

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER

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

Issue no. 103, 1st of October 2015.

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the October edition.

After a scorching hot and dry summer, the heavens opened in early September with a deluge. No gentle showers here but torrents causing major floods and disruption. Both Torrevieja and Orihuela Costa got a hammering with 120 litres of rain per square metre falling in just four days in Torrevieja. One can see from this photo how parts of Torrevieja were made impassible. But other areas of the southeast were also badly hit. Over 300 flamingoes were killed (photo) during a fierce hailstorm at the saltwater lagoon of Pétrola in the province of Albacete in the region of



Castilla La Mancha. This is not the first time that the flamingoes of Pétrola have been hit by bad weather: in 2010 a similar storm caused the deaths of approximately 80 birds. The storm this September was responsible for at least 200 vehicles suffering damage on the A-31 motorway between Chinchilla and Bonete, where the windscreens of various cars heading west were shattered. When you have hailstones the size of golf balls or small lemons, the damage that a concentrated shower of these can cause is frightening.



Local temperatures have now eased with some light showers expected in the last two days of September.

The Town Hall Coordinator for Services in Orihuela Costa, Sofía Álvarez has announced a new Citizen Attention Point saying "we want to offer a better service to residents when they let us know their demands or needs". She assured there will be a technician provided to attend to citizens in four languages, Spanish, English, French and German. The Town Hall can also be notified by email to residentes@orihuela.es and telephone on 966760000. To speed things up, a Whatsapp service will also be set up on the number 628822269. "we will keep in direct contact as the only intermediary between the citizens and the Town Hall is the municipal services we have". She has also promised monthly meetings with *extrajuaneros*. One such meeting has already been held which was reportedly attended by around 100 expats. A volunteer force was also organised to clear up some of the rubbish that is blighting the image of the Orihuela Costa.

The previous political administration in Torrevieja had a well organised consultative arrangement organised with urbanisations. It will be interesting to see if the new political regime there will continue with it.

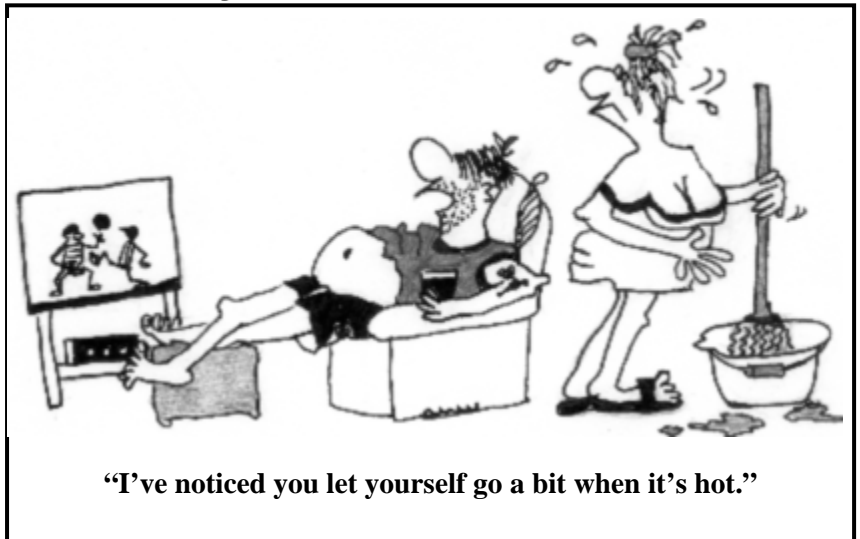
Very sorry to see that Kath and Rik at Galadriel have 'closed their doors.' I am sure that you will join me in wishing them all the very best for the future. They have always been great supporters of The Dream Scene. You can read their farewell message on page 28.

October 12, a Monday, is a Spanish 'Red Day' - Dia de la Hispanidad. This is effectively the 'National Day' of Spain. It commemorates the anniversary of Christopher Columbus's first arrival in the Americas.

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

Mick & Tid.

Angela's Cartoon



"I've noticed you let yourself go a bit when it's hot."

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Sign on Spike Milligan's office door.

TRANSLATOR & COMPUTER TRAINER

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

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- COURT
- TOWN HALLS
- SCHOOL MEETINGS

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Did you know that

...you should never make your bed?

Your mother always told you to make your bed. Every single morning after you'd rise, groggy and miserable, you'd get the inevitable question: "Did you make your bed?" Well, guess what? It turns out mom was wrong — it's actually better for you, and for your overall health, not to make your bed at all.

Why? Because of these.

The mighty house dust mite. Actually, it's not mighty at all. These microscopic little buggers are running rampant in your bed (sorry, but it's true). In fact, the average bed can be home to 1.5 million of them. House dust mites feed on human skin scales, so they love to take up residence with us under the sheets. The allergens they produce (which are actually the mites' poop) are easily inhaled during sleep and are a major cause of illnesses like asthma. They don't exactly help dust allergies, either.



It only makes sense, then, that when we sweat and roll around during the night, our skin is flaking off everywhere, the sheets are dampening, and the mites are having a feast. In the morning, if we pull up the sheets and make our beds immediately, all of the skin scales, sweat and mites will be trapped underneath. But, friends, if we don't make our bed, the mites, the scales, the sweat, all of it, will be exposed to fresh air and light.

"We know that mites can only survive by taking in water from the atmosphere using small glands on the outside of their body," Dr. Stephen Pretlove of Kingston University's School of Architecture said to the BBC. "Something as simple as leaving a bed unmade during the day can remove moisture from the sheets and mattress so the mites will dehydrate and eventually die."

Experts recommend leaving your bed unmade for the entire day — yes, the entire day — and making it (if you must) when you get home later on. By that point, many of the mites will have died an unceremonious death. Good riddance, you gross little things.

So print this out or send it to mom for all those years of forced bed-making. Isn't it nice to know your lazy self was right all along? (TheLoop.ca)

*Boxing is a lot of white men watching
two black men beat each other up.
Muhammad Ali*

At the time of writing, the big political news story in Spain is the Regional Election in Catalonia. As the election is actually taking place at the time of writing, Sunday Sept' 27th, we will not have the results in time for this edition. The real issue with this election is that of independence. A number of pro-independence parties are presenting a joint list of candidates. Catalonia's current president, Artur Mas, has declared that the election is to be a plebiscite on independence.

Madrid believe that Mas will lose the vote, but in case they are wrong the government is beefing up the powers of the constitutional court to prevent any new regional government from creating some of the institutions needed by an independent Catalonia.

Spain has once again won the European Basketball Championship. It is their third win in six years. This year they beat Lithuania in the final — 80 - 63. Spaniard Pau Gasol was named 'Man of the Tournament,' personally scoring 25 points during the final match. Pau, who stands at 7 foot 1 inch, also currently plays for the Chicago Bulls in the (US) National Basketball Association (NBA). Pau earns in excess of \$21 million annually. His younger brother Marc, on the left in this photo ... Pau is on the right - also plays in the NBA for the Memphis Grizzlies with annual earnings in excess of \$20 million.



A new tourism record in Spain; in August alone 9.2 million tourists arrived and over the first eight months of this year Spain welcomed 47.2 million tourists, which reflects an increase of 4.1% compared to the same period last year. In absolute terms, France led the new growth, followed by the Asiatic countries and the United Kingdom, according to the survey of Touristic Movements at Frontiers (Frontur in Spanish), and published today by the Ministry for Industry, Energy and Tourism. In relative terms, the inter-annual increase for the Asiatic countries was 37.7% and the United States up 21.9%. Britain continues to be the main source of tourist with 10.9 million this summer, up 2.9%, while France remains second with 8.2 million up 7.1% and Germany continues third but with a 0.4% fall to 7.1 million tourists.

The Financial Times reported that the reforms in Spain are a lesson for the Eurozone. Describing the Spanish reforms and austerity as 'valiant', they added that as yet they haven't created a positive impact sufficiently large for many Spaniards to notice.

The British company Clarks Shoes is testing the water on opening a manufacturing factory in Alicante. Despite being a global company with most of its manufacturing being in Asia, the new plant in Alicante would manufacture their top range model, Clarks Original. Clarks launched in Spain three years ago and the only outlet to accept their products was El Corte Inglés. Clarks now have 44 of their own stores in Spain. Spain is the company's fifth market, behind the United Kingdom, Germany, France and Italy and saw sales last year of 1.49 billion pounds.

The Economy Ministry, Luis de Guindos, is preparing an order to eliminate commissions being charged for the use of banks cash dispensing machines. He will ask for proposals from the Bank of Spain and the National Commission for Markets and Competitiveness to clarify this new directive.

La Vanguardia reports that the Catalan Regional Government has joined the asylum welcoming program promoted by Barcelona. The mayor of the city has noted the current lack of resources. Cataluña has 28 beds for the 800 applicants for asylum, and she intends to increase that number to 1,500 by the end of this year.

The data of those condemned for tax evasion will start to be made public from November 11. It will include name, surname, and reason for sentence, crime, sentence imposed and the amount to repay. The information will be printed in the Official State Bulletin, which was published Law 10/2015 which regulates the access and publication of determined information contained in sentences dictated on fiscal fraud or tax evasion, which will come into effect in two months. It includes an exemption which affects the cases where total defrauded amount from the Treasury has been repaid and when the sentence is firm. It safeguards the rights and the protection of data of those who have taken part in the same criminal investigation, but who are not affected by the sentence. In the preamble of the law it notes although publicising these sentences could infringe the right to honour or intimacy, in the concrete cases related to fiscal fraud 'against the interests of the condemned, the interests of the public are greater'.

Información in Alicante reports 'The cancelling of the contract of Imsero has put 16,000 jobs on the Costal Blanca in danger'. Imsero is a program which offers subsidised holidays to resident pensioners, and the paper reports the start of the sales for this winter has been delayed and puts the holidays of 90,000 pensioners in doubt.

Burger King plans to open in Spain, more that 50 restaurants before the end of this year. 'Last year we opened more than 50 restaurants and this year we plan to repeat that', said Theo Carmurça, Franchise Development Director for Burger King Mediterranean. It means 600 locations across Spain, their third largest market after the United States and Germany and the creation of more than 1,000 jobs this year, in the second largest hamburger chain in the world, with already more than 18,000 employees in Spain.

The fast food chain has now launched its very own brand of special edition vino with which to toast its 40th anniversary in Spain. The limited edition Tempranillo is made with grapes raised in Valencia and aged in barrels of French oak that have been "flame grilled". The technique is designed to imbue the wine a hint of the flame-grilled aroma so that it can perfectly compliment Burger King's signature dish, apparently. "With the help of oenologists and sommeliers we have innovated the wine making process, flame grilling the wood of the barrels in which the wine matures, creating as a result, a unique wine," says Burger King in a video clip announcing the wine. "Whopper wine, the wine that pairs with a Whopper and enhances its flavour," it explains. But the bottles of Whopper Wine won't be available over the restaurant counter. In order to be in with a chance to sample the pairing, Burger King fans have to send their all-time favourite Burger King tale or photograph to their Facebook site where judges will choose the 40 entries worthy of receiving a bottle. It's not the first time Burger King have branched out beyond the burger. In December 2008, the company launched 'Flame', a body spray described as "the scent of seduction with a hint of flame-broiled meat". Bollocks!

Little kids in supermarkets buy cereal the way men buy lingerie. They get stuff they have no interest in just to get the prize inside.

Jeff Foxworthy

⁴What's Up? continued

The more loyal you are to your bank, the more commissions they charge you. This is the new strategy from Banco Santander according to the Association of Banks, Savings Banks and Insurance Users (ADICAE in Spanish). The bank intends to charge four million clients €32 per year, €6 for each account and another €6 for the renewal of the main credit card, for a current account without wages being paid in and using the debit and credit cards issued by the bank a minimum of six times. (Source:TypicallySpanish)

If you are a regular reader of these pages, you will have gathered that the two main political parties - the Partido Popular (PP) - right of centre and the socialist PSOE - obviously left of centre, have their own preferred routes of corruption. Corruption within the PP comes largely from bribes, commissions and 'back-handers' from contractors and property dealers. Although the socialists are not immune to the 'brown envelope' culture, their skill at diverting massive funding from the intended beneficiaries to other sources has been frightening.

The two main areas of fraud within the PSOE have taken place in Andalucía. Here, almost three decades of socialist rule has led to organised frauds resulting in the diversion of hundreds of millions of euros. First came the ERE Redundancy/Retirement Scandal. Here hundreds of millions have been paid out by the state to assist companies for redundancy and pension compensation. But much of the money was distributed to sources other than the intended, so redundancy grants and pensions were paid out to relatives of politicians and others - who never actually worked in these companies! Secondly there is the Training Fund Fraud. Once again it was the diversion of scores of millions of funds originally intended to retrain the unemployed which found its way to alternative coffers. Both cases are still meandering through the courts with dozens being prosecuted. But when you thought it couldn't get any worse, along came a new probable fraud from Mijas.

A training centre in Mijas in southern Spain called *The Centre for Leisure Industries* received a grant from the socialist Junta de Andalucía for €48 million and since then, the centre has remained empty. The Mijas Town Hall is under investigation for presumed fraud and a judge in Sevilla is investigating the diversion of funds granted by the Andalucía Government. This is just one of the many training fund frauds in Andalucía. The lack of control and audit of these huge sums of money has been scandalous. But as predicted, this fraud is now beginning to appear in other regions.

Three have been detained in the fraudulent training courses in Galicia. The 'Qatedra operation', has already touched several businesses in a range of sectors across the four provinces in Galicia. The investigation remains open and new detentions are expected shortly.

The first plane to land at the Castellón 'no-plane' airport is a Ryanair from London with 186 passengers, coming four and a half years after the airport opened. One of Spain's many other airport follies - Corvera - remains flightless. La Verdad in Murcia recently headlined 'the Corvera airport has depreciated in value by more than 22 million € after being closed for three years'. Corvera, they state, has a market value of 171.6 million € without including the land. I think that is a very optimistic figure. Its true worth can surely only be measured by what another would pay for it - but nobody wants it.

What's a man's idea of helping with the housework?
- Lifting his legs so you can vacuum.

La Verdad reports that property in the Murcia Region is declared at 54% below its official value. The Tax Office carried out last year 10,000 inspections and the total shortfall is over 650 million €

A sea of 'three-cornered hats' (Guardia Civils) is demanding pay equality between themselves and the Police. The Guardia Civil agents say they are fed up with their bosses, 'which has reacted in a repressive manner' in the rejection of our social and labour rights based on equality. They have announced a 'before and after' protest for November 14.

Cable thieves have blacked out part of Orihuela City. On the evening of Sunday the 20th, electrical wiring has been stolen from all along Avenida Victorio Oliver, which runs from the N-340 roundabout to Las Salesas bridge. A municipal spokesman said this was not an isolated incident as last week the same thing happened with the wires that light from the Plaza de Caturla to the Seminary. The whole area was without street lighting for several days until the Town Hall replaced the stolen wires.

The Guardia Civil have charged a 47 year old woman for practising as a dentist in Torreveja without the necessary qualifications. The supposed doctor worked both in a clinic and from her home in Torreveja. She has been charged with alleged professional impersonation and falsification of documents, this last offence for giving patients prescriptions despite not being authorised to do so. The woman, who has Spanish nationality but was born in Russia, worked for the last 12 years as dental assistant and hygienist in a clinic in Torreveja but allegedly used her job to divert Russian patients to her home, where she treated them. It seems she also stole medicines from the clinic where she worked so she could later prescribe them from her home.

There were four murders in the Costa del Sol in just one week in September, the fourth victim being a 34-year-old Irishman. He was shot twice in the back and several times in the head. Two of the murders took place in Mijas. There is speculation that the crimes were the settling of scores among organised gangs.



Say what you like about VW emissions, but I think the lack of direction indicators on BMW vehicles in Spain is more urgent. I have never seen one work yet!

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I sort of felt sorry for the damn flies.....Even though they were supposed to carry disease. I never heard anybody say he caught anything from a fly.

My cousin gave two guys the clap, and nobody ever whacked her with a newspaper.

Lenny Bruce

Fake Fuzz!

Two fake policemen were arrested by the Guardia Civil following an investigation which began in March, in relation to a criminal organisation which was robbing mainly tourists on Alicante motorways. They had two *modus operandi*. One, they would drive next to the victim show their 'police badge' and indicate the driver to stop. Once parked, one of the men wearing a fake police waistcoat would get out of the car and inform the victim they were inspecting documents and drug trafficking. The other thief would grab whatever was available - handbags, cameras, sat-nav's, cases etc. During the second mode, they would approach their victims when they were parked in a motorway rest area or on the public highway. Identifying themselves as policemen, they would ask if they were tourists and if they were carrying any drugs, and then steal the items. If they were offered any resistance, they would simply snatch the goods and leave. The greater majority of their victims were foreigners, chosen for being unaware of police procedures, type of uniform or identity cards. They also used fake licence number plates. The two men, aged 24 and 37, now face 19 charges of theft and robbery, together with "the falsification of documents, usurpation of public functions and belonging to a criminal organisation."

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My cousin is an agoraphobic homosexual, which makes it kind of hard for him to come out of the closet.

Bill Kelly

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VIA PARK III

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The Seven Dwarfs got trapped in a mineshaft. Snow White ran to the entrance and shouted down to them. From the dark depths a voice called back: 'Scotland will win the Rugby World Cup.' Snow White breathed a sigh of relief. 'Thank God,' she said. 'At least we know Dopey's still alive!'

I suppose it is fair to say that the incompetence and shortcomings of the previous (PP) administration are coming to light after they were chucked-out. In the latest revelation, on September 8, the city hall closed the Virgen del Carmen Cultural Centre as a precautionary measure because of the lack of opening licence and deficiencies. This municipal building, ground floor and three floors and 1,582 square meters, houses the main cultural centres of Torrevieja, an auditorium for 320 people, an exhibition hall, classrooms and is also home to three municipal schools - dance, painting and photography classes have also been cancelled. The decision, which affects hundreds of daily users of this enclosure, was adopted by way of urgency. The building has lacked an enclosure opening license since it opened 29 June 2005. In an effort to get the centre reopened, padlocked emergency doors and fencing have been opened, fire extinguishers installed and an emergency plan drawn up. There will be rigorous inspections before a licence will be issued.

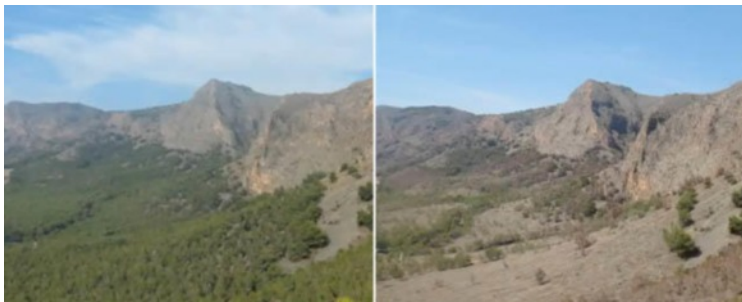
The mayor has also ordered the closure of three bars and five clubs this summer, in addition to the Municipal Theatre, also for lack of opening licence.

Torrevieja has activated a special plan to combat mosquitoes after the rains in early September. Special teams have been treating the salt marshes near the salt works. Teams have also been distributing biocides to kill larvae in the pools of fresh water accumulated by torrential rains especially in the developments around the lagoon of Torrevieja. The municipality is also keeping track of potential sources and sightings of the tiger mosquito.

But the tiger mosquito is not the only invasive species causing problems locally. In the Guardamar/Santa Pola sea areas, fisherman are reporting an invasion of the Atlantic blue crab. Photo. The problem with invasive species is that they often eat or chase out their indigenous cousins. These crabs were first detected in December 2014, but fisherman warn that they will be a 'plague' of them in 2016. At present fisherman are getting about €15 a kilo for them, but they require special traps and government approval for quotas etc.



Another unwelcome visitor locally is the pine beetle - *tomicos destruens*. Hikers have noticed the rapid deterioration of the pine forests in the Orihuela-Hurchillo mountain areas and alerted the authorities. You will see in the before and after photos below, the devastation brought by this beetle to the Orihuela mountain area alone. The damage they do is rapid and final. An additional problem are the dead pine trees which are also a major fire hazard. Hikers have also noticed yet another invasive species taking root in the mountains in June this year, the Arizona cactus.



The Lidl supermarket in Calle Mosca on the N332 has been completely demolished. This is to make way for a bigger and better Lidl outlet.

I have good-looking kids. Thank goodness my wife cheats on me.
Rodney Dangerfield.

La Verdad in Murcia headlined that 'The EU is sending €45 million to convert the Mar Menor into an economic motor'. The package includes a promenade on La Manga and a mobility plan. The region wants to create a lagoon on an international model with sustainable tourism.

'Hats Off' to Alicante General Hospital, who have performed 103 liver transplants in the three years since the program was introduced. It is the only centre in the province of Alicante which has been authorised to carry out the procedure. The introduction of a pioneering Fast Track Liver Transplant program where different procedures and techniques are combined, use a whole range of professional teams in a highly coordinated way. This allows the patient to be ready to go home, sometimes just two days after the procedure.

On September 18th Guardamar del Segura Town Hall received notification from court provisionally suspending the closure of El Campico market (also known as the Lemon Tree Market), which another court had ordered in April. Sources from the Town Hall said they are going to continue working with the market company and the traders to get a Special Plan approved that will enable it to continue its activity. They assured they are aware of the repercussions that closing the market would have but also it is "the responsibility and obligation of us as public representatives to comply with the legislation and make sure that activities have the corresponding licence". A different judge has this week allowed the market to reopen and there is now a scramble for a new licence. Similar to the 'circus' in Torrevieja.

Whether it's lack of staff, incompetence or whatever, many of the town councils just seem chock-full of ineptitude. Once again, it is Orihuela. Parking metres were installed in downtown Orihuela. A company, Esma Park SL was given the task of collecting the money, which was to be redirected to the council. But it seems that none of these funds were paid over since 2011! And nobody noticed. Okay, the sceptics among you will probably say that money was handed over....but kept by individuals....what a horrible allegation! We all know that our local politicians are all as pure as the driven slush.....sorry.....snow. The missing amount could be around €600,000 although one newspaper, Informacion, says it could be as high as two million euros. To date, the city of Orihuela has not seen a single euro of this. I'm sure it was just an oversight.



In Hollywood, marriage is a success if it outlasts milk.
Rita Rudner

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



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Every Saturday - VARIOUS ARTISTS.

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

The schoolteacher asked Little Johnny if he knew his numbers.

'Yes,' he said. 'My dad taught me.' 'Good,' said the teacher. 'So what comes after eight?'

'Nine,' answered Johnny.

'And what comes after nine?'

'Ten.'

'And what comes after ten?'

'The jack.'

Windows 10 & Piracy.

Microsoft's updated End User Licence Agreement terms and conditions let it disable any counterfeit software or hardware and, if you're running a Windows 10 computer, you've just agreed to them.

Section 7b – or “Updates to the Services or Software, and Changes to These Terms” – of Microsoft's Services EULA stipulates that it “may automatically check your version of the software and download software update or configuration changes, including those that prevent you from accessing the Services, playing counterfeit games, or using unauthorised hardware peripheral devices.”

The list of services covered by the agreement doesn't explicitly include Windows 10. However, it does include your Microsoft account, which is an extensive part of the Windows 10 experience, as well as core features like Cortana – and that implies Redmond can disable any games you've pirated or devices you've "unlawfully" hacked. Enable Cortana (which pretty much everyone using Windows 10 is going to do) and you're subject to the services agreement.

While it's incredibly clear what Microsoft means by “counterfeit games”, the wording “unauthorised hardware peripheral devices” is a little hazy. Does this mean Microsoft can now block uncertified PC or illegally modified Xbox One and Xbox 360 controllers? Furthermore, Microsoft's agreement doesn't state whether it will also disable other counterfeit software, such as cracked versions of Office or Adobe Photoshop, or if it only cares about pirated Microsoft games.

Video-game piracy, or “counterfeit games” as Microsoft puts it, has been a big issue in PC gaming for a long time. Many developers have sought to circumvent it by hard-coding impossible odds into their games, which are only solved by having a purchased activation code on your computer. The same issue is also now becoming prevalent on Android and jailbroken iOS devices. However, under Microsoft's new Services agreement, Windows 10 Mobile would be able to combat any pirated software a user loads onto their phone – potentially making it an attractive prospect for indie developers scared of having their work stolen.

Interestingly, Microsoft killed off the incredibly unpopular, DRM-heavy Windows Live Games in Windows 10, and opted to support Steam instead. But, with these terms and conditions, Microsoft has managed to do something that's arguably worse, potentially limiting the use of software that doesn't even have DRM on it.

How far can Microsoft push this? Like Expert Reviews, we think it's unlikely that Microsoft actually intends to go after pirated games on the PC. The services agreement was clearly written originally for Xbox and Xbox Live, and when written was probably only intended to ever apply to them. However, because Microsoft has simply taken an existing services agreement and applied it to core Windows 10 services such as Cortana means that, intentionally or accidentally, it could be applied to Windows 10. And until Microsoft clarifies things, we think this remains a legal grey area.

(Abridged from <http://www.alphr.com/>)

The Workers.

Two Irish guys were working for the Birmingham City public works department. (This is largely because the English appear to have lost the will to work, now leaving it to the Irish, the Poles and.....*Incoming!*) One would dig a hole and the other would follow behind him and fill the hole in. They worked up one side of the street, then down the other, then moved on to the next street, working furiously all day without rest, one man digging a hole, the other filling it in again. An onlooker was amazed at their hard work, but couldn't understand what they were doing. So he asked the hole digger, "I'm impressed by the effort you two are putting into your work, but I don't get it: why do you dig a hole, only to have your partner follow behind and fill it up again?"

The hole digger wiped his brow and sighed, "Well, I suppose it probably looks odd because we're normally a three-person team. But today the lad who plants the trees called in sick."

Jenny Reader

Crooks in Your Lounge!

Thanks to Maureen and Arthur, who are friends and neighbours in Dream Hills, for this report on a cheeky burglary on their property during August. The report is written in the first person by Arthur and I have abridged it slightly.

“Between 17:05 and 17:15 on Sunday the 16th August, 2015, whilst my wife and I were working on the computer in the back room downstairs, we heard a noise from our lounge area and my wife got up to see what was the cause.

She came across two Spanish looking girls aged approx. between 25 and 30. She shouted at them asking them what they were doing in our house; they said something which my wife couldn't understand and then they fled out the front door and down the front steps. I heard my wife's shouting and came outside and shouted at the two women to get off my property. They turned around and waved two flyers from Rio Safari which they then dropped on the pavement by our gate. I went to our front gate and shouted at them again to go away and to draw attention to them. They then got in a waiting white car which had a male driver and a male passenger. The two women got in the back seat and the car drove off in the direction of CV95. I got most of the car registration, but when we returned inside the house I noticed that my 18ct gold 2 stone diamond buckle ring was missing from our dresser.

I immediately telephoned the local police to report the incident and within 30 minutes or so, two local police officers arrived and took a brief statement about the incident and the car occupants. The police then instructed me to go to the city hall in Orihuela Costa and make a formal statement of the incident to the Guardia Civil, which we did. The police believe that it is a gang of between 12 and 14, probably a family, who are operating out of Elche.

Do You Have a Spanish Mortgage?

As you are probably aware, the majority of Spanish mortgage loans are referenced to the Euribor. At present, this stands at 0.15%, an incredibly low figure. Your mortgage interest is calculated by adding on a certain percentage to this figure.

Now La Verdad in Murcia headlined that ‘the people who live in Murcia pay the highest interest on mortgages in Spain’ with an average rate of 2.98%. You will see more information on the mortgage spreads on page 28, BUT, you should be aware that some banks put a ‘floor’ clause or minimum interest figure to be paid. If you have a floor clause, it should be removed and you could get some overpaid interest returned. Consult a competent professional.



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The Joke.

An old, blind cowboy wanders into an all-girl biker bar by mistake...

He finds his way to a bar stool and orders a shot of Jack Daniels.

After sitting there for a while, he yells to the bartender, 'Hey, you wanna hear a blonde joke?' The bar immediately falls absolutely silent.

In a very deep, husky voice, the woman next to him says, 'Before you tell that joke, Cowboy, I think it is only fair, given that you are blind, that you should know five things:

1. The bartender is a blonde girl with a baseball bat.
2. The bouncer is a blonde girl with a 'Billy-Club'.
3. I'm a 6-foot tall, 175-pound blonde woman with a black belt in karate.
4. The woman sitting next to me is blonde and a professional weight lifter.
5. The lady to your right is blonde and a professional wrestler.

'Now, think about it seriously, Cowboy ... do you still wanna tell that blonde joke?'

The blind cowboy thinks for a second, shakes his head and mutters, 'No ... not if I'm gonna have to explain it five times...'

(Pete Dudman)

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Lulu & Grandma.

Lulu was a prostitute, but she didn't want her grandma to know. One day, the police raided the brothel and took all the girls outside and made them line up. Suddenly, Lulu's grandma came by. Grandma asked, "Why are you standing in line here, dear?" Not willing to let her grandma know the truth, Lulu told her that the police were passing out free oranges and she was just lining up for some.

"Why, that's awfully nice of them. I think I'll get some for myself," Grandma said, and she proceeded to the back of the line.

A policewoman was going down the line asking for information from all the prostitutes. When she got to grandma, she was bewildered and exclaimed, "Wow, still going at it at your age? How do you do it old girl?"

Grandma replied, "Oh, it's easy, dear. I just take my dentures out, rip the skin back and suck em' dry."

The policewoman fainted.



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Bits 'n Bobs!

Just a reminder that your **property tax (IBI)** has to be paid by October 2nd. You will see that it has increased by 10% this year. This increase was not arrived at locally but authorised nationally by the government in Madrid to assist town councils nationally. Prior to that we have been lucky here on the Orihuela Costa as we have not faced an increase for many years.

We have had **Natural Gas** installed on our property now for about six months and I thought you might like some feedback on the running costs. We use natural gas for most of our cooking and for all of our hot water. Our total bills for six months came to €75 approx. Taking a look at our last bi-monthly bill which came to €19.60, it is broken down as follows: Actual gas consumption €11.33; special hydrocarbon tax plus metre rental etc., €4.87 and 21% IVA €3.40. So all in all, around €20 for 61 days usage, not bad I would say. That's around €10 a month.

In our immediate area in Orihuela Costa, we can enjoy some marvellous bars and restaurants as well as some very mediocre ones as well of course. But what has been lacking locally was a good Spanish restaurant. So it was a very welcome addition to see **Kalimoxo** open locally in Via Park 111 and provide us all with a true and affordable taste of Spain. Operated in the main by Oscar and Oxana, here you can be assured that that the portions are generous and the prices realistic. If you are a small eater, stick with the tapas while the rest of us pile into large platefuls of meat or fish. Where3as the meat or fish courses are large, when the salad and chips are added, the plates overflow. My favourites are the chipirones (baby squids) and the merzula (hake), which are among the finest you will find anywhere on the Costa Blanca.

Here Come de Judge, Well Maybe!

The Chief Prosecutor in Málaga has demanded at least eight more prosecutors, more judicial police with economic and tax experts to better pursue the most serious type of crime.

Juan Carlos López Caballero said the prosecution service current response is 'very limited and too late' and he criticised 'the scant human resources' which the Public Ministry has in Málaga province, which are 'clearly insufficient to provide an adequate service for the citizens'. The corruption cases seen over recent years have been very complex in nature, especially the 'Malaya case' over corruption in Marbella Town Hall and the 'Astapa case' covering corruption in Estepona Town Hall. In addition, the Nilo case of the false Nigerian lottery, the 'White Whale' (Ballena Blanca) over money laundering among other procedures which placed Marbella at the epicentre of criminal activity. Currently the Public Ministry has 83 prosecutors to cover all the judicial causes in the province of Málaga.

But the online newspaper Diario Sur reported that the Lawyer's College dished out some heavy criticism of the judiciary in Malaga. They report that the judges there do not accept cases on Fridays or during the 'semana blanca - white week. Neither, it seems, will they attend court in the two days before the start of a holiday or the two days after that holiday.

Central government are trying to modernise and streamline the judicial system, which the judiciary are fighting tooth and nail to keep the old, inefficient and leaden-footed procedures.

The advantage of whiskey over a dog as a companion are legion.

To begin with, whiskey does not need to be periodically wormed.

W.C. Fields



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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.**

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The Lobster.

As he passed a seafood restaurant, a man saw a sign in the window saying, ‘Lobster Tails Five Euros.’ Sensing a bargain, he went inside and asked the waitress why they were so cheap. ‘They must be very short tails for that price,’ he suggested. ‘No,’ replied the waitress. ‘They’re normal length.’ ‘Then they must be fairly old.’ ‘No, they’re fresh today.’ ‘They must be something wrong with them.....’ ‘No, they’re just regular lobster tails.’

‘Okay,’ said the man. ‘For five euros I’ll have one.’

So the waitress took his money, sat him down and said: ‘Once upon a time there was a big red lobster.....’

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Take a look at this unfortunate animal on the left. His legs were tied together and he was callously thrown into a canal near Almoradi.

The dog managed somehow to struggle and hold onto some nearby pipework. This prevented it from drowning.

Fortunately, a passer by spotted the poor animal in distress and called the necessary authorities. The animal is now being looked after by one of its rescuers. The previous owner surely deserves the 'red hot poker' treatment.



I realised I've got a road rage problem when my five-year-old daughter shouted, "Pick a f*cking lane, you dickhead!" while she was sitting in my supermarket trolley.



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You're a shoe salesman asking your mom if you can bring over your laundry.

Bill Maher



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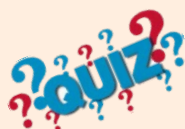


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*Alliance: in international politics, the union of two thieves who have their hands so deeply inserted in each other's pockets that they cannot separately plunder a third.
Ambrose Bierce*

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The Bridal Arch.

A little cockney girl and her mother are watching a naval wedding at which 12 midshipmen are forming a bridal arch with sculling oars. The little girl says, 'Oh Mum, look at the handsome sailors with their big oars.' The mother replies, 'They're not 'oars, they're bleedin' bridesmaids.'

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All That Bull!

New goring deaths brings the number of bull-related fatalities in Spain this summer to 12.

Following a tradition in many Spanish towns, local authorities have allowed the bulls due to fight in the ring later in the day to run through the streets for a few minutes along a pre-defined route.

The death toll has fuelled ongoing demands by animal rights groups to end all bull-related events at local fiestas, when the animals are sometimes submitted to practices such as having firecrackers attached to their horns or being driven into the sea for a few minutes.

Although new leftist governments opposed to bullfighting have taken office across Spain after the May municipal elections, their disapproval often does not extend to bull-related events at local festivities. Last year, there were 15,848 street events involving bulls, 2,000 more than in 2013, (figures released by the Culture Ministry).

This 15% rise has been supported chiefly by the conservative Popular Party (PP) in the Valencia region. But the new leftist regional administration that has emerged in the wake of the May elections has failed to express any desire to curtail bull festivals, citing their great popularity.

The socialist Mayor of Madrid, Manuela Carmena, has however, removed the subsidy for the Bullfighting School. The Madrid City Hall Council for Culture and Sports explained the €1,200 which had been previously paid by the City Hall to subsidise workshops and to pay professionals represented a 'disproportionate' use of money as only 38 pupils have been attending.

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Restaurant Dirty Tricks.

We all know there are some excellent Spanish restaurants in our vicinity as well as some dreadful ones. More on the good ones later but I must bring your attention to some of the tricks used by some Spanish establishments to greedily extract a few more euros out of your pockets.

One of the most common cheats is to quote the price of the food on the menu without the 10% IVA charge. I know of a Brit/India restaurant in La Fuente who have been doing this for years. This practice is actually illegal in Spain, even if menus include the phrase "VAT not included".

Next is the practice of adding one or two euros to your bill for bread. If they are charging for bread, it should say so on the menu.

Rare, but it happens, this restaurant in Barcelona charged an extra 30 cents for cooking a hamburger 'well done (*muy hecho*). See receipt.

And as you can see from this receipt below, a restaurant in Sevilla charges €1.50 each for a knife and a fork (*cubiertos*)! Once again, this is illegal!



Artículo	Unidades	Precio	Total
BOC ESPECIAL LA	1	6,80	6,80
HAMBURGUESA COMP muy hecho	1	7,20	7,20
Botella SIDRA	1	0,30	0,30
Botella SIDRA	1	3,80	3,80
Sumas			
Base 10% 18,45 Iva:...		1,65	
Total:			18,10 €

CONTADO
Factura Simplificada No: 0
Fecha: 28/05/2015 Hora: 21:54

1 LASANA DE SETAS			
1 MILHOJAS DE QUESO	4,75 €		4,75 €
1 RISOTTO CALABACIN	3,20 €		3,20 €
1 HAMBURGUESA BUEY	3,75 €		3,75 €
4 CUBIERTOS	1,50 €		6,00 €

Some bars & restaurants actually charge customers for tap water, a practice that is not actually illegal, as long as they include the price on the menu, which most forget to do...and some bars charge for ice - per cube!

Finally there is the invisible Menu del Dia. Most Spanish bars and restaurants do an M del D but will often keep it hidden, particularly from tourists, and guide them to the more expensive ala carte menu.

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Bobby Mills

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Relax and soak up the sunshine
on our large south-facing terrace.

**Lime Bar Golf Society,
Los Altos, Orihuela Costa.**

The golf society's venue for the 9th September 2015 was held at Las Ramblas Golf Course.

Twenty-eight members teed off on a very warm and sunny morning. The course was magnificent condition and played very well, although the required distance over some of the ravines proved difficult for some of the high handicap players.

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

Nearest the pin in 2 on the 2nd hole (par 4) was Bud Butler.

Nearest the pin on the 6th hole (par 3) was Nev. Greenwood.

Nearest the pin in 2 on the 9th hole (par 4) was John Walls.

Nearest the pin on the 12th hole (par 3) was Ken Styan.

Nearest the pin on the 12th hole (par 3) was Ken Sutton.

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

Bronze Class in 2nd place was Barry Shawyer with 29 points.

Bronze Class in 1st place was Norman Dobson with 30 points

Silver Class 2nd place was Les Thwaites with a score of 21 points.

Silver Class 1st place was Steve Cottle with a score of 22 points.

Gold Class 2nd place was Mike Heighway with a score of 30 points

Gold Class 1st place was Les Arthur Jones with a score of 30 points.(on count-back)

Best guest with 26 points was Bob Gammon.

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.

BIENVENIDO a BAR KALIMOTXO

Bar y Restaurante
Via Park III

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ROAST KNUCKLE OF PORK AND ROAST CHICKEN**

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TASTY FISH RANGING FROM SALMON AND SWORDFISH

TO MERLUZA AND SARDINES

DELICIOUS SEAFOOD WITH PRAWNS, CALAMARES, CHIPIRONES etc.

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A RANGE OF GENEROUS DELICIOUS SALADS ALSO AVAILABLE

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Русский говорят.



“The Evil That Men Do.”

A staggering 900 + women have some sort of police protection in Málaga. Of the five women to die so far this year in Andalucía due to domestic violence, all were in Málaga. Up to mid-August, the figure nationally for the number of women murdered was 26. Up to May 31st, the authorities advised that there were 51,413 reported cases of gender violence nationally. One can forget the excuses, but this is an epidemic. Despite the will to do better, much of the police protection is sporadic and hit-and-miss due to lack of resources.

El Mundo reports that over the last decade 26 children have been murdered by their fathers during a prison pass, and the total number of child fatal victims of domestic violence was 44.

La Verdad also headlined ‘Nearly 2,500 people who live in Murcia do so under the risk of *macho* violence’. The Police protection measures are seeing an increased danger of aggression and 11,557 victims reported ill-treatment in the Murcia region in the first six months of this year. This is a dreadful problem in Spain requiring some urgent and dramatic remedies.

ECSTASY!

Now the tourists have gone
we return to our beautiful life,
awaken with the dawn
no traffic, no noise, no strife.

At last we've had some rain
to cool the air we breathe,
for farmers here in Spain
their worries it should ease.

Desalination plant is operational
but won't supply what's needed.

It really is sensational
when politics are heeded.

Still we'll enjoy our autumn
and relax with milder weather
with end of year joy's still to come
may we all see it together

The Phantom Poet

The Cold Truth.

A woman was looking through the frozen turkeys at a supermarket but couldn't find one big enough to feed her family.

She asked a stock boy: 'Do these turkeys get any bigger?'

'No, ma'am,' he replied. 'They're dead.'

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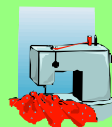
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IDIOT OF THE MONTH AWARD

This month we start with a truly international flavour. Leading the rush this month is the 91-year-old president of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe. While giving his opening of parliament speech in mid-September, the dozy git inadvertently read out a speech he gave previously during his state-of-the-nation address on August 25. So, red faces all around.....well almost!



Next a story I have been holding back for some time because of lack of space. It concerns the Maruyama Zoo in the northern Japanese city of Sapporo. Here, the zookeepers have been trying to get a pair of hyenas to breed since 2012 but they just couldn't get the pair to canoodle. The couple (photo) were more inclined to fight than mate, occasionally taking a lump or two out of each other. Finally the zoo decided to verify the sex of the animals and following ultrasound examinations and hormone checks by Hokkaido University, discovered that both animals were male! (Bet they're not laughing now!)



According to the zoo, it is extremely difficult to determine the sex of a hyena from its external genitalia. (I dare say you know some people like that!)

But it was our friends the Germans, who produced a real humdinger in early September.

A group of delegates attended a conference on homeopathic medicines in the town of Handeloh, south of Hamburg. However the conference soon ended in chaos as 29 of the delegates - men and women - were described by a German broadcaster as "staggering around, rolling in a meadow, talking gibberish and suffering severe cramps". It seems that these delegates took a LSD-like drug and started reacting with hallucinations. More than 150 medical staff, ambulances

(see photo taken at event) and police descended on the scene and took the raving delegates to hospital. The patients, aged between 24 and 56, were found suffering from delusions, breathing problems, racing hearts and cramps, with some in a serious condition, Deutsche Welle reported. Tests on their blood and urine revealed they had all taken hallucinogenic drug 2C-E, which is known as Aquarust in Germany and has been illegal there since the end of last year. It is still not known whether this 'happening' was the result of a group experiment or a prank. Schadenfreude!



Finally, we return to Spain to the TV channel Telemadrid. While broadcasting an otherwise excellent documentary about the refugee problem, the country of Austria was placed inFrance! (See photo below.)



Hello Mick, Please could you put this in the next edition of the Dream Scene. Thanking you in anticipation. Joanna Rich



This Year's Annual Dream Hills 2 Fiesta and Hog Roast held on the 29th of August was a huge success. Over 170 People attended and enjoyed the evening. Once again Paul from Hogfathers provided an excellent roast while the super-seven-ladies, Thelma, Yve, Chris, Joyce, Trish, Janette and Janet, rallied to the call and once again baked all the accompanying potatoes between them. The entertainment was fantastic: first we had Ian David with his guitar who entertained us singing popular songs old and new and later we had our own Dream Hills rock band - Coast to Coast - aka Tony and Don with people dancing the night away to their songs and music.

I wish to thank everyone who came for supporting us and to everyone who helped to make this a great night. A raffle was held which resulted in raising 250 Euro for the Paul Cunningham Cancer Nurses with a special donation also being made to this amount by Mrs Janet Donoghue, who sadly lost her husband this year to this dreadful disease.

When The Kissing Had To Stop!

Did you know that...the world's longest kiss lasted more than 58 hours? The record goes to Thai couple Ekkachai and Laksana Tiranarat who locked lips for 58 hours, 35 minutes and 58 seconds during a Valentine's Day 'Kissathon'.



Going Large!

A young girl started work in the village chemist shop. She was very shy about having to sell condoms to the public. The owner was going on holiday for a couple of days and asked if she would be willing to run the shop on her own. She had to confide in him her worries about selling the contraceptives.

"Look," he said. "My regular customers don't ask for condoms, they'll ask for a 310 [small] a 320[medium] or a 330[large]. The word condom won't even be used."

The first day was fine but on the second day a black guy came in to the shop, put out his hand and said "...350"..

The girl panicked. She phoned the owner on his mobile and told him of her predicament.

" Go back in and check if he has a yellow bucket hanging between his legs" her boss told her.

She peeped through the door and saw the yellow bucket hanging between his legs.

"Yes "!!!! she said " He's got one hanging there....!"

The boss said "Go back in and give him £3.50.....he's the window cleaner"!!!!!!

Pete Dudman



OCTOBER AT THE PHOENIX



Via Park V

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

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

Thursdays - Eyes down for The Phoenix Bingo -

Tickets on Sale from 2:30pm

Dibbers & Dabbers at the Ready for 3pm.



BINGO!



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



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**Saturdays - Sports Shown on 4 Large Screens -
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**Sundays - Homecooked Traditional 3 Course Lunch
Served 2 - 9pm**



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— Chico brought gonorrhoea to the Vaudeville circuit.

Interviewer and Groucho Marx

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Honey Isn't as Healthy as You Think!

Many people consider honey to be a natural, more healthy, alternative to white sugar but new research has revealed it may not be as healthy as you think.

Writing in the Journal of Nutrition, a team of nutritionists said that honey has the same effect on the body as white sugar and high fructose corn syrup, a cheap and widely-used sweetener. Lead researcher Susan Raatz said: "Honey is thought of as more natural whereas white sugar and high fructose corn syrup are processed. We wanted to find out if they were different, but chemically they are very, very, similar."

For the study, researchers compared the effect of honey, table sugar, and high fructose corn syrup on 55 volunteers. They were asked to eat a daily 50g dose of one of the three sweeteners for two weeks.

By the end of the study, all three sweeteners were found to have had the same effect on the participants. The level of triglycerides, a lipid that can raise the risk of heart disease, had risen for all of the volunteers, no matter what sweetener they had eaten.

Honey has been touted as an alternative sweetener to sugar as it can provide nutrients that do not exist in table sugar, such as vitamin B. Manuka honey, a rare and expensive variety from New Zealand, has even been touted as a superfood. However, nutritionist Sara Stanner warned that this only occurs in very small amounts, so shouldn't be thought of as a 'healthy' choice.

She also highlighted the number of calories found in honey: "A teaspoon of honey contains 23 calories and 6g of sugar, compared with a level teaspoon of sugar, which contains 16 calories and 4g of sugar – although honey is sweeter so you need to add less to get a sweet taste.

"A little bit of honey won't do you any harm, but you should remember it provides added sugar and calories to your diet." (Telegraph.)

'Gadget Allergy' Disability Recognised in French Court.

A French woman has won a court-ordered disability grant after claiming to suffer from a 'gadget allergy' due to electromagnetic radiation.

Marine Richard, who lives in the mountains of southwest France to avoid electronics, said that the ruling was a "breakthrough" for people who claim to suffer from Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity (EHS).

Sufferers say they experience symptoms including headaches, nausea, tiredness and 'tingling' sensations when exposed to electromagnetic radiation from cellphones, WiFi or even just batteries, screens and other elements of technology which give off electromagnetic radiation. In the UK several forums and groups exist to help self-identified sufferers, including ES UK

Richard's disability allowance was granted by the court in Toulouse, though the ruling does not mean that EHS is formally considered an illness.

Scientific studies have not demonstrated a clear link between the type of radiation emitted by household gadgets and health problems in humans. EHS is not a recognised condition in the UK, and Public Health England has said there is no evidence that these low-level fields damage health. The government does recognise the minor health impacts of some very high-level electromagnetic radiation exposure however, such as from power lines.

The World Health Organisation is often cited by those seeking recognition for EHS because it does recognise the condition. However the WHO does not accept the condition is linked to electromagnetic radiation, and suggests merely that more research is needed into the health effects of radiation. It also states that "research has not been able to provide support for a causal relationship between exposure to electromagnetic fields and self-reported symptoms, or "electromagnetic hypersensitivity"". Many people claim to suffer from the condition, however, and some scientists have suggested it could be a real -- though essentially psychosomatic -- response to a fear of the effects of radiation, rather than a symptom. In Sweden and Germany the condition is classified as an "occupational disease", though debate still continues in those countries as to the science behind the symptoms.

Concerns about the condition have also been raised in the US, where parents of a boy reportedly suffering from exposure to "high-intensity WiFi" at school have launched a lawsuit in Massachusetts asking the school to investigate.

"The high-density Wi-Fi used in the classrooms is causing 'G' to suffer headaches, chest pains, nosebleeds, nausea, dizziness, and rashes, all recognised symptoms of EHS," the family has claimed, with the support of a doctor -- though school officials say that radiation emitted by their WiFi is less than 10,000 times as strong as the legal limit. (Source: wired.co.uk)

Saying Grace.

A couple invite some friends to dinner. At the table, a guest turns to the host's six-year-old daughter and says, 'Would you like to say grace?' 'I wouldn't know how to do it,' replies the girl. 'Just say what you've heard your daddy say,' says the guest. The daughter bows her head and says, 'Dear Lord, why the hell did my wife invite all these people?'

PUNJABI PALACE



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In
November!

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On Nov' 11

At Quesada
On Nov' 12

&

At Los
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Be Tidy!

Don't just throw that broken furniture or pissed mattress by the bins.

The council, who run a street cleaning company in Orihuela Costa, as well as the city and villages, has reminded residents that it has a free service to collect household furniture.

They said that for it to be effective, it is very important to let them know before leaving items in the street. You can even arrange to have items collected from your home as well.

Remember the service does not include building rubble, windows or entire house contents. The truck has to collect what everyone leaves out so if it is filled with things from one house it cannot serve anyone else. If you warn them you have a lot of stuff to throw away they will arrange to collect them over several trips.

In Orihuela Costa there are collections every day but they cover different areas on different days. Call and they will tell you on which day to put out your old furniture and junk in the street.

The phone numbers to call and arrange for furniture to be picked up are:

Orihuela Costa – 96 676 0000 extension 29.

Orihuela City and villages – 96 530 6178.



Texting for the over 50's, 60's etc.

The kids all have their SMS codes like WTF, LOL & PMSL etc.

But here are some codes suitable for the more mature (at least in years) individual....

ATD = At The Doctors.

BFF = Best Friend's Funeral.

BTW = Bring the Wheelchair.

HGBM = Had Good Bowel Movement.

WTL = Where's the Lubricant?

ISMA = I've Shit Myself Again.

WTFMT = Where the Fuck's My Teeth?

Lynn Lomax

The Box.

A guy goes into the confessional box after years being away from the Church. He pulls aside the curtain, enters and sits himself down.

There's a fully equipped bar with crystal glasses, the best vestry wine, Miller High Life on tap, cigars and liqueur chocolates nearby, and on the wall a fine photographic display of buxom ladies who appear to have mislaid their garments.

He hears a priest come in: "Father, forgive me for it's been a very long time since I've been to confession and I must admit that the confessional box is much more inviting than it used to be".

The priest replies, "Get out, you idiot. You're on my side".

Pete Dudman

Critics are like eunuchs in a harem; they know how it's done, they've seen it done every day, but they're unable to do it themselves. Brendan Behan



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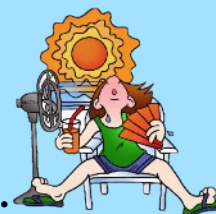


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Germs!

In last month's issue we asked 'How Clean Is That Aircraft?' following some disturbing revelations from Alabama's Auburn University. But in early September, the Washington Post came up with a report which will give any of you who are germ-a-phobes some nightmares.

Travelmath.com, a site that helps people calculate the driving and flying time between cities, ranked some of the dirtiest places in airports and airplanes, based on 26 samples gathered by a microbiologist sent to examine five airports and four flights. Unsurprisingly, they found that airports and airplanes are dirtier than the average home. But the places where they found the most germs in airports and on airplanes might surprise you.

The samples gathered show that bathrooms in airplanes and airports actually have fewer germs than other things we consider far less innocuous. On the airplane, the dirtiest place by far was actually the tray table. Their tests found that the **tray table had 2,155 "colony forming units" (CFU)** -- a measure of the number of bacteria or fungal cells that are able to multiply -- per square inch. That compares to 285 on the overhead air vent, only 265 on the lavatory flush button, and 230 on the seat belt buckle. The tests suggest that airlines need to clean planes more often. But until that happens, you might want to avoid eating anything that comes in contact with your tray table. In the airport, the findings were similar: The tests found that drinking fountain buttons had 1,240 colony forming units per square inch, compared to only 70 on toilet stall locks.



This indicates that it is probably safer to eat your meal in the toilet of a plane rather than on the table tray!

Opposite is a snapshot of how those figures compare with other common household items, based on 22 households tested by the National

Sanitation Foundation. Pet bowls, pet toys and home countertops are often dirtier than some things in the airplane and airport, while home toilet seats, cell phones and money are actually cleaner.

It might seem counterintuitive that bathrooms are cleaner than tray tables and countertops. The figures suggest that airlines and airports are actually doing a decent job of sanitizing rest rooms -- which is a good thing, since dirty bathrooms can easily spread disease. The bad news is that airlines and airports don't appear to be doing a good enough job of cleaning other things. Travelmath points out that the pressure on airlines to board a plane quickly has increased in recent decades, meaning tray tables often don't get cleaned until the end of the day.

But the message is clear! Always take alcohol wipes with you on airplanes. And whereas Fido's or Tiddles' food bowl might look innocuous, it is actually a festering leper colony! Wash them regularly.

Galadriel

Cafe Bar & Bistro

Via Park V.

Rik and Kath would like to thank everyone for their support during the past 8 years. We have enjoyed our time here at Galadriel, but time moves on and we are now much older and feeling our age!

Time to pull back and enjoy life a bit more and enjoy our adopted country.

We will miss everyone and have many happy memories to look back on.

Thank you all again and you will be in our thoughts.

It has been our privilege to have known you.

Here's to an enjoyable future for all of us!

Bound To Offend.....

•I was on a train this morning, in the loo having a dump, when a voice called out "Can I see your ticket please?"

"Not right now." I replied, "I'm having a crap."

"I don't believe you," said the voice. "Slide it under the door."

"No prob's," I said. "The yellow bits are sweetcorn!"

•My girlfriend says that a small penis won't affect our relationship. Whether she's right or not, I'd prefer it if she didn't have one at all!

•I saw this Arab guy lying unconscious in the street yesterday. I tried doing the hand-only CPR the way Vinnie Jones showed me on the British Heart Foundation TV advert, but by the time I found my Bee Gee's CD the bugger was already dead.

Spanish Rental Prices Still Falling.

The average cost of renting a home in Spain fell by an annualised 0.4% in August, according to the latest data from the National Institute of Statistics.

Spanish rental prices have now fallen for 29 consecutive months, taking them back to where they were in August 2010.

Rents fell in all regions in August with the exception of Catalonia (+0.3%), and the Balearics (+0.3%).

Spanish rental prices rose rapidly in the boom years, and continued increasing even after the house price bubble burst. Since then they have not fallen as far as house prices, which means that rental yields in Spain have improved since the boom years, albeit from a low starting point.

The continuing fall in rental prices suggest that house price also need to keep declining, either that or investors have to accept lower yields. In the current Spanish economic and political environment, the former is more likely.

That said, the latest figures from the INE claim that Spanish house prices are already rising.

Industry insiders report that investors can expect a gross rental yield of around three to four per cent from primary housing rents in a city like Barcelona today.

<http://www.spanishpropertyinsight.com/>

Spanish Mortgages Now Some of the Cheapest in Eurozone.

Just a few years ago, Spanish banks were not interested in lending mortgages, as was clear from the high differentials of four per cent or more they were charging at the time. Their lending conditions were more attractive for clients taking one of their repossessed homes of their hands, but otherwise the message was clear: We are not keen to lend.

Now lenders are falling over themselves to offer some of the cheapest rates in the Eurozone to creditworthy clients. There are fixed-rate mortgages to be had from as low as 2.05%, and in August the dutch bank ING launched its 'Orange Mortgage' with a differential of just 0.99% above Euribor (the base lending rate).

As a result of these highly competitive Spanish mortgage conditions, Spain is now one of the cheapest countries to borrow in the Eurozone, reveals El Mundo. Using data from the European Central Bank (ECB), El Mundo show that the average loan in the Eurozone has an interest rate of 2.22%, whilst the average interest rate in Spain is now 2.12%, below France (2.15%), Portugal (2.26%) and Italy (2.48%), and almost as cheap as Germany (2%).

If you would like to read more on this and check out the spreads between the Eurobor and the actual mortgage rate you as probably paying, check the following -

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-09-16/even-spain-s-mortgage-market-is-rising-again-as-ecb-injects-cash> &

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WEDNESDAY - JULES AUTHENTIC INDIAN CURRIES

Choice of Starter Onion Bhaji, Tandoori Chicken, Hot 'N' Kickin' Chicken Wings, Curries - Beef Bhuna, Chicken Tikka Massala, 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, Yorky Pud, Stuffing & Gravy

1 COURSE €9.95; 2 COURSE €7.50; 3 COURSE €8.50



SATURDAY IS GRILL DAY!



All Served with Fresh Salad and Handcut Chunky Chips; Cajun Fillet Steak, Peppered Steak, Full Rack 'O' Ribs, Quarter Roast Chicken, Thick Pork Chops, Mixed Grill, Cheeseburgers, Cajun Chicken Breast, Horseshow Gammon & 24 Oz T-bone.

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Foods Prohibited by Law in Some Countries.

There are places around the world with food laws which may seem very odd to us. Sometimes it is because of religious beliefs, sometimes because of folly and often because of safety issues.

Farmed salmon: This food is banned in both Australia and New Zealand. This is because our antipodean friends say that the fish are fed with substances and chemicals which are not fit for human consumption.

Kinder eggs: This egg is banned in children's chocolate the U.S. This is because since 1938 any food which has a toy inside has been banned.

Tomato ketchup: France banned the 'red stuff' from schools in 2011. This was to ensure that the young had as healthy a diet as possible. Frog's legs and snails are fine though!



Chewing gum: Banned from consumption in the streets in Singapore since 1992. Discarded chewing gum had caused serious maintenance problems throughout the country. The ban has been partially lifted, as some types of gum are allowable, such as gum chewed for dental health. However, the government refuses to completely lift the ban for the risk of gum littering again. There is a \$500 fine for spitting out gum on the streets.

Frog's legs & Blood sausage: Banned in countries that practice Islam and Judaism as they are considered unclean.

Haggis: Banned from the U.S. since 1971. The law prohibits the use of lamb's lungs in a food.

Imported sausages: Once again in the U.S., the law states that all meats must be produced and slaughtered in that country.

Unpasteurized milk: Also banned from the U.S. and Canada, because of the germs it contains.

All in the Marketing! ®

Ali and Habib are beggars. They beg in different areas of London ...

Habib begs just as long as Ali does, but only collects £2 to £3 every day.

Ali brings home a suitcase FULL of £10 notes, drives a Mercedes, lives in a mortgage-free house and has loads of money to spend.

Habib says to Ali, 'I work just as long and hard as you do but how is it that you bring home a suitcase full of £10 notes every day?'

Ali says, 'Look at your sign, what does it say?'

Habib's sign reads 'I have no work, a wife and 6 kids to support'.

Ali says 'No wonder you only get £2- £3'

Habib says... 'So what does your sign say?'

Ali shows Habib his sign....

It reads, 'I only need another £10 to move back to Pakistan.'

Moira.

The Afrikaaner on Hol's.

South African Van der Merwe at the age of 60 was in Australia, his first ever holiday outside his home country. One afternoon he decides to go to Bondi Beach, looking out over the bay he sees a long line of black dots in the water.

Turning to a local who was sitting close by he asked what the dots were. "They're buoys," said the Aussie.

"Boys?" said Van der Merwe "what are they doing out there?" "They're holding up the shark net," he was told.

"Bloody great country this is," said Van der Merwe obviously very impressed, "We'd never get away with that at home!"

Lime Bar Fishing Sunbathing Club

At the end of August, we had the sudden & sad news that big Barry “the bagman” had passed on to the golden peg above. 10 “men in black” went to San Pedro to say our farewells and to support Sharon & her family. As a former “bootneck”, Barry kept us on our toes though and would have been laughing at us. When Sharon went inside to check everything was ready for the service, Barry had swapped boxes! Within the club he was always punctual, but talk about being late for your own funeral! We will miss him.

After the service we gathered at Barry’s local - “Popeye’s” for a beer & buffet. Unfortunately the “Nomad” couldn’t eat any as it all had cheese in it, and that is only used for fishing bait!

The “Quill” (of Chester racecourse fame) also broke the official secrets act while bragging about his adventures in the jungle while he was a former SAS trooper. Ho! Ho! Maybe he meant the Secret Angling Society? Who dares, catches? Anti Social Baz is fishing for sympathy after having his dodgy hip sorted out. There is no reason you can’t get your Zimmer frame to the bar!

This month’s bun fight was as raucous as normal with separate arguments running alongside the agenda. A lot was covered though, ahead of next month’s AGM. Yes Fagin got his way and we have to pay our subs 4 months early. That’s the price of a pint! We also confirmed that the AGM would start early to allow for “more” arguments and that the Presentation Night will be at the Lime Bar on Thursday 26th November.

This month’s match (the last of the summer competition to decide the finalists) was held at El Bosquet. 14 anglers fished but unfortunately 2 blanked. The fishing was patchy with the 2 anglers that blanked sitting next to swims that produced over 7 kilos of fish. The fish seemed to be drastically affected by the weather. I had a brilliant morning until the wind picked up at 12.00, then the bites just stopped! Maybe it caused an underwater drift or something? With about 30 minutes left to go, large carp & mullet appeared in amongst the reeds, so I changed my tactics to floating bread & landed a few cracking mullet.....

Paul Birdsall won with a fantastic 15.3 kilos; he will now have to leave this club, as he is too good! This still wasn’t good enough to get him into the final though. The 6 finalists are 3 Rods, Ghost, Grumpy, the Quill, Fagin & Fag Eyes.

Next ~~meeting~~ bun fight is the AGM at The Lime Bar @ 17.00 Mon 5th October.

Fishy fingers!
The Ghost

‘There’s a way of transferring funds that is even faster than electronic banking. It’s called marriage.’ Sam Kinison
‘I’ve had bad luck with both my wives. The first one left me, and the second one didn’t.’ James Holt McGavra

New Inheritance Tax Limits in the UK and Discretionary Trusts.

Thousands of families who set up “discretionary trusts” so they could leave property to children in a tax-efficient manner will miss out on the Government’s valuable new inheritance tax allowance unless they make significant changes to their will, accountants have warned.

London firm Blick Rothenberg said homes left to children through a discretionary trust will not benefit from the “family home allowance”, worth up to £350,000 per couple from 2020, because assets do not pass directly to children.

Discretionary trusts – the most common form of trust – were widely used in the past to minimise inheritance tax (IHT). Prior to October 2007, the first of a couple to die could leave all their assets to their surviving spouse completely free of IHT. But when the surviving spouse died they could only use their own tax-free allowance, or “nil-rate band”, for the total estate. This meant that when assets were passed to children or other beneficiaries, on the second death, many faced a tax charge. To avoid this, people created discretionary trusts so that the first spouse’s assets were taken out of the estate for inheritance tax purposes on their death. Thus, each spouse’s allowance was utilised.

Since October 2007, married couples and civil partners could transfer any of their unused nil-rate band to their surviving spouse, creating a tax-free allowance of up to £650,000 on the second death. This made discretionary trusts less attractive, but some people still use them to ensure assets are left to their intended beneficiaries, such as children from a first marriage, for example.

The new family home allowance will be available to people who own a home from April 2017. It will eventually be worth an additional £175,000 per person in 2020. Added to the £325,000 allowance that everyone gets now, this means a new allowance for property owners of £500,000 – or £1m for couples.

Crucially, to qualify for the family home allowance the property must be “directly inherited” by direct descendants. This includes children, stepchildren, adopted and foster children, and grandchildren.

Discretionary trusts will not qualify because the trustees take on legal ownership of the asset in the trust and have discretion around which of the beneficiaries receive which assets, how much each will get and when. The beneficiaries only have the right to be considered by the trustees, who are not legally bound to follow the wishes of the deceased.

However, some types of trusts are ignored for tax purposes with assets passing directly to the beneficiaries. These include Interest in possession (IIP) trusts, Disabled persons trust and IIP, Bereaved minor’s trust and Age 18 to 25 trusts. You can read more on these here -

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/tax/11855775/New-inheritance-tax-limit-thousands-will-miss-out-unless-they-make-this-change.html>

Don't get excited about a tax cut. It's like a mugger giving you back your bus fare. A.H. Glasow

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I got a new stick deodorant today...

The Instructions said:
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up Bottom.

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whenever I fart, the
room smells lovely.



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The Phoenix walking football started again on Saturday's 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's great fun. Come along and enjoy yourself.

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Submitted by
Pete Dudman

Howard The Golfer ®

One afternoon Howard accidentally overturned his golf cart. Elizabeth, a very attractive and keen golfer, who lived in a condo on the golf course, heard the noise and called out, "Are you okay, what's your name?"
 "It's Howard, and I'm okay, thanks," he replied.
 "Howard, forget your troubles. Come up to my condo and rest for awhile, and I'll help you get the cart up later."
 "That's mighty nice of you," he answered, "but I don't think my wife would like it."
 "Oh, come on," Elizabeth insisted. She was very pretty, very sexy and so persuasive and Howard was weak.
 "Well okay," he finally agreed, and added, "but my wife. won't like it."
 After a glass of scotch, and some very creative putting lessons demonstrated by Elizabeth, he thanked his host. "I feel a lot better now, but I know my wife is going to be really upset."
 "Don't be silly!" Elizabeth said with a smile, "She won't know anything. By the way, where is she?"
 "Probably still under the cart!" Howard said.

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