

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER

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

Issue no. 112, 1st of August 2016.

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the August edition.

On the morning of July 22nd, the acting Prime Minister, Mariano Rajoy, spoke to the British Prime Minister, Theresa May, and they agreed for the need to reach an agreement which ensures no Spanish citizen or British citizen should be prejudiced by Brexit. Time will tell.

Alicante has ended the month of June & July as earlier months, unfortunately as being very dry and hardly any rain (the average reduction was 80%) with some municipalities not recording a single drop of precipitation. This has aggravated the drought. During July, all we had locally were two very light showers of sandy rain for a few seconds. Temperatures are reaching highs in the low 30's daily. Orihuela and Elche marked the highest temperatures at 40 + degrees. We can expect higher shortly.

The Spanish tourism sector is forecasting the best summer in history. The dramatic incidents in competing countries have made Spain the destination of what the Spanish call 'borrowed tourists'.

This year to May, Turkey, Tunisia and Egypt have lost 4.6 million tourists, while Spain has gained 2.2 million. This is likely to increase after recent events. 60% of tourist operators think this summer will be better than summer last year, which I believe is a sure bet. By the end of this year Spain will have welcomed 74 million tourists.

Be careful: Hugger-muggers have been reported in La Florida and other areas. This will usually be two ladies, probably Spanish, one who will ask you if you know where 'such-a-street' is and attempt to start a conversation. One woman will then put her arm around you and try to take any gold chains, good watches etc., while the other will go for your wallet. Ladies can also be approached, the target being necklaces, bracelets, watches and handbags. There will usually be a male accomplice in a car around the corner. This is the prime hunting time for villains. Handbag snatches from pavements or in restaurants are a favourite - bound to be packed with cash and cards! People will call at your property requesting money for charities - always children's ones. No one is authorised to collect money at peoples properties, and how come no one ever collects for charities such as those who look after syphilitic old men? Always kids!

Plenty to read in this issue, but take a look at the Lime Bar Fishing Report on page 32. In the late 60's I went on a jungle-warfare course....it looks a lot like a day out with this fishing club!

Thanks to Richard & Sheila H for donations to printing costs and Reach Out and to Alan Schofield for helping with the deliveries of the August newsletter. It's hot work in this weather!

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.



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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:

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- HOSPITALS / DOCTORS
- POLICE REPORTS
- OFFICIAL TRANSLATIONS (STAMPED)
- UNOFFICIAL WRITTEN TRANSLATIONS
- NIE / RESIDENCIA
- DRIVING LICENCES
- COURT
- TOWN HALLS
- SCHOOL MEETINGS

COMPUTER TRAINING

- WINDOWS XP, VISTA, 7
- MICROSOFT OFFICE (WORD, EXCEL, POWER POINT, ACCESS, ETC.)
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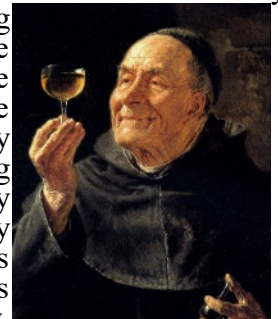
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Did you know that

...the Vatican City, with a population of just 842 people, has the highest per capita wine consumption in the world, according to the California Wine Institute, an American organization that tracks such trends. They found that each Vatican City resident consumes an average of 74 litres of wine annually, which is twice the per capita consumption of the rest of Italy and seven times the per capita consumption in the United States. One might automatically assume that the reason for the high quantity of consumption is surely the wine used at holy mass, but the so-called sacramental wine isn't even part of the equation, according to the Wine Institute. The most logical reason for the Vatican's high consumption of wine is likely demographics. Among those who live inside the fortification walls are families and the population is mostly made of up ageing prelates and nuns, many of whom live communally and dine in mess halls where wine flows freely—quite literally.



Wine is one of the most common gifts to the pope, with several vineyards printing special labels and sending cases of various vintages to the Vatican so they can claim the pope drinks their wine, which he regularly shares with Vatican City inhabitants. In the final analysis, of course, it really doesn't mean much that the Vatican is apparently full of winos. "In vino, veritas, (In wine, truth)," as the Latin saying goes, which may give a window into why the devout are such drinkers. Or, perhaps a better quote came from Pope John XXIII, who also enjoyed a glass of the good stuff. "Men are like wine," he said. "Some turn to vinegar, but the best improve with age." (Abridged from thedailybeast.com)

...fireworks don't have to be loud. A town in Parma Italy, Collecchio, has introduced legislation compelling people to use silent fireworks, for the sake of its residents' pets. How thoughtful!



What's Up?

With **no party having a sufficient majority** to form a government, it now relies on deal-making or pacts, as the Spanish prefer to call them, to form a new government. If there is no pact during early August to form a new (probably coalition government) then it will be another general election, the third in 12 months! I can't see the main parties being dumb enough to force another general election.

Brussels affirms that the Rajoy Government 'did not take effective measures to **control the deficit** in 2015. The European Commission has postponed their decision on whether to fine Spain for failing the deficit target. Brussels has opened the door to a possible delay until the autumn for both Spain and Portugal. The Commission will meet again to debate the decision which could mean a **fine amounting to 2 billion €**. Germany voted in favour of issuing the fine and Italy did not. El País notes Brussels thinks Spain will also fail to meet the deficit target this year, which is probably correct. The general secretary of CCOO (one of the two largest trade unions in Spain), Ignacio Fernández Toxo, announced that he was openly against the proposal to bring forward business tax payments (around €6 billion) to placate Brussels and escape the fine, after describing the idea as 'a joke'. 'Small companies in Spain pay 30% business tax, but the large companies only pay 5%, and this is not sustainable, and does nothing to help companies who are in difficulties,' said Toxo.

Then in mid-July, Brussels demanded that Spain make an adjustment of **10 billion €**. Alarm has arisen in the EU over the impossibility of finding anyone to talk to in Madrid - everybody is gone and are wearing flip-flops! The European Commission will probably fine Spain on July 27 - maybe a small amount -together with a freezing of 1.1 billion € of funding as a consequence of the country's in compliance with the deficit targets. The spending adjustment of 10 billion € must be completed by the end of 2017. However, the Government has rejected the European petition for more cut backs. The ruling PP allege that the growth in GDP should be sufficient to reduce the deficit and save the Budgets. But they would say that. The economic and political uncertainty across Europe after Brexit may have dissuaded the European Council from adopting sanction measures.

Worried about Brexit? Then keep an eye on this website-

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/advice-for-british-nationals-travelling-and-living-in-europe>

and of course this newsletter!

The caretaker PP government have been secretly **raiding the pension reserves** to bolster their finances.

It seems that during late June €8.7 billion euros were taken out of the fund with little warning. Another billion plus was taken during July. The special Reserve Fund will run out at the end of next year, which has reopened the debate on the sustainability of the current system. Experts are taking it for granted that part of the funding of pension in the future will have to come from increased taxes.

Amazon.es are offering a premium one-hour delivery service by bike in Madrid. They are also extending their products to include groceries.

It is believed that 3,000 migrants have **drowned** in the Mediterranean during the first six months of this year. Most were from the South Sahara area. Over the same period 84,000 migrants arrived safely in Italy from Libya. How are these numbers being managed?

The **Ibex**, the main stock market index in Spain, lost 65 billion € in two days because of Brexit.

Spain is the second EU country to have made the **biggest cuts in public spending** between 2012 and 2015 with fall in GDP terms from 48% to 43.3%. Only Ireland made more cut backs.

'The (traditional) **banking industry** is becoming obsolete' said Francisco González, president of BBVA. 'Structures with heavy costs, archaic systems, little competition and excessive overcapacity', and the need to establish 'better symmetry, more flexibility, quicker and cheaper services' he said. Online banking alone quadrupled its profit between 2010 and 2015, and in Spain the online banking services now have more than 41 million clients. The Spanish banking system is predicted to shrink to ten entities after more mergers; weaker income from the low interest rates and the retroactive cost of the ground-floor interest clauses and other abuses are taking their toll. The number of Spanish banks has fallen from 45 to 15 since the start of the banking crisis, particularly in the savings banks sector.

Unemployment fell by 123,349 people at the start of the summer reaching 3,767,054, the lowest number since September 2009, according to the data published today by the Ministry for Employment and Social Security. However, the jobs being created are of poor quality, temporary and badly paid. Of the 1,920,340 new contracts signed in June, 11.3% up on 2015, only 148,395 contracts, some 7.7% of the total were indefinite (permanent), 17% more than in June last year.

During the recent economic crisis, the Catholic Church in Spain gained €992 million from the IRPF (income tax) benefit from taxpayers. Of this, the Catholic bishops paid their own charity, **Cáritas**, just €21 million. Other religious organisation received nothing. So where is all that money going? Why the EU or indeed the Spanish themselves have not addressed this, I just don't know.

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Resident of Dream Hills

The Adoption.

A couple who work at the circus go to an adoption agency. Social workers there raise doubts about their suitability.

The couple produces photos of their 50-foot-motorhome, which is equipped with a beautiful nursery. The social workers then are doubtful about the education that the child would get. "We've arranged for a full-time tutor who will teach the child all the usual subjects along with French, Mandarin and computer skills but also advanced studies in physics and chemical technology."

Then there are doubts about raising a child in a circus environment. "Our nanny is an expert in paediatric welfare and diet."

The social workers are finally satisfied and they ask, "What age child are you hoping to adopt?"

"It doesn't really matter, as long as he fits in the cannon."

Pete Dudman

El País reports that Barcelona is a paradise for the 'top manta' **street sellers**. A hundred trade associations and neighbourhood associations, joined a demonstration calling of the City Hall to control the illegal street sellers, claiming losses between 15% and 50%.

A 37-year-old female **zoo-keeper in Terra Natura was killed** by one of her charges - a tiger. She had worked at the zoo for eight years and was considered very professional. According to sources close to the



investigation into the incident, the attack happened at 5pm after the female keeper "accidentally" left the door to the area where the tigers were half open. She was then attacked by one of the four tigers (photo is of two of them) suffering fatal

injuries. This is the second death of a park zoo worker in the region this year, the first being a goring by a water buffalo.

El Mundo reported that the **State has lost €313 million** which it lent to the American Cup yacht race – with the ambition of making Valencia the headquarters.

The Treasury counts the money as lost. This matches the waste and wilful thinking in Valencia with the F1 circus and some of the football clubs in the region.

The largest **fake banknote** operation was broken up in Murcia during July. €1.5 million in fake notes was confiscated with four Moroccans and three Spaniards, aged between 21 and 60 arrested. The head of the gang was arrested in his property in San Pedro del Pinatar, where the fake notes and printing machinery were also located. The forgers are believed to have placed onto the street some 50,000 notes of 20 and 50 € denominations in recent years, believed to total over a million euros.

21% of women murdered by their partner had withdrawn a complaint for domestic violence. Five women of the 24 killed had placed a complaint for domestic violence only to withdraw it later. The Domestic Violence Observatory notes failures in the communications and report multiple causes for the change of heart, including fear, shame and guilt. In the first quarter of this year 4,150 women, 12%, have removed their complaints. 'The victims don't want to see their partner imprisoned, but they only want them to keep away.

Between the Basque flags and the potted plants, banners spell out variations on the theme that has once again overshadowed the Spanish town of Pamplona's annual bull-running festival: "No sexual harassment!"; "Assault is not flirting." "Be careful!"; "No sexist assaults"; "Enjoy yourselves and let others enjoy themselves". **But four rapes in five days!!** What the city council refers to as the "black stain" of sexual assault and harassment appears to have permeated this year's San Fermín fiesta more thoroughly than ever before. Police in Pamplona have arrested 16 men over the period as they investigate reports of five violent sexual attacks – including rapes and an attempted rapes – and 11 allegations of sexual assault. Besides the 3,400 police officers patrolling the streets and the team monitoring 100 CCTV cameras from a control centre, there had also been a longstanding campaign run with local women's rights groups to make it clear that sexual violence had no place in society.

The daughter of Ramon Valcárcel, the **former president of the Murcia Region** and now a Euro MP, has declared that €123,700 paid into her account was for wedding presents. The payments to the couple in cash continued for eleven months after the wedding. In one day the husband made 30 deposits of 1,000 € - many using 500 € notes which he said he had been given. Rosario Valcárcel and her husband, Fulgencio Perán, are now under investigation on charges relating to planning irregularities.

The largest haul ever of **contraband tobacco** was seized in late June, in the little village of Chauchina, Granada. 95 tons of tobacco was discovered in three warehouses. The Treasury put a value of €6.6 million on the haul - that's a lot of coughing! Although the merchandise was usually sold over the internet at €18 a carton/batch, only two people were arrested in what must have been a fairly sophisticated and large operation.

A retired **British couple, both aged 77, were murdered** in their home in Jalón, Marina Alta, Valencia in March 2015. One was shot in the face, the other in the neck. Six months later their gardiner was arrested for the crime. He has now confessed before the trial and has been sentenced to 31 years in the clink. The murdered man, Peter David, was an Olympic athlete (diving) in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics.

The National Police has detained two men at the Barajas – Adolfo Suárez airport in Madrid for a two million € **fraud using imported luxury German cars**. They set up a company in Spain for the buying and selling of cars and then conned an official German dealer to send 37 top of the range cars, which were never paid for. The vehicles have been recovered.

The Spanish National Commission for Markets and Competitiveness has **fined four companies €5.64 million** for forming a cartel for 15 years and were exchanging contracts for Adif for railway supplies for the construction of the AVE high-speed tracks. The sanction includes fines on nine company directors totalling €65,550.

Telefónica's TV channels has been fined €212,302 for broadcasting alcoholic drinks ads in the hours protected for children. There have two months to make an appeal to the National Court.

The family of an **electrocuted youngster** are asking for three years in jail for the former Mayor of Bunyola, in Mallorca. The family lawyer for the 18-year-old who was electrocuted on August 31 2014, after touching a lamppost in Bunyola, has requested three years for the former mayor and four years for the former municipal electrician because of serious negligence and the lack of maintenance of public lighting.

The Spanish Civil Guard has arrested 14 people for selling over 1.3 million kilograms of meat from animals that were allegedly **fattened using illegal products** considered harmful to human health in high doses. The raid has taken place simultaneously in the provinces of Huesca and Zaragoza (in the Aragón region) and in Lleida (Catalonia). The Spanish Civil Guard has arrested 14 people for selling over 1.3 million kilograms of meat. Investigators took over 150 samples from cattle at 30 ranches and slaughterhouses, analysing the animals' feed, meat and urine, and found levels of residual corticosteroids that were significantly above the upper accepted threshold. The ring had contacts in other European Union member states and in non-EU countries, and managed to add an extra 40 to 60 kilograms of weight to each animal using these illegal substances.

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Lime Bar Golf Society, Los Altos, Orihuela Costa.

The Lime Bar Golf Society's annual President's Cup on the 29th June 2016 was held at the Vista Bella Golf Course. On a very fine and warm morning 27 members teed off. The course was in good condition and a pleasant round of gold was enjoyed.

The competition was played in the Texas Scramble format with seven teams of four players and the scores recorded are as follows:-

Nearest the Presidents Drive on the 1st tee was won by Eddie Allan

Nearest the pin on the 4th hole was Arthur Jones

Nearest the pin on the 8th hole in was John Walls

Nearest the pin on the 11th hole in two was Colin Taylor

Nearest the pin on the 15th hole was Ian Johnstone

Nearest the pin on the 18th hole in three was Tony Brain

The winning team captains were:

In 3rd place Stuart Black with a net score of 54

In 2nd place Mc Knight with a net score of 53

In 1st place Mike Heighway (Arthur, George and Eddy) making up the four with a net score of 52 and winners of the Presidents Cup.

A very good day in pleasant company and which was celebrated jovially at the Lime Bar (19th Hole) with the presentation followed by drinks and a barbeque provided by Pete and Sue. 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.

(Other Lime Bar Golf Report on page 25.)



A Night at the Opera.

Two fleas were hanging out one day, and one told the other about its night. 'Hey, man, I had a great time last night. I went to the opera and I had the best seat in the house, in the conductor's beard. Things were cool until the second act, when he sneezed, and I was flung into the soprano soloist's cleavage. That wasn't bad, nice and warm and all, but she got all worked up and started to sweat, and I slid down between her legs. I stayed there and fell asleep, but there is one thing I don't get. When I woke up, I was in the conductor's beard again.'



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*'I asked my good friend Arnold Palmer how I could improve my game. He advised me to cheat!'
Bob Hope*

A general **lack of maintenance** in a number of local municipalities, including our own, indicates either a shortage of funds, or maybe just inefficiency and lack of attention. 'Green' rubbish is left to become brown rubbish after being left by the roadside for longer and longer periods - some times for many weeks. The river estuary at Guardamar is becoming polluted. Although the council are aware, to date they have done nothing to improve it. A lot of concern was also expressed about the water quality at Mar Manor. Three or four local businessmen took to the water to demonstrate that bathing there was safe, only to emerge from the water with 'undertaker' faces. Chemicals, fertilisers etc., from local farming land could be leaking into the lagoon. One source, unattributed, stated that the algae now present in the lagoon in some abundance is not toxic. But who would you believe? Public & planted areas in the city of Orihuela are pristine whereas the public areas in Orihuela Costa look like secondary jungle. The lack of investment and care here is staggering.

Both Torrevieja and Orihuela were late in placing **lifeguards** on the beaches this summer. This was due to inefficiency at the town halls. The hiring of lifeguards is an annual task and there is no reason why it should be left to the last minute. So, during the early summer period, as there was no cover, red flags flew on the beaches daily. In Torrevieja the locals were pissed-off and held a demonstration on the beach - I believe the first ever. A pioneering plan to use drones for lifeguards in Torrevieja has been delayed for legal reasons. Beach councillor, Javier Manzanares, explained the problem; lifeguards come under Civil Protection and they have no link to the Torrevieja City Hall which has to grant the permission. So left hand won't talk to the right hand.

According to the Ministry of Finance, ten of the 27 municipalities in the Vega Baja area have failed to comply with government regulations which stipulate that suppliers must be paid within 30 days. The **defaulters/slow payers** are Daya Vieja, Bigastro, Callosa, Benijofar, Albaterra, Redován, Rafal, Benferri, Orihuela and Algorfa. Looking at the two largest municipalities in the region, Torrevieja and Orihuela, Torrevieja Town Hall pay their bills within an average of 16 days once the invoices have been verified. Orihuela on the other hand take an incredibly long 130 days to pay their bills. During the first quarter this year, Orihuela Town Hall kept more than €7 million in invoices stashed away in drawers unpaid for more than four months.

Although this is bad, Daya Vieja, the smallest municipality in the region with just 800 inhabitants, takes an average of 239 days to pay suppliers; next Bigastro taking 196 days to pay; Callosa de Segura 195 days and Benijofar 190 days.

Technicians/clerks in the council are entitled to 30 days to verify the invoice first and the 30-day period then begins when they have verified the contents of the invoices. But there are the super efficient councils who pay the bills in the first 30-day verification process. They are Jacarilla - 12 days, followed by Catral, with 24 days Dolores, with 28 days, and Guardamar del Segura - 29 days. The remaining town halls are well within the second 30-day period, Los Montesinos paying in 12 days and San Miguel de Salinas in 22 days.

The municipalities in Alicante province still owe **€60,000 a day to the banks in interest payments**. The Town Halls and Provincial Government reserved €22 million in 2015 to help meet banking costs. If the town halls were businesses, they would have failed years ago.

The burgers in Torrevieja town hall are now considering fining people who purchase junk from the **lucky-lucky men**. It is true that these men are an absolute nuisance and can ruin a quiet day on the beach. They are extremely difficult to control and they form aggressive gangs quickly when authority threatens. There has been more than one 'dust-up' in Torry between them and the police.

A massive increase in visiting boats to the little harbour in the **Isle of Tabarca** has forced the authorities to tighten-up on the regulations (photo - *Informacion*).

'Pleasure boats' are now banned from the harbour docking area and if you do sneak in with your boat and find a docking spot, expect a stringent examination, which will include proof of maritime qualification, insurance, security on board, expiration of pyrotechnics, etc. Failure to comply can result in a fine of €600. They want visiting boats to now stay off shore and keep 25 metres from each other. Regulations are expected to be relaxed after August. People go to Tabarca in the summer to escape the crowds on the Costa beaches. The joke is now the island is packed with tourists during the summer, paying exorbitant prices in the restaurants while suffering indifferent service.

The Alicante Province has 86,656 citizens from Great Britain who are recorded (empadronados) on the local census - some 31% of the total foreign residents. In addition, 28 municipalities have a **British population** of at least 20% reaching as high as Algorfa (52%), Llíber (46%), Daya Vieja (43%), or San Fulgencio (42%).

What used to be the only undeveloped & beautiful part of coast on the Torrevieja map, **Calla Ferris**, has now been turned into a hideous scar.



The people who own the land want to build large apartment blocks on the land.

Torry council under Mayor Dolón (The Greens) has refused to allow this and has offered an alternative. The surroundings of Cala Ferris is a protected natural area in the Urban General Plan and it's considered a rustic non-buildable area. The owners have now 'thrown their toys out of the pram' and built the ugliest wall possible around the property. The wall is even more horrific than this photo from *Informacion* shows. If you do go and see it, you will be justifiably very annoyed and angry.

Orihuela Costa Sports Centre costs the taxpayer €2,400,000 p.a. plus the money charged to use the facilities. Many argue that the charges are abusive - €3.40 for a swim and organising a football match there costs between three of four times that of other sports grounds in the general area.

Kellogg's is coming out with a new cereal for impotent men this summer. It's to be called 'Nut 'N' Raisin Honey.'

Not Clocking In?

A driver and gardener in the town of Jerez de la Frontera, southern Spain, have been fired after the town hall discovered they had been collecting pay but not going to work for a period of up to 15 years.

The Human Resources department in the town council at first discovered that the two men had not been to work for a single day in 2015 or so far in 2016 when they were going through their records.

But on further inspection they discovered that the period stretched much further back than they could have imagined.

"Two representatives of the General Confederation of Labour union (the CGT) could have gone years without coming to work; according to a written statement by the men themselves this situation could date back 15 years," the town hall of Jerez de la Frontera wrote in a statement, published on its website.

The CGT union, to which both men belong, has defended its unionists, arguing that they were simply taking off their "accumulated days" and those of other employees, which can be shared.

It argued that their absence was part of a "tacit agreement" with the various town councils over the 15 year period.

After being questioned by Human Resources, one of the men returned to work, while the other produced a written statement explaining that he had accumulated the union hours of his colleagues. The town hall, however, said this was "insufficient to free him from work for the rest of the year, which was his intention".

The two men are not the only workers exposed as having worked much fewer hours than they should have.

The town hall claims that it also discovered that several workers from the SIP union (local police) who had worked fewer than 100 days in 2015. One member worked only 47 days in 2015, while another worked just 66.

(The Local)

Be On the Lookout For.....

this jar of cooked white beans. Thought to be distributed mainly in Catalonia, some have now turned up in the Murcia area and are believed to have been distributed to other areas as well. The problem is that some of the jars have been contaminated with the botulinum toxin. So they won't just make you fart! Although the toxin was first believed to be in supplies of desalted cod fish, particularly in the Balearics and Catalonia, it now seems that the beans were the real culprit. The product has been withdrawn from a well known German local supermarket. See - <http://www.diarioinformacion.com/alicante/2016/07/02/retiran-comunidad-lotes-alubias-brote/1780744.htm>



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

Tax Debts of over €1 million.

The Spanish Treasury has published the list of bad debtors: 4,768 people owe 15.7 billion €. The ministry of Cristóbal Montoro has revealed for the second time the number of tax payers who owed more than a million €, at the end of last year and who have not paid.

Dani Alves former player for Barça owes 1.3 million €.

Dani Pedrosa the motorcyclist who appeared on the first list has reduced his debt to 7.85 million €.

Lorenzo Sanz – former president of Real Madrid who was also listed last time, has a pending debt of 1.2 million.

Mario Conde the businessman who was also listed last time still owes 9.9 million €.

The new list of 4,768 people owning a total amount of 15.7 billion €, is up by 0.7% on the first list which was published six months ago, many names are repeated but 246 new bad debtors have been found.

Of the total amount, more than 6.6 billion €, 42% correspond to tax payers under bankruptcy procedures - some 1,700 debtors, and this complicates the payment of the debt. Most are construction companies squeezed after the real estate bubble-burst, and most of the current debtors have been in debt for more than five years.

El Mundo reports building and real estate companies owe the prosecutor more than 6.2 billion €! I would mention that football clubs also owe a fortune....but these seem to be immune from normal commercial and legal requirements in Spain!

The heat index is somewhere between OMG and WTF



Black Buoys.

South African Dutchman Van der Merwe had never been out of South Africa. While on holiday in Australia he decided to spend an afternoon visiting Bondi Beach. As he sat on the beach looking out to sea he saw a long line of black dots out in the water and said to an Aussie, who was sitting close by, "What are all those little black things out there?"

"They're buoys," said the Aussie.

"Boys?!" replied Van der Merwe. "What are they doing out there?"

"Holding up the shark net," the Aussie told him.

"F*ckin great country!" said Van der Merwe, deeply impressed, "We'd never get away with that at home!"

Pete Dudman

Jessie's Bar Golf Society.

On 29th June 2016, 18 players tee'd off at the Mar Menor Golf Course, on a very bright sunny day. The course was having some minor work done but didn't detract for a very enjoyable day in great company. We played a Stapleford Competition with some very reasonable scores coming in. Entertainment was provided on first hole

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

Hole No 2 Bob Adair

Hole No 14 Ken Sutton

Hole No 17 Alan Jackson

Stapleford Winner was Patrik Ljunbad with 37 points

2nd was Alan Jackson with 36 points

3rd was Steve Cottle and Mike Slater. Steve taking it on back nine.

Hospitality and refreshments where supplied by our hosts at Jessie's bar, Jules and Kath and thanks also go to the ticket seller Jack.

Hope everyone had a good day and it will be a pleasure to see you at Alenda golf course next month.

Alan Jackson

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Johnny & the Predator.

Teachers says to the class: 'Tonight's homework is to find something that fits into the category of *predator*.

Next day young Mary is first with her hand up. 'Yes Mary,' says the teacher. Mary reads from her notebook carefully, 'TYRAN NO SAU RUS REX.'

'Well done, Mary,' says the teacher and, 'yes, Johnny?'

'Vibrator, miss,' says Johnny.

'No Johnny,' says the teacher, 'a predator is something which eats other things like animals.'

'Well,' says Johnny, 'my sister has a big pink vibrator and she says, it f*cking eats batteries.'

*Kath & Jules
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Apparently, Sir Bobby Charlton was asked how the England team of 1966 would have fared against Iceland. He responded that they would have beaten Iceland 1-0.

"Only 1-0?", he was asked.

"Well", Sir Bobby said, "We're all in our 70's now!"

Moir



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New Health Cards.

The Valencian Department of Health has begun to issue new (SIP)



health cards. This is an effort to make the SIP card uniform throughout all the regions.

Because of the high cost of replacing more than 5 million cards throughout our region, it is estimated that the process will take five years to complete.

Previously, residents experienced problems accessing healthcare when travelling to other regions and a new common card will facilitate this. The Valencian region in particular attracts many tourists from around the country and this new card will enable our region to bill the others for the cost of treating them.

The old health card remains valid and it may be quite a long time before you are issued with the new one. If however your existing card is lost or damaged, you should be issued with one of the new cards immediately. All chemists, health centres and hospitals will have compatible technology to read your card. Except in Catalonia!

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Freshly made bar snacks are available.

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A full schedule of events are planned.

Spain's Holiday Rental Regulations.

We regularly report on the new holiday rental legislation being introduced in the different regions in Spain. It is fair to say that it is a colossal mess with fragmented local laws, no coordination and often dumb legislation. These are some examples:

- Fixed aircon units in Andalusia if you want to rent between May and September, and heating for rentals between October and April.
- Solid-frame coat hangers, a hairdryer in the bathroom, and an iron and ironing board in the Canaries.
- A wifi connection in Madrid.
- Minimum room sizes in Aragon.
- Owning a minimum of two tourist rental properties in the Basque Country.
- A ban on renting to tourists in tourist areas in the Canaries (currently being reviewed for legality by the competition authority).

Fortunately, our region appears to have escaped a lot of controls and regulations in this area. Certainly some regulation is needed, but we have, at least so far, escaped the dumb legislation and requirements that exist in other regions. It probably won't last.

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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 which many foods require, so pre-cooked foods are preferable.

But other than food, the charity also needs plastic razors, shaving foam, shampoo & shower gel, - even half bottles are welcome. The homeless are encouraged to keep clean and to shower in the Reach Out premises. Lady's make-up & beauty products - even partially used, are also very welcome.

www.reachouttorrevieja.com

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

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The Average Cost of Maintaining A Holiday Home in Spain.

Maintaining a holiday-home in Spain costs €1,791 per year on average, according to research by a Spanish consumer organisation.

Community fees are the biggest chunk of holiday-home ownership expenses, costing between €200 and €1,140 per annum, reveals the Organisation of Consumers and Users (OCU). That range applies to typical condominium expenses, so a big villa on a luxury gated development would cost considerably more than that to maintain.

Utilities are another big cost, which the OCU estimate at €600 per year on average.

Then there are local rates to consider, known in Spain as the Impuesto Sobre Bienes Inmuebles (IBI). OCU's research reveals that the average IBI cost per year is €276, though the rate varies enormously by type of property and municipality. Some municipalities also charge homeowners a rubbish collection fee, with an average cost of €117 per annum. (Fortunately not locally. Mick)

If you own a second home in Spain you also have to pay income tax on the property, even if you don't rent it out. This applies to residents and non-residents alike, in the latter case it assumed that any property in Spain owned by non-residents is a second-home. If you rent out your holiday-home you pay tax on the rental income. If you don't rent it out, the Spanish authorities charge you tax on an implied income. I have never understood the logic of this tax, which is charged as 2% per annum of the Cadastral value, or 1.1% if the Cadastral Value was revised in 2015 or previous decade.

Many second-home owners rent out their properties when not using it themselves. This has been common practise since people started buying holiday-homes in Spain. The OCU point out that this is becoming more difficult as many regional Governments have introduced regulations to control the activity.

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No Sex After Surgery.

A recent article in the Philadelphia Inquirer reported that a woman has sued a Philadelphia Hospital, saying that after her husband had surgery there, he lost all interest in sex.

A hospital spokesman replied: "Mr. Maynard was admitted for cataract surgery. All we did was correct his eyesight!"

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ROCAJUNA GOLF SOCIETY

La Finca was the venue for Rocajuna's latest outing held on Thursday 7th July and as per usual was in fine condition and provided a good test for all the golfers. Rain had been forecast for the day, but thankfully the rain didn't materialise and the golf was played in pleasant conditions.

The NTP's were won by Roddy McKechnie, Denis McCormack and Roy Sutherland.

Runner up on the day was Denis McCormack and the winner with a great score of 38 points was Mick O'Connell.

There was an unusual incident that happened on the day when howls of laughter could be heard all over the course when a certain individual who will remain nameless tried to walk on a dry river bed to retrieve his ball, only for him to sink to his knees covered in mud.

The day was rounded off with a fine meal in Bar Domino, and once again a huge vote of thanks to Colin, Saranne and all their staff.

Our next outing is at Mar Menor on Thursday 4th August, and if you are interested in playing, then contact any of the committee at Bar Domino for further details.

Alisdair McLean

It was one of those perfect days - the sun was shining, a gentle breeze was blowing, the birds were singing and the lawnmower was broken. James Dent



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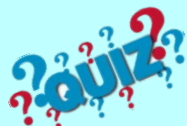
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I'm not actually that religious, but my wife's a really lousy cook.

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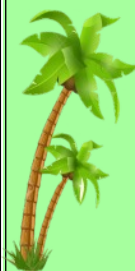
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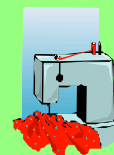
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• My ex-wife was deaf. She left me for a deaf friend of hers. To be honest, I should have seen the signs.

• My old granddad's motto in life was, 'What you can't see won't hurt you.' Pity he died of radiation poisoning.

• I went to the park this morning to play frisbee with my dog. He was useless. I think I need a flatter dog.

• I found my first grey pubic hair the other day. It was in a kebab.

The Phoenix Golf Society.

The Phoenix Golf society played at Roda Golf course on Sunday 17th July.

We found the course in excellent condition and although we did not have a lot of players this time mainly I think because of the weather conditions being extremely hot and humid, everyone enjoyed them selves. We played A Texas Scramble competition which was a change and everyone enjoyed playing in it.

The winners were:

Mike Highway

Brenda Foley

Dave Wembank

Adrian Whitaker

Once again Donna

of the Phoenix Bar

laid on excellent

food as per usual

when we returned

which of course

everyone enjoyed.

Cheers Donna

many thanks.

The LIST, is up in

the Phoenix Bar

for next month.

The photo above, omitted last month, shows Captain Dave Wightman and Pearl Gillishan presenting the John Gillishan Memorial Trophy to Dave Cahill. (For some reason they made Pearl stand in a hole!)



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Dormant Or Forgotten Bank Accounts.

In May, 2015, Spanish banks froze those accounts belonging to clients who had failed to hand over a photocopy of their identification document, as was required by a law aimed at combating money laundering. After many phone calls, letters and messages, from January 2016 the second phase got underway: the cancellation of those accounts. More than a million accounts have been closed down so far, perhaps even as many as two million, although for now there are no official figures. Senior citizens, immigrants and clients who have changed their place of residence characterize the profiles of those most affected.

The government gave banks a five-year period to collect the documentation, but as the deadline approached the banks were in a certain amount of disarray and had to rush to get the job done. An extension on the final date was requested, but not granted. Given the magnitude of the job in hand, many banks subcontracted support teams for their bank staff.

In some cases there are accounts "with very large balances" that have been abandoned, as odd as that may seem. And what happens with the unclaimed money? Sources from one major lender explain that they will be held by the bank for 20 years. "If the account holders reclaim the funds, they will be returned, obviously, after proper identification. After that period, the money will go to the taxman."

This Scottish guy went into a card shop and asked the woman behind the counter, 'Do you sell bereavement cards?' 'Yes,' she replies. He asks, 'Could I exchange one for this *Get Well Soon* card I bought yesterday?'

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A Fairy Story.

A beautiful princess comes upon a frog in a meadow near her castle. The frog hops into the princess' lap and says, "My lady, one kiss from you, and I will turn back into the dapper, young prince that I once was, and then, my sweet, we can marry and set-up housekeeping in yon castle with my mother, where you can prepare my meals, clean my clothes, bear my children and forever be happy doing so." That night, as the princess dines on lightly sauteed frog legs, she chuckles to herself,.....

"I don't effing think so!!

(Brian Horsman)

How to Sleep in the Spanish Heat!

Carolina Garcia of El Pais came up with the following helpful advice, if you are battling with the summer heat, don't have air conditioning and are having difficulty sleeping.

Is it possible to sleep coolly in the Spanish summer without air conditioning? Tradition says yes. Ancient Egyptians used to moisten their bedclothes to sleep better and combat heat waves, which pose a serious risk to public health. According to the results of a scientific study carried out by the Spanish National Research Council, mortality rates for those aged over 75 increase 20.1 percent for each degree that the maximum daily temperature rises above 36°C.

Our ancestors have passed down to us a long legacy of tricks for staying cool. You can sleep under cotton sheets, for example, which aid perspiration. At the same time you can also put your sheets in the fridge or freezer inside a plastic bag for a few minutes before sleeping – they won't stay cool the whole night, but it will be long enough for you to fall asleep – or fill a hot water bottle with cold water to cool down your bed. Here are a few more suggestions.

1. Be creative. Come up with methods to stop hot air from entering the room. For instance, point a fan toward the windows, or place a bowl full of ice or very cold water in front of the fan to cool the air further. A damp sheet placed over the window also helps.

2. Wear light pajamas. That's the advice from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), though you can also sleep naked if you like. It's a question of preference. According to a study by the Association of American Cotton Producers Cotton USA carried out in the UK, 57 percent of people who sleep naked are happier in their relationship with their partner.

3. Apply compresses dipped in lukewarm water on parts of the body most sensitive to heat, such as the neck, elbows, ankles and the backs of the knees. The contact with cool water has a refrigerating effect that triggers a narrowing of the blood vessels, heating up the skin. In turn, the heat cools you down as a result of the difference in the surrounding temperature, explains the CDC.

4. Sleep alone. It's the best thing to stay cool. Sleeping alongside someone else increases your body temperature and makes the bedclothes cling, explains

dormir.org.es, a website devoted to sleep problems. What's more, doing so at floor level will make you even cooler as hot air tends to rise.

5. Shower in warm water to reduce your body temperature. This is a good tip for feeling fresh and clean. Many people say that, even though the shock of a cold shower produces an instant feeling of coolness, it reactivates your body and energy consumption, which makes you feel the heat more quickly afterwards than if you had showed in warm water, explains the Biological Health Institute. Also, be sure to keep your feet cool as heat enters the body here. Washing them before you turn in for the night or sleeping with them outside the bed are two good tips.

6. Eat salad for dinner. Avoid big meals and hot dishes such as stews, soups and roast chicken. These force the



body to produce more heat in order to digest them. A yoghurt, salad or that Spanish summer favorite, cold gazpacho, are perfect for summer nights. And don't forget to drink plenty of water, the WHO says: the body uses it to get rid of heat.

7. Turn off all lights and electronic gadgets completely. Putting them on standby is not enough: they go on using energy and giving off heat, according to the International Energy Agency – between five and 10 percent of what they would use when switched on. Also: replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent ones, which produce the same amount of light but use a fifth of the energy and give off less heat, according to the emergencies center in Arlington, Virginia.

Lastly, if you are able to sleep out in the open air, do so. Set up a camp on the roof or head out into the country to sleep close to a place next to water (the moisture in the air has a cooling effect), turning a night of stifling heat into one of adventure.

The Offer.

After being married for 50 years, I took a careful look at my wife one day and said, "Fifty years ago we had a cheap house, a junk car, slept on a sofa bed and watched a 10-inch black and white TV, but I got to sleep with a hot 23-year-old girl every night.

Now, I have a \$500,000 home, a \$45,000 car, a nice big bed and a large screen TV, but I'm sleeping with a 69-year-old woman. It seems to me that you're not holding up your side of things."

My wife is a very reasonable woman. She told me to go out and find a hot 23-year-old girl and she would make sure that I would once again be living in a cheap house, driving a junk car, sleeping on a sofa bed and watching a 10-inch black and white TV.

Keith S.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PHOENIX



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The Best Advice.

BMW Drivers. Attach a lighted sparkler to the roof of your car before starting a long journey. You drive like a dodgem car anyway, so it might as well look like one.

Olympic athletes. Disguise the fact that you've taken anabolic steroids by running a bit slower.

Parents. Make the kiddies' bathtime as fun as a trip to the Blackpool seaside: put a bucket of sand, a bag of salt and a dog turd in the water.

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A View from Across the Pond.

I suppose you can take it for granted that Brexit issues will form a large part of future issues of the Dream Scene. The shock of the decision and its initial ramifications are only just being digested, but I came across these comments on the post Brexit political landscape in the UK in QZ.com which are worth sharing. It was dated early July before Teresa May became prime minister and Boris Johnson foreign secretary.

Good morning, Quartz readers!

It is hard to pinpoint the exact moment in the last eight days at which Britain's politics became officially more absurd than America's. Last week's Brexit vote, shocking as it was, was just the starting gun. Since then both the Labour and the Conservative party leaderships have collapsed. The "Leave" campaign has swiftly backtracked on its promises. Labour's Jeremy Corbyn, after enduring a stunning no-confidence vote, appeared to compare Israel with the Islamic State. The Conservatives' Boris Johnson, the cheerleader of Leave and presumed next prime minister, bowed out after being stabbed in the back by his own sidekick, Michael Gove. And a leaked letter from Gove's wife exposed the Tory party's leading figures as little more than the puppets of media barons.

The US primary season was by turns hilarious and horrifying, but it fulfilled its purpose: There are now the requisite two candidates for president, and the one who is a racist liar with no idea of how to govern is pretty unlikely to win. Britain has no credible leadership on any side, nor are there any clues as to where it might emerge. With astounding swiftness, the UK has replaced the US as the political laughingstock of the world.

This compounds the disaster of the referendum itself. If, as some hopeful pundits speculate, Brexit may yet be halted, it will take extraordinary leadership to mollify the pro-Leave voters who will feel cheated. If Brexit goes ahead, it will take equally extraordinary leadership to steer the economy through its impacts, and to negotiate new trade deals with an unforgiving EU and other countries. (Perhaps they should appoint Donald "I make great deals" Trump as chief negotiator.)

When Trump was on the ascendancy in America, many British politicians could hardly hide their smug disdain. How hollow that looks now.—Gideon Lichfield

Happily Married?

A couple go to see a magic show in Vegas. After one especially amazing feat the man yells, 'How'd you do that?' 'I could tell you, sir,' replies the magician, 'but then I'd have to kill you.' After a pause the man yells back, 'Okay, then. Just tell my wife!'

A man is on his deathbed. 'Grant me one last wish, my dear,' he gasps pitifully to his wife. 'Six months after I die I want you to marry Joe.'

'But I thought you hated Joe,' says his wife.

'I do,' says the man.

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The Lime Bar Golf Society.

The Lime Bar Golf Society's Monthly Golf match on the 13th July 2016 was held at the Font De Llop Golf Course. On a very fine and warm morning, perfect for golf 31 members teed off. The course was in fine condition and although found challenging a good 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 3rd hole was Tony Brain; Nearest the pin on the 8th hole was Digger.

Nearest the pin on the 12th hole was Bud Butler; Nearest the pin on the 16th hole was Geoff Walker.

Nearest the pin on the 17th hole was Ian Grant. Best Guest was Steve Marsh with a score of 19 points.

Silver Class in 3rd place was Norman Dobson with a score of 25 points

Silver Class in 2nd place was Kevin Jackson with a score of 27 points

Silver Class in 1st place was George Rushton with a score of 31 points

Gold Class in 3rd place was Pete Gillespie with a score of 32 points

Gold Class in 2nd place was Ian Johnstone with a score of 33 points

Gold Class in 1st place was Ian Tony Brain with a score of 36 points

A very good day in pleasant company which was celebrated joviently at the Lime Bar following the match. On a light note Mike Heighway, known as 'winalot' was not among the winners this time which created a great cheer. However, he got his own back as handicap secretary by informing a handicap cut to one or two members. 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.

Below is an 'Opinion' from the leftist El Pais, one of the top two newspapers in Spain. It was published on July 1, before Boris Johnson 'took a dive' & was elevated later!

No way out.

All that remains of Brexit is lies, a botched job, and cynicism.

Almost as serious a matter as the UK's decision to leave the EU is the absence of any plan to meet the wishes of those who backed Brexit last week. It's one thing to debate whether referendums are a good idea and when and how they should be held and about which topics, but it's quite another to call on the electorate to decide about an issue as important as whether to remain in the EU without having spent so much as a minute's thought on just how to execute the voters' decision in the event of a no. Which is why all that remains now of Brexit, rather than a serious debate about direct democracy, popular sovereignty and the virtues or defects of the European integration process, is instead dishonesty, a botched job, and the cynicism of both the organizers and the winners of the referendum.

In one corner we have the loser, David Cameron, who instead of respecting the referendum result and turning up the next day at the House of Commons with a draft bill to notify the EU of the start of the exit process, simply announces his resignation, calls a party conference, and leaves the question of how to proceed to whoever wins a general election, to be held in October.

In the other corner is the winner, Boris Johnson, as unabashed as ever, who is not only insinuating the need for renegotiation and another referendum, is saying that once the United Kingdom has left the EU, it will disconnect itself from EU legislation, stop contributing financially and close the door on EU citizens, while at the same time British companies will continue to trade in Europe and British citizens will live and work anywhere they choose there at no cost. Does it really take two leaders to deny a single and overwhelming reality? This time the birthplace of democracy and fair play has really outdone itself. @jitorreblanca

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The Most Common Fines for Drivers this Summer.

The summer months of July and August bring more vehicles onto the road in Spain - some 8.1 million trips during the same period last year and 225 people killed in car accidents. The Spanish Directorate General of Traffic (DGT) will be introducing a number of campaigns to reduce accidents on the roads, but what are the top five motoring fines during those holiday months?

- **Speed:** This tops the ranking for fines and deaths. 39% of fines with penalties reaching €600 and the loss of six points on your licence.
- **Alcohol & Drugs:** In a short campaign this year, between June 6 - June 12, 2,283 drivers were fined for this reason. Penalties ranged from €500 and four points to €1,000 and six points or disqualification and a fine.
- **Mobile phone:** Using while driving will cost you €200 and three points.
- **Driving with flip-flops, barefoot or without a shirt:** Any of these can result in a fine of €200 plus three points. But it is not just flip-flops; if the police think that the type of shoes/sandals you are wearing are insecure for driving and without sufficient support, you can be fined.
- **Poor vehicle maintenance:** Broken lights, worn tyres, vehicle registration not clear, expired ITV.....these are offences which will attract a fine of €200 but without loss of points.

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As Tight as a Ducks.....!

The German's wife steps up to the tee and, as she bends over to place her ball, a gust of wind blows her skirt up and reveals her lack of underwear.

'Mein Gott, woman! Why aren't you wearing any skivvies?', Helmut demanded.

'Well' she said, 'you don't give me enough housekeeping money to afford any.'

The German immediately reaches into his pocket and says, 'For the sake of decency, here's a €50. Go and buy yourself some underwear..'

Next, the Irishman's wife bends over to set her ball on the tee. Her skirt also blows up to show that she, too, is wearing no undies.

'Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of God, woman! You've no knickers on, why not?' Patrick railed at her?

She replies, 'I can't afford any on the miserable pittance you give me.' Patrick reaches into his pocket and says, 'For the sake of decency, here's a €20. Go and buy yourself some underwear!'

Lastly, the Scotsman's wife bends over. The wind also takes her skirt over her head to reveal that she, too, is naked under it.. 'Och ay Aggie! Where the friggin hell are yer drawers?' She too explains, 'You dinna give me enough money ta be able ta affarrd any.' Angus reaches into his pocket and says, 'Well, fer the love 'o decency, here's a comb.... Tidy yerself up a bit.'

Keith S.

Idiot of the Month.

I had intended to put Boris 'The Buffoon' Johnson as this month's example but it will have to wait as clowns of a similar ilk have just come to light. The following has been taken and abridged from The Local & Der Westen.

Couple Plant Bomb At Lidl

To Earn Place In The Spanish Sun.

A couple in western Germany proved that some people will stop at nothing to earn their little piece of paradise when they tried to extort the discounter using pipe bombs.

The reason why a pipe bomb had exploded at a branch of mega-cheap supermarket Lidl in western Germany in April had remained a mystery for weeks, reports Der Westen.

But on July 19, the district court in Bochum issued arrest warrants for two suspects in connection with the attack.

The charge against the married couple from nearby Gelsenkirchen is that they attempted to extort supermarket chain Lidl for millions of euros and were prepared to kill to get what they wanted. The pipe bomb was a step in this drastic scheme, Bochum prosecutors allege.

It exploded on April 15th in a bin at a recycling station at the Lidl branch in Herten, North Rhine-Westphalia, lightly injuring a female employee, who was struck by shrapnel.

According to Der Westen, Rüdiger D. (48) and Liana D. (54), dreamed of owning a house in Spain. But they didn't plan on doing it in the time-honoured way - after a life time of work.

They had set a deadline of September to leave their dilapidated apartment in Gelsenkirchen and head for pastures new and sunny, planning to use the money extorted from Lidl.



Now though, they face a murder charge as prosecutors are convinced they would have stopped at nothing to achieve their dream.

Investigators claim that they detonated the bomb remotely, via a mobile phone, and could not see the bin in which they had thrown it - for all they knew, someone could have been right next to it when the bomb went off.

Three days after the bomb attack, Lidl received an email saying that if they did not hand over €1 million euros within a month, more explosions would follow. Not only that, but if the supermarket did not pay up within this time frame the ransom would be doubled to €2 million.

But the method this slapstick Bonny and Clyde chose to receive the ransom made the audacious plan all the more implausible. (Continued next column.)

Do You Drive a 'Furgón'?

Maybe you do and don't know it! If you drive say a Citroen Berlingo or Peugeot Partner or similar type of transport and depending on the configuration - whether it has rear seats or not or rear windows or not - will affect its classification. And, depending on its classification, it may be subjected to different speed limits and ITV testing periods.

The easiest way to check whether your vehicle is a *furgón* or not is to check the classification on your vehicle registration certificate (log-book). This is a four-figure code plus a brief description. The code for a normal car is '10.' The second two digits define any specialised use of the vehicle. If it is a *furgón* then the first two digits will begin with '24.' A code of '2425' means a refrigerated *furgón* and '2400' means an all-purpose, non-specific *furgón*.



A *furgón* will have to be ITV tested more frequently than a car, with a test every two years for a period of six years, then every year until the vehicle is ten years old and then every six months.

In a *furgón* you also have to obey the same speed limits as lorries, except in built-up areas. If on a motorway with a normal speed limit of 120 kph, you will be fined if you exceed 90 kph. If the speed limit on a motorway or dual-carriageway is 100 kph, then your speed in a *furgón* must not exceed 80 kph.

If you are using 'other conventional roads' - any road of more than one lane per direction OR with a hardshoulder of at least 1.5 metres, then the national speed limit is 90 kph but you will be restricted to 70 kph. On urban roads, the speed limit is the same for cars and *furgóns*.

You should also be aware that a *furgón* has been designed to carry a maximum loaded weight of 3,500 kg. Whether you plan to carry this weight or not, your tyres must be of the appropriate strength.

(Thank you to Keith (Affordable Air Con - page 2) for this info' and link - http://spanishnewstoday.com/expats-beware-speed-limits-are-different-for-furgons-with-no-seats_18992-a.html)

(Idiot of the Month Continued)

They registered three credit cards under false identities. But each of the cards had a daily withdrawal limit of €320 euros on it, meaning it would have taken slightly under three years to withdraw all their loot.

They also didn't demand the whole sum upfront. The supermarket was to pay €3,000 into each of the three accounts every month.

For the discount chain, this was a price they were prepared to pay to catch their blackmailers.

But, while they paid in the initial ransom, state police started investigating who the criminals behind the plot could be.

It didn't take long before the trail was warm and undercover cops started filming the pair on their daily trips to the bank.

An array of different disguises, including wigs and face masks, was unable to save them. After the couple had withdrawn €1,200, investigators decided to move in and arrested them.

If a court finds the couple guilty they face a minimum of five years in jail each.

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BREXIT - SO WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Well not much really. Last month we read the bland statement 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.'

Of some significance however, has been the statement issued by the President of Valencia, Ximo Puig. On Monday June 4th, after meeting with some 50 members of the Alicante tourism sector (businesses, unions and Town Halls) in Benidorm, he issued the following statement - 'I want to send a message of absolute affection to all the British community who live among us, and I guarantee there will not be any interruption to any fundamental public service, and health is guaranteed to any person who lives in our Community.'

Puig made it clear that any fear in the British community about Brexit having negative consequences for users of public services was totally unfounded. Puig wanted to highlight his 'message of affection, kindness and security' for the British.

Puig (photo), a journalist by profession, is also a Spanish politician who has served as leader of the Socialist Party of the Valencian Country (PSPV-PSOE), a regional branch of the PSOE, since March 2012. On 25 June 2015, he was invested President of the Generalitat Valenciana with the favourable votes of PSPV-PSOE, Podemos and Compromís, succeeding Alberto Fabra and putting an end to two decades of PP governments in the region. The corruption, fraud and profligacy of twenty years of PP mismanagement finally wore down the patience of the Valencian electorate who booted them out.



However, since Puig's statement, a spokesperson for the Generalitat has said that it was still uncertain what would happen when Britain actually leaves the EU.

There have however, been different noises coming from Andalucía. Here, Susana Díaz, president of the socialist junta there, recently declared that the 80,000 Britons who live in Andalucía will lose their access to free public health when the UK leaves the EU. But of course it is not free as the UK pays millions for UK pensioners healthcare in Spain anyway. The real question is, after Brexit, will the UK government continue to pay or be allowed to pay for expat healthcare?

But although the Andalucians are happy to benefit economically from the expat and British tourist 'buck', this is not the first time that they have been given the cold



shoulder there by the natives. Josefina Cruz (photo), the regional councillor for public works and housing in the socialist regime, was taken to court by 12 British residents in the Almanzora area in 2011 for her comments which they described as 'offensive and discriminatory and give completely the wrong impression'.

Cruz made these comments in the regional parliament about British residents in the Almanzora area of Almería who own illegal properties: 'I do not know if you are defending the intrusion of people, do not know if you are defending the interests of a group of people who are not of this country,....the lack of respect for the culture of the territory, for the culture of the landscape and the culture of planning....who have settled here illegally I am concerned with the general situation, and I am not interested in the particular situation of a group of people who have settled illegally in our territory and who are now demanding that we resolve a problem that they are responsible for creating'. Despite the facts that the British were legal residents and that most of the illegal builds were the result of a woefully inefficient and outdated housing policy and expat's being tricked by developers and an inadequate regional inspection program & control, the objections were thrown out of court as the judge believed that 'a crime had not been committed.' So all in all, don't expect too much understanding or help from the 'Gucchi' socialists in Andalucía.

But now, contrary to Cruz's diatribe, the Andalucian Parliament had just approved the regularisation of 25,000 illegal homes in Andalucía, 10,000 in the Malaga area alone.

Finally a few words on Brexit by Henry Kissinger in the Wall Street Journal: 'Britain will want to maintain extensive ties with Europe while lifting or easing the constraints of its many legislative and bureaucratic requirements. The EU leadership has almost the opposite incentive. It will not wish to reward Britain's Leave majority by granting Britain better terms than it enjoyed as a full member. Hence a punitive element is likely to be inherent in the EU bargaining position.'

Brexit

Now we've had our Brexit
from the union we will go
and whatever happens
it's likely to be slow

Ex-pats living here
who have their residences
should have nothing to fear
for others may come expenses

Those who pay their tax
and are fiscal here
should not face the axe
and have nothing to fear

Others living here
not quite within the law
maybe will pay dear
and take it on the jaw

For some it may be travel
to the land of hope and glory
others wait for it to unravel
till we get to the end of the story

So as we wait and see
the euro on the drop
what will be will be
we'll wait for it to stop

Those who voted out
can't have their cake as well
what it's all about
history will tell

And so we live our lives
and continue in the sun
this Brexit sure is lots of things
but certainly not fun.

The Phantom Poet

*I love to shop after a bad
relationship. I don't know; I
buy a new outfit and it makes
me feel better. It just does.
Sometimes, if I see a really
great outfit, I'll break up with
someone on purpose.*

Rita Rudner

What did the elephant say to the nude man? 'It's cute, but can it pick up peanuts?'



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Lime Bar Fishing Sunbathing Club

Any of you that have walked along the riverbanks over here will know how quickly & thick the bamboo / reeds grow. It can be like a jungle with snakes, rats & all sorts of other wildlife rustling in the bushes. The Eden canal has 24 pegs (spots to fish from) and between the 4 local fishing clubs we keep them clear. The idea was that each club would be responsible for 6 pegs each. A logical approach that would work if all the clubs kept their allocated pegs clear. Unfortunately, 2 of the clubs don't. As our club has 20 anglers we need all the pegs clear or we cannot fish our matches there. So, at the end of June a 12-man working party with an average age of 67 went to the Eden canal to clear the overgrown pegs. This was 100% of those that were available. So well done and a fantastic effort!

We arrived just before 09.00 but "The Shropshire Lad" had been kicked out of bed early by the misses so he had already cleared one peg on his own. The rest of us got stripped off, armed ourselves to the teeth with various machetes, billhooks, meat cleavers, grapnels etc and dispersed to the worst areas.

Within 2 minutes of starting, "fag ash" was heard calling for a first aid kit. He had a splinter in his finger....

Daffy, armed with his trusty machete (see photo) started hacking away at his overgrown swim like Indiana Jones. Fortunately he had cleared a swathe through most of it before he lost his grip and the machete went bouncing across the river like a skipping stone. The poor old coot on the other bank had a shock! This will teach you to wear a safety strap on your wrist.

"Little Big Mick" & "Ball boy" had a lay in but got stuck in with gusto when they finally arrived.

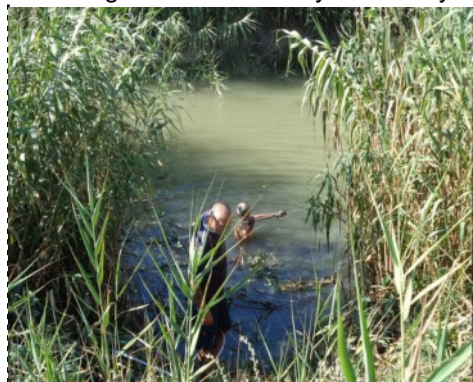
"Little Big Mick" took 3 swings with his meat cleaver & was spotted leaning on the wall gasping for breath. The reeds were that bad in a few swims that a couple of us had to get into the water to clear them (see photo left). "Snake charmer" was heard to say "You're joking! I'm not getting in there, there might be crocodiles!" We knew we were safe though, the amount of ruckus we were making, no wildlife in it's right mind would come anywhere near us..... we hoped. After lunch, we saw a 3-foot snake swimming where we had been in the water!

"3 rods" was one to enter the water. He was doing well until he punctured his inflatable ring on a bamboo spike (see photo right). His feet then sank into the knee-deep silt where he lost both his shoes. After being pulled out of the "goo" and crawling up the bank, he did find a pair of socks that he had lost a couple of months before!

After clearing the pegs, we got cleaned up and went to find "Fagin" & "Grumpy". They had set up a small kitchen to provide us with well-deserved refreshment (see photo below).

It wasn't to be "Ball Boys" day. During the lunch a roll of kitchen roll had been placed too close to the gas stove. It caught fire but was quickly put out, only for "Ball Boy" to put it back in exactly the same place and set fire to it again....DOH! After lunch, "Ball Boy" was one of 5 anglers to fish the swims we had just cleared. He obviously felt left out at not cooling off in the river earlier. Whilst setting up his tackle he fell in. All we heard was a pitiful "Help!" We shouted back, "What's up?" "I've fallen in, and can't get out!" Daffy & I ran up the bank to his rescue (laughing). It turned out to be quite an expensive day for him too. He still had his mobile phone & his car key fob in his pockets... oops!

After all the exertions and cramps, we had to replenish lost liquids so we ended up at the Lime Bar where the war stories flowed into the evening.



This month's bun fight was a humdinger! It didn't come to blows but it was quite heated..... Martin behind the bar was grinning like a Cheshire cat, he said "Just like old times! That's how the meetings used to be".

After clearing it, this month's match was held at the Eden canal but as several members are back in UK we only had 10 anglers on the bank. Recently the Eden had been fishing well but as with most venues over here, it depends how the fish feel on the day. It was forecast for a cloudy day with a chance of the odd shower but conditions were hot and sticky with no flow on a very low river. It was to be another day when the fish weren't playing ball and we had 5 dry nets. Well done "feathers" who caught 4 fish for 3 kilos, I was 2nd with 1 kilo and "Ball Boy" used his recent "close river recce" to good advantage and came

3rd with 0.9 kilos.

Next meeting bun fight is at The Lime Bar @ 17.00 Mon 1st August.

Fishy fingers!
The Ghost.

I bought my kids a set of batteries for Christmas with a note attached saying, 'Toys not included.'
Bernard Manning



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What a Weekend!

At least for Alicante-Elche Airport. From Friday July 22nd to Sunday July 24th, the airport experienced a record number of travellers and flights. On Friday there were 301 flights with 50,342 passengers; Saturday 347 flights & 58,044 passengers (a record) and on the Sunday 308 flights and 51,698 travellers.

More than half of the passengers come from the UK, but flights now come to the airport from a range of countries and areas ranging from Russia to North Africa.

As one of the fastest growing airports in Europe, with traffic of more than 10 million passengers a year, this could easily increase to 12 million shortly, prior to its 50th anniversary of inauguration.

The terminal offers direct flights to 110 destinations, of which 31 are new this summer, including Vienna, Sofia, Seville, Vigo, Nantes, Bordeaux, Warsaw, Tel Aviv, Ivano (Ukraine) and Tiencen (Algeria).

There is no doubt that the Costa Blanca is becoming one of the most popular 'Sun and Beach' holiday destinations, now that a number of other Mediterranean destinations have become unstable.

Between April and October, over 4 million Brit's are expected to arrive.

And, if you want a vision of Hell, go to the airport any weekend!



Find a Pulse!

Almost 30,000 Spaniards continue to receive a state pension despite the fact that they have died. The extraordinary statistic, which costs the taxpayer around €300m (\$330m) a year, has been released by Spain's national Audit Office.

The report revealed that a total of 29,321 deceased Spaniards were still drawing a pension averaging a total pay out of €25 million each month. It established the figure by cross-checking pension payments on the social security system for December 2014, with deaths registered at the National Institute of Statistics (INE) dating back to 1989.

The Audit Office called for an overhaul of the bureaucratic system that it slammed as ridden with "gaps and weaknesses".

The report said that insufficient information was given to the Social Security Office when a person died and that it "failed to use effective controls over who it pays pensions to, and neither do the banks through which pensions are paid."

The report adds pressure on a social security system that has consistently fallen short of revenue goals, even since Spain came out of recession three years ago.

On Wednesday, July 20th, the interim PP government of said it was necessary to tap a social security reserve fund for the second time this month to pay pensioners. This time it needed to draw €1 billion (\$1.10 billion) in order to pay tax rebates due on pensions, leaving the reserve fund at €24.2 billion down from €66.8 billion in 2011.

My brother-in-law died. He was a karate expert, then he joined the army. The first time he saluted, he killed himself.

Henny Youngman

Life & Death Stuff!

The Civil Protection Agency has offered advice to bathers on how to avoid drowning in a 'rip' tide or current. This is a condition which affects both the Costa Blanca and the Costa del Sol and results in a number of deaths every year.

The organisation is using social media to recommend two basic rules; stay afloat and swim parallel to the seashore. Rip tides are known in Spain as 'hangover currents' and are a natural phenomenon little known to bathers, and is the most probable cause for many drownings during the summer.

Rip tides form rapidly close to the beach where there erode the sand and create sandbanks parallel to the beach. This is why the lifeguards have to be taken notice of, and the red flag means **Do Not Swim**.

Watching the behaviour of the waves can help:

1. Observe the lines of the waves. The deeper sand under the rip tide stops a wave forming above and in effect breaks the wave in half. Next to the rip tide you see large white breaking waves which indicate precisely the location of the rip tide

2. Note the type of sand under the sea. The currents from a rip tide can be easily spotted as the eroded sand is transported to be beach by the waves. Sometimes this sand seems gritty and this is another sign of a rip tide.

The guidance notes on Twitter recommend:

Don't fight the current;

Swim even with the shore, until current weakens, then swim to shore;

If you can't escape the rip tide float or tread water, shout and move your arms to be seen and call the attention of other bathers.



Calling the Vet! ®

Her dog was in heat, but she agreed to look after her neighbour's male dog while the neighbour was on vacation. She had a large house and she believed that she could keep the two dogs apart.

However, as she was drifting off to sleep, she heard awful howling and moaning sounds. She rushed downstairs and found the dogs locked together and unable to disengage, as frequently happens when dogs mate.

Unable to separate them, and perplexed as to what to do next, and although it was very late at night, she called her vet, who answered in a very grumpy voice.

After she explained the problem to him, the vet said, "Hang up the phone and place it down alongside the dogs. I will then call you back and the noise of the ringing will make the male lose his erection and he will be able to withdraw."

"Do you think that will work?" she asked.

"Just worked for me," he replied.

Barcelona Plans to Charge Owners of Empty Homes.

According to local press reports, Barcelona City Hall has provisionally approved a plan to hit owners of empty homes in the city with a new administrative charge (tasa in Spanish) of €633, followed up with further fines of €286 for every notification issued to owners of empty homes. City Hall will present this provisional plan to the Economy Commission this week for approval.

The City Hall justifies this new charge on the grounds that it covers the bureaucratic cost of investigating homes that are left "permanently unoccupied without justification for two years or more". They claim they just shifting the cost of the bureaucracy from the public purse to the owners of empty homes.

Investigations into empty homes may or may not end in a fine, but the new administrative fee will be charged regardless, unless proceedings turn out to be unjustified. I wouldn't be surprised if that means they charge anyway, then pay you back some time later if you press your case and it turns out they were unjustified.

In a press conference last week city officials explained that this is all part of their strategy to "guarantee the right to housing." The idea is to dissuade owners from leaving their properties unoccupied and send a "clear message" that this municipal government, led by left-wing Mayoress Ada Colau, is working to support the right to housing.

They may call it an 'administrative fee' but it's basically a fine for owning an empty home in Barcelona, despite claims by Gerardo Pisarello, Colau's (the left-wing mayor of Barcelona) right-hand man, that the measure is intended to "dissuade, not punish". (Mark Stucklin, Spanish Property Insight.)

Tees!

A golfer drives his new Honda into a petrol station. An attendant comes over and the golfer asks him to fill up his tank. As he fills it up, the attendant sees a couple of tees on the passenger seat. 'What are those things for?' asks the attendant. 'They're called tees,' replies the golfer. 'What are they for?' asks the attendant. 'They're for resting my balls on when I drive,' said the golfer. 'Blimey,' says the attendant. 'Those Japanese have thought of everything!'

Combating Depression.

Antidepressants and therapy, while both effective, are not the only means available to combat depression. Exercise has been described as a “wonder drug” for reducing symptoms, walking in nature reduces negative thoughts, and meditation can have a powerful positive effect.

But there's another, often overlooked, way to help reduce depression: Food. Our brain relies on nutrients to work effectively and studies have found that Omega-3, amino acids, B vitamins, Vitamin D, and minerals like zinc, magnesium and iron help create strong mental health. The Mediterranean diet, with its abundance of olive oil and leafy vegetables, contains many of these nutrients. One study of more than 15,000 people over 10 years found that those who followed the Mediterranean diet had a lower risk of depression.

Nutritionist Melissa Brunetti, who focuses on the connection between diet and mental health, says that an ideal breakfast for people struggling with depression would be eggs (which include amino acids, Omega-3, Vitamin D, and fatty acids), with sprouted-grain toast and smashed avocado. The fatty acids in eggs are key, she says.

“Our brain is about 60% fat and we need to get our fat from a dietary source. Avocado is rich in tryptophan, which is a pre-cursor to serotonin, which is our feel-good chemical. It also has folate and Omega 3 in it.”

Those who crave chocolate can also act on that instinct: Chocolate, like avocado, contains tryptophan.

Nutrients such as amino acids are necessary to produce hormones and neurotransmitters in the brain. But regulating blood sugar can also help maintain a good mood.

Have three meals and a snack between lunch and dinner—as well as before and after working out—to avoid feeling the irritability that comes with low blood sugar, says Brunetti. She advises lentils, red meat, sweet potatoes, and spinach.

And despite various warnings about the risk of weight gain from eating late at night, Brunetti says that a carbohydrate such as oatmeal with a little honey could be good for people who have trouble sleeping. You're more likely to wake up in the middle of the night if your blood sugar is low, and so a snack before bed helps sleep throughout.

Of course, avocados and oatmeal alone are no cure for depression. But in combination with treatment, they can create the right physiological conditions for good mental health.

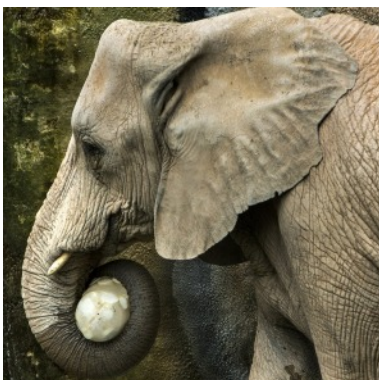


“Nutrients are needed to fuel our brain. If we're not getting the nutrients in through diet, then we don't have the nutrients to formulate our neurotransmitters, our neurochemicals, or regulate our blood sugar or hormones,” says Brunetti. “Food can have huge impact on people's mental health.”

(Olivia Goldhill,qz.com)

For the benefits of exercise on depression, see - <http://nymag.com/scienceofus/2016/07/exercising-in-nature-may-hold-unique-benefits-for-the-depressed.html>

The Long Hot Summer?



The photos above were taken from El Pais - http://elpais.com/elpais/2016/07/21/album/1469102388_746613.html#1469102388_746613_1469102711

With soaring temperatures, the animal-keepers in the BioPark in Valencia are treating the animals to special ice lollies. The animals' food is frozen in ice, which is a great idea. I wonder if one could do that with Smirnoff?

How many Jehovah's Witnesses does it take to change a light bulb?

Three: one to screw in the bulb, and two to knock on your door and ask if you've seen the light.

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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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Sorry to say goodbye to Valerie Dack, 73, who passed away suddenly in early July. A tireless worker for animal charities, she will be sadly missed by her family, friends, the Arty Farty Club - Ann, Pat, Vivien, Judith, Tid, Pat B. and of course Bella.

Guide for identifying beach-goers



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