

# THE DREAM SCENE

## NEWSLETTER



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

Issue no. 97, 1st of April 2015.

*Bienvenido a todos* and welcome to the April edition.  
Happy Easter & Happy St. George's Day for April 23<sup>rd</sup>.



Once again, the previous month appears to have contained a range of seasons within a few weeks. Alicante reported the highest March temperatures for the last 27 years with a high of 29.5 °C. But we have had some miserably cold and wet weather as well. On March 3, a dense moist sea mist/fog descended. Called *La Boria*, it was freezing and very unusual for this part of the coast.

There was also a large earthquake of a 5.2 magnitude in late February. This was felt at around 5.16pm and was located 83 kilometres from the city of Albacete at a dept of 10 km. which is a very shallow depth. No injuries or damage was reported as the main area affected was sparsely populated.

Reservations made by British tourists for the summer are up 3% compared to this time last year, due in no little part to the favourable exchange rate. Certainly those of us with incomes or pensions in sterling have been enjoying the bonus. Let's hope that the Greeks bugger up the euro further; I may be able to afford new stabilisers for my bicycle then.

Tax returns can be made online from April 7, and the draft copies likewise until June 30. Remember, if you pay your income tax for last year this year, you can pay approx. two thirds of it by the end of June and the remainder by the 5<sup>th</sup> of November. You will be charged interest if you pay after the dates stipulated.

In an effort to improve the hygiene and appearance of the coastal environment, dog owners will now be required to register their dog poop with the local town hall. This will involve owners taking a sample of their dog faeces, placing it in a specially designed smell and waterproof box which will bear the name and address of the dog owners. This need be done only once for each dog. There are no instructions issued yet for cats. The samples and DNA records will then be kept in storage in Orihuela where the DNA of the faeces which are not picked up by owners will be compared with the poop database on computer. Offenders will be fined. The special boxes, which are free, can now be collected from good retail outlets (such as Jukes - by the way, have you tried their mid-week roast? It is sumptuous!) and from your local post office. Full list of suppliers on page 33.

I enjoyed my interview on Siesta Radio 91.6FM with Stefan Pokroppa on March 20. We discussed a whole range of issues from the Dependency Law to Spanish politics. He has now invited me to take part in a interview each month, the next one being at 12 noon on April 17. The previous interview was recorded in two parts and can be heard on the radio's Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/siestaradio>

Sincere thanks to George, Laura, Beryl & Denis, Mick & Beth, for the extra donations with the sub's.

Thanks also to Sue Birchenough for helping to deliver the Dream Scenes while Steve is away.

PayPal requests for the current year's sub's will be going out soon. I just didn't have the time to send them out last month.

Hoping you all have a wonderful Easter and hope we will see you all soon,  
Mick & Tid.

### CHARITY BASH

AT

**JUKE'S & THE PHOENIX**

VIA PARK V

MAY 9 - MIDDAY TO LATE EVENING

IN AID OF

**ALIEMENTOS SOLDARIOS.**

This is a soup kitchen in Torrevieja  
which feeds the homeless  
and the needy.

**THERE WILL BE DARTS, BINGO, QUIZ,  
DISCO, MUSIC, COMPETITIONS, etc.**

**BRIAN & ADE WILL BE YOUR HOSTS  
FOR THE DAY.**

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& HELP RAISE SOME FUNDS  
FOR A WORTHY CHARITY.**

### Angela's Cartoon



**"I won't be going to Bingo tonight Beryl.  
I've swapped his indigestion tablets for Viagra!"**

If you see a light at the end of the tunnel, it means the tunnel's on fire. (T. Pratchett)

## TRANSLATOR & COMPUTER TRAINER

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

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

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

### TRANSLATIONS

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

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- WINDOWS XP, VISTA, 7
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## Did you know that .....

...men in Ancient Greece could propose to a woman by throwing her an apple. If she caught it, it meant she accepted. (In Hull, I believe the same now happens with Pot Noodle.)

...nearly a quarter of over-65s have as much sex as they did when they were younger. If you are in that category you shouldn't be wasting time reading this!

...almost half of all men think their 'todger' is too small, even though 85% of married women claim they are perfectly content with their hubby's willy.

...on average, sex lasts six minutes and burns off just 20 calories. 20 calories & six minutes - Speedy Gonzales! How can one reconcile this with the fact that kissing for one minute burns 26 calories?

...couples who have a TV in the bedroom have sex half as often as those who do not.

...in Europe, men marry women who are three years younger than themselves, on average.

...men who kiss their wives in the morning apparently live five years longer than those who do not.

...one in four men switches the light off during sex.

...an X symbolising a kiss apparently comes from when illiterate people signed their name with an X and then kissed it for sincerity.

...there is such a thing as a pubic wig? It is called a 'merkin' and is used by many actors in stage and screen. Apparently Terry Wogan has been wearing one of them on his head for years.

...the word 'tragedy' comes from the Greek 'tragoida' which means 'goat song.' Well, we all know the Greeks are weird. I wonder if there is a Greek goat love song?

...the back of the Nobel Peace Prize medal shows three naked men embracing one another. Bit like the Premier League then.

...one punishment for an adulterous wife in medieval France was to make her chase a chicken through town naked. Bit like August in Benidorm I suppose.

...in the Aztec culture avocados were considered so sexually powerful, virgins were restricted from contact with them. By the way I have noticed that Aldi's have a fresh consignment in.

## What's Up?

Two big events have dominated the Spanish news during the last two weeks. The first was the tragic crash of the Germanwings flight from Barcelona to Dusseldorf. As the story unfolded it just got worse and worse and, as you will already be aware of the full story due to the international media coverage, I will jump on to the other big story, which was the Andalucía Regional Election.

In this story you may recall that the new socialist (PSOE) president of the region, Suzanna Diaz, called early regional elections, several months ahead of the other Spanish regions. Her strategy here was to preempt any further gains by the new popular left wing party, Podemos (We Can). She is one crafty cookie and her strategy paid off in that in the election, which was held on March 22, her PSOE party gained exactly as many seats as it secured during the previous election in 2012, 47 deputies. This was a major surprise. The real losers in the regional election were the right-of-centre PP, who lost half a million votes and 33 seats, down from 50 last time. The 'lunatic fringe' of the Left - the IU party (United Left) also got a hammering going from 12 deputies/seats down to just 5. Aside from Diaz, the other winners were the two new parties - Podemos and Ciudadanos (Citizens) a centre-right party. Although this was the first regional election that these new parties entered, they secured 15 and 9 seats respectively.

The political parties have been analysing these results and extrapolating what might happen in their own regions and nationally during the coming nine months. Either way, it looks grim for the nationally ruling PP party.

Spain's Constitutional Court has unanimously ruled that legislation passed by the Catalan regional government to give legal backing to a vote on independence for the region was unconstitutional. The November 9 vote went ahead anyway, despite its suspension pending a ruling by the tribunal, but was not backed by the original legal guarantees sought by the Generalitat, as the Catalan government is known. The Constitutional Court also ruled that the decree passed by regional premier Artur Mas to call the vote in the first place was also unconstitutional.

But what has the government done? Catalonia has been virtually rewarded by being given an extra €2 billion from the Regional Liquidity Fund! This is more than 30% of the additional funding which was to go to all the regions.

Foreigners bought 13% of all the homes sold in Spain last year, according to the latest market report from the property registrars. Of the 318,928 home sales registered in the property register last year, 41,493 were purchased by foreigners, led by the British, who snapped up 7,023 residential properties in Spain in 2014. Foreign demand as a share of the overall market crept up each quarter as the year progressed, continuing a trend of growing foreign market share that started back in 2010. In Q4 foreign demand was a record 13.88% of the Spanish housing market, up from a low of 4.2% in 2009.

SPANISH HOUSE SALES BY NATIONALITY						
Country	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	1 yr +/-%
UK	4,649	4,294	4,469	5,504	7,023	27.6%
France	1,627	2,110	2,675	3,634	4,209	15.8%
Russia	1,378	1,740	2,585	3,163	3,106	-1.8%
Belgium	881	1,111	1,750	2,666	2,876	7.9%
Germany	1,533	1,814	2,127	2,570	2,963	15.3%
Sweden	865	1,259	1,253	2,069	2,469	19.3%
Norway	782	1,111	1,540	1,935	1,732	-10.5%
Italy	1,130	1,259	1,325	1,345	1,960	45.7%
China	811	851	1,156	1,126	1,510	34.1%
Holland	874	814	789	963	981	1.9%
Switzerland	227	333	426	484	557	15.2%
Denmark	298	333	348	478	462	-3.2%
Finland	238	296	235	446	439	-1.7%
Rest	4,546	5,036	6,193	9,355	10,762	15.0%
FOREIGN	19,837	22,360	26,871	36,226	41,493	14.5%
LOCAL	426,048	347,844	303,879	292,920	277,435	-5.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>445,885</b>	<b>370,204</b>	<b>330,750</b>	<b>329,146</b>	<b>318,928</b>	<b>-3.1%</b>

Source: Registradores [www.spanishpropertyinsight.com](http://www.spanishpropertyinsight.com)

The Supreme Court is to put a limit on the excessive money the banks make in the case of a sale of embargoed property. The high tribunal has opened the door to payment in kind for the debtor if the bank has made large capital gains in the impounded property. The First Hall of the Supreme Court has also ruled the buyer can renounce the purchase of the house if there is an undue delay in its completion or handing over.

El Mundo has reported that 'A judge has annulled the agreement made on the (toll) motorways and has called for its liquidation'. The Development Ministry had agreed to pardon 50% of the debt and granted a postponement on the rest. The resolution implied the State will be generously paying €4.5 billion to the investors, with taxpayers' money of course.

Here is some brief news on two giant Spanish companies you have probably never heard of. The first, OHL - Obrascón Huarte Lain, S.A., is a concessions and construction group who operate in over 30 countries in five continents. OHL have been operating for more than 100 years, but in these difficult times they are facing some potentially damaging international litigations. They plan to dispose of many of their assets which will hopefully bring their net debt down to €5.623 billion. (Imagine trying to sleep with that figure on your mind.)

Next is the giant real estate and construction company Martinsa Fadesa. The bursting of the Spanish property bubble has wrought havoc with this company, and it is now close to liquidation as the banks refuse to keep ploughing money into the company. With bank loans approaching €1 billion, the company failure could be the largest ever in Spain. The State will lose 1 billion € with the bankruptcy of Martinsa. The failure of the real estate company has also led to a loss of one billion for Bankia and also for the 'bad bank' SAREB.

Spain is the leading supplier of cheap bulk wine to France. I am of course sure that the 'Frogs' are not re-selling it as theirs!

The price of a gas 'bombona' has fallen from €17.50 to €15.80 and the Industry Ministry says more reductions are expected.

Spain will shortly announce a reduction of the country's IVA rate on culture from 21% - the highest in Europe - to 10%, according to a report in Spanish daily ABC. The move comes over 18 Months since the government chose to drastically increase the IVA rate on nearly all cultural goods and services from 8% to 21% in September 2012. The higher rate currently applies to e-books, DVDs, music CDs, as well as cinema and theatre tickets, but books, newspapers, magazines and public museums pay a reduced rate of 4%.

Telefónica is to integrate Movistar TV in Samsung televisions. The comm's operator and the Korean firm will install the facility in a 'Smart TV' without the need of a decoder.

The Government has now approved changes in job training courses, to give more transparency and quality to the courses for workers and the unemployed, and to help in the fight against fraud, as has been seen in Andalucía where millions of euros destined for training were sidetracked. The unions and the Spanish Confederation of Business Organisations will no longer play any role in training courses.

El País notes that Tomás Gómez, the ex-leader of the PSOE in Madrid, hid an additional cost of €42 million for his 'grand project' - the tram route in the Madrid district of Palma, which finally cost a total of €298 million. His party has now 'dumped' him.

*The higher the buildings, the lower the morals.*

Noel Coward

#### <sup>4</sup>What's Up? continued

A 75-year-old British man, Charlie Bevill-Warcup, has been arrested in nearby San Miguel de Salinas for the murder of his 76-year-old British partner, Rosemary Broadwell. Rosemary had been missing since last September. There has been a running campaign in the local press to try and find the woman. Rosemary's body was found hidden in the undergrowth near the Doña Pepa urbanisation in Algorfo on March 10 and the man has since confessed to the crime.

Información in Alicante has headlined that 'The prosecutor has received 165 foreign petitions calling for the investigation of criminal gangs in Alicante'. International fugitives hide from justice in the province and pass unnoticed among the thousands of tourists. Maybe the Costa del Sol is getting full up! The same newspaper also reported that central government has dropped plans to link the coastal towns in the Costa Blanca with a railway line. Instead, the money will be used to link the coastal towns in the Costa del Sol.

The Justice Commission of the Senate in Spain has approved with a wide majority the draft for the Statute Law for the Victims of Crime, which will allow the victims to be heard by the judge before any release is confirmed. They also want to see conditional release and penitentiary passes to be halted.

The National Commission for Markets in Competitiveness has fined Repsol, Cepsa, BP, Disa, Galp and Meroil 32 million € for price fixing. It seems the Spanish multinationals, Repsol and Cepsa were the worst offenders, being fined 20 million and 10 million € respectively. El Mundo reports it was an exchange of emails between personnel in petrol stations which proved the agreements on price fixing.

The National Commission for Markets and Competitiveness has fined nine milk companies 88 million €. Among those fined are Danone €3.2 million, Corporación Alimentaria Penasanta €1.8 million, Nestlé España €1.6 million, Puleva Food €1.2 million and Calidad Pascual €8.5 million. It was found that these companies shared information at both national and regional levels regarding the purchase price of untreated cow's milk as well as excess supply and purchase volumes. This gave them an unfair advantage over smaller competitors.

The National Commission for Markets and Competitiveness (CNMC) has also fined 46 car dealers nine million € for price fixing. The CNMC broke up three cartels who were selling Toyota, Hyundai and Opel.

So between the politicians, the petrol companies and the milk companies and the car dealers, you are probably wondering if there is anybody straight over here? I'm still wondering!

British police are to assist the Balearic police during the months of July and August in the town of Magaluf. Drunken and drugged British tourists have become a major problem and it is hoped that the presence of the British police will have a deterrent effect. At times the police are incredibly patient, but trying to reason with piss-heads and pot-heads can be a colossal waste of time.

The American weekly, Newsweek, has carried a five-page report on pickpockets in Barcelona. A team of 60 specialist police officers now patrol the city in an effort to hinder and arrest 'the dippers.' One, a 19-year-old Bulgarian woman, has been arrested 10 times! It seems that a skilled 'dipper' can make €20,000 in a few months.

In a joint operation between the National Police and the Guardia Civil, an armed gang of hooded assaulters, responsible for some 20 attacks on petrol stations over recent months, were detained. The gang, who carried weapons and wore balaclavas during their robberies, were arrested in nearby Bigastro. Following a spate of robberies in petrol stations in Orihuela and Crevillent before Christmas, both police forces managed to track down the gang, who were obviously local. The gang, four Moroccans and an Algerian man, used a variety of weapons during the burglaries ranging from semi-automatic pistols to Japanese swords.

Public confidence in the Spanish judiciary has plummeted in the last three years, with only the Bulgarians and Slovaks showing less faith in their judicial systems. The public perception of the independence of the judiciary in Spain ranks joint 25 out of the 28 EU member states tied with Croatia, according to the European Commission's 2015 justice scoreboard, which collated data from 2013. See -

[http://ec.europa.eu/justice/effective-justice/files/justice\\_scoreboard\\_2015\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/effective-justice/files/justice_scoreboard_2015_en.pdf)

Those member states which performed best in terms of perception of judicial independence were Finland, Denmark and Ireland. But it wasn't only in terms of perception of independence that it fared badly. The efficiency of the justice system was also brought into question with Spain ranking the fifth state in terms of most time needed to resolve cases and the fourth in terms of most open cases pending. On average it takes 473 days to resolve civil or commercial litigation cases, ahead of only Cyprus, Greece, Malta and Portugal. "The processes become so long that the Spanish no longer have any confidence in their judicial system to deliver justice," said Věra Jourová, the EU's Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality.

Police have located and arrested the 'missing' ex-Finance Minister of the Ukraine, Yuri Kolobov. He was nabbed in a luxury development in Altea, Costa Blanca, where he is believed to own three luxury villas. Yuri wanted for 'presumed' financial crimes, misappropriation and the misuse of the equivalent of seven million euros in public funds in particular. A statement from the Interior Ministry said a large number of new Russian residents are now living in luxury on the Costa Blanca.

The United States has accused the Banca Privada in Andorra of money laundering. The Government of the principality announced the intervention, reported by the United States Treasury for channelling funds from organised crime. Following the allegation the Andorra Government has now reported it is to open its own investigation. In Andorra of money laundering. The Government of the principality announced the intervention, reported by the United States Treasury for channelling funds from organised crime. Following the allegation the Andorra Government has now reported it is to open its own investigation. See full report on page 10 of this issue.

The two main political parties in Spain, the PP & the PSOE, have agreed to halt all the demolitions of illegally built homes along the coasts of Spain, until the time comes when the owners can be assured that the correct compensation will be paid.

Diario Sur in Málaga reported that thousands of drivers have not been served fines because they changed their address. The law stops the local councils from using the census to notify the fines.

A husband is someone who, after taking the trash out, gives the impression he's just cleaned the whole house.

What's the difference between Iron Man & Iron Woman?  
Iron Man is a Superhero, Iron Woman is a command.

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Mary, to Charlie: 'I can't leave you, my darling.' Charlie: 'Do you love me so much?'

Mary: 'No. You're standing on my foot.'

And remember, it's better to have loved a short woman than never to have loved a tall.

### The Zombies are Coming!

Thanks largely to a spate of movies and TV series on the subject, Spain has also become immersed in Zombie 'fiestas.' There are many annual ones throughout Valencia. Here we take a brief look at the upcoming *Survival Zombie* in Pilar de la Horadada. This is actually a Zombie Race where survivors are pursued throughout the night by ravenous zombies. The game takes place on April 18 and it is expected to attract up to 1,500 participants. It lasts from 22:30 in the evening, finishing at dawn on the following morning. Anyone over the age of 14 can take part and there is a crèche for the mini-zombies while their parents are escaping with their lives. Plenty of details, videos and ticket prices at this website - <http://survivalzombie.es/campello/>



### 2,223 New Houses in Torrevieja!

One of the few remaining unspoilt attractive areas in Torrevieja is to be cleared and more than 2,000 new properties built on the space. As you face out from the Supercor garage opposite the hospital, my sources tell me the vast area to the right which is currently carpeted by attractive orange and olive trees, is to be cleared to accommodate the massive new development. It was always on the cards that this prime area would be redeveloped, but what a shame. Just what we need, more concrete! You can read more in Spanish on the proposed works here (but as it is subscriber-based it may not load) - <http://suscriptor.diarioinformacion.com/vegabaja/2015/03/18/dolon-aprobara-plan-2223-casas/1611318.html>

### Walking Football!

This new activity is becoming very popular locally. It is an inclusive fun version of soccer where the players are not allowed to run. This more sedentary pace prevents injuries and it also makes it suitable for the older enthusiast and ladies who would like a little more exercise.

Locally, this fun takes place in the playing ground situated at the rear of Lago Jardin 2 from 11am every Saturday. It is great fun with all ages taking part. Team sizes are variable and laughs and sociability are guaranteed. The question of 'drugs in sport' raised its ugly head last weekend when it was found that the over 50's weren't taking enough!

### Dream Hills Walking Association.

Another enjoyable activity is this walking group, which is a great opportunity to meet new friends and to also get rid of those 'cob-webbed' muscles gained from watching too much TV.

The group meets every Monday, Wednesday and Friday outside Belushi's in Via Park V at 10am. Walks last between one and two hours and are very easy going. There is a Facebook page where JJ Baker would be happy to answer any questions you might have. You can see it here - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/408352322679009/>

**To whom it may concern:** This is to certify that my mate Vic has not been bared from any bars or similar establishments in the immediate vicinity. However, with regard to the Venus de Milo Red Light Friendship & Leather Club in Pilar de la Horadada, well, the jury is still out.

A man was rushed into Torrevieja Hospital last week. He had six toy plastic horses up his butt. The doctors described his condition as stable.

### Andalucia, More Fraud!

The Andalucians, the largest region in Spain, held their regional and local elections on March 22. This was a strategy to deflect and minimise the Podemos effect. Regular readers will be aware of the ERE and training fund multi-million €scandals which have not only caused a rukus in the region but have also resulted in the arrest and investigation of dozens. However, prior to the elections, a couple of new 'juicy' corruption scandals emerged which the socialist governing junta are involved in up to their necks.

In the first case, it seems that the region received a grant of €40 million from the EU. This money was supposed to modernise the irrigation system of the Guadalquivir river. However, it has transpired that not a single euro of the grant was spent on the project. The total project had a budget of €60 million, but the investigating prosecutor has determined that records indicate that only €4.2 was 'spent' on it, but he has now also determined that even the certification for this is false! 21 people, including several high ranking officials, are under investigation. So where did all that money go?

The second case unfortunately highlights a common infraction in the awarding of contracts in Spain - the surreptitious modification of conditions during the bidding process. In this case it was a major contract, the tendering of the ambulance service for Seville for a ten-year period and worth an estimated €245 million. The prosecutor suspects that the rules of the game were changed during the bidding process to favour one particular contractor, with the modification of the conditions in the middle of the bidding process, requiring documentation not provided for in the tender, together with the alleged crimes of prevarication, bribery, misrepresentation, influence peddling and alteration of prices in tenders and auctions. So far, 16 people may be facing criminal charges.

Whereas one has in recent times associated the conservative Partido Popular with business corruption, the PSOE socialists in Andalucia - where they have ruled for more than 30 years - are showing that the Left can be just as mendacious. It is no wonder that people are sick of two big parties and are now looking at alternatives.





# LIME BAR

VIA PARK III

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## Limebar Golf Society Los Altos, Orihuela Costa.

The golf society's venue for the 11th March 2015 was held at El Valle Golf Course.

Eighteen members played off on a warm fine day. The course was in good condition and played well, however for some strange reason the scores did not reflect this.

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

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

Nearest the pin in 2 on the 10th hole (par 4) was John Mc Gregor.

Nearest the pin on the 12th hole (par 3) was Paul Abbot.

Nearest the pin on the 15th hole (par 3) was Les Thwaites.

Bronze Class in 2nd place was Nev.

Greenwood with 21 points.

Bronze Class in 1st place was Barry  
Shawyer with 24 points.

Silver Class 2nd place was Steve Cottle  
with a score of 28 points.

Silver Class 1st place was Brian Archer  
with a score of 30 points.

Gold Class 2nd place was John Mc Gregor  
with a score of 16 points.

Gold Class 1st place was Mike Heighway a  
score of 17 points.



A very good day of golf in pleasant

company, with thanks to the committee for organising the event and the bar staff for providing the meal.

### The Clever Monkey.

A guy goes to the zoo to feed the monkeys. He throws the monkey a peanut. The monkey picks up the peanut, sticks it in his rear end, pulls it out, and eats it. The guy goes, "Yuk!"

He throws the monkey another peanut. The monkey picks up the peanut, sticks it in his rear end, pulls it out, and eats it. The guy goes, "Yuk!" again. He goes to the zookeeper, and he says, "Man, that is one very stupid monkey."

The zookeeper says, "No, that's a very smart monkey actually. Last week, somebody threw him a big avocado, and he ate it, he couldn't pass the pit..... so now he measures everything first."

## The Clubs!

Okay, I know we all smile and joke about 'the naughty clubs' that form part of the Spanish scene. But whatever you call them -sex clubs, brothels or knocking-shops - they are all too often associated with unsavoury pastimes from human trafficking to drug taking. But doping is also a common factor in these 'leisure centres' as a recent tragic case in Gran Canaria illustrates.

In this case five Belgian chaps visited the Red Hot Sexy Disco in Playa de Inglés, in the south of Gran Canaria. They were on the island for a cycling holiday and visited the brothel on Feb' 24, possibly for some more 'riding.' One of them, 55-year-old P.D., a well-known constructor in his own country, began to feel unwell after a few drinks and an ambulance was called. He was taken to the Health Centre at Maspalomas but died later. Later, one of his friends also began to feel unwell but was taken to a hospital where a rapid stomach pumping probably saved his life.



It seems that the men were given 'spiked' drinks by two prostitutes. Both men had been doped with burundanga, an extract of the brugmansia plant containing high levels of the psychoactive chemical scopolamine. The most common symptoms are confusion and amnesia. It makes victims disoriented and sedated so they can be easily robbed.

It seems the drug is easy to make as its ingredients come from the Deadly Nightshade family, which grow freely on waste and open ground. One expert advised that the drug first causes depression of the central nervous system, breathing difficulties and then paralysis. 'If you mix it with alcohol the effect is addictive and often fatal'. A mix of drunk blokes and big tits will invariably result in major dumb!

## FORECLOSURES.

Whereas the incumbent politicians are triumphantly lauding 'the recovery,' unemployment and evictions continue to mask any talk of improvements in growth. The following short informative article appeared in *El Pais* recently.

### Mortgage foreclosures up 7.4% in 2014.

Mortgage foreclosures, one of the most dramatic consequences of Spain's economic crisis, rose 7.4% in 2014, according to figures released by the National Statistics Institute (INE) on Thursday.

A total of 34,680 first residences were taken back from non-paying borrowers despite the end of the recession, timid job creation and a moratorium on evictions introduced by the government. For second homes, the rate rose 8.8% from 2013.

The upward trend can be explained by the problems households have accumulated after seven years of job destruction and unemployment. The incipient economy recovery will still take time to bring down these rates in a country with one of the highest home ownership rates in Europe – upwards of 80% – and 26% unemployment.

Out of all the home foreclosures that took place last year, 20.2% represented mortgages taken out in 2007, right before the beginning of the crisis; 17.3% were for 2006 home loans, and 12.1% for 2005 mortgages.

The 2005-2008 period, which marks the height of the real estate bubble in Spain, represents 61.6% of all foreclosures initiated in 2014.

The INE noted that not all foreclosures end in evictions. Home evictions averaged 184 a day in Spain in 2013.



## Gürtel Case Opens, Finally.

The High Court judge heading up the investigation into a kickbacks-for-contracts network known as Gürtel has begun proceedings that will see 40 official suspects in the case sent to the dock for the oral trial stage.

The corruption case has plagued the governing Popular Party (PP) since Judge Pablo Ruz began to investigate it back in 2010, and among the 40 people who will now see the inside of a courtroom are the PP's former treasurer, Luis Bárcenas, and former Popular Party minister, Ana Mato.

The scandal has already cost the jobs of dozens of PP mayors, regional deputies and councillors, as well as a senator and a member of Congress. The magistrates who will hear the evidence in this next part of the judicial investigation will be concerned with the activity of the companies that allegedly formed part of the network, which are thought to have been awarded contracts in rigged bids from PP administrations between 1999 and 2005. In exchange these administrations are suspected to have handed out massive kickbacks in exchange for the favours.

The judge has set civil bonds totalling €49 million for 36 of the official suspects in the case. The highest amount has been set for former PP treasurer Luis Bárcenas, who will have to hand over €8 million, while his wife, Rosalía Iglesias, will have to pay €2 million. Francisco Correo, the alleged mastermind at the centre of the companies involved, will have to pay a bond of €60 million. (El Pais)



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fenosa



### LOCAL NATURAL GAS INSTALLATION - NEARING COMPLETION!

The natural gas installation in Dream Hills is now well advanced and should be expanding into Lago Jardin II soon. If you are still undecided about whether to have it installed or not on your property, **I would urge you to contact Virginia or Deibi URGENTLY on 645 113 316** (who speak several languages including English) and they will be pleased to meet with you and answer any questions you might have about the natural gas installation, without any obligation on your part. **They can also be contacted at - [comercialecnor@gmail.com](mailto:comercialecnor@gmail.com)**

Tid and I have had natural gas installed for the past two months and we must say that we are very happy with it. The service has been extremely efficient and the bills have been surprisingly low. The natural gas tariff will fall by 2.5% in April. It takes the fall so far this year to around 5.7%. With rising electricity prices, this is great news.

While playing golf today, I hit two good balls.  
I stepped on a rake. Henry Youngman



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Two eagles are flying along when a jet screams past them.  
One eagle says, "Man...did you see how fast that thing was going?"  
The other eagle says, "You'd go that fast, too, if you're asshole was on fire."

**SHENANIGANS IN ANDORRA.**

Andorra, as you probably already know, is a principality located in the eastern Pyrenees mountains and bordered by Spain and France. Although a popular tourist destination, what concerns us here is its tax haven status and its ultimate destination as a safe European home for dodgy money.

This came to the fore recently when it was revealed that the former president of Catalonia and modern architect of the drive for Catalan independence, Jordi Pujol, had some €4 million spirited away in accounts there. Jordi says that the money was an inheritance from his father, although one respectable newspaper said the inheritance amounted to only around €80,000! A former girlfriend of one of Pujol's sons told reporters a couple of years ago, that she had accompanied her boyfriend across the Andorran border and he was carrying rucksacks full of high-denomination notes. (More on the Pujols in future issues.)

The press then reported how a female Catalan member of Spain's General Council of the Judiciary, Mercè Pigem, and her sister were stopped by Spanish border police and were found to have been carrying €19,800 in cash. (The limit is €10,000.) Pigem, in one of her speeches in 2012 stated that "Our parliamentary group is committed to the fight against tax fraud." She has since resigned from the General Council.

But then in early January, the Spanish Prime Minister, Rajoy, his Minister for Finance - Montoro and Finance State Secretary Ferre, made an unprecedented two-day visit to the principality. But after they returned from Andorra, there were no major statements or decisions announced other than by 2017, Andorra would be more forthcoming on providing information if it thought it legally justified. (But maybe Rajoy 'had wind' of what was to happen!)

All seemed to be very quiet until just a few weeks later when, in early March, the sky caved in! The US Treasury's anti-money-laundering unit, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network announced that the Banca Privada d'Andorra (BPA) was "a primary money-laundering concern" and that high-level officials there allegedly helped Russian, Chinese and Venezuelan clients channel money from their criminal activities.

On March 13, the chief executive officer Joan Pau Miquel Prats was arrested and Spanish and Andorran regulators took over control of BPA and Banco de Madrid, a bank purchased by BPA in 2011. There then followed a run on both banks with withdrawal limits set at €2,500.

The profile of a typical Banco de Madrid client is a high-earner with savings of over €500,000 who likes to invest in funds such as SICAVs, which are an investment vehicle which offers generous tax rates. It is believed that some €56 million had been invested in these instruments.

Banco de Madrid has now been allowed to fail which sets a precedent in a country that until now had opted to bail out struggling banks. Customers are only guaranteed €100,000 of their money back, which should leave the SICAV investors with just a fraction of their original investment intact.

**Smart Bob.**

Bob, a 70-year-old, extremely wealthy widower, shows up at the Country Club with a breathtakingly beautiful and very sexy 25-year-old blonde-haired woman who knocks everyone's socks off with her youthful sex appeal and charm and who hangs over Bob's arm and listens intently to his every word.

His buddies at the club are all aghast. At the very first chance, they corner him and ask, 'Bob, how'd you get the trophy girlfriend?'

Bob replies, 'Girlfriend? She's my wife!'

They are knocked over, but continue to ask questions. 'So, how'd you persuade her to marry you?'

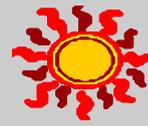
'I lied about my age,' Bob replies.

'What, did you tell her you were only 50?'

Bob smiles and says, 'No, I told her I was 90.'

Ann Wightman

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*Style is when they're running you  
out of town and you make it look  
like you're leading the parade.*

*William Battie*

*I'd feel ugly if I wasn't decked out  
like a drag queen's Christmas tree.*

*Dolly Parton*



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April  
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### TELEFÓNICA TO TRIPLE CUSTOMERS' BROADBAND SPEEDS BEFORE SUMMER.

The unprecedented upgrade will come at no extra charge and beat the competition's best offer.

Telecom operator Telefónica has announced that it will triple the connection speed for all its internet customers before the summer.

The communications provider will also switch all its ADSL clients to its new fiber-optic network as soon as the service is available in their location at no extra charge, sources familiar with the situation told EL PAÍS.

The unprecedented move rests on the fact that Telefónica knows its customers require a quality broadband connection in order to subscribe to its new services, such as streaming video or pay TV.

The company's fiber-optic network currently serves 10.3 million homes, and this year is expected to reach a further 3.6 million households.

Current Telefónica customers with download speeds of 100 megabits per second (Mbps) will be upgraded to 300Mbps, while upload speeds will increase from 10 to 30Mbps.

This will make Telefónica's the fastest broadband offer in the residential market, since its competitors – Vodafone/Ono, Jazztel and Orange – only offer up to 200Mbps (Ono's corporate clients can opt for a 500Mbps connection).

(The above appeared in *El Pais* on March 24. If it happens it will be wonderful. In our area, the maximum you can get from Telefonica is only 3 Mbps which is very poor. But, knowing Telefonica, I will believe it when I see it.)

I knew I was getting old when I was in Marks and Spencer's,  
saw a pair of Doctor Scholl's and thought, hmm, they look comfy.

Victoria Wood

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I'm seeing more and more dribbling loos on Dream Hills and sometimes wonder how much in total is being lost, if you see water running down the back of your toilet pan try this simple test to see how much

Turn off the service valve, that's the one coming out of the wall and connected to the hose that runs to the side of your toilet cistern, be a bit cautious as these are ageing parts and many are in need of changing, and see how long it takes for the water to stop running into the toilet pan, that will tell you how long it takes you to lose about 6 litres.

If for example it took 30 minutes, you're losing 12 litres per hour x 24 x 7 = 2,016 litres a week! And that's just one loo!

And if you're a DIY type please use the correct replacement parts, you're doing yourself and your water bill no favours fitting the "universal, fits everything fixes nothing" kits!

If you need any more info just give me a call on 653553715 or email me at - [dreamhillsplumbing@gmail.com](mailto:dreamhillsplumbing@gmail.com) (Lee Bell)

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### The Test.

The phone rings and the lady of the house answers, "Hello."  
 "Mrs. Milburn, please."  
 "Speaking."  
 "Mrs. Milburn, this is Doctor Harris at the Royal County Hospital. When your doctor sent your husband's biopsy to the lab yesterday, a biopsy from another Mr. Milburn arrived as well, and we are now uncertain which one is your husband's. Frankly the results are either bad or terrible."  
 "What do you mean?" Mrs. Milburn asks nervously.  
 "Well, one of the specimens tested positive for Alzheimer's and the other one tested positive for AIDS. We can't tell which is your husband's."  
 "That's dreadful! Can't you do the test again?" questioned Mrs. Milburn.  
 "Normally we can, but the NHS will only pay for these expensive tests one time."  
 "Well, what am I supposed to do now?"  
 "The people at the office recommend that you drop your husband off somewhere in the middle of town. If he finds his way home, don't sleep with him."



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

**(The Telegraph, July 12, 2013)**

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**Ride 'em Cowboy!**

Two cowboys are talking in a bar and the conversation turns to sex. The first cowboy says, "Say, have you ever heard of the Rodeo Position?"

"No," replies the second cowboy. "How does that work?"

"It's a lot of fun," replies the first cowboy. "You mount your partner from behind, grab her boobs and say, 'Hey, these are almost as good as your sister's'. Then you see if you can stay on for more than eight seconds."



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### Not So Charitable!

In order to prevent homeless people from sleeping outside of Saint Mary's Cathedral (photo), the Archdiocese of San Francisco installed a system that dumps water onto the ground near its sheltered doorways, where people tend to rest at night.

There are no signs warning the homeless about the 'drenching.' Water pours from a hole in the ceiling at nighttime, from about 30 feet above, drenching the alcove and anyone in it. The shower runs for about 75 seconds, every 30 to 60 minutes starting before sunset, simultaneously in all four doorways, soaking homeless people, and their belongings.

The homeless people who slept at the church started using umbrellas and other water-repelling gear in an attempt to stay dry. Still, one homeless man told a local TV station that he was worried "it could make people sick."

You can see a video of the 'deterrent' in action here

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qkn\\_MS-UfsI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qkn_MS-UfsI)



## THE PHOENIX GOLFING SOCIETY.



We played at "Alicante Golf" on the 15th March with a very good turnout of members and guests. The weather was just perfect for playing golf and guess what!! NO RAIN.

The overall winner was Austin Brennan with 32 points.

Nearest the pin Hole No.6 - Ron Smith

Nearest the pin Hole No.3 - Austin Brennan

An extra two par 3's and a guest prize was sponsored by Mick The Grip.

Number 8 - Brian Archer

Number 15 Mick Highway

Best Guest prize went to Brian Archer.

Once again delicious food was supplied by Donna at the Phoenix beautifully cooked by Paul. Many thanks to both of them.

### Eggs are good for you!

Although eggs contain cholesterol, this is different from the cholesterol in your body. It is simply dietary cholesterol. Despite the past health recommendations, there is no evidence that eating eggs will increase levels of your blood cholesterol. One average-sized egg is packed with several vitamins essential to your health:

- Vitamin B2 or riboflavin- which helps your body to break down food into energy.
- Vitamin B12 or cobalamin is vital for producing red blood cells.
- Vitamin A or retinol- which is great for your eyesight.
- Vitamin E or tocopherol helps fight off the free radicals that can cause cellular and tissue damage, which might lead to cancer. Vitamins A and B2 are also important for cell growth. So make sure your kids are eating eggs regularly.

Eggs are packed with phosphorus, iron and zinc. These minerals are vital for your body. You need plenty of iron and not getting enough can leave you grumpy, feeling tired and run down. Zinc keeps your immune system in top form and helps your body convert food into energy. Phosphorus is important for healthy teeth and bones.

Whole eggs are one of the best sources of the nutrient choline. One large egg has about 33% of your RDA. One study published this year found that women with a high intake of choline are 25 percent less likely to get breast cancer. Note that choline is found mostly in the yolk, so feel free to ditch the white omelets.

Egg yolks are also high in zeaxanthin and lutein, both antioxidants that have been shown to ward off macular degeneration. So you will still be able to eyeball in your 80s.

### Careful!

A police patrol calls in to the station.

Policeman: "Sarge, we have an incident here. A woman shot her husband.

Sergeant: "Do you know the motive?"

Policeman: "Yes, he stepped on the floor she had just mopped clean."

Sergeant: "Have you arrested the woman?"

Policeman: "No Sarge, the floor is still wet.

Pete Dudman

C ad Mile F aillte  
\* A Hundred Thousand Welcomes \*



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**EVERY SAT' - PAUL JAMES ALLEN**

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*"There are no strangers at Doolan's, only friends who haven't met"*

**Obvious!**

A girl was visiting her blonde friend, who had acquired two new dogs, and asked her what their names were. The blonde responded by saying that one was named Rolex and one was named Timex. Her friend said, 'Who ever heard of someone naming dogs like that?' 'HELLLOOOOOOO,' answered the blonde. 'They're watch dogs!'

Sue Robinson

## FINES!

The DGT (Traffic Authority) raises almost €12,000 daily in traffic fines in Alicante. This averages out at around 337 fines a day on Alicante roads, which has earned the governing administrations €13.3 million over the last three years.

In one year alone, 2013, the DGT stated that there were 123,139 drivers guilty of infringing the majority of these offences are picked up by radar equipment. The fines levied by police in the province have been dropping year on year; in 2011 the police imposed fines of €141,870; in 2012 the figure decreased to the €125,155; while in 2013 it reduced to €108,199. Obviously people are being a little more careful in these austere times. The revenue gained from a number of regions due to traffic fines over the three year period 2011 to 2013 is outlined below. It is not a complete list.

Madrid	€39,510,765.15
Sevilla.	€28,105,149.43
A Coruña.	€26,411,417.18
Málaga.	€23,958,250.69
Valencia.	€21,775,747.54
Pontevedra.	€18,234,670.27
Cuenca.	€17,629,440.51
Navarra.	€17,042,305.00
León.	€14,975,631.85
Alicante.	€13,378,037.61
Burgos.	€12,853,169.53
Asturias.	€12,735,360.85

I have to admit that I contributed around €40 to the Alicante fines!

### The New Milking Machine.

A farmer ordered a high-tech milking machine. Since the equipment arrived when his wife was out of town, he decided to test it on himself first. So, he inserted his 'manhood' into the equipment, turned on the switch and everything else was automatic.

Soon, he realised that the equipment provided him with much more pleasure than his wife did. When the fun was over, though, he quickly realised that he couldn't remove the instrument from his 'member'. He read the manual but didn't find any useful information on how to disengage himself. He tried every button on the instrument, but still without success.

Finally, he decided to call the supplier's Customer Service Hot Line with his mobile phone (thank goodness for mobile phones!). 'Hello, I just bought a milking machine from your company. It works fantastic, but how do I remove it from the cow's udder?'

'Don't worry,' replied the customer service rep, 'the machine will release automatically once it's collected two gallons. Have a nice day.'

(Ann Wightman & Pearl Gillishan)

## Cancer Survival Rates Climb in Spain.

Spain saw a strong rise in five-year cancer survival rates from 1995 to 2009, but poorer countries are missing out on the benefits of improved diagnosis and treatment methods, a major new global study shows.

Spain's overall five-year survival rate rose for all types of cancer diagnosed in the decade in question, according to the results of the Concord 2 study published in leading medical journal *The Lancet*. Among Spanish adults, the greatest improvement was seen in survival for people suffering from prostate cancer.

A total of 73.7 percent of people diagnosed with this type of tumour from 1995 to 1999 survived for five years. For people diagnosed from 2005 to 2009, however, the rate was 87.1 percent. That puts Spain high up in the global rankings, and in the same bracket as countries like Switzerland and Sweden.

Strong improvements were also seen for cancer of the colon and rectum, and for breast cancer, where the survival rate rose from 77.8 percent to 83.7 percent.

The rise in survival rates for these cancers — in line with general upward trends for developing countries — was likely to reflect earlier diagnosis and better treatments such as pre-operative radiotherapy and total excision of large sections of the bowel for rectal cancer, the study authors said.

However Spain's record on stomach cancer, like that of many European countries, remains relatively poor. Despite the improvements, the 27.3 percent survival rate from 2005 to 2009 is still a long way below the figure for Japan (54 percent) and Korea (58 percent), where diagnostic activity is more intensive and surgery is more aggressive.

Lung cancer survival rates in Spain are also poor — 12.6 percent at the end of the decade studied — suggesting most patients still go to see their doctors too late for treatment to be effective, according to study authors. Spain's survival rate is, however, still higher than in most European countries. In the UK the figure is 9.3 percent and in Denmark it is 11.3 percent.

The study of over 25 million people in 67 countries also reveals a large rise in the survival rate for Spanish children suffering from acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. The increase here was from 73.8 percent from 1995 to 1999 to 83.3 percent a decade later. That means Spain is catching up with countries like Canada, Austria, Belgium, Germany, and Norway where the five-year survival rate for children with this cancer is over 90 percent.

But the study also showed the huge global gap in treating children with this form of leukaemia. In Jordan, the survival rate was just 16.45 from 2005 to 2009. That figure was 39.5 in Lesotho and 50.15 percent in Tunisia.

"Our findings show that in some countries, cancer is far more lethal than in others—in the 21st century there should not be such a dramatic gulf in survival," said Dr Claudia Allemani, lead study author and Senior Lecturer in Cancer Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. "The majority of the variability in survival is probably due to factors that can be changed, such as the availability and quality of diagnostic and treatment services. The findings can be used to evaluate the extent to which investment in health-care systems is improving their effectiveness. We expect them to act as a stimulus for politicians to improve health policy and invest in health care," she added.

The following website give several graphic maps of the incidence of various different cancers throughout Spain. The maps, which indicate 'hot-spots', over/under 65's stat's, male & female, also include predictions for 2015. It is in Spanish but is non-technical. I found the clarity in the grouping of 'hot spots' shocking.

<http://www.diarioinformacion.com/noticias-hoy/incidencia-cancer/cancer-incidencia-espana.html#>

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**Tastes like .....!**

Paddy finds a sandwich with two wires sticking out of it. He phones the police and says "Bejaapers I've just found a sandwich dat looks like a bomb."

The operator asks, "Is it tickin? Paddy says "No, I tink it's beef"

Michael Lowry

## DO YOU RENT OUT YOUR PROPERTY IN SPAIN OR ARE YOU ABOUT TO DO SO?

If so, I would recommend that you take a look at the following link -

[http://www.spanishpropertyinsight.com/2015/03/06/explaining-the-latest-changes-to-spains-rental-laws/?utm\\_source=Spanish+Property+Insight+News+Bulletin&utm\\_campaign=d3956af79a-SPI+NB+2304144+23+2014&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_5c1bbc37e8-d3956af79a-137959681](http://www.spanishpropertyinsight.com/2015/03/06/explaining-the-latest-changes-to-spains-rental-laws/?utm_source=Spanish+Property+Insight+News+Bulletin&utm_campaign=d3956af79a-SPI+NB+2304144+23+2014&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5c1bbc37e8-d3956af79a-137959681)

The article is lengthy but very informative. Not only does it look at recent changes to rental laws and regional touristic (apparently a real word!) rental laws but it also includes links to other related topics from the rentals laws relating to the different autonomous communities in Spain to tenant eviction.

An erudite and invaluable introduction, it is essential reading for owners who rent out their properties. Unfortunately it is too long to include in this newsletter.

### SPANISH COURT FEES.

In 2012 the current government introduced a new range of court fees which were considered by many to be unfair and expensive to the individual. It meant that individuals (natural persons) would have to pay €10 in court fees before bringing the case, with the amount increasing in the case of appeals.

The good news is that now, individuals (natural persons) will no longer have to pay any court fees in order to bring claims or appeals before the courts.

However the court fees are still chargeable to legal entities (not individuals) such as companies etc.

### BANKS & GROUND CLAUSE ON MORTGAGES.

The supreme court last week has ratified a ruling made in May 2013 accepting the illegality of the *clausula suelo* (ground clause) in mortgage contracts. This is to avoid more claims against the banks.

The banks will now have to remove the clause and off course try to avoid having to refund thousands of euros to their mortgage holders, who have been paying extortionate monthly rates since at least 2008. Some mortgagees who did unwittingly sign acceptance of the clause, will now only be reimbursed for monies paid since May 2013 and this only if the bank agrees that the mortgagee had no knowledge of the clause (signing the mortgage deeds may still be considered as compliance with the abusive clause).

This is an immoral action by the government, in an endeavour to protect the banks from returning millions to almost four million mortgage holders, - families who have paid in excess of the market interest rate and for many years. So guess whose side they are on!

Your bank may contact you. Beware of what you sign. You may be closing the door to any future claims. See

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/citizensinspain/> for more info'.

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### 50 Shades of Golf.

Four guys have been going to the same golfing trip to St Andrews for many years. Two days before the group is to leave, Jack's wife puts her foot down and tells him he isn't going. Jack's mates are very upset that he can't go, but what can they do. Two days later, the three get to St Andrews only to find Jack sitting at the bar with four drinks set up!

"Wow, Jack, how long you been here, and how did you talk your misses into letting you go?"

"Well, I've been here since last night...Yesterday evening, I was sitting in my living room chair and my wife came up behind me and put her hands over my eyes and asked, 'Guess who?' I pulled her hands off, and there she was, wearing a nightie. She took my hand and pulled me into our bedroom. The room had candles and rose petals all over. Well she's been reading '50 Shades of Grey'.....On the bed she had handcuffs, and ropes! She told me to tie her up and cuff her to the bed, so I did.

And then she said, "Do whatever you want."

So--- Here I am!

Brian Horsman

## Idiot of the Month.

An early entry into the category this month is the former footballer, Diego Maradona. The now 54-year-old was a gifted footballer in his early days, acclaimed by many, but never forgiven by the English for the notorious 'hand of God' incident. In recent years he 'went off the rails' a bit with drug abuse, aggression, etc., and has continued this erratic trend with his latest behaviour. A recent appearance on Venezuelan television has shown that the former footballer has undergone some rather dramatic facial



surgery. Gone is the snub nose as are the bags under his eyes. Add a face lift, inject some filler into his lips, diamond ear rings and behold the new Maradona! You can see the difference in the 'Before' and 'After' photos here; but only his mother could see this as an improvement.



Remaining with footballers, Rubén Castro, one of the star footballers with Real Betis F.C. has been accused of four counts of domestic violence against his ex-fiance. The prosecutor is looking for a jail sentence of two years and a day. At a recent game in their home stadium, the crowd in the stand chanted against the victim in this case - the ex-fiance and not the aggressor! The Anti-Violence Commission has recommended that the stand now be closed, which is unlikely as footballers and clubs appear to be treated like 'holy cows' here.



But the undercurrent of violence relating to the sport remains. Late last November, a 54-year-old man died after he was beaten up after a match and thrown in the river. There have been 43 arrests in relation to the brawl and subsequent homicide. But a 24-carat idiot posted the following message on Twitter: "I want to express my most absolute and sincere happiness at the death of the Deportivo fan. A son of a bitch who won't be fighting ever again. Hopefully many more will die." The good news is that this jerk has now been fined €60,001 for posting an offensive message celebrating the death of a football fan. He has also been banned from attending sporting events for a period of five years under Spain's Law against Violence, Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance in Sport.

The next candidate features a 19-year-old in Andalucia who was arrested on suspicion of a robbery with violence in Almeria, where more than €3,000 was stolen together with a weapon. While in custody, the man known to the police as 'El Rulo' was visited by his brother. But as neither of these chaps were the 'sharpest knives in the drawer,' the police noticed that the visiting brother had 'wallpaper' on his mobile phone featuring a photo of his brother holding the weapon which was stolen during the violent robbery. Little chance of an acquittal here I think.



Then briefly, there is the story of the 36-year-old male who was stabbed six times in a Madrid bar but continued to party-on for several hours. The stab wounds were to his chest and throat. It was not until 5:30am that his friends finally telephoned for an ambulance. The man was then taken to hospital where he was said to be in a critical condition. Some friends and what an idiot!

Rosanne went on *Saturday Night Live* and said I had a 3-inch penis.

Well, even a 747 looks small if it's landing in the Grand Canyon. Tom Arnold

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### Idiot of the Month.....continued.

I have no hesitation in including Ryanair in the *Idiot Category* this month.

A nine-year-old boy living in Gran Canaria was in need of a liver and kidney transplant so that he 'could be healthy and play football.' On Saturday March 7 at 14:00, his parents received a telephone call from the Transplant Unit at the La Paz Hospital in Madrid stating that both organs had just become available but that it was imperative that the child get to the hospital urgently. So the parents and the young lad head off for the airport in Gran Canaria, which was around an hour from their home.

Upon arriving at the airport they find that the next flight to Madrid is a Ryanair one due out at 16:50. Great news! BUT, at the counter Ryanair stated that they are only selling non-national tickets at the airport and others (i.e. national tickets) have to be purchased electronically and at least two hours in advance! Mindful of the critical urgency in this case, the parents ask the Ryanair officials to reconsider. The officials telephoned Dublin for a decision....but .....none was forthcoming. The Ryanair flight took off without them. Later, Ryanair stated "We have looked into this matter with our handling agent at Las Palmas and unfortunately, we were unable to accommodate this family onto our flight as it was too close to the departure time."

Fortunately Air Europa had a flight going to Madrid at 18:13 which the trio boarded without any issues, arriving at Madrid Airport at 21:45. La Paz Hospital is within 30 minutes of the airport and despite the 'jobs worths' at Ryanair, the donated organs had not deteriorated and the double transplant was completed successfully.

I am writing this on St. Patrick's Day and not too happy to include a successful Irish business in the *Idiot Category* today, but they surely deserve it! Full story here -

<http://aviaciondigitalglobal.com/noticia.asp?NotId=24169&NotDesignId=4>

## INVASIVE SPECIES.



Wels Catfish



Kramer Parrot



Pissed British Tourists

### Invasive Alien Species in Spain. Part 1.

While doing my regular trawl through the Spanish news, I came across an interesting news item relating to parrots in Madrid. It seems there are thousands of them there, all squawking, flying freely and obviously reproducing quickly. Classed as an invasive alien species, attempts are being made to try and get a handle on the actual numbers and types of parrots now in Spain. There is no plan as yet, to control the numbers, just to try and take a census of their numbers. Over the years parrots have either escaped from their cages, or as is more likely, many owners have let their parrots go after being fed up with their constant chatter and racket.

The first parrots 'set free' were detected in Barcelona in 1975, but through the decades, these intelligent birds have bred rapidly and there is now a virtual avalanche of them nationally. The most common types it seems are the Argentina (gray) and the Kramer (green). It seems that April and May are the breeding times for these breeds, which is why the census is being carried out now.

If you spot any parrots and their nests in the wild (they often like to build them close to human habitats) then do take part in the census which is here - <http://www.seo.org/2015/03/03/iniciamos-el-primer-censo-nacional-de-cotorras/>

Which leads me on to other invasive species in Spain. Around 200 have been detected in all, in both flora and fauna. Over the last 100 years alien fish have been released in the rivers, lakes and reservoirs and Spain, sometimes accidentally, normally on purpose. The result has totally altered the ecosystems of Spanish rivers. In many Catalan river basins the number of invasive species is greater than autochthonous ones. In total Catalan rivers are home to 30 native species and 22 foreign species of fish. The rate of propagation is estimated at one new species per year, and is thought to be increasing. The trend is thought to be irreversible in many areas.

The mosquitofish (*gambusia*) is one of the few examples of a positive introduction. The *gambusia* was released in 1921 to combat malaria as it is a voracious devourer of mosquito larva. It rapidly took to Iberian waters and played no small part in the eradication of the disease over the next 40 years. Incidentally it is now probably the most widespread freshwater fish in the world.

But the arrival of fishing tourism brought the introduction of some monsters. In 1974, a German biologist and fishing aficionado, one Roland Lorkowsky, released a few thousand fry of Wels Catfish (Siluro - *Silurus glanis*) into the River Ebro at Flix. The fish adapted frighteningly well to the warm murky waters and has now extended its range right up the Ebro basin, and into the River Segre (Lleida) and the River Cinca (Huesca). It has also colonized Lago Banyoles and Lago de Sau (Girona). The results have been catastrophic. In many stretches, the fish has almost completely wiped out several autochthonous species with its voracious appetite, hence its local nickname, 'The Ebro Monster'. The world record weight for Wels Catfish is 306.0 kg and individuals of up to 2.3m have been caught. Here they don't get quite so big, but their maximum size of 100kg and their fighting spirit attracts those who like that sort of thing. It is a bottom feeder and feeds at night on fish, ducks, voles and crayfish.

More on invasive species next month.

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The Spanish judicial system is to many, including the Spanish, unfathomable. I came across this article in Typically Spanish, which sheds some light on this very confusing but important aspect of Spanish life.

### The Judicial System in Spain.

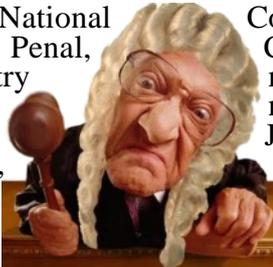
By Gaile Phillips Miles.

Spain's constitution establishes an independent judiciary, with the judicial system governed by the Consejo General del Poder Judicial, the General Council for Judicial Power. Its 20 members are proposed by Congress and the Senate, and serve for a single five-year period.

The CGPJ is presided over by the President of the Supreme Court, the Tribunal Supremo, which is the highest court in the land and has jurisdiction over the entire country. The only exception is for matters relating to the Spanish Constitution, which are dealt with by the Constitutional Court, the Tribunal Constitucional. The Supreme Court hears appeals against sentences issued by the National Court and the regional courts, and is also responsible for trying any case against a member of parliament. That includes government ministers and the Prime Minister.

The National Court, the Audiencia Nacional, also has jurisdiction over the entire territory, and hears criminal cases of national or international importance, and civil cases involving the central administration.

Within the National Courts, which try sentencing would years, and the de Instrucción prepare cases for and the Central



Court are the Juzgados Central Criminal national cases where not exceed five Juzgados Centrales the Central Courts, which the National Court Criminal Court.

The judiciary is structured on a hierarchical system, which divides Spanish territory into autonomous communities, provinces, judicial districts and municipalities. The courts are also organised into four categories: civil, criminal, social and administrative.

Appeals against the decisions of lower courts are made to the higher court, as far up as the Supreme Court.

Each autonomous community has its own High Court of Justice, Tribunal Superior, which is the highest court in the region and the last court of appeal. The autonomous government has no power over the region's Tribunal Superior for the region, which is a court of the state.

The Provincial Court, the Audiencia Provincial, is the highest court in each province. It tries civil and the more serious criminal cases, and also hears appeals against sentences issued by the lower courts.

Other courts which exist on a provincial basis are the Mercantile Courts (Juzgados de lo Mercantil), Criminal Courts (de lo Penal) – for sentencing below five years – Administrative Courts (Contencioso-Administrativo), Prison Vigilance (Vigilancia Penitenciaria), Labour Courts (de lo Social) and Juvenile Courts (de Menores).

The judicial districts – a unit of territory made up of one or more bordering municipalities, and which may coincide with the provincial demarcation - have First Instance Courts (Juzgados de Primera Instancia), which hear civil cases, and Instruction Courts (Juzgados de Instrucción), which prepare the criminal cases to be tried in higher courts.

Municipalities which have neither of these, will have a Justice of the Peace, Juzgados de Paz, for minor civil cases and, often, acting as civil registry.

[http://www.typicallyspanish.com/news-spain/features/Judicial\\_System\\_in\\_Spain.shtml#c1](http://www.typicallyspanish.com/news-spain/features/Judicial_System_in_Spain.shtml#c1)

### Missing Wife.

A husband went to the police station to report that his wife was missing...

Husband: My wife is missing. She went shopping yesterday and has not come home.....

Sergeant: What is her height?

Husband: Gee, I'm not sure. A little over five-feet tall.

Sergeant: Weight?

Husband: Don't know. Not slim, not really fat.

Sergeant: Colour of eyes?

Husband: Never really noticed.

Sergeant: Colour of hair?

Husband: Changes a couple times a year. Maybe dark brown.

Sergeant: What was she wearing?

Husband: Could have been a skirt or shorts. I don't remember exactly.

Sergeant: What kind of car did she go in?

Husband: She went in my sports car.

Sergeant: What kind of sports car was it?

Husband: Mercedes-Benz C63 AMG 6.3 7G-Tronic Edition 125 Coupe finished In Magnetite Black Metallic with Black Leather AMG Sport Seats and Brushed Aluminium plus Piano Black Cappings; Unmarked 19" AMG Multispoke Alloy Wheels; Tyre Pressure Monitoring; Panoramic Glass Electric Tilt/Slide Sunroof; COMMAND Online with HDD Wide Screen Satellite Navigation, Bluetooth Telephone Connectivity, Multi-Media Interface (MP3, Ipod etc), Superb Sound System With DAB and Harman-Kardon Sound Upgrade; Leather Trimmed AMG Multi-Function Steering Wheel with Paddle Shift; Parktronic Front and Rear Parking Sensors; Parking Assist; Attention Assist; Speed Limit Assist; Electrically adjustable, heated door Mirrors with Powerfold; Electrically Adjustable with Heated Front Sport Seats with Memory; Electrically Adjustable Steering Column; Bi-Xenon Headlights with Powerwash and Auto Activation; LED Daytime Running Lights; Cruise Control; Rear Privacy Glass; AMG Carpet Overmats.....At this point the husband started choking up.

Sergeant: Don't worry Sir, we'll find your car.....

### The Delivery.

A pregnant woman was at home with her three-year-old daughter. Suddenly the woman started to go into labour and called for an ambulance. When the paramedic arrived he decided to deliver the baby on the spot. After a lot of pushing and groaning a new baby boy is born. The paramedic lifts the baby by his little feet and slaps his bottom to get him breathing. After he gave the baby to the mother he asks the three-year-old what she thinks of her new baby brother. 'I don't think he should have crawled up there in the first place,' says the girl. 'Smack him again!'



Submitted by Derry Kelly.

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**Sundays - Homecooked Traditional 3 Course Lunch**

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*Donna would like to send huge thanks to everyone who helped make her 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary a truly memorable night - here's to six more years!!*

WiFi

## Small Talk.

I was in the Texas Rose last night, at the bar waiting for a beer, when a butt-ugly, big old girl came up behind me and slapped me on the butt.

She said, "Hey sexy, how about giving me your number."

I looked at her and said, "Do you have a pen?"

She said, "I sure do."

I said, "Well, you better get back into it, before the farmer notices you're missing."

My dental surgery is on Monday.

Mel Bettell



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AND WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO PUT IT ON**



**WHY GO ANYWHERE ELSE !!!**

**Free Zone**

**FIND US AT GROUND FLOOR, VIA PARK 3.**

Have you heard about the new super-sensitive condoms?  
They hang around after the man leaves and talk to the woman.

**Fake Discounts On Electricity Bills.**

So-called 'discounts' offered by electricity companies can actually raise the electricity bill by up to 12%. This is what the comparative study carried out by Spanish consumer association FACUA reveals about the free market rates.

FACUA compared the rates offered in February by Iberdrola, Endesa, Gas Natural Fenosa, EDP Energía and E.On with the most common rate among households, a semi-regulated **Voluntary Price for Minor Consumers - PVPC**, are its initials in Spanish. The resulting report revealed the tricks electricity companies use to make customers believe their discounted rates are better than the PVPC.

With the Plan Hogar (Home Plan) offered by Iberdrola, the average user (4.4 kW and 366 kWh/month) pays 89.06 Euros per month, 11.9% more than the 79.62 Euros paid with PVPC in January. Iberdrola has two offers, Conect@ Luz (Connect Electricity), which costs the same user 78.52 Euros per month, only 1.4% less compared to PVPC; and Plan Iberdrola Hogares (Iberdrola Homes Plan), which amounts to 82.89 Euros, 4.1% more expensive than PVPC.

With the fake flat rate offered by Gas Natural Fenosa, the average user pays 83.63 Euros, 5% more. The same company offers the Tarifa Online Luz (Online Electricity Tariff), which charges 76.87 Euros per month, 3.5% less. Gas Natural Fenosa also offers the Optima Luz (Optimal Electricity) rate, which the average user pays 81.96 Euros per month, 2.9% more than PVPC.

E.On offers two rates: Adiós Sorpresas (Bye Surprises), which charges 87.30 Euros per month for the average user, 9.6% more expensive than PVPC; and Tarifa de luz 100% online (100% Online Electricity Tariff), which charges 79.39 Euros per month, 0.3% less.

The Tarifa One Luz (One Electricity Tariff) offered by Endesa charges 78.86 Euros, only 1% less compared to PVPC. Finally, with the current rate offered by EDP Energía for Fórmula Luz Sin Funciona (Formula Electricity No), the average user pays 76.10 Euros, 4.4% less.

**Discounts offered, but on higher rates.**

FACUA warns that companies mislead users with many of the offers, announcing discounts in the contracted electric load or energy used which are not applied over PVPC, but over much higher rates, or tied to hiring other services (which are billed). Some discounts are only applied during the first hired year and then the bills rise even more starting from the second year. Moreover, FACUA warns that there are no flat rates in the electricity sector and that those advertised with this name are a fraud.

The association also warns against the fraudulent practices of large electricity companies sales representatives which go to users' private homes to offer them discounts in misleading ways or trick them into thinking they have been sent from the same company for a simple data check. The list of reported cases of forged contracts received by FACUA has been growing and the electricity sector is the second most reported one by consumers.

The association keeps warning that abandoning the PVPC is not an advisable decision in the best case scenario and it could be absolutely counterproductive if the user signs a contract with the highest rate, offered by the three largest companies. Moreover, these contracts limit the rights of users and do not include the obligations imposed on the electricity companies in different sections of the sector regulations which only apply to the PVPC. FACUA has been requesting that the Government changes the legislation in this respect to avoid this situation.

*I once had a dog who actually believed he was man's best friend. He kept trying to borrow money from me. Gene Perret*

**Fake Discounts.....continued.**

**The "offers."**

Among the offers of Gas Natural Fenosa there are fake flat rates with annual usage limits. If these are exceeded, the rates calculated for each kWh are more than double those of PVPC: 34.09 cents (26.80 cent plus tax), 108% more than the 16.40 cents (12.89 cent plus tax) of the average PVPC in January.

Iberdrola uses a 10% discount over its own kWh rate as an advertising strategy in its Plan Hogar. However, this is actually 25.7% more expensive compared to the PVPC rate of last January. This way the energy price is still high (13.2% more expensive) even after applying the discount.

Another offer by Iberdrola, the Plan Iberdrola Hogares, offers a rate which is lower than the PVPC one after applying a 10% discount but is tied to contracting a Electricity Protection Service which then makes the bill amount to 9.9% more than what the average user pays with PVPC.

Thanks to FACUA and tumbit.com for the above report. I have been 'harping-on' in the Dream Scene about these deceptive offers for almost two years now.

These 'agents' will call to your gate/door. They will have your name on a contact list which they obtained from Iberdrola or another energy supplier. They can be quite insistent so an element of firmness or even rudeness may be required by you. If you have any doubts about the merit of these so called 'discounts' just ask yourself, why would the energy companies send paid commission agents to my home to encourage me to pay the companies less than I am now? Of course it is nonsense!

**DIVORCE.**

I still miss my ex, but my aim is improving.

Woody Woodbury

Divorce comes from the Latin word *divorcerum* meaning 'to have your genitals torn out through your wallet'.

Robin Williams

If you made a list of the reasons why any couple got married, and another list of the reasons for their divorce, you'd have a hell of a lot of overlapping.

Mignon Mc Laughlin

Sadam Hussain went from living in a palace to a one-bedroomed hovel with next to no possessions. Where I come from, we call that divorce.

Johnnie Casson

The difference between divorce and legal separation is that a legal separation gives a husband time to hide his money.

Johnny Carson

I know what 'custody of the children' means. It means 'get even'.

Lenny Bruce

Alimony is the screwing you get for the screwing you got.

Jim Davidson

When you live by yourself again, it's like, as if by magic, all your annoying habits are gone.

Merrill Markoe

## Lime Bar Fishing Sunbathing Club

March was a weird month. I thought summer had arrived early until the 2<sup>nd</sup> week when we had torrential rain, followed by gales, then by glorious blue sky. I hope it didn't affect your St Patrick's Day or Father's Day fishing trips though.

Sweeney our new chairman did a sterling job at his 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. He started early & finished in just over 30 minutes. Good man. It gives us time to have a relaxing beer & do the real organising!

Where Sweeney did well, 3 Rods (the new match sec) didn't. He missed his 1<sup>st</sup> meeting and must try harder.

As the environment agency had totally cleared the reeds from both banks at Benjofar, the March match (last of the Winter League) was held there. The forecast was good and as we would also have the sun on our backs, I packed a pair of shorts ready for a bit of sunbathing. The previous week the weather had been glorious, so I was looking forward to having a good day out with the fish feeding well. Wrong..... on both counts! I should have taken an extra fleece, windproof and a book to read. Yet again, I didn't get a bite. Although we had another good turn out with 14 men getting cold on the riverbank, the fish let us down with several anglers having dry nets, most of the blanks coming from the centre section. Of the six anglers that caught, the Shropshire lad announced his return from UK by thrashing us with 3.7 kilos, 2<sup>nd</sup> was Just John with 3.1 kilos and 3<sup>rd</sup> was Punchy Bob with 2.2 kilos.

Going into this match, half the club had a chance of getting into the final. Maybe this is why we are having such a good turn out?

The six finalists ended up being Just John, 3 Rods, Punchy Bob, Fagin, Feathers & Grumpy Bob. During the Winter League, Just John has won 2 matches & was 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2 more, so he is obviously the man to beat. I'll let you know who wins the final next month.

There are some signs that the fish are getting ready to spawn, and a couple of days ago 3 of our more hardened anglers had several large carp out of the Rio Segura.

Next meeting bun fight is at The Lime Bar @ 17.30 Mon 6<sup>th</sup> April.

Bob & Dave were sat quietly at Nancy's enjoying the sunshine & fishing, when out of the blue Bob says "Think I'm going to divorce the wife – she hasn't spoken to me in 2 months."

Dave considered the statement. " Better think it over Bob, women like that are hard to find."

My mate reckons he always cries after sex. Mind you, he is in prison.

Fishy fingers!  
The Ghost



Photo showing  
Charlie and Alan  
on the  
'Highway to Hell.'

Stevie Spit

Many of you will have read my brief article on Stevie in last month's issue. I have had a response from Stevie, which I reproduce below for balance and fairness.

Good Luck, Stevie!

Well a very good afternoon Mick. I just arrived back from touring in the UK to be handed this months copy of Dream Scene from a couple of showbiz mates here. I thought a good journalist at least tried to get both sides of the story. Most of the article re tickets sold etc is inaccurate. When I turned up at Bentor's with the posters to advertise the show I was told. "The lady that booked you doesnt work here anymore sorry." Anyway there's a lot more to this story. And as far as saying I'm too big for my boots and a (W) anchor at the end of the article is insulting enough. I've shown the article to a few entertainer friends that know me a bit better than you and they are a little shocked. You are obviously a regular at Bentor's judging by your karaoke pics. However, if your going to write an article like this as a professional you should be non bias.

I've never seen The Dream Scene before. I've just read it from cover to cover. It's an extremely informative and well written journal. Which makes it even more surprising that you would assassinate someone's, otherwise, good character. We need more good papers here on the Costas and I'll look forward to the next edition. Best wishes to you and Tid xxx Stevie

## BLACK ROSE

(Formerly The Faith & Charlie's Bit on the Side)

Last month I reported on the new group formed by Charlie Farley and Alan Warden following the departure of singer Robbie Priest. Robbie, an excellent rock singer, is now having a well-earned rest and is keeping well.

So onto Black Rose, who I have now seen perform twice at Doolan's on Sunday nights. The band remains very 'Rocky' and 'R&B' and attracts a large crowd who are familiar with and love their music. The addition of Alan's perfect guitar playing now enhances the performances, with less reliance on backing tracks. The combination of the two works well although Charlie the Pirate did get on my wick during one longish stage when he kept trying to chase the ladies up to dance. Charlie, get back on the stage and play! Your music will assuredly get people dancing anyway.

The band's rendition of many well-known rock songs was stunning, including some Thin Lizzy favourites. Both men worked particularly hard on 'Don't believe a word' and 'The boys are back in town' with both players swapping solos on the former song. The band's new name, is a nod to their favourite band and is a Thin Lizzy song and album title - Black Rose.

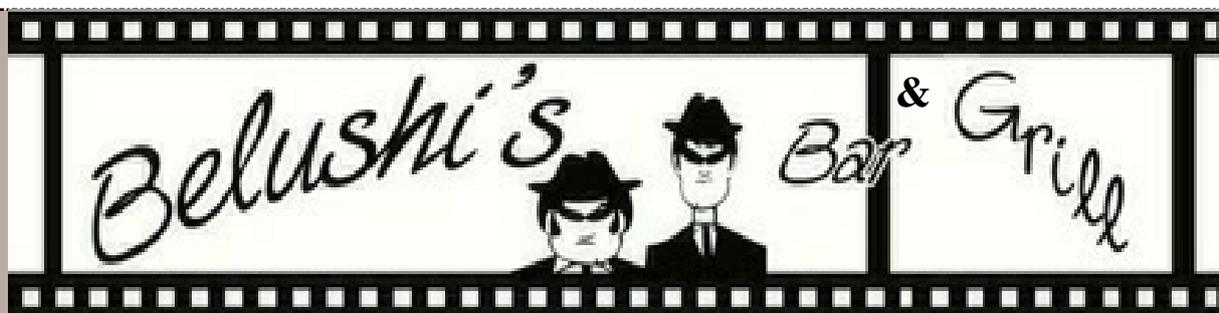
So, what else can you do on a Sunday night? Head for Doolan's and have a rockin' good sing-song with plenty of dancing. It sure beats 'Songs of Praise' & 'The Antiques' Roadshow'! Go out and get a life!

The bands regular gigs are at Doolans on the Sunday evening (9:30pm), Wednesday afternoons alternate between Las Olas bar in Punta Prima and Nina's Bistro in Mil Palmeras. Thursday afternoons finds them at the Sports bar in Playa Flamenca and Friday afternoons on the beach at El Rincon which is just behind Dialprix.

They now also have a Facebook page at -

[www.facebook.com/rockthecostas](http://www.facebook.com/rockthecostas)

Good luck, guys!



VIA PARK V.

## UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT.

*A warm welcome awaits you from Paul & Samantha*

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**3 TILL LATE.**

**Karaoke**

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**THURSDAY NIGHT - TEXAS HOLD 'EM.**

**8pm SHARP**

**HAPPY HOUR**

**MONDAY TO FRIDAY, 2 - 4PM.**

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**Paddy & Joe.**

Joe says to Paddy: "Close your curtains the next time you're making love to your wife. The whole street was watching and laughing at you yesterday."

Paddy says: "Well the joke's on them stupid because I wasn't even at home yesterday."

Michael Lowry

# Galadriel

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### Children are so honest.

As I was nursing my baby, my cousin's six-year-old daughter, Krissy, came into the room. Never having seen anyone breast feed before, she was intrigued and full of all kinds of questions about what I was doing. After mulling over my answers, she remarked, "My mom has some of those, but I don't think she knows how to use them."

Just before I was deployed to Iraq, I sat my eight-year-old son down and broke the news to him. "I'm going to be away for a long time," I told him. "I'm going to Iraq."

"Why?" he asked. "Don't you know there's a war going on over there?"

Derrick Green

### Spanish Medical Team Presents "Liquid Biopsy" for Cancer Patients.

"Blood is like the human body's waste dump," explains Josep Tabernero, director of the Catalan cancer research center Vall d'Hebron Instituto de Oncología (VHIO). And just like investigators who rummage through the trash in search of clues to solve a crime, doctors have been analyzing human blood for decades in search of signs of cancer. Now that precision medicine is taking its first steps to find medical treatment tailored to each patient's needs, blood samples are going to become even more relevant in the fight against the deadliest disease in the developed world: cancer.

At an official presentation in Barcelona last month, health professionals presented a technology based on liquid biopsies that will search a patient's blood for signs of the type of tumor affecting them.

The VHIO is the first center in the world to offer liquid biopsy RAS biomarker tests, a service by which a blood sample can tell sufferers of metastatic colorectal cancer whether they have a mutation of the RAS gene. This information is useful for predicting how a treatment will work in a specific case.



Between 55 and 65 percent of patients with this type of cancer have this mutation, and do not respond to therapy with cetuximab and panitumumab, which is effective with other genetic mutations.

Up until now, in order to obtain that kind of information, doctors had to perform a biopsy on solid tissue or a surgical procedure to obtain a tiny piece of the tumour and analyse it. These are invasive procedures that cannot be frequently repeated.

In a disease like cancer, which has a great ability to adapt to varying circumstances and treatments, having access to updated information can be critical in selecting the right battle tools. An RAS mutation could force medics to change a treatment that was successful until then.

Another advantage to liquid biopsies, which will not replace traditional ones but seek to complement them, is the shorter waiting times for results – just two or three days.

(Abridged from El Pais. You can read the full article here -

[http://elpais.com/elpais/2015/02/27/inenglish/1425059008\\_692581.html](http://elpais.com/elpais/2015/02/27/inenglish/1425059008_692581.html)



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 Would I pay less for electricity with *Siesta Energy*?

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The Children of Israel wandered around the desert for 40 years.  
Even in Biblical times, men wouldn't ask for directions.



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Chippy-style Dinners All with  
Handcut Chunky Chips, Peas, Beans, Gravy, Curry and  
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ALL €9.95!



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Choice of Starter Onion Bhaji, Tandoori Chicken,  
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Chicken Vindaloo & Jalfrezi, Veggie Chick Pea 'N' Lentil,  
All with Basmati Rice, Naan Bread; eat in or takeaway  
ALL €6.50!



## THURSDAY - MID-WEEK ROAST

- a Selection of Starters and Desserts Available;  
Choice of Meats, Roast Topside of Beef, Roast Pork Loin  
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All Served with Roast Potatoes,  
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1 COURSE €9.95; 2 COURSE €7.50; 3 COURSE €8.50

## SATURDAY

IS

## GRILL DAY!



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Peppered Steak, Full Rack 'O' Ribs,  
Quarter Roast Chicken,  
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Cheeseburgers, Cajun Chicken Breast,  
Horseshow Gammon & 24 Oz T-bone.  
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## MP - MT

Let's take away the heating money  
ex pats are far away  
We don't think they'll find it funny  
but it's immigrants today

Let's give them all the benefits  
of being a true Brit  
then we'll get their votes  
and that's the gist of it

Youth unemployment doesn't matter  
who cares for that shower  
all our promises we'll shatter  
once we're back in power

To be an MP and number one  
is really all the game  
how we get there, what we've done  
it's all about the fame

Economics, jobs and poverty  
the law and what is spent  
who cares for all that rubbish  
when you're in Parliament

Freedom of speech is all the rage  
fanatics get all they rate  
but we control the front page  
so the masses get our mandate

Let's give ourselves another hike  
although there is no need  
The rest can all get on their bike  
we've got the world to feed

Other nations need our aid  
despots need new toys  
Our homeless and the unpaid  
just take a back seat boys

It's all about the power  
and how we raise our voice  
The public voted for us  
and now they have no choice.

## The Phantom Poet.

A couple were Christmas shopping. The shopping  
centre was packed.

As the wife walked through one of the malls she  
was surprised when she looked around to find that  
her husband was nowhere to be seen.

She was quite upset because they had a lot to do.  
She became so worried that she called him on her  
mobile phone to ask him where he was.

In a quiet voice he said, "Do you remember the  
jewellers we went into about five years ago where  
you fell in love with that diamond necklace that we  
couldn't afford, and I told you that I would get it for  
you one day?" The wife choked up and started to  
cry and said, "Yes, I do remember that shop."  
He replied, "Well, I'm in the pub next door."

Brian Horsman

*I admire the pope. I have a lot of respect for  
anyone who can tour without an album.*

*Rita Rudner*

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ALSO FEATURING 'COAST TO COAST' DUO.**

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Happy Hour  
Sat & Sun  
12-6

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**Dick & Jane.**

Dick and Jane buy a house after many years of renting. Their friend George gives them a bottle of champagne as a housewarming present, but during the move it gets lost. Years later, the bottle turns up, just in time to toast the birth of the couple's third child.

Jane pours out the champagne to friends and family while Dick reads them the message on the gift label. "Dick, make sure to look after this one. This time it's actually yours."

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I knew I'd chosen the wrong airline when the flight attendant warned us to keep our hands and arms inside the aircraft while it was in motion. The airsick bag was printed with the Lord's Prayer.

Les Dawson

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Facebook group at  
Dream Hills - Costa Blanca  
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The editor, Mick, can be contacted at [mick.dreamscene@gmail.com](mailto:mick.dreamscene@gmail.com) or at 586 Dream Hills. (Or in some Bar!)  
Doggy poop boxes? - April Fool!

## CLASSIFIED ADS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC.

From the May issue, all the older free classified adverts will be removed to accommodate new entries. Mick

**CARS FOR HIRE:** From €80 per week! Several models.  
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Mature English couple, 10-years experience in caring profession, willing to do caring, cleaning, gardening, shopping, key-holding, decorating etc., preferably in Dream Hills, Los Altos and Los Balcones areas.  
Please ring Terry or Dave on 965 073 080

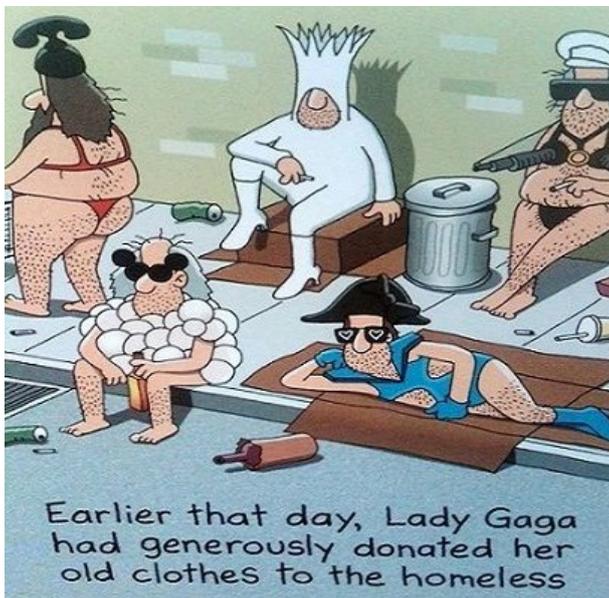
**Peter's Pork Pies & Pasties.** All homemade to order.  
Large Pork Pie €9, medium €6. Large Pasty - just €3!  
Contact Peter on 966 798 517 or [petenjude151@gmail.com](mailto:petenjude151@gmail.com)

**For the Love of Dogs.** A Home from Home. Bring your own dog food.  
€8 per night. Phone Brenda 966 798 543 or 634 316 075

House Painting - inside/out; Odd Jobs & Garden Maintenance.  
House Cleaning & Key Holding. References Available.  
Ask for Neil on 965 993 253 & 650 842 711

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.

A lawyer is never entirely comfortable with a friendly divorce, any more than a good mortician wants to finish his job and then have the patient sit up on the slab.  
Jean Kerr



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