

# THE DREAM SCENE

## NEWSLETTER

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

Issue no. 116, 1st of December 2016.

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the December edition.

As we are now in winter, early mornings and evenings can be a bit chilly due to the cold north wind: lows of around 8° and highs averaging at 19/20°. Winter! But blue skies and warm sun is still commonplace during the days. This year the prolonged drought has caused havoc with some of the crops. Particularly badly hit has been the olive production in the province of Alicante, down to 50% of its potential, the worst in 25 years. A reduced crop of 15 million kilos is expected this year. However the quality of the oil is expected to be outstanding with 95% of it being sold as extra virgin. The odd rainfall we are experiencing at the moment is very helpful for the winter crops.

Ximo Puig, president of the Valencia Generalitat has assured British tourists that will still receive the 'hospitality' of public services forever, and that access to the public health service is guaranteed. Puig gave the assurance at the World Travel Market in London in early November. The Valencia Tourist agency want to reinforce the Costa Blanca trademark against its competitors spending €2.5 million in developing marketing strategies for 2017 & 2018. You will note that the word 'tourist' was used, not 'resident'. Any assurances coming from a range of Spanish politicians are directed towards the tourists not foreign residents. Healthcare and other services currently available to resident foreigners have yet to be agreed Europe-wide after Article 50 is triggered. Having an existing *padron* and *residencia* will surely, we must assume, be advantageous. Time will tell.

The political three-way pact/coalition here continues to limp along. The big unions have called for a demonstration on December 18 with the far-left Podemos Party urging them to call a General Strike. Populism and empty promises continue to grow in Spain: the US may have had the 'looney-right' with Trump, in Spain it is the 'looney'left' with Podemos and Unidad Izquierda.

Despite promises to the contrary, the Christmas decorations for Orihuela Costa are abysmal, even less than in previous years. You will no doubt be pleased to hear that your taxes have put up some superb ones in Orihuela!

**Can I once again urge you to be your generous selves by putting food donations for Reach Out in the boxes provided in both Macklin's Welcome Inn and Domino's. Precooked foods like meatballs, lentils, chickpeas, tuna, are preferred as they can be easily cooked with little fuel. No 'out-of-date' food please as the charity cannot hand it out. See the appeal on page 13 for more details. If only one-in-ten of you dropped a tin off it would be MASSIVE!**

Remember, there will be no Dream Scene once again for January but back to normal with the February issue.

Many thanks to the Whelans for their generous donation towards printing costs.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas & Happy New Year, and hopefully, see you all soon.

Mick & Tid.



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### Angela's Cartoon



Looks like they're planning a party.  
I wonder if we're invited!

If you want all the conversation you can handle, put a bandage on your forehead. Bill Vaughn

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**BREXIT BITS.**

**Johnston Strikes Again!**

At the Spectator's Parliamentarian of the Year presentation in early



photo, says it all!

November, when an award was being presented to several Tory big-wigs including Boris Johnston. "Brexit means Brexit," boomed the Foreign Secretary. "And this Government is going to make a **titanic** success of it!" Okay, maybe it was the 'Village Idiot' award, but PM May's response,

**Lost in the Wilderness!**

*Nothing in British history resembles this spectacle of men and women ramming through policies everyone knows they don't believe in ..... This is a government that stamps and shouts in order to hide its inner weakness, led by a politician whose show of flinty determination conceals – I increasingly suspect – awful fears about her own ability to control her party and something close to panic as she leads Britain into the black cloud of unknowing that covers Brexit negotiations, the trembling economy and the future of the United Kingdom itself.*

(Neal Ascherson, London Review of Books.)

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

...almost every single American—99.85%—will know at least one victim of gun violence during his or her lifetime, a recent analysis in the journal Preventive Medicine estimates. Around 30,000 gun-related deaths and 80,000 non-fatal injuries occur annually in the US, according to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). A study published in the American Journal of Medicine earlier this year showed that Americans were 10 times more likely to die as a result of a firearm compared with residents of 22 other high-income countries. Of all firearm deaths in all these countries, more than 80% occur in the US.

...Chinese spies repeatedly infiltrated U.S. national security agencies, including official email accounts, and stole U.S. secrets on Pentagon war plans for a future conflict with China, according to a forthcoming congressional commission report. So what with the Russians hacking Clinton's emails, it might just be time for you to delete all your emails to that generous big-busted floozie in Guardamar. It's cyber warfare out there!

...flatulence can be very dangerous in an operating theatre? A 30-year-old Japanese woman was being operated on at the Tokyo University Medical Hospital for a medical problem in her uterus. Doctors were using a laser in the cervix when the woman farted. The gas caught fire (a favourite party trick in Kent) and the surgical drapes on the woman caught fire causing severe burns to the woman's legs and hip.



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(Cut out & keep.)

I'll not spend too much time on Spanish politics in this issue, as there will be enough jokes in your Christmas crackers! However, one cannot ignore the economic news. The minority PP government are now under pressure from Brussels to introduce **additional cuts** of €5.5 billion. The government hope to avoid further austerity measures by introducing specific increases in taxation as further cuts in areas such as health and education would be disastrous. A prime target for more taxation will be the corporate tax area where the revenue has dropped from €40 billion in 2007 to just €20 billion this year. The government could now close some of the "loopholes and deductions" used by companies, 'loopholes' were introduced by the current government just a few years ago! It is also likely that **tobacco, alcohol and diesel** will also come under the hammer. So dearer tipple and smokes on the way folks! The government have agreed with their coalition supporters not to increase income tax or IVA and will have to submit its new proposals to the EU in early December this year.

Other major economic worries here are the ever increasing deficit in Social Security contributions and that the **pensions 'piggy bank'** could be empty next year after successive years of plundering by the government.

There are 9,458,566 pensioners on the Spanish pension system.

Murcia is to become the first region to eliminate the tax on **solar energy** when produced by the individual or 'single' companies.

**Electricity bills increased** by more than 8% in October making it six consecutive months of increases; the average consumer paid €69.31 for the October bill, against €63.96 in September.

Are there **too many civil servants** in Spain? The answer is more than three million public sector workers according to the Survey of the Active Population. In 2015 Spain contributed 11.1% of GDP in public employees pay, which equates to €110 billion. If we divide this number by the 3.003 million workers in the public sector, the average wage is €36,600, more than €10,000 over the average Spanish wage.

Two men are standing at the bar of a country club.

One says: 'I'm a country member.'

Other one says: 'Yes, I remember.'

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El País reported that the European Parliament has proposed a **common unemployment pay**. The proposals, planning for a future crisis, will be voted on in the coming month.

Hostelry and commerce expect to employ 338,000 **part-time contracts** for the Christmas period. Packers, fork lift drivers, shop assistants, waiters and cooks are among the temporary seasonal jobs.

Over the last two to three years, the Balearics appear to have suffered a **snake invasion**. Thought to be snake-free less than a decade ago, the islands are now having to take urgent action as these 'alien' snakes are devouring the native lizard and small mammals on the islands. Diario de Ibiza reported that traps have captured 749 snakes. On Ibiza 449 of the reptiles were caught and on Formentera another 300. A striking number of alien snake species have been reported on the main islands, namely, 16 in Mallorca, two in Cabrera (south of Mallorca), 11 in Menorca, six in Ibiza, and five in Formentera. It also seems that the flood defences in Formentera have been '**eaten by rats**'. The regional government will have to spend €274,000 in repairs.

Record numbers of tourists in Spain were reported in the first nine months of this year with 60.3 million visitors. Up 10.1% over the same period last year, according to the Survey of Frontier Movements, presented today by the National Statistics Institute. In September alone, Spain was visited by 7.9 million international tourists, up 10.2% on last September, thanks to the United Kingdom with an increase of 12.8% to over two million (**25.4% of the total**) despite Brexit.

**Planning approval** was given for 42,869 new homes between January and August, **up 35.7%** compared to the same period last year, reveal the latest figures from the Ministry of Public Works. This figure is interesting because it shows that home building in Spain is gradually coming back to life after a brutal crisis that saw home building volumes crash 95% from peak to trough. (Spanish Property Insight)

House sales moderated their annual growth to 13.2% in September, with 34,981 sales according to the National Statistics Institute. It's the eighth consecutive annual increase, but lower than seen in August at 20.3%. **Resale properties were up** by 16.5% annually to 28,874 sales, while **new property sales fell** by 0.6% annually to 6,057 sales.

Ordered some stuff online the other day and I used my donor card instead of my debit card.

Cost me an arm and a leg.

Then I went into a record shop and asked, Do you have anything by The Doors?

'Yes,' he said, 'a fire extinguisher and a bucket of sand.'

La Opinión de Málaga reported that more than 35,000 Malagueños have legally **challenged their dismissal** from work. The claims against the various companies have soared since the start of the recession.

Two hooded Spanish men, one armed with a gun the other with a knife **raided a bar** and its customer in the town of Sax in Alicante in the early hour of the morning. Customers were made to lie on the ground and their wallets and cell-phones were taken. The female bartender was also threatened and the till emptied. The victims were then made to wait in the toilets for five minutes while the thieves escaped. During their escape in a vehicle driven by an accomplice, they almost ran over a young man. A robbery of another bar in Sax took place the day before with a similar *modus operandi*.

El País reports a new case of **'black credit cards'** in the Basketball Federation. The president of the Federation, José Luis Sáez spent €737,000 dining on the card over four years.

Diario de Mallorca headlines 'Balears registers daily 19 complaints about **domestic violence**'. The islands have one of the highest rates of this type of violence, physical and psychological, in Spain.

La Opinión de Málaga headlined 'House burglaries and violent robberies are hitting Málaga'. **Criminality** – only in the city the Interior Ministry notes an increase of 37% of this type of crime over the first nine months of this year.

Violent robberies seen in Marbella and Benalmádena have increased by 20% and in Torremolinos 13%. Also now a problem in Málaga is the proliferation of a **'date-rape'** type of drug - *'burundanga'*, also known as Scopolamine or Hyoscine hydrobromide. Easy to administer in drinks to both men and women, the police say that they have evidence of its use at least once every three days with people being robbed of their belongings or worse. But these are just the cases that are being reported. The use of this drug has got to be more prevalent than first believed. Hospitals in Barcelona introduced a special protocol in 2008 to help medical workers identify the cases. Madrid hospitals introduced similar measures in 2015. Coming to a pub, club etc., near you soon!

65 people have been arrested in Murcia and another 40 are being investigated regarding a **fake road accident scam**. National police state that at least 22 accidents have been faked and more than €300,000 fiddled from the insurance companies. Police advise that the scam was organised by lawyers and supported by some doctors! They recruited people in financial difficulties to perform the 'accidents' and then hired other lawyers who were unaware of the scam to handle the paperwork.



This is Tomás Pardo Caro. Fourteen years ago he was found guilty of raping and the attempted murder of a 52-year-old woman in Catalonia. The prosecution asked for 40 years. He was given a 25-year jail sentence. In October this year he was given a three-day leave period to assist with his rehabilitation.

During this period he kidnapped another woman, took her to a remote area, raped her, stabbed her in the neck and dumped the body in what he thought was an inaccessible ravine. This was exactly the same *modus operandi* as the previous assault. Fortunately both women managed to survive the ordeal and give evidence, the latter being rescued by firefighters. Hopefully, this animal will now be put away for the rest of his life, which is unlikely, as the current justice system would say that that is too cruel!

La Verdad in Murcia reported that 'In the Murcia Region there are more than 1,000 HGV drivers have **not passed the actual tests** but who are now driving buses and lorries. It reports that they have purchased fake licences.

10,000 litres of **counterfeit alcohol** was discovered in Murcia and Villena. A routine inspection in restaurant in Jumilla, detected bottles of top brands of whiskey, which had been manipulated and refilled with another type of poor quality alcohol. It was then found that the adulterating liquid was being stored in a warehouse in Villena, which was then searched and it was established it was also distributing unadulterated alcohol. The inspectors noted a stack of shelves, behind which was a hidden distillery where they impounded 6,000 bottles - around 5,000 litres - of the dodgy alcohol ready for distribution.

The Brit's are doing their bit for the **import/export** figures here in Spain. A 56-year-old British man was arrested in Malaga while he was carrying 3.7 tons of cannabis resin in his furniture removals truck on its way to Essex. (There's going to be some tears and grief in Romford then.) Then a British man was detained in Santander with 16,000 ecstasy tablets hidden in his camper van after arriving from Plymouth. He also had 700 fake Viagra tablets. Odd combo!



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

The Lime Bar Golf Societies held their monthly match on the 9th November 2016 at El Valle Golf Course.

On a fine and cooler morning 35 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 in 3 on the 3rd hole was Dave Wright

Nearest the pin on the 6th hole was George Ruston

Nearest the pin on the 9th hole was Arthur Jones

Nearest the pin on the 12th hole was Bill Denne

Nearest the pin on the 15th hole was Bud Butler

Nearest the pin in 2 on the 18th hole was Bud Butler

Silver Class:

In 3rd place was Gordon Anders with a score of 30 points

In 2nd place was Bud Butler with a score of 30 points (on count-back)

In 1st place was Tony Jones with a score of 32 points

Gold Class:

In 3rd place was Dave Wright with a score of 32 points

In 2nd place was Lyn Newbury with a score of 32 points

In 1st place was Pete Ken Styan a score of 32 points (first and second place joint winners)

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 the ladies for selling the football draw.



Colin Clarke

I'm opting out of news for the next 8 years.

When I return Mrs Obama will be President & Brexit negotiations will almost be underway.

Gyles Brandreth



# LIME BAR



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*It seems that Camilla is buying her hubby Prince Charles a bookmark for Christmas.  
It's to stop him bending the pages over.*

The town council in Torrevieja have decided to **reduce the IBI** (property tax) in 2017 and 2018. This will be reduced by 4% in the former and 7.5% in the latter. What a pity that the council burghers in Orihuela aren't as generous. But then again the hardworking citizens in the city of Orihuela need the coastal residents and property owners to keep their city in manicured parks, sports centres, revamped bull-rings and a multitude of other city facilities. Meanwhile, don't worry too much about the holes in your local roads on the coast. They will soon fill up with the uncollected rubbish.

During the first nine months of this year, Alicante-Elche airport welcomed (if that's the right word) **four million British passengers**. This is an increase of 300,000 over the same period in 2015. The airport is connected to 22 destinations in the UK. According to the Spanish Airport Authority, AENA, British airlines are planning to move 1.9 million passengers by the end of next April with 10,400 scheduled flights, which means an increase of 30% compared to the 2015/2016 season low. However, we have yet to experience any fall-out in numbers due to the dramatic reduction in the sterling-euro exchange rate. This may become more evident next year.



The tourist authorities in Benidorm are attempting to be more **pro-active in encouraging the British market** and want to talk with the tour operators. They feel that early booking for next year are already up by 16% as people try to pay and lock-in to the exchange rate now. One of the matters the Benidorm hotel operators have highlighted in the massive increase in insurance/damages claims from the UK. It seems that 'false claims' from visitors regarding bad food etc., on holidays there is being championed by a 'proliferation of British lawyers' in an attempt to get the cost of the holiday refunded. The hotelier's association, HOSBEC, say that these claims are causing 'serious losses' and are trying to find out if other resorts are experiencing similar problems.

Tenders for the proposed **security centre in Orihuela Costa** at the building site in La Zenia are expected to go out before next summer. The budget is €1.65 million. €1.35 million has already been spent of the original budget of €3 million but the contractor folded and left the site five years ago. All there is there at present are just some concrete columns and rusting rods. I doubt that the funds now available will be sufficient to finish the project which must be completed by July 2019.

As you drive past the cemetery area of Torrevieja on the N332 you will often be assailed by the **putrid stink of sewage**. The sewage works are just behind the cemetery and the problem smell arises because the sewage farm pools are not enclosed. Torrevieja is the only town in the Valencia region which does not have enclosed sewage farm pools. Like the widening of the N332 and other important practical projects which the ruling PP council were happy to ignore, they instead concentrated on building expensive additional concert halls and a massive under utilised sport facilities. Fortunately, the current ruling council expect work to commence on the covering of the sewage pools during the first quarter of 2017, with the project lasting four months.

Two unusual cases of **child neglect** were reported in the Spanish media, both involving non-Spanish parents. In the first a Swiss couple - a 49-year-old woman and her 30-year-old partner were arrested in Catral, Alicante. Basically, she had held both her children, a girl aged 15 and a boy aged 17, captive for more than seven years. The boys were unschooled, couldn't speak a word of Spanish and never received medical attention. Although the 17-year-old was denied access to the internet and telephones, the younger child managed to send some emails in English to various children's associations. One of them reported it to the Guardia Civil. There were then some delays as they had moved house but were eventually tracked down by the Guardia. The family had moved six times in seven years! When the Guardia first arrived at their new home, the woman denied having any minors in the house. Fortunately one of the children managed to signal the police. But here is the kicker! Despite physical abuse and death threats, the younger child was returned to the mother by the judge while the boy was sent to live with his natural father in Switzerland.

Now onto Murcia. Here a 15-year-old boy and his sister of eight years were left in their apartment for 20 days as their parents returned to China. Although the boy was unschooled, his sister attended school. It was there that the alarm was raised as the child turned up for school unwashed, wearing summer clothes and with lice in her hair. She had also cut some of her own hair.



The boy said that his parents left him in charge of his sister. When social services visited their home it was a dreadful mess with old food everywhere and dry stools in the bathroom. Photos show the kitchen and the young girl off to care. No doubt she will be returned to the grime once her parents return.

In the province of Alicante 1,200 people are waiting for a place in a retirement home. The waiting list for a placement in a local authority home is 18 months long.

The mayor of the city of Alicante says that his city has **23,000 dog droppings** daily which are not picked up by the pet owners. Just add cat pooh to that and the mind boggles. Despite the best efforts of cleaners and maintenance man, uncollected dog pooh remains a big problem in the public & green areas locally as well. Many owners are just not behaving responsibly.

In Santa Pola a dog owner faces a **fine** of €2,500 after being caught walking an **un-muzzled dangerous dog**. The police have kept the animal until the relevant documentation is produced and the owner pays the fine. A listing of the dangerous dogs in Spain and the relevant regulations can be found at this website - <http://www.protectapet.eu/index.php?section=dangero> usdogs

I remember the year my uncle went to prison for forgery.

It was around the same time I stopped getting birthday cards from Scarlett Johansson.



## Bad Sex Advice

At times, the internet can be a fountain of knowledge. However, it can also be a provider of dumb information to the susceptible and the just plain stupid. This extract from an article in the Independent made me chuckle. Here the author, Roisin O'Connor, has taken some 'tips' (no Jewish pun intended) on sex from the internet pages of some well known magazines.

### 1) Swaddle Her (Men's Health)

**"While you're rolling around in bed, wrap her up in the sheet so she can't do anything with her arms (think burrito or straightjacket)."**

NB to men: Your girlfriend is not a burrito.

### 2) Sprinkle pepper under his nose before he climaxes (Cosmo)

**"Sneezing can feel similar to an orgasm and amplify the feel-good effects."**



Unless you're having sex in the kitchen, immediate access to a spice rack sounds unlikely. Also seasoning your boyfriend is more sinister than sexy. Ask Hannibal.

### 3) Publicly lick her (Men's Health)

**"f you're out in public but want to make your intentions clear, slowly and firmly flick your tongue against the palm of her hand. If she just wipes it off down her skirt, you've blown it."**



What are you, a labrador?

### 4) Treat her like a prostitute (AskMen)

**"I guess, in the end, there are plenty of women who want to be, for lack of a better word, slutty in the bedroom. They simply fear that if they behave in such a manner, then their men will think less of them, and some are even afraid that their men will mistakenly begin treating them differently outside the bedroom as well. All the same, many women are big fans of scenarios such as the one described."**

No!

### 5) The key to sexiness may lie in yogurt - at least for mice (Men's Health)

**"The testicles of mice fed a yogurt diet were 5% bigger than those on a regular diet—and 15% bigger than mice fed a "junk food diet," according to a new study out of MIT. While scientists aren't sure what causes this mice "swagger," they believe probiotics in yogurt are involved."**

Yes, because that's what everyone is looking for in men. Yogurt testicles. (By the way chaps, it's on 'special' this week in Aldi.)

## Granny, Get Out of the Car!

A 74-year-old woman from Spain's northwestern Galicia region has admitted that she has been driving for 53 years despite never having passed a driving test.

The septuagenarian from El Ferrol was finally caught out when her Ford Mondeo was stopped during a routine traffic check by Local Police near her home.

When officers asked for her driving licence she admitted that not only did she not have one, but that she had been driving since the age of 21 without ever having passed a test, reported La Voz de Galicia.

A magistrate in A Coruña ruled that she must undertake 32 days of community service for the crime..

The court heard how until the day in question she had never been stopped and had never even had a minor accident while behind the wheel of a car.



## 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

### Fancy a Crisp?

In an attempt to create a special snack to go with their high quality beer, Swedish brewery St. Erik's has created the world's most expensive potato crisps.



The luxurious black box designed by St. Erik's contains just five individual potato crisps, each made by hand by a chef, using five special Nordic ingredients – Matsutake mushroom picked from pine forests in northern Sweden, truffle seaweed from the waters around the Faroe Islands, Crown Dill hand-picked on the Bjäre Peninsula, Leksand Onion grown on the outskirts of the small Swedish town of Leksand and India Pale Ale Wort, the same kind used to make St. Erik's Pale Ale beer.

And the price? A limited batch of 100 St. Erik's potato chips went on sale last month, and sold out almost instantly, despite the insane price of US\$56 per box – that's about US\$11 per crisp!

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**FRIDAY 9pm - KARAOKE**

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Cheap Flights.

My girlfriend asked me what I was doing on the computer last night. I told her I was looking for cheap flights. "I love you!" she said, and then she got all excited, un-zipped my trousers and gave me the most amazing sex ever.

Which is odd because she's never shown an interest in darts before.

Brian Horsman



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### **Spain Softens Attitude to Gibraltar.**

Spanish Congress has implicitly rebuked the actions of its acting foreign minister over the issue of Gibraltar, describing them as “unilateral.” On November 2, the lower chamber’s Foreign Affairs Committee approved a non-binding resolution asking the government to “establish an institutional framework on a state strategy for Gibraltar that should be reached by consensus.”

The motion is backed by the Socialist Party (PSOE), the Popular Party (PP) and Ciudadanos, who want to establish a common parliamentary position on the disputed British Overseas Territory. The text specifically asks the government to avoid “actions which, in a unilateral way, could condition Spain’s negotiating position in future” with regard to the Brexit vote. *The motion fails to express any support for acting Foreign Minister José Manuel García-Margallo’s recent offer of joint Spanish–British sovereignty for Gibraltar.*

Shortly after Britain voted to leave the European Union – a move that residents of The Rock overwhelmingly opposed – the Spanish minister predicted that Gibraltar would soon see the benefits of remaining part of the EU through an association with Spain. Margallo offered Gibraltarians dual nationality, broad powers of self-rule, special tax benefits and shared power between Madrid and London on matters of defense and foreign affairs. (El Pais)

Less than a week after this news item was released, PM Rajoy proceeded with a new cabinet and Foreign Minister Margallo was not reappointed to his position. Sigh of relief from Gib’.

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**The bar offers a relaxed atmosphere.  
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*Caucasian? It was on my army draft card.  
I thought it meant ‘circumcised’.*

*Elvis Presley*

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Small English Breakfast only €3.00! 9-14.00

Incl OJ, coffee or tea. Go large for €4.50!!

Menu del Dia - €6.50 - 2 courses!

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Fun Darts from 8pm.

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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), Tuna (Atun), 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. Winter shoes, such as trainers etc are now urgently required, particularly sizes of 40 upwards.

[www.reachouttorrevieja.com](http://www.reachouttorrevieja.com)

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

## A Ghost Pepper Burned a Hole in a Man's Throat!

Somewhere, a mother is shaking her head hard-core: Doctors say a 47-year-old in San Francisco, with apparently no edifying hobbies, ate a ghost pepper during an eating contest, and it tore a one-inch hole in his oesophagus.

The ghost pepper, or *bhut jolokia*, is one of the Earth's hottest things. It has a rating of about one million Scoville units (ordinary Tabasco sauce measures around 2,500 to 5,000), was briefly the world's hottest chili pepper, and makes for some really uncomfortable YouTube viewing. This man, though, agreed to eat a burger slathered in its purée. To calm the ensuing inferno, doctors say he fruitlessly tried guzzling six glasses of water, before abandoning all hope and calling for emergency help. "Forceful vomiting and retching" followed, and once he got to the hospital, doctors in the operating room discovered a "2.5-cm tear in the distal oesophagus."

Surgeons were able to repair the man's organ — which, again, was ruptured by a hamburger — but only after keeping him inTubated for 14 days. He began "tolerating liquids" on the 17th day, and finally got discharged "with a gastric tube in place" on day 23. Totally worth it!

(By Clint Rainey, Science of Us)



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Hammer: an instrument for smashing the human thumb.

Ambrose Bierce



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### It's for You'ho!

A man was sitting reading his papers when his wife hit him round the head with a frying pan.

'What's that for?' the man asked. The wife replied 'That's for the piece of paper with the name 'Jenny' on it that I found in your pants pocket'. The man then said 'When I was at the races last week 'Jenny' was the name of the horse I bet on.' The wife apologized and went on with the housework..

Three days later the man is watching TV when his wife bashes him on the head with an even bigger frying pan, knocking him unconscious. Upon re-gaining consciousness the man asked why she had hit again.

Wife replied.. 'Your horse phoned.'

(Sue Robinson)

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### Employment Outlook.

Temporary work contracts over the summer took the unemployment rate below 20% for the first time in six years. The EPA (Survey of the active population) published the figure 18.91% at the end of the third quarter, but still the number out of work remains 4,320,800. Outside temporary work, the creation of employment despite being precarious and of poor quality has slowed down.

Some say the formula of PM Mariano Rajoy to reduce unemployment seems to be to expel workers from the labour market. In the last five years Spain has only created 43,500 net



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new jobs, but the number out of work has fallen by 677,200 people. This signifies the shrinkage of the labour market of 633,000. This includes those who have given up looking, emigrated or retired.

However, the outlook for youth looks bleak. 53% of Spanish youngsters still believe they will have to emigrate to find work. A study which coincided with the EPA also highlighted 80% think the Spanish State has done nothing or very little to reduce youth unemployment.



# BAR DOMINO



**LOS ALTOS.**

Open 7 days from 10.00am till late

**KITCHEN OPENING TIMES**

Monday to Thursday 10.00am to 6.30pm

Friday to Saturday 10,00am to 8.30pm

Sunday Lunchtime only 1pm to 5pm.

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**TAPAS €3 EACH - ANY 4 TAPAS €10**

4 Chicken Wings 4 Chicken Goujons 6 Spring Rolls 8 Onion Rings Garlic Mushrooms Breaded Mushrooms 2 Mini Burgers (Served with Side Salad)	Chicken Curry Chicken Tikka Cajun Chicken Pasta Tuna Pasta Pork Stroganoff Chilli Nachos (Served with Crusty Bread)
--	--

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ON DRAFT!**



**COMBO €12.50!**

**4 Chicken Wings, 4 Chicken Goujons,  
4 Breaded Mushrooms, 4 Spring Rolls,  
8 Onion Rings, Chips, Spicy Onions,  
Coleslaw & Garlic Dip**



**Full Breakfast €4.25 Mon-Sat 10am-1.30pm**

**2 Sausage, Bacon, Egg, Hash Brown,  
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Fresh Orange & Tea or Coffee**



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**Homemade Soup & Toasted Sandwich**

**€3.50 from 1.30pm Mon-Sat**

**Choice of Two Fillings from  
Cheese, Ham, Tomato & Onion**

**Sunday Lunch €6.00! Booking essential!**



**Roast Beef**

**Roast Lamb**

**Honey Glazed Gammon**

**Breast of Chicken**

**Served with Peas, Carrots, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Broccoli,**

**Roast Potatoes, Mash Potatoes,**

**Yorkshire Pudding & Gravy**



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*Hear about the Jewish detective?  
He had a tip off.*





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## DOMINO BAR SPORTS TEAMS

Darts 2 Teams Monday Night & 1 Team Thursday Night

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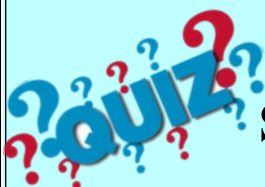
INCLUDES SMALL BEER, SMALL WINE OR SOFT DRINK

2 COURSE €6.50, 3 COURSE €7.50

EVERY FRIDAY COD & CHIPS SPECIALS

EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY

STEAK NIGHT 2pm - 8.30pm



Sunday Night Quiz Night 8.30pm Start

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### The Shopping List.

A wife asked her husband to buy her some organic vegetables. He went to his local supermarket but couldn't find any on the shelves. So he asked one of the male employees for help. 'These veg' are for my wife - have they been sprayed with any poisonous chemicals?' 'No,' replied the employee, 'you'll have to do that yourself.'

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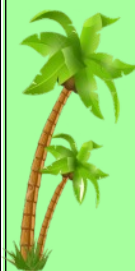
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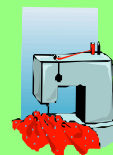
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### Spain's Most Prolific Author?

When it comes to naming great Spanish fiction writers, I suppose it is natural for most of us to mention Miguel de Cervantes, the inventor or father of the modern novel. Although there have been other great authors - Jorge Luis Borges & Gabriel García Márquez - here, we are looking at someone, probably the most read Spanish author today and you have probably never heard of her.

This is Corín Tellado, photo. Rather than a master of classic literature, Corín writes romantic fiction. Some call her the Spanish Barbara Cartland. Corín however has produced more than 4,000 works during a six-decade career; her escapist tales of love and loss, suffering and redemption, selling more than 400m copies - and a great deal more than that if the millions of pirated Latin American editions are counted.

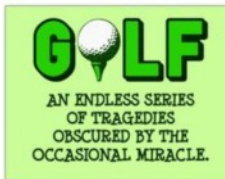
Corín passed away in 2009 but her books continue to be popular with Spanish readers worldwide.



For the first time one of her many books is being translated and printed in English. Called Thursdays with Leila (Los Jueves de Leila), it ticks all the boxes of romantic fiction: Orphaned but spirited heroine? Yep. Dangerously sexual male character with eyes as "grey and steely, as cold as knife"? Yep. Outrageous reversals of fortune? Yep. Said to be a good page turner, her books are considered by many as

chronicles of Spanish society. You can read more about this giant of Spanish fiction here -

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/nov/06/corin-tellado-spanish-barbara-cartland>



### The Phoenix Golf Society.

VISTABELLA GOLF COURSE - 20th November.

It was The President's Day (The late Peter Dawson) and the British Legion.

The course was in a very good condition as usual and all the players enjoyed themselves, the weather was quite cold to start but then it turned nice and sunny as well as warm.

Nearest The Pin No: 8 Mick Slater

Nearest The pin No.15 Ian Grant

Nearest The Pin No.4 Brian Archer

Runner Up - Dave Everson

Overall Winner - Austin Brennan

After a lovely day out we returned to the Phoenix Bar for lovely grub provided by Donna & Kay - once again many thanks to you both.

Mick The Grip (Poppy Appeal) provided prizes for the first four winners and we then had a collection and raffle, from which we collected 94 Euros - well done every body.



# THE FIRE STATION BAR & COFFEE SHOP

Top Floor, Via Park I, La Zenia, Orihuela Costa

**Christmas Fayre Wednesdays**  
**December 7th, 14th & 21st 6:30pm to 9:30pm**  
 24th December, Christmas Eve from 6pm -  
 Christmas Brass Band playing all your  
 Christmas Favourites, followed by Karaoke  
 and Prize Raffle.

**31st December, New Years Eve Party,**  
**Andy Copp Vocalist / Cabaroke. Fireworks.**  
**Free Buffet. Prize Raffle.**



Crib Every Friday from 5pm  
 Karaoke Every Saturday from 9pm



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Monday was Martin Luther King Day in the US.  
 Or as it's known in the South, Monday.  
 Jane Borden

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### HAIL TO THE CHIEF!

Not only is it startling that so many people came out for Trump; it's that so few people turned out against him. Maybe that shouldn't be startling. Trump, after all, has changed the standards of the basic decency and civility America requires of its leaders. All the things Americans have known were character essentials of candidates, well, weren't. You don't need endorsements of your peers. Coily avoid disavowing the praise of white supremacists? That's cool. Question a federal judge because his parents were Mexican immigrants? Fine. Sneeringly say that paying no income tax, despite being a billionaire, "makes me smart"? That's fine, too. Call America's electoral system "rigged"? Sure. Hurl ridicule and insults at the parents of a soldier killed in Iraq? Go ahead. Describe grabbing women "by the pussy"? It took America a second to reflect, but then, yep—that's totally okay too.....



Well, the American people are ready for the greatness they've been promised. Your move, Donald.  
 (Abridged from Gwynn Guilford @ sinocereos)

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### The Rich Kid.

Two poor kids went to a birthday party at a rich kid's house. The birthday boy was so rich that he had his own swimming pool and all the kids jumped in

As they were changing afterwards, one of the poor kids said to the other one, 'Did you notice how small the rich kid's todger was?'

'Yeah,' said his mate. 'It's probably because he's got toys to play with.'

### Brexit News Snippets.

Three senior judges ruled on November 3 that the British government does not have the authority to proceed with the UK's exit from the European Union without the approval of parliament. A legal challenge to the prime minister's power to trigger article 50, the clause that formally begins Brexit, has proved controversial since being launched in the aftermath of the EU referendum vote earlier this year.

The government said the decision to leave the EU was taken by the public in the referendum on 23 June and that its executive powers, under the royal prerogative, were sufficient to give notice to the EU on behalf of the cabinet. But this was challenged by the claimants who said that the referendum was merely consultative and only parliament had the power to decide. The lord chief justice said that "the most fundamental rule of the UK constitution is that parliament is sovereign".

The government has said it will appeal against the decision and it has permission to go straight to the supreme court, which has set aside time for what might be a four-day hearing starting on 7 December.

Part of the judges' reasoning was based on legal precedents dating back to the 13th century, in particular the Case of Proclamations. That case involved merchants who were prevented from working in London by proclamation of Henry IV which was found to be in breach of a parliamentary act dating back to 1297. Parliament triumphed and the crown had to withdraw its ban. (Abridged from The Guardian)

### Basic Lessons in Law No. 1. Brexit.

By Gavin John Adams,

Award winning lawyer, author and historian.

**A. Parliament (the legislature) makes the law.**

**B. Judges (the judiciary) apply the law made by parliament.**

**As Parliament did not state in the European Union Referendum 2015 that the Secretary of State could use the Crown's prerogative powers to give an Article 50 notice for the United Kingdom to cease to be a member of the European Union, it intended that an Article 50 notice could only be given pursuant to a further act of parliament.**

**If you don't like the above, then blame parliament. Don't blame judges.**

Perhaps the most important is that on a continent that seems increasingly sceptical about the value of trade deals, 38 national and regional assemblies will have a final say on the future UK-EU agreement – and several will seek to use it.

La Opinión de Murcia has a disturbing headline for British tourism 'the EU duty for Brexit is threatening the arrival of 420,000 British tourists'. The visitors from the United Kingdom will have to ask permission and pay some 12.5 € to enter any European country because of the new frontier security plan.

Birds Eye frozen foods and Walkers crisps asked supermarkets for price hikes of up to 12% as the fall of sterling bites, after it emerged prices of Unilever products had risen by nearly 6% since the Brexit vote. The National Institute of Economic and Social Research said UK households could expect a Brexit-related cut in disposable incomes next year as inflation rockets and the economic outlook weakens.

### The Difficulty with Trade Deals.

(Boring but important.)

Wallonia was once an economic powerhouse. Its vast coal reserves fueled one of the earliest industrialized regions in continental Europe. But the French-speaking part of Belgium has since fallen on hard times.

Before this month, few beyond Belgium cared much. But then the Walloons nearly torpedoed a free-trade deal, seven years in the making, between the EU and Canada. Belgium's quirky constitution grants its regional parliaments extensive powers, including—it turns out—the ability to veto trade deals affecting half a billion people.

That highlights the fragile state of global trade, under attack from all sides. US presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton reversed her previous support for a major deal between the US and several Asian countries. Huge protests in Europe, especially in export-dependent Germany, have put off politicians negotiating a similar US-EU deal. Post-Brexit Britain, as ever, is a little confused—it is quitting a large free-trade area so it can do deals with countries elsewhere (that's been going so well, after all!). Donald Trump, of course, never saw a trade deal that wasn't a "rip off."

Against this backdrop, it's no surprise that protectionist trade measures have been rising much faster than liberalizing ones, and global trade growth has slowed to post-crisis lows. But this isn't simply a blanket rejection of free trade by populists on the left and right.

The UK is giving a Japanese-owned car plant special treatment to ensure its exports remain competitive if tariffs go up after Brexit. Back in Wallonia, the administration opposes free trade in chocolate with Canada on ethical grounds, but happily sells weapons to Libya and Saudi Arabia.

So while the post-war preoccupation with big multilateral trade deals is fading, a narrower, opportunistic approach is back in fashion, favouring intervention on behalf of favoured industries instead of putting faith in free markets. The business barons of Wallonia's 19th century heyday would feel right at home.—Jason Karaian

Brussels may demand up to 40-60 billion euros (£34-52 billion) as an "exit bill" from the UK, to cover unpaid budget commitments, pension liabilities, loan guarantees and spending on UK-based projects.

The Financial Times said the sum - equivalent to around three to five years' worth of UK contributions to EU budgets - was part of a negotiating position being drawn up by the European Commission ahead of formal talks under Article 50 of the EU treaties, expected to lead to Brexit in 2019. (Telegraph)

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The Pygmy.

A hunter is walking through the jungle, when he finds a huge dead rhinoceros with a pygmy next to it.

Amazed, he asks, 'Did you kill that?' 'Yes,' said the pygmy.

'How could a little bloke like you kill a huge thing like that?'

'I killed it with my club,' says the pygmy.

The astonished hunter asks, 'Just how big is your club?'

'Oh,' replies the pygmy, 'there's about 60 of us.'



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#### In the Clink!

These two men were cellmates in prison for nine years. One day Larry said to Joe, 'You know, it's been a long time since we both had some sex so you ought to let me screw you.'

Joe replied, 'Are you crazy?!'

Larry went on to say, 'I promise you that it won't hurt and we'll flip a coin and see who screws who first.'

So Joe thought about it for a minute and agreed. They flipped a coin and Larry won. Still having strong reservations, Joe asked, 'How will you tell if it hurts or not?'

Larry told Joe, 'If it hurts, you start making animal noises, and I'll stop. But if it feels good, start singing.' Larry started the 'invasion' and Joe screamed, 'Moooooooooooo..... Moooooooooooo.....'

Mooooooooon River, wider than.....!'



#### Cheers!

An Irishman, an Aussie and a Scouser are in a bar and spot Jesus drinking on his own. They each send him a drink and he sips each one slowly.

When he's finished, he walks over to the Irishman and shakes his hand and thanks him for the Guinness. 'Feck me, my arthritis has gone!'

Jesus then thanks the Aussie for the Fosters. 'Strewth, mate, my bad back's cured!'

Jesus then approaches the Scouser, who runs away shouting, 'Bugger off, you git - I'm on disability benefit!'

#### Mobility Scooters on Pavements To Be Banned?

The National Traffic Department, the DGT, published an edict in November, which bans the use of mobility scooters and similar from pavements. Segways, electrical scooters and all other forms of so-called 'personal mobility vehicles' which may include electric wheelchairs are included in the ban.

According to the DGT, personal mobility vehicles have a larger mass than people and move at a greater speed than pedestrians, believing that these devices generate 'risk situations' when sharing 'urban space' with the rest of drivers. Reaction to the edict has been very negative to date and thankfully councils are free to modify their municipal bylaws to specify which vehicles have to use the roads. Electric wheelchairs on the roads would be dangerous and chaotic.



## Assets of the Bad Bank

SAREB, the 'bad' bank, has 5,300 properties for sale in Alicante. It sold 274 properties here in the first six months of this year, 60% more than last year. The assets for sale range from storage rooms and garages to houses and industrial buildings. Of the total properties sold, 19 were located in Jávea, 15 in Alicante, 14 in Polop, 11 each in Elche & Orihuela.

In total, the SAREB has had sales in 32 municipalities in the province, according to information provided by the company itself. Compared to the rest of regions, Alicante is the sixth province where the SAREB has a greater volume of properties right now, behind Madrid, which has 12,450; Barcelona, with 12,300; Valencia, with 8,900; Murcia, with 7,130; and Castellón, with 5,500. The sales in the province are channeled through specialized companies: Solvia, Haya Real Estate, Altamira y Servihábitat. Nationwide SAREB has accumulated as at June 30 this year 115,736 toxic real estate assets, according to the annual report of the company. In the first half managed to sell 3,312 own properties and other 2,277 who have had the relevant loans guaranteed.

The real estate servicer Anticipa forecasts that 2016 will finish with Spanish home sales up 9.3% and prices up 5.5%. Servicers are companies that manage and sell large property portfolios, usually on behalf of banks. In their latest Spanish real estate market report for the period 2016-2018 Anticipa go on to forecast that sales will rise 8% to 454,000 in 2017, and a further 6% to 480,000 in 2018, having finished this year on 419,000. Experts advice that this is a recovery and not a boom, which means it is more sustainable.

The following are some of the websites where you can check the availability of properties in a particular area and their prices as well, some are heavily discounted:

<http://www.solvia.es/>

<https://www.haya.es/en/>

<http://www.servihabitat.com/svhPortal?gclid=CKHL0anOutACFQaeGwodvnINBw>

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On Sat TV they have a weather channel - 24 hours of weather. We had something like that where I grew up. We called it a window.  
 Dan Spencer

## How Much?

On November 16, Rakuten announced it has agreed to a four-year partnership with one of the world's most commercial soccer clubs, FC Barcelona. The agreement will see Rakuten become FC Barcelona's

Main Global Partner and its first-ever Global Innovation and Entertainment Partner from



the 2017-2018 season, with its name appearing on match-day jerseys. And what will this cost the company? €200 million each year for four years!

And like me you are probably asking 'Who the hell are Rakuten?' It seems they are a giant Japanese (bit like Godzilla) electronic commerce and Internet company based in Tokyo, Japan. Its e-commerce platform Rakuten Ichiba is the largest e-commerce site in Japan and among the world's largest by sales. The company traded in the U.S. as Buy.com, in the UK as Play.com and in Spain as Wuaki.tv. These names will soon be dropped as they are now promoting the parent name of the company worldwide. But what a bargain for the tax-cheating, biting, diving and cheating players and officials at the club. At least now the players can continue with the ludicrous haircuts they usually sport. Well, it's not like you can spend €800 million on something useful, is it?

The Catalan establishment is constantly moaning that they are not getting a fair allocation of revenues from central government. However their ability to waste money on their separatist bid is staggering. Millions have been spent on useless referendums, organised marches and stoppages. The latest revelations in El Mundo are not unusual. It seems that Artur Mas, the former president of the Generalitat, spent €645,970.04 on trips abroad between January 2012 and December 2015 which were used solely to promote the separation of Catalonia from Spain. The most expensive trip Mas made was to the United States in April 2015, which lasted six days for which the Government allocated €107,891.68: €10,578.73 for food, €44,540.99 accommodation, €51,414.75 transport and €1357.21 for "other expenses" for a delegation of up of six people. One of the trips was to a Copa del Rey football match with 12 people on a three-day trip which cost €6,886. But the Catalans also have a pseudo 'Foreign Minister' who spent €14,149 on a trip to Argentina and the U.S. despite having no authority in Spanish foreign affairs. Money well spent? I think not!

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## Cock Up!

One of the serious deficiencies at Alicante-Elche Airport (the fastest growing airport in Europe) is the lack of a rail link. A directive from the European Union states that airports with an annual traffic of six million passengers plus should have a rail link. Last year the airport had 11 million passengers and 12 million are expected this year. In 2006 a budget of 40 million was provided for such a rail project. However, not a cent has been spent on it to date. Many of you may recall how in 2010, €600 million was spent on building a new terminal which still has a number of inadequacies. Meanwhile the vast empty old terminal and car-parks still stand as a permanent monument to wastefulness and bad planning.

Ideally the airport could be connected to the Alicante-Valencia AVE high speed link by just an extra 12 kilometres of track, but this didn't appear in the planning, despite billions being spent on the two city link. Also, the current Murcia-Alicante line passes less than 1,000 metres from the airport! That could also have been easily inked up to the airport.

"What is happening at the airport is ridiculous. How can we agree that a tourist has to pay 90 euros for a ticket to get from London and then have to pay another 70 euros to take the taxi to get to Benidorm?" said a Benidorm hotelier. This of course forces the hotels in Benidorm to provide buses. No hotel buses for the Costa Blanca



South though!

If you Google image 'railways in Spain' you will see that there is an excellent coastal rail link from the French border to Valencia. However after Valencia the other rail routes all run inland. Imagine a 'Tren de la Costa' completing the remainder of the route from Valencia to say Malaga or Cadiz, a true Mediterranean route. But then again, that would make sense. All the planners are interested in is creating costly high speed AVE routes to Madrid which will never be profitable. What a lost opportunity!

*My granddad gave me some sound advice on his deathbed.  
It's worth spending money on good speakers,' he told me.*



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### **Bad Language.**

A sailor and a priest were playing golf. The sailor took his first shot, missed and said, 'Fuck, I missed.' Surprised, the priest replied, 'Don't use that kind of language or God will punish you.'

The sailor took aim and hit his second shot. Again he missed and under his breath he said, 'I fuck'n missed again.'

The priest overheard and replied, 'My son, please don't use that language or God will punish you.'

The sailor took his third shot, missed and once again he couldn't help mutter, 'Oh fuck!'

The priest said, 'That's it! God will certainly punish you!'

Suddenly a bolt of lightning came out of the sky and killed the priest.

In the distance a deep voice boomed, 'FUCK! I missed!'

### **Golf Terms - Ball Striking.**

A Paris Hilton - an expensive hole

A Princess Grace - should have taken a driver

A Princess Di - shouldn't have taken a driver

An Adolf Hitler - taking two shots in a bunker

A Sally Gunnell - not pretty but a good runner

A Ladyboy - looks like an easy hole but all is not what it seems

A Glen Miller - didn't make it over the water

An O.J. Simpson - somehow got away with it

### Learn Another Language? You Must Be Joking!

I am aware that many full time expat residents here in Spain make the effort to learn the Spanish language, Castellano. Some have become quite fluent while others couldn't order a bottle of water in Spanish. Castellano (Castilian) is the language of the Spanish Constitution of 1978 and you would think that it would be acceptable throughout the country.....but of course it isn't! This is due to the curse of Regionalism. In terms of language, and indeed many other issues, the Catalans have favoured their own regional language - Catalan - to the extent that businesses can be fined for not adopting the language for advertising etc. There is positive discrimination against Castilian in favour of Catalan. Recently, the national government have had to introduce legislation to ensure that 'Spanish' is taught in Catalan schools and that students are at least given the option of choosing 'Spanish' (Castilian) if they wish. Meanwhile, the Catalan authorities are just ignoring this.

But I hear you saying, 'What has all this to do with us?'

For a start we live in the Valencia Region and there are several regional languages in Spain, some commonly spoken and others almost extinct. (I will cover this in a future newsletter.) In our region however, that regional language is Valenciano. Some say that it is a distinct language while others consider it to be a dialect of Catalan. This language is totally unlike Castellano and if you are fluent in Spanish it is of no help to you in speaking or understanding Valenciano.

But the problem is the ruling regional government of Valencia - our region - want Valenciano introduced as the favoured day-to-day language! The current regional government is a hodge-podge of left-wing parties - Greens, Socialists, Podemos, Compromis and others, many of them strong regional nationalists who want to see Valenciano as the first language when dealing with government - regional & town - officials. The regional government has allocated €1.7 million to help promote the spread of the language. They also want to see government officials, both regional and local, do their business in Valenciano, even in areas like ours where Castellano is the commonly used language. Two large trade unions are also supporting the decree. This will fail of course as very few of the *funcionarios publicos* and indeed translators can speak the regional language. In 2015, when the then mayoress of the city of Valencia, Rita Barbera, gave a speech in Valenciano, it was full of grammatical errors and unfinished phrases. The press had a field day. Barbera, who held the mayoress position for 24 years, is currently under investigation by the supreme court for money laundering. Unfortunately she passed away with a heart attack last week.

Ironically, it was the PP government under President Camps who had prepared a decree to get all officials to use Valenciano first with citizens, but the decree was 'stored in a drawer' as doubts arose about its appropriateness in modern Valencia. Now, the new regional Minister of Education, Vicent Marzà, has taken the nationalistic flag up again. He believes that society is 'ripe' to accept it now. I can't see it happening.

### More Pressure On Catalan Holiday Renters.

The Catalan Regional Government (The Generalitat) has tabled a budget amendment to raise the daily tariff tourists have to pay when staying in a holiday rental in Catalonia.

The daily tourist tax rate will go up from €0.65/day to €2.25/day in Barcelona, an increase of 250%, though in the rest of Catalonia the tariff will only rise to €0.90/day.

The planned increase means that tourists staying in a holiday rental apartment in Barcelona will pay the same daily tariff as someone staying in a 5-star hotel.

Owners of second-homes in Catalonia who rent out their properties to tourists on a short-term basis are required to collect the tariff from tourists and pay it to the regional tax authorities, with sanctions for not doing so. Hotels are under the same obligation, but it is easier for them to manage. The Generalitat is hoping to raise an extra €180m a year from the tourist tax increase, which is expected to pass into law before the end of the year, and come into effect in April 2017. This proposal has the support of left-wing parties, so should pass without trouble. Increasing tax and bureaucracy is a fact of life in Spain, stifling business and economic growth. The mayoress of Barcelona, Ada Colau, wants to limit tourism in the city. This will certainly help!

Just heard that Colau has fined Airbnb & Home Away €600,000 for publicising illegal tourism accommodation. She said, 'It is not admissible that thousands of flats are operating without licence, illegally, without paying taxes and causing problems to the neighbours.'

### Goodbye.....Again!

A funeral service is being held for a woman who has just passed away. At the end of the service, the pall bearers are carrying the casket out when they accidentally bump into a wall, jarring the casket. They hear a faint moan. They open the casket and find that the woman is actually alive!

She lives for ten more years, and then dies.. Once again, a ceremony is held, and at the end of it, the pall bearers are again carrying out the casket.

As they carry the casket towards the door, the husband cries out, 'Watch that wall!'

Pete Dudman

### LOVE

Love is needing you so much  
 Love is trembling at your touch  
 Love is loneliness when you're away  
 Love is wanting every day  
 Love is tender  
 Love is sweet  
 Love is magic when we meet  
 Love is warm  
 Love is strong  
 Love is when nothing goes wrong  
 Love is always  
 Love is forgiving  
 Love is remembering  
 Love is living.

The Phantom Poet

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An old bloke hires a hitman to kill his wife of 60 years. The hitman says, 'I'll shoot her just below her left tit.' The husband replies, 'I want her dead, not bloody kneecapped!'

## How to Get Angry in Spanish: 8 Great Phrases.

Furious about something in Spain? Don't know how to let it all hang out? Here, The Local gives you eight great Spanish expressions that will help you get it all off your chest. From telling people to go and fry asparagus to sending the odd egg or two, this list will make you an expert in Spanish exasperation in no time.

**GO AND FRY ASPARAGUS:** UK celebrity chef

Gordon Ramsay could do with being taught this light-hearted version of F-off in Spanish. 'Vete a freir espárragos' is a step down from ¡vete por ahí! (get lost) and three down from ¡que te folle un pez! ('May a fish make love to you').



**DON'T GIVE ME THE TIN:**

'No me des la lata' or 'no me comas la oreja' ('Don't eat my ear') mean much the same as 'Stop chewing my ear off' in English, and are used when you want someone to stop the jibber-jabber.

**HE'S GOT SUCH A BIG SNOOT, HE STEPS ON IT:**

If someone's cheeky or inconsiderate in Spain, you'll probably overhear people talking about their massive snout. The expressions 'mucho morro' ('he's a got a mouth on him') or 'tiene un morro que se lo pisa' ('he's got such a big snout he trips over it') are used to slate these people.

**SEND EGGS!:** Unless you're delivering food to a Spanish pensioner, this is bound to sound a little peculiar. But 'Manda huevos!', which means something like 'Give me a break!', is the perfect expression for when you're fed up or frustrated by something. By the way, you'll find 'eggs' often pepper spoken Spanish, but more often than not in reference to men's genitalia.

**YOU'RE SWATTING ME:** The verb 'mosquear', to swat flies, is more commonly used in Spanish to say 'to annoy'. Therefore, 'me estás mosqueando' means you're making me mad, and 'no te mosquees' means 'don't get angry'. The verb cabrear, which sounds very much like goat (cabra) in Spanish, is also used very commonly to mean the same thing.

**IT MATTERS THREE CUCUMBERS TO ME:** Or I couldn't give a cumin! 'Me importa tres pepinos' or 'me importa un comino' are the lighter versions of 'I couldn't give a damn' in Spanish. The harsher versions replace the cucumbers with three testicles ('me importa tres cojones'), a penis (una polla) or maybe even a pooh (una mierda).

**DON'T TOUCH MY NOSES:** In Spanish, the expression 'no me toques las narices' means something like 'Stop hassling me'. You can probably guess what many Spaniards often replace narices (noses) with when



they lose their temper. That's right, cojones (testicles)! In any case, if something or someone 'has noses', as in 'tiene narices', it's

outrageous.

**WHAT OF WHAT?** If someone fires a threatening look in your direction followed by an arrogant 'Qué?' ('What?'), there's a simple solution. Look him or her up and down and fire back '¿Qué de qué?' ('What of what?'). This is verbal sparring at its absolute best.

(Text Source: The Local.es)

So next time you are at the Zoco or Lemon Tree markets and you feel you are being overcharged - let 'em have it!

### Banks Fined for Empty Flats!

Barcelona's left wing city council on Monday charged three Spanish banks over a million euros in fines for keeping four apartments empty for more than two years.

The city issued a fine of €315,000 for each of the empty apartments, which the banks have had on their books for over two years, and which they have refused to hand over to the authorities to be used as social housing, a statement said. In total, the fines came to €1.26 million.

The country's two largest banks, Santander and BBVA, were slapped with one fine each. Meanwhile Spain's "bad bank" Sareb, set up in 2013 to take on billions of euros in land, buildings and loans inherited from bailed-out banks, was given two fines. "The goal of the municipality is not to collect money, but to ensure that homes have a social use," said an official. Oh, yea!

.....

Angus was only five feet tall. He reckoned it was due to his diet as a child - condensed milk and shortbread.

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## Lime Bar Fishing Club. (The Friendly Club)

Well another month has flown past. The Lime Bar Fishing club was started in 2007, and year on year it has seen both improvement in competitions and in growth. It all came about when a few friends got together and decided to form a fishing club. They approached the owner of the Lime Bar, Pete he allowed them to put up a poster in the bar that started the recruitment into the club it is now. It holds a monthly meeting and a monthly match. We have to keep to a membership of 20 due to the amount of pegs available on the stretches of water we can fish. Having said that the club has been able to catch over 12 tons of fish during this time. As I have said we hold monthly matches that build up to competitions held through the year. A presentation night is held in November to hand out the Trophies, as we have just held our latest, our Trophy winners are :

**Winter Cup - 2015/16** John Elsworth.

Runner Up - Mel Bettell.

**Summer Shield 2016** - Trevor Short.

Runner Up - Keith Todd.

**Knockout Cup** - Geordie Baine.

Runner Up - Mel Bettell.

**Biggest Carp** - Jack Maude 10:2 lbs.

**Memorial Shield** - Geordie Baine.

**Rod and Reel Cup** - Geordie Baine.

To all the winners 'Congratulations'.

As for the rest of us, as our old school reports used to say "Must try Harder!!"

Let us all continue to enjoy our fishing. A warm welcome to our "New Kid on the bank, " Phil Hodgetts."

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone that made the presentation night the great night it was. Our ladies for the food, Pete, Sue and the staff of The Lime Bar for the drink flowing and also your support through the year.

As we now have a new Chairman, Michael Lowry, and a new Secretary Steve Binfield, we would like to say a big thank you to the out-going Chairman Keith Todd, and the out going Secretary Mel Bettell, whose work over the past couple of years has been way beyond what was asked of them.

We now look forward to yet another productive year in our progression as a Friendly Fishing Club.

Thank you all for your Support !!!!!

Steve Binfield ( [steve.binfield@hotmail.com](mailto:steve.binfield@hotmail.com) )





### If You Want to Be Happy, Quit Facebook?

A remarkable paper claims that staying off Facebook for a week could make you happier: The Facebook Experiment, by Morten Tromholt of Denmark.

What makes this study so interesting is that it was a randomized controlled trial (RCT) and so was able, at least in theory, to determine whether quitting Facebook actually causes changes in well-being. Previously, there has been lots of research reporting correlations between social network use and happiness, but correlation isn't causation.

Tromholt recruited (via Facebook, of course) 1,095 Danish participants, who were randomly assigned to one of two conditions. The 'treatment group' were instructed not to use Facebook for one week, and were recommended to uninstall the Facebook app from their phones if they had it. At the end of the study, 87% of the treatment group reported having successfully avoided Facebook the whole week. Meanwhile, the 'control group' were told to continue using the site normally.

The results showed that the treatment group reported significantly higher 'life satisfaction' and more positive emotions vs. the control group ( $p < 0.001$  in both cases). These effects were relatively small, however, for instance the group difference in life satisfaction was 0.37 on a scale that ranged from 1-10.

Tromholt concludes that: People's emotional life improves significantly when they quit Facebook for 1 week... Millions of hours are spent on Facebook each day. We are surely better connected now than ever before, but is this new connectedness doing any good to our well-being? According to the present study, the answer is no...

This is a nice little study, but in my mind it doesn't prove all that much. The trial wasn't blinded – i.e. the participants of necessity knew which group they were in – and the outcome measures were all purely subjective, self-report questionnaires.

Bearing in mind that those who volunteered for the study probably wanted to cut down on their Facebook use to some extent (otherwise why enroll?), it's not hard to imagine that the 'treatment' group expected to feel better upon quitting and, hence, did so (the placebo effect) or at least reported doing so (demand effect). It's also worth noting that one week is not very long: we really want to know the effects of quitting social media over months or years.

However, I really like the idea of randomized controlled trials targeting internet behaviours. Perhaps we need a trial to determine whether reading this blog affects well-being?

Neuroskeptic in Discovermagazine.com

### What the Heck?

In 1970 I can remember seeing a movie called 'What do you say to a naked lady?' This was a film written and directed by the U.S. founder of Candid Camera, Allen Funt. This was a movie released during a time when increased nudity was being allowed on the silver screen and for a couple of years it was difficult to see a movie that didn't include either a pair of bare breasts or a bare bum. The rare became common place.....and eventually boring!

Funt's film was and still is very funny. It took a secret-camera look at people who were suddenly and unexpectedly confronted by a naked man or woman. So a man could be just turning a corner and come face to face



with a naked woman walking in the other direction. In another scene a nude male statue came to life and asked a woman sitting next to him 'If she could help find his fig-leaf?' See photo above.

So where is this going then? Well, El Mundo ran a piece with photos during mid-November which featured, what can only be described as an unusual street scene in the centre of Madrid. In this a near naked woman who is bound and gagged is being led through the street by another woman and is being filmed. Not only is the woman bare-breasted but she is wearing no underwear, evident as the other woman raises her skirt. Naturally passersby were shocked and/or amused. One woman spoke to the actors but they couldn't speak Spanish. There



were lots of complaints to the Madrid town hall who responded by saying that they were not approached for a licence permitting the movie-makers to film on the streets. They did add that hand-held filming is allowed, providing a tripod is not used.

However, they intend to investigate whether 'minors or the mentally disabled' were present. And it is the latter that concerns me: Man' City supporters; there are hundreds of them around here, all known to be a bit impressionable and well, odd! (That's the reason why all the cats in this area hide under the cars.) So I have placed an *asterisk* covering the young lady's nipples. This is not *The Jester!*

### When Is It Cheaper to Buy Airline Tickets?

Lots of theories and lots of suggestions, but it can be difficult to identify the real savings can be made.

According to the flight search engine Skyscanner, the best time to book is seven weeks before the date you want to travel, particularly if you have flexibility when choosing the dates.

The general rule is to look for times when the pages of airline companies receive fewer visits, ie, at weekends and preferably during the workday.

On Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays orices soars and then on Mondays companies announce new offerings. If these offers do not work, then on Tuesdays the companies will lower their prices. So it seems to those who have studied this that Tuesdays are the best days. But sometimes you may not need to wait until Tuesdays as on Monday nights, some companies can reduce the prices by up to 25%.

This came from a study by The Wall Street Journal which followed ten airlines.

A Japanese economist, Makoto Watanabe, reported that flights are cheaper if bought in the afternoon, after 15:00.

He based his theory on the airlines assuming that business travellers are booking their flights from work using the account of the company, while tourist passengers prefer to buy from their homes in the afternoon.

Informacion, which reported on the above would also add its own recommendations.

- If you can, avoid small airports. Larger ones can offer better prices. Also try and modify your dates.
- Book a round trip. This can sometimes prove cheaper. Not always so but search for a single trip and a round trip as well.
- Take time to compare. It only takes a few minutes.
- Avoid intermediaries. Search engines may propose a very attractive price first, but when you are finishing you booking the price rises due to fees and service charges.



I would also add a recommendation of my own.

Many airline companies will have software which will be able to identify your device's IP address.

So if you are say enquiring about flights to say Dublin, the airline company can remember you recent search criteria and if you do not

purchase, but return some time later after checking other sites, it may have adjusted the price upwards. Crafty!



**Obvious!** ®

At the National Art Gallery in Dublin, a husband and wife were staring at a portrait that had them completely confused. The painting depicted three black men totally naked, sitting on a bench.



Two of the figures had black penises, but the one in the middle had a pink penis. The curator of the gallery realized that they were having trouble interpreting the

painting and offered his personal assessment.

He went on for over half an hour explaining how it depicted the sexual emasculation of African Americans in a predominately white patriarchal society. "In fact", he pointed out, "some serious critics believe that the pink penis also reflects the cultural and sociological oppression experienced by gay men in contemporary society".

After the curator left, an Irishman approached the couple and said, "Would you like to know what the painting is really about?"

"Now why would you claim to be more of an expert than the curator of the gallery", asked the couple?

"Because I am the artist, who painted the picture", he replied, "In fact, there are no African Americans depicted at all. They're just three Irish coal miners. The guy in the middle went home for lunch." (Liz Wright)



*An Australian gentleman is someone who gets out of the bath to piss in the sink.*

*Anon.*

A 21-year-old Spaniard has been arrested for faking his own kidnapping to extort money from his mother to pay a debt. The distraught mother turned to police after receiving ransom demands via message to her mobile phone. She turned up at the police station in Parla, a dormitory town south of Madrid last Thursday despite warnings not to go to authorities. She was told to leave €600 in cash at a secret location. "If you want to see your son again and live the rest of your life in peace". Officers immediately leapt into action following established protocol for kidnappings but quickly located the 21-year-old walking freely around the town. Under questioning he admitted that he had faked the ordeal because he was desperately short of cash and needed to pay an outstanding debt, a statement from Spain's National Police said. Well, he probably wanted to buy a new smart phone.

The National Police arrested a 56-year-old postman in Alicante. It seems that this particular 'posty' brought all the letters and parcels which he was to deliver to the San Gabriel area to an abandoned house in Monforte del Cid district where he dumped the post. But



he did this for a period of three years, remaining in the house all day! It is surprising that it took the Correos a full three years to catch on. When the police raided his home in Alicante they found a set of silver earrings with the packaging addressed to a woman in Alicante. He may have been 'rumbled' by the fact that his company motorcycle was travelling 50 km a day more than his normal route.

Quickly on to Italy where the radio priest Fr. Giovanni Cavalcoti stated on the Catholic radio station, Radio Maria, that the recent devastating earthquake in Italy was the fault of the government approving same-sex civil unions. It was 'divine punishment' he stated. The station director, Father Livio Fanzaga, sacked the priest and issued a statement that, "Such positions do not correspond with the announcement of mercy, which is the essence of Christianity and Pope Francisco pastoral action ". Let alone flying in the face of science and common sense! Father Fansaga is no stranger to controversy himself. He declared that two Italian journalists, Emiliano Fittipaldi and Gianluigi Nuzzi, authors of two books concerning financial scandals at the Vatican, "should be hanged". Not much mercy there then!



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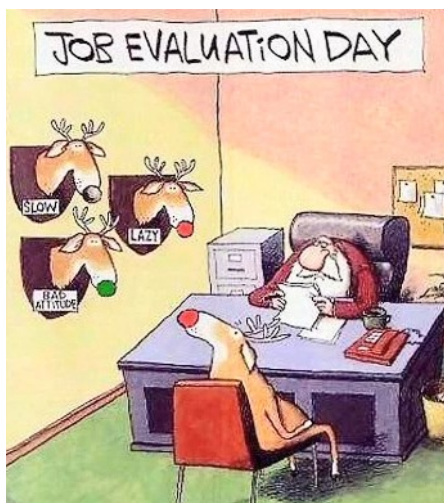
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The editor, Mick, can be contacted at mick.dreamscene@gmail.com or at 586 Dream Hills. (Or in some Bar!)

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