THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER

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

Issue no. 109, 1st of May 2016.

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the May edition.

At present we are racing through Spring. Beautiful sunshine most days, a handful of light showers but the north wind can be a bit chilly, particularly in the evenings. Once the winds start coming from the south, then the Summer will have truly started.

The pharmacy in Via Park III should be opening very shortly and will, I am sure, be a welcome asset to the area.

Los Lobos in Via Park III is now gone and been replaced by Dave's 2 Bar & Restaurant. Dave's other popular restaurant is on the first floor in Punta Marina.

The town council in Torrevieja are planning to keep the town's rubbish contract 'in house' rather than have it outsourced as it has been for decades. Rubbish contracts and corruption appear to go hand-in-hand in Spanish towns. The new scheme should save the taxpayer around €12,700 a day and €18.5 million over four years. There is some concern among the 300 new workers who will become municipal employees. They feel that the financial projections and budgets for the new scheme might mean an annual reduction in their wages of 3,000 per employee.

Another key project for the Torrevieja town council is to cover the stinking sewage pools in the sewage works behind the cemetery and close to the N332 and the hospital. Mayor Dolon explained that the covering scheme has an estimated cost of €300,000 but that it is necessary for people's health and quality of life.

Meanwhile, the Orihuela town council have yet to do something constructive to alleviate the problems that bedevil the Orihuela Costa. There has been lots of assurances and promises - the usual blanks fired by politicians, but there is nothing substantive or even new to benefit the coastal area yet. Police and ambulance responses at weekends continue to be appalling and the roads continue to deteriorate. The Ciudadanos party came up with the idea of a dog friendly beach, which just shows an incredible lack of grasp on the realities.

The Brexit bandwagon continues to roll on with questionable observations and reports coming from both camps in the UK. For me, the best analysis came from The Economist, which has managed to stay balanced and informative throughout. I found this short article and the accompanying graphic particularly helpful -

http://www.economist.com/news/britain/21697253-britain-has-best-both-worlds-ins-and-outs

Voting instructions are repeated in this issue. Don't sit on the fence - if you live and own property in Spain, there is much at stake.

Apologies for the dark print and graphics in the previous issue. This is because the printer used much more ink than was necessary in the newsletter production. The printing now costs just under €400 per month. Thank you to all who have renewed their subscription and deep gratitude to the kindly souls who have contributed extra towards printing costs, namely Laura, Arthur & Mo, John & Maggie, Katherine J, Andy M, Tony & Lil H, Richard & Tina, and Bill & Kath.

P.S. Some late news: Ole communications have announced that they will be bringing 100 meg optical fibre broadband to this urbanisation, Dream Hills, in the immediate future. See page 29. More details next month.

Wishing you all a wonderful month,

Mick & Tid.

Angela's Cartoon

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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

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Very reasonable rates.

Did you know that

...the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the first pacemaker to do away with electrical wires that have long been a shortcoming of internal heart devices. The one-inch Micra Transcatheter Pacing System works like older pacemakers to control irregular heartbeats, but does not use leads — wires that traditionally connect the device's generator to the heart. The wires can break, wear out or become infected and are the main weakness of such pacing systems. Instead, the mini pacemaker from Medtronic PLC is implanted directly into the heart's lower-right chamber, which pumps blood to the lungs. The device is the size of a large pill and can be placed without surgery, through a tube into a blood vessel in the groin, and then up to the right side of the heart. They have already started to implant the new device in a hospital in the Balearics - Son Espases. The photo below showing an old pacemaker, left, and the new one on the right is from their facebook page - Son Espases - Hospital Universitari



...up until April 5 this year, it was illegal for unmarried couples to live together in Florida? Even though it was rarely enforced in modern times, Florida Governor Rick Scott decided to repeal the law recently. When it first became law three years after the end of the Civil War, it was punishable by two years in prison and a \$300 fine. There are nearly half a million unmarried male and female couples in the state, according to 2014 census data. The law was part of a statute that targeted "engaging in open behaviour that is gross lewdness and lascivious." Michigan and Mississippi are the only two states with cohabitation laws still on the books.

With all due respect, it ain't rocket surgery.

Yogi Berra

What's Up?

At the time of writing it appears that there will have to be another general election in Spain this June. Despite frantic attempts to 'pact' or form a coalition, no party or agreed grouping of parties have reached the required majority.

The caretaking PP government will, if they depart, have left a poisoned inheritance for any future cabinet which will have to renegotiate with Brussels as Spain has to reduce her public deficit by 23.6 billion € The deviation in the pubic deficit has overturned all the official provisions and predictions. Four years ago Madrid gave an undertaking to the European Commission to meet the public deficit target and when Brussels revised Spain's deficit forecast to 4.5% of GDP, Luis de Guindos, the Economy Minister accused the EC of using the Spanish case politically. The next government will likely have to make more spending cuts, not increase expenditure.

The far-left Podemos team have once again demonstrated their failure to grasp reality by proposing that €60 billion be spent now on public outlays, without stating where the money will come from.

The Spanish Government has been playing with smoke and mirrors, reiterating that the public deficit target would be met, but the end of last year it stood at 5.2% of GDP – which supposes a black hole of some 10 billion €above their own forecasts. This has sent shock waves through Brussels, 'expressing stupefaction and annoyance.' El País reported 'The excess deficit will oblige the future Government to make more harsh cuts'. The deviation/overspend has been found in the regions and Social Security.

Diario de Mallorca headlines 'the Islands' Government has asked the State to pardon 500 million € of debt and to advance another 500 million'. Baleares has failed to meet the public deficit targets and has spent 471 million more than income. No problem, of course we can let you have half a billion euros immediately!

El Mundo headlined 'The Bank of Spain wants a Government before an economic slowdown'. The body has revised downwards the expectations for growth for 2016 and 2017, and warned of the necessity of structural reforms. So, more pain.

In the meantime, the clock is ticking. If no governing alliance is formed before May 2, parliament will be dissolved and a new election called for late June. The latest surveys show that a fresh vote would mostly favour the Popular Party (PP), which already won the most seats at the December election (123) but fell short of the 176 required for an overall majority.

The price of Natural Gas dropped by 3% on April 1. This means that there has been a fall of 14.6% in its price

since the start of 2015.

Yet another PP politician 'bites the dust.' This time it's Spain's industry, energy and tourism minister, José Manuel Soria (photo) and the party leader in the Canary Isles, who appears to have signed some documents contained in the Panama Papers. After initially financial denying any

jiggerypokery, he has now resigned because, "in light of the succession of mistakes committed along the past few days, relating to my explanations over my business activities... and considering the obvious harm that this situation is doing to the Spanish government" i.e. I was caught lying!

Worldwide, Telefonica has 332 million phone lines and 126,000 employees. César Alierta, outgoing head honcho, has been paid 35.5 million € from his pension fund. The former president also has a 52 million € shareholding.

Spain welcomed 3.7 million tourists in February, an annual growth of 13.7%. The British continue to lead the list of arrivals, followed by the French, Germans and Scandinavians. The expansion of the Spanish tourism industry, on which the country depends for jobs and foreign income, continues, according to the National Statistics Institute (INE). In February the number of British arrivals was more than 800,000, nearly 17% higher annually. The number of French people who crossed the border in February was more than 500,000 - a growth of 8.5%, followed by the Germans with 480,000 – some 7% higher, and the Scandinavians with 400,000 – 15% growth the INE gives the Nordic countries in order – Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland.

El Mundo headlined 'The European Central Bank has excluded Cataluña from their stimulation package because of the regions insolvency'. The ECB will not purchase Catalan Generalitat debt, and has left the regions salvation in the hands of the State. The ECB will grant funding to Andalucía and the Valencia Community for their better capacity to repay the loans.

The banks have started their second restructuring. The financial sector has to adapt to the technological revolution. Over recent weeks some 3,500 banking jobs have been lost in Spain. Banco Santander – 1,660 sackings; Banco Ceiss is negotiating a restructure for a third of the workforce, Novo Banco – 34% of the workforce and Caixabank – 500 early retirements.

Bankia has already returned 527 million € to the 105,000 shareholders. One month is left to apply for compensation in relation to the flawed stock market launch in 2011, following the sentence from the Supreme Court.

The ponderous state of the Spanish judicial system is best illustrated by events in Málaga. Here, due to a mountain of litigations in relation to debt, the system is collapsing. Once a case arrives in the courts, it takes an average of three years and eight months before the case is resolved. I was also stunned to read that, in relation to the long running ERE fraud case in Andalucia, a body of lawyers are proposing that, if in this specific case the events being investigated are more than 10 years old and the amount in question (defrauded) is less than €440,000, then the case should be shelved! The Alicante courts hear an average of 10,000 criminal cases a year while another 3,000 were suspended. However, there is now a waiting list of at least two years before a criminal case is heard.

2.3 million Spaniards have moved abroad for a new job.

2015 ended with 384,326 on the waiting list for the dependency service, Público newspaper reports. The Dependency Law has been an absolute failure with many applicants dying due to the inordinate amount of time taken between claiming and adjudication.

With a June general election looming, the political parties have received €42 million in grants courtesy of the taxpayer! The budget for the repeated election in June is reported to be €187.8 million. Between election costs, grants, government wages etc., it shows that €200 million has been wasted due to the failure of the previous general election. €200 mil. in six months!!

My doctor took one look at my fat belly and refused to believe that I work out. So I listed the exercises I do every day: jump to conclusions, climb the walls, drag my heels, push my luck, make mountains out of molehills, bend over backward, run around in circles, put my foot in my mouth, go over the edge, and beat around the bush. And it leaves me exhausted!

⁴What's Up? continued

Santander Bank is to close a further 450 branches in Spain - about 13% of their total branch network. This will affect the smaller branches of between one and three employees and there will be 1,200 redundancies, about 5% of the workforce. The move is part of a network reorganization by Santander, which says it plans to have 1,000 large branches with around eight employees in each one within three years. The lender wants to move employees to bigger branches that will focus on providing clients with personal advice, and create more opportunities for selling them complex products with higher commissions for the bank.

The leftist city government of Barcelona continue to clamp down on tourist rentals. The council have approved a 'Special Urban Plan' to regulate tourist rentals in the city, in effect banning new licences until With 9,600 tourist rental licences further notice. currently valid in the city, the new rules mean that, for the time being, a tourist rental licence can only be granted if an old one expires, and only in peripheral districts where there is little demand. Furthermore, no licences will be granted for properties that already exist as residential dwellings, in order to "preserve the right of people to a home, rest, and privacy", which is a roundabout way of banning all new tourist rental licences. The new ban will be in force until the final approval of a 'Special Urban Plan for Tourist Accommodation', a draft of which has been passed by City Hall, and is now going through public consultation. In defence of the city administration, Janet Sanz, the councillor for urban planning, pointed out that Barcelona is "the first big city to fine digital platforms that offer illegal flats." Coming to a city and region near you soon! Frankly, I believe the ban will only stimulate more illegal rentals.

The PP mayor of Granada, José Torres Hurtado (photo),

has been arrested for real estate corruption. 16 others are also under investigation, among which are technicians from the Granada City Hall and the businessmen who have supposedly benefited for years by paying commissions for the reclassification of non-building land. The investigation started



more than a year ago, although it is believed earlier registrations were just as corrupt. The modus operandi by the criminal network was simply the reclassification of land, according to the experts in the Fiscal and Economic Delinquency Unit (UDEF). From Granada City Hall they advised the companies interested in building real estate, of very cheap prices on these illegal plots, and then the land would be reclassified thereby multiplying the value. This scam has been going on for years. The prosecution has charged all of them with misappropriation of public funds, illicit assembly, breach of public duty, bribery and fraud, price-fixing and document falsification. There are so many Spanish mayors of various political affiliations in jail at the moment that together they should be able to form a good-sized choir or at least a football team.

Quickies: El Mundo reportes that a public employee is 37% more expensive than a private one. The payment of the civil servants is over 11 billion €- at the pre-crisis level while wage costs in large companies have fallen by 6%. Información in Alicante headlined 'Climatic change has increased by three degrees the winter temperature of the Mediterranean. Global warming strengthens the invasion species from the Red Sea and puts into danger the indigenous species.

A tourist tax is being debated in Valencia/Alicante. It appears to please nobody but politicians.

Construction companies in Valencia are negotiating with the Prosecution Office to confess that they illegally paid the Valencia PP substantial funds. It is hoped that by 'spilling the beans', they will receive lesser sentences.

Last month, ABC dedicated one of its front pages to an allegation against Podemos (far-left party) and headlined 'Venezuela paid seven million to impulse 'political change' in Spain'. Hugo Chaves authorised the funds for the Pablo Iglesias foundation to 'increase strength and social movements in accord with the Bolivian Government. Podemos has asked the Aragón Government to refuse to deal with banks which are continuing to use the 'ground clause'. Should the banks repay what they have defrauded with the clause, they face a bill of 800 million € for 55,000 families alone. However, the banks and savings banks have to face the return of €4.5 billion more for the ground clauses which they fraudulently charged between 2009 and 2013 nationwide – the recognition of retroactivity depends on the resolution from the European Court of Justice on April 26.

El Mundo reported that the Catalan nationalists are without funds. The Catalan National Assembly (ANC) has frozen campaigning after obtaining a bill from the

Treasury for €176,000.

The US of A has refused to host the site of the Very Big Telescope in Hawaii. This opens the door for the Canaries and Palma. The project is worth €1.2 billion and the Canaries will see competition for it from Chile and Mexico.

Brussels has criticised Spain for their poor acceptance of refugees. The European Commission reproached Spain for only accepting 18 by the end of last year when

the country promised 467.

The Treasury is to fine former Spanish PP prime minister, José María Aznar for using an offshore fund to save half his taxes in 2011 and 2012. The Tax Office obliged the former prime minister to pay a complementary declaration of €199,052 and a fine of €70,000 for pay 25% instead of 46%. Cristóbal Montoro, Minister of the Economy, admitted he had met with Aznar, but only to talk about politics and not financial matters, you understand,...and if you believe that...... The Treasury minister did not confirm nor deny that the Tax Office has opened a tax inspection in 2014 for the former prime minister to pay €269,000. Aznar has been a notorious back-stabber within the PP hierarchy. The above could be karma.....or revenge!

French farming 'piracy' continues. Earlier in the year we saw that the French farmers were stopping the transporting of Spanish fruit and veg' through their country and dumping the produce on the road. Now it is Spanish wine that the farmers are dumping. Two lorry-tankers of Spanish wine were stopped at a toll on the French southern border and the wine contents

poured over the road. Meanwhile, the French police just stood by. Spanish bulk wine sells for just €30-40 per hundred litres while French bulk wine costs 70-80 euros. France, and indeed the EU



supports legions of inefficient French small farms. Approx. 22,000 of them are now on the verge of bankruptcy with over a billion euros in debt. French farmers have on previous occasions dumped Spanish wine and last July, they stopped hundreds of lorries bringing produce from Germany. So much for a common market and open borders.

LARGE BAVARIA DRAFT 2.20! BOTTLES JUST 4.20!!



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Will the Fun Never Stop?

Lime Bar Golf Society, Los Altos, Orihuela Costa.

The Golf Society's venue for the 13th April 2016 was held at the Roda Golf Course.

On a very warm and sunny morning 32 members teed off. The course was in good condition and a pleasant round of gold was enjoyed. In fact the scores proved that, and 44 points was about the highest in our monthly competitions.

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

Nearest the pin on the 2nd hole was Les Thwaites Nearest the pin on the 7th hole was Bob Adair

Nearest the pin on the 11th hole was Colin Taylor

Nearest the pin on the 13th hole was John McGregor The longest drive on the 17th hole was Ken Farrow

Best guest Allan (from the Bar Next Door) Silver Class in 3rd place was Gordon Anders with a

score of 28 points
Silver Class in 2nd place was Eddy Allen with a score

of 30 points
Silver Class in 1st place was Vidar Fjeld with a score

of 44 points
Gold Class in 3rd place was Tam Spence with a score

of 30 points
Gold Class in 2nd place was Jon Williams with a score

of 32 points

Gold Class in 1st place was Mike Heighway with a score of 34 points

A very good day in pleasant company and thanks to the committee for organising the event also to the Lime Bar staff for arranging the meal and the ladies for selling the football draw.

Colin Clarke. Trial Run.

A man brings his best buddy home for dinner unannounced at 6:30 after work.

His wife begins screaming at him and his friend just sits and listens in. "My hair & makeup are not done, the house is a mess, the dishes are not done, I'm still in my pyjamas and I can't be bothered with cooking tonight! Why the hell did you bring him home?" Husband answers: "Because he's thinking of getting married" (Derrick Green)



Dos Amigos Sundays 8pm



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CIGGYNE



The mayor of Orihuela, Emilio Bascuñana (PP) has alleged that serious irregularities that have come to light in a study carried out for the period 2012 to 2015 into the expenditure of the previous Green/Socialist council. It alleges that €15,000 was spent on cultural activities - 'artists, performers' etc., without invoices, receipts or any VAT paid.' Three of the socialist councillors during that period deny the allegations and are now suing the mayor for slander. Never a dull moment.

Locally, things have not been going too well at the junior school at the bottom of Los Altos. It seems that more than €10,000 has gone missing from the school accounts. At this stage no one knows where the money has gone but it has left the school with a large debt. The school doesn't have sufficient funds now to even pay the supplier of the school textbooks. The courts have been informed.

Benidorm council is investing six million euros on a pipeline to the tourism capital. This is to avoid water shortages during the summer.

temporarily) by the police in Benidorm. The bars were bubble. The small municipality, which has one of the taking bets for the British Grand National horse race. No highest rates of foreign residents in Spain, has gone doubt hefty fines to follow.

implementing its Programme for the Prevention of financing available to the council services. Colorectal Cancer. If you are over 50-years-old you should be getting a letter (in English & Spanish) asking you to government. Up until 2019, the regional government take part in the programme. Cancer of the colon and will have to pay €758.8 million in interest alone to the rectum is the most commonly found malignant tumour in national government on bailout loans from the regional Europe, particularly affecting men and women over 50 liquidity fund. The regional government has a total years of age, though it can be cured in most cases if it is debt of €41.7 billion, of which €29 billion is owed to detected in time. When you return the participation card the state. One must bear in mind that this massive debt you will be sent the material to take a sample of your stools was accumulated by several previous PP governments, in your own home. The capsule can then be dropped into which the current left-wing alliance of parties have a special box in the counter at your salud for later lab now to deal with. In addition to this there is the €19 analysis. The test, which is repeated every two years, is million fine levied by the EU as the previous PP to examine the presence of concealed blood in stools. The administration, a fairly rum, self-serving and corrupt test is for free and you have got to be pretty dumb not to bunch, falsified the deficit figures to hide the true mess. take part in it.

Expat British pensioners will no longer be obliged to power with a different provider. complete the life certificate in order to prove they are not Organisation for Consumers and Users has detected dead so they can continue to receive their pension 16% annual difference. For the same service the payments. It is believed that the requirement was average consumer can pay €688 to €800. The OCU originally introduced to discourage friends or relatives notes the differences are lower when you have an from taking the pension payments of pensioners who had hourly discrimination tariff, but 74% of the population passed away. (This is a cottage industry with Spaniards.) still don't know how to work out the bill. The certificates are no longer required for pensioners in Spain, Gibraltar and Malta. Although British pensioners resident elsewhere with the EEA or Switzerland will still continue to receive them.

Dream Hills is holding its Annual General Meeting

On May 13, 2016, at 16:00 in the first assembly And at 16:30 in the second assembly. Venue: Merendero Los Cucalos, Avenida de Montezenia, La Solana,

Orihuela Costa.

(Signed Proxy Forms will be accepted at the Administrators until May 10th, 2016)

Making it up.

A pick pocket was up in court for a series of petty crimes. The judge said, "Sir, you are hereby fined €100."

The lawyer stood up and said, "Thanks, your honour, however my client only has €75 on him at this time, but if you'd allow him a few minutes in the crowd...'

Airport Bus Timetable.

This service will provide eight return trips between Alicante-Elche Airport and Torrevieja central bus depot. It will operate every day of the year and without any stops.

Torrevieja to Airport: 7:00, 9:00, 11:00, 13:00, 15:00, 17:00, 19:00, 21:00.

Airport to Torrevieja: 8:00, 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00, 22:00.

Price: €6.92. Children under 4 years travel for free but ID may be requested.

Pensioners can get a 30% discount but only if they are registered as permanent residents in the Valencian Community. You may need to show proof of age ID plus Residencia. A bit of a palaver really. Prior booking is not required

In the last eight years, nearby San Fulgencio has lost Five beach bars, chiringuitos, have been closed (probably 5,500 foreign residents who arrived with the housing from 12,800 to 7,217 registered voters. This will result The Valencian Health Department is gradually in a significant reduction in the amount of state

But matters are even worse for the Valencian regional

Electricity bills can vary by €111 a year for the same

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

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It is with great sadness that I report the sudden death of David Rich, aged 61, on the 6th of March. David was one of the Presidents on the Dream Hills 2 urbanization. He was a popular member of his community and did excellent work in his capacity as President, and along with his wife Jo was instrumental in organising the Dream Hills 2 Annual Fiesta.

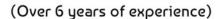
Jo would like to thank everyone for their condolences cards, texts and help. David will be sadly missed.

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Meet Greet

8 EURO

Logistics Marketing manager Technology manager Human manager esources manager T-manager Project manager Business analyst Health & Safety PRmanager Product developer Bloke from Poland

We had one idiot put a bomb in a shoe, and now everybody's got to take their shoes off? Where's the bra bomber at? I say, if we've gotta wait in line, let's make it fun for everybody. Alonzo Bodden

Doggone!

Dog poo, it's everywhere on beach and grass and ground most of the owners they don't care when there's no one around

Now come on dog stop the hanki panki just do it now and here I'll cover it with a paper hanki and it will disappear

No consideration for anyone else the mess, the dirt, the smell and the dangers to our health so that's allright as well

When spotted and told to clean the owners turn on you as if they don't know what you mean and you are guilty too

I don't mind people having dogs as long as they are managed but please clean up what they drop before some child is damaged

Jessie's Bar Golf Society

On a lovely sunny morning on 30th March 2016, 20 players of the newly formed society teed off on the Hacienda Riquelme Golf Course which was in very condition. We played Stapleford good Competition and it was reported that everyone had a good day out. The scoring showed that everyone was playing off the correct handicaps.

The results are as follows - Nearest the Pin on the following par 3 holes were

Hole No 5 Ron Smith

Hole No 15 Ron Smith

Hole No 17 Lillian Thomson

Prizes were awarded to these players by a Councilor for Middlewich (David Latham), a market town in Cheshire, UK, and to the following in overall places

3rd place was Lillian Thomson with 28 points;

2nd Place was Bob Adair our Captain with 31 points. Winner was described as a Grey Haired Old Bastard - Alan Jackson - with 32 points.

Hospitality and refreshments were supplied by our hosts at Jessie's Bar, Jules and Kath, and thanks also go to the ticket sellers. Hope everyone had a good day and it will be a pleasure to see you at La Torre golf course next month.

Alan Jackson

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Paddy & Mick.

Paddy and Mick are sent to prison. Desperate to stay in touch with each other, they invent a code and tap messages to each other by banging on the hot water pipes with a spoon.

The system worked perfectly for a time, but sadly it soon broke down after they were transferred to separate cells.



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Pain Research - A Rethink?

Typical research into human pain treatment usually starts with an animal model. This is normally male mice. The assumption is that males and females will respond in the same way to new therapies. In male mice, immune system cells called microglia are responsible for processing pain signals in the spinal cord on the way to the brain. And for the past 20 years scientists have assumed that the same is true in all mice, and therefore in all humans.

"These are perfectly reasonable assumptions. It just turns out that the assumptions are wrong," says Jeffrey Mogil, a professor of pain studies at McGill University in Montreal and a principal author of a paper showing that females and males process pain in fundamentally different ways.

The study, published last summer in Nature Neuroscience, showed that, in female mice, pain signals are transmitted by an entirely different immune system pathway. While the research looked only at mice, Mogil and his coauthors concluded that since their work focused on such a basic evolutionary function as pain, their finding should warrant a fundamental reassessment of pain management. Especially because, in humans, it's already well known that men and women differ in sensitivity to pain and women are more often diagnosed with chronic pain.

What a Coincidence!

Mid month, a tree fell down on one of the busy streets in Madrid, landing on three cars, all of which happened to be high-end models. Traffic was stopped for more than half and hour but no one was injured.



Brussels Blocks €1.122 billion of Aid to Spain.

The European Commission has blocked 1,122 million euros in European subsidies to Spain after detecting serious deficiencies and irregularities in the control carried out by the bodies that manage the application and justification of these projects. This amount corresponds to the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund), with which Europe finances infrastructure and development initiatives in transport, energy, environment or research. In some cases the suspensions were started in 2013, others in 2014 and remain unresolved despite the insistence of Brussels.

The real danger here is that Spain has gone 'Greek.' We already know that many of the regions have been lying about the size of their deficit. We are also aware that the national government had badly 'misgudged' the extent of the national deficit - they blamed the regions for this. Which begs the question, 'If politics is that corrupt in Spain, at local, regional and national levels, how can you believe their forecasts and assurances?'

Who's That in My Apartment?

Gangs have been entering empty flats/apartments in Malaga, changing the locks and then renting them out. This type of scam is not restricted to Andalucia but happens everywhere, particularly in the quieter apartment blocks. It seems that lately there has been a upsurge of this type of outrage in the Malaga area. These gangs have been charging up to €600 per month for the

When the real owners arrive and find their locks changed and if nobody appears inside, they can then and a locksmith and the problem is solved. However, if the flat is rented out and is occupied, the police can only take the case to court as they have no authority to evict a household! Now

as they have no authority to evict a household! Now we know how slow the courts are here so.......... Another problem is that it would be most unlikely that the utility bills would be changed into new names, so the actual owners would later face hefty electricity bills etc.

The Union of Security Locksmiths believe that the problem has been exacerbated by the large increase in repossessed properties by the banks. When a banks takes a property back there is little if any continuing inspection or checking of these sites, largely due to poor practices and lack of staff. The locksmiths also believe that around 80% of the locks currently in use are obsolete and can be easily bypassed with master keys and picks.

What's for Dinner?

A Russian woman is being held on the suspicion of killing her German husband and feeding bits of him to their dog at their home on Mallorca.

Svetlana Batukova, 46, is in police custody after she was found next to the bloody corpse of her husband

named locally as Horst Hans Henkels in early April. See photo.

A post mortem revealed that the German had bled to death after



being repeatedly stabbed with a kitchen knife.

Flesh from his arms had reportedly been cut off and fed to the couple's dog, an American Staffordshire bull terrier.

Initial findings widely reported in local media on the Balearic Islands indicated that the victim had been drugged before being repeatedly stabbed and had bled to death on the floor of their flat in Sant Llorenç. The couple had reportedly married in January and Henkels had recently undergone surgery on his trachea and could therefore hardly speak.

Local police confirmed that they had been called out several times to the property in recent months over domestic rows. Batukova was reportedly under the influence of alcohol and drugs when arrested.

Can't see the dog going back to Pedigree Chum.

How Do You Solve a Problem Like Maria?

Maria, a devout Catholic, got married and had 15 children. After her first husband died, she remarried and had 15 more children. A few weeks after her second husband died, Maria also passed away. At Maria's funeral, the priest looked skyward and said, "At last, they're finally together." Her sister sitting in the front row said, "Excuse me, Father, but do you mean she and her first husband, or she and her second husband?" The priest replied, "I mean her legs."



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- 1. A referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union will be held on 23 June.
- 2. If you were on the electoral roll in the UK within the last 15 years, then you can register as an overseas voter and have your say.
- 3. If you last lived in England, Scotland or Wales, go to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote and fill in your data. All you need is your National Insurance number, passport details and date of birth. (Even if you don't have an NI number, you can still register).
- 4. Choose how you want to vote by post, proxy, or even in person if you will be in Britain on polling day. If you choose to vote by post, ballot forms will be despatched about one month ahead, giving you time to receive, complete and return your vote.
- 5. If you were last registered to vote in Northern Ireland, download an overseas voter application form from the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland, at www.eoni.org.uk. You can choose to vote by proxy or in person, but not by post.
- 6. Do register now, don't wait until the last minute and miss the deadline. Thousands of expatriates are already signing up. If you wait, you will miss your chance to have your say.

Look, I understand you can't smoke cigarettes in a hospital room -- I understand that: it's bad for you, blah blah blah. But, America, we're beginning to make it illegal in bars! I mean, who is concerned about their health in a bar?

Exactly what's the complaint on this one? 'Excuse me, Mr. Bartender-Man, I am trying to get drunk so I can drive home and have unprotected sex with some skank I just met tonight -- this guy's blowing smoke in my face. And some more deep-fried cheese & chips, when you get a chance.'

Auggie Smith

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More from Alonzo Bodden.

•Black people don't hijack planes, alright? Now I'll be the first to admit, we steal a lot of stuff, but we do not hijack planes. In fact, in the history of aviation, a black person has never even attempted to hijack a plane. Do you want to know why? Because you can't sell an airplane.

•I don't like conservatives. They always talk about the "good old days". I'm black, we have no "good old days".

•I like psycho chicks... Yeah, you hook up with a psycho, you're gonna learn something. First thing you learn is how to sleep with one eye open.....

One of the many benefits of living in Spain are the beautiful blue skies during the day. But there is another bonus! The relatively blue skies during the days often melt into lovely clear skies at nighttime allowing one to admire the night sky in its celestial magnificence. But the problem is that few of us actually recognise or aware what it is we are looking at! Fortunately, help is at hand. Our readers are invited by the Vega Baja Astronomy Group to attend one of their observation evenings. Another chance to meet new friends, increase your knowledge of the world or indeed the worlds around us. Who knows, it may be the chance to start a new hobby or interest. Why not put it in your diary. I'm looking forward to it.

Observing Jupiter in May.

Once again, the Vega Baja Astronomy Group is offering the public the opportunity to have a look through their telescopes and learn a little bit more about what lies out there in the night sky.

This time they will be observing Jupiter, the largest

from the Sun and is twice as massive as all the Jupiter (photo) is a "gas giant". Gas Giants do material just gets denser with depth. It has Callisto, Ganymede and Europa and were seen as points of light through the Red Spot which is in fact a persistent storm Jupiter the group will also be observing the

craters will be seen at their best.

planet in the Solar System. It is the fifth planet other planets combined.

not have solid surfaces, their gaseous 63 known moons. The largest four are Io, discovered in 1610 by Galileo and can be telescopes. Jupiter is famous for its great that has lasted for over 300 years. Along with Moon which will be in its last quarter so the

The public observing evening will be on Thursday 26th May beginning around 9pm. Venue will be the Punta Prima promenade ... just along from the Nautilus Bar Restaurant. Keep looking up and hoping for clear skies!



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The Wish.

A retired Jewish man is walking on the beach near Playa Flamenca when he sees a bottle in the sand. He pickes it up and rubs it, and a genie comes out. The genie promises to grant him one wish. The man says, 'Ah, peace in the Middle East is my wish.' The genie looks concerned, then says, 'I'm sorry, sir. I come from the Middle East myself, and these conflicts have been raging since before my time. Bringing peace to that region is beyond my powers. Do you have another wish?' The guy thinks and says, 'Well, I've been married for forty years, and in my whole life I've never received a blow-job from my wife. That would be my wish.'

The genie pauses for another moment and then says: 'How would you define peace?'

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Don't Drink the Water?

There has been a massive outbreak of gastroenteritis in Barcelona and Tarragona. Around 2,020 people were infected with the 'bug' which is a norovirus, a causative microorganism

responsible for half of cases of gastroenteritis. In this particular case contaminated bottled water is believed to be the cause.

It is suggested that the contaminated mineral water originated in a bottling plant in Andorra. The distributing company, Eden Springs Spain,

withdrew the water brand Font d'Arinsal in the provinces of Barcelona and Tarragona.

It is unlikely that the brand might find its way down to our area, but......

Here Comes de Judge.

A defendant is not happy about the progress of his case in court so he decides to be obstructive and give the judge a hard time.

Judge: 'Where do you work?' Defendant: 'Here and there.'

Judge: 'What do you do for a living?'

Defendant: 'This and that.'
Judge: 'Take him away.'

Defendant: 'Wait! When will I get out?'

Judge: 'Sooner or later.'

Universal Laws: When you give a child a hammer, everything becomes a nail.

At bank, post office or supermarket, there is one universal law which you ignore at your peril; the shortest line moves the slowest.





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I think your marriage license should be like your driver's license: should have an expiration date on it. You should have to renew it every couple of years, and if you don't renew it, it just runs out. Doug Williams



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- -- You have a list of 20 phone numbers to reach five people.
- -- You chat several times a day with a Nigerian prince over e-mail, but you couldn't name your neighbour.
- -- When paying a cashier, you only know how to respond to "credit or debit" -- what the hell is "cash"?
- -- You think "music in the air" refers to free downloads.
- -- You lose touch with any family member who doesn't have an email address.
- -- You need PowerPoint to explain what you do for a living.
- - A "half day" means leaving at 5 p.m.
- $\mbox{--}$ You find jokes on computers, not in books or word of mouth.

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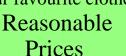
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The Phoenix Golf Society.

The Phoenix Golf Society played at Peraleja Golf Course on April 17, which was in a very good condition and the

weather was just perfect to

play in.

Mick The Grip joined us and kindly supplied wine to be won on "nearest the pin" on Par 4's and 5's.

The format we played was "Hidden Pairs" and everyone enjoyed the buzz when pulling cards out.

Nearest the Pin on Par 3's:

No.2 Mick Heighway

No.9 & 12 Austin

No.16 Pete Fairbank

For the Wine:

Hole No.3 Torr

Hole No.5 Mike Heighway

Hole No.13 Torr

Winners of the Pairs:

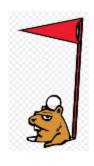
Dave Wightman & Austin Brennan

Again we thank Mick the Grip for the wine.

After play back to the Phoenix to lovely food supplied by Donna which was most welcoming – Many thanks Donna.

A man buys a lie detector robot that slaps people who lie. He decides to test it at dinner. He asks his son, "Son, where were you today during school hours?" "At school." The robot slaps the son. "Okay, I went to the movies!" The father asks, "Which one?" "Harry Potter." The robot slaps the son again. "Okay, I was watching porn!" The father replies, "What? When I was your age I didn't even know what porn was!" The robot slaps the father.

The mom chimes in, "Haha! After all, he is your son!" The robot slaps the mother.







We live in a country where John Lennon takes six bullets to the chest and Yoko Ono is standing next to him - no f*ucking bullet. Explain that to me.

Denis Leary

Crackdown on Undeclared Rentals Continues.

Spain's Tax Agency is targeting the owners of apartments who placed rental ads last year – including those on specialized websites such as Airbnb – in a crackdown on unreported income.

With the 2015 income tax drive now officially underway, taxpayers who use the new online tax filing program, Renta Web, may find the following message on their computer screen:

"According to data in the Tax Agency's power, you have placed property rental ads in various media, including the internet." The note is a reminder that any income from such rentals must be declared, in the same way as income from foreign pension schemes or other foreign assets.

The agency's management director, Rufino de la Rosa, has not explained how the Tax Agency has obtained rental data, noting only that popular real estate websites such as Idealista or Airbnb are not providing information to the authorities.

This is not the first time Spain's taxman has gone after undeclared income from property rental. In 2012, it conducted checks on homes that had been declared as empty, with many showing high utility consumption.

Nearly half (49.03%) of all home rentals in Spain, some 1.3 million properties, are not declared to the tax authorities. Of these, the vast majority are rented out to third parties, while 367,059 are provided free or for a low rent to a relative. But fraud is being committed, says the Tax Agency, with officials noting that in 2008, 55% of rentals went undeclared. (Source: El Pais)

Then on April 12, Typically Spanish reported on new developments on the Costa del Sol. What follows is an abridged version.

The Treasury Is after 50,000 Illegal Holiday Rentals on the Costa Del Sol.

The Tax Office is analysing electricity use and internet portals in search of the defrauders and undeclared rentals and leases.

The new crackdown, which enters by decree on May 11, ties in with the wider IRPF Income Tax campaign which is out to punish all defrauders. The ministry suggests now is the time to put bring you tax declarations up to date. According to the Treasury workers union Gestha, the total amount lost by the State is not short of 100 million €, hence the urgency.

In Málaga, more than 75% of the total 65,000 rentals and lettings continue in opacity every year. However, the technicians are optimistic. José María Mollinedo, of Gestha, is convinced of the efficiency of the new campaign. 'The profiles are very common and so we face the challenges of much subtle crime'.

New heavier fines will be imposed, according to size and the market price obtained, but on average they will be 25% of the illegal income. The profile of the defrauder is extensive; these illegal rentals blossom in the tourism sector as many find renting a room can help pay the mortgage, and this alternative is not controlled by legislation. The decision of the Junta de Andalucía to bring order to the tourism sector will end the general sense of immunity. This new move by the National Treasury brings a new offensive. According to Gonzalo Fuentes, a senior trade union official, wide cooperation can be made – 'between the town halls and local police who can become great allies against this problem'. Coming clean will not be pardoned. The fact this year you declare your tourism income doesn't exempt you from previous years. Experts in the sector believe the fight against the submerged economy will have positive consequences for tourism, in quality and safety. 'Don't forget no contracts are issued in the submerged market nor recording of the visitors' details', noted Fuentes.

In Spain the illegal offer of practically one in every two tourism accommodations moves a defrauded volume of just under 3 billion €a year.

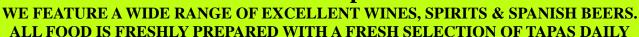
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A boss said to his secretary, "I want to have sex with you, but I will make it very fast. I'll throw £1,000 on the floor and by the time you bend down to pick it up, I'll be done."

She thought for a moment then called her boyfriend and told him the story.

Her boyfriend said, "Do it but ask him for £2,000. Then pick up the money so fast, he won't even have enough time to undress himself." She agrees.

After half an hour passes, the boyfriend calls the girlfriend and asks, "So what happened?"

She responds, "The bastard used coins, so I'm still picking it up and he is still banging me!"

WEDNESDAY Solve 16

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

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Mum-in-Law.

A mother-in-law said to her son's wife when their baby was born, "I don't mean to be rude but he doesn't look anything like my son."

The daughter-in-law lifted her skirt and said, "I don't mean to be rude either, but this is a pussy, not a f*cking photo-copier."





Congratulations to Macklin's pool teams for their success in the pool league this year. Macklin's Amigos won the Red League and are also winners of the Team Cup of all 3 leagues! Stewart's other team, Macklin's Blue, were third in the Blue League, which was a great result.

Then in the very recent Singles Competition, Jalo Kotinurmi of Macklin's Amigos won the finals beating Mervyn Sweet of Drivers Bar 2 - 0, and what a great game it was!

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELL DONE EVERYONE and looking forward to the summer league now and more fun and more silverware!

Macklin's Welcome Inn offers some excellent indoor facilities for pool and snooker.

Why not come along and enjoy a game?



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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!



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Pissed Off!

I have to say that I am normally a fairly happy chappy. Life's been good....okay...maybe a few bumps along the way, but as long as I am topped up with certain self-prescribed fluids and regular spicy foods, well then I can face each day with a smile.

But why is it that there are some people in this world who can bring some rain, even to a bright sunny day; who goal in life seems to be to disappoint or to annoy others.

Over a month ago I popped into a Chinese restaurant in Los Balcones for a takeway. This is not one of my favourites as after you dine at say Maritao's or The Banana Tree, you tend to judge other oriental establishments against the best and they are always lacking. However, as the food was being cooked I decided to have a glass of red wine while waiting. Although there were only two couples in the restaurant at lunchtime, it still took around 30 minutes to get the food. When I looked at the bill I saw that I was charged €2.90 for the small glass of wine. Now a full bottle of house wine here is less than € so I queried the price with the sour manageress. She said it was 'a Rioja.' Now two things, one, I did not order a Rioja and two, as I explained carefully to the lady in English, it must have been strained through a sweaty Turkish wrestler's jock-strap. It was vile! I had sat for half an hour with this glass of wine and had not finished it. My friends will tell you that with me, this is practically impossible. And the take-away, well let's just say it was

But take a look at this photo.



A razor-cut slice of processed ham, a mere smear of mayo' and a tiny portion of shredded lettuce. A lady posted this photo after she purchased the sandwich at Ibiza Airport for £6.05! It was classed as a 'Premium Sandwich'! We all know about airport food, but this takes the biscuit.

Cold Turkey!

I've given up social media for the next year and am trying to make friends outside Facebook while applying the same principles.

Every day, I walk down the street and tell passersby what I've eaten, how I feel, what I did the night before, and what I will do tomorrow. Then I give them pictures of my family, my dog, and me gardening. I also listen to their conversations and tell them I love them.

And it works. I already have three people following me—two police officers and a psychiatrist.

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Filing Your Tax Return in Spain. Deadline June 30th.

Spanish nationals and foreign residents, whether self-employed or whose employer deducts their tax at source, have until **June 30** to file their tax return in Spain. This year, the Agencia Tributaria, Spain's internal revenue service, has rolled out a new online system called <u>RENTA WEB*</u>, which allows taxpayers to access a draft of their return, and in some cases to directly file it with the Tax Agency.

Those who want to sit down with a tax official, however, to receive assistance with their return, will be able to

make appointments from May 4 onward.

Anybody earning less than €2,000 a year, provided their income is from one source, is not required to present a tax return in Spain. The same applies if income from secondary or third sources amounts to less than €1,500 per year. Those earning less than €12,000 a year, even if from multiple sources, are also not required to file a return. However, people on low incomes wishing to benefit from tax breaks related to maternity, mortgages, or dependents, will need to do so.

If you are due a rebate, the Tax Agency typically pays out within a month. If you are eligible for a refund, it is advisable to file your return as quickly as possible, and on the internet, which will speed up the process.

The Tax Agency recommends checking and double-checking all information in your tax return before handing it in. Pay particular attention to personal details relating to marital status and number and ages of children, if applicable, and also that your address is up to date.

If you took out a mortgage prior to December 31, 2012, you may be eligible for a deduction of up to 15% of the interest you have paid, up to a limit of €,040, so it is important to provide full details of the property, which must also be your main residence. A home-owning couple could be eligible for a joint deduction of more than €2,700. Money spent on renovating a first home can also be deducted.

Recent reforms to tax law also mean that working mothers, people with large families or dependents, as well as single parents, are also eligible for a rebate of $\{0,200\}$ per year.

People who have contributed to a private pension plan can also apply for a reduction of their taxable income, by as much as €3,000.

(Source: El Pais)

*http://www.agenciatributaria.es/AEAT.internet/Inicio/La_Agencia_Tributaria/Campanas/_Campanas_/Impu esto_sobre_la_Renta_de_las_Personas_Fisicas__IRPF_/_INFORMACION/Reforma_Renta_2015/Reforma_R enta_2015.shtml

That money talks, I'll not deny; I heard it once,it said, 'Goodbye.'

Richard Armour



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No Brekkie!

Johnny's teacher is giving a lesson on nutrition, and she decides to ask her students what they had for breakfast. To add a spelling component, she asks the students to also spell their answers.

Susan puts up her hand and says she had an Egg, 'E-G-G.' 'Very good', says the teacher.

Peter says he had Toast, 'T-O-A-S-T? 'Excellent.'

Johnny has his hand up and the teacher reluctantly solls on him:

calls on him:

'I had Bugger All', he says, 'B-U-G-G-E-R-A-L-L'.

The teacher is mortified and scolds Johnny for his rude

Later when the lesson turns to geography, she asks the students some rudimentary questions.

Susan correctly identifies the capital of Canada.

Peter is able to tell her which ocean is off Canada's east

When it's Johnny's turn, the teacher remembers his rude answer from the Nutrition Lesson, and decides to give him a very difficult question:

Johnny, she asks, 'Where is the Pakistani Border?' Johnny ponders the question and finally says, "The Pakistani boarder is in bed with my mother.

...That's why I got Bugger All for breakfast."

Brian Horsman

Smart!

When a neighbour's home was burglarized, I decided to be more safety conscious. But my measly front-door lock wasn't going to stop anyone, so I hung this sign outside: "Maggy, don't come in. The snake is loose. Mom."

Of course I have always believed that nothing sensible would come out of the separatist element in Catalonia,

but the latest from this odd and independence seeking nation made me smile. This time it is the left wing CUP party. CUP want to encourage women to stop using tampons and use "sea sponges, menstrual cups and re-usable cloth sanitary towels" instead. "We don't want to ban tampons or sanitary towels, we only want

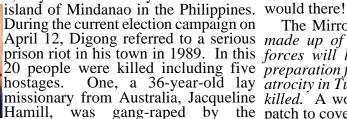
the women of Manresa town to be informed sanctuary, El Refugio del Burrito, but the judge in about all the possibilities and then they can choose the Malaga threw the case out as the incident "did not best option," CUP Manresa spokesman Jordi Masdeu told the press. Jordi is a man and of course he knows "close the door to possible administrative or civil best. The matter will be voted on at the next council penalties." The donkey sanctuary plan to appeal. meeting with schools and women's organisations



Next we have a before and after. On the left is El Castillo de Matrera, in Cádiz, southern Spain which was troops from another nation to patrol their beaches and constructed in the ninth century and has been a National tourist spots? Monument since 1949. But then some architectural idiot was give the task of 'restoring' it, which resulted in the Getyourretalationinfirst' from the SAS was patrolling abortion you see on the right. Obviously the architect say the beaches of Benidorm was very proud of his work, which went on to win a in his Speedos, where would prestigious architectural award in New York. But most he tuck his Glock, let alone his Spaniards are less than impressed by the 'improvement.' On the N332 to Alicante, by the salt lakes before Santa would he put them on the Pola, you will see another tower on the left which has nudist beaches? Take a look been 'restored.' Before, it was an attractive historic ruin; at the lovely Israeli soldiers in now it is a white eyesore.

at the lovely Israeli soldiers in this photo. Yes, very nice, but

Among the many who have appeared in this column, where do they keep their extra it has been heads of state who have achieved heroic ammunition magazines? The standards in idiocy. But let's not forget aspiring heads mind boggles! And can you of state. Here I am not referring to Donald Trump, at imagine least not yet, but to the man tipped as the next president patrolling the beaches of of the Philippines (a former Spanish colony), Rodrigo Torry? Well, there just "Digong" Duterte, mayor of Davao City on the southern wouldn't be enough lager,



prisoners, had her throat cut and then shot dead. The other female hostages were also raped and murdered. Digong, a popular figure in the Philippines and one of the longest serving mayors in the country came out with what can only be described as an appalling statement about the poor woman: "When the bodies were brought out, they were wrapped. I looked at her face, son of a bitch, she looks like a beautiful American actress. Son of a bitch, what a waste. What came to mind was, they raped her, they lined up. I was angry because she was raped, that's one thing. But she was so beautiful, the mayor (himself) should have been first. What a waste."

Further comments from me would be superfluous.



of a young Nativity donkey in the town of Lucena, near Córdoba in southern Spain. The donkey died in agony two days later due to internal injuries. The man proudly posted photo the Whatsapp. He was then brought to court by a donkey

constitute a crime". He did say that they would not

A new entry for the title this month from the Spanish "We would like to introduce this proposal Education Ministry. It seems the web pages showing throughout Catalonia, not just in Manresa," Masdeu said. the lists of their training courses was also showing links for access to porn movies - I supposed they could be classed as biology lessons? The offending adverts remained on the site for 15 days until the local Alicante newspaper, Informacion, pointed it out. Incredible!

The new Spanish submarine which couldn't resurface has caused a budget overrun of around €130 million.

The English newspaper, The Mirror, has come out with a real gem - SAS to protect British tourists from ISIS attacks on European holiday resorts this summer. Now there is no doubt that holiday beaches on the Med' must be an easy and attractive target for terrorists, but do you really think that the Spanish would allow armed

And think of the practicalities: If Trooper 'Dusty

machine gun! And where Řeg the Para



The Mirror also reported that, A 150-strong group April 12, Digong referred to a serious made up of Royal Marine commandos and special prison riot in his town in 1989. In this forces will be on permanent patrol in the Med in 20 people were killed including five preparation for a spectacular attack such as the Sousse hostages. One, a 36-year-old lay atrocity in Tunisia last summer, in which 30 Brits were missionary from Australia, Jacqueline killed. A wonderful idea, but the Med' is a hell of a the patch to cover with such a small force.

Sharp Young Lady.

A policeman sees a little girl riding her bike and says, "Did Santa get you that?" "Yes," replies the little girl. "Well," says the policeman, "tell Santa to put a reflector light on it next year," and fines her \$5. The girl looks up at the policeman and says, "Nice horse you've got there, did Santa bring you that?" The policeman chuckles and replies, "He sure did!" "Well," says the little girl, "next year, tell Santa the ass goes on the back of the horse and not on top of it."



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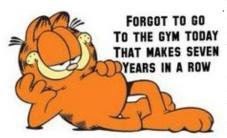


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Some of us will come up with some excellent excuses for not attending a gym for strength or fitness training Spain's so-called Bad Bank, real name Sareb, has etc. Mine is I can't manage the six steps leading up to 2,337 homes on the Spanish coast. cast-iron excuse. Gyms are just too dirty!

your local gym may be dirtier than a toilet seat.

samples from 27 pieces of common gym equipment at Mediterranean coast with the exception of Granada three major gyms across the US - and the results are province in Andalusia (home to the Costa Tropical). rather terrifying. The tested samples were used to The biggest selection is in Valencia's Castellon determine bacteria levels based on colony-forming units. province, home to the Costa del Azahar, with around 740 The research study found that an exercise bike, properties included in the campaign. Next comes alarmingly, has more than 400 times the bacteria found Almeria province (Costa Almeria) with around 290 on the average loo seat.



that's bad, then better avoiding the gym better machine averages 74 times more

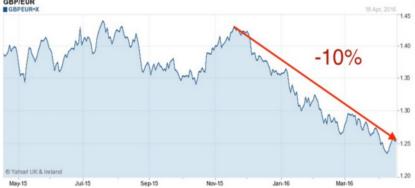
bacteria than a typical washroom tap.

The really bad news? Fifty-two per cent of bacteria found on the average treadmill can cause skin infections, and even pneumonia and septicemia.

Shockingly, free weights have 326 times the bacteria: found on your toilet, which is probably the one you should be most worried about - as this is where you will most definitely make skin-to-equipment contact.

Seventy per cent of bacteria found on all gym equipment analysed were also found to be potentially: harmful to humans, and 31 per cent of all bacteria found are largely resistant to antibiotics.

The solution? If you can't afford your own gym equipment at home, you might want to carry some antibacterial wipes and wash your hands thoroughly after your next workout.



In the lead up to the referendum the pound has fallen substantially against the euro (so you know what the currency markets think of the UK's economic prospects outside the EU), and British people thinking of buying in Spain have a good reason to wait and see what the result is before taking the plunge. The chart above illustrates how the pound was strong for most of last year – frequently above 1.40 – and has fallen around 10% this year to around 1.25, with obvious implications for British buyers and their budgets. It's not just worries of a weaker pound that might deter British buyers in Spain. A Brexit result would raise big questions for British expats and property owners in Spain (affecting issues such as taxes, residency rights, pensions, freedom of access, health care, and so on), which could take years to sort out. Nobody likes uncertainty, so the referendum is bound to be giving British buyers pause for thought.

"Tu casa a toda costa"

- I'm too busy; I'm fit enough; They're too expensive launched a pre-summer campaign to try and offload

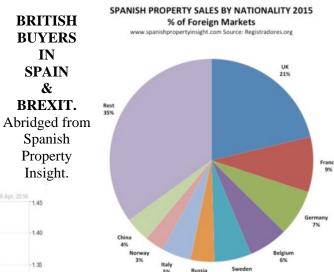
the front door of the gym. And why do they place gyms The campaign is called "Tu casa a toda costa" – a play on first or second and even third floors? Damned on words in Spanish – in English it might work as "Your inconsiderate. Anyway, we slackers now have a new house at any cost" (coast). Geddit? All of the properties are bank repossessions, one way or another. People who A recent experiment has shown that the equipment at have had their homes repossessed might see a different message in the play on words.

Fitrated, a fitness equipment service, collected bacteria There are homes for sale in every province on the

homes for sale, then Alicante (Costa Blanca) with 280, But if you think and the Balearics with 250. Malaga province (Costa del Sol) has 150, and up in Catalonia, there are around 70 TO THE GYM TODAY you'll definitely feel repos for sale in Barcelona city and province, but just 11 about for sale in Girona province (Costa Brava). Sareb have created a website* especially for this campaign, where when you hear that you can search the portfolio by province and town. It's the treadmill is no not that easy to search if you don't have a particular each town in mind, and the only language is Spanish, which doesn't make much sense when you consider how important foreign buyers are in coastal areas.

> The site will be active until the 30th August, but you can be sure the best stuff will go long before then, if it hasn't already. (Spanish Property Insight)

*http://www.tucasaatodacosta.com/es/index.php



The UK's 23rd June referendum on EU membership is a big deal for the Spanish property market because British buyers are the largest group of foreign buyers by far, and British demand, which may have already started to cool on fears of a "Brexit" (vote to leave the EU), will be sensitive to the outcome. There's a lot of money at stake for the Spanish economy.

British demand for property in Spain grew strongly last year on the back of a strong pound and attractive Spanish property prices. Buyers from the UK were the biggest group by a wide margin (21% of the foreign market - see above), and increased the most – up by 42% last year. In some regions like Alicante (Costa Blanca) and Malaga (Costa del Sol), the British dominate the market. In the lead up to the referendum the pound has fallen substantially against the euro (so you know what the currency markets think of the UK's economic prospects outside the EU), and British people thinking of buying in Spain have a good reason to wait and see what the result is before taking the plunge.



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COMING SOON -DOOLAN'S ALL DAY SNACK MENU TILL 1am

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

We have had some glorious sunshine this month that is warming the water up, and the carp are filling out with spawn. Our monthly match was held on the Eden canal where we got caught out in one of the few April; showers. It chucked it down for about an hour! Fagin remembered his keep net & his brolly this month. I drew peg 15 that had blanked on a couple of occasions recently so I wasn't confident. I was over the moon when I started getting bites on my first cast. Unfortunately they were from pesky terrapins. I had 10 in the 1st hour ranging from a couple of ounces to about 2 pound. I didn't give up though, because all their activity usually attracts the carp..... hopefully. Not today, the terrapins stopped biting during the heavy shower & about 1 hour after it stopped I had 1 bite for 1 carp. That was it for the day. 2 of our professionals came 1st & 2nd, the "Shropshire Lad" with a "secure" 7.3 kilos followed by "Stan the man" with 3.8 kilos. Fagin came 3rd with 2.8 kilos.

We anglers must be desperate to win, when the "Shropshire Lad" went to pull his keep net out for the weigh in, something went wrong. It must have been a tackle malfunction but his net (with the fish in) dropped back into the water and started drifting off. After some frantic scooping with his landing net pole he eventually retrieved it (with all the fish) to win. "Ball Boy" Jack was one of the anglers to catch 2 fish, but during his weigh in "the big one" escaped and started flip-flopping down the bank back towards the water. Tom Daley would have been proud to see this 72 year old diving down the bank to recapture the 1-kilo carp before it made the water's edge. Daffy caught 2 bleak so he wouldn't blank and earned himself 10 points. "Sweeney" caught a sunfish (about the size of a 50p piece), but he blanked as it didn't make it to the weigh in.

We have now fished the 1st round of the Knockout Competition. "3 Rods" & "Sweeney" arranged to fish their match but by lunchtime neither had caught, so "3 rods" suggested they refish the match another day. Sweeney agreed - then proceeded to catch 4 x good carp..... Ooops! He would have won.

The rematch was scheduled and this time both had good bags, "3 rods" had 18.24 kilos to "Sweeney's" 17.75 kilos. Unlucky "Sweeney", but we all know that "3 rods" rigged it somehow!

Another pairing was "Just John" (he won the winter league) against the part time golfer "Anti Social Baz". It was so windy during their match that "Just John" couldn't use his pole and had to concede to "Anti Social's"

superior skill with the rod & reel. Not only did he get knocked out in the 1st round, but he then had to drive home listening to how many "Anti Social" had lost, followed by severe flack in the Lime Bar during the debrief.

I have been asked where the nicknames come from, some are obvious, some are a bit obscure;

"Grumpy Bob" – he is extremely happy! He is sometimes called "Lucky"

"Fagin" – He is our tight as a duck's arse treasurer.

"Shropshire Lad"- One of our professionals that hails from Cornwall.

"Sweeney" - Surname is Todd. He has also been called BFK (big fish Keith).

"Anti Social Baz" - Our reluctant social secretary.

"Stan the man" – One of our professionals, the man to beat.

"Punchy Bob" - Another of our professionals and a former Royal Marine boxing champ.

"Mr Heineken" – He is beckoned away from the riverbank each lunch time for quality testing of the brew! "Snapper" - Our resident photographer.

"3 rods" – Refuses to use 1 rod and was caught using 3 rods during a match. Tut, tut, tut I'll list the other 10 on another day.

Next meeting bun fight is at The Lime Bar @ 17.00 Mon 2nd May.

Fishy fingers! The Ghost

A good wife always forgives her husband when she's wrong. Rodney Dangerfield

Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow.

My neighbour discovered that her dog could barely hear so she took it to the veterinarian. He found that the problem was hair in its ears so he shaved both ears and the dog could hear fine.

The vet then proceeded to tell the lady owner that if she wanted to keep this from recurring, she should go to the chemist and buy "Nair Hair Remover" and rub it in the dog's ears once a month.

The lady goes to the store and gets the 'Nair Hair Remover'. At the register the chemist tells her, "If you're going to use this under your arms, don't use deodorant for a few days.

The lady says, "I'm not using it under my arms."

The chemist says, "Well, if you're using it on your legs don't shave for a couple of days."

The lady says "Well, I'm not using it on my legs either. If you must know, I'm using it on my schnauzer."

The chemist said, "Well then, stay off your bicycle for a week."

Lee Bell



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March 3rd saw the Phoenix International School hosting the International Schools' Cricket Tournament. Taking part were Cricket España, Essex County Cricket Club, Norlington School for Boys (London), Phoenix International School (San Miguel), Laude Newton College (Elche), El Limonar International School (Murcia) and Kings College (Murcia). The participating teams featured both boys and girls.

This was the first time that these four schools had been brought together in a head to head sporting extravaganza of this nature and you could certainly feel the tension in the air as each school got behind their teams and cheered on their players. Students were impeccably well behaved demonstrating a true sporting attitude and showing themselves to be a credit to their schools.

Once all the trophies had been presented, students from Phoenix International School and Norlington School for Boys could not resist an impromptu friendly football match to finish off the day in style. (Photos - © Clarke Duncan | www.torrevieja.photography)



As I have been snivelling, snorting and coughing from yet another cold this year, my third, I came across this in the Huffington Post, which really hits home.

Prone To Getting Colds? You Probably Need To Sleep More.

If you're prone to getting the sniffles on a regular basis then your sleeping habits may be to blame.

A new study has found that being sleep deprived has an adverse effect on our immune system.

In fact, adults who sleep for five hours per night or less may have a lower resistance to the common cold than their well-rested counterparts.

The study, which is part of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey in America, analysed the sleeping habits of more than 22,000 adults between 2005-2012.

The data showed that those who reported regularly sleeping five hours or less on weeknights were 17% more likely to report having had a head or chest cold in the past 30 says.

What's more, those who were sleep deprived were found to be 51% more likely to report having had an infection, compared with those who reported sleeping seven hours to eight hours each night.



Individuals who had previously been diagnosed with a sleep disorder were found to be 18% more likely to report having had a cold in the previous 30 days and 88% more likely to have had an infection, compared to those without a sleep disorder.

Speaking to The Huffington Post, lead study author Aric Prather said it's time we took sleep more seriously.

"Sleep has consistently taken a back seat to other health behaviours when it comes to investment, both on the part of the individual who is thinking about his or her health, as well as institutions, including the health care system," he said. "Sleep is central to health — and our health might depend on it."

If you're finding it difficult to nod off at night you might want to treat yourself to some dark chocolate before bedtime.

A second study released this week by the University of Edinburgh found that foods rich in magnesium, such as dark chocolate, can help keep our body clocks regulated and therefore aid sleep.

> Of course prostitutes have babies. Where do you think traffic wardens come from. Dave Dutton

Support.

This woman's husband had been slipping in and out of a coma for several months, yet she had stayed by his bedside every single day. One day, when he came to, he motioned for her to come nearer. As she sat by him, he whispered, eyes full of tears, "You know what? You have been with me through all the bad times. When I got fired, you were there to support me. When my business failed, you were there. When I got shot, you were by my side. When we lost the house, you stayed right here. When my health started failing, you were still by my side... You know what?" "What dear," she gently asked, smiling as her heart began to fill with warmth.

"I think you're a fuc*ing jinx!"

Madrid Mayor Gets Tough!

Madrid's mayor has unveiled harsh new penalties for dog owners who fail to pick up after their pets; pay a hefty fine or spend the weekend sweeping the streets.

The left-wing mayor, who was elected to office last May, said the city was preparing a raft of new bylaws in the battle to clean up the capital.

A fine of €750 will be imposed on owners who fail pick up after their pets, a fine that can be converted into hours spent cleaning the streets at weekends instead.

But the penalties are not reserved exclusively for irresponsible dog owners. The same punishment awaits those caught spitting or littering in public areas, including the disposal of cigarette butts, chewing gum.

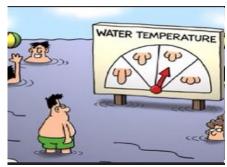
Washing a car in the street, shaking a rug out of a window or allowing plants to drip water into the streets also carry the €750 fine.

But those who are caught urinating or defecating in the street will face the maximum fine of €1,500. "I think culprits will be surprised at the harshness of the penalties, so we are going to introduce a system to substitute the fines for street cleaning duties," explained Manuela Carmena, Madrid's mayor from the left wing Ahora Madrid party.

The mayor said police would be extra vigilant for dog excrement offenders, beefing up patrols during peak dog-walking hours.

"We need to send a message," she said.

Councils across Spain are struggling to tackle dog owners who fail to clean up after their pets, with several towns introducing the use of DNA testing on messes to track down the culprits. This particular control relies on all dog-owner bringing a sample of their dog's poo or even blood to the town hall. Think of the fun you could have with this, bringing an odd sample, say horse dung or bird crap, to the town hall! If there was a circus in town the possibilities would be endless. Pet DNA databases of course will never happen. Nobody will be willing to pay for it, certainly not the pet owners. Nor have the councils got sufficient funds to pay for these expensive DNA tests.



The Kidnapping.

A couple just got married, and when the husband went back to his house he found that his bride had disappeared. He got very worried and gathered up all his friends to search for his wife with no success. Two days after his wife disappeared the man returned home to find her in the kitchen. He asked her what she has been up to and why she hasn't been home for so long. She replied: "These four men kidnapped me and had wild sex with me for a week." The husband answered: "But it's only been two days what do you mean a week?"

"I am only here to get something to eat."



I reserved this page for photos of local successful pool and darts' teams.

Unfortunately most either forgot about it or didn't bother.

Most of the local bars had a very successful year with their various teams.

Summer leagues will be starting shortly, if not already in progress.

Bar Domino.

What a superb year Bar Domino have had in the petanca competitions. In the Las Salinas League, the Domino McCoy team were 4th Division winners. Also the Domino Phoenix team were winners of the 6th Division. In the Sunshine League, the McCoy's team were runners-up in the Blue League, while the Domino's Phoenix team were runners-up in the Red League.



"Okay, no Berlusconi tongue please, Obama."



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Japanese Burger Chain Re-releases The Mother of all Burgers.

The most terrifying foods concocted by American chains are mere child's play next to what Japan's Lotteria can inflict on customers

using nothing but lettuce and tartar sauce or a movie tie-in. It went mad long ago, in other words, and has a formidable backlog of fast-food nightmares it can reintroduce at any time. Perhaps to put McDonald's Giga Mac in its rightful place, then, it's decided to bring back the Burger With Everything on It.

The burger's name is pretty accurate, as is made clear by the list of what's on this slightly updated version that debuted on April 28: First, it stacks up a beef patty, a fried shrimp patty, a rib patty, and a second beef patty with cheese; then it tops the meat tower off with more cheese, bacon, leftuce, cabbage, tomato, and onion; then it heaves a healthy glop of six sauces on top (teriyaki, mayo, spicy mayo, tartar sauce, meat sauce, and ketchup) to presumably seep down and act as glue. But if the goo potential here still underwhelms so far, no worries — Lotteria

also crams a soft-boiled egg in there.

The Everything debuted back in 2013, so this exciting rerelease is perfectly timed to coincide with the amount of time it took customers to digest their first.

Changes to the Working Day.

The caretaker PP government will by the end of April request the Senate for a return to British time to end work at 6pm. They will defend their motion as an advance in conciliating working and family life. Given their overall majority in the Senate it is likely to be passed.

Companies which want to introduce a more flexible time plan will be able to do so with a 'bank of hours' by which any employee who needs urgent time off for a personal reason can borrow from the hour bank and pay back later.

Paternity leave will be extended to ten days for people with disabilities or from numerous families.

The PP will advise the reasons why people change their job – wage – working hours – and stability.

'Counting on a sensible working day is one the questions of most importance to workers. A radical change in Spanish culture will be needed and here positive strategies for change from the companies will be essential to Source: Typically Spanish change our current culture to one more efficient'.

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The phone numbers to call and arrange for this service (which is free)

Orihuela Costa – 96 676 0000 extension 29. Orihuela City and villages – 96 530 6178.







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