

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER

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

Issue no. 105, 1st of December 2015.

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the December edition.

Much of November has been beautifully warm with blue skies. The unseasonably warm weather was due to an anticyclone that was settled over the country. There was a bad storm on the late evening of November 1st and the early morning of the 2nd. Plenty of damage locally (see photo of Punta Prima - Informacion) and many boats damaged in the harbour. While the warm weather and clear skies provided perfect beach conditions for people along Spain's coasts, it was another story in Madrid, where the weather contributed to dangerously high level of pollution. The new mayoress there compounded her already proven ineptitude by drastically cutting parking space in the city and lowering the speed limit. This led to chaos. She now says that if she knew what was involved in the job, she wouldn't have taken it! Take my advice Manuela, go!

But now it has turned quite chilly; although there are lovely blue skies, the north wind can cut right through you. Early morning temperatures have been as low as four degrees so it's electric blankets and/or, a warm partner.

Sue and Peter from The Lime Bar have taken over Izzy's Bar in Toretta 2. They have invested in new kitchen equipment etc., and as the bar has a music licence, they plan to introduce entertainment up to six night a week. The easiest way to find the bar is to travel out the Crevillente road from Torrevieja. Drive past the ITV centre, turn left at the roundabout by the big lighting shop, keep straight and then take the second turn on the left to find the bar. We wish them every success, and contra to the usual gossip, they are keeping their existing two bars.

Next, Helen and Paul, two Dream Hills residents, have taken over Belushi's Bar. They are not continuing with the Blue's Brothers' theme but are refurbishing it and have renamed it 'Baja.' It will be more of a lounge bar - no football, darts, bingo etc., but will have sofas, soft lighting and lounge music. It will have an international theme with tapas, but not restaurant food. As well as tapas, it is planned to have different theme evenings with wine & cheese tastings, paella, with Norwegian, Dutch and Spanish specialities occasionally. An ambitious project and I am sure you will give them a friendly welcome when they open up hopefully in January next year.

You may be aware that Stefan Pokroppa has an English hour on Siesta Radio on 91.6FM at 11am on weekdays. Now in a joint venture with the Casino Mediterráneo, there is a live broadcast every week on Fridays from the Casino. It starts at 10am and concludes at midday. The show will cover a range of sports, particularly football and will be in English. Stefan will be accompanied by 'Red Card' Roy McDonough, a former player in the English leagues, who accumulated 22 red cards during his professional career. I heard the first show and it was very enjoyable....Roy pulls no punches! You can also listen online, as I do.

I ran out of space again this month, but had to take some items out to accommodate the latest on the Modelo 720, an issue of interest to many expats, see page 26. Page 10 also has important news on mortgage 'floor clauses'.

Congratulation to all who raised €215 for a cancer charity at Jilly's last month. Marvellous effort!

Remember, there will be no Dream Scene in January; back to normal in February.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Dream Scene team.

Mick & Tid.



Angela's Cartoon

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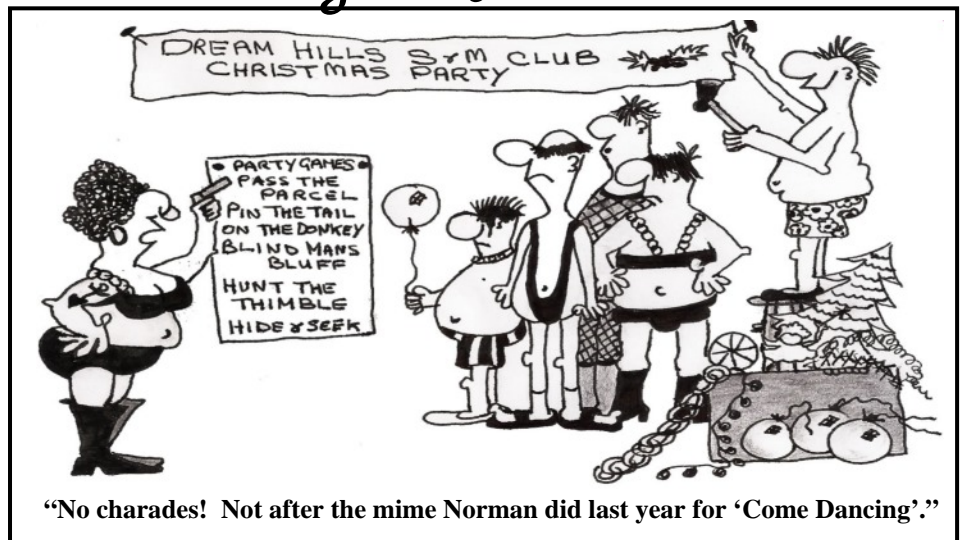
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Look around the poker table. If you don't see a sucker, get up, because it must be you. Amarillo Slim

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

...Sony has finally put Betamax out of its misery. Forty years after it was first released, it is finally going to be discontinued. Many would have assumed that Betamax was dead already, seeing as it is about 30 years since it lost the format wars to VHS tapes, which themselves haven't been in wide use in a couple of decades. Sony stopped making Betamax players in 2002. Digital recordings are now king.

...the Statue of Liberty was originally conceived as a Muslim peasant woman and was to have stood at the approach to the Suez Canal, a lantern in her upraised hand serving as both lighthouse and a symbol of progress - see image left. But the sculptor, Frederic Auguste Bartholdi of France, proved unable to sell the idea to the khedive of Egypt, Ishma'il Pasha. Bartholdi remained determined to erect a colossus on the scale of the one in ancient Rhodes. He sailed to America with drawings of the Muslim woman transformed to the personification of Liberty. At first, Bartholdi considered the tip of Manhattan and Central Park as possible sites. He was on a ferry to Staten Island when he decided that Bedloe's Island would be just the spot. The French largely paid for the statue; not the central government, but some 180 French municipalities, including Paris. Private citizens also contributed, among them descendants of French soldiers who fought in our Revolutionary War. French school kids kicked in centimes. The pedestal was largely financed by Americans. Newspaper owner Joseph Pulitzer pledged to publish the names of all those who donated. They included thousands of school kids who kicked in pennies. A kindergarten class came up with \$1.35.the World Health Organisation have stated that eating bacon increases your chances of getting cancer. Statistics also show that not eating bacon dramatically increases your chances of blowing yourself up. ...scientists have revealed today that they have found a new drug for depressed lesbians. It's called Trycoagain.



What's Up?

Following the recent terrorist outrages, the United States wants to place its own armed border controls in Barajas Airport in Madrid. As one would expect, this raises many procedural, legal and practical issues.

Spain has deliberately 'gone cold' on any military involvement in Syria. In 2004 following the Madrid train bombings, the ruling PP government under PM Aznar, immediately put the blame on Basque terrorists. The outrage occurred just three days before Spain's General Elections and senior PP politicians wanted to deflect any criticism from the Spanish public as the PP had taken Spain, under Aznar, into the Iraq conflict. Basically, they lied to the public and got caught out! They lost the election to an outraged public. The current PM, PP politician Rajoy, does not want a repeat history and is avoiding direct participation in the Syria conflict. He has however, offered to assist France by helping in the policing of Mali while the French get on with pasting the terrorists in Syria, i.e. we'll hold your coats for you!

As expected, Spain's Constitutional Court unanimously agreed to temporarily suspend a separatist motion approved by the Catalan parliament to begin a unilateral breakaway from Spain. The court also issued a warning to 21 high-ranking Catalan officials: "You are advised of your duty to prevent or halt any initiative that entails ignoring or bypassing the suspension, and warned about the responsibilities, including penal ones, that you could be held liable for." However, the country's top tribunal stops short of telling these officials that they could be suspended from their public duties, as the central government wanted it to do. Maybe they just don't want to create martyrs to the independence cause or maybe they are just too windy.

The prestigious Spanish daily, El Mundo, reports that, following the ruling from Brussels against mortgage ground interest level polices, it has been revealed that each person affected paid an extra €15,000. See page 10 for much more on this.

On Sunday November 8, there was a massive demonstration in Madrid against gender violence in Spain. Over 30 bus loads went from Alicante alone. Sadly it was also a day of a double murder in the Valencian town of Liria. Here a 40-year-old Roma man shot his ex-partner and her mother to death. One of the women was holding a child of three-years-old. The child was unhurt. The ex was shot four times and her mother twice. The man, who normally lives in Alicante and had a distancing order, fled the scene in a car, but was arrested some hours later. Earlier on the same morning, a 28-year-old woman was shot dead by her partner in Cordoba, who then took his own life.

La Razón notes the Police are uncovering more money from the Pujol family in Mexico and Panama. The judge has sent rogatory commissions to both countries to see if there really is more hidden fortune other than the 900 million found in Belize. Jordi Pujol (photo) has been the father of modern Catalan nationalism and a leading player in the independence movement. But following these scandals, which have yet to unfold fully, the Convergence Party is now anxious to distance themselves from him and his corrupt family and will form a new party next year. The Pujols charged commissions on all public works in Catalonia, where they have been in control for decades. The doctored photo is mine and I welcome the writs!



Spain's General Election is due to take place on December 20th. If you take a look at this graphic below, you will see the four main players in the election.

Top left is the current PM, Mariano Rajoy. Head of the Partido Popular, the PP - a right of centre party, Rajoy has been prime minister since 2011. His party has been plagued by corruption scandals in recent years and being the ruling party, have been obliged to introduce harsh austerity measures, their popularity has suffered considerably. Rajoy himself has the charisma of a slug and does his best to avoid any confrontational interviews, particularly with the press.



Top right is Pedro Sánchez. Pedro is the new head of the PSOE, the main socialist party. Handsome, young and intelligent, he has succeeded a number of aging and incompetent senior socialists. The party however, is beginning to lose ground to a more radical element

of the Left who consider that Sánchez and his colleagues have betrayed their leftist principals. He is also severally at odds with the ruling socialist party in Andalucia, probably the largest in Spain.

Bottom right is Pablo Iglesias. Pablo, an academic, heads a new party, Podemos - We Can. This is a far-left party, who have tried to soften their image since their emergence last year. They have made significant inroads into the popularity of the main socialist party, the PSOE, but have also drawn many from the traditional hard-left party, the United Left - Izquierda Unida. Young and articulate, he certainly appeals to both the traditional older left and the younger socialists as well. His party has decimated the PSOE in some regions. But his connections with looney regimes in South America such as Venezuela and Bolivia has raised some concerns.

Finally, bottom left is Albert Rivera, head of the Ciudadanos (Citizens) Party. Originally a Catalan party, this right of centre party is now finding considerable support outside of its original home ground in Catalonia. Their politics are right of centre and have made major inroads in attracting voters from the PP. At present they are the third party in Spain and have also made significant inroads in municipal and regional elections

Telefonica has threatened to freeze further investment in its fibre-optic installations if the National Commission for Markets and Competitiveness forces it to share its network with their competitors. Interestingly the union, UGT, has formed an alliance with Telefónica against National Commission over fibre-optics claiming it will be a threat to jobs, as the regulation would slowdown fibre expansion until it comes to a halt.

Gas Natural Fenosa is to increase its gas distribution network to new zones of Spain thanks to a loan of 900 million € from the European Investment Bank to enlarge its distribution network of LPG Liquid Petroleum Gas.

The European Commission has said the next Spanish Government will have to make cuts of nearly nine billion € to meet the agreed deficit. This is a massive amount and will no doubt lead to further periods of

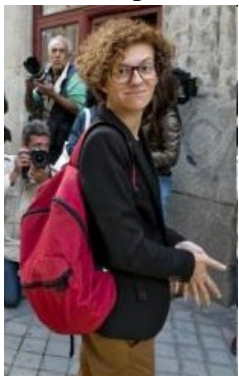
4 What's Up? continued

Although reported crime in the province of Alicante for the current year up to September has fallen by 5.3% over the previous year, homicides have increased by a staggering 92%. That is an increase of 12 to 23 murders over the nine month period.

Police have broken up a ring of thieves who were allegedly stealing bicycles from Madrid's public rental service BiciMAD and selling the scrap metal across the city. According to sources close to the investigation, nine people have been arrested over one week in a joint operation conducted by the National and Madrid municipal police forces. The suspects, whose ages range between 23 and 51, are thought to have stolen at least 400 bikes; an average of eight per week. Authorities believed that they used an abandoned building in the Madrid neighborhood of Comillas to chop up the bikes. The alleged gang is also said to have stolen clothes for the needy left in street depositories. Earlier this month, BiciMAD announced that it was on the verge of bankruptcy because of a rash of vandalism, including the high number of bicycles that were being destroyed or stolen. The BiciMAD service debuted in June 2014 with much fanfare made by then-Mayor Ana Botella, of the Popular Party (PP).

The Spanish Social Security Dept., has included a pension calculator for retirement on its website. However, it crashed on its launch day as the system couldn't cope with the unexpected 200,000 initial enquiries.

Alicante councillor Marisol Moreno has appeared in the High Court charged of the crime of libel and slander against the Crown and other 'fundamental rights and public freedoms' in relation to several articles and published in Internet blog posts on her Twitter and Facebook pages. Marisol (photo), Councillor for Youth and Animal



Protection in Alicante has told the judge that the complaint has been produced because of her status as a public officer, and that the disputed messages "are from 2012 and so far no one had said anything about them." The judge of the Audiencia Nacional José de la Mata said yesterday the opening of the trial against the mayor of Guanyar in the city of Alicante Marisol Moreno for the crime of insulting the Crown, which had committed to writing in his blog that King Juan Carlos I is "a son of a bitch" and that the royal family is comprised of "vague, swindlers, drunks and murderers." In a ruling, the judge agreed that the councillor must sit in the dock and faces a request for ten months' imprisonment (will not happen) and disqualification from public office during the term of the sentence.

52 people have been detained in Valencia, suspected of stealing 24,000 kilos of almonds. The market value of these can vary between €60,000 and €103,000, depending on the variety. Those arrested were Spanish, Moroccan and Romanian. They held 145 forged documents indicating the false origin of the nuts. California is responsible for 80% of the world almond production with Spain second.

A well known 50-year-old businessman, Fernando Calvo Tomás, in Villena, Alicante, who is also a senior member of one of the Moors and Christians Brotherhoods, has been amongst the 11 arrested in late November. 403 kilos of cocaine has been seized. A number of other 'Brotherhood' notables have also been arrested. Ironically, Fernando is also a member of another Brotherhood, The Smugglers!

The Treasury has found 40 billion € of assets in opaque territories. 45% of the wealth declared abroad has been found in fiscal havens; Switzerland 19.87 billion €, Luxembourg 9.98 billion €, and Andorra 4.07 billion €. Regarding bank accounts, the Treasury has found 15.04 billion € in financial havens with difficult access for the Treasury. Spanish tax payers have more money in Swiss banks than Germany, France and the United Kingdom together. Of course all the above are just the 'declared' figures.

A judge is investigating a multi million fraud relating to the construction of the AVE high-speed train network in the Murcia region. The amount 'stolen' from the treasury by sub-contracted firms is around ten million €. A contractor and a facilitator of false facturas (invoices) have been the first to be sent to prison. The latest news is that the fraud is likely to exceed €15 million. This is surely another case which highlights the need for a stricter ongoing/day-to-day audit function to monitor public spending in this country, which is regularly abused.

Police have arrested a gang of six villains who have been robbing vehicles parked in service stations on the motorways. Their tactic was to puncture a tire of a vehicle parked there and then offer to help the driver when he/she returned and would then commit the robbery. Police became suspicious after a large increase in thefts on the AP-7. Those arrested, who come from Spain, Serbia, Romania and Kosovo, are believed to have carried out more than 400 such robberies. Police raided their homes, have impounded five vehicles and seized cash, perfumes, mobile phones, tablets, computers, bags, watches, machetes, glasses, clothes and documents.



Shoplifting in Spain is reported to have reached 2.48 billion € in 2014 some 1.33% of total sales. Tablets, mobiles, fashion items, wine, and shaving blades were the most stolen items.

Police have arrested 62 alleged Jihadists so far this year in Spain. Last year the figure was 26. Most of those arrested were believed to be sending 'volunteers' to Syria. However, three are being charged with the planning of an outrage in Madrid.

The health services in Mallorca appear to be grinding to a halt. 61,500 people are on the waiting list to see a specialist and 13,762 patients are waiting for their operation.

Following a combined operation by police in the provinces of Malaga and Murcia, 31 drug traffickers have been arrested and seven tons of cannabis has been seized. The gang had an extensive infrastructure consisting of boats, vans and warehouses, all used to distribute drugs throughout Europe.

The Málaga Judiciary is facing the revision of more than 5,000 cases. On December 5 the modification to the Criminal Prosecution Law comes into effect which establishes periods of six and eighteen months for the instruction (investigation) of the revised cases. The legal associations think the result will be the archiving of hundreds of cases and 'and the acquittal of some crimes'.

The price of a packet of cigarettes has increased by more than 600% since 1990 because of the heavy taxes, it triple the IPC index increase.

An Actual Tweet from Chicago.

"I thought my vasectomy would keep my wife from getting pregnant but apparently it just changes the colour of the baby."

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Lime Bar Golf Society Los Altos, Orihuela Costa.

The golf society's venue for the 11th November 2015 was held at Vistabella Golf Course.

Twenty-eight members teed off on a very warm and sunny morning. The course was in good condition and played very well as the results proved.

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

Nearest the pin on the 4th hole (par 3) was John Mac Gregor.

Nearest the pin on the 8th hole (par 3) was Charlie Mc Gonigle.

Nearest the pin in 2 on the 11th hole (par 4) was Mike Heighway.

Nearest the pin on the 15th hole (par 3) was Pete Gillespie.

Nearest the pin in 3 on the 18th hole (par 5) was Kevin Jackson.

Bronze Class in 2nd place was Ken Sutton with 26 points.

Bronze Class in 1st place was Tony Jones with 30 points

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

Silver Class 1st place was Digger with a score of 32 points.

Gold Class 2nd place was Arthur Jones with a score of 34 points

Gold Class 1st place was Mike Heighway with a score of 36 points.

Best guest with 30 points was Charlie Mc Gonigle.



A very good days 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.

Two Thai girls asked me if I'd like to go bed with them; they said it would be just like winning Lotto!
I agreed, and they were right. We all stripped off, and to my horror, we had six matching balls!



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**CIGGY
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Low Battery: My mate saved his girlfriend's phone number on his mobile as 'Low Battery'. Whenever she calls him, in his absence, his wife takes the phone and plugs it into the charger. Give that man a medal.

The opposition in Orihuela City Council have managed to pass a directive which bans all circuses from appearing in the municipality if they show performing animals. Whether the circuses will take any notice of it is another question.

The PP-headed council in Orihuela has 'promised' grants totalling €13,800 to the various *Orialeños* associations this year. As usual, all this dosh will go to Orihuela with *nada* for the coastal area. Around €50,000 has also been promised for 'school supplies.' This payment was due in April, but faced the usual bureaucratic and political hurdles. More than €3 million which should have been spent on correcting the inadequacies in the coastal area, has been directed to Orihuela City to pay for a concrete roof over the high speed train as it passes through the city. The AVE will not stop at Orihuela!

The National Court wants the construction of the AVE to Murcia to be halted due to the lack of an environmental impact study. You will recall a story in a previous issue where several million spent on the AVE in the province has been 'spirited away.' A number of individuals have been arrested.

La Verdad in Murcia reports businesses and individuals in the Murcia region are suffering more than 1,000 cyber-attacks a day.

The dearth of funding throughout Alicante continues to chip away at those in need. In the city itself, the lack of funds means that the payment for school books has been delayed until the beginning of the next financial year - January 2016. This amounts to €2.3 million for 34,000 students. But Alicante City Hall is looking for a loan of €20 million. To help the needy and hungry? No! To provide housing for the evicted? No! To replace some of the many pre-fabricated classrooms? No! It's to pay the councilors wages.

The Department of Occupational Hazards in Alicante General Hospital conducted an inspection last March of the autopsy room following a complaint submitted by the trade union - CCOO - representatives. Technicians urged management to undertake a list of improvements to avoid the obvious health risks to personnel. The autopsy section has now been closed for more than eight months due to the dangerous and dirty conditions. Where possible, the cases are diverted to the General Hospital in Elche. So, even though you are dead, can you still catch an infection?

Two schoolteachers in a public school in Los Dolses are alleged to have tied three seven-year-old to chairs and gagged them as a punishment. They have been fined €1,800 for each of three offences.



Some of the happy players at the Jimmy Webster Memorial Day at Domino's petanca courts.

The great thing about befriending recovering alcoholics is that you're never short of a ride home. Billy Connolly

The new council in Torrevieja continues to exert pressure on unlicensed and problematic bars and clubs. The latest establishment to come under the hammer is the Disco Tropic 222, photo. Located by the Los Locos beach, it is probably the largest, oldest and most popular nightspots in Torry. Technically, the venue is only supposed to house an ice cream parlour, restaurant and bar although the last time the venue had a licence was in 1996. The venue was found to contain 981 revelers during one inspection. The premises is only supposed to hold 84! A series of inspections revealed 'very serious' deficiencies, particularly in the fire control area. The venue has been closed since August and has now been fined €122,000. 'Correction' works are likely to be substantial.



The Spanish Supreme Court has annulled the price fixing system of medicaments imposed by the European Union. They considered it unfair to mathematically impose a price on Spain's system which is below the price being sold in other countries in the EU. Round of applause for the Supreme Court.

Under the new Criminal Procedure Act, investigations are to take no more than six months for simple cases and 18 months for complicated cases. The Alicante region has more than 17,000



outstanding / pending cases - a gargantuan backlog. Many say adherence to the new law is

impossible. Take a look at this photo of an actual 'records room' and you will tend to agree.

Ryanair will open eight new destinations from Valencia and Alicante next summer. Turin, Berlin and Cologne can be flown to from Valencia. And from Alicante, Copenhagen, Hamburg, Newcastle, Rome and Berlin will be added. The airline freezes its commitment to Castellon Airport for the moment.

More than 60 Local Police and Guardia Civil officers from Alicante and Murcia have attended a conference in Orihuela, designed to prepare them to tackle the problem of foreign vehicles which have not been registered in Spain. The conference confirmed that foreign licence plates have to be registered and changed over to Spanish plates within six months; that many have not paid any fees in Spain and are without valid MOT certificates. The attendees were also informed that drivers who exceed the six-month time frame have no valid insurance and do not pay their traffic fines. The participants were also informed how to check if the relevant foreign insurance policies are still in force.

A court investigation has been ordered into the company in charge of MRI scans throughout the Valencia region. The firm, which has been in charge of the scans since 2000, is accused of offences against the treasury and social security. It is claimed that the company failed to pay €8.4 million in company tax between the years 2009 and 2012. Front companies were also employed to embezzle public funds.

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My Wife.

I switched off my ex-wife's life support machine last night and realised how strong a person I really am.

You try unplugging something while four doctors are trying to wrestle you to the ground!!

My wife then went missing 3 weeks ago and the police told me to expect the worst.

So I went to Oxfam and bought her clothes back.

(Wisely.....anonymous!)

EU Wants Spanish Banks to Refund All Money Earned from Mortgage 'Floor Clauses.'

The European Commission has issued a damaging report for Spanish banks that for many years introduced so-called "floor clauses" into their home loan contracts.

These clauses, which not all banks include, set a "floor" or minimum interest rate that clients have to pay the bank, even if the benchmark rate – normally the Euribor – drops below that figure.

Spain's Supreme Court had found the practice abusive and sentenced three banks to return the difference to borrowers, but only on payments made since May 2013.

But the European executive disagrees with this date, and says that the refunds should extend all the way back to the first mortgage payments. The rationale is that if a clause is declared void, "it is so from its origin."

The three lenders involved in the case are BBVA, Cajamar and Abanca, but the industry is afraid that it will end up affecting all banks.

Ever since the Supreme Court ruling came out in May 2013, thousands of borrowers have turned to the courts to demand a refund of the money they were forced to pay above the Euribor rate.

Until now, most courts have ruled in favour of the homeowners, but never in a retroactive manner.

The matter is of great significance to the banking sector because there are 2.5 million mortgages with floor clauses in Spain. If refunds were to be mandated retroactively, it would mean billions of euros in payments.

The European Commission has sent its report to the Court of Justice of the European Union, which is overseeing a related case involving CajaSur, a subsidiary of Kutxabank. Its final decision will hold the key to what happens next.

But legal sources in financial circles said that the issue was already affecting the banking sector's reputation.

"If the Commission says all the money has to be returned, sooner or later I'm afraid that we will be refunding all the money charged through floor clauses," said one source.

Other legal sources added that the Brussels report could influence the outcome of a class action suit filed by an association representing 15,000 people with floor clauses. The case began in 2010 and a decision is expected shortly.

El Pais

From Ambulance Chasing To Funeral Chasing!

Last month we reported on how hospital employees in a Malaga hospital were tipping-off funeral companies about people who had passed-away after being attended to by the A&E department. Typically Spanish has more on the story:

Workers at the hospital have reported the existence of a plot to make money from the deaths at the Clínico and have discovered two moles which were sharing different funeral companies and the deaths in scrupulous order.

The workers used La Opinión de Málaga, which has been highlighting the scam, to name the two moles they had found, Pepe Subires and Teresa Morales who called the funeral services to inform of the supposed recent two cases, but it has now been established this has been going on for years.

They have uncovered a group of workers which have been making money for years using this method, and given they are accusing their working colleagues have preferred to hide their identity.

The moles are employed by the SAS Andalucía Health Service and were earning between 1,000 and 2,000 per death paid by the funeral services.

'It is a network which managed without scruples the death of patients who died in the hospital' said one of the testimonies collected, which added several people, who worked in different hospital department, some not health workers, obtained the data of the dying patients and the phone number of their families to pass on to the funeral services.

The informing of the funeral services was controlled between the moles; each one had its own funeral service and it would depend which mole was on duty at the time of death who would inform the funeral services.

'If during one shift several deaths occurred they would be shared'.

When a patient was admitted to the hospital, the people who took their data and that of their next of kin to keep the families informed on the patients progress. These workers in patient admission had more information than those in the emergency wards and are now the ones under closest examination.

The workers report the procedure has been going on for decades, and that some of the 'moles' would filter their information to workers other hospitals, such as the Civil, before the Clínico opened in 1989. The commissions paid to the moles depended on whether the patient had funeral insurance. If that was the case the mole would collect a small commission, but if no insurance was in place, the person who organised the transfer and mourning for the body would be paid around €1,000.

'But when they really rubbed their hands was when the deceased was foreigner' which commission would often be doubled, given the high profit margin made in the repatriation of the deceased to their country of origin.

Sources at the Clínico note the normal protocol arranged in the public hospitals in Andalucía is for the families to arrange their own funeral services, and the hospital would show them a complete list of the local funeral parlours.

However, these moles, pretending to help the grieving families, would offer to contact the funeral service on the family's behalf.

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The Sound of Love?

A young couple parked in a lovers' lane. 'It's lovely out here tonight,' she sighed romantically. 'It's so quiet and peaceful. Just listen to the crickets.' 'They're not crickets,' replied her boyfriend. 'They're zippers!'



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Sofa So Good

I had a sofa in my abode
but it was worn and tattered
so I dumped it on the road
didn't think it mattered.

Someone else can move it
out of sight and mind
I don't care one little bit
I'm not the caring kind.

In my house I am King,
outside mess - who cares,
gave me a number I could ring
but easier to dump it there.

Someone else can clean it up
whoever is about
along with all the other trash,
I'll stay a litter lout.

The Phantom Poet



I'm just not someone who cries. It's not in my nature. When my wife's uncle died, I had to shut my hand in the car door just to make a decent showing at the funeral.

Niles Crane, *Frasier*

EL CAPITAN

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Co-payment for Drugs and Medicines.

The budget of the Alicante Department of Health for next year includes 35 million euros extra to eliminate the drug co-payment for pensioners with incomes of less than a thousand euros per month. This was explained by the councillor Carmen Heap during her appearance in Parliament to explain the accounts of her department for next year. The department expects the repeal of the copayment for the lowest incomes to be made effective "in the first months of the year", without specifying exactly when. Meanwhile, sources close to the department argue that they are working to make it a reality for January 1, 2016. The pharmaceutical co-payment was introduced by the PP government in summer 2012. This meant that for the first time the Spanish pensioners had to pay for their medicines, while a whole range of politicians were still greasing their pockets. Currently pensioners who receive below €8,000 per year pay 10% of the medicines to a limit of €8 per month, but this is not an exact system. The Department also allocated €6.4 million to remove the disabled and dependents from many charges.

You can read more here in Spanish -

<http://www.diarioinformacion.com/alicante/2015/11/06/sanidad-destina-35-millones-quitar/1693547.html>

If you are a pensioner and on the *padron*, you should have an *SIP targeta* (health card). Now this may take a couple of attempts due to your personal circumstances, as often, the town hall staff, in both Torry and Orihuela Costa, are not singing from the same hymn sheet. But keep trying!

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Being Assertive.

A husband had just finished reading a new book entitled "You Can Be THE Man in Your House".

He stormed out to his wife in the kitchen and announced "From now on I'm running this show, and my word will be law. You'll prepare me a gourmet meal tonight, and when I'm done eating it, you'll serve me a scrumptious dessert.

After dinner you're going upstairs with me, and we'll have any kind of sex that I choose!

Afterwards, you're going to run me a relaxing bath. You'll wash my back, towel me dry, and bring me my robe. Then, you'll massage my feet and hands.

Then tomorrow, guess who's going to dress me and comb my hair?"

The wife replied "The f...ing undertaker would be my first guess!"

Pete Dudman





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The Pig.

A man was sued by a woman for defamation of character. She charged that he called her a pig. The man was found guilty and fined. After the trial he asked the judge, 'Does this mean that I cannot call Mrs Johnson a pig?' The judge said that was true. 'Well, does this mean I cannot call a pig Mrs Johnson?' he man asked. The judge replied that he could indeed call a pig Mrs Johnson with no fear of legal action.

The man turned, looked directly at Mrs Johnson and said, 'Good afternoon, Mrs Johnson.'

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HOLIDAY RENTING IN THE VALENCIAN COMMUNITY - AN UPDATE.

Is it regulated? Yes, under the original Decreto 92/2009 which
was updated this year to Decreto 75/2015.*

Since: July 2009 and amended May 2015.

Essentials: This year it has become compulsory to register your
property.

Points to watch out for: If you manage five or more properties
you must register as a Tourist Company.

To register your property: Download the application forms** and
present your Declaración Responsable at a local tourism office,
online with an electronic signature or at the post office.

Note: Registration codes for private owners start VT, and
managers and businesses EGV. Followed by a code for each
province.

*In Spanish and PDF here -

http://www.docv.gva.es/datos/2015/05/20/pdf/2015_4640.pdf

**In Spanish here -

http://www.gva.es/va/inicio/procedimientos;jsessionid=85v1W6pJf6JzL97JbhfH6JjLCxwt4Tqn2QSRDHP0GXNw212pyb1S!-1561724160!1446665780487?id_proc=14752

(Spanish Property Insight)

Talent Spotting.

Three farmers are walking across the Welsh mountainside when they
spot a field of sheep. 'Heh Boyo, there's some good looking sheep
over there' the first one jokes. 'I wish one was Madonna.'

'I wish one was Miley Cyrus' says the second.

'I wish it was dark' whispers the third.



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A survey has shown that two out of three women have had sex with someone in their office.

I can't even get the toner cartridge to go in the copier.

Jay Leno



BAR DOMINO

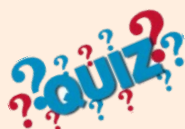


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A woman walked up to a cash register in a sporting goods store. She was carrying a package of white athletic socks. 'Will you open this up so I can see how the socks feel?' she asked. Reluctantly the assistant tore open the package and the customer scrutinized the merchandise. She handed the package back, saying, 'I like them.' Relieved, the clerk started to ring them up on the till, until the woman interrupted. 'Can I have another pack? This one's been opened.'

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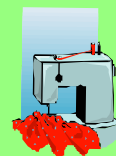
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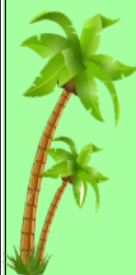
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The Return Trip.

Paddy had been drinking at his local pub all day and most of the night, celebrating St Patrick's Day.

Mick, the bartender says, 'You'll not be drinking anymore tonight, Paddy'. Paddy replies, 'OK Mick, I'll be on my way then'. Paddy spins around on his stool and steps off. He falls flat on his face.

'Damn' he says and pulls himself up by the stool and dusts himself off. He takes a step towards the door and falls flat on his face, 'Oh bloody damn!'

He looks to the doorway and thinks to himself that if he can just get to the door and some fresh air he'll be fine.

He belly-crawls to the door and shimmies up to the door frame. He sticks his head outside and takes a deep breath of fresh air, feels much better and takes a step out onto the sidewalk and falls flat on his face.

'Bi' Jesus... I'm in big trouble now,' he says.

He can see his house just a few doors down, and crawls to the door, hauls himself up the door frame, opens the door and shimmies inside. He takes a look up the stairs and says 'No bloody way....'

He crawls up the stairs to his bedroom door and says 'I can make it to the bed'. He takes a step into the room and falls flat on his face. He says 'damn it' and falls into bed.

The next morning, his wife, Jess, comes into the room carrying a cup of coffee and says, 'Get up Paddy. Did you have a bit to drink last night?'

Paddy says, 'I did, Jess. I was bloody pissed. But how did you know?'

'Mick phoned ... You left your wheelchair at the pub.'

Moira

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Ground Floor,
Via Park V.



FOXY'S XMAS DAY MENU.



STARTERS

Winter Vegetable Soup

Pate Served with Melba Toast & Cumberland Sauce

Prawn Cocktail Served with Crusty Bread

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Traditional Roast Turkey

Honey Glazed Ham

Mini Beef Wellington

5 oz steak topped with pate, cooked in puff pastry.

Roast Pepper Provencal



All Mains Are Served with Roast Potatoes, Duchess Potatoes, Pigs in Blankets, Seasonal Vegetables, Stuffing & Roast Gravy.



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Xmas Pudding - Served with Brandy Sauce

Chocolate & Lime Cheesecake - Served with Cream or Ice Cream

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DON'T FORGET! Weekly Meat Raffle Saturdays.

Tickets €1, Strip €4.



At the Pearly Gates.

Three men die in a car accident on Christmas Eve. They all find themselves at the Pearly Gates waiting to enter Heaven. On entering, they must present something relating to or associated with Christmas. The first man searches his pockets and finds some mistletoe, so he is allowed in. The second man presents a cracker, so he is also allowed in. The third man pulls a pair of knickers out of his pocket. Confused by this, St. Peter asks, 'How do these represent Christmas?' The man answers, 'They're Carol's.'

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STARTS AT 3pm.

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THURS' 9pm - KARAOKE WITH TOM

&

BOXING DAY NIGHT IS RACE NIGHT!

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

Lot's Wife!

Dad was reading Bible stories to his young son. They came to the story of Lot's wife: 'The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city but his wife looked back and was turned to salt.'

His son asked: 'What happened to the flea?'

You can't get spoiled if you do your own ironing. Meryl Strep

The Spanish Way to Keep and Pour Beer.

“People used to tell me to hurry up when I was pouring a beer carefully; now they say I’m right,” says Javier Sánchez, who has just been crowned Spain’s national beer-serving champion in a event sponsored by brewer Estrella Galicia. Getting this far has not been easy, he says – the bar he owns, Gorila, is in Jerez de la Frontera, where wine, and especially sherry, rule. The 50-year-old set up his first drinking hole in the Andalusian city in 1987, and says that when he first proposed beer-tasting sessions, he was laughed at.

The reporter from *El Pais* found Sánchez at the Monkey Week music festival in nearby Puerto de Santa María, where between giving classes on how to pull the perfect *caña* – the traditional measure of beer in Spain – he agreed to explain to *El Pais* the secrets of enjoying the country’s most popular drink at home. You may not agree with much of what he says, particularly if you are one who has spent much of your adult life drinking warm beer...or what the English call ‘real ales.’

1. Chilling your glass in the freezer is disgusting. “Even if it’s clean, it always picks up a bit of the smell. Sometimes you can even get a small film of ice forming that waters down the beer and changes its taste. I never do it.”

2. If you don’t wet the glass, the drink won’t taste the same. “Almost nobody wets the glass, and it’s very important. You need to fill the glass with cold water. Then you empty it. The glass is now cool and the sides are damp, so that the beer can flow better and doesn’t lose its strength or bubbles when served. I think people know this stuff, but they just need to make it a routine part of serving beer.”

3. Don’t pour the entire bottle into a tilted glass. Instead empty three quarters of the bottle into a glass held at an angle of 45 degrees. “The mouth of the bottle should be close to the edge of the glass. You let it slip in slowly so that it doesn’t create a head. The other 25 percent should be served with the glass held straight and raising the bottle little by little to create a crown of foam.”

4. The head is essential to prevent the beer from oxidizing. “It should be two to three centimeters deep and protect the beer from oxygen, in the same way that you would protect a recently cut melon from going bad. This cream should remain until you finish the drink. It also helps keep the bubbles in the beer. After each gulp, the liquid goes down, and leaves these rings of froth, which in the trade are known as Brussels lace.”

5. Beer is not a good accompaniment to fatty meat. “The animal fat stays on your lips, and then kills the foam. There are beers for all kinds of food; for me, an Irish stout with fresh cheese is a huge pleasure. It also goes spectacularly well with a bit of chorizo. But in general terms, it’s best to take a small bite of bread after each slice to clean the grease from your lips. That way, the froth suffers less.”

Moses and the Red Sea.

Nine-year-old Joey came from a military family and was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School. ‘Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved.’

‘Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?’ his Mother asked.

‘Well, no, Mom.. But, if I told it the way the teacher did, you’d never believe it!’

Sue Birchington

6. Beer bellies are a myth. “Beer, which on average has an alcohol content of five degrees, is one of the least fattening alcoholic drinks. The beer belly comes from what we eat while we’re drinking.”

7. Drinking out of the bottle? “No way, you lose half the flavor.”

8. Is the best beer in Spain served in Madrid? “Yes, generally, because the stuff has always been made there: there’s a beer industry. But other Spanish cities have also had breweries. For example, they know how to pour beer well in A Coruña, but not in cities where there is no beer industry or tradition.”

9. At what temperature should you serve beer? “Not all beers should be served at the same temperature, but in general, beer is best served cold, whether in summer or winter. It’s different if you’re tasting, because the marks of quality are more easily recognized when the beer is at room temperature.” British bitter is famous for being served “warm,” he notes, but in reality, the beer is pumped up from barrels kept in cellars, which are at room temperature. As a rule of thumb, Sánchez says that lagers should be served at between 5°C and 8°C – in other words, the average temperature of your fridge at home – and darker beers at between 8°C and 12°C.

10. Bottled beer tastes best. “The pasteurization process is different and it doesn’t taste the same. I prefer it, and I believe that the quality of the glass bottle is more important than its size.”

11. Always use a beer mat. “As a rule, people tend not to use beer mats. When we invite somebody over for a meal, we take the care to provide good food and to serve it attractively. But the drink is no less important. We should use a beer mat, wet the glass, and learn to enjoy a beer from the moment we smell the aroma after we pull the cap off.”

12. The Germans are not the only ones who make good beer. “They do produce some fine brews, but so do the Spanish, the English, the Irish, the Scottish and, of course, the Belgians. And so do the Czechs. The Czech Republic is a small country and its breweries are family run, based in small neighborhoods, and so there are a lot of them. They have a serious beer culture.”

13. Home brewing is fashionable, but... “that doesn’t mean you have to do it as well. Since the crisis, more and more people have been trying to make their own beer at home. But strangely enough, this is happening because the beer industry is making a good product. So people become aficionados and want to do so too. But that doesn’t mean the results can compete on quality.”





DECEMBER AT THE PHOENIX



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Served 2 - 8pm

FOOD SERVED 5 TILL 7pm EXCL. WED'S & SUNDAYS.

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XMAS QUIZ DEC' 18TH

WITH CHRISTMAS FAYRE.

DISCO - CHRISTMAS DAY NIGHT

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BOOKINGS NOW BEING TAKEN

FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER DEC' 25TH.

WiFi

Check in Bar for details.

Wishing everybody a wonderful christmas and a happy new year.

The Good Samaritan.

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan.

She asked the class, 'If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?'
A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, 'I think I'd throw up.'

Sue Birchington



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JOYCE'S SUNDAY QUIZ 9pm.

QUIZ NIGHT

WiFi Free Zone

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News Snippets & Oddities.

In this candid photo, a member of the Catalan riot police is seen striking a youth with a baton on the head. The policeman claimed that he batoned the boy's ear 'by mistake.' He said he was aiming his nightstick at the boy's legs, but was thrown off-balance. (And they give these people guns!) The youth had to undergo surgery to reconstruct his ear.



It seems that the 'nanny-state' has finally arrived in Spain, or at least in Alicante.



The law prohibits children from playing in areas where there are obstacles. In the Florida-Babel sports' facilities in Alicante, there are metal poles on the edges of the sports' ground. The kids are not allowed to play on the facilities unless an adult stands with their back to the pole (see photos) to protect in case one of the children playing football should collide with the pole. This is all very well but what about protecting them from the goal posts. No one seems to have addressed that. Can you imagine



if the parents were allowed to stand in front of the goal posts. No one would dare score a goal if the goalkeeper dad was standing in front of the goalposts!



A Valencian court is deciding whether the packaging to La Union bags of cement (see surrounding images) is degrading for women. These ludicrous cases have had a resurgence after a Ryanair calendar was declared 'illegal.' It featured some of their attractive ladies wearing swimsuits in an effort to raise funds for charity.

Since then, the feminist brigades have been having a field day perceiving slights at imaginary vulgarities.



Being Positive!

Late in the night, when he regained consciousness, a Royal Marines Commando found himself in the hospital, agonizing in pain. He was in the ICU with tubes in his mouth, needles and IV drips in both arms, a breathing mask, wires monitoring every function, and a gorgeous nurse hovering over him. He realized that he had survived the firefight and explosions but was in a life-threatening situation. The nurse gave him a serious, deep look, straight into his eyes, then spoke to him slowly and clearly, enunciating each word and syllable, "You may not feel anything from the waist down." Somehow he managed to reply, "Can I feel your tits, then?"



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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!

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 ON

TELEPHONE ORDERS WELCOME.

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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.

JUKE'S CHRISTMAS EVE PARTY!

BETWEEN 1 TO 3 pm.

Singalong and dance on the terrace

With local Artist Pete Cresswell.

Revelers will receive a free bowl of Warming Christmas Stew.

A Merry Christmas to Everybody!



Why Are There No White Eggs In the Supermarket?

Well, it seems that the Spanish consumer associates the darker colour egg with a better quality and more natural. But this is just a fad. In reality, there is no nutritional difference between the different coloured eggs, according to a professor in the University of Pablo de Olavide. The shell colour, he states, depends on the breed and what you feed the animal. For example, the Germans prefer a white egg so the hens are not fed corn. The Spanish on the other hand prefer brown/tan eggs.



Another issue the professor dealt with is the myth that many people think that eating eggs increases your cholesterol. "this is totally false because eggs contains cholesterol that we cannot absorb," he says. "It's much more damaging to spend the afternoon on the couch," he continued. Eggs are a very nutritious food containing lipids, mainly monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fatty acids, which are beneficial for cardiovascular health together with antioxidants such as selenium, vitamin E, or carotenoids; folic acid and choline, necessary for the body. The Spanish Society of Community Nutrition states that "for a child, small or medium, or inactive person, it may be advisable to eat three to four eggs per week, while a stout, or physically active person could consume up to seven eggs per week "within a varied and balanced diet."

The Spaniards eat an average of 204 eggs per year, or say 13.1 kilos of this food per person or 380,015 tonnes in the whole country. And I'm not eggsaggerating! (Groan!)

Consultation.

The doctor examined the wife's husband thoroughly before he turned to her and said, 'I'm sorry, I don't like the look of your husband.'

'Neither do I,' she replied, 'but at least he's useful around the house.'



XMAS DAY MENU

-
1 Mixed Starter,
Choose 2 main
Veg, Chicken or
Lamb Dishes
With Rice & Naan
2 Large Beers or
Bottle of Wine.
Coffee or Ice Cream
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12pm till 3pm.

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Bollywood Dance &
Karaoke
Fireworks and
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7pm till Midnight

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SERVED 12pm - 3pm

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Brussels has opened an infraction procedure against Spain for the obliged declaration of assets abroad.

Sources at the Treasury and Public Administrations Ministry have confirmed a report which came firstly from one of the complainants (DMS Consulting) and was picked up RTVE (TV station), and confirmed that Brussels thinks the modelo 720 has two aspects which could violate community law.

One of them is the 'disproportionate sanctioning regime' which contemplates fines as high as 150% of the undeclared value. In addition, tax payers who have not presented the modelo 720 when required to, or who have been found to be incorrect in completing the form face a minimum fine of 10,000 € based on 5,000 € for each inaccuracy or omission.

If the Tax Office discovers a tax payer has not reported an account abroad (asset with value in excess of €50,000), this would be attributed as patrimonial income for IRPF, which at the marginal rate in question, could be over 50%. This is the other aspect which the Community Executive believes could violate EU law, 'the amount attributed for gains in patrimony which have not been justified or declared in the required time, have no possibility of pleading prescription.

Given that the law signs that undeclared income not prescribed by administrative means the tax payer now has to inform on all his or her bank accounts abroad, even if they have been open for 40 years and had never come to light.

The summons letter from the European Commission to the Spanish Treasury Ministry; now the Treasury and Public Administrations Ministry has received the summons letter, in which a period of two months is available for any allegations on the matter.

Sources at the department directed by Cristóbal Montoro assured RTVE that the Government will contest the ruling as the objective of the modelo 720 is to fight against fiscal fraud, and this conforms to community law.

The modelo 720 is one of the most ambitious measures approved by the Government against tax evasion. In the three years of its operation, taxpayers have declared foreign assets for the first time on their form 720 of more than 126.5 billion € (Typically Spanish)

Bill's at it again!

Hillary Clinton goes to her doctor for a check-up, only to find out that she's pregnant. She is furious... Here she is - in the middle of her election campaign - now this has happened to her!

She calls home, gets Bill on the phone and immediately starts screaming: "You bastard! How could you have let this happen? With all that's going on right now, you go and get me pregnant! How could you? I can't believe this! I've just found out I'm five weeks pregnant and it's all your fault!.....Well, what have you got to say for yourself?"

There is nothing but dead silence on the phone. She screams again, "Did you hear me?"

Finally, she hears Bill's very, very quiet voice, in a barely audible whisper:

"Who's calling?"

Moira.



AQUAQUEST PLUMBING



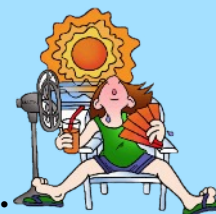
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The Jingoistic English Family.

A young English boy finds a kilt and tries it on for a laugh. He goes to show his mum, saying, 'Look, Mum, I'm Scottish.' Outraged, she slaps him hard and shouts, 'Go tell your granny what you just said.' The boy finds his grandma and shows her his kilt. 'Look, Granny, I'm Scottish.' A look of rage crosses the old lady's face, and she slaps the boy hard. 'I can't believe you just said that,' she shouts, 'go and tell your father.'

Bawling the kid finds his dad. 'Look, Dad, I'm Scottish.' His dad says nothing but grabs a nearby stick and whacks the boy.

'What do you have to say for yourself now?' asks the dad.

The kid yells back at him: 'I've only been Scottish for five minutes and already I hate all you English bastards!'

Ranger's Supporter?

A Scotsman gets injured watching a football match and decides to sue. That night in the pub he is looking sorry for himself. 'Did you lose your case?' asks the barman.

'Aye,' he replies. 'The judge said the club cannae be held responsible.'

'How did you hurt yourself?' the barman asks.

'Och, I fell out of the tree,' replies the Scotsman.

What's the difference between a Scotsman and a coconut?

You can get a drink out of a coconut.

Idiot of the Month.

The Civil Guard are seeking two drivers for committing two driving offences in an industrial park in Segovia. As can be seen in a video published on the Zamora News website, one of the drivers, at the wheel of a Ford Focus, was carrying another vehicle, a white van, precariously on his roof. The other, meanwhile, was recording the scene using his cellphone while driving. He is heard to joke with the driver of the Ford, saying: "You had to be from Zamora!" (Zamora must be a bit like the north of England...or Germany.) Both men could be fined at least €500 for the incident. Personally, I wouldn't be surprised if some form of 'wacky' wasn't involved!



Not really local news but worth a mention. This photo features a 'creative' way of carrying another car. One car, a Ford Focus, drove along the road with another car pitched on top. I wonder how they got it off? This took place in Zamora, where they are all reported to be 'nut' jobs' anyway!

And the next entry is, unfortunately, an Irishman. Well, it was only a matter of time. On this occasion, Joseph Griffin borrowed his son's Go Pro camera. Joseph's son, Evan, takes up the story: "Gave my dad my GoPro while he was in Las Vegas, I did not,



however, instruct him on how to use it, so my dad being my dad ... didn't know which way to point the f-----g thing." It seems that Dad (photo) inadvertently recorded the whole trip as a selfie! The camera had a selfie-bar and although Joseph visited many sites in that incredibly visual city, all you largely see is Joe filming himself. On the one occasion he decided to take a selfie, he briefly recorded an actual Las Vegas site! Give that man an Oscar!

You can view a few minutes of the recording here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8GDZBXZunzM>

All those who entered and ran in the Standard Chartered Half Marathon in Bangkok ended up more exhausted than usual. Instead of a 13-mile run through Thailand's capital, the half-marathon on Sunday November 15 accidentally extended the race to almost 17 miles! Some runners who described the error as "ridiculous", a "massive miscalculation" and "incredibly dangerous" for runners who had trained to run just 13 miles. Another joked on Facebook, "Hey, they increased the price this year, so you get more kilometres for your money."

Alternative Shopping.

Bloke goes into a chemist and asks where the tampons are. The assistant directs him towards the feminine hygiene section.

Five minutes later he comes back to the counter with a bag of cotton wool and a toilet roll.

The assistant asks him 'I thought you wanted tampons?' To which the bloke replied: 'Yesterday I sent my Mrs out to pick me up a pack of 20 cigs; she came back with a pouch of baccy and a packet of papers.'

Lets see how she likes rolling her own.'

'The Immigrants Poem'

I cross ocean, poor and broke.
Take bus, see employment folk.
Nice man treat me good in there.
Say I need to see welfare.
Welfare say, 'You come no more,
we send cash right to your door.'
Welfare cheques - they make you wealthy!
NHS - it keep you healthy!
By and by, I get plenty money.
Thanks to you, you British dummy!
Write to friends in motherland.
Tell them 'come fast as you can.'
They come in thawbs and Ford trucks,
And buy big house with welfare bucks!
They come here, we live together.
More welfare cheques, it gets better!
Fourteen families, they moving in,
but neighbour's patience wearing thin.
Finally, British guy moves away.
Now I buy his house, then I say,
Find more immigrants for house to rent.'
And in the yard I put a tent.
Everything is very good,
and soon we own the neighbourhood.
We have hobby, it's called breeding.
Welfare pay for baby feeding.
Kids need dentist? Wives need pills? We get free!
We got no bills!
British crazy! They work all year,
to keep the welfare running here.
We think UK darn good place.
Too darn good for British race!
If they no like us, they can scam.
Got lots of room in Afghanistan!

Idiot of the Month....continued.

One of the highlights of the year in the town of As Pontes in Galicia, northwestern Spain, is its annual rapini festival, when townsfolk celebrate the town's speciality, the leafy green vegetable similar to spinach, see photo. But when residents clicked to read the town's website in Castillian Spanish - provided by Google Translate - to check the dates for next year's festival, they were shocked to discover the new adult themed turn the festival had taken. Google, instead of promoting the Feira do grelo (Rapini Festival) the website ended up advertising a much more erotic affair - the Feria Clítoris (Clitoris Festival).

Grelo is a Galician word and Google took the Portuguese meaning of the word - clitoris - hence the confusion.

"The clitoris is one of the typical products of Galician cuisine," read the description of the festival in the Castillian Spanish version of the town hall's website, whose original version is written in Galician.

Hmmmm! I wonder if the wording appears in Google Maps. Most blokes wont be able to find it anyway!

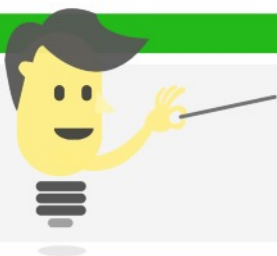


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A stranded driver in Central Spain had walked for hours to get help when a cloud of dust in the distance offered some hope. The man quickened his pace and soon discovered that a yard full of playing children was the source of the disturbance. The man called out to an old woman on the front porch, 'Senora, do you have a monkey wrench?' 'These no monkey ranch, these my children!' the woman replied with indignation.

AN VERY INNOVATIVE SPANIARD.

Most biographies of inventors confine themselves to their subjects' activities in the workshop or laboratory, but a study of the life of Juan de la Cierva y Hoces (photo right) would be far from complete if it only included the advances he contributed to the movie industry – he was the first Spaniard to win an Oscar: in 1970, for a camera stabilizer.



Less well known is his work creating weapons systems for the Spanish military and his relationship with King Juan Carlos I in the early days of Spain's transition back to democracy in the 1970s, when he designed the security systems for the Zarzuela royal palace in Madrid.

Now aged 86, De la Cierva lives in a retirement home in the Spanish capital – “where I don't have to worry about anything” – allowing him to remain active: he's currently working on a design for a chairlift. Over the years he's patented 48 inventions, as well as come up with “around eight or 10 that the Defence Department wouldn't let me.”



He says his favourite invention is the Dynalens, (photo left) an optical stabilizer that keeps cameras steady when in motion. He came up with the idea so he could film his children waterskiing, and it later won him an Academy Award, but the idea also had military and defence uses. Many believe that this invention led to the technology which allowed the main gun in modern battle tanks to remain on target even when the tank travelled over uneven and undulating terrain. The first film his invention was used in was “Tora! Tora! Tora!”

After a successful career in the United States, De la Cierva returned to Spain in 1975 as the country was returning to democracy after four decades of military rule under General Francisco Franco. De la Cierva set up information technology pioneer Electroóptica, employing almost 200 people, and came up with a series of devices that won it markets around the world, among them a fraud-proof betting totalizer. Another was a camera in 1947, which recorded the running horses at the winning post. “It surprised me how skeptical US customs were, asking what a bunch of Spaniards was doing installing computers in US companies. It was hard to believe, but we had cutting-edge technology,” he says.



Electroóptica also won contracts with the Spanish armed forces, the most important of which was probably the Meroka anti-missile system (photo right) that is still used by the Spanish navy and has been copied by other navies.

Then, in 1979, De la Cierva suddenly fled to the United States. Before he left, he allegedly microfilmed his entire archive of designs and placed it in a US bank.

Prior to his departure, De la Cierva had developed a close relationship with the-then Prince Juan Carlos, carrying out a series of delicate missions on behalf of Spain's future monarch. One of these involved designing a communications system for him. He also handed over his house to Juan Carlos so he could make secure phone calls there. “I would sit on the back of the king's motorbike. We would leave by a back door and head for my house out in the country. He could telephone from there without anybody listening in,” he says.

De la Cierva says that, at the time, the Zarzuela royal palace was bugged from top to bottom. “There were even ‘secret’ microphones in the bathrooms,” he says, explaining that he brought in special bug-detectors from the United States to detect and eliminate the bugs. He also admits he scanned the La Moncloa prime minister's palace when Adolfo Suárez, Spain's first leader of the democratic era, was in office.

He stayed in the United States until 1997 - some 20 years, during which time nothing is known about his activities. Did he work for the US Defence Department? “I can't talk about what I did or the projects I was involved in. It's all still secret,” he says.

He says he only returned to Spain because his wife was dying, and after she passed on, he decided to stay. He never attends conferences and rarely speaks to the media, preferring to spend his time with his 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He says he has never properly retired, and continues to work on new projects, his hands tapping away on the keyboard of one of the three computers in his small room with an energy that belies his 86 years. But it still remains a mystery why he left Spain in the late 70's? Conspiracy theories please!

(Source: El Pais, Wikipedia and me!)

The Phoenix Golf Society.

The society played on Sunday, November 15th, at Peraleja Golf Course.

It was a lovely day to play golf, the course was great and we had a very good turnout. On the first tee we had a minutes silence for Remembrance Day and a few words were said by Mick The Grip who also supplied the prizes for Nearest the Pin.

Charlie Hurst who is only 13years old had his first game on a Golf Course, he played very well, lets hope he keeps playing.

Nearest the Pin - Kevin Jackson, Pat Brennan, Joe Heaney, Dave Cahill, Dave Wightman

Overall Winner - Dave Wightman

Second - Kevin Jackson

Mick The Grip asked that we pass on his thanks on behalf of the RBL to all concerned for the amount collected 89.56 euros.



Once again many thanks to Donna for the lovely Beef Stew laid on for us.

Don't forget the list at the bar for next month 13th December at La Roma.

Lime Bar Fishing Sunbathing Club

At the end of October we had a quiz night at the Lime Bar. As Anti Social was playing the sympathy card due to his operation, Sweeney volunteered to organise a general knowledge quiz. What a laugh!

The first half of the quiz questions were written multi choice ones where you had to put A, B, C, & D in the correct order. It certainly tested the grey matter, working out "what came first" or "what was the biggest". Each team of 4 could be seen scratching their heads and diligently working out the right sequence. Or so we thought! When Sweeney read the first answer out, there was a synchronised roar from all the teams "Oh no it isn't!" Sweeney conceded that the majority ruled & went on to the next answer...another roar, "That's wrong as well!"

Well it turns out that Sweeney had forgot to type the A, B, C, & D against each option on the question papers. Ooops! Never mind mate 10 out of 10 for effort, giving us a laugh and keeping Anti Social off the microphone. We all had a great night but Anti Social has now banned you from running another quiz. Well done to Snake charmer & Fageyes' table for winning the meals at CK1s.

The raffles prizes also added to the fun - 2015 diaries! During the evening, we also sold the remainder of the Bagman's fishing tackle. The night's proceeds were added to tackle that the Scribe had sold from his shed and will be handed to Sharon on our Presentation Night. €500 are going to "Cancer Research UK". Well done all!

The November match was held at the Eden canal. As the environment agency had only half cut the reeds, the members turned out and made sure that all our pegs were fishable! After clearing the pegs we then had a couple of hours good fishing, so it was looking good for the match. No such luck! The morning of the match it was bitter cold, the water level had dropped by about 2 feet and the fish were having none of it! Of the 16 anglers that turned out, we had 5 blanks, another 3 had to resort to bleak snatching and only 3 anglers weighed in over a kilo. The sun came out later so we at least topped up our tans!

Fagin & Just John drew pegs 16 & 15 and came 1st & 2nd. Fagin had 2 fish and Just John only had 1. The only other weight over a kilo was our resident professional the Shropshire Lad. There were numerous stories of the big "winner" but all were lost in the reeds. Feathers was one of the bleak snatchers and nearly lost his pole to a monster! He called for assistance to scoop his pole out of the water so the Snake charmer duly obliged. I'm not sure if this was due to club camaraderie or the fact that the snake charmer was blanking and bored, but to get your feet wet!! I hope he bought you a beer.

Next ~~meeting~~ bun fight is at The Lime Bar @ 17.30 Mon 7th December.

My wife and I had words. But I didn't get to use mine.

Why did God make man before woman? To give him time to think of an answer to her first question.

Fishy fingers!
The Ghost.

FOREIGN DEMAND FOR PROPERTY IN SPAIN IS CLOSE TO RECORD HIGHS AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE SPANISH HOUSING MARKET, AND CONTINUES TO EXPAND ON THE BACK OF BRITISH DEMAND.

13.52% of all Spanish home sales inscribed in the Property Register in the third quarter involved a foreign buyer, reveals the latest report from the registrars. That means that more than one in ten properties in Spain today is bought by a foreigner, including both residents and non-residents.

A total of 12,535 home sales involved a foreign buyer in Q3, up 20% on the same period last year, compared to a 16% rise in local demand (80,251).

Year to date (first three quarters), foreign demand was up 13% to 34,758 sales, compared to a 12% increase in the local market, to 235,749 sales. Year to date, foreign demand was 12.85% of the housing market.

After years of declines, local demand has finally started growing, but not as fast as foreign demand, which is once again increasing in market share.

After crashing in the first years of the crisis, foreign demand has come roaring back, providing the only bit of good news for the Spanish property market as it suffered an extended collapse in local demand.

"The active presence of foreign buyers in the Spanish housing market has provided a big contribution at a times of very low overall demand, and the fact that this demand is consolidating, and even growing, in a period of recovery like the present, offers great encouragement for the future," explain the registrars.

BRITISH BUYERS LEAD THE CHARGE

A 20% increase in foreign demand is impressive, but the big story in the numbers is the increase in British demand. The British bought 2,895 Spanish homes in Q3, more than double the next biggest group (France, 1,095), and a big increase (+31%) on the previous quarter.

CHANGING FORTUNES

British demand increased by an annualised 53% in Q3, way ahead of Italy in second place with an increase 29%. Likely factors behind this big increase in British demand include a stronger Pound (now above 1.40€ last seen in 2007), an improving economy at home, and Spanish property prices that have tumbled as much as 70% since the boom. At the other end of the scale Russian demand collapsed by 46%, no doubt thanks to a myriad of well known problems at home in Russia. (spanishpropertyinsight.com) Average Spanish house prices rose by 1.7% to 1,242 €/m² in September, the first time they have risen for almost a year, at least according to the data compiled by the Notaries.

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

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Walking football has started again on Saturday's at Lago Jardin 2. Meet at the grounds at 10:30/11:00 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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The Dream Hills Walking Association is back! If you enjoy a leisurely walk locally, meet outside the Chinese restaurant on Via Park V at 9:30am on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. This will help you get rid of your muscular 'cobwebs' and meet new friends.

There is also a Facebook page - Dream Hills Walking Association.



Stalemate

Submitted by Ann W.

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

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