

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER

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

Issue no. 111, 1st of July 2016.

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the July edition.

I've had three big problems with the July edition of the DS; one is that my automatic spell-checker has developed a mind of its own - it has gone on holidays! So, if you spot any typos....well, keep them to yourself, smarty pants.

Brexit: Secondly, the results and impact of the EU referendum in the UK are now being digested in the media. PM Cameron has committed, what has to be, the biggest political blunder of the 21st century, at least so far, by calling for a referendum on the EU membership. In the first place this was done purely to placate some of his cranky xenophobic Conservative backbenchers. He has now chosen to fall on his sword and so he should. Generations of British will however pay for his folly. Those of us living in Spain are now asking what will happen to our healthcare and medicines. As it is, these are not free and are paid for by the UK anyway. Time will tell if, after the UK leaves the EU, will they continue to pay it and what will happen to our existing residential status in Spain and in other EU countries. There is also the question of the existing minimal local voting rights which we currently enjoy. It is likely that these will 'go out the window' in due course. Equally concerning will be the changes to Capital Gains Tax and Inheritance & Gift Tax when the UK leaves. Expat's fought long and hard in the EU courts to bring these taxes in line with the Spanish rates. (These, together with a depressed sterling rate could effect property prices here in Spain, just as they are starting to recover.) On leaving the EU these tax rates will revert to their previous draconian levels.

The ramification of the Brexit decision will now be a regular article in the Dream Scene. See page 30 of this edition. We will keep you informed on all relevant changes etc., as they are announced.

Spanish General Election: the results of the Spanish General Election, the second in six months, are due in a few hours, as the votes are being counted as I write, this Sunday evening. The polls indicate that no one party will have a majority so it will have to be a coalition government. Otherwise, it is back to the polls again in six months, the third general election in a year! As it stands the far left - Unidos Podemos - could join with the traditional socialist party - the PSOE - and form a government. We will have to wait and see what the result will be but if Podemos have anything to do with governing Spain in the future, it will be a disaster.

Summer: Summer officially started here at 12:34am on Tuesday, June 21st. The State Meteorological Agency forecasts a warm summer, but not as suffocating as last year's. That would be a good thing but then again the same agency said earlier that there would be no heat-waves, not long before we had an absolute scorcher for a few days in early June. Alicante is suffering the most serious drought since 1950 because of the lack of rainfall during the spring and this will probably hit some local produce prices. Spain's tourism sector braces itself for a sixth record year. The likely arrival of 70 million people this summer will boost growth across many areas of the economy.

Please check out the Dream Scene appeal on page 13 and be your usual generous selves.

Wishing you all a wonderful month, and hopefully, see you all soon.

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:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p><u>TRANSLATIONS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •HOSPITALS / DOCTORS •POLICE REPORTS •OFFICIAL TRANSLATIONS (STAMPED) •UNOFFICIAL WRITTEN TRANSLATIONS •NIE / RESIDENCIA •DRIVING LICENCES •COURT •TOWN HALLS •SCHOOL MEETINGS | <p><u>COMPUTER TRAINING</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •WINDOWS XP, VISTA, 7 •MICROSOFT OFFICE (WORD, EXCEL, POWER POINT, ACCESS, ETC.) •INTERNET •EMAILING •MESSENGER •PRINTER & SCANNER •SECURITY & ANTIVIRUS •VIRUS REMOVAL •PC CONFIGURATIONS |
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Did you know that

...there is a Spanish company, WUG Functional Gums, which markets a range of functional chewing gums to address a number of requirements such as taking a caffeine boost, getting a tan, improving sexual performance, relaxation, dieting, relieving the symptoms of hangover and other human maladies and conditions. After hearing that the American military had been giving caffeine-spiked chewing gum to troops on special operations, the founders decided to develop a range of products which would allow quick absorption into the body by chewing, much quicker than say taking tablets.

Although not medicines, the gums do contain vitamins and various plant extracts and are often stocked in pharmacies. So for example, the hangover cure gum contains Guarana Extract, Vitamin B6, Vitamin B12, Vitamin C, Lycopene Extract & Pineapple Extract, while the aphrodisiac gum contains Maca Andina, Muira Puama, Tribulus Terrestris, Ginseng, Rhodiola Rosea, Caffeine & Damiana.



Okay, I am sure you can take their claims with a pinch of salt.....or a stick of gum. Their website is very informative, is also available in English and can be found here -

http://wugum.com/wug/index_en.php

...Marmite was one of most confiscated items at airports from the UK - to overcome this issue, Marmite made smaller ones for travelling.

...Billy goats urinate on their own heads to smell more attractive to females. I suppose you could always try it out!

...in the early 1900's, Lobster was considered the "cockroach of the ocean" and was synonymous with the poor - often eaten regularly by the homeless, slaves and prisoners. It wasn't until after World War II that lobster became considered a delicacy and a food associated with the aristocratic classes.

For us expat's, the big news is of course Brexit, Britain's decision to pull out of the EU. Following the implosion in the markets worldwide and the weakening of sterling, people are only now waking up to the raft of dire consequences of the vote. Other than saying that the 'Remain' lobby couldn't articulate sensibly and clearly what a EU departure would mean, countered by the lies and inaccuracies of the 'Leave' lobby, I will not comment further on the lead up to the vote. I will however report on what is happening now and what may happen in the future as part of a regular feature in the newsletter. This starts this month on page 30.



Today, Sunday June 26, 35.6 million Spanish citizens get the opportunity to elect a new government. This is the second general election in six months and the public are tired of the whole circus. The polls indicate that none of the parties will have sufficient votes for form a majority government. Once again parties will have to pact if they want to govern, something they were unable to achieve during the last six month. Should some of the parties be unable to form a coalition government, then another general election would have to be called, the third in 12 months!

Unemployment in Spain has fallen below four million for the first time since 2010 thanks to temporary and precarious (very short contract) jobs. The reduction, the third consecutive after March and April, is usual in this month due to the increase in holiday service jobs. Half of the unemployed receive no dole money. They have to rely on their families or charities for support.

The number of people working in the public administration in Spain fell by 166,557 over the last four years, a fall of 6.2% between January 1 2012 and January 1 2016 – to take the existing number to 2,509,280 people, 51.39 % are in the autonomous regions, 21.79% in local administrations, 20.95% in State Public Administration and 5.87% in universities.

Eleven university campuses are reducing the number of their faculties, with the objective of simplifying management, and creating savings.

El Mundo headlines, 'Chaves and Griñán, to the accused bench for the ERE abuse'. The two former presidents of the Andalusian region and the PSOE will have to respond, with another 24 top dogs in the Junta de Andalucía for the crimes of breach of public duty and embezzlement. The socialists have defended their 'honour' and assure they have never benefited by even a cent. La Razón quotes the amount defrauded as €855 million. This seems a very high figure to me. I would guess the actual figure is probably closer to between one and two million euros, but, you never know. The socialists have been in power in Andalucía for more than 20 years. It will be interesting to see how they fare in today's general election following the unravelling of the ERE and training fund abuses, which have now come home to roost.

Barack Obama will arrive for an official visit to Spain during July 9 – 11. Obama will start his tour at the Rota U.S. Airbase in, Cadiz, Andalucía. Michelle and her older daughter Malia will arrive a few days earlier in Sevilla.

Starting in late May, squatters rioted for four nights in the Barcelona district of Gràcia. The squatters had been evicted from the privately owned former bank building in



the centre of Barcelona (photo). Mayor Ada Colau faces her most serious crisis since she was elected a year ago on a popular platform that aimed to address the city's chronic housing problem. She has admitted problems acting against the squatters and that 'they should talk to their neighbours'. One newspaper called her administration 'The Absent Government.' Mayor Colau asked for 'prudence' from the Mossos (Riot Police), against disturbances which she has recognised that she was unable to stop which has left more than 33 injured and thousands of euros worth of damage in the most-visited city in Spain. The police have criticised the prevarication of Colau and she has promised to disband the riot police is the looney left CUP party support her in elections.

But then it emerged that former mayor Xavier Trias of the CiU nationalists had been secretly paying the squatters' rent and expenses for years – with taxpayers' money – in order to avoid an eviction and street violence. This was €65,000 a year for the rent and more than €10,000 in electricity bills! Things are less than harmonious in that city. The president of the Jewish community in Barcelona accuses the (looney left) CUP party of being "The heirs of antisemitism."

The far left Podemos party have released their party manifesto as a copy of an IKEA catalogue.

Even though their proposals are lunatic, the presentation is excellent. With almost 200 pages and many pages featuring colour photos of their candidates throughout Spain in IKEA-type settings in homes, it is a far more attractive presentation than the usual boring same-old, same-old, presented by the other parties. (Although I did notice that an image of their dreadlocked congressman has been omitted.) You can see the document here in Spanish - http://estaticos.elmundo.es/documentos/2016/06/08/programa_electoral_podemos.pdf



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!

The Guardia Civil have seized 74 African elephant tusks from a person's home in Colmenar de Oreja (Madrid). He intended to sell them for about 200,000 euros. You would wonder how they ever got passed customs.

An investigation into work contracts in hospitals in Valencia has revealed the existence of 8,400 irregular contracts affecting 2,500 workers between the years of 2011 and 2014. It seems the management hired hospital staff for weekdays only on short contracts, not including holidays or weekends, to avoid making additional payments. Some of the contracts were for just a few days and then new short contracts were issued again. This saved on wages and social security contributions. The Alicante province had 1,500 irregular contracts affecting 455 workers. The new Valencian government say they have now 'nipped this in the bud' and splitting contracts are now longer allowed. Spain is the champion for labour precariousness in the eurozone. No other country has more temporary contracts than Spain.

At the end of last year it was 25.2% of all work contracts according to Eurostat, only Portugal comes close with 22%. The EU average is 15%. In absolute numbers, at the end of last year, labour precariousness affected in Spain 3,706,600 workers - some 25% - (men 25.1% and women 25.34%)

Since May 24, 105 refugees have been welcomed to Spain. The policy is to distribute them in different areas rather than one single location. Only around a quarter of those seeking political asylum are accepted.

The Mallorcan Red Cross are considering setting up a tent in Magaluf to deal with intoxicated tourists - i.e. pissheads. The local hospital has to deal with between 10 and 12 seriously intoxicated tourists daily during the summer and it is a severe drain on resources.

The Town Hall of Calvià has denied the producer Lime Pictures of the MTV channel, the licence to film in the municipality the reality show 'Geordie Shore' considering it 'lacks the public interest required by law.'

'Schooling hours in Spain are an exception in Europe, it is not rational' said Ramón Ruiz, Education Councillor for Cantabria, who has introduced a week holiday every two months, because he claims it benefits the teachers and the children. He has made an agreement with the two main teaching unions, but Ruiz admitted he failed to inform the parents who found out from the press.

The Murcia Region requires at least 38 new courts to address the slowest judiciary in the country. With the long delays in penal and civic cases; it's not so much 'Here comes de judge' as 'Where be the judge?' Unfortunately it is much the same in the other regions.

A bronze sculpture representing kidney donors has been stolen from a hospital in Motril. The president of the Renal Patients Association urged the thieves to return the object 'and we will pay you more than it is worth.' I would guess that it has been melted down weeks ago.

The European Court of Justice has confirmed the fines against Repsol and Cepsa for sharing the dominance in the asphalt market and so the former must pay 80.4 million € and the latter 83.8 million, for leading a price fixing cartel between 1991 and 2002. It is very easy to be sceptical about the ethical behaviour of the large Spanish corporates. At some stage many of them have been fined by the EU or the competition watchdog in Spain, more often the former. Suffice it to say that without the EU, most of these commercial giants would be getting away scot-free with their abuses, as the Spanish legal system is too ponderous and politically influenced to act as an effective watchdog.

The National Commission for Markets and Competitiveness has fined seven Spanish nappy manufacturing companies with €128 million. The colluded and introduced higher prices.

A company owned by the Infanta Cristina and Iñaki Urdangarin defrauded more than €77,000 with fictitious employees. One of the investigators in the Treasury revealed that Aizoon collected tax breaks for their ghost workers. Then of course there is the millions in commissions which were collected for virtually no work done, which also went undeclared.

The Supreme Court has supported the 1.7 billion € spending cut on renewable energy imposed by the Rajoy government. The tribunal considered the new regulation is constitutional and adjusted to EU law. The original decision was challenged by several firms involved in the energy renewal sector. Spain has the fourth-highest electricity costs in Europe - around €80 per person per month.

The town of Torrelodones has placed a three-metre-high inflatable giant dog-poo in a public square as part of a campaign to rid its streets of dog mess. It seems that the people in this town which is 29 km north west of the city of Madrid are particularly tardy when it comes to picking up dog poo. This town of 22,000 residents has 6,000 dogs and the corresponding amount of dog crap left on the pavements every day - up to half a ton! This is, of course, a major problem throughout Spain. In April, Madrid's mayor announced strict new rules to punish those who fail to scoop the poop, with offending owners made to clean the streets of the capital at weekends. But the city burgers of Torrelodones now have some red faces. It seems that someone has stolen the giant turd! Now, this is not something you can shove in the glove compartment of your Seat, is it? If the town wants to replace it, it will cost €2,400.

The Guardia Civil is investigating Banco Santander for the HSBC money laundering leaked by Falciani. Hervé Daniel Marcel Falciani is a Franco-Italian systems engineer and whistleblower who is behind "the biggest banking leak in history." In 2008, Falciani began collaborating with numerous European nations by providing allegedly illegal stolen information relating to more than 130,000 suspected tax evaders with Swiss bank accounts. The Central Operations Unit (UCO in Spanish) has raided the Banco Santander headquarters on the order of the National Court. Of the total, 659 are Spaniards, who had banked more than 6 billion €, who are now under investigation and some have already been condemned.

The former PP mayor of Mijas, Angel Nozal, is under investigation for the rapid auction of homes in Mijas in the province of Malaga. The Town Hall auctioned the house of a family who had run up a municipal debt of €19,738. The property was valued at €368,000 and was bought by an individual for €110,000.



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Lime Bar Golf Society, Los Altos, Orihuela Costa.

The Golf Societies venue for the 8th June 2016 was held at the El Valle Golf Course.

On a very fine and warm morning 28 members teed off. The course was in good condition and a pleasant round of golf was enjoyed. The competition was played in the stableford format and the scores recorded are as follows:-

Nearest the pin on the 6th hole was Ken Farrow

Nearest the pin on the 9th hole in was Ricky Mackay

Nearest the pin on the 10th in two was Peter Gillespie

Nearest the pin on the 12th hole was Arthur Jones

Nearest the pin on the 15th hole was Bill Denne

Best guest Richard Mackay with a score of 27 points

Silver Class in 3rd place was Christian Denne with a score of 26 points

Silver Class in 2nd place was Graham Mitchel with a score of 26 points (on count-back)

Silver Class in 1st place was Brian Archer a score of 32 points

Gold Class in 3rd place was Ken Farrow with a score of 29 points

Gold Class in 2nd place was Bill Denne with a score of 30 point

Gold Class in 1st place was Mike (Winalot) Heighway with a score of 36 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.

Just Browsing.



So, I was walking in Nottingham and I saw that there was a "Muslim Bookstore. I was wondering what exactly was in a Muslim bookstore, so I went in.

As I was wandering around taking a look, the clerk stopped me and asked if he could help me. I imagine I didn't look like his normal clientele, so I asked, "Do you have a copy of Donald Trump's book on his U.S. Immigration Policy regarding Muslims and illegal Mexicans?"

The clerk said, "F--k off, get out and stay out!"

I said, "Yes, that's the one. Do you have it in paperback?"

(Pete Dudman)



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There are these two pissed geezers in a pub. One says to the other, 'Does your watch tell the time?'
The other replies, 'No, mate. You have to look at it.'

The good news is that the Security Centre project La Zenia has been resurrected. More than one million euros has been promised by the Alicante regional government to try and advance the works. The original builder on the project went bust. This would give Orihuela Costa its own emergency services resource and not have to rely on Torrevieja for ambulance and police services. Hopefully the Orihuela City Hall will soon allocate a budget for the staffing and fitting out.

A former PP councillor for the coast in Orihuela, José Antonio Anierte (photo), together with two other PP councillors - Antonio Rodríguez Murcia and Manuel Abadía, been charged with prevarication and fraud. It is alleged that between 2004 and 2008 invoices totalling approx. two million euros were paid to a number of suppliers/contractors - Colsur, Orihuela Costa Servicios Inmobiliarios, Orihuela UTE, Zaplana y Caselles e Intensilux, without contracts being issued. The prosecutor is asking for a four-year jail term for each of the accused and various fines, more than €100,000 in the case of Anierte. Regular readers will be aware that there are several other former PP councillors, including a former mayor, Monica Lorente, who are facing a whole raft of corruption and fraud charges.



Torrevieja City Council have launched a campaign to eradicate the Tiger mosquito. The City Council launched an awareness campaign reminding the public that 80% of outbreaks occur in private house areas and calls for public assistance in emptying any water containers etc.

There are around ten rescues every year in the mountains and hills around Orihuela. Hikers and climbers can suffer from a range of injuries - broken limbs being a common problem. If a walker is stranded, helicopters are not always available for search and rescue. Recently in a simulated rescue a drone was used to locate an 'injured' climber. The drone located the injured party and sent back a GPS reference to the rescue team. The drones also have thermal recognition equipment which can locate an accident victim at night. But the proliferation of drones can also be deadly dangerous. One Saturday in May, a Lufthansa Airbus 320, flying from Frankfurt to Bilbao, was forced to perform an "evasive manoeuvre" to avoid three drones. (The RAF guys just can't leave it alone, can they?) They were flying at an altitude of 900 metres when the plane was already in protected airspace and starting its descent.



It is illegal to fly drones inside the restricted air space surrounding Spanish airports, as well as flying drones higher than an altitude of 120 metres. This is not the first case of drones interfering with planes. In March an Air France plane had a very near miss with a drone when it was coming in to land at Paris Charles de Gaulle airport.

The lifeguard service in Torrevieja is budgeted for €571,000 annually. Successful bidders then have the contract for a three year period. However, it appears that the bid from the Red Cross has been rejected due to some errors in the bid submitted. This means that 70 plus seasonal workers will lose their jobs as an alternative company will now get the job. The CCOO union is creating merry-hell and wants the workers reinstated.

A new cash machine (ATM) has been placed next to the pharmacy in Los Altos, which is near to Restaurant Altomar and the Chinese todo. It is not yet operational.

Many of you will have seen the parades in Torrevieja - lots of floats, costumes, etc., but few of us were aware of the costs associated with these celebrations. However these came to light recently when the PP opposition in Torrevieja pointed out that the Greens/Socialist ruling council were not putting the various cost elements of the fiestas out to tender, something the Left accused the PP of when the PP ruled the city. It's not the squabbling that interests me here but what the various elements cost.

The case which was discussed during the council meeting was the Three Kings procession which took place in early January this year. The first item was the costumes; it seems these were rented for the day at a cost of €19,900. Then there were the floats, the rental cost of these coming to €23,232 whereas the boiled sweets, which were thrown to the children, cost €7,000. The provision of barriers and fencing cost an additional €4,600. This comes to almost €54,000 and it seems that additional €2,000 was set aside to pay the bands. I always thought they played for the honour! If you think that this is all very excessive for just one parade, remember, there are several parades every year. It seems the Three Kings' Parade in 2012 cost €90,000!

Hmmm. Maybe they were throwing Belgian chocolates to the kids!

I am sure most of you will recall the time when the Germans tourists used to put their towels on sun beds to reserve them and then walk away for breakfast or whatever. This practice dwindled a bit when the British started throwing the towels in the swimming pools. With the Spanish it is reserving space on the beach. This is very noticeable on the Torry beaches. They will put a couple of umbrellas up together with a couple of chairs early, then head off for breakfast/lunch or whatever. This is illegal.



In early September 2015, a 69-year-old tourist from Madrid put two sun umbrellas and a chair on the beach at Playa Cura.

He then went off "for a walk" he said. When he returned his beach furniture was gone, taken by the police. On this particular day, the police had filled up a lorry with unoccupied furniture seized on the beach. The man identified himself to the police to get his furniture back and was then issued with a €150 fine. (He refused to pay the fine but it was taken from his bank account anyway.) Presumably any of the others who went to the police to collect their chairs etc., were also fined. So, even if you go for a pee, leave someone with your stuff and don't try and reserve space on the beach before the permitted hours locally.

Last year three people who went swimming in the sea at Guardamar del Segura while the red flag was flying have been fined a total of €450. This year the Policia Local will be vigilant, particularly on the Torry beaches looking out for unauthorised fishing, illegal placement of deck chairs etc and taking animals onto the beaches.

The premises of an animal protection association in Orihuela, has been ransacked during a robbery. The thieves took the €600 in donated cash and all the medicines and vaccinations for 150 dogs and 80 cats have been lost as the fridge door was left open.

Paying the Local Politicians.

You will no doubt be delighted to hear that the salaries of the councillors and advisors in Orihuela come to around one million euros annually. €863,350 goes to the local politicians and another €137,350 goes to their two representatives on the provincial council in Alicante. The mayor, Emilio Bascañana (PP - photo), gave himself a 15% rise at the start of the legislature, thanks to the helpful vote of the Ciudadanos (Citizens) party. The deputy mayor gets €47,500 p.a. and the councillors for Education, Social Welfare and Sports, each get €44,000 p.a. while the councillors for Villages and Health each get €42,000 p.a. Then of course there are 12 consultants/advisors hired by the councillors. Their total annual remuneration comes to €323,400.



And of course there is the three Ciudadanos councillors, who each receive €17,500 for being 'cooperative' with the PP.

Three of the socialist PSOE councillors also receive €17,500 each while the other councillors just receive €2,400 p.a. for attendance at the plenary sessions.

Then there are the two small parties - Cambiemos Orihuela (Change Orihuela) and Foro Demócrata (Democratic Forum). These councillors can charge €100 every time they attend a meeting - about 36 meetings a year.

Several of the councillors do not spend a full day at their job. (A full day by the way appears to be 8:30am - 2pm)

They may spend the morning doing council work and the remainder of the day at their own private business or vice versa. These councillors will have their salary reduced to take account of this.

And then of course there are expenses. This is fixed at €5,000 per party plus another €2,000 per councillor per annum. Thus, the Popular Party receives €27,000 per year (11 councillors); €21,000 Socialist Party (8 councillors), Citizens €11,000 (3 councillors, Democratic Forum €7,000 (one councillor) and Change Orihuela €9,000 (two councillors).

None of the above information comes from the ruling PP's transparency website (which is about as transparent as a brick) but from the Cambiemos Orihuela website - <http://cambiemosorihuela.org/transparencia/>

It is in Spanish but is very informative and easily translates online.

Pass the Salt, Please!

The Salins Group (a French firm), which owns the salt lakes of Torrevieja -main holding sea salt Spain-, has begun to market all its salt salt under the international brand La Ballena, without distinguishing the denomination of origin in Torrevieja.

Most of the 600,000 tons produced on average p.a. in Torrevieja are intended to thaw and chemical industries. Only 100,000 tons are destined for the food industry, and table salt is a small part of the total, although its impact on the image of the consumer is much greater than that used in cured meats, PVC manufacturing, chemical industry, perfumery, soaps, tanned skin, melting or any of the 14,000 applications that can be given to this "white" harvest.

Hotels and retailers are not too happy with the removal of the town name, as the salt with the Torrevieja brand name has been going for two centuries. They are now putting pressure on the Salins Group to reintroduce it.



Football Players & Tax Fraud.

The tax fraud involving Lionel Messi of Barcelona FC and his father has received plenty of media coverage here in Spain. Messi sat with his father on the accused bench accused of defrauding the Treasury of 4.1 million € 'voluntarily' by not declaring the 10.2 million which he was paid for his image rights in 2007, 2008 and 2009. The paradox is in two of those years he obtained a rebate, when the Treasury gave Messi an €8,000 € rebate on his income tax for 2007 and 2009! Messi says he knows nothing about his financial arrangements and that the deception was down to his father, who manages his financial affairs. However the investigators visited the Messis on twenty occasions, which seems a bit excessive. (Photo, Messi and his father.)



The executive committee of Barcelona soccer club ratified a deal between the club lawyers and state prosecutors over the Neymar (photo) case. Under the

terms of the agreement, Barça would pay around €5 million for tax fraud in 2011 and 2013, when the club failed to pay more than €9 million in taxes by not declaring all the contracts involved in Neymar's transfer from Santos FC in Brazil. Josep Maria Bartomeu and Sandro Rosell, the club's current and former chairmen, would be acquitted of all charges after prosecutors had asked for prison terms of two to three months for the former and over seven years for the latter.

But the deal has already triggered criticism by those who feel that the club should not have to pay for the bad management of two individuals who themselves acted against former chairman Joan Laporta in 2010. The Neymar case was one of the scandals that triggered Rosell's departure from the club, especially after the price of the transfer escalated to nearly €100 million.



ROCAJUNA GOLF SOCIETY

Villamartin was the venue for Rocajuna's latest outing held on 2nd June. A good day was had by all on a glorious warm summer's day with the course being in good condition. Putting was made difficult with the greens having just been hollow tined, but we appreciate that hollow tining is necessary. The competition was a Team Game played in the Stableford format and was won by; Roy Sutherland, Hep Kinnear, Lynn McCormack and Alisdair McLean with a winning score of 108 points.

Nearest the pin on hole 6 was Tom McCormack,

Hole 9 was Tom Ryan

Hole 13 was Noel Geoghan, and

Hole 17 was Camillus Fitzpatrick.

All in all a great day, thanks to the committee for organizing the event, and to the Bar Domino staff for their hospitality and fine meal afterwards.

New members and guests are always welcome and if you want to play, our outings are always held on the first Thursday of each month. Alternatively if you want to join the Society you can contact Denis on 695934848.

Alisdair McLean

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

Letter from Killarney General Hospital.

Dear Mr Murphy,

We are pleased to inform you that the biopsy of the redness on your penis showed it was not cancerous. It was lipstick.

We deeply regret the amputation.

Yours, etc.

(Moira)

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My Stuff!

A Hooray-Henry opened the door of his BMW when suddenly a car came along and hit the door ripping it off completely. When the police arrived at the scene, he was complaining bitterly about the damage to his precious car. 'Officer, look what they've done to my Beeeeeemer!' he whined.

'You toffs are so materialistic, you make me sick!' retorted the officer. 'You're so worried about your stupid BMW that you didn't even notice that your left arm was ripped off!'

'Oh my gaaawd....' replied the Hooray, finally noticing the bloody stump where his left arm once was. 'My Rolex!'

Kath & Jules

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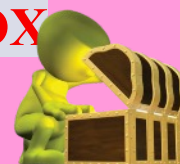
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ROAST POTATOES

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Special Order.

A trucker who has been on the road for two months stops at a brothel on the Spanish/French border. He walks straight up to the Madam, drops €500 and says, 'I want your ugliest woman and a cheese and onion sandwich!' The madam is astonished. 'But sir, for that kind of money you could have one of my prettiest ladies and a three-course meal.'

The trucker replies, 'Listen darling, I'm not horny - I'm just homesick.'



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

Snakes Alive!

I have noticed in the local Spanish press an increased incidence of snakes being sighted by the general public in the Torrevieja and Elche areas. The snake in question is the Montpellier snake (photo), one of the five poisonous snakes in Spain. Fortunately it is not one of the more dangerous species as its fangs are situated towards the rear of its mouth. Although it is non aggressive and can grow up to six feet, if you are stupid enough to pick it up, it will probably bite you and the bite although not deadly can be very painful. They, like most snakes, prefer to hunt in dry stony and rocky ground where they find lizards. In at least two occasions recently the snakes were seen in builders rubble, an environment they seem to enjoy.

The warm weather has I am sure In Ibiza the authorities there are a plague of snakes by introducing Department has admitted it is 'nearly are threatening to wipe out the indigenous I am sure that there are plenty of reptiles so take care when walking your dog.



encouraged their breeding and proliferation. attempting to control what they describe as hundred of snake-traps. The Environment impossible' to get rid of the snakes which fauna.

in the various barrancos in the Costa area, Curious dogs often get bitten on the nose.

If you are bitten by any venomous snake, remain calm and seek medical attention immediately. Make an emergency call on your mobile, tel No 112 and try to keep the bite area well below the position of the heart.

A la Carte?

A man and his wife were having sex one night in their bedroom. Their little boy opens the door and says, 'Daddy, what are you doing to mama?' Then the daddy says 'Making you a little sister.' And then the boy replies, 'Hell no. Do it doggy style, I want a puppy!'

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Helping the Homeless & the Needy.

This charity, which is almost totally manned by British and Irish volunteers, urgently requires your assistance and contributions.

FOOD DONATION BOXES WILL BE PLACED IN MACKLIN'S WELCOME INN IN VIA PARK III AND JILLY'S BAR IN LAGO JARDIN II.

When you do your food shopping, can I urge you to please buy an extra tin or jar of food for the charity and drop it off at one of these bars. Donations of 'pre-cooked' food, such as Meatballs (albondigas), Lentils (Lentegas), Chickpeas (Garbanzos), Vegetables (Verduras) etc., are preferable. Many of the recipients would be unable to afford to pay costly electricity or gas charges for long cooking periods for many of these foods, so pre-cooked foods are preferable.

But other than food, the charity also needs plastic razors, shaving foam, shampoo & shower gel, - even half bottles, soap, etc. The homeless are encouraged to keep clean and to shower in the Reach Out premises.

www.reachouttorrevieja.com

<https://www.facebook.com/reachouttorrevieja/?fref=ts>

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DOORS! PORCHES!

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.

Letting Him Have It!

A young ventriloquist is touring Norway and puts on a show in a small fishing town. With his dummy on his knee, he starts going through his usual dumb blonde jokes.

Suddenly, a blonde woman in the fourth row stands on her chair and starts shouting, "I've heard enough of your stupid blonde jokes."

What makes you think you can stereotype Norwegian blonde women that way? What does the colour of a woman's hair have to do with her worth as a human being? Its men like you who keep women like me from being respected at work and in the community, and from reaching our full potential as people. Its people like you that make others think that all blondes are dumb! You and your kind continue to perpetuate discrimination against not only blondes, but women in general, pathetically all in the name of humour!"

The embarrassed ventriloquist begins to apologize, and the blonde interrupts yelling, "You stay out of this! I'm talking to that little shit on your lap." (Moira)



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Nan.

My nan told me her friend had collapsed outside Marks & Spencers.
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Peter Kay

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Homeopathy in Spain gets the Thumbs Down!

The University of Barcelona has decreed the end of its controversial master's degree in homeopathy because of the "lack of a scientific basis" according to sources at the institution. The postgraduate course was taught since 2004 at a price of €6,940, although the Spanish Ministry of Health itself has stated that "Homeopathy has not proven effective in any indication or specific clinical situation." The University of Barcelona, considered the best of Spain by several international rankings, made the decision some months ago.

Centres such as the University of Valencia and the National University of Distance Education still offer postgraduate courses on homeopathy. The University of Cordoba cancelled its courses in 2013 and Sevilla suspended their master's degree in 2009. The University of Zaragoza distanced himself from the Chair of Homeopathy Boiron in 2014, after five years of cooperation.

Homeopathy is a pseudo science invented by German physician Samuel Hahnemann in 1796. It is based on applying extremely small doses, (sometimes undetectable in the water it is diluted with), substances that produce the same symptoms as the disease to be cured. In more than two centuries of medical history, homeopathy has not proven to be more effective than a dose of sugar water. If cures are effected it is believed that many ailments disappear on their own or as with the placebo effect, any substance can often produce a favourable effect on a patient. Despite its invalidity, turnover in Spain of homeopathic products, led by the French multinational Boiron, reached 60 million euros in 2011, according to the University of Zaragoza. (El Pais)

*I always keep a supply of stimulants handy in case I see a snake, which I also keep handy.
W.C. Fields*



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My mother was the worst cook. Even I knew you didn't add fabric softener to meat loaf.
She once made carrot cake but didn't grate the carrot.

Rita Rudner

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The Good News.

An attractive secretary walks into her boss's office and announces that she has some good news and some bad news. Harassed, the boss angrily snaps, 'Look, I haven't got much time today, just tell me the good news.' 'Okay then,' says the secretary, 'the good news is that you're not shooting blanks.'

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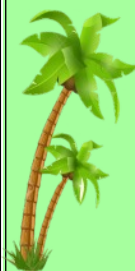


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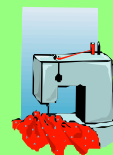
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Too Stupid for Words!

- A guy goes into a pet shop and asks for a wasp. The owner tells him they don't sell wasps, to which the man says, 'Well, you've got one in the window.'
- Two peanuts walking down the road. One's assaulted.
- Two flies were on a toilet seat. One got pissed off.
- Two fat blokes in a bar, one says 'Your round.' The other ones says, 'So are you, you fat bastard.'

The Phoenix Golf Society.

The venue on June 19th was the Alenda Golf Complex. We played for the John Gillisham Trophy, an annual event, and as usual the course was in a perfect condition. John Bradbeer came over from the UK to play with us for the trophy. We also had another new member join us, Adrian Whitaker. Everybody enjoyed the day and the evening.

The overall winner: Dave Cahill.

Nearest the pin:

Mick Slater

Brian Archer

Dave Cahill.

Pearl Gillisham came over to present the Trophy to our winner Dave Cahill.

Once again back to the Phoenix Bar for great food which was prepared by Kay. Many thanks Kay.

Our next outing is on the 17th July at the Roda Golf complex.



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Karaoke From 9pm Every Wednesday & Sat
Quiz, Play Your Cards Right, followed by
Karaoke From 7:30pm Every Sunday

I don't like magic, because I try to figure out how it's done, and I get frustrated. Just like porn videos.

Garry Shandling

Foreign Contributors to Social Security in Spain.

Social Security gained 47,926 foreign affiliates/payers in May, the fourth monthly increase, to take the total to 1,731,018, most from Rumania, Italy and the United Kingdom. At the end of May, nearly 60% of registered foreign earners were from outside the EU (999,945) and the rest (731,073) from member countries.

Of the nearly a million from outside the EU the figures breakdown as follows:

217,532 were from Morocco, 94,914 were from China, 69,191 workers from Ecuador, 53,455 from Bolivia, Colombia 52,671, Ukraine 40,032, Paraguay 34,082, Peru 30,414, Pakistan 30,131 and Argentina 29,606.

Inside the EU the numbers of foreigners were; Romania 313,361, Italy 83,114, Britain 62,303, followed by the Bulgarians and Portuguese with 57,538 and 43,250.

Foreign registered workers split down by region were:

Cataluña and Madrid - 43% of the total with 399,107 and 346,128 respectively, then Andalucía with 228,921 affiliates, Valencia Community 179,494, Baleares 89,281 and Murcia 84,576.

Ikea Fridge Recall.

Ikea is withdrawing from sale in Spain their fridges with the Frostfri brand because of the risk of electric shocks. The models were sold and called for repair between 1 November 2015 and 20 February 2016. The panel behind the freezer top door can come free and can make contact with the current. Engineers are required to make a home visit to repair the problem.



Quick as a Flash.

A flash geezer in a Porsche bombed through a quiet village at 90 miles an hour. At the other side of town he was stopped by the local bobby who asked him if he hadn't seen the 'Dead Slow,' sign when he came in. 'Of course I did,' said the flash bloke, 'but I thought it referred to the villagers.'

DRIPS 'N' LEAKS.

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Ashes to Ashes....

A guy goes to a girl's house for the first time, and she shows him into the living room. She excuses herself to go to the kitchen to make them a few drinks, and as he's standing there alone, he notices a cute little vase on the mantelpiece. He picks it up and as he's looking at it, she walks back in.

'What's this?' he asks.

'Oh,' she says, 'my father's ashes are in there.'

'Ooops....I..... Don't know what to say,' says the guy.

'Yeah I know, it's shocking,' says the girl. 'He's too lazy to go to the kitchen to get an ashtray.'

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Say It With Flowers!

One afternoon this young woman called on her neighbour for a chat. She walked in and said, 'You look depressed.'

'You bet I am,' replied the neighbour. 'Look what my bloody husband sent me - six dozen roses! Now I'm going to have to spend the entire weekend flat on my back with my legs open.'

'Don't be silly,' said the first woman, 'why don't you just use a vase?'

MODELO 720

The Spanish Tax Agency has released information on how the modelo or form 720 has uncovered undeclared assets abroad.

The Tax Agency recovered 840 million € after inspecting the 720 forms which obliges the taxpayer to declare interests overseas.

Since 2013, when this obligation came into force, the Spaniards have revealed assets and interests to the value of 141 billion €.

Director of the Agency, Santiago Menéndez, recalled this week a group of 7,000 taxpayers had not used the 720 or had left out data. The Treasury has already established sanctions of as much as 150% of the amount defrauded served on 436 of those citizens.

The Agency has given examples, without giving names, on the different types of tax evader.

Case 1: This taxpayer failed to present the 720 and the inspectors from the Tax Agency found bank accounts and other financial products in Portugal for more than 440,000 €. The taxpayer was unable to accredit at least half of the amount which had been accumulating during the years he lived outside Spain. Neither had he declared in Portugal. The Agency considered this quantity was unjustified patrimonial gain to integrate it into the base tax rate. So, after the inspection, they presented an act of liquidation for €120,000 of amount and interest, adding to the corresponding sanction.

Case 2: This taxpayer also failed to present the form 720. The customs agents in the Tax Agency discovered he was trying to take 50,000 € across the frontier. The taxpayer failed to explain the source of the money and the Treasury noted unjustified patrimonial gain. During their investigation the inspectors discovered other assets and money in three companies in Costa Rica and the constitution of another society in Spain to launder money. The Treasury presented an act for liquidation for more than 300,000 € quantity and interests, added to that the 150% percent of the defrauded amount.

Case 3: The Tax Agency revised information provided by the taxpayer for assets abroad and detected the existence of numerous deposits in banks abroad, and his declaration only mentioned his real estate assets. After the investigation the Treasury detected unjustified gains of more than 200,000 € and presented an act for liquidation for more than 100,000 € of amount and interests.

(Note: The above is not a very good translation. When the author used the word ‘patrimony’ or similar, they meant ‘wealth’ and not inherited wealth from one’s father, which is the correct usage of the term. Mick)

The Period.

The kindergarten class had a homework assignment to find out about something exciting and relate it to the class the next day. When the time came for the little kids to give their reports, the teacher was calling on them one at a time. She was reluctant to call upon little Johnnie, knowing that he sometimes could be a bit crude. But eventually his turn came.

Little Johnnie walked up to the front of the class, and with a piece of chalk, made a small white dot on the blackboard, then sat back down. Well the teacher couldn’t figure out what Johnnie had in mind for his report, so she asked him what that was.

‘It’s a period,’ reported Johnnie. ‘Well I can see that,’ she said, ‘but what is so exciting about a period?’

‘Damned if I know,’ said Johnnie, ‘but this morning my sister said she missed one. Then Daddy had a heart attack, Mommy fainted and the man next door shot himself.’

Case 4: A citizen who presented the form 720 in 2013 declared he had deposited in Switzerland more than 700,000 €. After investigation the Agency concluded he should have declared the year before as in 2012 his Swiss bank account held more than 650,000 €. The taxpayer closed that account in 2013 and passed the balance to another, also in Switzerland.

This same taxpayer had obtained the fiscal amnesty in 2012 when declared 120,000 € in Switzerland. The investigation by the Tax Agency concluded with an act of inspection of 530,000 € (the difference between the 650,000 € in his account and the 120,000 € for the amnesty). Finally the Treasury presented an act of liquidation for more than 300,000 € amount and interests, to which the sanction had to be added.

Case 5: The Tax Agency detected a Spanish taxpayer who had shares in an Argentinean company worth over 660,000 € and had failed to submit the form 720. After the start of the inspection, the taxpayer presented an extemporaneous (out of time) declaration. The citizen was unable to name the source of the money or the providence of the money placed in the Argentinean Company. The inspection concluded an unjustified patrimony of 856,000 €. They presented an act of liquidation for 533,000 € of amount and interests without sanction.

Case 6: The Treasury was investigating a taxpayer with a long fraudulent history, with previous condemnations for tax evasion. This citizen pretended he lived abroad. The inspection realised in 2014 which combed several of his companies in Spain and needed rogatory requests from different countries. The investigation uncovered a grand framework of societies abroad. They also revealed several operations of real sales and fictitious to simulate a position of insolvency to whisk away payments to third parties. Of course, no modelo 720 had been presented. The Treasury concluded that the suspect had an unjustified patrimony of more than six million €. The Tax Agency liquidated 3.5 million in quotas and interest and when the sanction is fixed it could be the famous 150% of that defrauded. (Typically Spanish)



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Getting' In!

A man was trying to get into a town-centre pub, but the doorman stopped him saying, 'Sorry mate, you can't get in here unless you're wearing a tie.' The man said, 'Okay, I'll be right back,' and popped back to his car to find something to use. All he could find, sadly, was a set of jump leads, so he tied them around his neck, went back and asked, 'How's this?' 'Well,' replied the doorman doubtfully, 'Okay, I guess that'll do, but I'm warning you now, don't start anything.'

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Ciggies!

Cigarette sales in the province of Alicante rose last year. 119 million packets of cigarettes were sold during 2015. This was up 1.5 million packs on the previous year. The province is the fourth place in terms of cigarette consumption, coming after Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia. However, bars and tobacconists are still far from the figures of 2006, year in which entered into force the first anti-smoking law. Then the alicantinos consumed more than 257 million packs. "Until 2013 sales figures have been plummeting and since then seems to begin to recover," says Fernando Molina, spokesman for the provincial Association of Tobacconists. However, not all the tobacco sold in the province is

consumed here. "Up to 15% of cigarette packs are acquired by foreigners who carry them to their countries to sell or smoke." 84% of the cost of a packet goes to the state.

Meanwhile, hospital admissions for childhood asthma have been reduced by almost half in the province since the first anti-smoking law in January 2006. And, according to experts, passive smokers are those who have benefited most from the tightening of smoking regulations. According to INE data, last year there were 123 hospital admissions for asthma in children under 19 years in hospitals in



"That's what I like best about smoking—it gets me out in the fresh air a couple times a day."

the province. In 2006 there were 227. Regarding the cases of lung cancer, directly attributed to smoking, specialists like Bartomeu Massutti, head of Oncology General Hospital of Alicante, indicated that we still have to wait years to see the impact that anti-smoking laws will have on the disease.

Tobacconists believe that 10% of all tobacco sold in Spain is contraband. A major problem with contraband cigarettes is that there is no control over their manufacture and it is likely to be more dangerous than the real stuff. Diseased tobacco leaves and unknown additives - often toxic, suitable only for fertiliser, are often used in the manufacture of the copies.



"If you decide to go back to smoking, Walter, I won't object."

A young man studying at university sent this SMS to his father: *Dear dad, no mon, no fun, your son.*
The father replied: *Dear son, too bad, so sad, your dad.*

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Turn off Jeremy Kyle and the soap repeats and come along!

Getting the Chop!

A huge guy walks into a bar in Playa Flamenca, approaches a little guy sitting at the bar and karate chops him in the back. When the little guy gets up, the huge guy says, 'That was a karate chop from Korea.'

A little later, the huge guy walks back over to the little guy and chops him in the back again. The big guy says, 'That was a karate chop from China.'

The little guy leaves the bar, comes back and hits the huge guy on the back. The huge guy lies unconscious on the floor. The little guy tells the bartender, 'Tell him that was a crowbar from Leroy Merlin.'

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Fixed Rate Mortgages.

Fixed-rate mortgages have become the new battleground in the Spanish financial sector. The need for the institutions to improve their short-term profitability has led to a number of banks betting on these types of loans, which they justify to customers by charging a higher interest right now in exchange for the promise of that will remain stable when the euribor begins to rebound.

During the last year the market share of such mortgages has doubled in the whole country, rising from 6.8% reached in March 2015, which marked 12.4% in the same month this year, according to data from the National Statistics Institute.

In any case, not all entities are betting the same way with the fixed rate. While some, like Bankia, say they just contract 5% of their mortgages under this fixed-rate system, others such as Sabadell recognize that now this type of mortgage exceeds 50% of the mortgages in areas such as Alicante. "It is an opportunity for both parties. It is clear that we benefit but also the customers, they will never have such low fixed rates as current and can keep for a lifetime of loans."



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UNDER THE SEA.

Microsoft and Facebook have announced they are to lay a latest-generation submarine cable under the Atlantic to improve internet connections between the United States and Europe. The two giant tech companies say the cable will provide significantly faster online speeds, as well as better cloud computing services. Dubbed "Marea," the cable will have a capacity of around 160 terabytes per second, 16 million times faster than a domestic connection, making the transatlantic cable the fastest broadband on the planet. Its eight pairs of fibers will connect the 6,600 kilometres between a North Virginia data centre, and the Spanish province of Bizkaia, in the Basque Country, from where it will be distributed to other centres in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. The project will be operated by Telxius, a new infrastructure company set up by Spain's leading telecom's operator, Telefónica, and that could invest in the company that owns the cable, say sources there.

Microsoft will use the new cable to improve its cloud-based services such as Azure, as well as Xbox, Skype and Office.

Facebook's vice president of network technology, said his company "was always evaluating new technologies and systems to provide the best connectivity possible."

Facebook and Microsoft are working with Telxius to benefit from Telefónica's experience and know-how with underwater cables. The company will operate and manage the system and will be able to sell capacity as part of its wholesale infrastructure business.

SPANISH WINE.

Spain is the top exporter of wine in the world. In 2014, Spain exported 22.8 million hectolitres with the majority of it going to France. Not only is Spain a top exporter, but in 2014 it was the third largest producer of wine, behind France (1) and Italy (2) with 42 million hectolitres produced. While everyone thinks of Rioja when they think of Spanish wine, the top area for volume is actually Castille-La Mancha near the capital of Madrid. Many Spanish restaurants will have a La Mancha red as the house wine. Personally I find that most of the La Mancha reds are palatable, much more so than their white or rose wines.

Spain has 78 sub-regions of wine across 17 provinces of the country, including the Balearic Islands and the Canary Islands. They are classified as Denominación de Origen (DO) and Denominación de Origen Calificada (DOC). Both denote wineries meet stringent requirements to produce wine, with the DOC designation being the highest quality. Currently only two regions have met DOC requirement in Spain, Rioja and Priorat. In Catalonia, it is referred to as DOQ Priorat due to the Catalan language spelling and pronunciation.

Wine has been produced in Spain since the first century AD. The Roman historian Pliny the elder raved about wines made from the area known today as Alella, which is 20 minutes from Barcelona. Another Roman, Ovid, noted the most popular wine in Rome (from Spain of course) known as Saguntum, was only good for getting your mistress drunk!

I remember Billy Wilder opening a bottle of wine. As he strained at the cork, he said, '45 years of jerking-off and I still don't have a muscle in my hand.'

Frederic Raphael



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Magic Sandals!

A married couple were on holiday in Jamaica . They were touring around the market-place looking at the goods and such, when they passed a small sandal shop.

From inside they heard the shopkeeper with a Jamaican accent say, 'You foreigners! Come in. Come into my humble shop.'

So the married couple walked in.

The Jamaican said to them, 'I 'ave some special sandals I tink you would be interested in. Dey makes you wild at sex.'

Well, the wife was really interested in buying the sandals after what the

man claimed, but her husband felt he really didn't need them,

being the Sex God that he was.

The husband asked the man,

'How could sandals make you a sex freak?'

The Jamaican replied, 'Just try dem on, Mon.'

Well, the husband, after some badgering from his wife, finally gave in and tried them on.

As soon as he slipped them onto his feet, he got this wild look in his eyes, something his wife hadn't seen before!!

In the blink of an eye, the husband grabbed the Jamaican, bent him over the table, yanked down his pants, ripped down his own pants, and grabbed a firm hold of the Jamaican's thighs.

The Jamaican began screaming: 'You got dem on de wrong feet!'

Moira

Idiot of the Month.

A criminal court in late May, accused a young man of sneaking in through the window of a bungalow in El Campello near Alicante City and getting into bed with the owner, who was sleeping. According to the indictment, she awoke to note that something brushed her thighs and, at first, thought it was her cat albeit a great big hairy-assed



one. But when she noticed a mobile phone that was not hers she realized the situation and began to cry. The incident occurred at five in the morning of July 30, 2014 in El Campello and yes, it has taken this long to get to court. The defendant alleged

that he was returning from holiday and was to stay with a friend that night. According to his version, after a phone call arranging his stay, when he got to the area, he climbed into the wrong property. When the woman began to scream, (it seems her husband was also in the same bed) so they chased the tired intruder out the window. However, he sprained his ankle in the fall and was easily restrained by the neighbours. The unfortunate man presented a witness at the trial who confirmed that he was supposed to be staying in her property. The prosecutor asks for penalties totaling two years and one month in prison for burglary and sexual abuse.

And now onto France. When two armed men entered the McDonald's in Besancon, a city in eastern France near the Switzerland border, they found about 40 people dining on the usual McDonald's fodder. But here's what they didn't know: Among the customers were 11 off-duty members of the French paramilitary special forces, soldiers who specialize in hostage situations. As the men burst into the restaurant late on a Sunday night, they fired a warning shot and allegedly ransacked the cash register. The special forces guys just waited. They wanted to avoid drawing their guns, officials told the Telegraph, to prevent any collateral damage. With his loot in hand, about €2,020 according to media sources, one of the robbers rushed toward the door, but his getaway was quickly interrupted. Mid-escape, he tripped. Then the special forces pounced. When his partner attempted to escape, the military officers intervened again and demanded the second alleged robber drop his weapon. He refused, according to the newspaper, and the officers shot him in the stomach.

"During the hold-up, the gendarmes didn't do anything," local prosecutor Edwige Roux-Morizot told the Telegraph, referring to the elite French special forces unit. "It was out of the question to use their weapons, as this would have created difficulties and could have placed many people's lives in danger." The two robbery suspects, both in their early 20s, were taken to a local hospital, according to news reports. Roux-Morizot told the Telegraph they face multiple charges, including



armed robbery. The special forces officers belong to the Groupe d'Intervention de la Gendarmerie Nationale, also known as the GIGN (photo).

The unit was created in the aftermath of the hostage situation at the 1972 Olympic games in Munich, when Israeli Olympians were held against their will and eventually murdered.

A Guardia Civil is under investigation for trying to poison two fellow agents in La Villa Joyosa (Alicante). The duty court in La Villa Joyosa has sent to prison the official who is accused of entering the house of female companion, of whom he was obsessed, removed her underwear and placed an alleged toxic liquid in her family's food. The woman is married to another Guardia Civil and they have a three year old son.

But as we know 'to err' may be human, but to really f*ck things up takes a politician. Look at David Cameron. As part of the current general election political campaign in Spain, the Partido Popular (PP) launched a poster campaign in the Basque Region. Now the PP don't do too well here but



the poster made many chuckle. As you can see from this copy of it, it shows the current PM Rajoy, with the Euskadi (Basque) word 'Alde.' Now if you use this word with other words it can mean 'in favour of' or 'next to.' However, when the word is used on its own, it means 'Get out of here!'

But now onto our friends in Germany. Here the fiercely anti-immigrant party, the AfD - Alternative for Germany, used a new poster featuring a handsome couple to encourage Germans to join the party. The party is very anti what it sees as Eastern European scroungers who are milking the German welfare state. The new poster shows two smiling young people dressed in blue - the party's colour - with their thumbs up in an apparent endorsement of the slogan "Join us! Change politics!" But it quickly emerged that the young folk were not German at all, but former Miss Romania, Carla Caucean, and male model Adi Ene, also from Romania. Cue lots of red faces at AfD and major revision of their Facebook page.



A child from Villena, Alicante, was visiting the local swimming pool after school for a relaxing swim. When the boy opened up his towel he saw 500 and 200 € notes flying into the air. The Local Police had to recover the notes which amounted to €3,700. The money had been hidden by his father in the towel a year ago.

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Roseanne

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BREXIT - SO WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

During the British referendum campaign, PM Cameron stated that if the public voted for Brexit he would immediately trigger the Article 50 procedure. Then, perhaps surprised by the eventual vote, he decided to resign within the next few months and leave the exit procedure to his successor. This was of course a very wise decision. The top Brexit campaigners had requested that he remain as PM to handle the exit procedure but of course that was a poisoned chalice and after making a massive blunder in calling the referendum, Cameron was not about to make another. So nothing will be done until a new PM is elected.

So what is Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty?

This is the only formal and legal route to exit the EU. It lays down the voting rules for deciding how to part ways, and sets a two-year deadline on talks that can only be extended by a unanimous decision of the other 27 EU countries.

But Article 50 has nothing to do with trade talks and such. It deals purely with the leave mechanism and it provides that the terms on which Britain's exit must be agreed by a majority of the EU's other 27 members, without a British vote. There may be other ways to leave the union. Some advocate changing the UK law by repealing the 1972 European Communities Act to unilaterally end Britain's obligations to the EU or by scrapping the supremacy of the European Court of Justice. These measures would be against international law and could be overturned in a British court. Also, any such action would be seen as a hostile act by the union and EU lawyers have already drawn up contingency plans of how they could pressurise the UK into starting the Article 50 procedure.

Negotiating a New Trade Deal.

It is highly unlikely that a new trade deal with the EU can be completed in a couple of years as it would still need the unanimous agreement of all 27 countries, as well as ratification by national parliaments. Although Brexiters want to avoid all this by negotiating informally, diplomats in Brussels are clear that the other 27 countries will refuse to talk unless Article 50 is invoked. The question is how generous the other 27 countries will be. And the answer is not very. Remember, the other countries have interpreted the Brexit vote as a hammerblow to European unity. They will be in no mood to be generous and why should they be.

The priority for the rest of the EU will be to make sure that nobody follows Britain's example. That precludes giving Britain a good deal. Leavers have retorted that, because Britain imports more from the EU than it sells to it, the other countries must offer a generous free-trade deal. But this betrays a misunderstanding of both EU politics and trade talks. The EU cannot let Britain have full access to the single market without its obligations lest others ask for similar treatment.

(The above article was sourced from various articles in the Financial Times and The Economist)

Fill 'er Up!

A petrol station owner in Dublin was trying to increase his sales, so he put up a sign that read, 'Free Sex with Fill-Up!' Paddy pulled in, filled his tank and asked for his free sex. The owner told him to pick a number from 1 to 10. If he guessed correctly, he would get his free sex.

Paddy guessed 8, and the proprietor said, "You were close. The number was 7. Sorry. No sex this time."

A week later, Paddy, along with his friend Mick, pulled in for another fill-up. Again he asked for his free sex. The proprietor again gave him the same story, and asked him to guess the correct number.

Paddy guessed 2. The proprietor said, "Sorry, it was 3. You were close, but no free sex this time."

As they were driving away, Mick said to Paddy, "I think that game is rigged and he doesn't really give away free sex at all."

Paddy replied, "No, no, it's genuine enough Mick. My wife won twice last week."

In practice the EU will offer Britain only two possible deals. The first is to join Norway in the European Economic Area. This would preserve full access to the single market. But, like Norway, Britain would have to make a hefty contribution to the EU budget (Norway pays about 85% as much as Britain per head!), observe all EU single-market regulations with no say in making them and, crucially, accept free movement of people from the EU. It is hard to imagine a post-Brexit government accepting this. The second is a free-trade deal like the EU's with Canada. Yet this does not cover all trade, does not eliminate non-tariff barriers, excludes most financial services and would take years to agree.

Britain's other option is to revert to trading with the EU as America, China and India do, under normal World Trade Organisation rules. But most economists say this would make the economic damage from Brexit worse. It would bring back mutual tariffs on cars, pharmaceuticals, food and fish. It would reinstate many non-tariff barriers. And it would exclude most services, including financial services. The economic and trade problems arising from Brexit will dominate British politics for years to come.

But of course there are a host of other problems now arising out of the referendum result. Will London maintain its position as a leading financial centre?

Scotland and Northern Ireland voted to remain, so will the result encourage them to seek a way of leaving GB? Although Britain remains part of NATO, what will be the effect of Brexit be on defence spending? The exit vote would slow down investment by British and overseas companies. What will be the position of EU citizens now resident in Britain and what will happen to British citizens now resident in the EU? Will, as has been predicted, European air travel for Brit's increase by some 40%?

The ramifications of Brexit are enormous and will effect everything from EU football players in the UK to the redesign of your passport.

As it is going to be at least two years before Britain leaves the EU, the uncertainty is going to continue. The currency markets, the stock markets and the property markets all hate uncertainty, so you can now expect a long period of instability.

If you are a British expat already living in Spain note the words of Simon Manley, the British Ambassador to Spain, who on June 25th said 'there is no immediate change. You still have exactly the same rights. You can still live and work here, travel back and forth in the same way, and access Spanish healthcare and other public services just as before. There is no change to your residency status, nor any need for visas for travel to other EU countries, and you don't need to change your passport. Your pension rights continue.'

However, he did not say what will happen after Britain actually leaves the EU. Watch these columns for more news and information on the issues.



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Lime Bar Fishing Sunbathing Club

Well summer is here. 40° on the bank with a breeze like standing in front of a hair dryer. Had to use a parasol and sun cream this month. Lovely!

This month's match was held at Bigastro. I have no idea where all the water is coming from as it hasn't rained for ages and the reservoirs are not overflowing! The river was very high and the water was steaming through and full of the usual debris from upstream. It's nice to have bit of flow but this was ridiculous. If you were unlucky enough to draw a narrow stretch you had to fish tight to the bank or the regular rafts of crap would take your tackle away. Although we had another good turnout with 15 anglers on the bank, it was another day when the fish weren't playing ball and unfortunately we had 7 blanks and a few anglers only caught 1 fish. Surprisingly, the "Shropshire Lad" didn't win this month; he came 2nd with 4.2 kilos to "3 rods" 5.3 kilos. This match also counted towards their knockout comp, so "3 Rods" is also through to the final. The other semi final is between "Sweeney" and me. We haven't fished it yet, but after thrashing "Anti Social" last month I am expecting to be on the receiving end this time.

At the June bun fight we decided to clear the pegs at the Eden but as we are tight on space, I will let you know if we do anything stupid next month!

Argos trip 14 – 16th June – penned by the roving reporter "Sweeney"

At 07.00 the 7 "sunbathers" assembled at the dartboard roundabout in a 4-car convoy. "3 rods" led the way followed by "just John" & myself, "Fagin" & "Daffy" and tail end charlies were "snake charmer" & "fag eyes" in his new (16 year old) fishing car. This trip, "just John" stuck close to the "red Ferrari" in front, so the dulcet tones of his Satnav telling him "turn around at the next opportunity" wasn't required. What a disappointment! Somehow "Fagin" contrived to miss the Murcia turning and took the scenic route again with "fag eyes" following his lead. He realised his mistake when he saw a sign for Pedrera....

Swim feeders hit the water at about 08.45, but about an hour later for the "lost" foursome. There were a lot of small fish actively leaping out of the water and all anglers (except snake charmer who could only lose them) caught a mixture of common carp, mirrors & some nice barbel (see photo). "Daffy" lost more fish than he caught (he lost 12 this time), proving that his rubber hooks don't work. "3 rods" entered the water on multiple occasions again, but whether all this splashing around was to catch his rod, just cooling down or a devious way of cheating we don't know, but he did land most fish again and a large family of ducks tried to adopt him. "Fag eyes" received a yellow card and a stern warning (full of expletives) for his poor use of a bite alarm that was on constant "annoy"! It must have used 2 sets of batteries.

It was a hot day but we fished until 17.00 then off to the hotel for aperitifs and a much needed shower. After deciphering the menu, a good meal was had by all followed by 2 or 3 more drinks. After a hard tiring day, we relaxed whilst "snake charmer" entertained us again with his amusing anecdotes. Everyone was ready to hit the hay by 23.00 but eyebrows were raised when "Fagin" & "3 rods" informed us that they must have the honeymoon suite. The 2 single beds had been pushed together and there were champagne glasses on the table. We knew you were close, but steady boys, you'll be getting a reputation.

At 06.00 Wed morning, "just John" was kick starting his day by having a breath of fresh air (a fag) when he noticed "fag eyes" on the adjoining balcony.... wearing colourful pyjamas! That woke him up.

After a 20-minute breakfast at 07.00, we were all on the bank by 07.45. All caught, albeit some a lot more than others, with again a good mix of common, mirrors & barbel. "Daffy" struggled to keep fish on his hook again, but his 1st fish was worth the wait as he landed a 4lb carp that was to be the best of the day. "Snake charmer's" tactic of using dog biscuits as bait eventually bore fruit when he landed a carp (not the dogfish he wanted). My catch rate was similar to "3 rods" until about lunchtime when I lost 7 consecutive fish and the air filled with expletives. "3Rods" eventually won the day again with 23 fish.

The evening meal provided some amusement following a prolonged deciphering of the menu with the aid of a borrowed dictionary. The beef cheeks and turkey steaks were excellent but "3 rods" had chosen a meal called "mess of black pudding, potato and mushroom". It was just that, a mess! It tasted good but looked hellish. Another long, hot and hard day saw 4 of the party in bed by 22.00 while the other 3 put more fluid into their system and watched a bit of the Euro 2016 football.

One casualty of the hot weather was "just John's" McVities Jaffa Cakes (no rubbish there then). In an effort to harden his melted chocolate, he put the packet directly under the aircon unit in the bedroom. This definitely worked but unfortunately, the chocolate welded together to form an orange chocolate log!

As Thursday was the last day, breakfast was quick and we were all on the bank by 07.30 with 4 of us trying a different part of the lake. Again everyone caught, but the numbers were down on the previous 2 days. After another excellent outing to Argos, at midday we departed back to the real world.

Next meeting bun fight is at The Lime Bar @ 17.00 Mon 4th July, (Independence Day).

Fishy fingers!
The Ghost.





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A Glass of Milk before Bed? Make it Night Milk.

Drinking cow's milk produced at night may be a treatment for anxiety and insomnia, suggests an animal study in the Journal of Medicinal Food.

A glass of milk at bedtime has long been touted as a sleep aid. But the study found that milk collected at night, or night milk, had enhanced sedative effects in mice compared with milk produced during the day. Night milk significantly decreased the rodents' physical activity, balance and coordination and increased sleep time compared with day milk, the research showed.

Mice fed night milk were more inclined to explore open spaces, an indication of reduced anxiety that was comparable to the effects from consuming diazepam, a drug commonly used to treat anxiety in people, the researchers said.

Night milk is rich in tryptophan, a sleep-inducing compound, and melatonin, a hormone that regulates the sleep-wake cycle, the study said.

Researchers in South Korea gave lab mice varying doses of dried milk powder made from cow's milk collected during the day or night and mixed with distilled water. Analysis of the powders showed the night milk contained 24% more tryptophan and nearly 10 times as much melatonin as the day milk. Two groups of control mice received either injections of diazepam or plain drinking water.

The mice underwent a series of tests about an hour after treatments. Mice that got night milk were significantly less active than either the mice fed day milk or water-fed controls. Diazepam-treated mice were the least active. Balance and coordination were measured by the number of falls from a rotating bar during a 20-minute period: Mice fed night milk on average fell four to five times, about twice as often as mice given day milk. Diazepam-treated controls fell about nine times, while the water-fed controls fell twice.

A separate experiment done with rats given electroencephalograms, or EEGs, a test commonly used to diagnose sleep problems, found night milk had no effect on brain-wave activity compared with before the treatment, the researchers said. Diazepam-treated rats had abnormal EEGs that reflected the drug's sedative-hypnotic properties, the study said.

Caveat: The effects of night milk haven't been tested on people with sleep problems and anxiety disorders.....yet.
(Wall Street Journal)

Sharing.

A young hitch-hiker got a lift with a lorry driver but halfway through the night they found themselves stranded on top of the moors. The driver told her they'd have to wait till morning before getting help so she could have his bed in the cabin and he would sleep on the seat. After a while, the girl whispered, 'It's a shame you have to give up your bed, why don't you come in with me, there's plenty of room.' So the man got in beside her.

'It might be nice if we slept "married,"' she giggled.

'Whatever you like,' he said, and he turned his back to her and went to sleep.

Stewart

The Best Beer in Spain?

Well, I suppose we all have our favourites. But the Spanish consumer association, Organisation for Consumers and Users (OCU), gave their



opinion as to the best beers in the country. The top three were Hipercor, Ambar and Estrella Galicia.



Unfortunately, only a third of all Spanish beers passed as acceptable in their study.

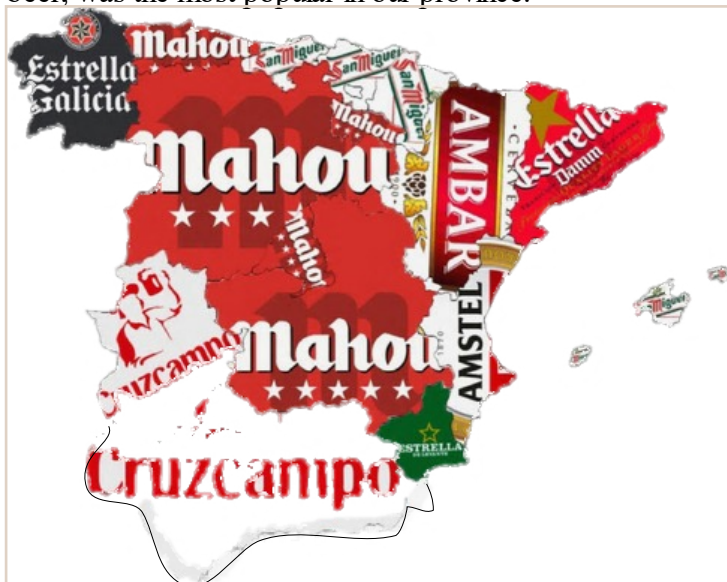
Mahou is the best selling beer in Spain. In 1890, Enrique, Luis, and Carolina, the children of a French entrepreneur born in Lorraine, founded Hijos de Casimiro Mahou in Madrid. The French surname was to become the flagship name of one of Spain's most famous beers. In 2000, Mahou bought 70% of San Miguel from the Danone Group, adding to the 30% stake it already held, thereby creating a wholly Spanish-owned brewery group.



Following a Brand Footprint 2015 study, El Pais came up with a map (below) showing the most popular brand of beer purchased by shoppers (not bought by customers in a bar or restaurant), i.e. what is likely to be in your fridge depending on where you shop and live.

The data does not include the Canary Islands, nor Spain's North African enclaves of Melilla and Ceuta. The ranking is based on the CRP variable, which measures how many people buy a particular brand for consumption at home, and how many times a year they do so.

Mahou still remains king although Cruzcampo seems to be the favourite in both Andalucia and Extramadura. I was somewhat surprised to see that Amstel, although an excellent beer, was the most popular in our province.



*Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died.
Erma Bombeck*

In Vino, Vivacitas!

This is a photo of Antonio Docampo García. This happy soul passed away earlier this year at the magnificent age of 107. So what did Antonio attribute his longevity to? Vitamins?



Regular health checks? An abstemious life? No! It seems his secret was red wine! Antonio, who lived in Vigo in northwestern Spain, never drinks water and after fighting in the Spanish Civil War, he decided to start-up his own wine-making company, Bodegas Docampo.

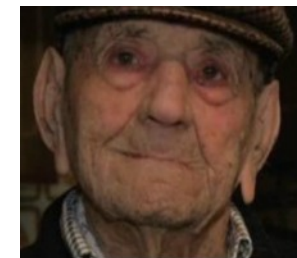
But Antonio did not produce just any old wine - he made his own in the town of Ribadavia, free of preservatives and added chemicals. While the majority of the wine produced was sold, Docampo made sure to keep a considerable amount for his own private consumption. "If he produced 60,000 litres a year he would keep 3,000 litres for himself," his nephew, Jerónimo Docampo, who now runs Bodegas Docampo, told La Voz de Galicia.

His son, Manuel Docampo López, added, "He could drink a litre and a half all at once. When we were both at home we could get through 200 litres of wine a month," he added. "He never drank water." Antonio would often drink a litre and a half of wine with lunch, and the same again with dinner, his son confirmed.

Antonio Docampo was also known for his sense of humour and used to say, after finishing a meal: "Give me another glass of wine so I can snore when I'm dead."

But at the moment, the contender for the oldest man in the world is a Spaniard, Francisco Núñez Olivera (photo) of the village of Bienvenida in Badajoz, western Spain.

Francisco is 111 years old and will hopefully reach 112 this September.



His secret to such a long life, he says is "to work hard. To not be weak and stay in the house." His daughter added a few more reasons as to why her father may have lived such a long life, including "a gentle routine in a quiet village, being his own boss, not arguing with the family and enjoying the good life - that revolved around the field, his house and the village bar." He also has a varied diet despite not having had his own teeth for four decades.

His daily food consists of milk and madeleines (a light sponge cake) for breakfast with an Actimel. Meat, fish or stew for lunch, yoghurt for an afternoon snack and special cereal with milk for dinner.

But looking at both of the above brief bio's, one must surely ask oneself, 'What lifestyle would I prefer?' No contest!

Restaurant Review: La Cosecha, Benijofar.

It's a long time since we have included a restaurant review in the Dream Scene. There are a number of reasons for this, the principal one being we have not come across any new venues which are worthy of comment. Now if any of our readers remember the excellent 'Vilorian's' in Rojales, which sadly closed down some time ago, then you will surely enjoy this one. La Cosecha



(The Harvest), is a European family owned and run restaurant where Chef Leigh Hurrell is now Head Chef. This

attractive venue has now built up a good following of loyal expat's. Set up on a hill in the countryside on the Benijofar to Algorfa road, you are offered well designed varied meals with some flair to suit the expat palate.

This is not the easiest place to find, but from the Dream Hills area, if you head past the Zoco Sunday market site to the big roundabout over the motorway, take the Benijofar turn and go straight until the next roundabout outside the town and take the exit at 11 o'clock and you will find the restaurant raised up on a small hill/plateau about 250 metres on the lefthand side from the roundabout.

Leigh, his Sous Chef Dean Worship and staff, offer at lunchtime a varied menu for €12.95 including half bottle of wine (carafe), small beer or soft drink/water. The three courses include bread and a small shared salad, a choice of 7/8 starters – for example a soup, prawn cocktail, mussels in a white wine sauce, pates, baby-back ribs, and toasted brochette with caramelised onion & brie – to name but a few. The menu changes daily and, despite several visits, I have never been bored for choice.

The main course normally includes 6/7 choices, always with a vegetarian option, and shows flair and creativity.

The main dishes, which are all served with seasonal vegetables, can include a pan-fried salmon fillet topped with duchess pot's, spinach and white wine sauce; pan-fried lamb's liver on mash with a red wine reduction; stuffed pepper with braised rice and goat's cheese and turmeric cream; beef bourgeoning with hand-made chips. Their varied potatoes are excellent. You just have to eat

them all, so forget your diet! Depending on choices made by a table of three or four, it would not be unusual for each diner to have their pot's cooked in different ways! Nothing is lazy about La Cosecha!

Desserts are listed on a blackboard, are home-made, delicious and far too numerous to mention. The choice includes puddings, cheesecakes, cheese & biscuits, and much, much more.

A limited a la carte menu is also available, with the price of the steak meals ranging from €15.95 to €22, Vega included.

The evening menu is similar to lunchtime's and is priced at €15.95. Entertainment is provided five nights a week, ranging from magicians & vocalists to guitarists & sax' players. A la carte is also available during the evenings.

A word of advice, when La Cosecha say that bookings are advisable – they mean it! I have always had to book well in advance. Sunday lunch should be booked weeks in advance to get the times you want. This venue is also very popular with large parties. This can sometimes delay the arrival of your order, so, as always, timing is everything!

My favourite dish in the restaurant so far has been the partridge I enjoyed one lunchtime (at a supplement of €3) which was accompanied by a red wine sauce, which was to die for.

Here the food and wine is well sourced. The staff are efficient and friendly and the setting is very attractive with some lovely views.

The restaurant has won a number of 'Coast Rider' type awards, but the real test of any good venue is the number of people who will beat a path to its door. No doubt La Cosecha are now basking in their success, however, they have never dropped their standards and the consistency of the food and service is admirable. Highly recommended.

There is a website - <http://www.lacosecha.eu/>

You can telephone your bookings to 96 619 4018.

Tid.



The Tattoo.

This fellow was so deeply in love that before he was married, he had his bride's name tattooed on his 'love muscle.' Normally, only the first and last letters were visible, although when he was aroused, the tattoo spelled out W-E-N-D-Y. Now they're on their honeymoon at a resort in Montego Bay.

One night, in the men's room, this fellow finds himself standing next to a tall Jamaican at the urinal.

To his amazement, he notices that this man, too, has the letters W-Y tattooed on his todger. 'Excuse me,' he says, 'but I couldn't help noticing your tattoo. Do you have a girlfriend named Wendy?'

'No way, man, I work for the Tourist board. Mine reads, "Welcome to Jamaica, man, have a nice day."'

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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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Naming It.

A young bride is having problems with her sex life, so she goes to see her doctor. 'Doctor,' she says, 'I was a virgin on my wedding night and when my husband undressed and revealed his todger 'Excuse me,' interrupts the doctor. 'I'd rather call it an "organ".'

'Really?' exclaims the bride. 'Well, his looks more like a oboe.'



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