

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER

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

Issue no. 113, 1st of September 2016.

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the September edition.

It has been an excellent summer but as the season slowly draws to a close, problems caused by the heat and drought continue with farmers reporting major losses. September and October are also expected to be dryer than normal. Información in Alicante headlined that 'Half of the forest fires in the province were intentional'. The Consul has increased the budget for fire fighting by 20%, to maintain 12 brigades and four aircraft to fight the fires. Alicante had the hottest day during August for the last six years, 40° in the shade and 28° as the low.

Spain has had an excellent tourist season, probably the best to date. I have always felt that September can be the best month of the year. The sea and pools are still warm, the *Madrilenos* have all returned to their stifling cities, and the expat's who go away for August (we call them the 'Can't hackits') return with their tales of rain, storms and high prices.

Don't forget payment on your property tax (IBI) is due before October 3rd, 2016.

If you are experiencing liquidity problems paying your IBI, road tax and sewage bills, you can arrange to have these paid in 12 monthly instalments by contacting the SUMA office.

Late News: Aside for the horrific vehicle crash, as outlined on page 30, there have been a few other bad news episodes. The Dog & Bone mobile phone shop in La Zenia was raided by two armed villains. They pulled up on a motorbike outside and still wearing helmets forced customers and staff to lie on the floor. They then assaulted the lady in the Eurochange cash booth, taking any cash and were back on their bike and away within minutes. Then in a grisley episode, a man murdered his 32-year-old wife and mother of two children in their apartment in Torrevieja two months ago. The victim was then stashed in a little cupboard next to the boiler. After a month the man then cemented around the cupboard. It was a lady friend of the victim who initiated the search as the husband appeared unconcerned.

Wishing Bill & Pam all the best back in the UK and a big thanks to them and to Bill & Moyra for the generous donations. Also thanks to Joyce and the bingo players at Macklin's Welcome Inn for their generous donations of easycook food and shampoos, soaps & cosmetics to the Reach Out charity. But to the person who left an almost empty jar of Nutella, with just scrapings on the bottom - get real....and may the Curse of the Wild Women of Wongo fall upon your head! Also thanks to Gill and an anonymous donor of Jilly's Bar, who donated their winnings (€220) from the recent football pool to Reach Out.

Angela is away and her original cartoon will be back next month

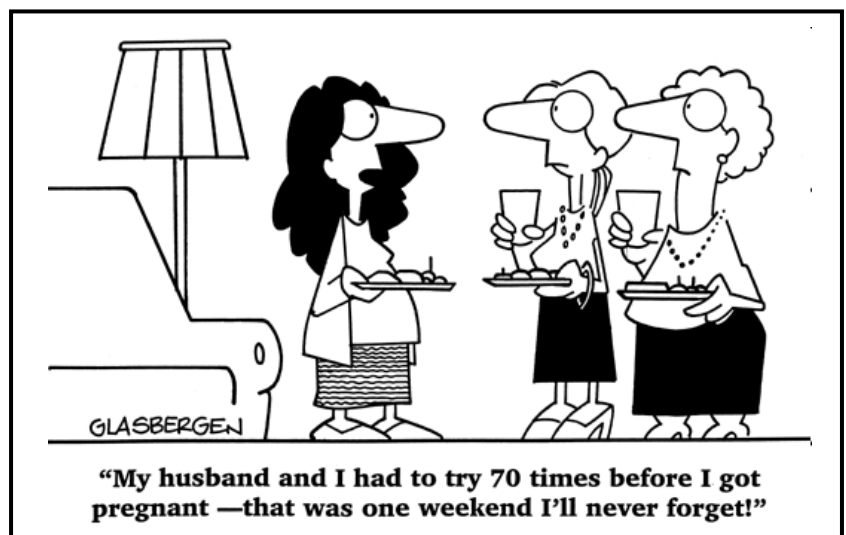
Please check out the Dream Scene appeal on page 13 and be your usual generous selves.

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

Mick & Tid.

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

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Did you know that

...out of the world's estimated 7 billion people, 6 billion have access to mobile phones while only 4.5 billion have access to working toilets?

...the city of Madrid has 15,000 restaurants and bars, one for every 211 inhabitants? However the town of Guadalupe has six bars/restaurants for every thousand inhabitants.

... the de-icing in Siberia has revealed 'zombie' bacteria which is spreading, as dead bodies carrying anthrax defrost. The microorganism has already killed a young boy and hospitalised more than 90 people.

...scandals have proliferated at Deutsche Bank. Since 2008, it has paid more than nine billion dollars in fines and settlements for such improprieties as conspiring to manipulate the price of gold and silver, defrauding mortgage companies, and violating U.S. sanctions by trading in Iran, Syria, Libya, Myanmar, and Sudan. Last year, Deutsche Bank was ordered to pay regulators in the U.S. and the U.K. two and a half billion dollars, and to dismiss seven employees, for their role in manipulating the London Interbank Offered Rate, or *libor*, which is the interest rate banks charge one another. They are very, very naughty!

...President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines vowed to rid the country of drug dealers when he took office in June. Since then, more than 700 people have been killed in drug-related police operations, and over a thousand have been murdered by vigilantes, the country's top police official announced. Police were also investigating 1,067 other drug-related killings, the chief of police said, without giving details. Duterte, who has appeared in our *Idiot* column twice, has railed against the United Nations for criticizing the wave of deaths. There can't be any doubt that 'score-settling' and 'vengeance attacks' form part of this violence. Many have described the violence as 'murder with impunity.' Duterte, who obviously went to the Boris Johnson School of Diplomacy, described the U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines in the following terms: "As you know, I'm fighting with [U.S. Secretary of State John F. Kerry's] ambassador. His gay ambassador, the son of a whore. He pissed me off," Duterte said. Duterte may be a clown but he is definitely a very dangerous one.

What's Up?

In a last ditch attempt to escape a third **general election** in 12 months, the centralist party, Ciudadanos, is pressing the caretaker PP government to adopt a number of changes, many which relate to preventing and punishing corruption. The PP appear to be dragging their heels on the issue, but even if the changes are adopted, the main socialist party, the PSOE, could scupper the deal as the PP and Ciudadanos will not have a working majority anyway. This will mean a third general election in a year!

Spain has **escaped the deficit fine** from the EU. In a surprising move at the last minute and after more than three hours of a tense meeting the European Commission has decided to cancel the fines for Spain and Portugal despite their continuous noncompliance with the deficit objectives. Spanish diplomats supported by France and Italy have been active over recent days. If Spain had not dodged the bullet the fine would have been 0.2% of GDP or some 2.2 billion €.

BUT El Mundo headlined 'The EU will sanction Spain with 6.1 billion € if there are no pacts for Government'. The Government sees 'unstoppable' a fine of 5 billion € and the freezing of another 1.1 billion if by October 15 the State Budgets have not been passed. The punishment will include the return 'the men in black'. But after the Brexit decision, there is a certain nervousness when it comes to allocating any penalties.

El País reports that the **tourist season** has taken the working population to the levels of 2010. Unemployment fell by 84,000 people in July, the largest fall since 1997.

The main town halls in the province of Alicante are remaining solvent only by stashing **unpaid invoices** away in drawers. The city of Alicante has invoices totalling €18 million tucked away, while the municipalities of Orihuela has €10 million stashed away and Elche €6 million.

Multiple births have doubled in Spain over the last two decades. In 18 years the number of twin and triplet births has increased by 110% according to the National Statistics Institute. Among the main causes are maternity at an advanced age and the expansion of methods for assisted reproduction.

A **bale of hashish** was seen drifting off a Málaga beach – a lifeguard tried to rescue the bale of drugs to hand it over to the Police, but the bathers on the beach mobbed him and he had to quickly abandon the area.

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! There is little of substance to report at this stage. There is a power play between the three departments who will be responsible for the negotiations with the EU on the exit and any subsequent trade talks. They are now concentrating on building up their departments which are severely understaffed. PM May has gone on a whistlestop tour to several EU countries. Little was agreed.

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Resident of Dream Hills

On Wednesday, 20th July 2016, the Parliament of Andalucía approved a bill to modify three articles of the **planning laws** of Andalucía (LÓUA) to permit the regularisation of isolated residential properties located on illegal land divisions (parcelaciones urbanísticas) on non urbanisable land (suelo no urbanizable). It is estimated that some 30,000 houses in Andalucía will benefit from this change and when this new law comes into force in August homeowners can ask for the regularisation of their home by applying for an AFO certificate, a document that officially declares their property to be assimilated into the planning regimen of 'fuera de ordinacion'. Maura Hillen, the president of the property rights association AUAN, (Abusos Urbanísticos Almanzora NO), expressed her total satisfaction with this change. "This change is the result of nine years of work by our association and it will deliver real and immediate benefits to our members. Nearly all of them will eventually be able to obtain electricity, water and paperwork for their homes....This is not an amnesty. The house needs to comply with various administrative and physical requirements -all at the cost of the owner, of course. But it allows thousands of houses to exit a legal limbo and puts an end to the anguish of thousands of purchasers in good faith who bought these houses in the past. We are very proud that our efforts have not been in vain."

Holiday time is **swindle time** – 6 out of 10 summer holidaymakers are disappointed when they see their rental accommodation. Rental fraud increased by 17% last year, 68% of the frauds corresponded to the location of the property (distance from the sea) and rental prices in August can be multiplied by 12.

At July 26th, our region - Valencia, has registered seven cases of the Zika virus. In Spain, the total number of cases to this date was 109, of which 26 are pregnant women.

El País reports that the **spending on Spanish roads** has fallen to the level last seen 30 years ago.

The **ageing population** of Europe is threatening productivity. The IMF has named Spain, Greece, Italy and Portugal as the most affected countries.

Family doctors (GP's) in the Balearics are the **busiest in Spain** according to the number of patients they see. Each doctor has to attend to an average 1,718 health cards.

Eight years after Spain's **property market** crashed, house sales continue to increase, with a three-year high registered in June as some 36,856 homes changed hands, up 19.5% from the same month in June 2015.

Property purchase continues its **recovery** and has reached a high last seen in 2010 - up 19.4% in July over the year led by resale properties. Building on the growth seen in April and May, sales for the first half of 2016 were the best since 2010. However, growth is largely restricted to five major cities and their surrounding areas: Madrid, Barcelona, Alicante, Malaga and Valencia. Total sales for the first half of the year were 207,593. New house sales have fallen, but resales have soared – experts believe that the recovery of the real estate sector is consolidating.

People living in Great Britain can now only receive **Housing Benefit** for 4 weeks if they are out of the country. Previously, housing benefit claimants could continue having their rent paid for up to 13 weeks. The new rules, which came into force last month, prevent claimants from taking long drawn-out trips outside Great Britain while receiving taxpayer help with their rent, as well as bringing Housing Benefit into line with Jobseeker's Allowance and other working age benefits.

El Mundo interviews Gustavo Buesa, accused of **illegally financing the Pujol party** and headlines 'the 'King of rubbish' recognised he financed CDC and Union'. The businessman, a friend of Pujol, was detained on August 13 for getting 'donations' in exchange for municipal contracts. He assures he donated 100,000 € to Union, to pay their wages at the petition of Duran and Sánchez Lliber. He admitted he donated 550,000 € for the CDC foundation 'for their ideals'.

Some of the **highest paid Spanish political leaders** of whom nine earn more than the prime minister, Mariano Rajoy.

Annual gross wage – PM Mariano Rajoy €78,987.

Carles Puigdemont – President of the Catalan Generalitat and separatist €145,471.

Cristina Cifuentes – PP Leader of the Madrid regional government €103,090.

Manuela Carmena – left-wing Mayor of Madrid €101,000.

Ada Colau – left-wing Mayor of Barcelona €100,000.

With two months to go before the **grape harvest**, the provisions are for a record harvest, providing the summer climate continues. The winery organisations estimate over 50 million hectolitres, beating the record in 2013. Growth areas correspond to Castilla-La Mancha with more than 26 million hectolitres. Extremadura and Valencia, while Ribera del Duero and La Rioja speak of a good harvest for volume and quality they are limited by their denominations of origin which limits the cultivated hectares. All this despite the drought.

On the morning of Tuesday, July 26, a 62-year-old retired Guardia Civil married a lady of Bulgarian origin in Bullas, Murcia. Later on in the evening, **he took a gun** and shot two of his new wife's relatives. When they police arrived he then shot himself fatally.

Former politicians who are presently on the boards of the IBEX companies were paid more than 25 million € in 2015. 66% of trading companies have in their organs of administration old party leaders and top politicians.

124 people **died on the Spanish roads** during July, 11 more than the same month in 2015.

80% of **electricity payment evasion** in Spain is committed by the industrial and service companies, and the rest by individuals. According to the power company, the low income families are responsible for less than 1% of illegal connections. The vast majority of fraud committed in individuals, 80%, corresponds to homes with an elevated level of consumption.

The **ERE scandal** in Andalucia continues to shock.

In the latest revelation it seems that a union official was paid €143,885 between the years of 2003 and 2011 as severance pay from Rio Tinto Mines there. However it now seems that he was not unemployed at the time, as he was still being paid by the union, and he had not reached the qualifying age of 55 anyway. He has been ordered to return the money. But the paying of pensions to those who had not reached the qualifying age was not uncommon. The Guardia Civil report that in one case relating to the sacked miners at Gaza Pyrite Huelva, of the 325 who received substantial payments, 51 had not reached the qualifying age. The police say that the public aid was granted with the knowledge of the regional socialist government as it would "bring back social peace" and "avoid social pressure from the unions." To date, there are 537 defendants in the ERE (early retirement) case, and rest assured, this number will grow. There will be little 'social peace' from the resulting court appearances!

Diario de Mallorca headlines 'the drought has obliged serving the population **non-drinkable water** from 49 wells'. The Balearics Government has urged the Town Halls to notify their citizens of the content of the supplied undrinkable liquid.

Brussels has obliged the return of all the European aid for the ghost 58 kilometre long **high speed testing track** at Antequera, Malaga, where 140 million € has been wasted as it has never been completed. Adif the railway infrastructure company has to return the money which was paid from 2011.

Repsol has licensed **Burger King** to manage their restaurants in petrol stations. The deal comes after a fiasco in 2011 when Repsol themselves installed burger sales outlets in 150 petrol stations, which proved to be disastrous!

A horrifying statistic this: In the community of Valencia, 35 children have been **orphaned** in the last five years due to the murder of their mothers - 44 in all. Three children were also murdered by one of their parents during this period.

Tourists are **unhappy with Mallorca** having noticed the same strengths and weaknesses seen 50 years ago. They come for the sun and beach and now, because of terrorist problems in other countries, security. But they now complain about the poor standards of the hotels and the lack of complementary offers. Most say they won't return.

Corrupt policemen continue to be a problem in Palma. Nine of them are now being investigated for issuing false fines.

The Junta estimates in 60,000 cases of buildings on non-buildable land in Málaga **cannot be regularised** with the new legislation, given that only 60 Town Halls have not realised an inventory of the irregular buildings in their municipalities, four years after being ordered to do so.

The former president of Afinsa, Juan Antonio Cano (photo), has been sentenced to 12 years and ten months in prison. Two others received sentences of 11 years and 11 months in prison. The fourth, the company lawyer, got a six years and three months sentence. The four were found guilty of operating a **pyramid philately scam** in which 200,000 investors were duped. The investigation commenced in 2006. 11 of the 13 former directors were found guilty of the fraud and the auditor was acquitted.. Afinsa commenced business in 1998 and held a stock of 150 million stamps, most of no value.

These were sold to clients at a much higher value with the promise that they would be repurchased at a higher price. When the authorities intervened on May 2006, the company had accumulated debts of €1.928 billion. Mass demonstrations have been held by the investors (photo below), who are unlikely to recover any of their funds.

Those sentenced have been ordered to compensate those affected with the amount of €2.57 billion, a ridiculous order which can never be met.



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*When I was 12, my father told me that if I kept 'jerking off' I'd go blind.
I said, 'I'm over here, dad.'*




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Lime Bar Golf Society, Los Altos, Orihuela Costa.

The Lime Bar Golf Society's Annual Captain's Day on the 26th July 2016 was held at the Roda Golf Course. On a very fine and very warm morning 27 members teed off. The course was in good condition and a pleasant round of golf 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 Captains Drive on the 1st tee was won by Mick B

Nearest the pin on the 2nd hole was Ken Farrow

Nearest the pin on the 7th hole in was Tony Jones

Nearest the pin on the 11th hole was Digger

Nearest the pin on the 13th hole was Bud Butler

The winning team captain's were:

In 2nd place Peter Gillespie with a net score of 51

In 1st place Tony Bain (John Mac Gregor, Colin Taylor and Norman Dobson) making up the four with a net score of 51 (on count-back) and winners of the Captain's Day Trophy.

A very good day in pleasant company and which was celebrated joviently at the Lime Bar (19th Hole) with the presentation followed by drinks and refreshments. Thanks to the Captain for organising the event also to the Lime Bar staff for arranging the meal and the ladies for selling the football draw.



Colin Clarke

Typical!

An old soldier hopped in to a bar, crutch under one arm, and called to the barman, 'A pint of the dark stuff.'

'Too late,' said the barman, 'we've just closed up.'

'Ah come on,' said the soldier, 'I lost my leg at Dunkirk.'

'Well, you won't find it in this pub,' said the barman.



LIME BAR



VIA PARK III

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



The above is a photo of a protest against the 'Wall of Shame' in Cala Ferris, which was held in early August.

The wall is a deliberate provocation against the Torrevieja town council who will not allow the building of apartment blocks on the last bit of undeveloped and natural coastline in Torrevieja.

The **body** of a 72-year-old British man was found alongside the Torrevieja salt lake in early August. He appears to have died from natural causes and had been lying there for approx. seven days. The body was discovered by a passer-by.

Then on August 21, a 60-year-old **British man was killed** by a hit-and-run driver at Guardamar. It now transpires that the vehicle, a white SUV (photo of actual car), had British plates and was abandoned. The Guardia are liaising with the British police.



On Monday the 22nd, a 50-year-old man **drowned** off the beach in La Zenia. This happened shortly before 9:30am but the lifeguards do not start until 10:00am.

An **earthquake** measuring 2.4 on the Richter scale was felt locally at 8:38am on Monday 22nd. Its epicentre was 16km deep under the area bounded by Dialprix and the southern part of Torrevieja town on the coastal road.

Farmers in the Cartagena countryside are raising the tone of their protests concerning the lack of water. They blame the regional and central governments and say 20,000 jobs are at risk. Meanwhile, Murcia is experiencing a **cockroach plague**, said to be the worst in the country.

The town council of El Campello (near Alicante) are proposing to **fine property owners** who do not take care of their swimming pools and ponds. The new ordinance is nothing to do with good housekeeping but an effort to reduce the amount of stagnant water in the area. The aggressive Tiger mosquito flourishes in stagnant water - even small amounts. This is an effort to eliminate the pests.

Inspections will be carried out with a fine of €750 for minor offences, €1,500 for serious infringements and €3,000 for very serious infringements.

Past Pupils.

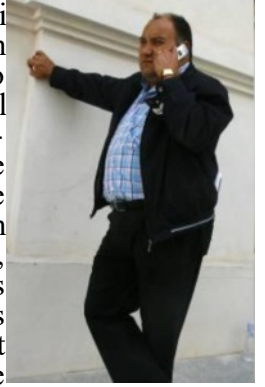
Have you ever been guilty of looking at others your own age and thinking, surely I can't look that old? Well.....! My name is Alice Smith and I was sitting in the waiting room for my first appointment with a new dentist. I noticed his dental diploma, which bore his full name. Suddenly, I remembered a tall, handsome, dark haired boy with the same name had been in my secondary school class some 30-odd years ago. Could he be the same guy that I had a secret crush on, way back then? Upon seeing him, however, I quickly discarded any such thought. This balding, grey haired man with the deeply lined face was far too old to have been my classmate. After he examined my teeth, I asked him if he had attended Morgan Park secondary school.

'Yes, yes I did. I'm a Morganner!' He beamed with pride. 'When did you leave to go to college?' I asked.

He answered, in 1975. Why do you ask? 'You were in my class!' I exclaimed.

He looked at me closely. then THE UGLY, OLD, BALD, WRINKLED, FAT ARSED, GREY HAIRE, DECREPIT, BASTARD asked.....'What subject did you teach?'

The socialist mayor of nearby Benferri has been **accused of nepotism** by the PP opposition. The mayor, Luis Vicente Mateo (photo-*Informacion*), has given €68,257 to Benferri Football Club. The accusation arises because his son, Antonio Manuel Vicente, is the technical director of the club, and his son-in-law, Antonio Cuartero, is the President of the club. I suppose 'charity begins at home' but with a town of just 2,000 inhabitants, no one asked for approval of this grant taken from taxpayers money. The mayor cannot understand all the fuss as he



says, 'We have been giving these grants for eight years!' However, you will have seen in last month's newsletter that Benferri are in the top ten of the slowest payers of supplier's bill in the Vega Baja area. I bet the football club did not have to wait for the bung - sorry - grant!

Yikes! Take a look at this hand! (Photo El



Mundo) A 40-year-old was swimming in the sea off Arenales del Sol in Elche on Friday, July 29, when his hand was bitten.

Lifeguards raised the red flag for a couple of hours as they thought it might be a shark bite - *No shit, Sherlock! It was hardly a jellyfish!* - and then allowed the bathers back in the water. It seems that the injured bather was floating on a lilo with his hand dangling over the side, which the shark mistook for a seagull. (I suppose he should be grateful that it wasn't a nudist beach and that another bodily appendage was hanging over.) Some days later, a beach in La Mata was closed for a period after a three-metre shark was seen in the water. A similar size shark was also seen inside the port of Cartagena later. (Do I hear the music from *Jaws*?)

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From October 2016 to March 2017, Ryanair will be launching six new flights from San Javier Airport to the UK and Ireland. The winter destinations are London-Luton, London-Stansted, Birmingham, Manchester, East Midlands and Dublin. There will also be flights to Eindhoven in the Netherlands during the period. It's good to see this slight increase in new flight to San Javier, the closest airport to us.

But of course the Damoclean sword of Corvera Airport still hangs over San Javier. If Corvera (see photo) opens San Jav' will have to shut down.

Although the new facility has been built and completed at least a couple of years ago, all it has seen so far in aircraft is one test flight! So there is still much to sort out before 'this bird will fly.' There are still numerous legal appeals and compensation claims in process and of course the little matter of the €200 million loan from the Murcian taxpayer has to be sorted out before it can appeal to an investor.

One 'bird' which will not be flying is the Paramount Theme Park proposed for Murcia. Lack of investors, wishful-thinking forecasts, dodgy political approval for the proposed buildings on protected land and a general nervousness concerning the many unsuccessful theme parks in Spain, has sentenced this project to certain doom. The former president of Murcia, Ramón Luis Valcárcel, who mentored both these projects and of course the €200 million loan for Corvera, is now hiding-out in the European parliament - the last refuge of a 'tired' or failed politician.



Injustice.

26-year-old Manuel Vicente died in 2000 after falling from the roof when working on an industrial warehouse in Seville. After the accident the two owners who employed him, claimed bankruptcy and also simultaneously opened another company under another name to avoid facing paying compensation.

His young widow then started a court case against the despicable duo which ended with the two men being scheduled to go to prison for 15 months and ordered to pay compensation of €210,000. 'The owners never called me to ask if I needed anything, and were totally indifferent,' the widow complained.

The sentence was confirmed, but was never applied because a judge forgot to execute it!

This is just one of a number of cases highlighted by El País in a series this summer which illustrate the weaknesses and vagaries of the Spanish Law and indeed the inefficiency and lack of accountability by some of the judiciary.

Good Advice.

After 35 years of marriage, a husband and wife came for counselling. When asked what the problem was, the wife went into a tirade listing every problem they had ever had in the years they had been married.

On and on and on: neglect, lack of intimacy, emptiness, loneliness, feeling unloved and unlovable, an entire laundry list of unmet needs she had endured.

Finally, after allowing this for a sufficient length of time, the therapist got up, walked around the desk and after asking the wife to stand, he embraced and kissed her long and passionately as her husband watched - with a raised eyebrow.

The woman shut up and quietly sat down in a daze.

The therapist turned to the husband and said, "This is what your wife needs at least 3 times a week. Can you do this?"

"Well, I can drop her off here on Mondays and Wednesdays.....but I go golfing on Fridays!"

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

Letters to the Editor.



On Val's behalf I would like to thank Association Street Cats of Catral (Reg. Charity No. G54131594, Tel: 661077589) for all their considerable help at her home, especially the catching of 17 cats which were examined by the association's vet and pronounced in good health, apart from "PATCHIE" who responded to treatment immediately, and "BLIP" who is improving daily.

A total of 14 were neutered and all are now permanently in their new home.

Thank you Gwen & Jim for giving them a chance.

All the "Pennies Box" donations totalling €62.50 have been passed to Association Street Cats.

Couldn't have done it without you.

J.K.P. (17.8.16)



Dogs & Beaches.

It is generally accepted that you cannot walk your dog on the beaches during the summertime. However, many believe that it is okay to walk their pet on the beaches during the winter period. Unfortunately, this is not so. The only beaches dogs are allowed on are the special dog-friendly beaches which are very few and usually in stony, rocky places.

Although a blind eye is turned on the practice during the winter months, it is still breaking the law and if the local council decide to clamp down, then it becomes a fineable offence. Surprisingly, dogs are also prohibited from sandy areas in squares and streets.

Jessie's Bar Golf Society Los Balcones

The Alenda Golf Course was the venue for the July society day.

Glorious sunny weather with a small breeze made the day perfect. The course was in top condition.

In 3rd Place Patrik Lundblad with 31 points (on count back).

In 2nd place Alan Jackson with 31 points.

In 1st place Mick Slater with 35 points (22 on back 9)

Nearest the pin on par 3s

Mike Keveren on the 3rd hole

John Walls on the 5th hole

Patrik Lundbad on the 13th hole

Kevin Jackson on the 16th hole

This was a very good day with good company, but still wondering why Ken Sutton played in a dress. Thanks to Jules, Kath and staff at Jessie's Bar for the excellent food and great atmosphere.

Alan Jackson

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Computers.

The Web brings people together because no matter what kind of twisted sexual mutant you happen to be, you've got millions of pals out there. Type in, 'Find people what have sex with goats that are on fire,' and the computer will say, 'Specify type of goat.'

(Richard Jeni)

A computer lets you make more mistakes faster than any invention in human history, with the possible exception of handguns and tequila.

(Mitch Ratcliffe)



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I had a dream I was trapped in an elevator with Peter Andre, Geri Halliwell, and Bryan McFadden.

And I had a gun with only one bullet.

Mark Lamarr

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Fashion Show.

A man walks into Ann Summers to purchase some see-through lingerie for his wife. He is shown several possibilities that range from £50 to £150 in price, the more see-through, the higher the price. He opts for the sheerest item, pays the £150 and takes the lingerie home. He presents it to his wife and asks her to go upstairs, put it on and model it for him. Upstairs the wife thinks 'I have an idea. It's so see-through that it might as well be nothing. I won't put it on - I'll do the modelling naked, return it tomorrow, get a £150 refund and keep the money for myself'. So she appears naked at the top of the stairs and strikes a pose.

The husband says; 'Stone me, it wasn't that creased in the shop'.

His funeral is this Thursday.

(Pete Dudman)

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

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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>

INHERITANCE TAX

Over the years I have included many articles on the Inheritance Tax (& Gift Tax) in Spain. The rate of tax varies from region to region and can be particularly burdensome due to the taxes and the costs that go with it. Also the inherited properties may be guarantees for a loan.

Over the last eight years 6,426 people in Alicante have refused to accept their inheritance as they cannot afford the costs that go with it. (When the UK leaves the EU, this tax could then be exorbitant for any inheriting UK family.) In Murcia the tax is down right penal. In our region, Valencia, an inheritance was virtually 99% tax free up until August 2013. But the dire financial situation forced the regional government to reduce the tax free element to 75%. Whereas rejected inheritances in the region were 1,014 in 2008, in 2015 the figure more than trebled to 3,319.

The socialist Junta in Andalucía have recently cancelled the inheritance tax when agricultural land is passed from parents to children. They have also reduced greatly the tax payable on family homes with a value of less than €250,000, when it is inherited by children or family members.

Sheer Bad Luck.

A man walks into Ann Summers to purchase some see-through lingerie for his wife. He is shown several possibilities that range from £50 to £150 in price, the more see-through, the higher the price. He opts for the sheerest item, pays the £150 and takes the lingerie home. He presents it to his wife and asks her to go upstairs, put it on and model it for him.

Upstairs the wife thinks 'I have an idea. It's so see-through that it might as well be nothing. I won't put it on - I'll do the modelling naked, return it tomorrow, get a £150 refund and keep the money for myself'. So she appears naked at the top of the stairs and strikes a pose.

The husband says; 'Stone me, it wasn't that creased in the shop'.

His funeral is this Thursday.

(Pete Dudman)



Judging the boxing at the Rio Olympics.



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The Burial.

A small boy was digging a large hole in his back garden.
'What are you doing, Tim?' asked the man next door, peering over the fence.
The boy said: 'My goldfish died and I'm burying him.'
'That's a big hole just for a goldfish,' said the neighbour.
The boy replied: 'That's because he's inside your cat.'

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Hard as Nails!

A squaddie comes back from Afghanistan on leave and goes into a bar in Manchester for a few scoops. The local university has organised an anti-war demo of 100 students that walks past the pub chanting, the usual guff, 'Troops out!', 'Murderers', etc. He walks out, whips out his combat knife and, in a blur, kicks the shit out of all 100 of them (they were Art's students!) in about 10 seconds.

He finishes up by lopping off the head student's ear before strolling back into the pub and ordering another pint and a pork pie.

He opens the pork pie, flips the ear into it and eats it in one bite.

The barman, obviously impressed, says, 'Special forces, right?' 'Nah,' he replies. 'Pioneer Corp.'

Emergency!

A woman phones the fire brigade. 'Help me! My house is on fire!' 'Tell me your address and we'll be there as soon as possible,' replies the operator. 'I can't tell you that, I'm too confused to think straight,' complains the woman.

'Then how do you expect us to get there?' asks the operator.

'What do you mean?' says the woman. 'Don't you have those big red trucks?'

Did you hear about the two Spanish firefighting brothers? They were called Hose A and Hose B.



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Seamus: 'I went to the dentist this morning.'

Patrick: 'So does your tooth still hurt?'

Seamus: 'I don't know. He kept it.'



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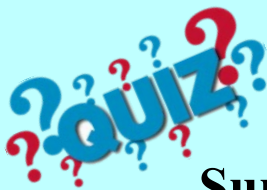
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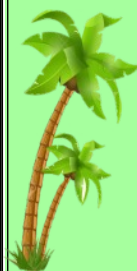
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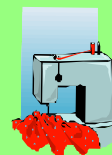
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To apply send an email to openday@vueling.com headed Open Day Palma. Conditions include being an adult, a qualification of a bachelor's degree or equivalent, a vocation for the service and a good level of the English language.

So, you now need a university degree to work as cabin crew! Maybe soon you will need a Phd to work in Burger King and KFC.



The Phoenix Golf Society.

We played at Savarin De Torre Golf course on Sunday August 21st for which we had a good turn out. The weather as usual was HOT but there was a nice breeze which helped - thank goodness.

The course was in a very good condition but the greens proved to be a bit of a challenge - very undulating!! But everyone enjoyed the test.

Mick Currie played again - Whow!!!! Last time he blamed the CLUBS ha! ha! but at Karaoke his singing was not much better than his golf! We also had a new member playing, Ian Grant.

Overall winner was - Steve Butterfield

Nearest the pin was - Doreen Sutton
and - Ian Grant.

Once again the food provided by the Phoenix Bar was excellent. we had Jerk Chicken & sandwiches. Many thanks to Jubbie & Kay for cooking and preparation etc.



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Our August outing was held at Mar Menor on Thursday 4th August and as one would expect for this time of the year conditions were very hot, so buggies and gallons of water were very much order of the day.

However, the hot conditions didn't stop some players from achieving fine scores.

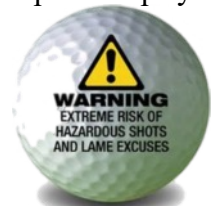
The nearest the pins were won by:

3rd Hole – Gary Hall

8th Hole – Louis O'Brien

14th Hole – Mick O'Connell

17th Hole – Dave Kirk



The best guest prize was won by Louis O'Brien with a great score of 40 points.

Runner up on the day was Mike Banfield with 36 points, and the winner with 39 points was Mick O'Connell. This is the second month in a row Mick has been the overall winner and he is just starting to ease ahead in the Player of the Year ratings. Bad news Mick, you are cut for the next outing.

After the evening prize presentation in Bar Domino, we were once again served in fine style with an excellent meal. (there is no stopping Lynn now in her new kitchen).

Many thanks again to Colin and Sarahanne and all their staff for their hospitality.

Our next outing is on Thursday 1st September at La Torre, all visitors/guests are very much welcome and if you are interested, then contact any of the committee at Bar Domino for further details.

Alisdair McLean

I asked my date what she wanted to drink. She said, 'Oh, I guess I'll have champagne.' I said, 'Guess again.'
Slappy White

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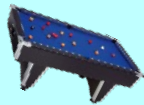
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Now Hear the Word of the Lord.

Three elderly soccer fans were in a church praying. The first one asked, 'Oh Lord, when will England next win the World Cup?' And the Lord replied: 'In twenty years time.' 'But I'll be dead by then,' said the first old man. The second old man asked, 'Oh Lord, when will Liverpool win the Champions League?' 'In 25 years time' the Lord replied. 'But I'll be dead by then,' said the second old man.

The third old man asked: 'Oh Lord, when will West Brom next win the Premier League?'

And the Lord answered, 'I'll be dead by then!'

The Lime Bar Golf Society, Los Altos, Orihuela Costa.

The Lime Bar Golf Societies monthly meeting on the 10th August 2016 was held at Las Colinas Golf Course. On a cooler morning than of late with an eye on a forecast threatened thunderstorm 26 members teed off. The course was in very good condition and a pleasant round of golf was enjoyed by the members.

The competition was played in the Stableford format and the scores recorded are as follows (the dog was not a competitor!):

Nearest the pin on the 5th hole was Ian Grant
 Nearest the pin on the 7th hole was Tony Brain
 Nearest the pin on the 10th hole was John Mac Gregor
 Nearest the pin on the 14th hole was John Burke
 Nearest the pin on the 17th hole was Ian Grant
 Best guest with a score of 31 was Dave Wright
 Silver Class in 3rd place was Colin Clarke with a score of 27 points
 Silver Class in 2nd place was John Walls with a score of 31 points



Silver Class in 1st place was Nev. Greenwood with a score of 32 points

Gold Class in 3rd place was Allan Thorpe (sen.) with a score of 31 points

Gold Class in 2nd place was Ed Aldred with a score of 32 points

Gold Class in 1st place was Ian Grant with a score of 36 points. This was achieved with a handicap of 5 excellent golf. A good day in pleasant company and which was celebrated joviently at the Lime Bar (19th Hole) with the presentation followed by drinks and refreshments. 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

The Lime Bar Golf Society, Los Altos, Orihuela Costa.

The Lime Bar Golf Societies held a Trilby Challenge on the 17th August 2016 was held at the Roda Golf Course. On a very fine and very warm morning 32 members teed off. The course was in good condition with a pleasant round of golf.

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

Nearest the pin on the 2nd hole was Norman Dobson
 Nearest the pin on the 7th hole in was Tommy Malcolm
 Nearest the pin on the 11th hole was Pete Gillespie
 Nearest the pin on the 13th hole was Tony Jones



The winning team captain's were:

In 1st place Ian Johnstone (Roger, Nico, and Digger) making up the four with a score of 104 (winners of the Trilby Challenge.

In 2nd Place Mike Heighway (Tam, Norman Dobson and Ken Styan) with a score 98 points.

The individual Stableford winner of the Golden Trilby with a magnificent score of 39 points was Ian Johnstone.

A very good day in pleasant company which was celebrated at the Lime Bar (19th Hole) with the presentation followed by drinks and refreshments. Thanks to Tony Jones and Committee for organising the event also to the ladies for selling the football draw.

Colin Clarke

The AAAA is a new organisation for drunks who drive. Give them a call and they'll tow you away from the bar.
 Martin Burden

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When going away for the weekend with a man, the woman has her hair cut, her bikini waxed, borrows a skirt from her best friend, buys a new top, dyes her eyelashes, diets, fills fifteen plastic containers with lotion, tries on all her clothes, irons them, packs something 'sexy'.

The man wonders if his wellies are in the car.

Deborah McKinlay

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Population Shrinks, as Spaniards Move Abroad and More Foreigners Leave.

Spain keeps losing population, and there are two major reasons for it: increasing numbers of Spaniards are moving abroad, and there are fewer foreign residents in the country.

On January 1, 2016 there were 99,439 fewer residents in Spain than a year earlier, according to preliminary figures released on Thursday by the National Statistics Institute (INE).

The registered resident population of Spain is currently 46.5 million, a 0.2% decrease in the annual rate. The figures are based on local resident registration, known as the municipal padrón. Councils regularly send in updated figures to the INE for statistical purposes. (Of course there are many, many people who prefer not to register on the padrón.)

The latest numbers confirm a downward trend that began in 2012, with the economic crisis in full swing.

Foreigners, who represent 9.9% of the registered population, fell by 128,372 individuals. Of these, the main nationalities were Ecuador, Britain and Germany. The INE notes that in 2015, around 123,000 foreign nationals were granted Spanish citizenship.

To this downward flow must be added the Spaniards who are moving away in search of better job

opportunities. Since 2009, there has been a 56.6% rise in the number of Spanish citizens living abroad, according to INE data released in March.

There are 4.6 million registered foreigners living in Spain, of whom nearly 1.8 million are European Union citizens. The largest communities are Romanian, British and Italian. Moroccans make up the largest non-EU group in Spain, followed by the Chinese and the Ecuadorians.

Statistics show that the most heavily populated regions of Spain are Andalusia, Catalonia, Madrid and the Valencia region. At the other end of the spectrum, La Rioja, Cantabria and Navarre continue to be the most sparsely populated areas in the country.

There were population declines across all regions over the course of last year, except for Madrid, the Balearic Islands and Catalonia, as well as the exclave cities of Ceuta and Melilla.

Last year, for the first time since the 1930s, Spain recorded more deaths than births in the first half of the year, according to preliminary INE figures. This trend is expected to continue, and will play an increasingly large role in dwindling population figures. (El Pais)

Directions.

A blonde and a brunette were talking one day. The brunette said that her boyfriend had a slight dandruff problem but she gave him Head and Shoulders and it cleared it up.

The blonde asked inquisitively, 'How do you give 'Shoulders.'

LITTER'AL ©

We live in a lovely country
and try to keep it nice
but those who come from far and near
don't take this advice

To the bars and a few drinks
lets carry one for the road
when finished drop it where you are
someone else will gather the load

Open the window and let it drop
while driving in their cars
fast food wrappers bottles and pop
are these folk from mars?

I wonder what their place is like
and if at home they try
but I suspect it's just the same
and they're happy in a sty

No respect for anyone
drink it, eat it. drop it out
they're only here for the fun
how are we to stop this rout

Of course it's not just tourists
some of us are guilty too
litter litter everywhere
and tons of doggie poo

Then there is fly tipping
you see it all around
disposal charges they're skipping
where they think it wo'nt be found

It's time the Town Hall acted
to eliminate this scourge
and we who live here reacted
to carry on this purge

Put your rubbish in a bin
dispose of spoil as right
it's really easy to begin
repair it we just might

Let's all work as one
communities unite
whatever it takes to be done
Then we may just win this fight

The Phantom Poet

FAKE BOOZE!

Spain is the EU country that is most seriously affected by the underground production of counterfeit wine and other alcoholic beverages. Every year, local producers lose €263 million on account of all the fake products introduced into the market.

This trend affects sales but also jobs and tax revenues, notes the EU's Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) in its 8th report on the economic costs of fake products, which was released on July 26.

The study estimates that legitimate producers in the EU lose up to €1.3 billion a year to fake alcoholic drinks, representing 3.3% of all sales.

In Spain, which is hardest hit in absolute terms, losses are in the region of €173 million for alcoholic beverages and €90 million for wine.

Spain is followed by Italy, Germany and France in terms of losses caused by counterfeit drinks. In the United Kingdom, losses are lower than the EU average, and estimated at €87 million.

Between 2008 and 2013, the European market for alcoholic drinks

accounted for €22 billion in annual sales, according to the report. Exports to non-EU countries reached €8 billion, compared with €1 billion in imports.

As for wine, Spain is one of Europe's three main producers along with France and Italy; together they represent 80% of production in the EU.

Spain is also the country with the largest number of specialized businesses (3,700), compared with 1,800 in Italy and 1,500 in France.

Fake food and drinks affect the EU in many ways, from lower sales to job destruction. Spain heads the list of countries with the biggest job losses in absolute terms (around 1,000 workers), followed by Romania, Bulgaria and France.

Counterfeit production is difficult to detect and its economic impact hard to assess. In the case of wine and alcoholic beverages, EUIPO estimates that the direct and indirect effects of the drop in sales came out to an annual average of €3 billion for the 2008-2013 period across the EU.

(Source: El Pais)

Coming to a Head.

A number of trials concerning corruption in the Partido Popular (PP) are scheduled to commence this autumn/winter. This follows years of investigation.

On October 4, the so-called *Gürtel* case finally goes to trial after a five-year investigation, and is expected to last until mid-December. This relates to a kickbacks-for-contracts scheme that extended widely within the PP and that has become the biggest known case of party-related corruption in Spain's democratic history. The 40 defendants, who include a former party treasurer and an ex-minister, are formal suspects of 12 offences allegedly committed between 1999 and 2005.

The scandal has already cost the jobs of dozens of PP mayors, regional deputies and councillors, as well as a senator and a member of Congress.

This autumn will also see former PP treasurer, Luis Barcenas, stand trial for his involvement in off-the-books cash payments allegedly made over two decades to senior PP figures from donations to the party. One connected Swiss bank account had €22 million in it. Lots of smoking guns in this case which will hopefully bring a raft of crooked politicians to justice.

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The Italian Coast Guard Fights Against Towels.

You may have read in a previous issue how the local police are clamping down on 'reserved' beach spaces in Torry. But the overabundance of those beach towels has become so bad in Italy, Italian newspapers report, that the Italian coast guard has felt the need to intervene.

Threatening fines of up to €300 for leaving towels and other gear out on the beaches overnight or putting them there early in the morning to reserve space before other tourists arrive, authorities want to end a practice that has caused tensions all over Italy. Brit's reportedly cheered when one of their countrymen — a coach driver — burned 20 towels of German tourists who had used them to reserve spots at a pool in Italy in 2007.

"I collected them up, put them on a pile on the beach — and lit them. All the British tourists were cheering. But just a few minutes afterward three police officers turned up and arrested me," the coach driver recalled in an interview with Metro newspaper at the time.

Nearly a decade later, Italian authorities have joined his efforts. The name of their operation? "Safe Sea."

There have been reports of success: The Livorno coast guard, based in Tuscany, confiscated 37 beach chairs and towels on a recent Sunday, Italian newspaper La Repubblica wrote.

Have a Drink on Me.

A Virginian hillbilly came to town carrying a jug of moonshine in one hand and a shotgun in the other. He stopped a man on the street and said, 'Here, friend, take a drink outta my jug.'

The guy protested, saying he never drank, but the hillbilly pointed the shotgun at him and commanded, 'Drink!'

The stranger drank, shuddered, shook, shivered and coughed. 'My God!' he said. 'That's awful stuff you've got there!'

'Ain't it, though!' replied the hillbilly. 'Now, you hold the gun on me while I take a swig.'





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Idiot of the Month.

First off this month we have two Romanian chaps, aged 26 & 31, not the sharpest knives in the drawer, but certainly persistent. These guys took a shine to a hotel bar in Crevillent and decided to try to rob it nine times, according to the Guardia Civil. Their base of operations was an empty house adjoining the bar, where they decided very early one morning to break through the adjoining wall and rob the bar. However, the hotel owner heard suspicious banging and called the Guardia. They entered the 'empty' house and discovered the two chaps breaking through the adjoining wall with sledgehammers. After a scuffle the two were restrained. It seems there was a third robber in hiding who rushed the police and escaped. The two are charged with nine robberies, assaulting a law enforcement officer, malicious damage and belonging to a criminal organisation. One was kept in custody and the other released! Burglar No. 3 remains at large.

Next we look at a marketing campaign for Sprite in Ireland. Sprite, owned by the Coca Cola company, introduced a campaign describing the soft drink as 'Brutally Refreshing.' In order to reinforce this they also used some short phrases as you will see in the ads below.



The campaign led to a mass of objections on Twitter, largely from women and Coke apologised and withdrew the adverts. I thought it was all a storm in a teacup but then, hey, I couldn't give a damn about 'political correctness.' I can remember when Pot Noodle tried to use the clever phrase, 'The Slag of All Snacks,' but that was withdrawn too. 'Look, dear, we are calling 'Pot Noodle' a slag, not you!' Still, you can't please everybody, but to keep a balance I have included below a joke which should offend at least three or four groups of people.

A Good Earner!

Two plastic surgeons are talking about their recent operations, and one mentions that he grafted tits onto a sailor's back some time ago.

'Was it successful?' asks the other.

'Incredibly! says the first. 'I did it on a percentage basis, and if his arsehole holds out, we'll be millionaires pretty soon.'

I was driving past my gran's house today and saw 11 pints of milk on her doorstep.
I thought, 'She must be thirsty today.'

An incurable romantic or an idiot? You decide.

For one Dutch man, what began as a grand romantic gesture ended in a futile 3,000-mile journey, a 10-day stay in an airport terminal and a brief trip to the hospital. Alexander Cirk, 41, first met Ms. Zhang, 26, who is identified only by her last name in Chinese state media and TV station reports, through a messaging app.

Over the two months that followed, "We had advanced our romantic relationship, but later he seemed a little callous toward me," Zhang told a local TV station, according to the BBC.

So imagine her surprise when he sent her a photograph of airplane tickets that would take him from his home in the Netherlands to hers, in the Hunan province of China. "I thought it was a joke," Zhang told the TV station.

As she would soon learn, it was not a joke. Cirk arrived in

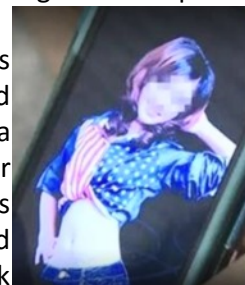


the Changsha Huanghua International Airport. Zhang did not.

Cirk, photo, spent 10 days in the airport waiting for

Zhang to meet him, to no avail. And when he finally did leave, it was not by choice; he was taken by emergency services to a hospital to be treated for exhaustion. Cirk, a diabetic, fell unconscious after getting little sleep and not eating much during his stay.

Where was Zhang, photo, all this time? She had reportedly travelled to a neighbouring province of China for plastic surgery on parts of her face, and she said her phone was turned off during her surgery and part of her recovery. So if Cirk



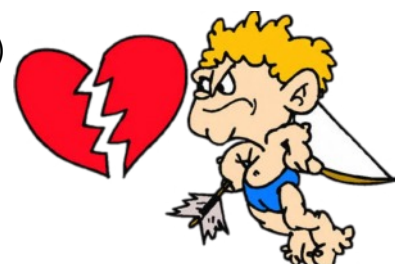
attempted to message her while in the airport, Zhang said, she didn't receive it. And even if she had, she told the Chinese state media, it would be too difficult for her to travel to the Changsha province to see him because she was still recovering from surgery.

Cirk has since been discharged from the hospital, and he returned home to the Netherlands on Monday.

But all hope is not lost. Zhang told the TV station she still intends on meeting him.

Users on Weibo, China's primary social media site, would probably recommend against Cirk repeating the trek. According to the BBC, one user said, echoing many others, "Doesn't he know that everything in China is fake?"

(BBC & Washington Post)





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Idiot of the Month - Late Entry!

A British DJ, Davie Little (photo), after a night partying in Ibiza found out he had spent 28,500 pounds buying a coach.

'I was confused last night' said Davie, but when he woke up on Wednesday 24th, to find a transaction on his mobile phone saying 'You have committed to buy this item 28,500 pounds for one Scania Inizar Century Coach' he became even more confused.

'I still can't believe what I did last night in Ibiza. I was having a good time in the Playa d'en Bossa Ushuaïa discotheque without a care in the world.



When I left the club I took my phone from my pocket and I saw I had spent nearly 30,000 pounds on a coach. I really can't believe this is happening to me, Ibiza ruins lives' said the surprised disc jockey on Facebook.

It seems the father of Davie had been browsing eBay and had come across a page selling buses and coaches. His son, without knowing how, had pressed the buy button, a very expensive joke. 'I don't know if I was drunk, and everything happened when my phone was in my pocket' he added on the social media.....



and then 'does anyone want to buy a coach?' Photo of the actual coach here - any offers?

'I posted Facebook the morning after as a joke and thought it was funny, but it was crazy and now I am facing the repercussions. For the moment there has been no payment of money and I am actually in dispute, and so all I can do is wait to see what happens'. Good on you Davie, I'm sure there were no chemicals involved and you just got carried away with the music. I must confess that I have lost consciousness on several occasions when Justin Bieber was singing.

True!

A chicken saw a duck standing by the side of the road. The chicken walked over to the duck and said: 'Don't do it, pal. You'll never hear the end of it!'

Late News.

On Wednesday, August 24, there was a horrific car accident on the nearby A7 motorway, outside of Elche.

At 13:15pm on the three lane carriageway a refrigerated lorry which was being driven towards Murcia, lost control and collided slightly with a BMW and then crossed the central reservation into oncoming traffic.

The lorry hit two other cars who were driving correctly towards Alicante and after falling on its side it flattened one of the cars causing a fireball. Quickly at the scene were agents from the Traffic Guardia Civil and Firemen from Elche, but before their arrival several people were trying to help those injured.

In one of the cars which was hit by the lorry were a man who was killed and a woman who was rescued by some citizens, and evacuated in a serious condition to the Elche General Hospital.



Another woman was seriously injured and the driver slightly. Both were admitted to the Vinalopó Hospital.

Once the firemen had extinguished the blaze, they were able to inspect inside the vehicles. Inside a Renault Megane they found the body of the driver, from Girona, while the other vehicle a Renault Grand Scenic had been completely flattened by the lorry, and on close inspection the bodies of two women were identified. When the crane lifted the lorry away hours later the Guardia Civil found another body in the backseat.

The lorrydriver passed a breathalyser test but may still be charged with negligent homicide.

The above photo of the horrific accident scene shows other drivers attempting to rescue some of the casualties before the emergency services arrived.

Mobile Phone Spies.

Facebook will obtain access to all the phone numbers used by WhatsApp, and use this information to monitor the use of the rapid messaging service nightly. WhatsApp was purchased by Facebook in 2014 and they have just announced that they will be announcing a change in their 'terms of use' and 'privacy policy'. WhatsApp want to remind users that their technology is 100% encrypted from one end to the other of the conversation. I'm sure that will make you feel a lot better. However, it might be a good idea to delete the telephone number of Ulrika, the 'sports' masseuse in the Casino Club in Punta Prima!



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'BLACK ROSE'

Rock Duo, Alan Warden & Charlie Farley

Rock Classics though the Decades

THE ULTIMATE PARTY NIGHT!



**START OF THE PREMIER LEAGUE
START OF THE GAA CHAMPIONSHIPS
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**DELICIOUS BARBEQUE SNACKS
WED, THURS, FRI, SAT & SUN**

9pm - 1am.



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

Lime Bar Fishing Sunbathing Club

The aftermath of July's "humdinger" bun fight has resulted in the match committee resigning. As there are only 2 meetings to go until the AGM, the chairman and secretary are going to try to organise the last couple of matches. If they cock up it's not their fault! Without the match committee, this month's bun fight took an hour, but when it came to "Any Other Business" every body kept their mouths shut..... hooray!

A plus point from the meeting was that Anti Social & Mr Heineken are arranging a Soiree for Friday 23rd September. The venue is at Bocados in La Zenia. If it is anything like the last one we had there it will be brilliant, so if anyone wants to join us, speak to Anti Social Baz or Mr Heineken (Big Barry). If there are any funny bits, I'll add them to next month's update.

13 anglers fished this month's match at El Bosquet. The professional clubs have been landing massive weights there so we thought we would give it a try. I think we still have a lot to learn!

My peg was on the oblong and I started off well, getting bites nearly every cast. Only problem was I kept missing them or losing them on the way to the net. I was getting frustrated so I started fishing tight against the far bank. I landed a few fish but the problem was I kept getting hooked up in the roots. Twice I had to walk round to the far bank to disentangle my gear. Anyway, I was doing all right until the wind started blowing a hooly. The fish then went off and attacked Fagin's hook who ended up coming 2nd and beating me by over 1.5 kilos. 2 of the favourite pegs came in 1st and 3rd places. Well-done Sweeney who won with 8.6 kilos, 2nd was Fagin with 7.9 kilos and 3rd was Feathers with 7.3 kilos.

Points are awarded at each monthly match to see who goes through to the season final. There is one match to go in the summer series with 3 anglers already through. Only 3 spots left..... Will "3 rods" make it this year???

Here's an explanation of the remaining nicknames;

'Ball Boy' – due to his expertise with the fishing match draw balls!

'Just John' – A "has been". Ex boss / chairman

'Ghost' – Doesn't get up early but appears on the bank from nowhere, like a ghost.

'Daffy' – Hooked a duck whilst fishing.

'Little Big Mick' – His name is Mick and he is little and big. Too rude to call him little pig!

'The Quill' – the "old" secretary.

'Feathers' – Because he didn't want to be called "Big Dickie". Why?

'The Nomad' – Can be seen visiting multiple watering holes.

'Snake charmer' – Has a magnetism for wildlife..... especially with no legs.

'Fag eyes' – Apparently plane spotters are called this!!!! It was going to be "fag ash".

Next meeting bun fight is at The Lime Bar @ 17.00 Mon 5th September.

Fishy fingers!
The Ghost.

Eggs.

Bob came home drunk one night, slid into bed beside his sleeping wife, and fell into a deep slumber. He awoke before the Pearly Gates, where St. Peter said, 'You died in your sleep, Bob....' Bob was stunned. 'I'm dead? No, I can't be! I've got too much to live for. Send me back!' St.. Peter said, 'I'm sorry, but there's only one way you can go back, and that is as a chicken.' Bob was devastated, but begged St. Peter to send him to a farm near his home.... The next thing he knew, he was covered with feathers, clucking, and pecking the ground. A rooster strolled past. 'So, you're the new hen, huh? How's your first day here?'

'Not bad,' replied Bob the hen, 'but I have this strange feeling inside. Like I'm gonna explode!'

'You're ovulating,' explained the rooster. 'Don't tell me you've never laid an egg before?' 'Never,' said Bob.

'Well, just relax and let it happen,' says the rooster. 'It's no big deal.'

Bob did, and a few uncomfortable seconds later, out popped an egg!

Bob was overcome with emotion as he experienced motherhood. He soon laid another egg -- his joy was overwhelming.

As he was about to lay his third egg, he felt a smack on the back of his head, and heard his wife yell.....

'Bob, wake up! You've shit the bed!

Lee Bell

Transported to a surreal landscape, a young girl kills the first woman she meets
and then teams up with three strangers to kill again.
Review of *The Wizard of Oz* for Christian website.



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Foreign Property Purchase in Spain.

A survey published by Solvia, the real estate arm of Banc Sabadell, has published the following data for the first quarter of 2016.

Foreigners accounted for 13.36% of the total property purchases during the period.

The Top 12 of foreign purchasers were -

United Kingdom – 22.35%

France – 8.18%

Germany – 7.14%

Sweden – 6.09%

Belgium – 5.95%

Italy – 4.57%

China – 3.98%

Romania – 3.94%

Russia – 3.25%

Norway – 2.80%

Morocco – 2.56%

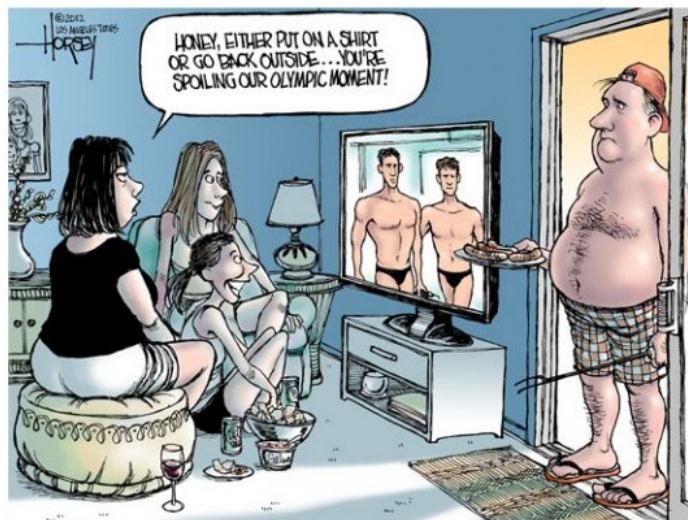
Holland – 2.22%

As expected, the British still lead the field, with an average purchaser age of 46.7 years. Favourite areas for the Brit's are Valencia, Murcia and Andalucia.

In Cataluña the French head the list (probably because of proximity to France) followed by the Chinese and the Russians, and in the Balearics it is the Germans who dominate the foreign purchases.

Of the foreign purchasers, More than 74% buy flats or apartments and 19% buy houses. Resales are still the most popular purchases with non residents buying on average 27% of the new property sales. But with new builds there are extreme regional variations. For example in Barcelona only 7% of new builds are purchased by foreigners, whereas in the Costa del Sol and the Costa Blanca the figure is 32%.

There are 4.6 million registered foreigners living in Spain, of whom nearly 1.8 million are European Union citizens. The largest communities are Romanian, British and Italian. Moroccans make up the largest non-EU group in Spain, followed by the Chinese and the Ecuadorians.



Timing!

A wife was standing in the kitchen one morning, preparing soft-boiled eggs and toast for breakfast, and wearing only the T-shirt she had slept in. As her husband walked in, she turned to him and said: 'I need you to make love to me right now, here, across the kitchen table.'

Before he could change her mind, he obliged right there and then on the kitchen table.

Afterwards, she hurriedly thanked him and returned to the stove.

Happy but puzzled, he asked her: 'What was all that about?'

'Oh,' she said. 'The egg timer's broken.'

Let me explain this caricature. Here you see five



Spanish notables driving to Switzerland with gold bars, envelopes with €500 notes (Bin Ladens) and 'B' (hidden but accurate) accounting books.

On the left is **Francisco Camps**, a former president of Valencia. His sparkling suit results from the allegations that someone paid €12,000 towards bills for his suits. Although the tailor who made the suits testified that Camps never paid for the suits himself, a court found him not guilty of taking bribes. (An interesting side note here.

Some years ago Microsoft were due to open a small facility locally in Torreveja, with about five staff. Locally there was much jubilation and fanfares: one would think that this was to become a new Silicon Valley. Camps then met with Bill Gates in the States. It was around this time that the media was replete with allegations about the 'suits.' Shortly afterwards the Microsoft venture was quietly dropped. I wonder why?

Hiding behind him is the gnomelike **Jordi Pujol**. A Catalan separatist, former president of Catalonia for 23 years and head of the CDC party for almost 30 years. In 2014 he admitted to holding several million in secret bank accounts abroad. Jordi says the money came from an inheritance but would not provide any documentation.

Pujol and his family have been suspected for many years of cashing in on the political power he amassed as a 23 year president of Catalonia. In 1984 his family's bank went bankrupt and was taken over by the Spanish government. His children have amassed a fortune in private businesses that frequently did business and received contracts from the Catalan government. Pujol's wife and children have investments in the tens of millions of dollars in Mexico, Panama and Argentina. Financial records show the movement of money between foreign banks in Andorra, Switzerland, Jersey, Cayman Islands and other tax havens in excess of one hundred million euros. The Pujols became a dynasty and were very hugely powerful. The family had fingers in many troughs from property & construction companies to ITV stations.

In the middle is **Iñaki Urdangarin**, brother-in-law of the Spanish king. It is believed that he persuaded various Spanish public administrations (mostly regional governments), to sign agreements with the Nóos Institute (which was supposed to be a non-profit organization) for both work that was never done and work that was dramatically overstated, up to €5,800,000 from public administrations. In December 2011, the Anticorruption Bureau confirmed that Urdangarin had been sending substantial sums of public money to accounts in Belize and the United Kingdom. The court case continues and the monarch's sister, the Infanta Cristina, a director of one of his businesses has also been called to give evidence. This case has rocked the Royal Family, with Urdangarin being sidelined by the family and Cristina moving to live in Switzerland.

Second from the right is José Antonio **Griñán** Martínez, who held the position of President of the Regional Government of Andalusia for four years. It is fair to say that Griñán is not facing money laundering or similar probes, at least not at this stage. As Minister of the Economy and Finance and later President of the socialist government, many hold his administration was responsible for the diverting of more than €100 million from training funds for the unemployed and the ERE early retirement pensions. The question is whether he was aware of any of it. His investigation/trial and that of a previous president of Andalusia is continuing, and he has been forced to resign from his political posts.

Finally on the right is **Luis Bárcenas**, former treasurer of the PP, the current caretaker party. Forced to resign after being involved in the Gurtel Case, it was later revealed that Barcenas had a €22 million account in Switzerland, thought to be built up from 'commissions' from construction companies. (It later emerged that he controlled significant further funds in that country). He also used the 2012 Tax Amnesty to to legalize €10 million hidden through a Uruguayan company. There is handwritten 'evidence' of cash payments/bungs to many serving PP politicians and officials. Some of these may of course be fake. One alleges a payment of more than €100,000 to the current PM. Barcenas was held in prison from June 2013 until released on bail in January 2015. He still insists that all the money in his name was gained by 'dabbling in art.' The case continues.

Number 42, please!

Since Mr. Chang can't cook and there's no Chinese restaurant nearby, he's forced to go to Paddy's Cafe for his meals. Mr Chang loves fried rice but is always annoyed when Paddy sniggers at the way he says 'f lied lice'. Eventually Mr Chang has elocution lessons to learn how to pronounce it properly, then goes to the cafe to give Paddy a surprise. He sits down and says, 'Hello, Paddy. I'll have a plate of fried rice, please.' 'What was that? says Paddy. Mr Chang replies, 'I say "fried rice", you stupid Ilish plick!'

THE CARAVAN OF LOVE.

The tradition of bussing out women to visit rural bachelors is holding out in the digital age.

They have come from all over Madrid, and hail from different countries. They range in age from barely 30 to past 60. At 9am on an autumn morning, around 50 women board a bus after paying €20 to join what has been advertised as a “caravan of love.” Later in the day, the bus will arrive at a hotel on the outskirts of Mérida (343km from Madrid), in Extremadura province, where men from outlying villages looking to find themselves a wife or girlfriend will have paid €60 to dine, dance and



talk to them.

The first event aimed at bringing single women from Spain's cities into contact with rural bachelors was organized 30 years ago, and

despite the growing popularity of online dating, it refuses to die. The bus is full. “Let’s go get ’em!,” rallies Miriam, a Colombian who has taken part in many such outings over the years. Venecia, one of the organizers of the trip, announces over a microphone: “This is going to be the best day of our lives, whether there are any men or not, although there will be, because everybody in the area has been warned that we’re coming.”

Venecia Alcantara is from the Dominican Republic. She met her husband, Manolo, on just such a trip 20 years ago. Since then, she has helped plan many others. She says her own story is the best advertisement for her business. “Around 3,000 women have passed through here. Since 1996 we have organized around 350 trips, resulting in about 120 couples. Many have since split up, but there are around 60 still together. “I was invited to two weddings,” says Manolo, who works for the post office, and organizes trips in his spare time. “I make around €200 on each trip, but thanks to these caravans I have been just about everywhere in Spain.”

“The internet-based dating sites are not our competitors, because we’re operating in different markets. These are people who like to do things face to face,” says Manolo.

The first trip to a village of 150 inhabitants in the Pyrenees called Plan was a resounding success. The idea came up in the local bar after the village’s bachelors watched *Westward the Women*, a 1951 Hollywood western about a plan to take women out to the Wild West.

(Abridged from http://elpais.com/elpais/2015/10/28/inenglish/1446033226_603882.html)

So they put out an advertisement in a regional newspaper: “Women aged between 20 and 40 needed for matrimonial purposes in Pyrenean village in Aragon.” The rest is history.

The idea behind the early caravans was rural repopulation, and Manolo insists that this is still the goal of trips to out-of-the-way villages. But he also admits that not many women want to move from a city to a small village.

“This is your captain speaking,” says José, the driver, making a much-needed interruption of the non-stop reggaeton that has been blasting out of the sound system for the last five hours. “There are 18 minutes to landing. Start brushing your hair.” The women get their makeup out.

They arrive at Romero Hotel, a three-star place four kilometers from Mérida. The reception party is a disappointment: there are five men waiting by the door.

“The last time we were here we were given bouquets. There were a lot of men, but €60 is a lot of money,” says one woman. “There’s a crisis,” explains Manolo. On a previous visit to this hotel, the hotel put up a sign saying ‘Caravan of women, the first 55 bachelors are guaranteed the company of single women.’ This proved to be a great success, even though the feminists in Mérida painted ‘*caravana machista*’ [caravan of male chauvinists] on the bus.

After dinner, a metamorphosis takes place. From the oversized bathrooms of this roadside hotel a procession of cleavage emerges. Some of the ladies are now wearing elegant evening dresses, complete with pearl necklaces. On stage, the singer looks like she’s decked out in a female Santa Claus outfit.



Finally, the men appear – by this time they don’t have to pay €60. Just as was warned at the beginning of the trip, they’re shy. But the dance floor fills up in direct proportion to the amount of drinks the waiters begin serving.

But there are still too many women to men. Some of the women remain sitting down until 3.30am, when the bus finally returns to Madrid, tapping their feet as they watch the others dance. As somebody pointed out at the beginning of the trip: “Finding a boyfriend is more difficult, but you’ll make girlfriends. Worst case scenario, you’ve paid €20 for a trip, a lunch and dinner.”

She was a really bad-looking girl. Facially, she resembled Louis Armstrong’s voice.

Woody Allen

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A Waddle of Penguins.

A police officer saw a man driving a pick-up truck full of penguins. He pulled the guy over and said: 'You can't drive around with a load of penguins in this town. Take them to the zoo immediately.'

The next day, he saw the man still driving around with the penguins, and this time he was wearing sunglasses.

The cop said: 'I thought I told you to take these penguins to the zoo yesterday.'

'I did,' replied the man. 'And today I'm taking them to the beach.'

There is an active Facebook group
 at Dream Hills - Costa Blanca

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The editor, Mick, can be contacted at mick.dreamscene@gmail.com or at 586 Dream Hills. (Or in some Bar!)