

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER



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

Issue no. 102, 1st of September 2015.

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the September edition.

Well, what a summer! As I write this in late August it is obviously still very hot but the addition of cool breezes at this time is very welcome. Although I love summers in Spain, particularly hot ones, the humidity for the last two months has been excessive. August as usual saw the usual influx of thousands of European tourists but also the *madrileños*. Although the former can be noisy and careless, they at least patronise the local bars and restaurants. The latter are however even noisier, much more difficult, are poor spenders and will abandon several of their pet dogs and cats when they return to their normal dwellings. For us resident expat's, September can be the best month of the year.

Once again, the traffic congestion on the Torre Vieja stretch has been a disaster this summer. The negligence of the previous council will mean that we will probably have to suffer the frustrating delays and tail-backs for some more years.

Looking at Orihuela Costa the council really need to pull their finger out and address at least some of the many shortcomings on the coast. Clean beaches, cleaning of and repair to roads and pavements would be a good start. Then hopefully an increase in the facilities made available to residents, including not having to go all the way to Orihuela while trying to facilitate the regular bureaucratic demands in relation to any of the overwhelming administrative barriers we face.

A lot of the Alicante theme parks have improved what is on offer to the public this year. I would include in this Terra Mitica. They have certainly 'upped their game' there. As a number of previous directors and managers of this park are now facing prosecution, it would be nice if they added a new 'ride' to illustrate the one these guys have been taking the public on for years!

Late News:

A reliable source has informed me that optical fibre will be introduced to Dream Hills later this year. It is not Telefonica who are leading this, but another provider, Olé. With their neglect and overpricing during the last 12 years plus, Telefonica managed to alienate and lose most of their customers in the area, who finally lost patience and moved to other better & cheaper providers. First floor apartments in our urb' could also benefit from this new service as it is an established legal right that ground floor apartment owners cannot deny first floor owners access to the various utilities. This includes, TV, optical fibre, natural gas etc., but naturally, a cable-car would not be permitted!

The days of the popular Lemon Tree Market in Guardamar are numbered. The Regional Supreme Court has ordered it closed for not having the appropriate licences. Basically it has been operating illegally since 1993. It now has 460 stalls and employs around 1,000 people. Naturally there is consternation among the traders and of course the public as well as it is a popular attraction with expats. Cue lots of scampering around to solve this problematic situation and avoid the closure.

There are no national Red Days in September.

Hope you have an enjoyable month and looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Mick & Tid.



Angela's Cartoon



'Well, we think it's unfair trading!'

The Vicar's Wife.

Jack goes to his friend Mike and says "I'm sleeping with the minister's wife. Can you keep him back in church for an hour after service for me?" Mike doesn't like it, but being a friend, he agrees.

After the service, Mike starts talking to the minister, asking him all sorts of stupid questions, just to keep him occupied. Finally the minister gets annoyed and asks Mike what he's really up to. Mike, feeling guilty, finally confesses to the minister "My friend is sleeping with your wife right now, so he asked me to keep you occupied."

The minister thinks for a minute, smiles, puts a brotherly hand on Mike's shoulder and says "You'd better hurry home right now. My wife died a year ago."

As I have grown older I've learned that pleasing everyone is impossible, but pissing everyone off is a piece of cake. Diane Sutton

TRANSLATOR & COMPUTER TRAINER

If you find computers too complicated or need assistance in your everyday Spanish life, then, I'm your man! Computer training and translations are my speciality. I live in the Dreams Hills area. I'm originally from Spain, and have two years of experience as a translator, and many years dealing with computers, since I have two computer-related college degrees from the US. Please, let me know if you need any assistance with the following:

TRANSLATIONS

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

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Did you know that

...orange wines have been making an appearance in many countries. These are not made from oranges, but from grapes typically used for white wines. Unlike white wines, which are made from grapes fermented without their skins, skins are kept during orange wines' production process. For this reason, they're also



called "skin contact" or "contact" wines. These wines, which can range in colour from the palest melon whisper to a deep, cloudy copper. Rather than the "new rosé," consider orange wines an anti-rosé, with something of an inverse production process: While rosés are made from red grapes, with their skins removed early in the maceration time, orange wines are made from white grapes, which can stay with their skins—and even stems—for months, giving these wines a tannic structure that rosés generally lack. Popular in many parts of east coast America, one bar in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, stocks more than 30 varieties of orange wine where it sells the same volumes as a rosé. The countries which produce this wine are Georgia, Sicily, Slovenia, Austria, and Croatia. I would imagine that Spain will also start to produce this variety as well, if it does not already do so. After all, any country which adds Coca Cola to red wine would surely be able to add this new process to their repertoire.

Teacher: 'Johnny, please list the Ten Commandments in any order.'

Johnny: 'Okay: 3,6,1,8,4,5,9,2,10 and 7.'

What's Up?

The IMF has warned Spain unless there is further labour reform the economic growth achieved will evaporate. In a statement mid-month they said 'in the absence of larger reforms' in the labour market, this year will end with 22% unemployed, and in addition they suggested an increase in IVA (VAT) with the objective of improving the tax take for the Treasury. The Economy Minister, Luis de Guindos, has played down the latest IMF warning and said it was a warning about a possible future which is 'something they have done on numerous occasions'. There is no doubt that the governing PP would like to introduce more stringent reforms, but with a general election due this autumn, they will be anxious not to alienate more voters than they already have up to date.

The left-wing newspaper, El País, headlined 'The Government has converted its Budget presentation into an electoral act'. Cristóbal Montoro has promised lower income tax if the PP wins the election. Of course they have. Before the last election PP PM Rajoy announced that there would be reductions in the income tax payable if they won the election. When they were subsequently elected, they then increased the taxes! Surely by now the public has accumulated some smarts when it comes to politicians' promises. I can recall Bush's 'No More Taxes' speech, which kept the U.S. late night comedians in jokes for months.

The Treasury has increased the wages of civil servants by 1% months ahead of the election. Cristóbal Montoro, the Minister for the Economy, told the public service unions that 75% of the missed extra wage in 2012 will be recovered with 25% in September and other 50% next year. This of course has nothing to do with the buying of votes....it is to demonstrate how effective the current government are in regenerating the economy....yawn. State pensions will be increased by 0.25% next year. Some €5.79 billion will be allotted for research and development while the Spanish film industry stands to receive €74.5 million, a 14% hike from this year's funding. The finance & economy minister also pledged that if the PP wins the general elections – scheduled to take place before the end of the year – the government will once again cut personal income tax rates (IRPF), "when and if there is a margin in the budget."

Información in Alicante reports 42% of the new jobs created in the province are 'mini-jobs', part-time contracts have soared this year in Alicante where one in every five jobs last for less than a week. In the province of Málaga, 94% of new contracts are temporary and seasonal - waiters, sales assistants, cleaners and day labourers. Wait for the true unemployment figures in the winter months.

The Alicante province will have a deficit of 400 doctors in 2017, if the retirees are not replaced' – the ageing specialists are in family and workers' doctors, rheumatology and plastic surgery.

The issue of Catalan independence lingers on with the regional elections there due in late September. The secessionists there believe that if they secure a majority it will be tantamount to a unilateral declaration of independence.

'The 'wise men' in PSOE (socialists) have called for special treatment for Cataluña in the Constitution'. The committee of experts which is preparing the constitutional reform has put forward the recognition of the Catalan 'singularity' and 'factual difference'. You can substitute 'bullshit' for the words in inverted commas. This is an attempt by the socialists at populism in Catalonia.

El Mundo reports the Valencia Regional Government tripled their deficit before the May elections with 749 million € compared to 252 million € the year before.

More than 1.2 million Spanish workers have been unemployed for four years or more, the long-term unemployed represents 23.4% of the total unemployed. The unemployed rate for those aged between 16 and 25 is 50%! The previous PP Valencian government had budgeted over €100 million for what was called *Plan de Garantía Juvenil* intended to address this age group of *Ninis* (not studying, no job and no unemployment income). To their shame, not one euro of this money was spent on the project of helping these unfortunates. They did however spend €150,000 of the 100 million on a single study of the problem, and then 'sat' on the report!

The European Commission is investigating Disneyland after reports that the Paris attraction park was changing different prices for different nationalities. A spokesman from the EC said different tariffs are not directly illegal, but they could break the European directive on services and show a lack of transparency. The park has explained they take into account when each country has its school holidays and using supply and demand to fix the price. It's really up to the French Government to solve this. The Financial Times has the bare facts: a French or Belgian family pays €1,346, the British €1,870 and the German €2,447. Consumers' organisations have also noticed this price difference in some of the Spanish hotel chains.

Santander is to charge two euros at their cash points on clients of other banks. Santander will do so in October and joins CaixaBank and BBVA in the money making operation. El Mundo reports that half the cash dispensers charge clients from other banks anyway.

Once again the banks win and the consumer loses out! Spanish bank profits have increased by 40% this year. However, the granting of loans still remains in the doldrums with little or no increase in acceptances. In the last year credit activity grew by just 2.3%. Banco Santander, Banco Popular, Bankia and Banco Sabadell even cut the number of approved loans.

El Mundo reports that the demand for ice cubes in Spain continues to spiral with 34 million cubes needed every day. With the factories working 24 hours a day, seven days a week, they still can't meet the demand. The Spanish ice making sector is the largest in Europe with an annual turnover of €70 million. I have always been curious about the quality of water used to make ice here, but it seems there is no information available.

El País reports on the disappearing phone booths in the streets of Spain and notes in the year 2,000 there were 100,000, now there are 25,820 and these will start to be removed from next year.

Car sales in Spain for July were the best for 19 years. More confidence, discounts (including the PIVE plan for cars older than 10 years) and the availability to finance were key.

90% of teachers in Spain retire at 60 on a full pension.

El Mundo notes the number of people requiring the dependency service has already reach a million. The State Observatory warned about the inequality between the regions and the scarceness of funds.

At the Vall d'Hebron hospital in Barcelona a 28 hour long operation saved five lives – the hospital worked against the clock to remove six organs for five seriously ill children.

Spain has tripled its importation of olive oil because of the poor season. The sector is purchasing in the Maghreb (North Africa) amounts unprecedented for decades to maintain Spain's figure of 44% of the world olive oil market.

4 What's Up? continued

Three French women aged between 28 and 36 have been arrested in Murcia City after breaking into 14 properties there and being caught red-handed breaking into one. The women, who rent an apartment in Torrevieja are also being investigated for a whole range of crimes in France. One of the ladies is obviously 'gifted' in her profession and is also being investigated for 39 violent thefts!

The Supreme Court has issued a dramatic millionaire compensation to Iberdrola because of a regulatory error during the socialist government of PM Zapatero. The State must pay the electricity company more than 80 million euros as the high tribunal thinks Iberdrola gas thermal power plants were discriminated against in favour of coal when the rights to carbon dioxide emission were issued.

The National Commission for Market Values has fined Bankia and Catalunya Banc for selling preferential shares. The Commission has imposed a total sanction of €6.2 million for 'incorrect' marketing, i.e. they lied!

Three young African men who squeezed into hidden compartments in a car to enter a Spanish territory in North Africa were found in critical condition by border police, the Spanish government said on Aug' 14. Photos released by the Interior Ministry showed one of the migrants curled up in the spare wheel well of the vehicle, which had been turned into a hidden compartment. Two others were found in another false bottom built into the car. They could not stand and could barely breathe because of the cramped space, heat and exhaust gases. They recovered after being given emergency treatment. The three, two from Guinea and one from Ivory Coast, aged from 18 to 25 - were found on Aug' 12, when border police at a crossing between Morocco and the Spanish enclave of Melilla grew suspicious and searched the car. The 39-year-old Spanish driver of the car was arrested and accused of a "crime against the rights of foreign citizens". African migrants are taking increasingly desperate measures to try to reach Europe. Thousands have died making the voyage across the Mediterranean. Three weeks ago, a Moroccan man suffocated while being smuggled into Spain in a suitcase stowed in the boot of a car.

(* The translated terminology for some crimes in Spain might seem amusing to those of us from other countries. So, for example, if you were caught with a mini-plantation of cannabis, it is likely that you would be charged with 'a crime against public health'. I always thought that a good lawyer could drive a 'coach and horses' through this charge as 'weed' is often prescribed in certain medical treatments. Still, I can see the problem if you are caught with say four acres of stuff which, for your personal or health use, is hardly defensible!)

Just The Ticket!

A young dating couple were driving down the road in a very busy area, when things started to get somewhat passionate. So they decided to pull over and park and have some fun. Things were really getting hot, and they were not paying any attention to what was going on outside. All of a sudden a policeman was tapping on their window. The cop could hardly contain himself. "Didn't you know that you are not suppose to be having sex in public?" he asked the couple. Being embarrassed at being caught, they said yes and apologized. "Well," the cop said, "I will have to write you a ticket." So the cop wrote the ticket and reminded them next time to watch their behaviour.

After getting dressed, the girlfriend asked her boyfriend what the policeman wrote the ticket for. Her boyfriend replied, "Doing 69 in a 35 zone." Ann Wightman

More than 1,000 abandoned animals have been found in Málaga so far this year up to early July. The Animal Protection Society has detected an increase in the abandonment of older dogs and many arrive 'in a terrible state'. 845 were dogs and 173 cats, as well as more than 80 other species such as seagulls, doves, turtles, hamsters and rabbits.

A Spanish woman who threw her newborn baby out of a window has been sentenced to four years in jail after a court found her guilty of attempted murder. The woman, who is now 37-years-old, had given birth to the girl in secret on Christmas Eve in 2013 in the bathroom of the apartment in eastern Madrid that she shared with her parents, three brothers and two other children. She then cut the umbilical cord of her newborn girl, wrapped her in a pair of jeans and threw her out of a kitchen window into an interior patio from a height of 1.70 metres (5.7 feet). The woman's mother found the baby girl, whose heart and breathing had stopped. The child, who was also suffering from hypothermia, was taken to hospital where she spent the next 74 days. A Madrid court ruled that the woman had intended to kill her newborn when she threw her out the window and found her guilty of attempted murder, sentencing her to four year in jail. The court also ordered her to pay €63,074 in compensation to her daughter. The girl, who suffers from poor muscle tone as a result of her fall, was given to a foster family and put up for adoption.

The Russian authorities have destroyed three tons of Spanish lemons in the Chelyabinsk region in the Urals, after discovering a shipment of fruit had entered the country despite the existing ban on imports of perishable foodstuffs from the European Union. The Department of Agriculture and Livestock Inspection (SIAG) proceeded with the destruction of the fruit after discovering a shipment with Spanish labels indicating their origin, i.e. 'We don't want your fruit anyway!' The SIAG also destroyed 1.6 tons of Italian grapes and 844 kilograms of Dutch apples. A few weeks ago a drastic decree issued by Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered perishable foods from the West entering the country to be destroyed. The presidential decree has provoked discontent among broad sections of the population. According to the polls, only 15% of Russians fully supports the measure, while 60% is shown against. Meanwhile, the minimum cost of a basket of food there increased by 14.3% in the first half of this year, largely due to the embargo of Western products, which has pushed up prices of basic foods. In late June, Putin announced his decision to extend for one year the embargo on perishable foods from the European Union, the United States and other countries that have adopted sanctions against Moscow for its role in the crisis in Ukraine. He explained that the purpose of the measure is to "ensure the security of Russia" and said the embargo "will be a good incentive for local farmers."

There were eight human fatalities during bull runs over just two months this summer. Four of those occurred during a single four day period. One chap was being stupidly careless and taking a 'selfie' at the time! It's never a good idea to mix booze with danger.

Irish airline Aer Lingus is to join Iberia and British Airways in the International Airlines Group after Ryanair has accepted to sell its participation in the IAG, which will permit IAG to hold practically 100% of the company in their take over.

Paddy at the Hospital.

Paddy's wife was ready to give birth so he rushes her to hospital. On arrival the nurse asks 'How dilated is she?' To which Paddy replies... 'Oh Jaysus we're both over the effin moon!' Moira

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A prominent Welsh minister travelling home one night was greatly annoyed when a young man much the worse for drink came and sat next to him on the bus. "Young man," he declared, "do you not realize you are on the road to perdition?" "Oh, hell," replied the drunkard. "I could have sworn this was the bus to Llanelli." (Moira)

Heavy winds at the end of July and the beginning of August brought lots of large waves, dangerous currents and white



water to local beaches. In La Mata alone, 37 people had to be rescued from the sea in just one two-day period alone! Most ignored the 'red flags' putting themselves

and the lifeguards in danger. One swimmer who refused, after several warnings, to leave the sea during a dangerous swell with easterly winds, was fined by the police.

The Federation of Associations of Orihuela Costa met with Sofia Alvarez, the PP councillor responsible for Beaches, Tourism and International Residents, and demanded improvements to the investment and maintenance of the coastal and beach areas of Orihuela Costa. A total of 45 issues were raised by the federation, which ranged from inadequate cleaning in many areas to concerns regarding the lack of control of rats, mosquitos and cockroaches. It was felt that the lack of proper investment and care of the coastal areas was doing major economic damage. Alvarez responded that she 'had a desire' to improve the situation in Orihuela, Orihuela Costa and the outlying villages. Take a tip from me Sofia, having a desire doesn't cut the mustard. Action speaks louder than 'desire' so do something about the appalling state of the roads, the uncollected 'green' rubbish, the untended green areas and the dreadful neglect and shameful lack of investment the coastal area has been experiencing for far too long. We are tired of funding Orihuela City and the villages and getting little in return.

Información has reported that 'the Alicante province has six large road works on the N-332 pending for more than ten years'. The Development Ministry has yet to award to contractors the by-passes for Benissa, Gata and Altea and double the number of lanes in Torrevieja, La Vila Joiosa and El Campello. Do I see 'brown paper envelopes'?

The N-332 is one of the most dangerous roads in Spain. Back in 2006, there were 31 fatal accidents on the road, 149 with serious injuries, contributing that year to a total of 645 accident victims. In 2014 the fatalities dropped to a still un acceptable level of 10, with a further 26 hospitalised and 326 with lesser injuries. Out of a total budget of €85 million for the N-332 improvements, the Torrevieja stretch will have a budget of €20 million. The failure of an inept town council to properly address, for several years, the inadequate stretch of road that runs through Torry has been shameful and has only compounded their incompetence. We will have to suffer those horrendous delays and traffic jams for quite a while longer. Let's just hope the 'new mob' improve matters. They have yet to prove themselves.

During the month of July this year, 462,170 passengers landed at Alicante-Elche Airport. This was an increase of almost 7% over July last year.

Last weekend the Traffic Guardia Civil carried out breathalyser tests on 1,261 drivers of which 41 tested positive.

The Italian Secret to a Long Marriage.

At St. Peter's Catholic Church in Adelaide, they have weekly husbands' marriage seminars. At the session last week, the priest asked Giuseppe, who said he was approaching his 50th wedding anniversary, to take a few minutes and share some insight into how he had managed to stay married to the same woman all these years. Giuseppe replied to the assembled husbands, 'Wella, I've tried to treat her nicea, spenda da money on her, but besta of all is, I tooka her to Italy for the 25th anniversary!'

The priest responded, 'Giuseppe, you are an amazing inspiration to all the husbands here! Please tell us what you are planning for your wife for your 50th anniversary?'

Giuseppe proudly replied, " I gonna go picka her up."

Brian Horsman

In a hit & run accident on the N332 in Torrevieja, the driver drove off after killing a 16-year-old and injuring a 17-year-old. The driver later handed himself in to police.

Another accident and pile-up occurred on the N332 with eight people being injured, according to hospital sources. The incident occurred at about 14.00 hours by the bridge on the CV-95 with five vehicles involved in the accident. Firefighters, the Civil Guard and four ambulances were in attendance and transferred the injured to the Hospital in Universitariu Torrevieja, located just 500 meters away.

The last fatal accident on that road occurred one Sunday in August at 21.52 hours at kilometre 52. The victim, a man of about 45, died after being hit by a car that was occupied by two people. Both were unharmed in the incident. The deceased could not be identified at first because of lack of I.D. and the Civil Guard have been trying to establish his identity. The accident occurred on a roundabout on the border between the towns of Torrevieja and Orihuela (Punta Prima) and is an area of busy pedestrian traffic. Many prefer to 'chance' the road crossing and not use the pedestrian bridge, unwisely!

The Federal Union of Police (UFP) has called for the establishment of a National Police station in Torrevieja. A spokesman for the union pointed out that police have to be regularly drafted in from Alicante in an attempt to cover citizen security. He warned that the population of Torrevieja increases from 107,000 to over 400,000 during the summer months and the population is facing organised criminal gangs from Eastern Europe. He also stated that Torrevieja was one of the areas in Spain where the implementation of a proper police structure and presence was seriously lacking. He said that the dramatic lack of interest by the 'competent' authorities in the matter was lamentable. There were several demonstration by the police force in Torrevieja in recent years against the then ruling PP administration due, they say, to the continual neglect they were experiencing.

The new political regime (Greens, Socialists and Ciudadanos) in Torrevieja are taking a tough line on unlicensed establishments. They have already closed down two disco/nightclubs - one in La Mata and the other in Marina Salinas, the new addition to the port. It is believed that both establishments do not have the correct licenses and one carried a crowd of 900 people one evening when the limit was 300! Following the horrendous tragedy in a nightclub in Madrid, the authorities are naturally sensitive.

The lack of care, maintenance and cleaning to the Segura river basin, which runs through Orihuela, photo, and the Vega Baja has resulted in a shockingly

overgrown level of reeds and rushes several metres high. In the event of a 'gota fria' or heavy rainfall, the clogged river basin could lead to serious flooding with the rainfall unable to take its natural course. This is symptomatic of the general lack of maintenance in the municipality.



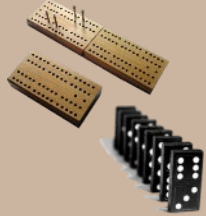
The concept behind the mobile phone is that you have absolutely nothing to say and you've got to talk to someone about it right now.

Jerry Seinfeld

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How Much!

Living on the Costa Blanca, it is fair to say that we still enjoy remarkably low prices in bars and most of the restaurants. However, if you are looking for a reasonably priced lunch and drinks, you might decide to give the island of Formentera in the Balearic's a miss.

Pictured here is a till receipt from one of the chiringuitos (beach bar/restaurant) there, Juan y Andrea. The receipt has been 'doing the rounds' in the Spanish social media and has attracted much comment. This is hardly surprising when you see some of the prices: pan y alioli for one - €; a shared plate of grilled fish (John Dory) - €21.85; cafe con leche - €1.50; one water - €; small beer - €; one mixed salad - €1.9; one ice cream - € and a bottle of Caraballas (normally selling at €10) - €50!

The total bill came to €37.35 and that is with a shared main course! Somewhat taken aback by the criticism, the owners justify the high prices as the venue attracts many big names such as Robert de Niro and Leonarda di Caprio. Still, if it rocks your boat to have a meal in the same venue as Big-Nose-Bob and Pasty Leo, well that's fine. After all, it's your dosh!

Then again, the prices are in the menu so it could hardly be a surprise for the couple who 'facebooked' the receipt.

Now where's that can of Spam I just bought from Iceland?

Local City Hall Debt & Invoices Stuffed in Drawers!

Following the local and regional elections in May, the new councils are just beginning to come to grips with the true municipal debt situation. Naturally, as one has come to expect, it is never good news. Taking a look at the major municipalities in Alicante - towns with a population in excess of 20,000 - it seems that the previous administrations have accumulated a debt of €179 million! The city of Alicante are the main offenders with the new regime inheriting a debt of €147.31 million. Elche is next with a figure of €127 million and Torre Vieja coming third in this disreputable contest with a debt of €62.9 million. I don't have any figures for Orihuela yet, but it should be interesting. However, this is not the whole story! A common 'accounting' practice in Spain is to stuff unpaid bills into drawers when there is not enough money to pay them. You may recall a previous news item I reported on where Telefonica purchased Digital+, knowing that there was over a billion euros of invoices (and commitments up to 2020) stuck in drawers. In Valencian municipalities, the following are the most notable cities at 'drawer stuffing' - the city of Valencia itself with €24.39 million in unpaid bills. Next comes our own local borough, Orihuela, where a selection of governing parties which at various stages included the Greens, the PSOE, CLR and CLARO, managed to stash away invoices totalling €20.09 million. Gandia is next with €14.08 million, followed by Torre Vieja with unpaid bills of €1.8 million. Although the cities of Alicante and Elche featured at the top of the list in our region when it came to debt/borrowings, their unpaid invoices only totalled €3.4 million and €2.3 million respectively. Did I say only? These figures should be added of course to their borrowings/debt (and any contingent liabilities) to get a true picture of their financial position. There is government legislation which stipulates the maximum time period for paying bills, but no one takes any notice of it.

A penguin walked into a bar and asked the barman: 'Have you seen my brother?'
'I don't know,' said the barman. 'What does he look like?'

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

Hamish and the Flask.

Hamish came down from the Highlands and was walking around Harrods. He spotted a Thermos flask but had never seen one before and asked the sales assistant what it did. The assistant replied: 'It keeps hot things hot and cold things cold.' Impressed, Hamish bought one. Back at work, he took the Thermos into work and showed it off to a colleague. 'Look at this,' he said. 'It's called a Thermos flask. It keeps hot things hot and cold things cold.' 'What have you got in there?' asked his workmate. Hamish said: 'Two cups of tea and a choc ice.'

Don't Forget.....

• If you own a property in Spain, your property tax - **IBI** (Impuesto sobre Bienes Inmuebles) - is due to be paid by close of business on October 2nd. Most of you will already have a direct debit set up - or should have! The SUMA office can be contacted on 965 292 000 or take a 'butchers' at their helpful website which can also be viewed in English and other languages. It also gives the address and phone number of the SUMA office closest to you -

https://www.suma.es/PortalWeb/cuerpo_oficinas.xhtml

• **Wills:** At the risk of being called a 'nag' I will once again remind you that your Spanish will may need updating. If you are a British or Irish expat resident and have assets in Spain, from August 17, 2015, under a new EU Succession Regulation, it is most important to note that the default position is that **Spanish succession law** will apply to your estate in Spain, unless you have expressly stated otherwise. So, if you do not have a valid will which states that you have chosen UK or Irish law to apply on your death, or other such legal document, your estate may be distributed according to the restrictive Spanish law; this requires a deceased parent to leave two-thirds of their estate to their children, even bypassing their spouse. Of the rest of the assets, only one third can be freely disposed.

Therefore, if your Spanish will does not elect to apply the law of your nationality, or if you have not made a will, then the Spanish succession law will apply.

• I came across an interesting letter in the RTN News. The writer, from Lo Crispin in Algorfa, had **natural gas** installed late last year but to their horror received bills totalling €1,700 for gas consumption since November 2014! When the residents looked into it they found that there were two tariffs applicable to the natural gas contract. Although the rep' who signed up the residents to the contract, was aware that they were residents, she still signed up the poor unfortunates to a 'holiday tariff' which was anything but economic! They were also told they could not have a refund. So, caveat emptor.

The Resignation.

When former U.S. Military commander in Afghanistan, Stanley McChrystal, was called into the Oval Office by Barack Obama, he knew things weren't going to go well when the President accused him of not supporting him in his political role as President.

"It's not my job to support you as a politician, Mr. President, it's my job to support you as Commander-in-Chief," McChrystal replied, and he handed Obama his resignation.

Not satisfied with accepting McChrystal's resignation the President made a cheap parting shot. "I bet when I die you'll be happy to pee on my grave."

The General saluted. "Mr. President, I always told myself after leaving the Army I'd never stand in line again."

Derrick Green

Organised Deception in the Car Industry.

The Spanish National Commission for Markets and Competitiveness (CNMC) has placed the largest fine in its history with €171 million on 21 car companies, including manufacturers, distributors, salesmen, and the companies who service the cars after sale. The sanction, which also affects two consultants, is for realising practices contrary to the Law for the Defence of the Competitiveness by acting directly as a cartel.

It is considered as proven that the infraction was 'single and continuous' consisting of 'the systematic exchange of confidential and commercially sensitive information' which practically covered the totality of the realised actions. The quota of the participating brands has reached 91% of the total distribution of new cars in Spain. The consultants are Urban Science and Snap-On Business Solutions.

The CNMC has decided to exclude Seat, Volkswagen Audi España and Porsche Ibérica following their request for clemency.

The fines:

General Motors – €2.827 million

Ford – €20.2 million

Renault España Commercial – €18.2 million

Peugeot – €15.7 million

Citroën – €14.7 million

BMW – €8 million

In addition, B&M Automobiles España 776,012 € Chevrolet España 138,580 € Chrysler España 264.5 € Fiat Group Automobiles Spain 6.9 million € Honda 609,325 € Hyundai 4.41 million € Kia 2.07 million € Mazda 2.37 million € Mercedes-Benz España 2.37 million € Nissan Iberia 3.15 million € Snap-On 52,785 € Toyota España 8.65 million € Urban Science 70,039 € and Volvo Car España 1.7 million €

In addition, they have archived (effectively dropped the case) Peugeot Citroën Automobiles España, Renault España and Orio Spain 'for not being credited with taking part in the commission of any infraction.'

The CNMC pointed out there is no way for any appeal to be made against these fines. This is the second fine in recent months after dealers were previously fined €52 million.

Well we all know about trusting car dealers, but once again I have to ask the question, is every company on the make over here?

The banks, the car hire companies, the motor industry, the politicians, the 'captains' of industry, the construction companies, some estate agents etc., have all illustrated in recent years their total inability to act within the bounds of ethical decency and honesty. As always, let the buyer beware!

A Screamer!

An Spaniard, a Frenchman and an Englishman were talking about screams of passion.

The Spaniard said: "Last night I massaged my wife all over her body with the finest extra virgin olive oil, then we made passionate love and I made her scream and moan non-stop for five minutes."

The Frenchman said: "Last night I massaged my wife all over her body with special aphrodisiac oil from Provence and then we made passionate love. I made her scream and moan for fifteen minutes straight."

The Englishman said: That's nothing! Last night I massaged my wife, y'know, all over her body with stork margarine. I caressed her entire body with the margarine and then made love and I made her scream for two long hours."

The Spaniard and Frenchman, astonished, asked, "Two full hours? Wow! That's phenomenal. How did you do it to make her scream for two hours?"

The Englishman replied: "I wiped my hands on the curtains, afterwards!"



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Report:Spain Worse Place in Europe for Brits Being Scammed.
Anyone who has been a victim of crime on holiday will know it is horrible.

Certain cities have gained a bad reputation over the years for pickpockets, rip off cabs and muggings.

However a recent survey has found that when it comes to Brit's being scammed whilst abroad, Spain was shown in a less than favourable light. The report by a financial comparison website surveyed 2,000 British travellers who had been to Europe in the past month.

The report concluded that 21.5% of all respondents had fallen prey to a scam whilst travelling in Spain.

Where are you most likely to get conned ?

Spain – 21.5%; France – 14.8%; Italy – 10.2%; Turkey – 8.4%; Austria – 8.1%; Greece – 7.5%; Belgium – 7%; UK – 5.4%; Armenia – 4.4%; Cyprus – 4.4%.

Almost 15% said they had been targeted in France while 10% said they had been conned in Italy. Overpriced taxis were the most common scam, with 37% admitting they had been overcharged. 23% of those surveyed had been pick-pocketed while on holiday. The safest places to visit were Armenia and Cyprus.

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Hard!

A hardened inmate at a tough maximum-security jail said to a new young prisoner: 'I've got two tickets for the warden's ball. Do you want to buy one?'

'No thanks,' replied the newcomer. 'I can't dance.'

'It's not a dance, it's a raffle!'

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Lime Bar Golf Society Los Altos, Orihuela Costa.

The golf society's venue for the 29th July 2015 was held at Campoamor Golf Course.

Twenty four members teed off on a very hot and humid morning.

The course was magnificent condition and played very well, with the greens being fast and true. This was the second visit to the course this month also it was 'Captain's Day'.

The competition was a Texas Scramble format with 6 teams of 4 players taking part and the scores recorded are as follows.

Nearest the Captain's drive was Stuart Robertson

Nearest the pin on the 4th hole (par 3) was Digger.

Nearest the pin on the 6th hole (par 3) was Barry Shawyer.

Nearest the pin on the 10th hole (par 3) was Kieran Willison.

Nearest the pin on the 17th hole (par 3) was Derek Mountfield.

Runners-Up team of : Derek Mountfield, Colin Clarke, Barry Shawyer and Les Thwaites scored 53 points net.

Winning team of: John Mac Gregor; Simon Herbert; Tony Jones and Digger also scored 53 points net, but won on count-back and collected the Captain's Jug.

A very good day of golf in pleasant company, with thanks to club captain John Mac Gregor for the Brandy and Port which was in a cool container half way round, although one or two of the teams said they did not see it!! Also thank you to the committee for organising the event; bottles of wine supplied by the Lime Bar and the bar staff for providing the meal, also to the ladies selling the football draw.

Members of the Lime Bar wish to offer sincere condolences to Chris Rowland whose wife Sue, passed away this week. R.I.P.

- What's white, light and sugary and swings from trees?

- A meringue-utan.



Do you have a UK Pension? Do you know exactly what it is worth?

It may just be worth some time to meet with Mike for a no obligation discussion and assessment to see if you, like Mr G, are sitting on a much better pension than you imagined.

A CASE HISTORY – MR G.

Having answered the question “Do you have a UK pension?” with a yes, Mike arranged to meet with Mr G for a free assessment, no obligation discussion to find out what he could do with his pension. Mr G thought his pension was only worth about £18,750.

Mike took full details of the pension and approached the Company to find out the exact value.

Can you imagine Mr G’s delight when informed that the actual value was **£95,214!**

Having received this wonderful news Mr G informed Mike that he had worked at other Companies and didn’t know if he had any pension value from them. Mike went to work and approached these Companies and was informed that there were total values of **£64,250.**

Mr G was amazed with this and even more delighted when told he could take around £40,000 immediately and still have £9,500 per year as a pension.

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Are you unsure of your future pension entitlement?

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Hairy Nun.

A soldier ran up to a nun. Out of breath he asked, "Please, may I hide under your habit? I'll explain later." The nun agreed. A moment later two Military Police ran up and asked, "Sister, have you seen a soldier?" The nun replied, "He went that way." After the MP's ran off, the soldier crawled out from under her habit and said, "I can't thank you enough Sister. You see, I don't want to go to Iraq." The nun said, "I understand completely."

The soldier added, "I hope I'm not rude, but you have a hairy pair of legs!"

The nun replied, "If you'd looked a little higher, you'd have seen a great pair of balls...I don't want to go to Iraq either!!

Jenny Reader

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THE PHOENIX GOLFING SOCIETY.



16th August - Villa Martin Golf Course.

The weather was very warm except for a good downpour of
rain on the 1st Tee - didn't last long! The course was in a good
condition as usual.

The overall winner was - Dave Cahill.

Second was - Dave Wightman.

We had with us a guest, Mick Currie, he had a bad front nine
blaming the clubs that I had borrowed for him saying that I had
bent the shafts Ha! Ha!

Thanks to everyone who turned out. We had a good game and
it was enjoyed by all. We returned to the Phoenix for our usual
splendid food and a good laugh - many thanks to Donna and
Paul.

I have long been of the opinion that if work were such a splendid thing the rich would have kept more of it for themselves.
Bruce Grocott



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George Burns



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Little Known Items in the Spanish State Budget for 2016.

Counts, dukes and marquis: The Cabinet has increased the tax on transferring noble titles by 1% which means if a father grants his son a noble title he will now have to pay €2,726. If the title is not noble the cost will be €777 and if the noble title is transferred to nephews or uncles, the former will pay €6,834 and the latter €1,949.

No increased spending on political parties: A freezing of grants for the working or security of political parties, the State will in 2016 pay €52.7 million to the parties and €2.7 million extra for security.

Grants to unions and business organisations which are frozen at €1.6 million.

Wealth Tax: The Cabinet has made no change on this tax which is paid on wealth for the past six years. The tax was to have disappeared in 2011, but Rajoy postponed its end to 2013 and it still remains in place; the State will collect the tax but it will then be sent to the autonomous regions, and the new promise for its withdrawal is 2017.

The fight against fraud: The budget for the Tax Office increases next year by a mere 0.3%, but 5% of their total resources will be used to fight fiscal fraud and tax evasion, and the Tax Office expects to collect €9.4 billion from fraudsters and evaders.

Unemployment fraud: The Government estimates they will remove 410,000 people from unemployment pay in 2016 for having previously defrauded the system. This will save the State coffers €2.1 billion. Additional controls will also be introduced to ensure all the requirements for payment are in place.

Paternity permission: The Government has delayed for the fourth year the extension to four weeks in cases of birth, adoption or fostering. What was promised for 2011 will now be paid in 2017.

The Spanish Treasury expects to have an income of €193.52 billion in 2016. Income Tax would bring €75.432 billion and company tax is expected to increase to €24.868 billion.

Last night my wife sent me a text, saying she was in Casualty. When I got home I watched all 50 minutes of it, never saw her once! She still hasn't come home yet and I'm starving.
Brian Horsman

Foxy, Tomo and Rosie
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**Britain is so devoid of sunlight that everyone is
being told to take supplemental vitamin D.**

(Okay, this from Quartz.com, a newsy website from the U.S. of A.)

The UK's lack of sunshine is no longer just an ice-breaker between two strangers—it may also be a health worry. The government's Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) has recommended that Britons should take supplemental vitamin D as a precaution.

No sun can mean a lack of vitamin D, as that is where humans get 90% of the vitamin. (You can also get it through foods rich in the vitamin—fish, milk, and eggs.) The vitamin influences more than 200 genes, and its deficiency can lead to many diseases, including heart disease, type-1 diabetes, cancer, and multiple sclerosis.

Before the SACN's most recent report, the government already advised children under the age of five, adults over 65, and people with darker skin to take vitamin D supplements if they weren't being exposed to enough sunlight—most likely through the UK's long and dark winter. But new evidence, published in the last five years, has forced the SACN to widen its stance.

The SACN's recommendation has been put out for public consultation, which ends in September. If it still stands, the recommendation will then become government advice.

The SACN is recommending Brit's take a daily dose of 10 micrograms of vitamin D—available at pharmacies for less than 5 pence (8 cents) per dose. And queuing up for more of them will invariably lead to yet more chances to talk about just how bad the weather is.

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Booking Your Place On The Beach?

The first line of the beach along the Costa del Sol (and indeed any beach) during the summer is the prime position, especially on narrow beaches and it has been noted some holidaymakers on their way home in the early mornings take the opportunity to set their place. The fact that Torrox Costa is popular with German tourists seems to prove the point as it has become the first town in Andalucía to introduce such a crackdown.

The Torrox Local Police remove from the beach what ever is marking the place, sometimes tables and chairs (photo), and last year over August and



September there were only twelve cases, but so far this summer the number is already over 30.

The early morning patrols are centred on the Ferrara beach, the busiest and the most problems with space, as it is next to the Paseo Marítimo.

The agents who are on patrol in the early hours have the responsibility to look for any parasols, chairs or tables without people nearby.

They wait awhile and then remove the items using a Civil Protection vehicle.

The materials are stored in the municipal warehouse where they are kept for a month. If the owners have not collected the items, by paying the 30€ fine, the belongings are sent to the rubbish for recycling. (Typically Spanish)

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Русский говорят.



First Case of Chikungunya Virus Infection in Spain Detected.

Spanish health authorities are watching out for potential new cases of the chikungunya virus after a man in the Valencia region became the first recorded patient to contract the illness after being bitten by an infected mosquito, the Tiger mosquito (photo), in Spain. Until now, all Spanish cases of the tropical illness had been contracted abroad. The tiger mosquito has been present in Valencia since 2013 and Catalonia since 2004.

The victim, a 60-year-old resident of Gandia, Alicante province, developed the symptoms while he was on a trip to France in July, but health officials are certain that the disease-carrying insect bit him before he left home.

The unstoppable expansion of *Aedes albopictus*, also known as the tiger mosquito because of its striped body, across several Spanish regions, has put health authorities on alert, particularly in Valencia.



New Shoes!

Bert, at 85 years old, always wanted a pair of soft spike golf shoes like Freddie Couples, so seeing some on sale after his round, he bought them and he was so delighted with his purchase decided to wear them home to show the misses.

Walking proudly into the house, he sauntered into the kitchen and, with a swagger said to his wife, "Notice anything different about me?"

Margaret at age 83, looked him over and replied, "Nope."

Frustrated, Bert stormed off into the bathroom, undressed and walked back into the kitchen completely bollock-naked except for the new golf shoes.

Again he asked Margaret, a little louder this time, "Notice anything different NOW???"

Margaret looked up and said in her best deadpan response, "Bert, what's different? It's hanging down today, it was hanging down yesterday, and it'll be hanging down again tomorrow."

Furious, Bert yells out, "AND DO YOU KNOW WHY IT'S HANGING DOWN, MARGARET?"

"Nope. Not a clue", she replied.

"IT'S HANGING DOWN, BECAUSE IT'S LOOKING AT MY NEW GOLF SHOES!!!"

Without missing a beat old Margaret replies, "Should've bought a new golf hat, Bert." (Jenny Reader)

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IDIOT OF THE MONTH AWARD

The Chief Fireman in the city of Ronda in Andalucia, Juan Pimentel, (photo) has been relieved of his position. It seems he has been filling his swimming pool from the official fire truck, not once but on several occasions. In his defence he said that the truck had a leak and that it needed to be emptied, so he decided to empty it into his swimming pool. The normal practice is to empty it into the municipal lake. However, it seems that he emptied the truck's 8,000 litres into his pool five times over as many days. Although only relieved of his position, the offence, which is considered very serious, may result in him being dismissed from the force altogether. He has been in the department for 30 years.



A lot of publicity has been given in Spain to the fact that a number of police officers from the UK are walking with their Spanish counterparts (photo) in the areas normally suffering from loutish and drunken Brit' behaviour. One such area is Magaluf. Here a lady PC and a male sergeant have been



seconded to the local police. However, it has since emerged that both these police officers will not be working at night - the high risk time when the crowds are off the beaches - and they have no powers of arrest! They are staying at an adults-only four star hotel. Contrast the photo of them patrolling above against the night-time reality of the crowds, see photo, which they don't patrol! It's a tough job but someone has to do it!



A 22-year-old Portuguese national has been arrested for driving at 221 k.p.h. He had his wife and eight-month-old daughter in the car. He could face imprisonment of between three and six months, banned from driving for between one to four years and may even have his vehicle confiscated.

But this month one has to look internationally for the authentic 24-karat idiots.

A young Asian woman drowned after her father allegedly prevented Dubai lifeguards from coming to her rescue because that would "dishonour" her, Emirati news media reported. When two lifeguards tried to help the drowning 20-year-old, her father "started pulling and preventing the rescuers and got violent with them", it reported. "He told them that he prefers his daughter being dead than being touched by a strange man," said Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed Burqibah, deputy director of Dubai police's search and rescue department. The Asian man "considered that if these men touched his daughter, then this would dishonour her. It cost the life of his daughter," Burqibah said, quoted by the website. Dubai police later arrested the father for having blocked rescue teams from doing their job and saving his daughter's life.

And finally, very briefly, a foundation, headed by the daughter of former President Sukarno in Indonesia, has decided to reward the North Korean leader, Kim Jong Un, with a prize for his "peace" and "humanity," and in recognition of his social work. I know.....they walk among us!

Letters to the Editor.



Why oh why did Via Park V ever get built as it is just a playing field for children? Not only do the mothers, fathers, grandparents let their children run around playing football there and shouting while they themselves are in the bars drinking until the early hours of the mornings and they don't know what they are up to. But now we have the children from other areas on the terraces playing and shouting.

For two nights we have had 15 children playing and shouting on the terraces late. One night the children were there until 5am - so that was another night with no sleep! I would like to know where do the parents think they are?

Last night the guards were called and they came around in a few moments of being called and moved them on. So a very big thank you to our guards and thank you for getting me some badly needed sleep time.

So please do not say that we do not need the guards - we do need them very much.

From one happy resident....thank you guards.
Name & address withheld.

Obligatory Siesta!

A Valencian town is living up to the Spanish stereotype by bringing in a law that ensures each citizen has the right to enjoy an afternoon kip.

Between the hours of 2pm and 5pm you will struggle to find anyone in the Valencian town of Ador; the town's inhabitants will have taken to their beds to catch their mandatory forty winks.

The town's summer siesta tradition is so deep-rooted



¡HORA DE ECHAR UNA SIESTA!

the mayor has enshrined his citizen's right to an afternoon snooze in law.

"Everything closes between 2pm and 5pm," a town hall spokesman said. "Bars, shops, the swimming pool, everything." It is

well-known that taking an afternoon siesta is good for you and it was even scientifically proven in early 2015.

But Ador could be the first town in Spain to actually make taking a siesta obligatory by law. Mayor of Ador, Joan Faus Vitòria, has ordered that that town's inhabitants stay quiet between 2pm and 5pm.

The new rules also stipulate that children should remain indoors: "Children should stay indoors during siesta so that they do not go outside and play with balls and disturb older people," the town hall spokesman said.

There is a long tradition of taking an afternoon siesta in Ador, stemming from the town's agricultural history: "Many people here work in the countryside, so it's very usual to take a long lunch break and have a siesta after eating."

The people of Ador have proudly carried on the practice, cementing the summer tradition into a town custom that they hope to preserve for generations of future nappers.

(The Local)



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FOOTIE
RESTARTS
SEPT 26.
SEE
CLASSIFIED'S.**



The Collection.

A man is stuck in traffic on Bradford Road in Dewsbury. He asked a Police officer about the delay, as he is walking from car to car, speaking with each of the drivers. The Policeman says, "There are three Arabs blocking the traffic and threatening to douse themselves with petrol and set themselves on fire if we don't get them airline tickets to the Middle East. So we're taking up a collection for them." The Man replies "How much have you got so far?"

The Policemen responds, "About 60 litres, but a lot of people are still siphoning."

Pete Dudman

Alex, Lilly & Robert

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All aboard the Gravy Train!

Previously when I ever mentioned the 'gravy train' I referred to the EU 'gravy train' where various failed or just clever European politicians go to quasi jobs and eventually a very generous pension. But this time I am referring to the Alicante 'gravy train' which is also repeated in every other province and region in Spain.

The wages of the president of the Alicante provincial government, his five deputies, 31 regional directors and innumerable members of the committees and provincial government board have just been published.

The PP president of the provincial government, Cesar Sanchez, has an annual salary of €90,000! This is higher than the Prime Minister Rajoy's salary - €78,185 and the Valencian Region president, Puig, €62,615. But each of the five vice presidents also benefit from this financial largesse, with each being paid €75,032 p.a. This is actually higher than the salary of a minister in the national government (€68,891). What is interesting is that the former PP mayor of Torrevieja is now one of the vice presidents of the province. When mayor of Torry, he was paid €68,600 p.a. His failure to be re elected mayor has been rewarded by the PP with a higher salary - €75,000+ and an invisible job.

But the fun doesn't stop there. Five parties are represented in the provincial government, the PP, the socialist PSOE, Compromis, Ciudadanos and the United Left - the IU. Each has a spokesman who will be paid €68,676 a year. The deputy spokesmaen of the PP and the PSOE, nine members of the provincial government board and deputies with a portfolio will also be paid the same. In addition, each party gets €6,000 a year plus €3,000 a year for each elected deputy - 31 in all!

Unfortunately, lack of space does not allow me to let you know about their generous expenses as well.

Dave Jones, a columnist with the Costa News summed it up quite well. He states: "Are they worth it? Definitely not. Let the mayors do it for free and strip away this level of government which was set up at the beginning of the 19th century and now serves no purpose at all." The unfavourable publicity these self-rewarding freeloaders have now attracted will probably mean that they will be forced to cut their salaries by several thousand €

Taxes & Fines.

The Tax Office inspectors have visited 7,410 homes suspicious of not declaring an additional income in 2014. In addition in the Valencia Community, the visits have doubled, because the Tourism Agency depends on the Regional Government which can carry out their own inspections. In Valencia the tax inspector is accompanied by a Local Policeman.

'We sanction the irregularities (the fines can reach 90,000 €) and inform the State Treasury'. During the summer campaign which started in the middle of July and ends in the middle of September, they have combed 15 municipalities which have a long tradition of sun, beach and second residences: Benidorm, Denia, Torrevieja, El Campello and Calpe in Alicante; Vinaròs / Benicarló, Peñíscola, Alcossebre, Oropesa and Benicàssim in Castellón; Oliva, Miramar, Bellreguard, Tavernes de la Vallidigna and Gandía (Valencia).

Diario de Mallorca reported that 'The Balears Govern plan against labour exploitation can issued fines as high as €187,500'. The work inspectors carried out 19,000 inspections in 2014 and imposed fines totalling €7.9 million on Balears businesses.

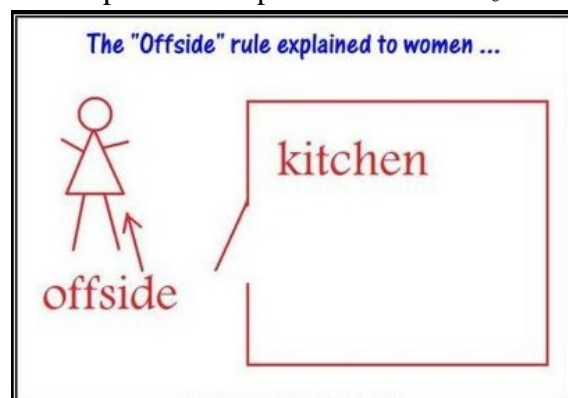


The Offside Rule.

Now that the football season has kicked-off, a number of local publicans have asked me to include some sort of explanation of the 'offside rule', which is causing a lot of misunderstanding among the ladies who visit the local bars, while indulging in a fruit-based drink.

Fortunately, after a considerable amount of research online, I came across a helpful graphic, which was developed by Professor Juan Cabecear el Balón of La Toretas University which illustrates the rule simply. I would of course add, that this is a Spanish interpretation of the rule. If you ever watched an international game of football, you will have noticed that it can vary from country to country.

Now, I don't want to be getting any hate mail over this. I am merely passing on the scientific hypothesis. Personally, I believe that all women should be placed on a pedestal and left there during football matches.



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*If there is reincarnation, I'd like to come back as Warren Beatty's fingertips.
Woody Allen*

How Clean Is That Aircraft?

Chances are, if you are reading this, you have made several airline trips to and from Spain, that is of course unless you are one of those hardy individuals who 'takes the car' through Spain and Frogland.

I always experience a sense of unease when flying, not that the plane might crash (if the pilot goes up, so will I) but the cramped conditions where you will be spending several hours almost sitting on the laps of strangers, breathing poorly recycled air in an atmosphere of coughs and sneezes. Air travel has certainly been responsible for the rapid transmission of dangerous contagious diseases worldwide as recent news headlines have illustrated, but researchers have now found that nasty, contagious bacteria can last for days on airplane

A pathologist and colleague from curious about how long bacteria could They applied smears of methicillin-(MRSA) and the virulent *E. Coli* strain armrests, plastic tray tables, metal toilet cloths and leather - which were all

What they found was disturbing. days, on seat pockets (where travellers iPads), while *E.coli* samples thrived for researchers rubbed pig skin on the tainted surfaces to mimic contact with human flesh. They found that the less porous the surface, the more transmissible the bug.

Bacteria survived longer, however, on more porous surfaces, such as seat pockets, though they were much less transmissible than those on, say, a tray table.

The researchers are now performing the same tests on *Streptococcus pyogenes* which causes strep throat. They also are testing cleaning agents that might help prevent bacterial stowaways.

For now, the pathologist researcher, James Barbaree, says regular hand-washing is probably the best way to prevent the spread of disease. He says he and his wife now take alcohol wipes with them on flights.

So the next time you're waiting to get on a plane, think of this: There are no uniform cabin-cleaning regulations. When you look at the rapid turn-around at airports it is obvious that any cleaning is cursory at best. Pillows and blankets are also rarely removed and cleaned. Next time, I'm taking wipes!



Alabama's Auburn University, were last under typical air travel conditions. resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* 0157:H7 to six airplane surface types - buttons, window shades, seat pocket supplied by an unnamed major airline.

MRSA lasted for 168 hours, or seven reach for magazines and store their up to four days on armrests. The



AQUAQUEST PLUMBING

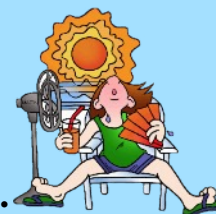


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Barcelona Pilot Project to Turn Tourist Rentals Into Social Housing.

The left-wing Barcelona City Hall is drawing up plans for a pilot project in the Old Town district of Barcelona, which includes the Barcelona Gothic Quarter property hotspot.

Property owners in the district who are caught engaging in short-term rentals without a licence will face much reduced fines if they agree to offer their properties for rent as social housing for a three year period.

Owners of 330 properties in the Old Town are already facing fines of €15,000 on average for illegal tourist rentals. Fines could be reduced by 80% if owners accept the deal. Those who do will only start receiving rental payments once they have paid off their reduced fine.

City Hall is also planning to punish professional operations that market and manage illegal tourist rentals. From September onwards, operators will be fined for dealing with illegal tourist rentals. Until then, the local authorities will simply demand that tourist rental websites remove flats that are not included in the Tourism Register of Catalonia (Registro de Turismo de Cataluña).

City Hall is setting up a website where people can inform on illegal tourist rentals in the city – flats that are rented out on a short-term basis without a licence to do so.

(Spanish Property Insight)

Doing Your Best!

While strolling around the harbour this morning around 7:00 a.m., I noticed a character shouting "Allah be praised" and "Death to all infidels" and suddenly he tripped and fell into the water. He was struggling to stay afloat because of all the explosives he was carrying. If he didn't get help, he would surely drown.

Being a responsible citizen, and abiding by the law of the land that requires you to help those in distress, I informed the Police, the Coastguard, the Immigration Office and even the Fire Dept. It is now 11 a.m., the terrorist has drowned, and none of the authorities have yet responded. I'm starting to think I wasted four stamps.

Sue Robinson

laughingcolours.com

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Johnny is Back!

•Little Johnny was late for school and said to the teacher: 'Sorry I'm late, miss, but I had to make my own breakfast this morning.'

'Very well, Johnny,' said the teacher. 'I'll accept your excuse but now that you're here, you can take part in our geography test. So, Johnny, do you know where the Scottish Border is?'

'Yes, miss, in bed with my mum. That's why I had to make my own breakfast.'

•Little Johnny's mother was puzzled why he was home from school early. 'I was the only one who could answer a question,' replied Johnny. 'Really?' said his mother. 'What was the question?'

'Who set Miss Hamilton's dress on fire?'

Small Scale Solar Power Producers, Some Sanity At Last!

In a welcome move, Spain's Industry Ministry says it will lower the charges it intends to impose on individuals who install solar panels to generate electricity for their own use. Those with installations producing up to 10 kilowatts will be exempt from a tax on electricity generated outside the national grid, although they will still be liable to pay a toll to cover maintenance of the system and other costs faced by Spain's electricity companies.

The modification, which has been introduced to the latest version of legislation covering the use of renewable energies is due to be approved this September. The change will only affect the production of the solar power for residences and small offices or stores. Larger companies looking to make savings from self-generation using bigger installations will continue to have to pay the additional taxes.

The move is a response to widespread opposition and condemnation of the legislation's so-called "support toll," or tax on domestic and business producers of sun and wind energy who want to supply the national grid with their surplus electricity. The first draft of the proposals was made public a year ago and effectively either put an end to many people's plans to install the solar panels or the prompted them to do so without officially

**I'M NOT BALD. IT'S A
SOLAR PANEL FOR A SEX
MACHINE.**

registering them.

The Industry Ministry says ending the planned tax on domestic producers of solar energy will give a tax break unavailable to other consumers. Because self-generators do not pay the sales tax and other levies on the energy they generate, and because "they are benefiting from the national grid as a back up, even if they do not consume energy from it," noted Industry Minister Jose Manuel Soria.

The latest amendments to the draft proposals will also reduce the paperwork needed to install the solar panels, particularly the viability study required for connecting to the national grid, which can cost up to €1,000, when there is a device that prevents surplus energy from being fed into the national grid. Self-generators who meet the required criteria will also be able to benefit from discount rates for low income households that contract under three kilowatts of power. (I just can't see how low income households can afford to install solar power.)

At the same time, exemptions and discounts on the tax self-generation will be available in the Canary Islands, the Balearics, and the Moroccan enclaves of Ceuta and Melillas, regardless of how much generating capacity is installed.

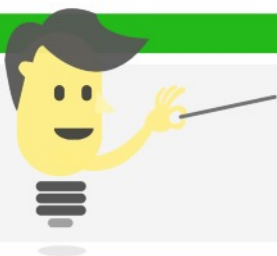
Source: El Pais
(So much for an even playing field!)

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Five thousand bars of soap were stolen from a warehouse in Crevillente, last Sunday. Police say the thieves made a clean getaway.



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



THURSDAY - MID-WEEK ROAST

- a Selection of Starters and Desserts Available;
Choice of Meats, Roast Topside of Beef, Roast Pork Loin
or Chicken Breast;
All Served with Roast Potatoes,
Cauliflower Cheese, Broccoli, Carrots, Peas,
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1 COURSE €9.95; 2 COURSE €7.50; 3 COURSE €8.50



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Friday Sept 25th Wedding Anniversary Party!
Free Buffet & Music - All Welcome.

Too Hot!

It was a scorching August day in Dream Hills, and Charlie said to his wife, 'It's too hot to wear clothes today' as he stepped out of the shower. 'What do you reckon the neighbours will think if I water the plants like this?' 'Probably that I married you for your money,' answered his wife.

Spanish Town Gives Pets Equal Rights as Citizens.

A town in Spain has become the first to recognise dogs and cats as "non-human residents" awarding them equal rights to co-exist alongside their human counterparts.

Trigueros del Valle, with a population of just 300, has become the first municipality in Spain to enshrine the rights of pets alongside those of human townsfolk.

Pedro J Pérez Espinosa, the socialist mayor of the town in the Castilla y León province of Valladolid, introduced the so-called Renedo Declaration to guarantee the rights of dogs and cats as citizens of the town.

"Dogs and cats have been living among us for over a thousand years," said the mayor after the measure was voted in during a plenary session on Monday. "And the mayor must represent not just the human residents but must also be here for the others."

The animal bill of rights was approved



unanimously by the new town council.

It comprises 13 articles including statements such as "all residents are born equal and have the same right to existence" and "a resident, whether human or non-human, is entitled to respect".

But it also outlines basic tenets against cruelty to animals such as article 9a which states: "No non-human resident should be exploited for the pleasure or recreation of man," And article 6b which states that "the abandonment of a non-human resident is a cruel and degrading act."

In a move which will clearly prohibit any form of bullfighting in the town, the resolution bans "any action that causes the mutilation or death of a non-human resident".

Animal charities hailed the move and said they hoped it would be introduced across Spain. "This is a great day for humans and non-human citizens alike," said a statement from animal rights NGO, Rescate 1.

"Today, we are closer as species and we are now more human thanks to the sensitivity and intelligence shown by the people of Trigueros del Valle," the charity said. (The Local)

Stupid!

An explorer in the jungle saw a monkey with a tin opener.

He called out to the monkey: 'You don't need a tin opener to peel a banana.'

'I know,' replied the monkey. 'I'm not stupid. This is for the custard.'

Lime Bar Fishing Sunbathing Club

This month there were a lot of people away and several had family staying with them, so the numbers at the bun fight and the match were down, therefore there is very little gossip. We still had more than half the members at the bun fight so a key decision was voted in. We have moved our AGM from February to October. This will please Fagin as I bet we have to pay our subs early!

This month's match was at the Eden and the day started off quite cool. Just John said the temp was 19° when he arrived and wished that he had a jumper. The wuss! The day soon warmed up, but the flow in the river died off. This definitely put the fish off in my swim. We only had 10 anglers & 2 of these blanked, but guess who won again? Yep! Well done 3 rods with 7 kilos, followed by the quill with 5 kilos. These 2 had the best pegs on the stretch (15 & 16) so it's not surprising they did well. The other weights were all between 1.5 & 3.5 kilos.

My family have been over so I have not been about collecting the gossip. So here are a few bits from the members.

It would now appear that the Lime Bar Fishing Club has a new performance standard for winning the monthly matches. Following last months (July) win by "1 fish wonder" Baz Shawyer (3.18kg) who then went on to break the top section of his rod before the end of the match. This month's match (August) was won by Geordie Baine with a weight of (7.01kg). However, it now appears that Baz Shawyer may have been giving Geordie lessons on the quiet, for whilst Geordie won the match, he also broke the top section of his rod before the end of the match.

The Quill.

At Nancy's on the 7th August, they started cutting bamboo. 3 of us had quite a good day despite having to move for the cutter.

Sweeney (BFK).

Six of us are going back to the Argus on 29th September for 3days. We are hoping to get there quicker this time using my Satnav, instead of Just John's farm yard finder!

Feathers.

Next ~~meeting~~ bun fight is at The Lime Bar @ 17.30 Mon 7th September.
Fishy Fingers!

First Fines under the New 'Gag' Laws.

The controversial new Citizen Security Law - dubbed the 'gag law' by critics - came into force on the first of July and already a number of people have been fined for what are surely trivial offences.

The first was a 27-year-old man, Eduardo, from the town of Güímar, Tenerife, is facing a fine of between €100 and €600 for calling local police a "class of slackers" on Facebook. This chap made a number of comments on Facebook criticising the money spent on them and referring to the local police as a "class of slackers" saying that they might as well have their own little kiosks with cocktails, "a hammock and a swimming pool".

Eduardo made the comments on the morning of Wednesday, July 22nd. That evening, two police officers knocked on his door and presented him with an official complaint for "making comments on social media that showed a lack of respect and consideration for Güímar's local police".

But then around mid-August, a young woman became the second victim of the new 'gag' laws. Now one of the laws states - "The Citizens Security Law forbids "the unauthorized use of images of police officers that might jeopardize their or their family's safety or that of protected facilities or police operations". The unnamed woman, from Petrer in Alicante, has been fined €800 under Spain's new citizens security law, for taking a photograph of a police car illegally parked in a disabled parking space. See actual photo. The lady uploaded the image to Facebook accompanied by the comment: "Park wherever the hell you like and they won't even fine you." The woman deleted the photograph the day after it was published, but 24 hours online was enough for her to receive the €600 fine, the police calling on her in less than 48 hours of the photo appearing in Facebook.

A spokesman for the local police, Fernando Portillo, explained to local newspaper Petrer al Día that the officers had parked in the disabled bay because they were responding to a report of vandalism in a nearby park, something which needed an "urgent response". Police officers were allowed to park wherever they could in an emergency, he added. Critics have argued that the woman took a photograph of a police vehicle and not police officers, so could not have put them in danger. According to Portillo the woman was fined because officers felt that their "honour had been attacked". He said the incident had been referred the local town hall. "We would have preferred a different solution but they have the legal right to impose the fine," Portillo said.



*You can't get good Chinese takeout in China, and Cuban cigars are rationed in Cuba.
That's all you need to know about communism. P.J. O'Rourke*

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*I like the idea of Gordon
Brown causing the credit
crunch, and then making
it better.*

*It's like Bomber Harris
going to Dresden and
offering to put a few
windows back in.*

Frank Skinner

You can find archived copies of
The Dream Scene at
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There is an active Facebook group
at
Dream Hills - Costa Blanca

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**The Phoenix walking football starts again on Sat' September 26 at
Lago Jardin 2. Meet at The Phoenix at 10:30 a.m. Ladies and
juniors are all welcome. Remember it's walking not running, so it
is suitable for all ages. And now that it's a bit cooler, it will be great
fun. Come along and enjoy yourself.**

ALIMENTOS SOLIDARIOS

During May, a few clients from the Phoenix Bar in Via Park V suggested that something positive be done for the destitute people in Torrevieja who can't afford to buy food to feed themselves. We decided to give the organization, Alimentos Solidarios (Food Solidarity), some positive help. So we are now asking people to donate 5 euro per person every month or whatever they wish, so that once a month we can buy food following the recommendations and consultations with the charity organization.

All those who make a donation will be put on a list which will be placed in the window of the Phoenix Bar. On that sheet you can also see what we bought and delivered in the "Soup Kitchen" together with how much is spent each month and the cumulative total.



The people who receive this help are all registered with the town hall and are people of all nationalities.

If you want to make a donation just once or every month (PLEASE DO), ask Donna from the Phoenix for further details. The more we collect in donations then the more help we can give. Last month, 268 individuals benefited from this NGO which is staffed by volunteers.

Thank you.

Berry Nolle.

<https://www.facebook.com/alimentos.solidariostorrevieja>

Everywhere I go I am asked if university stifles writers. My opinion is that it doesn't stifle enough of them. Flannery O'Connor

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