

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER

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

Issue no. 90, 1st of August 2014.

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the August edition.

'Sweltering' would describe the weather at the moment. Ironically, there were severe hailstorms in early July in Madrid and Murcia. When you see the size of the hailstones (photo), you realise the damage these can do, not only to crops but to car windows etc. Although Alicante has experienced the most serious drought in 150 years with 182,000 almond trees ruined, the heavy hailstones also 'put the boot in' and ruined many more.



One of the great things about this time of year is the abundance of fresh fruit. I think Consum and Supercor carry the best range. Cherries were available throughout July, some of them almost as large as golf balls and so sweet and juicy. Also during the early part of July, big bunches of large dark grapes were available which were heavenly sumptuous. We should never take the good cheap fruit available to us for granted. Although the orange crop was disappointing this year, the availability and range of fresh fruit is now very impressive. I see where a bunch of Ruby Roman grapes grown in Japan were sold for \$5,400! They were supplied to a wedding in the Ishikawa Prefecture and there were just 30 grapes in the bunch; that's 180 bucks per grape. You can read more here -

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2014/07/06/national/top-notch-japanese-grapes-fetch-a-record-5400-reports/#.U9dqeOSw2D>

But a word of advice: seedless grapes are only for wimps: the sort of people who take lime juice or blackcurrant in their lager, only eat mushy veg, can't eat fish with bones and write 'Disgusted' letters to the papers! There is nothing better than sitting on your veranda during the cool evening, watching the world go by, munching on a bunch of grapes and tossing the seeds into the neighbours garden. (Sorry, Adrian, Pat, John & Gloria)

Right now nectarines are in season, and they are so sweet and juicy. Consum had a batch of luscious ones in this week. Some lovely fruit there, but why are their bananas always crap? Their fish counter is now excellent. But watch out for the dye used to colour the large cooked prawns in some supermarkets. Once, I had an allergy to the colouring used by one of the suppliers and had to rush to the Emergency Department with breathing problems.

Well, most of you probably missed Monica Lewinsky's birthday on July 23rd. They grow up so fast, don't they. It seems like only yesterday that she was crawling around the White House on her hands and knees and putting everything in her mouth.

Friday, August 15, is a 'Red Day.' The Feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary.

Get well soon J.J. of Belushi's & Dream Hills and best of luck with the forthcoming operation.

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

Mick & Tid.

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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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- NIE / RESIDENCIA
- DRIVING LICENCES
- COURT
- TOWN HALLS
- SCHOOL MEETINGS

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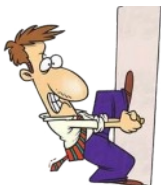
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Did you know that

...part of the fifth season of the hit HBO series Game of Thrones, is to be filmed in a number of locations in Andalucia, possibly in Sevilla and Osuna. The locations will be used to portray the kingdom of Dorne in the internationally popular series. My wife has been glued to the series. Me? Well, if I want to see all that uninhibited sex, gratuitous violence, torture and poisonings, I just go to the local boozier!

...dark chocolate can put a spring into your step! The health benefits of dark chocolate have long been established but one study has found eating dark chocolate helps over-60's with artery problems in their legs, to walk longer and faster. Published in the Journal of the American Heart Association researchers found over-60's with peripheral artery disease (PAD) were able to walk better unassisted after eating dark chocolate, while milk chocolate made no difference. Scientists suggested compounds found in cocoa, known as polyphenols, could reduce tissue damage, and improve blood flow in peripheral arteries. The dark chocolate consumed in the study had a cocoa content of more than 85%, making it rich in polyphenols. The improvements, although modest, were "of potential relevance for the quality of life of these patients", according to the study's co-author Dr Lorenzo Loffredo, an assistant professor at the Sapienza University of Rome.

...135 people are waiting for a heart transplant in Spain. One is a 63-year-old in the Canaries. There appears to be no age discrimination on surgical procedures in Spain, as there is in the UK. Maybe granny can now get that breast enlargement op'.

A Woman's Poem.

He didn't like the casserole
And he didn't like my cake,
He said my biscuits were too hard
Not like his mother used to make.

I didn't perk the coffee right
He didn't like the stew,
I didn't mend his socks
The way his mother used to do.

I pondered for an answer
I was looking for a clue.
Then I turned around and
smacked him one

Like his mother used to do.

What's Up?

The government is negotiating a further 200 cuts within the regions. These are required if the financial deficit target is to be met. You can expect further cuts to social services and a deterioration in other services as well. Despite intense pressure from the IMF and the EU, the government says it will not increase IVA (VAT) rates..... at least not yet!

A virtual unknown, Pedro Sánchez Castejón, has been elected as the head of the main socialist party in Spain, the PSOE. Nicknamed *El Guapo* or 'The Handsome One,' Sánchez's first pledge following his victory was to create a leadership "as far to the left as its grassroots voters," while shying away "from populism and demagoguery," in what seemed like a veiled reference to *Podemos*. *Podemos* is one of two new left-wing parties which took over two million votes from the PSOE during the recent European Elections.



As part of its ongoing reform to labour laws, the government will allow entrepreneurs the non-compliance with collective agreements for a period of a year. The unions are very unhappy about this as it could reduce their power considerably.

Brussels has opened an investigation into the manipulation of the statistics reported by the Valencia government. It is believed that the public accounts were 'manipulated' to hide expenditure on large events such as Formula One, and large projects such as Valencia's City of Arts & Sciences. This 'manipulation' may have been going on for 20 years, coming to a head during the tenure of the previous President, Camps, who spent public money as though it were sand. If the EU believe that the misrepresentation was deliberate, the region could face fines as high as €2 billion. The practice of leaving bills in drawers was normal since the 80's. The Valencia Consell at one time spent €1.86 billion on health without any control. When the budget ran out, bill were just hidden in drawers. The Audit Office had been complaining about the practice since 2003, but no body took any notice.

Later in this newsletter, you will read about certain politicians who wish to appeal their jail sentences to the Supreme Court. They can do this because they are classified as '*Aforados*.' An 'aforado' refers to a person who, by profession or public office has the right, in case of being accused of a crime, to be judged by a court other than that which a private citizen would expect. The reason usually given for this is to avoid political pressures to which an ordinary court may be submitted when it judges a public office of responsibility. A higher court is perceived to be more independent to these pressures. The law recognises 10,000 *aforados* in Spain: 2,000 of these are politicians and the upper tier of the royal family, the remainder being mainly those in the judicial and police professions.

Many believe that this is a law for the privileged. 10,000 seems an incredibly high figure, particularly when you look at the figure of *aforados* in other countries: In France, only the President, Prime Minister and members of the government are *aforados*; in Portugal and Italy it is only the President and in the UK, the USA and Germany, there are none! However, to bring this figure down to something practical in Spain would require a change to the Constitution, and that will take some time, even if the establishment would agree to it.

The Government has increased the tax on deposit accounts in Spain to 0.03%. The cabinet created this tax in 2013 to unify the different taxes in the autonomous regions.

The National Commission for Markets and Competition has opened a case against Repsol, Cepsa and BP for price fixing. The companies are accused of doing so 'indirectly', by controlling the tariff on their respective forecourts.

The Governor of the Bank of Spain, Luis María Linde, has said growth in the Spanish economy will be better than forecast. He said the current government growth forecast of 1.2% of GDP was guaranteed and there was a reasonable base to think growth will continue.

El Mundo reports that the State broadcaster RTVE has been saved from bankruptcy by the government, who have used the emergency fund from Sepi, (The State Society of Industrial Participations) to pay €130 million into the broadcasters coffers. But now the broadcaster has asked for an additional €160 million!

La Opinión de Málaga reports that foreign investment has rescued real estate on the Costa del Sol. Nearly 40% of the properties sold are purchased by foreigners, a percentage which increases to 70% in Marbella, Mijas and Estepona.

Diario Sur has also reported that the Costa del Sol has called on the Government to fiscally support residential tourism. The experts conclude that residential tourism has far more weight than seasonal, and the tax regime is the main obstacle to it being more competitive. This is very true. Most of the readers of this newsletter are expats who will spend between a couple of months to a full year in the country. Their total annual spend will be far greater than that of a tourist.

Información in Alicante says the autonomous region receives the least money for education and health in Spain. The financial model only covers 83% of the spending on basic services, the lowest percentage in Spain.

The number of strikes grew by 15% last year. There were 994 stoppages here in Spain, 124 more than in 2012.

It may be the hot weather, but the Catalans are continuing to 'lose their marbles.' A pressure group for Independence for Catalonia has suggested that the region now forms its own army. These would be trained by the British (probably Fred Karno's Army) and would



protects their 'borders.' This from a region which cannot even pay its bills. However Catalan efforts to launch their own air force is at last bearing fruit. The photo on the right shows two Catalans putting their new aircraft through its paces.

The Catalan independence drive is doing little to encourage investors. La Razón reports a fall of 51% in foreign investment in Cataluña, a year ahead of their proposed independence poll. The Madrid region received six times more money in the first quarter of this year. La Razón notes a fall of 51% in foreign investment in Cataluña, a year ahead of the poll.

Still, the politicians there seem to have plenty of money: The son of Jordi Pujol, the ex President of the Cataluña Government, Jordi Pujol Ferrusola, is being investigated by the National Court, according to El País for banking €15.3 million in five days in 2012. His son also sold land with a catastral value of €900 for €1.8 million. All quite above board I am sure. The ex president himself has just done a deal with the Hacienda to avoid criminal charges. He had been using offshore accounts for 34 years!

El Mundo reports that Kutxabank pardoned the Unió Catalan Democratic Party a debt of €9.6 million.

The Region of Murcia will see two airports in operation between 2014 and 2016. Minister of Development Manuel Campos told the regional assembly that Corvera Airport will be opened before the end of 2014, however San Javier airport can not be closed before the end of 2016. Now this does not necessary mean that San Javier will be closed in 2016, although some are doing all they can to close it!

Talent hits a target no one else can hit; genius hits a target no one else can see.
Arthur Schopenhauer

4 What's Up? continued

In a large operation, the Guardia Civil Nature Protection Service, Seprona, arrested 17 hunters in the Doñana Nature Park in Andalucía. The area the hunters operated in contains a large deployment of the Iberian Lynx. The Police became involved after two Lynxes were shot dead and another had its foot amputated by a snare. The hunters had weapons, silencers, six lanterns, seven knives, eight Tupperware containers to transport the meat. 34 snares, four cage traps, four deer, one wild boar, 14 trophies of roe deer, cartridges of different calibre, a hunting dog, four goldfinch chicks and 13 goldfinch eggs. Seprona say the dogs are selected generation after generation and trained to hunt wild boar, and if they fail to meet the hunter's expectations, they are abandoned, and become savage packs which are especially dangerous to the Iberian Lynx, particularly after new births. There are only approx. 100 of these animals remaining in the wild, with just 20 in captivity.



The vice-president of the European Investment Bank, Magdalena Álvarez (photo), has resigned. If she hadn't, she would have been sacked! Álvarez was indicted in 2013 by Judge Mercedes Alaya who was investigating the multi-million fraudulent ERE unemployment payments in Andalucía. The judge considered Álvarez was associated with the misuse of public funds and prevarication when she was the Socialist Economy and Hacienda boss in the Junta. Her appeal against her indictment was thrown out of the Sevilla Provincial Court at the beginning of May. The European Investment Bank Ethics Committee has warned 'a risk to their reputation' had Magdalena Álvarez continued in her post, following her indictment in this ERE fraud. But don't feel too sorry for her. El Mundo reports that Álvarez will now be paid €10,000 a month until she retires!



According to auditors, the Prado Museum in Madrid, one of the world's biggest art galleries, cannot find 885 of its art pieces. In the 1980s, the Prado gave around 350 canvases up for lost. A decade later, the inventory showed that 500 artworks had gone missing or possibly been destroyed. Stock control there has been a shambles and there is no doubt that in such an environment, many pieces have ended up in private collections. In a clear example of 'shutting the stable door after the horse has bolted,' the Prado now has an action plan to check the works lent to other institutions in Spain (and possibly abroad), together with assessing their condition and security.

The government is to spend €16 million on child poverty, a serious problem in Spain. The funds are to be shared among the regions, but whereas the Spanish north African enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla will get around €150 per child, the figure is only €2 per child in Andalucía and €2.25 per child in Catalonia, a negligible amount I am sure you agree.

A special unit of the National Police travelled from Madrid to Elche and there arrested 40 people. They are believed to have been involved in a sophisticated fraudulent scheme relating to tele-marketing. The company, TeleGes, is alleged to have been acting in an illegal way for 15 years. In what is very unusual for a police investigation in Spain, there have been very few leaks about the investigation. You can put this down to the local police not being involved. All too often, details of criminal cases, including murders, leak out hindering the investigations.

11 different regional courts in Spain have banned the sale here of Schweppes tonic manufactured in the UK. Group Schweppes España state that it is because the product has not been manufactured by the legitimate holder of the brand licence in Spain. People had been importing the British product because it was cheaper. So much for the European rule on the free movement of goods, but the European Court of Justice has said the free movement of goods can be stopped in certain cases, including when a company has the right to intellectual property.

I have always believed that the 'notary' in Spain, generally just adds another unnecessary bureaucratic and expensive hurdle to most legal transactions. However, a well known notary in Sevilla attracted much unfavourable attention some weeks ago when a pyramid scheme he operated together with his own borrowings, ran up a €50 million debt. This resulted in the man shooting himself rather than face his 300 creditors. The matter came to a head when a couple of the investors, a construction company and Sevilla University, went to collect €5.5 million they deposited three years ago, only to find that the pot was dry! There was speculation that if the said notary, Pedro Romero, had not 'topped' himself, there were plenty of angry creditors lining up to do so.

The Competition Authority has detected more anomalies in the electricity auction in December 2013. The validation/audit of the first auction showed consumers paid an extra €392 million.

The confession of a top civil servant in the Junta de Andalucía has implicated not only the giant UGT trade union, but also the equally large and powerful CCOO trade union, together with the employers' association in the fraudulent re-training program. This is a multi-million fraud, the largest in Spain, where government money destined for retraining of the unemployed was diverted to other uses, particularly private coffers! A statement from the Guardia Civil said they believed the massive UGT union in Andalucía was fundamentally financed by fake invoices.

Last month, the National Police arrested a 51-year-old Dutch man in Santa Pola. It was an international arrest warrant issued by Germany. In an ingenious fraud using the internet, this Dutch chap gained access to 52,737 bank accounts. He then organised payments - 88,061 in all - from these accounts to his own, but kept the amount taken from each account at €19.95. Amounts of this size would not always create suspicion. I would guess he probably used fake direct debits. German police believe he made more than €1.7 million out of the scheme. This chap may have been hoping to enjoy his early retirement on the Costa Blanca eating prawns and paella, but it is likely that he will now spend the next ten years eating sauerkraut and wurst in some German prison.

And speaking of 'bandits,' do you know that the Spanish banks net €3.2 billion annually from their customers in respect of cash card withdrawal charges? A study of a number of affluent European countries including France, the UK, Italy Holland and Sweden, revealed that the Spanish banks' commissions on cash withdrawal are the highest. This equates to €70 annually per inhabitant - man, woman, child and baby, in Spain. The worst offenders were identified as Bankia (Why is it their name keeps popping up?) and CaixaBank. Bankia are offering their customers two free cash withdrawals monthly this summer, which is so incredibly generous of them!

The numbers of drowning's during the summer season continues to be tragic and too high. In just one day, Monday July 28th, there were three drowning's in Murcia alone. Two in private swimming pools and one in the sea. A 79-year-old woman drowned in the sea at Cartagena, and an 8-year-old and a 30-year-old drowned in swimming pools.

The Heist.

Two robbers broke into a Glasgow lodging house. Once they were inside, a tremendous fight ensued. Bruised and bleeding, they finally emerged by the back window. "We didnae do so bad," said one. "We came oot wi twenty pounds." "Aye" said the other, "But we went in wi fifty."

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I joined Bachelors Anonymous. Every time I feel like getting married they send round a woman in curlers to nag me for a while.

Pedro Ángel Hernández Mateo, the former PP mayor of Torrevieja, has lost his appeal against a three year prison sentence. Pedro (photo), had been mayor for 23 years, but received the jail sentence, together with a seven-year ban on public service in November 2012, for prevarication and document falsification - all linked to the awarding of the town's €7.8 million rubbish and street cleaning contract. He is now obliged to report and commence his jail sentence before the end of July. The only way he can now escape the jail sentence is on the grounds of ill health. As he has had a pacemaker fitted, expect some last minute fancy legal footwork. However, Pedro is also under investigation for alleged influence peddling concerning a €4 million land purchase deal in nearby Almoradi. I have just heard that Mateo will be going to the prison in Villena. Big Gay Juan in Alicante clink is said to be 'gutted.'



Mateo is only one of three PP (Partido Popular) politicians to have their jail sentences confirmed during the last few weeks. See page 11 for the others. The PP mayor of Torre Pacheco, Daniel Garcia Madrid, has resigned after he was banned from public office for ten years because of the manipulation of public contracts for several years. A number of PP politicians in Orihuela, including former mayor Monica Lorente and current local PP president Pepa Ferando, are also being investigated for contract rigging. But being investigated does not mean you are guilty. Of the more than 140 corruption cases being handled in Valencian courts at present, 40 of them (30%) are being investigated in Orihuela. A den of thieves?

There has been - if you pardon the expression - a bit of a 'cock-up' in the Costa Calida town hall of Vera. The geniuses on the council have just published an ordinance prohibiting topless or nudity in public places. But they forgot that Vera has one of the most famous nudist beaches in the world. In 2014, they appeared in the Guinness Book of Records for having the largest number of nudist bathers at one time. You can see a video of it here, but be warned! After watching it, I have been unable to face a breakfast sausage since! See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fbySUFpgK0o>

Anyway, the town 'burghers' have finally woken up to reality and confessed that 'a mistake' has been made and promised to 'rectify the situation.' In the annual Madrid International Tourism Fair, FITUR - the most important tourism fare in Spain, Vera officials promoted nudity as the 'queen' of tourism in the town, both historically and now; so who knows what went wrong: probably Spanish bureaucracy. As an aside, you may or not wish to know that Vera also held the first cross-country nudist run last year. All those dangly bits swinging about.....I shudder!

Información in Alicante reports that the average age for new mothers to give birth in the province is 30. Birth rates are as low as ten years ago making a larger population of the elderly. Mothers, who are 40 are over, are responsible for 5% of the births recorded. The number of births has fallen for the fifth consecutive year and stands at levels similar to the 2002. What is happening in the province of Alicante in terms of births is merely a reflection of what is happening in the remainder of the country.

In a most unusual occurrence in Torrevieja, fishermen who were due to carry the *Virgen del Carmen* statue for the fiesta of the same name on July 15, 'dumped' the *Virgen*, so that they could go fishing! (You know the feeling, girls!) The problem was a large shoal of fish was reported on the same day so the fishermen had to support their families together with the local fish markets. They apologised for the cancellation and the procession was held the following day.



Zenia Boulevard have regular entertainment events daily during the summer. You can checkout forthcoming events at their website. The events tend to cater mainly to the Spanish but are still very enjoyable. See <http://zeniaboulevard.es/gbr/events>

Although the population of Torrevieja can rise to around 400,000 during the summer season, there have been complaints from the Local Police that they have had only four policemen on the night shift one weekend in July.

But the police in that town have been a very unhappy bunch for some time now. They have many grievances and complain that they have no current labour agreement. There is some truth in it that the Torrevieja burghers are more interested in flashy fiestas than in things as mundane as 'Law & Order.' In June you may recall that several policemen had slogans painted on their torsos, which they bared during a council meeting. But their latest attention grabber was when one policeman was 'crucified' to a cross and raised by 10 metres by a crane to just outside the meeting room window where the town council were having a meeting. Chaos ensued as councillors rushed to the window to capture the 'Kodak moment.' See photo right. I am not sure about the 'ins & outs' of the police problems, but bear in mind that their already meagre wages have been cut for at least two years now due to the austerity measures. I do believe that reducing the wages of urban security forces, will not only lower the standard but also tempt the weaker ones to follow a corrupt path.



An 18-year-old Icelandic youth died after falling from the 'Inferno' ride at Terra Mitica in Benidorm. The ride, which lasts for only about 30 seconds, spins the rider 360 degrees and reaches a speed of 60km/h. It is alleged that his safety harness broke and he fell to the ground. Terra Mitica opened in the year 2000, and this is the first fatal accident recorded there. The 'Inferno' ride was installed in 2007.

In 2005, a 23-year-old man died at the Parque Warner Madrid theme park after sustaining a severe blow to the head, and in 2010 a 15-year-old girl died at Barcelona's Tibidabo funfair after a ride partly collapsed.

Terra Mítica passed into private hands in 2010 after the disastrous management by the Valencia regional government resulted in the amusement park declaring bankruptcy.

The ABC newspaper has pointed out that Chinese tourists spend 76 times more than German tourists do in Spain. I have no idea how they calculate this as I have rarely seen a Chinese person in the supermarkets, or in restaurants - unless they were serving.

A Romanian family of eight all lost their lives while travelling in a van on the AP-7 towards Alicante. Two were young children. A lorry travelling towards Murcia jumped the central reservation and hit the van head-on. Only the lorry driver survived, but is in hospital in a critical but stable condition. The lorry driver tested free of drugs and alcohol.

Attn. Dream Hills Readers.

Please note that the post boxes in Dream Hills are not secure. Our new credit cards were found on the ground down by the children's play area a couple of weeks ago. It must have been youths who raided the boxes on this occasion as an adult criminal would have kept the cards and sold them on. A proposal to increase the security of the mailboxes was rejected at the last AGM!

Which is the odd-one-out? Corned beef, soya bean or a vibrator? Corned beef, because the other two are meat substitutes.



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VIA PARK III

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LIME BAR GOLF SOCIETY, LOS ALTOS, ORIHUELA COSTA

The golf society's venue for the 9th July 2014 was held at the Las Colinas Golf and Country Club.

This was Captain's Day and thirty-two players teed-off with half starting on the 10th on a warm day and the course in excellent condition. The buggies recently fitted with a sat nav' system helped the players with their positions and the scoring as they were favourable results.

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

Nearest the Pin on the 4th Hole (par 4) in 2 shots was Digger.

Nearest the Pin on the 5th hole (par 3) was Ken Sutton.

Nearest the Pin on the 7th hole (par 3) was M. McVittie.

Nearest the Pin on the 12th hole (par 4) in 2 shots E. Aldred.

Nearest the Pin on the 14th hole (par 3) in 2 shots was Mick Slater.

Nearest the Pin on the 16th hole (par 4) in 2 shots was Dave Railton

Nearest the Pin on the 17th hole (par 3) in 2 shots was Bill Denne

Blind Pairs, drawing two completed score cards and the highest and lowest combined scores being the winners and losers respectively, resulting in the Captain's Trophy being won by E. Aldred and Les Henderson with a score of 60.

2nd was Dave Everson, El Bandido in the Mexican hat, and J Mc Ginn with a score of 59. 3rd was Pat Heaney and G Skelland with a score of 59 on count-back. In 14th were Nev. Greenwood and A Small, 15th Pete Rushton and Bob Adair, 16th V. Mc Leavy and Alan Jackson.

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 meal. Anyone wishing to join our friendly society just needs to phone Mick on 659866468.



The Pope is in Liverpool handing out miracles to the good and honest law abiding people at his first night 'SELL-OUT.'

First one up (Bad Billy) stands in front of the Pope tells him his name, Pope says 'How can I help you Billy?'

Billy says, 'Can you help me with my hearing?'. The Pope places his hands over Billy's ears, says a prayer and blesses him.

'How's your hearing now Billy?' Billy said 'I don't know, it doesn't come up 'till next week!'

Other News

The Emir of Qatar has reportedly agreed to roll out €2.2 billion to convert **Barcelona's monumental bullring** into a 40,000-capacity mosque, the biggest in Europe, by 2020, if the city council approves the project. The building would include a 300m high minaret which may become the third largest in the world after those in Mecca and Medina. According



to the Statistics Department of Barcelona's Town Council, at least 500,000 Muslims were living in Barcelona in 2012. But despite this significant number, the city has only several small houses of worship for Muslims.

The President of the PP group in the City Hall, Alberto Fernández Díaz,

considers a project such as this 'is not suitable for a city like Barcelona with some promoters who defend principles clearly contrary to our own.'

According to the National Statistics Institute, the **average annual salary** in Spain fell by 0.8% in 2012 to €22,726.44, although the most frequent salary paid was around €15,500. Explaining the difference between average and most frequent, the Institute said there are far more workers on a lower wage. The difference in wages between men and women in 2012 reduced but still remains a large difference. The average annual wage for men is €25,283 while for women it is 76.1% of that figure at €19,537. The number of people on the minimum wage has doubled since 2004. According to the Institute, 12 out of every 100 Spanish employees are on the minimum.

According to a report by the European Commission, the **three things which work worst** in Spain are bank accounts, mortgages and mobile phones. They have classified 52 products and services on the market on a scale of 1 to 100 in a poll of consumers. The three items mentioned, register a high level of problems and score low in confidence, expectation and comparability. The three best things in Spain are reported to be non-alcoholic drinks, milk products, together with books, magazines and newspapers.

Málaga has a number of **beach by-laws** which can catch the unwary. *Por ejemplo*, if you take your dog to the beach, or have a barbeques in the sand, or fish in the afternoon, or take your music player to the beach, it will attract a fine. The selling of food or drink by individuals is also considered a serious fine as is any activity which will dirty the sand. Playing football or any other game that can molest the public will not be fined if a distance of at least six metres is created from the game to the sunbathers. The use of shampoo and soap in the showers and foot bathers is also prohibited. Fines range from €301 to €3,000 depending on the seriousness. Last year Málaga collected €5,800 in fines. But don't think you can get away with these activities on your local beach. The city councils tend to copy the legislation of those local authorities who have got their 'legislative ordinance' published.

Administrators of the former privately owned **Ciudad Real Airport** have lowered the asking price for the sale of the bankrupt facility to €80 million. Despite a total of seven failed attempts at selling the airport, the process began in December of 2013 when offers of more than EU100 Mln were invited, with the deadline being extended each time bids were not forthcoming. In mid-July, the Commercial Court of Ciudad Real approved the lowering of the asking price from €90 million to €80 million, in order to attract further interested parties for a period of two months. The former owners of Spain's first privately owned airport filed for Bankruptcy over four years ago after having invested some €410 million in the facility.

Ciudad Real Airport - also known as Don Quixote Airport - is located 200 km south of Madrid and initially intended as a "hub" alternative to the airlines, who wanted to offer new routes near the Spanish capital. However, the city of just 75,000 could only attract 100,000 passengers during its first 3 years of operation, causing economic troubles ahead of the airport closing in 2012.

Smart Cookie: Eleven people were hanging from a rope under a helicopter - ten men and one woman. The rope was not strong enough to carry them all, so they decided that one has to let go, otherwise they're all going to die. They were not able to choose that person, but then the woman made a very touching speech. She said that she would voluntarily let go of the rope, because as a woman she was used to giving up everything for her husband and kids, and for men in general, without ever getting anything in return. As soon as she finished her speech, all the men started clapping

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I played with my grandfather a lot when I was a kid. He was dead, but my parents had him cremated and put his ashes in my Etch-a-Sketch.

Alan Harvey



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IDIOT OF THE MONTH AWARD.

This month we will focus primarily on events relating to the bull-running in Pamplona. This world famous event has lost none of its stupidity or indeed danger, over the years. The copious amounts of alcohol consumed by the runners and fatigue induced by lack of sleep (most sleep out in the open) meant that many were not in any shape to outwit the attention of one ton of muscled fighting bull.

Much publicised was the photo taken of a chap who, running from the front, decided to take a 'selfie,' see photo. Brave? Or just very, very stupid. The police tried unsuccessfully to find the man, who they were going to fine €3,000 for reckless behaviour. Thankfully, there were no fatalities this year although there were plenty of injuries, some from horrendous goings. Getting gored in the stomach, groin or indeed anywhere, is not a memory anyone would want. Most of the injuries suffered during the fiesta were falls when running from the bulls. And then of course there were the falls...after being tossed 20 feet into the air by a frenzied bull!



During the eight consecutive days of running, a total of 42 people were taken to hospital. Among them, eight men who were gored, including three foreigners -- American Bill Hillmann, 32, of Chicago, and two Australians, ages 26 and 24. In another incident, a 23-year-old American was seriously assaulted by a 41-year-old Spaniard. The young man, who suffered a brain haemorrhage, is in hospital and the Spaniard was arrested.



But one thing about these events in Spain is that they often introduce us to a situation which helps illustrate the German term 'schadenfreude.'* In this case it was Buffalo Bill Hillman from Chicago. 32-year-old Bill, is co-author of the book, 'How to survive the bulls of Pamplona.' This year was Bill's

tenth consecutive year at the Pamplona Bull Run, and although he was keen to illustrate his 'survival' theories, a 600 kilo black bull from the *Victoriano del Rio* stud, obviously had other ideas. This massive bull, who we will call 'Blackey' had not read Bill's book and during the run on June 10, Blackey gored Bill not once but twice - and quite deeply - in the buttocks and upper thigh. Buffalo Bill (photo) was carried away on a stretcher and will doubtlessly add a new chapter to the next edition of his book.....probably on Spanish hospitals and nurses. That is, once he is able to sit down again and type!



(*schadenfreude - the pleasure derived from the misfortunes of others.)

But the French police must surely get an honourable mention this month. During a training exercise, the police hid some plastic explosives (PE) in the cargo section of Marseilles Airport. However pallets were moved during the exercise and neither the police nor the specially trained dogs could find the explosives. Several red faces and weeks later, the authorities are trying to play down the episode saying that the PE was 'probably' not stolen and was not dangerous unless you had a detonator. So next time you get a parcel from Amazon or DHL, do check it out.....carefully! (PE is actually very stable, or so my grandad said.....before he blew himself up!)



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Little Jane's Tea Party.

One day my mummy was out, and my dad was in charge of me. I was maybe 2 1/2 years old. Someone had given me a little 'tea set' as a gift, and it was one of my favourite toys. Daddy was in the living room engrossed in the evening news when I brought him a little cup of 'tea', which was just water. After several cups of tea and lots of praise for such yummy tea, my mom came home. My dad made her wait in the living room to watch me bring him a cup of tea, because it was 'just the cutest thing!' Mom waited, and sure enough, here I came down the hall with a cup of tea for Daddy; and she watched him drink it up. Then she said, (as only a mother would know), "Did it ever occur to you that the only place she can reach to get water, is the toilet?"

A SELECTION OF SCUMBAGS!

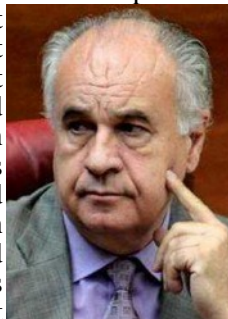
A bank manager in eastern Spain has been charged with cheating a partially blind 93-year-old out of €27,000 by fooling him into signing a document which granted her access to his savings. The elderly man, who has other serious health issues, suspected he had been the victim of some form of fraud as he could make out that the document he had signed was blank. Two days after visiting his local bank branch in the Valencian city of Villareal, the pensioner took the bank document to the police.

Officers informed him the sheet of paper was a withdrawal slip for €27,000, an action he had not requested from the bank manager or other staff. According to local daily El Mercantil Valenciano, bank staff "gave excuses" and "showed opposition" when police officers requested the relevant documents for their investigation.

Four bank employees have so far been charged with fraud as well as a family member of one of them who is also thought to have benefited from the illicit deal.

Police haven't ruled out the possibility that other cons may have been carried out by the same people on other vulnerable or elderly bank customers. (The Local)

And on to Rafael Blasco (photo right). Blasco started his political life as a member of the Spanish Communist Party, PCE. He then moved on to the Communist Movement (MC) and later FRAP, an anti fascist revolutionary left wing group. He then joined the main stream socialist party, the PSOE. When the Socialists ran the Valencia Region he was appointed Minister of Public Works and Urbanism. Four years later he was charged with accepting bribes for rezoning land. He would have been jailed but an incriminating wiretap was found to have been obtained illegally, so he went free, although the Socialists expelled him from the party.



Blasco then did an 'about-turn' in politics and moved from the left to the party of the right - the Partido Popular (PP). Here he was accepted with open arms and rose to a number of senior and powerful positions, particularly during the tenure of President Camps, who walked free from the 'Suits Scandal' but still resigned from the presidency. Eventually Blasco was appointed Minister of Solidarity and Citizenship. This was the department that approved aid to developing countries, which included Latin American, African and Asian countries. Although six million euros was approved for distribution to the most wretched in these countries including Haiti, very little if any funds reached them. It appears that Blasco and his associates used the funds to purchase property in Valencia. The case commenced in 2012 and Blasco has now received an eight year jail sentence for fraud, the misuse of public funds, influence peddling, administrative prevarication and a continued crime of official document falsification. Eight others were also jailed. A number of government employees who worked under Blasco and refused to carry out his illegal instructions were either sacked or moved on to other jobs and more compliant workers appointed to the positions. Because of his previous status, Blasco can now appeal to the Supreme Court, which means at least another year before he goes to jail.

Next it's Carlos Fabra, ex-PP President of Castellón and of the Provincial Government (photo-left). After a ten-year investigation and nine different judges, Fabra has now received a four-year jail sentence and a fine of €1.98 million. He was found guilty of defrauding more than €93,000 from the public treasury between 1999 and 2003. (He said he got the money from several lottery wins!) Once again, because of his political seniority, he can appeal to the Supreme Court. This will again take at least a year.



*I joined an anti-social networking site.
It's called Shuturfacebook.*



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Gas Natural Fenosa are now beginning to extend the natural gas pipeline to parts of the Dream Hills urbanisation.

At the moment, the heavily incentivised and attractive installation offer is still available, but it will undoubtedly be withdrawn once the pipework is completed.

Adopting a wait-and-see attitude will cost you money! If you are still undecided about whether to have it installed or not on your property, I would urge you to 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 any obligation on your part.

They can also be contacted at - comercialelecnor@gmail.com

Remember, you can have two gas connections, say one to a boiler and another to your cooker, for a connection fee of just €21!

But, if you cannot decide yet whether you want a connection inside your home, you can still opt to have a gas connection just to your garden or patio. This will cost just approx. €2.25 per month. This keeps your options open for the future and would also mean that you would not have to pay a connection charge to your property, which would be well in excess of €1,000! That is, if they were prepared to do isolated cases.

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Robert Benchley, telegram sent on his arrival in Venice.

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Lil' Old Lady.

A little old lady was walking down the street dragging two large plastic rubbish bags behind her. One of the bags was ripped and every once in a while a \$20 note fell out onto the pavement. Noticing this, a policeman stopped her, and said, "Ma'am, there are \$20 notes falling out of that bag."

"Oh, really? Darn it!" said the little old lady. "I'd better go back and see if I can find them. Thanks for telling me officer."

"Well, now, not so fast," said the cop. "Where did you get all that money? You didn't steal it, did you?"

"Oh, no, no", said the old lady. "You see, my back garden is right next to a golf course. A lot of golfers come and pee through a knot-hole in my fence, right into my flower garden. It used to really annoy me - kills the flowers, you know. Then I thought, 'why not make the best of it?' So, now, I stand behind the fence by the knot hole, real quiet, with my hedge clippers. Every time some guy sticks his thing through my fence, I surprise him, grab hold of it and say, 'O.K., Give me 20 bucks, or off it comes.'"

"Well, that seems only fair," said the cop, laughing. "OK. Good luck! Oh, by the way, what's in the other bag?"

"Not everyone pays" she replied.

(Brian H.)

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"What is it, Eve?"

"I know that you created me and provided this beautiful garden and all of these wonderful animals, especially that hilarious snake, but I'm just not happy."

"And why is that Eve?"

"Lord, I'm lonely, and I'm sick to death of apples."

"Well, Eve, in that case I have a solution. I shall create a man for you."

"Man? What is that Lord?"

"A flawed creature with many bad traits. He'll lie, cheat and be vain. All in all, he'll give you a hard time, but he'll be bigger and faster than you, and he will love to hunt, fish and bring you good things to eat. I'll create him in such a way that he will satisfy your physical needs. He will be witless, and will revel in childish things like playing cards and knocking a ball around. But he won't be as smart as you, so he will also need your advice to think properly."

"Sounds great," says Eve, with ironically raised eyebrows, "but what's the catch?"

"Well, ... you can have him on one condition."

"And what's that Lord?"

"Well, since he'll be proud, arrogant and self-admiring, you'll have to let him believe that I made him first. And it will have to be our little secret ... you know, woman to woman."

(Brian H.)

If you desire to drain to the dregs the fullest cup of scorn and hatred that a fellow being can pour out for you, let a young mother hear you call her baby 'it'.

Jerome K. Jerome

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The Deal.

Two elderly residents, a man and a woman, were alone in the lounge of their nursing home one evening. The old man looked over and said to the old lady, "I know just what you're wanting. For £5 I'll have sex with you right over there in that rocking chair."

The old lady looked surprised but didn't say a word.

The old man continued, "For £10 I'll do it with you on that nice soft sofa over there, but for £20, I'll take you back to my room, light some candles, and give you the most romantic evening you've ever had in your life."

The old lady still says nothing but after a couple of minutes, starts digging down in her purse. She pulls out a wrinkled £20 bill and holds it up.

"So you want the nice romantic evening in my room," says the old man.

"Get serious," she replies, "four times in the rocking chair!"

Mel Bettell



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(The Telegraph, July 12, 2013)

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Good Ol' Girl!

Two old ladies were sitting on a park bench outside the Ayuntamiento in Orihuela Costa, where a flower show was in progress. One leaned over and said, "Life is so boring, we never have any fun anymore. For €10.00 I'd take off all my clothes and streak through that stupid flower show"

"You're on " said the other old lady, holding up a €10.00 note.

As fast as she could, the first old lady fumbled out of her clothes and completely naked and streaked through the front door of the show. Outside her friend heard a commotion inside the hall, followed by loud applause, the old lady burst through the door surrounded by a cheering crowd. 'How did you go?' asked her friend.

'Great,' she replied. 'I just won first prize as Best Dried Arrangement !!!!!'

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UK FACING 'MAJOR' SPERM SHORTAGE.

It seems that the guys in the UK are just not 'banging them out.' The British Fertility Society (BFS) warns the UK is facing a major sperm shortage that may be tempting fertility clinics to accept poorer quality sperm. Some clinics rely on imported sperm to keep up with demand. However, the BFS chairman, Dr Allan Pacey, said he was "worried" that some clinics may be setting a lower bar to "get donors through the door". He also said women may be subjected to more invasive and expensive techniques if poor quality sperm were used. There are thought to have been fewer sperm donors after the right to anonymity was removed in 2005.



The demand for donors has been falling as advances in fertility treatment let more men father their own children. However, a shortage of donors has still emerged. Figures from the fertility regulator, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA), show nearly one in four donated sperm samples is from abroad. The figure was one in 10 in 2005.

Sperm banks in Denmark and the US are the major suppliers. Professor Yakoub Khalaf, of the assisted conception unit at Guy's Hospital in London, commented: "We are now more reliant on external sperm banks than ever before. (Source:BBC)

So come on you guys. Grab last month's copy of 'Health and Efficiency,' retire to a quiet corner (no, not the local library or bar) and remember, you are NOT doing it for pleasure, but for Queen & Country.

White Man Dumb!

Indian Chief "Two Eagles" was asked by a white U.S. government official, "You have observed the white man for 90 years. You've seen his wars and his technological advances. You've seen his progress, and also the damages he's done."

The Chief nodded in agreement.

The official continued, "Considering all these events, in your opinion, where did the white man go wrong?"

The Chief stared at the government official for over a minute and then calmly replied:

"When white man find land, Indians running it, no taxes, no debt, plenty buffalo, plenty fish, clean water

Women did all the work, Indian man spend all day hunting and fishing; all night having sex.'

Then the chief leaned back and smiled "Only white man dumb enough to think he could improve system like that."

Mel Bettell

SPAIN'S GRADUATES 'NOT WORKPLACE READY' ACCORDING TO THE OECD.

Spain's university graduates leave "a lot to be desired" when it comes to basic skills like reading comprehension and maths knowledge, the head of the OECD warned during a conference in Madrid on Monday.

Besides the problems of massive unemployment and a sluggish economy, Spain has an "alarming" situation on its hands when it comes to education and training, according to the secretary general of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Angel Gurría, a Mexican who heads up the organization of 34 developed nations said that "despite progress in terms of student participation, the quality of Spanish university education is a long way behind that of other countries.

"There is no [Spanish] university in the international rankings," he added.

Looking at the results of the OECD's recent examination of skills and knowledge among adults – the PIACC test – Gurría said that Spain "left a lot to be desired" in reading comprehension, mathematics and problem solving, where Spanish graduates fare no better than high school students in Japan.

The PIACC results showed that Spanish graduates under the age of 30 have one of the lowest rates of reading competency among the 22 participating countries.

According to Spain's Publico newspaper, Gurría highlighted what the OECD considers a disconnect between higher education – with its "strong theoretical slant" – and the Spanish labour market. Given that Spain's graduates face such a "difficult transition to the labour market," Gurría told his audience at the CYD Foundation that it is imperative to design a strategy to improve their abilities.

Poorly trained or otherwise, the current grim reality for Spain's graduates was laid bare at the event by the presentation of the CYD Foundation's annual report, which shows that one third of people with degrees are doing a job for which they are overqualified. According to the report, this figure puts Spain at the head of the European over-qualification table, followed closely by Ireland and Cyprus, which are also well above the European Union average of 20%.

According to the daily El País, the foundation's data also reveals that six% of graduates occupy unskilled posts, meaning some 70,000 of the country's highly educated people are serving drinks, mopping the floor or doing other menial labour.

(The Local.)

The Jane & Neil Karaoke-Disco Show.

I suppose in the 60's we would have called it 'a happening!' Something that would raise the hairs on the back of your neck and remain a memory for a long, long time.

The architect of this was our mate (and Fuggy's) Alan, who brought his handsome son, Simon Schofield, Simon's equally handsome friend Scott Garnham, together with their two stunning girlfriends, to Jane & Neil's Karaoke one hot Wednesday evening in July at Jilly's in Lago Jardin 2. Now, suffice it to say that the Gays and the Heteros there were equally distracted by the newcomers, but what they did not know was that Simon and Scott are professional singers who perform in the West End regularly, throughout the UK and internationally. No, they are not pop singers, so you won't hear them with the rest of that shite on local radio! (Google them and check out YouTube.)

Towards the end of the evening Simon and Scott each sang a different song from the Queen repertoire. They were amazing and, unusual for a Spanish bar, you could hear a pin drop. What a night!

Jane & Neil's Karaoke Show is just the best. You can catch them on Wednesdays at Jilly's at Lago Jardin 2; at Bentors in Los Balcones on Fridays; at The Phoenix at Via Park V on Thursdays & Sundays and at Los lobos in Via Park III on Tuesdays & Saturdays.

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The Reply.

A Lancashire farm couple scrimped and saved and sent their son to Oxford University for both education and travel. The youth decided to grow both a moustache and a goatee. Thinking to surprise his parents, he sent a snapshot back home with the caption, "Do you think I now look like a Count?"

The Father wrote back, "Here we are spending a fortune on your education and your spelling hasn't improved one bit."

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COURTS IN TURMOIL.

Over 50 alleged drug smugglers who had previously been released from detention will now have to return to prison, the latest blow to new Spanish laws which prevent judges from trying international cases. The drug traffickers, captured by Spanish in international waters by Spanish authorities, had originally been freed after Spain's National Court ruled Spain did not have the power to prosecute them.

That ruling came after the Spanish Parliament green-lighted the country's controversial new Universal Justice Law which prevents Spanish judges from trying crimes committed outside Spain. The reversal came after there were strong objections from Chinese diplomats.

But the Supreme Court ruled unanimously on Wednesday to uphold an appeal from a prosecutor hoping to try 13 Egyptian citizens and eight Syrians suspected of transporting huge hashish shipments.

Existing international treaties allow Spain to prosecute drug suspects captured in international waters, according to Spain's national TV broadcaster RTVE. The decision is a serious blow to the new Universal Justice Law which could have lead to shelving of high profile international cases including investigations into allegations of Chinese genocide in Tibet in the 1980s and 1990s and US torture at their military prison facility at Cuba's Guantanamo Bay.

The new law has also been challenged by National Court judge Santiago Pedraz who has said he won't stop investigating the 2003 death of Spanish cameraman José Couso in Iraq. Couso was one of three journalists killed on April 8th 2003 in Baghdad during the US invasion of the city.

Explaining his ruling, Pedraz said he was obliged to pursue the case under the Fourth Geneva Convention, ratified by Spain, which deals with the protection of civilians during war time.

All this of course has led to the Justice Minister, Gallardon, having considerable egg on his face. Public and judicial outcry concerning the proposed new Abortion Law has also sent them back to the 'drawing board.' They appear to be very badly advised.

TWO CHINESE - TAKEN AWAY!

In recent weeks, police have closed down a couple of Chinese mafia-type operations in Madrid. Each of the operations was headed by a woman. One operation specialised in illegal clinics, the other in extortion at casinos. During a police raid in the south of the capital, where a large part of the Chinese community is concentrated, police dismantled six premises masquerading as clinics, arrested eight Chinese nationals, seized 300 'medical instruments' - many rusty - and confiscated 148,000 contraband tablets. This operation, which was headed by a Dr. Huang (photo - left) and her husband, specialised in abortions. But another Chinese doctor - Dr. Chen - in the area started a price war on abortions with the Huangs. Chen would charge €750 for the initial consultation and €120 for the abortion, Dr. Huang would charge €60 for the consultation and €90 for the abortion. Police also found an ancient vacuum cleaner in Huang's flat which was also used for abortions. It still had 'material' inside it!



There are an estimated 80,000 Chinese in Madrid, and they are very secretive about their lives, many preferring to receive medical services from their own race. Dr. Huang had a buoyant trade, accepting Chinese patients only, and there was a two-day waiting list just to be seen.

The other operation was headed by the attractive 32-year-old, Ling Yin Fen (photo right). Ling Yin targeted the Chinese poker and mahjong players in official or unofficial venues but particularly her countrymen and women who visited the Torrelodones Casino in Madrid. Together with four or five other young women, they would float around the casino and would always be there when one of their 'marks' ran out of money. They would then offer a loan of between 5,000 and 15,000 euros, with interest at the rate of 10% per day! The victim would sign for the loan on a coaster, a napkin, cigarette packet or whatever, and hand over their ID or passport. Ling Fen would then distribute the chips or money to her female associates in the ladies room at the casino, which was the only area not covered by security cameras. Most of their customers repaid the loans, but those who didn't were passed on to her husband, Xian Xian Ruan and his men, who would use death threats on family, beatings, limb amputations, abductions etc., to encourage repayment.



The gang would also hold gambling sessions in hotel rooms. These would usually involve four players, three of which belonged to the gang and one 'fall guy,' who was always fleeced!

Police arrested 31 people in connection with the extortion and seven were imprisoned. They also seized €800,000 in cash, €1.2 million in Bills of Exchange and cheques totalling €630,000. Police also 'froze' 50 properties, 45 vehicles and blocked 550 bank accounts, which indicated a turnover of more than €75 million.

At the Pearlies.

A Texan arrived at the Pearly Gates, "Have you ever done anything of particular merit?" asked St Peter.

"Well, I can think of one thing," the man offered. "On a trip to the Big Horn Mountains out in Wyoming, I came upon a gang of Hell's Angels bikers who were threatening a young woman. I directed them to leave her alone, but they wouldn't listen. So, I approached the largest and most tattooed biker, smacked him in the mouth, kicked his bike over and also ripped out his nose-ring and threw it on the ground. I yelled at all of them: "Now, back off or I'll kick the **** out of all of you!"

St Peter was somewhat impressed and asked "When did this take place?"

"Couple of minutes ago." Lee Bell

•I woke up last night to find the ghost of Gloria Gaynor standing at the foot of my bed. At first I was afraid... then I was petrified.

•A woman went to the counter to purchase a drinking bowl for her dog. The clerk asked, "Would you like it inscribed 'For The Dog'?"

"It doesn't really matter," the woman answered. "My husband doesn't drink water and the dog can't read."

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A man wakes up after spending 20 years in a coma. One of the first thing he does is ring his stockbroker. 'Your assets have increased considerably,' says the stockbroker. 'The €20,000 you had invested with us is now worth €20 million!' 'That's fantastic,' says the man. Just then the phone starts bleeping and a recorded voice interrupts, 'To continue this conversation please insert another €500,000.'

DOUBLE TAXATION IN SPAIN - NEW RULES.

The UK and Spain have had a Double Taxation Convention for some time, but the new treaty only came into force in June with further rules covering income tax and other taxes kicking in on January 1 and April 6, 2015.

"The new treaty is especially relevant to individuals and companies who are tax residents in Spain, but who draw income from the UK, as well as those who split their time between the two, perhaps paying tax in both," says Richard Way, Editor of the Overseas Guides Company.

"For example, the new treaty could affect the amount of tax certain expat pensioners' pay."

Government service pensions paid to retired members of the fire service, police, civil servants, armed forces and local authorities are exempt from Spanish tax. Under the new treaty the amount of the pension is still exempt but must be included when calculating how much tax is due in Spain. This could have the effect of pushing any other income - perhaps from investments and rent - into a higher tax bracket meaning you'd have to pay more tax in Spain. The new Spanish 'disclosure' rules mean that Spanish residents and expats living in Spain will also have to declare all relevant overseas assets worth more than €50,000. This includes bank accounts, property and life assurance policies.

"Tax authorities are now openly sharing information about citizens' taxable assets in order to claim unpaid tax," says Rachael Griffin, head of technical marketing at Skandia.

"For Spanish residents who have been declaring their assets already, this should simply be an extra administrative burden. However, for those who have not been declaring assets up until this point there is a potential for a significant tax charge and fine. Individuals in this situation should seek professional advice as soon as possible"

And in a move that's led to mutterings of a new Spanish Inquisition, the Spanish authorities have started automatically taking tax debts from people's bank accounts.

The above is an extract from the following link, which contains more information - <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/expat-money/10967870/Dont-get-caught-out-by-new-Spain-tax-laws.html>

Remember to seek the assistance of a competent professional before making any important decisions on taxation, asset declaration, etc.

LATE TAX RETURNS.

The deadline for submitting your Spanish tax return was June 30. If you are late in submitting the return, it is described as 'untimely' and you have to pay a fine, depending on how late it was.


-In the three months from June 30: 5% of the tax payable is fined.

-Between 3 and 6 months, the fine is 10% of the tax payable.

-Between 6 and 12 months, it is 15% of the amount to be paid.

-More than 12 months: 20% of the amount payable is fined.


We pay our tax in two instalments annually, first in June and the other in November. One year we were a few days late with the November instalment and the fine was taken automatically from our account. If there are insufficient funds in your account, you can be charged an additional €100! If you have a problem in meeting the deadlines, you should tell the Hacienda beforehand. They can reduce these charges in certain circumstances, but if you do not keep to their new datelines, the penalties increase.



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The Scottish Rooster.

A Scottish farmer buys a rooster. It's an extremely energetic wee rooster and takes its job very seriously. It'll have a go at chickens, ducks, crows -- it's so fast and horny that it even tries to impregnate the barnyard cat. The farmer loves it because the chickens are laying eggs like nobody's business.

Unfortunately, it escapes early one morning when the farmer went into the pen to feed the chickens. Last he sees of it, its disappearing over the hills.

A few days later, he's still bemoaning his bad luck at losing the wee rooster when he notices a couple of vultures circling overhead. "Jeez!" he says. "It never rains but it pours. Now one of the farmyard animals must have died."

He goes to check, and finds the wee rooster, lying on its back, its wee legs in the air, its eyes closed, and it's neck twisted at an awkward angle.

"Ah, ya poor wee sod," he says. "You've screwed yourself to death!" The wee rooster opens one eye, sneaks a peek at the circling vultures, and whispers, "Shhhh!.....They'll be down in a minute!"

I said to my Tax Inspector, 'Have a heart!' He took it.

Bob Monkhouse



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HOW TO SLEEP IN THE SPANISH HEAT.

The weather for the last few weeks has been scorching and we have yet to enjoy the burning heat of a Spanish August. I have to say that I don't have a problem with this. We have several air conditioning units in our house; including one we recently had placed in the kitchen, so we can always enjoy a cool environment. Many people don't like A/C units because of the noise; cost; it makes them cough; etc., etc. But modern technology has made great improvements to these units in recent years, with most A/C units now quiet and efficient, but like most things, you get what you pay for. (See Keith's advert on page 2 of this issue.)

But if you don't have or care for air conditioned systems, you may be interested in the following advice which appeared in a recent edition of *El Pais*.

1. Be creative. Come up with methods to stop hot air from entering the room. For instance, point a fan toward the windows, or place a bowl full of ice or very cold water in front of the fan to cool the air further. A damp sheet placed over the window also helps.

2. Wear light pajamas. That's the advice from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), though you can also sleep naked if you like. It's a question of preference. According to a study by the Association of American Cotton Producers Cotton USA carried out in the UK, 57 percent of people who sleep naked are happier in their relationship with their partner.

3. Apply compresses dipped in lukewarm water on parts of the body most sensitive to heat, such as the neck, elbows, ankles and the backs of the knees. The contact with cool water has a refrigerating effect that triggers a narrowing of the blood vessels, heating up the skin. In turn, the heat cools you down as a result of the difference in the surrounding temperature, explains the CDC.

4. Sleep alone. It's the best thing to stay cool. Sleeping alongside someone else increases your body temperature and makes the bedclothes cling, explains dormir.org.es, a website devoted to sleep problems. What's more, doing so at floor level will make you even cooler as hot air tends to rise.

5. Shower in warm water to reduce your body temperature. This is a good tip for feeling fresh and clean. Many people say that, even though the shock of a cold shower produces an instant feeling of coolness, it reactivates your body and energy consumption, which makes you feel the heat more quickly afterwards than if you had showered in warm water, explains the Biological Health Institute. Also, be sure to keep your feet cool as heat enters the body here. Washing them before you turn in for the night or sleeping with them outside the bed are two good tips.

6. Eat salad for dinner. Avoid big meals and hot dishes such as stews, soups and roast chicken. These force the body to produce more heat in order to digest them. A yogurt, salad or that Spanish summer favourite, cold gazpacho, are perfect for summer nights. And don't forget to drink plenty of water, the WHO says: the body uses it to get rid of heat.

7. Turn off all lights and electronic gadgets completely. Putting them on standby is not enough: they go on using energy and giving off heat, according to the International Energy Agency – between five and 10 percent of what they would use when switched on. Also: replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent ones, which produce the same amount of light but use a fifth of the energy and give off less heat, according to the emergencies centre in Arlington, Virginia.

Lastly, if you are able to sleep out in the open air, do so. Set up a camp on the roof or head out into the country to sleep close to a place next to water (the moisture in the air has a cooling effect), turning a night of stifling heat into one of adventure.

Something for the weekend, sir?

A man went into a chemist and asked for a packet of condoms. The young assistant said, "Sorry we have run out of them, have you tried BOOTS."

The man said, "My dear, I want to slip in - not march in."

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Leroy is a self-made man, which shows what happens when you don't follow directions.
Bill Hoest.

The Car.

A young boy had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss his use of the car.

"I'll make a deal with you," said his father. "You bring your grades up, study your Bible a little, get your hair cut, and then we'll talk."

A month later the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss his use of the car.

"Son, I'm real proud of you. You've brought your grades up and you've studied your Bible, but you didn't get your hair cut!"

"You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that. Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair."

"Yes son, and they walked everywhere they went!"



Above are some of the fifty members of the 501st Legion, Star Wars, resident in Alicante. I auditioned for the part of Jabba the Hutt, but was told I was too fat! The cheek!

As Mel Brooks said, 'May the swartz be with you.'



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HOLIDAY RENTALS - NEW REGULATIONS.

I have touched on some of the issues associated with these in previous issues, but it is worth noting that the different regions are now beginning to tighten the 'regulatory belt' on holiday rentals. The authorities state that the market needs to be regulated, not to prevent the rental of properties, but to ensure that those who compete in the tourist market do so on equal terms and with the same rules of play. But the real reason for the clampdown comes from intense lobbying from the hotel sector and the need to generate additional income from a heretofore relatively untaxed source of income.

Rentals have been coming under increased scrutiny, first in Madrid and then in Barcelona. In late July, the regional government of Madrid approved a new decree relating to holiday rentals entitled *Decreto de Regulación de Apartamentos Turísticos y de las Viviendas de Uso Turístico*.

The new regulations bans private homeowners for renting out their homes for less than five days. It also prevents owners from renting out their primary residence, a blow to the new "sharing" phenomenon spurred by sites like Airbnb. The Madrid law spelled out very specific guidelines for tourist rentals, which will be grouped together in one class, unlike hotels. Holidays rentals must be furnished; provide heating, air conditioning and internet service; and provide tenants with a customer service phone number. Every rental must also display a certificate of accreditation, *cédula de habitabilidad*, with clearly displayed rental rates. Madrid will allow rentals in buildings where there are full-time residents, a divergence from proposals in Barcelona, which is exploring guidelines that would limit short term rentals to buildings completely dedicated to short term rentals. But tourist accommodations in Madrid will be defined as complete properties – not simply a room – and owners will have to register.

The authorities in Barcelona began by scrutinising more than 2,000 websites. They have now opened up 55 disciplinary proceedings, eight of which have resulted in fines of up to €30,000! In Catalonia it is illegal to rent out an individual room or rooms in your house while living there. The giant rental portal, Airbnb, was fined €30,000 by the regional government and told to remove its adverts or the Generalitat would shut the portal down. Barcelona has just announced that it is imposing a ban on the issuing of new licenses while it re-considers the existing guidelines.

While these new regulations have brought joy to the hotel lobby interests, it is seen as highly restrictive and bureaucratic by property owners and rental companies. Never underestimate the ability of Spanish regional governments to introduce bureaucratic hurdles to hinder normal business. They have a gift for it! The other bankrupt regions are watching all this very carefully and will undoubtedly copy and introduce many of the new reg's already incorporated in Madrid and Barcelona, so that they can also maximise their tax take. Once again the public lose out while special interest groups gain.

Which brings me to our own region, Valencia. Here the Ministry of Tourism has joined forces with the Hacienda (tax authorities), AND the regional police, in follow-up investigations of possible infringements and non-registration of holiday rentals. They estimate that the unregulated part of the market could be as large as one billion euros. But they have now also started to peruse the online rental portals such as Atrapalo, Booking, Destinia, For Rent, Escapade, Folies Vacances, Hoteles.net, OnlyApartments and many other. So far this year, this has resulted in disciplinary proceedings in 11 cases. Okay, this is scarcely a pogrom, but if you do an online search for rental property in the Costa Blanca and yours comes up, well then 'they' have probably also seen it!

More on this as it happens.

Arrrrr!

A pirate captain terrorizes the seas. Before he goes into battle, each time he cries, "Bring me my red shirt!" His crew figure that it must be a lucky shirt, so they don't say too much. But one day the bo'sun asks, "Cap'n? Why d'ye always put on yer red shirt, afore we go inta battle? Is it yer lucky red shirt?" "Arrrrrr," says the Cap'n. "Not at all me hearty. I wears me red shirt so that if I gets shot in battle, the men won't see me bleeding -- so they'll continue to fight."

The bo'sun thinks this is a wonderfully brave idea, and promptly tells all of the crew the reason behind the red shirt. The crew are delighted to have such a manly man as their Cap'n and thenceforth, whenever they're sailing into battle, and the cap'n calls for his red shirt, a raucous cheering is heard.

One day, the lookout, peering through a telescope, reports a number of sails off the port bow. "Can ye identify 'em?" asks the Cap'n. "Seems to be a.....No, seems to be three.....no make that five....sorry, I mean eight.....No,no.....ten.....I mean twelve British man'o wars," replies the lookout. The crew draw a deep breath as they await the famous war-cry.....

....."Bring me my brown pants," cries the Cap'n.....

AUGUST AT THE PHOENIX



Via Park V

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CUT-OUT & KEEP.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR.....

Electrikery:

I see that the Iberdrola 'representatives' have again returned to our immediate area, in an attempt to get consumers to sign-up for a year to the company. However, as I and others have pointed out, if you sign this deal together with the add-ons (which you may not realise you are doing!), you will end up paying more than you are at the moment. Also it is not a coincidence that these 'rep's' are now canvassing areas which are about to install natural gas. The reason for this is that the natural gas installers also offer a special deal for the joint purchase of gas and electricity through their companies, for example Gas Natural Fenosa and Gas Natural Cegas. Now I have not studied these offers yet, but I will compile a report on these once I have the natural gas installed here and have analysed the options. But don't commit yourself to anything unless you have properly researched the deal. As I said before, why would Iberdrola be sending sales people to knock on your door to sell you their product at a cheaper rate?

Coming soon?

Most of you will be aware of pyramid schemes and how they feed on greed and robbing Peter to pay Paul. A 22-year-old Brazilian, Rogério Alves da Silva, has already began to recruit new members to his multi-level (MLM) program, WishClub, in Madrid. 700 suckers paid between €225 and €1,125 to attend a presentation and join the club. But last year in Brazil, the authorities shut down a pyramid MLM scheme run by da Silva called BlackDever,, which promised members earnings of up to €63,000 per month. BlackDever eventually turned over €24 million, according to the Brazilian authorities. The accounts consisted solely of deposits, but it wasn't a bank, and it didn't sell anything. A number of Spaniards have now joined forces with Alves including Juan Carlos Molina who was one of the founders of TelexFree, a pyramid scheme that was shut down by the FBI in April, 2014. TelexFree's Brazilian operations were regarded as one of the largest financial frauds in Brazil's history. The reason I raise this now is that it is only a matter of time before this scheme or something similar will reach the coastal areas of Spain. Here, expats tend to be more affluent than their Spanish neighbours, and are sure to be targeted as 'easy pickings' by those who wish to divest you of your 'hard-earned.'

You can read more on da Silva and Molina here - http://elpais.com/elpais/2014/07/17/inenglish/1405594511_539715.html

Bought before 1994?

If you bought your property in Spain before 1994, you could do well to read the following link. As the vast majority of our readers have bought after this date, I have not included the details, which refer to taxation changes which could have an unfavourable effect on the taxation payable on property bought before 1994. It also offers a solution.

http://www.typicallyspanish.com/news-spain/bf/The_fiscal_reform_will_punish_owners_who_purchased_property_before_1994.shtml

PORN COULD AFFECT MEN'S BRAIN SIZE, GERMAN RESEARCH HINTS.

I found this article from *The Japan Times* to be quite interesting. Now if it is true, my good friend 'Feelie Fergus' who is an avid consumer of porn, must now have a brain the size of a caraway seed.

"Researchers have found less grey matter in the brains of men who perused large amounts of sexually explicit material.

The research, which appeared in the journal *JAMA Psychiatry*, could not determine if pornography actually caused the brain to shrink, however, and the authors called for additional studies.

"Future studies should investigate the effects of pornography longitudinally or expose naive participants to pornography and investigate the causal effects over time," said researchers at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin.

The institute recruited 64 male subjects ages 21 to 45, "with a broad range of pornography consumption."

The men were not told initially that the research was monitoring their brains on porn, rather that it was "a scientific study including MRI measurements". They were told during a later phone interview that questions about pornography would be part of the research. None of the men dropped out.

In an initial survey, they described how much porn they watched. Their responses averaged a little more than four hours per week. Their brains were then scanned with MRI technology while they were shown sexually explicit images from porn websites, along with nonsexual images of people exercising.

"Our findings indicated that grey matter volume of the right caudate of the striatum is smaller with higher pornography use," said the study. When sexually explicit material was shown, the MRIs showed diminished function in a part of the brain that processes motivation.

But were men with smaller striatums seeking more porn, or did more porn make the brain smaller? Was it a consequence, or a precondition? (A key point! Ed.)

"Individuals with lower striatum volume may need more external stimulation to experience pleasure and might therefore experience pornography consumption as more rewarding, which may in turn lead to" more porn watching, said the authors, concluding that further research into the matter is urgently required."



The photos above were taken at the San Fermin Bull Running Festival in Pamplona. This year the authorities tried to ban the 'breast bearing' as they felt there was too much surreptitious 'groping' of boobs and it could lead to more serious problems. Although fines were threatened, the authorities would have better luck if they tried to eradicate crabs from a Cairo 'knocking-shop.'

TOILETS & DRAINS - MY ANNUAL RANT BY TID.

If you are a holiday-owner or a holiday-letter in Spain, you may wish to heed the following advice.

You may not know that Spanish showers and toilets have no U-bends. Hence the occasional pong if you have a shower and a toilet in the same room. Also, the water-flush in Spain is not as strong as in some of your home countries.

Using a Dream Hills quad as an example: the waste from four individual properties comes together into a single pipe junction in the pavement which then goes on to feed the main sewer line.

Now these pipes and junctions are not very large, so certain items such as kitchen roll, wet wipes, cotton wool, sanitary products, baby nappies etc., can easily block the drains, and they do quite often. Please do not put items such as these down the toilets.

An additional problem can arise where properties are only occupied occasionally. If faeces remain in the pipes due to insufficient flushing or maybe joining other items such as the above in the pipes, these can and will dry out in the hot weather causing smells and also often a blockage.

One way to prevent this is - before you leave the property - to fill all the washbasins, then release the water and flush all the toilets at the same time. It may need a team effort but this should clear your sewage pipes of the normal effluent. Sometimes a bathfull of water can do the trick.

As duplex and quad housing are often occupied at different times, it is difficult to find out who is responsible for the obstruction. Dream Hills now has a policy of using a company employed by the committee on behalf of the owners. The company can identify where the obstruction comes from and the urbanisation administrators will then add the cost of clearing the blockage to the relevant owners' fees. Owners who rent their property may however experience some difficulty getting the cost back from short-term renters. I do not know if other urbanisations use this system, but I think it is a very fair one.

Yes I know water is scarce but so is money! A couple of extra flushes when you vacate your property might save you a substantial plumbers bill!



The rise of right wing parties throughout Europe has caused even Postman Pat to jump on the bandwagon. Mind you, I always thought that The Wombles were fascists.

The Heavenly Clocks.

A man died and went to Heaven. As he stood in front of the Pearly Gates, he saw a huge wall of clocks behind him. He asked, "What are all those clocks?"

St. Peter answered: "Those are Lie-Clocks. Everyone who has ever been on earth has a 'Lie-Clock.' Every time you lie, the hands on your clock move."

Pointing, the man said: "Whose clock is that?"

"That's Mother Teresa's", replied St. Peter. "The hands have never moved, indicating that she never told a lie."

"Incredible", said the man. "And whose clock is that one?"

St. Peter responded, "That's Abraham Lincoln's clock, the hands have moved twice, telling us that Lincoln told only two lies in his entire life."

"Where are Blair's, Clegg's and Milliband's clocks?" Asked the man.

St Peter replied, "We're using those as ceiling fans."

Mel Bettell

Gotcha!

In 2010, a French tourist in Spain's Balearics was the victim of a vicious sexual attack which went unpunished. After meeting two men while partying in a nightclub with a friend, the women bumped into them again some days later and took a walk with them. It was then that one of the men attacked the French tourist and raped her. When she took the matter to the police, they were unable to find the attacker as she was only able to provide them with his first name. Three years on, the woman received a friend request from her rapist on a social media site. She contacted Spanish police immediately, who were able to match the physical description she had initially offered with his profile photos. Majorca police then contacted Interpol after determining the man was a Slovakian citizen. They in turn reached out to Slovakian police, who were able to confirm the suspect's family had travelled to Majorca at the time of the rape. The man is now under arrest.

Tough new noise laws in Sevilla.

It will control, for the first time, the noise produced by bar terraces and prohibits bars which play music whilst in a block with residents. From now on, if a neighbour denounces a bar terrace for noise, the Police will arrive to test if the alleged acoustic contamination really exists, and if it does the bar will be closed. The law goes as far to say dominoes cannot be played on outside tables, again because of the noise they make, and people are not allowed to eat or drink standing up in the street if they are using the bar window as a table.

In a city where the bar terraces can be counted in thousands, the City Hall intends to stop the bother which they cause. Ignoring the new legislation will result in a fine of between €300 and €300,000.

Bring Back the Horse!

To the west of Alicante lies the sleepy town of Monforte del Cid; and I do mean 'sleepy,' any quieter and this town would be snoring! However, like all town halls, they are anxious to save money on their services. In this case, they have reintroduced a horse drawn rubbish/garbage collection vehicle in place of the previous motorised service which costs €400,000 per annum. The new 'back to the future' scheme is expected to save around €200,000 p.a. It comprises a specially designed trailer (photo) with solar panels for lighting, and a mobile phone charger and a USB port. Two horses work alternate shifts, one horse is called *Urtain*, named after a famous Spanish boxer, the other - *Carretero* (Carter). The horses are fitted with a pouch under their tail, so that their crap does not fall on the ground! There is talk of a third animal called *Blair*...but I think that may refer to a donkey. More than 80 small towns in France and Belgium have been using horses for similar work for several years.



Lime Bar Fishing Sunbathing Club.

As England were knocked out of the World Cup early, "Anti Social" Baz organised a darts night against the Golf Society to keep us out of mischief.

It was well attended by the fishing club, not so well by the golfers. Obviously tired after their Wednesday walk about. Unlucky! You missed a great night.

Our guest "Suebo" led the way by winning the 1st game of singles. The Lime Bar staff added their expertise to both teams, except for Sue, she just won all the raffle prizes!!!!

At the break (we were 7 – 5 up), Belinda organised a raffle, vocally assisted by "Sergeant Major" Dave who proceeded to deafen the punters & abuse the winners. Lillian also did a football card to pay for the food supplied by the Rendezvous. There were loads of prizes, but a special thank you to Barry W for the rod & bag. "Sweeney" Todd won this to prevent it from gathering dust in some golfer's shed.

After the break, we continued the darts with 6 games of doubles. Final score **we** won 10 – 8.

Well done to the players & thank you to all who supported us. At the end of the night we had raised over €100 to go towards the Paul Cunningham Nurses' charity.

The monthly meeting was another long one. We started late as we were waiting for "grumoy" Bob to return from the bar and it went down hill from there. Someone said there were 20 swims at Benijofar, so despite the fact we have had more blanks there than anywhere else, this was chosen as the match venue. A "wrong" ball was then drawn for the pegs and it kicked off! Mike the chair thought he was trying to control a playground full of 4 year olds, with more dummies, rattles and toys on the floor than dog ends. After a while we all kissed & made up, then had another beer!

I've been asked to keep it short this month, and as I don't want to rub it in, I won the match. :-)))

Ammo & casualty report. A perky Cyril "the elder" returned to UK after his R&R & is hoping to be back later this year.

Why is fishing better than love?

- When you go fishing, you catch something that you want.
If you catch something while making love.....!

Next meeting is at The Lime Bar @ 17.30 Mon 4th August.

Fishy fingers!
The Ghost



I used to hear that song that talks about believing that children are our future and think it was a trite song. Now I realise it's a warning. Jon Stewart

Galadriel

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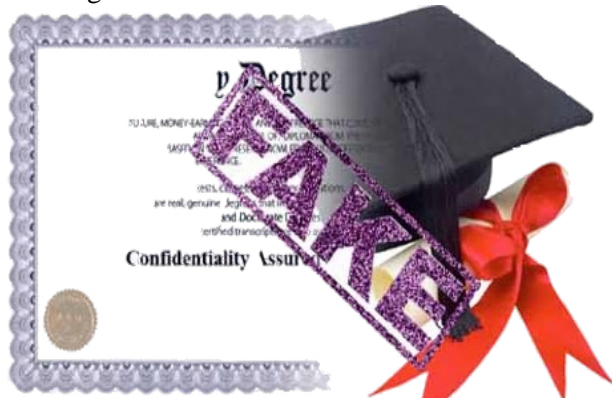
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FAKES!

A six-year-long investigation by the National Police has just concluded in Málaga. 632 people have been arrested and accused of buying fake academic titles. The so-called 'Operation Eladio,' probably the largest corruption case in Spain, has reached both into the local administration and the private sector. On the list of the accused there are 25 local policemen, two of whom are sub-inspectors, who worked in different municipalities in Málaga, although some arrests have also been made in



Córdoba and Sevilla.

In addition, 14 National Policemen and six Guardia Civil, (a captain among them) have been charged. The main number of detentions has been in the private security sector with 134 accused. They range from guards, company directors, and even the ex Chief of Security in the Málaga Provincial Government.

Five firemen are also included, one of them a Brigade Chief, six employees in Correos, 13 health workers, (one dentist, three nurses, five clinic assistants and four orderlies).

Two bank managers, two ITV inspectors, several soldiers, a lawyer, and an employee in the property registration office, the assistant trainer of a second division football club, a sculptor, and even a driving instructor. A dozen workers in a cleaning company are alleged to have purchased false qualifications to get a wage increase.

The Head of Group II of the Provincial Fraud Commission in Málaga and a veteran investigator who has been in the case since day one; both say most of those arrested have been charged, especially those who used a false name to find work, or to fatten their curriculum.

Police say colour photocopies were used to create the fake certificates and the operation is believed to have made 1.5 million €profit over the six years.

(Abridged from TypicallySpanish)

I was raised half Jewish and half Catholic. When I get to confession, I'd say, 'Bless me, Father, for I have sinned - and you know my attorney, Mr Cohen.'

Bill Maher

The Bear Necessities.

At the Annual General Meeting, all the animals of the forest passed a resolution that everyone had to stop crapping all over the forest, as it was very unhygienic and they kept stepping in it. They agreed on a communal toilet area beside a fallen log, and that everyone must use this area in future. A day or two later, a big grizzly bear is sitting on the log, doing his business and reading 'Bear-Porn,' when a beautiful little white fluffy rabbit hops up on the log beside him and starts doing its business.

After a minute or two the bear turns to the rabbit and asks, "Are you bothered by crap sticking to your fur?"

"Why no," replies the rabbit. "No, not at all."

"That's great," says the bear, picking up the rabbit and used it to wipe his bum.

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The editor, Mick, can be contacted at mick.dreamscene@gmail.com or at 586 Dream Hills. (Or in some Bar!)

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LET'S EXERCISE.....OR NOT!

I paid four hundred bucks to join a health club last year. Haven't lost a pound.
Apparently you have to show up. Rich Ceisler

My mother-in-law had to stop skipping for exercise. It registered seven on the
Richter scale. Les Dawson

When purchasing exercise equipment, make sure it is of sturdy construction and
that there is enough space to hang all your wet washing on it. Jeff Green

I bought all those celebrity exercise videos. I love to sit and eat cookies and watch
them. Do I lift weights? Sure. Every time I stand up. Dolly Parton

My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was 60. She's 97 today
and we don't know where the hell she is. Ellen DeGeneres

There are only two types of exercise in Hollywood - jogging and helping a divorced
friend move. Robert Wagner

It takes six months to get in shape and two weeks to get out of shape. As soon as
you knows this, you can stop being angry about other things in life and only angry
about this. Rita Rudner

I get out of breath playing chess. Billy Connolly

The first time I see a jogger smiling, I'll consider it. Joan Rivers

Fun Run - now there's an oxymoron. Joe Bennett

*Depend on the rabbit's foot if you will, but remember:
it didn't work for the rabbit. R.E. Shay*

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