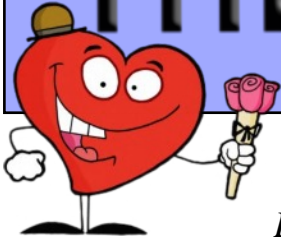


THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER



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



Issue no. 95, 1st of February 2015.

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the February edition.

Well, It has been two months since the last edition of The Dream Scene. As I advised, I had to cancel the January edition due to family commitments. Trying to get the January newsletter published has always been problematic. Many expats return back to their home country for the short holiday period (so demand is down) and it is also difficult to fit the job in with printers in Spain as this is often a long holiday period for them as well. Accordingly, I have decided to skip the January edition in future. I hope you understand.

Many of you will have noticed the many beautiful Christmas decorations to houses locally here in Spain. Some of them were quite superb. But I noticed one anomaly. The Brit's, Irish and Northern Europeans all take their Christmas decorations down on 12th Night. However, for the Spanish, the big Christmas day is January 6th with the feast of the Three Kings - *Tres Reyes*. Do you think that we should at least keep the dec's up for an extra day at least, just to coincide with the celebrations of our Spanish neighbours?

I remember a line from an old Laurel & Hardy film where Stan says, 'We have been having a lot of weather lately!' How appropriate this has been for our immediate area in Spain during the last two months. First of all in early December, geologists from the Ministry of Agriculture warned that half of the province of Alicante resembled a desert, stating that 170,000 hectares are no longer fertile; the humidity of the soil dropping to under 10% because of the lack of rain.

Then within a few days, the heavens opened! 70 litres of welcome rain per square metre came down on the Orihuela Costa and 35.4 litres fell in the south of Torrevieja. The electrical storm was very localised, formed in minutes around midnight and stayed for several hours in our immediate area. Traffic problems were seen in Torrevieja and flooding in Orihuela Costa where many beaches were damaged. This photo is from *Informacion*, and you can see a range of photos illustrating the floods and damage here -



http://multimedia.diarioinformacion.com/fotos/alicante/una-tromba-aguasacude-torrevieja-orihuela-costa-29171_1.shtml

Since then the weather has been 'bone-dry' with some heavy dews in the morning, cold north winds but often with beautifully clear blue skies and warming sun. The evenings are now quite cool though.

Then there were several earthquakes in the Alicante region during January. The largest was a 3.2 magnitude which occurred inland near to Los Montesinos and the salt lakes. It occurred at a shallow level, just 5km beneath the surface, so the 'earth moved' for most of us.

A big 'Thank You' to Yvonne & Harold, Terry & Judy and Mick & Di for their generous donations towards costs. This month's issue is a bumper 32-page issue; I hope you find something useful and enjoyable in it. There are no Red Days in February but don't forget the Masked Ball at The Casino on February 13, see page 22 and of course St.Valentines Day, February 14!

Hoping you all have a wonderful month, Mick & Tid.

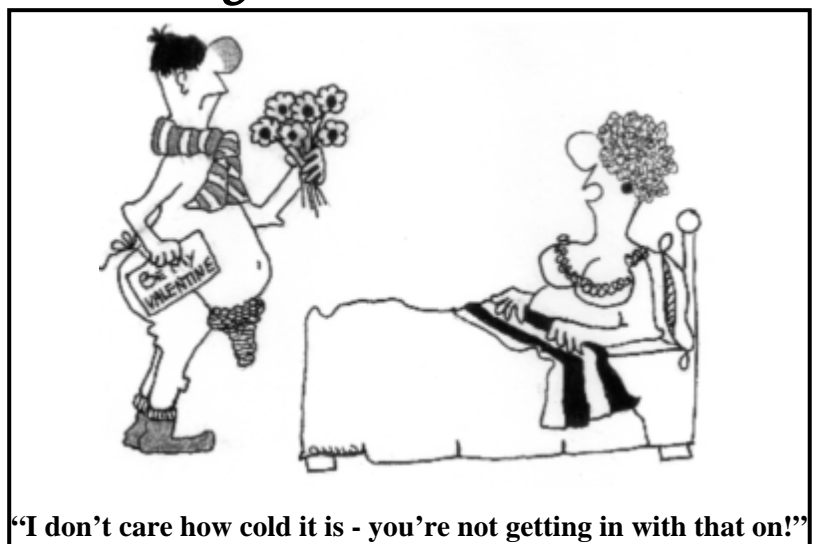
Whinges!

It is very disappointing to hear that many of you UK expats will be losing your winter fuel allowance later this year. Expats in Spain and Portugal will lose it but not those in Italy! Go figure. Mind you, I have always felt that the minister responsible, Ian Duncan Smith, couldn't find his backside with his own hands.

We all know that the Orihuela Costa, being regarded as the milch cow for Orihuela, is poorly served by the Orihuela Town Hall. But the lack of an ambulance service during the evenings at weekends is scandalous, with vehicles having to be brought in from other areas during emergencies. This takes time!

I know of at least one bar which has bought its own defib' unit to protect its clients. The situation is intolerable. Get angry!

Angela's Cartoon



"I don't care how cold it is - you're not getting in with that on!"

How many Spaniards does it take to change a light-bulb?

Just Juan.

TRANSLATOR & COMPUTER TRAINER

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

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

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

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- UNOFFICIAL WRITTEN TRANSLATIONS
- NIE / RESIDENCIA
- DRIVING LICENCES
- COURT
- TOWN HALLS
- SCHOOL MEETINGS

COMPUTER TRAINING

- WINDOWS XP, VISTA, 7
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Did you know that

... HIV is advancing in Spain as more people are practicing unsafe sex. Each year in Spain 3,500 new diagnosis for HIV are found and in 80% of them no safe sex was carried out. The data, which comes from the Health Ministry, also shows that gay people make up half of the newly infected.

...American vegetarians lack willpower? In a survey of around 11,000 Americans, it was found that 84% of vegetarians and vegans return to eating meat, says the Huffington Post. Most lapse within a year, while nearly a third don't last more than three months. Many of you may have noticed that many Spanish restaurants don't really cater for vegetarians. To many of them a fish dish is the vegetarian option!

...London has an economy which is about the size of Sweden's and an unemployment rate of just 3%. If Londoners had the same independence aspirations as the Catalans, they could lobby for independence while using the M25 motorway as the natural border. How weird would that be?

...the citizens of Benidorm have been promised a 'culture centre' since 1996. Okay, culture is not something which is synonymous with Benidorm; we tend to associate the city with stag and hen parties, female impersonators, pub-crawling, projectile vomiting and stomach pumping. Four million euros has been spent to date on the proposed centre and all there is to show for it is an ugly concrete shell; yet another glorious unfinished project consigned to the pit of Spanish wishful thinking. It has now been decided to offer two thirds of the site to Auchan. This company, as you may be aware, is a French international retail group and multinational corporation, who own numerous European brand names and stores, including Alcampo. Auchan had 639 hypermarkets and 2,412 supermarkets around the world. There are now plans to build a hypermarket on the site with the cultural activities taking a much smaller role; that is if ever there will be any!

...every Spaniard, eats on average 45 kilos of fish annually. This is twice the European average.

How do I feel about men?

With my fingers.

Cher.

What's Up?

All in all, 2014 has been an eventful year for Spain. The old king abdicates while his young son takes over; a new left wing party has emerged to threaten the hegemony of the previous two top parties; the independence campaign in Catalonia continues to splutter and gasp and some corrupt Spanish politicians have finally seen the inside of jail despite prevarications and delays.

The economy also appears to have turned the corner with around half a million new jobs created last year. Few of these jobs however are permanent - around 5 to 7% - are low paying and for six month contracts usually. Spain officially emerged from the recession in 2013, the economy growing by around 1.4% in 2014. The Minister for the economy, Luis de Guindos, believes that the economy in 2015 will grow by about 2.5%, that is of course if the oil price remains at its present low level. As one would expect from the usually unethical and immoral petroleum giants, prices at the pumps have not matched the depressed wholesale prices.

With local, regional and national elections due this year, let's hope that the efficiencies and economies introduced over the last few years are not now frittered away by populism and wishful thinking.

The price of 12.5 kilo butane bottle, €7.50, is expected to fall by 5% in April. Indeed, if the price of the raw materials continue to fall, this year might see a reduction of 20% in the bottle of *butano*.



The giant Repsol has abandoned its search for hydrocarbons in the sea off the Canary Islands. They advise that the reserves they found were un-profitable and that the deposits were saturated with water and only present in thin, non-exploitable layers. Certainly the fall in the price of crude makes many previous exploitable sources now uneconomic. The Canary Islanders are very happy with the decision as they saw the whole venture as an environmental time bomb. However Spain imports around 98% of its gas and petroleum.

The European Open Skies is an ambitious EU initiative to improve the management of air transport and navigational services across 28 countries in the European Union. At a meeting of the EU Transport Council in December, Spain managed to get Gibraltar excluded from the program. This confirms a decision originally made last March. The Spaniards have always felt the Gibraltar Airport is illegal given that the modern isthmus where it is located was not mentioned in the 1713 Treaty of Utrecht. The UK was the only country to object to the decision.

A young gay male couple, aged 18 and 19, were kissing in a Burger King in downtown Madrid, when a security guard asked them to vacate the premises. Their eviction



was prompted after complaints from two families because it presented a "bad example" for their children. And then the social networks got to work. A week after the incident, on Saturday night, dozens of same-sex

couples entered the hamburger restaurant to hold a protest against homophobia by doing the same thing as the couple had done: kiss one another, photo - El Pais. The employees at the Burger King applauded.

The submerged economy is equal to 18.6% of GDP, about 190 billion € and is directly related to corruption. The figure comes in a report 'Flexibility in the workplace 2104' drawn up by temporary work company Randstad, who say if the problem was completely solved three million jobs would appear and the unemployment rate would be halved. Randstad has used data from the OECD, Eurostat and the IWO. The Director of Institutional Relations of Randstad, Luis Pérez, was asked why there is so much submerged economy in Spain. 'Elevated levels of corruption in the public sector are hand in hand with a greater presence of undeclared work in the labour market. The submerged economy is an escape route for someone who is facing corruption when they develop their professional activity inside the law. The submerged economy in the public sector is the thing Spain needs to solve quickly'.

On the other hand The Association of Treasury Technicians has put a price on the size of the black economy in Spain and has come up with the sum of 253 billion €, but they insist there is no official way to measure the submerged economy. A good indication of the size of the problem is no Government has ever made an effort to calculate it.

The Government has decided to give the long term unemployed who have no subsidy, a payment of €400 a month for a period of six months. This could help more than 300,000 people.

The consumption of anti-depressants in Spain tripled during the last 10 years. In Spain the prevalence of a depressive episode in life is estimated at 10.5 percent, was higher in women (14.4%) than men (6.2%). However the figure in Spain is lower than that reported in the Netherlands or USA which shows figures above 10 percent in men and 20 percent women.

France and Spain have agreed to boost the capacity of electric power lines across their border, which is well behind European targets for interconnection. The two countries want to boost Spain's interconnection capacity to 10% of its power generation capacity by 2020, in line with EU recommendations, and said they count on European Union funds to finance the infrastructure investments. Spain's surplus has the potential to make a big contribution to Europe's energy security. The maximum amount of power used in the country on the coldest day of 2013 was less than half of its installed capacity.

Google News has closed in Spain. The search giant's move was forced by a new "Google tax" law that allows Spanish media to charge websites that aggregate their content. The site closed in Spain on December 16 and Spanish publishers were removed from global Google News search results. However this does not stop you from searching Spanish newspapers using a normal Google search engine.

The consumers' association, FACUA, has reported the price of electricity increased by 13.3% during 2014. They insist the Government make 'a convincing intervention' to stabilise the tariffs to the real price of electricity.

Bars and restaurants across Spain must now specify which foods on their menus could spark off allergic reactions in diners. Eggs, cereals with gluten, shellfish, nuts - especially peanuts, soya, milk or derivatives thereof, fish, mustard, and even sesame seeds and celery are among the long list of ingredients which must be highlighted. If they are not shown clearly on the menu, the waiter must be able to inform diners clearly if asked. Now what could go wrong with that?

4 What's Up? continued

El Mundo reports the Pope has sacked the Archbishop of Zaragoza for paying to cover up a case of sexual harassment. He left on November 12 for 'health reasons'. The Vatican had been watching the Archbishop for some time and the victim, who is now 27, will be getting €105,000 in compensation.

29 people have been arrested in the Region of Murcia in relation to a prostitution gang which targeted young females between the ages of 14 and 17. The three main ringleaders held photographic books which offered "à la carte" access to more than 400 women including at least 17 minors. Among those arrested were lawyers, businessmen and a retired member of the Guardia Civil.

Carlos Fabra the ex-president of the Castellón Provincial Government has been sentenced to four years in prison for defrauding the Treasury of nearly 700,000 € between the years 1999 and 2003. He also has to pay a fine of €1.4 million. Fabra was unable to satisfactorily explain the origin of €3.3 million that showed up in his and his ex-wife's bank accounts. He has tried every trick in the book to delay the judgement, the investigation, case and appeals lasting 11 years! The case began when a businessman accused Fabra of charging him hefty fees in exchange for political favours. While the provincial court did not find substantial evidence of bribery or influence-peddling, the investigation unearthed the tax fraud committed by the politician.

Well, it seems some blokes never learn. There is no doubt about it but many of these 'gentlemen's clubs' are generally dens of iniquity. This time it is two clubs in Valencia which remain under the public and police scrutiny, The Cotton Club and Club Lautrec. 15 foreign tourists have been drugged while in these clubs and relieved of substantial amount of money from their credit cards. Brit's, Aussies, Germans, Canadians and even a Bulgarian, have all become victims. The format was the same. The 'John' would have one or two chopitos at the bar, being served by some beautiful



ladies, and would pay for the drinks and/or an encounter with the ladies with his credit card. When they awoke, some hours later, and if they checked their credit card balances, the theft was discovered. A Aussie was taken for €8,100; a Polish tourist for €2,972 and a New Zealander

€2,100. Many more men were duped and eventually the National Police raided both establishments and detained six people, among them the owner of both clubs, two doormen and three women for prostitution. However, hours later, they were all released, opened the two businesses again and carried on with their crimes. Then just a few days ago, it all got even more odd. A Canadian tourist was cleared out of €16,300 from his cards after he had been in a room with three prostitutes. Hours later, he returned to the club and climbed the façade of the building to the fourth floor where he was hanging from his hands until he decided to climb down a drainage pipe; but he fell from the third floor and broke both his legs. Why he returned to the club no one knows. He also told the Police that he had given €500 to a tramp! Surely substances were involved and both clubs still remain open.

A Royal Engineer serving overseas, wrote 200 love-letters a week to his girlfriend back home. This Saturday, at All Saints Church, she marries the postman. *The Weekly Gazette*

El País reports Iran has become a tourist destination. The Islamic regime is allowing visits after 35 years of international isolation.

The Supreme Criminal Court has found three Local Police officers guilty of assaulting a gay couple in the town of Aspe in Alicante, and rejected the defendants' appeal. One of the officers received an eight-month sentence, but as you are no doubt aware, sentences of less than two years are very rarely served in Spain for a first offence.

It is always a good idea to keep an eye on the lawyers, especially if they have full access to your assets. In July 2010, a 72-year-old non-Spanish woman passed €200,600 to her lawyer in Marina Baixa, Alicante. Her husband had just died and the widow wanted to invest the money in purchasing a new home. The lawyer instructed her to pay the money into his account so that she could avoid taxes. He was the executor of the deceased's will. A full year and a half later the widow could not get her money so she registered a complaint. The lawyer pleaded guilty to the charges and has his jail sentence reduced by a half to just two years and six months. He also has to pay a fine of €1,800.

Hundreds of children attended the *La Charamita* procession in Torrevieja on December 1. This is a fiesta in honour of the *Immaculate Conception*, "*La Purísima*". This was a parade of 'giants' as you can see from the photo.



Technicians at the Bank of Spain, Spain's central bank, have sent a report to a judge in the National Court which questions the validity of the Bankia accounts, saying the bank had made financial adjustments outside the accounts. It means the bank launched on the stock market with incorrect data. Losses of 900 million € were not declared. El País reports Bankia defrauded hundreds of millions of investors in their launch on the Stock Market. The judicial technicians from the Bank of Spain have presented their reports. El Mundo headlines, Rodrigo Rato, ex minister and Chairman of Bankia, could go to prison for six years for lying to the Bankia shareholders. La Razón also noted, Bankia went to the Stock Market with false accounts and La Vanguardia headlined that Bankia hid their dreadful situation to launch on the Stock Market.

1,131 people die on the roads in 2014, three fewer than the previous year... This is the lowest figure since 1960, when it began to count the number of fatalities on urban roads.

La Verdad in Murcia reported the arrest of the chief of the anti-drugs unit for drug trafficking, and headlined, 'The chief has been accused of paying his confidants with cocaine.'

Two employees of Mercadona have successfully sued the company for 'sexual aggression' by one of the coordinators. The company has declared civil responsibility for not controlling the coordinator and has to compensate each victim with a payment of €75,000.

Reality Show?

Sitting in a bar having drinks with a friend....I casually pointed to the two drunks sitting across the bar from us and said, 'That's us in ten years.'

He said, 'That's a mirror, dipshit!'

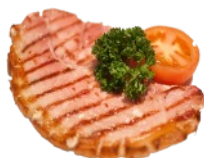
Gary Green

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I gave my wife a brand new watch for Christmas - waterproof, shockproof, unbreakable, and antimagnetic. Absolutely nothing could happen to it. She lost it.

With local election due in this area in May this year, all the political parties are now beginning to jostle for interviews and press coverage. The PP HQ has finally bit the bullet and informed its errant members in Orihuela that they cannot stand for re-election as they are under judicial investigation. This includes Monica Lorente, Pepa Ferrando and five councillors. Then all hell broke loose when this bunch refused to vote as instructed by Alicante HQ on a matter relating to candidates under investigation not being allowed to stand and Ferrando was sacked as local PP President. It then became like a Borgia drama/farce with party office locks being changed by mystery people, secret meetings, skullduggery, backs stabbed, alliances offered etc. It was all there except for the poisonings.

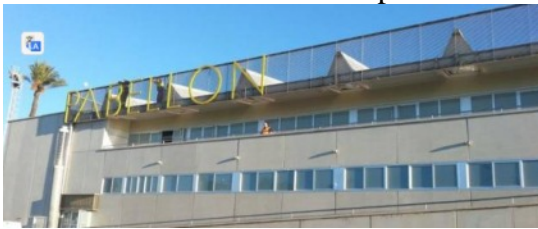
It is estimated that there are at least 7,700 buildings in the Orihuela area which do not pay any local property taxes. These lost taxes would enhance the municipal coffers with an extra one million euros.

The recent flu outbreak has placed severe stress on the accommodation available at some of the local hospitals. The Vega Baja Hospital near the city of Orihuela now has occupied beds in the corridors, as has the Sant Joan Hospital in Alicante.

It is interesting to see that Torrevieja Town Hall has extended the existing *basura* (rubbish) contract for a further two years at a cost of €26 million. This despite the fact that the former mayor of the town, Hernández Mateo, was jailed for a period of three years for forgery and obstruction relating to the 'fixing' of this particular contract. You may recall that the contract was originally awarded to the business of Angel Fenol in 2004. Fenol is currently appealing a 34-year-jail sentence in relation to various taxation frauds and other crimes.

A 50-year-old Irishman was removed from a RyanAir flight destined for London at Alicante Airport. He booked a ticket and boarded the plane in an effort to persuade a woman on the aircraft who was known to him, not to travel to London. His aggressive attitude on the plane prompted the captain to call the Guardia Civil. While being arrested, the man tried to escape running along the runway but was quickly detained by the law, but not before injuring two policemen. While in custody at the airport, he wrecked the police office there and when medical officials were present he tried to self-harm by sticking a pen in his throat. The man was then further restrained and taken to hospital for observation.

A large sign which once crowned one of the sports centres in Pilar de la Horadada has now been removed. The building was called "Pavilion Dukes of Palma" but following growing concern



concerning the court case in which the 'dodgy duke' of Palma and his wife the Infanta Cristina both sit on the accused bench, they city burghers have decided to remove the sign, see photo.

There are only eight bullet-proof vests available for 160 local police in Torrevieja. Still I am sure that all the councillors have their super-duper mobile phones and blackberries - you know, essential stuff!

The gynaecological and urology teams in Torrevieja Hospital removed the left kidney through the vagina of a 55-year-old woman. The removal of the kidney was performed without incisions in the abdomen, leaving no external scars and improving the postoperative recovery process. The patient had undergone several operations in recent years to remove tumours etc.

My nan has a picture of the United Kingdom tattooed over her whole body. Some people think it's weird but you can say what you like about my nan, at least you know where you are with her.

Harry Hill

Traffic Civil Guard arrested at dawn one morning a 37-year-old driver as he was driving in the wrong direction through the tunnel of the A-70 motorway in Sant Joan d'Alacant. He tested positive for both alcohol and narcotic substances. The man later said he had "40 or 50 cans of beer". He was four times over the limit and had taken cocaine.

The Annual Torrevieja Habaneras Festival has a budget of €86,303, however the income from the receipt of tickets is only around €9,100. The city has to pay the rest.

A weekly bus service linking Orihuela Costa and Orihuela is now available. The bus runs on Tuesdays, except public holidays, and leaves near the Town Hall office near Playa Flamenca at 9am, also picking up passengers at Morgan's Bar in Urbanisation Blue Lagoon and the Orange Bar in Entrenaranjos. Two return journeys are offered; one from the market at Los Huertos at 13:00 and one from the Casino in the centre of Orihuela at 16:00. The price of the return trip is €5.30 and seats can be reserved in person at the Tourist Office at Plaza de la Solidaridad, by phone on 965 304 645 & 965 302 747, or by email at orihuelaturistica@orihuela.es

Helga Schmidt has been relieved of her position as director of the 400 million euro Palau de les Arts in Valencia (photo). She has been arrested as part of an investigation into financial irregularities during her 15-year tenure at the Palau, where it is believed she manipulated contracts and took commissions believed to be in excess of €500,000.



73-year-old Mrs. Schmidt was already on the radar of the Valencian Minister for Culture, as in one year alone, she claimed expenses of €5,500. Police located Mrs. Schmidt at her habitual accommodation in the five star Hotel Las Arenas, and then took her to the Palau to witness a search of the property.

In an effort to control their dog poo problem in Crevillente, the mayor hopes to compile a database of DNA of all the dogs in the area. Offending samples can then be DNA tested against the database and the appropriate owners fined. He hopes to have the scheme in place by June this year, when he says, the pressing problem of dog poo in the streets of Crevillente will be solved. What a dreamer!



I'm making a Jewish porno movie,
it's 10% sex, 90% guilt.

Henny Youngman



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Changes to Expat Voting Rules for Brits on the Cards.

British PM David Cameron has made no secret of the fact that he considers the "expat vote" to be a critical part of his upcoming election campaign. It should therefore come as no surprise that the Conservative government are seeking to make changes to the current voting rules for expats. The changes will enable more British expats than ever before to vote on matters of national importance, and these additional votes could be enough to help swing an election in the Conservatives direction later in the year.

The current rules enable expats living abroad to vote on political matters, though this right is withdrawn when the individual has lived overseas for 15 years or more. Whether or not this is right is up for discussion, though frankly in the past the UK's expat population seem to have received little attention from politicians.

One reason for this is just how few expats actually bother to vote - even when they're allowed to. Less than 30,000 overseas votes are normally received and so this less-motivated group have largely been ignored.

Now, though, Tory MP Geoffrey Clifton-Brown is championing the cause, insisting that "the 15 year rule" is anachronistic and denies many legitimate voters a chance to have their input on how Britain and her territories should be governed.

Experts seem rather cynical over whether the legislation will pass. For one, the proposal is at a very early stage and will require considerable discussion and consultation before being voted into law. For another the government will be dissolved in May in readiness for the upcoming general election and it seems it is unlikely the legislation will be approved by then. It may all be a case of "too little, too late" for overseas voters.

That said, if and when the legislation is approved, it could activate a sizeable army of voters. At present, the size of the expat population missing out on voting is estimated to be around 1 million people. Even just a small proportion of these people voting could help to sway an election. If approved, Mr Clifton-Brown hopes that his initiative will add a minimum of 100,000 additional votes at future elections.

Furthermore, experts suggest that the party who manage to activate these voters should expect a large portion of the resultant votes. Expats who are keen to have their say in British politics but have been excluded in the past thanks to the 15 year rule are encouraged to contact their party of choice and encourage them to support the forthcoming vote.

Source: Expatriate Healthcare

A Night With My Lady

Her body glistens in the light
I urge to play with her all night
I pick her up and hold her steady
Take a deep breath, we both are ready.

I run one hand up her long neck
Just touching her makes me euphoric
Across her body, my right hand goes
I've been practicing, believe me, it shows.

Her body glistens in the light
I urge to play with her all night
I pick her up and hold her steady
Take a deep breath, we both are ready.

Another deep breath, the tension mounts
Have to stay focused, every moment counts
I am ready lets get movin'
Here it goes, we both start groovin'.

I start out slow to get in the swing
As I do she starts to sing
The sounds and feelings grow more immense
The movements, become more intense.

Her body glistens in the light
I urge to play with her all night
I pick her up and hold her steady
Take a deep breath, we both are ready.

She screams and screams, while I am gropin'
My heart stops as I see the door open
My mom walks in and with a frown
Says, Your guitar is too loud, please turn it down.

LIME BAR GOLF SOCIETY, LOS ALTOS, ORIHUELA COSTA

The golf society's venue for the 10th December 2014 was held at Vistabella Golf Course.

Twenty plus members played off on a fine day but in a very cold wind which had an effect on a few players. The course was in good condition and as time progressed and it got warmer and play became much more enjoyable.

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

Nearest the pin in 2 on the 5th hole (par 4) was Mick Slater.

Nearest the pin in 2 on the 9th hole (par 4) was Sean Ryan.

Nearest the pin in 3 on the 13th hole (par 5) was Mike Heighway.

Nearest the pin on the 15th hole (par 3) was Bill Dennie.

Longest drive on hole 17 was John MacGregor.

Nearest the pin in 3 on the 18th hole (par 5) was Paul Abbott.

Silver Class 3rd place was Paul Abbott with a score of 30 points.

Silver Class 2nd place was Ken Sutton with a score of 31 points.

Silver Class 1st place was Alan Jackson with a score of 31 points.(on count-back)

Gold Class 3rd place was Bill Dennie with a score of 28 points.

Gold Class 2nd place was Sean Ryan with a score of 31 points.

Gold Class 1st place was Mike Heighway a score of 31 points.(on count-back)

A very good day of golf in pleasant company, with thanks to Captain Mick Slater for organising the event. And as this was the last match in 2014 would like to thank all the members and those who assisted though out the year and wish them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



LIME BAR GOLF SOCIETY LOS ALTOS, ORIHUELA COSTA.

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

A good turn out of members teed-off on the 10th hole in a fine day looking forward to an enjoyable game of golf. The course was in good condition and a pleasure to play as the results revealed.

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

Longest Drive was awarded to Bob Adair.

Nearest the pin in 1 on the 11th hole was Mick Slater.

Nearest the pin in 2 on the 15th hole (par 4) was Bob Mc Night.

Nearest the pin in 3 on the 13th hole (par 5) was Mike Heighway.

Nearest the pin on the 18th hole (par 3) was Les Thwaites.

Bronze Class 2nd place was Colin Clarke with a score of 28 points.

Bronze Class 1st place was Alan Jackson with a score of 38 points.

Silver Class 2nd place was Les Thwaites with a score of 35 points.

Silver Class 1st place was Bob Addair with a score of 33 points.

Gold Class 2nd place was Bob Mc Night with a score of 33 points.

Gold Class 1st place was Pat Heaney a score of 37 points.

A very good day of golf in pleasant company, with thanks to Mick Slater for organising the event. And as this was his last match as captain we would like to thank him for his valuable contribution. Would also like to wish the newly formed committee every success. Thank you to Sue and Carly for providing an excellent meal and the Limebar staff.



The Scottish GP.

Out for a drive!

Paddy and his wife were discussing their sex life. Paddy said, "I want to try that wheelbarrow position tonight."

His wife asked, "What is that?"

Paddy told her, "You bend over, put your hands on the floor then I pick your legs up and take you from behind!"

His wife said, "Hmm, okay, I'll do it on two conditions. First, if it hurts you stop immediately and, second, ... we don't go down past my mother's house!"

Mel Bettell

A woman goes to the Doctor in Glasgae, worried about her husband's temper and threatening manner. The Doc asks: "What's the problem, Janet?"

The woman says: "Weeell Doctor Cameron, I dinae know what to do. Every time ma hubbie Sandy comes home drunk, he threatens to slap me aroon'."

"The Doctor says: "Aye, well... I have a real good cure for that. When your husband arrives home intoxicated, just take a wee glass of water and start swishing it in your mouth. Just swish and swish but don't swallow it until he goes to bed and is sound asleep."

Two weeks later she comes back to the doctor looking fresh and reborn.

She says: "Doctor that was brilliant! Evrae time ma hubbie came home drunk, I swished with water. I swished an' swished, and he didnae touch me even once!"

Tell me Doc...wha's the secret? How's the water do that?"

The Doctor says: "Janet m'dear, it's really nae big secret. The water does bugger all - it's keeping your mouth shut that does the trick."

Pete Dudman



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Two men are out just fishing quietly and drinking beer. Almost silently, so as not to scare the fish, Bob says, 'I think I'm gonna divorce my wife. She hasn't spoken to me in over 2 months.' Earl continues slowly sipping his beer then thoughtfully says, 'You better think it over, Bob. Women like that are hard to find.'

Local Entertainment Update.

During the month of January, Jane & Neil (Karaoke/Disco) were on holidays and all of us karaoke & dance fans were suffering severe withdrawal symptoms.

On the spur of the moment a few of us went to see James Goulding perform at CK1's in Via Park 3. It was a pleasant surprise. James is a gifted comic, an excellent vocalist and a great entertainer. He had us laughing most of the evening! James has his karaoke show at CK1's on Saturday nights and he has a crooning session there as well on Sunday lunchtimes. James is available for bars, restaurants, private parties, bar mitzvahs, ritual circumcisions, etc., and can be contacted at 628 656 398.

I almost forgot to mention Kirsty of CK1. Co-proprietor Kir has a rock voice that would crack a walnut! The only differences between Meatloaf and her is that Meat' is a fat bastard with a hairy chest! Pop up there and be surprised.

It's great to see Jane & Neil's Karaoke/Disco back again. These accomplished performers bring sunshine and warmth to these cold grey evenings. You can catch them at The Phoenix on late Tuesday afternoons and Sunday evenings; at Jilly's Bar on Wednesday evenings and at Bentor's on Friday evenings. They can be contacted at 674 800 868.

It is great to see that a number of local bars are also flying the flag for live entertainment in February. Los Lobos, Belushi's, The Phoenix have all got live acts this month. Live music comes under tremendous adverse pressure locally from the short-sighted local authority, so do please support your local. Use it or lose it!

The Sun Bar & Grill are celebrating their 4th anniversary on Friday, January 30th, with a local guitarist playing The Shadows. I saw him perform some time ago and he was very good.

Also Bentor's are having their first anniversary on Saturday, February 7. The performer here is Stevie Spit, the drag artist. There is a €5 entrance fee and a buffet is included. The show starts at 8:30pm.

I was disappointed to hear that The Faith has now split up. Charlie 'The Pirate' is now performing at Doolans in Via Park V with Alan Warden and are called 'Charlie's Bit on The Side.' I'm not sure if vocalist Robbie Priest is doing at the moment, but I will find out.

Spanish 101.

A Spanish teacher was explaining to her class that in Spanish, unlike English, nouns are designated as either masculine or feminine. 'House' for instance, is feminine: 'la casa.' 'Pencil,' however, is masculine: 'el lapiz.' A student asked, 'What gender is 'computer'?'

Instead of giving the answer, the teacher split the class into two groups, male and female, and asked them to decide for themselves whether 'computer' should be a masculine or a feminine noun.

Each group was asked to give four reasons for its recommendation.

The men's group decided that 'computer' should definitely be of the feminine gender ('la computadora'), because:

1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic;
2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else;
3. Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long term memory for possible later retrieval; and
4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck on accessories for it.

The women's group, however, concluded that computers should be Masculine ('el computador'), because:

1. In order to do anything with them, you have to turn them on;
2. They have a lot of data but still can't think for themselves;
3. They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they ARE the problem; and
4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that if you had waited a little longer, you could have got a better model!

Sue Birchenough

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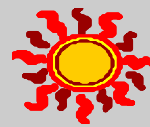
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Come Quietly Sir!

National Police surprised a man who was selling drugs late one evening in Palma-Palmilla, one of the poorest districts in the city of Malaga. The drug dealer was in a wheelchair and when he spotted the police he threw a pack of rolling tobacco to the ground which contained less than a gram of 36% cocaine.

When the police told the man he had to accompany them to the police station, he rammed them with his wheelchair and raced off to a nearby railing, where he held on tight and shouted for his friends and family for help.

A large number of people arrived and it was not long before this squabble developed into a minor riot with the people insulting and threatening the police. Eventually it took a total of 12 police patrols to pacify the man and the crowd. Once in the National Police Station the man continued to insult the police calling them dogs and saying he'd give them a pasteing. He was charged with a crime against public health, resisting arrest and was sentenced to four years and nine months with a fine of €150.



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Bob Hope

Fancy a Ruby?

A study by researchers from the University of Grenoble found that men who preferred spicier foods also tended to have higher testosterone levels than men with milder tastes. In the study, published in the journal *Physiology & Behaviour*, 114 men from age 18 to 44 were polled on whether or not they liked spicy foods, and were later served a dish of mashed potatoes which they were allowed to season with however much hot sauce and salt they wanted.

The researchers found that men with higher testosterone levels tended to use more hot sauce and indicated a greater preference for it. There was no relationship between testosterone and the amount of salt used. High testosterone levels in men have long been linked to dominant and competitive traits.

It's hard to draw conclusions about the hot sauce-testosterone connection. The link could be biological, if spicy food raises testosterone levels. A 2013 study found that mice exposed to capsaicin, the chemical that makes food hot, had higher testosterone levels than a control group. Or it could be environmental. In cultures that associate spicy foods with masculinity, alpha males might feel pressure to go heavy on hot sauce. Another possible explanation is the condiment's colour: A 2013 study found that men who preferred red, the colour of the sauce used in this study, tended to have higher testosterone than those who liked blue.

Mind you, who would eat a blue sauce anyway? Surely it would look foul.

A study of economics usually reveals that the best time to buy anything was last year. Marty Allen

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Eleven Dead and 21 Injured after Greek F-16 Fighter Crashes in Albacete.

Eleven people died and another 21 were injured – seven critically – when a Greek F-16 fighter aircraft crashed at Los Llanos military base in Albacete on Monday, January 26, the Spanish Defense Ministry has confirmed.

The accident occurred at around 3.30pm as the aircraft was trying to take off at facilities run by NATO's Tactical Leadership Program, in which pilots and crews from member states receive advanced training to improve their air forces' operational capacities.

Defense Ministry sources said the plane "lost power" as it tried to lift off and "collided into other aircraft that were parked there."

The crash immediately triggered a large fire. Emergency services were not immediately allowed into the scene

because there was a risk of further explosions as fuel tanks inside parked aircraft continued to heat up.

The victims are all NATO force members. Two Greek captains and eight French military officials died on impact, one later, while the 21 injured individuals hail from France and Italy.

In June of last year a Spanish air force captain died after his Eurofighter plane crashed in Seville.



The other day they asked me about mandatory drug testing. I said I believed in drug testing a long time ago.

All through the sixties I tested everything. Bill Lee



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(The Telegraph, July 12, 2013)

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A Bargain!

A husband and wife are shopping in their local supermarket. The husband picks up a case of lager and puts it in their trolley. 'What do you think you're doing?' asks the wife. 'They're on sale, only £10 for 24 cans,' he replies. 'Put them back, we can't afford them,' demands the wife, and so they carry on shopping.

A few aisles further on along the woman picks up a £20 jar of face cream and puts it in the basket.

'What do you think you're doing?' asks the husband.

'It's my face cream. It makes me look sexy and beautiful for you when we're making love,' replies the wife.

Her husband retorts: 'So does 24 cans of lager ... at half the price.'

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Back to the Bosom.

A bloke was sitting on a bus when a gorgeous woman next to him starts breastfeeding her baby. The baby won't take it so she says, "Come on, eat it all up or I'll give it to this nice man here." Ten minutes later, the baby is still not feeding so she says again, "Eat it all up or I'll give it to this nice man here."

The bloke says, "Listen, love, can you make your bloody mind up, I should've got off four stops ago!"

Mel Bettell

This woman was breastfeeding her baby on the bus (Why is it always on the bus?) and this older chap was absolutely enthralled by the experience. He explained to the woman that it was the most beautiful thing he ever saw. Taken aback by his frankness the woman told him she had loads of milk and would he like to try it out. The old man was delighted and settled down at her breast and suckled there for a couple of minutes. She then asked him if he was enjoying himself and the man said he was in raptures and felt an incredible peace. 'But,' he said. 'I have just one request.'

'Go ahead,' said the generous mother.

The old man looked up into her eyes and after a slight hesitation asks, 'Any chance of a rusk?'

Credit to the Guardia Civil.

There have been many occasions when the Spanish police forces have shown remarkable diligence and professionalism and their commitment to catching the bad guys is often admirable.

In May 2008, a young British girl arrived in Magaluf, Majorca and started working in a local bar. After only five days on the island, the young lady was raped and almost stabbed and strangled to death. She could not supply the police with any concrete details on her rapist other than he was dark skinned and had short curly hair.

The agents of the Guardia Civil obtained DNA after analysing the sheets and a t-shirt, but there was no record of a match on their database. Two years later in 2010 another British girl was raped in Magaluf. This led the investigators to look for a multiple rapist who used considerable violence on his victims.

The Guardia Civil named the investigation 'Angila' (Eel) as the suspect was so elusive and slippery. They knew the suspect lived between the Canary Islands and Mallorca, that he worked in a bar, and could be North African or Pakistani.

Specialists in Madrid organised an identikit sketch, and this eventually led to the location of a suspect named Mohamed. Police kept a discreet watch and in the early hours of one day in 2011, they noticed that the suspect threw his cigarette end into the street in Punta Ballena, Magaluf. Using DNA from the cigarette butt they made a match with the sample taken in 2008 and the rapist was quickly arrested.



Mohamed Fadel E.A. (Photo) was given a 23 year prison sentence for raping and trying to kill Cheryl Marie Maddison, and now for the second case regarding the 2010 rape, the prosecutor has asked for another 12 years in prison. Let's hope his lengthy incarceration will be an interesting one.

Pedantic Cops!

But whereas the police behaved admirably above, there are of course cases where the 'job's worths' and 'bell-ends' also rise to be the top in their field!

Around mid-December last year, a man was running down the road in A Coruña, Galicia. The police stopped the man and told him that he was "not respecting the signals of agents that regulate circulation." They slapped him with a €100 fine anddocked four points off his driving licence, even though he was not in his car! It seems that there are many more cases of pedestrians being fined. Having points deducted for a pedestrian offence has also happened before in Andalucia. There is no doubt that an appeal would see the points restored, but what a waste of time.

On January 6th each year, the Three Kings arrive at every village, town and city in Spain. The Kings will arrive by camel, horse, boat and even motorbikes. It was the latter that caused some jaw-dropping among the public in a town in Valencia. The



Three Kings, resplendent in their costumes and wearing their crowns, arrived by motorbike at this particular venue, only to be fined by a local policeman for not wearing their helmets!



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I Ask You!

My new girlfriend and I had sex for the first time last week. After it was over, she had the nerve to say I was lousy in bed! It's outrageous! How can she have any sort of qualified opinion after only 15 seconds?

Men Really Are More Stupid than Women!

It's official! Men really are stupider than women, accounting for 90% of people who have died in foolish ways, according to the Darwin Awards. It's enough to start a new battle of the sexes, but when it comes to needless and untimely deaths, men win hands down. A 20 year study of the Darwin Awards, an annual review of the most foolish way people have died, found almost 90% were 'won' by males.

Named after Charles Darwin, who postulated the survival of the fittest, it recognises those who have inadvertently improved the gene pool by eliminating themselves from the human race by astonishingly stupid methods. Worthy candidates have included a man stealing a ride home by hitching a shopping trolley to the back of a train, only to be dragged two miles to his death before it was able to stop, and the terrorist who unthinkingly opened his own letter bomb on its return after he posted it with insufficient stamps.

Other examples include the man who shot himself in the head with a 'spy pen' weapon to show his friend it was real, and the thief attempting to purloin a steel hawser from a lift shaft - and unbolted it while standing in the lift which then plummeted to the ground, killing him.

Of 332 independently verified nominations 14 were ruled out of the analysis because they were shared by male and females - usually overly adventurous couples in compromising positions. Of the 318 valid cases remaining, 282 (88.7%) were awarded to males and just 36 to females, a gender difference entirely consistent with male idiot theory (MIT) that states men are idiots and idiots do stupid things.

Writing in the Christmas edition of the British Medical Journal, the researchers say it is puzzling that men are willing to take such unnecessary risks - simply as a rite of passage, in pursuit of male social esteem or solely in exchange for "bragging rights". Although sex differences in risk seeking behaviour are well



documented, little is known about the gender gap in idiotic risk taking behaviour, so the researchers reviewed data on the Darwin Awards between 1995 and 2014, noting the sex of the winner.

Dr Dennis Lendrem, of the University of Newcastle, said: "Idiotic risks are defined as senseless risks, where the apparent payoff is negligible or non-existent, and the outcome is often extremely negative and often final.

"According to 'male idiot theory' (MIT) many of the differences in risk seeking behaviour, emergency department admissions, and mortality may be explained by the observation that men are idiots and idiots do stupid things.

"There are anecdotal data supporting MIT, but to date there has been no systematic analysis of sex differences in idiotic risk taking behaviour." He said an honourable mention must go to the man who slipped when using a belt sander as an auto erotic device and lost a testicle. Repairing his scrotum with a staple gun, he was able to salvage his remaining testicle thus failing to eliminate himself completely from the gene pool, so he did not qualify for an award and was eliminated from the analysis.

The researchers admitted the study has limitations because women may be more likely to nominate men for a Darwin Award, or the sex difference may reflect differences in alcohol use between men and women. But Dr Lendrem said: "Despite these limitations there can be little doubt Darwin Award winners seem to make little or no real assessment of the risk or attempt at risk management.

Continued in next column, dummy.

Continued from previous column. Dooh!

They just do it anyway. In some cases, the intelligence of the award winner may be questioned. "For example, the office workers watching a construction worker demolishing a car park in the adjacent lot must have wondered about the man's intelligence. After two days of office speculation - how does he plan to remove the final support to crash the car park down safely? - they discovered, on the third day, that he didn't have a plan. The concrete platform collapsed, crushing him to death and flattening his mini-excavator."

He said anecdotal data support the hypothesis alcohol makes men feel 'bulletproof' after a few drinks, and it would be naive to rule this out. "For example, the three men who played a variation on Russian roulette alternately taking shots of alcohol and then stamping on an unexploded Cambodian land mine. In case you were wondering, the mine eventually exploded, demolishing the bar and killing all three men.

The researchers believe 'male idiot theory' deserves further investigation, and, "with the festive season upon us, we intend to follow up with observational field studies and an experimental study - males and females, with and without alcohol - in a semi-naturalistic Christmas party setting." Dr Lendrem said he was surprised by the overwhelming gender gap among those who have met an untimely demise through acts of sheer idiocy, with males accounting for 88.7% of these events. Though he added: "It is significant the females in my office were not as surprised, which I suppose says it all!"

(Telegraph Online by Sarah Knapton, Science Editor.)

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Norman Mailer

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Robin Williams

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I love it when you meet an old-timer in a flower shop, the man who's f***ed up on so many occasions, and the guy behind the counter knows him: 'All right, John, the usual?'

'No, better make it two dozen - her sister was involved this time.'

Ed Byrne

Spanish Taxation - Important Changes.

This year will see a tremendous wave of changes to Spanish law - civil and criminal and of course also to taxation. I outline some of the latest changes to the latter below.

Inheritance/Succession & Gift Tax.

Although long overdue, the authorities have finally succumbed to pressure from the EU and have withdrawn the penal tax rate on inheritances imposed on non resident beneficiaries.

Non tax residents are now entitled to apply for the inheritance tax applicable to the Autonomous Community where the greatest value of the Spanish assets in relation to the inheritance are located. Previously the more severe national rates applied but now non tax resident inheritors (who are resident in another EU country) will be treated the same as tax resident ones for inheritance tax calculation.

This change dramatically reduces the inheritance and gift tax bills when one of the parties is not tax resident in Spain.

The appeal process against the discriminatory taxation commenced in 2010. Any non resident who paid inheritance or gift tax in Spain since then, can now claim a rebate for the overpayment. This will be substantial in some cases. Do not expect the tax authorities to remind you to claim!

Income Tax.

With a general election looming at the end of this year, the government have introduced a number of income tax reforms. Although all taxpayers will pay slightly less, those on low/medium incomes with large families will benefit the most.

The tax exempt threshold has been reduced from €17,700 to €12,450 and the first tax band rate has been reduced from 24.75% to 20%. The top tax rate is now 47% compared to 52% last year, although the income threshold for this rate has dropped from €300,000 to €60,000.

The savings income tax rates and thresholds are also a little lower. The rates are now 20% for income up to €6,000, then 22% on income up to €50,000 and 24% after that.

Capital Gains Tax

All capital gains are now taxed at the savings tax rates, even those arising on assets held for less than a year. If you acquired assets before December 31, 1994, the time apportioned C.G. Tax relief has been removed from Jan' 2015. However, each taxpayer is now entitled to a cumulative lifetime allowance of €400,000 to apply to the sales proceeds of pre-December 1994 assets.

Wealth Tax.

Although the wealth tax was reinstated in 2011 for just a two-year period, it still remains in place for 2015. It is unlikely to effect you unless you are wealthy.

Exit Tax.

This is a new tax introduced this January. This effects former tax residents whose wealth in certain institutions is in excess of €1,000,000 and who have lost their Spanish tax resident status.

Spanish taxation is a confusing, spaghetti-like mystery to many. It is always worth employing a competent professional to help handle your financial affairs.

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President Hillary?

Hillary Clinton says she's the most qualified because she was married to a president for 8 years. Now let me ask you, if a brain surgeon quit his job, would everyone in the operating room say, 'Wait, let's get his wife.'
Jackie Mason

Annoying!

I used to annoy my first wife so much. I used to do things deliberately to annoy her, I admit that. In the mornings, I'd wake up. God, she hated that.
Bob Monkhouse





Idiot of the Month.

This month we start with a major blunder, we might even call it a 'Royal' one. Princess Cristina (in photo with hubby) has been called to appear in court in relation to her involvement in her husband's Iñaki Urdangarin dodgy companies. The royal decided to pay into the courts a payment of €587,413 - the amount she may ultimately have to pay if her husband is found guilty. However, the people who arranged the payment, presumably her lawyers, transferred the money to the wrong account. The error was noticed by a judge who discovered that the money was paid to a court in Barcelona and not to the correct one in Palma. When your lawyers cannot even arrange a simple bank transfer, you would surely wonder about their competence in defending you.



Eight people were taken to hospital in Oviedo, in the north of Spain after attending a party in a pub. The party had been thrown in a local bar to celebrate the birthday of two sisters. One of the guests served a home-made chocolate cake, baked by his mother. But it had a surprise added ingredient - butter mixed with marijuana. Guests reportedly began to feel "very unwell" and had to go to the emergency ward of nearby Asturias Central Hospital. Medical staff worked out what had happened and contacted police.

The stoned partygoers were picked up from hospital by their parents, who had been telephoned by other guests. The guest who had brought the cake to the party was also affected by its ingredients and was described as being "in no fit state to be interrogated". His mother was contacted by police and asked to make a statement at a local station, where she admitted baking the 'space cake'. Health officials noted that the party guests were all aged over 18 and that none of them suffered any permanent damage. The bar where the party was held has been closed pending court proceedings.

Turning now to Andalucia for a mighty cock-up on New Year's Eve. At the midnight hour, Canal Sur, the state regional TV station, broadcasts the New Year chimes. Most TV stations here do this as  millions of watchers use the timing to eat 12 grapes, one  after another, during the chimes, which supposedly brings good luck for the following year.  However, the TV station played an advert for the  Jerez racing track between the third and tenth chime, ruining the grape eating experience. Canal Sur has reported 'several human errors' and the broadcasting director has since been sacked. Still, he seems to have the calibre of a man who should do well in local politics.

In mid-December, a Guardia Civil patrol from Murcia, noticed a large white lorry driving in a zig-zag pattern on the Jumilla-Caravaca road. The police stopped the lorry and breathalysed



the 54-year-old driver from Cehegin, Murcia. The driver was seven times over the legal limit of alcohol in his system. Equally disturbing was the fact that he had just started on his journey to deliver his lorryload of vegetables to Italy! Aside from having the 'book thrown at him' his

fuel tank was also found to contain illegal 'pink' diesel. All in all, he could now face a prison sentence of up to six months, a ban of between one and four years and a hefty fine.

Books are useless! I only ever read one book, *To Kill a Mockingbird* and it gave me absolutely no insight on how to kill mockingbirds! Sure it taught me not to judge a man by the colour of his skin....but what good does that do me?

Homer Simpson

Here Come the Marines!

It is interesting to note that whereas the US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel has announced that the American military are reducing their presence in the UK and will leave RAF Mildenhall in Suffolk and RAF Alconbury and RAF Molesworth in Cambridgeshire, they are beefing-up their presence in Southern Spain.

The Morón US base in Andalucia will become a permanent centre for the global fight against Islamist terrorism. If the Spanish government approves, and that is highly likely with the present administration, a minimum force of 850 US Marines will be permanently stationed at the base. This can be rapidly supplemented by several thousand more Jarheads should the situation dictate. The force's main goal is slowing down the advance of jihadism in the Maghreb and Sahel regions of Africa.

The Yanks will also be supplementing their naval base in Cadiz with four Arleigh Burke-class destroyers.

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Lifestyle.

A new guy arrives in prison and is put in a cell with an old-timer called Jones. Jones greets the new arrival. 'I'm in here for fraud,' he says. 'Made quite a good living at it for a while. I wintered in the south of France on a yacht: had fast cars, beautiful women, and ate in all the best restaurants. I tell you, I used to live the life of Riley. Then one day, it all came to a stop.' 'What happened?' asks the new guy. Jones replies, 'Riley found out his credit cards were missing.'

The Genie.

A guy is doing a bit of exploring in a cave and he comes across an old lamp, rubs it clean and out pops the usual Genie. The Genie says you have three wishes, but your ex wife gets double what you wish for. 'OK,' the man says.....

'I want a million pounds', he duly gets it and his ex wife gets two million pounds. 'I want two mansions', bang he gets them, his ex gets four mansions.

'Last wish,' says the genie.

'Can you scare me half to death,' says the man.

Major Changes to Legal System Scheduled.

There has been major changes to the laws in Spain in recent months with most of the new legislation to come before the senate by the end of March. Several of the new laws have caused great controversy, in particular the Law of Citizen Safety. This has now popularly been called 'The Gagging Law.' While some of its proposals are long overdue - such as keeping GreenPeace out of nuclear stations etc., certain aspects of it appear to be draconian. For example, it is now a crime to occupy any business, home, or any building, or holding a sit-in in such a place, against the wish of the owner. This will include sit-ins in banks to protest unfair evictions etc. This can now carry a fine of €600. Those who campaign against unfair evictions, fraudulent selling of financial products and such like will be hit by this.

Taking unauthorised photos of the police or armed forces can now land you in a lot of trouble and a fine of up to €30,000 in serious cases. There are many new civil and criminal laws pending. I thought it unusual to find that at under the old law, it is not a crime to have sex with an animal. If you were charged, it would be for cruelty to the animal and not say 'humping' a donkey. More next month.

Chocolate Component Reverses Memory Loss in Older People, Claims Study.

Columbia University research indicates high-flavanol cocoa rejuvenates specific brain activity through increased blood flow. Flavanols are found naturally in cocoa, tea and a variety of fruit and vegetables, but most methods of processing cocoa reduce levels. Late night cocoa has never looked so appealing. A component of chocolate has been found to reverse age-related memory loss in healthy adults aged 50-69. The rejuvenating effect can be traced to increased blood flow in a specific region of the brain, say the researchers.

This is the first direct link that age-related forgetfulness is caused by changes in a specific part of the brain. It is also the first piece of evidence that memory decline can be reversed by a change in diet.

A specially prepared cocoa drink was fed to a sample of 37 older adults daily for three months. For some, the drink contained a large quantity of flavanols, which are found naturally in cocoa, tea and a wide variety of fruits and vegetables. For the others, the drink was largely free of the compound.

Pattern recognition in the high-flavanol improved the test than at the showed that blood brain called the improved.



tests found that those group had significantly memories at the end of beginning. Brain scans volume in a part of the dentate gyrus had also

"If a participant had the memory of a typical 60-year-old at the beginning of the study, after three months that person on average had the memory of a typical 30- or 40-year old," said Scott A Small, a professor of neurology and director of the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at the Taub Institute at Columbia University Medical Centre.

Small is the lead author on the work, which was published online in Nature Neuroscience.

The results have been greeted with cautious optimism. "It would be very exciting if such a cognitive benefit of flavanols were shown in a larger study," said Liz Coulthard, consultant senior lecturer in dementia neurology, University of Bristol.

Unfortunately guarding your memory is not as easy as remembering to eat more chocolate. Most methods of processing cocoa remove the flavanols. A typical chocolate bar contains about 40mg. The special drink used in the trial contained 900mg.

The drinks were prepared by chocolate manufacturer Mars Incorporated, who also partly funded the study. The Mars flavanol research programme began in the late 1980's to investigate the possible benefits to cardiovascular and cognitive health offered by the compounds. Source : The Guardian.

Well, what can I say. Most of the ladies I know regard 'chocolate' as an essential food group, much as we Irish regard Guinness. I would think that the wonderful thick hot chocolate that the Spaniards produce has significantly more flavanols than a bar of Cadbury's. What do you think?

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Lidl Expanding.

Lidl is to install its largest logistical centre in Europe in Alcala de Henares (Madrid). The new platform will become online in the summer of 2016 and supposes an investment of 70 million € with the creation of 100 jobs, according to the company. The project, which the supermarket company signed three years ago, will be located next to the M-300 previously occupied by the old Electrolux which closed in 2011 with the loss of 400 jobs.

People who have lost their jobs at Zanussi will be given priority, as was agreed three years ago.

Lidl has a total of 530 stores in Spain, and in Europe the chain has about 10,000, located in 26 different countries and with a total workforce of 335,000.

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A Selection from Gary.

A Muslim was sitting next to Paddy on a plane. Paddy ordered a whisky.

The stewardess asked the Muslim if he'd like a drink.

He replied in disgust "I'd rather be raped by a dozen whores than let liquor touch my lips!"

Paddy handed his drink back and said "Me too, I didn't know we had a choice!"

Paddy is said to be shocked at finding out all his cows have Bluetongue.

"Be Jeysus!" he said, "I didn't even know they had mobile phones!"

Mick and Paddy are reading head stones at a nearby cemetery.

Mick says "Crikey! There's a bloke here who was 152!"

Paddy says "What's his name?"

Mick replies "Miles, from London!"

Q. What's a Catholic priest and a pint of Guinness got in common?

A. A black coat, white collar and you've got to watch your arse if you get a dodgy one!

Gary Green

Quick Thinking!

A man who lived at a nudist colony received a letter from his mother asking him to send her a more up-to-date photo of himself. Unfortunately, he only had one picture, but it was of him in the nude, so he cut the photo in half and sent her the top half. Some time later, mum wrote again asking him if he would send a photo of himself to his aging grandmother. Now he only had the bottom half left but because she had such poor eyesight, he took a chance that she would be none the wiser. Some time later, he got a letter back from his grandmother and in it she said, 'Thanks for the picture. Maybe you should change your hairstyle a bit, though, it makes your nose look long.

Stewart.

Dumb or Just Bonkeres!

A Spanish policeman, well-known for his one-man protests in Barcelona, has been viciously attacked by three lions after jumping into their enclosure at the city's zoo.

Justo José M. P., 45, who was dressed in military attire, was mauled by three lions after climbing the security fence, scaling down the wall and being dragged into a tunnel by the animals, as horrified onlookers threw stones and other objects to try to distract the lions, Spanish newspaper El País reported.

He was finally freed by zookeepers, who, together with firefighters and police, used fire hoses and extinguishers to keep the lions at bay.

He had multiple bites and scratches all over his body and was admitted in a critical condition to Vall d'Hebron hospital in the city.

Justo José M. P. is known in Barcelona for his one-man protests. On November 23rd he was arrested for hanging two swastikas from La Pedrera, one of the city's famous Gaudi-designed buildings, in what he claimed was an anti-abortion protest. One of the signs read "Abortion murder" and another "40,000 children. Hitler (was an) amateur". On September 11th he burnt an estelada — an unofficial flag flown by Catalan secessionists — in front of a public monument and on November 4th he tried to enter the regional government headquarters with a sign about officials accepting bribes. See photo.

Sunday's incident was no accident. The man reportedly was carrying a sign in his backpack that he planned to unfurl inside the lion enclosure.

A police man from the town of Gelida, Barcelona, Justo José M.P. is currently on leave, according to El País.

Although the victim jumped into the enclosure, Director of Municipal Services of Barcelona, Ignasi Armengol, has opened a "rethink" on the zoo's security measures.

He has argued that the incident was an exceptional case that has not occurred in the 100 year history of the zoo, but admitted that the zoo's security measures "required analysis".





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Careful What You wish For!

A married couple in their early 60s are celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary in a quiet, romantic little restaurant. Suddenly, a tiny yet beautiful fairy appeared on their table. She said, 'For being such an exemplary married couple and for being loving to each other for all this time, I will grant you each a wish.' The wife answered, 'Oh, I want to travel around the world with my darling husband.' The fairy waved her magic wand and - poof! - Two tickets for the Queen Mary II appeared in her hands. The husband thought for a moment: 'Well, this is all very romantic, but an opportunity like this will never come again. I'm sorry my love, but my wish is to have a wife 30 years younger than me.' The wife, and the fairy, were deeply disappointed, but a wish is a wish.! So the fairy waved her magic wand and poof!... The husband became 92 years old. The moral of this story: Men who are ungrateful bastards should remember fairies are female.....
Brian H.



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I wouldn't say I'm smug, but every year on my birthday I phone my mother to congratulate her.

Thousands of Spanish Traditional Businesses Facing Closure as Boyer Rent Law Ends.

The face of many Spanish cities could change drastically from this month when close to a quarter of a million stores, bars and restaurants will face closure after their rent increases by more than 1,000%, says UPTA, which represents the country's self-employed workers and professionals.

The latest blow to a sector already struggling with a five-year-long crisis that has seen sales fall steadily, as well as tougher competition from chains and online stores, came on December 31, 2014, when the so-called Boyer law ends. Dating from 1994, the legislation exempted establishments with lease agreements prior to 1985 from rent increases; once gone, owners will be free to impose new terms.

In Madrid, around 38,500 establishments are under threat. The result, believes Gerardo Pérez, one of the four founders of leading Madrid small jazz venue Café Central, will be multinational franchises moving in to take over inner city premises. "Our cities are losing their identity; soon it won't make any difference if you're in Paris, Berlin, or Madrid. They will all be the same: filled with big name food and clothes stores," he says.

Almudena Zarco, the granddaughter of the founder of the 110-year-old Bisutería Otero, one of Madrid's oldest surviving jewellers, agrees: "This is very sad, and not just for me. Madrid will lose out, because the tourists will stop coming if we lose the character of our city."

The rent hike will also mean the loss of more jobs. "My eight employees are part of my family," says Pepa Eznarriaga, who, along with her three brothers, runs the Así doll and soft-toys shop on Madrid's Gran Vía. Once home to cafés and the city's big movie theatres, Gran Vía has in recent years been taken over by fashion stores such as H&M and Zara.

Zarco agrees: "Even the most recent [staff members] joined five years ago. They all have proper contracts, not like the people who will work in the stores that come after us: souvenir shops, fast food restaurants or pawnbrokers. That's not creating jobs."

The majority of store owners understand that the owners of the properties they lease want to make as much money as they can and that the rents they pay are way below market price. But they think the Madrid regional government and City Hall should have taken a case-by-case approach. Eznarriaga, for example, points out that his is a family business, but his contract is in the name of a company: "If I had signed it in my name, then we wouldn't have to renegotiate until I retired or died," he says.

A stroll around the centre of Madrid shows the impact of the coming law change, with a growing number of establishments closing down. Hernando, on number 71 Gran Vía, has been making shirts for more than 80 years: "We've seen the fall of the monarchy, the dictatorship, the republic, civil war, more dictatorship, and finally democracy," says Ángel García, who has worked in the store for more than seven decades.

He prefers not to reveal how much rent he now pays, but says the owner wants an 800% increase. That's probably similar to the €50,000 a month that the owner of the Así soft toys shop at the other end of Gran Vía is asking. Others, such as the Rústica interior design store, have already moved on – in its case from Calle San Bernardino, a narrow street running from the back of Plaza España. "The saddest part of the whole thing was seeing the desk where I have worked for the last years being moved," says store owner Catherine Tual.

El Pais

What's the difference between a lawyer and a cockerel?

When a cockerel wakes up in the morning it has a primal urge to cluck defiance.

ISRAELI DOG VS. ARAB DOG

The Israelis and Arabs realized that if they continued fighting, they would someday end up destroying the whole world, so they decided to settle their dispute with an ancient practice: A duel of two, like David and Goliath.

This would be a dog fight. The negotiators agreed each side would take 5 years to develop the best fighting dog they could.

The dog that won the fight would earn its people the right to rule the disputed areas. The losing side would have to lay down its arms for good.

The Arabs found the biggest, meanest Dobermans and Rottweilers in the world.

They bred them together and then crossed their offspring with the meanest Siberian wolves. They selected only the biggest, strongest puppy of each litter, fed it the best food and killed all the other puppies. They used steroids and trainers in their quest for the perfect killing machine.

After the 5 years were up, they had a dog that needed iron prison bars on its cage. Only expert trainers could handle this incredibly nasty, ferocious beast.

When the day of the big dog-fight finally arrived, the Israelis showed up with a very strange animal, a Dachshund that was 10 feet long!

Everyone at the dog-fight arena felt sorry for the Israelis. No one there seriously thought this weird, odd-looking animal stood any chance against the growling beast over in the Arab camp. The bookies all took one look and predicted the Arab dog would win in less than a minute.

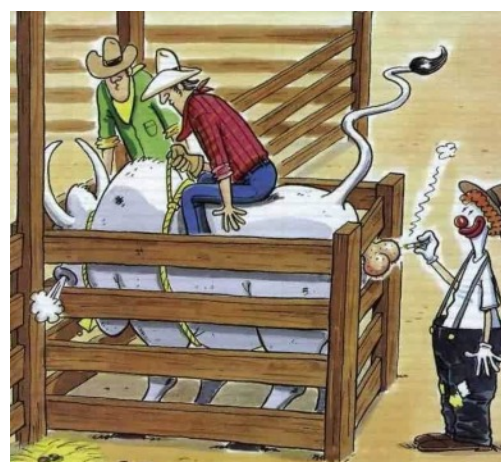
The cages were opened. The Dachshund slowly waddled toward the centre of the ring.

The Arab dog leaped from his cage and charged the giant wiener-dog. As he got to within an inch of the Israeli dog, the Dachshund opened its jaws and swallowed the Arab beast whole in one bite. There was nothing left but a small puff of fur from the Arab killer-dog's tail floating to the ground.

The stunned crowd of international observers, bookies and media personnel let out a collective gasp of disbelief and surprise.

The Arabs approached the Israelis, muttering and shaking their heads in disbelief. "We do not understand," said their leader, "our top scientists and breeders worked for 5 years with the meanest, biggest Dobermans, Rottweillers and Siberian wolves. They developed an incredible killing machine of a dog".

The Israeli General replied. "Well, for 5 years we have had a team of Jewish plastic surgeons in Beverly Hills, California, working to make an alligator look like a Dachshund."



Lime Bar Fishing Sunbathing Club.

Have a healthy New Year, and commiserations to Mary for putting up with 3 rods for the last 50 years!!!!

Quite a bit has happened in the last 2 month's. In between all the partying we have had our presentation night, 2 monthly matches and a quiz night.

"The Old farts" match against "The 3 Fs" (Fine Fit Fishermen) has now been delayed until the weather warms up & the arthritis isn't quite as bad. It's not just the "Old Farts" affected though, to belong to "the 3Fs" you need to be younger than 70! Good call Just John.

The Presentation night went really well. Even though the Chairman ended up in hospital a few days later he and Sue did a brilliant job of introducing & awarding the winners & runners with their trophies. Daffy also supplied cap pins.

Winter Cup - Winner = Shropshire Boy 2nd = Fagin

Summer Shield - Winner = 3 Rods 2nd = The Quill

Knock Out Cup - Winner = The Ghost 2nd = Feathers

Largest Carp - Winner = 3 Rods

Rod & Reel - Winner = Feathers

This year, three "special achievement" trophies were also awarded.

The first "special" award was for consistency and went to a man who has fished with us from day one. His consistency is that at every match he shouts, "Have we started yet?" Grumpy Bob Cummins received his "Golden Whistle" so that he can start and finish when he likes.

The second "special" award was for dedication to duty. Mr Barry Scott was awarded with a special "Heineken Cup".

The final Award went to the youngest member of the club. He is still learning but has managed to achieve something that no other angler has in the club's 8 year history. Michael (Daffy) Lowry received "The best Duck of 2014 Award."

The photo on the right is of all the winners with their "dust gatherers". Yes, 3 rods is holding the most trophies.



Our December match was held at Nancy's. With the winter weather closing in, the fishing was hard and we had 8 dry nets. Once again, the honours went to 3 Rods with a good 7 kgs. Just John closely followed him with 6.5 kgs.

We fished the January match in the vicinity of Ghost Point. Of the 16 anglers, only 5 caught. The results were a reverse of the December match. Just John won with 7.5 kgs beating 3 rods with 3 kgs into second place. It depended on the swim whether you caught, but Just John reckons that the rest of us don't know how to fish. We'll see!

Anti Social Baz ran a Music Quiz night before Christmas. It was well attended with 6 or 7 teams. The questions were very hard for some of us!! I think a few teams had their phones attached to the internet.

He had several rounds interspersed with simple "Spot" prize questions. This turned into a melee as everybody just shouted out various numbers until Baz said yep!

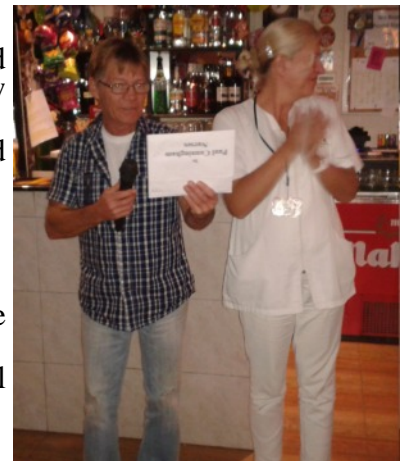
1st prize went to "the fisherman's friends" (3 rods & Daffy's team)

2nd prize went to "the Gonads" (ball boy, snake charmer & Mick Hill's team)

3rd prize went to "Bugs life" (feathers & snapper's team)

Thank you Pete & Sue for the "beer token" prizes, and to Belinda for doing the raffle again.

Before the quiz started, Fagin presented a €364 cheque to a lovely lady from Paul Cunningham Nurses. See photo.



Next ~~meeting~~ bun fight is the AGM at The Lime Bar @ 17.00 Mon 2nd February.

The rain was pouring and there was a big puddle in front of the pub. A ragged old man was standing there with a stick and hanging a string into the puddle. A tipsy- looking, curious gentleman came over to him and asked what he was doing. "Fishing," the old man said simply.

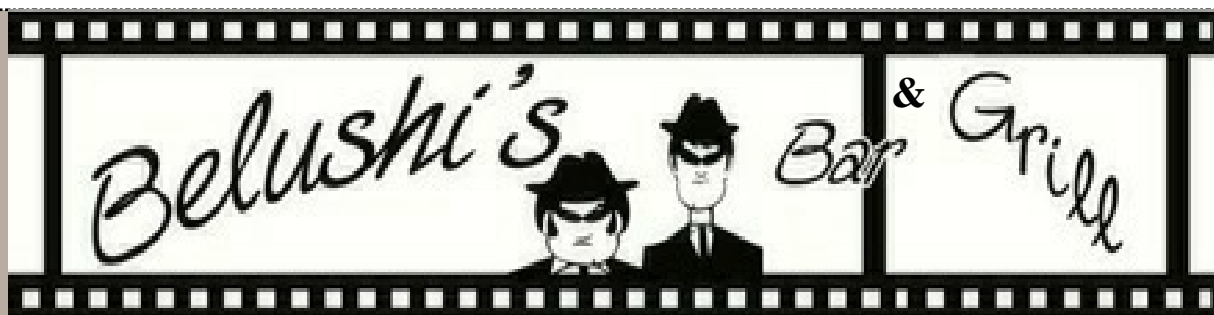
"Poor old fool," the gentleman thought and he invited the ragged old man to a drink in the pub.

As he felt he should start some conversation while they were sipping their whisky, the gentleman asked, "And how many have you caught?"

"You're the eighth," the old man answered.

Thank you Pete Dudman.

Fishy fingers!
The Ghost



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The Marriage Counsellor.

Eileen and her husband Bob went for counselling after 25 years of marriage. When asked what the problem was, Eileen went into a passionate, painful tirade listing every problem they had ever had in the 25 years they had been married.

She went on and on and on: neglect, lack of intimacy, emptiness, loneliness, feeling unloved and unlovable, an entire laundry list of unmet needs she had endured over the course of their marriage.

Finally, after allowing this to go on for a sufficient length of time, the therapist got up, walked around the desk and after asking Eileen to stand, embraced her, unbuttoned her blouse and bra, put his hands on her breasts and massaged them thoroughly, while kissing her passionately as her husband Bob watched with a raised eyebrow!

Eileen shut up, buttoned up her blouse, and quietly sat down while basking in the glow of being highly aroused.

The therapist turned to Bob and said, 'This is what your wife needs at least three times a week.. Can you do this?'

Bob thought for a moment and replied, 'Well, I can drop her off here on Mondays and Wednesdays, but on Fridays, I play golf.'

Spanish Banks Still 'Doing the Dirty.'

We are all aware of the banking practice of many Spanish financial institutions is often far from ethical. Their poor record in relation to maintaining the rights of the individual is abysmal with abuses being recorded regarding everything from the selling of financial products to widespread abusive mortgage clauses. Fortunately there is one outstanding consumer protection association in Spain who is regularly jumping on the big banks and utility companies, bringing them to task.

The Spanish consumer association, FACUA, has reported 10 banks for charging fees on accounts used exclusively to pay mortgages or loans.

The Banks specifically named by FACUA for such 'abuses' are Santander; BBVA; La Caixa; Bankia; Banco Popular; Bankinter; Banco Mare Nostrum (BMN), Liberbank; Caixa Ontinyent and NGC Banco (Abanca).

Complaints have been sent to the Bank of Spain (Banco de España), the Spanish Agency for Consumer Food Safety and Nutrition (Aecosan, according to its initials in Spanish) and the regional consumer protection authorities.

Banks are charging fees that are not justified in any service expressly requested or accepted by their clients, in accounts whose only transaction is the monthly transfer for the repayment of their loan.

FACUA has processed numerous complaints from those affected by such charges being made. Banks typically reimburse fees acknowledging their illegality, although sometimes they charge them again a few months later, knowing full well that the efforts involved in submitting a complaint is just too discouraging to many of those affected.

Law 10/2014, of June 26, on the management, supervision and solvency of credit institutions establishes in Article 5 that "commissions or expenses can only be applied on services specifically requested or subscribed by the customer and only if they correspond to services actually rendered, or incurred expenses that may be debited".

In its complaint, FACUA warns that as the Banco de España stated in their 2012 Report on its Claims Service that "It is not the customer's responsibility to bear any fees for the maintenance and/or management on accounts used solely for the purpose of receiving interests on deposits or repaying a mortgage".

FACUA also argues that the fees charged on accounts used to pay loans are breaching regulations implemented by the General Law for the Defence of Consumers and Users. Article 62.2, specifically states these charges are "onerous or disproportionate to the exercise of the rights granted to consumers in the contract". The law also considers unfair "to charge for products or services not actually used or consumed" (Article 87.5), and prescribes the supplier to "make available to the consumer and user in a clear, understandable and appropriate manner to the circumstances, the relevant, accurate and sufficient information about the essential

Sex Shops - A Changing Market.

Diarioinformacion had an interesting report on sex shops last month. They did a survey of sex shops in Elche and interviewed the owners. The owner of one of the more successful businesses was Ramón Fenoll, owner of Exzess of Elche, a purveyor of suitably erotic goods to the randy and the curious. Ramón has been in the business for 17 years.

'15 years ago,' Ramón told the reporter, '100% of the clientele were male. But now everything has changed. Now 70% of my customers are women.' Ramón believes that the widely read "Fifty Shades of Grey" trilogy and TV series such as "Sex and the City" have encouraged women to drop their shyness and be more demanding. He quickly sold out of all his '50 Shades' range of accessories well before Christmas.

Women shoppers come to his store, generally wanting a specific product, he reports. Their most popular purchases are good quality vibrators and lubricants.

On the other hand, male shoppers do not seem clear on what they want. (What a surprise?) 'They come in to see what might interest them. They especially look for articles for bachelor parties, birthdays etc.,' said Ramón. See <http://www.exzess-sexshop.com/catalogo.php>

The growth in the gay market, both male and female, is also a very important part of the modernised business he said, as was the growth of good quality online shopping for sex products.

One such business owner was Vázquez Leles, who operates a website dedicated to the sale of erotic products - www.8thcolor.es Battery operated products were very popular online as were items in the S&M category. However, the most requested items from 8thcolor were male masturbators and 'eggs' (similar to the former).

What makes me laugh are the blow-up dolls, which are usually quite hideous. But now there are also blow-up male dolls (Big John apparently a favourite), & blow-up animals such as a burro, a pig or a cow!



Regrets!

An old couple, married for over 50 years, die within a week of each other and arrive in Heaven at the same time. Once the paperwork has been seen to, an angel escorts them to their new accommodation. After living in a small terraced cottage all their lives, the new house is like a palace. Set in two acres of land, it has its own swimming pool and a double garage with 'his' and 'hers' cars. The old man turns to his wife in astonishment and says, 'Well bugger me, Doris, if you hadn't stopped us drinking and smoking, we'd have been enjoying all this years ago.'

Which Outfit!

The man came home early from work to find his wife lying naked on the bed, crying here eyes out. 'What's wrong?' he asked. 'I've got nothing to wear to the dance tomorrow night,' she sobbed.

'Oh come on now! You've plenty of clothes' and with that he went over to the wardrobe. 'See here, there's the nice pink dress, the pale blue skirt, the yellow cocktail dress, hello John, the green silk gown.....'

Spanish Superstitions.

Whereas many Anglo-Saxons treat Friday the 13th with some trepidation, for the Spanish the unlucky day is Tuesday the 13th. There is an old proverb that highlights the superstition: "On Tuesday, don't get married, embark on a journey, or move away. (*En martes, ni te cases, ni te embarques, ni de tu casa te apartes*)"

Also, don't buy family or friends knives or scissors as a gift. Tradition says that this means that the relationship will be broken. So that set of throwing-knives you sent to the mother-in-law could be finding their way back.

Superstitions also rank high in the Spanish theatre. Whereas actors in the English speaking world will use the term 'break a leg' to wish their colleagues 'good luck,' in Spain the term used is "*mucha mierda*" - loads of shit! If you ever wondered why there were so many cactuses on Spanish window sills, it is because it is believed that these plants ward off evil spirits.

Also, Spanish cats, unlike the British moggie, have only seven lives. This no doubt causes the British strain to look down on them. Also a black cat is not a sign of good luck in Spain..... particularly if they live near a Korean restaurant.

You should also take great care when sweeping your floors and patios. If you accidentally sweep over a young lady's feet, it means she will never get married! It seems this superstition dates back to the times when witches were feared.

The colour yellow is also said to be unlucky when associated with clothing. Although the Spanish national flag carries a swathe of yellow through the middle, wearing the colour to exams, while starring in a play or going for a job interview, will do you no good whatsoever. And you should never give yellow clothes as a gift. The superstition comes from the colour's similarity to sulphur and its connections to the devil.

Most of you are probably aware of the superstition of eating 12 grapes to the midnight chimes on New Year's Eve for good luck. But did you know that wearing red underwear during the last night of the year is also supposed to bring good luck. I believed this while wearing a set of my wife's smalls and never could explain it satisfactorily to the Guardia Civil!

You have heard the expression 'putting your best foot forward' but it can be taken to the extreme in Spain. If you enter a room here with your left foot first - then misfortune will follow you.



However, you can avert the curse by making the Sign of the Cross quickly three times. This also works for Jews, Buddhists and most Chelsea supporters.

Throwing a bucket of water out the window helps you clean out the old year and brings good fortune for the new. And probably bad luck for your neighbour who was underneath it at the time!

Finally, few Spanish ladies will leave their handbags on the floor. They will prefer to leave them on a chair or table, because they believe that leaving them on the floor will mean that you will lose all your money. Probably a sensible thing anyway as scores of handbags are stolen locally every year.



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should look something like this..."



The Other Benidorm.

All too often, the image Benidorm conveys is one of
pub crawls, excessive drinking and associated
loutishness. But one of the town's great attractions
is the magnificent open arena - see photos above -
which is situated right in the centre of town. Called
the Auditorium of l' Aigüera Park, it regularly hosts
concerts, special events or just general gatherings
to celebrate Spain and its culture, as the bottom
photo shows.

However, some of the people who live in the many
apartments which overlook the park are now
complaining that they cannot watch TV during these
events because of the noise. The Ombudsman
promised to look into itand will then forget it!

The Business.

Three brothers are left their father's business in his will. The oldest son says, 'Dad left me 48% of the shares so I'm going to be Chairman.' 'Okay,' says the second son, 'and I'll be in charge of the everyday running of the business because I've got 30% of the shares.' 'Now wait a minute,' says the third and youngest son. 'What about me, don't forget I've got 22% of the shares?' The other two confer amongst themselves and then reply, 'We've decided you can be in charge of sexual matters.' 'What does that mean?' 'When we want your f*cking advice, we'll ask for it.'

Stewart.

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I'm sorry I asked!

A husband and wife are in bed together. The husband says, 'Do you enjoy sex with me - because it doesn't sound like it.' 'What do you mean?' asks his wife. The husband replies, 'Well, my mates say their wives moan and groan a bit when they're being made love to; you don't' 'Okay,' she replied, 'I'll do it if that's what you want.' So the husband gets down to business and his wife says, 'Oh, you wouldn't believe the price of bread. Just look at the state of those curtains. The cat's made a mess on the carpet again. Why don't you mow the lawn. Your mother phoned again.'

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Stefan Pokroppa has launched an English program on Siesta Radio 91.6 FM on Fridays from 12:00 – 13:00 hours.
It will include some interesting interviews and will be a test to determine whether the English broadcast hours should be extended.

Sewing Old Wild Oats.

Two old men, now widowers for some time and living in lower Los Altos, decide to paint the town red. They had accumulated some serious dosh and the sky was the limit.

After a few bevies, they end up at the knocking shop in Cago Roig.

The Madam takes one look at the two old gezzers and whispers to her manager, "Go up to the first two bedrooms and put an inflatable doll in each bed. These two are so old and drunk I'm not wasting two of my girls on them. They won't know the difference."

The manager does as she is told and the two old men go upstairs and take care of their business.

As they were walking home later the first old guy says, "You know, I think my girl was dead!"

"Dead?", replies his pal, "Why do you say that?"

"Well, she never moved or made a sound all the time I was with her."

His pal says, "It could have been worse; I think mine was a witch."

"A witch, why the hell would you say that?"

"Well, I was kissing her and I gave her a little nibble on the neck; she then farted and flew out the window, taking my false teeth with her!"

Pizza for breakfast is one of the great examples of bachelor freedom.

P.J. O'Rourke

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