

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER

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

Issue no. 98, 1st of May 2015.

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the May edition.

Local Spanish Politicians Ignoring Expats Yet Again!

I know the above might sound a bit emotive for a headline but I am so sick of the continued deception by local politicians during recent years that, with local (& regional) elections due on May 24th, I have now got to 'vent my spleen!'

Most of the readers of this newsletter – expats - will be residing in the municipalities of either Orihuela or Torrevieja. The contribution of the expats to these areas – as in many others – has been enormous, both economically and socially. The non-Spanish plough billions of euros into the Spanish economy and the unselfish expat involvement, particularly British, in supporting and funding several Spanish charities on the Costa is admirable. Although even tax-paying resident expats are not allowed to vote in regional, European or national elections, they can do so in local elections and can even become mayors – that is if the Spanish politicians would allow them!

Over a month ago, I went to a press conference hosted by José Ciscar Bolufer, the Valencian vice president and president of the PP – the ruling party in Alicante, Valencia and Spain. This guy is one of a handful of 'head-honchos' in the major and currently ruling political party in Spain.

During the questions, I outlined to Senior Ciscar the contribution that resident expats made to Spain, particularly on the Costas, and asked him why non-Spanish never featured in electable positions on the election lists of his party, particularly in Torrevieja and Orihuela. Ciscar explained to me and the journalists present, that this would change this year and that resident expats would appear in 'responsible positions' in the forthcoming election lists.

So, some weeks later the ruling PP and the other parties published their lists for the coming municipal elections, and guess what? Yes, once again the non-Spanish are 'side-lined' and in the case of the PP, placed so far down their lists that they are unelectable. This is an insulting form of 'tokenism' which is a perfunctory & symbolic effort at placating the expat population with sops. But it is not only the PP who are again ignoring the resident expat. The Socialist don't have a single expat on their lists nor do the 'new' parties. The only (minor) party which has any expat presence is CLARO, and what is it with CLARO having only three non-Spanish in their top ten list? Is what used to be a refuge for the non-Spanish vote now turning into yet another Spanish party, just another one of 13 now presenting in Orihuela?

May 1st is a 'Red Day' and last month's 'April Fool' - doggie poo boxes and doggie DNA testing, did catch a few out, although not as many as the 'dehydrated water powder' did a couple of years ago!

Thanks to Les B, Kathryn J, Carol & Brian C, Soren O, Olly & Anne W, Ellen & Davy, Lisa & Gary, for their kind donations to printing costs.....which now come to at least €50 a month. Again, thank you.

Wishing you all an enjoyable month, and hope we see you all soon.

Mick & Tid.

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Angela's Cartoon



'It says here - "Dance naked in the May Day dew
And the next man you see will marry you!"'

How can you tell when your husband has passed away? The sex is the same but you get to keep the remote control.

TRANSLATOR & COMPUTER TRAINER

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

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

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

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

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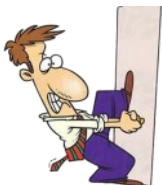
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Did you know that

...El País reported the cemeteries in China are full! The authorities are promoting alternative burial sites. In Beijing alone with 21 million inhabitants, and between 80,000 and 90,000 deaths every year, a study shows all the graveyards will be saturated in a decade, despite cremations have been obligatory since 1997.

...short people are more prone to heart disease? Every 2.5 inches of additional height reduces the risk of coronary disease by 13.5%. The idea that height plays a role in heart health was first proposed more than 50 years ago, but researchers did not know why. But a study at the University of Leicester suggests the answer lies deeper - inside our DNA. Professor Sir Nilesh Samani, from the University of Leicester, told the BBC News website: "In the context of major risk factors this is small - smoking increases the risk by 200-300% - but it is not trivial. But it is worth remembering it is not all good news being tall, as height can increase the risk of cancer. You can find the full article & links here - <http://www.bbc.com/news/health-32117018>

...new research from the University of Southern California has shown that plucking hairs from the back of a mouse in a specific pattern led to a spurt of hair growth in their place. Researchers individually plucked 200 hairs from a region on the backs of mice that is three to five millimetres in diameter. Doing so led to the regeneration of 450-1,300 new hair follicles. The researchers believe it occurs through a process called "quorum sensing," in which the damage to the hair follicle that plucking them causes, triggers the release of inflammatory proteins. These proteins send out a distress signal that particular molecules run to. The molecules then encourage damaged and undamaged hair follicles to grow new hair. So there you go Baldy, get the tweezers out! I don't suppose the mice were too happy about all this though. Also, can you imagine the research scientists going home to their partners, who would ask them 'And how was your day in the research lab, darling?' 'Well, I spent the whole day plucking hairs off the back of mice!' Such is the price of a Nobel gong.

You can read the full article here -

<http://sacramento.cbslocal.com/2015/04/11/health-study-plucking-hair-can-help-treat-baldness/>

Q: What's long and hard and makes women moan?
A: An ironing board.

What's Up?

Looking at the regional and local elections in Andalucía, it would appear that the strategy of the socialist president there, Suzana Diez, was spot-on in going for early elections to mitigate the influence of the new parties. Of the two main new parties, it is Ciudadanos, the centre-right party, who appear to have emerged with the most coherent manifesto, the others being utopian wish-lists.

The leader of Ciudadanos, Albert Rivera, has spoken out against the massive investment and funding of the AVE high-speed train program. This year it is to receive €3.5 billion of public money, even though none of the lines boast a profit. Ciudadanos want to dedicate these funds to research and development. 'We don't want to kill the AVE program. Things are already approved and we will move bit by bit. We believe that to have such an advanced AVE we have margin to extend the time to complete the lines'. Ciudadanos have now presented the second half of their manifesto, and one of their new announcements is health cards will only be given to legal citizens and residents of Spain, and therefore we can guarantee it will be universal and free. Albert Rivera claimed the European socialists say the same.

The result of an opinion poll on voters' current intentions shows 13% of the electors who voted PP in 2011 and 7.6% of those who voted PSOE would today vote for Ciudadanos. Most people had previously thought Ciudadanos would only take votes from the PP.

The southern Spanish region of Andalucía had the highest unemployment rate in the EU last year. All of the five regions with the highest unemployment rates in the EU last year fell within Spain. Andalucía had the worst rate at 34.8%, followed by the Canary Islands (32.4%), the north African Spanish territory of Ceuta (31.9%), Extremadura (29.8%) and Castilla-La Mancha (29%). Four of these regions also had some of the highest rates of youth unemployment across the EU - Ceuta (67.5%), Andalucía (61.5%), Castilla-La Mancha (61.3%) and the Canary Islands (57.4%). The region of Andalucía has become known as a 'Black Hole' as it appears to swallow up massive funding. The region, which has been governed by the socialists for more than 30 years, is now embroiled in two major scandals; the training fund scandal, where money destined to retrain the unemployed was diverted to other coffers and the ERE redundancy/retirement scandal, where funds were similarly diverted. Several million euros are believed to have been fraudulently diverted in these cases alone.

Which brings me nicely to another fraud, this time in the northern region of Castilla y León. Here it is not the socialists who have been 'dipping in the till' but the right-of-centre PP, Partido Popular. Here the Treasury is investigating the payment of 'bungs' by the electricity companies to speed up approvals of wind farms in the region. The Treasury believes that sums totalling €10 million may be involved. They have already identified two PP politicians who have received payments of €354,560 and €75,000. The politicians say they gave verbal advice to the electricity companies. Of course we believe you!

Police have announced that due to DNA profiling in Spain, 173 homicides and 253 rapes in 2014 have been resolved. An additional 2,500 people have 'had their collar felt' thanks to the tests that year.

Two girls in a Dublin Cinema:

'Oh Jaysus, the guy beside me is playin wit himself.'

Friend: 'Just ignore him.'

'I can't, he's usin my hand!'

Airlines have reserved seven million seats destination Ibiza this season. 141 national and European routes, number of seats up by 3.7% and after the Spanish, the British are once again the main market with 1.7 million seats reserved.

Illegal immigrants living in Spain will once again have the right to free primary healthcare with a general practitioner (GP), after losing access in 2012. Undocumented residents will not be getting their health cards back, however. Health Minister Alfonso Alonso said the Popular Party (PP) government has decided to backtrack on its earlier decision "for public health reasons," because it is "more practical" and "in order to not saturate the emergency services." Under the health reform of 2012, free access to all public health services was taken away for illegal immigrants. Instead, general care was restricted to minors and pregnant women, although any migrant could still visit a hospital's emergency room in the event of an accident or if they had an infectious disease.

El País has reported that Cataluña is to put up for sale patient data from public health; the Generalitat has charged the Agency for Quality and Sanitary Evaluations in Cataluña to make the information anonymous before centres of investigation or private companies pay for it. I know the Catalans have always been money mad but.....

The consumer association FACUA has calculated electricity prices rose by 12.7% last year. The average private consumer paid €66.33 a month at the end of 2013 and €74.73 at the end of 2014.

Barcelona held its annual marathon run on April 12. It attracted 81,014 runners. The event, which was sponsored by El Corte Inglés, was the city's 37th annual marathon.

In 2012 Spain's average salary paid per hour was 15.7€ the EU 28 country average was 18.1€ and the Eurozone 21.0€ In 2014 Spain's salary per hour was still 15.7€ the EU 28 was 18.6€ and the Eurozone 21.6€ Pay in Greece has fallen from 13.5€ to 11.4€ in six years. Denmark pays the highest to their workers at 35€, Luxembourg pays 31€, Belgium pay 28.20€ compared to 18€ in the UK.

El País reports of a religious war onboard a 'patera' small boat. Italy has detained 15 Muslim Africans for throwing 12 Christians overboard. El Mundo also has this story and says witnesses from the group of survivors were key in identifying in Palermo those responsible for throwing the victims into the sea. More than 1,000 would-be immigrants were drowned off the coast of Italy in just one week in April. Most of these unfortunates come through Libya from a host of other African countries.

21 municipalities in the province of Alicante have failed to file their accounts. The towns include Albaterra, Alcoy, Almoradí, Benidorm, Bigastro, Calp, Catral, Cocentaina, Mutxamel, Orihuela, L'orxa and San Isidro. The offending councils could be fined, but as local elections are being held at the end of May, nobody gives a damn.

Emergency Services!

'Help, send someone over quickly,' yelled a middle-aged spinster into the phone. 'Two hairy bikers are climbing up to my bedroom window.'

'This is the fire brigade, madam. I'll have to transfer you to the police.'

'No, no!' she shouted. 'It's you I want - they need a longer ladder.'

4 What's Up? continued

A criminal gang of 11, have been arrested in Murcia. The gang, comprised mainly of Kosovo Albanians, moved every fortnight to a different province to evade the police. It is believed at this stage that they have operated in at least seven provinces. The gang had a strict hierarchical structure that enforced strict order and possessed a range of the latest technological equipment including top grade telecommunication equipment, frequency inhibitors to block alarms and a sophisticated hydraulic jacking system.....which they stole from San Pedro del Pinatar fire station! The gang raided homes, garages, shops, petrol stations and leisure centres. Among the stolen goods recovered were several high-end cars, mountain bikes and several thousand euros in cash. The arrests were made following a joint investigation by the Guardia Civil and the National Police from Cantabria in Northern Spain.



Some of you who have visited the various *saluds* and hospitals may have noticed the posters warning about 'aggression.' This has been a problem in Spain with around 2,000 attacks on doctors during the last five years with 80% of them resulting in physical injury. The new Penal Code, which is being introduced in 'dribs & drabs' has just been updated to give added protection to doctors, teachers, judges and the police. Assault against these individuals can now carry a custodial sentence of up to four years. So do be careful who you take a swipe at; you may be joining Big Gay Juan in cell 69! Spain has around 570,000 teachers, 115,000 doctors and 165,000 nurses.

Drug siezures have been so common during recent years that I haven't bothered to report them unless there was something unusual in the story. The Guardia Civil have just broken up a highly organised system of cannabis production in the Costa del Sol. This was an organised cooperative of production centres which operated from people's homes. The production was supervised by one individual, who would visit the different production sites regularly quality control and obviously to detect any 'skimming.' One particular growing area was a tunnel made under a public highway which stole electricity from a nearby junction box which supplied a whole urbanisation. Typically Spanish reported that "The complexity of this operation would have needed the assistance of personnel from the official electricity supplier, to minimise the risk of electrocution." So, if your electricity bills have been unusually high and there has been a strong smell of 'wacky' in your area,well!

The National Court has annulled a 61 million € fine imposed on the electricity suppliers. It was the largest fine ever issued by the National Commission for Markets and Competiveness and was levied on Endesa, Iberdrola, E.ON, Gas Natural Fenosa and HC Energia with the patronal Unesa for price fixing and stopping new players entering the market. The fine dates back to 2011 and the National Court based its decision on a ruling in the Supreme Court last December which ruled Unesa was blameless, and thus annulling the inspections made between November 5 and 6 2009. So the remainder now get off 'scot-free.'

A colonel in the Guardia Civil in Granada is under investigation. He is accused of supposedly having collaborated for years with Moroccan drug traffickers by helping them to arrive unnoticed on the Granada coast, and is suspected to have personally collected around €400,000. It is believed two traffickers 'spilled the beans.'

At least thirty cats have died, probably by poisoning, in less than a week on the beach of Piles. This was denounced Amparo Requena, attorney for the Modepran of Valencia, who has already put the case before the Seprona, the Environment Service of the Civil Guard, and the City of lethal poison for these animals. The poison is camouflaged in some kind of food and acts as a bait. "Some neighbours have told me that cats found dying in the street, having strong convulsions," he explained. "I myself have described this situation to the Seprona agents who believe that a very strong poison is being used."

The ex-business partner of the 'dodgy' Duke of Palma, Diego Torres, has presented his defence against tax evasion and a host of other charges. He has provided a virtual avalanche of invoices and emails and has also called for no less than 688 witnesses, including the previous and current Kings of Spain. The 'dodgy' Duke, Iñaki Urdangarin, and Torres are accused of siphoning off around €6 million in public funds awarded to their non-profit Nóos Institute. Cristina de Borbón, the younger sister of Spain's King Felipe, is also on the accused bench but has signed a pre-trial motion rejecting responsibility in the running of the firm.

The Balears and Madrid are the two regions which charge the lowest income tax on high earners. A 'fat-cat' who earns €600,000 a year in Mallorca pays €21,000 less income tax annually than in say Andalucía or Asturias.

Homophobia is the most common hate crime in Spain, accounting for 40% of the 1,285 hate crimes in Spain last year. Racism comes next with 475 crimes - 37% of the total, according to data from the State Security Forces. Other groups subjected to hate crimes in Spain in 2014 were 199 attacks against the disabled, 63 against religious beliefs, 24 anti-Semitic, and 11 related to poverty. A quarter of the victims are children, women make up 54% and in 70% of cases the victim is Spanish.

Ryanair has announced an alcohol free route between Glasgow and Ibiza. It seems several incidents of bad behaviour on previous flights has caused concern about the safety and comfort of crew and passengers. Any alcohol purchased in Duty Free or elsewhere has to be put into an adequate container which will be labelled and placed in the hold of aircraft without any extra cost. That is all very well, but what is to stop Wee Angus and Big Hamish from boarding with several gallons in their bellies?



And this is exactly what happened on a Jet2 flight from Glasgow to Alicante on Friday morning, April 17. Here, a boozy bunch of stag party revellers were already 'tanked-up' by the time they got on their early morning flight. During the flight they became abusive, shouting, singing, arguing with passengers and crew and some of them would not sit down, even during the plane's descent. One of the party was held by police upon arrival and Jet2 refused to let him board the return flight. One Spanish newspaper used the headline 'Anger and Booze at 30,000 feet.'

Hopefully all this talk about 'boozy Jocks' will take the pressure off us Irish!

Footie!

- The president of FIFA, Sepp Blatter, has come under more criticism about goal-line technology, this time from his wife. She said, 'It doesn't surprise me - I've been asking him for years whether it was in or not.'
- What do you call an Englishman in the knockout stages of the World Cup? A referee.

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*Never give up your seat for a lady. That's how I lost my job as a bus driver.
Milton Jones*

Municipal and regional elections for most of Spain are to be held on May 24. I have outlined on page 1 my disappointment and anger at the shoddy way expats are being treated by the political parties.

In the borough of Orihuela alone, there are 13 political parties standing in the local elections. Some of the parties, particularly the PP and The Greens appear to have disintegrated into different or smaller factions - the PP being split into two main factions while the three main names from Los Verdes are now standing down, their positions being taken on the election list by three ex-members of Izquierda Unida - another far-left party. Many are sorry to see Martina Schurer go, as she fought hard, albeit sometimes unsuccessfully, for the coast. I will give a full report on the local and regional elections in the June issue of the newsletter.

Elecnor (the holders of the natural gas concession in this area) and two of their agents are believed to be opening an office/shop in Via Park V in the coming months. More details as they become available.

Información in Alicante reported that beekeepers have been brought into the city as the bees have been setting up colonies there. Some believe that the increased use of pesticides and other pollutants in the countryside are forcing the bees to seek cleaner environments. Beekeepers and firemen have already removed eight hives found in buildings in the city this spring.

Información also reports that illegal tourist accommodation has increased by 24% on the Costa Blanca. It is believed that the undeclared apartments collect some €800 million and absorb 70% of the foreign visitors. The authorities have been tightening up on this in many regions, particularly in Catalonia.

Ten early morning flight arrivals were diverted from Alicante-Elche airport on April 24, due to unusually heavy fog. The flights were from Madrid, Barcelona, two from Brussels (Belgium), East Midlands (UK), Rygge (Norway), Amsterdam and Eindhoven (Netherlands), Basel (Switzerland) and Paris (France). Eight of the flights were redirected to Valencia, one to San Javier and one to Ibiza! Bit awkward getting a bus from there!

The government have sent out tenders for six new TDT (freeview) channels. Three of these are expected to be High Definition and the remaining three normal or standard definition.

The Spanish real estate news website Inmodiario.com reports that efforts to get a Paramount theme park off the ground in Murcia are on the point of collapsing. Five years after it was first announced with much fanfare in Madrid, the project "shows every sign of leading to nothing," says the article. Breaking ground was supposed to start in the first quarter of this year, promised Jesus Samper, the man behind the project. So far, zilch. The only news in the first quarter of this year was that one of the main companies involved in the project, the audio visual production company Santa Mónica Sports, has gone bust. And there is no money. "Investors have turned their back on something that doesn't have the slightest future," reports Inmodiario.com. Article in Spanish here -

<http://www.inmodiario.com/147/21061/parque-paramount-murcia-punto-carpetazo.html>

A charity pantomime in aid of Paranoid Schizophrenics in Quesada, descended into chaos last week when someone shouted, 'He's behind you!'

MACRO-BOTELLÓN

A botellón is a Spanish activity where young teenagers and young adults gather to socialise and drink alcohol. These usually take place during the night time but the gathering reported on below was a recent macro-botellón (large botellón) which was held on a beach in Alicante during the Santa Faz Fiesta. The authorities are never happy about these events largely due to the consumption of alcohol by minors and also the mess left behind. On this occasion, more than 20,000 youths attended; six being treated by the Cruz Roja for excessive alcohol and nine for cuts from broken bottles.



The shopping trolleys used to carry the booze can also carry the 'walking-wounded' and the pissed!



Heavy rainfall and the appearance of thousands of jellyfish on the beach brought the event to a close earlier than expected. Cleaners removed 30,000 kilos of rubbish from the beach together with 300 shopping trolleys.



Photos: Informacion - Carolina Escalante



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LimeBar Golf Society Los Altos, Orihuela Costa.

The golf society's venue for the 8th April 2015 was held at Serena Golf Course.

Twenty-five members teed off on a dull and very windy day. The course was in fairly good condition, however with a number of hazards including water and the gusty conditions the scores were fairly low. But this did not deter an enjoyable day's golf.

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

Nearest the pin on the 3rd hole (par 3) was Terry Cullen.

Nearest the pin in 2 on the 6th hole (par 4) was Norman Dobson.

Nearest the pin in on the 9th hole (par 3) was Dave Everson.

Nearest the pin on the 15th hole (par 3) was Kevin Jackson.

Nearest the pin on the 17th hole (par 3) was Les Thwaites.

Bronze Class in 2nd place was Ken Sutton with 23 points.

Bronze Class in 1st place was Dave Railton with 24 points

Silver Class 2nd place was Les Thwaites with a score of 25 points.

Silver Class 1st place was Kevin Jackson with a score of 26 points.

Gold Class 2nd place was Mike Heighway with a score of 27 points

Gold Class 1st place was Terry Cullen with a score of 28 points.

Best guest with 22 points was Ian Turley.

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.



Golf Putting Terms:

A Dennis Wise - a nasty 5 footer.

A Rock Hudson - thought it was straight, but it wasn't.

An Elton John - big bender that lips the rim.

A Douglas Bader - no legs.

A Gynaecologist's assistant - just shaves the hole.

LIME BAR GOLF SOCIETY, LOS ALTOS.

The golf society's venue for the President's Trophy was held at the Vistabella Golf Course on 26th March 2015.

Eighteen or so members teed-off on a fine but rather cold and windy day. The course was in good condition and played well, however the scores were hampered in the tricky wind conditions. The competition was in the Stapleford format and the scores recorded are as follows.

Nearest the Presidents Drive was won by Dave Railton

Nearest the pin in 2 on the 10th hole (par 4) was Digger.

Nearest the pin on the 15 hole (par 3) was Mike Heighway.

Nearest the pin in 3 on the 18th hole (par 5) was Mike Heighway.

It was decided to award the results with a blind pairs score card draw resulting in:

4th Place Les Thwaites and John McGregor with a combined score of 46 points.

3rd Place Digger and Barry Shawyer with a combined score of 48 points.

2nd Place Pat Heaney and Ken Sutton with a combined score of 52 points.

1st Place Dave Everson and Mike Heighway with a combined score of 59 points.



The outright winner of the Presidents Trophy was Mike Heighway. 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 Cruise.

A young Portsmouth woman was so depressed that she decided to end her life by throwing herself into the sea, but just before she could throw herself from the wharf, a handsome young man stopped her.

"You have so much to live for," said the man. "I'm a sailor, and we are off to Australia tomorrow. I can stow you away on my ship. I'll take care of you, bring you food every day, and keep you happy."

With nothing to lose, combined with the fact that she had always wanted to go to Australia, the woman accepted.

That night the sailor brought her aboard and hid her in a small but comfortable compartment in the hold. From then on, every night he would bring her three sandwiches, a bottle of red wine, and make love to her until dawn. Two weeks later she was discovered by the captain during a routine inspection.

"What are you doing here?" asked the captain.

"I have an arrangement with one of the sailors," she replied. "He brings me food every day and I get a free trip to Australia."

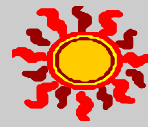
"I see," the captain says.

Her conscience then got the best of her and she added, "Plus, he's screwing me."

"He certainly is," replied the captain. "This is the Isle of Wight Ferry."

Ann Wightman

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Will Power.

An old chap visited his solicitor to make a will. 'What exactly do I have to do?' he asked.

'It's perfectly straightforward,' replied the solicitor. 'Just answer a few questions and then leave it to me.'

The old man looked worried. 'I do quite like you,' he said, 'but I was planning to leave some of it to my wife.'

Céad Mile Fáilte
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An Oldie but a Goldie!

A doctor visits a patient lying in a hospital bed. 'I'm sorry,' says the doctor, 'but I have bad news and good news.' 'Don't hold back,' says the man. 'Tell me the bad news.' The doctor replies, 'Your illness was worse than we thought. We had to amputate both your legs.' 'Bloody Hell!' said the man, 'and what's the good news?' The doctor replies, 'The man in the next bed wants to buy your slippers.'

Most Spanish Airports Not Profitable.

Only 14 of the 48 airports run by Spain's AENA, the national airports authority, closed 2014 with a pre-tax profit, according to annual results released by the government-controlled body.

According to a filing with the CNMV stock market watchdog, AENA said it had lost €42 million due to the loss-making airports but others generated a €1.89 billion profit last year.

Madrid's Adolfo Suárez-Barajas International Airport – Spain's busiest air hub – leads the pack in terms of revenue and gross operating profit (EBITDA).

Nevertheless, Barcelona's El Prat generated the highest pre-tax profits, followed by Palma de Mallorca, Tenerife Sur and Gran Canaria.

The airports that reported the biggest losses before taxes last year were those in La Palma, Santiago de Compostela and Vigo.

The little-used Castellón and Ciudad Real airports – both of which have come to be viewed as white elephants because of the huge amounts of public money that local politicians spent on building them – are not part of the AENA network and so did not appear on the list.

AENA made its debut on the stock exchange on February 11, which has obliged it to increase its financial transparency and provide an airport-by-airport breakdown of its accounts.

In terms of EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization), Madrid-Barajas brought in €567 million followed by El Prat (€10 million) and Palma de Mallorca (€181 million).

Four airports ended the year with pre-tax losses of over €10 million: La Palma (-€18 million); Santiago (-€15 million); Vigo (€10.85 million); and Pamplona (-€10.5 million). (El País)

Spanish Tax Amnesty 2012.

In 2012 the current PP government announced a tax amnesty. Around €40 billion in money hidden abroad was revealed. The government hoped to get €4 billion of this in penalty fees, but was disappointed when all they raised by the exercise was €1.2 billion. More than 30,000 applied for the amnesty, the Treasury keeping the names of the tax dodgers under wraps. 29,683 have been amnestied, but 705 are being investigated further by the Treasury for criminal prosecution.

Only a handful of these names have emerged in the meantime, the two most famous being Rodrigo Rato and Luis Bárcenas. The former headed the International Monetary Fund at one stage as well as being deputy prime minister during the Aznar PP government. Barcenas is infamous as a former treasurer of the PP who had stashed tens of millions of euros abroad. Both men are now the subject of a criminal investigation.

But one of the names that tickled me was that of José Ángel Fernández Villa (in photo at lectern). Now this chap was not only a card carrying member of the PSOE socialist party, but also the leader of one of the most militant trade unions in Spain, the SOMA-UGT. This is a miner's union in Asturias which Villa led for 35 years. During this period - half his lifetime - he coordinated hundreds of protests, hunger strikes and closures. He repeatedly stated

that "A mine will only be closed over my dead body!" Stirring stuff, you might think, but then it was revealed that Villa had €1.4 million stashed abroad! Villa has since been thrown out of the socialist party and the trade union, and is under investigation to determine the source of the millionaire's funds. Some allege that these were funds destined to assist and retrain the unemployed which were diverted to the pockets of union officials.



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Scientists Develop Perfume Which Smells Better the More You Sweat!

The first-ever perfume delivery system to ensure the more a person sweats, the better they will smell, has been developed by scientists at Queen's University Belfast.

Researchers in the Queen's University Ionic Liquid Laboratories (QUILL) Research Centre have developed a unique new perfume delivery system which releases more of its aroma when it comes into contact with moisture, meaning a person smells nicer when their sweat levels increase.

This innovative perfume system has been created by tagging a raw fragrance onto an ionic liquid (salt in the form of liquid) which has no smell. The 'perfumed ionic liquid' releases its aroma when it comes into contact with water, allowing more of the perfume's scent to be released onto a person's skin.

In addition, the perfume system also has the ability to remove the bad odours that come from sweat. The 'thiol' compounds that are responsible for the malodour of sweat are attracted to the ionic liquid, attaching themselves to it and losing their potency.

The breakthrough could have major commercial possibilities, potentially providing a new way to develop products for the huge personal care market. QUILL researchers are currently working with a perfume development company to identify a number of product ideas that could eventually be sold in shops.

Project leader, Dr Nimal Gunaratne, from the Queen's University Belfast Ionic Liquid Laboratories (QUILL) Research Centre, said: "This is an exciting breakthrough that uses newly discovered ionic liquid systems to release material in a controlled manner. Not only does it have great commercial potential, and could be used in perfumes and cosmetic creams, but it could also be used in others area of science, such as the slow release of certain substances of interest."

"This innovative development demonstrates the drive of researchers at Queen's to advancing knowledge and achieving excellence for the benefit of society as a whole." (Source: <http://phys.org/news/2015-04-scientists-perfume.htm>)

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Monday to Friday 3pm - 7pm

OPEN 3pm - 12am

Saturday & Sunday -

12 noon - 12 midnight.



The Portrait.

A nursery school teacher is observing her class while they draw pictures. She's walking around to see what each child is doing and comes to little Jenny, who is scribbling away diligently. The teacher asks what Jenny's drawing. Jenny replies, "I'm drawing God." The teacher says, "But Jenny, no one really knows what God looks like." Jenny replies, "They will in a minute."

Leaky Valves!

A gentleman phoned me the other morning and informed me that he had got out of bed, stood in front of the loo and found himself standing in a puddle of water, not, he hastened to add, of his own making - the leaky valves strike again!

All of these valves can be overhauled without mess or disruption and put back into "as new" condition, it is however essential to use the correct tools to clear the accumulated deposits in the valve body, clean the threads and recut the valve seat to accept the new working parts, if the seat is not recut the valve is unlikely to work for long if at all!

For simplicity I'll stick to the typical quad house type layout.

In the kitchen at about head height to the side of the back door is a single valve with a blue spot in the centre, that is the main valve supplying cold water to the whole property, there are hot and cold valves below the electric water heater and a further pair of hot and cold valves under the kitchen sink.

In the downstairs bathroom there is a pair of valves about level with the top of the door these isolate hot and cold water to that bathroom, a further pair is found in the upstairs bathroom, low down beside the loo performing a similar function for that bathroom.

It's worth checking that all these valves operate freely and work properly, they should be opened fully and then closed a half turn to save the valve jamming in the open position.

If your house is unoccupied for any length of time I would recommend turning off the water supply at the valve in the kitchen, that will minimise any water damage caused by any other valve failing when there is no one in the house as well as preventing theft of water from the outside tap.

For any further information or questions just phone 653553715 or email dreamhillsplumbing@gmail.com



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Razor Sharp!

A cowboy walked into a barber's shop, sat in the chair and said: 'I'll have a shave and a shoe shine.' While the barber began to lather the cowboy's face, a beautiful woman knelt down and started to shine his shoes. The cowboy was so impressed by her magnificent figure and long flowing hair that he said: 'Young lady, you and I should have wild sex in a hotel room tonight.' 'I'm married,' she answered, 'and I don't think my husband would approve.'

'Well,' said the cowboy, 'make an excuse. Tell him you're working late.'

'You tell him,' she said. 'He's the one shaving you!'

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THE PHOENIX GOLFING SOCIETY.



The Society played at Vista Bella Golf course on Sunday 19th April with a good turnout of 20 players. It was an early start at 9.30am and rather chilly! Fortunately it warmed up later on in the day making it more comfortable for playing.

The overall winner was Dave Wightman with Austin Brennan second. Nearest the pin No.4 was D.Wightman, and nearest the pin No.15 was Mike Highway.

Once again we had good food as usual supplied by Donna at the Phoenix .

Next meeting is on 17th May. List is up in the Phoenix Bar.

Hundreds of Russian Accounts Frozen in Spain.

Spanish authorities have frozen scores of accounts opened by Russian citizens residing in the country for not disclosing capital origins on time, Deutsche Welle reported citing legal experts.

Members of the Valencia Faculty of Advocates *Gregorio Fuentes* told Deutsche Welle that the law, obliging foreigners to disclose documents revealing where their money comes from, came into force April 2010. Spanish authorities have a right to freeze accounts of those who fail to submit the documents 2-3 months after the request is made.

Since spring 2014, Spanish tax inspection has obliged foreigners to fill in a declaration number 720, on the existence of assets and property worth more than 50,000 euros (\$54,100) outside of Spain. For concealment of foreign assets, a suspect may be obliged to pay 5,000-10,000 euros fine.

Fuentes said that recently, some 100 accounts of Russian and Ukrainian wealthy citizens residing in Valencia were frozen.

Another expert questioned by the Deutsche Welle argued that many Russian citizens are simply scared to request documents confirming that their income is legitimate from Russian authorities amid Moscow's campaign to return capital to the country.

During his annual state-of-the-nation address to the Federal Assembly in December 2014, Russian President Vladimir Putin suggested total amnesty for capital returning to Russia. According to Putin, Russian citizens with offshore assets "will get solid legal guarantees" to retain their capital and goods if they return those assets to Russia. On November 25, it was announced that Putin had signed a law to limit offshore tax sheltering.

(Source: sputniknews.com)

The Queue.

A meteor falls to earth and destroys New York. Millions of people die instantly, and a huge queue builds up at the Pearly Gates as the newly dead souls try to get into heaven. Suddenly, a huge roar surges from the front of the queue.

'What's going on?' asks a man at the back.

A man further up shouts back, 'Great news! They're not counting adultery!'



Quas' on the Piss!

Quasimodo walks into a bar, strolls straight up to the barman and says, 'I'll have a whisky, please.'

The barman says, 'Bells all right?'

'Mind you own effin business.'



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So I parked my big 4x4 in the disabled parking bay at Mercadona.
Some do-gooder shouted, 'Oi, what's your disability, then mate?!'
I shouted, 'Tourettes, you f*cking wanker, now piss off!'



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Luv!

Three women were comparing their sex lives. The first said: 'My husband is an architect. Our love-making has power, form and function.' The second said: 'My husband is an artist. Our love-making has passion, emotion and vision. The third said: 'My husband works for Microsoft. When we make love he sits at the end of the bed in the dark telling me how great it will be when we finally get started.'

Retired Expats Must Prove They Are Not Dead!

There are an estimated 5 million Brits living overseas at the time of writing, many of these as retirees claiming a UK pension. The problem that the Department of Work and Pensions in the UK has is figuring out whether retirees are still legitimately entitled to their pension or not, especially in cases where countries do not openly share information with others.

It has been estimated that £45 million a year is paid out to expats who have retired overseas and passed away, yet whose family are still cashing the pension cheques which should have ceased at the time of death.

In countries where deceased individuals are openly reported to their country of origin, this is rarely a problem. However in the case of countries like France who refuse to share information with other countries, it can be difficult for the DWP to know whether or not the pensions being claimed are legitimate or not.

In an attempt to cut this unwarranted spending on fraudulent pension payments, the UK government has introduced a policy requiring pension-drawing expats to prove that they are still alive.

In essence, any British expat drawing a UK pension is soon to be sent a form which they must sign to prove they are alive, which must be witnessed by others. The forms are only available in paper format and will be sent out to the registered address of these individuals. No electronic versions are being made available due to concerns over the security of such media.

The fully completed form must then be returned to the UK government in due time or risk having your pension cut off. Those individuals who either fail to return their form, or whose form gets lost in the post, could be in for a nasty surprise as their pension benefits are unceremoniously stopped.

This is not the first time that the British government has risked ostracizing expat retirees; earlier on this year we also reported how fuel subsidies are to be stopped for expats in some countries, and the questionable way in which the calculations were actually carried out.

That said, while the form may be a minor annoyance to some people, those legitimately entitled to a state pension should find they have little problem continuing to receive their money, and it is an exercise that can be very beneficial for the UK tax payer, allowing millions of pounds to be filtered into other projects back home.

Overseas retirees are advised to keep an eye out for such forms, lest they either get lost en route or the government inadvertently sends the form to an incorrect address.

Source: Expatriate Healthcare

The Tourist.

An Aborigine was fishing in Queensland, Australia, when a crocodile suddenly leaped from the water and grabbed him by the legs. The crocodile was halfway through devouring the man when a boatload of American tourists passed by. One woman said, 'I thought Aborigines were meant to be poor. Well, there's one over there with a Lacoste sleeping bag.'

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Idiot of the Month.

The city of Elda, situated to the northwest of Alicante, is best known for its footwear industry, particularly women's shoes. But on Friday April 10th at approx. 5:30pm it also became famous for being the home of one of the most stupid of God's creatures - a bored man with a gun! This 35-year-old Spanish man appeared at the local hospital with a gunshot wound to his foot. As with all gunshot wounds, the hospital staff alerted the police. When the National Police arrived to interrogate the man, he told them that he shot himself in the foot 'to know what it felt like to be shot.'



A tram in Sevilla crashed into the buffers at the end of the line and came off the rails. Not too unusual, you might say, driver obviously dreaming, but what made people chuckle was that it had an advert for the new 'Fast & Furious' movie on its side! See photo. Fortunately, no one was injured.

Take a look at this car. Suspicious? Well yes! The car seems to be stuffed with packages and with no attempt at concealment. But what also prompted the police to stop the vehicle was that it was travelling at 2am in the morning in the port of Huelva in south western Spain....with its lights off! The police arrested the driver after it was confirmed that he was carrying 40 bales of hashish weighing 1,220 kilos. Maybe the driver was smoking too much of his product....or maybe he was just dumb.



But let's not forget the dumb robber in Ibiza during March. This chap had robbed a number of establishments, particularly hostels on the island, broke into twelve vehicles. But he then upped his game and stole a car. Only problem was he crashed the car. But then later he decided to call at a police station and request some documentation he had left in the back of the vehicle. After the police stopped laughing, they charged him with 20 offences and will no doubt dig up many, many more.

Clients of Andorra Private Bank Must Confirm their Identity.

In an unprecedented move which intends to regain financial credibility in the eyes of the United States.

It means more than 200 Spaniards will have to go to Andorra, unless they use a power of attorney or proxy. An extensive questionnaire will question the origin of their investment according to sources at the Andorra National Finance Institute.

The Andorra National Finance Institute is a public institution which has taken control of the Andorra Private Bank after a threat from the United States to block all their financial activity for not respecting the money laundering regulations.

The new managers at the Andorra bank will not facilitate the identity of their clients who have been called, nor their nationality, and they deny the number of people called, which is over 600, is a representative sample of the reality at the bank.

Of the 600, 275 are international investors and among them are fortunes based in Latin America, which will now have to cross the Atlantic, and here the United States is particularly interested in Venezuela.

The questionnaire is in English, is titled 'Know your client' and has 37 questions.

The recent 720 form requirement on foreign investments has revealed some €4 billion has been invested by Spaniards in Andorra. See page 21 for more details on money stashed abroad from this country.

Cruising: if you thought you didn't like people on land..... Carol Leifer

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The SICAV.

A SICAV in Spain is a public limited company, whose object is to invest in financial assets. They have great tax advantages, paying corporation tax of just 1%, but they have to meet several requirements

- Number of stockholders no less than 100
- Restrictions on investments
- Capital may vary between the minimum and maximum established by the articles of association.
- Minimum capital of €2,400,000.
- Oversight and supervision is carried out by the National Commission for Market Values, and the General Direction of the Treasury.

At the end of 2014 the SICAV in Spain accumulated a wealth of €31.486 billion, and the number of SICAVs reached 3,228 societies.

SICAVs are common in Western Europe, especially Luxembourg, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Malta, France and Czech Republic.

They are generally used by people with large fortunes to pay lower taxes. I am quite surprised that many countries still allow the 'fat cats' to benefit from these schemes while the rest of us are taxed on almost every 'shekel' we earn.

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Русский говорят.



Tax Agency Uncovers Billions Abroad.

The Spanish Tax Agency has uncovered €20 billion in undeclared assets that was being held in Switzerland. That's according to agency director Santiago Menéndez, who made a congressional appearance on Tuesday to discuss the Spanish revenue office's progress in terms of cracking down on evaders.

The information that led to these funds was mostly volunteered by the asset holders themselves, since the Tax Agency introduced the obligation to declare all overseas wealth worth over €50,000 through a form called Modelo 720. This new obligation went into effect in 2013, and has seen more than 197,000 taxpayers declare €124.5 billion in foreign assets, said Menéndez. This amount includes the €20 billion in Switzerland.

This year alone, more than 27,500 taxpayers have provided information about €14.3 billion held abroad.

As well as Switzerland, Spanish residents also like to keep their offshore money in Andorra (€1 billion) and Gibraltar (€260 million). According to Menéndez, the Modelo 720 and other special filings – chiefly the 2012 tax regularization, known popularly as the tax amnesty – have contributed “very valuable information” and “helped design new verification techniques.”

Menéndez also told Congress that the number of individuals being investigated for money laundering after they applied for the 2012 amnesty has been raised to 715 from the original 705 that were reported.

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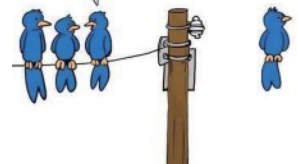
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YOUR SPANISH BANK ACCOUNT.

April 30 marked the deadline for banks to collect and digitalize up-to-date identification documents for all account holders, as per existing legislation. For Spaniards, this means the DNI national identity card; for foreign residents, their residency card or passport.

In some cases, clients will also be asked for information regarding their economic activities, as part of new requirements to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

While the obligation to keep digital records of clients' personal data was introduced in 2010, the law gave lenders a five-year deadline to complete the task. At this point, clients who have not yet been contacted by their bank – the latter has the obligation to do so – can assume that no further action is necessary and that their ID is already in the bank's possession.

The problem could arise if the contact information in the lender's power – address, email, telephone number – is outdated and the client cannot be reached with the request for new data.

Accounts that do not meet the requirements will be blocked on May 1.

The Hotel Bill.

An older lady decided to give herself a big treat for her 70th birthday by staying overnight in a really nice hotel. When she checked out the next morning, the desk clerk handed her a bill for \$250.00. She demanded to know why the charge was so high. "I agree it's a nice hotel, but the rooms aren't worth \$250.00 for just an overnight stay! I didn't even have breakfast."

The clerk told her that \$250.00 is the 'standard rate', and breakfast had been included had she wanted it.

She insisted on speaking to the Manager.

The Manager appeared and, forewarned by the desk clerk, announced: "This hotel has an Olympic-sized pool and a huge conference centre which are available for use."

"But I didn't use them," she said.

"Well, they are here, and you could have," explained the Manager. He went on to explain that she could also have seen one of the in-hotel shows for which they were so famous.

"We have the best entertainers from the world over performing here," the Manager said.

"But I didn't go to any of those shows," she said.

"Well, we have them, and you could have," the Manager replied.

No matter what amenity the Manager mentioned, she replied, "But I didn't use it!" and the Manager countered with his standard response.

After several minutes discussion, and with the Manager still unmoved, she decided to pay, wrote a check and gave it to him.

The Manager was surprised when he looked at the check. "But madam, this check is for \$50.00."

"That's correct I charged you \$200.00 for sleeping with me," she replied.

"But I didn't!" exclaimed the very surprised Manager.

"Well, too bad, I was here, and you could have."

Pete Dudman

Politically Correct 'Groan' Joke.

As it's no longer politically correct to direct a joke at any racial or ethnic minority, here we go:

An Englishman, a Scotsman, an Irishman, a Welshman, a Ghurkha, a Latvian, a Turk, an Aussie, a German, a Yank, an Egyptian, a Jap, a Pakistani, a Mexican, a Spaniard, a Russian, a Pole, a Lithuanian, a Jordanian, an Armenian, a Kiwi, a Swede, a Finn, a Canadian, an Israeli, a Romanian, a Bulgarian, a Serb, a Swiss, a Greek, a Singaporean, an Italian, a Norwegian, an Argentine, a Libyan, a Muslim, a Hindu, a Buddhist and an African went to a night club.

The bouncer said, "Sorry, I can't let you in without a Thai."

Susan Robinson

The Melting Pot.

Slightly more than 1/10th of Spanish residents are of foreign birth, with British citizens representing the 3rd largest Expat group, according to a report by the Permanent Observatory on Immigration (OPI).

The number of foreign citizens stands at 4,925,089, based upon EU nationals who hold a 'green certificate', which replaces the former photo residence card and the NIE certificate, and upon the numbers of non-EU nationals with a residence visa.

As of 31st December 2014, a total of 2,773,707 were either EU nationals or immediate family members of these including husbands, wives and blood relatives such as aunts, uncles, grandparents, nieces and nephews, meaning 56.32% of all foreign nationals in Spain are from countries adhering to the free movement treaty.

Of these, 370,580 were non-EU citizens but direct family members of those who are, and the remaining 2,403,127 are nationals of the 28 EU member States.

Romanians make up the largest citizen group, with 953,183 of them living in Spain, followed by Moroccans, of whom 770,735 are legally resident, and Brits, who make up 275,817.

The number of foreign residents in Spain reduced last year by 183,598, of whom 82,530 were from the EU, but of the remaining 101,068 the decline was largely due to non-Europeans acquiring Spanish citizenship.

Whilst Latin Americans used to account for most of Spain's foreign population, the number of Ecuadorians in the country has fallen by 13.94%, the Colombian community has reduced by 13.81% and those from Bolivia by 12.27% – although this is mainly because of the relative ease with which they can obtain Spanish nationality, only needing to be a legal resident for 2 years rather than the 10 required for those from non-Spanish-speaking countries and who are not married to a Spanish citizen.

Brits accounted for the 2nd-highest increase in immigration by national group last year, with the population of UK citizens going up by 3.87%, ahead of Romania's 2.69% and beaten only by Italians, whose relatively small national community in Spain went up by 6.09%.

Four of Spain's 17 autonomously-governed regions are home to nearly two-thirds of foreigners resident in the country, with Catalunya being the most cosmopolitan – 1,085,523 expatriates – followed by Madrid's 798,187, Andalucía's 676,613, and the Valencia region's 660,194.

Northern regions Cantabria, Asturias and La Rioja, followed by the land-locked western region of Extremadura which borders onto Andalucía and Portugal, have the fewest foreigners among their inhabitants.

Among non-EU foreigners – not including family members of EU citizens from elsewhere – the largest national community is Moroccan, with 734,297 residents, followed by China's 187,390 and Ecuador third with 172,577. (Source: <http://news.gnom.es/>)

(But of course the true figure of expats in Spain is much, much higher. The above figures are compiled mainly from the *residencia* figures. But, as we all know, there are thousands of foreigners in Spain - British and others - who don't hold *residencia*. There are many also who will not even sign-up to the *padron*, many feeling, somewhat irrationally, that if they sign-up they will break their remaining links to their home countries.)



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Serving Breakfasts, Full Snack Menu.

Daily Specials - Home-cooked Food at Its Best!!

Wednesdays - Fun Darts with Big Brian, Oy! Oy!

Thursdays - Eyes down for The Phoenix Bingo -

Tickets on Sale from 2:30pm

Dibbers & Dabbers at the Ready for 3pm.



BINGO!



Fridays - Fun Quiz with Brian - Come along and Join in!



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Serving Breakfast from 4am! Don't miss out - Ding!! Ding!!

Saturdays - Sports Shown on 4 Large Screens -

With Beer & a Burger Only €3!

Sundays - Homecooked Traditional 3 Course Lunch

Served 2 - 7pm

SATURDAY MAY 30th - FA CUP FINAL DAY

Arsenal v Aston Villa; BBQ On The Terrace!!

MAY 9th - CHARITY FUN DAY FROM 10am!

In Aid of **ALIMENTOS SOLIDARIOS**

See Advert on Page 10 & Posters for Details.

Please support this admirable charity.

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WiFi

The All-Clear.

I went to the doctor today and he said he was worried about how much alcohol I was consuming. He asked me how many units of booze I had consumed this week and, after I told him 21, he told me 28 was the maximum, and that I'm fine after all.

It was a good idea to go and see him on a Monday.



AQUAQUEST PLUMBING



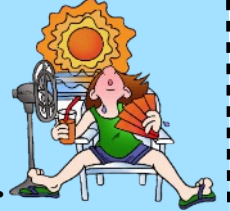
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Did you hear about the man who sent away for a penis enlarger?
They sent him back a magnifying glass.

DATING IN 2015.

Time Out conducted an international survey on dating. 11,000 people in more than 24 cities were questioned about dating in their particular city.

Paris was voted the best city for dating, scoring 83 out of 100, based on Parisians' attitude towards their dating scene and the proportion of Parisian singles who took part in the survey. New Yorkers are the least happy daters with 43% describing themselves as 'sad to be single.'

Dating in New York and Chicago was described as 'a fertile orchard brimming with opportunity' - according to the men. The women however, in those cities, described it as a 'warzone!'

The 'British' accent was voted the favourite accent by around 27% of respondents, with an American accent next at 8.7% and the Irish accent third at 8.1%. There was no indication as to what type of 'British' accent was the most popular, but I would guess a 'Home Counties' one.

When it came to the best way to meet people, 60% of daters worldwide stated that online dating got them the biggest number of dates in almost every city except Paris, where the Parisians preferred going out or parties as the best way to secure dates.

When asked 'What instantly rules out a second date?' London, Hong Kong and Singapore felt that 'bad breath' was the decider, whereas in Paris 58% said 'bad attitude. However the majority of New York, Chicago and LA women said it was 'bad politics.'

When people were asked what tended to happen at the end of their dates, it seems that 53% ended with a kiss, 21% ended in awkward goodbyes and 20% ended in nudity!

One in ten people considered sex a reasonable request after the first date, whereas the world average was 3.53 dates. That's probably after the Bangers & Mash, but before the Rice Pud!

When asked 'What was the worst thing about dating in New Orleans?', a 45-year-old woman said 'Everyone is drunk.' But she also said that it was also the best thing about dating in that city.

You can read much more here -

<http://www.timeout.com/dating-2015/>

FANCY AN AFFAIR?

A bullfighter has been voted the man unfaithful wives in Spain would most like to have an affair with, beating Hollywood actors George Clooney and Brad Pitt.

Francisco Rivera Ordóñez (photo), the 41-year-old torero commonly referred to as Fran, has topped a poll of the husband most Spanish wives would like to steal away, at least for a secret fumble.



Victoria Milan, a website that specializes in setting up extramarital affairs (Yes! Would you believe it!), revealed the surprising choice in a survey released recently.

They found that that most of the website's female users, a staggering eight out of ten, would choose a married man with whom to have a "discreet romance", rather than someone single.

And that Fran, who married Lourdes Beatriz Montes Parejo, a lawyer from Seville in September 2013, was the number one choice.

More than a fifth of those asked (21.5% of the 3,563 female users of Victoria Milan) said Fran was the celebrity they would most like to have an affair with.

Some 17% chose newly-wed George Clooney, 15.4% chose the Spanish tennis player Feliciano Lopez, and 13.2% said they would risk the wrath of Angelina for a romp in the sack with her hubby Brad Pitt.

"If you cheat with someone who is also married then it's a level playing field of understanding and complicity, with both most likely sharing the same needs and desires," explains sexologist Alicia Gallotti, a spokesperson for the Victoria Milan agency. "Taking a lover is not synonymous with an unhappy marriage, an affair just provides a different thrill and who better to understand that than someone who is also married," she added.

That may explain why Fran's unmarried and arguably better looking younger brother Cayetano, pictured across modelling an Armani suit, a fellow bullfighter and the face of luxury brand Loewe, did not even get a mention in the poll.

Sources:
<http://www.thelocal.es/20150205/fancy-an-affair-matador-is-cheaters-choice>

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/victoria-milan/>



C's Ciudadanos

Ciudadanos (Citizens) is a new right-of-centre party which is challenging the hegemony and corruption of the large established political parties in your area.

If you wish to meet and have a chat with them, or find out more about them, then call 619 488 293.

The above is a paid-for advert.

Dreamscene has no political affiliation to any party and wishes to be independently free to criticize them all.

The Doctor Will See You Now.

Mrs Jones went to see her doctor. When he enquired about her complaint, she replied that she suffered from a discharge. He instructed her to get undressed and lie down on the examining table. She did so.

The doctor put on rubber gloves and began to massage her private parts.

After a couple of minutes, he asked, 'How does that feel now?' 'Wonderful,' she replied, 'but the discharge is from my ear.....'

Lime Bar Fishing Sunbathing Club

Not a lot going on this month. The monthly bun fight took a bit longer this time as we had to congratulate "grumpy" Bob for winning the winter final, change the league points system..... yet again, then draw for the April match & knockout competition. Fagin also told us we had to spend some money but as anti social Baz was pre occupied, the "quill" volunteered to help organise a night out.

The winter final was fished at the Eden at the end of March. The weather was glorious and the river was pushing through after the recent rain inland. As the water had warmed up, catches were expected to be good. Just John had topped the league, so he was the angler to beat, unfortunately both he and feathers blanked. Grumpy Bob stole the glory with 3 carp to 2.42 kilos with Fagin a very close 2nd with 2.35 kilos. Fagin was so sure that he had won; he weighed his fish 3 times in case the scales were wrong or the wind might catch the weigh in bag! 3 rods came 3rd with 0.5 kilos.

The April match (1st of the summer series) was again fished at the Eden. Yet again we had a good turn out with 16 anglers on the bank. The forecast was for showers & it didn't disappoint. Everyone had their brollies up to keep their heads dry, but unfortunately we had several dry nets again. The carp still aren't jumping onto the hooks and are proving difficult to entice. I resorted to tiddler snatching and only had a few baby mullet. The 6 anglers that did catch were interspersed from peg 2 through to 18. To my surprise, no fish were landed in the prime pegs of 15, 16 & 17. What is going on?

The winner on the day was 3 rods with 2.8 kilos, followed closely by Fagin with 2.7 & the quill with 1 kilo.

16 anglers have entered the knockout competition and the 1st round matches have to be fished before the May meeting.

Hopefully I'll have some decent gossip next month!

Next meeting bun fight is at The Lime Bar @ 17.30 Mon 4th May.

Fishy fingers!
The Ghost

Nearly made love to a Ladyboy last night!

I picked 'er up in a nightclub. It looked like a woman, smelled like a woman, danced like a woman, even kissed like a woman. But, as we arrived back at the apartment 'she' reversed the car into a tight parking slot in one fluid movement! That's when I thought, "Hang on just a minute..."

I saw my mate Charlie this morning, he's only got one arm bless him. I shouted "Where you off to Charlie?"

He said, "I'm off to change a light bulb."

Well I just cracked up, & couldn't stop laughing, but managed to say, "That's gonna be a bit awkward isn't it?"

"Not really." he said. "I still have the receipt, you insensitive bastard."

Juan Pequeño

Little Johnny goes to school after being absent the previous day. His teacher demands, 'Where were you yesterday?'

'I'm sorry, Miss, my dad got burned,' replies Johnny.

'Oh, I'm sorry, I hope it wasn't serious,' says the teacher.

To which Johnny replies, 'Well, they don't f*ck about at the crematorium, Miss.'

A Selection from Mel.

Last night I reached for my liquid Viagra and accidentally swigged from a bottle of Tipp-Ex Liquid Paper. I woke up this morning with a huge correction.

My girlfriend said she was leaving me due to my obsession with the '60's group The Monkees. I thought she was joking And then I saw her face..... Now I'm a believer.....

My budgie broke his leg today so I made him a little splint out of a couple of redhead matches. His little face lit up when he tried to walk..... unfortunately I had forgotten to remove the sandpaper from the bottom of his cage.

Women should be like golf caddies, either holding your balls or getting your bloody tee ready!

Last night I was sitting on the sofa watching TV when I heard my wife's voice from the kitchen, 'What do you feel like for dinner my love chicken, beef or lamb?' 'Chicken, please.' I replied. She replied, 'You're having soup you fat bastard, I was talking to the cat!'

Got myself a new Jack Russell puppy, he's mainly black and brown with a small white patch, so I've named him England.

Mel Bettell

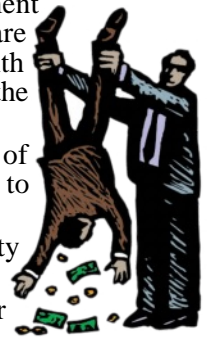
Your Tax Euros. Where Are They Spent?

The Spanish Tax Agency has started to tell taxpayers just how their contributions are used for the common good.

Returns filed for income earned in 2014 will include information showing how taxes are shared out between the central and regional governments, depending on the taxpayer's fiscal residence, the Treasury Ministry explained.

An analysis of these national figures shows that in 2013, every €100 of revenue was used to fund the following services:

- Pension payments, unemployment checks and other forms of welfare subsidies take the lion's share, with €40 out of every €100 collected by the state.
- Healthcare represents €14 out of every €100, while €9 goes to education.
- €7 are spent on defence and security policy.
- Another €9 are earmarked for policies aimed at encouraging economic growth and industrial competitiveness, such as R&D, support for SMEs (small businesses), development of transportation hubs, participation in international projects and energy policy.
- General public services – parliamentary expenses, development aid, contributions to international organizations and election campaign costs – account for €8 out of every €100 collected by the state.
- €7 go toward paying interest on the debt held by all public agencies.
- A further €3 are slated for cultural policy, television, and support for sports and religion.
- The state spends €2 on environmental issues, and €1 on housing policy and related services such as public lighting, water supply or residential infrastructure development.



(Abridged from *El Pais*.)



Alex, Lilly & Robert

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AND COFFEE OR DESSERT. SERVED FROM 13:00 TO 17:00.**

VALENCIA'S HERD OF WHITE ELEPHANTS.

Occupying just under two kilometres of the dried bed of the Turia river, Valencia's City of Arts and Sciences (CACSA) was inaugurated in 1998, in an ambitious and expensive bid to make the city a world-class tourist destination. But in April 2015, it's hard to find many visitors to a site populated by huge, futuristic buildings on the edge of the city. A few tourists gaze through the glass panels of L'Agora, the impressive 70-meter-high construction designed by Valencia-born Santiago Calatrava, the same architect behind the World Trade Center Transportation Hub in New York City.

The multi-functional events venue, as L'Agora is described on the CACSA website, covers an area a little smaller than a soccer pitch, sitting between the Prince Felipe Science Museum and L'Oceanogràfic – Europe's largest sea aquarium. It was inaugurated, still million over budget. Today it's tourists, you peer through the that has barely been used.

Then move on to L'Umbracle, covered with 18-meter-high arches with more than 50 species of over budget by around €17 million, sign of life is a bar due to open in



17,000 square meters of gardens dedicated to the flora of Valencia, flowers and tropical plants. It ran and most of it is closed. The only May.

The Palau de les Arts opera house and performing arts center, also designed by Calatrava, ended up costing more than €37 million, almost four-and-a-half times the original budget. Ignacio Blanco, a United Left deputy in Valencia's regional parliament, has worked hard in recent years to gather information about the contracts and costs related to building the CACSA, despite the regional government's refusal to release its files. Blanco has made public the contract in which Calatrava and the two construction companies that built the Palau de les Arts less than 10 years ago agreed to restore 20,000 square meters of mosaic that began to fall off in late 2013. The repair work is still ongoing. Two winters ago, flooding caused damage worth €17 million.

As if it didn't have enough problems, the CACSA has also been hit by scandal: in January, Helga Schmidt, the director of the Palau de les Arts, was arrested and questioned over financial irregularities at the centre. Furthermore, five senior officials, among them three CACSA director generals, face corruption accusations.

Meanwhile, a decision will soon be made as to which of three private companies will be awarded the running of L'Oceanogràfic, L'Agora, and part of the Prince Felipe Science Museum.

(Abridged from El País article by Maria José Serra, 23/04/2015. Full article in English here - http://elpais.com/elpais/2015/04/20/inenglish/1429529343_396066.html)

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Do You Own Residential Property in the UK, but Are Resident in Spain?

Important Changes to UK

Capital Gains Tax for Non-UK Residents.

British Expats resident in Spain, but who may still own a property in the UK could be affected by changes to the way capital gains tax is calculated, effective from April 6th.

Up until now, upon selling a property UK residents have been charged capital gains tax at either the lower rate of 18% or the higher rate of 28% (depending on their income tax bracket). A personal allowance of £11,000 can also be taken.

Furthermore, if the vendor has occupied the property as their main home for the full period of ownership, any such 'capital gain' is exempt from tax.

HMRC also allows an 18 month period of grace if the property being sold was previously the vendors main residence.

UK property sold by non-residents were free from capital gains tax on the provision that the vendor remained non-UK resident for the following 5 tax years.

The capital gains may also still be taxed by the country in which the vendor of the UK property is now resident. (This would undoubtedly be the case if, being a Spanish resident, you submitted a completed Form 720. Mick)

The New UK Capital Gains Tax Rules

As from 6th April 2015, changes to the way in which capital gains taxes are applied to non-residents selling a UK residential property will take effect regardless of how long the vendor has been absent from the UK, but will only apply to property.

The percentage rate at which capital gains tax will be applied will also now be the same as for UK-residents - in other words 18% and 28%, with the 'personal allowance' being tweaked upwards to £11,000.

However, another interesting revision is that the vendor can also enjoy the principal private residence relief to a property if they have stayed at the property for at least 90 days over the UK tax year.

This would mean that capital gains tax would be avoided, but could also mean that the vendor becomes UK resident for tax purposes under the UK's Statutory Residence Test (depending on the other ties, and amount of time spent in the UK), and this would mean exposure to taxes in the UK on any income from Spain. (Source: Tumbit.com)

The Treatment.

A couple were trying for a baby, with no luck. The man went to the doctor, who told him of a radical new treatment which would increase his virility by transplanting monkey glands into his body. The man agreed and went ahead with the operation and, sure enough, he managed to get his wife pregnant the next week.

Nine months passed and they had a baby. The man went to see the doctor again to get a birth certificate.

'What did you have, a boy or girl?' asked the doctor.

'We're not sure yet,' replied the man. 'We're still waiting for it to come down off the chandelier.'



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This fishing tackle manufacturer I knew had all these flashy green and purple lures. I asked, 'Do fish take these?' 'Charlie,' he said, 'I don't sell these lures to *fish*.'
Charles T. Munger



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Friday May 15 from Midday.

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CUT OUT & KEEP

HEROES!

On Monday April 20, around 7pm, 37-year-old Colorado Springs resident Lucas Hinch took his Dell XPS 410 out into the alley behind the building where he lives and runs a homeopathic herb store, pulled out his 9mm handgun, and put eight bullets through the PC, in cold blood.

The Dell (photo), it seems, had been causing Hinch trouble in recent months and gave him a blue screen of death for what turned out to be the final time on that fateful evening. It's unclear what version of Windows

the computer was running before it met its demise.

According to the local police blotter,



Colorado Springs police responded to the sound of the gunshots and ticketed Hinch for discharging his gun within city limits, a misdemeanor offense. Police spokeswoman Catherine Buckley told the Los Angeles Times that Hinch had just purchased a new gun, and when the police arrived on the scene, he told the officers he didn't realize he was breaking the law in discharging his weapon.

Hinch, however, told the Times he has no regrets.

"It was glorious," he said. "Angels sung on high.

"It was premeditated, oh, definitely," he added. "I made sure there wasn't anything behind it and nothing to ricochet."

Hinch told The Smoking Gun that his 9mm was a Hi-Point pistol he bought off Craigslist. The officers confiscated Hinch's gun but left the disabled Dell. Hinch is scheduled for a May 11 court hearing where he could be fined. Police told the Los Angeles Times that jail time is unlikely.

The Colorado Springs Gazette noted that the machine is not expected to recover. (<http://arstechnica.com/>)

Now how many of you have ever wanted to do that? Me? Almost daily!

This 51-year-old Spanish chap parked his Toyota Land Cruiser outside his workplace. He heard his car start up and when he looked outside he realised it had been stolen. He quickly borrowed his brother's car and drove off in search of his vehicle.

He drove to the motorway and took a chance decision to go a particular direction on the motorway. After 20kms he spotted a Toyota Land Cruiser. He checked the number plate from a distance and after confirming it was his vehicle he followed the vehicle for a further 45kms while phoning the police. He then kept in touch with the operator advising the police of any direction changes.

Police then set-up a roadblock on the Málaga ring road but the thief managed to evade this travelling in excess of 160kph. However the thief, a French citizen of Moroccan origin, was arrested shortly afterwards at a tunnel entrance by some Guardia Civil officers. One of the Guardias injured his hand during the arrest, no doubt punching the shit out of the thief.

The Guardia Civil said the Toyota Land Cruiser was in high demand on the black market as it was ideal to move drugs from the beaches.

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Little Johnny.....again!

A teacher asked her third grade class to name things that ended with "tor" that also eat things.

The first little boy said, "Alligator." "Very good James, that's a big word."

The second boy said, "Predator." "Yes, that's another big word Alan. Very well done."

Little Johnny says, "Vibrator." After nearly falling off her chair, the teacher says, "That is a big word Johnny, but it doesn't eat anything."

"Well my mother has one and she says it eats batteries like there's no tomorrow!"

Moira.

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This year's AGM for Dream Hills (1) will be held on the 15th May at 3.30 pm in the Restaurante Los Cucalos in La Zenia. Directions here -

http://www.dreamhills.oriuela-costa.eu/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=3&t=97

A Penny for Your Thoughts!

A young Scottish lad and lassie were sitting on a heathery hillside in the Scottish Highlands. They had been silent for a while, when the lassie turned to him and said: 'A penny for your thoughts.'

The lad was a bit embarrassed, but finally he said: 'If you must know, I was thinking how nice it would be if you gave me a wee kiss.'

So she kissed him.

Afterwards, he once again fell into a pensive mood, prompting her to ask him: 'What are you thinking now?'

To which the lad replied: 'Well, I was hoping you hadn't forgotten about the penny.'

CHILDREN.

The greatest advantage of not having children must be that you can go on believing that you are a nice person: once you have children, you realise how wars start. Fay Weldon

I'm pregnant. No need to applaud; I was asleep at the time. Jeannie McBride

I was so long in labour they had to shave me twice. From *Absolutely Fab*'.

Changing a nappy is a lot like getting a present from your grandmother: you're not sure what you've got but you're pretty sure you're not going to like it. Jeff Foxworthy

Never raise your hands to your kids. It leaves your groin unprotected. Red Buttons

A two-year-old is like having a blender, but you don't have a top for it. Jerry Seinfeld

The Dream Scene is produced on a non-profit basis. Any profit is spent by producing extra copies or giving the occasional free advert.

You can have a colour copy of the Dream Scene sent to you by email each month (except January) for just €5 for a year. Locally, black & white hard copies can be delivered to your postbox for the same amount.

Around 800 free copies are available locally.

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Dream Hills owner Stefan Pokroppa has launched an English program on Siesta Radio 91.6 FM on Fridays from 12:00 – 13:30 hours. You can listen to it online by searching 'Siesta Radio'. He interviews me (Mick) once a month when we discuss Spanish local and national news in some detail. The next interview is on May 22 at 12pm.
<http://www.siestaradio.es/>

You can find archived copies of The Dream Scene at
<http://www.dreamhills.oriuela-costa.eu/>

There is an active Facebook group at Dream Hills - Costa Blanca
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The editor, Mick, can be contacted at mick.dreamscene@gmail.com or at 586 Dream Hills. (Or in some Bar!)