

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER



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

Issue no. 107, 1st of March 2016.

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the March edition.



We have enjoyed a particularly mild February, although we did have some very cold days and nights - from the 13th to the 20th.

The latest local political news is that there will be a loose coalition in Orihuela between the PP and Ciudadanos (Citizens). This gives them a slight majority over a number of other parties. It will be interesting to see if the many shortcomings and grievances of the coastal area will now be addressed.

There was an unusual number of earthquake off the south coast of Spain, in Andalucia and close to the coast of Morocco during the month. As mentioned before, there is a substantial fault line off the coast down the length of the Costa Blanca down to the Costa del Sol. The latest earthquake was around 5.3 on the Richter Scale off the coast of Morocco.

The next Dream Scene subscription year starts in April 2016. I will be sending reminders out during March. At the end of December we found that we had a small cash surplus. Tid thought it might be a good idea to purchase some emergency stuff for the local homeless with the cash. She came up with the idea of emergency blankets for the homeless during the cold weather. We purchased 100 of these strong tinfoil types of blanket from China and donated them to Reach Out in Torrevieja for them to distribute. Now if you pay a subscription, have given a donation or are an advertiser then TAKE A BOW! It's your money that made this possible. Mind you, the bureaucrats charged us around €50 in import duty, whereas all the goods you see in the local Chinese todos escape import duty because they are 'supposed' to come via Italy.

To save costs Conrad has closed the old forum board for Dream Hills II and moved it to the same server as the website is on with different forum software. It can be reached at <http://www.dreamhills-2.com/Community/index.php> You will have to re register as the process of moving everything over is too costly.

After bellyaching about the quality of the photos submitted, many of my own submissions came out badly from the printers last month. Apologies, but colour photos do not reproduce well in black and white.

Baja Bar has finally opened on the local ground floor of Via Park V. Do pay it a visit. It has been completely refurbished to a very tasteful and comfortable finish. The new lighting system can also be adjusted to suit moods and occasions. I had some restorative libations there last night and really enjoyed my visit, thanks to Helen and Paul.

Also, Jessie's Bar, in Los Balcones opposite Mercadona, is now in full swing with Kath and Jules. They now have a full schedule of events and entertainments, including some bar snacks. Checkout their advert inside.

CKI held a charity race night during February and raised €225 for Little Pods. Kirsty and Paul would like to thank everyone who took part.

Big thanks to Beryl & Denis and Peter & Brenda for the kind donations to printing costs this month.

Remember St. David's Day March 1st; St. Patrick's Day March 17th.

Wishing you all a wonderful month, Mick & Tid.

Pam & Chris would like you to know that the book-swap at La Casita now operates on Thursdays from 11am to 1pm.

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Bring several, swap several!

(Slightly stained copies of '50 Shades' still available.)

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Angela's Cartoon



I hadn't the heart to touch my breakfast. I told Jeeves to drink it himself. P.G. Wodehouse

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

...a new species of black tarantula that lives near Folsom Prison, California, has been named after Johnny Cash. The famously black-clad country singer wrote a song about the prison, and also played a historic series of concerts for inmates there in the 1960s. *Aphonopelma johnnycashi* - photo -is among 14 new tarantula species from the southern US which have been described by biologists in the journal ZooKeys. Reminds me: The extremely hot curry dish, Chicken Phal, is often referred to as the title of one of Johnny Cash's hits...The Ring of Fire. If you had one, you'll know!



...a man from Lazio in Italy is taking his wife to court for "mistreatment of the family" because she did not cook or clean enough, Italian media reports. The 40-year-old woman from the town of Sonnino has been charged with "mistreatment of the family" due to what her husband describes as "poor management of the household chores". The charge could result in a jail sentence of up to six years. In his statement, the husband, who is seven years his wife's senior, claimed he had been "insulted" for over two years by his wife's negligence. According to Il Fatto Quotidiano, he said that on occasion his wife has kicked him out of their bedroom and that he has been "forced to live in conditions with poor hygiene". The husband also said that the food he bought ended up in the bin as his wife rarely cooked.

...in as many as 40 US states, tampons and female hygiene products are taxed as luxury items. It's something that's stirred up a debate as of late—one that made it all the way to President Barack Obama, who suggested that the tax treatment of these items might have something to do with the fact that the duties are imposed by male-dominated legislatures. This is clearly true, but nothing has changed!

.....Australian police have intercepted the largest-ever haul of liquid methamphetamine in the police's history. Around 190 litres of the drug, also known as ice, was discovered inside thousands of gel pads that are inserted into push-up bras, after travelling from mainland China to Sydney through Hong Kong. Police traced another 530 liters of the stimulant to the gang, stashed in art supplies across five warehouses in Sydney. The drugs had a street value of A\$1.3 billion (\$900 million) and four have been arrested in relation to the bust - if you pardon the expression. Reminds me of the line from The Naked Gun where the blonde asks, 'Is this some kind of a bust?' And Frank Drebbin answers, 'Yes, and it's very nice too.'

What's Up?

The political chaos in Spain continues as none of the parties appear to be capable of forming a government, while meandering around in ever decreasing circles disappearing up their own party manifestos and demands.

ABC had a front page photo of the Spanish flag with a pause button superimposed. "Spain on pause, the political paralysis is adding costs" they reported. Experts, businessmen, banks and the European Union have also warned of more unemployment, a fall in GDP, a exodus of investments and an unstable risk premium in 2016 if the uncertainty continues.



As the corruption allegations continue against the previous PP government, followed by police raids on the PP headquarters in Madrid, one of the party figureheads, Esperanza Aguirre - the president of the PP in Madrid, 'fell on her sword' and resigned. This is rarely seen in Spain, with politicians hanging on by their fingernails until they are at least expelled or jailed. Esperanza, photo, stated in her resignation, 'In these recent days we have known a series of news items of undeniable importance related to the PP in Madrid. We will have to confirm and calibrate, but the seriousness of the information, which has not yet been demonstrated means I have to resign as president of the PP in Madrid. But I should have been more vigilant and I have never had or signed any current account nor signed any public works contract and I have no dodgy credit cards, and therefore I am not directly responsible for the revelations we have seen over recent days, but I am politically responsible because in politics you have to assume responsibility', she underlined.



Brussels insist that Spain will fail to meet the deficit target and wants to see a spending cut of 8.6 billion €, and warned that the risk will increase as long as the political uncertainty continues.

House sales increased by 8.6% in 2015, according to the notaries. Prices increased over the year by 6.6% to the level in the middle of 2004 according to the registrars.

The Valencian government has announced that it has reduced with immediate effect the way it works out transfer tax on properties. Introduced four years ago by the then PP government. The regional tax office then revalued properties that had been purchased in good faith via banks and estate agencies so that it could claw back a higher rate of transfer tax. So in 2013 a property that had market value of €30,000 was revalued by the regional tax office as being worth €103,500, despite the slump in the property market. This allowed the tax authorities to slap on a 10% transfer tax on the higher value and demand €10,350 from the purchaser! A spokesman said that with immediate effect the 10% transfer tax would be calculated on the actual market value of the property.

*My dad used to say 'Always fight fire with fire.'
Which is probably why he got thrown out
of the fire brigade.*

The consumer group, Facua, has detected fraud when changing water or electricity suppliers and has already sent 300 public complaints to the National Commission for Markets and Competitiveness and also complains about the passivity of the Government and the authorities.

Telefónica offers the over 53's who have been in service with the company for 15 years to be paid 68% of their without having to work. The Plan for Individual Suspension will cost the company, in their own figures 2.9 billion € and will last for the next two years. People who accept the deal will remain registered with the company which would continue to pay all their social security payment until retirement age. The measure

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supposes average annual direct savings of around 370 million € from the second year and from the first year it would have a generational impact.

Sacyr, a leading Spanish construction company is preparing an E R E (redundancy scheme) for 30% of its construction workers in Spain. The company said the sackings, which will affect between 350 and 420 workers have been brought on by 'the fall in the building sector over recent years and the weak forecasts for the future'. Before the crisis, the company had more than 21,000 employees.

Yahoo is sacking 1.600 workers and will close their office in Madrid after a loss of just over 4 billion € It amounts to 15% of their total workforce. Other offices in Dubai, Mexico City, Buenos Aires and Milan will also close.

House sales increased by 11% in 2015, the best increase in eight years, with 354,132 properties changing hands.

The IBEX 35 has lost more than 100 billion € since the start of the year equivalent to 10% of GDP

The Treasury gained an income of 15.64 billion € in the fight against fraud during 2015. This is up by 27% on the previous year. Director of the Treasury, Santiago Menéndez, when speaking to the media, said this amount had been achieved thanks to the 'strength and dedication' of the civil servants in the Treasury. 'Strength carried out in a framework of a 'difficult context' and that they had gone for the largest taxpayers, the submerged economy and the paying in cash for the repayment of debts. The Treasury is preparing to exploit the new mutual exchange of financial information between 78 other countries.

Police have raided the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) in Madrid in connection with a money laundering and tax fraud probe. The ICBC is the largest bank in the world by market capitalization. The probe is thought to involve Chinese wholesalers who supply the legion of Chinese bargain stores throughout Spain. The profits made from collecting money from these stores is believed to be immense.

4 What's Up? continued

There has been chaos reigning in the Imerso (publically subsidised pensioners holiday program) as thousands of pensioners have been affected by the delays caused by the businesses in-fighting to control the program. Personally, I do believe that whereas these programs can be very profitable for the travel agents, they are less of a deal for a pensioner who is savvy with online searching these days and can get better bargains.

Información in Alicante reported 'Another anti-corruption raid has again cornered the PP in the Valencia Community'. There have been 24 arrests, 252 bank accounts were blocked and 150 luxury cars embargoed. The Guardia Civil carried out searches in Alicante, Muro and Dénia. The PP in Valencia has now been decimated by corruption charges, but there is much, much more to come. The former president, Camps, is now back in the spotlight again.

Police also raided the Madrid headquarters of the Partido Popular on February 11. Along with the Madrid HQ, five homes were also searched. The objective is to obtain documental material for analysis to assist the framework of the investigation into the supposed irregular financing in the Madrid PP. First reports are indicating the presence of the crimes of bribery and money laundering. Investigative cross-hairs are on the former general secretary of the PP, Francisco Granados, who spent €8,000 with an 'opaque' card* from Caja Madrid.

*Opaque Credit Cards: Board members and top-level executives at bailed-out Spanish banks Bankia and Caja Madrid racked up personal expenses totaling €15.5 million over 10 years using undeclared company credit cards. Between 2003 and 2012 the cards were given to 86 recipients outside of normal expense accounts and were used to pay for, among other things, clothes, meals, supermarket goods and trips, according to a court investigation being overseen by investigating High Court Judge Fernando Andreu. They were also used to make €2.1 million in ATM cash withdrawals. Among the names who used the cards were former Caja Madrid president Miguel Blesa; his successor at Bankia – the banking giant formed in 2010 by merging Caja Madrid and six other savings banks – Rodrigo Rato, as well as board members appointed by the Popular Party, Socialist Party, United Left and the CCOO labour union. Rato, who received a salary of €2.8 million from Bankia in 2010, and a number of other executives have already given back the money they spent on the cards.

Takes a look at this photo. It was taken of the Valencian PP hierarchy in May 2009.



Of the eight here, two are already serving jail sentences, five are currently being investigated by the prosecuting judges, with some of the five likely to end up in the clink. The only one not facing any charges or investigation, at this stage, is Alberto Fabra in the middle. What a rum bunch!

La Vanguardia reported that three imprisoned nuns have been rescued. They were being held hostage in a convent in Santiago de Compostela and are of Indian nationality. Situated 700 metres from the famous cathedral, the convent of the Mercedarias had been converted into a prison for the three nuns who said on their release they had been subjected to slavery.

El Mundo reports that Bankia has to return the money it obtained on its stock market launch. The Supreme Court affirmed the entity included 'serious inaccuracies' in their leaflet for the stock market launch, which managed to defraud thousands of investors. The sentence allows the 1.8 billion small shareholders to recover their money and opens the door for the larger shareholders to reclaim another 1.2 billion. El País notes the Supreme Court has annulled the purchase of Bankia shares for deception, and by doing so had opened the way for thousands of investors in Bankia who purchased at the stock market launch to reclaim their money. See more on page 27.

If you are unlucky enough to have your land expropriated for new roads etc., it can be a long time before you receive compensation. The owners of 242 expropriated plots to make way for new roads in Ibiza have been waiting for payment for more than 10 years. €3.4 million has still not been paid over.

The British registered company, Intu Properties Plc, want to invest €650 million in a new theme park project in Torremolinos in the south of Spain. After the disastrous Paramount Theme Park project in Murcia, one would hope that their research into the matter was exemplary. Theme parks have a very poor record in Spain.

Following regular appearances in these columns during the past few years, Gerardo Díaz Ferrán, the former president of the Spanish Confederation of Business Organisations no less!, has been handed down a two-year prison sentence in the National Court for the crime of continued illegal appropriation committed by collecting 4.4 million € from clients of the Marsans travel agency who never received their holidays. He has asked for conditional release. But this guy, who is as crooked as a dog's hind legs, is facing a number of other, undoubtedly jail-time sentences.



Police have issued a warning about two men who have been going from door-to-door in Callosa de Segura. They say they are salesmen for the energy companies and carry a computer tablet. They also say that they want to check if a new meter has been installed. They are armed and dangerous and will also try and force their way into houses.

French farmers ambushed a Spanish truck that was carrying 18,000 kilos of fruit and veg' from Lorca in Murcia. The driver was taking his cargo to Vienna in Austria. Over 100 French farmers and twenty tractors formed the blockade; half of



the Spanish cargo was emptied on the road and set fire to, while the remaining cargo in the lorry was sprayed with a fire extinguisher to render it unsaleable. The French gendarmes stood by and just watched the destruction. How longer can the French farmers be permitted to regularly act like this without being called to answer for their lawlessness?

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Q: What do you call a Muslim stripper?

A: Youseen Memuff



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Lime Bar Golf Society, Los Altos, Orihuela Costa.

The Golf society's venue for the 10th February 2016 was held at Font Del Llop Golf Course.

Twenty-nine members teed off on a pleasant sunny morning. The course was in excellent order and the conditions initially allowed it to be played well. However, very strong winds developed later which hampered a number of players.

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

Nearest the pin on the 3rd hole was Pat Creegan
 Nearest the pin on the 8th hole was Les Thwaites
 Nearest the pin on the 12th hole was Les Thwaites
 Nearest the pin on the 16th hole was Alun Hewitt
 Nearest the pin on the 17th Hole was Pat Creegan
 Best guest was Keith Wood with a score of 13 points
 Silver Class in 3rd place was Nev. Greenwood with a score of 27 points
 Silver Class in 2nd place was Dave Railton with a score of 27 points (on countback)
 Silver Class in 1st place was Pat Creegan with a score of 29 points
 Gold Class in 3rd place was Bill Denne with a score of 27 points
 Gold Class in 2nd place was Les Henderson with a score of 29 points
 Gold Class in 1st place was Ken Farrow with a score of 34 points



A very enjoyable days golf in pleasant company, thanks to the committee for organising the event and the LimeBar staff for providing the meal, also to the ladies for selling the football draw.

It was sadly announced that our Chairman Tony Jones's Mother has passed away. Condolences were observed and our sympathy and thoughts are offered to him and his family at this sad time.

Colin Clarke.



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An old man and an old lady are getting ready for bed one night when all of a sudden the woman bursts out of the bathroom, flings open her robe and yells "Super Pussy!" The old man says "I'll have the soup."

The annual Carnival came and went in Torrevieja. Around 31 different (dancing) troupes took part in the processions with a multitudinous variety of colours and costumes, see photo. But, unless you are reading your copy of the newsletter by email, you will miss the beautiful colours. Click on here for some photos which illustrate the costumes <http://www.diaroinformacion.com/multimedia/fotos/alicante/2016-02-08-20774-eclosion-alegria-imaginacion-torrevieja.html>



The Leftist/Green mayor of Torrevieja, Snr Dolan, visited the charity *Reach Out* in Torry during early Feb'. He was impressed by the work being done for the homeless and poor and decided to donate his month's expenses, around €1,500, to the charity. Very kind gesture.

Council employees cleaning the beach at La Mata, found

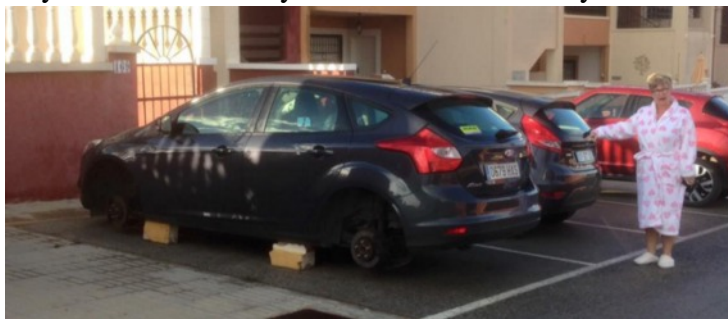


this dead fish which was washed ashore by the recent strong winds. The species belongs to the group of puffers which are very poisonous. The flesh possesses a strong neurotoxin (tetrodotoxin or TTX) which if eaten can cause death within hours. In Japan it is known as "fugu fish" and some of its flesh is eaten, despite the danger. However, it can only be prepared by chefs who undergo several years training. The prepared meat then fetches astronomical prices. Even then, fatal accidents are not rare, with several every year. The poison is concentrated in the liver and gonads but there are traces in meat.

This of course raises the question, how do these invasive species reach this part of the Mediterranean? The route is through the Suez Canal of course, which has provided a fast route for many unwanted species which were once indigenous to the Pacific. The "fugu" is a migratory fish and has also been found in the Atlantic.

Thousands of pine trees have died in the Orihuela district over the last three years due to the drought. It is estimated that in the mountain areas of Callosa and Redován of the municipality, 60,000 trees have died.

Hey Dude! Where my wheels! Bit of larceny in Dream



Hills II. So while the residents were in a somnolence coma following their nightly mug of Ovaltine, some ne'er-dowells were removing their Michels from the family carriage! What bastards!

A 14-month-old baby was taken to the ICU in Alicante Hospital on the evening of Saturday, Feb'22nd. The baby was suffering from severe cannabis intoxication. Whether the intoxication was accidental or deliberate has still not been ascertained, although the police advise that the baby comes from a dysfunctional family with problems. The baby, who at one stage was critical, is now believed to be out of danger.

A report by the Miguel Hernández University has shown that the city council in Alicante was less than efficient in collecting its taxes. An analysis covering the period 2011 to 2015 showed that there was a 'black hole' in taxation receivable which is unlikely to be recovered. This comes to more than 70 million euros, some of it dating back to the 1980's. A comparison with like cities throughout Spain revealed that Alicante's tax collection efficiency record is lamentable, with an unrecovered debt ratio double that of cities such as Malaga, Vigo, Las Palmas and Palma de Mallorca. This is largely down to the incompetence of the PP administration during the relevant period.

The Alicante regional council have decided to distribute €50 million to the municipalities in the region. This is the largest amount given since the beginning of the crisis. Half of the amount will go to towns with fewer than 25,000 inhabitants. €700,000 will be spent on building a cycle track between Alicante and La OAMI, which houses an agency for the European Union.

In an insignificant drugs story, a 20-year-old British man in Almoradi was arrested for sending parcels of cannabis to Ireland. This chap, who has been living in Rojas for some years, sent a number of five-kilo packages through a well known parcel courier company. Although he tried to hide his identity by using a false originating address, the Judicial Police Provincial Brigade from Alicante and Customs Vigilance of the Tax Office in Alicante, managed to track him down. "*Honest, officer, as St. Patrick's Day is coming up, I thought they were shamrocks!*"

Police raided a cockfight in Los Montesinos and made 25 arrests. 26 birds were taken into protective custody, many of them injured.

Fighting birds are worth about €800 each, with breeding cocks at around €1,500 each. Cockfighting has been banned in England since 1835 although it still continues in isolated rural areas, as it still does in rural Spain. Cockfighting is still legal in the Canaries!



After several years of disputes and demonstrations, the local police in Torrevieja are having a bit of a shake-up. The mayor, Jose Manuel Dolan, has announced that following a long period of horrendous absenteeism, police officers and chiefs will now clock in at the start and finish of their working day. The shift system has been changed to meet the needs of the officers and the trade unions so that absenteeism is no longer an option. The new system is based on working full time for seven days and then getting seven consecutive days off. It seems the new system had been requested by the officers (surprise, surprise) and that it was successfully launched in other towns. A psychotherapist is also being recruited to manage cases involving allegations of bullying and harassment at work. A local policewoman complained to the council of bullying in July 2014, but nothing was done about it. Although an anti-bullying protocol was approved in April 2009, the recommended requirements were ignored. Temporary local police officers will also be supplied with 58 electric stun guns so they can patrol more safely.

Good News! Chocolate IS Good for You!

Cheering news for those with a sweet tooth - a recent study has found that regular chocolate consumption is associated with better cognitive function.

According to the study, published in the journal *Appetite*, chocolate consumption was found to be associated with cognitive performance "irrespective of other dietary habits."

Researchers looked at data collected during an earlier study in which residents of Syracuse, New York, were measured for dietary intake and risk factors for cardiovascular disease. Participants were also given a series of tests designed to measure cognitive function.

"More frequent chocolate consumption was significantly associated with better performance on [tests including] Visual-Spatial Memory and Organization, Working Memory, Scanning and Tracking, Abstract Reasoning, and the Mini-Mental State Examination," researchers said.

"With the exception of Working Memory, these relations were not attenuated with statistical control for cardiovascular, lifestyle and dietary factors."

Researchers suggested that regular chocolate intake could help "protect against normal age-related cognitive decline."

They also note that chocolate has historically (if not scientifically) been used to "reduce fever, treat childhood diarrhoea, promote strength before sexual conquests, decrease 'female complaints', increase breast-milk production, encourage sleep and to clean teeth."

On a more solid scientific footing, contemporary studies have found that chocolate is good for the heart and circulation, reduces risk of stroke, reduces cholesterol, and protects the skin against sun damage

One study found that it could even help you lose weight. According to neuroscientist Will Clower, a small square of good chocolate melted on the tongue 20 minutes before a meal triggers the hormones in the brain that say "I'm full", cutting the amount of food you subsequently consume. Finishing a meal with the same small trigger could reduce subsequent snacking.

(Source: Telegraph online)

Got a Mortgage?

If you have a Spanish mortgage, you should be aware that the Euribor interest rate, on which most Spanish mortgage interest rates are calculated, has now dipped below zero for the first time in its history. In early Feb' it fell to minus 0.002%, averaging just 0.005% for that month. Do check your interest charges on your mortgage. You should be paying substantially less that you were paying for the same period last year.

If not, it means that you have a 'floor clause' on your mortgage. If you do have a 'floor clause' and contest it, the bank will usually cancel the clause as the banks have been getting a hammering in the courts over it. It is classed as abusive, and borrowers are not aware if they are subject to it.

Don't expect the banks to 'come clean' on this one. Like everything else with the banks, you have to demand your rights. They will not volunteer help.

Civil Guard Anti-corruption Crusader Busted for Forcing His Way into Brothel.

A Civil Guard sergeant has been suspended for five days over a 2012 incident in which he forced his way into a Pamplona brothel (photo) without paying the cover charge, then attempted to "spend the whole night drinking for free and partying" with his friends.



The military section of the Supreme Court, which dealt with the case given that the Civil Guard is a militarised police force, was divided in its ruling, with four justices arguing that the case should be sent to military prosecutors.

Sergeant José Alberto Nava Cano had previously forged a reputation thanks to his one-man fight against corruption and abuses of power inside the Civil Guard, a mission that had earned him the nickname "Lieutenant Segura," after an army lieutenant who wrote a book revealing widespread wrongdoing in Spain's armed forces.

His reputation for being a corruption buster was such that he was enlisted by the emerging party Ciudadanos to run in 2015 local elections in the Navarrese capital. The party ejected him after learning about the brothel incident.

On January 27, 2012, at 10.30pm, Sergeant Nava showed up at a brothel named Supermodels, located outside Pamplona, with three Civil Guard colleagues, a local police officer and an agent who works for the National Intelligence Center, according to court papers. They were all off duty and out of uniform.

When Nava and several other members of the group attempted to get in for free, the bouncer said there was a cover charge. The Civil Guard officer, "showing evident signs of being under the influence," then produced his badge, claimed that he was there on a police operation, and threatened the employee. "I know where you live, and if I want to I can put you behind bars this very night," he said.

The establishment owner then came to the door and asked the officers in for a drink. Inside, Nava shouted out: "We're going to show these people! We're going to spend the whole night drinking for free and partying!"

The owner decided to phone the Civil Guard, which sent out two patrol cars. A report was filed with officials on the force, but not with the local courthouse or the attorney's office as is normal procedure.

Four out of the eight justices on the panel believe that a five-day suspension for "conduct seriously contrary to the dignity of the Civil Guard" is not enough, that Nava may have incurred in a crime of coercion, and that the case should be sent to military prosecutors.

Ron's Night Out.

76-year-old Ron Chestna was stopped by the police around 2 a.m. and was asked where he was going in his car at that time of night. Ron replied, "I'm on my way to a lecture about alcohol abuse and the effects it has on the human body, as well as smoking and staying out late." The officer asked, "Really? Who's giving that lecture at this time of night?"

Ron replied, "That would be my wife."

Pete Dudman

FIFTY SHADES OF CHOCOLATE

Mr Cadbury met Miss Rowntree on a Double Decker.
It was just After Eight.
They got off at Quality Street ..
He asked her name. 'Polo, I'm the one with the hole'
she said with a Wispa.
'I'm Marathon, the one with the nuts' he replied.
He touched her Cream Eggs, which was a Kinder
Surprise for her.
Then he slipped his hand into her Snickers, which
made her Ripple.
He fondled her Jelly Babies and she rubbed his Tic
Tacs.
Soon they were Heart Throbs.
It was a Fab moment as she screamed in Turkish
Delight.
But, 3 days later, his Sherbet Dip Dab started to itch.
Turns out Miss Rowntree had been with Bertie
Bassett and he had Allsorts!

Derrick Green

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Work Calendar Red Days.

The 2016 work calendar shows that this year there are eight national fiestas common to all the autonomous regions.

These are the remaining National Fiestas:

March 25: Good Friday; August 15: Assumption of the Virgin (Monday);

October 12: Spanish National Day (Wednesday); November 1: All Saints Day (Tuesday)

December 6: Constitution Day (Tuesday); December 8: Immaculate Conception (Thursday).

There are other 'Red Days,' but these fall on Sundays. Each of the regions also have their own 'Fiesta' days. But during most of these, many local commercial retail outlets remain open.

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SUNDAY 8pm -

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Criminality in Spain.

The following is an article/press release published in Typically Spanish in early February. This is a precis of a press release from the acting Interior Minister, Jorge Fernández Díaz (photo), who gives his own, or the party's favourable report on criminality in Spain, during the previous four-year PP government legislature.



The crime rate has fallen by 10.9% over the last four years and assassinations were down by 21.3% and rapes were down by 19%. He highlighted the fact that over the last four years there have not been any terrorist related deaths in Spain and this is the first legislature this has occurred, thanks to the excellent work of the security forces and all the Governments anti-terrorism legislation.

Despite the excellent news he warned 'we must never drop our guard' or fall into self-congratulation, but we must also recognise the arrest of 177 presumed jihadist terrorists in 76 operations.

Of them, 139 were arrested in Spain in 62 Police operations, and 38 abroad in 14 actions. Regarding ETA (the Basque terrorist organisation), the minister described them as 'practically in terminal state' with hardly a dozen clandestine members.

'We have not skimmed any effort' to combat ETA and in the last legislature 161 presumed members were arrested, of which 95 in Spain and 66 in diverse countries, especially in France, who I thank for their full cooperation'.

He also considered the dismantling of the ETA organisation and structure was thanks to the National Police and the Guardia Civil and other State institutions such as the CITCO (Intelligence Centre Against Terrorism And Organised Crime) and the CNI (Spanish secret service)

Using the facilitated data, criminality has fallen in general terms by 4.5% in the last four years. Concretely, there has been a significant reduction across the board, especially for serious crimes, such as assassinations, reduced by 21.3%. In 2015 there were 303 violent deaths against the 385 in 2011.

Violent robberies or with intimidation were 26% down, a reduction noticed both in house burglaries and thefts carried out in the street, which also fall by 25%. The crime rate is now 43.7 penal infractions for every 1,000 population, 4.5 down since 2011.

Rapes are also down by 19% but as of today, a total of 1,127 women were raped in Spain last year. A situation for the minister 'which requires specific control' adding his department are concentrating on this and it is clear they 'usually occur after episodes of domestic violence', he declared. 'Every rape is indescribable and a tragedy, but at least we are seeing recently a marked defence', said the Interior Minister.

The Supreme Court confirmed the 32 year sentence for the ETA activist who assassinated the councillor Isafás Carrasco. The prisoner concerned is Beñat Aguinagalde and the crime took place in Arrasate (Guipuzcoa) in 2008.

Then on Feb' 3, four ETA activists were acquitted for a plan to kill Aznar with a missile launcher. The National Court released the four on a lack of evidence after the prosecution claimed the former Prime Minister José María Aznar was their target when he visited the Basque Country.

What do you call a cross between a rooster and an owl?

A cock that stays up all night.

Hats off to the Left!

Okay, this is something you will not hear me say very often, but one must give credit where it is due. For several decades it was the Partido Popular (PP) who ruled the region of Valencia. While these jerks ploughed hundreds of millions of euros into grandiose projects such as Formula One and the City of Light, investment in education was put on the back burner. This meant that far too many schools were either fully or partially constructed as prefabs. As usual at election times, promises were cheap and never delivered.

Now that a coalition of the Left is running Valencia, the new regime has decided to make education a prime target for investment. The new regional president, Ximo Puig, photo, has announced a massive injection of €422 million into public education. All pre fab/mobile classrooms will now be replaced before June 2019. This will effect almost every municipality in the region, including Orihuela (Costa), Torrevieja, Santa Pola, Rojales, Guardamar, etc. The scheme includes a total of 124 new schools in the Valencia Region. Nearly half of all the schools in the region need to be revamped, extended or built. Around 270,000 children are attending schools that are in a poor condition. That our children had to endure these conditions while many of the then ruling elite were lining their own pockets or financing multi-million dumb projects is unforgivable.



A Quick Look at the Left in Spain.

For several decades it was the *PSOE* - Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (Partido Socialista Obrero Español) - who have kept the socialist flag flying in Spain. The party originated in 1879. In recent years the Communist Party and the Republican Left have become insignificant with the 'Red Flag' being most vocally waved by the small party, Izquierda Unida - the United Left - formed in 1986.

I see the Left in Spain in two separate categories. First there is the *PSOE*, which has become the 'Establishment Left.' This is best typified by the Andalusian Left. Here the socialists have ruled for over twenty years. It is the 'Black Hole' for funding with billions being poured into the region annually. But the Left there are a 'Gucchi Left.' Years of being in control has led many there to copy the worst of the PP (main opposition) bad habits - namely fraud and corruption. The two main frauds in that region at present are the Training Fund Fraud and the ERE Redundancy/Pension Fraud, which run into hundreds of millions of euros.

Then in March 2014, in the aftermath of the 15-M Movement protests against inequality and corruption, *Podemos* (We Can) was formed by a left-wing academic. Since then they have tailored their revolutionary-left aspirations to placate the electorate - such as leaving NATO. Although classed as the second socialist party, 69 out of 350 seats in parliament and five seats in the European Parliament, polls predict that they could equal or surpass the number of seats the *PSOE* have in a new election. They remain a radical left wing party, anti-austerity, anti the traditional Spanish establishment, growing at the expense of the traditional and now staid *PSOE*.



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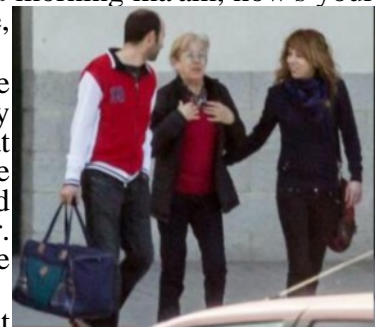
Regular readers may remember a story reported in the newsletter in 2014. It concerns Mari Carmen García from Benejúzar.

Back in October 1998, Antonio Cosme, alias *The Small Brush*, raped a 13-year-old girl Veronica Rodriguez in Benejúzar. He was sentenced to seven years in prison for sexual assault. A very short sentence you might agree. In June 2005 this wretch was given prison leave but neither the victim nor her family were informed. Cosme approached the victim's mother, Mari Carmen García, on the street and said, 'Good morning ma'am, how's your daughter?' Mari Carmen then went and got some petrol, returned to confront Cosme, poured the petrol over him and set fire to him. Cosme died a few days later.

When Mari Carmen's case eventually came to court in 2014, after an extensive grassroots campaign backed by more than twenty associations to demand clemency from the government, the appeal was rejected twice, the Court of Elche decided that Mari Carmen go to prison to serve her prison sentence of five and a half years. The original sentence was reduced by some years as it was believed that the mother feared for the life of her daughter while the rapist was walking the streets of Benejúzar. While in prison, Mari Carmen religiously paid €50 every month to the family of the rapist as compensation ordered by the court.

Mari Carmen enjoyed her first prison leave of three days last week. It is hoped that soon the sentence will be modified so that she can go home from the prison in Villena each day and just return to the jail in the evenings to sleep.

The photo shows Mari Carmen leaving the prison accompanied by her daughter.



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On Hol's.

Three guys go to a ski lodge, and there aren't enough
rooms, so they have to share a bed.

In the middle of the night, the guy on the right wakes
up and says, "I had this wild, vivid dream of getting a
hand job!"

The guy on the left wakes up, and unbelievably, he's
had the same dream, too.

Then the guy in the middle wakes up and says, "That's
funny, I dreamed I was skiing!"

The Incidence of Cancer in Spain.

The World Cancer Day on February 4 was a day dedicated to the surveys, claims and appeals in relation to the disease. It was also a time to take stock and review the cancer rates in Spain, given that a third of the Spanish population will at some stage have the disease in varying forms of severity. (I find this to be a very high figure but I am just quoting the article.)

If we focus on the most common tumours in Spain, we can separate the data between men and women. However, the overall annual figures suggest that colon cancer (32,240 new cases), followed by prostate cancer (27,853 new cases), lung (26,715 new cases), breast cancer (25,215 new cases) and bladder (13,789 new cases) are the ones being diagnosed more frequently. However, if we analyse by gender, the tumour most frequently diagnosed in men is prostate and in women breast cancer. In particular, more assiduously diagnosed cases in men in Spain in the year were: cancer prostate (27,853 new cases), lung cancer (21,780 new cases), colon cancer (19,261 new cases), bladder cancer (11,584 new cases) and gastric cancer (4,866 new cases).

Meanwhile, tumours most commonly diagnosed in women in Spain were breast cancer (25,215 new cases), colon (12,979 new cases), uterus (5,121 new cases), lung (4,935 new cases) and ovarian (3,236 new cases).

The most deadly tumours accounted for the highest number of deaths in Spain in the general population were lung cancer (21,118 deaths) and colon cancer (14,700 deaths), followed at a great distance by breast cancer (6,075 deaths), pancreatic cancer (5,720 cases) and prostate (5,481 deaths).

From the analysis of a million cancer deaths over 20 years, the National Epidemiology Centre has established a 'cancer map' in Spain that helps verify the varying prevalence in each region of six different types tumour.

I cannot reproduce these maps, which are coloured, as I just print in black and white. However, you can view them here; the maps also differentiate the cancer incidence between the sexes separately together with indicating the various 'hot-spots' around the country for the six main types of the disease.

See <http://www.diarioinformacion.com/noticias-hoy/incidencia-cancer/cancer-incidencia-espana.html#>

The very high prevalence of the various cancers indicated in the west of Spain must surely raise some questions.



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A husband comes home to find his wife with her suitcases packed in the living room. "Where the hell do you think you're going?" he says. "I'm going to Las Vegas. You can earn \$400 for a blow job there, and I figured that I might as well earn money for what I do to you free."

The husband thinks for a moment, goes upstairs, and comes back down, with his suitcase packed as well. "Where do you think you going?" the wife asks. He replies, "I'm coming with you...I want to see how you survive on \$400 a year!!!"

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Villajoyosa have introduced a new service to help clear up the constant problem of dog-poo in the streets and pavements.

They have now introduced a scooter with a vacuum cleaner which will suck-up the doggie poo. See photo.

It is planned that the vehicle will travel around the town three times a week for three hours. Early experiments with the service have proved very successful.



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The Downside of Tapas.

Most of us enjoy tapas, particularly when they are freshly made. A bar counter loaded with tapas can be quite appetising but, there is the problem. How long have they been there and are they properly refrigerated. Un-refrigerated tapas atop a bar can be a warning sign, that is unless the bar has a high turnover, but having scores of people coughing, sneezing and spluttering over food on display cannot be good.

At least 66 people have fallen ill and one person has died from suspected salmonella poisoning at a bar in the southern coastal city of Cádiz. This occurred in early February, the fatality being a 26-year-old man who had a heart condition.

The culprit behind the poisoning appears to be *tortilla casera*, a popular tapa made with eggs and potatoes. I have visited many Spanish bars and seen *tortillas* atop the bar, un-refrigerated and uncovered, and probably there for most of the day, virtually inviting flies and germs. Eat this and you are taking a risk.

Sickness from salmonella poisoning lasts around six or seven days and is not fatal, unless there are complications or the patient has pre-existing conditions.



After years of marriage, Tom eventually developed an attachment for his mother-in-law.
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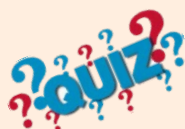


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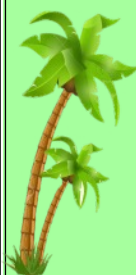
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Reach Out / Extiende La Mano.

With the weather getting chillier our thoughts go to our homeless amigos and our needy families. Reach Out are looking for help to provide candles, thermal underwear for men, gloves, hats and scarves, jumpers and warm shirts.

Canned goods, rice, cereals, non-perishable foods etc are also most welcome.

Please contact us if you are able to help with either goods or donations.

John 688 238 878

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

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Want to Pay Less Property Tax This Year?

It is not generally know but the Ministry of Finance has introduced a scheme which offers discounts to your IBI (property tax) bill, as from January this year. It is part of a scheme to reduce energy demand, and discounts are available of up to 20% on your property tax bill. This applies to homes and offices.

If your property has an Energy Performance Certificate, the building will have a energy-saving rating. There are seven levels ranging from A (indicating more efficient) to G (least efficient).

The certificate/energy rating is mandatory for new buildings, as well as properties for sale or for rent.

If the property has an Energy Proficiency Certificate (EPC) with a rating of A, the IBI rebate will be 20%. This is reduced down to 4% when the rating is at E. Properties with an F or G rating, or without a licence may not request any rebate.

To qualify for the rebate you must prove that the property has the appropriate energy certificate and submit it to the local town hall.

And good luck with that as I would bet my bottom dollar that our local town hall are unaware of this scheme. Acquiring an Energy Certificate will cost more than €100.

The Phoenix Golf Society.

We played today at Vistabella Golf Course and had a very good day, no rain either!! John Walls had a terrible front nine!!! But recovered in the back nine. The rest had some good scores.

Nearest the Pin - Number 15 TORR.

Nearest the Pin - Number 4 D.WIGHTMAN

Nearest the Pin - Number 8 MIKE HIGHWAY

The Overall winner was Margaret Sheedy.



The group returned to the Phoenix Bar for some lovely grub supplied as usual by Donna, many thanks again Donna for your continued support of our Golf Group.

Foxy, Tomo and Rosie
Welcome You To

Tel: 634 341 080



FOXY'S

Bar & Grill.

Ground Floor,
Via Park V.



**SAT' NIGHTS 6:30 - 9:30 JAMES ELLIS -
SINGER, DISCO, KARAOKE.
PADDY KELLY
EVERY THURSDAY.
MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL
MARCH 6TH
CHOICE OF FOUR STARTERS
FOUR MAIN COURSES
& FOUR DESSERTS
ONLY €13.95 PER PERSON
BOOKINGS ONLY
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Always a warm welcome!**





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It is unthinkable for a Frenchman to arrive at middle age without having both syphilis and the Cross of the Legion of Honour.

Andre Gide

Going to war without France is like going deer hunting without an accordion.

General Norman Scharwzkopf

THE FIRE STATION BAR & COFFEE SHOP



Top Floor, Via Park I, La Zenia, Orihuela Costa

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Played with Real Clubs and Balls
Starts Friday 5th February**

Daily Food Specials Only 5€

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Pie, Chips, Peas and Gravy

Cakes

Coffee & Cake From 3€
Cornish Cream Tea 4€
Selection of Cakes From Only 2.50€

Speciality Coffee's
Flavoured Hot Chocolate
Frappe's
Milkshakes

Toasted Teacake with Tea or Coffee Only 2.50€
Pie & Pint (Estrella Galicia) only 4€

Electricity - New Meters.

Below are some helpful links which explain certain issues in relation to the new electricity meters, which are being installed throughout the country.

From what I can gather in the first link, if you are already on the dual tariff, you will remain on it.

I have insufficient space left to print the contents.

<http://www.andalucia.com/forums/viewtopic.php?f=22&t=34478&p=347702&hilit=new+meters#p347702>

http://spanishnewstoday.com/hourly-electricity-rates-billing-in-spain-what-you-need-to-know_21748-a.html#.VZVr80a20qg

http://spanishnewstoday.com/new-hourly-electricity-billing-system-begins-across-spain_21747-a.html?Banner=56#.VaWUil-qqko

Rumbled!

The lovers were passionately embracing on her bed when the woman suddenly said, 'Quick! I hear my husband coming through the front door. Hide in the bathroom!'

He ran into the bathroom and she hid his clothes under the bed, just as her husband came through the bedroom door.

'What are you doing lying naked on the bed?' he asked.

'Darling,' she said, I heard you coming and I fancy some nookie.'

'Great,' he said, 'I'll just nip into the bathroom and be with you in two shakes.'

When in the bathroom he was surprised to see this naked stranger who was standing and clapping his hands.

'Who the hell are you?' the husband demanded.

'I'm from the pest-control company,' the lover replied. 'Your wife called me in to get rid of these moths.'

'But.....but you've got no clothes on,' stammered the husband.

The lover looked down, jumped backwards in surprise and said, 'Oh! The little bastards!'

BIENVENIDO a BAR KALIMOTXO

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Via Park III

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SUCCULENT MEATS RANGING FROM ROAST LAMB,
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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!

A RANGE OF GENEROUS DELICIOUS SALADS ALSO AVAILABLE

¡Visítanos y disfruta los auténticos sabores de la cocina española!

'Come and enjoy the authentic taste of Spain.'

Русский говорят.



SUN

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Via Park V



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SMALL BREAKFAST from €

SMALL PIZZA from €2.70

BURGER & CHIPS & LARGE BEER €5.95

BEEF KEBAB €4.10

*We celebrated our 5th anniversary here
on January 29.*

*Thank you to all our customers
and friends*

for their support over this time.

Thank you.



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SPORTS

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JILLY'S

Lago Jardin II



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& Delicious Chips.

Food Always Freshly Prepared.

KARAOKE - THURSDAYS AT 9PM.

BBQ'S 1PM

SAT FEBRUARY 27TH &

SAT MARCH 26TH

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BARGAIN PRICED DRINKS!

FREE WIFI.

Relax and soak up the sunshine!



What Flavour?

A teacher was working with a group of children, trying to broaden their horizons through sensory exploration. She brought in a great variety of boiled sweets with lots of different flavours. 'Children,' she announced, 'I'd like you to close your eyes and taste these.'

Without difficulty, they managed to identify the taste of cherries, lemons and mint, but when the teacher had them put honey-flavoured sweets in their mouths, every one of the children was stumped.

'I'll give you a hint,' said the teacher. 'It's something your daddy and mummy probably call each other all the time.'

Instantly, one of the children spat the sweet out of his mouth and shouted, 'Ugh.....they're arseholes!'

Open Wide!

Last month we reported on the unqualified dentists operating in Madrid. But then in mid Feb' the brown stuff hit the fan when the largest dental franchise in Spain, Vitaldent, was subjected to police raids and the owner of the franchise company, Ernesto Colman, was arrested with 12 others, including the directors of the company. Also detained was their head of operations in Italy. Vitaldent have more than 450 dental practice franchises, 350 in Spain, the remainder in Italy and Poland.



Founded in Spain 25 years ago, Vitaldent boasts of more than seven million clients; so what went wrong?

Let me say from the outset that this particular case does not relate to the professionalism of the dental teams nor with the franchise owners. That may be a separate issue. The police charge that the hierarchy of the company have defrauded the Public Treasury and the franchise owners of considerable amounts of money.

According to sources in the investigation, the owner of the business, Ernesto Colman (photo), nicknamed 'McDentist' by Time magazine in July 2006, laundered the monthly subscriptions paid mainly in cash for the dental services, via a B accounting system (hidden) in Switzerland and Luxembourg. Ernesto appears on the Forbes List of Super Rich, with a fortune in excess of five billion euros.



He also raised large amounts of cash from the owners of the franchises, which also found its way abroad. Cash was the preferred medium with both. According to the same sources, when the money was returned to Spain it was reinvested in properties and SICAVs (a tax efficient investment vehicle for large amounts of money available to some European countries, but not the UK). The SICAVs alone which he created, are believed to hold more than four million euros. It is believed that the total amount laundered is believed to be enormous. The company boasted that its invoices exceeded €500 million annually! The police believe that around €17 million was 'set aside' every year.

Together with the arrests, police have also seized a plane worth more than a million euros and 36 luxury vehicles. 103 rural estates across Spain have also been 'taped-off,' denying access to the owners. Meanwhile, searches continue in several dental practices, 13 lawyers offices, the homes of those arrested and in 25 financial bodies. There have also been arrests and searches in Italy.

Meanwhile, the police assure that the above does not effect the operation of the dental surgeries. The company has three in Alicante alone. However, the quality of dentistry there has been a subject widely debated in Spanish online forums; this one entry made me chuckle.....

Hey, do not trust a hair, they do not see a person when you walk in the door, they see a 500 note with legs!

But then again, ethical behaviour is not something you would associate with business in Spain.

The owner of the La Pesquera Group in Spain, Ramón Mesas, has just been arrested with seven others. The group owns a large chain of successful restaurants comprising of more than five different brands, with restaurants mainly in Marbella and Madrid. This was a combined operation between the Tax Office and the Guardia Civil. Over €250,000 in cash was found in a safe and a spider's web of more than 200 bank accounts, 40 companies, some registered in Gibraltar which are administered by employees, was also discovered. Mesas' helicopter has still not been found.

Letters to the Editor.



(I normally don't print anonymous letters, but this one tugged at my heart-strings and I had to print it. Mick)

Dear Mick,

One of the bar/restaurants in your area kindly held a free Pensioner's Lunch recently. During it there was also a free raffle and God bless them but I won a beautiful new radio.

I am 86-years old and all my family have passed away.

I live in sheltered accommodation in Torre Vieja and what is left of my meagre pension does not stretch very far. It's nice to know that someone really thinks of me.

God blesses those for their kindness to an old, forgotten lady.

My roommate is 95 and always had her own radio, but would never let me listen to it, even when she was sleeping. The other day her radio fell off her bedside table and broke into a lot of pieces. It was awful and she was in tears. She asked if she could listen to mine,so I told her to 'Fu*k off.'

(Unsigned.)

Getting On a Bit!

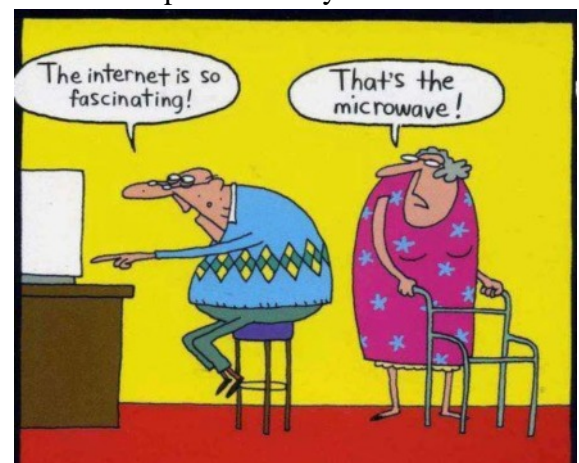
According to Spain's National Statistics Institute (INE), there were just 5,760 or 0.8% of Spain's population who could celebrate their hundredth birthday in the year 2000.

But that figure has soared during the last 15 years and there are currently 14,487 people over the age of 100 living in Spain, more than eighty percent of them women.

The number is expected to rise by around 10% a year meaning that by 2029 that figure is expected to rise to include more than 46,480 people and by 2064 Spain is predicted to be home to some 372,000 centenarians.

Ana María Vela, who was born in Cordoba on October 29th, 1901, holds the title of Spain's oldest woman, while Francisco Núñez at 111, is the oldest man in Spain and is in the running to claim the oldest man in the world Guinness World Record title.

In fact, Spain ranks second in the world behind only Japan for life expectancy, with life expectancy for babies born in Spain at 83.2 years.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PHOENIX



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Serving Breakfasts, Full Snack Menu.**

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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!

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

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

HAPPY
Mother's
DAY



**MOTHER'S DAY
MARCH 6TH.**

SPECIAL MENU WITH BOTTLE OF WINE.

SEE BOARD FOR DETAILS.



WiFi

ALL UPCOMING EVENTS ON BOARDS!

White Collar Crime.

It was the stockbroker's first day in prison and on meeting his psychotic-looking cell mate he became even more nervous than ever.

'Don't worry, mate,' said the prisoner when he noticed how scared the stockbroker looked. 'I'm in for a white-collar crime, too'

'Oh, really?' said the stockbroker with a sigh of relief. 'Yeah,' said the prisoner. 'I murdered a priest.'



Macklin's

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

LIVE SPORTS 6 SCREENS

RUGBY BOXING MOTORSPORTS FOOTBALL

BINGO! EVERY SATURDAY AT 2pm.
JOYCE'S
SUNDAY QUIZ
9pm.

QUIZ NIGHT

WiFi Free Zone

FIND US AT GROUND FLOOR, VIA PARK 3.

Odd Driving Laws in Spain.

1. Driving with one hand or arm outside of the vehicle can lead to a fine of 100 euro. Article 18 of the General Traffic Law states that the driver and passengers should always maintain a sensible position inside the vehicle.
2. Driving without wearing a T-shirt or shirt, barefoot or wearing flip-flops comes with a fine of 200 euro for not driving with the correct clothing or footwear, which could diminish the driver's capacity to control the vehicle.
3. You have to be extremely careful when parking on sand at the beach because if the area is classified as 'protected', you could end up with a fine of up to 6,000 euro.
4. Making the most of being stationary at a red light to touch up your make-up or eat something could cost you 200 euro and two points off your license.
5. Driving with the music blasting out in an area where quiet is required, like a hospital, or during the early hours of the morning will be sanctioned with a fine of 80-100 euro. In one case, a fine of 2,400 euro was imposed for not allowing neighbours to sleep.
6. You should only use the car horn in cases of emergency, to avoid an accident or if you want to overtake someone and alert them of your action. Any other use could lead to an 80-euro fine.
7. Driving in the left-hand lane or in the middle lane if the right-hand lane is free could result in a fine of 200 euro, according to Articles 28 and 31.
8. Be careful if you're having an argument whilst driving, as if you're seen taking your eye off the road on several occasions, you could end up with a fine of 80 euro. The same amount will be applied if the driver is caught biting his nails, kissing the co-pilot or insulting other drivers using hand signals!
9. Both hands should be kept on the steering wheel whilst driving and the driver's ears should be visible.
10. Filling up the car with petrol with the radio on comes with a fine of up to 91 euro.

I saw a girl texting & driving the other day & it really pissed me off, so I rolled down my window & threw my beer at her.



(Source: El Mundo, submitted by Sue B)

Death by.....?

Three hunters out on safari were caught by a tribe of ferocious natives. 'You will all die,' said the chief, 'but you will die in a manner reflecting what you were on earth.' 'What did you do?' he asked the first hunter. 'I was a surgeon,' he replied. 'OK, you will die by having your penis amputated.' He asked the second man the same question. 'I was a fireman.' 'OK, you will die by having your penis burnt off.' 'And you?' said the chief to the third hunter. 'Oh, I was a lollipop man,' replied the man smiling.



JUKES



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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.

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



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, Horseshoe 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)

I'm Gonna Jump!

In Mumbai, a man is going to jump off the building. Up comes a good Hindu cop to talk him down. Cop yells up to the man "Don't jump! Think of your father." The man replies "Haven't got a father; I'm going to jump." The cop goes through a list of relatives, mother, brothers, sister, etc. Each time man says "Haven't got one; going to jump." Desperate the cop yells up "Don't jump! Think of Lord Krishna." The man replies "Who is that?" The cop yells "Jump, you Muslim b*****! You're blocking traffic!"

Spanish Personal Income Tax.

The Spanish income tax rates are made up in equal parts by the state rate and the regional rate. Each Autonomous Community can amend their local rate, as our region, Valencia, has done. This makes it very difficult to find a full schedule of the tax rates for our region online.

However, if you go to this website, you can enter in your gross income and your region, it will then calculate your tax payable. This model does not take into account any extra tax allowances you may get for being in your 70's or for having a registered level of disability. Although it is in Spanish, it is easy to navigate.

http://cincodias.com/cincodias/2015/07/14/ecnomia/1436883140_023021.html

Savings income is treated differently -

Income €	Tax Rate
0-6,000	19%
6,000-50,000	21%
Over 50,000	23%

Helga's Cruise Diary.

DEAR DIARY - DAY 1

All packed for the cruise ship -- all my nicest dresses, swimsuits, short sets. Really, really exciting. Our local Red Hat chapter - The Late Bloomers decided on this "all-girls" trip. It will be my first one - and I can't wait!

DEAR DIARY - DAY 2

Entire day at sea, beautiful. Saw whales and dolphins. Met the Captain today -- seems like a very nice man.

DEAR DIARY - DAY 3

At the pool today. Did some shuffleboard, hit golf balls off the deck. The Captain invited me to join him at his table for dinner. Felt honoured and had a wonderful time. He is very attractive and attentive.

DEAR DIARY - DAY 4

Won \$800.00 in the ship's casino. The Captain asked me to have dinner with him in his own cabin. Had a scrumptious meal complete with caviar and champagne. He asked me to stay the night, but I declined. Told him I could not be unfaithful to my husband.



DEAR DIARY - DAY 5

Pool again today. Got sunburned, and I went inside to drink at piano-bar, stayed there for rest of day. The Captain saw me, bought me several large drinks. Really is quite charming. Again I declined. He told me, if I did not let him have his way with me, he would sink the ship... I was shocked.

DEAR DIARY - DAY 6

Today I saved 2600 lives.....Twice!

Ann Wightman



PUNJABI PALACE



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ONCE AGAIN!**

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Any Chicken or Lamb Curry
With Rice or Naan
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OVER 130 FRESHLY PREPARED DISHES
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SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!**

TRY OUR FAMOUS LUNCH MENU

SERVED 12pm - 3pm

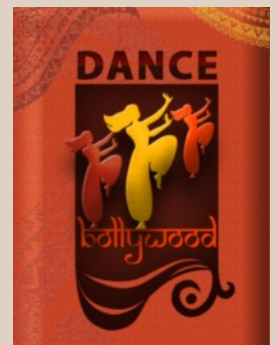
**Includes a generous glass of wine,
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Early Invasion of a Menace.

A mild winter has led to a proliferation of the Pine Processionary Caterpillar (*Thaumetopoea pityocampa*) across Spain, according to experts who warn that the danger has arrived early.

The caterpillars usually emerge at the start of spring but experts warn that this year, because of unusual weather conditions, the danger season has started early.

"After a winter that has been much milder and drier than normal, the population of the processionary caterpillar has flourished and brought forward their arrival," said Milagros Fernandez de Lezeta, director of Spain's Pest Control Association (ANECPLA). "They pose a major risk to children, adults and pets causing dermatitis, eye damage and severe allergic reaction," she explained.

The eggs are laid in candyfloss-like nests in pine trees until it is time for them to hatch and find food when they drop to the ground and move head to tail in a procession to form the conspicuous snake-like lines for which they are named.



The caterpillars, measuring between three and four centimeters in length, are particularly dangerous to children who may be curious enough to touch them, and to dogs, who may attempt to eat them.

Each caterpillar is covered with tiny barbed hairs containing a protein called thaumetopoein.

Dogs which come into contact with the caterpillars could pick up the hairs on their paws, which are then licked because of the irritation and the poison spreads to the mouth. They could suffer breathing difficulties, vomiting or start foaming at the mouth and should be taken urgently to the nearest veterinary clinic.

Sometimes amputation of the tongue or nose is the only course of action and contact can result in death.

The risk is not confined exclusively to pine forests but can occur anywhere where pine trees grow, including city parks, private gardens and roadsides.

An Oldie but a Goldie!

Two old men decide they are close to their last days and decide to have a last night on the town.

After a few drinks, they end up at the local brothel.

The madam takes one look at the two old geezers and whispers to her manager, 'go up to the first two bedrooms and put an inflated doll in each bed. These two are so old and drunk, I'm not wasting two of my girls on them. They won't know the difference.'

The manager does as he is told and the two old men go upstairs and take care of their business. As they are walking home the first man says,

'You know, I think my girl was dead!' 'Dead?' Says his friend, 'why do you say that?'

'Well, she never moved or made a sound all the time I was loving her.' His friend says, 'Could be worse I think mine was a witch.'

'A witch ?? . Why the hell would you say that?'

'Well, I was making love to her, kissing her on the neck, and I gave her a little bite, then she farted and flew out the window..... Took my teeth with her!'



Jenny Reader



AQUAQUEST PLUMBING



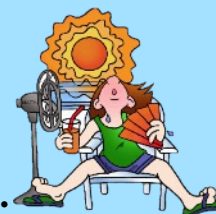
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WHY NOT COME AND SEE A

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FREE DEMONSTRATIONS ARE HELD AT

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LOS ALTOS, EVERY MONTH.

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Bankia Share Refund.

If you are a small investor (non institutional) who bought some Bankia shares following the listing in 2011, then there is good news at last.

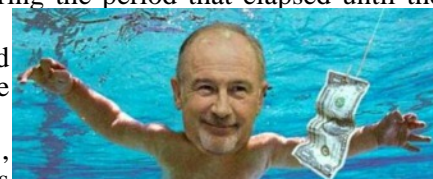
Following the recent Supreme Court decision that the original share offer was deceitful, Bankia has now decided to settle out of court, at least for small investors. They are doing this to avoid paying massive legal fees, thought to be several hundred million euros, maybe as much as €500 million.

"Bankia will return to minority shareholders the full amount of their original investment in exchange for the shares," said the company in a filing with the regulatory body, the CNMV. "In the event that they have sold the shares, they will receive the difference between their investment and what they made from the sale. In both cases, the bank will pay compensatory interest of an annual 1% covering the period that elapsed until the refund."

So finally a good result for the common man.

Meanwhile,

investigations continue into the various financial shenanigans of Rodrigo Rato, former head of the IMF and Bankia, (photo). On 4 July 2012 Rato, along with 30 other former members of the board of directors of Bankia, were charged with accounting irregularities. Bloomberg Businessweek listed Rato as the worst CEO in 2012. On 16 April 2015, Rato was arrested for alleged fraud, embezzlement and money laundering. As of 2016, this is still a developing criminal case.



Idiot of the Month.

A looney-left spokeswoman for Madrid's socialist city council went on trial last week for her role in a protest when she was still a university student during which she bared her breasts in a chapel.

Rita Maestre, a 27-year-old Podemos councillor and former student of the far-left party's leader Pablo Iglesias, has been charged with "infringing on freedom of conscience and religious convictions" for bursting into the chapel with some 50 others in 2011 at Madrid's Complutense University.

The protest had sparked an outcry, leading to protests from right-wing politicians and the Church.

"I didn't get undressed, I took off my t-shirt," Maestre told the court in Madrid. See photo.

"A bare chest need not be offensive," added the spokeswoman, who is part of the left-wing team leading Madrid since June last year.

A witness praying in the chapel at the time said the protesters had shouted slogans such as "Against the Vatican, clitoris power" or "We will burn you like in 36", in reference to the massacre of priests and nuns during the 1936-9 civil war.

Hector Meleiro Suarez, an activist also on trial who took part in the protest, said the aim was to defend "the secularity of public institutions."

Maestre, who has previously said the protest was also aimed at defending women's rights, insisted it was a peaceful, legitimate demonstration.

"If it offended someone, I have no problems in apologising," she said, adding she had already said sorry to the archbishop of Madrid.

She faces a year in prison. But, as the sentence is less than two years and a first offence, it will not be served. Iglesias, who was politics professor at the university at the time, pledged his support for Maestre on Twitter.

"You were one of my best students... and you are still an example," he said in a video message.

As you would expect, this episode was discussed at length on the Spanish talk shows. But one commentator hit the nail on the head when he asked, 'Why didn't she take her shirt off in front of the magistrates and why didn't she do the same in a mosque.' I am sure they would quite understand.

Little Johnny.....again!

The teacher asked the class what they wanted to be when they grew up. Little Johnny answered first. "I want to start out as an S.B.S. soldier, go to the Middle East and kill loads of militant bad guys, return as a national hero. Then I'd become a billionaire, go to the most expensive clubs, find me the finest nymphomaniac bitch, give her a Ferrari, an apartment in Copacabana, a mansion in Paris, a jet to travel throughout Europe, an Infinite Visa Card, and all the while banging her like a loose screen door in a hurricane."

The teacher, shocked, and not knowing what to do with this dreadful response from little Johnny, decided not to acknowledge what he had said and simply tried to continue with the lesson. "And how about you, Sarah, what or who would you like to be?"

"I want to be Johnny's bitch!"



As they say, "The road to Hell is paved with good intentions," but, does this not strike you as a little odd: The prestigious Spanish daily, El Mundo, reported that "The Globe Shakespearian British theatre group has performed Hamlet before hundreds of refugees in Calais, a relief from such pain and forgetfulness." Now hang on a minute; as I recall, Hamlet is peppered with murders - stabbings and poisonings - suicide, possibly incest, in fact a whole raft of violence. So as the refugees wend their way back to their cardboard box abode or tent, do you think that this play would put a spring in their step and a smile on their face? I think not!

One of Spain's most celebrated bullfighters has come under fire after posting a photograph of himself fighting a bull while holding his five-month-old infant daughter. Francisco "Fran" Rivera Ordóñez was in the hospital recovering from a serious goring when his wife gave birth to his daughter Carmen on August 19th 2015. Rivera Ordóñez - known to Spaniards as "Fran" - is one of the nation's most popular bullfighter and regularly appears in the pages of gossip magazines. The housewives' favourite has yet to get back into the ring for a professional fight since suffering a 25cm goring to the abdomen last summer. Rivera Ordóñez's father, the great bullfighter Paquirri, was gored to death during a bullfight in Pozoblanco, Córdoba, in 1984, aged just 36.



CHEESY CHAT-UP LINES!

Okay, Valentine's Day is over, but spring is in the air when men are men and sheep are worried. But seriously, if you spot the attractive Senior or Seniorita, desperation may encourage you to use one of these lines. You never know, you might get lucky!

Hace calor aquí? O eres tu? (Is it hot here? Or is it you?)

Si la belleza fuese cadena perpetua (If beauty was a crime, you deserve life in prison)

Crees en amor a vuelvo a pasarte primera vista? O otra vez (Do you believe in love at first sight? Or again?)



Perdona, sabes dónde está la tierra? Porque desde que te vi ando en las nubes (Excuse me, do you know where the earth is? Because since I laid eyes on you my head is in the clouds)

Tu papa debe de ser pirata, porque tu eres un tesoro! (Your dad must be a pirate, because you are a treasure!)

Hola, te pareces mucho a mi próxima novia (Hello, you look a lot like my next girlfriend)

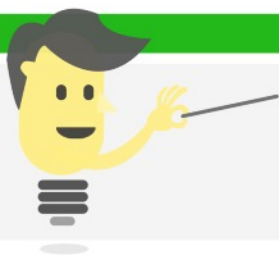
Como se siente al ser la chica mas guapa en esta habitación? (What does it feel like to be the prettiest girl in the room?)

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The Worst?

After a long day on the course, the exasperated golfer turns to his caddie and says, 'You must be the worst caddie in the world.'

'No, I don't think so,' replies the caddie. 'That would be too much of a coincidence.'

What's the Best Day to Book a Flight in Spain?

February 9, was the best day to purchase plane tickets online for the Easter holiday. That is according to the latest report by Skyscanner, a global search engine for flights, hotels and car rentals.

The website's data shows that the best moment to make a purchase in Spain is seven weeks before the trip date. Travellers who book early could save 10% on Easter flights.

Recent years have seen a rise in websites that trawl through airline and travel agency prices in the hopes of detecting patterns that will let them recommend the best days to buy.

George Hobic, founder of Airfarewatchdog, told The New York Times that even if the latest research points to weekends as the best time to buy tickets, "if you see an offer on Thursday, buy it – don't wait for Saturday."

His twenty-year experience analyzing the online travel fare market tells him that companies are constantly playing with their pricing, making it increasingly difficult to get the forecast right.

The seven-weeks-early recommendation cited by Skyscanner coincides with the 57 days recommended by the travel booking platforms Expedia and FareCompare.

Another travel expert named Patrick Surry, a scientist who produces the Hopper reports, says that customers have some leeway until 15 days before their planned travel date. After that, prices can go up by as much as 29%. Still, there are no rules etched in stone. Hobic notes that it is possible to find discounts of up to €500 on last-minute

After analyzing bookings for the last three years, Skyscanner believes that each European destination has its optimal reservation dates.

"You can find discounts of between 17% and 20% if you plan trips to London and Brussels two months in advance, whereas Paris requires 10 weeks. In the case of Rome or Amsterdam, it is advisable to book three months ahead of time."

Overall, January is the cheapest month – except for travelers to Paris, who are advised to go in November. August remains the most expensive month of the year to fly anywhere.

According to Skyscanner, February is a good month to go to Bangkok and Lima (15% discount) and March to Buenos Aires. New York and Havana are desirable destinations in November, when discounts of 22% and 10% can be found. (El Pais)

Mixed Bag.

•I got invited to a party and was told to dress to kill. Apparently a turban, beard, and a backpack wasn't what they had in mind.

•A chap's wife's back on the warpath again. She was up for making a sex movie last night, and all he did was suggest they should hold auditions for her part. Hospital visiting hours 7-9pm.

•The other night, my wife asked me how many women I'd slept with. I told her: "Only you. All the others kept me awake all night!" (The doctor says I should be able to see again in about ten days. The broken arm will take about a month.)

Keith Shaw

Room Service.

A businessman books into a country hotel, asks for breakfast at 8:30 am and requests a girl come to his room after dinner that night.

'That's outrageous,' says the owners wife. 'What sort of hotel does he think we are running? Go and tell him, Fred.'

But her husband thinks it's a lot of fuss about nothing and tells her so. 'Okay, if you won't go, then I will,' and she disappears up to his room.

Some time later, the man appears in the bar for a nightcap and seeing the husband he comments, 'My goodness, that was quite a woman you sent up. I like the 'hard-to-get' type, it's more fun particularly in the end when they surrender.'

Regions Tighten-up Rental Control.

Last year we saw many of the regions, particularly Catalonia, tighten up the legislation and controls relating to holiday rentals. This is being done to placate the powerful hotel lobby and of course to raise taxes for funds-starved local and regional governments. The latest region to put the tighteners on is Andalucia. The following is from Spanish Property Insight:

The regional Government of Andalusia, known as the Junta, has just passed a decree regulating tourist rentals in the region, following in the footsteps of other regions like Catalonia, the Balearics, and the Canaries.

Owners who wish to rent out all or part of their property to tourists on a short-term basis will have three months from the date the decree is published in the Junta's Official Bulletin to register with the Andalusian Tourist Register (Registro de Turismo de Andalucía), run by Javier Fernández (pictured), boss of the Tourism and Sports Department.

The alleged purpose of regulating tourist rentals is to improve quality, reduce tax fraud, and prevent "unfair" competition for hotels. A powerful hotel lobby is the driving force behind most tourist rental regulations in Spain.

The Junta estimate that around 80,000 private homes with some 400,000 beds are offered as tourist rentals in the region. The Register will be operative by May, says the Junta, and tourist rental activity fully regulated by the summer.

Owners who fail to comply with the new regulations, which also require owners to satisfy detailed rules on furniture and other characteristics, could face fines of up to €150,000, reports the local press.

Regulation in the Valencian Community:

Is it regulated?: Yes, since 2009, and it was updated last year with *Decreto 75/2015* - link here in Spanish-
http://www.docv.gva.es/datos/2015/05/20/pdf/2015_4640.pdf

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 - next link below* - 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 EGVT. Followed by a code for each province.

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

People make a living donating to sperm banks. Last year, I let \$500 slip through my fingers.

Robert Schimmel

The February bun fight wasn't! The meeting was quite civilised for a change without any arguments, no red herrings and only a couple of Irish parliaments. It was one of our quickest meetings that only took 24 minutes. This allowed for the workers to get away and the remainder to have a couple of beers and "rediscuss" what had already been decided - but with more "vigour"!

As Bigastro was fishing so well, February's monthly match was held there. On the day 14 anglers fished and only 3 blanked, which for Spain in February is very good. The best weights were interspersed throughout the stretch but for once I drew the "lucky" peg where I had a cracking day with 9 carp for 15 kilos. I also lost another 6, one of which was the "biggy" which straightened my size 16 hook. The daring duo of "Fag Eyes" & "Snake Charmer" were 2nd and 3rd with 5.8 & 4.3 kilos. "Fagin" & "Sweeney" obviously weren't expecting to catch much as they forgot to bring their keep nets - muppets!

During the month, one of the senior old farts (The Quill) took a few of the novice anglers up to El Bosquet to teach us how to hold our poles right..... We all caught at least 1 fish on the pole and learned how to handle a long one if a stiff breeze.

"Fagin" has been at it again. (see photo right) He has landed the biggest carp so far this year. Well done sir; A beautiful 9.28lb mirror. On the same day "Sweeney" blanked again so he has relinquished his secondary title of "Big Fish Keith".



(Woman inspires us to great things, and prevents us from achieving them. Zuma, South African President.)

Next ~~meeting~~ bun fight is at The Lime Bar @ 17.30 Mon 7th March.
Fishy fingers!
The Ghost.

Corvera Airport, the latest.

A revised business plan for the 'dead-in-the-water' airport has been announced by Murcia's Minister for Infrastructures and Development.

The original business plan in 2006 forecast that by 2015, passengers at the airport would total 1.5 million, which would then double every year to reach an annual passenger turnover of 10 million per annum! But, as we all know that figure was zero for that year, with no immediate sign of the airport opening, despite being completed.

The new forecast for passenger turnover is that it will reach between 2.5 and 3.5 million by 2025.



Several other key projects have foundered in the area. Work has still not started on the proposed Paramount Theme Park due to lack of investors; the Marine de Cope macro-development ran aground due to planning regulations and Polaris World and other developers ran out of cash and stopped building.

Meanwhile, Alicante-Elche Airport goes from strength to strength, increasing its passenger traffic to over 10 million a year. San Javier Airport has fallen back to just less than a million passengers a year - its 2007 level.

The minister hailed the new business plan as a major milestone but declined to comment on when the airport would open. He stated that there were at least seven potential bidders for the new management contract at the airport. No mention was made of the €200 million loan which the successful bidder would be expected to absorb or deal with!

The farce continues.



I used to work at the unemployment office. I really hated that job because when they fired me, I still had to show up for work the next day. Wally Wang

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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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are:

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Orihuela City and villages - 96 530 6178.

I can't decide



**whether to accept
that invitation to
play Candy Crush,
or drape my wet
bollocks over the
electric fence**

Submitted by Michael Wiggington



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