

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER

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

Issue no. 88, 1st of June 2014.

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the June edition.

It is wonderful to see that the Blue Flag of quality has been again awarded to several beaches in the Torrevieja and Orihuela Costa areas. Five beaches in Torrevieja and two marinas now fly the Blue Flag, while Orihuela Costa now sports seven Blue Flags for their beaches together with two for the Marina Cabo Roig and C.N. Dehesa de Campoamor. The beach at Aguamarina was awarded a flag for the first time this year. The Spanish divert such energy and care into maintaining the excellent quality of their beaches, I only wish that they would divert some of that enthusiasm and drive into other areas, particularly those which deal with public service, education and health.

While huge storms buffeted Spain's Atlantic coasts and the Canary Islands during the last winter and spring, Valencia and Alicante, as well as areas including Murcia, parts of Albacete province, and the Andalusian provinces of Jaén, Almería, Cadíz and Málaga have all been starved of rain. The Alicante newspaper, *Informacion*, has reported that 'The experts warn of an environmental debacle for the drought in Alicante'. They note that the province has not suffered such a critical situation since 1893, and the lack of humidity has caused plagues in the countryside. The effects have been devastating for dry crops in the south-east of Spain. Many of the almond trees will not be able to recover now and even if it does rain soon, the damage is irreparable. The whole cereal harvest in the Alicante province has been destroyed due to the drought, according to the regional farmers' association. Most crops without irrigation in the inland area of Murcia have been destroyed. Ironically, the lack of rain has not affected reservoirs in the Segura basin. This is because of the copious amounts of snow and rain in the mountains which feed the Segura. Mind you, by the time it gets to Guardamar, it looks like little more than a murky stream.

The European Elections in Spain delivered a big kick-in-the-pants to the two main parties in Spain, with the Popular Party (PP) and the Socialists (PSOE) failing to attract even 50% of the vote with their combined figures. This is covered in more detail in page 3. Although one would expect the ruling PP to get 'a hiding' in the elections, the mass surge of voters from the socialist PSOE to two new parties of the left - *La Izquierda Plural* and *Podemos* - surprised everybody.

Congratulations to Jilly's (formerly The Lounge) in Lago jardin II for raising €230 for the Elche Orphanage in just a few hours in early May.

On one particularly blissful day in May, I was enjoying a cool beverage for 'medicinal' purposes, which was discretely laced with Ethanol derivatives, when an attractive German lady told me she enjoyed the Dream Scene but she rarely understood the jokes. She often had to have them explained to her by a local barman. (Good on you, Gary!) However she did say that she always understood and enjoyed Angela's Cartoon. Well done Angela! And it proves that the Germans do have a sense of humour.

As the summer is now approaching, so too unfortunately are the villains. The coming months are their best 'picking time' and they will continue to prey on those who drop their guard, leave windows open, carry all their cards and cash in a handbag and are careless in airport car parks or in busy markets. Please take care.

Wishing you all a great month and hoping we see you soon. Mick & Tid.

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Angela's Cartoon



"No chance! You get a lilo like everybody else!"

A committee is a cul-de-sac into which ideas are lured and then quietly strangled. J.A. Lincoln

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:

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- POLICE REPORTS
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- 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.)
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Did you know that

...from May, it has been illegal to use any of the BBQ units in the regional parks. The ban relates to any cooking equipment due to the high risk of fires due to the abnormally dry winter and usually scorching summers here. The ban is normally lifted on October 1, unless the autumn rains are late.

...clients of Vodafone are now able to use their UK allowances whilst in Spain following the launch of their "EuroTraveller" service - reduced to £2 per day until August 31. Vodafone has extended 4G roaming to Italy, Spain and Portugal following the launch in Greece last month, which enables consumers to use the service on Vodafone's own networks in the above countries.

...John Lewis, the British department store chain, will now deliver to Spain and many other countries. The charge for international delivery to European countries is £7.50 per order and £25 per order for the rest of the world. Obviously not all items can be delivered abroad. You can find out more here - <http://www.johnlewis.com/international/c260044?>

...Benidorm Palace has a new show for Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 10pm. It is called EFEX and it is a stunning show featuring special effects, lights, shadows, magic and surround music. It also features colourful costumes and dances from around the world, plus the usual bevy of lovely ladies and hairy swarthy blokes - if you like that sort of thing! Over 100 square metre LED screens are also used to enhance the performance. EFEX is expected to run for 12 months and has already received rave reviews. You can see a short clip of the show here- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHHG6pKNVMI>

...Ryanair will be cutting 40% of its services at Alicante-Elche airport between October 2014 and April 2015. The current 44 routes will be reduced to 26 for the period. The lack of demand on some flights, particularly from Poland and Ireland, are the cause of the cut-backs.

...there are now flights every Saturday from Humberside airport to Alicante. JetExtra.com will continue the flights until September 20. The airline also recently announced flights to Alicante for the Christmas and New Year period, allowing the first "WinterSun" holidays from Humberside since 2009. They will also introduce a weekly service to Palma in Majorca from July. Passengers are entitled to a free luggage allowance of 15kg, allocated seating and will not be hit with any credit card charges.

There were two main stories which dominated the media coverage in May, both violent and tragic. First was a minibus that was returning carrying 14 minors and four adults from a children's football match near Badajoz in the western province of Extremadura on May 8, when a digger/excavator pulled in front of the minibus, causing it to crash. Five of the children between the ages of 12 and 15 lost their lives in the incident, the remaining 13 on board being treated at a local hospital for injuries ranging from minor to serious. The driver of the excavator has now been placed in preventative custody without bail as his blood sample proved positive for cocaine and hashish. However, because of the unfathomable nuances of Spanish law, if the driver is found guilty of the current charges, the maximum he would serve is just four years.

The two main political parties in Spain had their faces well and truly slapped by a disillusioned electorate during the recent European elections. The party of the right, the PP, secured just over four million votes, two and a half million less than they polled in 2009, while the socialist PSOE went from over six million votes in 2009 to just three and a half million this time. What is interesting about the results is the number of votes which went to the new political parties. The *La Izquierda Plural* (The Plural Left) party took over 1.5 million votes and the *Podemos* (We Can) party took over 1.2 million votes. Neither of these parties stood in a previous elections and alarms are now sounding in the party headquarters of the two big parties. The result was bad enough to cause the leader of the socialist PSOE, Rubalcaba, to resign. Meanwhile, the PP, who often confuse wishful thinking with reality, have been hailing the result as a victory.

In the second story, Isabel Carrasco Lorenzo (photo - left), 59, a politician from Spain's conservative Partido Popular (PP) in León, was shot dead on May 12, while walking on a footbridge after leaving her home. The shooting was witnessed by an off duty policeman who identified two assailants, who were arrested shortly afterwards. Those arrested were a mother, 55, and her daughter, 35. Carrasco was shot first in the back and again a number of times as she lay on the ground. The two suspects are the wife and daughter (see photo - right), of the chief inspector of the police in the nearby town of Astorga.

The mother, Montserrat González, has now confessed to the killing, which she says she was planning for two years and did it 'out of spite' because of the way her daughter was treated. It seems Montserrat's daughter was sacked from her temporary job at the council three years ago and was being pursued by the council for €6,500 in overpaid wages.

39 different political parties in Spain took part in the European elections. These range from the sincere to the 'weird and wonderful.' Several far left parties secured more than 100,000 votes each; a 'hackers' party got 38,000 votes and a 'Disabled & Rare Diseases' party took 32,500 votes. One other interesting result was the voting for FE de las JONS. This was a party set up by Franco during the Civil War, to keep the parties of the Right, together and controllable. They got more than 21,000 votes, twice more than in 2009. There is a very informative page here with graphics, which compares the Spanish results by party <http://elecciones.diarioinformacion.com/resultados-elecciones-europeas/espana/>

The case then took an interesting twist. The weapon used in the crime could not be found for over 30 hours, when it turned up supposedly on the back seat of a car belonging to a policewoman, who happened to be a friend of the mother. Although the policewoman, Raquel Gago - photo below, eventually handed the weapon in, she has also now been arrested. It is now alleged that this policewoman obtained the pistol, a 38 calibre revolver Taurus model 32 HR, for Montserrat González! It originally belonged to a drug dealer in Asturias, who has since passed away. The mother and daughter and the policewoman have now been charged with homicide, attacking authority and the illicit holding of arms. But the story doesn't end there. The diminutive Carrasco was a tough controversial political firebrand but also a high-flying and successful politician. She gave 'no quarter' and expected none. After her death, two socialist councillors couldn't resist a 'dig in the ribs' and posted rather unwisely on the social networks. One stated on Facebook, "I don't want to make any comments, but you reap as you sow." Another posted a message on Twitter that sounded like a warning to Carrasco's PP counterpart in the neighbouring Pontevedra Provincial Council, Rafael Louzán. "Be afraid, Louzán, be very afraid, because people are getting really desperate and the crooks who get rich on public money end up paying for it. This is starting to look like Sinaloa, ha ha," she wrote, in reference to the Mexican state which is home to a powerful drug cartel. Both women have now been forced to resign.

Based on the results of the European elections, one would expect the next general election in Spain to result in a coalition government. History has shown that coalitions have been disastrous for Spain, but one hopes that any new faces which will appear after the next general election will do something constructive about the corruption, incompetence and profligate spending, which is holding the country back.

As from October 21st RyanAir's routes from Manchester will include Girona; Barcelona; Reus; Madrid; Valencia; Palma-Mallorca; Ibiza; Alicante; Murcia (San Javier) ; Malaga; Lanzarote; Fuerteventura; Gran Canaria and Tenerife South.

The socialist Junta de Andalucía have sacked 81 directors from its public housing agency. In a typical example of 'too many chiefs,' there was one director for every six employees! Now, 27 directors will supervise 650 staff and 80,000 council houses. The move should save costs of €12.1 million annually.

Telefonica has agreed to purchase 53% of Canal + from the Spanish media conglomerate, Prisa. Canal + is a subscription satellite TV service in Spain, similar to Sky in the UK. Movistar (Telefonica) already has a limited online TV service which will be enhanced by the new acquisition. Meanwhile BSkyB, the British pay-television business, is reportedly preparing a €10bn (£8bn) deal to buy Sky Italia and Sky Deutschland from 21st Century Fox; Mr Murdoch's film and TV empire owns a 39% stake in Bskyb.

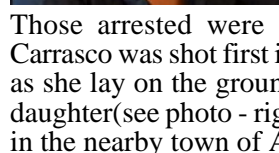
The Spanish PM Rajoy was very surprised and a little upset to learn that the president of Iberdrola, Ignacio Sánchez Galán, is moving their headquarters to London. Just a few days ago, Queen Elizabeth II honoured Ignacio Galán with the honorary award of Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire "for his work to promote the British energy sector and trade and investment relations between the United Kingdom and Spain." All just a coincidence, I am sure.

Oops!

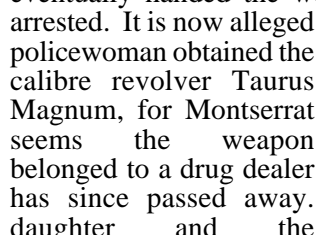
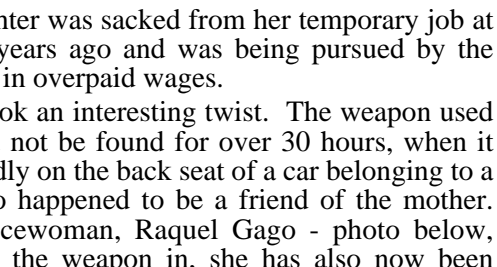
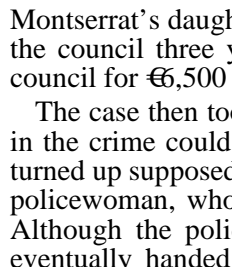
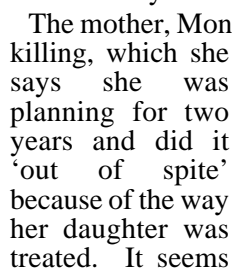
I got a text from my wife today that said, 'I'm lying in bed waiting for you!'
I texted back, 'I'd love to hun' but I'm too busy at work.'
She replied, 'You forgot I'm having surgery today, didn't you?'



Isabel Carrasco Lorenzo (photo - left), 59, a politician from Spain's conservative Partido Popular (PP) in León, was shot dead on May 12, while walking on a footbridge after leaving her home.



The two suspects are the wife and daughter (see photo - right), of the chief inspector of the police in the nearby town of Astorga.



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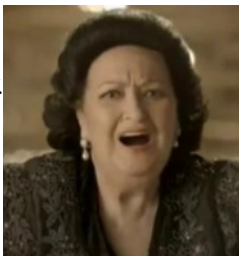
4 What's Up? continued

Last year, work inspectors carried out 1,453 inspections in Alicante. They believe that there are more than 100,000 workers who are not affiliated to the social security system in the province. There are 56 work inspectors in Alicante but only 176 in the entire Valencia region.

And speaking of 'work,' you will probably not be surprised that the local government staff in Alicante has a less than blemish-free absence record. But the scale of it has now been revealed to be astounding. According to Información, 'The civil servants in the province lose a million days each year because of illness'. The personnel in the Justice Ministry were the worst offenders, with an average of 84 days off a year! Now that is serious work-dodging in an area where the backlog in investigations and trials is horrendous. It seems that in the health service, the average absence per person is 33 days. There has been a lot of talk about 'labour reform' in Spain. I think the problem with public sector employees goes much deeper than the actual laws.

The Hacienda is demanding that the Euro-deputies who are aboard the 'Brussels' Gravy Train' pay their income tax in Spain. It seems that the majority have only been paying 22% to the Belgians using a legal loophole.

Am I the only one paying tax over here? It does appear sometimes, that tax evasion is now a national pastime. Montserrat Caballé (photo), the world famous operatic soprano, has been charged with defrauding half a million euros from the Hacienda (Spanish Inland Revenue). She is accused of pretending to be a resident of Andorra during 2010, so as not to pay taxes in Spain. The judge interrogated the 81-year-old Soprano in her home, after she claimed she had mobility problems and could not attend court. (Probably the heavy gold bars in her handbag.) She has now paid €508,000 to the Hacienda to avoid criminal proceedings. However they may issue a fine as well which could exceed this amount.



And then there is Lionel Messi, the star Argentinean football player for Barcelona, who has to pay the Hacienda more than €35 million. The problem arose because of 'fiscal shortcuts' allegedly engineered by his father, when income received for his image rights was placed in undeclared off-shore investments. Once the judicial process is finished, Messi may have to pay many millions more in fines. But, as he is believed to have signed a new contract with Barcelona for a minimum of €20 million a year, no one should shed any tears for him.

But in the last two years, there has been a swath of the 'Rich & Famous' hauled over the coals by the Hacienda. One of Spain's most famous singers, Isabel Pantoja, was sentenced to two years in prison in 2013 and fined €1,147,000 for her part in corruption and financial wrongdoing at Marbella City Hall while she was romantically involved with the resort's corrupt former mayor Julián Muñoz. Celebrity chef Sergi Arola also fell foul of the tax authorities last year, and his Michelin-starred Gastro restaurant was closed. He owed the tax authorities €148,000, and Social Security a further €160,000. He was obliged to sell a house and motorcycle he owned to raise the money, and was then able to reopen the restaurant. Ana Torroja, the former singer with 80's pop trio Mecano, was found guilty on April 9 of evading taxes in 2003, 2006, and 2007. She was fined €1.5 million and sentenced to five months in prison. But jail sentences of two years or less are rarely served in Spain. In 2013 motorcyclist Sete Gibernau was found guilty of evading €2.8 million in taxes between 2005 and 2006. Though he had claimed to live in Switzerland, the Tax Agency found that he was in fact living in Spain.

Two, three four.....two, three four....

A middle-aged man takes up ballroom dancing but turns out to be quite bad. During one disastrous two-step, he treads all over his partner. He apologises, saying, 'I'm so sorry, but I'm a little stiff from badminton.' His partner replies, 'I don't care where you're from. Keep off my bloody feet!'

Talking to a friend the other day, told him that I think my wife is on drugs. 'How do you reckon that then?' he asked. 'Well,' I said, 'every time I leave the room I hear my wife say, "Where's that dope gone."' Sydney Oliver.

Spanish competitions regulator CNMC has fined Vodafone Spain a total of EUR 3.1 million for applying "excessive roaming charges", reports El Confidencial. The fine is one of the largest imposed by the CNMC since it absorbed the powers of the now defunct regulator CMT in October last year.

A man in Catalonia was so determined to save his pet dog from drowning in a local well, that he gave his own life while attempting to rescue it. The 33-year-old victim from the village of Marganell is reported to have taken his three dogs for a walk when the tragedy happened. When a friend noticed he hadn't returned home after a few hours, he contacted local police in the hope of finding him, the online daily *20 minutos* reported. During their search, officers found two dogs standing patiently by a well in an area the victim walked through frequently. A team of firemen, including several exploration divers, were able to retrieve the body of the dog and its master, both of whom had drowned.

A criminal prosecution in relation to a 49-year-old British man who was killed in a brawl in Cómputa in the Costa del Sol in June 2009, is only just coming to court now. The man was hit over the head with a bottle and was pushed over a veranda four metres from the ground. A total of 15 people are accused of a 'tumultuous brawl', two crimes of causing injury with a dangerous object, and the crime of homicide. The main defence argument is that they 'acted in self defence!'

A man and a woman who ran a 'Gentleman's Club' (brothel) in Murcia were arrested during May. It seems they put hidden cameras in the entrance to the club and also in the private rooms. So Hector, that day you told your wife you were playing golf.....well, your spotty bum could soon be appearing on YouTube!

And speaking of 'horizontal jogging,' this photo was taken through the glass walls of an ATM lobby in a bank in Oviedo. This amorous couple got 'involved' oblivious to passers-by, several of whom took photos of the action. Eventually two National Police officers turned up and after one of them shouted



'Would you do me the favour of stopping and getting dressed?', the couple untangled. Looking at the belts and clothes on the ground, they must have been in one heck of a rush AND they kept their socks on! No jokes about 'leaving deposits' and 'early withdrawals' please!

An Accounts Tribunal have started to investigate the finances of the City Hall of Zaragoza. Although their investigation is at an early stage, they have uncovered at least 30 irregularities due to the massaging of figures and complete accounting disorder. They have also announced the discovery of a €363 million black hole in the cities finances and a rescue payment of €171 million which was sent by the state cannot be traced! The socialist mayor of Zaragoza, Juan Alberto Belloch, was reported to be the highest paid mayor in Spain with an annual salary, not counting expenses, of €121,466. Can you smell the rotten eggs too?

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**NOW WITH
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As many of us who live on the Orihuela Costa are only too aware, the Costa area is the 'cash cow' for the inland town of Orihuela. If you ever get a chance to view the city of Orihuela from the air, you will see it as a compact urban area, almost hideous, and with a traffic system designed by someone on LSD. If you then fly over the Orihuela Costa area, you will see tens of thousands of properties, mostly built since the latter part of the last century and during the early part of this one. The development sprawl here is massive and when you look at the sheer size of it, together with the long narrow linkage to the minuscule city of Orihuela itself, you would ask yourself 'Is the tail wagging the dog here?'

I don't want to go into detail at this stage about the slights and neglect suffered by the coastal region in deference to Orihuela over the years, but a good example was the recent European Citizens' Day, which attracted celebrations in Torrevieja and other coastal regions as well, but not in Orihuela Costa. The real kicker here, is that in the whole of Spain, the municipality of Orihuela has more European expat's registered than any other area in Spain, including Benidorm and even the municipalities in the Costa del Sol! However I have to say that although the investment in the coast by the current council regime is wholly inadequate, it is much better than the two previous tenures of the PP.

Although it would be a 'tall order' and take a considerable amount of time, I do think Orihuela Costa should break away from the greedy clutches of Orihuela and tie up with either Torrevieja or Pilar de la Horadada. I don't think the O.C. could survive on its own as I don't believe there are enough permanent residents here, but a tie-up with Pilar could be a good thing as they are less wasteful than Torrevieja with the public purse.

Both Torrevieja and Orihuela have got themselves into an unholy mess over the beach bars (*chiringuitos*) and lifeguards. Due to a series of cock-ups, none of the beaches offered these services during the busy Easter holiday period. The more interesting one however, is the problems with the *chiringuitos* in Orihuela Costa.

Around eight years ago, '*Chiringuitos del Sol SA*' were awarded the concession for the beach services. This included not only the beach bars but also the rental of sun beds, sun brollies, jet skis etc, the usual lucrative beach front cash earners. Having secured the contract, the successful company then had to pay Orihuela Council an annual fee for the concession. But before the contract was renewed this year, news broke that *Chiringuitos del Sol*, have not yet paid any of the annual license fees and now owe the council approximately one million euros. This is largely due to the incompetence of the previous PP regime and the current bipartite of the Socialists and Greens. Other companies then objected saying that they were never given the opportunity to quote, due to the ridiculous 'Q' quality requirement. Now this is a useless 'quality' award, which it is alleged, is bought rather than earned. So, unless someone pulls their finger out or *Chiringuitos del Sol* pay up, then there will be no beach bars on Orihuela Costa this year.

After Torrevieja Town Hall spent one million euros on the proposed new site for the week-long annual May Fair, the fair organisers have now said the site is unsuitable and they want to remain at the present site.

But is not just Torry and Orihuela, who are in a bit of a fix. In San Miguel, the local police complain that they are impoverished due to lack of funding. They are still owed overtime for the Holy Week in 2012! But that is not the whole story; their official police footwear is in dire need of repair or replacement, the official car is in 'dry dock' and there is not enough money for ammunition or to replace out-of-date equipment such as tactical sprays and uniforms. No doubt there is still plenty of money for fireworks during the fiestas and oh, the salary of the councillors has been tripled!

The Ayuntamiento of Guardamar want bakeries to create a new dessert which highlights the flavours and produce of the area. The dessert will also be required to have a 'shelf life' of five days + . Might I suggest they use sand in the recipe. They have plenty of that in Guardamar. The winning dessert will be awarded a 'Q' quality award, which only confirms, what a useless award it really is!

135 Blue Flags have been awarded to Valencia beaches and marinas this year. Of those, the province of Alicante received 74, more than any other province in Spain. Orihuela Costa, which is awash with them, received a new one this year for Aquamarina. 681 Blue Flags were awarded in total in Spain for 573 beaches and 108 marinas. Of the 48 countries who are awarded Blue Flags, Spain remains the leader.

Alicante is expecting to see an increase in cruise ships docking in 2015. With 35 visits confirmed for next year, these ships will bring an extra 75,000 tourists to the city. Depending on other arrivals being negotiated, this could easily increase to well over 80,000. The largest of the liners will arrive on April 15 next year. The 'Britannia'



(photo) from P&O, is the company's newest ship and although not the physically largest ship to arrive, it is the one with the greatest capacity with 4,372 passengers. It will return to Alicante on June 17 and October 19, if you want to pop up there and see it. The Britannia is due to take its maiden voyage next year and promises to be, depending on your opinion of cruises, either the ultimate in cruising luxury or a holiday camp with a rudder.

Police arrested a couple in Torrevieja who were masterminding a drug running operation to Lithuania. It seems the 'weed' fetches a much higher price in Lithuania stimulating a mini-export drive from Torry. 17 people in the provinces of Alicante, Murcia, Ciudad Real and Albacete were also arrested. Police also seized 18 kilos of marijuana, 19 vehicles, some weapons and ammunition. Six of those arrested are Lithuanian. The drugs were sent to Lithuania concealed in the false bottom of objects delivered by illegal delivery companies.

But then on the same day, Guardia Civil arrested a second gang in Torrevieja for drug dealing. This time seven men and two women, all Spanish, were escorted to jail from a building in Calle Clemente Gosálvez (photo-Info). The building had been under surveillance for some time as the Guardias rented out a nearby flat and attic to keep an eye on the suspects. But this is apparently the fourth time in five years that this gang has been broken up - not very effectively it seems.



The guys at the bar asked me to name an actress I would like to be stuck in an elevator with. I told them the one who knows how to fix elevators. I'm old, I'm tired, and I have to pee a lot.

Brian H.

Don't stare!

A Murray mint, a Polo mint and a Trebor mint were sitting in a bar enjoying a pint. Suddenly, the door flew opened and another mint walked in looking very menacing.

"Look away" said the Murray mint

"Why?" asked the Trebor

"Because he's f*cking Menthol" said the Polo.



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LIME BAR GOLF SOCIETY, LOS ALTOS, ORIHUELA COSTA

The golf society's venue for the 14th May 2014 was held at the Altorreal Golf Course.

Twenty-eight players arrived at the course, although a couple did cut it fine due to having difficulty in finding the venue! We all teed off to enjoy a good day's golf on this challenging and interesting course.

The competition was in the Stapleford format and the scores recorded are as follows:

Nearest the Pin on the 2nd Hole (par 4) in 2 shots was Mick Slater.
 Nearest the Pin on the 5th hole (par 3) in was Ken Sutton.
 Nearest the pin on the 12th hole (par 5) in 3 shots was Bill Denne.
 Nearest the pin on the 17th hole (par 3) was Paul Abbott.

Silver Class 3rd place was Paul Abbott with a score of 28 points.
 Silver Class 2nd place was Barry Shawyer with a score of 30 points.
 Silver Class 1st place was Barry Reynolds with a score of 35 points.

Gold Class 3rd place was Bill Denne with a score of 32 points.
 Gold Class 2nd place was Mick Slater with a score of 35 points.
 Gold Class 1st place was Mike Heighway with a score of 35 points (on count-back)

A very good day in pleasant company; thank you to Captain Mick Slater for organising the event and mentioning 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 barbeque. Anyone wishing to join our friendly society just needs to phone Mick on 659866468.



Familiar?

'How was your golf game, dear?' asks Jacks wife. 'Well,' says Jack, 'I was hitting pretty well, but my eyesight's got so bad I couldn't see where the ball went.' 'Why don't you take my brother, Scott, along?' suggests the wife. 'He's 85 but he's got perfect eyesight.' So the next day Jack tees off with Scott looking on. Jack swings, and the ball disappears down the middle of the fairway. 'Do you see it?' asks Jack. 'Yup,' Scott answers. 'Well, where is it?' says Jack, peering into the distance. 'Where's what?' says Scott.

Government to create database for monitoring all Spanish bank accounts.

It may be 30 years after the title of George Orwell's '1984' but Spain is about to introduce a massive database to enable it to scrutinise details of resident's bank accounts and certain transactions.

A huge database containing details of more than 34 million current and deposit accounts held by residents in Spain will be compiled over the next two years. Judges, prosecutors, police and the National Intelligence Centre (the CNI - the equivalent of MI5) will have access to the information, although it is a government ministry who will 'administer' the database - the Ministry of the Economy and Business Support. It will not include accounts and deposits in subsidiaries or branches of Spanish banks abroad. The purpose of the database is to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

The investigating authority will have to justify information requests, but as phone-tapping here seems to be done at the 'drop of a hat,' I don't think the evidence required would be too onerous! I am mindful of the Garzon Case, when the investigating judge bugged the conversations between the accused and their lawyers.

A similar scheme to the one proposed for Spain is already in place in France and Germany. Why am I not surprised by that? The new rules come on the back of recommendations from the Financial Action Task Force, an international association to which Spain belongs, along with 35 other countries. Under the new rules, banks will have the legal obligation to provide information about all their checking and savings accounts, financial assets and deposits, including the names of the account holders.

As usual, the devil is in the detail. As the guidelines stand, the parties of transactions of €1,000 or above have to be identified, when doubts exist about identities. If the transaction is 'suspicious' it must be reported. Reinforced measures of due diligence are established to particularly address the issue of money laundering, such as money transfers of more than €6,000 a month. (Some sources quote a figure of €3,000 also for this requirement.) Also, an account into which a significant number of people make deposits is also defined as "suspicious." All transactions in a foreign currency worth €30,000 or more must be notified by the bank to the authorities on a monthly basis. Associations and foundations have to be able to identify individuals who contribute more than €100 to them. Surely this would be problematic for charities and the like. I cannot see this part being enforceable.

Once again the government has rushed through legislation without really thinking it out. Organised crime and big corporations will be able to side-step any legislation in this area, particularly by using foreign banks and tailored schemes. One of the main complaints relating to the new legislation is that a government in situ can probe the finances of opposition parties. Now with honest politicians that may not occur - *pero, estamos in España!*

Fast on his feet!

A Birmingham supermarket took on a new young assistant to work in the vegetable section.

On the second day a customer approached him and said he wanted to buy half a cauliflower.

The young assistant told him that they only sold whole cauliflowers. However, the customer persisted and asked to see the manager.

The assistant went to fetch him, and, finding the manager in the stockroom said: "Some wanker out there wants to buy half a cauliflower." But as he finished his sentence he turned to find the customer standing right behind him, so he added: "And this gentleman has kindly offered to buy the other half."

The manager approved the deal, and the customer went on his way. Later the manager said to the boy,

"I was impressed with the way you got yourself out of that situation earlier. We like people here who think on their feet. Where are you from, son?"

"Cardiff, sir," the boy replied.

"Why did you leave Cardiff?" the manager asked.

The boy said, "Sir, there's nothing there but prostitutes and rugby players."

"Really?" said the manager. "My wife is from Cardiff."

"You're kidding?" replied the boy. "What position did she play?"



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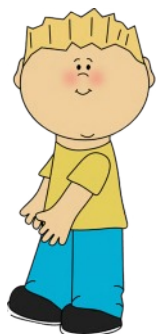
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A small boy is talking with his granddad. 'Why does it rain?' he asks. Granddad replies, 'To make the plants grow.' The boy looks puzzled and says, 'So why does it rain on the pavement?'





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The Alicante Santa Faz Pilgrimage.

Spain may be classed as a secular society, but there are times when traditional religio-cultural events seem to turn it on its head. What I have in mind in this instance is the annual pilgrimage in Alicante called the Santa Faz - the Holy Face.



This year saw the 525th annual event in May, when pilgrims or participants take the 8 km. walk/pilgrimage from the Cathedral of San Nicolás in the Centre of Alicante to the convent of the Poor Clares in the parish of la Santa Faz. The pilgrimage is to honour an ancient relic, now being held in the convent. The relic is said to be a piece of canvas which is stained with the blood of Christ.

The relic was taken to Spain from Venice by a Spanish priest, where it is said that it saved the Italian city from the plague. In 1489, legend has it that the relic brought rain to a drought ridden Alicante. Over the years, the rich and powerful took pieces of the canvas relic to be placed in lockets.

During the early part of the Spanish Civil War, the canvas had to be smuggled out of Alicante as the Republicans laid siege to the church and monastery there, the anarchists and communists murdered priests and nuns and burnt all the churches and convents in the area.

This year, around 300,000 took part in the pilgrimage - photo. Some do



the walk barefoot, and the tradition is to carry a staff while doing the walk. See photo of the Valencian President Fabra second from left in this photo. As you can see from the photo taken at this years even, the numbers were overwhelming. Many take part in the event for just 'a day out' and this year injuries were limited to 40 people, most with sprains or abrasions of the feet, together with one case of mild

alcoholic poisoning!

After the event, cleaners collected 35 tons of rubbish and 510 shopping carts! The carts were snatched by people from supermarkets to carry their food and refreshments for the pilgrimage, and on occasions to carry their friends, who may have found the 8km too much.

The scent of McDonald's is almost as insistent and evocative as a late-night minicab or a Turkish campsite ablutions block in August.

A.A. Gill

What a way to go!

A cardiac specialist died and at his funeral the coffin was placed in front of a huge mock-up of a heart made up of flowers. When the pastor finished with the sermon and eulogy, and after everyone said their good-byes, the heart opened, the coffin rolled inside and the heart closed. Just then one of the mourners burst into laughter. The guy next to him asked: "Why are you laughing?" "I was thinking about my own funeral" the man replied. "What's so funny about that?" "I'm a gynecologist," he replied.

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Sports.

- I'm not going to bother with the Grand National anymore. This year my horse started at 33 to 1 and finished up as 2 for 1 at Tesco's.
- Jürgen Klopp has ruled himself out of the Man Utd job, but said his brother Klippity might be interested.

The Unlucky Ladies.

In early May a 50-year-old lady was sitting in her front room in Zaragoza, quietly doing whatever 50-year-olds do there - maybe embroidery or cutting cocaine - I don't know. Suddenly a 400-kilo bull burst into the room and trampled the unfortunate woman.

The bull had escaped from an amateur bullfight in the Aragonese municipality of Tauste. He then raced through the town causing mayhem and terrorising the locals, who were forced to scarpers up walls and lampposts. On seeing the open door at the ladies villa, he just raced in. The woman suffered multiple injuries including some fractures, but unusually, she was not gored by the bull.

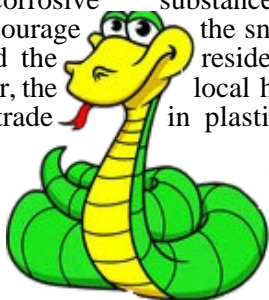
Eventually the rampaging bull was shot by a marksman. All returned to normal and the woman is now recovering from her injuries.

Pretty horrible you may think, but the next one is a beauty and for some, the stuff that nightmares are made of.

Iris C, an attractive 30-year-old hairdresser (photo) with two young children, decided to go to the toilet in her first floor apartment in a large block of flats in the town of Naron in Galicia. It was a pleasant evening in mid May, around 11pm, and with the kids in bed, all was quiet as Iris settled down for a quiet pee.

Suddenly, she heard a thud, followed by a splash and she then felt a bite on her left buttock. Standing up and looking in the toilet bowl, she was horrified to see a green and yellow snake, about 20 cms long, swimming in the bowl! Exit one terrified hairdresser, screaming her head off. She was then taken to hospital and given a range of drugs from anti-rabies to tetanus and anti-inflammatories.

A special unit from the police came to try and capture the snake but it had escaped. But of course by now, the whole apartment block were aware that, somewhere in their pipe works, was a serpent of unknown origin and they started to panic. The resident then began to pour bleach and corrosive substances down the toilets and drains hoping to discourage the snake. But still the snake remains elusive and the residents are now afraid to sit on the loos. However, the local hardware store has been doing a tremendous trade in plastic & metal potties and 'guzzunders.'



What does it say to you?

At the National Art Gallery in London, a husband and wife were staring at a portrait that had them completely baffled. The painting depicted 3 black men totally naked, sitting on a bench. Two of the figures had black penises but the one in the middle had a pink one.

The curator of the gallery realized that they were having trouble interpreting the painting and offered his personal assessment. He went on for over half an hour explaining how it depicted the sexual emasculation of the black man in a predominately white, patriarchal society. 'In fact', he pointed out, 'some serious critics believe that the pink penis also reflects the cultural and sociological oppression experienced by gay men in contemporary society'.

After the curator left, a Welshman approached the couple and said, 'Would you like to know what the painting is really about?'

'Now why would you claim to be more of an expert than the curator of the gallery?', asked the couple.

'Because I am the artist, who painted the picture,' he replied. 'In fact, there are no black men there at all. They're just three Welsh coalminers and the man in the middle went home for lunch.'



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Natural Gas Fenosa.

Most of you will be aware by now that natural gas has arrived in this area and will, over the next few months, be connected to many of the households who have 'signed-up' for it.

It is Gas Natural Cegas who will be providing the fuel in Torrevieja and Gas Natural Fenosa in Orihuela Costa.

If you are reasonably close to the installation route, which will be obvious by the groundworks, I would suggest you seriously contemplate signing-up for the service.

The incentives being offered at the moment in Orihuela Costa are very attractive, with two gas connections, say one for a boiler and one for a cooker for only €221!

Even if you don't want it connected to the inside of your dwelling at the moment, the natural gas company will connect the natural gas supply to your patio, with no installation charge. Other than a small monthly charge, you can then decide in the future whether to have it installed inside the home or not.

If you live in Dream Hills or in the surrounding areas, I urge you to contact the representatives of the suppliers to ascertain whether the gas supply could be brought to your dwelling and what the cost would be.

Some people are adopting a 'wait & see' attitude, but the special offer on installation will be withdrawn once the pipework is laid. Installation costs per dwelling would then be significantly more expensive, probably in excess of €1,000 plus.

You can contact Virginia or Deibi on 645 113 316 (who speak several languages including English) and they will be pleased to meet with you and answer any questions you might have about the natural gas installation, without obligation on your part. They can also be contacted at - comercialelecnor@gmail.com

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The Catch.

The day after his wife disappeared in a kayaking accident, an Anchorage man answered his door to find two grim-faced Alaska State Troopers.

"We're sorry Mr. Wilkens, but we have some information about your wife", said one of the troopers. "Tell me! Did you find her?", Wilkens exclaimed. The troopers looked at each other. One said, "We have some bad news, some good news, and some really great news. Which would you like to hear first?"

Fearing the worst, Mr. Wilkens said, "Give me the bad news first." The trooper said, "I'm sorry to tell you, sir, but this morning we found your wife's body in Kachemak Bay." Swallowing hard, he asked, "What's the good news?" The trooper continued, "When we pulled her up, she had 12 twenty-five-pound king crabs and 6 good-sized Dungeness crabs clinging to her, and we feel you are entitled to a share in the catch."

Stunned, Mr. Wilkens demanded, "If that's the good news, then what's the great news?" The trooper replied, "We're gonna pull her up again tomorrow!"

(Pete Dudman, Mike Duncan & many, many other sick b*st*rds!)

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The Hunting Dog.

Chester and Earl are going hunting. Chester says to Earl, "I'll send my dog out to see if there are any ducks out in the pond. If there aren't any ducks out there, I'm not going hunting."

So he sends the dog out to the pond. The dog comes back and barks twice. Chester says, "Well I'm not going to go out. He only saw two ducks out there." Earl says, "You're going to take the dog's barks for the truth?"

Earl doesn't believe it, so he goes to look for himself. When he gets back he says, "I don't believe it where did you get that dog? There really are only two ducks out there!"

Chester says, "Well, I got him from the breeder up the road. If you want, you can get one from him, too." So Earl goes to the breeder and says he wants a dog like the one his friend Chester has. The breeder obliges and Earl brings the dog home, tells it to go out and look for ducks.

Minutes later the dog returns with a stick in it's mouth and starts humping Earl's leg. Outraged, Earl takes the dog back to the breeder and says, "This dog is a fraud. I want my money back!"

The breeder asks Earl what the dog did. So Earl tells him that when he sent the dog out to look for ducks, it came back with a stick in its mouth and started humping his leg. The breeder says, "Earl, all he was trying to tell you was that there are more f*cking ducks out there than you can shake a stick at!"

My favourite fruit is grapes. Because with grapes, you always get another chance. 'Cause, you know, if you have a crappy apple or a peach, you're stuck with that crappy piece of fruit. But if you have a crappy grape, no problem – just move on to the next. 'Grapes: The Fruit of Hope.'

Demetri Martin.

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Spain's Golden Visa Scheme.

Fewer than 100 of the world's super-rich have taken advantage of the Spanish government's offer of a residency permit in return for investing in the national economy or buying property in Spain. The so-called "golden visa" scheme was introduced in September 2013, aimed at foreigners buying properties worth more than €500,000; investing €1 million or more in shares of publicly traded Spanish companies; depositing at least €1 million in a Spanish bank account; or making a major business investment leading directly to meaningful job creation, or having significant socioeconomic or technological impact.

The government says it has issued 81 visas on the basis of people meeting these requirements, and that 72 of the cases involved property purchases.

Almost half of the new residents are Chinese and Russian millionaires, with the remainder coming from Ukraine, Lebanon, Ecuador, Qatar, Egypt and Iran, among others. Applicants undergo thorough police checks, says the government, which turned down 14 requests.



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(The Telegraph, July 12, 2013)

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Front Seat.

A policeman in the big city stops a man in a car with a baby polar bear in the front seat. "What are you doing with that polar bear?" He exclaimed, "You should take it to the zoo." The following week, the same policeman sees the same man with the polar bear again in the front seat, with both of them wearing sunglasses. The policeman pulls him over. "I thought you were going to take that polar bear to the zoo!" The man replied, "I did. We had such a good time we are going to the beach this weekend!"

We were so poor when I was growing up, if we wanted a Jacuzzi, we had to fart in the tub.

Eddie Murphy

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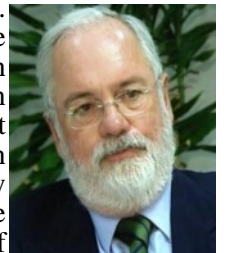
The mayor, who also happens to be the provincial deputy for tourism affairs, was unrepentant, and refused to speak to reporters as he had 'a music band competition to organise.' Mayor Sanjuán was already in trouble with many of his town-folk as he is currently facing court action for ignoring the complaints of 400 residents who put up with extremely loud noise from nearby bars. He could now face a jail sentence and a hefty fine for negligence.

You are probably aware of the saying, 'No good deed goes unpunished.' Often very true, as the following story I took from *The Local & El Mundo* illustrates. Spanish law obliges drivers who witness a road accident where no police or emergency services are present at the scene, to help any possible victims who are hurt. Failure to do so is considered a crime. Whether it was these legal implications or his high moral standards, a Valencia man who spotted an injured motorcycle rider rushed to the scene to help him. He parked his vehicle, called an ambulance and remained by the victim's side. But while they both waited for emergency services to arrive, a local police officer decided to fine the Good Samaritan for not parking his car properly.



When the hero-on-the-spot realized what was happening, he confronted the officer and explained how he had to park as fast as he could to help the injured man. His plea fell on deaf ears, leading the man to lose his temper and tear up the fine before throwing it on the ground. That only spurred the police officer to hand the man another fine, this time for public littering. Despite the case's extenuating circumstances, Spain's courts have finally fined the man €150 for littering, alleging that "his plea can't go ahead if he doesn't deny having thrown the torn-up paper on the ground."

But it usually takes a politician to illustrate the 'Winnie-the-Pooh factor' (little brain) with conviction. This time, once again, it was a PP politician, Miguel Arias Cañete; a former government minister and the head of the electoral list of the PP (conservative) party in the European Elections in May; who put both feet in his mouth in spectacular fashion and before reporters. Miguel (photo) was having a debate on television with the Socialist candidate for the PSOE, Elena Valenciano. The debate was a lacklustre event and when Miguel was questioned about it afterwards, he told the press that he deliberately held back on the debate so as not to overwhelm his opponent Elena. "A debate between a man and a woman is a very complicated thing," he told reporters. "If you abuse your intellectual superiority, you end up looking like a sexist intimidating a defenceless woman." He added that he deliberately contained himself because "if I act like myself, I can get scary, even to myself. I would move in for the kill."



Yes Miguel, I agree that you are a scary individual, particularly if 'bell-ends' like you are deciding the future of Europe. Please keep away from policymaking and sharp objects. You will only end up hurting others ... or yourself.

So, replete with idiots, I was about to finish the article when I came across this little gem concerning our neighbours on the other side of the Pyrenees - the Frogs! It seems the French want to upgrade their trains, so the national railway operator, SNCF, has ordered 2,000 new large trains. But then the satirical magazine, *Le Canard Enchaîné*, revealed that these new trains due to go into service from now until 2016, were too big by several centimetres for stations built more than 50 years ago. Now the red-faced engineers at SNCF are having to urgently reduce the platforms in 1,300 train stations at a cost of at least €50 million. It's like buying a new car and finding that it is too big for your garage ... and the road!

A man walks into an almost deserted bar and sits down on a bar stool. The bartender walks over and takes the man's order. While the man sits there in the silence he hears a faint "Nice tie." He looks around, sees no one, and decides he's just hearing things. The bartender gives him his drink and walks away. The man hears another faint voice... "Nice haircut." This time he's sure he heard the words. He looks around, looks under the bar counter, checks the surrounding tables, but sees no one.

Once again sitting alone in the quiet he hears a faint "I like your shoes." By this time he's sure he's going insane so he calls the bartender over and tells him what's been happening.

The bartender smiles and says, "Oh, that's just the peanuts - they're complimentary."



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NEW TRAFFIC LAWS IN FORCE.

A whole new raft of changes to the Traffic Law was introduced during early May. The following is a selection of the new changes, particularly those likely to effect expat's.

- Helmets are now mandatory in cities for cyclists under 16. Not doing so could lead to fines of 200 euros for parents.
- Small children may not ride in the front seat. Officers will be able to stop and fine drivers carrying children under 1.35 meters in the front passenger seat, unless all the back seats are already taken up by other children also under the height limit (or the car has no back seats at all). Violations can be fined up to 200 euros.
- Driving with double the allowed limit of alcohol in the blood will now mean a fine of 1,000 euros rather than 500. Those caught driving under the influence twice within the same year will get slapped with a 2,000-euro fine the second time round.
- Fines for driving after taking drugs. The new law eliminates the need to prove that drug use influenced a person's driving. Now, all it takes is a saliva test and if the result shows the presence of drugs in the body, drivers will be receive a 1,000-euro fine regardless of whether the substances affected their driving or not.
- Now this is an interesting one. Pedestrians caught violating a traffic regulation – by crossing the road at the wrong place, for instance – will be obliged to submit to a drug and alcohol test. Until now, this was only the case if they were involved in an accident. This is plainly daft. The police wouldn't have sufficient test kits!
- The new legislation expressly prohibits the use of speed camera detectors: drivers caught using them will be liable to fines of 200 euros and the loss of three points on their license. Speed camera jammers are considered much more serious and entail penalties of 6,000 euros and six points off the permit. Only alert systems offering information about the locations of speed cameras based on databases will be legal. Drivers with GPS devices incorporating speed camera detection capabilities will have to deactivate this option.
- Because foreigners living in Spain were not under the obligation to register their cars here, in practice it was difficult to get them to pay traffic fines or submit to controls. The new regulations will now determine the deadlines and conditions for vehicle registration.
- Officers will be able to fine vehicles without hailing them down if they are performing duties that prevent them from doing so or giving chase. This is the change that is causing the most concern. We are all aware of the creative imaginations of the police here on occasions. Do you think this new rule will be abused? Of course it will!
- The 50% discount for early fine payment has now been extended to 20 days. This is up from the current 15 days.
- Right now cancer sufferers are hardly ever allowed to drive, unless their doctor takes it up with the traffic authority. But improved medical treatment is set to be reflected in the new road rules, which will place fewer restrictions on patients.

For information on other changes, go to this link -

http://elpais.com/elpais/2014/03/21/inenglish/1395421359_504010.html?rel=rosEP

The Gift.

Harry wants to give his grandfather in Los Balcones a special present for his 90th birthday, and decides to get him a hooker. Grandma passed away years ago, and the old man could do with a bit of a lift. Harry approaches a hooker down by the roundabout in Punta Prima and makes arrangements for her to go to his grandfather's house, but he wants her to do a couple things to make it special. "Would it be possible for you to show up wearing a black shiny coat and a little bikini and some sexy black stilettos?" The lady thinks about it, and she agrees. "And just one more thing. I want him to know what he's getting, so when he opens up the front door, I want you to shout out, 'Super Sex!'" Again, the call girl agrees, after negotiating a slightly higher price. The lady shows up at the grandfather's house, dressed as asked. She knocks on the front door, and the old man opens up the door. "Yes?" the old grandfather croaks out. "Super Sex!" the hooker smiles at him, whipping open the black wet-look coat to expose her sexy body in a skimpy bikini and heels. "Eehh?" the old man asks, cupping his ear. "Uh...SUPER SEX!" the girl shouts again, giving him a big smile, and throwing off the coat. The old man thinks about it for a couple seconds, then croaks out, "Oh, okay. I'll have the soup then!"

The Bottled Gas Scammers.

The bottled gas scammers continue to trick the unwary. Their victims are usually the elderly, and foreigners living in Spain and particularly the British, German and Dutch residents in the Balearics.



During May, as part of a nationwide operation, the Guardia Civil arrested 26 of these miscreants, 17 in the Balearic Islands, three in the province of Alicante, two in Madrid and four in

Malaga. These bogus engineers would 'inspect' a bottled gas installation in a household and find or create problems, which they then charge substantial amounts of money to 'fix.' This could often be in excess of €1,000! And, if they found a compliant and 'well-to-do' victim, they would return regularly for maintenance visits and more charges. In some cases it is believed they stole items from the household.

The police believe that between four and five thousand people have been caught by this scam in recent months. The police also uncovered several bank accounts with a total balance of in excess of €4 million, together with 26 luxury cars. Although the police never mentioned 'an organised gang' in their press release, the gang had all the hallmarks that would confirm this. You can expect that similar scammers will be operating in your area this summer.

'Remember, men, we're fighting for this woman's honour - which is probably more than she ever did.'

Groucho Marx.

"Has there been any insanity in your family?"



"Yeah, my husband thinks he's the boss."

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Picking Spuds.

Two Spanish women were digging potatoes in the field one day. Carmen pulled out two huge ones. She turned to Adriana and said "You know Adriana, these potatoes remind me of my Pedro's balls." "Why you mean that.. Pedro's balls are that big?" asked Adriana. "No", replied Carmen, "but they are that dirty."

Pirate Radio Stations.

According to *El Pais*, pirates have taken the Valencia airwaves by storm. More than 400 unlicensed stations are broadcasting almost complete across the region with impunity, sometimes even pushing out the legal stations by interfering with their frequencies. According to the Spanish Commercial Radio Broadcasting Association (AERC), the Valencia region is only the third-largest pirate den in Spain, behind the Canary Islands and Andalusia.



Alicante, one of the three provinces in Valencia, is pirate heaven. Over half the region's unlicensed stations are located here. In fact, only 56 out of the 220 radio stations in the area actually have a license from the local government.

The government's sluggishness when it comes to issuing fines for this activity, coupled with the technical complexity involved in catching wrongdoers, has created a breeding ground for an illegal industry that has been growing since 2007. Valencia is the third largest pirate den in Spain, behind the Canaries and Andalusia

The outlaw broadcasters are also contributing to the flow of layoffs and shutdowns at the 125 legal stations operating in the country, and whose advertising revenues have been slashed by half, according to industry figures. If you are illegal, you do not exist as far as the authorities are concerned, and you have no fear of being inspected. As a further bonus, market logic dictates that costs are kept down to a minimum, giving you an edge in the race for a bite from the ever-shrinking advertising pie. An administrative professional who has worked in the industry for more than 28 years, alleges that each unlicensed station broadcasting in English out of Jávea, a town with a large British population, makes around €500,000 a year. In the towns of Dénia, Jávea and Calpe — there are four legal stations (SER Dénia, Radio Litoral, Radio Marina Alta and Cope) and 45 unlicensed ones, according to regional government figures.

The obvious question is, why has the Valencia government not gone after the clandestine stations? "It is a complex process. We have the resources that we have. It is not easy to know who is behind these companies, and besides, ownership changes. It is hard to catch them," says a source from the regional government.

To start a radio station, all you need is a mixing console, a computer, an antenna and a small transmitter worth a total of €1,500. And of course a license.....or not!

New!! Latest Ladies Kitchen Accessory



The "All Men are Bastards" Knife Block

I was lying in bed the other morning playing a lament on my euphonium when the wife, who was prising her teeth out of an apple, looked back at me and said softly, 'Joey.' She calls me Joey because she always wanted a budgie. She said, 'I'm homesick.' I said, 'But precious one, this is your home.' She said, 'I know, and I'm sick of it.'

I took my mother-in-law to Madame Tussaud's Chamber of Horrors, and one of the attendants said, 'Keep her moving sir, we're stock-taking. The inimitable Les Dawson.'

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Three Leeds lads are on holiday in Amsterdam and they decide to go a brothel. They are waiting in the bar for a prostitute to come free when the first lad is called into one of the rooms by a really good looking tart. He eventually comes out and the others ask him how he got on. "Bloomin' great!". I gave her fifty euros and she goes to the fridge gets out some pineapple rings, puts them over my todger and then slowly eats them off. Best BJ I ever had." The second lad says "Well I fancy some of that but I'm gonna see what I get for a hundred" She comes out and he follows her to the room and twenty minutes later comes out gasping.



"You were right mate. She did the pineapple rings then put a ring of raspberries on top of them, then ate it off. Bleeding brilliant." The third lad goes in and gives her two hundred euros! Just four minutes later he comes out and they ask him what happened.

"Well I was laying there with my todger up and she puts the pineapple rings round, then the layer of raspberries. She then got some whipped cream and covers it right up to the bell end, then stuck a strawberry on top. Well, it looked so good I ate it myself!"



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Harry is in trouble with the missus again. He replaced her tampons with party-poppers.
She has no sense of humour, that one.

Spain's Bad Debtor's List - *Listado de Morosos*.

Spain has 'technically' exited its seven year recession. However, the financial aftermath continues to look grim for most of the population (with the exception of our political class, of course). As a consequence, over 100,000 people are added each month to Spain's dreaded bad debtor's lists.

This article explains how you may be included in one of them (even unbeknownst to yourself!), the severe financial consequences this has (in Spain) and how to remove yourself from a black list.

What is a Bad Debtor's List?

In Spain companies will include you on non-payment in a bad creditor's list such as EXPERIAN, ASNEF or RAI which has dire consequences as it adversely affects your credit score and by extension hampers your future borrowing ability.

You may think that the people who are normally included in debtor's black lists are in most cases professional non-payers or maybe families hit by the brunt of Spain's financial downturn. However you would be surprised to learn there are multiple cases reported in which a person with a spotless credit track record is included out of spite by a company as a result of a legitimate dispute over a questionable invoice. At other times it may fall down to something as clumsy as a careless oversight on paying a service.

Examples: Your telephone company charges you €800 for roaming fees on a five-day trip to Egypt. Your mobile was switched off all the time. You refuse to pay until they give you an explanation. The mobile company declines explaining and blacklists you immediately.

Your electric supplier increases your bimonthly invoice by 20% without providing a justified reason. You refuse to pay and are blacklisted as a result.

You fail to close properly a Spanish bank account, or forget to top it up regularly, and slip into the red. The bank will blacklist you after a couple of months. Lenders take legal action for non-payment spanning between 3 to six months after the first arrear.

Consequences of being included in a Bad Debtor's List.

These consequences are financial and will severely hinder your borrowing ability in Spain, or elsewhere, in the near future. On being included in a black list you may be turned down on some or all the following: Personal loan, Business loan, Mortgage loan, Consumer loan e.g. cards from major high street retailers that allow you fractioned or deferred payment over the next months. So, forget your "El Corte Inglés" card and you may be barred membership by selected retailers i.e. gyms, video clubs, golf clubs

Amount of the Debt: There is no minimum amount. Less than €100 warrants you being blacklisted.

Duration of the Inclusion in a Debtor's List: The duration normally spans six years. After said time your details should automatically be removed by the registry.

What happens if I am not notified of my inclusion in a Bad Creditor's List? This is an entitlement. Failure to comply by the registry gives you good legal grounds to request a cancellation and a full withdrawal from the debtor's registry. In practice this may be more difficult than I make it sound and you may need a lawyer to assist you.

Good for morale!

While in an isolated outpost in Afghanistan, a group of squaddies had been waiting several week for supplies, which was being delayed by bad weather. As the men were feeling a bit low, the sergeant decided to do something to boost morale. 'Good news, men,' he says. 'We're going to have a change of underwear.' It's not much but the troops are cheered up. The sergeant continues, 'Johnson, you change with Smith; Smith, you change with O'Flaherty; O'Flaherty, you change.....'



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Removal from a Debtor's Registry: Paying off your debt will not have you automatically removed from a debtor's registry. You must proactively pursue your own removal or else appoint someone qualified to do it on your behalf i.e. a lawyer. The whole procedure will only be carried out in the Spanish language.

The Four Steps to remove oneself from a Bad Debtor's Registry in Spain.

Pay off the outstanding debt which triggered your inclusion in the debtor's list in the first place. Keep evidence substantiating the debt is fully settled (receipt, bank transfer, correspondence with the creditor etc.)

Contact (in Spanish) the registry which have you black listed. Request a cancellation request form ("solicitud de cancelación", in Spanish).

Complete the form in Spanish supplying the registry with all the necessary evidence that unequivocally demonstrates the debt is now settled. You will have to send all by registered post ("burofax") along with a copy of your passport / DNI (national ID card). The register will contact your creditor to confirm the debt has been settled to their satisfaction (there may be interests accrued or penalties that also need to be paid besides the principal itself).

Once a registry has concluded their own internal investigation they should remove you within the next 30 days.

Conclusion: Bad Debtor's List ("Listado de Morosos")

Spain's ongoing delicate financial situation pushes families to the brink. The inclusion in a debtor's black list may not be an issue if you are non-resident in Spain but becomes a serious matter for those holding resident status as it will seriously hamper their borrowing ability as well as being an overall nuisance in their day-to-day life.

I strongly recommend you to avoid an inclusion in such lists. And if you do happen to get included, a lawyer – for a reasonable fee – can help you to clear your good name by cutting through the red tape and language barrier in an expedient manner.

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I read in my local newspaper, they had this advert, "Please look after your neighbours in the cold weather", and shall I tell you something about that? I live next door to this 84-year-old woman, do you know, not once has she come round to see if I'm all right, yet. The lazy cow hasn't even taken her milk in for a fortnight!

Jack Dee

Problems at Gibraltar Border Continue.

Relations between Gibraltar continue to be vexed. The delays caused by the Spanish Border Force can result in large queues, see photo.



The British Minister for Europe, David Lidington, went further, saying that "disproportionate and politically motivated searches continue to cause great difficulties" for Gibraltarians and Spaniards living in the area. He added that London will keep up diplomatic pressure against Spain "until the border controls return to reasonable, proportionate levels."

According to the government of Gibraltar's Chief Minister Fabian Picardo, in March the maximum average waiting time to enter Gibraltar was 63 minutes, and 91 minutes to exit. It was the same in February. On days when Real Madrid or Barça are playing a football match, the lines magically disappear, authorities from The Rock say.

Meanwhile, both London and Madrid claim they have followed EU recommendations. The Spanish Foreign Ministry highlighted that EU inspectors who visited the site on a fact-finding mission on September 25, 2013 confirmed that Spain has the right to conduct border checks along a territory that is not part of the Schengen Area, which does not require passport controls.

The 2.3-square-mile territory of Gibraltar was ceded to Britain in 1713 under the Treaty of Utrecht, but Spain's claims to sovereignty have been a thorn in the side of Anglo-Spanish relations for many years. Home to around 30,000 people, the territory voted in a 2002 referendum against coming under Spanish sovereignty.

If you would like to read more about Gib' and the dastardly attempts of the Spanish and French to take it by siege, then take a look at the archives of the Dream Scene, numbers 72 & 73 for more exciting detail - see www.dreamhills.co.uk and go to The Dream Scene archives. It's a stirring story!



Due to significant cutbacks in military spending, the French army have been forced to make major cutbacks on transport.



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Quickies!

- I got up really early this morning to see which side of town the sun came up - then it dawned on me!
- Guy goes into chemist and asks for a packet of Pyrex ... 'Surely you mean durex?' says the assistant. 'No, Pyrex' says the guy.....'I've got a date with a hot dish tonight
- If your cup is only half-full.....you probably need a smaller bra.
- America are sending out a crack military unit to find the kidnapped school girls in Nigeria, that is after somebody shows them where Nigeria is. Britain is sending Stuart Hall, Rolf Harris and Max Clifford.
- I read somewhere that the kids are so ugly in Glasgow, all the paedophiles there eat their own sweets.
- The head librarian in Orihuela died yesterday. Tomorrow, out of respect, there will be two minutes noise at 11pm.
- Congratulations to Conchita on winning the Eurovision Song Contest. The last time an Austrian with amusing facial hair made such a big impression across Europe was in 1939.
- Katie Price (Jordan) is getting divorced again. Why doesn't someone set her up with Oscar Pistorius and do us all a favour.
- I once used my boobs to get out of a speeding ticket. The policeman walked off in disgust saying, 'FFS mate, you need to go on a diet!'
- I voted UKIP because all the Romanians are taking our Polish people's jobs.
- England are 28/1 to win the World Cup this summer. For those who don't understand betting, if you put €50 on them, then you lose €50.
- I'm not one to end a sentence with a conjunction but.....
- The doctor came back with my test results and said, 'It pains me to say this Mick.....' 'Oh God!' I interrupted, 'am I dying, shuffling off the mortal coil, popping my clogs?' 'No,' he replied, 'I've just got a sore throat!'

I've had a few arguments with people, but I never carry a grudge.
You know why? While you're carrying a grudge, they're out dancing.
Buddy Hackett

JUNE AT THE PHOENIX



Via Park V

MONDAY: Live Football - Selected Bottled Beers €1!!

WEDNESDAY: Fun Darts with Big Brian. OY, OY!!

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Dibbers & Dabbers ready for 2:30pm.

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FRIDAY: Fun Quiz with Brian - Meat Draw & Play Your Cards Right! Big Prizes!!



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Hog Roast from 9pm - only €7!!!

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Barbecue on the Terrace from 8pm.

Tues' June 24th - England v Costa Rica!! OLE!!

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WiFi

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*A liberal is a person whose interests aren't at stake at the moment.
Willis Player*



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CUT-OUT & KEEP.

Coming To A Roof Near You, Soon?

'The Local' published an interesting article online on May 7 with regard to a change in the law which will allow phone companies to expropriate private property to install mobile phone antennae and other infrastructure in Spain. I quote -

'Under the new law passed on April 29th, phone companies will be able to "forcibly" expropriate roof terraces and other private and public property to install telecommunications infrastructure. This will only take place when it is "strictly necessary" and when no other options are "technically" possible or "economically viable", according to article 29 of the legislation. Costs will be covered by the companies placing the infrastructure, and parties affected will have their rights guaranteed under Spain's Expropriation Act.

The government says the move will help telecommunications companies roll out projects of "great importance", and which will help Spain meet its obligations under the European Union's Digital Agenda for Europe project. Those obligations include providing everyone with minimum broadband speeds of 30 megabytes per second.

But opposition groups are concerned the new law will pave the way to a swathe of expropriations. "The roofs are no longer ours and everything is secondary to the savage development of the wireless network," Asunción Laso, head of anti-electromagnetic radiation group Peccem told Spain's El Periódico newspaper. The former law allowed for expropriation of private property but this was also impossible to carry out if town councils objected, Laso told the daily.

The new law, however, classifies digital infrastructure projects as works of "public interest". This puts them on the same level as "hospitals and highways", Laso added. Under the law, local councils won't be able to "establish absolute or disproportionate restrictions" on the rights of operators to install infrastructure. Some articles of the new legislation appear to be "edited by the telecommunications companies' lawyers" because they leave residents with no recourse, said Chesús Yuste, spokesperson for the left-wing Izquierda Plural grouping. The group was in favour of digital development, "but not at any price", said Yuste. Félix Lavilla, a spokesperson for Spain's leading opposition party, the socialist PSOE, said the law was "strategic" in terms of Spain's development. He said it gave telecommunications companies "legal security" when investing. However, it was very unlikely expropriations would go ahead, Lavilla added.'



The Kerryman.

A Kerryman attended a concert where a ventriloquist who fancied himself as a comedian told about twenty Kerryman jokes in a row. "Look," shouted the Kerryman, standing up in the audience, "I'm fed up being insulted by all these jokes. We're not as stupid as you make out." "Please sit down sir & be calm," said the ventriloquist, "after all it's only a joke, and don't tell me that Kerryman haven't got a sense of humor."

"I'm not talking to you," said the Kerryman, "I'm talking to the little fellow on your knee."

The History of Spain, Part 42. Mola, the Assassination of Sotelo & the Beginning of the Coup.

During March 1936, several senior army officers met in the home of a Madrid financier. They were concerned at the escalating chaos and political uncertainty within the country. They agreed that a military coup should be organised and commence when one of the following conditions happened: if Largo Caballero, the revolution-preaching socialist, was named prime minister; if the Guardia Civil were disbanded and replaced by the uncontrollable assault guards; or if anarchy overwhelmed the country.



Don Emilio Mola y Vidal (photo) was a meticulous and myopic general and the main instigator of the plot. Although the ageing General Sanjurjo - a monarchist and in exile in Portugal at the time due to a failed earlier coup - he would be recognised as the nominal head of the proposed *pronunciamento*. But it was Mola - The Director - who would organise it. Mola was trusted by the Republicans and had already been transferred from Morocco to Pamplona.

Mola envisioned a "republican dictatorship" on the Portuguese model, which would consist of a "directory" that would oversee a semi-pluralist but authoritarian state. According to Mola: "The Directorate will guarantee no change in the republican regime during its administration, with no change in any worker claims that have been legally obtained" but would "create a strong and disciplined state". The 1931 constitution would be suspended and new elections would be held. Certain liberal elements, such as separation of church and state and freedom of worship, were to be maintained. Agrarian issues were to be resolved by regional commissions with the aim of developing small holdings, but allowing for collective cultivation in some circumstances.

Indeed Mola himself doubted that the coup would be successful. He badly needed the support of General Franco also, who had been removed to the Canaries' and was spending his time playing golf and taking English lessons. Franco would not agree to join the coup himself at this stage as he also believed that it would fail. Indeed, there was no guarantee that the regional military commanders would join the rising as their sympathies remained unclear. Despite this, Mola sent secret instructions to the various military units to be involved in the uprising, but no start date was planned yet. Franco was 'kept in the loop.'

Franco wrote to the prime minister in June 1936 and warned, in carefully vague terms, that the rampant anarchy was 'dangerous' and that it could effect 'the discipline of the army.' The possibility of a coup was common knowledge, but the left believed that it would be unsuccessful and rapidly quashed.

But it was a singular act of violence by the Republicans, that would act as a catalyst for the plotters and lead to the *pronunciamento*.

Calvo Sotelo was now the leading mouthpiece of the right. Chief spokesman and leader of the opposition in Congress and scourge of the left, he completed a speech castigating the ineffectiveness and incompetence of the government, during a session in Congress on July 11. When he sat down, the communist Ibaruri - *La Pasionaria* - shouted, 'This is your last speech.'

There were nearly 300 political murders in Spain between February and mid-July in 1936; most of them senseless attacks or tit-for-tat reprisals. Falangists shot dead a judge who sent one of their friends to jail; six right wingers were killed by a socialist gunman at a funeral; fascists publicly lynched left wing leaders in the northern town of Palencia; two falangists were shot dead outside a cafe by gunmen in a passing car; later their friends would spray a couple of socialist workers with bullets.

On July 13, an officer in the Republican Assault Guards was shot by Falangist gunmen. Looking for revenge, several of his comrades led by a communist Guardia Civil, went to the home of Calvo Sotelo. They had previously called at the home of Gil Robles, the leader of the Catholic CEDA party, but he was elsewhere, fortunately.

The police/guards asked Sotelo to accompany them to the police station for questioning. Although Sotelo was suspicious, he agreed to go promising to telephone his family soon, 'unless these gentlemen are going to blow out my brains.'

Just a few hours later his dead body was found dumped outside the walls of the local cemetery, with two bullets through his neck. Photo.



The murder of Sotelo by the state police shocked Spain. But what followed was equally distressing. None of the assassins were detained. Although two, Condés and Cuenca, were known to have been involved, they were all told to go into hiding; Condés moved into the apartment of the revolutionary Socialist leader Margarita Nelken, who in congress had called for the expansion of disorder and violence throughout the country! The government promised to investigate, but instead of chasing the guilty, they immediately imposed censorship and began a round of arrests of right-wingers, as though they were responsible for the murder.

Eventually a proper investigation began but was then quickly dropped. Several of those who participated in the kidnapping and the murder were later given major roles in the Republican forces or promoted to positions of greater responsibility.

As late as July 12, Franco sent Mola an urgent message saying that the time had not come to rebel. But now, just one day later, the assassination had an electrifying effect, providing the catalyst to transform a limping conspiracy into a powerful revolt that could set off a massive civil war. Franco now changed his mind, advising Mola that he was fully committed to the revolt and that it must not be delayed.

Mola now issued instruction for the revolt to begin in North Africa on the early morning of July 18, to be followed later by the garrisons throughout Spain. However, the garrison in Mellila, Morocco, rose up a day early. A Colonel Segui took charge of the rebellion there, arresting and executing the loyal commander, General Romerales, and any others who resisted. The insurgents also had lists of local trade unionists, left-wing groups and Freemasons. These were quickly rounded up and many of them shot.

But the plan was to get General Franco to Morocco, from where he would lead the Army of Africa to invade Spain. Franco being ensconced in the Canaries, could not leave on a military aircraft without raising suspicion from the Republican loyalists.

On July 11, a *Dragon Rapide* aircraft chartered by the Mallorcan tycoon and cigarette smuggler, Juan March, left Croydon Airport near London, bound for the Canary Islands, to pick up a secret passenger. On July 19, Franco secretly boarded the chartered aircraft bound for Tetuan and his expectant legionnaires in Morocco, a trip that would culminate in his supreme power over Spain for the next four decades.

More next month.

LOS CABALLOS DEL VINO .

The month of May heralded in a whole array of May Fairs and special local fiestas in Spain. Many of them involve horses. A particularly interesting one takes place every May in the city of *Caravaca de la Cruz*, in Murcia. The town features a castle which was built by the Knights Templar, I assume on their return from the Crusades. During the 15th century, the Knights and townsfolk took shelter in the castle when they were besieged by the Moors. Soon, the castle's water supply became contaminated and all the local wells were poisoned. In desperation, some of the Knights raced out of the castle on horses to find a clean source of



water. What they did find was not water but a large stock of wine, which they loaded into wineskins and onto the horses, before returning to the castle. This wine then took maraculous status as it healed the sick and purified the water in the castle. The Christians were then able to resist the Moors.

Since then, the horses are honoured every year in the *Fiesta Los Caballos del Vino* - the horses of the wine. Each year the horses are decked-out in embroidered finery and raced through the narrow streets of the town by men and women wearing white clothing and red scarves and belts. The city is also the Fifth Holy City of Catholic Christianity, along with Rome, Jerusalem, Santiago de Compostela and Camaleño (Monastery of Santo Toribio de Liébana).

Caravaca is located to the west of Murcia, the route there taking you through the great Bullas wine region. The area is bursting with history and beauty, and is also very close to the *Las Fuentes del Marques*.

(Photos - La Razon & Wiki.)



Lime Bar Fishing Sunbathing Club.

Hello all, nothing to shout about at the monthly meeting.

The May match was fished at Nancy's. A few of the swims were unfishable due to a blanket of weed floating on the surface & the bay just above the boom was chock-a-block with crap & smelly dead things! We only had 4 blanks and yet again, the winning weight came from above the boom. This time it was Mike "the chair" fishing the pole with just under 7 kilos. Grumpy Bob could be heard down the far end of the canal chuntering, "Ban the pole!" Fagin gave us amateurs a chance by taking a trip back to the motherland. As usual, Ron the nomad & I turned up late, then Barry S & Charlie left early for an appointment with a San Miguel.

I actually beat "3 rods" & the "hustler" this month! The "hustler" reckons I was lucky though as he lost a huge mullet. After landing & unhooking it, he tried to squeeze it into his keep net - missed, and it swam away. What a plonker, ho ho!

Wonderful wildlife over here isn't it. Steve was fishing near Ghost point recently and had 3 large snakes and loads of terrapins in his swim. He was a "bit" distracted by the snakes & missed loads of bites!

"3 rods" is down to 2.5. He was seen driving home with his stiff pole sticking out the window.

Ammo & casualty report. The medics in UK sent Cyril "the elder" back to us for some much needed sunshine & medicinal mahou (R&R). We had a get together to welcome him back, but unfortunately he's only over here for a week, then it is back to the quacks! Back in January, he received the "Todd quach" on behalf of the "old farts". The "snapper" didn't get a photo then, so we used this opportunity to do so. See below.



Late news: As I write this, the "snapper" is now out of intensive care. We all wish you well, so get well soon.

Fishy fingers!

The Ghost

• A man dies and goes to Hell but is astonished when he's shown into a room full of beautiful women and huge kegs of beer. The man turns to a nearby demon and says, 'You call this Hell? This is my idea of Heaven.' The demon replies, 'Not so fast, sonny. The kegs all have holes in them, and the women don't.'

• Harry walks into a pet shop. 'I'd like to buy a goldfish,' he says. The pet shop owner replies, 'Do you want an aquarium?' 'No,' says Harry. 'I'm not bothered what star sign it is.'

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Chris Rock (Never Scared)

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Here Come the Animals!

Anybody who finds it easy to make money on the horses is probably in the dog food business. Franklin P. Jones

A racehorse is the only animal that can take thousands of people for a ride at the same time. Herbert Prochnow

Ants are tiny creatures with a primitive brain no larger than that of a psychic-hotline caller. Dave Barry

I have an ant farm. Them fellas don't grow shit. Mitch Hedberg

There's only one thing that separates us from animals: we aren't afraid of vacuum cleaners. Jeff Stilson

The platypus: do you think God gets stoned once in a while? Robin Williams

I took a walk in Central Park and got all excited when I thought I saw a robin redbreast. Turned out to be a pigeon with a knife wound. David Letterman

I have a dog that's half pit bull, half poodle. Not much of a guard dog, but a vicious gossip. Craig Shoemaker

All Our Pets Are Flushable. Sign above Springfield (Simpsons) pet shop.

Organizational structures can be found throughout nature. Monkeys form troops, birds form flocks, fish form schools, intestinal parasites form law firms. Dave Barry

You don't need to hire a dog therapist, you just need to wake up at 7.00am and open the f*cking door. Ozzy Osbourne

Dogs come when they are called. Cats take a message and get back to you. Mary Bly

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