

# THE DREAM SCENE

## NEWSLETTER

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

Issue no. 114, 1st of October 2016.

*Bienvenido a todos* and welcome to the October edition.

The weather has started to change now with the early mornings and evenings much cooler. A series of devastating wildfires, exacerbated by the prolonged drought, has racked the province during August and early September. It was



particularly bad in the Javea area, which is home to a large British expat community. Around 2,000 people had to be evacuated and more than 800 hectares of land have been destroyed. (A hectare is 10,000 sq metres.)

Most of the fires were caused by arsonists, others just by carelessness.

One was started by a German hippy who was living in a cave and decided to burn his used toilet paper! The regional government of Valencia says it will ensure

that land damaged by a recent spate of forest fires cannot be rezoned for construction purposes, a ploy which was been used to reclassify land in the past.



With the end of the tourist season here in Spain, the precariousness of the recovery has become evident. El Mundo reported that 282,000 + sackings occurred in just one day! The end of summer ended five months of growth with 145,000 fewer employees, the worst data since 2008. This is the usual story, particularly in the leisure/holiday industry: hired for the summer and sacked in September.

At the time of writing, Spain appears to be heading for yet another general election, its third in 12 months! This is directly as a result of intransigence in all the main parties. Each general election costs almost €100 million, largely in subsidies to the political parties, so hey, they are in no rush! The bad joke is that, unless an agreement can be reached, this absurd re-running of elections will continue.

There is now a small charity box in Domino's as well as in Macklin's Welcome Inn. *Reach Out* badly need jarred or tinned cooked foods: meatballs (albondigas) and cooked pulses are preferred as they require little cooking. The charity also urgently require volunteers - a spare hour here or there would be welcome. Let me know if you are interested and I will put you in touch with the right person.

**It is with great sadness we report that Maggie Kerr passed away suddenly and unexpectedly last month. A lovely, happy and vibrant lady, she will be sadly missed by her many friends, family and husband, John. Our sincerest condolences to John and family.**

Wishing you all a wonderful month, and hopefully, see you all soon. *Mick & Tid.*

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*Angela's Cartoon*

It's their Golden Wedding and he bought her  
an electric razor and a set of saucepans!

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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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- NIE / RESIDENCIA
- DRIVING LICENCES
- COURT
- TOWN HALLS
- SCHOOL MEETINGS

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**Did you know that ....**

...a library in Alabama has reportedly warned its customers that it plans to enforce strict new borrowing rules that include the possibility of jail time for anyone who fails to return a book on time? In an effort to recoup about \$200,000 worth of overdue books, the Athens-Limestone public library will be enforcing a new policy that includes fines of \$100, a city jail term of 30 days or possibly both, according to the News Courier.

...the UK market for deer meat is growing about 10% annually? And while that market still seems volatile—analysts Kantar reported a 413% increase in retail sales in 2014, followed by a slight contraction in the past 12 months—it's fair to say Brits have developed a hearty taste for venison. One reason for venison's increasing prevalence: It has been successfully marketed as a healthier option. The British Deer Farms and Parks Association (BDFPA) says deer is lower in fat than skinned chicken breast, and higher in iron than any other red meat.

...the Bank of England is now issuing polymer £5 notes? The smaller, more durable plastic money, emblazoned with the image of Winston Churchill, is expected to last two-and-a-half times longer than the outgoing note. Polymer £10 and £20 notes, featuring the images of novelist Jane Austen and painter J.M.W. Turner, will follow in the coming years.

... an Australian woman paid \$500 to have a pebble removed from her pet goldfish. Her fishy, called Conquer, accidentally swallowed a black pebble. The fish was taken into emergency surgery. The vet dripped an anaesthetic agent in the water which put the fish to sleep. Then, they inserted a small forceps into his mouth and slowly pulled out the stone. Conquer is all fine now, and having the memory of a goldfish, doesn't really know what the fuss was all about. See photo.



# What's Up?

The HSBC, one of the largest banking and financial services group in the world, has stated that a **new election** in Spain would take Spain to a 'fiscal precipice'. They believe that the political blockage drives 'an increasing risk' which would be out of control unless a new Government is constituted before the end of the year. This implies the 2017 State Budget would not be approved, obliging this year's to be repeated and it would freeze all party spending, including the funding of the wager for public employees and for pensions. Wouldn't it be a wonderful idea if payments to the dithering politicians were withheld until a government was formed?

One must give credit to the current **ruling town council** in Torrevieja. Although they have been for a couple of years a mainly left-wing coalition, they have shown themselves to be considerably more prudent than the previous PP administrations, particularly when it comes to the management of debt. In 2012 the town's bank debt was €72 million. It is now €35.4 million, more than halved. The previous short-lived PP ruling council under Dolon, did make some reductions to the debt, but it was the previous profligate PP mayor, Pedro Hernandez Mateo, who borrowed and spent as if there was no tomorrow. Pedro is now in jail somewhere in Murcia, but is scarcely languishing there, while the massive sport's facility he had built at the start of the recession is often largely deserted.

**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 problem with the government website is that you can expect nothing of substance for quite some time. PM May is determined not to release any information until the negotiations, which haven't started yet, are completed. The Financial Times put the current situation very clearly: 'For the moment, a cacophony of confusing briefings and counter-briefings — and a suspicion that some ministers simply **do not know what they are talking about** — means that the UK's post-Brexit form is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma. Only when Mrs May's government decides what it wants and the rest of the EU has had a chance to digest it will the boundaries of the possible become clear.'

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**Amancio Ortega**, photo, has earned 1.067 billion € in one day and is once again the wealthiest man in the world. The



founder of Inditex has overtaken Bill Gates after the real-time updating of the Forbes magazine list.

It is calculated that in 2030 the **over 65's** in Spain will come to 30% of the population, compared to the current 18%.

La Verdad in Murcia headlined that 'the businessmen do not expect the opening of the **Corvera airport** until 2018'. Businessman's association Croern thinks it is a reasonable date because of the formalities and permission which still have to be obtained. Any bets?

Madrid millionaires save 660 million euros by **not paying any wealth tax**. The Madrid Community is the only territory in Spain which maintains the 100% discount on the tax which is paid according to wealth.

ING Bank is to launch '**cash-back**' in Spain: which gives the clients of the bank the opportunity to withdraw cash in supermarkets and petrol stations.

Correos and Repsol will offer a service to use the chain of petrol stations as locations for client to collect their Internet purchases. The **500 new pick up points** will be in operation before the end of the year after this strategy of collaboration.

Madrid City Hall has approved the rehabilitation of an abandoned building **into tourism apartments**. The building is in the city centre district of las Letras and will serve to increase touristic activity. It forms part of a plan from the City Hall to make the most of empty buildings in the capital.

El Mundo headlines 'the hierarchy of the Catalan Democratic Convergence (CDC in Spanish) backhanded their contracts **by collecting 3%**'. The agendas of the treasurers who were working for Artur Mas and of the builders reveal the meetings where backhanders were agreed.

The Spanish State has only recovered **2.686 billion € of the 51.303 billion €** spent on rescuing the banks, (some 6%) according to the Bank of Spain which looked at the years between 2009 and 2016. Part of this enormous invoice is down to the European rescue in June 2012 (around 40 billion €), but in addition they injected other public funds.

A **train derailed** in Galicia on Friday, Sept' 9, killing four people and injuring 48. The preliminary investigation suggests that the driver was going too fast around a bend, said to be four times the lawful speed limit. On July 24, 2013, a high-speed train crashed near Santiago de Compostela, causing 79 deaths in what became Spain's worst rail crash in 40 years.



El País reports Europe is to put barriers on the free Internet; Brussels is to **regulate** the neutrality of the network and will permit exceptions for the operators. The intention would stop Telefónica, Vodafone and Orange and any other European internet provider to block or filter content which goes against commercial interests and co-generated with Google, Facebook etc. The exceptions would apply in cases of national security.

Brussels has obliged Apple to **pay Ireland 13 billion €**. The European Commission reclaims from the world dominating Communication Company to return this amount, plus interests for between the years 2003 and 2014 when Apple paid 0.005% of tax. Ireland says it needs more time to prepare their appeal against Brussels on Apple. Dublin plans to appeal the decision, while the left wing republican opposition, Sinn Fein, thinks Ireland should accept the decision of the European Commission and keep the money. The Irish Cabinet fears accepting the money would damage the credibility of their taxing system, which they don't consider as a fiscal paradise.

Tim Cook, CEO of Apple, has labelled the demands from Brussels as 'political rubbish'. The CEO of Apple charged against Brussels for demanding that Ireland reclaim the unpaid taxes – some 13 billion €, and the European Commission claimed this shortfall equated to a payment of 0.005%, which Tim Cook said it was 'false'. Speaking to the Irish Independent the CEO claimed Apple paid 357 million € to Ireland in 2014. 'I don't know where they have found that percentage as we are paying the statutory tax of 12.5%. The Spanish Treasury is now inspecting the Apple affiliates in Spain. The Tax Administration is investigating three taxes, company, IVA and the income tax for non-residents over three subsidies between 2009 and 2012.

Okay, you may believe, like me, that some of the licensed **taxi-drivers** in Spain are a shower of robbing baskets, but the tale of an Uber driver in north London caps it all. In this case the taxi driver noticed that his fare, a female passenger, fell asleep in the backseat so he decided to go for a bit of a wander, see map. When the poor dear woke up she found she had a bill of £84.95! If you take a look at this map in the opposite column, you will see that the pick-up and drop-off points are on the extreme right of the map. The rest of the journey, 56km, was the detour! After sending several emails to Uber and with a lot of persistence, the lady was finally refunded with the full fare. However, Uber refused to provide any details of the cheater

Then in Alicante in the early morning hours of August 31<sup>st</sup>, a father called a taxi to take his 10-year-old daughter to hospital. The child has her tonsils removed a couple of days earlier and was now beginning to vomit blood. When the taxi driver arrived he opened the car window by about two inches and said, '**this is an ambulance matter**' and drove off! The family managed to get the child to the hospital themselves quickly and she was released five days later. The Ministry of Transport are investigating.....so no rush then!

There have been a number of **horrific murders** in the little town of Pioz, Guadalajara, 60 km from Madrid. Two Brazilian residents, both about 40, and their two children aged one and five were murdered about a month ago. The children were left intact but the adults were dismembered and the limbs and bodies stuffed in six large plastic bags. Neighbours alerted the police to the foul smell coming from the building. Sources close to the investigation stated that death was quick for the victims (no torture) and that the professional killers probably used a butchers knife or axe.

Now this is a strange story. **Divers** off the coast of Calp discovered several packages at a depth of around 19 metres. The packages were not together but around 300 metres apart. The packages consisted of sheets knotted at each end but containing human bones, animal parts, leaves, twigs, feathers, a wooden cane split in two, a knife and other items. Then several more packages were found with similar objects. It is believed that the bones were taken from old graveyards and the items were being used as part of a 'magic' ceremony, probably African.

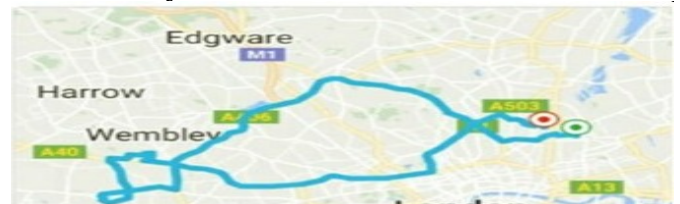
And speaking of **gruesome**, police are investigating if the appearance of a severed head in Elche is the result of a settling of scores. The body part was found at a rubbish treatment plant which deals with rubbish from five municipalities. An employee at the plant spotted the head - male and around 40 years old.

Italy has rescued from the sea more than **6,500 refugees in one day**. The good weather has stepped up the exodus from Libya.

Madrid City Hall has fined El Corte Inglés the sum of €3,000 for **selling olive oil at a loss**; having paid €2.50 for a litre and then selling it for €2.20. Then the Extremadura Government fined Carrefour €42,120 € for selling olive oil at a loss. The farmers association UPA reported the French multinational for the practice of loss leaders in an attempt to get more people into the store.

The National Commission for Markets and Competitiveness has **fined 23 cemeteries** €29 million for price fixing, and sharing information between the years 1999 and 2014. I have to say that this National Commission do some excellent work in Spain. Although the new authority was not formed until June 2013, it has been punching well above its weight since then and not afraid to take on the giant public companies.

Get good locks! El País reports of home kidnappers, in organised gangs who will **squat in houses** and demand money from the owners to leave.



As I have said before, and again elsewhere in this issue, beware financial advice from the **banks**. Some of you will only be too aware of this already. Here's another example: A Spanish court has ordered officials to enter a Barcelona branch of Bankia to recover €26,925 in interests and legal fees incurred after the bank knowingly missold so-called preference shares to an 81-year-old customer. The bank has refused to hand over the money, and the new ruling, the first of its kind, means that **unless the branch in question returns the amount, court officials will be authorized to enter the premises on October 3 to recover "money in cash, furniture and belongings"**. Spanish banks sold more than €5 billion of complex financial instruments such as preference shares and subordinated debt to customers over several years in the first decade of the 2000s, promising them that they could recover their investments at any time. Bankia alone sold roughly €5 billion in preference shares and subordinated debt, and only a portion of those will likely escape the enforced writedowns. The company began an arbitration process in 2013. Nine years after this old lady bought the shares she wanted to cash them in and pay for her daughters medical expenses. The bank said the shares could not be cashed and her daughter died in 2012. Sadly, stories like this are common.

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

The Lime Bar Golf Society held their monthly match on the 14th September 2016 at La Torre Golf Course. On a fine and cooler morning 29 members teed off. The course was in good condition and the members enjoyed a pleasant round of golf.

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

Nearest the pin on the 5th hole was Kevin Jackson

Nearest the pin on the 9th hole in was Norman Dobson

Nearest the pin on the 11th hole was Tony Jones

Nearest the pin on the 15th hole was Dave Railton

Nearest the pin on the 17th hole was John MacGregor

Best guest was Rodger Lives with a score of 19 points

Silver Class:

In 3rd place was Bud Butler with a score of 31 points

In 2nd place was Tony Jones with a score of 32 points

In 1st place was Kevin Jackson with a score of 35 points

Gold Class:

In 3rd place was Arthur Jones with a score of 29 points (on count-back)

In 2nd place was Jon Williams with a score of 31 points

In 1st place was Pete Gillespie with a score of 33 points

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 the Committee for organising the event also to the Lime Bar staff for arranging the meal and Baz for selling the football draw.

Colin Clarke





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Did you hear about the blonde couple who were found frozen to death in their car at a drive-in movie theatre?  
They went to see *Closed For The Winter*.

So far this year, the Orihuela town council has granted **building permits** which have exceeded last year's figures by 18%. The vast majority of these new builds are of course in the coastal area. Unfortunately, and as usual, most of the revenue obtained from these works will go to the city of Orihuela, with little being spent on improving the facilities on the coast itself. New builds in Orihuela Costa, along with Torrevieja and Pilar de la Horadada, have bucked the national trend in the sale of new homes, which has flattened out and is reduced in much of the country. It is international buyers who dominate the purchases in this area. Developers are saying that buyers are now demanding better quality. A cursory look at the quality of brick and blockwork on the new builds tends to negate that, although much of the finishes can be quite attractive. Why is it that the developers continue to build properties with smaller and smaller rooms suitable only for minions? Maybe all the architects are small people, but shoehorning the properties into smaller plots is not quality.

What is referred to as the **Torrevieja lagoon** is the second salt lake, not the one where the salt is collected.



Over the years this lake has attracted hundreds of bathers who

access the area between June and October, to enjoy the warm water which can reach 25°. Although not promoted as a bathing area it attracts many Spanish, Russians and French people. Although it is a Natural Park, these visitors carelessly leave their rubbish behind, as this photo from *Informacion* shows.

La Verdad in Murcia headlined that 'a scientific committee will control and make public the analysis of the **Mar Menor** (algae pollution problem)'. The regional government thinks the deterioration of the lagoon has stabilised and said 'it cannot be allowed to happen again'. But it will happen again unless the pollution is stopped.

Here's a photo of the cockpit of a **Lufthansa plane** where a black vulture crashed into the nose of the plane on a flight from Munich to Palma. The plane made an emergency landing on Palma without any problems.



La Verdad in Murcia headlines 'the ministry has ordered urgent improvements to the water supply and will place three desalination plants **on full production**'. The sharing of 10.4 cubic hectometres has been ordered and the drought decree extended.

*Información* in Alicante adds that the desalination plant in Torrevieja will now double its output to produce 80 hectometres.

At least 20 people staying at a large hotel in Guardamar contracted **food poisoning**. The most serious, including some children, were admitted to Torrevieja Hospital. It seems the buffet was the likely culprit.

During late August, police arrested a man who was practising as a doctor in what *Informacion* described as, a remote urbanisation in Torrevieja. The urbanisation was populated mainly by the British. The clinic was stocked with various medical paraphernalia but the chap had **no medical qualifications** and had no linkage to the local and regional health authorities.

He was rumbled when some of his patients complained about the poor treatment they received.

The closed airport at **Corvera** is still costing the Murcian taxpayer €22,000 a day!

The regional treasury is now using drones to detect illegal buildings in 40 municipalities. More buildings = more revenues and of course more fines.

*The town hall of Orihuela-Costa is offering to all foreign nationals free online Spanish courses.*

*Check out the website here, which is available in several languages. There are also a number of helpful guides in PDF (in English) on the website.*

*<http://www.ciudadanosextranjeros.es/index.php?lang=en>*

*There are, however, a number of hoops to go through. This from the website:*

- Registration is free and accepted in strict order of receipt of applications. The registration application implies acceptance of the requirements for registration and for remaining on the course.

- It is compulsory to present a copy of council registration (Padrón) issued by your local council together with your application.

- All communications will be by email so it is essential that you give a proper email address and check it regularly.

*Because of the limited number of places, to keep your place you must:*

- Connect during the first week after receiving the access codes to take the level test, otherwise you will be de-registered without prior warning.

- Spend at least 10 hours online during the first month of the course. Students who do not reach this minimum will be de-registered without prior warning.

- Spend at least 50 hours over the six months' course duration to receive the course certificate.

In Murcia 'the average **waiting time for surgery** has reached as long as four months' according to La Verdad. Residents of Cartagena have to wait 26 more days for surgery than in the other districts. It is fair to say that delays due to the austerity measures are still taking their toll. This is also true in our area in relation to Torrevieja Hospital etc. I have heard of a number of cases - often direct from the patient - about delays and cancellations, primarily due to a lack of resources.

In one case during May, this particularly lady's operation was cancelled, with one day's notice, and it has not been rescheduled yet. The excuse being given is that tumour operations are being given priority, despite the poor soul having a major dual incontinence problem. In another case, a cancerous tumour which should have been removed in July was postponed until September, because of the holidays! Health and education have been the two areas hammered by lack of funds.

*What's large and hard and pink in the morning?  
The Financial Times crossword.*



## Hey Dude, Where's my Luggage?

IT IS a moment every traveller dreads. You wait for your luggage at the carousel after a flight, but the last bags come and go, and yours isn't among them. You leave your name and number with the airline and wait for a call. Weeks go by; the phone never rings.

Is there any hope of tracking down these lost items? There could be, but it might require a trip to a small town in the wilderness of northeastern Alabama. And some luck.

All across America, bags routinely go missing and unclaimed, for a variety of reasons. All of them make a strange journey to a remote corner of the country and a gigantic thrift store in Scottsboro, Alabama, where they are unpacked and the contents sold to shoppers.

The Unclaimed Baggage Centre (pictured) began as a one-man operation in 1970, when Doyle Owens borrowed a pickup truck, drove to Washington, DC, and used a \$300 loan to buy his first load of orphaned



luggage. Today the company has exclusive contracts with American airlines, giving it sole rights to purchase and sell detritus from flights. The UBC claims to be one of Alabama's top tourist attractions, drawing more than a million visitors a year from around the globe. (This photo just shows the men's clothing section! I wonder if the ladies found the baby there? Handy!)

Only a tiny fraction of passengers' luggage makes it to Scottsboro. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, just 3.86 bags for every 1,000 flyers go initially unclaimed. Of those, nearly 98% find their way to their owners within five days. Then, over the next three months, half of the remaining bags make it home.

But if that 90-day period passes, the leftovers become the property of the airlines. They then sell it to the UBC, which loads it onto tractor-trailers at airports around the country and transports it to Scottsboro. (The airlines don't turn a profit, but recoup some of their costs associated with tracking and handling lost luggage.) Even that small percentage is quite a haul. The warehouse occupies more than a city block; the main building has 40,000 square feet of shopping space, and a three-story annex is located next door.

The shop's processing centre sorts the items and prices those appropriate for sale. The company appraises jewellery, tests electronics and wipes them of personal data, and dry-cleans more than 20,000 items of clothing a day at its own facility. (Which, it says, makes it the largest dry-cleaning operation in Alabama.) Most of the items for sale are what you would expect: clothing, cameras, golf clubs. But sometimes more exotic treats turn up, such as vacuum-packed frogs, a 19th-century replica suit of armour, and an engraved tombstone.

According to Thrillist, most items are sold for a discount of 20-80%; jewellery is sold at half its appraised value. But since not all items are appraised, there are sometimes great deals. A traveller from Mexico City once bought a \$20,000 painting for \$60.

Customers in need of fashion assistance can hire a personal shopper on site. Every day at 2.30, visitors can win the chance to open unprocessed bags themselves. And if they find, say, a suit of armour that they would like to take home, the store does ship.

The UBC has mostly rave reviews on TripAdvisor, where it's ranked number one out of all the (six) things to do in Scottsboro. The most recent correspondent spent seven hours there; another this month wrote that it was "definitely worth the 5 1/2 hour drive from Indiana!" One reviewer warned, however, that the store limits shoppers to three laptops per customer.

But if you are the frustrated soul from the top of this story, pining for a lost suitcase, don't count on the UBC staff to find it for you. The FAQ section on its website asks, "Can you find my lost suitcase (glasses/laptop/jewelry/favorite sweater)?"

The answer is: "Regrettably, 'No.'"

(Source: mainly The Economist)

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Or email me on [terrible.terry@live.com](mailto:terrible.terry@live.com)



### 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

### The Decorator.

A couple were watching a TV programme about sex when the wife turned to her husband and said: 'You make love like you decorate.' 'What, you mean very slow and professional?'

'No,' she replied curtly. 'Fast and sloppy and I have to finish the job myself.'

## Jessie's Bar Golf Society Los Balcones

The La Torre Golf Course was the venue for the August society day. The day started off overcast but soon turned into a sunny day with a small breeze which made the golf day perfect. The course was in good condition as 22 players set off.

The winner with a stunning score of 37 off a 7 handicap was Derek Mountfield.

In 2nd place with 35 points (on count back) was our Captain Bob Adair.

In 3rd place with 35 points Tim Ryan.

Nearest the pin on par 3s

Ken Sutton hole 3

Tim Ryan hole 9

Thanks go to our guest prize presenter ex pro footballer Derek Mountfield.

Personal thanks to Derek for helping me hit the ball and sighting where it went (I forgot my glasses).

Well done to all the winners and all players & hope you all enjoyed yourselves.

Thanks must also go to the staff at Jessie's for the excellent spread and sale of football tickets.

Alan Jackson

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### Get On Your Bike!

A 17-year-old was fined €500 by the local police in Almeria. It seems this 'would-be Evel Knievel' was riding his bicycle in a reckless manner, weaving about cars and cycling on the pavements, zig-zagging at high-speed etc.

His parents, who had to pay the fine, are naturally upset, mainly because they believe that the usual fine for such an offence is €200 and feel hard-done-by. Sell the bike!

*Kath & Jules  
Welcome You to*



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WITH

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**GREAT FOOD & GREAT PRICES!**  
*Always a good deal at Dave's!*

## The Cure!

A man rushed into the chemist's and asked, 'Have you got anything to stop a terrible bout of hiccups?' Without warning, the chemist immediately slapped him hard across the face. 'There,' he said triumphantly, 'I bet that's stopped them.'

The man stood there stunned, his cheek turning bright red and replied, 'It's for my wife waiting outside in the car.'





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**The bar offers a relaxed atmosphere.  
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A full schedule of events are planned.**

What's the difference between a Catholic wife  
and a Jewish wife?

The Catholic wife has real orgasms and fake  
jewellery.

### **62-Year-Old Pregnant with Third Child.**

A 62-year-old Spanish woman is due to give birth to a baby girl in October, igniting more ethical debates about using fertility treatments on older woman. Doctor Lina Alvarez (photo), already has two sons, one aged 27 who is disabled and requires constant care, and a 10-year-old. According to the Spanish news service Agencia EFE, Ms Alvarez said: "I feel like a woman in her 30s. To feel better than this is impossible. I am very happy because I am living now my reward for so much suffering. It is a miracle."

The mum-to-be revealed that always wanted to be a mother again, but most medical experts refused to treat her. "However, some years ago I met a gynecologist who agreed to help me if the tests were OK, and they were positive so he planted an embryo," she said. In regards to this pregnancy she said she felt better than when not pregnant, "by illusion, by hormones, and the happiness of being a mother, because motherhood is the greatest."

She added that the baby was developing well and already weighing in at 2kg.

In regards to the people who say she is too old to be a mother she had this to say: "When she will be 30, I will be 90," Lina said. "I will be a grandmother as well as a mother and so what, the fact is that my daughter will have been brought up."



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**Facebook: El Capitan Torrevieja**

SOUTH  
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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 BAR DOMINO IN LOWER LOS ALTOS..**

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), jars of 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 disposable razors, shaving foam, soaps, 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](http://www.reachouttorrevieja.com)

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

### Say "Please"!

A café owner at a beach resort in Catalonia is encouraging good manners by charging customers less if they mind their p's and q's.

Marisel Valencia Madrid, the owner of the Restaurant Blau Grifeu in Llança on the Costa Brava, became so fed up at being barked at by customers that she has introduced a pricing system to penalize those who are impolite.

Those who demand a coffee will find they are charged an extortionate €5, those who say please will pay a more affordable €3.50, and those courteous enough to greet their server first with a "Buenos días" will be charged a mere €1.30

Restaurant Blau Grifeu	
UN CAFÉ	5.00€
UN CAFÉ, POR FAVOR	3.00€
BUENOS DÍAS, UN CAFÉ POR FAVOR	1.30€

"I put a sign in the window with the price system and it has made all the difference. People are now super polite in all matters and it has really improved daily life," she told The Local by telephone.

"Yesterday some children even told their parents to say please, so it's working!" she laughed.

The 41-year-old is originally from Colombia and has run the restaurant with her husband for the last nine years.

"I'm not singling out Spanish people as rude," she insisted. "We are just off the seafront so we have a lot of tourists here as well, French, German and British, and I think generally people could just be more polite."

A customer took a photograph of the sign with the house rules and posted it on social media sparking a nationwide debate on politeness.

"I'm surprised at the attention but it's good to remind people to be polite to everyone, even when ordering a coffee," she said.

And she admitted that since putting up the sign she hasn't had to charge anyone the full whack.

"The normal price of a coffee is €1.30 and thankfully I haven't had to charge more because everyone is giving me a greeting and saying please," she said. "Some even say thank you now too!"

(The Local)



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### **Hair today, gone .....**

The dog breeder was advised that if she wanted a 'champion', some of the dog's hair needed to be removed from its underside. She went along to the chemist and asked for some hair remover. 'This is the most efficient product,' said the chemist, showing her a small tube of cream, 'but it's advisable to keep your arms up in the air for at least two minutes before taking it off.' 'Oh, no, you misunderstand me,' said the woman, blushing, 'it's for my Chihuahua.'

'Oh, I see,' he replied, 'that's no problem, just don't ride a bike for a couple of hours afterwards.'



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**OUCH!!**

So here we have this 45-year-old Norwegian guy, Claus Jørstad, who had a knee injury. He needs to take a shower sitting down, so he goes to IKEA and gets a stool, so he can sit on it while showering. Great idea, but see the holes in the chair (photo from his Facebook page). Unfortunately Claus got one of his testicles trapped in one of the holes. As one of his 'sailors', as he called them, fell through and expanded in the hot water, try as he did, he could not free it without causing damage.



Finally Claus came up with the solution: He turned the shower to 'cold' and after a chilling time, the imprisoned appendage shrunk in the cold and was released.

Claus now puts a piece of cloth on the chair to avoid any future incarcerations.

So guys, take care out there and protect the 'family jewels.'

*Queen Elizabeth is head of a dysfunctional family.*

*If she lived on a council estate in Sheffield, she'd probably be in council care.*

*Michael Parkinson*



# BAR DOMINO



LOS ALTOS.

Open 7 days from 10.00am till late

KITCHEN OPENING TIMES

Monday to Saturday 10.00am to 10.00pm Sunday 1.00pm to 5.00pm Lunch Only

Sunday 6pm to 10.00pm

**MONDAY - SATURDAY ..... 3 COURSE MEAL ONLY €7.95!**

**4PM - 9:30PM**

TAPAS €3 EACH - ANY 4 TAPAS €10

5 Chicken Wings	Chicken Curry
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6 Spring Rolls	Cajun Chicken Pasta
10 Onion Rings	Tuna Pasta
Garlic Mushrooms	Pork Stroganoff
Breaded Mushrooms	Chilli Nachos
2 Mini Burgers	(Served with
(Served with Side Salad)	Crusty Bread)



**COMBO €10.00!**

4 Chicken Wings, 4 Chicken Goujons,  
4 Breaded Mushrooms, 4 Spring Rolls,  
8 Onion Rings, Chips, Spicy Onions,  
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**Full Breakfast €4.25 Mon-Sat 10am-1.30pm**

2 Sausage, Bacon, Egg, Hash Brown,  
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**Sunday Lunch €6.00**

Roast Beef

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Breast of Chicken



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*If Presidents (and Prime Ministers) don't do it to their wives,  
they do it to the country.*

*Mel Brooks*



# BAR DOMINO



LOS ALTOS.

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Darts 2 Teams Monday Night & 1 Team Thursday Night

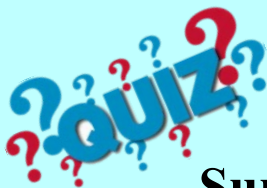
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### Swap.

Reading through a magazine, a woman suddenly started laughing. Turning to her husband, she said|: 'There's a classified ad here where a chap is offering to swap his wife for a season ticket to Chelsea FC. You wouldn't swap me for a season ticket, would you?' 'Of course not, honey,' replied the husband. 'The season's half over.'

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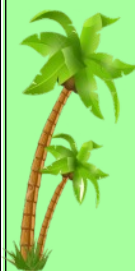
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### Rewarding the Liars!

In recent months I featured a brief bit about José Manuel Soria. José (photo) was Spain's PP minister of industry, energy and tourism from 2011 to 2016. But when the Panama Papers hit the media this year, it was learned that Soria, along



with other members of his family, operated a network of companies including ones based in the Bahamas and Jersey. After initially denying having links to tax havens, he resigned on 15 April 2016. Soria: "I resign because I gave an explanation that does not correspond to reality."

But then the PP senior barons only recently nominated Soria for the position of Executive Director of the World Bank. It seems that Soria approached the top dogs in PP concerning his nomination before he resigned in April. But several days after he was nominated in August, objections from the public and other parties, were so overwhelming that, after two telephone calls from PM Rajoy, Soria resigned. If he had not, he was guaranteed the 'bums rush!'. In 2015, an executive director at the World Bank earned an annual net salary of about \$253,000.

### The Phoenix Golf Society.

We played at La Torre Golf Course – 18th September 2016.

The course was in a very good condition except that the bunkers had not been swept or raked enough. But apart from that I believe all the players enjoyed the day very much. John Bradbeer came over on his usual twice-a-year visit to play. We also had a new member Paddy Daley – Welcome Paddy.

Nearest the Pin No.3 won by Ian Grant.  
" " " No.15 won by Dave Cahill.  
" " " No. 5 won by Brian Archer.

The overall winner was Mike Heighway.

Our next venue is Mar Menor and the list is up on the board in the Phoenix.

After our game at La Torre we all returned to the Phoenix Bar for our usual lovely food and a laugh. Once again many thanks to Donna and Kay.



"Be honest...what did you think of my golf swing?"

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Our New Combo Meal For 2 only 12€!  
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If that had gone in, it would have been a goal!

David Coleman

## DRIPS 'N' LEAKS.

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**Mildred!**

Two elderly women were out driving in a large car - both could barely see over the dashboard. As they were cruising along, they came to a major crossroad. The stop light was red, but they just went on through. The woman in the passenger seat thought to herself, "I must be losing it. I could have sworn we just went through a red light."

After a few more minutes, they came to another major junction and the light was red again. Again, they went right through. The woman in the passenger seat was almost sure that the light had been red but was really concerned that she was losing it. She was getting nervous.

At the next junction, sure enough, the light was red and they went on through. So, she turned to the other woman and said, "Mildred, did you know that we just ran through three red lights in a row? You could have killed us both!"

Mildred turned to her and said, "Oh! Am I driving?"



# BIENVENIDO a BAR KALIMOTXO

Bar y Restaurante  
Via Park III

**Oxana & Oscar Welcome You  
to an Authentic Spanish Bar.**

WE FEATURE A WIDE RANGE OF EXCELLENT WINES, SPIRITS & SPANISH BEERS.  
ALL FOOD IS FRESHLY PREPARED WITH A FRESH SELECTION OF TAPAS DAILY

**A WIDE RANGE OF MEAT, FISH, PAELLA  
AND SHELLFISH DISHES AVAILABLE**

**BREAKFASTS, SANDWICHES, BAGUETTES & SNACKS.**

**SUCCULENT MEATS RANGING FROM ROAST LAMB,  
ROAST KNUCKLE OF PORK AND ROAST CHICKEN**

**TO DELICIOUS BURGERS, WINGS AND WONDERFUL HAND-CUT CHIPS.**

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**A RANGE OF GENEROUS DELICIOUS SALADS ALSO AVAILABLE**

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**FISH & CHIPS €5.10**

**SMALL PIZZA from €2.70**

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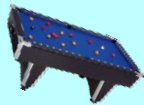
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MOBILE TOP-UPS AVAILABLE!!**

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**KARAOKE - THURS' EVENINGS**

**POOL TABLE.**

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**HALLOWEEN PARTY OCT 31st**



**COSTUMES, MUSIC,  
MONSTERS, VAMPIRES  
& LOTS OF BLOOD!**



**SPACIOUS SOUTH FACING TERRACE.**

FREE WIFI

**We All Know One!**

A woman walked up to the cash desk in a clothes store carrying a pack of white sports socks. She said to the sales assistant: 'Would you mind opening the pack so that I can feel how soft the socks are?'

Reluctantly the assistant tore open the package, allowing the woman to examine the socks. Eventually she said, 'Yes, these are fine', and handed the pack back to the assistant.

But as the assistant started to ring up the sale on the cash register, the woman said: 'No, I don't want that pack! It's been opened.'

### The British Black Widow of Cartagena.

In October 2002, 49-year-old Jacqueline Moore, a British resident in Tallante, Cartagena, was hit by her husband, Brian. She called her young son to defend her, and when the boy arrived he beat his father unconscious using his steel toe-capped boots. It was then that the woman grabbed a pillow, placed it on her husband's face, sat upon it and suffocated him. She then took the body to an outside patio where it was covered with a piece of canvas and held down with granite stones. Three months later, she dismembered



the body, placed the remains in a metal barrel and set it alight. (Mother and son in photo)

Some months after the crime, the family of Brian Moore had reported him missing to the police in the UK, who then requested help from Spain.

Nothing much happened until Mrs Moore went onto the social websites on the Internet, and wouldn't you know it, she started to blab about what she had done, calling herself the 'Black Widow.' A British journalist, Roger Insall, got interested in the case and persuaded her to 'spill the beans' including all the gory details in a chatroom, which he recorded.

It was not until two years after the murder that she was arrested and the bones found buried in her property. In May 2007, she was found guilty of assassinating her husband and sentenced to 10 years in prison for the murder and three months for desecrating the body. She was also ordered to pay compensation of €100,000 to the mother of her dead husband and €50,000 to his brother and relatives.

The son was freed with some other charges outstanding. While on the accused bench, Mrs Moore changed her testimony several times and even blamed her son. She then said her husband arrived home drunk and fell over by accident. In 2002, according to her, he was drinking eight litres of wine and one or two bottles of whisky or vodka everyday.

I assume the lady is out on parole at the moment but I often wonder about these financial awards from the courts. Are they ever paid, and surely they can't be enforced if the guilty have no assets?



### Winning Express Grinds to a Halt!

Some would say it was inevitable, others 'I told you so', but this Ponzi scheme whose adverts featured regularly in the local English free-bees has finally gone the way of all such schemes - BUST!



Even though it was as early as February 2015, the warning signs were there. See the following link -

<http://behindmlm.com/mlm-reviews/winning-express-review-sporting-arbitrage-or-ponzi-scheme/>

In a clear case of 'shutting the stable door after.....' the local press could only report on the matter after the scheme had gone bust.

Expats on the Costas were targeted by the scheme operators and far too many fell for the extravagant claims. Good commissions were promised for introductions and it was from these monies that people were paid. The money actually generated by the supposed arbitrage operation was negligible with Peter being robbed to pay Paul. The company also have offices locally.

Sadly all the warning signs were there -

- Near impossible to find out who owned the scheme
- Promises of a 2% return on your investment each month
- Using newly invested funds to pay off existing investors
- Regular free draws for cash prizes
- Third rate sport's 'stars' to promote the company, such as John Virgo, Steve Claridge & David Hirst.

It is alleged that the architect and beneficiary of this fraudulent scheme is Graham Bradbury. And guess what? Mr Bradbury was declared bankrupt in November 2014, taking over £500,000 in 'members' money. He was also given a 12-year ban from becoming a director of a company plus other bankruptcy restrictions. Google 'Graham Bradbury' and be prepared to be shocked. Am I the only one to think that 'Rendition Flights' would be ideal for these individuals?

### The Quickie.

A man went round to his mate's house, and the wife answered the door.

'Is he in?'

'No,' she said.

'I fancy you.'

'Go away.'

'How about a quick one?'

'Piss off!'

'I'll give you £500.'

'Alright, come in.'

Later the husband comes home.

'Did Jack come round?'

'Yes.'

'Did he drop my wage packet off?'

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PHOENIX



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**English Newspapers, Magazines & TV Mag's  
Open 7 days from 8am!**

**Kitchen Open Mon -Sat 9:00am - 4pm  
Serving Breakfasts & Full Snack Menu.**



**Wednesdays - Fun Darts with Big Brian, Oy! Oy!**



**Thursdays - Eyes down for The Phoenix Bingo -**



Tickets on Sale from 2:30pm;

Dibbers & Dabbers at the Ready for 3pm.

**Fridays - Fun Quiz with Brian - & Play Your Cards Right!**

**Sunday Evening - KARAOKE!**

**SUNDAYS - OPEN FROM 10:00 am.**

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*And enjoy monthly visits to some wonderful golf courses.*

**CHECK BOARDS  
FOR ENTERTAINMENT.**

*Always something going on!*

WiFi

A smart-talking man who thought he could charm the birds off the trees met his match one night. The man had just learned that his father only had days to live and then he would inherit over a million pounds. Overjoyed at the promised wealth, he celebrated at the local wine bar, where he saw a ravishing long-legged blonde. He couldn't wait to brag to her and indeed she was so interested in him, they went back to his house together. The next day she became his stepmother.



**Macklin's**

**LOUNGE BAR & GAMES ROOM**

LIVE BETTING AVAILABLE HERE FULLY LEGAL

**POOL...SNOOKER...DARTS...POKER**

**LIVE SPORTS 6 SCREENS**

**BINGO EVERY SATURDAY!**  
STARTS AT 2pm  
GREAT PRIZES!

**WIFI**  
Free Zone

**WHY GO ANYWHERE ELSE !!!**

**FIND US AT GROUND FLOOR, VIA PARK 3.**

### Tipping in Spain.

For some tipping can be an an anxious decision, some see it as a duty or obligation while others see it as an unjustified and unwelcome expense.

A new survey carried out in August of the hospitality sector in Spain shows that nearly three-quarters of customers leave a tip of less than 5% of the bill, while just 3% express their gratitude for the service with tips of between 10% and 20%.

Around 23% of patrons leave between 5% and 10%, an amount that restaurant and bar owners consider "normal."

The study, drawn up by the Spanish Hospitality Industry Federation (FEHR) and cash-and-carry chain Makro, also notes that half of the 1,700 businesses surveyed reported occasional instances of clients leaving without paying the bill at all!

Another habit that restaurant owners were unhappy about was the widespread practice in Spain of not showing up for a meal after making a reservation. These no-shows represent economic losses for the restaurant 90% of the time.

I have asked a number of advertisers in this newsletter what nationalities did they feel were the worst tippers.

Undoubtedly the Spanish, was the first response, followed somewhat surprisingly by the Norwegians. I guess if you have more of it you are anxious to hold on to it!

### Nervous Nelly.

A woman walked into the dentist very nervously and said, 'I'd rather have a baby than have my teeth checked.'  
'OK,' said the dentist, 'that's fine, but I'll have to adjust the chair.'

### And the Band Played On.

A drunken wedding in Donegal ended in a brawl and a court appearance. The judge was having difficulty getting to the truth of what had actually happened until the best man offered to outline the facts.

'Your honour,' he began, 'I was the best man at the wedding. It is the tradition in these parts that the best man gets the first dance with the bride.'

After I'd finished the first dance, the music kept going, so we kept dancing to the second song and then the third, when suddenly the groom jumped over a table and kicked the bride right between her legs.'

'Uh! That must have hurt!' exclaimed the judge.

'Hurt?' said the best man. 'He broke three of my fingers!'

### Open Up and Say .....

A young woman having a physical examination was very embarrassed because she had put on a lot of weight. As she removed her last item of clothing, she blushed. 'I'm so ashamed, Doctor. I guess I've let myself go.'

The doctor checked her eyes and ears. 'Don't feel ashamed, Miss. You don't look that bad.'

'Do you really think so, Doctor?' she asked.

The doctor held a tongue depressor in front of her face and said: 'Of course. Now just open your mouth and say moo.'



**Looking for the Cheapest Petrol/diesel Stations in Your Area?**

Then keep at eye on these websites which lists the costs from various gas stations -

**Torre vieja:**

<http://www.preciodegasolina.es/gasolineras-torre vieja>

**Orihuela Costa:**

[http://www.preciodegasolina.es/gasolineras-orihuela\\_costa\\_nucleo](http://www.preciodegasolina.es/gasolineras-orihuela_costa_nucleo)

It is generally accepted that prices are cheaper on a Monday, as it is on this day that the statistics are prepared for the state.



**Ground Clauses &**

**Euribor Tracker Mortgages Banks Refund.**

If you have a mortgage with a Spanish bank the chances are your interest rate is tied to the Eurobor/Euribor rate. Euribor is the interest rate which a large number of European banks provide short term loans to one another. So the interest rate you will pay on your mortgage will probably be the Euribor rate plus a percentage, say 1% or 2% or whatever, depending on how ethical and fair your bank is.

(Regular readers will be aware that I have a very low regard for Spanish banking, despite having spent the first 30-years of my working life in international banking. IMHO, what separates the Spanish bankers from the *bandidos* is that at least the *bandidos* wear a mask and not a smile!)

But when the Eurobor rates dropped during the last few years (it is now in negative territory) the Spanish banks introduced ground clauses to their mortgages, so when the Euribor rate took a dive during late 2011 & 2012, the banks ensured that the rates they charged their borrowers, did not follow the previously agreed formulae and kept these rates artificially high by using a ground clause.

Consumer associations and individuals fought this restrictive clause through the courts on a local basis first, and then nationally in the Supreme (national) Court and in the European Court.

The clause was then found to be abusive in the courts. But the Spanish Supreme Court ruled that the banks would be required to pay the difference, but only going back as far as 2013! The time limit was then appealed to the European Court who, rather surprisingly, agreed with the Spanish Supreme Court. (If the clause was backdated fully, it would have cost the banks billions.)

So now you can reclaim any interest you have been overcharged going back to 2013. The law is now pretty clear on this, so you would be likely to win your case.

First, check with you bank to see if your borrowings had a ground clause. If you renewed your mortgage this year, they probably got you to sign-up to a much higher rate anyway! Find out how much the previous rate was and get the answer in writing.

Check with a lawyer how much they would charge for handling your claim. Some may claim a percentage, say 30%; others may charge a flat fee which could take any funds you are reimbursed with, so take care and ask!

**The Spanish Land Registry.**

Many of us who have lived in Spain for some years are only too aware of the leaden-footed bureaucracy that accompanies any enquiry or official procedure. Inadequate guidance, multiple form-generation, unhelpful functionaries, delays and general bloody-mindedness can wear you down.

So what a relief it was to come upon the new Spanish Land Registry sites, which not only provide for online searching in English but also offer a translation service (at a cost) of the relevant documents as well. Also, they have prepared a number of introductory sites to the service in English, which are very helpful. If you own a property in Spain, or wish to buy one, or indeed are just curious to obtain the core relevant details about another property, much of the following will be of use to you.

First of all, take a look at the following website -

<https://buyingahouse.registradores.org/>

This particular site was 'created to help international users to leap over the language and legal terminology barriers which sometimes make difficult for non residents interested in investing in Real Estate in Spain, to properly assess and interpret information issued by the Land Registry Offices.'

It also provides a link to an example of a sample set of deeds in both Spanish and English, which illustrates the information which is available on any registered property in Spain! So, if you have reservations/doubts about the swarthy, sweaty, hairy chap, who has been chatting up your daughter, maiden aunt, sister or whoever and spouting about his considerable assets, this is a sample of the information you can obtain using a simple search - see

<https://buyingahouse.registradores.org/static/sample.pdf>

But, if you require more than that available above, take a look at the following website. Although it is in Spanish only at this stage, it can be translated easily by Google or similar. It is possible to get much more details and records on this site not only of private property but of the relevant commercial aspects including insolvency as well.

[https://www.registradores.org/registroonline/home.seam;OFVIRSESIONID=PYbvSpgUvBEphiYX3GYOn4JnZnvQHRohXILY7vU93-czyqfnJYVQ!830234519?cid=74985&actionMethod=h\\_ome.xhtml%3Aidentity.logout%28%29#](https://www.registradores.org/registroonline/home.seam;OFVIRSESIONID=PYbvSpgUvBEphiYX3GYOn4JnZnvQHRohXILY7vU93-czyqfnJYVQ!830234519?cid=74985&actionMethod=h_ome.xhtml%3Aidentity.logout%28%29#)

These sites are 'meat & potatoes' not only to investigative journalists but to private detectives as well.

But they are now also available to you.

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SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

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Includes a generous glass of wine, small beer or soft drink.

**ONLY €8.95!!**



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SPECIAL MENU ONLY €40 PER COUPLE! BOOK NOW!

INCLUDES MIXED STARTER, ANY MAIN COURSE,

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BOTTLE OF WINE OR TWO LARGE BEERS PER COUPLE.

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### New Services.

I suppose we should be grateful for the number of advances locally in recent years: a vastly improved local *salud* centre in Cabo Roig, a new hospital within shouting distance, a small but local transport service, (low inflation,) the piping of natural gas to many areas, and of late, the arrival of optical fibre Internet, which will allow for more choices, particularly in the home entertainment and communication areas. The major item still missing in the O.C. is schools. Hopefully, this may be addressed soon.

The installation of the optical fibre in our urbanisation has caused a bit of a stir with some residents complaining that only one installer is allowed onto the urbanisation. This is utter guff of course. One cannot restrict service providers unless they are careless or dangerous. However, it makes absolute sense to only allow one installer at a time to do a job. Just as if you had two builders working on projects in your property, with having two telecom's installers, one would be bound to try and f\*ck it up for the other or blame them if things went wrong. Once the current technicians have completed their first phase installation, have no doubt that other competing installers will then be granted access.

The only reason I would take up jogging is so I could hear heavy breathing again. Erma Bombeck





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## THE USER

Once I had a life  
A home, a job, a wife  
Now there's nothing here  
Just an endless fear

Gone are the days I used to lead  
Now only incessant need  
At the start, a small explosion  
Now only life erosion

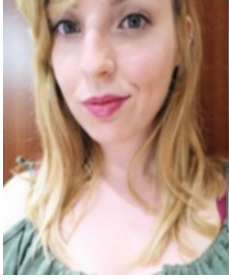
Where am I going to  
What am I trying to do  
There's nothing left for me  
Only pain and misery

Someone help me, someone please  
All the pain and pressure ease  
As I draw each longing breath  
the only out I see is death.

The Phantom Poet

## Idiot of the Month.

The doctor will see you now! Well hopefully, not this particular one in the little town of Llano de Brujas in Murcia.



This pretty lady in the photo popped into her local *Salud* to get some pills on a prescription she received from the hospital the previous day. While in the consulting room with this particular doctor, he offered her a cigarette. She refused, so he lit one himself and smoked it.

He then said that he would not give her the pills as they would make her fat; that she had a 'great guy' and that she was not fuc\*ed 'well enough' - *no bien follada!*

Okay, I am sure you are thinking 'What a prat!' But it gets better (or worse). He then wrote his diagnosis down for the lady to take away. Being a resourceful female, she took a photo of it and posted it on Facebook.

I suppose it could be worse. This guy could have insisted on a physical examination. I suppose for a chap of that calibre, it must have been seen as a lost opportunity.

The doctor is now under investigation. So pucker-up ladies, if he is not sacked he will probably be transferred and could be coming to a *Salud* near you soon.!

### How Drunk You Think You Are Depends on How Wasted Your Friends Are.

Have you ever noticed that the more people you go out drinking with the more drunk you get? This boozy breed of groupthink recently got empirical validation in the form of a new study by University of Cardiff researchers in the journal *BMC Public Health*. Team members went out on Friday and Saturday nights, between 8 p.m. and 3 a.m., stopping every seventh person they saw, and asking them to take a Breathalyzer test and answer a couple questions about how drunk they were, how extreme of a night they were having, and how much they thought booze would affect their long-term health. They ended up doing alcohol tests with 1,862 people, 400 of whom answered all the questions.

And as you may have inferred from every terrible night out you had in college, it wasn't the absolute number of drinks that individuals had that predicted how drunk they thought they were, but rather how much their friends were or weren't drinking. The research team, led by Cardiff public-health researcher Simon C. Moore, concluded that it was a matter of "rank": If you had downed six beers through the night but had drunk the fifth-most among a crew of six revelers, you'd report being less drunk than if you'd drunk the same amount but been the heaviest drinker among your crew.

"Animals, ranging from crayfish to monkeys, are generally very sensitive to rank position within a hierarchy," the researchers write. Indeed, the authors say, the rank-based reasoning may explain how entire cultures shift from drinking more to less, as Britain has, a couple times. "Such rank sensitivity may also explain why drinking increases in a society; if everyone drank another 10 units per week, no one would believe themselves to be more at risk of alcohol related disorder as their rank positions would remain the same," the authors write. This also explains why New York is so soaked in booze —nobody drives, everybody drinks— while a place like Los Angeles — everybody drives, everybody slugs wheatgrass — is so comparatively dry. If cultural norms say a behaviour is normal, it is.

(Drake Baer, NYTimes/Science of Us.)

The shin is a device for finding furniture in the dark. I myself find the little toe more effective.

Michael Hogin

### The Racist.

Moshe was sitting at the bar staring at his drink when a large, trouble-making biker steps up next to him, grabs his drink and gulps it down in one swig and menacingly says, 'Thanks, Jew Boy, whatcha gonna do about it?' Moshe burst into tears.

"Come on, man," the biker says, "I didn't think you'd cry. I can't stand to see a man crying. What's your problem?"

"This is the worst day of my life," Moshe says. "I'm a complete failure. I was late to a meeting and my boss fired me. When I went to the parking lot, I found my car had been stolen and I don't have any insurance. I left my wallet in the cab I took home. I found my wife in bed with the postman, then my dog bit me. So I came to this bar to work up the courage to put an end to it all. I buy a drink; drop a capsule in and sit here watching the poison dissolve; then you show up and drink the whole thing! But enough about me, how's your day going?"

Pete Dudman

'Mummy, Mummy, are little birds made of metal?'

'Of course not, darling, why do you think that?'

'I just heard Dad say he'd like to screw the arse off the bird next door.'

Did you hear about the couple who adopted a baby from Spain. They signed up for evening classes so that they would be able to understand the baby when it started talking.





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### The New Arrival.

Paddy's wife was about to give birth, so he rushed her to the hospital. On arrival, the nurse asked: 'How dilated is she?' 'Bejaysus!' beamed Paddy. 'We're both over the moon!'



## BREXIT NEWS SNIPPETS.

(Here we just take a look at recent references in the media to the Brexit issue.)

The BBVA has ratified that Alicante will be one of the most provinces affected by Brexit. The exit of the United Kingdom from the EU could reduce regional GDP by five tenths. The slowdown in the British economy and the devaluation of the pound could affect tourism arrivals, the motor of the regional economy. It could also reduce ‘the permanent income of the British residents, which would have special relevance in Alicante and Murcia’ because of the high British population. Also the Valencia Community is the region which exports the most to the United Kingdom, with Aragón and Murcia. (TypicallySpanish)

Japan has warned Britain that its banks, car manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies may leave the UK for Europe if Brexit leads to the loss of tariff-free trade. The warning came during the G20 meeting in China, where Theresa May has been conducting talks with world leaders. A Japanese Government task-force has published a 15 page list of demands from companies and warned that Britain may become an increasingly "unattractive" place for business.

The report concludes:

“Japanese businesses with their European headquarters in the UK may decide to transfer their head-office function to continental Europe if EU laws cease to be applicable in the UK after its withdrawal,” the report concludes.

It says: “In light of the fact that a number of Japanese businesses, invited by the government in some cases, have invested actively to the UK, which was seen to be a gateway to Europe, and have established value-chains across Europe, we strongly request that the UK will consider this fact seriously and respond in a responsible manner to minimise any harmful effects on these businesses.”

Half of Japanese investment in the EU comes to the UK including companies such as Nissan, Honda, Mitsubishi, Nomura and Daiwa. (Telegraph)

The head of Germany’s central bank has warned that London’s position as a financial centre would be dealt a severe blow if the UK left the single market because banks would be denied the right to operate across the 27 remaining members of the EU. The Bundesbank president, Jens Weidmann, said that banking “passporting rights are tied to the single market and would automatically cease to apply if Great Britain is no longer at least part of the European Economic Area” (EEA). (The Guardian)

S&P warns the current economic recovery in the United Kingdom after the Brexit vote is a mere mirage. The macro-economic data shows a bounce upwards in the British economy in August is a mirage. ‘Any celebration will extrapolates the data from August to return normality to the British economy will probably be proven to be premature, or even a mirage, at least in the long term’. The European Union is studying charging British tourist 59 € to enter the eurozone after Brexit. The equivalent 50 pounds would purchase a special visa. Amber Rudd, British Interior Minister, has recognised this possibility is on the table, and a 6€ surcharge for rapid passport control. The European Commission is preparing a draft law to create a computer system to control exits and entries with previous authorisation. They will study a similar model in the United States where such a special visa costs 14 dollars. (S&P)

In a stark reminder of the challenge Britain faces at the negotiating table, Robert Fico said Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia – known as the Visegrad, or V4, group – would not hesitate to block any future trade accord that threatened the key EU principle of free movement of workers. “The V4 countries will be uncompromising,” Fico said on Saturday, a day after EU leaders met informally in Bratislava, without Britain, to try to chart a roadmap for the bloc’s future after the shock of the Brexit vote. “Unless we feel a guarantee that these people [living and working in Britain] are equal, we will veto any agreement between the EU and Britain,” Fico told Reuters. “I think Britain knows this is an issue for us where there’s no room for compromise.” (The Guardian)



Should the attainment of free-trade deals prove impossible or take too long, the UK may attempt to trade on World Trade Organisation terms. Brexiteers say this is simple, as Britain is already a member of the WTO. Yet its tariff, quota and subsidy rules are fixed by its EU membership. Post-Brexit it needs terms of its own, and they have to be negotiated and approved by all 163 other WTO members, a process that the WTO’s director-general has called “tortuous”. The alternative of scrapping all tariffs and quotas might appeal to some economists, but it would not be welcomed by British farmers or manufacturers, and it would deprive Britain of bargaining chips for future bilateral trade deals. Trading with the EU under WTO rules would mean tariffs on cars, pharmaceuticals and most agricultural products, and it would not cover services. (The Economist)

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## Lime Bar Fishing Sunbathing Club

This month's match was held at El Bosquet again for the "Memorial Shield". Over summer this venue has consistently produced a lot of fish. 2 local "professional" clubs fished there on consecutive days and both had winning weights of over 30 kilos. AHA! We thought. We could do with some of that.. The pros must be cheating somehow or they had over-fed the fish.... we sunbathers could only manage 8 kilos to win. As it is such a popular venue we got there at first light to make sure we got the pegs we wanted. One weirdo was already there and set up! 3 Rods has returned from his training session on the Emerald Isle, but a few members are still sunning themselves in the UK so we only had 12 anglers on the bank. Whether it was the early start or he'd had an easy time in UK, but 3Rods turned up wearing his slippers! A new rule will have to be introduced reference incorrect attire as he went on to win the match,. Feathers followed him with 5 kilos & Ghost with 4 kilos. This match was also the last of the summer series points league, which resulted in the top 6 going through to the final. However, the 6<sup>th</sup> finalist buggered off on holiday so it went to the angler with next highest points, then the next, and the next down to the angler in 9<sup>th</sup> spot. This infuriated "Just John" who was in 10<sup>th</sup>. He thought he had to catch 15 kilos to get through and left early without weighing his fish in..... If he had been listening at the bun fight & if he had stuck it out to the end, he would be in the final too. Lesson learnt?

During the match there was very little wind and the temp was up in the 30s again. Maybe the heat is what led to quite a bit of tackle being lost in snags on the back canal. "Little Big Mick" was heard cussing and thrashing away at the far bank reeds with his pole, trying to get his float back.

The summer final was fished the following Friday, again at El Bosquet but on the "unpegged" stretch to give everyone an even chance! The finalists were Feathers, Ghost, Fagin, 3 Rods, Fag Eyes & Sweeney. Again we had to get up at O-crack-sparrow-fart to get there at first light and as soon as we got out of the car swarms of mossies attacked. Out came the mossy spray. Fagin said I haven't been bitten yet.. too late, he was yaffled. We had a fantastic sunrise; unfortunately it was directly behind the far bank, which made it difficult to see our floats. The weather was very varied, becalmed at one moment followed by blowing a hooly from one direction then swinging around 180° and blasting us from the other side. Weird! As the match turned out, it really was the luck of the draw. The 2 pegs at the far end came 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, so well done to Fag Eyes who won with 7.4 kilos & Sweeney (in the final as the 3<sup>rd</sup> reserve) close behind with 6.7 kilos. Feathers had won the summer points league, but drew a crap peg and blanked. Fagin forgot his keep net again, for the third time! We said no problem, just weigh each fish as you catch it and keep a record. Maybe he had a premonition, as he didn't need it, he only caught the one.

Ball Boy has been sneaking up to Bigastro at the weekends with his mate. Fishing his usual swim feeder he has landed a carp of 10.2 lbs, beating my 9.8 for biggest carp of the season. The b\*~~#~~\*d. See photo.



As this goes to press, some avid members are off on another Argos expedition, they get back just in time for the summer soiree. I'm sure these will feature in next month's article by my relief, the Snake Charmer.

~~Next meeting is the AGM~~ "mega" bun fight is at The Lime Bar @ **17.00** Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

Fishy fingers!

The Ghost.

### The Pipes! The Pipes! ®

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Highlands not far from Inverness. As I was not familiar with this part of Scotland, I got lost; and, being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions. I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt bad and apologized to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down and noticed that the grave was partially filled at this stage. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play. The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man. And as I played "Amazing Grace", the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head was hung low, my heart was full. As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen anything like that before, and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

Apparently, I was still lost....it's a man thing.

Mel Bettell



## DREAM HILLS II SUMMER FIESTA.



On a sunny and warm summer's evening, the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Dream Hills 2 Fiesta took place on August 27<sup>th</sup> 2016.

Tables, chairs and parasols started appearing mid-afternoon and over 200 people attended the event. A party atmosphere was soon evident, with much table sharing of ice cream, lolly ices, soft drinks, beers and of course wine.

The excellent Hog Roast and trimmings was provided by Sean Bell ("Hogs in the Costa"). There was also a choice of patatas bravas, baked potatoes and coleslaw, all cooked and prepared by a number of volunteers.



Whilst everyone was enjoying their food a raffle took place, and most of the tables won a prize, and some were even lucky enough to win more !!

Live and disco music was provided by our own Tony Jones. Once the space had been cleared of the raffle prizes, the dancing began. The music and dancing stopped at midnight, but many people lingered and chatted for another hour as it was such a pleasant evening.



All the Dream Hills 2 communities were enjoying themselves together with lots of friends and families from neighbouring urbanisations.



Thanks to everyone who supported the event. There are more photos on the Dream Hills 2 Facebook page. Our 2016 Fiesta was a huge success and a great time was had by all !! This year's event was a sell-out, so look out for the posters next summer and buy your tickets early.

*Jan & Dave.*



### The Local Property Market.

There is plenty of evidence of property prices increasing slightly in local areas, still boyed by the foreign buyers. BBVA, Spain's second largest bank, reports that 'The first half of 2016 has been clearly positive for the Spanish housing market, with rising sales, prices and building activity, and rising prices create a virtuous circle that stimulates demand, explain BBVA Research, part of the BBVA banking group, in their latest Real Estate Observatory report. The market will continue recovering after a positive first half of the year, thanks to favourable mortgage conditions and record numbers of tourists, which helps lift demand for holiday homes on the Spanish coast. That said, the second half of the year might not be as good as the first half, caution BBVA, as economic growth might moderate in the face of political headwinds as the gridlock in Madrid starts to drag on the economy



and consumer demand.

Year on year to July 2016 in the Valencian Community,

sales are up a healthy 16% although sales peaked at 42,330 during June 2016, they fell to 39,841 in July 2016.

The Alicante province, reports El Mundo, has the biggest provincial glut of never-sold homes on the market. The problem is that most of Alicante's glut is in the wrong place. Many of the homes started towards the end of the boom had unattractive locations far from the coast, where there is no demand for sale or rental at current prices, perhaps at any price. It doesn't help that banks own most of the stock, and are hanging onto them with unrealistic prices in the hope that the market picks up. Local developers have recommended demolishing part of the glut to remove its poisonous impact on the market. There is very little inventory left for sale on the coast, where people want to buy, reports El Mundo, and new development on the coast is growing once again.

It is probably a little too early to judge the damage caused by the Brexit decision on British property purchases in Spain, but the problems caused by a much weaker sterling/euro rate may become more evident during the autumn/winter months.

### The Treatment.

A very worried woman went to the doctor's to complain about the male hormone treatment she was having to take. 'Oh, doctor, I'm growing hair in all sorts of places.' 'Don't worry, that's not unusual in a case like this. Where in particular is the hair?' 'On my balls,' she replied.

### Holiday Rentals Tightening!

The mayor of Barcelona, Ada Colau, has ordered the closure of 256 illegal tourist flats and has fined Airbnb and Homeaway. Barcelona City Hall announced fines as high as €60,000 and is spending €1.35 million € to fund a taskforce of 20 people to crackdown on these practices.

El Mundo adds Colau is pursuing Airbnb with fines of €60,000 and a threat of €600,000.

I also believe that in our region, Valencia, Trip Advisor have also been fined re rentals.

In Murcia headlined 'Inspectors have uncovered on the coast nearly 2,000 illegal apartments being rented'. The Dept' of Tourism is preparing a decree to speed up the regulation and controlling of these businesses.



Take a look at these photos. The top photo is of a beach on the coast of China. Bottom photo is of a beach in Torrevieja in late August/early September.



" I DUNNO...LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF MILKING MACHINE - BUT SHE'S WEARING IT ALL WRONG..."

We often have a chuckle at the stupid laws in some countries, including Spain. However, the UK still has some gems. When new laws are written, unfortunately many of the old statutes are 'left on the books' and not repealed.

#### OFFENCE 1 - Carrying your shopping home

It is a crime to walk home from B&Q if you've just bought a ladder or a plank of wood. Section 54 of the Metropolitan Police Act 1839 makes it an offence to "roll or carry any cask, tub, hoop, or wheel, or any ladder, plank, pole, showboard, or placard, upon any footway, except for the purpose of loading or unloading any cart or carriage, or of crossing the footway". The law only applies in London. But be reassured that it's OK to carry your shopping along the pavement – as long as you're heading towards your car. Maximum fine? £500!

#### OFFENCE 2 - Flying a kite

It is that same Metropolitan Police Act 1839. It threatens a £500 fine for any person "who shall fly any kite or play at any game to the annoyance of the inhabitants or passengers, or who shall make or use any slide upon ice or snow in any street or other thoroughfare, to the common danger of the passengers". Which makes flying a kite on a snowy day twice as dodgy, of course.

#### OFFENCE 3 - Wearing fancy dress

Been invited to a fancy-dress party? Make sure you don't go as a sailor or a soldier. The Seamen's and Soldiers' False Characters Act 1906 prevents you from passing yourself off as a member of the armed forces. The law states that a person is committing an offence if he or she "personates the holder of a certificate of service or discharge". You could theoretically end up with a one-month prison sentence. This law is still being enforced: in 2009, one poor man was arrested in London for dressing in a bearskin hat and a bright red tunic.

#### OFFENCE 4 - Getting drunk in a pub

Everyone knows it's against the law to be "drunk and disorderly". You may also know that it's illegal for a publican to serve you if you're drunk. But did you know that being drunk is illegal in itself? Even inside a pub?

Section 12 of the Licensing Act 1872 outlaws "every person found drunk in any highway or other public place, whether a building or not, or on any licensed premises". So, leave the house and drink more than three or four beers and you could be facing a £200 fine.

#### OFFENCE 5 - Playing knock-down ginger

Do kids still play this game? If they don't, that's wise. Because ringing on someone's doorbell and then running away also contravenes the Metropolitan Police Act 1854.

It's a crime to "wilfully and wantonly disturb any inhabitant by pulling or ringing any door-bell or knocking at any door without lawful excuse". Maximum penalty: a £500 fine.

#### OFFENCE 6 - Keeping pigs outside your house

If you're in the city, you need to watch where you keep your porky pals. Under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847, anyone "who keeps any pigstye [sic] to the front of any street, not being shut out from such street by a sufficient wall or fence, or who keeps any swine in or near any street, so as to be a common nuisance" faces a fine of up to £1,000.

#### OFFENCE 7 - Cleaning your doormat after 8am

It's our old friend the Metropolitan Police Act 1854 again. Section 60, subsection 3 makes it an offence to beat your carpet in the street. There is a partial dispensation for doormats, which may be beaten before 8am – though not after that time. It is also an offence to "lay any fish, offal, or rubbish... into any well, stream, or watercourse, pond, or reservoir for water" – which presumably forbids anglers from tossing back into the water anything that they have caught. Punishment? A fine of up to £500.

#### OFFENCE 8 - Asking a stranger for parking money

You've parked the car and you don't have any change for the ticket machine. Don't dare ask anybody for a pound coin. It may only be a quid. You may never have asked a stranger for money before - but it's still begging under the Vagrancy Act 1824. "Every person placing himself or herself in any public place, street, highway, court, or passage, to beg or gather alms... shall be deemed an idle and disorderly person within the true intent and meaning of this Act."

The punishment? Being sent to "the house of correction" for a month or less.

#### OFFENCE 9 - Hailing a moving taxi

The London Hackney Carriages Act 1843 states even if a licensed taxi has its "for hire" light on, the driver is only allowed to seek trade when at a standstill. According to section 33 of the Act: "Every driver of a hackney carriage who shall ply for hire elsewhere than at some standing or place appointed for that purpose" shall be committing an offence, for which the current maximum fine is £200. So why are taxi drivers not being prosecuted every day of the year? And why, indeed, do they have that orange light?

Because the police have come to an understanding that a moving taxi with its "for hire" light shining brightly is not officially "plying for hire". It is only when the taxi driver pulls over to the kerb and stops that he is deemed to be announcing that he is available. Hey presto!

#### OFFENCE 10 - Handling salmon in suspicious circumstances (????!!!!)

No, we don't know what it means either. But section 32 of the Salmon Act 1986, specifically outlaws "handling salmon in suspicious circumstances". So please stop doing it.

Source: Royal London

#### Love!

The pretty young teacher had been form tutor of the Year 8 boys for half a term. Over the last few days she had noticed that one of her pupils had become distracted. Eventually she asked him to stay behind for a quiet word. 'Billy, you used to be such a hard worker, but something's happened to change all this. What is it?'

'I'm in love, Miss,' he replied. She smiled, sympathetically. 'And who is it?' 'It's you, Miss. All I think about is you.'

'Oh, Billy,' she said softly, 'sometimes life isn't that simple. I have dreams of getting married but I don't want a child...'

'Oh, that' OK, Miss,' he interrupted, 'I've brought a condom.'



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

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