

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER

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

Issue no. 104, 1st of November 2015.

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the November edition.

Well, it is fair to say that autumn has arrived as has the rain. Although locally we enjoyed only the odd shower, in Alicante around 60 litres of rainfall per square metre fell within two hours on October 13. This caused severe flooding and the usual motoring chaos. We do appear to escape the worst of it in this area. Some showers as I write this (27th) but promising to clear up later in the week.

Prime Minister Rajoy has now dissolved parliament and the General Election is scheduled for December 20th. The two main parties, the right of centre PP (ruling party) and the socialist PSOE, are very worried about the growth of two of the smaller parties, Ciudadanos (Citizens) - a right of centre party and Podemos, a left wing party. It is at least possible that one of these smaller parties might hold the balance of power in a national coalition government. So plenty of uncertainty and of course the unholy mess that is Catalan politics remains.

Gender violence continues at a horrific rate. In one 72 hour period during October, three women were murdered by their partners or ex-partners. One, a 23-year-old from Mali, who had a protection order against her partner, was bludgeoned to death with a chair leg in Beniel, Murcia; a 39-year-old Portuguese woman was allegedly shot dead by her 38-year-old ex-partner in Erandio in the Basque Country and a 54-year-old man killed his 33-year-old partner in Vigo and then killed himself. Up to the end of September this year, there have been 38 women murdered in Spain.

Spanish banking shares dropped on Oct' 27th following a report that European legal opinion supports returning excess mortgage payments to borrowers if they had clauses setting minimum interest rates in their contracts. The European Commission wants banks to return the interest revenue earned as a result of the application of so-called "floors" written into mortgage contracts if they're declared null and void, a commission report seen by Bloomberg said. A "floor" clause sets a minimum cost for a mortgage loan no matter how much interest rates fall. It has been fairly obvious over the last few years that the ruling PP government favours big business over the consumer. Any improvements to biased inheritance tax rates, evictions and other flawed legislation has come externally from the EU, not from within.

The Race Night at The Phoenix raised €800 to be divided between the charities Alimentos Solidarios (soup kitchen) and La Castellana Animal Sanctuary. €100 was later raised during a raffle at Jilly's. Ade & Lesley would like to thank all those who worked very hard to make these events a success and those who also generously contributed their 'hard-earned' to the fund raising.

There has recently been some very heavy vehicles passing through Lago Jardin 2 and Dream Hills. They are not allowed to take this route. The Dream Hills president and the administrators contacted the local police in both boroughs to get this heavy traffic stopped. The Local Police in Orihuela Costa responded well, but their efforts were not mirrored by the Torrevieja Local Police who want to be phoned every day the vehicles return.

Thanks to Julie & Robert, Dave & Justine and Lynne S for the extra donation last month.

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

Mick & Tid.

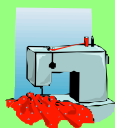
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Angela's Cartoon



A woman's mind is cleaner than a man's because she changes it more often.

Anon

TRANSLATOR & COMPUTER TRAINER

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

TRANSLATIONS

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

COMPUTER TRAINING

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

...you can determine your weight based on what food is visible in your kitchen?

If you want to lose weight, eating healthily and exercising regularly are obviously important. But so is the design of your kitchen: depending on where you place food items like cereals and fruit, your diet could that much more or less effective.

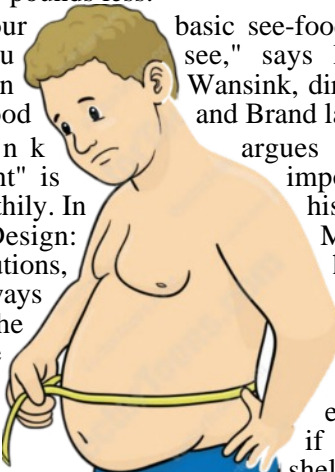
That's the upshot of a new study looking at the relationship between "kitchenscapes"—where food is placed in homes—and people's weight. It finds that when people put healthy stuff in sight, they're more likely to be thin. And vice versa: people who place unhealthy foods in view are likely to be heavier.

Researchers photographed more than 200 kitchens in Syracuse, New York, to see what food people had on their countertops. They found that women who had breakfast cereal in plain sight were 20 pounds heavier than neighbours who didn't, and that those with soda in view were 24 to 26 pounds heavier. Meanwhile, in households with fruit bowls on the counter, women weighed 13 pounds less.

"It's your basic see-food diet—you eat what you see," says lead author Brian Wansink, director of the Cornell Food and Brand lab.

Wansink argues "food environment" is important to eating healthily. In his book Slim By Design: Mindless Eating Solutions, he lists dozens of ways layout affects the choices people make. For example, you're likely to eat fruits and vegetables if they're on the middle shelf of the fridge rather than in the cooler drawer at the bottom. And you're less likely to eat cake and cookies if they're at the back of the cupboard than at the front. Such behavioural insights have led to the widespread redesign of school lunchrooms.

"What is seen is more likely to be eaten," says the new study, published in the journal Health Education and Behaviour. "Hence, clearing kitchen counters of all foods except fresh fruit could be an easy change to make, could decrease daily consumption and increase awareness of eating habits."



Despite all the pre-general election (December 20) boasting, unemployment in Spain remains at unacceptable levels. Despite an average unemployment rate of 6.8% in the 34 OECD countries, in Spain it is more than triple that at 22.2%. Youth unemployment here is a staggering 49%.

House sales were up by a yearly 24% in August. Of all the deals done, 79.8% corresponded to resale properties. The total number of property sales during August was 29,369.

Public debt increased by 9.267 billion € in August and is now close to 100% of GDP (97.4%). The public administrations already owe 1.05 trillion € and since the start of the crisis the debt has not stopped increasing.

'The uncertainties on the future of Cataluña continue, at least until a new Central Government is formed after the election in December, which will possibly affect consumer spending, the confidence of investors, and could cause abrupt increases in the risk premium', so said the team of analysts at HSBC.

When one thinks about corruption in Cataluña, it is usually the Pujol family which comes to mind, following, what has been years of multi-million euro commissions being shovelled into bulging private offshore accounts. Jordi Pujol was president of Cataluña from 1980 to 2003 as well as head of the pro-independence Democratic Convergence Party. Although investigations into the Pujol fortune are continuing, now, the current president of the president of the Generalitat of Catalonia and president of the same party - Democratic Convergence of Catalonia (CDC), is now under investigation. It seems that the ruling party were demanding commissions of 3% (sometimes 10%!) from contractors who were awarded public works, these funds to be paid into a 'foundation.' It transpired that the 'foundation' was in fact the Convergence party coffers. The treasurer of CDC party has just been arrested as has the Director of Catalan Infrastructures, Josep Antoni Rosell. Rosell is believed to have ordered works with an over-cost of as much as 80%! Rosell also granted a €1.1 billion contract to a company which he later managed.

As the noose is now tightening on the current president's (Catalonia) neck, President Mas is stating that 'it is all political persecution' for their pro-independence manoeuvres. The sad thing is that these jerks continue to enjoy the support of a large part of the Catalan electorate, even as they continued to build up their personal fortunes, just as they have done over the last couple of decades.

The new 20 euro note will be launched on November 25. One of its new characteristics is not confusable by touch and it also has a transparent window with a portrait of Europe. A transparent EU? Gosh! That would be nice!

The macro-bank holidays continue in the calendar. Known in Spain as a Puente (bridge) weekend, the Government has failed to meet one of their promises during the investiture of PM Rajoy. If say a 'Red Day' was on a Tuesday or Thursday, workers would usually take an additional day off making it a four-day break. The regional labour calendars for 2016 have many Tuesdays as fiestas and Mariano Rajoy had promised they would be moved to Monday.

The governments Code of Good Practice, which was launched in 2012 has been a failure. To date, it has only stopped or delayed one in ten property evictions.

On the death of her husband, Doris placed a notice in the local newspaper. 'Robert Percy, aged 62, died of VD on June 7, at 3pm.' The next day, she met a friend in the street who asked her, 'But Doris, I thought you told me he died of a bowel complaint?' 'He did,' she replied, 'but I'd prefer people to remember him as a great lover than the little shit he really was.'

Diario de Mallorca headlines 'the tourism income on the Balears is at an all time high at 12 billion € for the last 12 months.

The OECD has warned the schools in Spain do not prepare their students for a working life. 25.5% of Spanish youngsters aged between 15 and 29, neither study nor work - (called Ni-Ni's in Spain)

From Oct' 1st, children who are less than 1.35m tall have to travel in the backseats of the vehicle. The youngsters can sit in the front when the seats behind are already occupied by other minors or when a child seat cannot be installed such as in a two-seater car. In the mentioned exceptional cases when the child is in the front passenger seat and the car is equipped with a frontal airbag, only child seats which can be installed in the passenger seat with the child facing backwards can be used and only if the airbag has been deactivated. The Spanish DGT traffic authority emphasises 'never carry the child in your arms or under your own seat belt and remember using seat belts correctly reduces the likelihood of death by 75% and of injury by 90%.'

Netflix arrived in Spain on October 20, with costs starting at €7.99 a month. The platform will offer three payment plans, the dearest being €11.99 a month. It will be available in High Definition and even Ultra HD 4K on practically any screen which has a connection to the internet and any ISP. One of the interesting things about Netflix is that you can view the streams from other regions, like the US and the UK, although depending on your viewing device, it may need some tweaking. They have a helpful website at <https://www.netflix.com/es-en/> which is also offering a free month's viewing. (Spanish subtitles and dubbing are optional.) UK subscribers can continue using their service in Spain.

Amazon Spain has entered the Spanish grocery market via a new "supermarket" section on STIs amazon.es portal. The e-commerce giant is taking place on supermarket chains: such as Carrefour, Mercadona and El Corte Ingles by offering a wide range of non-perishable food items and cleaning products. Using the Amazon app, orders can be received within 24 hours and Amazon Prime subscribers will not have to pay delivery charges. In addition, Amazon is offering same-day delivery of items ordered before 2.45pm for Madrid residents. The CEO of Amazon Spain, François Nuyts, says the move is an "important step" for the company. "Our food store will be open 24 hours, seven days a week. From now, customers can buy thousands of products at a click without having to wait in line," the company says in a press release.

The Irish retail chain, Primark, have opened a massive new store in Madrid. The new store covers 12,400 sq. metres, over five floors and has 573 employees, 131 cash machines and 90 fitting rooms. The new store marks a new strategy in the firm by choosing a city centre against the large commercial centres on the outskirts of cities. Since opening, it has been 'heaving'!

Telefónica has said it is carrying out its own internal investigation into corruption. In a document sent to the National Commission for Market Values, the operator which does not itemize which country or countries are under investigation, explains they have been in contact with 'Governmental authorities' in relation to this matter. Now this is a stunner! Obviously they have detected a major 'irregularity' before the media has. A record in Spain! More in these columns as it develops.

4 What's Up? continued

The socialist spokesman in the Castilla-La Mancha Courts, Blanca Fernández, reported the discovery of excessive debt left behind by the María Dolores de Cospedal PP Government stating 'We have discovered Cospedal didn't manage anything, she only lied. Not only has she left the regional government without any money, we have found drawers full of firm condemning sentences (legal judgements against) worth 53 million € and if the outstanding 94 judicial processes which remain pending are confirmed, we have to add another 39 million € He assured the unpaid fines was costing the Junta de Castilla-La Mancha 8,000 € every day.

El País notes the Government will ask Volkswagen to return the PIVE discount of which the State paid 1,000 € per car. Seat has sold as many as 700,000 cars with fraudulent engines. El Mundo notes the revision of 11 million vehicles will cost Volkswagen 6.6 billion €. La Verdad notes hundreds of people from Murcia are preparing legal action against Volkswagen. Seat recognises it sold 700,000 'tricked' cars of which 140,000 are on the roads of Spain.

Diario de Mallorca notes the Balearics Govern will penalise via taxes the owners of houses who only rent their properties in the summer. The regional executive will introduce this with a new regulation on rental accommodation.

El País reports Afghan interpreters have taken refuge in Spain and are living in misery and without work. After risking their lives translating for Spanish soldiers are now left forgotten in Madrid and unfunded. Two years ago 41 interpreters and their families arrived in Madrid.

The European Parliament has called on Spain to reduce the 'intolerable' number of evictions and has called on the European Commission to observe 'attentively' the application of measures adopted by the Spanish authorities to avoid banking abuse. They highlight that since 2008 there has been nearly 400,000 evictions and more than 100,000 families have lost their main homes.

400 British military vehicles have landed in the Valencian port of Sagunto (photo). They are playing

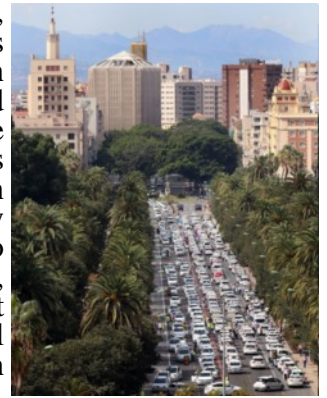


their part in a NATO exercise. Around 30,000 troops from 30 different countries will also be taking part. The exercise, called Trident Juncture, will be completed on November 16.

Odd things going on in the emergency section of the Clínico hospital in Málaga. Someone has been tipping off funeral service companies after it was found out that someone was tipping off these companies following the complaints from the families of two patients who had been admitted into emergencies, and shortly after received a phone call from the funeral service. Following the complaints from the families of two patients who had been admitted into emergencies, and shortly after received a phone call from the funeral service. One phone call was received at 1:17 in the morning.

Nine policemen have been arrested in Palma, Mallorca. They are being charged with extorting money from night club and disco owners on the island.

Check out this photo from Diario Sur of protesting taxi drivers who urge more action against the pirate drivers, in the central Alameda Street in Málaga completely packed with taxis, and the caption 'Taxi drivers from all of Spain have shown their strength in Málaga'. and quotes a taxi driver 'At last we taxi drivers are united'. This massive protest of more than 2,000 taxis blocked the city centre streets in opposition to the liberalisation of the sector, calling for more efficient controls and for the illegal transporters to be charged with crimes and not just 'faults.'



321 people have drowned in Spain during the first nine months of this year. Six autonomous regions account for 74% of the total fatalities, led by Andalucía with 53 dead, Cataluña with 48, Canaries with 38, Valencia Community and Galicia 34 dead each and the Islas Baleares with 30. Over 71% of fatalities occurred on beaches/rivers without lifeguards.

La Verdad reports that the court system in Murcia is under intolerable stress. There is a waiting list of 41,700 cases which are awaiting instructions.

It seems that 25 Málaga doctors have been found moonlighting in the private sector. Not a problem you might think but these doctors and surgeons were supposed to be dealing exclusively with the public health sector and were each paid an additional €750 a month to do so. Doctors and surgeons who are exclusively dedicated to the public health sector and who are found working in the private sector are committing an irregularity catalogued as a serious fault, which implies as much as two years unpaid suspension if the infraction is considered serious. However, on the majority of these occasions the penalty is 15 days of unpaid suspension.

La Verdad in Murcia notes a new study has lifted the number of homeless in the region to more than 1,500 people.

Información in Alicante headlines 'The aggression of minors against their fathers has doubled in a year'. The courts in the province opened 288 cases against children in 2014 for domestic violence.

UEFA has fined Barcelona €40,000 for allowing Catalan independence flags to be flown by supporters when playing Bayer Leverkusen on September 29.

The daily sports' newspaper Mundo Deportivo reports allegations about the impartiality of referees in favour of Real Madrid and against Barcelona. A linesman who wants to be anonymous has reported the Referees Arbitration Committee to the Anti-corruption Prosecutor. He claims the referees have received pressure to support Madrid in the next match against Barcelona on November 21. He adds an ex colleague, with a Falangist (far right wing) past, whose lawyer has assured this is not the only case concerning football corruption in Spain that the Guardia Civil are investigating.

You may recall the Madrid Arena venue disaster in Halloween 2012 when five young ladies lost their lives during a panic evacuation of part of the building. The venue has reopened.....but with fake security cameras and the absence of a medical or first aid room.

Little Johnny.

Little Johnny's father said: 'Can I see your school report?'

'I haven't got it,' said Johnny.

'Why not?'

'My friend Kenny borrowed it. He wants to scare his parents.'

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In a pub quiz the other day I lost by one point. The question I got wrong was,
'Where do women mostly have curly hair?' Apparently, it's Africa.

Michael Lowry



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Antiques Roadshow.

Paddy took two stuffed dogs to the Antiques Roadshow in Dublin.

"Ooh", said the presenter enthusiastically, "This is a very rare set produced by the celebrated Johns Brothers taxidermists who operated in London at the turn of the last century. Do you have any idea what they would fetch if they were in good condition?"

"Sticks," said Paddy.

Moir.

Lime Bar Golf Society Los Altos, Orihuela Costa.

The golf society's venue for the 14th October 2015 was held at Roda Golf Course.

With 33 members teeing off, probably our largest amount of members, created a problem on a heavily booked course. But thanks to our captain John Mc Gregor and Roda management this was overcome, even if it was along day for some. The course was in magnificent condition and played very well as the results showed.

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

Nearest the pin in 3 on the 1st hole (par 5) was Bob Tomlin.

Nearest the pin on the 2nd hole (par 3) was Ken Sutton.

Nearest the pin on the 7th hole (par 3) was Les Henderson.

Nearest the pin on the 11th hole (par 3) was Mike Heighway.

Nearest the pin on the 13th hole (par 3) was Les Henderson.

Bronze Class in 2nd place Dave Railton was with 30 points.

Bronze Class in 1st place Ken Sutton was with 31 points

Silver Class 2nd place was Digger with a score of 31 points.

Silver Class 1st place was Bob Adair with a score of 31 points.(on count-back)

Gold Class 2nd place was Bill Denne with a score of 35 points.

Gold Class 1st place was Ken Styan with a score of 38 points.

Best guest with 23 points was Bob Tomlin.

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.



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Ryanair.

Paddy phones Ryanair to book a flight. The operator asks 'How many people are flying with you?'
Paddy says, 'I don't know, it's your feckin plane!' Sue B.

Invasive species continue to prove an environmental headache locally. This time it is the Arizona Cactus (photo) which has returned to the Orihuela area. It is believed to have been eradicated a few years ago. The PP councillor for the environment, Miguel Angel Fernandez, has confirmed that it has been detected in two different parts of the municipality: in the neighbourhood of San Anton and in the Sierra. The invasive plant forced the closure of the Sierra to climbers in 2010 in order to curb its spread.



It is believed that the cactus was deliberately imported to the south of the province originally as a defensive ornament in many villas. The Valenciana Administration has

invested thousands of euros to try to eradicate it, but it seems to have proved impossible. Between 2011 and 2013, €900,000 was invested in an ambitious plan to eradicate this cactus. Climbers were hired to locate and destroy it in many parts of the Sierra de Orihuela. On the slopes and ravines of the municipality it had grown rapidly to the point of eradicating the more common species in the region, such as the agaves.

The original two-year eradication process was very difficult because of the heights the climbers had to work and many security measures had to be incorporated. More than half a million kilos of the offending cactus were removed but great care had to be taken, as even if a spike had fallen off the cut plant, it would re-grow again. But it now seems as if the plant has got a hold again in the area and its rapid expansion is expected.

The Councillor for Urban Transport, Sofia Alvarez held a meeting with taxi drivers in Orihuela during October to establish a series of proposals in order to improve the service, which has been described as "deficient," according to the councillor. The main challenge posed by the Department is in "reorganizing the service throughout the municipality", while recognising demarcation rates between urban and intercity services. Alvarez noted the possibility of collaboration with other municipalities or the upgrading of the departmental licence to solve the current problems in the sector. In this vein, the councillor told the 22 drivers present of the council's intention to establish control system to prevent piracy cases in the service.

The shortcomings of the 'welfare state' in Spain continue to assault us. Of the 2,424 cases submitted to Torrevieja during 2014, 825 claimants died before they or their families received any economic benefit. To put it another way, the claims procedure is so slow in making a decision, a third of applicants will pass away before receiving any support. My wife has applied for a 'disabled' parking sticker. When the social worker was asked how long it would take to come, she shrugged her shoulders and said, '18 months...maybe two years!'

The Foessa Foundation has highlighted that 16% of families in the Alicante region cannot afford medicines or medical treatment. The poverty rate in the region stands at an alarming 31.7%, the average family income falling from €15,899 in 2008, to €14,023 today.

I can't listen to too much Wagner.

I start getting the urge to conquer Poland.

Woody Allen

La Verdad in Murcia notes a hail storm has destroyed vines in a wide area of Altiplano and Abarán. First estimations of the losses suffered are the loss of 20,000 tons of grapes.

Also in Murcia, the regional health authority there is trying to reduce the backlog of patients waiting for surgery. They plan to spend an additional €2 million over a two month period, removing 3,000 patients from the waiting lists by using private hospitals and opening the operating theatres in the afternoons.

More than 50 women turned up at Torrevieja Hospital during Breast Cancer Awareness Day in October. They were there to donate some hair for those who needed wigs following chemotherapy. Natural hair wigs can cost up to €1,500 each, which is well out of reach of many. The donors had to provide



a minimum of 20 cm's of their hair. This, the organisers stated, would enable the new wigs to be sold at a discount of 80%. On the same day in Elche 250 women gathered and donated even more hair.

SACYR, the giant international construction company and majority shareholder of Aeromur, the company who had the concession to run Corvera Airport withdrawn, is now demanding €6,000 daily for the maintenance at this 'dead' airport. That's just €2,190,000 a year!

More than 2,400 residents in the La Siesta area are demanding the Torrevieja City Council resume the improvement works to their common areas. It seems that the previous PP council put the project on the



back-burner. The local residents are hoping that the new council will treat the

matter as a priority. As you can see from this photo, the area looks like a Greek ruin.

The driver of this car parked his vehicle in the rough ground by the Nautilus Restaurant while he went for a meal. However, he forgot to apply the handbrake...and his car went for a swim.



While driving on the N-332, you will probably have noticed this glass fronted building close to the Quiron (San Jaime) private hospital. This is the International



Auditorium of Torrevieja. It was completed four years ago and cost €3 million! The original budget for the project was €10 million, but

nobody in Spain appears to be able to stick to a budget when public works are involved. Other than holding a couple of minor events some years ago, nothing has happened there since. But that is not the end of the spending. Although the building is closed, it now costs €360,000 a year to maintain the building!

Bought the missus a hamster skin coat last week. Took her to the fair but it took me 3 hours to get her off the Ferris wheel. After both suffering from depression for a while, me and the wife were going to commit suicide yesterday. But strangely enough, once she killed herself, I started to feel a lot better. So I thought, "Screw it, soldier on!"

Mel Bettell

Céad Mile Fáilte
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Where?

Trying to contact her dead husband Edna goes to a spiritualist who tells her that her husband is fine and looking forward to their reunion. 'Is there anything he needs?' asks Edna. The spiritualist replies, 'He says he'd love a pack of cigarettes.' 'Oh,' says Edna. 'And did he say where I should try to send them?' 'No,' replies the spiritualist. 'But then again he didn't ask for any matches.'

Messi's In A Mess!

The Argentinean football genius is now laid up for some months because of a football injury. This should give him plenty of time to help prepare his case against tax fraud allegations.

Between 2007 and 2009, Messi made €10.1 million from advertising contracts with major companies across the world. But thanks to his father's fiscal engineering methods, the player did not declare this income on his Spanish tax returns. Instead of paying €4.1 million in taxes, he allegedly "simulated the transfer of his image rights" to front companies with no business activity located in tax havens such as Uruguay and Belize. The money ended up in firms set up in Britain and Switzerland "with practically no taxation" and without the knowledge of the Spanish Tax Agency.

The prosecutor believes that the footballer Lionel Messi (photo) is not guilty of defrauding the Spanish Treasury of €4.1 million. However his father, who was apparently the architect of the 'fiscal engineering' strategy (i.e. fiscal fraud & tax evasion!) and was originally facing a 18-year jail sentence, is now facing a lesser sentence; the prosecution only seeking a one-and-a-half year prison sentence for Jorge Horacio Messi. This is because of the extenuating circumstance that his son immediately deposited €5 million at the courthouse after learning of the charges – equivalent to the amount of the fraud plus interest. Even if his dad escapes 'the slammer,' which is likely as it will be a first offence with a sentence of less than two years, Lionel still faces a number of charges as the Tax Agency does not agree with the prosecutor and feels strongly that Lionel is culpable and was aware of the deception. They are asking for a 22-month jail sentence. It is unlikely that either will go to jail but there will undoubtedly be hefty fines to pay.

This immediately brings to mind some lines from a poem by Philip Larkin:

"They fuck you up, your mum and dad. They may not mean to, but they do.

They fill you with the faults they had And add some extra, just for you."

Sex after Death.

A couple made a deal that whoever died first would come back and inform the other if there is sex after death. Their biggest fear was that there was no after life at all.

After a long life together, Frank was the first to die. True to his word, he made the first contact: "Kris, Kris, can you hear me?"

"Is that you, Frank?"

"Yes, I've come back like we agreed."

"That's wonderful! What's it like?"

"Well, I get up in the morning, I have sex. I have breakfast and then it's off to the golf course. I have sex again, bathe in the warm sun and then have sex a couple of more times. Then I have lunch (and Kris, you'd be proud — lots of greens). Another romp around the golf course, then pretty much have sex the rest of the afternoon. After supper, it's back to the golf course again. Then it's more sex until late at night. I catch some much needed sleep and then the next day it starts all over again".

"Oh, Frank! Are you in Heaven?"

"No -- I'm a rabbit somewhere in Buckinghamshire."

Windy!

An upper-class gent was walking through Hyde Park when a sudden strong gust of wind blew up the skirt of a passing lady. 'Oh I say, it's airy, isn't it,' he remarked.

The lady replied, 'Well what did you expect, feathers?'

Stewart

Other Footballers & Tax Fraud in Spain.

Barcelona's Argentina international Javier Mascherano has been charged with two counts of defrauding the Spanish tax authorities of a total of more than 1.5 million euros (£1.1 million), the public prosecutor said on Monday.

Mascherano, who joined Barca from English club Liverpool in August 2010, is alleged to have sought to conceal earnings from his image rights by using companies set up in the United States and Portugal, the prosecutor's office said.

The 31-year-old is accused of defrauding the authorities of 587,822.01 euros in 2011 and 968,907.76 in 2012, they added.

Mascherano, who made no immediate public comment on the charges, this month paid the money owed plus almost 200,000 euros interest, the office said, and local media reported this could work in his favour if he is found guilty. Barca did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

A Spanish judge must now rule on whether the Mascherano case should go to trial.

Mascherano is the latest high-profile football player to be accused of tax fraud following the likes of his Barcelona and Argentina team mate Lionel Messi. See opposite column.

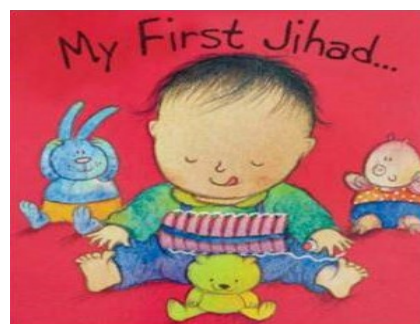
Another Barca player, Brazil forward Neymar, has been named in a lawsuit filed by investment fund DIS that alleges it was the victim of a fraud perpetrated in the signing of the player from Santos in 2013.

Barcelona, former president Sandro Rosell, incumbent Josep Maria Bartomeu, Neymar, his father, Santos and two of the Brazilian club's executives were all named in the suit.

Barca said the club had acted "fully within the law" and rejected the accusations.

In a separate tax evasion case in Brazil, Neymar's parents last month denied any wrongdoing after a judge froze almost \$50 million of the player's assets.

Neymar is accused of failing to pay around \$15 million in taxes between 2011 and 2013 but his parents said he "cannot declare what is not his" and their son was not a partner in the firms a judge said were part-owned by the player.





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no chance they will avert
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and then murder most foul
no escape to be found
but then; I am an owl

The Phantom Poet

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The Fertile Pastor.

A pastor's wife was expecting a baby, so he stood before the congregation and asked for a raise. After much discussion, they passed a rule that whenever the pastor's family expanded; so would his paycheck.

After 6 children, this started to get expensive and the congregation decided to hold another meeting to discuss the pastor's expanding salary. A great deal of yelling and inner bickering ensued, as to how much the pastor's additional children were costing the church, and how much more it could potentially cost.

After listening to them for about an hour, the pastor rose from his chair and spoke, "Children are a gift from God, and we will take as many gifts as He gives us." Silence fell over the congregation.

In the back pew, a little old lady struggled to stand, and finally said in her frail voice, "Rain is also a gift from God, but when we get too much of it, we wear rubbers."

The entire congregation said, "Amen."

EL CAPITAN

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Another German motoring monstrosity!
 (Submitted by Mike Wiggington, Consultant Gynaecologist & Rock Historian For Los Altos)

The Rub! ®

A small church had a very attractive big-busted organist, Linda, and her breasts were so large that they bounced and jiggled while she played the organ. Unfortunately, she distracted the congregation considerably. The very proper church ladies were appalled. They said something had to be done about this or they would have to get another organist.

So one of the ladies approached Linda very discreetly about the problem, and told her to mash up some green astringent persimmons and rub them on her nipples and over her breasts, which should cause them to shrink in size, but warned her not to taste any of the green persimmons, because they are so sour they will make her mouth pucker up, and she wouldn't be able to talk properly for a while. The voluptuous organist reluctantly agreed to try it.

The following Sunday morning the minister walked up to the pulpit and said, "Dew to thircumsthanthis bewond my contwol, we will not hab a thermon tewday."



Many believe that Benidorm is nothing but a collection of bums! Well, as the above photograph illustrates, it is absolutely true!

Flu Vaccination.

A large number of the autonomous communities have already began to promote their flu vaccination campaigns this week.

If you belong to an 'at risk' group, i.e. a retiree, or with a pre-existing condition, and are registered with the health service, then get vaccinated!

Even if you do not qualify for these groups, you can still purchase the vaccine over the counter at chemists/pharmacists throughout Spain for just €. Unless you live in a cave, it means that you will probably mix with the public in supermarkets, airports, bars, restaurants etc., which will bring you into contact with sneezing and coughing members of the public, and that is how the virus is passed around. Be pro-active!



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.

Are you confused by the recent legislation changes?

Are you unsure of your future pension entitlement?

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The Honeymoon.

I suppose it was inevitable that the event made headline news in the local press. “Man of 80 marries girl of 21!” The man was in such great demand that it arranged for him to hold a press conference when they returned from their honeymoon.

“How often do you have sex?” shouted out one of the journalists.

“Nearly every night,” replied the man. “Nearly on Monday, nearly on Tuesday, nearly on Wednesday.....”

Stewart.

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VW & Spain.

Nearly two weeks after US authorities uncovered Volkswagen's sophisticated scheme to deceive pollution emission regulators, the German automaker has put a figure on the number of vehicles affected in Spain.

According to the company, 683,626 automobiles are equipped with the tampered EA 189 Euro 5 diesel engines, which come with software that reduces emissions during regulatory testing, but not on the road.

The Spanish subsidiary of the German automaker has now issued a press release detailing the specific brands affected by the scandal.

According to this information, there are 257,479 Volkswagens, 221,783 Seats, 147,095 Audis, 37,082 Skodas and 20,187 Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles equipped with this engine.

The company said the affected brands published a free hotline number on their websites on October 3 which customers can call to find out if their vehicles contain the fraudulent software. The company added that it would cover all costs deriving from the problem. The OCU and Facua consumer associations have already brought together over 11,000 drivers who are ready to take legal action against VW.



I'm sick to death of people knocking on my door looking for donations. Just had one from the sperm bank. Boy, did I give her a mouthful.
 Michael Lowry



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Moirá



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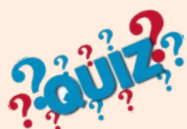


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In a train from London to Manchester, an American was berating the Englishman sitting across from him in the compartment. "The trouble with you English is that you are too stuffy. You set yourselves apart too much. You think your stiff upper lip makes you above the rest of us. Look at me... I'm me! I have Italian blood, Greek blood, a little Irish blood and some Spanish blood. What do you say to that?"

The Englishman lowered his newspaper and replied, "How very sporting of your mother!"

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Top of the World, Ma!

Well, at least financially. That's Amancio Ortega, the Galician entrepreneur who founded and built up the Inditex empire.

Inditex, the biggest fashion group in the world, operates over 6,600 stores worldwide and owns brands like Massimo Dutti, Bershka, Oysho, Pull and Bear, Stradivarius, Zara, Tempe, and Uterqüe, and also a low-cost brand Lefties. The majority of its stores are corporate-owned; franchises are only conceded in countries where corporate properties can not be foreign-owned (in some Middle Eastern countries, for example). The group designs and manufactures almost everything by itself, and new designs are dispatched twice a week to Zara stores.

The founder, Ortega (photo), is now rated by Forbes Magazine as the richest man in the world, with a fortune of €72 billion. Rarely seen wearing a tie, Amancio has never given an interview, does not attend any meetings or conferences with 'the Great & the Good,' or do 'showboating'; his company doesn't advertise and he doesn't parade at celebrations or world forums such as in Davos. Now nearing 80, he lives without excessive luxury in A Coruña. When working he dines with and eats the same food as the workers.



Inditex has a market capitalisation of €8.5 billion; compared to 73.4 billion € for Santander and 55 billion € for Telefónica.

Amancio has just donated €17 million to Galician hospitals, which will be spent on the early diagnosis and treatments against cancer.

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Letters to the Editor.



Mick, please alert your readers. My bank card was "cloned " then used in Taiwan. The last place I used it was at the cash machine outside the Chinese bazaar in La Florida.

Although the local police say it may well have been the Deutsche Bank cash machine by the roundabout by Paddy's Corner (road that goes to the La Zenia beach) which is known to have been interfered with in the past, even though its in the bank!

All I did was check my balance, so they must have had a card reader, or a covert camera or whatever.

I didn't find out until I returned to the UK; the card is still in my possession.

Bankia, my bank, did not tell me and only blocked the account after I told them, but then I have had a real nightmare sorting it all out. The bank even still released yet more funds to Taiwan shortly after "blocking the account!" Tossers!

They still haven't refunded me.

I had a UK crime report completed but they would not accept it, so I had to come back over and report to the Guardia Civil in Torre Vieja; only took three hours to report it.....lol , then go to the bank.

The procedure is.....

They will require a police report stating the full amount stolen from the account, even though they were aware of it themselves. They will do nothing without a report. I have been told that I will have to wait at least 5 weeks until the bank decide "if I suddenly flew to Taiwan and withdrew all my funds then flew back in one day." Lol!

So.....be warned the card reading machines are still out there and being used; the banks are not that alert to the problem and their response has been 'rubbish' ... failing to respond to emails and phone calls and so on.

As I am a retired police sergeant, I thought I would be aware of the cloned card offence, but I won't use the machines any more.

Keep well,

Thanks,

(Name & address withheld by Editor.)

Foxy, Tomo and Rosie
Welcome You To

Tel: 634 341 080

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Bar & Grill.

Ground Floor,
Via Park V.

SPECIAL DRINK OFFERS!

**SUNDAY NIGHT KARAOKE
WITH DANIEL FIRTH**
Come and sing your heart out!! 9pm til Midnight.

EVERY THURSDAY FROM 9pm
PADDY KELLY & FRIENDS - Easy Listening.

FRIDAYS 8pm -LATE, TOMMYOKE - KARAOKE.

**COMPREHENSIVE MENU AVAILABLE
CHEF'S SPECIALS DAILY!!!
SEVERAL VEGETARIAN OPTIONS
TERRIFIC SUNDAY ROASTS!**
With Homemade Yorkshire's &
Roast Potatoes Cooked in Beef Dripping!!
BOOKING ADVISABLE.
Alhambra, John Smith's, Local Spirits just €!
HAPPY HOUR 5 - 7pm.
Always a warm welcome!





The Phoenix Golfing Society.



Sunday 11th October at Vistabella Golf Course.

It was a memorial day for the late Peter Dawson a former President of The Phoenix Golf Society. Pearl his former partner came to the course and we had a toast to Peter before the game.

It was a good day for golf and the course was in an excellent condition. There were two players who came in with the same score, Dave Carhill and Brian Archer.

Brian Archer won after a count back.

John Walls won the nearest the pin

Once again we had excellent food and may thanks to Donna and Paul.

Our next game is at Peraleja Golf Course on the 15th November and the list is up at the Phoenix.

All Welcome.

Gill welcomes you to

JILLY'S

Lago Jardin II

Now serving Bar Snacks
incl. Toasties, Baguettes,
Baked Potatoes & Salads.
Quality Beef & Chicken Burgers
& Delicious Chips.
Food Always Freshly Prepared.
BARGAIN PRICED DRINKS!
THE BEST FRESHLY GROUND COFFEE & DECAF.
FREE WIFI.

THURS' 9pm - KARAOKE WITH TOM
FRIDAYS 1PM - D.E. ACOUSTIC
Easy Listening Live Music.
Relax and soak up the sunshine
on our large south-facing terrace.



Carcinogenic Crisps?

More than 17% of commercial potato crisps in Spain had higher levels of a certain carcinogen than recommended EU levels, according to a study presented by Spanish researchers.

Nearly one in five bags of potato crisps in Spain contain levels of the carcinogenic substance acrylamide that are higher than what is recommended as healthy by the European Commission, according to the study under the Spanish Institute of Food Science, Technology and Nutrition (ICTAN).

Researchers presented the study at a conference by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in Milan last week.

Acrylamide is defined by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) as a "chemical that naturally forms in starchy food products during high-temperature cooking". EFSA states that its presence in food can potentially increase the risk of developing cancer.

Potato products are one of the biggest food groups that expose people to acrylamide, as well as coffee and crisp bread. Cigarettes may also contain the substance.

The researchers analyzed 40 different potato crisp brands between 2004 and 2014. The levels of acrylamide among the crisp bags seemed to differ greatly with variations of up to 80%.

The ICTAN study found that Spaniards' overall exposure to the substance has decreased over the past decade, but emphasized that the country must continue efforts to reduce it further.

The study authors warned of the "unreasonably high levels" that can be combated through choosing better produce and improving cooking methods, but also praised the downward trend, reported newspaper El Pais. Potato crisps in 2014 had 57.6% less of the substance than in 2004.

"We believe that with a proper education campaign, we could get the whole sector in a short time to be below the target set by the Commission," said study co-author Francisco Morales.

BIENVENIDO a BAR KALIMOTXO

Bar y Restaurante
Via Park III

**Oxana & Oscar Welcome You
to an Authentic Spanish Bar.**

**WE FEATURE A WIDE RANGE OF EXCELLENT WINES, SPIRITS & SPANISH BEERS.
ALL FOOD IS FRESHLY PREPARED WITH A FRESH SELECTION OF TAPAS DAILY**

**A WIDE RANGE OF MEAT, FISH, PAELLA
AND SHELLFISH DISHES AVAILABLE**

BREAKFASTS, SANDWICHES, BAGUETTES & SNACKS.

**SUCCULENT MEATS RANGING FROM ROAST LAMB,
ROAST KNUCKLE OF PORK AND ROAST CHICKEN**

TO DELICIOUS BURGERS, WINGS AND WONDERFUL HAND-CUT CHIPS.

TASTY FISH RANGING FROM SALMON AND SWORDFISH

TO MERLUZA AND SARDINES

DELICIOUS SEAFOOD WITH PRAWNS, CALAMARES, CHIPIRONES etc.

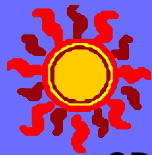
LARGE SELECTION OF WINES FROM 90 CENTS PER GLASS!

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Via Park V

SPECIAL OFFERS!

Glass of Wine - Red, Rose or White - €0.90

Bottle of Beer 33ml Bud, Estrella, San Miguel - €1.

Bottle 33ml Coronita Cerveza - €2.20

Cans 33ml Heineken, Mahou, Amstel, San Miguel - €1.

Can 50ml Adlerbrau - €1; Can 33ml Emderau - €0.70

Cans 50ml Strongbow, Carling - €2.

Cans Beer John Smith, Guinness - €2.40. Can Sprite - €1.

1 Litre San Miguel €2.50

Cup of Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate - €1.00

House Vodka & Mixer - €2.50

FOOD

5 x Onion Bhaji - €2.

2 x Fish & Chips + Bottle of wine - €12.50

¼ Chicken, Chips & Salad - €3.99

Small Pizza Margarita - €2.70; Small Breakfast - €2.

5 Chicken Wings, Chips & Budweiser - €4.99

Chicken Burger, Chips & San Miguel - €4.99

10 Calamari Rings, Chips & Glass of Wine - €4.99

Hot Dog, Chips, Can of Sprite - €3.50

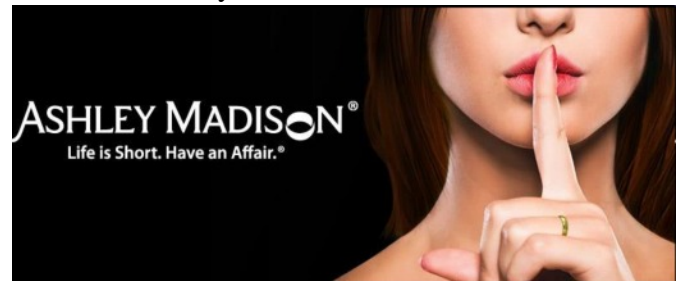
Chicken Tikka Tortilla Wrap, Salad & Sauce - €4.40



Ashley Madison and Blackmail.

This summer, the Guardia Civil are investigating dozens of complaints throughout Spain from clients who accessed the extramarital dating website, Ashley Madison. Some say that they are being blackmailed by hackers who ask for money in exchange for not informing their partners, friends and work colleagues, according to Europa Press sources.

Ashley Madison is a Canada based online social network aimed primarily at married people. Under the slogan "Life is short, have an affair", it is accessible in 26 countries worldwide and has reportedly, more than 42 million members. One of the main hallmarks of this platform was the guarantee of confidentiality.



However, last July a group of hackers, called The Impact Team, published data online on the personal and financial data of many of its more than 37 million customers, mainly males. They exposed names, email addresses and financial information on many of those who joined the network. So red faces and creative excuses and denials all round!

But now other hackers have gone further and are using the data to blackmail Ashley Madison clients.

When all else fails, read the instructions.

IDIOT OF THE MONTH AWARD

Definitely an international flavour to the Idiots this month.

We start with James Gray (no relation) who was on board a recent KLM flight from Edinburgh to Amsterdam. James decided to 'point Percy at the porcelain' but instead of trying to open the toilet door, he tried to open the exit door instead! Now how could you possibly mistake those? Upon landing at Schiphol Airport, Mr. Gray was arrested, fined €600 and given a five-year ban from flying with KLM again.

A late-running Italian man was arrested in early October after phoning police to allege a bomb threat - so that he wouldn't miss his flight from Turin's Caselle airport. What's more, the man spoke in Arabic, telling police "there's a bomb on board", in the hope the threat would sound more convincing, La Stampa reported. All passengers and baggage on board the Alitalia jet, which was scheduled to leave the northern Italian city for Rome at 9pm, were swiftly evacuated, and after an extensive search no security threat was found. The man was arrested upon arriving at the airport.

It is unclear what level of punishment he now faces but in a similar case in France in May the culprit faced up to two years in prison and a €30,000 fine. The 33-year-old man was arrested at Bordeaux airport, in southwestern France, after calling the airport alleging a bomb threat to delay a plane because his girlfriend was stuck in traffic.

Helmut Brunner (photo) in Bavaria accidentally started a forest fire over the weekend, after dumping ashes in a thicket near his house. Brunner tipped what he thought were extinguished ashes into a small forest near his house. But a few hours later he found flames rising from the same spot and had to call the fire services. Bad enough, but here's the kicker - Helmut is the Bavarian Forestry Minister!



"I totally underestimated it, it's really embarrassing," the minister told Bavarian Radio. "You can't be careful enough." Half a dozen firefighters turned up to quell the blaze. The number was deemed necessary due to the heightened fire risk caused by a dry summer. The firefighters were able to dampen the flames before they caused any damage to property. Brunner himself had repeatedly warned the public about the danger of forest fires during recent weeks. Schadenfreude!

It has just been revealed that Deutsche Bank paid \$6bn to a hedge fund client by mistake in a "fat finger" trade on its foreign exchange desk this summer. Germany's biggest bank recovered the money from the US hedge fund the next day. But the incident in its London-based forex team was an embarrassing blow to the bank, which is already under intense scrutiny from regulators.

The \$6bn trade was processed by a junior member of the bank's forex sales team while his boss was on holiday, said two people familiar with the matter. Instead of processing a net value, the person processed a gross figure. That meant the trade had "too many zeroes", said one of the team.

McTavish is on his death bed. He calls over his friend Hamish and says, 'I have a bottle of 25-year-old whisky under my pillow. When I'm dead would you do me a kindness and pour it over my grave?' 'Aye,' replies Hamish, 'though I might be passing it through my kidneys first.'

High-Speed Sabotage!

The Renfe AVE high-speed train service was suspended for several hours in Catalonia in early October. The problem was located somewhere between the station of Vilafranca del Penedès (Barcelona) and the French border. Over 40 trains were cancelled and 13,000 passengers had to be reallocated to alternate services. Initially the reason provided by Spanish rail operator Renfe was the theft of copper wires used to power the service's security systems, as well as a problem with signals along the tracks.



Such thefts are a recurring problem for railway and telecommunications operators in Spain. In just one operation in December of last year alone, police recovered 45 tons of stolen wires in a Madrid shantytown. Police and Guardia Civil have intercepted 2,600 tons of stolen copper over the last four years, worth over 12 million €. The thieves target railway lines, electricity pylons, factories, warehouses, construction works, wind farms and even urbanisations. The market price for copper in London is 5,240 dollars a ton.

Since 2011 the Police and the Guardia Civil realised 11,442 detentions in different areas; thieves, buyers and sellers. Most of the copper impounded by the Guardia Civil has been in Valencia, Toledo, Alicante, Madrid, Murcia, Sevilla and Zaragoza. And using National Police figures most of the copper impounded was in Madrid, Sevilla, Valencia, Alicante, Vizcaya, Las Palmas and Cádiz according to the Interior Ministry.

However, it was subsequently revealed that it was the fibre-optic cable that was deliberately damaged in two locations, more than 100 metres apart. As these cables control the communication systems for the line, they are protected by being sunk into concrete, so considerable force was used to access them. The police now believe that it was a deliberate act of sabotage. It is hardly coincidental that there is a labour dispute with Renfe together with occasional strikes taking place at present. Some union activists can be quite aggressive. I recall some years ago how union protestors damaged an electrical substation in Andalusia to highlight their protest. While in some countries this would be classed as a terrorist offence, the perpetrators got off with a suspended sentence!

But Is The AVE Still Viable?

A Spanish governmental entity called the Accounts Tribunal has issued a statement stating that the AVE high-speed network is unsustainable. They state that the projected income is 'insufficient' and will not cover even the maintenance of the infrastructure.

The ruling PP government have adopted the AVE as a pet project as it is the longest high-speed network in Europe and the second longest (next to China's) in the world, so they are extremely sensitive to any criticisms concerning it. A petition in Congress by the opposition to paralyse the works until sustainability has been proven, was blocked by the PP majority during a vote in early October.

The closest AVE branch lines to us are Murcia, Alicante and Cartagena (proposed).



NOVEMBER AT THE PHOENIX



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Thursdays are Pie Nights! 2 for €8.95!



Kitchen Open Daily from 12pm (excl. Weds')

Serving Breakfasts, Full Snack Menu.

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



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

Thursdays - Eyes down for The Phoenix Bingo -



Tickets on Sale from 2:30pm

Dibbers & Dabbers at the Ready for 3pm.

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



TUESDAYS FROM 5pm & SUNDAY FROM 9pm DISCO/KARAOKE With 'The Lovely Laura.'



Saturdays - Sports Shown on 4 Large Screens - With Beer & a Burger Only €3!

Sundays - Homecooked Traditional 3 Course Lunch Served 2 - 8pm

FOOD SERVED 5 TILL 8pm EXCL. WED'S & SUNDAYS.

DISCO/KARAOKE MONDAY & TUESDAY

CHECK BOARDS FOR ENTERTAINERS THIS MONTH

WALKING FOOTIE RESTARTED. SEE CLASSIFIED'S.

BOOKINGS NOW BEING TAKEN FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER DEC' 25TH.

WiFi

Check in Bar for details.

The Kindness of Strangers.

A kindly middle aged woman was walking through the shopping arcade when she saw a scruffy man sitting on one of the benches. Overcome with pity, she went up to him and put £5 in his hand. 'Here you are, young man, have faith do you hear, have faith.' A week later, she was walking through the arcade again when the same scruffy man ran up to her. 'I've been looking for you,' he said. 'Have Faith came in at 16/1, here's your winnings' and he put a wad of notes in her hand.



Macklin's LOUNGE BAR & GAMES ROOM

LIVE BETTING AVAILABLE HERE FULLY LEGAL

POOL...SNOOKER...DARTS...POKER

LIVE SPORTS 6 SCREENS

RUGBY BOXING MOTORSPORTS FOOTBALL

BINGO! EVERY SATURDAY AT 2pm.
COMING IN DECEMBER -
JOYCE'S SUNDAY QUIZ 9pm.

QUIZ NIGHT

WiFi Free Zone

WHY GO ANYWHERE ELSE !!!

FIND US AT GROUND FLOOR, VIA PARK 3.

Finally, Jail Sentences for Animal Abuse.

The magistrate in Penal Court No. 8 in Palma has handed down a sentence of one year in prison for letting his dog die of starvation in April 2013 in a house in the city.

The man, who lives in Palma, had left the dog (photo) in a deplorable state, completely abandoned, malnourished, dehydrated and ill. The Local Police found the poor creature on the patio of a house. His owner had tied the dog up on short cord, which stopped the dog from moving or standing up. The agents who rescued the dog noted its total abandonment and took it to a veterinary centre in San Reus. A few days later it was dead despite desperate attempts by the vets to save him.



It was the offender's brother who reported the plight of the poor animal to the police.

The defense lawyer had asked for community work instead of a jail sentence which the judge refused believing that the crime was a torture of the worst sort producing a long and distressing agony for the dog. The guilty man plans to appeal.

But then the same judge in Palma (what is it about Palma and animal abuse?) handed down a jail sentence to another man for beating his own racehorse to death with a metal bar.

Back in December 2012, the horse was entered into a trotting race. Trotting is a traditional sport on the Balearic Islands, where there are five racecourses. The six-year-old trotter, called Sorky das Pont, descended from a US sire and a Swedish dam, had won 24 out of 112 races, earning its two owners nearly €6,000 in prize money. But the horse had just been disqualified from a race for trotters

in which the animal lost its pace and broke into a gallop. The total prize money was just €500.

The swine, Eugeni Sánchez María - photo - beat the unfortunate animal to death with an iron bar, breaking the horse's neck. "The atrocious death of this racehorse inside his own stall at the racetrack constitutes an aberration in the 21st century," wrote the judge in her decision, handed down on September 21. Sanchez received a jail sentence of eight



months and has been forced to serve it. This is the first time in Spain that anyone found guilty of animal cruelty has actually served a jail sentence.

Floor Clauses & Mortgage Rates.

I have written on the above subject at length in previous editions and don't intend to do so now.

However, while enjoying a restoratory libation locally, I was approached by a Dream Scene subscriber, who offered to charge my glass (decent fellow) and relate to me a story concerning their mortgage renewal earlier in the year.

Before the renewal date, the bank was promoting what it said was a very attractive rate of almost 4%. Now this chaps wife - smarter than him - recalled an earlier article in the DS where I reported on mortgage floor clauses and the benefits of playing 'hardball' when it came to renegotiating mortgages.

They went to the bank and basically told the bank to 'piss off!' Eventually, they were given a rate of Eurobor - which is currently around 0.14% plus 1%! The bank clerk and their lawyer were stunned, the bank official stating that it was better than his staff rate.

So, when it comes to dealing with the banks, get tough! See Page 1 also.



JUKES



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VIA PARK V.

Stockist of all your favourite British brands.
Fresh deli sandwiches made to order - over 20 fillings
to choose from; to eat in or takeaway.
Full range of Pastries, Pies, Pasties, Sausage Rolls,
Paninis, Jacket Spuds, Breakfasts and Snacks.



TUESDAY - CHIPPY CHEWSDAY.

Chippy-style Dinners All with
Handcut Chunky Chips, Peas, Beans, Gravy, Curry and
Bread 'N' Butter, Pies, Saveloy, Meat Puddings,
Cod, Scampi, Fishcakes.
ALL €5.95!



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 €5.95; 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.

ALL OF THE ABOVE ARE AVAILABLE
BETWEEN 12 - 4PM

BY ADVANCE BOOKING ONLY
TELEPHONE ORDERS WELCOME.

TEL:603 355 615

MON - FRI 8 - 10:30pm. (SAT 6pm & SUN 4pm)

**BOOKINGS NOW BEING TAKEN FOR
XMAS FAYRE MENU!**

**Dates: Saturday 5th, 12th, 19th December.
MENU DETAILS IN SHOP.**



DAILY SPECIALS AVAILABLE - ALL €4.95!!
SEE BOARDS FOR DETAILS.

No! They are not all the same!

Legal stories can sometimes be very boring but this one made me chuckle.

A German company called 'Fun Factory' took a Valencian company - 'Life is Short' to court in Alicante. *Fun Factory* manufacture a range of sex toys including some unusual vibrators. But *Fun Factory* claimed that the Spanish firm plagiarised their dildo designs.

Now I can hear you saying "But surely the shape of all of these would be much like the real thing?" Well, apparently not! You would imagine that a German *schlong* would be much the same as other nationalities. Maybe they enjoy better engineering? Anyway, the court agreed that the German dildos were unique in shape and colour. They ordered the Valencian firm to cease importing the copies from China and to compensate the German firms with the profit they made to date from selling the copies.

As you can see from the photo (*Informacion*) of the court, the case also generated some mirth there.



Unfortunately, the Dream Scene censor prohibits me from showing you the disputed items, as it may frighten the animals. However, if your curiosity wins you can always search Google Images for 'Fun Factory dildos' which will provide you with a cornucopia of, what might be for some, unsettling images. Personally, I don't think I'll ever be able to eat a bratwurst again!

Now I know that many of our English readers will not have it said that the Germans do anything or have anything better; so especially for our English friends, I have included below a photo of a real English 'dick.'



Blond.

A blonde went to the hospital to donate blood.
The nurse asked her: 'What type are you?'
The blond replied: 'I'm an outgoing cat-lover.'

Watch out for
Diwali Party
Nights
In
November!

At La Murada
On Nov' 11

At Quesada
On Nov' 12

&

At Los
Montesinos
On Nov' 13

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FOR YOU TO CHOOSE FROM.
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

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SERVED 12pm - 3pm

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SPACIOUS AND FULLY AIR CONDITIONED

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Spain Seventh in Longevity Stakes.

The top ten listed by average age of longevity are:

- 1 – Hong Kong – 83.5
- 2 – Japan – 83.1
- 3 – Italy – 82.9 & Iceland – 82.9
- 5 – Switzerland 82.7
- 6 – France -82.6
- 7 – Spain – 82.4
- 8 - Singapore 82.1 & Australia 82.1
- 10 – Israel 81.7 & Sweden 81.7

The UK is 12th equal with Norway at 81.5.

Hong Kong leads the table as the elderly population has a Chinese martial art regime called Tai Chi which consists of slow arm, leg and body movements. A balanced diet is explained by the steamed cooking and the habit of drinking tea.

Japan has fallen from first place after three years following a spate of female suicides which has outweighed the good diet.

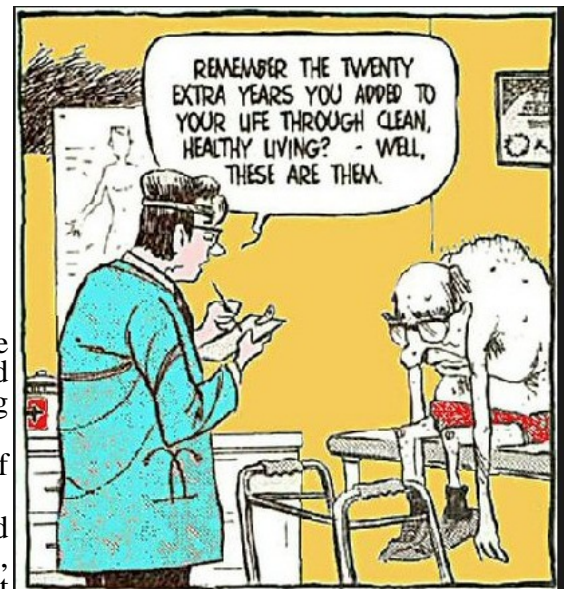
Switzerland has a good diet and excellent medical care and Iceland above has the best diet in the world according to expert nutritionists, tied with Italy which has a higher number of diabetes cases and heart disease.

The Lancet magazine considers the Italians live on average more years because the poorer people still enjoy a good diet. Most of the population eats fresh and healthy produce, which are a luxury in many counties of the world.

But it begs the question, would you as a Brit swop all those Sunday roasts, cooked breakfasts, steak & kidney pud's, Cornish pasties, pork pies, jam roly polys, sherry trifles, bacon banjoes, fish & chips etc., for just two extra years in your 80's?

Mummies & Daddies.

A little boy is raiding the freezer for ice-cream when his mother catches him. 'Put that ice-cream back,' she scolds. 'Dinner is only an hour away.' 'But I'm bored,' says the boy. 'I've got no one to play with.' 'All right,' says Mother, 'I'll play with you for a few minutes. What do you want to do?' 'I want to play Mummies & Daddies,' says the boy. 'But you have to sit in that chair and be mummy.' Mother does so and says, 'So what now? Are you going to be daddy?' 'Yes,' says the boy. He takes a deep breath and shouts, 'Now get off your fat arse, you lazy cow and bring me some ice-cream!'





AQUAQUEST PLUMBING

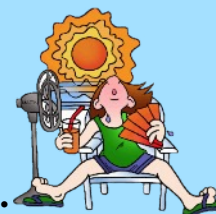


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All Makes Of Air Conditioning Supplied & Fitted; Regas And Repairs.**

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LOS ALTOS, EVERY MONTH.**

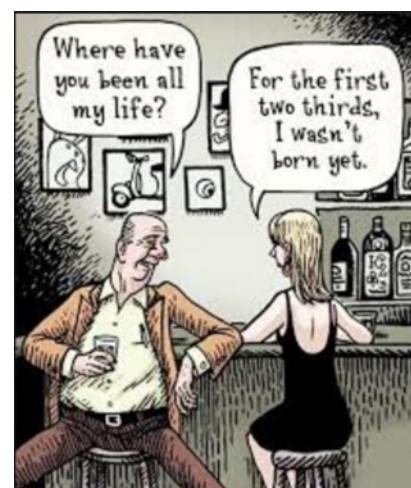
ALL INVITED.

www.dreamboxtv.es

A sneak peak at the 'new' German passport.

It says at the bottom -

'You are welcome
Whoever you are.
(German humour)



What a Waste!

Those of us who live in the autonomous community of Valencia should now be fully aware of wastefulness and profligacy of the ruling politicians during the last 10 to 20 years. The expensive follies such as the 'City of Light' in Alicante are more of a tribute to their wishful thinking than to any logical thinking or planning. But of course it is not just our region who were the big spenders. Look at the fiasco of Corvera Airport in Murcia, together with the other empty airports in other regions, and these are just the aeronautical blunders! Thanks to La Vanguardia for the following photo and information.

It was decided in 2008 to increase the presence of a prestigious university 22 miles to the north east of Madrid, *Universidad de Alcalá*. This would be done by constructing within a 53,000 square metre plot in the campus a new centre called the Institute of Molecular Medicine. This was to be a state of the art building which would house 600 researchers with the latest lab's and equipment to help increase our understanding of a myriad of medical



conditions ranging from human ageing to cancer treatments. It was to be a world leader. Construction commenced in 2008 amid fanfares and visits from the 'great & the good' including the Minister for Science and Innovation, the Minister for Health and the president of the Centre for Scientific Research (CSIC). In 2011, at a final cost of €50 million, the keys were handed over to the Centre for Scientific Research. And then.....Nada!.....Bupkis!.....Sod All! Since the centre was completed more than four years ago, not one chemical formula or scientific equation has appeared on a board there; not one Bunsen burner has been lit; not one search on a PC for scientific papers! Hell! Not even one entrepreneurial post-grad student has been using one the lab's to produce crack cocaine!

The problem being there was no money to staff and stock the centre then and because of the continuing recession and the cuts to R & D funding, none is available now either. As the building is now beginning to deteriorate with ceilings collapsing etc., it will require even more funding to correct the defects.

The centre has now been largely forgotten. A reporter from La Vanguardia visited the centre on more than ten occasions and could not even find a security guard. I would guess that the copper piping will soon be going!

Crime & Punishment in Spain.

The average convict in Spain is male and a bad driver. They are male, around 35 years old, Spanish and have a traffic violation on their record.

That is the average profile of individuals who were convicted of a crime in Spain last year, according to figures released this month by the National Statistics Institute (INE).

Adult males made up 87.6% of the 218,827 convictions handed down by the courts in 2014, 0.4 percentage points down on the same statistic for 2013.

But as the figures fall for men, the number of convictions for women has risen steadily over the last four years. In 2014, 27,219 women were sentenced for crimes – an 8.1% rise from the previous year.

Most of the sentences handed down for both sexes were for traffic safety violations (96,698). But that number has dropped by 4.5% from 2013.

The second-most-common conviction last year was for bodily harm (34,136) followed by theft (30,815), probation violations (14,180) and public health offences (12,581).

In all, judges handed down 615,640 sentences last year, with one-fourth of the defendants receiving jail time.

About 92% of convictions were for periods up to two years, which, under Spanish law, gives the judge the option of suspending the sentence if the defendant has no prior criminal record.

In the juvenile courts, judges handed down 15,048 convictions against offenders between the ages of 14 and 17 during 2014 – a 2.1% rise from the previous year. Nearly 81% of those convicted in that age group were males.

Theft and bodily harm are the most common crimes among juveniles, according to a new report.

A little over 78% of juvenile convictions were handed down against Spaniards. However, the average rate of convictions for juveniles per 1,000 inhabitants was three times higher for foreigners than Spaniards.

The most common offence committed by minors last year was theft (39.7% of all convictions) followed by bodily harm (13.5%) and the offences of torture and moral integrity violations (10.2%).

Most of the convicted juveniles were put on probation (39.2%) while others were ordered to perform community service (17.6%) or sent to a semi-open prison (11.6%).



Bruce & Barry Get Married!

Bruce and Barry got married in Canberra (because they could). They couldn't afford a honeymoon, so they went back to Bruce's Mum and Dad's house for their first married night together.

In the morning, Johnny, Bruce's little brother, gets up and has his breakfast.

As he is going out of the door to go to school, he asks his mum: 'Are Bruce and Barry up yet?'. She replies, 'No'.

Johnny comments, 'Do you know what I think?' His mum replies, 'I don't want to hear what you think! Just go to school.'

Johnny comes home for lunch and asks his mum, 'Are Bruce and Barry up yet?' She replies, 'No.'

Johnny says, 'Do you know what I think?' His mum replies, 'Never mind what you think! Eat your lunch and go back to school.'

After school, Johnny comes home and asks again: 'Are Bruce and Barry up yet?' Again his mum replies somewhat more agitated: 'No!' He says, 'Do you know what I think?'

His mum replies, 'OK, damn it, tell me what you think!'

He says: 'Well, last night Bruce came to my room for some Vaseline ... but he took my airplane glue by mistake!'

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The long Arm of Spanish Law.

On April 20, 1997, a 17-year-old high-school student named Eva Blanco Puig (photo) was raped and stabbed to death as she walked home from a nightclub in Algete (Madrid). Now, 18 years later, French police have arrested the alleged perpetrator of the crime in Pierrefontaine-les-Varans, a village in the northeastern Franche-Comté region. DNA testing led investigators to A. C. G., a Moroccan-born man with Spanish citizenship.

Over the years, the Civil Guard in Madrid had opened up as many as 100 different lines of investigation into the murder of the young woman, whose body was found in a vacant lot with four stab wounds to her back.

Relatives, friends and acquaintances provided DNA samples, and the police handed out likely facial composites of the murderer. Citizen cooperation was requested, and all males in the area with a criminal record were targeted as part of the investigation. People protested on the streets to demand justice for the parents of Eva Blanco Puig. But the investigation led nowhere.

But then at 5.30pm on October 1, Olga Puig and her husband Manuel Blanco received a phone call from the Civil Guard's homicide department, whose members they have become on familiar terms with over the years. Captain Rubén Valero informed them that the alleged murderer had been detained three-and-a-half hours earlier.

"It looks like God has heard me and given me some joy after so many years of suffering," said Puig, standing in front of the house owned by her other daughter Rebeca, who lives across from them. Eva was the eldest of her three girls. "It was a very emotional moment; the captain also got emotional when he told us about the arrest. He started to cry," recalled Puig with tears in her eyes. "Now I hope that justice will be done and that this man pays for everything he did to my daughter."

The teenager's body was found in an area called Las Pesqueras, near a roundabout on the M-100 road in Algete, 30 kilometers northeast of the capital. Eva had been to a local nightclub with several girlfriends, and around midnight the group decided to go home. A friend walked Eva to a spot 500 meters from her home on Carmen Conde street, on the outskirts of town. In 1997, there was still little urban infrastructure in the area and few people were out on the streets. This friend was the last person to see Eva alive.

The autopsy revealed that she had been raped before her death, and semen found inside her body allowed forensics to create a genetic profile of the criminal, who was described as "a male from the Maghreb region." But this conclusion only came 15 years after the crime. Investigators crossed that information with nearly 2,000 DNA samples they had taken shortly after the crime from males in the area – including Eva's schoolmates, teachers, friends' fathers, construction workers and her own father's employees at his crane company.

They also tracked down all men of Moroccan origin who had lived in Algete in 1997. This double probe was instrumental in locating the perpetrator, who used to work in construction and may have been personally known to Eva's father. It was the Civil Guard's homicide unit that worked hard to try to solve the case before the statute of limitations could run out on April 20, 2017 – 20 years after the crime.

Ahmed Chehl Gerj, (photo) now 52, left Spain in 1999 and is now resident in France, where he was living with his wife and children. He however left another wife, two sons and a daughter in Algete when he left Spain. The French Gendarmerie, acting on a European Arrest Warrant, located him in Pierrefontaine-les-Varans and arrested him at 2.30pm on Thursday, October 1st.

(Source: El Pais.)

Lime Bar Golf Society Los Altos, Orihuela Costa.

The Lime Bar golf society attended a two day golfing event in Benidorm on the 21st and 22nd October 2015 was held at the Villaitana Courses. With 20 members teeing off on the first day on the larger Levante course in wet and windy conditions left some of the players struggled a little. The next day 19 players teed off on the shorter Pontiente course in sunny warm weather resulting in a much better playing day which was more relaxing.

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

Nearest the pin on the 7th hole (par 3) on the first day was Ken Sutton.

Nearest the pin on the 12th hole (par 3) on the first day was Dave Cahill.

Winner on the first day was Mike Heighway with 36 points.

Runner-up on the first day was John Winkley with 32 points.

Nearest the pin on the 4th hole (par 3) on the second day was Ken Styan.

Nearest the pin on the 11th hole (par 3) on the second day was Pat Heaney.

Winner on the second day was Ken Styan with 42 points.

Runner-up the second day was Ken Farrow with 41 points.

Two very good days of golf in pleasant company, with thanks to the committee for arranging the event and a special thanks to Janette Cooper for organising the golfers and their partners at the Hotel and other events.



Lime Bar Fishing Sunbathing Club

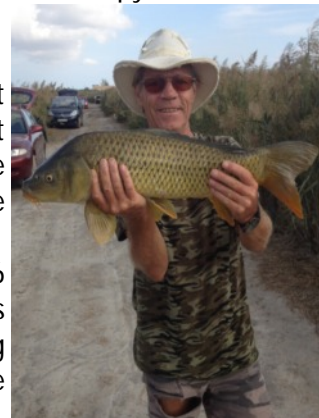
The AGM was a mega bun fight! Sweeney did his best controlling it but he would have more chance with a class of 3 year olds suffering ADHT! Deep breath & relax. A lot was covered but it took over 1.5 hours mainly due to the number of counter proposals to several items on the agenda. Down with democracy!

At the beginning of October, after several venue & date changes, the six best anglers of the summer series fished a final at El Bosquet. 3 Rods, Ghost, Grumpy, the Quill, Fagin & Fag Eyes all decided that we would fish one stretch of water that would be fair to all anglers. Unfortunately the stretch we chose was crap! 2 x blanked and 2 only had 1 fish! Grumpy Bob was heard chuntering about pole fisherman while Fagin said "That's it, I'm buying a pole!".

Well done to the Quill who won with 5.02 kilos, followed by 3 Rods & me. Bloody third again!

The October match (the first of the winter competition) was a "rod and reel only" match, so that the "non pole" anglers stood a chance! It was held at El Bosquet again due to the reeds being cut at the Eden canal. Due to some overnight rain, the clay cart tracks were slippy & 3 rods had the end of his landing net pole crushed by a car that came a bit too close! 3 rods turned the air blue while the driver "apologised". Lucky it was only his pole.

The fishing at this venue is patchy and the draw can either win or lose you the match, of the 16 anglers that fished we had 3 blanks. Our chairman Sweeney drew the favourite peg 1, and as expected, won the match with 12.7 kilos. He only caught 5 fish but they were all decent including a cracking barbel. Fagin came 2nd with 7.5 kilos, which included one carp of over 3 kilos (see photo). Punchy Bob was 3rd with 5.5 kilos & as I didn't want to be 3rd again I came 4th with 4.5.



Last year's "old farts" v "the whippersnappers" match was postponed several times due to bad weather and was eventually cancelled. This year we decided to hold it earlier to avoid the bad weather. Well guess what? It was scheduled for the Eden Canal so has been postponed again due to the environment agency still cutting the reeds there. They seem to be taking a long time this year, so there might be some truth in the rumour that one of their tractors slipped into the canal!

We had some more bad news this month. Cyril Meredith who had been ill for a long time (he returned to the UK 18 months ago) has passed on to the golden peg above. He is now with his good friend "Bagman" who passed on at the end of August. To help Sharon (Bagman's better half), the club has purchased most of his tackle. Hopefully, a large donation will be handed to her on our Presentation night, which will then be going to the charity "Cancer UK".

After losing the Bagman last month, this month "Caesar Hale" hung up his rods as he is not getting any younger. As we cap our membership to 20 anglers, this opened the door to the next 2 on the waiting list; so a big welcome to the club for Mick Wood & Stan Roberts. I wonder what your nicknames will be?

At the end of the month (after this goes to press) Sweeney will be running a quiz night at the Lime Bar.

There will be a raffle and hopefully we'll sell the last of the Bagman's tackle.

Anti Social Baz is recovering well from his dodgy hip operation. He is feeling that good that he wants to do karaoke at the quiz night. Don't give him the mike Sweeney!

Several of the club spent a few days at the Argos this month. I was hoping to include photos of the big fish that were caught or of the evening entertainment. Unfortunately, they only took "scenic" photos of the lake!!!! Was there some incriminating evidence or what? Sweeney's & 3rods' articles are below.

Limebar "Sunbathers" Trip to Argos, Tuesday 6th – Thursday 8th October 2015

The four-car convoy with seven of the "Sunbathers" finest, assembled near the Dartboard Roundabout at 7.30a.m. The resident "Relief Worker" obviously does not start this early or she would have thought that all her Christmases had "come" at once. An uneventful journey, despite "Just John's" two Sat Navs, saw all seven fishing at different locations around the lake by 10.00a.m. Unfortunately most of the popular swims were taken when we arrived, as we hadn't planned for a "red" day with lots of anglers having the day off. Fishing was great for some, average for others and s—t for one or two.

At the Hotel Argos, yours truly was elected 'Official Spokesperson' (Spanish that is) as only their native tongue was spoken by the hotel staff and very few Sunbathers 'hablan espanol'. Most interpretation was needed during the evening meals; food was good and plentiful and the "despues de la cena" liqueurs were once again plentiful and very moreish. As on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday produced carp and barbel in varying quantities. There were no big fish caught but the barbel certainly tested our knot tying ability where a few of us were found wanting. As might be expected "3 Rods" managed to amass most fish despite restricting himself to only 2 Rods. The new recipient of the "**Distant Waters Cup**" will not be an easy choice! Sweeney (BFK)

Another excellent trip to Argos. I had 22 carp on the first day with Fagin being the best on the other section with 12. The evening was as usual a bit of a blur with large amounts of beer taken and Snake Charmer entertaining us with a vast amount of his stories and army exploits. On the second day we had the lake to our selves, but again we chose to fish different sections of the match length. The weather was absolutely glorious for sunbathing but the fishing started a bit slow. I had 13 carp and 4 nice barbel, Sweeney had 11 fish and Fagin 14. Back at the hotel it was a rerun of the night before with Fagin and myself sleeping in for breakfast. We had to make do with the leftover cold bacon and eggs. The Argos lake holds a huge stock of carp & barbel. We have to go back again next year, as we still haven't sussed the method for catching the "mother load"! (3 Rods)

Next meeting (bun fight) is at The Lime Bar @ 17.30 Mon 2nd November.

Fishy fingers! The Ghost

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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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Do you know that the town council will collect large items to be dumped from your property or near it?

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 this service (which is free) are:

Orihuela Costa – 96 676 0000 extension 29.

Orihuela City and villages – 96 530 6178.

There is an active Facebook group
at
Dream Hills - Costa Blanca

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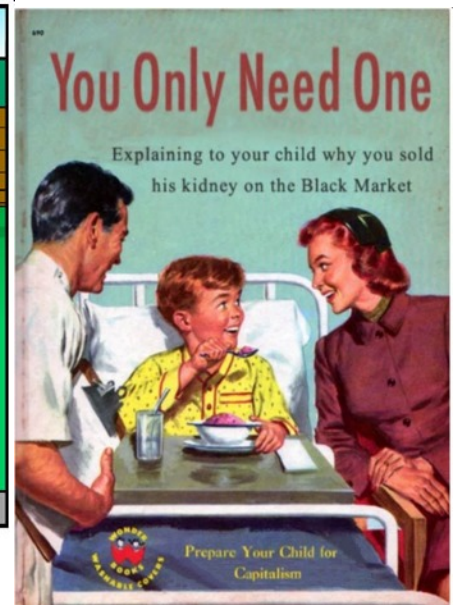
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The editor, Mick, can be contacted at mick.dreamscene@gmail.com or at 586 Dream Hills. (Or in some Bar!)

Bound to Offend Someone?



Elmer seemed to get a lot more attention from the ladies after he started wearing his colostomy bag to the front.



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