ONLY €9.95! (EAT IN ONLY)

Via Park V

966184951 & 632199167

OPEN
6pm-12am

WiFi

**LARGE BAVARIA
DRAFT €2.00!
BOTTLES
JUST €1!!**



VIA PARK III

HAPPY HOUR 3 - 7pm
Pints: Bavaria €1.50
John Smith's €2.00
Tropical €1.50
Magners €2.50
Can: Flavoured Cider €2



**COMPREHENSIVE MENU FEATURING EVERYTHING
FROM GREAT STEAKS, LAMB & GAMMONS
TO CURRIES, BURGERS AND FISH & CHIPS
HOMEMADE CHIPS, NEVER FROZEN!**



**BREAKFASTS FROM JUST €3 WHICH INCLUDE O.J. OR TEA OR COFFEE!
STEAK MEAL DEAL FOR TWO JUST €22 INCL. BOTTLE OF WINE OR CAVA !
IF YOU ARE REALLY, REALLY HUNGRY THEN TRY OUR OMG MENU.
COME AND TRY OUR FAMOUS SUNDAY LUNCH MAIN COURSE JUST €5!**

SUMMER MADNESS! THE FULL MONTY!



**2 X 10oz SIRLOIN STEAKS WITH PERFECT CHIPS,
ONION RINGS, PEAS, MUSHROOMS, TOMATOES
(Includes glass of wine, small beer or soft drink p.p.)**



ONLY €25!

BINGO! EVERY WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY AT 2 PM. COME EARLY!



WEDNESDAY NIGHT FUN QUIZ

**INCLUDING STAND-UP BINGO
AND PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT!**



SATURDAY NIGHT KARAOKE!



END OF SEASON SPECIAL!

**5 x SAN MIGUEL or 5 x MAHOE
IN A BUCKET OF ICE
JUST €5 !!**

**NOW WITH ALL SPORTS'
CHANNELS!
SKY, BT SPORTS, ESPN etc.**



**SOUTH
FACING
PATIO**

CK1 FOR THE BEST PRICES ON THE COSTA!!

BOTTLES OF BUD, MAHOE, JUST €1.25

HOUSE SPIRITS €2.50; BRANDED SPIRITS €3.00!

For bookings telephone 968 972 906 or 637 046 438.

SPECIAL OFFER TO READERS OF THE DREAM SCENE FROM CK1!

**2 X FISH & CHIPS, MUSHY PEAS & BREAD 'N BUTTER
INCLUDES BOTTLE OF WINE! ONLY €10!!**



ONLY WITH THIS VOUCHER.

**OFFER APPLICABLE ONLY MONDAY TO THURSDAY 4 TO 7PM.
CUT-OUT AND PRESENT WITH ORDER.**



I can't stay too long. I've left my Mercedes parked outside and you know what they're like on this estate. They's have the wheels off a jumbo if it flew too low.

Boycey, Only Fools and Horses

I am always looking for accounts of people's travel experiences in Spain. They are always informative and fun to read. They may also stimulate others to visit some of the many interesting locations in this intriguing country. Mick, Editor.

A Few Days in Valencia by Jan & Dave Knight

We recently spent four nights at the Hotel NH Las Artes II in Valencia. We booked this hotel on-line for a cost of 151.50€ for our air-conditioned room only. It turned out to be in a great location with easy access (round the corner) for the tour buses, The Hemisferic Cinema, Oceanográfico, Arts & Science Museums and the Queen Sofia Palace of the Arts (also within walking distance).

We booked a 48-hour Bus Turistic Ticket at the Hotel for 18€ each. We boarded the open-top bus at bus-stop number 4 and were given a pack of headphones which you plug into the system by your seat. Pressing the button will give you a commentary in English. The ticket covers two tours – a historic route and a maritime route that follows part of the Grand Prix Course

You can book these tickets either on their own or combine them with the above attractions and receive a discount of between 5% and 20%.

We booked our tickets for Oceanográfico in advance and when Dave showed his Driving Licence (or Passport) he received a 6€ discount. We also reserved our breakfast at the hotel. After we had eaten our buffet breakfast (choice of cereals, eggs, bacon as well as the more continental offerings) and packed two bottles of water, we set off on the 10 minute stroll to Oceanográfico. The park is divided into sections and using the map provided with the tickets, we followed the numbered route. We saw many species of fish and other marine life. We also saw the Dolphin Show, the feeding of the sea lions and the feeding of the penguins. We were in the park about 7 hours and only saw everything once !!

We were pleased we had the foresight to eat before going in to the park as food and drink inside were expensive and there were signs saying you couldn't take food in.

We thoroughly enjoyed our stay, but would suggest that you avoid the heat of July and August.

Dot & Ed

Dorothy and Edna, two "senior" widows, were talking.

Dorothy: "That nice George Johnson asked me out for a date. I know you went out with him last week, and I wanted to talk with you about him before I give him my answer."

Edna: "Well, I'll tell you. He shows up at my apartment punctually at 7pm, dressed like such a gentleman in a fine suit, and he brings me such beautiful flowers! Then he takes me downstairs. And what's there: a limousine, uniformed chauffeur and all. Then he takes me out for dinner; a marvellous dinner, lobster, champagne, dessert, and after-dinner drinks. Then we go see a show. Let me tell you Dorothy, I enjoyed it so much I could have just died from pleasure! So then we are coming back to my apartment and he turns into an ANIMAL. Completely crazy, he tears off my expensive new dress and has his way with me..... three times !!!"

Dorothy: "Goodness gracious!... so you are telling me I shouldn't go?"

Edna: "No, no, no... course not... I'm just saying, wear an old dress".

Brian H.

Crazy!

Paddy and Shamus were hitchhiking. "It's best if we split up," said Paddy. "I will meet you in the next city under the town hall clock".

Later that night Shamus was waiting at the appointed place when Paddy drove up in a swank car. "Where the hell did you get that?"

Paddy explained that he had just walked a little way when a beautiful woman picked him up. She drove into the woods, got out and took all her clothes off. "She said I could have anything I wanted, so I took the car," said Paddy.

"Good choice too," said Shamus. "You'd look ridiculous in her clothes, anyway."

Derrick Green



**Macklin's
Welcome Inn**
Via Park III

*The most comfortable and
elegant bar on the Costa Blanca!*

Watch all live sports in comfort!
Snooker Happy Hour 12 - 6
Monday to Friday €3 per hour
Other times €6 per hour.

Bookings please call 965 319 512



MONDAY'S - DARTS



TUESDAY'S - POOL

WED'S - TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER 7PM
THUR'S - SARAH'S BINGO FROM 3PM
WITH SNOWBALL JACKPOT!
FRIDAY'S & SUNDAYS - KARAOKE.
ALL MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS
SHOWN THROUGHOUT THE WEEK
ON OUR PLASMA SCREENS.

INTERNET BOOTHS
WITH PRINTER.
LICENSED TO SELL
CARTONS OF CIGARETTES.

CORVERA AIRPORT & PARAMOUNT PARK
THE CIRCUS CONTINUES!

The Regional President of Murcia, Ramón Luis Valcárcel (photo), has been doing what politicians do best - handing out promises by the bucket load! He has now promised, again, that the process to appoint a new concessionaire at Corvera International



Airport is due to begin "immediately", and that it will be finalised "before the end of the year" in order that the facility will be fully operational "in the early months of 2014". One month ago he promised a 'positive statement' concerning the airport, but as usual he is confusing reality with wishful thinking.

But unfortunately Ramón's propensity to see salvation over the horizon also extends to the Paramount Theme Park project. After much back-slapping and handshaking at its inception in Feb' 2010, progress on the project has been negligible, the first big blow being the major reduction in land allocated to the project. The next big problem is the total lack of investors in the project. This is largely because nobody with any sense would invest in it. Many believe the only 'rides' at the Paramount Park will be the ones the investors are taken on. However President Ramón of Murcia, once again wearing his thick rose-tinted spectacles, recently pulled more wishful thinking out of the hat for the press, stating that 'the Paramount Pictures theme park project at Alhama de Murcia is going well' and 'despite having it's problems, there will be significant progress made on site within the next 12 months.' Bearing in mind the project's history and the fact that work still hasn't started, this is hardly reassuring.

Ramón does not want to stand for the region's presidency next year. He wants to join the 'gravey train' as an EU deputy.



THE

LIBERTY

BAR & GRILL

VIA PARK III



FRESH FOOD SERVED ALL DAY FROM 9:30am

MEALS START AT JUST €!

WEDS & SAT 2PM BINGO



FISH & CHIP FRYDAY ONLY €!

SAT: MEAT RAFFLE + BONUS BALL!

NOW INCL. WEDNESDAY BONUS BALL!

SUNDAY LUNCHESES

FROM ONLY €!!

ROAST BEEF, PORK & CHICKEN.

ROAST LEG OF LAMB,

ONLY €!!



**DETAILS OF OUR PLANS FOR THE
CHRISTMAS SEASON
ARE NOW AVAILABLE.**



**CALL AT THE BAR &
CHECK OUT OUR GREAT OFFERS!
GREAT FOOD! GREAT PRICES!**

ALL SPORTS SHOWN ON FOUR SCREENS

FOOTBALL, CRICKET, FORMULA 1.

WE DON'T SERVE FAST FOOD.

WE SERVE FRESH FOOD AS FAST AS WE CAN .

HAPPY HOUR 4 - 7, MON TO SAT

LARGE SELECTION OF BEERS & SPIRITS

BOTTLED BEER FROM €1.00!

ALL HOUSE SPIRITS €!

Phone: 965 994 603



**BARCLAYS
PREMIER LEAGUE**



Give him a wave!

A passenger cruise ship passes a small desert island. Everyone watches as a tatty-looking bearded man runs out on to the beach and starts shouting and waving his hands. 'Who's that?' asks one of the passengers. 'I've no idea,' replies the captain. 'But every year we sail past and he goes nuts.'

“The name is Bond, Jaime Bond.”

Around mid-August, the Guardia Civil arrested a 56-year-old Spanish local policeman in Valencia. It seems that this guy was posing as a recruiter and undercover operative for a Spanish spy agency. The authorities had been watching him for a couple of weeks but could not determine what his goal or motive was. But it soon became obvious that it was ‘the ladies’ that our intrepid ‘spy’ sought. Reminiscent of the Schwarzenegger movie ‘True Lies’ this would-be James Bond, or shall we call him Jaime Bond, ‘trainees’ for induction into recruits had to undergo the granting of sexual favours. They would also have to hand in any gold or jewels they had ‘to prove their commitment.’ The man had several weapons and some high tech equipment such as GPS and compasses, with which he tried to impress the candidates. If they passed the final tests, they were promised a salary of €1,900 a month - scarcely an inducement.



Oddly, the man was assisted by his 45-year-old Spanish girlfriend who helped in the selection of candidates for the posts. She was also arrested. The Guardia is now collating a reported eleven ‘events’ relating to the couple in Alicante and Valencia which allegedly involve fraud, intrusion, usurpation of public functions (I love that one) and attempted sexual harassment.

Groan Joke!

A woman brought a very limp duck into a veterinary surgeon. As she laid her pet on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest. After a moment or two, the vet shook his head and sadly said, "I'm sorry, your duck has passed away." The distressed woman wailed, "Are you sure?"

"Yes, I am sure. Your duck is dead," replied the vet. "How can you be so sure?" she protested. "I mean you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something."

The vet turned around and left the room.

He returned a few minutes later with a Labrador Retriever. As the duck's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the examination table and sniffed the duck from top to bottom. He then looked up at the vet with sad eyes and shook his head.

The vet patted the dog on the head and took it out of the room.

A few minutes later he returned with a cat. The cat jumped on the table and also delicately sniffed the bird from head to foot. The cat sat back on its haunches, shook its head, meowed softly and strolled out of the room.

The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry, but as I said, this is most definitely, 100% certifiably, a dead duck."

The vet turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys and produced a bill, which he handed to the woman.

The duck's owner, still in shock, took the bill. "€150!" she cried, "€150 just to tell me my duck is dead!"

The vet shrugged, "I'm sorry. If you had just taken my word for it, the bill would have been €20, but with the Lab Report and the Cat Scan, it's now €150."

A Job at the bottom?

I've got this terrific new job in the circus - mucking out the elephants. Mucking out the elephants! How many of them?

Twenty-five.

Twenty-five elephants! How much do they pay you?

Twenty euros a week.

Twenty euros a week for mucking out twenty-five elephants! If I were you I'd chuck it all in and get a decent office job.

What - and give up show business?

Harry Hill

THE GIBRALTAR SMOKESCREEN.

The relationship between the Spanish and the British has once again flared-up with regard to Gibraltar. One of the continuing problems Gibraltar had was the presence of Spanish fishing boats within its territorial waters. This led to several confrontations between the Spanish naval police and the Gibraltar authorities.

Gibraltar then had the bright idea of sinking concrete blocks in part of the bay to ‘preserve and nurture the fishing stocks’ but it would also prevent the Spanish vessels from net-dragging the sea bed for scallops. This is a common practice throughout the Spanish coastline which already has 130 artificial reefs. (The local fishermen complained immediately although in 2006, they requested similar protection for their own fish stocks in La linea!) It took a full week for Madrid to respond, but on this occasion it was an orchestrated response from its PP Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, José Manuel García-Margallo (photo).



Now José possesses all the diplomatic niceties of a rattlesnake. When he was a member of the European Parliament (MEP) and was being introduced to a British contingent, his first words in Spanish were ‘Gibraltar is Spanish!’ He is a noted ‘Gibraltar-hater’ and not one to let manners or courtesy interfere with doing business. He has now waded in and stated that the concrete block/artificial reef is an environmental crime; this from a government which has just made solar energy for individuals and businesses uneconomic. But then followed the bluster and threats; he proposed a €50 charge per person at the border with Gib’, backed up by rumblings about airspace, smuggling, fuel-bunkering, telephone lines and gambling companies registered in Gibraltar. Britain has requested the EU to oversee the border checks, which have on occasions been up to eight hours! Spain now wants the remit of the EU team to be extended to also “check that Gibraltar does not contravene any European law governing money laundering, contraband and taxation,” according to a government press release. Another senior PP, the MEP and Secretary General of the European People's Party (EPP), Antonio López-Istúriz, has also jumped onto the bandwagon stating that "there is a drug and weapons smuggling problem suspected to have a point of origin or destination in Gibraltar."

The previous Spanish Socialist government had regular tripartite talks with the UK and Gibraltar during its tenure which usually sorted issues out before they became problems. However the popularity of the new PP administration continues to dwindle at the polls. After two years at the helm Spain remains on the brink of the abyss. They have broken every election promise they made prior to the General Election, unemployment has shot up to 27% and the PP are mired in a whole range of graft and corruption cases that are alleged to go right to the top. So what you have here is a blatant attempt at misdirection. Forget what my right-hand is doing - look what I have in my left!

Britain still states that there will be no negotiation on sovereignty until the Gibraltar people ask for it, and in the last referendum on sovereignty in 2002 99% rejected any change.

Gibraltar was ceded to the British (along with Minorca!) at the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713. Spain also lost the Spanish Netherlands in the Treaty. Maybe they now want that returned as well, although I am not sure what the Belgians will think of that!



MAYPOLE
FINANCIAL SERVICES

**Could you do with some extra cash right now?
We can help with a QROPS.**

- **Have you worked in the UK?**
- **Billions of pounds in unclaimed UK pension money. *IS SOME OF IT YOURS?***
- **The potential for full access to your private or company UK pension.**
- **No upfront fees.**
- **No obligation.**
- **Beneficiary options *NOT AVAILABLE IN THE UK*. Protect the ones you love NOW.**
- **Greater investment choice.**
- **Tax efficiency.**
- **Free assessment on your existing QROPS. *IS YOUR MONEY TIED UP?***
- **Free search on lost & forgotten UK pensions. *ARE YOU DUE A WINDFALL?****
- **Free assessment on your existing UK pension. *TAKE THE BENEFITS NOW.***

***It is currently estimated that more than one million pensions worth £3bn have been abandoned in dormant accounts. Many of these funds suffer high charges and poor annuity rates, with their owners ignorant that returns could be increased significantly by consolidating their money and taking an active interest.**

(The Telegraph, July 12, 2013)

Call Mike Heighway, Pension Specialist TODAY.

Office....966 844 979

Mobile..634 305 881

E-mail.....mikepensions@gmail.com

Registered agent with QROPS providers in

New Zealand, Malta, Switzerland & Gibraltar.

**Regulation, QROPS & IFA number always provided
on first FREE meeting.**

Initial discussions are FREE and always without obligation.

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

The Right Prescription.

Jane goes into a chemist and asks to see the pharmacist. 'How can I help you, madam? he asks. 'I need some arsenic, please,' Jane replies. 'And what, may I ask, are you needing arsenic for?' the pharmacist says. 'I want to kill my husband.'

'Surely you know,' says the pharmacist, 'that I can't sell you any for such a use.'

Jane gives him a photo of a naked man and naked woman clearly having sex. Jane says, 'The man is my husband and the woman is, as I'm sure you have recognised, your wife.'

The pharmacist looks at the photo intently and says, 'Oh, I didn't know you had a prescription. I'll go and get some right now.'

SUZIES BAR
CAFETERERIA

Los Balcones, opposite Mercadona.
**NEWLY REFURBISHED & COMFORTABLE
SOUTH-FACING LOUNGE**
**WITH THE BEST ENTERTAINMENT
ON THE COSTA!**

WEDNESDAY: QUIZ & OPEN THE BOX
**FRIDAY & SUNDAY: SUZIE -
SENSATIONAL VOCALIST AND KARAOKE!**
**LIVE FOOTBALL & ALL SPORTS
ON LARGE SCREENS.**
**FREE SAUSAGE & CHIPS
AT HALF-TIME, AFTERNOONS!!**
SUNDAY LUNCH BACK ON!
2 COURSE + GLASS OF WINE €6.95
DELICIOUS FRESHLY PREPARED FOOD.

Wi-Fi TEL: 695 08 28 16

TASTE OF INDIA
TRADITIONAL INDIAN CUISINE
Pizza, Steaks, Burgers & Take Away
Authentic recipes and Tandoori Special
always using fresh ingredients & spices
LUNCH MENU ONLY €8.45.
**SPECIAL EVENING MENU -
CHOICE OF ANY STARTER,
ANY CURRY,
ANY RICE OR NAN OR CHIPS**
Inc. Glass of wine, soft drink or small beer
ONLY €10.
Special arrangements for Birthday Parties
Open daily - 1pm to 3pm & 5pm to 12am
Via Park II Tel:634 821 727
Near Zenia Boulevard.

**DO YOU NEED
AN ELECTRICIAN?
OR A PLUMBER?**
ALSO GENERAL REPAIRS
PAINTING & MAINTENANCE
BATHROOM & SHOWER-ROOM
CONVERSIONS.
**SATELLITE SYSTEMS INSTALLED -
ASK FOR DETAILS.
NO JOB TOO SMALL
& NO JOB TOO BIG!**
Lots of satisfied customers in this area.
References available.
**CALL ED ON
693 661 958**
Very reasonable rates.

TRANSFER TAX ON REALES TO GO UP.

The transfer tax on resale properties in Catalonia and the Valencian Community has gone up from 8% to 10% this August – a move that will drive down asking prices, reduce sales, or increase undeclared payments in cash, or all three at once.

In just another mystifying move by the the Spanish administration – in this case the autonomous regional governments of Catalonia and Valencia – the tax on buying a resale property, known in Spain as the *Impuesto sobre Transmisiones Patrimoniales*, or ITP for short has gone up to 10pc this month.

This tax increase was announced several months ago in Catalonia, with delayed effect to the 1st of August. But in the Valencian Region it has just been announced, taking everyone by surprise, and will be effective as soon as it is published in the Valencian region's official gazette.

At 10%, the ITP on buying a resale property in Catalonia & Valencia is now the same rate as VAT on new homes, which the national government in Madrid increased from 4% to 10% at the beginning of the year.

The Catalan Government hopes to raise an extra €50 million this year with the increased tax. The Valencian Government hopes to raise an extra €30 million this year, and €75 million next year. (Spanish Property Insight)

TREATMENT OF EU PENSIONERS IN SPAIN INCREASES SLIGHTLY.

The Government received €477,210,159.65 from other countries for healthcare provided to pensioners and other foreigners registered in Spain in 2012, a level slightly higher than in the previous year, where a total of €472,419,318 was recorded.

In total 320,054 foreign pensioners were attended to in 2012, of which 317,703 were from EU countries, and 2,351 from other countries. In 2011 there were 313,681 patients attended to, of which 311,629 were from the EU and other countries just 2,502.

PUBLIC HOUSING IN VALENCIA.

When families or individuals qualify for 'public housing' in Spain, it can be incredibly cheap. Figures for 2012 released by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment show that 1,075 homes paid less than €50 a month rent; 3,850 households paid between €51 and €100 per month and 1,846 dwellings paid between €101 and €150 per month. Only 80 homes paid rent of between €201 and €250 while just 43 homes paid more than €250 per month.

REGIONAL BUSINESSES

The Spanish cabinet have passed a new law which unifies rules and procedures for Spanish businesses, so that if a company meets the law of a particular region, other regions cannot ask for additional requirements when the company wants to do business in another region. This is a welcome change, particularly for the small to medium sized companies, who couldn't afford the legal resources required to guide them through inter-regional bureaucracy. That this problem exists at all is a measure of the modernisation still needed in Spain.

Another 40 shades?

He was in ecstasy with a huge smile on his face as his wife moved forward, back and forth..... in and out..... then backwards, forward, then backwards again..... back and forth... She could feel the sweat on her forehead, between her heaving bosoms and trickling down the small of her back. She was getting near to the end. Her heart was pounding..... her face was flushed.....Then she moaned, softly at first, then began to groan louder. Finally, totally exhausted, she let out an almighty scream and shouted.....'Okay, Okay!!! I can't park the car!!! You do it, you smug bastard!!'

(Brian H.)



Galadriel

Cafe Bar & Bistro

NEW OPENING HOURS!

From the beginning of September until Sunday 15th September, we will open at 1pm Monday to Friday and serving food till at least 10pm Saturday 10am till 10pm and Sunday opening 10am till 9pm For the last 2 weeks of September we will be closed on Tuesdays

LOOK OUT FOR OUR NEW MENUS

PLUS NEW ADDITIONS TO OUR POPULAR RANGE OF BURGERS

Monday Evening - Steak and Ribs

Tuesday Night - Choose a Homemade Dessert for 1Euro

with any main course off our Bistro menu!

Wednesday Evening - Steak and Ribs

Thursday Evening - Steak and Sauce

Friday Evening - Burger & Bud Night

Saturday Evenings - Steak and Wine Special

Sunday - Sunday Roast from 12 noon till 9pm

Wallet Watchers Menu available Monday to Saturday

Still offering quality DVD's, Ink Cartridges, Phone card top-ups and Laundry Service

With so much on offer, come and enjoy our hospitality soon!

Tel. 966 798 122 or 696 285 861 e-mail. rikandkath@gmail.com

PRIZE DRAW WITH A DIFFERENCE.

A bar in the Granada town of Salobreña had the bright idea of promoting a party night with posters which promised an interesting raffle. First prize was not the usual bottle of undrinkable brandy, coarse enough to remove rust from a tractor - or wine which tastes like a diabetic horse's urine. No siree! First prize was a sexual encounter with a 'special waitress' (i.e. a hooker). Local neighbours complained to the police and the bar owner was forced to cancel as the police warned him that he was running the risk of a criminal activity. Honestly, you just can't please some people. I wish the bars around this area would think-up some creative prizes. All you get around here is some stale peanuts.....and you have to beg for them!

The Ultimatum.

Two factory workers were talking about going to the United match. 'It's pointless even thinking about it - my wife will never let me go.' 'It's easy,' said his workmate. 'All you have to do is pick her up, carry her to the bedroom, fling her on the bed, rip off her clothes, screw her and say, 'I'm going to the game.'"

The two men met up again on the Monday evening. 'Did you do what I said?'

'Yeah. An hour before the game, I picked up my wife, carried her to the bedroom and flung her on the bed. Then just as I was pulling her clothes off and unzipping my fly. I thought: "What the hell, United haven't been playing that well lately....."

TOURISM AND PROPERTY PURCHASE STATISTICS

Spain's Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism have confirmed how tourism for the month of July was up 2.9% on the same period last year. There were 7.9 million foreign visitors in July, the highest number seen since 1995. Once again the British made up the lion's share with 23.2% of the total, up 3.4% on July 2012. Next came the French with 16% (up 2.2%), then the Germans at 15% (no change on 2012) and the Italians at 14.5%, down 8.7% on last year. As in previous years, Andalusia, Valencia, Catalonia and the Balaerics remain the most popular destinations with visitors.

There is no doubt but the sale of properties to non-Spaniards gives a welcome boost to local and regional economies. This is particularly true in the Valencia Region where sales to foreigners - 3,414 properties, has almost caught up with sales to Spaniards - 3,765. These figures relate to the first quarter of this year. The number of properties bought by foreigners in the region has been increasing each year since 2010 when the figure was 10,589. In 2012 the figure was 15,573. The Valencia Region was the most popular with foreign purchasers, accounting for 30% of sales nationally. This was followed by Andalucia - 19%, Catalonia - 16% and the Canary Islands - 12%. 80% of all sales in the Valencia Region were in the Alicante province. The British still top the list of buyers here, followed by Russians, Norwegians and French.

I find it interesting that the Germans are not in the top four of purchasers in the region. It is probably too soon to spot a trend but it may be because 'buy-to-rent' is becoming more popular in Germany.

What has 180 legs and no pubic hair? The front row of a Justin Bieber concert.

TRANSLATOR & COMPUTER TRAINER

If you find computers too complicated or need assistance in your everyday Spanish life, then, I'm your man!

Computer training and translations are my speciality. I live in the Dreams Hills area. I'm originally from Spain, and have two years of experience as a translator, and many years dealing with computers, since I have two computer-related college degrees from the US.

Please, let me know if you need any assistance with the following:

TRANSLATIONS

- HOSPITALS / DOCTORS
- POLICE REPORTS
- OFFICIAL TRANSLATIONS (STAMPED)
- UNOFFICIAL WRITTEN TRANSLATIONS
- NIE / RESIDENCIA
- DRIVING LICENCES
- COURT
- TOWN HALLS
- SCHOOL MEETINGS

COMPUTER TRAINING

- WINDOWS XP, VISTA, 7
- MICROSOFT OFFICE (WORD, EXCEL, POWER POINT, ACCESS, ETC.)
- INTERNET
- EMAILING
- MESSENGER
- PRINTER & SCANNER
- SECURITY & ANTIVIRUS
- VIRUS REMOVAL
- PC CONFIGURATIONS

CALL DAVID NOW

689 416 103

Your experienced native Spanish translator!

Your experienced computer teacher!

EMAIL: david@torreviejatranslation.com

WEB: <http://torreviejatranslation.com/>

SUNSHINE SUNSET BOAT PARTIES

The Ultimate Party Night!

ALWAYS A GREAT EVENING!

Parties leave Torrevieja Harbour at 8pm & return for 11:30pm.

Two bars on board with CHEAP prices -

Wine €1.50, Beer €1.20, Spirit with Mixer €4.50!

TICKETS ONLY €15 EACH!

Available from The Lounge, Lago Jardin II, Los Balcones Tel:638683941

TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE FROM Island of Tabarca Box Office!

Torrevieja Marina, Torrevieja; Captain's Table Punta Prima;

Tiger Feet La Fuente, Campoamor; Iceland's in-store cafeteria Torrevieja;

Open All Hours, La Zenia.

www.facebook.com/sunshinesunset.cruise

E-mail sunshinesunsetcruise@gmail.com

Phone: 638 683 941

Abe Converts!

Abe and Shlomo are strolling down the street one day when they happen to walk by a Catholic Church. They see a big sign posted that says: 'CONVERT TO CATHOLICISM AND GET €50.' Abe stops walking and stares at the sign. Shlomo turns to him and says, 'Abe, what's going on?' Shlomo says, 'What, are you crazy? What will the rabbi say?'

Abe thinks for a minute and says, 'Shlomo, I'm going to do it.' With that, Abe strides purposely into the church and comes out twenty minutes later with his head bowed.

'So,' asks Shlomo, who was waiting outside, 'did you get your €50?'

Abe looks up at him and says, 'Is that all you people think of?'

Women can do everything; men can do the rest.

Russian proverb.

What is the difference between a genealogist and a gynaecologist?

A genealogist looks up the family tree and a gynaecologist looks up the family bush.

SE VENDE

ASTRID'S

SALES & RENTALS

IN THE ORIHUELA COSTA AREA

URGENTLY REQUIRED!

REASONABLY PRICED

PROPERTIES FOR MANY

CASH BUYERS.

ALSO RENTALS

REQUIRED FOR

WAITING TENANTS

965319731 & 649235327

40 YEAR'S EXPERIENCE

IN SALES & RENTALS.

KEY HOLDING &

MAINTENANCE

COPPER AND ALZHEIMER'S

Copper, appears to be one of the main environmental factors that trigger the onset and enhance the progression of Alzheimer's disease by preventing the clearance and accelerating the accumulation of toxic proteins in the brain.

That is the conclusion of a study appearing today in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The study, which is detailed and readable can be read in full here -

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/08/130819171636.htm>

Copper's presence in the food supply is ubiquitous. It is found in drinking water carried by copper pipes, nutritional supplements, and in certain foods such as red meats, shellfish, nuts, and many fruits and vegetables. The mineral plays an important and beneficial role in nerve conduction, bone growth, the formation of connective tissue, and hormone secretion. However, the new study shows that copper can also accumulate in the brain and cause the blood brain barrier -- the system that controls what enters and exits the brain -- to break down, resulting in the toxic accumulation of the protein amyloid beta, a by-product of cellular activity. Laboratory test indicated that copper not only inhibited the clearance of amyloid beta, but also stimulated its production, providing strong evidence that copper is a key player in Alzheimer's disease. In addition, the researchers observed that low level copper provoked inflammation of brain tissue which may further promote the breakdown of the blood brain barrier and the accumulation of Alzheimer's-related toxins.

"Copper is an essential metal and it is clear that these effects are due to exposure over a long period of time," said the lead author of the study. "The key will be striking the right balance between too little and too much copper consumption. Right now we cannot say what the right level will be, but diet may ultimately play an important role in regulating this process."

Azuretel

Television · Internet · Telephone

**GREAT
NEW DEALS!**

TV WITHOUT A LARGE DISH!



PACKAGES TO SUIT YOUR REQUIREMENTS.

The vision of the future Connecting you

Internet



SPECIAL OFFER!

Internet 3MB

€15 Incl IVA

Installation €50



Telephone



Multi Package & Free Installation

TV, Internet & Telephone

All for €38.99 + IVA per month!

3 MB Broadband + Telephone

With UK or Spanish Number

€28.00 + IVA per month

Free Installation!



En Azuretel Hablamos Español!!

www.azuretel.com

965 999 201

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

I used to go on those field trips in school and gave my dad a permission slip. It's got that question: 'In case of emergency.....' My dad would write: 'Do not resuscitate.'

Moody McCarthy

DOES EVERYBODY HATE THE FRENCH?

One little report in *El Mundo* in early August caught my eye. It seems that the Swiss are not very keen about employing the French. It seems that in many Swiss companies, particularly the banking ones, being French is considered a handicap.

Many employers it reports, tend to avoid the resumes of French nationals. Now how could anybody hate the French? Aren't they loved by everybody! It seems that the Swiss consider our 'froggie neighbours' lazy, arrogant and overpaid. One Swiss company reported that the French are often absent and Friday.



But it is in banking and finance industry that the prejudice is most apparent. Following an incident when a French bank employee, Hervé Falciani, leaked details to numerous national tax agencies relating to 130,000 tax evaders who had accounts in Swiss banks, the Swiss are now paranoid about recruiting another French whistle-blower or informant.

But it is not just the Swiss who have a problem with French employees. Maurice Taylor, the president of Titan, the U.S. multinational that manufactures tyres for farm vehicles, has also been scathing. 'French workers' he told the unions and the French Production Minister, 'are overpaid and do not work more than three hours a day.' Taylor was so concerned he cancelled plans to purchase the Goodyear plant in Amiens-Nord. Taylor went on to say: 'In France soon everyone will spend the day sitting in bars drinking red wine.'

But in fairness, the Swiss really shouldn't be 'throwing stones' at anyone. When it comes to money-grabbing, yodeling and being dull, they are at the top of the pile. I love the lines spoken by Orson Welles in that great movie *The Third Man* - "In Italy for thirty years under the Borgias, they had warfare, terror, murder, bloodshed - they produced Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, and the Renaissance. In Switzerland, they had brotherly love, five hundred years of democracy and peace and what did they produce? The cuckoo clock."

I'M FROM THE
GOVERNMENT,
I'M HERE
TO HELP



Surprise Trip!

A Travel Agent looked up from his desk to see an old lady and an old gentleman peering in the shop window at the posters showing the glamorous destinations around the world. The agent had a very good month and the dejected couple looking in the window gave him a rare feeling of generosity. He called them into his shop, 'I know that on your pension you could never hope to have a holiday, so I am sending you off to a fabulous resort at my expense, and I won't take no for an answer.'

He took them inside and asked his secretary to write two flight tickets and book a room in a five star hotel. Then, as can be expected, they gladly accepted, and were off!

About a month later the little old lady came in to his shop. 'And how did you like your holiday?' he asked eagerly.

'The flight was exciting and the room was lovely,' she said. 'I've come to thank you, but one thing puzzled me. Who was that old bugger I had to share the room with?' (Derrick Green)

Fly Screens 4 U!!

'Feel the breeze not the bites'

The Ultimate System!!

NEW UNIQUE 100% MAGNETISED,
FRAMELESS, FLEXIBLE FLYSCREENS
ANY SHAPED WINDOWS FROM €39!
MAGNETIZED TO SECURITY GRILL DOOR
FROM €69

DOORS / PATIOS FROM €99!

SAME DAY SERVICE AVAILABLE

PEST MAGIC €39.99

Contact Michelle or Stacey on

TEL: 695 50 40 34 or 965 07 88 77

FREE
COCKROACH
REPELLER WITH
3 WINDOWS



Idiot of the Month.

A German tourist was on holiday on the Island of Ibiza when her mobile phone and some of her friends belongings were stolen by a petty thief. However the thief, an Arab called Hafid from Dubai, forgot to turn off the automatic upload function on the camera. This meant that every photo he took was uploaded to a drop box which the German lady could download to her computer. Now, Hafid is not the sharpest knife in the drawer and it was possible to trace his location from the photos he took. The German lady got his name when he later tried to chat her up on Facebook.

The German has now set up a blog in English for all to see together with all the photos of Hafid and his friends which have been downloaded. She calls the blog 'Life of a stranger who stole my phone' adding 'This is the inspiring story of Hafid from Dubai, the doucebag who stole my phone. He forgot to switch off the camera upload function. That's why we will enjoy a deep insight into his life.' The blog contains all the photos which Hafid took and you can see it here -

<http://lifeofastrangerwhostolemyphone.tumblr.com/>



SE VENDE

ASTRID'S

SALES & RENTALS

IN THE ORIHUELA COSTA AREA
URGENTLY REQUIRED!

REASONABLY PRICED
PROPERTIES FOR MANY

CASH BUYERS.

ALSO RENTALS

REQUIRED FOR

WAITING TENANTS

965319731 & 649235327

40 YEAR'S EXPERIENCE

IN SALES & RENTALS.

KEY HOLDING &

MAINTENANCE

Although Alfonso XIII was monarch from birth, his mother, Maria Christina of Austria, served as his regent until he reached his 16th birthday in 1902. While a guest of Edward VII in London, he fell madly in love with Victoria Eugenia, the king's niece and grandchild of Queen Victoria. He bombarded 'Ena' with affectionate correspondence and the couple were married in Madrid a year later. On their wedding day, an anarchist threw a bomb which barely missed the royal carriage but killed 24 innocent bystanders.

From the outset it was obvious that Alfonso had no intention of reigning in the detached style of a constitutional monarch. He insisted on meddling and interfering, and during the first four years of his reign 66 ministers resigned or were sacked along with eight prime ministers. Just like his brother-in-law Kaiser Wilhelm II, he also enjoyed the company and the trappings of the military - he loved military parades and would change uniforms four to five times a day - and was always quick to defend 'the military family' in the face of any criticism.

After the hammering the army received abroad in 1898, the army in Spain developed into one enormous sedentary bureaucracy whose main concern became 'defending its honour against insults.' Naturally after the debacles in the Caribbean and the Philippines - The Spanish-American War, the press were none too complimentary. But in 1905, the army won the right to try civilian critics in military courts, something a competent army should never have to do.

The only colonies Spain had were some barren patches in Moroccan North Africa, Melilla and Cueta; but the Algeciras Conference in 1906 also entrusted the 'supervision' of Morocco to France and Spain. Spain's army in North Africa was almost entirely comprised of conscripts. They had little training or equipment, no artillery, not even basic maps. Conscripts who were sent abroad had only a 50/50 chance of surviving. In the Cuban campaign in the 1800's, more died from disease than from fighting; malaria and a host of other diseases were rampant. In the summer of 1909, two columns of Spanish soldiers were sent out from Melilla to help defend the Spanish mining interests there. One column had a colonel in charge, the other a general. Both columns were ambushed in canyons by lightly armed *rif* tribesmen and slaughtered. The commanding general and colonel were killed and more than 2,500 conscripts either killed or wounded. All Spanish military operations were then stopped in North Africa until reinforcements arrived from Spain.

Back in Spain, a call up of reservists and conscripts to help defend the Spanish enclaves provoked a violent uprising in Barcelona. This became known as *The Tragic Week*. At that time you could defer your military service by getting someone to go in your place (a tall order!) or by paying 6,000 reales. Most workers only earned 10 reales a day, so this 'concession' favoured only the rich. The call-up provided a groundswell of resentment that could be exploited by the various political factions. The Socialists, anarchists, Left Republicans, Radical Republicans, Catalan nationalists and unions called a general strike. The strike soon turned into an armed rebellion. Barricades were thrown up although at least one of the revolutionary leaders is alleged to have taken a laxative to incapacitate himself from the coming violence on the barricades. Soon, the radical enthusiasts and anarchists who were bred on the counter-culture of anti-clericalism, burnt 21 churches and 40 convents. Several nuns were 'liberated of their virtue' - raped, and there were macabre scenes in the streets of drunken workers dancing



It is believed that 112 buildings were burnt in total, 80 of these were religious buildings. See photo, bottom left.

The revolt, which was largely confined to Barcelona and its satellite towns, was savagely crushed by the army within a few days. The government reaction was also swift and merciless. Several thousand were arrested and imprisoned. Of these, 175 were banished, 59 received death sentences and five were executed. The unions and secular schools were also closed down.

With the arrival of the World War (1914-18), Spain under Alfonso elected to remain neutral. As his mother was Austrian and his wife English, it was probably the wisest decision! Spain benefited by supplying to both sides. But it was the events of the Russian Revolution in 1917 which encouraged the revolutionaries in Spain. They saw that if the old order in Russia could be toppled so could Spain's! This gave them encouragement to reorganise and between 1914 and 1919, the anarchist labour union (CNT) grew from 14,000 members to 700,000!

Political violence grew, particularly in Barcelona, with virtual gang-warfare raging between the anarchist CNT and employer-backed financed and armed gangs. In five years about a thousand people were gunned down in Barcelona, including 21 assassinations in 36 hours in January 1921. At that time Prime Minister Eduardo Dado also fell to a hail of anarchists' bullets in Madrid.

But, if Spain was in turmoil, there was more bad news to come from Morocco. Here, the local tribes under Abd-el-Krim were stirring up trouble again. An impatient King Alfonso ignored the head of the war office (whom he referred to as an imbecile) and proceeded to direct the campaign personally. The king chose a daring commander, General Silvestre, to finally put an end to these troublesome Berbers. In July 1921, with a force of 20,000 men, Silvestre headed for Annual in northeastern Morocco. There, he never maintained extended lines of communication nor pacified the surrounding area. His forces were soon besieged by Abd-el-Krim's for about five days. By then around 19,000 of the original Spanish force were killed, including Silvestre. Subsequently, the Rif Berbers would overrun more than 130 Spanish military outposts. The Spanish campaign in Morocco lay in ruins. The news shocked the Spanish who were just getting over the previous military failures. Parliament called for an investigation into the affair including Alfonso's meddling. (Alfonso heard about the disaster while holidaying in the South of France. Referring to the loss of life, it is alleged he commented, 'Chicken meat is cheap.')

Two years later on September 13 1921, days before the final report on the latest Moroccan disaster was to be presented to parliament, General Primo de Rivera led an army uprising. It was the first *pronunciamiento* in almost 50 years. The king did nothing to stop it and so began the rule of the first modern dictator in Spain. Could this 'iron surgeon' halt the chaos and decline of 20th century Spain?

Coming back for 'a warm.'

Saturday morning I got up early, quietly dressed, made a packed lunch, and slipped quietly into the garage. I hooked the boat up to the van and proceeded to back out into a torrential downpour. The wind was blowing 50mph, so I pulled back into the garage, turned on the radio, and discovered that the weather would be bad all day.

I went back into the house, quietly undressed, and slipped back into bed. I cuddled up to my wife's back; now with a different anticipation, and whispered, "The weather out there is terrible....."

My loving wife of five years replied, "And, can you believe my stupid husband is out fishing in that?" (Richard Wilson)

Lime Bar Fishing Sunbathing Club.

I hope August was warm enough for you. But, please spare a thought for us poor anglers, sat in the baking sun for hours on end.... Lovely!

We also like to do our "bit" for the environment. If we weren't feeding the wildlife and picking up other people's rubbish, we would probably be sat in the air-conditioned Lime Bar.

It was probably down to the heat, but my personal assistant let me down this month. Even though we have a fishing meeting the first Monday of every month, she let me get double booked. She'll have to buck her ideas up! Anyway, thank you Mike "the quill" (very old scribe) for covering.

The meeting went on a bit longer this month with anti social Baz & John the boss taking a bit of flak... causing an extra thirst that needed quenching. This was due to Baz needing to organise our next soiree & a "miles away" presentation evening. John got it, as he "still" isn't through to the summer competition final. Only one to go, John & Geordie will be back by then!

The monthly comp "was" going to be fished on a Wednesday, but because Anti Baz whinged, it was changed to Thursday. Anti Baz, after that, the soiree had better be a good one!

Anyway, on Thursday we turned up at Benijofar. I shocked everyone when I turned up before 10 o'clock, then pulled out my "monster" rod with it's red end. We were looking forward to the day, as on the Wednesday it had been fishing "really" well. However, Thursday was dire!

10 rods, 6 blanks, 5 without a single knock! Welcome back to Spanish fishing Keith!

1st was Paul, 2 fish for 4.27lbs (biggest 3.54lb), then Geoff, 3 fish for 2lb. Jack was chasing them with half a dozen bleak.

Anti Baz, the soiree had better be brilliant now!

Geoff went fishing at Santa Pola. He caught a cracking 10.54lb carp. Unfortunately, there was no one there to witness it, so Geordie's biggest fish still stands... at the moment! A few days later he felt the long arm of the Guardia! Apparently, Santa Pola is a conservation area and fishing is prohibited. Geoff was asked to leave, so his fish wouldn't count anyway!

A bit of late news from a roving reporter! Last month, Howard (the silly old sod) was going through a childhood phase. He decided to practice his "cherry beret" (para) roll down the steep concrete slope at Benijofar. Lack of practice on grass first saw his knees needing days of germolene & plasters. He has the makings of a para though; he also hit his head, but that just bounced!

"I caught a 20lb carp last week".

"Were there any witnesses?"

"Of course there were, otherwise it would have weighed 40lb!".

Next meeting is at The Lime Bar @ 17.30 Mon 2 September.
I'll try not to forget!

Fishy fingers!
The Ghost.

Suits you, Sir.!

My mate Paddy just called and said he's got a bargain in Harrods. He said he bought an £1800 coat for £25. Paddy said the label stated that it was slightly imperfect but he had a good look over it and all he could find wrong was that one of the sleeves was 1 inch shorter than the other two.

The 41st Shade of Grey

'Tie me up,' she said 'and you can do anything you want.'
So I did and went down the pub ...

LET'S TAX THE SUN!

A new tax on solar power introduced in early August by the Spanish government has been described as "ludicrous" and "stupid" in two leading international publications. US business and finance magazine Forbes pulled no punches in an article titled, "Out of ideas and in debt, Spain sets sights on taxing the sun". It pointed out that Spain "is one of the top countries in the world with respect to installed photovoltaic (PV) solar energy capacity."

But the author took an incredulous tone and noted: "Spain is now attempting to scale back the use of solar panels – the use of which they have encouraged and subsidized over the last decade – by imposing a tax on those who use the panels."

She added: "You get the feeling that government officials were out of ideas, stared up at the sky one day and thought, 'I've got it! We'll tax the sun!'"

(If you have a solar energy system, you now have to connect it to the grid and pay a levy!

Australia's Business Spectator published a story on the same subject on Wednesday under the headline, "Spain's solar stupidity". It said: "Imposed by decree, the reform aims to raise money for tackling a €26 billion debt to power producers which the state has built up over the years in regulating energy costs and prices."

The article quoted Industry Minister Jose Manuel Soria who introduced the law as saying, "I support 'autoconsumo' [independent power generation by households]... but the power system has infrastructure, grids that the rest of us Spaniards who are in the system have to pay for. And we pay for it through our electricity bill."

Both articles also quoted Teresa Ribera, who served as secretary of state for the environment under the former Socialist administration. She responded to Soria's statement, saying: "It's like asking cyclists to pay a levy to keep open the petrol stations they don't use."

Now a senior adviser to the Paris-based Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), Ribera said the law was "illogical in terms of energy efficiency and costs" and "a serious invitation by the government for citizens to become anti-system."

Business Spectator interviewed people who plan to ignore the new law, including Sergio Pomar, chief executive of energy-efficient installation firm INEL. He said: "If I spend €600 to install solar panels and get fined €6 million let the judge decide."

Private individuals who fail to hook their solar panels up to the national grid to be metered and taxed could face fines of up to €30 million (\$40 million) under the new law. Forbes magazine wrote: "It seems ludicrous."

(thelocal.es)

According to an article in *El Mundo*, the new taxes on solar power drastically alters any previous economic advantages of a solar power system. Previously, a company who installed solar energy would expect to recover its investment in seven years; this is now doubled to 14 years. A domestic user who would previously expect a return after 12 years will now have to wait 35 years! But, as the article points out, the current building code specifies that all new buildings must install a solar panel to heat water and save energy. And if you don't pay the new toll you face massive fines - as large as €30 million - which is as stupid as the new tax itself. You can read more in Spanish here -

<http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2013/08/07/economia/1375863388.html>

GALLERY



Parts of Alicante Castle, Castillo de Santa Barbara, are in a very sorry state. It seems that the upkeep of this historic location has been neglected for many years. The above photos were taken by *Informacion* in August, during the height of the tourist season. (Note the medieval microwave dishes on the far left!)

Below is a photo from *Informacion* which shows the aftermath of a *botellón* in Campoamor in early August. Around 20,000 youths attended the party and the Orihuela council workers picked up 55 tons of rubbish at a cost of €8,500.



A baby has been born to a British mum in Denia, weighing six kilo 20 grams. It was a natural birth and 40 year old Maxime Marín did not need an epidural anaesthetic. It's her fourth child. Photo EFE



National Police agents have dismantled two workshops where mid-range cars were transformed into look-alike luxury car brands such as Ferrari and Aston Martin . The cars were on sale through two websites for a price that was about €40,000, compared to the €200,000 a real one can cost. In some instances the cars were made to order. sometimes were made prior request. Eight of the engineers were arrested, five in Valencia and three in Madrid. A total of 19 vehicles were seized, 17 'Ferraris' and two imitation Aston Martins. I have seen a video of the interior and engines of these cars and they looked terrific. Just the thing to impress the ladies in the local bar.....or down the roundabout! It is a great pity that the undoubted creative talent of these 'replicators' could not be put to better and legal use.



Manchester United player Rio Ferdinand undergoing his annual 'substance' test.



On the left is a montage which the mayor of the tin-pot town of *Callosa de Segura*, north east of Orihuela, put on his Facebook page. Mayor Javier Pérez Trigueros has put the Spanish Foreign Legion marching below the Rock of Gibraltar, with a Spanish flag on top, some war-planes and the iconic 'black bull' on the slopes. Most of the Spanish imagery is here, except dare I say, the 'brown envelopes.' Mayor Javier was in trouble again recently. When the Barcelona crowd booed the Spanish national anthem during the recent World Swimming Championships, he stated on Facebook: 'Give those damn shits independence now and build a ten metre wall around them so we don't have to look at them.' I think Javier has too much time on his hands.



AUGUST AT THE PHOENIX

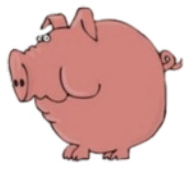


Via Park V

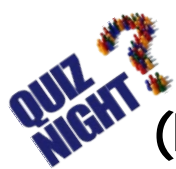
NEW MENU AVAILABLE - ALL FOOD FRESHLY PREPARED
DAILY SPECIALS FROM 1PM.

SUNDAY SEPT' 15 - "STICKY FINGERS' NIGHT!!"
BBQ RIBS, GLAZED LEMON CHICKEN etc.
GREAT VALUE ONLY €8!!

SAT SEPT' 21 - HOG ROAST! - ONLY €6!
THURSDAY NIGHT IS PIE NIGHT!
2 MEALS FOR €7.95!



SATURDAY NIGHT IS PASTA NIGHT!
2 MEALS FOR €7.95!



TUES' & FRI' - FUN QUIZ WITH PRIZES
(FRIDAYS WITH *PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT!*)
WEDNESDAY - FUN DARTS WITH BRIAN.
SUNDAYS FROM 4PM DISCO & KARAOKE



SUPERB SUNDAY LUNCH SERVED 12 - 9
GENEROUS PORTIONS OF MEAT
WITH SEVEN VEG'!!

PREMIER LEAGUE FOOTBALL SHOWN ON 4 SCREENS.
FOOTBALL AFTERNOON SPECIALS-
BOTTLE OF TROPICAL, DORADO OR BAVARIA
WITH BURGER, ONLY €3!!!



BOOKINGS NOW BEING TAKEN
FOR CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH!
5 COURSES ONLY €29.50!!!



WiFi & CIGGIE MACHINE



Always something going on!

Police have confirmed that a man has just been arrested in North Yorkshire after falling into a combined harvester whilst trying to steal it. He is due to be bailed later.

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: Jackie 0034644290165
Or Dave 00441132529884
www.dreamhills2apartment.com/

ONE 2 ONE TRANSLATOR

Fluent in German, Spanish &
English.

Offering a comprehensive & skilled
translation service; considerable
experience in legal, commercial and
property matters.

Notaries, Courts, Police,
Hospitals, Clinics.

Problems with residency, NIE, SIP
and padron applications?

Need title deeds translated?

Mortgage Agreements?

Business/Rental Contracts?

Give me a call!

**VERY REASONABLE RATES
STATE REGISTERED
& APPROVED.
619 488 293**

*I felt sorry for the hypnotist I saw
last night.*

*He hypnotized seven guys, but then
dropped the mic on his foot and
yelled, 'F**K ME!'*

*What happened next will haunt me
for the rest of my life.....*

**You can find archived copies of The
Dream Scene together with lots of
helpful info, at Pat Farnaby's
website -**

www.dreamhills.co.uk

SAMARITANS in SPAIN
Lines open 24 hours a day,
every day.
90288 35 35

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!

The Dream Scene is plagiarized from a multitude of sources which include Typically Spanish, El Mundo, La Verdad, Reuters, Tumbit, El Pais, El Confidencial & Playboy (just for the articles...honest!) 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, trees or animals were harmed in the making of this newsletter.....although several hundred thousand electrons were mildly inconvenienced.

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

**I Have a Ford Focus 1.6 Ghia automatic, an Atos and a VW Vento for
hire. There are no hidden extras, i.e., petrol, overpriced insurance. Each
one is just €80 per week. I also have a Nissan Serena 7-seater for hire at
around €120 per week.**

To book, contact me on 628 388 853 or at thefaith@live.co.uk (Robbie)

DREAM HILLS FIESTA: Another Dream Hills Fiesta will take place at La Casita on September 7th at 6pm. Although drinks & entertainment will be provided, please bring along some food to share with others. It might also be a good idea to bring along a small stool or chair as the available seating gets occupied very quickly.

A SELECTION FROM HARRY HILL.

Leon: I just don't seem to be able to get on with anyone.

Psychiatrist: And why do you think that is?

Leon: How should I know, you moron!

Harry took his friend Steve home for dinner one evening and was greeted at the door by his wife, who flung her arms around him and kissed him passionately. 'That's amazing,' said Steve. 'You've been married all these years and yet your wife still welcomes you home like that.'

'Don't be fooled,' said Harry. 'She only does it to make the dog jealous.'

My wife is a stickler for tidiness. I just bought her a cuckoo clock for her birthday. Now she's started putting paper under it.

When Robin Hood was dying, he put one last arrow in his bow and fired it into the air, telling his Merry Men to bury him wherever the arrow landed. So they buried him on top of the wardrobe!

My mum doesn't need to call us when dinner is ready. We just listen out for the smoke alarm!

I'll never forget Father's Day last year. I called my dad on the phone, wished him Happy Father's Day and had a really good conversation that went on for ages, all about Mum and when I was a kid and playing in the park and going for rides in the car. It was great. As we were finally saying goodbye, there was a catch in his voice and he said three little words which, as long as I live, I'll never forget: 'Who is this?'

One day a man came to our door and said he was collecting for the children's home. So my dad gave him five of us.

Leon: My father went to prison for something he didn't do.

Harry: What didn't he do?

Leon: He didn't run fast enough.

**The Dream Scene is produced on a non-profit basis. Any profit is spent
by producing extra copies or giving the occasional free advert.**

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

Images in this newsletter from El Pais, El Mundo, Informacion, Wikipedia,
EFE, and other fine media sources.

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS
AND YOUR COMMUNITY WEB SITES.**