

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER

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

Issue no. 99, 1st of June 2015.



Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the June edition.

The Orihuela coastline has emphasised the quality of the beaches by being awarded eight Blue Flags this year, one more than last year. Also, two of its yacht clubs/marinas, Marina Yacht Club Cabo Roig and Campoamor, have also received two Blue Flags. Punta Prima, Cala Flamenca, Cala Bosque (La Zenia), La Caleta-Cabo Roig, Cala Capitan-Cabo Roig, Aquamarina, and Barranco Rubio Campoamor are now the Blue Flag beaches, one more than last year. That is 10 Blue Flags in all. The Orihuela Costa coastline is just 16 kilometres long but it now features the highest concentration of Blue Flags for any coastline of a similar size, not only in Spain but in the world.

Although I am happy for you and I to keep the above a secret, the inept marketing people, who are responsible for promoting the tourist attractions of this area, will probably be keeping it a secret as well! Looking at the past performance of the Spanish tourist authorities and advisors who are supposed to promote this most important contributor to the Spanish economy, I have come to the conclusion that if their brains were made of dynamite, between them they wouldn't have enough to blow even one of them up!

The local and regional elections which took part in most of Spain, have brought a sea-change to the political landscape. There is much more on this on pages 3, 6 and 25. Many local boroughs and regions will now be governed by coalition pacts. This will not do much for stability.

I have noticed that during the last couple of months the quality and originality of the jokes sent in by the ladies was much better and original than those received from the blokes. So come on lads, step up to the plate!

Ade, Brian and Neil would like to thank everyone who contributed to the fund-raiser for Alimentos Solidarios - the soup kitchen in Torrevieja - and to both Jukes and The Phoenix for hosting the event. An admirable €760 was raised and great credit to everyone involved, not forgetting several singers who performed for free.

Apologies to all the history buffs for the absence of the Spanish history article from recent issues. It has really been a question of time. With 32 pages to compile each month together with updating of adverts etc., it has become a full-time unpaid job.....or so Tid says! I am hoping to get someone locally to assist with the advert changes and collections, which should free up some more time

Thanks to Ann & Roger, John & Gloria and Andy M, for the extra donations towards printing costs.

Congratulations to Maribel, the president of Dream Hills (1) and the committee for yet another excellent year. It is not by accident that ours is known as one of the best kept urbanisations on the Costas. Also thanks to David, our part-time handyman whose hard work helps to keep the urb' in good trim. Also thanks to the unsung heroes who regularly weed, water, prune, dig and generally look after the green areas which surround our urb'.

Now that summer is here, it will bring a whole shed-load of 'chancers' and 'ne'er do wells' to your front gate. These will include bogus collectors for kid's charities & gas engineers, not forgetting the guy who has been locked out of his house and needs to pay the locksmith! Any cash collector at your gate is bogus!

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

Get Fit & Meet New Friends!

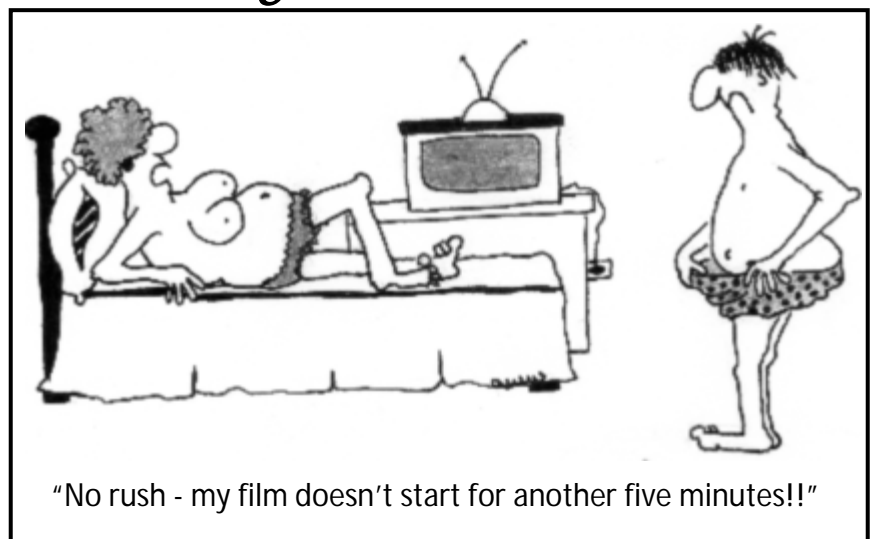
Okay, I'm not one to talk about fitness. I'd go to the local gym but I don't think I'd manage the five steps leading up to it. But you have a great opportunity locally of enjoying some gentle exercise & to meet new friends and it is available to all.

The Dream Hills Walking Association meets for an easy walk, usually every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, outside Belushi's in Via Park V at 10am.

There is also a Facebook page where JJ Baker would be happy to answer any questions you might have. You can find it www.facebook.com/groups/408352322679009/

Why not contact the group. I guarantee it will give you a lift!

Angela's Cartoon



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

COMPUTER TRAINING

- WINDOWS XP, VISTA, 7
- MICROSOFT OFFICE (WORD, EXCEL, POWER POINT, ACCESS, ETC.)
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Did you know that

...wearing a suit makes people think differently? Some psychology research in recent years is making an old aphorism look like an incomplete thought: Clothes make the man... Yes? Go on? Clothes, it appears, make the man perceive the world differently. A new study looks specifically at how formal attire changes people's thought processes. "Putting on formal clothes makes us feel powerful, and that changes the basic way we see the world," says Abraham Rutchick, an author of the study and a professor of psychology at California State University, Northridge. Rutchick and his co-authors found that wearing clothing that's more formal than usual makes people think more broadly and holistically, rather than narrowly and about fine-grained details. In psychological parlance, wearing a suit encourages people to use abstract processing more readily than concrete processing.

Research on the effects of clothing on cognition remains in its early stages. Another similar study showed that when subjects wore a white coat that they believed belonged to a doctor, they became more attentive, an effect that didn't hold when they believed the garment was a painter's. But clothing's psychological effects have been specified for only a couple of the ways the brain makes sense of stimuli.

You can read the full thought-provoking article here <http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2015/04/wearing-a-suit-makes-people-think-differently/391802/>

...natural disasters effect women more than men? Natural disasters are thought to be indiscriminate killers— but that is not entirely true. A 2007 study by researchers at the London School of Economics and the University of Essex found that between 1981 and 2002, natural disasters in 141 countries killed significantly more women than men, and that the worse the disaster, the bigger the gender disparity.

The latest figures from Nepal show that among the 1.3 million affected by the earthquake, about 53% are female—a small but not yet statistically significant bias. During earthquakes, more women tend to be indoors and in tidal-wave prone areas, women haven't learnt to swim or cannot climb trees. Post event infections are also more common in women because of their physiology. You can read more here - <http://qz.com/392867/why-women-are-more-at-risk-than-men-in-earthquake-ravaged-nepal/>

What's Up?

The regional and local elections which took place on May 24th, resulted in a hefty face slap, or probably more accurately - a kick to the groin - for the two historic main parties in Spain, the PP and the PSOE. Although the PP were the most voted for party nationally, in most cases they failed to get an overall majority, requiring them to 'pact' with one or more of the smaller parties.

As expected, the new parties Podemos, Ciudadanos and to a lesser extent the Compromis Party (in Alicante) have redrawn the political map of Spain. I have reported these in more detail on page 6 and page 25. No doubt in future issues we will take a look at how all this unfolds in our own immediate area regionally and nationally.

El País reported on the departure of Juan Carlos Monedero from Podemos (the new party of the Left) and says the number two in the party, Íñigo Errejón, forced him out by attempting to move the party more to the centre. Monedero, one of the founders of the party and yet another academic, did attract some unfavourable attention when it was revealed that he collected more than €400,000 for advising the Governments of Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador and Nicaragua.....and forgot to tell the Treasury. El Mundo reports that the more radical left section of Podemos are calling for the re-foundation of the party. This nucleus, led by Miguel Urbán, demands after the exit of Monedero a return to their anti-capitalist roots and to abandon moderation. La Vanguardia says Pablo Iglesias (the leader of Podemos) and Juan Carlos Monedero are praising each other in an effort to reduce the crisis within the party and promote more harmony.

Volkswagen is to spend 4.2 billion € in their plants in Navarra and Barcelona until 2019. The German company describes it as the 'largest investment of a company of industrial character in the country's history'. They expect new models to be a part of their plan and that the investment would not only protected their permanence in Spain, but would have a 'very positive' impact on auxiliary industry and the consequence of creating more jobs.

El País carries an interview with Larry Summers, an ex adviser to Barack Obama, and a quote 'Spain will remain in crisis for the rest of this decade'.

It has emerged the pact on collective negotiation between the unions and the employers has run into shaky ground. Members of the CCOO and the UGT, the two largest unions in the country, want the increase in salary to be an obligation, and the employers want the increase to depend on 'the circumstances' of the sectors and companies.

All the airports in Spain will have free unlimited access to Wi-Fi from October. The current connection is also free but limited to 30 minutes.

The Supreme Court has declared as abusive the charges banks make on delayed payments of debt. They have set a ruling which says any charge more than 2% of the size of the personal loan is illegal.

A study has warned that the money to pay Spanish state pensions, the pensions pot, could be empty in five years, partly or mostly to be blamed on the Government which in this legislature removed nearly 34 billion € from the Social Security Reserve Fund.

In Spain, 18% of the population lives below the poverty line, twice as many as before the crisis, according to the OECD. Higher taxation and social spending cuts were contributory factors.

The State tax intake in Spain is seven points below the EU average and only reached 37.8% of GDP compared to the EU average of 45.2%. EXPAND

Diario Sur of the Costa del Sol has reported that the conflicts between divorced couples with children is flooding the courts. The judges have warned about this increase in disputes between ex-couples and consider they should sort out these matter themselves. I bet the lawyers love that!

Spain's renewable power plants generated 41.3% of the country's electricity in April, data from the grid operator Red Electrica de Espana (REE) revealed. Wind power output slightly increased year-on-year representing 20.4% of total power output. Spain's hydroelectric plants accounted for 13.5%, while photovoltaic (PV) and concentrated solar power (CSP) parks provided 3.9% and 1.9%, respectively.

With the run-up to Spanish Mother's Day on May 3rd, the consumer association FACUA has criticized Carrefour for encouraging the public to buy hoovers, irons and sewing machines for their mums. FACUA says that "It is lamentable that the French multinational is promoting this type of retrograde commercial image identifying women with domestic chores." They have also asked Carrefour to run the same campaign in the run-up to Father's Day next year with the same products.

One company, Romacho Electrohogar in Grenada removed all the domestic chore items from their shelves for 48 hours, replacing them with discounted hair dryers, curling tongs, depilators and encouraged its customers to 'Buy mum a personal present instead.'

Well, I still haven't lived down the year I gave Tid a combined Christmas and Birthday present. It was a Black & Decker Work Bench. Her b'day is on Boxing Day! (After I extracted the work bench from my butt, I was able to walk again.) That reminds me of the local sage who once said that it was so very unlucky for Jesus to have his birthday fall on Christmas Day! I think he is now doing well in politics.

The State Attorney's Office has presented a contentious administrative appeal to the Catalan High Court of Justice, to insure the Catalan Generalitat Government obeys the rules of Castellano being taught in schools, and those who have not allowed exams in the Spanish language have to do so now.

The AVE high-speed train system has beaten the record for the number of passengers carried in one day with 125,467 travellers on Thursday April 30. The May bank holiday saw more seats and the new record is larger by 8,302 than the previous high record on Friday March 27 when the Easter holidays added passengers. Since 2013, Renfe has seen a jump in passengers after the State Company changed its commercial strategy by adding promotions and discounts. 2014 as a consequence was a record year of 29.67 million users. But the high-speed train system is still losing money. Following the report which questioned the viability of the AVE, the Development Ministry has cut new tenders by 67%. The high speed lines issued tenders totalling 444.83 million € in the first quarter of this year.

The Spanish beer company Damm is to distribute the British beer Carling in Spain, Portugal, Gibraltar and Andorra after signing a collaboration agreement with Molson Coors International. I'll drink to that!

*I'm offended by political jokes.
Too often they get elected.
Will Rogers*

Two cannibals are having dinner. One says, 'I can't stand my mother-in-law.'
The other says, 'Then just eat the rice.'

⁴What's Up? continued

The newspaper La Razón reports that the Government is to ban electronic cigarettes in bars and restaurants.

The bosses of the CAM Alicante Savings Bank, are in court for falsifying accounts and appropriating 47 million €. Información in Alicante has photos of the eight accused in the CAM case who are charged with falsifying accounts and collecting as a result €47.3 million.

The Catalan police has fined a driver €6,200 for using a speed gun inhibitor. The device works by detecting radar speed guns and emitting a laser beam which makes it impossible for the speed of the vehicle to be recorded accurately. He also had nine points docked off his licence.



The eight-year-old boy (above) was detected inside a small case as a 19-year-old Moroccan woman tried to smuggle him into the Spanish enclave of Ceuta in North Africa. The boy had almost suffocated and was released after a scanner detected his presence. The boy's father attempted to cross into Spain an hour-and-a-half later, thinking that he would find his son there waiting for him. But customs officials grew suspicious when the man said he was also from Ivory Coast. He was interrogated and shown a photograph of the boy inside the suitcase. The 42-year-old broke down immediately and admitted to being the boy's father. "I just wanted to bring him to the Canary Islands with me," he said. The father has a residency permit from Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, where authorities suspect he arrived illegally years ago on a boat. Both the father and the woman are in, what the Spanish call 'preventative custody' at the moment on charges of violating the rights of foreign citizens, with the aggravating circumstance that the child's life was put at risk.

Cases of child abuse in the Murcia region grew by 23% last year. 605 cases were reported in 2014, negligence being the most common cause of abuse. Increased surveillance and detection last year resulted in more cases coming to light.

A yacht containing 2,000 kilos of hashish resin was intercepted 15 miles off the coast of nearby Cartagena. The crew of three men were arrested. Arrests of drug-smugglers are quite common these days. I just include the odd one 'to keep the pot boiling.'

The ex-chief of the Local Police in the La Línea de la Concepción (next to Gib') has been arrested by the local police in Malaga. He was found to have a van full of contraband tobacco, photo right, worth around €8,000. He now faces a fine of €15,000. He was also in possession of two identity cards, one for a deputy inspector of the Local Police in La Línea and the other for a first lieutenant of Guardia Civil. Police are now investigating to see whether he used these ID's to pass through road-blocks, customs etc.



A major player in the legal tobacco market, Altadis, has calculated that 52.6% of the tobacco smoked in Málaga province is contraband according to data for the last six months of last year, and over the same period in Sevilla it was 56.5%! Nationally it is believed that the incidence of contraband tobacco is as high as 13.94%.

One of the things I have noticed in Spain is the porous nature of some police investigations and confidential court cases. By porous I mean facts about the case which should be kept secret from the general public until say the case is properly researched or fully investigated. There have been many cases where sensitive information has leaked out and hindered the investigation and prosecution. It also raises the question of 'trial by press,' which is relatively common in Spain as the 'presumption of innocence' can also be endangered.

In late April, the justice minister of Spain, Rafael Catalá, announced that he would like to see a debate on the possible curtailment of the press publishing sensitive information before or during a trial. The problem is that here there are no such controls in place at the moment and there are no plans for change under the current legislature. Catalá believes that offenders should be 'harshly fined' but would prefer if the media would regulate themselves by preserving confidentiality. But there were howls of indignation, from not only the Spanish Press Federation but also from some PP members in Congress. This has now forced Justice Minister Catalá to withdraw his comments and the matter will not be debated.

And speaking of leaks, the ex mayor of the Madrid municipality of Parla, José María Fraile, is now the subject of an investigation regarding the payment of a bribe of €1.3 million. Fraile, it seems, awarded the maintenance of the municipality's electricity supply to a company he had himself set up. The ABC newspaper reports on a bugged telephone conversation where Fraile said, 'When the company is paid, we all get paid, they get paid, you get paid, I get paid.' 'The prosecution rests, M'lud! Bring on the hangman!'

The Treasury has blamed the Junta de Andalucía for 'enabling' the fraud in training courses by extending a measure originally dated 2009 which excused the beneficiaries of the public money from sending a receipt. This meant that there was no check to see if the funds allocated went to the supposed destination. Both the former presidents of Andalucía, Manuel Chaves and José Antonio Griñán have been questioned by the prosecutor concerning their alleged links to a separate fraud - the ERE Retirement Fund Scandal.

Diario Sur in Málaga reported that a taxi driver in the city returned 7,200 dollars which a tourist had left in his vehicle. The driver took the rucksack to the Police which both had forgotten had been placed in the boot. What can I say? Around this area most of them should be wearing masks.

The Interior Ministry has dropped the price of a gas 'bombona' butane gas container by 10.6% five days before the election. The new price is €14.11. Repsol is appealing the order which reduced the price of butane by 20% in two months. Aside from the new reduction, the price of the *butano* was also reduced in March by 9.7%. I just love to hear the greedy energy companies squealing.

Following the theft of a van load of toupees in the Quesada area, the Guardia Civil were reported to be combing the area.

Divorce.

•An ex-spouse is like an inflamed appendix: They cause a lot of pain and suffering but after it's removed, you find you didn't need it anyway!

•My husband and I divorced over religious differences. He thought he was God and I didn't.

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My wife told me I had to give up drinking, so I joined the AA. Unfortunately, I joined the Automobile Association by mistake. At least either way I'm on the road to recovery.

Sunday, May 24th saw local and regional elections throughout most of Spain. There is an overview of the results on page 25. But here we will take a closer look at what happened in Orihuela and Torrevieja.

In Orihuela, although the PP dropped one seat to 11 and were the most voted for party there, they required 13 seats to have a majority in the council. They can now only govern with the active support of one of the other parties. The socialists, PSOE took 8 seats, Ciudadanos 3, a Green Party alliance 2 and Pepa Ferrando, a breakaway from the PP, one seat. The PP could rule the Orihuela municipality if they received the support of Ciudadanos. What was particularly surprising was what appears to be the demise of CLARO, a party that once relied heavily on the expat vote. This time they failed to get even one seat, despite including more Spaniards 'in the first 10' and opening an office in Orihuela. Clearly their strategy failed.

It was a similar case for the PP in Torrevieja although here they lost four seats, now having only 11, while needing 13 for an absolute majority. The PP in Torrevieja must have spent a fortune on their election advertising. An 80-page manifesto in colour with photos, in both English & Spanish was distributed widely in the area. Also, there were times when parts of Torry looked like a cross between Orwell's '1984' and 'The Hunger Games' with Mayor Eduardo Dolon genteel visage staring at you from bus shelters, billboards and anything that could hold a poster. The PP under Dolon, will now have to cosy up to one of the other parties if it wants to return to the helm in Torrevieja. The seats the other parties received was PSOE 4 (down 2), the Greens 4, Sueña 2, Ciudadanos 2, and two others 1 each. So now as with many of the other municipalities and regions throughout Spain, the parties without an overall majority will have to 'pact' and come to some arrangement with other parties. This of course is a road to uncertainty and instability.

In our province, Valencia, the ruling PP government went from 55 deputies in 2011 to 31 now, needing 50 seats to remain in power. No other party is willing to pact with them and it is probable that the ruling government here will now be a socialist one.

Orihuela Costa will have 11 beaches ready for this summer with lifeguards operating between 10am and 8pm, from the 15th of June to the 25th of September. There will be 43 lifeguards in all.

The dreaded palm weevil has reached the palm trees in the nearby Ferris-Mar Azul area - photo. If, due to lack of interest or leaden bureaucracy, we lose this last beautiful palmed coastal area locally, it will be unforgivable.



A virus forced the closing down of the computer system of the City of Torrevieja. The incident had technicians working all weekend until it was resolved.

The following letter appeared in the local press and is worth noting:

My 73-year-old neighbour was getting into his car outside the Randy Leprechaun Bar when he was approached by a young lady who took his arm stroking it saying "You are a nice man." He quickly realised she was trying to undo his Rolex watch and tried to pull away, when she bit him, drawing blood. He hit her across the head and she let go, and together with an older woman jumped into a silver car and sped off. The police were called and said they were aware of this gang. So folks be alert as my neighbour said one guy was on his phone while looking at him earlier and probably passing the info to her about the watch. They are thought to be Romanian. The car is an old VW with stickers stating CH either side of the W badge on the back tailgate; its reg is A.4011.CN.

The Raffle in Fuente Alamo.

There was a bit of an uproar in the Murcia town of Fuente Alamo a couple of weeks ago. One of our roving reporters, 'Dirty Diego' - who specialises in royal weddings, bar mitzvahs and brothels, brought in this story concerning a 'knocking-shop' in this town. It seems that this business decided to boost its marketing efforts by holding a raffle on Fridays and Sundays for the company and favours of a young lady, with the raffle tickets being sold for just one euro each. The offer was launched as a 'Whatsapp' (below) and was directed at other towns in the area as well bringing lots of 'ne'er do wells' to the town. Of course it was not long before the police were alerted by the locals because of the queues and the blatant advertising of prostitution in their dull little town. (No one seems to mind, it seems, as long as it is not



too obvious!)

Police from Cartagena raided the brothel and arrested five women of Uruguayan nationality for being in an 'irregular situation' in Spain and two other foreigners which police say will be expelled from the country soon. My friend Diego also tells me that if you bought one drink and a ticket, you got the second drink free! I wish mine, (my pub I mean) would do this. Anyway, 'Dirty' has still got some coupons left...for those of you who are still interested.

A Valencian police trade union has reported that there have been no police inspections of school transport in the Torrevieja area for two years as the authorities have assigned the police to other tasks - probably stopping live music in bars! Nice to see they have their priorities right.

All of Spain's 46 airports will soon have limitless free wifi, Spain's airport authority AENA announced. AENA said that it would begin a bidding process to contract a service provider in October. Currently Kubi Wireless offers 30 minutes of free internet at 28 airports.

There are 187 lighthouses in Spain which are no longer in use. It is planned to turn around 50 of them into hotels. Already I can foresee some of the problems: no lifts & lugging your cases all that way up and some very tired room service waiters.

Dream Hills 1, Urbanisation Fees.

The recent AGM held in Los Cucalos advised the following urbanisation fees for the year June 2015/16.

Houses - €246.87

Apartments - upper floor €164.58

Apartments - ground floor €185.16

The fees are usually payable during the month of June.

Harry to doctor: 'I don't understand it. My wife's pregnant but we haven't had sex in a year.'

Doctor: 'It's what we call a "grudge pregnancy" - someone's obviously had it in for you.'



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LimeBar Golf Society Los Altos, Orihuela Costa.

The golf societies venue for the 13th May 2015 was held at Mar Menor Golf Course.

Thirty-one members teed off on a very warm and sunny morning. The course was in fine form and with good conditions it was not surprising that the scoring would be high which was the result in all categories.

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

Nearest the pin on the 2nd hole (par 3) was Mike Heighway.

Nearest the pin on the 8th hole (par 3) was Ken Farrow.

Nearest the pin in 3 on the 10th hole (par 5) was Les Henderson.



Nearest the pin on the 14th hole (par 3) was Ken Styan.

Nearest the pin on the 17th hole (par 3) was Bob Adair.

Bronze Class in 3rd place was Norman Dobson with 30 points.

Bronze Class in 2nd place was Ken Sutton with 35 points.

Bronze Class in 1st place was Barry Shawyer with 36 points

Silver Class 3rd place was Kevin Jackson with a score of 33 points.

Silver Class 2nd place was Bob Adair with a score of 36 points.

Silver Class 1st place was Brian Archer with a score of 37 points.

Gold Class 3rd place was Jon Williams with a score of 31 points

Gold Class 2nd place was Mike Heighway with a score of 33 points

Gold Class 1st place was Arthur Jones with a score of 33 points (on count-back).

Best guest with 26 points was Paul Butler.

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, also to the ladies selling the football draw.

The least thing upsets him in the links. He missed short putts because of the uproar of the butterflies in the adjoining meadows.

P.G. Wodehouse

Too Hot To Sleep?

It will probably be another scorching summer here with air conditioning systems blasting away.

But is it possible to sleep coolly in the Spanish summer without air conditioning? Tradition says yes. Ancient Egyptians used to moisten their bedclothes to sleep better and combat heat waves, which pose a serious risk to public health. According to the results of a scientific study carried out by the Spanish National Research Council, mortality rates for those aged over 75 increase 20.1% for each degree that the maximum daily temperature rises above 36°C.

Our ancestors have passed down to us a long legacy of tricks for staying cool. You can sleep under cotton sheets, for example, which aid perspiration. At the same time you can also put your sheets in the fridge or freezer inside a plastic bag for a few minutes before sleeping – they won't stay cool the whole night, but it will be long enough for you to fall asleep – or fill a hot water bottle with cold water to cool down your bed. Here are a few more suggestions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Abridged from *El Pais*)

It was so hot last July & August, I saw two trees fighting over a dog and the local chickens were laying hardboiled eggs.

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Trick-Cyclists!

Did you hear about the man who suffered from paranoia and low self-esteem? -He thought no one important was out to get him.

A man went to see a psychiatrist and said: 'I just can't seem to make friends. Can you help me, you fat slob?'

Céad Mile Fáilte
* A Hundred Thousand Welcomes *



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Groan!

An isolated monastery was inhabited by an order of monks who communicated with each other solely by chanting. Every morning, they would gather in the chapel and the abbot would chant: 'Good Morning, assembled brethren.' And the monks would chant back: 'Good morning, Father Abbot.'

But one morning a maverick monk instead chanted: 'Good evening, Father Abbot.'

The abbot was not amused. Glaring at the monks he declared: 'Someone chanted evening.'

Every 76 Seconds a False Insurance Claim Is Made in Spain.

The high levels of fraud is forcing insurance companies to hire investigators to review and authenticate many claims.

An employee of a company falls from a forklift truck owned and maintained by another firm. The employer of the injured man files a claim. The insurer, in this case AIG, is puzzled, and sends one of its investigators to look into the matter. The detective uncovers a fraud with an unusual back story: the administrator of the company had been having a long-running affair with the head of the company that owned the forklift truck, which not only didn't have insurance, but was also employing immigrants without papers and used defective machinery. The pair cooked up a scheme to free her of any legal responsibility for the accident, thus avoiding the possibility of the authorities discovering what she had been doing.

This is just one of the 156,000 attempts at insurance fraud detected in 2014, and that saved Spain's insurance companies around €426 million, according to a report published this month by UNESPA, which represents 30 companies in the sector. In recognition of his efforts, the investigator who uncovered the aforementioned scam was a runner up in UNESPA's annual awards.

The report shows that the majority of insurance fraud is for less than €500, and that since the crisis began in 2008, growing numbers of people, as opposed to businesses, have tried to fool their insurers. There are even criminal gangs in operation who are prepared to fake car accidents.

In fact, 70 percent of the attempted schemes reported by UNESPA's members involved car insurance. The association's top prize went to the investigator who discovered a complicated swindle that required the help of expert witnesses, doctors and even family members of the fraudster, a 72-year-old man who was knocked off his bicycle. The man put in a claim for total and permanent disability, alleging he was no longer able to speak as a result of the accident, which had also left him unable to travel. His wife said he was in constant need of psychological help. "There is a tendency to increase the cost of compensation. In this case the amount being claimed went up from €9,000 euros to €210,000," says Pedro Guzmán of insurers FIATC. The elderly man even refused to testify in court: "He went to theatrical lengths to prove he couldn't move or speak." In the end, it was a friend of the doctor treating the elderly man who alerted the insurance company. He had seen the claimant at a family gathering talking and moving normally. The insurers put an investigator on the case who noted that while the man's movements and speech were slow, he was far from incapacitated. "The investigator asked him for street directions and he answered without any problem," says Guzmán. In the end, the insurers paid out a small amount of compensation.

Other frauds UNESPA reported were even more complicated, involving several people. A Spanish fishing vessel sank off the coast of Africa in near perfect weather conditions and while at anchor. The crew was rescued by a nearby ship. The insurers, Mapfre, noted that the vessel had gone down in less than three hours, which is unusually quick. The company then discovered that the boat had undergone major repairs six years earlier that had destabilized it, although the ship owner denied this.

"We shouldn't generalize. We're not pursuing something widespread here, but there are actions that damage society as a whole," says Juan Antonio Fernández of the Pelayo insurance company. At the same time, as UNESPA's Eduardo González points out: "Every minute and 16 seconds a false insurance claim is made in Spain."

Progress in the British Foreign Service is either vaginal or rectal. You either marry the boss's daughter or you crawl up his backside.

Andalusia: Spain's Most Fraudulent Region.

Even setting aside the massive ERE retirement fund and training fund scams, it seems that Andalusia is topping the podium for 'chancers.'

Broken down on a regional basis, Andalusia is where the greatest amount of insurance fraud was discovered, with a total of 34,639, or an average of 4.13 dodges per thousand people. Madrid came next in UNESPA's ranking, with 4,000 people putting in fraudulent claims in 2014.

At the other extreme are Aragón and the Basque Country, which between them barely registered 2.5 frauds for every thousand people. Overall, the number of fraudulent claims rose by 4,000 on 2013, but the increase over the decade has been steep: from 54,114 in 2003 to 130,959 by 2011.

The classic scams are:

- Motor insurance: claiming for existing damages not caused in the accident; claiming for existing injuries not caused in the accident
- Home insurance, civil responsibility and others: faked accidents (27.4 percent)
- Personal insurance (life, accidents, health): falsifying identity documents and medical or death certificates

(Source: El Pais)

Scams In Alicante.

Typically Spanish came up with an interesting case in mid May, although I am sure that these scams are relatively common.

Five men and one woman, aged between 30 and 81, have been detained in Alicante on the alleged charge of simulating road accidents over the years between 2007 and 2015 to obtain compensation payments from the insurance companies. It appears that 45 faked accidents enabled this bunch to claim €149,718 from the companies.

The six, who were friends, often interchanged their roles in the frauds. They avoided a police presence at the accidents by claiming that a 'friendly agreement' had been reached at the scene, something the authorities find difficult to challenge. Over time the same 'injuries' were repeated, despite the scant time between them. Most of their claims were for simple crashes, hitting a person; falling off a motorbike and even claims that the other driver had driven off quickly and they could not remember the number plate.

Interestingly, this was a Guardia Civil led investigation - The Traffic Investigation and Analysis Group (GIAT in Spanish) and not an insurance company one.

•They say that during sex you burn off as many calories as running 8 miles. Who the hell runs 8 miles in 45 seconds?
Moira

•Did you hear about the woman who stabbed her husband 37 times? I admire her restraint. Roseanne

•You got to get up early in the morning to catch me peeking through your bedroom window. Emo Philips

Nicholas Monsarrat



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Tribal Tradition.

An elderly couple was watching a Discovery Channel special about a West African bush tribe whose men all had penises 24 inches long. When the black male reaches a certain age, a string is tied around the top of his 'Percy' and on the other end is a weight. After a while, the weight stretches the penis to 24 inches.

Later that evening as the husband was getting out of the shower, his wife looked at him and said, "How about we try the African string-and-weight procedure?"

The husband agreed and they tied a string and a weight to his todger. A few days later, the wife asked the husband, "How is our little tribal experiment coming along?"

"Well, it looks like we're about half way there," he replied.

"Wow, you mean it's grown to 12 inches?"

"No, it's turned black!

(Moira)

Waiting for Mr. Right!

A fellow in a bar notices a woman, always alone, who comes in on a fairly regular basis. After the second week, he makes his move. 'No thank you,' she says politely. 'This may sound rather odd in this day and age, but I'm keeping myself pure until I meet the man I love.'

'That must be rather difficult,' the man replies.

'Oh, I don't mind too much,' she says. 'But it has my husband really pissed off.'

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Accidents.

- A policeman arrived at the scene of a car crash. He rushed over and asked the driver, 'Are you seriously hurt?' 'I don't know,' said the driver. 'I haven't spoken to my lawyer yet.'
- I got stopped by a woman in the street today. She said, 'Excuse me, sir, have you had an accident in the last three years that wasn't your fault?' I said, 'Yes, she's nearly two now.'

Valencia doing a Greek!

Brussels is to fine Spain for falsifying the debt in Valencia. The sanction, according to sources at the Commission, will penalise Spain for the falsification and hiding of health costs. By issuing this fine, the European Commission is making it perfectly clear that public accounts must not be falsified. Brussels started their investigation last summer and have found a hidden part of the health costs which ran from 1988 and 2011. The fine will be announced shortly after it has been ratified by the member states and it can be appealed. The fine could be as high as 0.2% of GDP, which in the Spanish case equals €2 billion! Such a high fine is unlikely and a more realistic figure for the fine of around €19 million is expected. The case originated in May 2012 when the Spanish authorities informed Eurostat that the deficit figure for 2011 had to be raised by four tenths of GDP (some 4 billion €) as they had detected non registered costs in Valencia and Madrid. Eurostat investigated and found no problem in Madrid but in Valencia a missing (hidden) part of the health budget was detected. Eurostat proved with its general intervention that the administration in Valencia 'has been systematically sending incorrect information for many years.' With the shadow of Greece still present and their year-long falsification and the bulging correction of the public deficit which ended in a crisis and then a rescue. This announcement against Spain is a clear political warning that such criminal behaviour will not be tolerated.

*Doctors bury their mistakes. Lawyers hang them.
But journalists put theirs on the front page.*



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The Horror!

The Northampton Police report finding a man's body in the River Nene, near Beckett's Park. The dead man's name will not be released until his family has been notified.. The victim apparently drowned due to excessive beer consumption. He was wearing black fishnet stockings, a red garter belt, a pink G-string, a strap-on dildo, purple lipstick, and a 'Milliband for PM' on his T-shirt. He also had a cucumber stuck up his behind.

The police removed the Ed Milliband T-shirt to spare his family any unnecessary embarrassment.

Sue Robinson

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Mooo!

Two cows are standing in a field. One says to the other, 'Are you scared about all of this mad cow business?' The other says, 'Nope.'

The first cow asks, 'How come you are not scared?'

The second cow says, 'Because I'm a chicken.'

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Catalan Government Buying 1,400 Homes.

The properties in question are in the hands of the banks due to mortgage defaults and the Catalan Parliament have now approved a decree law which gives it the right to preferentially purchase homes before they are sold to investment funds or companies. The object is to avoid speculation.

The Mas Government has called on the banks to reveal how many have been impounded across the 72 municipalities which make up Cataluña. The bank has already reported a figure of 1,550, 60% of which belong to Catalunya Caixa which has offered them the United States fund Blackstone.

The Catalan councillor for territory and sustainability, Santi Vila, said the number sent by the banks, includes what they are planning to sell, and only some 150 are actually on the market. The decree law gives the Catalan executive the right to pre-empt and to pay what was going to be paid by the third party. Vila said it is important to act now as the banks have been selling blocks of homes to investment funds, before the people have been evicted.

Sources at the Catalan executive explained that the Catalan Housing Agency intends to acquire 800 homes in the first year, with the cooperation of the town halls. It has a budget of eight million € to do so. Over two years, 1,400 home are hoped for, which make up 10% of the sale of public housing in Cataluña.

The same sources explained the properties which are in the poorer districts are quick to sell, as prices can be as low as between €10,000 and €25,000. The lowest price found so far was in L'Hospitalet de Llobregat which went for 3,000 € albeit in a lot with other properties.

It's not only the investment funds, but also property developers who want to buy old properties and renovate them for profit, a profit which can be obtained very quickly.

*I've found out what I don't like about family holidays :
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The Choice.

A young woman was suffering from terrible toothache but was reluctant to go to the dentist because she was scared of the drill. Eventually she was in such pain that she summoned the courage to go. 'I am absolutely terrified,' she told the dentist as she entered the surgery. 'In fact, I think I'd rather have a baby than have a tooth drilled.'

'Well,' said the dentist, 'make up your mind before I adjust the chair.'

INVASIVE SPECIES.

Invasive Alien Species in Spain. Part 2.

The proliferation of non-native invasive species are causing severe damage in the countryside of the province. Squirrels, rabbits introduced by hunters, African goats and even wild boars have caused damage worth 700,000 euros since 2010 throughout the Valencian Community who have had to face the insurance companies and the Government, according to the latest data provided by the Commission Tracking Wildlife Damage.

The inventory of 168 "alien invaders" that were introduced accidentally or deliberately to the Iberian Peninsula and are now not welcome includes the American mink and raccoon, which found their way from commercial fur farms into Spain's countryside where their population has boomed.

Other species have been introduced intentionally but are deemed a threat to native varieties. The Zebra Mussel and Red Swamp Crayfish have both been identified as causing serious harm to indigenous species and habitats and with causing "a negative impact on agricultural production".

The Ruddy Duck (image), introduced to Europe as an ornamental species, is one of the worst culprits because of its aggressive courting behaviour and willingness to interbreed with endangered, native duck species.



Besides the impact on biodiversity and agriculture, some species can also cause problems for human health.

The Asian Tiger mosquito, originally native to areas of south-east Asia has in the last couple of decades invaded many countries because of increasing international travel and transport of goods. The insect is a vector for Chikungunya fever which can cause severe illness in humans. The 'Tiger' is in Spain!

Invasive plants species, such as the Galenia pubescens and Water hyacinth are choking the sand dunes of southern Spain and clogging water courses.

The government is currently inspecting vineyards in the Balearics to determine if a pathogen from the Americas is infecting certain types of vines. If it is so, it would have major ramifications for Spanish and French vineyards. It is already present in isolated areas of Italy but it doesn't affect all vines.

But not all foreign species are considered a threat. The draft proposal includes a measure that will exempt from extermination those species considered beneficial to the environment. The Barbary Sheep, native to North Africa and introduced to a national park in Murcia, will be offered protection. Certain fish species, notably carp, pike and bass, will be restocked in the rivers Ebro and Tagus.

(Sources: Informacion, Telegraph & Others.)

*Husbands come and go, but Manolo
Blahnik slingbacks are for life.*

Liza Minnelli

*She had a passion for hats, none of which
returned her affection.*

Storm Jameson

Sign in a woman's hairdressers in Dublin.

'Come in and let us touch you up.'

PUNJABI PALACE



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Idiot of the Month.

Some years ago, the Spanish government introduced a scheme known as PIVE. This was designed not only to support Spain's motor industry but also to get cars older than 10 years off the roads. In this scheme, if you traded in your 'old banger' (No, not the missus Rodney...the car), the price of a new car would be reduced by €2,000 - €1,000 coming from the government and €1,000 from the manufacturer. The first seven PIVE's have been quite successful and well supported. But never underestimate the ability of the bureaucrats to screw-up something that already works well. With PIVE 8 this year, the amount of incentive has been reduced to €1,500, which is fair enough, but, it has now been decided that if you benefit from the latest scheme you will have to declare and pay the relevant income tax on the discounted price next year. Yet another example of governmental 'Indian giving.'

The next case has nothing to do with Spain but is surely worth a mention. A Chinese man, Juan, in the Hunan Province is reported to have between 20 and 30 girlfriends who he has been dating at the same time. He managed to extract some cash from some of them, who were aged between 20 and 40. He had a relationship with some of them for 10 years, had a child by one and was planning a wedding with another.

But then be it karma or fate, he was royally rumbled. He was involved in a car crash and while he was recovering in hospital, the staff contacted the numbers on his mobile to let them know about the accident. 17 of his current girlfriends turned up at the hospital, many at the same time! "I was really worried when I heard that he was in hospital," Xiao Li, a girlfriend of 18 months, told Xiaoxiang Morning Herald (XMH). "But when I started seeing more and more beautiful girls show up, I couldn't cry any more."

His actions came to light after the women reportedly set up an chat group called "revenge alliance" online where they realised he had asked some of them for money every month, XMH reported. It also seems that Juan fabricated a degree in civil engineering from Central South University, a well-respected university, in order to gain employment.

Mr Yuan is now accused of fraud relating to taking money from the 17 women regularly, South China Morning Post reported.

Now onto France, where on one night a 57-year-old client, named Renaud, downed a total of 56 shots (shooters) in front of his daughter and friends at a bar called "Le Starter" in the central city of Clermont-Ferrand. A blackboard in the bar made clients aware that the previous record stood at 55, which the 57-year-old took on the challenge of beating. That exploit saw him drink 30 shooters in just one minute, which are either straight shots or can be made up of different spirits with mixers. With each shooter including between 20ml and 40ml of hard alcohol it meant the father drank more than a litre of spirits. According to his daughter the landlord of the bar whispered "only 12 to go" at one point, seemingly encouraging him to carry on. After being carried home by his daughter and friends the man later went into cardiac arrest. He was rushed to hospital but died the next day.

Now a French criminal court must decide whether the bar owner is in some way responsible for the death of his patron.

And finally, an Italian nutcase. Former security guard Marco Castiello, 76, opened fire with a hunting gun after discovering that the gate to his apartment building in Afragola, near Naples, had been left ajar. Marco shot eight of his neighbours, three children aged seven, 11 and 16 were lightly wounded, as were two men aged 19 and 21 and three women between 26 and 55 years old. "I'm in the right," Castiello told police who arrested him, while his nephew, who has the same name, told La Repubblica daily the shooting was "the result of exasperation after seven years of misunderstandings and arguments."

Pierre Gaston the famous French chef was cremated yesterday. The service lasted for 30 minutes at gas mark 6.

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on our large south-facing terrace.**



Online Translations - The Problems.

I use online translations many times daily while reviewing the Spanish media. However, I have learned to often double-check important details as, 'getting lost in translation' can be a regular occurrence. 'She' is always translated as 'he' and 'kilos' as 'tons', 'hectares' as 'acres' and vice versa. Similarly, 'millions' can also be reported as 'thousands' - giving totally incorrect information.

The problems are probably best illustrated by the following header of an article which appeared online in the excellent Alicante newspaper, *Informacion*, which, on translation, awarded victory to Pacquiao in the recent world title fight. Mayweather trashed him.



Mayweather after winning the fight.
**Pacquiao beats Mayweather to
points and controversy**



"He looks so natural."

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Русский говорят.



The Lucky (?) Cremated Husband.

Martha McDuff had recently lost her husband. She had him cremated and brought his ashes home. Picking up the urn that he was in, she poured him out on the patio table. Then, while tracing her fingers in the ashes, she started talking to him.

"You know that dishwasher you promised me? Well, I bought it with the insurance money!"

She paused for a minute tracing her fingers in the ashes then said, "Remember that car you promised me?"

Well, I also bought it with the insurance money!"

Again, she paused for a few minutes and while still tracing her fingers in the ashes she said, "Remember that diamond ring you promised me? Bought it too, with the insurance money!"

Finally, still tracing her fingers in the ashes, she said, "Remember that blow job I promised you? Well, here it comes."

Moira.

Mother doesn't want a dog.

Mother says they smell,
And never sit when you say sit,
Or even when you yell.

And when you come home late at night

And there is ice and snow,
You have to go back out because
The dumb dog has to go.

Mother doesn't want a dog.

Mother says they shed,
And always let the strangers in
And bark at friends instead,
And do disgraceful things on rugs,
And track mud on the floor,
And flop upon your bed at night
And snore their doggy snore.

Mother doesn't want a dog.

She's making a mistake.
Because, more than a dog, I think
She will not want this snake.

TRANSPORT SERVICES Costa Blanca



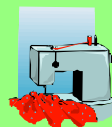
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WORTH CHECKING OUT

This is an occasional column I use to highlight certain things which I have found to be useful or helpful.

COTTON TRADERS.

Cotton Trader is a British clothing company, specialising in rugby apparel and leisurewear, based in Altrincham, Greater Manchester, England. It was founded in 1987 by former England national rugby union team captains Fran Cotton and Steve Smith.

What I like about Cotton Traders is the quality and price. You can get better quality shorts, slacks, tops etc., and at a much better price than is available in the local markets.

The firm has for some time expanded their range to include a wide range of sizes and styles for men and women.

Another good point is that they will deliver to Spain for just £6.95. I ordered a load of shorts recently and can confirm this. It is also a rapid delivery. I used to order oodles of stuff from Amazon UK, but since they began charging for deliveries to Spain (but not to Portugal!), the carriage from Amazon can be quite expensive. I recently bought an £18 item, the carriage on which came to £13 +! This is no doubt to encourage one to use Amazon.es which still to date is not worth a cup of warm spit.

Cotton Traders are also offering a "10% OFF your order Quote 28TE - one promotion per order."

You can shop at www.cottontraders.com

DREAMBOX

This is an Internet Protocol TV box which delivers UK TV, including TV series and Movies - old and new - to your home. No dish or aerial is required and there are no monthly fees. To use the box, you will need an internet connection with a minimum stable speed of 4mb. Having your router close to your TV is also an advantage. Check out the advert on page 25 of this issue. Conveniently, there will a demonstration of this product at Macklin's Welcome Inn at Via Park III from 1pm on June 2nd. Although not especially good for sports, I like the system and it's worth a look.

The Council Job. ®

A bloke goes to the local council to apply for a job in the office. The interviewer asks him, "Are you allergic to anything?"

He replies, "Yes, caffeine."

"Have you ever worked for the public service before?"

"Yes, I was in the army," he says, "I was in Iraq for two tours."

The interviewer says, "That will give you five extra points towards employment." Then he asks, "Are you disabled in any way?"

The guy says, "Yes. A mine exploded near me when I was there and I lost both of my testicles".

The interviewer grimaces and then says, "O.K. You've got enough points for me to take you on right away. Our normal hours are from 8.00am to 4.00pm.....but you can start tomorrow at 10.00am and carry on starting at 10.00am every day."

The bloke is puzzled and asks, "If the work hours are from 8.00am to 4.00pm, why don't you want me here until 10.00am? I'm not looking for any special treatment y'know" "What you have to understand is that this is a council job," the interviewer says, "for the first two hours, we just stand around drinking coffee and scratching our balls. So there's no point in you coming in for that."

Sue Robinson

EXPAT INFO.

Taxes.

Your **car tax** - IVTM - is due for payment now and should be paid by June 5, 2015. This tax goes directly to your local council authority.

You should also be thinking of submitting your **income tax** return now. The closing date for declarations in June 30th, 2015. If there is tax payable, you can pay it in two tranches - two thirds of the tax payable by the end of June and the remaining third by the 5th of November. The ability to now complete your return online is a great advantage.

Your Health.

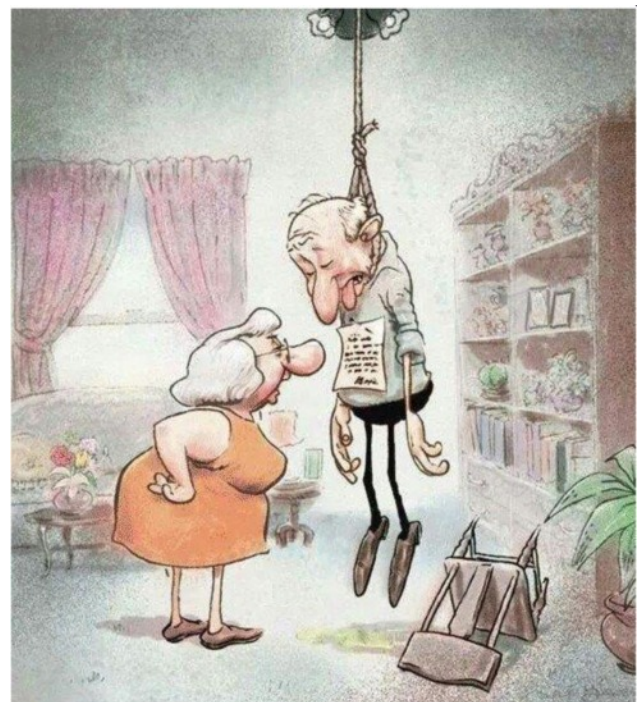
No! This is not a toast but do you know that you can now change your doctor and even choose a different or more convenient health centre if you wish. It was always possible to change your doctor or general practitioner, but the ability to change your health centre/*salud* is now a new innovation. These and a number of other changes have been brought in by the Valencian health authorities. If your doctor wants to refer you to a specialist/consultant, you can now also choose which specialist you would prefer to see provided he/she was on the *salud's* list. But in reality, you would probably be unaware of the various consultants.

Voting.

One of the things which really annoys me on the Costa is the level of apathy among expats when it comes to voting. We are only allowed to vote in the local elections providing you have signed on the *padron* AND requested that the relevant box on the form for voting is ticked.

In Orihuela, although there are 31,028 non Spanish signed on the *padron*, only 5,259 of them are on the electoral roll. In Torrevieja, there are 41,434 non Spanish on the *padron*, but only 5,800 of them are on the electoral roll.

The apathy among expats is astonishing. Although quick to complain about any shortcomings in their areas, non Spanish resident Europeans will not get off their butts and use, what can be a very significant voting lobby, to improve their surrounding and quality of life. Despite the non Spanish numbers often equalling or exceeding the numbers of Spanish locally, there are no expat councillors! This suits the Spanish politicians. Get angry and get it sorted!!



"You misspelled 'constant criticism'."



JUNE AT THE PHOENIX



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BINGO!



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



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The Stash.

A police officer saw a blonde crying in the street. 'What happened, my dear?' he asked.

She sobbed: 'A thief has just stolen 60 euros that I had hidden inside my knickers.'

'Did you try to stop him?' asked the officer.

The blonde replied: 'I didn't know he was after my money!'



AQUAQUEST PLUMBING



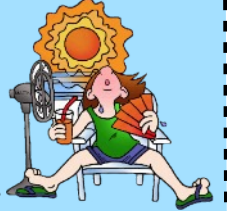
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As regards the sign in the gents which says 'Wet Paint' - this is not an instruction.
Colin Crompton, *Wheeltappers and Shunters Social Club.*

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THE PHOENIX GOLFING SOCIETY



The venue was Peraleja Golf Course (a Seve Ballesteros golf course) on the 17th May 2015.

Once again we had a good turnout, and we had a new member Brian Archer playing with us. We also had a free game from last month which was won by Jim Waddell and the course was in good condition.

First place went to Brian Archer.

Second place was Neville Greenwood (Guest).

Third place was Mike Highway.

Nearest the pin was - D. Wightman.

M. Highway.

Brenda Folley.

Once again the food was supplied by the Phoenix Bar, so many thanks once again to Donna.

Our next venue is La Romera and the list is at the Phoenix Bar.

Graffiti in ladies' toilet in local bar:

'Seriously, the hokey pokey, really what is it all about?'

The Spanish Local and Regional Elections May 24, 2015.

Spain's ruling People's Party (PP) took a battering in regional and local elections on Sunday after voters punished Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy for four years of severe spending cuts and a string of corruption scandals.

In a test of the national mood ahead of general elections expected in November, the PP suffered its worst result in more than 20 years to herald an uncertain era of coalition as new parties rose to fragment the vote.

Spaniards rejected the stability offered by the PP and rival Socialists (PSOE) which have alternated in power since the end of dictatorship 40 years ago and opted for change in the shape of new parties - market-friendly Ciudadanos ('Citizens') and anti-austerity Podemos ('We Can'). (Personally, I would describe Ciudadanos as a centre-right party and Podemos as a left-wing party. Podemos, often compared to Greek radical left party Syriza, had toned down its policies in recent weeks, scrapping more extreme ideas like defaulting on the national debt. Other looney-left aspirations like pulling out of NATO remain.)

PM Rajoy's future looked bleak as his strategy to bet on an accelerating economic rebound to win a second term later this year was seriously undermined by his party's poor showing.

"It's a drubbing for the PP. The fear factor did not come into play and people voted for Podemos and Ciudadanos," said Jose Pablo Ferrandiz of leading pollster Metroscopia.

Although the PP got more votes than any other party, it and the rival Socialists fell short of overall majorities in most areas. The two parties will have to negotiate coalitions with minority parties in the 13 of Spain's 17 regions that voted on Sunday alongside more than 8,000 towns and cities.

Spain has virtually no tradition of compromise politics and the fragmented vote is likely to result in weeks of pact-building in the regions which hold substantial devolved power and determine spending in key areas like education and health.

The PP got its worst result in countrywide municipal elections since 1991 and lost its absolute majority in regional bastions Madrid and Valencia, where potential left-wing coalitions could send the party into opposition for the first time in 20 years.

In Barcelona, another left-wing coalition headed by former community activist Ada Colau and backed by Podemos beat pro-independence parties Convergencia i Unió (CiU) and Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya (ERC), in a setback for the Catalan separatist movement. "The people have won here, not a bunch of initials," Colau said to cheering supporters, referring to the scramble of initials representing traditional Spanish political parties. (Colau victory stunned the establishment. She was the founder of a nationwide anti-eviction lobby and, if she is allowed to do so, there could be some radical changes in the Catalan capital.)

Spain has now entered a period of great political uncertainty and possibly a long period of disruption. More on future developments as they happen.

(Source: Reuters & Dream Scene.)

I never look at price labels. Someone once told me it was common. That and sending mixed-coloured flowers.

Julie Burchill

Lime Bar Fishing Sunbathing Club

The monthly bun fight lasted an hour again, mainly due to a "discussion" about the knockout rules (which were confirmed last month). Eventually it was agreed that we should not alter the rules once set.....A few anglers therefore had to toss a coin to see who went through to the next round. RTFM.

Later on, Anti Social Baz stated that he didn't like the new points system that he had voted for last month. We can always rely on Baz, when he is awake.

Our May match should have been held at the Eden on Tuesday 12th. At 21.40 the night before, we were told that Abbey Angling (a Federated club) had changed their venue and had "booked" the Eden on the same day – without telling us. To prevent a scrap on the riverbank, there was a lot of ringing round late at night cancelling the match to the following week.

The match was fished at the Eden the following Tuesday. The weather forecast was good and the fish were feeding. We had 17 anglers on the bank with every one catching except snake charmer. All he managed to charm were a plague of terrapins. Feathers didn't do much better; he had a bleak of 2 ounces. This earned him 5 points, which is better than the 1 point he had last month.

Our "professional" member, Shropshire Lad (aka the hustler) won with 5 kilos, Anti Social Baz was an excellent 2nd with 3 kilos beating me into 3rd by 5 ounces. Damn the ones that got away!!!! What do you think of the points system now Baz?

During May, Sweeney Todd has earned a new nickname. He is now BFK (big fish Keith). Fishing at Nancy's he has caught another whopper of 10.14 pounds. This was witnessed by Grumpy, but as neither of these dinosaurs has a gadget phone, they could not provide a photo. This fish backs up his 13 pounder last October and has put 3 rods' nose out of joint. 3 rods claims that you cannot have one angler with 1st and 2nd biggest fish.

Guess who is now in 3rd place! On the same day, 3 rods may have missed the elusive 15 pounder. While he was paying attention to one of his "other" rods, a large fish took his 3rd rod for a tour of the riverbed. Not wanting to miss the chance of another trophy, in the blink of an eye, 3 rods was down to his skiddies & in the water. Unfortunately the fish had gone by the time he recovered his rod. :-((((

Next ~~meeting~~ bun fight is at The Lime Bar @ 17.30 Mon 1st June.

Fishy fingers!
The Ghost

10 Priests were killed in a road accident.
At the Pearly Gates St Peter says "If any of you are pedophiles you can piss off down to Hell."
Nine of them start to walk away when St Peter calls out, "And take this deaf bastard with you."

True Luv?

Thanks to La Opinion de Malaga for this story and photo of, as yet, unrequited love.

Enter stage left, a 28-year-old hopelessly romantic young man called Chema. Chema's former 'squeeze,' 30-year-old Maria, lives more than 200 kms away in Malaga and works in the tourism industry. Sadly their five-year-relationship had ground to a halt, distance possibly being the problem, as the round trip between them both is 400km. But Chema is not one to let such a trifling obstacles separate him from his loved one.

On Sunday, Chema noticed that the DIY stores were still open and a plan to win Maria back began to take root in his love-sick mind. He purchased several gallons of white paint and some brushes and together with the love-butterflies in his tummy, set off for Malaga, where he arrived at 3 in the morning.



Maria was now living in an upper floor apartment opposite the main street. Between 3 and 5am, Chema painted the main road and pavements opposite Maria's flat with expressions in Spanish, which in English read 'Forgive Me,' 'Good Day Princess,' 'I Love You' (TQM) and some love-hearts. He also put up some signs which said, 'Maria Come Back.' Chema then drove the 200km home.

Later that morning, Maria woke to the sound of her neighbours calling, 'Maria, Come Back.' She then looked out the window and saw the greetings from her ex and was naturally flabbergasted.



Meanwhile, Chema is keeping a low profile, mainly because the police want to catch him and fine him €400 for 'damaging urban furniture.' Chema opened a special account in Twitter to try and put the fuzz off by apologising and saying, 'It was a declaration of love to a very important person in my life. Nothing more.'

To date there is no sign of a reconciliation, although Maria is still impressed. But don't be too disheartened Chema, there's always 'stalking' or as my friend Mario, who is currently serving six months, described it - 'selective walking'.

The Three Bears.

After a leisurely morning walk in the woods, the three bears returned to the kitchen to see if their breakfast had cooled down.

'Someone's eaten my porridge!' cried baby bear.

'And someone's eaten my porridge!' wailed mother bear

'Sod the porridge!' said father bear. 'Where's the flat screen TV?'



Alex, Lilly & Robert

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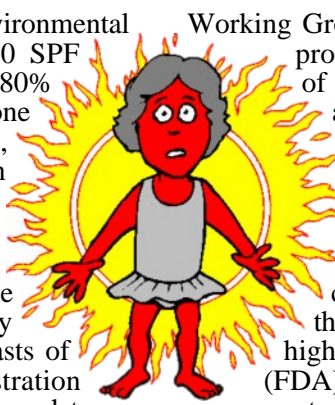
80% of Sunscreens Don't Really Work or Have 'Worrisome' Ingredients.

Summer is around the corner, and when it comes to sunscreen, it's important to know how to stay covered.

Yet new research published in the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology shows that many Americans aren't protecting their skin as much as they should. Researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) asked people how often they use sunscreen when out in the sun for over an hour and only 14% of men said they regularly slathered on sunscreen. Women, at 30%, were twice as diligent about putting on sunscreen—while men were more likely than women to report never using sunscreen.

The problem isn't only compliance. The Environmental Working Group (EWG) released its 2015 sunscreen guide mid-May, which reviewed more than 1,700 SPF products like sunscreens, lip balms and moisturizers. The researchers discovered that 80% of the products offer "inferior sun protection or contain worrisome ingredients like oxybenzone chemical that can disrupt the hormone system, and vitamin A," they say. Oxybenzone is a chemical that can disrupt the hormone system, definitively—that adding vitamin A to the skin and some evidence suggests—though not

The report points to Neutrogena as the brand most at fault for promising sun protection without delivering. The EWG says that Neutrogena claims its baby sunscreens provide "special protection from the sun and irritating chemicals" and is labeled "hypoallergenic," but it contains a preservative called methylisothiazolinone that has been deemed unsafe for use in leave-on products by the European Commission's Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety. The company also boasts of high SPF levels like SPF 70 or SPF 100+, even though the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) says there's only notable protection up to SPF 50, the report adds. Neutrogena did not respond to requests for comment by publication time.



In the new report, EWG also provides a Hall of Shame of products that don't deliver on their sun protection promises, as well as a database for users to search how protective their particular sun products are—and find one that works. To stay protected this summer, the researchers suggest, use sunscreens with broad spectrum SPF of 15 or higher, limit time in the sun, wear clothing to cover exposed skin and re-slather your sunscreen every couple hours.

You can read the 'Hall of Shame' report here - <http://www.ewg.org/2015sunscreen/hall-of-shame/> They divide the worst sunscreens into three categories - 11 Worst Spray Sunscreens, 12 Worst Sunscreen Lotions, and 11 Worst Sunscreens for Kids. Although the report refers to the U.S. Market, you will recognise many of the brands. Their explanation of the 'Worrisome Ingredients' is worth a look.

The textual introduction above is from Time Magazine - <http://time.com/3883293/sunscreen-spf/>

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Johnny & Sally.

Little Johnny came into the house for dinner after playing with his little friend Sally. His parents asked him what he was doing all afternoon. He said: 'I played football for a while and then I proposed to Sally.'

His parents thought that was really sweet and, not wishing to make fun of him, went along with the idea. His father said: 'But, Johnny, you know being married is an expensive business. How are you going to manage?'

'Well,' said Johnny, 'with the five euros I get each week from you and the five euros she gets from her mum and dad, we should be okay. I can always get a paper round.'

Suppressing a smile, his mother said: 'That's all very well, darling. But how will you and Sally manage if you have a baby?'

'Well,' said Johnny, 'so far - touch wood - we've been lucky.'

Killing Basques Now Illegal in Iceland!

In a small town on the western coast of Iceland, authorities have finally revoked a 400-year-old order that allowed Basques to be killed on sight.

For the last four centuries people hailing from the Basque Country could have been legally hunted down and killed had they dared to step foot in Iceland.

But in late April this year, authorities finally repealed an order issued 400 years ago that led to the massacre of 32 Basque whalers.

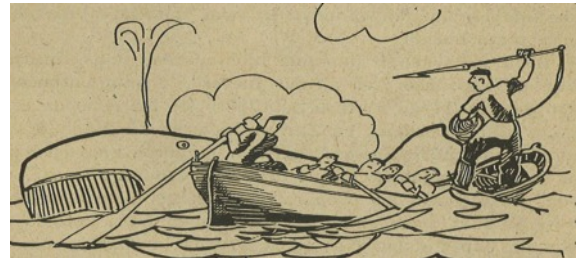
It came about after three Basque whaling vessels entered a fjord in Iceland during the summer of 1615 after reaching an agreement with the Icelanders.

But when the ships were laden with their cargo and ready for departure they were shipwrecked in a gale.

The surviving Basque whalers made it ashore but after a conflict with locals, Ari Magnússon of Ögur, the then commissioner of the West Fjords district ordered that they be tracked down and killed.

In October 1615, 32 Basque whalers were killed by the locals, an event that to this day is the only recorded mass murder in Iceland.

When Jónas Gudmundsson, the West Fjords district commissioner, officially repealed the order on April 22nd at an event to inaugurate a memorial commemorating the 'Slaying of



the Spaniards'.

The commissioner joked: "It's safe for Basques to come here now". He added that the order had not been carried out for some years. "Of course (repealing it is) more for fun; there are laws in this country which prohibit the killing of Basques," Jónas told Icelandic newspaper, mbl.is.

The event was attended by the Basque Gipuzkoa Governor Martin Garitano and the Icelandic Minister of Education and Culture Illugi Gunnarsson. It also saw a 'symbolic reconciliation' acted out by Xabier Irujo, descendant of one of the murdered Basque whale hunters, and Magnús Rafnsson, descendant of one of the murderers, according to the Iceland Review.

Basques in Spain welcomed the move, even though it came four hundred years too late. "The ceremony was a public homage to those Basques that were killed four centuries ago and it is a symbol of respect finally done," MP Jon Inarritu of the Basque pro-independence party Amaiur told The Local.

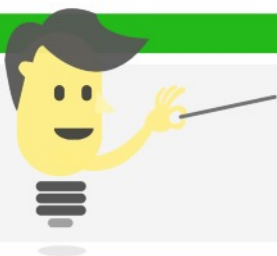
"The repealing of the old order that allowed the killing of Basque people is a first step to promote relations between the two European people. It's a step of friendship and peace between two peoples," he said.

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Looking for Jim.

A man walks into a record store and asks the assistant, 'Have you anything by 'The Doors?'

'Yes,' she said, 'a bucket and a fire extinguisher.'

CORRUPTION & THE PUNIC CASE.

70% of directors in Spain, think back-handers are the usual 'modus operandi' in the country. This percentage is double the average of other western European countries, and has risen by 5% since 2013 which was 65%. 46% justify the legally questionable payments of personal gifts and leisure gifts/holidays and they will make payments in cash if it helps the continuity of their company.

We are of course replete with examples of this in Spain, but one of the latest cases is worth a quick look. In this case, a successful senior PP politician from the Madrid area, Francisco Granados, and a builder/contractor, David Marjaliza, have been in preventative custody since October 2014. Another 50 people were also arrested at the time but only these two remain in custody. Granados, photo, had been thrown out of the PP in 2011 as he was reputed to be at the centre of a number of very dodgy dealings. These ranged from commission paid by builders for contracts, free houses and cars, to a wide spread energy efficiency scam involving half a dozen towns in the Madrid region and alleged spying on political colleagues.



When the most recent major investigation began, Granados claimed that he only had €300,000 abroad in Switzerland - the other favourite depository of Spanish politicians along with Andorra. However, the investigating judge has now revealed that Granados and Marjaliza held €7 million in Switzerland and another €4 million in Singapore.

It's been established the money banked by David Marjaliza actually belongs to Granados, who it is alleged, collected illegal commissions for public works contracts in Madrid, thanks to his influence in the Regional Government.

46 municipalities across the Madrid region have some link to this Púnica case, but so far only six mayors have been found to be implicated. However phone recordings have revealed another ten mayors and councillors, who are now under investigation in a second stage of the case.

Recently agents of the Guardia Civil travelled to Switzerland to inspect a safe owned by David Marjaliza, and found 20 works of art, some very valuable. The judge suspects the art was used to launder the corrupt money obtained.

The 72 Virgins.

A suicide bomber died and went to Paradise as foretold. When he arrived there, he met Allah, and he said to Allah that he was ready to claim his virgins, as promised. Out of curiosity he asked Allah why there were so many virgins in heaven.

Allah regarded him for a moment, then replied, "Actually, the 72 virgins are here in heaven because people like you murdered them before they could experience the pleasure of sex. So you're here to service them. Since they're virgins, they're quite sexually ravenous; and, frankly, you'll be on constant, exhausting duty. And I shall banish you from Paradise should you fail!"

The bomber responded, "Well, I guess I can live with that. How hard can it be to keep 72 women satisfied for all eternity?"

And Allah replied, "Who told you they were women?"

Sue Robinson

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Drunks.

- A man whispered to the bartender: 'I got so drunk last night, I ended up snogging my best friend.'
'That must have been really embarrassing,'said the bartender.
'It was,' said the man. 'I could hardly face taking him for a walk this morning.'
- A drunk was driving the wrong way down a one-way street when a police officer pulled him over.
'Didn't you see the arrows?' asked the officer.
'Arrows?' repeated the driver in a slurred voice. 'I didn't even see the effing Indians!'

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Overheard in Dublin.

While walking behind a funeral cortège in a Dublin graveyard, a rat scurried across the grass.

One old lady said to another, 'I wouldn't like to be buried in this place, you'd be eaten alive.'

The Mechanic & the Cardiologist.

A Honda mechanic was removing a cylinder head from the motor of a car when he spotted a well known cardiologist in his shop.

The cardiologist was there waiting for the service manager to come and take a look at his car when the mechanic shouted across the garage, "Hey Doc, want to take a look at this?"

The cardiologist, a bit surprised walked over to where the mechanic was working. The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked, "So Doc, look at this engine. I opened its heart, took the valves out, repaired or replaced anything damaged, and then put everything back in, and when I finished, it worked just like new. So how is it that I make \$24,000 a year and you make \$1,700,000 when you and I are doing basically the same work?"

The cardiologist paused, leaned over, and then whispered to the mechanic.... "Try doing it with the engine running." (Derrick Green)

A Spaghetti Love Story.

For several years, a man was having an affair with an Italian woman. One night, she confided in him that she was pregnant. Not wanting to ruin his reputation or his marriage, he said he would pay her a large sum of money if she would go to Italy to secretly have the child. Furthermore, if she stayed in Italy to raise the child, he would also provide child support until the child turned 18.

She agreed, but asked how he would know when the baby was born. To keep it discreet, he told her to simply mail him a post card, and write 'Spaghetti' on the back. He would then arrange for the child support payments to begin.

One day, about 9 months later, he came home to his confused wife. 'Honey, she said, 'you've received a very strange post card today.'

'Oh, just give it to me and I'll explain it later,' he said. The wife obeyed and watched as her husband read the card, turned white, and fainted.

On the card was written:

Spaghetti, Spaghetti, Spaghetti, Spaghetti, Spaghetti.

Three with meatballs, two without.

Send extra sauce!

(B. Horsman)

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For many years I thought an innuendo was an Italian suppository.
Spike Milligan

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