

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER

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

Issue no. 110, 1st of June 2016.

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the June edition.

After one week of showery days in May, summer seems to have arrived at last, with some beautiful days often with clear blue skies. Some warm days also, 25-29°, but with a nice cool breeze.

With the summer arriving and the temperature increasing, so also does the incidence of bogus house calls. A common fraud are those who call at your gate asking for donations for children's charities. Police advise that these scammers usually carry a folder with colour photocopies to pretend that they are official documents - a doddle to forge. They will even have a list and show you how your neighbour at number xxx gave them ten euros - even though they didn't! A group of Eastern Europeans have recently been arrested doing this in the Teulada-Moraira area, but I notice that it is a team of Spaniards who come to this area every summer. Do not give any money out to any callers and do not accept any visits from electricians or gas engineers etc., unless you yourself have arranged the appointment.

If you are with Iberdrola, you should now be getting your electricity bill every month. This has confused some people.

The new pharmacy is now open in Via Park III.

Foxy's in Via Park V has now closed. A new bar and restaurant has now opened in its place as The Jug & Grub, your hosts being Andrea and Shane. Why not pay them a visit, say hello and check out their new menu.

Sorry to see that Juke's is closing with Kevin and Jules moving to open up in the Quesada area (Pueblo Bravo). We wish them both the best of luck in their new venture. Jules will continue with the hairdressing locally, on Thursdays and Saturdays, see page 25.

There is now an automated teller machine in the frontage of The Post Room in Via Park III. It is expected to be operational shortly, which together with the new pharmacy is a boon to this area. Speaking of The Post Room, it took me ten years to open a post box there. Now I have, it has been an absolute Godsend. Odd you might think for a permanent resident with a permanent address, but for several years it has been a pain in the ass waiting all day for deliveries from Amazon and other companies, losing valuable siesta or leisure time waiting for a delivery, which probably came the next day! And you know how unreliable some couriers can be. Open a post box and improve your quality of life!

Spanish public debt has for the first time since 1909 reached 100% of GDP. The public administrations of regions and provinces have an accumulated debt of €1.095 trillion. It means Spain had paid more than it earned in the last year. It also means that each and every Spaniard or taxpayer here, owes the State €23,500. Since the start of the Rajoy Government the debt per inhabitant has increased by nearly 50%...thanks, Mariano. You should be aware that new general elections are being held in late June. Following the inconclusive result of the last one in December, there is little to be confident about the forthcoming one and the whole exercise could be repeated again in six months time. The economy of Spain remains on a knife edge and it will still be some years before there will be a noticeable improvement for most people as further austerity cuts are introduced. Fortunately for UK expats, prices still remain low and the sterling rate seems on the up.

Apologies to those who renewed their sub' last month and didn't get their new newsletter. My fault, some stuff does slip between the cracks. Many thanks to John & Gloria, Ann & Roger, Ken S, Gary & Sarah G, for the extra dosh last month towards printing costs. *Wishing you all a wonderful month, and hopefully, see you soon.*

Mick & Tid.

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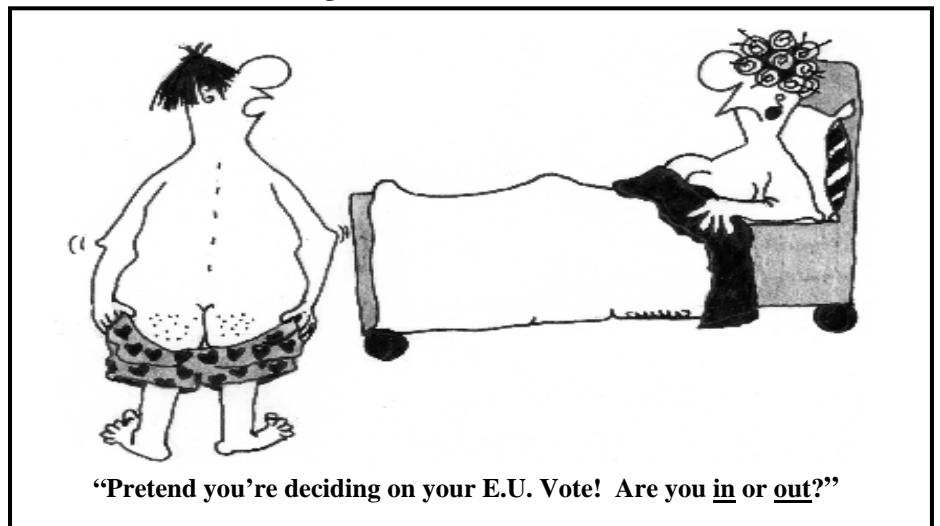
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Angela's Cartoon



A refrigerator is a place where you store leftovers until they're old enough to throw out. Al Boliska

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

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Did you know that

...if you have a problem controlling your spending, you can now purchase a bracelet which will deliver a jolt of electricity to your wrist. That's what Intelligent Environments, a British software vendor to banks like HSBC and the Bank of Ireland, has announced on May 19. Users can connect their credit cards or bank accounts to a Pavlok (photo), a brand of electro-shocking wristband, for instance, and set a spending threshold that will set off a vibration or electric shock of up to 340 volts if the limit is passed.



If the thought of electric shocks is well, too shocking, you can have the device reduce the thermostat on your property by say 3°, which would also be an incentive. But here's an idea! Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing if these devices were integrated into smart phone usage. If we lived in a 'micktatorship' I would insist on this and if people turned on these anti-conversational & anti-social devices in bars and restaurants, they would then receive a hefty electric shock. The voltage could be increased for regular infringers and maybe even short-circuit the phone. What bliss!

...medical errors are now the third leading cause of death in the United States? Shocking! The analysis, published in the BMJ in early May shows that "medical errors" in hospitals and other health-care facilities are incredibly common and may now be the third-leading cause of death in the United States — claiming 251,000 lives every year, more than respiratory disease, accidents, stroke and Alzheimer's. Martin Makary, a professor of surgery at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine who led the research, said in an interview that the category includes everything from bad doctors to more systemic issues such as communication breakdowns when patients are handed off from one department to another. "It boils down to people dying from the care that they receive rather than the disease for which they are seeking care," Makary said. You can read more here -

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/to-your-health/wp/2016/05/03/researchers-medical-errors-now-third-leading-cause-of-death-in-united-states/>

What's Up?

New Spanish General Elections are to be held on Sunday, June 26. The general election last December failed to produce a government. Unfortunately, the current opinion polls indicate that the same may happen in June, unless a working coalition is formed.

In recent weeks, the far left Podemos party has been gathering other far left allies such as the IU (communist) party and others, including the separatists, to form a counter to the traditional party of the left, the PSOE. Polls now indicate that the Podemos linked parties may get more seats than the PSOE. This could make the Podemos group the second largest party in Spain. It would be historic and dramatic.

Although democracy is relatively new and valued in Spain, the public are very annoyed with the lack of progress in forming a government and six months of governmental inactivity. The prospect of the coming election and possibly a third general election in the autumn with the associated expense of hundreds of millions of euros has only increased the public's contempt for the politician. The main parties got together in May to try and make some cuts to the horrific expense of the taxpayers funded reelection. However, they could not even agree on this, which begs the question, 'How can they possibly agree to rule together if they cannot even agree on that?'

This cartoon on the right is taken from *El Mundo* and shows a 'pissed-off' monarch sending the four main party leaders to stand in the corner until they come to their senses. Some chance! Their



own political self interest still remains paramount. This June, the public will finance the postage of political election propaganda to the tune of €9 million!

The banks will know in July if they have to repay the retrospective ground base rates overcharged to clients, a total amount of 7.6 billion €. On July 12 the general lawyer in the European Court of Justice will present his conclusions on the retroactivity or otherwise.

A senior civil servant from the European Commission consider that it would be 'very difficult' for Spain to elude a sanction of as much as two billion € for their noncompliance with the public deficit objectives. But the same source also talks about a carrot, as such a fine would make Spanish public finances even worse! 'Rajoy has asked Brussels to 'not fine Spain for the deficit'. The EU is delaying the sanction at least until after the general election so as not to interfere in the campaign. On May 18, the European Commission (EC) demanded from Spain further budget cuts of over €8 billion between this year and the next. Add two billion euros to this and there is no way Spain can meet this figure.

The Spanish Cabinet have acknowledged that the 'black hole' in social security funding has now reached 11 billion € (1.1% of GDP). The original objective of 0.3%.

The Costa Blanca is said to have lost 23,000 inhabitants because of the foreign exodus. *Diario Sur* notes Málaga province lost 9,000 foreigners in a year from old age or returning home.

Ada Colau, the left-wing Barcelona mayor, wants to tax tourists who don't sleep in the city. Barcelona City Hall would apply this on coach tours, cruise liner arrivals and organised day tours of the city. She also gave an undertaking to dissolve the anti-riot police to obtain the vote of the loopy-left separatist party, the CUP. The elimination of this specialist unit from the Guardia Urbana has been a long term objective of CUP. But in late May a mob of militant squatters headed by 200 hard-line & aggressive activists (one an anti-capitalist councillor) rioted in the city causing Colau to condemn them.

Información in Alicante reports the banks have repossessed 52,000 houses in less than 10 years because of the crisis.

El País reported that 'the EU will fine €250,000 for each 'not accepted' refugee'. Brussels has proposed an automatic distribution method to penalise the countries that reject their corresponding quota in asylum requests. As we reported in last month's issue, Spain only accepted 18 whereas it promised to accept 467. This would mean a fine of €11,750,000. I can't see it happening. The EU has 'bunded' Turkey several billion euro to accept the return of refugees - something they have failed to do so far. Part of the deal was that Turkish citizens can now travel freely in the Schengen area. The EU and Ireland are outside the Schengen area.

If you are not sure whether you are a confused 'Doug' or a 'Doris', you may like to know that the Murcia Health Authority will now pay the surgery costs for transsexuals who want a sex change. Around 40 people are waiting for the surgery. In mid-May, the new Law for Equality was approved in the Regional Assembly, which includes this measure among other rights for the LGTB community. This highlights for me at least, one of the inconsistencies in Spanish regionalism. Whereas it could be said that this new law is both just and timely, the Inheritance Tax Law in Murcia remains the most Dickensian and penal in Spain.

Three Spanish journalists who were kidnapped in Syria ten months ago were released in mid-May. A Turkish newspaper reported that the Spanish government paid 3.7 million US dollars for the release of each one of the hostages. The Spanish government denies paying any ransom.

One in four of the Spanish high-speed rail AVE Stations are underused. Eight of the terminals register fewer than 100 passengers a day. The AVE is an untouchable *cause célèbre* with many Spanish politicians. However, analysts continue to highlight that this high-speed rail service is operating at a massive loss.

40% of new mortgages have chosen (or been talked into) a fixed interest rate. The banking sector assures it gives 'calm for the client,' but this new banking strategy leaves the low-rate Euribor behind and hence benefits the banks. When the banks talk about 'calming their clients' it is time to watch out!

Tesco is to stock a range of products in *El Corte Inglés* under a new deal between the British supermarket and Spain's largest department store. The reciprocal agreement will see between 50 and 60 traditional British products stocked in a select number of *Corte Inglés* stores across Spain. The products will include specialty teas, a range of biscuits and Tesco brand cereals including granola. In return Tesco will expand on a pilot scheme to stock some 48 products under *El Corte Inglés* label including sherry vinegar, sliced meats and extra virgin olive oil.

Diario de Mallorca reports a witness has confirmed that José Ramón Bauzá, PP president of the Balearics for four years, paid a €687,000 surplus for the Hotel Rocamar. The hotel, which was in ruins in Sóller, was worth only €285,000. However the Bauzá administration paid €72,000 of public money for it.

As is happening now in many regions, Ibiza is also beginning to clamp down on illegal holiday lettings. Six inspectors will attempt to combat the illegal tourism offers with software. The Council of Ibiza has acquired a program which 'combs' the internet in search of all types of illegal accommodations, which will be in action by the end of May, they say. The fines for those caught will range from €4,000 to €40,000. In Catalonia, the fines can reach several hundred thousand euros in certain cases. It is of course the hotel lobby (and of course local government greed) which is pushing for these measures.

This year the hotels in Ibiza will be so busy that they are unable to house the extra policemen being drafted into the island to cope with the summer numbers. The recent droughts have also badly effected the island's underground water table. It remains at half the level it was ten years ago with much of the water table now salty. Desalinated water is now being used to wash the streets.

The Balearic Islands have lost 12 Blue Flags this year. In all, Spain has obtained a total of 686 'Blue Flags' (586 beaches and 100 ports) The president of the association 'Blue Flag' Jose Ramon Sanchez, explained that the beaches have lost their flags because over the years the criteria has become "more demanding" and this required more resources, so that the costs has been "deterrent". Another reason for the loss of this distinction has been to make sure that all water is "quality".

At the international level, countries that are situated next to Spain taking into account only the number of beaches are Turkey (444), Greece (430), France (400) and Portugal (315). In the number of ports, Spain, with 100, ranked third surpassed by Holland (113) and Germany (109).

After Spain, the main holders of 'Blue Flag' beaches and ports, are France (498), Turkey (465), Greece (439) and Italy (359); a total of 49 different countries have earned this distinction on five continents.

In March 2015, the Constitutional Court overturned a new Andalusian law that enabled the temporary expropriation of bank-owned homes to avoid evictions. It was generally felt that this was the ruling PP central government bowing to pressure from the financial services lobby. Now, the city of Granada wants to adopt measures which insures that neither the Local Police nor fireman will take part in evictions, as has been the norm up until now.

La Vanguardia printed a report on Tony Blair – Saudi commissioner and Middle East mediator. The former prime minister, it reported, is paid €5,000 every month for intervening and assisting in the sale of petrol to China. It reports he also receives a percentage of the total oil exported in the deal.

The blues band BLUE WAVES, which features some local Dream Hills talent, are now performing at the Sunrise Beach Chill Out Bar on Fridays from 3-5pm.

Información in Alicante headlined that 'the companies are renouncing innovation grants for fear of being inspected'. The manufacturing sectors in the Valencia region only applied for some 400 grants in research and development projects in 2015.

Diario de Mallorca headlined that 'the number of mosques in Mallorca has multiplied by eight in a decade'. In 2005 there were five Muslim places of worship and now there are 41. These come under the control of the Justice Ministry, oddly enough.

The surfeit of part-time work contracts has hindered the reactivation of the Málaga labour market. Hour long contracts have reached 25% of the new contracts in the province, 40% more than before the recession. The unions criticise the 'precarious' model – low wages which stimulate the underground economy and temporality to a maximum.

Now this should be of interest to local bars who offer entertainment. Local Police in Palma are collaborating in the patrol of the capacity of night live venues. The judge who is investigating the corruption in the police force has uncovered an order to close bars for noise, without the use of an audiometer. Does this mean that a 'private payment' will make the problem go away, at least in Palma? Of course it does. Palma does seem to have an issue with dodgy cops. Diario de Mallorca reported that 'A policeman in Palma collected commissions for the money robbed by the wallet takers (pickpockets).' Court documents revealed that this policeman accepted drugs, clothes and perfumes from a gang of Romanian neer-do-wells. Certainly Palma seems to afford lots of opportunities to those with sticky fingers. On May 3rd alone, eight liners docked in the port to the city, with 22,000 passengers disembarking. What a treasure trove of opportunities for some! I wonder how many of them had stuff stolen?

A judge is investigating why 300 fines were 'forgiven' in the last term of the PP in Alicante. Some police say their complaints were never processed. 90 of the fines correspond to fines for breaches of the Ordinance occupation by installing terraces on public roads that contravened at the time, current legislation, and not allowed to have fixed elements, without obtaining prior license. Fines were also 'lost' relating to the activity of street vendors who worked in the Paseo de Juan Aparicio. The police realized that none of the sanctions were appealed by those affected, something strange considering the volume of offences noted by the police service. In the case of fines imposed on hoteliers, it is alleged that the government team decided not to progress the cases.

The controversial declaration of assets abroad, known as the dreaded Modelo 720, is starting to bear fruit, according to Typically Spanish. The Tax Office has collected €840 million after completing 8,800 inspections out of a total 225,000 contributors. The prosecutor is to inspect another 7,000 tax payers for failing to present the 720 or to chase up missing data. A total of 436 sanctions were levied at 150% of the amount not declared! Since 2013 and arrival of the Modelo 720, the Spaniards have revealed €141 billion.

Some 26,935 were declaring for their first time between January and April 2016, who have investment funds, shares, property or insurances abroad. Over the four years the citizens with current accounts abroad declared 2.6 billion, property one billion € and investment funds, shares and insurances of 10.1 billion €

What if.....?

'If I died,' asked Mike, 'would you remarry?' His wife thought about it. 'Well, I suppose so.' 'And would you and he sleep in the our bed?' His wife thought again, and said, 'I guess so. It makes sense.' Mike pressed on, 'Would you make love to him?' 'Of course,' replied his wife, 'as he would be my husband then.' 'How about my golf clubs?' asked Mike, 'would you give those to him?'

His wife shook her head. 'There wouldn't be any point - he's left-handed.'

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David Letterman




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Lime Bar Golf Society, Los Altos, Orihuela Costa.

The Golf Society's venue for the 11th May 2016 was held at the Requelme Golf Course.

On a blustery but fine morning 30 plus members teed off. The course was in good condition and a pleasant round of gold was enjoyed.

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

Longest drive on the 2nd hole was Alan Junior

Nearest the pin on the 5th hole was Nev. Greenwood

Nearest the pin on the 7th hole was Ian Johnstone

Nearest the pin on the 10th in two was Dave Cahill

Nearest the pin on the 15th hole was Kevin Jackson

Silver Class in 3rd place was Eddy Alan with a score of 28 points

Silver Class in 2nd place was Tony Jones with a score of 29 points

Silver Class in 1st place was Pat Creegan a score of 36 points

Gold Class in 3rd place was John Williams with a score of 28 points

Gold Class in 2nd place was Stewart Black with a score of 30 point

Gold Class in 1st place was Ian Johnstone with a score of 31 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.

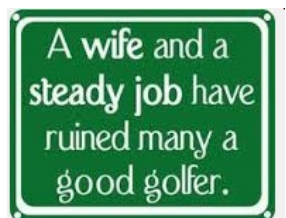
Colin Clarke.



I have a problem with reading. I read slowly, and get my words jumbled up. I had some tests done and apparently it's not dyslexia - I'm just thick.

At least now I have a name for it.

Jack Dee





LIME BAR



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*It's spring in England. I missed it last year. I was in the bathroom.
Michael Flanders.*

The prosecutor in the Brugal Case is making his early pitch. He is demanding a jail sentence of 37 years for Fenoll, the owner of a number of garbage companies and a sentence of 12 years for the former Mayor Medina of Orihuela and eight years for former Mayor Lorente, also of Orihuela. The prosecutor says the former mayors José Manuel Medina and Monica Lorente (photo) were puppets of the businessman in the process of corruption of waste. Thirty plus accused have been placed on the bench in the case and the prosecutor has fixed the compensation for the damage caused to the city at more than six million euros. Lorente has stated that the award for the rubbish contract 'was impeccable.' However, the 34 accused by the Anti - Corruption Prosecutor in the Brugal case investigating the alleged rigging of the contract of garbage from Orihuela, are not expected to be heard in Elche until 2018! This for a case which has already been dragging on for some years in the investigation process.



Torre Vieja will have the first beach for dogs Vega Baja this summer. The governing board have unanimously approved the procedure for changing the ordinance use of the coast. An agreed site has not yet been chosen.

The police have dismantled an organized gang in Dolores who had committed 44 crimes in the area. The four men arrested were Spanish nationals, aged between 20 and 29, and a Spanish woman of 17 years.

The 27 municipalities of the Vega Baja have reduced their collective debt to the banks by €64 million during the last three years. The debt is believed to now stand at €175.5 million, that is of course if they all told the truth. Torre Vieja, Orihuela and Callosa de Segura are the biggest debtors, owing €58.2 million, €38 million and €14.3 million respectively. Whereas Rojales, Benejúzar and Cox state that they do not owe anything to the banks. It begs the question, 'How much do they owe their suppliers, now?'

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Local football matches can sometimes get quite emotional and indeed a little violent. In late April Almoradi were playing Villajouasa when Kike Granados of Almoradi received his second yellow card in just eight minutes for allegedly faking an injury. Granados was not to happy about this so he head-butted the referee. Granados has been playing for six local teams over the past 15 years. Not sure if he will be playing for much longer now.

Alicante City Hall is to install 150 cameras to control traffic infractions. The mayor has asked the Industry Ministry to finance the crackdown with a €1 million payment. The cameras will detect cars without insurance and ITV (MOT).

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!

It is fair to say that the streets in Torre Vieja have been less than safe of late. In one instance two police cars were chasing a third vehicle when, after a spectacular chase, the two police cars collided with each other, photo, injuring four policemen. The suspected burglar escaped but was later captured with an associate, only it was reported, after a considerable struggle. Photos: Informacion.



In another incident last week, a 16-year-old took his mother's car keys and car and with a carload of his young friends, crashed the car against a lamppost on the Ave. Alfred Nobel near the Torre del Moro. The photo below from Informacion shows it all.



30 people were detained for prostituting 50 Nigerians on the streets of Torre Vieja. The Police have liberated 18 victims who were being exploited 12 hours a day, some of them under age.

There has been a jellyfish invasion on some of the beaches in the Marbella area. Stormy seas have brought thousands of jellyfish to the immediate coastline, some of them as large as half a metre. In our region it tends to be the Mar Menor area which appears to be more prone to them. However, wind and currents can bring these in anywhere, as happened in May 2015. Some of the jellyfish found in the Med' can be very dangerous. If you see any jellyfish when swimming the best advice is to leave the water and alert the beach lifeguards. The tentacles of dead jellyfish found on the beach can still sting for some weeks, so don't be inquisitively dumb!

It is great news to hear that Orihuela Costa has maintained its quota of Blue Flags at eight flags this year..

Alicante General Hospital has had one of its operating theatres closed for three months, even though there are still 550 children on the waiting list. There is lots of anecdotal evidence that waiting times are increasing although none of the professionals are admitting it.

A kitesurfer who was surfing from Pilar de la Horadada to Torre Vieja was speared in the ankle by the snout of a garfish at Cabo Roig. Ouch! See photo.





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Salary Differences between Spain and the Rest of Europe in €S.

The average monthly wage in Spain is €1,634 compared to €3,705 in Denmark. The gross average of the EU countries is around €2,062 monthly, some €430 more than the average Spanish worker

Denmark – €3,706 per month.

Luxembourg – 2,950

Finland – 2,736

Holland – 2,703

Belgium – 2,619

Sweden – 2,617

Germany – 2,609

Ireland – 2,607

United Kingdom – 2,596

France – 2,417

Austria – 2,304

Italy – 2,022

Cyprus – 1,833

Spain - 1,634

Malta – 1,197

Slovenia – 1,158

Portugal – 1,070

Greece – 1,064

Estonia – 891

Slovakia – 823

Croatia – 822

Czech Republic – 795

Poland – 716

Latvia – 668

Hungary – 599

Lithuania – 484

Romania – 467

Bulgaria - 376

The Spanish town of Lorca, which suffered a **damaging earthquake** five years ago killing at least nine people, is now painfully aware of the current inadequacies of the restoration works. Whereas priority has been give to the restoration of the monuments, 2,000 dwellings remain in ruins. Seems people come last in emergencies. The area continues to receive earthquakes.

In the city of Alicante, the Policia Local **fine an average of 143 drivers daily** for parking offences. Last year 52,170 drivers were fined. The worst month was July with 5,226 fines and the best December with 3,557. Of the cases resolved (only 7,587), €353,660 was added to the municipal coffers.

On the weekend of May 7-8, telecommunication carriers worldwide were subject to a **malicious virus**. The virus affected the Wimax and Network Ubiquiti systems which is specifically the software used for the internet receiving antennas of many local telecom's carriers such as Ole. The creator of the virus is know as 'Mother F*cker' and it is believed that the disruption was over five continents. The attack did not affect computers, although several Facebook addicts in the area could be heard crying into their iPads and laptops for several days indicating they have no life. Telecom's services were back to normal for many on the Sunday but many others are still without a service some weeks later.

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

When I get sent manuscripts from aspiring poets, I do one of two things: if there is no stamped self-addressed envelope, I throw it into the bin.

*If there is, I write and tell them to f*ck off.*

Philip Larkin

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Mobile 0031 645149223 Home 966722147

Email : helenvankekem@hotmail.com

A Falling Birthrate but Twins Increasing.

According to data from Spain's National Statistic Institute (INE), multiple births accounted for 2.29% of all births in 2014 with 9,493 twins, 117 triplets and two quadruplets or more. In other words, 22.9 of every one thousand births were multiple.

These statistics mean that Spain is a frontrunner in Europe when it comes to multiple births, according to a 2013 study of 29 countries published in the European Perinatal Health Report using 2010 data. Only Cyprus, with 25.1 multiple births per thousand, the Czech Republic with 21 and Denmark with 20.9, are ahead of Spain. Comparing this study with another one released in 2008 with 2004 data, multiple births have fallen everywhere except in Spain, where they have increased. Multiple births have increased in Spain by 287% since fertility treatment was introduced.

*Kath & Jules
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The Diagnosis.

A young woman went to the doctor and told him, 'Doctor, I've got a problem. I'll need to undress to show you.' The doctor nodded for her to continue, so she stood up, unzipped her dress and stepped out of it. 'It's these,' she said, pointing to the inside of her thighs, where two bright green circles were clearly visible. The doctor came round for a closer look, rubbed the circles and nodded thoughtfully. 'Tell me,' he asked, 'do you have a gypsy lover?' The woman blushed, and said, 'Well, um, yes, actually I do.' There you go then,' said the doctor. 'You'll have to tell him that his ear-rings aren't actually made of gold!'



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The bar promises a relaxed atmosphere. Freshly made bar snacks are available together with the best coffee.

Our opening hours are from mid afternoon to midnight.

A full schedule of events are planned from theme evenings to wine tastings.

A warm welcome awaits you.

BREXIT - DO YOU WANT TO REMAIN IN OR LEAVE THE EU?

British expats who have been registered to vote in UK within the last 15 years have until Tuesday 7th June to apply for a proxy vote in the EU Referendum on June 23.

That is the final deadline for registering to take part in one of the most historic decisions that the British people will make for a generation. The deadline for registering for a postal vote has now passed, but you can still appoint someone you trust in the UK to vote for you.

If you last lived in England, Scotland or Wales, go to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote .

If you were last on the electoral roll in Northern Ireland then you need to act quickly. The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland says that if you are appointing a proxy to vote at the EU Referendum, the deadline for sending in your printed application is 5.00pm on 3 June.

Suspicious Minds.

Sometimes women are overly suspicious of their husbands. When Adam stayed out very late for a few nights, Eve became very upset. 'You're running around with other women,' she charged.

'You're being unreasonable,' Adam responded. 'You're the only woman on earth.'

The quarrel continued until Adam fell asleep, only to be awakened by some poking in this chest. It was Eve.

'What do you think you are doing?' Adam demanded.

'Counting your ribs!' says Eve.

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"4 Worms In Church."

A minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon. He placed four worms into four separate jars.

The first worm was put into a container of alcohol.

The second worm was put into a container of cigarette smoke.

The third worm was put into a container of chocolate syrup.

The fourth worm was put into a container of good clean soil.

At the conclusion of the sermon, the Minister reported the following results: The first worm in alcohol ... Dead .

The second worm in cigarette smoke ... Dead .

Third worm in chocolate syrup ... Dead .

Fourth worm in good clean soil ... Alive...

So the Minister asked the congregation, "What did you learn from this demonstration?"

Maxine was sitting in the back, quickly raised her hand and said "As long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate, you won't have worms!"

That pretty much ended the service.

Pete Dudman

*The Vatican have come down with a ruling against surrogate mothers.
Good thing they didn't make this rule before Jesus was born.*

Elayne Boosler

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Cancer Research UK's Race for Life is a series of women-only events raising money for research into all 200 types of cancer.

There are nearly 300 events taking place this year to raise funds.

<http://raceforlife.cancerresearchuk.org/index.html>

July 3rd, 2016 is the key date.

Don't forget to drop your donations off at the Phoenix Bar, Via Park V, please.

An Angel Asks.

Three friends die in a car accident and attend an orientation in Heaven.

An angel asks, 'When you are in your casket and your friends and family are mourning you, what would you like to hear them say about you?'

The first guy says, 'I would like them to say that I was a great doctor and a loving family man.'

The second guy says, 'I would like them to say that I was a caring husband and a schoolteacher who made a huge difference to kids.'

The last guy says, 'I would like them to say - "LOOK, he's moving!"'



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Groan!!

I bought some 'Jamie Oliver Sausages' yesterday. On the packet it said 'Prick with a fork.'

I thought, can't argue with that!

I love that new Korean vegetarian snack pot. Not Poodle

Just bought an ABBA toilet....what a loo!

I've swapped our bed for a trampoline. My wife hit the roof!

(Derrick Green)

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Dog Rescue in Alicante.

An elderly dog owner was admitted to hospital in early May. Unfortunately, he left his dog locked out on his second floor apartment balcony. The dog was without food and water for four days.



Eventually, neighbours took notice of the dogs moaning and barking and the emergency services were called.

Firefighters and police arrived and the dog was brought down using a fire engine ladder. (Photos - *Informacion*)

A Guardia Civil Sgt reported, "The dog was terrified and we had to reassure him, feed him and walk him around the balcony for a while until it was possible for him to climb into the basket and lower it."

Although the mayor of Benalúa praised the 'solidarity of the neighbours,' I thought taking four days to call the emergency services was downright negligent and hardly praiseworthy. The dog, a cinnamon husky mixed breed, is fully recovered.



A couple was sitting in the living room watching TV. The phone rang, so the husband picked it up. He listened for a moment, and then said, in a sarcastic tone of voice, 'I have no idea. Why don't you call the weather centre?' 'What was that all about?' asked the wife. 'Oh, I don't know,' replied her hubby. 'Some idiot wanted to know if the coast was clear.'



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The Growth.

This bloke walked into a pub with a large toad on his head. 'Where the hell did you get that?' asked the barman. 'Well,' the toad replied, 'You won't believe it, but it started out as a little wart on my arse!'

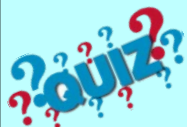


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A baby seal walks into a bar and sits down. 'What can I get you?' asks the barman.
'Anything but a Canadian Club,' replies the seal.

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'He said he had slept with every woman in the complex except one!'

His wife replied, 'I bet it's that snooty Mrs. Gellar on the third floor.'

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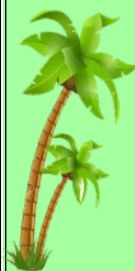
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Out of the Mouths of Children.....

A 7-year-old and a 4-year-old are upstairs in their bedroom.

'You know what?' says the 7 year old, 'I think it's about time we started swearing.'

The 4-year-old nods his head in approval, so the 7-year-old says, 'When we go downstairs for breakfast I'm gonna swear first, then you swear after me, ok?'

'Ok' says the 4-year-old, agreeing with enthusiasm.

The mother walks into the kitchen and asks the older boy what he wants for breakfast.

'Oh, shit mum, I don't know, I suppose I'll have some Coco Pops'

WHACK!! He flew out of his chair, tumbled across the kitchen floor, got up, and ran upstairs crying his eyes out.

She looked at the younger boy and asked with a stern voice, 'And what do YOU want for breakfast, young man?'

'I don't know,' he says, 'but it won't be f.....g Coco Pops.'

Pete Dudman



The Phoenix Golf Society.

We played on the El Valle Golf Course on May 15th. The course was in excellent condition and I believe everybody enjoyed the day.

The Overall Winner was:

Austin Brennan

Nearest to the Pin:

Austin Brennan

Brenda Folley

John Walls

We also had a 2's competition which was won by John Walls. He was so happy that he bought all the players a nice drink which was appreciated by everyone. Thanks John.

After we had finished playing we returned to the Phoenix Bar for lovely grub once again supplied by Donna - many thanks again Donna.

She said, "Golf
or me."

I remember her
when I'm teeing
off, sometimes.



The Eulogy.

An old man had died. The funeral was in progress, and the vicar was talking at some length about the good life of the dearly departed, what an honest man he had been, what a loving husband and kind father, and how his poor family would miss him. Finally, unable to cope any longer, the widow whispered to her eldest son, 'Just pop up there a moment and have a look in the coffin, will you? I want to make sure he is talking about your father.'

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Andy Cobb From 9pm Friday 17th

Paul Christie From 9pm Friday 24th

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Snippets!

- Barcelona mayor Ada Colau has said her emergency habitation and energy poverty law has halted 639 evictions in four months. She defended her administration to attend to their obligations to protect the vulnerable and to continue to halt the evictions, and if this law proves insufficient, she will have to find other methods. Meanwhile, several hundred militant squatters caused a violent riot in late May.

- The Treasury is insisting on the payment of income tax on the compensation paid for damages to the owners of preferential shares.

- Spanish bishops have warned cultural piracy is a sin.

- The number of mortal accidents in the Spanish workplace was more than 500 last year, more than half the number to die on the roads. Between March 2015 and February 2016 there were 521 compared to 443 in the twelve previous months. On average each week around ten people die in their workplace.

- Mercadona is taking on an extra 5,000 workers for the summer and interviews are currently taking place with a net wage of 1,109 €a month. The supermarket chain earned 611 million € last year, an annual growth of 12% and a record profit on a sales increase of 3%. President Juan Roig proudly declared that during 2015 the company had granted a wage rise to 8,150 of their workforce and had created 1,000 new fixed posts. He added 'with less public sector so much the better.'

- Pilar Codoñer, president of the Valencia Society of Paediatrics states – 'Children should eat five meals a day, and not spend too many hours without eating'.

- Are the Balaerics imploding? They are now studying the placement of a quota on tourists, to avoid a collapse of infrastructure. The proposals range from a moratorium on more hotel building to restricting the number of cars.

- The UGT trade union have proposed that the unemployed over-55's be given early retirement, as they are most unlikely to be re-employed. This is probably true but this would cost more than a billion euros. A great idea, but wishful thinking.

On the left is the Plaza de Torros in Orihuela. The building, a former bullring, has fallen into ruin due to municipal neglect. At present, despite local pressure, there appears to be neither interest nor funding for its renewal, even for non bullfighting activities. Such a waste.

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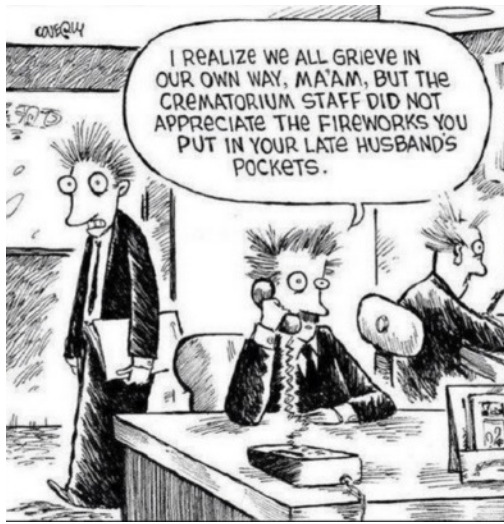
This 70-year-old woman is naked, jumping up and down on her bed laughing and singing. Her husband walks into the bedroom and sees her. He watches her awhile then says, 'You look ridiculous, what on earth are you doing?'

She says, 'I've just got my check-up and my doctor says I have the breasts of an eighteen-year-old.'

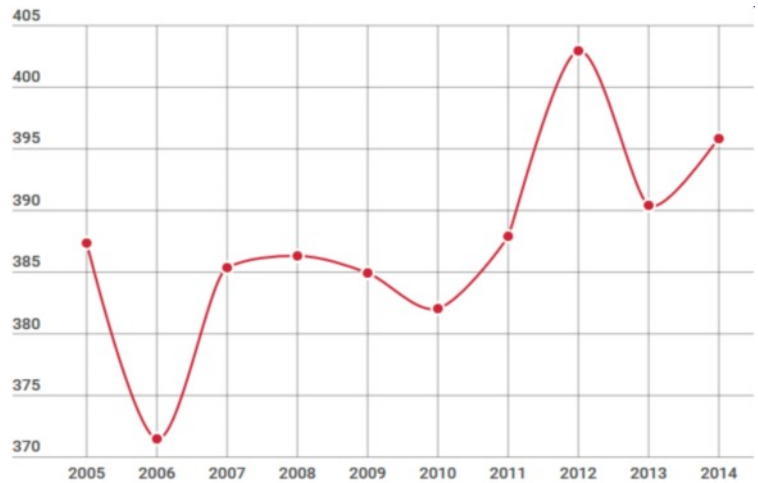
She starts laughing and jumping again.

He says, 'Yeah, right. And what did he say about your 70-year-old ass?'

'Well,' she says. 'Your name never came up.'



TOTAL DEATHS IN SPAIN.



Funerals - It's a Dying Business!

Well, not really. Funerals are still big business in Spain. The death rate is still rising in Spain, as the trend on the graph above illustrates. For some years now the death rate has averaged 390,000 annually.

In early May, *Informacion* featured an interesting article on the 'Cost of Dying in Spain.' It included the most recent survey on the subject, which unfortunately was more than three years old. However, most of the information is still current as inflation has been very low for several years now.

Some years ago, I included an article in the newsletter on funeral costs, but I think it's time to take a quick look at the subject again. I did go to the *tanatorio* in Torre Vieja to gather information, but it was like trying to get blood out of a stone.

The average cost of a funeral/burial in Spain is €3,545. However, the cost can vary significantly from area to area. For example, a funeral in the city of Cuenca can cost as little as €2,261. In some cities in the Canaries it can be just as cheap.

In Valencia and Murcia, the cost increases to approx. €3,150 each, whereas in Alicante it rises to an average of €3,622. In the city of Madrid you can expect to pay €4,765.

But when it comes to the highest cost, unsurprisingly it is our friends the Catalans, who are the most expensive. Here, the average cost of a funeral in Tarragona will cost €3,323, while if you 'peg it' and expect a funeral in Barcelona, your nearest and dearest will be expected to come up with €6,441!

I can remember reading an article several years ago which reported that most of the coffins used in Spain were made in China, so these are probably much cheaper than locally produced ones. So, why the big difference in funeral prices?

The main problem is lack of competition. In 1996, Spain relaxed some of the controls on the setting up of undertakers. Then in 2009, another law known as Omnibus, eliminated some of the obstacles required for the granting of a burial license. However, many municipalities never adopted the change in the law, continuing to operate with a single *tanatorio*, resulting in oligopolies. These restrictions are still in place today, even locally. This of course restricts competition and is bad for the consumer. In the municipal monopoly prices remain exorbitant. I cannot understand why the process is not challenged, particularly when trade, under EU directives, should be more open and accessible. But then again you don't see any non Spanish operating pharmacies, do you?

But neither have the government helped. A couple of years ago, under the cloak of austerity measures, the government increased the IVA (VAT) on funerals from 8% to 21%.

You can read the full report here in Spanish - <http://www.diariodemallorca.es/economia/2016/05/06/cuestamorirse-espana/1115443.html>

Now, many people believe that if they donate their body to science/medicine, that they will escape the cost of a funeral. Unfortunately now, many of the institutions will not accept a cadaver unless they are paid at least €1,000 to cover movement costs etc. But based on how some of these institutions, even hospitals, have been looking after the remains, I'm not sure I would like my friends or relatives to be subject to those conditions.....well maybe just a handful of relatives!

(Late thought: you can actually buy a coffin off another supplier and instruct the undertaker in Spain to use it. They have to comply with your request and they cannot charge you a fee for using it.)



"But I never got my day! I was promised a day!"

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PHOENIX



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Austerity Measures.

The manager was having difficulty with profits and fixed costs, so there was only one solution - more layoffs. But there were only two possibilities - Jack and Mary. This was going to be a hard decision - they were both excellent workers, and equally qualified - but one had to go. So he called Mary in first. 'I'm sorry,' he began, 'I've got some bad news. I'm going to have to lay you or Jack off.'

She looked at him for a moment in silence then replied @ 'Well, can you jack off, I've got a terrible headache?'

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If you are a movie or TV buff, you could do worse than visit the following website -

http://www.elranchito.es/series_eng.html

Take a trawl through the site, it is available in Spanish and English, and you will see some of the work done by this excellent Spanish special effects company.

If you are a *Game of Thrones* fan, you will be able to witness the skilled work of this Spanish studio based in Madrid which was responsible for creating the visual effects for the two seasons of *Game of Thrones* that have been partly filmed in Spain. The eighth episode of season five of the hit HBO show left fans with one of the most extraordinary battle sequences. Viewers were witness to the fight between the White Walkers and the Wildlings, the latter of which had been brought together by everyone's hero Jon Snow. But few know that the post-production work on the scene was created by El Ranchito, which is also behind the tsunami wave on *The Impossible* and the chase scenes in Spanish production *El Niño* (The Boy), and much much more.

The firm has also been involved in *Boardwalk Empire*, *Limitless*, *Sleepy Hollow*, *Vinyl*, *The Knick* and many others.

Steven Spielberg once said, 'If we can imagine it, (with digital special effects) we can film it!' How true.

The Bad Hand.

George was a bad loser. When he was cleaned out in a poker game for very high stakes, he got up to leave. As he walked past, he couldn't resist insulting Max McTavish, the bald man who had cleaned him out.

As George walked past, he ran a hand over Max's bald head and said sarcastically, 'Your head feels just like my wife's arse.' Max put a hand to his head and said, 'By crikey, mate. It does!'

Being Spanish.

Nearly 40% of Spanish adults say they play video games, according to a study by Sigma Dos for AEVI. AEVI, the Spanish Association of Video Games, who have introduced the first national study to determine the penetration of video games in the adult population.

One of the main conclusions is that 38.9% of Spanish adults play video games, of which 26.2% are regular players (play every day, several times a week or month) and 12.7% casual (at least once a month). In addition, men make up 45.3% of the adult players and women 32.8%. (So who comprises the remaining 21.9%? The dogs? Editor)

The age range in which most gamers there are 18 and 29 years (76%) and 30-44 years (54.3%). (More odd percentages here. Ed)

Moreover, only 16.8% believed that video games are something just for younger people or children and almost 65% of players who have children consider that video games serve to strengthen ties with them.

As for the educational level of the usual gamers, 63.7% have high school or university studies.

"Over the centuries, mankind has tried many ways of combating the forces of evil... prayer, fasting, good works and so on. Up until Doom, no one seemed to have thought about the double-barrel shotgun. Eat leaden death, demon..."

— Terry Pratchett

"We are no longer worried that children are missing school because of video games, though. We are worried that they are murdering their classmates because of video games."

— Tom Bissell

JUKES



Jules and Kev would like to take this opportunity to thank all their friends and customers for their wonderful support and custom over the last 10 years.

Jukes will be moving to new larger premises in Pueblo Bravo, Quesada, in June. We hope to see you all in our new venture.

Jule's mobile hairdressing will continue two days a week - Thursday & Saturday, in the Dream Hills area. To make an appointment call **666 029 257**.

Once again, a massive thanks to all.

Jules & Kev.

New Earthquake Fault Line.

Full time residents here on the Costa are probably aware that we are very close to a fault line off the coast of Spain, which runs down the south east and southern coastal part of the peninsula.

A team of scientists are now investigating the existence of a new fault line in the Alborán Sea, to the southeast of the peninsula.

This new 25 km fault line may have been responsible for a number of recent quakes, one of 6.3 on the Richter in January, which caused material damage to the Spanish city of Melilla in North Africa.

Although poor for info' on recent quakes, this site has a good graphic showing seismic risk areas in Spain. <http://www.iberianature.com/material/earthquake.htm>

New Boots.

An elderly couple, Margaret and Graham, live in Arkansas. Graham always wanted a pair of authentic cowboy boots. So seeing some on sale one day, he buys them, wears them home, walking proudly. He walks into the house and says to his wife 'Notice anything different about me?' Margaret looks him over, 'Nope.' Frustrated, Graham storms off into the bathroom, undresses, and walks back into the room completely naked except for the boots. Again, he asks, a little louder this time 'Notice anything different NOW?'

Margaret looks up and says, 'Graham, what's different? It's hanging down today, it was hanging down yesterday, and it'll be hanging down again tomorrow.' Furious, Graham yells, 'AND DO YOU KNOW WHY IT'S HANGING DOWN, MARGARET?' 'Nope' she replies. 'IT'S HANGING DOWN BECAUSE IT'S LOOKING AT MY NEW BOOTS!!!!!!' Graham yells. To which Margaret replies..."Shoulda bought a hat, Graham. Shoulda bought a hat."
(Moira)

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Salt Water Beer?

Yes, it does exist. It's made in Galicia, is a black beer and is called Mustache Negra Marinera and it is made out of seawater.

Obviously very gimmicky in a very competitive field, but another quirk with the marketing of the beer is that the beer is cheaper during high-tide times in Galicia because of the abundance of seawater then!

So you can go online to their site here, <http://www.elpreciolodictaelmar/>

It is a small, tongue-in-cheek presentation which shows the local tides and shows how the tides effect the price of the beer! The website is also in English although the humorous video is in Spanish, it has English subtitles.

"The Sea Determines the Price!"



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THE SPANISH REGIONS.



Take a look at the map on the left. It illustrates the autonomous communities of Spain - 17 in all and two autonomous cities, Ceuta and Melilla, in North Africa. They were created in accordance with the Spanish constitution of 1978, with the aim of guaranteeing limited autonomy of the nationalities and regions that comprise the Spanish nation. When the Franco regime disappeared, the period became known as *café para todos* : coffee for all. This was the chance for every region to make its pitch and govern according to the constitution and their own organic laws known as Statutes of Autonomy. This of course created a new bureaucracy in each community with their own presidents and duplicated civil service. Coffee for all and lots of jobs for paper pushers.

Language policy has been especially contentious, with moves by regional governments to impose Catalan, Galician or Basque in schools and the civil service, provoking angry reactions from Spanish-speaking residents. Autonomy is not only occasionally inconvenient for those who want to speak Spanish. Investors - domestic and foreign - complain bitterly about the extra bureaucracy imposed by regional governments, costs Spain can ill afford as it attempts to exit the deepest recession in memory. "The administration in Spain suffers from elephantiasis," was the verdict of one lawyer in Madrid. But as the Financial Times put it, 'Café para todos is a stimulating brew no one wants to forgo. When the waiter comes, however, no one wants to pay the bill.'

But the situation is even more complex. The communities are also split into regions. Our community, Valencia, is divided further into three separate provinces - Alicante, Valencia and Castellón, each with its own president and bureaucratic political entourage. And if you think that is bad, look at Andalusia - Spain's black hole. Here they have eight separate provinces. But there could be worse to come. The socialist PSOE promise that they will create another 200,000 jobs in the public sector! Fortunately they have no chance of winning the election, unless they team up with the far left, the separatists and *Ciudadanos*. This is unlikely.



AQUAQUEST PLUMBING



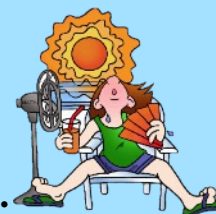
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What a Surprise!

In early May this year, a boat containing a number of research zoologists from Valencia University headed 180 nautical miles out from the Valencian coast. To their surprise, near to the Columbretes Islands (photo), they discovered a number of Minke whales. As well as the whales, 35 bottlenose dolphins, seven spinner dolphins and two sea turtles were recorded.



The presence of Minke whales in the Med' was one heck of a surprise, so much so that when they returned to the port after their brief two day voyage, they hired a helicopter to return to the area where they discovered a school of six whales.

This is most unusual as this type of whale (photo) is to be found in the larger oceans and not in what is considered a fairly polluted Mediterranean Sea. It is not yet know if the whales were just passing through or if the vicinity of the island is now their home. Probably not the latter, but it may indicate that one of the previous most polluted waterways in the world is slowly on the road to recovery.



The problem with idiots is that not only are they capable of harming themselves, but all too often, they can be extremely dangerous to innocent others as the following illustrates.

In early May on a Monday afternoon, a Romanian gentleman was travelling in his car northbound on the AP-7, with his wife and two young children. When he reached the toll at La Zenia in Orihuela Costa, he had no money to pay the toll charge, so he turned his car around - on the same northbound stretch - and drove his car back southwards on the wrong side of the motorway! Shocked motorists rang the police who intercepted the driver after eight kilometres. Fortunately there were no accidents although I suspect there was a considerable amount of wet underwear. The man was tested for drugs and alcohol. Although the tests were negative, I have no doubt he was suffering from a massive overdose of 'stupid.'

Remaining in Spain, this 40-year-old Spanish man, from the town of Calatayud in Zaragoza, called the police and reported that his two young daughters were trapped in a car, whose locks had been disabled by someone poking sticks into them. But when police and the fire brigade arrived on the scene, they discovered that the man had lied to them.

It was not his daughters trapped in his car, but his two cats trapped inside his flat that the man needed help with rescuing. He asked police to open his front door because his lock was jammed and his two cats were trapped inside. The man now faces a hefty fine under the region's Civil Protection and Emergencies Law for wasting police time. The law specifically states that pet owners who call the police to receive faster help or lie to the police are subject to fines of between €150,001 and €600,000. The man admitted he had exaggerated, but claimed that he had referred to the cats as his daughters because "emotionally he thought of them that way".

An 18-year-old girl is in a serious condition after falling off a fifth floor balcony while taking a selfie - the demise of many an idiot. The girl fell off the balcony in Girona, northwestern Spain, on May 19 while attempting to take a photo of herself on her mobile phone. She was rushed to Josep Trueta hospital, where she remains in a "serious condition" according to police sources. She was on the top floor of the building when she stepped onto a false ceiling and plummeted towards the ground. Her injuries were lessened as she fell into a pile of rubbish. Or as my Uncle Pat once said after he fell while tiling a roof, 'The ground broke my fall!'

Spare Seat! - An Oldie but a Goldie!

Taffy was in Twickenham for the Six Nations match against England this year. He made his way to his seat right at the pitch -side. He sat down, noticing that the seat next to him was empty.

"Incredible" said Taffy. "Who in their right mind would have a seat like this for the big game and not use it?"

The neighbour said "Well actually the seat belongs to me. I was suppose to come with my wife, but she passed away. She's Welsh, I'm English, and it is the first time we haven't come to a Wales v England match together since we were married".

"Oh, I'm sad to hear that," said Taffy. "Couldn't you find some one else - a friend, relative, or even a neighbour to take the seat?"

The man shook his head and said, "No, they're all at the funeral."

But this month if you want to read about some serious and very deadly idiots, we have to look abroad. The Washington Post came up with this story.

In India and Pakistan, laddu (photo), ball-shaped sweets made of flour, minced dough and sugar, are for special festive occasions, like holidays, weddings and births. Umar Hayat wanted to celebrate the birth of a grandson, so he invited scores of relatives to his small mud hut in Karor Lal Esan, dispatching his son in advance to buy five kilograms (about 11 pounds) of the treat, enough to serve everyone. Of course, they gobbled them down, especially the children. But as they did, they started vomiting, one after the other, in quick succession. They were rushed to the local hospital, Dawn reported, where they only became sicker. Then, one by one, they started dying. By Thursday of that week, 12 members of Hayat's family were dead, among them eight sons, a daughter and three grandchildren.



At the same time, several dozen others who had purchased sweets from the same Tariq Hotel and Sweet Shop, also took horribly ill and were rushed to the hospital. Some days later, 19 more who had consumed the sweets were dead. The tragedy became a great mystery.

A senior police officer from the local district, suggested that a worker at the shop "inadvertently" added pesticide to the laddu mix. "There was a pesticide shop close by which was being renovated, and the owner had left his pesticides at the bakery for safe keeping." Local health officials shut down the shop and sent samples to a laboratory in Lahore. Authorities finally tracked down the alleged cause of the mass poisoning when the younger brother, Khalid, of the sweet shop's owner confessed that he had spiked the sweets with a pesticide. He wanted "to teach him [his brother] a lesson," he reportedly told police. According to media reports in Pakistan, Khalid said that he laced sweets with a poison named Chlorfenapyr. Police recovered an empty bottle of the chemical hidden in sunflower fields on the information provided by the accused.

But demagogic heads of state frequently feature in these



columns. Last month we featured the 'sensitive' president of Turkey, Erdogan. This month it is the Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and his wife Bun Rany (photo). Hun Sen has been in power for more than three decades. His

government is accused of everything from corruption to clamping down violently on dissent to meddling with the freedom of the press. Critics say Hun Sen also stymied an international tribunal prosecuting Khmer Rouge war criminals, prematurely closing the door on his nation's much-needed reckoning with a horrifically bloody past - one of the 20th century's worst atrocities. His corruption and excesses are largely ignored by the international community. But being called 'Prime Minister' is now not enough. The press and international media have been instructed to now refer to him in all reporting as "Princely exalted supreme great commander of gloriously victorious troops." And his wife must now be referred to as "Celebrated Senior Scholar Bun Rany Hun Sen," a reference to her having obtained a PhD. The Dream Scene would like to solemnly add "Big Nose" to the first title and "Squidgy Face" to the latter.

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Fancy a New Todger?

Well it seems there have been three penis transplants worldwide to date, the latest being in the US, a first there. 64-year-old Thomas Manning, a bank courier, had his amputated three years ago due to penile cancer. The new appendage came from a dead donor. The Boston surgeons, who led the 15-hour procedure, said they were "cautiously optimistic" Manning will regain full urinary and sexual function. More than 3 years of research and teamwork among dozens of specialists in plastic and reconstructive surgery, urology, psychiatry, infectious disease, nursing and social work culminated in the transplant. Manning was quite happy to be photographed, right. Many young soldiers who served in the Middle East and were badly injured could benefit from this type of surgery, although I can't see it becoming a common procedure.



The first penis transplant was in South Africa, where a 21-year-old received a new one in December 2014 following a botched circumcision ritual. It is believed that the second transplant took place in China and although the operation went well, the appendage was later rejected - know the feeling! Anyway, wouldn't it be wonderful if you could choose say, size.....and colour! "I'll have a black one please.....14 inches."

Dream Hills* Urbanisation Fees/Quotas.

Following the recent AGM, the following are the various urbanisation fees for the coming year:

Houses/Villas: €62.92.

Apartments/Bungalows: Ground Floor €197.19

Upper Floor €175.28

If you pay by direct debit, the amount will be taken out of your bank account during June, so be sure to make provision for it now. Please pay your fees

before July 15th, otherwise interest will accrue.

Sincere thanks to the president, committee and handy-man for their work in keeping the urb' in tip-top condition. Also many thanks to the unnamed

volunteer residents who continue to work to improve the large 'green areas' around the urb'.

You are not only Stars, but also an example to the usual whingers & moaners but also to those who seem to have an allergy to 'self help.'

(*When I refer to Dream Hills in this publication, I refer to what some call Dream Hills I. There is no Dream Hill I; just Dream Hills and Dream Hills II.)

Good News for Dream Hills Residents.

Ole Comunicacion is bringing 100mb fibre optic cabling to Dream Hills (I). For those of you who attended the recent AGM, you will have heard a spokesperson from the company outline the advantages being offered with the system.

Some details: Priority installation will probably be given to existing Ole customers. So, if you already subscribe to Ole and want to take advantage of the new offer, ring them now on **608 614 494** with your account number and register for the offer.

Existing Ole customers who apply, will be connected free of charge with a guaranteed rental of just €25 per month for the next 12 months. If you take their telephone service as well, you can have free national calls or international calls for an extra €10.50 per month. 100mb broadband plus free telephone calls (Intl or National) for €35.50 is a heck of a bargain!

Coming soon, existing Torresat customers will also be able to change from Torresat TV to Ole TV*, with an increased selection of channels in English (and other languages). In this case the 100mb optical fibre broadband will be installed for free and the system rental will be increased from the current Torresat monthly charge of €23 to an Ole charge of €25. Once again, telephone **608 061 494** if you require to know more about this offer.

If you are not an existing Ole or Torresat customer you can still have the fibre optic line installed, there will be an installation charge of €99, plus of course the usual monthly rental charge. This means that for just €25 a month, you get a super-fast broadband service together with more than 100 TV channels.

So if you are already with Ole - don't delay! The optical fibre cable has already been laid down the main Lagunas de Ruidera road. The cabling to the private roads is due to commence shortly, starting at the top of the urbanisation.

IVA (VAT) is included in all the prices quoted above.

Ole can be contacted on **608 061 494 or 902 00 67 57**.

(*The 137 TV channels on Ole are mainly in English.

These include several BBC & ITV channels, around 13 movie channels, documentary channels such as Discovery etc, music and children's channels. There are also two Adult channels - probably about gardening and embroidery.)

See Ole advert on page 29.

Getting the Message.

The mother-in-law arrives home from the shops to find her son-in-law Paddy in a steaming rage and hurriedly packing his suitcase. "What happened Paddy?" she asks anxiously

"What happened?? I'll tell you what happened! I sent an e-mail to my wife telling her I was coming home today from my fishing trip. I get home and guess what I found? Yes, your daughter, my wife Jean, naked with Joe Murphy in our marital bed! This is unforgivable, the end of our marriage. I'm done. I'm leaving forever.

"Ah now, calm down, calm down Paddy!" says his mother-in-law. "There is something very odd going on here. Jean would never do such a thing! There must be a simple explanation. I'll go speak to her immediately and find out what happened."

Moments later, the mother-in-law comes back with a big smile. "Paddy. I told you there must be a simple explanation ... she never got your e-mail".

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

Lime Bar Fishing Sunbathing Club

This month's match was held at El Bosquet. We had 16 on the bank and only had 2 blanks. That's good for us. Phil Hodgetts (he is on the waiting list to join the club) also arrived and fished alongside us for a few hours. Unfortunately his better half had locked herself out so he had to drive home to let her in. You will have to give her a good talking to Phil, or switch your mobile off. We can't have that sort of behaviour on the bank. :-)) At the last match we held at El Bosquet, peg 1 won with 13 kilos. As I had drawn peg 2 I got there at O crack sparrow fart to make sure that no local nicked my spot. It was worth the early start as I landed 9.3 kilos only to be pipped by the club professional with 10 kilos. Well done "Shropshire lad" streaking into the points lead with 2 wins out of 2. The "Quill" came 3rd with 7.4 kilos & "feathers" was close behind with 6.4. Some good weights this month and the usual fairy tales of the ones that got away.

In the 2nd round of the knockout competition, Anti social was drawn against me. We had arranged to fish the match on a Friday but he called it off as it "might rain". We rescheduled to fish Nancy's the following Thursday. As a lot of pegs at Nancy's were overgrown, I went and cleared 4 comfortable pegs to make sure that we would have somewhere to fish. I rang him Wednesday night to remind him what time I would pick him up and confirm the venue & pegs. Well, Anti Social now didn't want to fish Nancy's either as it was too sunny! #**#*@!

On the day we decided to fish pegs 14 & 13 at the Eden, as they are 2 good pegs that are close to each other. On the bank, Anti Social chose peg 14 (usually the best one) so I moved along to set up in 13. It was overgrown and unfishable so I told him I'm moving up to the next clear peg. Peg 12 was clear so I set up there. It turns out that after all the faffing about, Anti Social had done me a favour. I smashed his 3lbs with my 25 lbs of carp including my personal best of 9.83 lbs. I was lucky though, because I was fishing the poorer of the 2 pegs, I had set up with light tackle expecting to catch a few small carp just to put a weight together. The biggy took a single piece of sweetcorn on a size 16 hook tied to 5lb line and 14 elastic. After netting it, a bit of fist pumping and grinning like a Cheshire cat, we weren't sure if this would be the club's largest carp so far this season. Anti Social took the obligatory photo just in case. See photo.

That night we went up to the Lime Bar to check the club notice board's largest carp record sheet. Yeehaa! I had topped Fagins carp by half a pound so 9.83 lbs is now the size to beat.

As we found out later on (3 rods was spitting feathers and venting steam), he had cleared peg 12 the day before in preparation for his match against Fagin on the Friday. Oooops! Sorry 3 rods I didn't know. At least I pre baited the swim for you :-)))) and you did go on to beat Fagin.

That Thursday night was also the clubs quiz night, which was arranged by Anti Social. About half the club turned up so we had 5 teams of 4 (ish). The questions were quite easy (which made for a close finish) and he rattled them off like a machine gun. We all took food to share at half time and raffled 2 special prizes which were donated by Punchy Bob & Keith the stick (ex NAAFI mgr). 3 Rods won Punchy's bag & I won "the stick's" book of his memoirs. It really was my lucky day! On the night, 1st were "Fish Fingers", 2nd were "3 hers & him", 3rd were "Cockenhens" who all won cash prizes. The other 2 teams were "3 beauties & a beast" and the "Dicks".

Thank you Anti Social for all the faffing about and running a good quiz. But my biggest thanks go to 3 rods for clearing the lucky peg! :-))))))

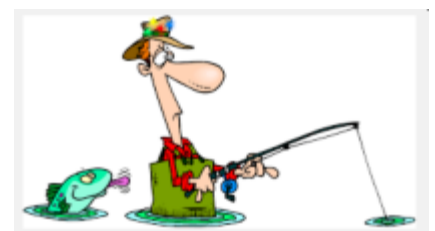
Next meeting bun fight is at The Lime Bar @ **17.00** Mon 6th June.

You know what I did before I married?

Anything I wanted to.

Naas Botha (South African Rugby Player).

Fishy fingers!
The Ghost.



Awards!

I can't see the sense in making me a Commander of the British Empire. They might as well make me a Commander of Milton Keynes - at least that exists. Spike Milligan

I'm going to Iowa to collect an award. Then I'm appearing at Carnegie Hall, it's sold out. Then I'm sailing to France to pick up an honour from the French government. I'd give it all up for one erection. Groucho Marx



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Yes, We Have No Bananas!

Drug seizures are commonplace in Spain, particularly on the south coast, but this one caught my eye.

In early May the police intercepted 171 kilos of cocaine in the port of Algeciras, Cádi. The drugs were hidden in plastic bananas (above), coming from Columbia. It seems there were 88 boxes of them destined to a fruit importer, based in the town of Lepe.

Police waited until the 'bananas' were being loaded into refrigerated lorries and then made the seizure.

The owner of the fruit importation firm has been arrested. Concealment of drugs in imported fruit is commonplace. I recall a substantial seizure in Alicante in pineapples!

Take Heed!

A new Spanish law regarding purchasing property off-plan: when the project fails, the owner loses everything and the bank keeps the money. The experts warn, that after this judgement from the Supreme Court, the banks are only obliged to return the money on failed property developments for all those who purchased off plan before the law came in December 31 2015. Source: Typically Spanish Now, I couldn't get a confirming source for this report, but it wouldn't surprise me in the least.

Looking at the prices being charge for new builds, particularly on the Orihuela Costa, I am not surprised that resales continue to lead in the sales sector. New builds are far too expensive.

A lot of the new builds are even smaller than in previous years and the prices are just a joke. The tax to pay on new builds is also punitive.

Despite all the waffle about change, being fair and protecting the buyer, little has changed. But then again, it's straight off the planes and into the hands of chancers.

Be Careful What You Wish For.

A man is walking down the beach at Playa Flamenca when he comes across an old bottle. He picks it up, pulls out the cork and out pops a genie. The genie says, 'Thank you for freeing me from the bottle. In return I will grant you three wishes.'

The man says 'Great. I always dreamed about this and I know exactly what I want. First, I want one billion dollars in a Swiss bank account.'

Phoof! There is a flash of light and a piece of paper with account numbers appears in his hand. He continues, 'Next, I want a brand new red Ferrari right here.'

Phoof! There is a flash of light and a bright red brand-new Ferrari appears right next to him.

He continues, 'Finally, I want to be irresistible to women.'

Phoof! There is a flash of light and he turns into a box of chocolates.

All Cats Are Beautiful or All Cops Are Bastards?

A Madrid resident has been fined by the police for carrying a bag depicting a cat's face and the slogan "All Cats Are Beautiful."

According to her own version of events, posted on Facebook and Twitter, Belén Lobeto was returning home on Sunday when two police officers approached her. An argument ensued over allegations that the slogan was really a stand-in for "All Cops Are Bastards."

The phrase "All cops are bastards" has been documented since the 1970's, and became popular after a British punk band named 4 Skins used it in a 1980 song. It has also been adopted by some soccer hooligans.

"The police have just fined me across from my house (near the Calderón) for carrying this bag."

As a result, the law enforcement agents presented her with a fine that she is promising to appeal.

The sanction is based on Article 37 of the new Citizen Safety Law – popularly referred to as the Gag Law because of its restrictive nature, particularly when it comes to capturing images of police officers or holding public protests.

According to the riot officers who fined her, Lobeto incurred in "disrespect for a member of law enforcement in the exercise of his or her duties to protect citizen safety."

The fine could be anywhere between €100 and €600.

Lobeto's tweet denouncing the incident, which took place near the Vicente Calderón stadium on the same day that Barça and Sevilla faced off in the Copa del Rey final, has been shared over 13,000 times and made the front page of the online news aggregator Menéame.

In a Facebook post, Lobato – who could not be reached for comment – explains the incident:

"I live next to the Calderón [stadium] and they're playing the Copa del Rey final today. The police on duty must have very little to do, because as I was calmly walking home, suddenly two law enforcement officers ran after me to ask for ID and inform me that they were going to fine me for carrying this bag. I asked for explanations and said I really doubted that I was calling attention to myself or committing any crime, and they said to go tell it to the judge. They handed me the notice, which of course I didn't sign, and I saw that the reason for the fine is something that is not anywhere on my bag, and when I told them that what they wrote down is A LIE, and that I can prove it to a judge, they said to go tell my government delegate about it, and that they were fining me for the acronym, which is there on the bag. I tried to talk to them calmly and reason with them, but it was impossible for a change, and I was forced to keep quiet to prevent them from slapping me with a bigger fine. I also told them that there are lots of more important things to deal with. What a fucking disgrace of a country. Yes, ALL CATS ARE BEAUTIFUL. And whoever says otherwise is lying."

The government delegation in Madrid will now have to decide whether the sanction was justified or not. Lobeto will have the right to appeal before a judicial authority, said police sources.

A similar incident involving the ACAB acronym was reported in Alicante in 2015, and a year earlier two German courts handed down convictions against individuals who displayed "ACAB" and the numbers 1312, where the latter were understood to stand for the same letters.

(Source: El País - Verne in English.)



A Bit Odd!

A recent article in the excellent *Informacion* caught my eye. It dealt with the subject of emergency tracheotomies.

Researchers at the University of Munich in Germany wanted to test the effectiveness of non medical personnel using pens for emergency tracheotomies. They invited ten volunteers to use three different sorts of pens to attempt the procedure. They included lawyers, police and students but they were to try the procedure on a number of corpses which were just two days old! Of the nine, only three managed to pierce the throat in the correct place but only one person was able to penetrate the skin, ligaments and the wall of the airway to establish an air channel. It took five minutes and required a lot of patience and strength. Even then there was damage to the throat and airways.

The researchers determined that it was virtually impossible to carry out the procedure with a pen, although a pen could be used as an airway, provided that something sharp was used in the first place to make an opening. Call the ER, they advised.



A Hero or Taking Advantage?

Footie fans will be fully aware that Leicester City have won the English Football league. But it is not only the team and fans who have gained much from the whole experience.

Enter stage left, Alan Ashcroft, a Scottish electrician. Alan (photo) bears a striking resemblance to the Leicester coach/manager Italian Claudio Ranieri. Alan it seems, has been taking advantage of the likeness and, well it seems that he has slept with 26 women as a result!



Now, whereas one might not describe Alan as a 'gentleman' he says that he did not lie. He told the Scottish newspaper *The Sunday Sport*, "I never say I'm Ranieri; women assume it and I did not correct them."

Let's Hear it for the Gays.

He was an interesting character, Hadrian. He had a wife and a husband. And he built this enormous wall. I'd never thought of him as a gay bricklayer before. (Billy Connolly)

My hunch is the gays started the Renaissance. Two gay guys at a party go, 'Say, wouldn't it be fun to make religious paintings of hot naked guys, and sell them to churches. (Bob Smith)

When I told the people of Northern Ireland that I was an atheist, a woman in the audience stood up and said, "Yes, but is it the God of the Catholics or the God of the Protestants in whom you don't believe?" (Quentin Crisp)

Our ice cream man was found lying on the floor of his van covered in hundreds and thousands.

Police say he topped himself.

Tommy Cooper

The Spanish public continue to be assaulted by more and more cases of corruption among the Spanish political elite. It is no wonder that the public are fed up with the 'old school' and are now attracted to the new populist far-left parties and their promises. Even the traditional party of the left, the PSOE, may soon be moved from second position in the polls to third; people are just fed up with them. I must confess that I am fascinated by the corruption and skulduggery in Spanish politics. It may be depressing but it is also very entertaining.

During my regular daily trawls through the Spanish media, I came across this photo, probably just a few years old, of three senior Spanish PP politicians in Valencia. On the right is Rafael Blasco. At one time a committed communist and socialist, he later moved to the right-of-centre PP, where he rose to be the spokesman for the PP in Valencia and have the grand title of The Minister of Solidarity and Cooperation. But then it was revealed that in June 2012 six million euros which was supposed to be sent in aid from the Valencian Government to stricken areas, such as Haiti and Nicaragua, never actually got there. The aid funding was redirected to enhancing the personal wealth of Blasco (and others) by purchasing property in the Valencian region. In May 2014 the High Court of Valencia condemned Blasco to eight years in prison and twenty years of disqualification from public office, being the author of the crime of embezzlement of public funds. On June 10, 2015, the Supreme Court upheld the conviction but downgraded it to six and half years of imprisonment.



Now to the short chap in the middle of the photo, Alfonso Rus. Now this guy, another big wig, was president of the Provincial Council of Valencia between 2007 and 2015, president of the Popular Party in the province of Valencia between 2004 and 2015 and also president of the football Club Deportivo Olímpic Xàtiva. But in May 2015 he was kicked out of the PP. It was alleged that there is a recording of him counting the money in a cash bribe which exceeded €100,000. Then on January 26, 2016, he was arrested with several dozen others and investigations are continuing.

Finally on the left hand side of the photo is Gerardo Camps. In 2003, he was appointed PP Minister for Economy, Manufacturing and Employment in the Valencian regional administration. I must say immediately that Camps has not been investigated or charged by the police. But he has received quite a bit of unwelcome notoriety in recent weeks when it was revealed by the socialist parliamentarian José Muñoz that between the years of 2007 and 2011, he spent €33,000 in expensive restaurants at the public's expense while the PP were in power. It is also believed that he charged the tips to expenses. Now this expenditure occurred during the most severe period of the recession. Camps denies any wrong doing and it is a measure of the paucity of available politicians for the Alicante PP election list for the coming general election, that Camps is number four on the list. The list has contracted as most of the usual politicians on the list are being investigated for various corruption cases.

Finally, a brief mention of the Púnica corruption case which is now erupting in the Madrid Region. One of the main building contractors involved in the case is spilling the beans so that when it comes to sentencing, he hopes to get off lightly. The deal was basically this: the contractor wanted to build on land which was not zoned for building. They bought the land and then got the local mayor, Francisco Granados (photo), to rezone the land. This was done and houses were built on the rezoned land. The mayor (and his associates) would then receive a 20% cut off each property sold. An estimated €250 million in public contracts in exchange for kickbacks from construction companies was the total deal. Because of the large sums involved and the risk of flight from Granados, he has been in custody since October 2014.



Congratulations to both dart's teams at El Capitan (above) who were winners of their Monday and Thursday League competitions.

Making Hard Work of It!

John met Lisa down the pub one night and began buying her drinks. They got on pretty well together so John suggested they go to his flat for a little light entertainment.

Well, it wasn't long before they found themselves in bed indulging in a passionate bout of horizontal jogging. As they were making love, John noticed that Lisa's toes curled up whenever he was thrusting particularly firmly.

When they were done John laid back on the bed and said, 'I must have been pretty good tonight as I noticed that I had your toes curling up with pleasure.'

Lisa looked over at him and smiled. 'That usually happens when someone forgets to remove my tights.'

As an American, I classify I'm a Celebrity, Get Me out of Here in the same category of Impenetrable British Mysteries - like beans on toast. Molly Ivins

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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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OH, SPIDEY.

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