

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER

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

Issue no. 92, 1st of October 2014.

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the October edition.

After a scorching August, the first two weeks of September kept the peak temperatures up around the 34° mark. For the two weeks of September, schoolchildren had to endure unexpectedly high temperatures, particularly in the prefabricated classrooms, of which there are still too many about. Parents and teachers complained but the Regional Government has said the classrooms aren't hot but suffer 'thermal discomfort'! Eventually, the Education Authority backed down and allowed classes to end at noon for a couple of days.

On September 22, the weather began to change, ushering in some very welcome rainfall. As the sea temperatures had reached 28° locally, the climate scientists at Alicante University advised that the province will have ever warmer winters and longer summers, because of climate change. They also said that the high sea temperatures could lead to a Gota Fria (cold drop or cloud burst). Torreveija experienced 30 litres of rain falling in one hour, together with the accompanying floods. Summer to autumn in just three days!

But the recent drought in Alicante province was the most intense, albeit not the longest, that can be remembered and since records were first kept 150 years ago. It has caused an environmental disaster; 182,000 almond trees have been lost (some of them more than 100 years old) and most harvests have been reduced by an average 60%; it has left 6,000 farmers close to ruin and generated losses of over 80 million €. The European Union has temporarily suspended grants to farmers and fruit growers designed to lessen the effect of the Russian veto (more on this inside). The reason for the suspension is they have been overrun with applications to a 'disproportionate' extent, and when they return to issuing grants they will be 'better directed'.

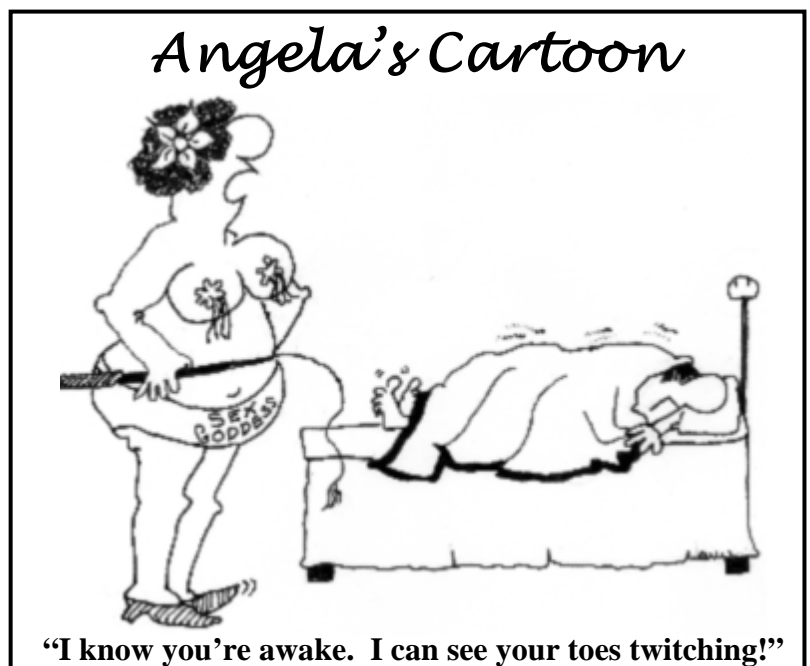
The hot weather has also led to a higher incidence of melanoma, with the Marina Baixa Hospital diagnosed 40 new cases in August. The disease, one of the most malignant cancers, occurs with increasing frequency among young people due to sun exposure. A review by the Regional Health Service in Alicante, has highlighted a dangerous trend with a remarkable increase of this cancer in many areas of the province.

Politically, the most recent big story is that Artur Mas, the President of Catalonia, has said that their referendum on independence will go ahead on November 9. The Madrid government has said that it is totally illegal and unconstitutional. If it does go ahead, it will be interesting to see if Madrid will penalise the main players. The Pujols, a Catalan political dynasty and promoter of independence, is currently being investigated for having salted hundreds of millions of euros abroad in tax havens. More on this next month.

As you are no doubt aware (unless you are in a coma or just downright thick) we live in the province of Alicante, which is within the autonomous community of Valencia. Valencia has had a history of inept spendthrift politicians who, if they were not taking substantial 'kickbacks/bribes', were spending massive amounts of taxpayers money on grandiose yet useless projects. Today, the Valencia Community has a debt of €34.78 billion, the second highest in Spain. This equates to €6,802 per person in the community. Interest payment alone are €13 million per day! Cataluña has the highest debt at €1.83 billion.

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.

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

COMPUTER TRAINING

- WINDOWS XP, VISTA, 7
- MICROSOFT OFFICE (WORD, EXCEL, POWER POINT, ACCESS, ETC.)
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...75% Of Ikea's Catalogue Is Computer Generated Imagery? Yes, that means three out of four things you see in an Ikea catalog are 'fake'. The fixtures. The furniture. The walls. The light. Why? It beats shipping endless pieces of prototype furniture halfway across the world for photo shoots. In case you ever thought the world inside an Ikea catalogue was too pristine to be true, well, now you have your proof. You can read more, with plenty of pictures here in the following link - (But it is very boring!)

http://www.cgsociety.org/index.php/CGSFeatures/CGSFeatureSpecial/building_3d_with_ikea

...Swiss engineers have invented a pacemaker based on a clockwork wristwatch which is powered by the motion of the heart. The prototype, which has been successfully tested in pigs, could mean that patients no longer have to undergo repeat surgery when the batteries in their device run out. The invention was presented to the European Society of Cardiology Congress in Barcelona, and is based on the concept behind a self-winding wristwatch. Currently pacemakers, which are used to help the heart beat more regularly, need to be replaced on average every seven years, when batteries fail. It means patients, often elderly, have to undergo extra surgery, requiring a general anaesthetic and carrying a risk of complications.

More than 40,000 people a year are fitted with pacemakers in England. (Telegraph Online.)

...Spanish regulations oblige company's client attention lines to be a normal fixed number, and not a 902 premium rate number, but many of the companies are simply ignoring the regulation as they continue to, indirectly, collect more money from their clients; no respect for the law or indeed the customer, *sólo por el dinero!*

...you can now recharge a flat car battery with a simple handheld device. It is called Minibatt. It cost around €89 for a device suitable for petrol driven cars up to 3,000c.c., and €105 for a recharger suitable for diesel engines up to 3,000c.c. More details and a video here -

<http://www.autofacil.es/accesorios/2014/09/12/recarga-bateria-coche-dispositivo-bolsillo/20266.html>

What's Up?

The Spanish Justice Minister, Alberto Ruiz-Gallardón, has announced his resignation not just from his ministerial position but from politics altogether. It seems that the former mayor of Madrid came to grief over the proposed change to the abortion laws. Gallardón (photo) was attempting to bring in new abortion laws which the opposition felt was taking the existing legislation back 30 years. There have been many demonstrations for and against the proposed new laws. With national elections due next year, top PP officials viewed the abortion issue as too controversial to risk losing votes. So basically the proposed changes have been shelved.



This was clearly unacceptable personally to Gallardón, but not having the support of his party, he decided to leave not only the ministerial job, but politics altogether. Gallardón had a number of other changes which were attempts to bring the Spanish justice system into the 21st century. No one is sure what will happen now; will the ruling PP government just tread carefully so as not to alienate more voters, or will they bite the bullet and bring in some very necessary changes to the Spanish justice system? Unfortunately with the absence of Gallardón, a man driven by a strong ethical outlook, I fear it will be the former.

Gallardón's replacement as Justice Minister, Rafael Catalá Polo, has already come in for criticism, particularly from the victims' platform for the Santiago rail disaster. They have expressed their 'indignation and rejection' to his naming, after his lies and possible political responsibility in the accident which cost 80 dead and more than 140 injured. They said he did nothing to search for responsibilities; he only lied and denied to defend economic interests. "He showed in a lamentable interview a lack of humanity, only four days after the tragedy, when some of the victims were still fighting between life and death and many more were burying their dead". "He can't be Justice Minister because he could interfere in the continuing judicial process, still open after the accident. His naming is a mockery and a lack of respect for the memory of the dead, their families and all the victims of the accident as well as all the Spanish'. Strong stuff!

There is evidence that house prices in Spain have finally stabilised. The National Statistics Institute have reported a 0.8% increase in the second quarter of this year compared to last year. The last time house prices rose year on year, was in Quarter 1, 2008. Many of you will have observed the price stabilisation locally for some months now. Any gains in the short to medium term are likely to be negligible as the economy still remains shaky, despite the euphoria from the ruling politicians. Spain's Minister of the Economy, Luis de Guindos, declared "Without Spain the Eurozone would have touched recession." *Cloud-Cuckoo Land* is a real place in Spain!

Nearly 13 million homes will pay between them 286 million € to change the Terrestrial Digital Television antenna. Under European orders, space currently occupied by TDT must be empty on January 1 2015, to make way for more 4G mobile phone coverage. The Government is expected to issue a royal decree to regulate the money granted to communities which have community television and should cover the 286 million.

A total of 223 persons have lost their lives in traffic accidents on Spanish roads during the months of July and August this summer. This is the lowest since records began in 1960. Whereas there were far fewer cars in the country in 1960, the death toll then for the two summer months was 279. Secondary roads recorded the highest number of deaths with 166.

In a superb example of 'shutting the stable door after the horse has bolted,' The Junta de Andalucía has told the UGT union that they will get no more money until they can justify what they have already received.

In Germany, immigrants who have been in the country for six months, and haven't found work, will be expelled from the country. El Mundo reports that 10,000 Spaniards will be affected.

CaixaBank has bought Barclays España for €800 million. This will allow the Catalan bank to increase its presence in Madrid.

Whether they are under the mattress or in the coffee jar, Spaniards are holding on to €1.7bn worth of pesetas, the currency that disappeared when the euro was introduced 12 years ago. According to the Bank of Spain there are €64m (£683m) in notes and €805m in coins that have yet to be cashed in. Last year the bank exchanged 2.5bn pesetas for €15m, about €12m of it in notes and the rest in coins. People have until the end of 2020 to cash them in, after which the bank will cease to exchange them. (Guardian)

The UK Conservatives have pledged to abolish the "15 year rule" that prevents millions of British expats from being able to vote – if the party wins the next general election. The manifesto commitment is designed to protect the rights of citizens overseas who have "contributed to Britain all their lives" according to a Tory spokesman. He said that if the party wins power next May, it will remove the cap that prevents Britons from voting in UK elections after they have been out of the country for 15 years and allow them the vote for life. From the Telegraph. Hmmm. Politicians and promises.

Spain's finance minister Cristóbal Montoro said the country planned to investigate Gibraltar residents who own properties in Spain, part of an overall crack down on alleged tax evasion in the UK territory. Not a bad idea Cristóbal. You might also take a look at the money hidden away by your fellow politicians, particularly those in your own party.

A former 'Idiot of the Month' (June), Miguel Arias Cañete, has been placed in charge of Climate and Energy by the European Commission. This is the guy who considers himself intellectually superior to women and that he has to 'contain himself, because he can get scary!' Now this chap will be dealing with problems such as the Russian gas supplies, etc. God help us all!

Teachers' unions have called a sit-in to start at all educational centres on October 6. They want to see teachers, pupils, families join what they plan to be week long sit-in, but with each centre choosing the format and duration of the action. Many expat parents are annoyed by the overt inclusion of their children in what is nothing more than political campaigns mounted by left-wing teachers' unions.

A consumers association has denounced the IBI property tax in Madrid which has seen a rise of 54% in five years, while in Barcelona it is 33.82%, Sevilla 23% and in Málaga 7.91%. They add that the level of tax on property has not taken into account the currently lower property prices, which show that they are now 40% lower on average than in 2008. We are fortunate that our IBI in the Orihuela municipality has remained unchanged for two years and is still relatively low. Torreveja's is much higher, but then they have all these empty floodlit handball courts, tennis courts and theatres to pay for.

It's certainly been a bad week for fruit. Blackberry's handset sales are down even further, Jason Orange leaves Take That, Apple's latest iPhone update goes pear shaped, and a giant plum forgot part of his speech at the British Labour Party Conference.

4 What's Up? continued

The Málaga Court has asked for harsher sentences for sexual crimes. The President of the Málaga Magistrates thinks the criminals who act against sexual freedom should face the largest punishment given the seriousness and the long term scars suffered by the victims. Every year in Málaga province 500 rapes take place. However, the State Prosecutors' Office has criticised Málaga for their 'judicial slowness' which is benefiting the corrupt.

The police union in Murcia has taken the Police Commissioner at Cartagena and the Superior Chief in the Murcia region to court. It seems that these guys arranged for microphones and recorders to be placed in three police cars, to secretly record the conversations of the police. Their union says that their constitutional rights have been violated and their privacy has been attacked. As the three bugged vehicles were used by rotating teams, an estimated thirty agents may have had their privacy invaded.

Investigations have been launched into alleged dodgy practices by the police in Magaluf and Palma. In the former, it is alleged that the local police created a system of extortion from the leisure establishments in the town. The business owners were forced to employ a particular security company nominated by the police. The police would then later receive handbacks from the security company. A chief inspector and a number of other policemen have been arrested. It seems that the case in Palma is similar.

Drug arrests and seizures are now so common here that I rarely report them unless there is something unusual. In a single operation in early September, police arrested 56 people for drug trafficking in Cádiz, Sevilla and Valencia. Among those who 'had their collar felt' were three soldiers, a Guardia Civil officer, a policeman and a former Socialist councillor. At least 29 houses were searched simultaneously netting 716 kilos of cocaine and 3,840 kilos of hashish. It seems that some of the drugs were being distributed at a popular *chiringuito* (beach bar) in a Cádiz resort. Several firearms, over 100 mobile phones and €32,000 in cash was also seized during the raids. The hashish was brought in from Morocco inside recreational vessels, under the protection of a local Civil Guard officer and a municipal policeman who were both allegedly paid by the ring. "When they saw there was a lot of surveillance, they would divert the shipment to Punta Camarinal, a military barracks," said Civil Guard sources. This is where the three army servicemen helped unload the merchandise.



The chap in the photo is the famous Spanish architect, Santiago Calatrava. He has appeared in our columns before. Famous for grandiose projects which later develop serious design flaws, he is now being investigated by the courts in Castellón concerning one of his projects, the Centre de Castelló Convencions. Problem is, the Centre was never built and Calatrava was paid €2.7 million. It is alleged he also unilaterally tripled the budget cost of the project, thereby increasing his fee. Calatrava now lives in Switzerland.....with all his money!

No Good Deed Goes Unpunished!

Benjamin was very much in love with a beautiful girl. One day she told him that as the next day was her birthday, he would send her a bouquet of roses... one for each year of her life. That evening he called the local florist and ordered twenty-one roses with instructions that they be delivered first thing the next morning. As the florist was preparing the order, he decided that since the young man was such a good customer, he would put an extra dozen roses in the bouquet.

Benji never did find out why his beautiful young girlfriend broke up with him.

A Madrid-based Muslim preacher has caused outrage across Spain by giving a sermon last month calling for the destruction of the Jewish race. The sermon - given in Arabic - has angered Jewish groups in Spain and comes just weeks after extreme Islam groups in Syria and Iran called for Spain to be "reclaimed" as the "rightful home of Al Andalus". Over recent months Spain has reached out to the Jewish community, with gestures such as changing of the "Jew-Killer" village name, the criminalisation of denial of the holocaust, whilst descendants of Sephardic Jews have now been given the legal right to apply for Spanish Citizenship.

One in five prisoners on the third grade, which generally means they are released during the day and at weekends, in the Fontcalet jail in Alicante prefers to stay where they are in jail. They say there are no buses to Alicante and prefer to stay in prison. Some have asked their lawyers to keep them in prison, where they have a roof over their heads and plenty of food, and in some cases work. They say they have no hope of finding a job and being on the street costs money, so they prefer to stay in their module in semi-freedom. The modules are only designed for sleeping and there is no staff during the day. This is leading to overcrowded prisons; the prisons in Alicante and Villena are at 150% capacity.

The largest cruise liner in the world, the Oasis of the Seas, docked at the Port of Malaga last month.

362 metres long, with 2,300 warders...sorry crew, the liner has a capacity of 6,300 passengers.



Anticipating a spend of around €400,000 by the tourists, Malaga City Hall laid on a musical event, probably the soundtrack from 'Titanic.' You can take a 5-minute noisy tour of the liner here -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6PsWmDHJQO4> Plenty more on YouTube.

The Socialist Junta de Andalucía has finally admitted to frauds of €100 million in the training schemes and ERE retirement schemes. However this is considerably at odds with the findings of the investigating judge, Mercedes Alaya, who estimates that the ERE fraud alone exceeds €850 million. The Junta, who now have little credibility, continue to deny or ignore the enormity of the fraudulent activity contributed to by their own officials.

A 33-year-old woman and her daughter found a wallet in a phone booth in the Costa del Sol, which contained €800 in notes. She then took the wallet to the local police. Once the police located the person, the woman, Teresa Gómez, said she wanted to hand the wallet back personally. (Maybe she didn't trust the Fuzz.) The owner, Carlos Alberto, had his mobile phone stolen, and that was why he used a public phone where he left the wallet with his wages for the month. So there are some really decent people out there!

The Corvera Airport fiasco continues to meander along amid missed opening dates and false promises. The latest is that they are now advertising for staff. But don't get too excited, it's just for four jobs: a technical program operator, a traffic coordinator, a security officer and an aircraft parking officer. Do you remember they said they would employ all of San Javier's staff? Still no opening date for the new airport. Maybe March 2015? And that's a 'definite' maybe!

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**NOW WITH
DRAFT
SAN MIGUEL!**

I have noticed that the Valencian Parliament - our one - has not held a plenary session for 98 days! That is a holiday period of 100 days....and they have the nerve to complain about the teachers. Mindful of the curse and cost of regional politics in Spain, might I suggest that they have a 365-day holiday break next year. It would save us all a fortune!

It seems that the former Mayor of Torrevieja, Pedro Ángel Hernández Mateo, who is now in prison, received around €0,000 extra per annum for attendance fees at meetings. This was in addition to his annual salary of €68,600. This is a common 'bung' which many Spanish politicians use to boost their salaries. Even local councillors are paid for attending certain meetings.

The sea opposite four beaches on the Orihuela Costa was closed for three days during mid-September. There appeared to be some sort of spillage which coloured the sea water. Local officials were running around in circles and blaming the navy - who denied it - but no one bothered to take a sample and have it analysed.

Three Spanish women and two Pakistani men were arrested in a property which was opposite a primary school gate in Torrevieja. Quantities of cocaine and heroine were seized together with a substantial amount of money. The number of people entering and leaving the property raised suspicions and the police were informed.

Two people were killed in a traffic accident on the N-332 at Santa Pola at 5:40pm on September 13. Two others had minor injuries. It can still be a very deadly road.



Despite a spend of € million and finishing a year later than planned, the completed Centre for Psycho-Social Rehabilitation in Alicante has still

not opened its doors. This day care and treatment centre is still empty despite being completed 11 months ago! (Photo-*Informacion*.)

€25,957 will be spend in the Orihuela municipality to improve street signage and numbering. Most of this will be spent on Orihuela Costa where 642 streets alone, require name-plating and numbering. The National Institute of Statistics advise that many international residents here do not receive notification of elections etc., and that this is an electoral offence.

Juan Ignacio López-Bas, a Clr councillor for Orihuela district, has highlighted yet another lucrative cash-collection service where the town hall coffers have not received a cent. It seems that the company authorised to collect car parking charges have not paid a euro to Orihuela Council in the four years it has had the concession. The company, Esmá Park SL, is alleged to have collected between €15,000 and €20,000 in car park charges monthly! There have been a number of cases where the local burghers have failed to collect their dues, one of the most notable being the case of the *chiringuitos*.



Benidorm held its fourth annual Gay Pride procession and fiesta last month. These are always colourful, good-humoured events if a little jaw-dropping! There were very few problems again this year, save for a minor fight started by, wouldn't you know it, some lesbians.

Police have charged two men with animal abuse in a horse farm in the village of Mula, Murcia. 39



starving horses were discovered at the 'farm.' See photo, *Informacion*. There was no food available and one of the animals was too weak to stand up. They were also charged with offences relating to the lack of proper registration and documentation. The other tragedy is that the men will probably receive a bigger fine for the documentation offences rather than for the abuse.

The Coastal Authority in Murcia has reported that there are around 3,000 boats anchored illegally off the region's beaches. As these are illegally occupying bathing areas, they want them removed immediately. No doubt a lot of these weekend sailors don't want to pay expensive mooring fees.

There have been fairly unusual going's on in Guardamar del Segura, at least in the Municipal Cemetery of Our Lady of the Rosary there. Here, a niece of a deceased man took a photo of the corpse of her uncle, who had been dead for 23 years, and posted it on a social network, to show it to the



sister of the dead man. See photo. The corpse was taken out of the casket to be re-housed together with his deceased wife. What was amazing was the condition of the corpse, even after 23 years. Some say he looks a lot better now than when he was alive; he certainly looks healthier than some of the living specimens I see walk into the 'boozers' I frequently frequent. (I suppose we should be grateful it wasn't a 'selfie.') The niece cannot understand what all the fuss was about. Why didn't she give 'Uncle Paco' the ice-bucket challenge? Every other bugger seems to be doing it!

The Promise!

This had most of the state of Michigan in America laughing for 2 days and a very embarrassed female news anchor who will, in the future, likely think before she speaks.

What happens when you predict snow but don't get any?

We had a female news anchor that, the day after it was supposed to have snowed and didn't, turned to the weatherman and asked: "So Bob, where's that 8 inches you promised me last night?" Not only did he have to leave the set, but half the crew did too they were laughing so much!

Derrick Green

I don't understand why gay people want to be in the military, because they only get one outfit to wear. Kevin Maye



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LIME BAR GOLF SOCIETY, LOS ALTOS, ORIHUELA COSTA

The golf society's venue for the 10th September 2014 was held at the Alicante Golf Club. On a hot day members of the Lime Bar Golf Society teed off with the course in good condition, having enjoyed a breakfast before hand.

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

Nearest the Pin on the 3rd Hole was Tony Jones.

Nearest the Pin on the 8th hole was Gerry Carton.

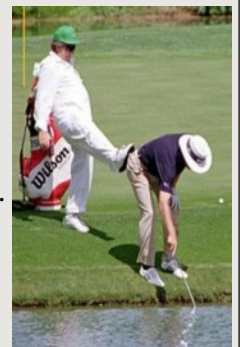
Nearest the Pin on the 12th hole was Digger.

Nearest the Pin on the 17th hole was John MacGregor.



Silver Class 3rd place was Barry Shawyer with a score of 27 points.
Silver Class 2nd place was Barry Dave Everson with a score of 31 points.
Silver Class 1st place was Les Thwaites with a score of 39 points.

Gold Class 3rd place was Arthur Jones with a score of 26 points.
Gold Class 2nd place was Mike Heighway with a score of 27 points.
Gold Class 1st place was Mick Slater with a score of 29 points.



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. Following the match players returned to the Lime Bar for the presentation and Cornish pasty and chips, with thanks to Belinda, Lillian and Tony Jones.

The Message.

Mother-in-law arrives home from the shops to find her son-in-law, Paddy, in a steaming rage and hurriedly packing his suitcase. "What happened Paddy?" she asks anxiously.

"What happened? I'll tell you what happened. I sent an email to me wife telling her I was coming home today from my fishing trip. I get home.... and guess what I found? Yes, your daughter, my wife Jean, naked with Joe Murphy in our marital bed! This is unforgivable, the end of our marriage. I'm done. I am leaving forever.

"Ah now, calm down, calm down Paddy!" says his mother-in-law. "There is something very odd going on here. Jean would never do such a thing! There must be a simple explanation. I'll go speak to her immediately and find out what happened."

Moments later, the mother-in-law comes back with a big smile. "Paddy, I told you there must be a simple explanation... she never got your email."

Pete Dudman

Giving Credit Where it is Due! By Tid. Affordable Double Glazing Now Available.

Are you fed up with that noisy main road, that annoying yappy dog, or losing your heat from single glazed windows during the winter months? Then read on! There is now an excellent affordable solution. You can now upgrade your existing aluminium windows to double glazed units at less than a third of the cost of installing replacement UPVC windows.

No ripping out of frames, no re-cementing patches, no silicone fill-in and no touching-up with paint; in fact no mess at all. This is because your existing sliding frames stay as they are, with just the glass replaced with a toughened glass double glazed sealed unit. If, like me, you feel that there is nothing wrong with the line and look of your existing windows, other than the lack of double glazing benefits, then this is for you.

Having seen a friend's new windows, we were very impressed with the finished product and arranged for DG Window Conversions to give us a no-obligation quote on an evening that suited us. Guillermo, the owner of the company, speaks little English, so he is accompanied by a very pleasant lady who speaks English, Spanish and German - therefore, there are no misunderstandings! We were pleasantly surprised not only by the cost of the new double glazed units, but also by the service offered.

Double glazing (dg) with toughened glass to the two sliding panels on the window of a front-facing Dream Hills type property costs just €20, whereas the double glazing to the two large sliding doors leading from the bedroom to the first floor patio costs just €30! All seven windows in the property, including the frosted bathroom window and the top roof window, can be converted to dg for less than €1,500! And, the windows can be taken away and replaced on the same day. The units were taken away at 9am and replaced by 9pm. This gave us time to clear the sand out of runners in the meantime. In our case, the time between order and installation was around one week.

We were delighted with the product, the price and the service. It was also comforting to see that there was a ten year guarantee on the toughened glass inserts. When ordering, you are expected to pay 50% of the quoted cost up front. Not all the glass windows are the same size and if you change your mind, he is left with the glass. The balance is then paid on installation. If you prefer to have just one or two windows converted and not 'break the bank', that can also be done and at the prices quoted above.

If we had replaced our windows with UPVC double glazing, then the cost would have exceeded €5,000, so we achieved one heck of a saving on the installation. I also wonder if the double glazed UPVC windows are really suitable for the southern Spanish climate long term, particularly south-facing properties. Designed for the German and Northern European climate, I do believe that any type of plastic would suffer during a few summers as hot as the one we have just enjoyed or endured! The power of the sun can be very destructive

and I am mindful of the damage that the powerful sun does to garden furniture and UPVC signage. Browning may become an issue in time. Sliding dg metal frames allow for expansion and contraction, give durability, flexibility, security and longevity and improve the energy rating of your property.

Guillermo also makes double-glazed doors to fit existing frames, as well as wrought ironz grills, gates, etc. . Should you wish to get a free quotation for one window or several, call DG Window Conversions on 686 145 823. See advert on left.

Scottish Bath Night

A Scottish couple took in an 18-year-old girl as a lodger. She asked if she could have a bath, but the woman of the house told her they didn't have a bath, although if she wanted to, she could use a tin bath in front of the fire.

"Monday's the best night, when my husband goes out to darts," the landlady said. The girl agreed to have a bath the following Monday.

After her husband had gone to the pub for his darts match, the woman filled the bath and watched the girl get undressed.. She was surprised to see that the lass didn't have any pubic hair. She mentioned this to her husband when he came home. He didn't believe her, so she said: "Next Monday, when you go to darts, leave a little early and wait in the back garden. I'll leave a gap in the curtains so you can see for yourself."

So the following Monday, while the girl again got undressed, the wife asked: "Do you shave?" "Och, no," replied the girl. "I've just never grown any hair down there. Do you have hair?"

"Oh, yes," said the woman, and she pulled up her nightdress and showed the girl that she was really generously endowed in the hair department.....in fact a veritable jungle. The girl finished her bath and went to bed.

Later that night, when the husband came in, the wife asked him, "Did you see it?"

"Yes," he said, "but why the hell did you have to show her yours."

"Why ever are you worried about that?" she said. "You've seen it enough times before."

"I know," he said, "but the darts' team hadn't!"

My Mate, Archibald.

My mate Archibald was over recently. He is very, very unlucky. One evening, with €20 in his hand, he summoned up enough courage to approach one of the prostitutes at the Punta Prima roundabout..... but she said she had a headache. On another occasion, the working girl was so fed up with his fumbling, she was forced to put him in her place. When she asked him if he fancied something from the Kama Sutra, he replied, 'Thanks, but not for me, Love, Indian food has me on the toilet all night.' Anxious to improve his technique, he went to the library to pick up some manuals on love making. He managed to borrow a book entitled 'How to Hump.' However, when he got home he realised that it was volume 4 of the encyclopaedia. He spent €50 on EBay for a penis enlarger. When it was delivered he found it was a magnifying glass.

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BBQ - TUES, THURS & SAT FROM 6PM.



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PHOENIX GOLF SOCIETY.

On Sunday 21st September we played at ALANDA GOLF COURSE.

We had 19 players and the much sun and heat, course and the golf as The winner was Dave and joint third was Jarvis.

We all enjoyed the meal many compliments to food.

If anyone is interested in check the notice board in ring Dave on 965 010 063.



weather was just right; not too everybody enjoyed the well.

Cahill, second was Jerry Terry Dunn and Tony

at the Phoenix Bar, so Donna who supplied the

playing with us please the Bar at the Phoenix or

NEXT MEETING WILL BE OCTOBER 19th.

How Much!

Spare a thought for the Danish tourist who, in August, was reclining on a beach in north-western Sardinia and enjoying a cigarette. But when she stubbed her ciggy out in the sand at the beach, her day took a very nasty turn. An Italian policeman saw her 'offence' and promptly fined her €600! Even though she said she was going to take the cigarette butt away, it didn't cut any slack with the local fuzz. It seems cigarette butts are considered one of the worst pollutants there, taking over 200 years to decompose.

Spain, Still Top of the World, Ma!

At least in transplants. Spain once again tops the league of transplants as a percentage of population. It has held this position for 25 years. Key to the success is the higher percentage of donors here, compared to the rest of Europe and the United States. According to the World Transplants Register Spain has 35.3 donors per million citizens. This compares to 19.5 donors in Europe, and 25.5 donors in the United States. Last year 4,279 transplants were carried out in Spain, with 1,655 donor organs, according to figures released in January by the National Transplant Organisation. There were 2,552 kidney transplants, 1,093 liver, 249 heart, 285 lungs, 92 pancreases and eight intestinal transplants carried out. Kidney transplants with a live donor have increased to 15% of the total. It means Spain carries out 14% of all European transplants and 4% of those in the world. Despite this the medics say more donations are needed; Spain need to show a larger increase, and they note transplants in Latin America have risen by 20% in a year.

The Unluckiest Man in Spain?

An 18-year-old man from the Spanish island of Majorca received a fatal electric shock on Saturday when he leaned against a lamp post while urinating. The teen was out celebrating in the annual 'fiestas' of the small town of Bunyola, 7 kilometres from the island's capital of Palma. According to Spanish Civil Guard police and local emergency services, the victim received the shock when leaning against the lamp post while urinating on top of a wall. He collapsed from the shock and hit his head on the ground, Spanish daily El Diario de Mallorca & The Local reported. Emergency services were unable to resuscitate him after being alerted by the victim's friend. Local authorities are now investigating if other lamp posts in the area have faulty wiring like the one that caused the 18 year old's death.

All other Bunyola celebrations were cancelled.

The theft of copper cables from over 500 lampposts in Alicante has increased the risk of electrocution. Also, any pooch peeing against one of these damaged lampposts would be in for a bit of a shock!



The Culprit.

A very popular movie was being shown at the local cinema and the place was packed. Suddenly, a woman stood up and with a scream rushed out into the foyer to search out the manager. 'I'll never come back here again,' she complained. 'I've just been interfered with.' A short while later another woman ran out looking distressed, complaining of the same thing. 'I'm not having this,' said the manager and he decided to track down the pervert. Shining his torch along the rows he eventually discovered a man crawling along under the seats. 'What the hell do you think you are doing,' he roared. 'It's my toupee,' replied the man. 'I had my hand on it twice, but it got away.'

Stewart.

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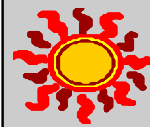
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CREAM!

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Freshly Made Indian Food

Large Beer

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Edward R. Murrow, US Broadcaster

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(Opposite Zenia Boulevard)**

NATURAL GAS - FINAL REMINDER.

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 pipe-laying 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 - comercialecnor@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 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. (Above figures may attract IVA.)

Natural Gas is economical and efficient. For generating equal amounts of energy, Natural Gas costs half the price of electricity. Natural gas is the cleanest burning fossil fuel. Because the combustion process for natural gas is almost perfect, very few byproducts are emitted into the atmosphere as pollutants. Also, with the introduction of new technologies, nitrogen oxide, a pollutant targeted by the Clean Air Act can be significantly reduced. The blue flame seen when natural gas is ignited is a sign of perfect combustion.

I like having colonic irrigation because sometimes you find old jewellery. Joan Rivers

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KARAOKE - DISCO SHOW!**

SAT - LIVE ENTERTAINMENT



**SUNDAYS - NICK GOLD,
VOCALIST**

**(Opposite Mercadona
in Los Balcones.)**



Tel: 966 722 112 FREE Wi-Fi

Goodbye Marvin.

Marvin was in the hospital on his death bed.

The family called Marvin's Preacher to be with him in his final moments. As the Preacher stood by the bed, Marvin's condition seemed to deteriorate, and Marvin motioned for someone to quickly pass him a pen and paper.

The Preacher quickly got a pen and paper and lovingly handed it to Marvin. But before he had a chance to read the note, Marvin died. The Preacher feeling that now wasn't the right time to read it put the note in his jacket pocket.

It was at the funeral while speaking that the Preacher suddenly remembered the note. Reaching deep into his pocket the Preacher said "and you know what, I suddenly remembered that right before Marvin died he handed me a note, and knowing Marvin I'm sure it was something inspiring that we can all gain from. With that introduction the Preacher ripped out the note and opened it.

The note said "YOU ARE STANDING ON MY OXYGEN TUBE!"

EL CAPTAN

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Large & Varied Menu.

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Father Ted

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SKY SPORTS.

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OPEN 3pm - 12am

Saturday & Sunday -

12 noon - 12 midnight.



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@

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(The Telegraph, July 12, 2013)

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Before the Referendum.

The Queen was in Glasgow where she bumped into Alex Salmond.

HM: "How nice to see you Mr Salmond". AS: "Nice to see you Ma'am. Now, what are we going to call Scotland when we win Independence? How about calling it a Kingdom, and then I'll be a King?"

HM: "No, we don't like that idea Mr Salmond". AS: "Empire, and I'll be Emperor?"

HM: "No. I don't think so Mr Salmond".

AS: "OK, so how about calling it a Principality, and then I'll be a Prince?"

HM: "No, Mr Salmond. May I suggest that we call it a Country?"

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Near Zenia Boulevard.

Whining about the Wine.

The grape harvest is facing the lowest prices for 25 years. The areas with the greatest volume; Extremadura and above all Castilla La Mancha report a kilo of white grapes, including transport is now at an average of 15 cents, while in Valdepeñas the price is 24 cents.

The low prices come after a bumper harvest last year with 53 million hectolitres, much of which remains in storage, while other people suggest converting the wine into industrial use alcohol.

The situation does not affect La Rioja where a good production of 450 million kilos is expected and neither is Ribera del Duero affected with a production of 90 million kilos.

Falling Branches.

More than 26,000 trees and palms are at risk of falling in the streets and gardens of Alicante. Municipal technicians are inspecting all the trees in the city to avoid accidents as seen in Madrid. There, three people have died from falling branches.

My kids? Have you seen *The Brady Bunch*? Well, picture them with knives.
Carla Tortelli in *Cheers*

Valencia, the Worst Health Service Region.

The Federation of Associations for the Defence of Public Health (FADSP) has published its annual report which compares healthcare across all the regions of Spain.

The report shows the large disparity between the regions is growing and this is 'putting into danger the necessary cohesion and equality between regions'.

The cuts in health spending have affected all the regions, but some more than others.

A citizen in Valencia will have a health service half the quality of a citizen in Navarra, and Valencia has been at the bottom of the table for ten of the last eleven years, while Navarra doubles the region in points.

The FADSP report measures quality at 26 control points, such as the health spend per citizen, the number of beds, surgeries, doctors and nurses for each 1,000 inhabitants; the spending on medicines, the number of medical tests carried out, the length of waiting lists and the satisfaction of the patient, among others.

The points awarded across the countries regions are as follows

Navarra 82 (out of a maximum 98)

Aragón 75

Basque Country 73

Asturias 73

Castilla y León 72

Andalucía 64

Cantabria 64

Galicia 61

La Rioja 60

Castilla la Mancha 59

Cataluña 57

Extremadura 56

Madrid 56

Baleares 54

Murcia 53

Canaries 47 – the seventh year in this position

And the Valencia Community 46

The report also highlights, 'there is unequivocal evidence that privatisations shows an over-spend of between seven and nine times, without any improvement in the quality of service, and in many cases the service is actually worse.

The opinions of the public on the health service is lowering all the time, especially over the last two years. (Typically Spanish)

But of course your location in Valencia can also dictates whether the service you receive is good or bad. Fortunately the service in this immediate area is still very good. But its reliability will depend on the continuance of funding. After years of wasteful spending on grandiose architectural projects, funding of football clubs, Formula 1 follies and other money-guzzling projects, there is nothing left in the financial pot. This has resulted in the health service, education and important social projects being deprived of substantial investment.

Getting the Story Straight!

Men's best friends are much better than women's best friends.

Case example:

A married women goes out for an evening and doesn't get back home till late the following morning. Her husband asks where she's been. She replies that since it was getting late she decided it would be better if she stayed overnight with her best friend.

Later her husband rings each of her ten best friends but none of them know anything about an overnight stay at their place.

Following week, hubby goes out for the night and he doesn't get back till the next morning either. He tells his wife he stayed over at his best pal's place.

His wife later rings his ten best pals.

Eight confirmed that he stayed overnight and two said he was still there.



Fáilte **Doolan's** Sláinte

ÍRISH BAR

GROUND FLOOR,
VIA PARK III



céad míle fáilte



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WITH GREAT ATMOSPHERE AND
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INHERITANCE & GIFT TAX IMPORTANT CHANGES AFFECTING NON RESIDENT BENEFICIARIES.

In 2010, the European Commission ruled that the Spanish Inheritance (IHT) & Gift Tax legislation was discriminatory and told them to amend it. The issue was that non residents paid significantly more tax than residents on inheritance or gift disbursements. This was judged to be restricting the free movement of capital and people in the EU. Spain choose to ignore the instruction. The bottom line was that, even if you were a resident owner in Spain, if you bequeathed part or all of your estate to non resident family members, they would pay substantially more tax than if they were resident in Spain.

The lack of movement by the Spanish then prompted the European Court of Justice (ECJ) in Strasbourg to investigate the matter. Finally, after deliberating the obvious for four full years, on September 3 this year, the ECJ ruled that the existing Spanish Inheritance & Gift Tax legislation was illegal. In Spain the inheritance/succession and gift tax is State controlled, but its management has been ceded to the regions, but the regions must now abide with the European ruling.

This now means that if you 'pop your clogs' and leave your Spanish property to your offspring in say, murky Scunthorpe, if any tax is payable it will be no more than a resident Spaniard would pay.

But, as that tax is now declared illegal, anyone who has paid the IHT as a non resident during the last four or so years, can now claim it back, possibly with interest! This can be a substantial amount for many. One analyst has put the overpayment during the last four years at €200 million!

However, many Spanish lawyers/ambulance chasers, see this as another way of screwing more money out of the foreigner and will offer their services to claim the overpaid tax, providing you will pay them 50% of the tax refunded! Some may charge less and their charges may also attract IVA (VAT). This is of course extortionate but legal. If you already pay a lawyer an annual fee for their services, then they should not charge you anything for registering your claim as it is a very simple procedure with minimal forms. Check first to see if they plan to levy any fee for your claim. If needs be, shop around for a better deal, but check the small print, particularly the agreement with the lawyer.

You may know of some individuals who are living abroad but who would undoubtedly benefit from all this, particularly if they paid IHT following the death of a non-res' partner. It would be the charitable thing to inform them that they can now claim the overpaid tax back.

It is difficult to know what the state and regions will now do about revising IHT rates and allowances in the near future. They may very well introduce a whole new inheritance/gift tax structure and try and modernise the now very outdated and almost feudal IHT requirements. Unfortunately, for a number of reasons, I believe the latter is most unlikely.

Baaaaaaa!

Three farmers are walking across the mountainside when they spot a field of sheep.

'Heh, there's some good looking sheep over there' the first one jokes. 'I wish one was Madonna.'

'I wish one was Baby Spice,' says the second.

'I wish it was dark,' whispers the third.

Spain, in Europe.

A report from the Spanish Ministry for Health reveals 3.1 beds for every 1,000 people, well below the European average of 5.2 on the list led by Germany with 8.2. Despite having fewer beds, or perhaps the reason for it, is Spain leads the life-expectancy list in Europe with 82.5 years, with the EU average 79.3. However looking at Spanish women the life-expectancy goes up to 85.5 years, while the men go down to 79.5 years, with the men beaten only by the Swiss, Italians and the Cypriots.

The Belgians, Austrians are the their health services, and five percent of the Romanians, Polish the heath service on than in their's.



Germans and most satisfied with while between four Greeks, Bulgarians, and Slovaks consider other countries is better

Spain remains above the EU average in daily smokers with 24% with the average at 22.5% although the number in Spain has fallen by seven percent since the last report.

Spaniards drink almost the same as the EU average at 10 litres per head, with the EU average at 9.8 litres. The most drunken people in Europe are the Lithuanians, Czechs, and Austrians, with 12.9 to 12.1, while the most abstemious are the Maltese, Swiss and Italians, with 7.6 to 6.1.

Regarding obesity 17% of the population is obese, the EU average 16.6%. The United Kingdom has the biggest problem in Europe with 24.8%, with Italy at 10% and Romania at just 7% are the fittest. (That's probably because in Romania there's nothing to eat and they are all over here! Ed.)

Source: typicallyspanish.com

This chap's house is in the streets where they throw the tomatoes in Bunol during La Tomatina. So he has just opened his front door....



*.....has a quick look and thinks, "What the f***!"*

An Oldie but a Goldie!

A woman was very distraught with the fact that she had not had a date or any sex in quite some time. She was afraid she might have something wrong with her, so she decided to seek the medical expertise of a sex therapist. Her doctor recommended that she see the well known Chinese sex therapist Dr. Chang.

So she went to see him. Upon entering the examination room Dr. Chang said 'OK take off all your crose.' The woman did as she was told. 'Now get down and crawl reery, reery fass to odderside of room.'

Again the woman did as she was instructed. Dr. Chang then said 'OK, now crawl reery, reery fass back to me.' So she did.

Dr.Chang shook his head slowly and said, 'Your probrem vevy bad. You haf Ed Zachary disease. Worse case I ever see. Dat why you not haf sex or dates.'

Worried the woman asked anxiously, 'Oh my God Dr.Chang what is Ed Zachary Disease?'

Dr. Chang sighed deeply and replied, 'Ed Zachary Disease is when your face look Ed Zachary like your arse.'

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Two Irishmen were waiting at the bus stop when a truck went past loaded up with rolls of turf.
 Paddy said, "I'm gonna do that when I win the lottery."
 "What's that then?" asks Mick.
 "Send me lawn away to be mowed."

New €10 Notes.

The new notes correspond to the 'Europa' series, which feature new and improved security characters complicating even more contraband.

What is being described as a slow launch, the notes began to appear in all 18 countries of the Eurozone on Tuesday September 23, 2014. The European Central Bank (ECB) has now embarked on a second series of euro notes; the first of the second series was the five euro note, released on May 2, 2013, and to continue with the chain, the next second series note be for €20. In the new note a person from Greek Mythology is in the hologram and the water-mark, and the number 10 turns from green to dark blue when inclined.

The ECB says apart from the longer life and greater security, the new notes are cheaper to produce and have less impact on the environment.

They defend the euro notes as 'a tangible symbol' of the European Union, which contributes to uniting millions of Europeans of all diversity.

Some commercial establishment and small companies would by now have received a leaflet and hologram card explaining the new note. Businesses are asked to check any money reading or counting equipment to check they read the new notes correctly. (Abridged from TypicallySpanish)



Knife Attack!

Even if you just peruse Spanish newspapers, you will be aware that Spanish publishers have no compunction in printing the occasional gruesome photos. In this particular photo, El Pais, you will see a knife sticking out of this 60-year-old Pakistani man's left shoulder. This unfortunate



man is waiting for the ambulance to arrive, but he was actually the fifth victim in a short but violent stabbing spree. The other four victims are an Algerian woman aged 40, a South American man aged 26, a Chinese man aged 33 and a native of Lleida aged 40. All of them are in stable condition, according to sources at Arnau de Vilanova Hospital.

The violent assaults took place in Lleida, Barcelona, in late September between 6.15pm and 7.15pm. Police swamped the area and soon arrested a 21-year-old medical student, who had actually handed himself in to the police station. He is now being held in a mental health facility.

Glamour girl Katie Price did a book signing last week that lasted nearly two hours. To be fair, she didn't take quite so long to sign the second book. Frank Skinner

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Number 1 Groan Joke!

One beautiful December evening Huan Cho and his girlfriend Jung Lee were sitting by the side of the South China Sea. It was a romantic full moon, when Huan Cho said "Hey baby, let's play Weeweechu."

"Oh no, not now, lets look at the moon" said Jung Lee.

"Oh, c'mon baby, let's you and I play Weeweechu. I love you and it's the perfect time," Huan Cho begged.

"But I rather just hold your hand and watch the moon."

"Please Jung Lee, just once play Weeweechu with me."

Jung Lee looked at Huan Chi and said, "OK, we'll play Weeweechu." Huan Cho grabbed his guitar and they both sang....."Weeweechu a Merry Christmas, Weeweechu a Merry Christmas, Weeweechu a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year." (Sorry!)

Whenever you feel sad, remember that somewhere in the world there's an idiot pulling a door that says 'PUSH'.

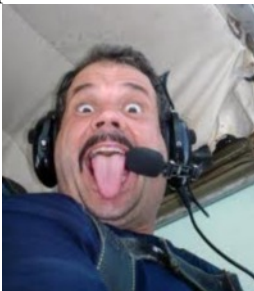
IDIOT OF THE MONTH.

Francisco Javier Martinez who lives in Palma de Mallorca is an idiot, albeit a very dangerous one. Last month he was found guilty of starting 24 forest fires in Mallorca and Menorca during the summer of 2012. Although the prosecutor requested a jail term of 78 years, as Martinez confessed his guilt, this was reduced to 17 years, among the highest given to an arsonist to date. In his defence, Martinez stated, 'I am a lover of nature.'

You are no doubt aware that the Moroccan coastal border is porous. With human trafficking and drug smuggling, I would imagine that most European Mediterranean countries keep very close tabs on what leaves that coastline. During late summer, Spanish Guardia Civil officers noticed two speed boats and three jet skies off the coast of Spain's African enclave of Ceuta. The officers ordered the main vessel to stop and demanded that the occupants identified themselves. One of the occupants shouted, 'Do you know who I am?' When the officers said 'No' the man removed his cap and glasses to reveal that he was King Mohamed VI of Morocco (photo). Cue several red faces and a hasty withdrawal by the Guardia. King Mohamed huffed and puffed and a number of Spanish notables were quick to contact dhim and apologise. The king stated that stated the officers "had done their job perfectly" but that he "hadn't been respected". In older times, the Guardia responsible would probably have got the 'red-hot poker treatment.' Now it is probably an immediate transfer to some dry, dusty hamlet in central Spain with a large goat population and several million flies.



Six U.S. army helicopters, five Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and one tandem-rotor Boeing Co. Chinook chopper, touched down in a rapeseed field in northern Poland. The Septics were returning from a Lithuania but their north of Warsaw, among the locals. The understandable thought that the again, after events in their wings. It was a found that their "The Americans came they landed," a local resident, told TVN24 television. "They wanted to know the name of the village." Later, a U.S. Army spokesman said that the air crews weren't lost and didn't seek or need directions. No, of course not. They just landed to stretch their legs.



NATO exercise in appearance 140 miles caused consternation local Poles were nervous as they initially Russians were once the Ukraine, spreading great relief when they visitors were Yanks. over and asked where

To celebrate the planned extension of the Suez Canal, Egypt decided to commission a line of stamps showing off the multi-billion dollar project. The only problem is that the designers seem to have confused their canals. Some of the stamps show the Panama Canal, located in Central America. Embarrassed authorities have announced that they were halting the stamps' production. You can see the stamp and the canals here - <http://observers.france24.com/content/20140915-egypt%E2%80%99-new-stamp-mixes-suez-panama-canal>

But one of my favourite stories from last month concerns an advisor to the mayor in Orihuela, Artur Balaguer - photo. Artur put both feet firmly in his own mouth while commenting on the holidaying *Madrilenos*. He put a message on Twitter which said in Spanish "I desire the coming of September when the fuc*ing moronic Spanish and their rude children go back to their Madrid homes."



Now, there is no doubt that many of us feel like this, but Artur, when you are in local politics and also reaping the generous financial benefits of tourism, it is unwise to bite the hand that feeds! Still, well done on having the 'nuts' to say what most of us feel.



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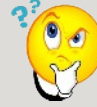
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Porn Channel.

A vicar books into a hotel and says to the hotel clerk: 'I hope the porn channel in my room is disabled?' She replies, 'No sir, it's just regular porn. You sick bastard.'

OTHER NEWS

Watching for Jellyfish.

One would think that with the popularity of the Benidorm beaches and the associated revenue they generate, the city burghers would at least have organised some protection against jellyfish. Well no, probably too busy counting their money. During one particularly bad day in August, over 700 bathers had to be treated by the Red Cross for stings! A solution would probably be the installation of nets. But no! The burghers have a better idea - the European Space Agency! The Agency has been requested to create a computer model which would predict the arrival of jellyfish. This would entail a database accounting for many variables such as water conditions, temperature, historical sightings, records of stings and types of jellyfish. The public would also be able to send in relevant information on sightings on their mobiles. However the funding for the main project has not been agreed yet.

One company, Starlab, has already introduced two pilot projects in Cartagena and Tarragona. Here, by studying satellite imaging, they have reported an 80% success rate in predicting jellyfish invasions. So when they do arrive you can just sit on the beach and watch them. Wow!

A Hero!

On February 18, 2013, a firefighter was instructed to cut the chain to a house of an 85-year-old woman in A Coruña, who was due to be evicted because of non-payment of two months rent. Although the woman had occupied the home for the previous 30 years, the authorities had been instructed to force entry and evict the old woman. However the firefighter, Roberto Rivas, refused to cut the chain stating that 'it was not his job to throw people out of their homes.' Based on a report by the National Police on the incident, Central Government concocted a charge of 'altering the public safety' and he was fined €600 by the court. This photo from EFE shows him arriving at the court early this September, where he was greeted and applauded by a large contingent from the 'Stop Evictions' campaign. He intends to appeal.



Russian Blockade Hurting Local Farmers.

The price of agricultural produce in the Vega Baja region has fallen by 37% due to the Russian embargo on EU fruit and veg' exports. One of the largest falls has been the white cucumber down 37.3% on July prices. Other falls have been the humble onion (- 36.36%), red pepper (- 25%), leek (- 23%), Eggplant (- 17.6%) celery (- 16.6%); almonds (- 9.24%) and Clementine Marisol (- 6.89%). But these price reductions are not being passed on to the consumers. Speculators and middlemen are keeping the prices high and are pressurising the farmers for even greater reductions. Cheap almonds, for example, can be bought now and stored for three to four years, taking advantage of future low yields and high prices. Producers are also unhappy with what they describe as the derisory compensation from Brussels.

Formula One Questions.

Bernie Ecclestone, president and CEO of Formula One Management and Formula One Administration, signed an agreement with a private company, Valmar Sport, to bring the race to Valencia. But the documents are now in the hands of the anti-corruption prosecutor who believes that, in reality, the race was organised and paid for by the Valencia Regional Government. At the time the Socialists denounced that Valmar 'eluded legal and economic controls and issued opaque contracts' and in reality Valmar Sport organised none of the races. Alberto Fabra, the current president of the Regional Government, purchased Valmar Sport for one euro, taking on the debts the company had run up which amounted to nearly 50 million €. What a great buy! The Valencia urban race was negotiated by the then president of the Regional Government, Francisco Camps of the 'suits scandal.' The European Grand Prix was held in Valencia between 2008 and 2012. Disappointing attendances, increased competition between nations to host a grand prix and the perilous state of Valencian finances resulted in Fabra cancelling the races in the region for 2013 and 2014. Yet another legacy passed onto the public purse by the now 'debunked' former regional president, Camps.

A man goes to the doctor. The doctor tells him that he has three minutes to live.

The man says, 'Doc, what can you give me?' The doctor says, 'A hard-boiled egg.' Tommy Cooper.

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Caveat Emptor.

Paddy - I'm thinking about getting a dog.

Mick - Yeah; what kind

Paddy - Golden Retriever

Mick - Feck off!! Have you seen how many of their owners go blind?

Some Images from the Tomatina.



130 tons of tom's about to hit the streets of Bunol!

Well and truly tomatoed!



You are not travelling back in my car!

Fones!

I suppose one of my main technological 'hates' is for the cellphone/mobile phone or similar devices. I really do not believe they have advanced our civilisation one jot. For humans to reduce their opportunities to talk and just text instead is not progress.

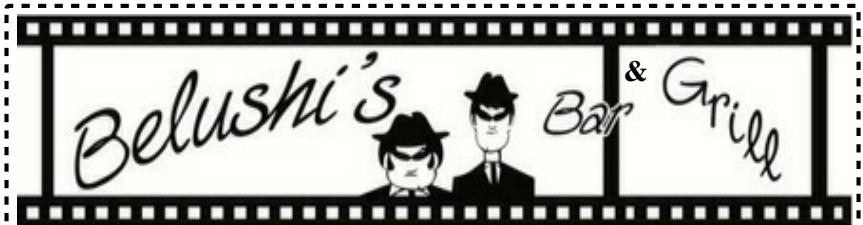
A recent survey in Spain revealed that the majority of the sample said they now preferred to text and not talk! In a survey of 1,000 cellphone users, 95.3% reported using messaging apps at least once a day, more often than they made calls. 38.1% said they sent messages a number of times each day. I like the cartoon where a girl is talking to her boyfriend who is engrossed in texting and she says, "Do you mind if I strap your phone to my forehead so that I can pretend you are looking at me when I talk?"

Well, in Beijing they have been having problems



with people colliding with others on pavements while being engrossed

in their phones. They have selected a pavement on a famous bridge and painted specially marked routes for cellphone users and non users. As you can see from the photo from Reuters, the route for the non-mobile phone users gives access to views of the lovely gardens etc., while those with the 'habit' get to walk next to the traffic lane where, if there is a God, they are likely to 'meet up' with a bus or a motorcyclist. I would have taken it a bit further and had their stretch of the pavement lead directly into the sea!



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Fancy a Nice Walk?

I am aware that many of our readers are keen walkers, but the following walk has to be one of the most beautiful and dangerous. Called the *Camino del Rey*, or the King's Pathway, is a well-known trail through the gorge of the Guadalhorce River near the Malaga town of El Chorro in Andalucia — fairly easy if you're fit and healthy, but next to impossible if you have any kind of fear of heights.

The most dangerous part of the walkway has fallen into disrepair, five deaths occurring on it between 1999 and 2000. But the trail continued to attract the thrill seekers, so a fine of €6,000 was levied on trespassers to try and discourage them. They still came. The Malaga authorities will now spend €2.2 million on upgrading the walkway, particularly the dangerous gorge section - *Desfiladero de los Gaitanes* - where 500 tons of steel will be used to render this stretch safe for all.

If you Google *Camino del Rey* for images or go to YouTube, you will see some truly stunning images and videos of the dangerous bit. Well worth a look.



OCTOBER AT THE PHOENIX



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When a doctor remarked on a new patient's extraordinarily ruddy complexion, the man said, "High blood pressure, Doc. It runs in my family." "Your mother's side or your father's?" the doctor asked. "Neither," the patient replied. "It's from my wife's family." "Oh, come now," said the doctor "How could your wife's family give you high blood pressure?" He sighed, "You oughta meet'em sometime, Doc!"



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The History of Spain, Part 44. 1936: The Nationalist Airlift from North Africa & the Moroccans.

When news of the coup reached the Spanish navy, the below-decks mutinied, subduing the officers violently and dumping the bodies overboard. Whereas the rebel Nationalists in North Africa had expected the navy to come over to their side, most of the navy, mainly the other ranks, remained loyal to the Republic. Of the three Spanish destroyers, two would remain loyal and the third went over to the Nationalists, only because their radio was broken and the other ranks below-decks were unaware of the rising. Later this crew would 'eject' the officers and declare for the Republic.

Franco now found that he was effectively blockaded in Morocco with his army. The Republican navy bombarded Ceuta and Melilla in North Africa and did, at least at this stage, police the straights between Africa and Spain. It was essential for Franco to get some of his experienced fighting troops to the mainland and although a usually cautious general, he planned to run the blockade on one occasion. He also decided to do it during daylight hours as he correctly surmised that the Republican navy was anxious to avoid strafing by the few fighter planes that the rebels possessed and tended only to patrol at night. Using some merchant vessels and the remaining destroyer, Franco managed, in one operation, to get a few hundred soldiers across to the Spanish mainland. They were immediately deployed and were cutting a swath with their usual ferocity through the unprepared Republican opposition.

The Royal Navy in Gibraltar were of course taking careful note of what was now happening in the waters they also patrolled. They were well aware of the Spanish mutinies and were keeping a close eye on their own crews. The Royal Navy would later become passively supportive to the Nationalists but obstructive towards the Republicans. The German navy were also becoming interested in the dispute and had two warships close by.

But Franco realised that he had to get help with transporting his troops to the mainland. He stepped up his appeals to Hitler and Mussolini. Although both refused help earlier, they were now becoming more cooperative. Once Hitler realised that the French under their Jewish president, Blum, was going to assist the Republicans with arms, he eventually decided to help the rebels, but not yet at this stage with significant supplies of armaments. After rejecting earlier requests for assistance by the rebel Nationalists, Mussolini also became interested in the conflict and agreed to assist the rebels.

Hitler now agreed to send 20 transport aircraft to the Nationalists in North Africa. Independently, Mussolini decided to send 12 bomber/transport aircraft to Franco. All these aircraft arrived before the end of July 1936 and would finally allow Franco to move his Army of Africa to the mainland. By July 29, 850 of Franco's men had reached mainland Spain. This increased to 1,500 by August 5. During the first week of August, Mussolini sent a further 27 fighter planes and five tanks. By the end of August, Hitler sent an additional 26 bombers and 15 fighter planes. When the German and Italian planes arrived en-masse, they were able to carry 500 troops across daily. This was the first large military airlift in history.

Of course it was German and Italian pilots who flew the planes on the missions. Nobody counted the soldiers when they stormed into the planes. They took off whenever somebody yelled 'Voll' (full). Sometimes 42 tumbled out when they reached Spain. The planes were designed to carry 17!

It was at this stage, late July 1936, that the Germans stated that they would only supply war materials through Franco to avoid factionalism.

But the Moroccan mercenaries had never been on a plane before, I suppose much like their Spanish counterparts. When they arrived on the planes wearing their flowing robes and red fez hats, they would sit on the floor in long rows with their knees drawn up muttering prayers as the little aircraft were blown about in the seasonal winds. Many were sick, on the floor and on each other. But the German crews did not have time to clean the cabins before the planes were back in the air for another trip.

You might wonder why the Moroccans would flock as mercenaries to join the rebels, particularly as Spain looked on their country as a colony and generally treated them very poorly. One reason was money. Whereas the Republican troops at this stage were the highest paid 'squaddies' in the world, the Moroccans received a bonus for joining up and a weekly wage they could never achieve in North Africa. They were also deluged with promises and lies - told the Republicans wished to ban Islam and that they would be granted freedom for Morocco after the war, something the Spanish - both sides - had no intention of doing.

There is a lovely story told of a Moroccan mercenary who was captured by the Republicans. The Spaniards' commander interrogated the prisoner and asked what he was doing in Spain? Why was he involved in a conflict that did not concern him? The Moroccan replied with great dignity that he had always fought for his ideals. The commander was impressed by the prisoner's obvious sincerity and rather than have him shot nor sent to a prison camp gave the man a job in the field kitchen. Later the same day, the commander toured the frontlines and was astonished to see the Moroccan with a rifle in his hands firing on the rebel positions. The outraged commander dragged the Moroccan out of his trench and accused him of fighting for Franco one day and against him the next: 'You have no ideals at all!'

'My ideals have always been the same,' said the Moroccan, again with great dignity. 'To kill Spaniards.'

An enjoyable story, but the reality would have been that if a Moroccan was captured by the Republicans, he would be shot but only after receiving some particularly nasty attention from his captors. The reason for this would be that the Moroccans themselves were not only savage in battle but also during the aftermath. During the Asturias attempted revolt and the miners' strike of 1934, the Foreign Legion and the Moroccan mercenaries, then under General Franco, showed how cruel they could be and without any fear of investigations or charges afterwards. During the early years of this new conflict, few prisoners were taken by either side. Even if you were just a civilian, if you were even suspected of being a supporter of the other side, you would be shot.

The Moroccans inspired great fear as they cut through Republican supporting villages, towns and cities with the Foreign Legion. After being shot, prisoners and civilians would also be castrated by the Moroccans, their homes would be looted and the women raped. Wounded Republican prisoners in hospitals would be bayoneted if they couldn't stand up to be shot. This terror was encouraged by the Rebel leaders as it had an incredibly demoralising effect on the Republican forces who were awaiting with great trepidation the seemingly unstoppable advance of the rebels.

Atrocities were common on both sides as we shall see as this unbelievably savage civil war progresses.

Lime Bar Fishing Sunbathing Club

Hello all. On the 27th August, we had our summer "soiree" at the New Tavern in San Miguel. A few members do not remember much about it, me included! Unfortunately, nobody will stitch anybody else up, so not a lot of gossip.



The food was good, the company entertaining & "Woody" (the Buddy Holly tribute) was brilliant. It was a very warm evening with the aircon working overtime. It wasn't long before the ladies were wafting their "fannies" accompanied by lots of innuendos & giggling. After a few sherbets, Fagin was ready to dance with anything & everybody so Just John (equipped with his handbag) tried to "pull" him. To the shock of the ladies, John was cold shouldered, as Fagin had already chosen his partners, Grumpy Bob & Daffy. Fagin soon lapsed back to his true self though when he was caught counting his pennies.



Thank you Freaky & Roxy for looking after us again, we had a fantastic night.

This month's meeting was opened with the quill introducing the new Chairman's headdress. If his eyes were working properly I'm sure he wouldn't have!

Ammo & casualty report. Cyril "the elder" is enjoying his fishing again. On one occasion he caught about 40 fish and had to dragged home! He is now on holiday cruising the Norfolk Broads. Lucky bugger!



Nancy's was the match venue for the last round. Unfortunately, Shropshire Boy back to contest his place for scorching day with very little fish very hard to hook. The had an operation on one eye. now being able to see his float opposite the campsite "T" directly opposite the Quill & he came 2nd with 5.72 kgs. Although the summer league was fished over 6 months, this match result mirrored the league. The league scores were very close with the Quill winning with 10 points & Just John a very close 2nd with 11 points. The top 6 in the summer league now go forward to the summer final, which will be fished in the first week of October. Quill, Just John, 3 Rods, Ghost, Fag Eyes & Snake Charmer. Good luck all.

Fagin organised a pan day at Benijofar. Swim clearing preceded the breakfast followed by a spot of fishing. Not a lot to shout about, but we did get a thank you from "Carp R Us" for clearing another venue. Well done all concerned especially to the chefs (Fagin & Grumpy).

This month I had my family visiting. My 3 grandsons had never been fishing so I took them to Ghost Point. Aidan was the first to be set up and cast in. I turned my back to set up Alfie & Kiegan. Bang! First time fishing, first cast and he hooked into a big carp. The look on his face was a picture! It took him a few minutes, but he landed a 3.75 pounder. I thought we were in for a good day, but unfortunately although we had loads of bites, Alfie & Kiegan didn't catch.

Dad caught a terrapin & a 1 pounder, then Aidan caught his 2nd, a 2 pounder. Not a lot of fish caught, but 3 more boys hooked on fishing.



Next meeting is at The Lime Bar @ 17.30 Mon 6th October.
Fishy fingers!
The Ghost

The Performer.

A shabby looking man walks into a bar and asks for a pint of beer. 'Now wait a minute,' says the bartender suspiciously. 'Let's see your money first.' 'Listen mate,' he replies. 'I haven't got any money, but if you give me some beer, I'll stand up on the bar and fart 'Blue Suede Shoes.'

Now the bartender is intrigued by this, so he agrees. The man drinks his beer, gets up on the bar and drops his trousers. Everyone in the pub cheers loudly, but suddenly he starts to crap all over the counter. 'Aaagh!' The customers are so appalled they get up and race out of the pub. 'You effing prat,' screams the bartender. 'You said you were going to fart 'Blue Suede Shoes.' 'Now wait a minute,' says the man. 'Even Elvis had to clear his throat before he began to sing.' Stewart

Cricket is basically baseball on Valium. Robin Williams.

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Obvious!



Submitted by Jenny Reader.

Standards!

I received a phone call from a really gorgeous ex-girlfriend who, this morning, called 'out-of-the-blue' to see if I was still around. We lost track of time, chatting about the wild, romantic times we used to enjoy together. I couldn't believe it when she asked if I'd be interested in meeting up and rekindling a little of that 'old magic'.

'Wow!' I said, flabbergasted. 'I don't know if I could keep pace with you now,' I said, 'I'm a bit older and a bit greyer and balder than when you last saw me. Plus I don't really have the energy I used to have.' She just giggled and said she was sure I would 'rise to the challenge'.

'Yeah.' I said. 'Just so long as you don't mind a waistline that's a few inches wider these days! Not to mention my total lack of muscle tone...everything is sagging, my teeth are a bit yellowed and I am developing jowls like a Great Dane!'

She laughed and told me to stop being so silly. She teased me saying that tubby, grey haired, older men were cute, and she was sure I would still be a great lover.

Anyway, she giggled and said, 'I've put on a few pounds myself!'

.....So I told her to f*ck off.

Brian H.

Nigerian Email Scam - an Update.

It's one of the oldest tricks in the book, just with a 21st-century twist: dangle the prospect of a large sum of money for doing nothing, and somebody will take the bait. Spain's High Court has just sentenced 14 people who participated in an elaborate Nigerian mail scam to jail terms of up to 21 years. The fraud was simple, and consisted of sending out hundreds of thousands of emails and letters telling recipients that they had just won a multi-million dollar inheritance or lottery win. All that was required was some cash up front to transfer the funds...

Between 2005 and October 2010, when arrests were made, the gang swindled €8.8 million out of just 15 people, from a total of six countries. Led by Prince Eneka Nwambu, it persuaded one victim, a Norwegian named only as Odd K.V., to make 18 transfers worth €1.86 million to accounts in the United Kingdom in return for a bogus €14 million inheritance. US citizen Howard Alfred S. paid out €3.8 million, borrowing some of it from friends, in the belief that he was to receive €80 million in return for consultancy work for the National Oil Corporation of Nigeria.

The overwhelming majority of the hundreds of thousands of messages sent out by the gang were immediately consigned to recipients' trash folders. But all that was required was to capture the imagination of a tiny percentage of potential victims. Unlike other Nigerian fraud scams, which are typically run on a shoestring, Prince Nwambu's gang was significantly more sophisticated.

After establishing contact with victims, the gang met them in Spain, where the transfer would allegedly take place. Its contact here was Pablo de la Mata, who worked at a branch of Deutsche Bank in Madrid. The bank has subsequently said that it had no knowledge of the fraud, and would not respond to requests to contribute toward compensating victims, despite the fact that some met with De la Mata in his branch.

Each step along the supposed path to receiving the final transfer required victims to stump up cash. Each gang member played a different role in the scam: one pretended to be the owner of the security company guarding a lottery ticket; another claimed to be a representative of the Finance Ministry, able to help cut through red tape tying up an inheritance. Others were tasked with maintaining contact with victims, writing letters, opening bank accounts, withdrawing money paid in by their targets, renting hire cars or meeting rooms, and falsifying documents.

The gang even went as far as to show its potential victims large amounts of fake cash on their arrival in Spain. And throughout the process, Prince Nwambu, using different identities, played the role of trusted friend. He now faces 21 years and two months in jail for conspiracy, aggravated fraud, money laundering and using a false identity. (Source: El Pais)

You will have noted that the above refers to activities which culminated in the arrests in 2010. The scam is of course still being carried out by others, who are no doubt finding it just as lucrative. I have just checked my 'Spam box' and in just over the last four days I have received five Nigerian-type scam messages regarding 'unclaimed funds', an email from a kind couple who have donated \$1.5 million to me, a Spanish guy who wants my current account number so he can send me a gift and two emails which promise to enlarge the size of my penis. Is it just me who is so lucky?

I've been smoking for 30 years now and there's nothing wrong with my lung. Freddie Starr

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Walking on Water.

Paddy had long heard the stories of an amazing family tradition. It seems his father, grandfather and great grandfather had all been able to walk on water on their 18th birthday. On that special day they each walked across the lake to the pub on the far side for their first legal drink.

So when Paddy's 18th birthday came around he and his pal Mick took a boat out into the middle of the lake, Paddy stepped out of the boat.....and nearly drowned. Furious and confused Paddy went to see his grandmother. "Grandma", he said, "It's my 18th birthday so why can't I walk across the lake like my father, his father and his father before him?"

Granny looked deeply into Paddy's troubled brown eyes and said, "Because your father, grandfather and your great grandfather were all born in December when the lake is frozen and you were born in August, you twit!"

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

FASHION.

A woman's dress should be like a barbed-wire fence, serving its purpose without obstructing the view.
Sophia Loren

Why does everything you wear look as if it's bearing a grudge?
Edina from *Absolutely Fabulous*.

One of the few lessons I have learned in life is that there is invariably something odd about women who wear ankle socks.
Alan Bennett

My closet looks like a convention of multiple personality cases.
Anna Quindlen

You couldn't tell if she was dressed for an operation or an opera.
Irvin S Cobb

- Why are so many gay men drawn to designing women's clothes?
- Because we're too scared to be plumbers.
Alex Bilmes and Alexander McQueen, fashion designer

Is there anything worn under the kilt? No, it's all in perfect working order.
Scottish Peter (the Taxi)

The Pope. Great guy. But in the fashion sense, he's one hat away from being Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan.
Jon Stewart

The softer a man's head, the louder his socks.
Helen Rowland

Tell me the history of that frock, Janet. It's obviously an old favourite. You were wise to remove the curtain rings. I love the fabric. You were lucky to find so much of it.
Dame Edna Everage

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