

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER

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

Issue no. 120, 1st of May 2017

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the May edition.

Plenty of blue skies here again during the last month, but still very chilly in the evenings, but it is only the truly brave souls who are still venturing into the swimming pools; very cold water and cold winds - not a great combination!

Hay fever sufferers are now facing higher levels of pollen, allergies are multiplying and consultations at the health centres and hospitals reporting this type of ailment are up by 30%. I am amazed at the regular & rapid collection of pollen in the dog's water bowl outside. This is obviously wind-borne from a particular tree that seems to be prolific in this area.

Hospital admissions for hypertension related illnesses have increased by almost 40% in the last four years. Hospital admissions for high blood pressure related problems are in excess of 6,700 p.a. This is 2,000 more admissions than in 2011, with an average hospital stay of six days. The aging population together with a sedentary lifestyle, lack of exercise and poor nutritional habits are undoubtedly contributory factors. Thankfully, deaths caused by hypertension have dropped significantly thanks to more effective treatments and early diagnosis.

The Brexit muddle continues. Britain has been pushed behind the European Union in the queue to strike a free-trade deal with the United States, officials in Washington have said. President Trump has softened his opposition to negotiating with the bloc as a whole after attempts by his officials to open talks with individual European nations were rebuffed. During a private conversation last month, Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, convinced Mr Trump that talks on a US-EU deal would be simpler than he thought, sources close to both sides of the discussion told The Times. So much for Trump holding hands with PM May and promising a 'quick' trade deal.

Quickies: There is now a new €50 note in circulation. It has enhanced 3-D imaging and it also has a small transparent panel. If you look through it you can see the remainder of your large notes frittering away!

As the Corvera Airport saga crawls on, British Airways have announced two new flights weekly between San Javier and Heathrow.

Free Wi-Fi now available in Torrevieja Hospital. Patients can easily access the internet by entering their health card number and date of birth.

The Spanish Golden Visa, notes El País, has attracted 2.157 billion €, 60% from the Russians and Chinese. This is a scheme whereby wealthy foreigners are allowed residency. More on this next month.

The French intelligence services has confirmed that ETA have only handed over half of their weapons.

Many thanks to Kathryn & Bill J and Tracy A, for the kind donations to printing costs.

Hope you have a wonderful month, Mick & Tid.

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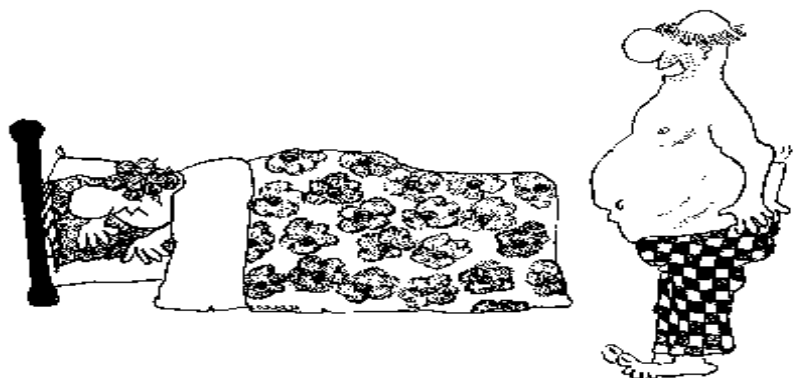
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Angela's Cartoon



"The good thing about these cold nights -
It makes you want to cuddle-up!"

I am the only man who can say he's been in *Take That* and at least two members of the *Spice Girls*.

Robbie Williams

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Did you know that

...the U.S. Postal Service says 6,755 postal employees were attacked by dogs in the 2016 calendar year. Nationwide, about 4.5 million dog bites are reported there every year, according to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

...a Swedish hotel chain said it is offering guests a refund -- but with strings attached: you only qualify if you get divorced in the year following your stay.

The Countryside luxury hotel group said its "radical" idea was designed to make "more people understand the degree to which it is important to invest in one's relationship before it is too late," spokeswoman Anna Madsen told AFP. If "against all expectations" clients did opt to untie the knot within 12 months, the group said they had only to provide evidence of their divorce to receive a refund for a stay of up to two nights. The offer is open to all couples "legally married and staying in the same room", it said.

...with a simple smartphone device and a chip that slurps up sperm, men can easily and cheaply measure the count and motility of their swimmers. The test is about 98% accurate, takes less than five seconds, and requires no training to run, Harvard researchers reported in Science Translational Medicine. It's also cheap—the device and the microfluidic chip cost just \$4.45 to manufacture.

But before you go 'banging one out' on your Samsung, it may take several years before the various drug administrations will approve it, so hold on Jeremy.

...in Cuba, where the average person makes about \$25 per month, a bottle of imported wine can cost up to half a paycheck. Some Cubans make their own, adding extra flavour from other fruits and employing condom "corks" to show when the grape



juice is ready for bottling. Cuba's public health policies guarantee that condoms are always abundant. As the fruit ferments, the wine releases gas, which gets trapped in the condoms and makes them stand erect. Once the condoms become flaccid again fermentation is complete.

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(Cut out & keep.)

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy will have to appear as a witness in the ongoing Gürtel case (see page 25), a massive investigation into a kickbacks-for-contracts scheme that has plagued the Popular Party (PP) for years. Magistrates from Spain's central High Court in charge of the case have voted two to one that Rajoy should be cited to testify, despite opposition to the move from the anti-corruption public prosecutor and the solicitor general's office. Under Spanish law, the prime minister is obliged to give a witness statement when called on to do so by judges.

Around the same time as this announcement, a former Madrid premier is among the 12 individuals who were arrested recently as part of a raid against corruption at the regional water management corporation Canal de Isabel II, which covers the water needs of six million Madrileños. Ignacio González, who served as regional premier with the Popular Party (PP) between 2012 and 2015, has been arrested, jailed without bail and his passport seized. It seems that €23 million was diverted to accounts in Switzerland from some decidedly dodgy deals in Latin America. This involved paying hugely inflated figures for almost worthless companies. González is accused of belonging to a criminal organisation, money laundering, falsification, breach of public duty, misuse of public funds and fraud. It is also disturbing to note that González seems to have been 'tipped-off' in this case and had ordered many files destroyed several weeks ago. As a result the two main opposition parties, the PSOE & Podemos, have demanded the resignation of the Chief Anti-corruption prosecutor.

In late March, Brussels sent the European Union's 27 remaining member states a nine-page document containing the guidelines to the Brexit negotiation that is opening up. These guidelines represent backing for Spain in its conflict over Gibraltar. A clause in the document states that once the UK leaves the bloc, "no agreement between the EU and the United Kingdom may apply to the territory of Gibraltar without agreement between the Kingdom of Spain and the United Kingdom. The principle that the British overseas territory will be left out of any understanding between Europe and Britain is handing the Spanish government the negotiating key it needed in its claims over the territory. If London wants to facilitate any kind of relationship between Gibraltar and the EU27 members, it may have to agree to a bilateral negotiation with Madrid

Cultural IVA (VAT) has been lowered in Spain from 21% to 10%, except for cinema tickets.

Diario de Mallorca reports 'the elevated costs of rental property have caused an exodus of businessmen from the islands' – traders and restaurant owners are unable to pay the rental for their establishments.

An Observer's editorial on article 50 is savage on "the most irresponsible, least trustworthy government in living memory" jeopardising "60 years of unparalleled European peace, security and prosperity from which it has greatly benefited": With jingoistic horns and trumpets drowning out the roar of the deep, the stampede towards the cliff's edge gathers pace. Every day produces more evidence that this hard Tory Brexit is a disaster in the making ... Truth and common sense are in short supply as Britain charges towards the precipice. (Their words.)

In the Financial Times, Janan Ganesh says over-optimistic UK ministers are manipulating the Brexit debate, spinning the new bottom line at every stage as if it were what they half-expected all along: Seeing these ministers talk their way out of old promises leaves you with a sense of sinuous political skill but also the smallness — of a trio pulling themselves up to their full height to look at the monumental work of exit straight in the ankles!

The Spanish Senators have given themselves a wage increase of 1% and have approved the same for all civil servants – the measure will help some 3.5 million employees in the Spanish public sector.

El País leads 'Spain could exclude Gibraltar from the 'Brexit' pact – Brexit has granted Spain an unexpected and new situation of strength with respect to Gibraltar – the Spanish Government has the power of veto at the hour when Gibraltar is debated between the UK and EU.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/03/31/outrage-spain-given-effective-veto-future-gibraltar-eu-plans/>

Last year the unemployment rate in Spain fell to 18.6%, that is 542,000 fewer unemployed. Although still an unacceptable figure, it shows definite improvement. The lowest unemployment rates are in Navarra (10.01%), La Rioja (10.90%) and the Basque Country (12.27%). On the other end of the scale the highest rates are in the Canary Islands (24.9%), Andalucía (28.25%) and Extremadura (28.31%).

The European Rugby (Union) Champions Cup final will be held in the San Mamés Stadium in Bilbao in the Basque Country in 2018. Encouraging.

On April 4, Spain's Constitutional Court blocked the part of Catalonia's 2017 budget which would be used to fund an independence referendum, a court spokeswoman said: "The court has ruled unanimously in favour of the government's appeal against Catalonia's budget law." The Catalan budget had allocated 5.8 million euros (\$6.2 million) to holding a referendum on separating from Spain. During April, a senior delegation of the separatists went to the U.S. to garner support for their 'Independence' but got the 'bum's-rush' from all, including the Jimmy Carter Foundation.

Top dogs in the Treasury have been teaching the fiscal advisers of lawyers on how to evade taxes – the technicians union for Treasury workers (Gestha) has uncovered the existence of hundreds of courses organised by private companies, when those responsible in the Tax Office are also working as lecturers, clearly an incompatibility.

If you ever have the misfortune to have to go to the Palace of Justice Courts in Benidorm, make sure you are as fit as a fiddle. The various courts there are distributed between the second and fifth floors and the building has got only two lifts which has been declared inadequate for the regular numbers there. But, one of the lifts has been inoperative for the last six month and the other breaks down every two or three days! Handcuffed prisoners will be transported in the single working lift, together with members of the public and possibly their victims. An octogenarian, the victim of a violent crime, had to climb 92 steps to lodge his complaint and request protection measures.

At the beginning of the decade, five companies began eyeing Spain's underground resources, promising that the US shale boom could be reproduced on the Iberian peninsula. The conservative government of the Popular Party (PP) lent its weight to fracking – or hydraulic fracturing, the technique used to extract gas from underground shale deposits – in order to reduce the country's near-complete dependence on hydrocarbon imports. But low gas prices and strong social rejection, including objections from local and regional authorities, have thwarted those plans. Now, all five firms have given up on fracking altogether. The UK is now the only country in Europe which is pro-fracking. (Abr. From El Pais)

El Mundo reports the mayoress of Barcelona, Ada Colau, has decided to create a database for the ideology, sexuality, and religion of the policemen in the Urban Guard. La Vanguardia reports the measure has caused irritation among the agents. Colau has shown an aversion to people in uniforms for years.

Información in Alicante reported the corruption in the Elda football team with a photo and headlined '12 players have been sacked for accepting backhanders' and six have been arrested (four footballers, the trainer and an Italian 'investor'.

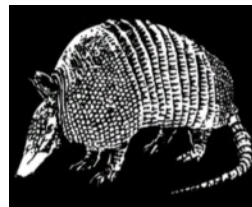
Hundreds of thousands of British motorists risk being fined up to £640 for speeding in Europe from this summer after the government rubber-stamped a controversial change to EU law. Ministers confirmed that a directive giving European countries the power to chase British motorists for fines by obtaining their driver details would come into force on May 6. Britain was given a two-year exemption from the rules but had to introduce them by this spring. (The Times)

The left-wing ruling junta in Valencia have insisted that all healthcare professionals declare any relationship they have with the private sector, pharmaceutical companies or medical societies. However the media (OKDiario) have pointed out that the politicians themselves are less than transparent in declaring their assets or business connections. One senior politician in the health sector was renting his property to a health clinic in a clear case of incompatibility taking almost two years to reveal that he was getting income from it. There is also a culture of cronyism in the health sector with jobs being allocated to friends and relatives. OKDiario has emphasised that appointing unskilled people, including a Catalan socialist leader, to key roles in the health sector has been disastrous. So when it comes to transparency it is 'Don't do as I do, do as I say!'

800 Portuguese students on spring-break in Torremolinos caused extensive damage to a hotel there.

Mattresses were thrown out of windows, tiles were broken, fire extinguishers were emptied in corridors and a television was thrown into a bath. The damage to the Hotel Pueblo Camino Real on the beachfront in the area of Los Álamos is believed to run into thousands of euros, but probably not near as bad as a visit from *The Who!*

The authorities in Spain have detected the first signs of the illegal importation of 'bushmeat' from Africa. These include various types of monkey, toucans and armadillos. Mmmmmmm, just like mother used to make.



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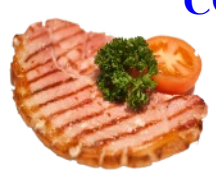
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Frank Carson*

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TERRACE**

FOOTBALL.

We murdered them nil-nil.
Bill Shankley

Me and about eight mates went up Chelsea last February. Bill Clinton was bloody furious.
Frank Skinner

At Glasgow Rangers I was third choice left-back behind an amputee and a Catholic.
Craig Brown

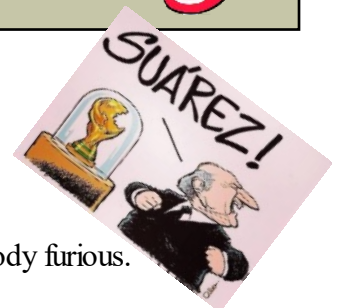
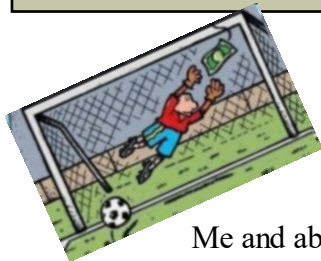
I was watching Germany and I got up to make a cup of tea. I bumped into the telly and Klinsmann fell over.
Frank Skinner

Don't tell those coming in now the result of that fantastic match. Now let's have another look at Italy's winning goal.
David Coleman

An atheist is a person who watches a Liverpool versus Everton football match and doesn't care who wins.
Bill Shankley

My doctor told me I should have a complete break from football so I became manager of Wolves.
Tommy Docherty

Overheard in a bar in Playa Flamenca: 'You have to admire anyone winning the Tour de France on drugs.
When I'm on drugs, I can't even find my bike!'





LIME BAR



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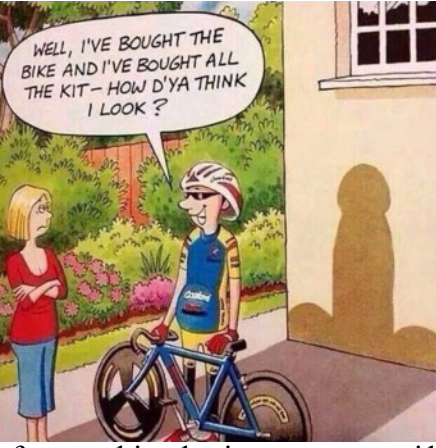
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Somebody's gotta be the designated drinker. Karen, Will and Grace

This year, I am amazed at the number of cyclists, mainly tourists and expat's, about. There seems to be a quantum leap in numbers but I have always considered cycling in this area less safe than say, parachuting, bungee jumping or keeping a pet cobra. P.J. O'Rourke put it more succinctly:



“Being dangerous without being fun puts bicycles in a category with open-heart surgery, the South Bronx, and divorce.” Have just read that a British man cycling in Mallorca was killed by a 48-year-old car driver who tested positive for alcohol and drugs. But the cyclist was 86-years-old!

Get a bicycle. You will not regret it...if you live!

Mark Twain

Help Vega Baja, also known as The Help Association, has opened a new HQ office in Torrevieja. It is located at No. 4, Rambla de Juan Mateo. A registered charity, it has been in operation for 35 years. They have a helpful website at <https://www.helpvegabaja.com/>

The Conselleria de Vivienda of the Valencian Generalitat provides social housing to the vulnerable. The Generalitat manages 396 official protection homes (VPOs) for the elderly. It has just released a new tranche of 89 flats for the elderly, 52 of them in the province of Alicante with some in Benidorm. The flats are specifically designed and adapted to suit the elderly, with the rentals ranging from €105 to €196 per month. To qualify, one must be a minimum of 60 years old, and be retired or pensioners with an annual income of €22,932 or less. There is more information here in Spanish - <http://www.diarioinformacion.com/alicante/2017/04/19/vivien-da-pone-alquiler-89-pisos/1884749.html>

Sometimes karma can bite you on the ass. The floor manager of a large bingo hall, Bingo Central, in Alicante, where he had worked for ten years, also had the responsibility of bringing the takings to the bank. In

November 2011 he collected the daily takings of €44,000, but took the cash home instead. Some days later he suffered a heart attack and couldn't go to work. The company then grew suspicious and checked the bank account and found that the amount was missing. The 36-month sentence requested by the prosecution was reduced to 21 months because of the delay. Two notable things here - one, for a first offence, any sentence less than two years is rarely served, otherwise half the population would be in the clink, and secondly, it took almost six years to resolve what should have been a very simple case.

As I write this, the relocation of the Friday Torrevieja Market to the proposed new location has been postponed. It is fair to say that the traders are fighting tooth-and-nail to delay or stop it. The latest is that they want some mode of free transport organised to the proposed new location.



Ever wanted to see what an overturned lorry of lemons looks like? This happened recently on the A31 near Villena. The Spanish refer to the A31 as 'The Great Forgotten.'



The Guanyar political group in Alicante are introducing some hefty fines for what should be classed as only minor irritants. If your children or pets like to run after the doves and the pigeons in the city squares, parks and gardens, BEWARE! You could be facing a fine of €210! Supported by the PSOE & Compromis parties, they also want to eradicate 17 species of invasive plants found in the municipality.

Throwing waste into the ponds or feeding the fish will also attract a fine of €210. But if you let your pet dog swim in one of the fountains, that will cost you €300!

And climbing trees? A God given right to every boy and girl? Well, that will cost you €210!

I have been told, but was unable to clarify, that the 85 *costaleros*, the majority of British origin, who carry one of the heavy pasos during the Easter period (photo), did not take part this year. During recent years it was always a bit of a panic to get sufficient volunteers. Some of the previous *costaleros* are now in their 80's and of course the number of registered Brit's in Torrevieja has now more than halved during the last seven years.



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MORE ON BREXIT.

Brexit now threatens the future of the pensioner abroad. The pound's fall against the euro has already shrunk the pension's value, and Britain's withdrawal may also mean the ending of the index-linking that pensioners inside the EU presently enjoy.

Another concern is healthcare, where there's a formidable imbalance between British pensioners using European health services and European pensioners using the NHS: in Spain 70,000 retired UK citizens use Spain's doctors and hospitals, while in the UK only 81 Spanish pensioners are registered for treatment by the NHS. Reciprocal agreements between the states inside the European Economic Area (the EU plus Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) mean that costs are covered by the migrant's home nation – the UK paid £674.4m in health bills to other EEA countries in 2014-15 and claimed back only £49.7m. But if Britain leaves the EEA as well as the EU this health provision, which is free at the point of delivery, would – unless it is renegotiated with individual countries – also cease.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/apr/15/sun-down-britain-retirement-dream-uk-pension-mediterranean-lifestyle>

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 - 10:00* - 11:00 - 12:00* - 13:00 - 15:00 - 16:00* - 17:00 - 18:00* - 19:00 - 21:00

Airport to Torrevieja: 8:00 - 10:00 - 11:00* - 12:00 - 13:00* - 14:00 - 16:00 - 17:00* - 18:00 - 19:00* - 20:00 - 22:00

(*) - From 1st April to 31st October

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, NIE or DNI. A bit of a palaver really. Prior booking is not required. Sometimes the bus fills up quickly with people and you have to wait more than 2 hours for the next bus.

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It's a funny old world: someone goes out and shoots John Lennon and lets Des O'Connor live.
Roy 'Chubby' Brown



VIA PARK V.

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What the Heck is Going On?

In the early morning of February 19, a British male aged 86, cut his 79-year-old wife's throat with a knife. The assault took place in a pensioner's residency in El Campello, north of Alicante City. The woman, Margaret, bled to death before help arrived and the man tried, unsuccessfully, to take his own life. The assault took place during March and was the 11th mortal victim of domestic violence in Spain during the first seven weeks of 2017.

A 27-year-old German male decided to drive the 2,500 km from Germany and kill the 47-year-old married woman he had fallen in love with, who was living in Sevilla. He threatened to kill her, her two children and presumably husband as well. After she reported the threat to the police, the authorities monitored flights from Germany to Sevilla but without success but they issued a protection order for the woman. However, the would-be murderous Romeo was found in the little village of Almensilla near Sevilla on the evening of March 19. He was arrested and his car, which he had driven from Germany, was found to contain a pistol, a stun gun, some ropes and several litres of petrol. Spanish police are liaising with the Germans to see if this lunatic has a criminal record.

Then in early April, a 69-year-old Scottish pensioner, Robert Tate, broke into the home of his former partner and beat her about the head with a crowbar while she was asleep in bed - see photo of crime scene. The assault took place in Águilas in southern Murcia. The woman managed to placate the man, who remained in the property for a further two terrifying hours. They finally came to some

agreement and the man left, the woman promising him that she wouldn't call the police. Fortunately she did and the man was arrested. The woman is now recovering in hospital in Murcia from a fractured skull and cheekbones.



A 70-year-old British man has been remanded into custody by a judge in Denia in mid-April for attempting to kill his son with a hammer as he slept. The 20-year-old victim was sleeping in his bed when his father repeatedly hit him over the head with a hammer.

When his mother attempted to stop the brutal attack, her husband turned on her. Police were called to their residence outside the Costa Blanca town of Denia on Sunday morning after neighbours heard screaming and saw the man struggling his wife in the doorway of their home. When police reached the property they said they found the aggressor covered in blood and still carrying the hammer. The world's gone mad!

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Ralph & Edna

Just because someone doesn't love you the way you want them to, doesn't mean they don't love you with all they have.

Ralph and Edna were both patients in a mental hospital. One day while they were walking past the hospital swimming pool, Ralph suddenly jumped into the deep end.

He sank to the bottom of the pool and stayed there.

Edna promptly jumped in to save him. She swam to the bottom and pulled him out. When the Head Nurse Director became aware of Edna's heroic act she immediately ordered her to be discharged from the hospital, as she now considered her to be mentally stable.

When she went to tell Edna the news she said, 'Edna, I have good news and bad news. The good news is you're being discharged, since you were able to rationally respond to a crisis by jumping in and saving the life of the person you love... I have concluded that your act displays sound mindedness.

The bad news is, Ralph hung himself in the bathroom with his bathrobe belt right after you saved him. I am so sorry, but he's dead.'

Edna replied, 'He didn't hang himself, I put him there to dry....How soon can I go home?'

Moira

*What a kid I got! I told him about the birds and the bees, and he told me about the butcher and my wife.
Rodney Dangerfield.*

Update on Ground Clauses.

Following our article on ground/floor clauses in the March issue, Typically Spanish have come up with the following. Unfortunately I don't know the original source.

"More than 20,000 British residents in Spain are trapped by the ground clauses. Currently there are 300,000 British residents in Spain, of which 6.6% entered a mortgage with a ground clause.

In this way, the number affected reaches 20,000 with an average return payment of €7,000.

Andalucía has the most affected with 25%, Cataluña with 20% and Madrid Community 16%, Valencia 15% and Galicia 7%."

The Treasury has warned that money returned from the ground clauses will be taxable.

Don't expect the banks to help you with this. Get on and claim now!

Dope failed Dope test!

The captain of the Kon Tiki V, a catamaran ferry, that does the Alicante to Tabarca Island trip, was given a random drug test by the Guardia Civil, which proved positive for cocaine and hashish.

He was given the drug test after he returned from a trip to the island carrying 54 passengers, including 32 children on board. The captain was sacked.

Worryingly last August, the captains of two boats from a different company that covers the Santa Pola-Tabarca route, were also tested positive. Should be made to walk the plank!



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The above photo is of Louisa Boné. She is a councillor for Orihuela but works in the Ayuntamiento on the Costa. She is in charge of our lovely beaches and the coastal infrastructure. Her department was responsible for completing the excellent work in restoring the beaches which were badly damaged by the storms. They were all restored just in time to be enjoyed by the Easter crowds and we must give credit where it is due.

Louisa is with the Ciudadanos (Citizens) Party, and here she is being interviewed by Stefan Pokroppa on Siesta Radio on 91.6

Putting the infrastructure on the coast in order is going to be a difficult and costly task, particularly after years of neglect and lack of investment from the political parties whose only interest was the money generated by the coast and spending it on the city of Orihuela. Let's hope that she can do something constructive quickly to improve the dreadful condition of the roads locally together with the parks and playgrounds.

But I was very happy to see the latest Dream Scene also on display to the visitors to the studio. My head got so big that I fell over twice.

I hope to interview Louisa in the future for an exclusive report in the Dream Scene.

SPRING IS SPRUNG

Now that Spring is in the air
and tourists have returned
round and round the coast they tear
getting drunk and getting burned

The rubbish that they leave behind
scattered on the street
I don't mean to be unkind
but this is pure conceit

No thought about any one else
just eat and drink and toss
only thinking about themselves
the locals at a loss

Is this the way they do it
in their home and where they're from
they must live in a rubbish tip
and this must be their norm

Just take your litter away with you
or put it in a sack
wherever else you do
don't drop it at your back

Please respect the area
wherever else you roam
we are all not here on holiday
for some, it is our home

The Phantom Poet

*She always tells stories
in the present vindictive.*

Tom Pearce

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The Stork.

A friend was in the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, recently for delivery of her first baby. She was visited by countless medics, each checking out her blood pressure, the foetal heartbeat, etc., etc. When the umpteenth bloke came into the room, she simply pulled down the blanket and hitched up her nightie in anticipation of yet more groping, to which the bloke explained. Ah, yer alright missus! I'm only here to tune the telly!

23 Nationalities on Padron Orihuela Costa 2017

Northern Europe 6.3%	Total
Denmark 153	
Finland 224	
Iceland 168	
Norway 604	
Sweden 439	1,588

Western Europe 75.2%	
Belgium 611	
France 175	
Germany 1,541	
Holland 386	
Ireland 842	
Italy 212	
Spain 4,126	
Switzerland 163	
UK 10,894	18,950

Eastern Europe 11.5%	
Bulgaria 212	
Hungary 169	
Lithuania 170	
Poland 262	
Rumania 488	
Russia 1,346	
Ukraine 260	2,907

Asia 2.2%	
China 357	
India 208	565

Total of all 111 Nationalities in Orihuela Costa on Padron **25,193**

Declining Numbers on the Padron.

For some years now, the numbers of residents coming from the UK has been declining. The province has gone from having more than 130,000 Britons settled in the province in 2013 to almost half the number now. In fact, during 2016 a total of 74,349 British residents were counted, according to the National Institute of Statistics (INE). A sharp decline which, with the uncertainties generated by the "Brexit" and coupled with the loss of purchasing power for the British due to a weakened sterling/euro rate, will probably continue to grow throughout this year.(From Spanish Media)

I believe the drop really started in late 2007 - early 2008, when the sterling fell to 1.05euros. From a high of around 1.47 this was economically disastrous to many retired Brit's. The worldwide recession and now the Brexits fiasco has only hastened the decline.

The figures on the left relate to Orihuela Costa only. I would say that the 10,000 plus figure for the UK is almost half what it was in 2007 and it is continuing to drop.

Torrevieja had 12,000 Brit's registered on the padron during 2010. Now there is barely 5,000.

However despite Brexit, the British continue to be the largest foreign group of property purchasers in Spain, albeit a declining one. It may be that many of the new arrivals are not signing-on to the padron.

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Chicken Tikka
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Tuna Pasta
Pork Stroganoff
Chilli Nachos
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The graveside service just barely finished, when there was massive clap of thunder, followed by a tremendous bolt of lightning, accompanied by even more thunder rumbling in the distance...

The little old man looked at the pastor and calmly said, 'Well, she's there.'

Mel B.

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Och, Aye!

One thing about blokes from Scotland is that their hearts and humour are always in the right place!

Jimmy MacDonald, a City Councillor from Glasgow, was asked on a local live radio talk show, just what he thought about the allegations of torture of suspected terrorists.

His reply prompted his ejection from the studio, but to thunderous applause from the audience.

HIS STATEMENT: "If hooking up one rag-head terrorist's testicles to a car battery gets the truth out of the lying little camel shagger to save just one Scottish soldier's life, then I have only three things to say; Red is positive, Black is negative and make sure his nuts are wet."

Sue Robinson

WEIRD!

Those of us who have lived in Spain for some time have become gradually aware of the many unusual facets of Spanish society and indeed the Spanish justice system.

The first anomaly is, I fear, one of a very medieval outlook and certainly unnecessary.

Although bullfighting is in decline in Spain, there are still many who hold it as an important element of Spanish life and anyone who tries to disrupt an event faces a draconian fine. Many bullfighters get injured in the ring but deaths these days are rare. The last death in the ring (or shortly afterwards because of injuries) was on July 9, 2016. This is a photo of the unlucky victim, Victor Barrio, 29. It was 30 years previously when the last bullfighter died as a result of a bullfight.



But when a bullfighter dies in the ring, not only is the offending bull killed but also the whole bloodline is also executed! Mother, father, sisters, brothers! There is nothing glorious or honourable in this. It resembles the vengeance of a Columbian drug lord.

Far from being joyous, the Easter processions and customs in Spain are very solemn. No fireworks, no drinking - just homage. It is the lay Brotherhoods who form the main organisers of these processions. They look very daunting in their tall hooded garments looking awfully like the Ku Klux Klan in the 'states. This whole image is often a surprise to the North American tourist!



But one of the practices which really surprised me is the tradition where one of the Brotherhoods will request an amnesty for a local jailed individual.

More often than not, the original offence has been drug related and the pardon is usually granted and the individual released.

However, this year I recall a Brotherhood in Elche (I think) requesting the pardoning and release of a jailed local. Unusually in this case, it was refused.

No further details were released.

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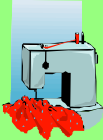
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The Phoenix Golf Society.

We played on the 16th April 2017 at EL VALLE.

The course was in a fair condition but some players found it a hard course but overall they all enjoyed their day playing it.

Nearest the Pin:

No.6 & 12 was won by Ian Grant.

No.9 was won by Kevin Jackson

No.15 was won by Mike Highway

Overall Winner was Mike Highway.

In second place was Ian Grant.

At the end of the day we returned to The Phoenix Bar for our usual lovely grub supplied by Donna and Kay.

A nice day had by all.

Dave Wightman

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FREE WIFI

My Mate Harry.

I have to say that my mate Harry is one of the unluckiest men I know.

While serving in Afghanistan he had his balls shot off. Back in the UK, cut-backs in the NHS meant surgeons couldn't find a suitable transplant during the surgery. One of the theatre nurses suggested ping-pong balls but although the size would have been perfect, the surgeon thought they would float in the bath.

The surgical team finally agreed that pickled onions would have the right size and density and transplanted a couple taken from the staff canteen at the hospital.

Still, you have to look on the bright side. Now every time he eats a cheese sandwich he gets a hard-on.

Ray.

Spain Probes Syrian President's Uncle on Money-laundering Suspicions.

Spain's central High Court has launched an operation against relatives of the president of Syria, Bashar al-Assad, for alleged crimes of money laundering in criminal association. On Tuesday, Judge José de la Mata ordered 15 properties searched in wealthy Andalusian resort towns; he also froze bank accounts held by 16 individuals, and another 76 deposits held in the name of legal entities. The investigating judge suspects that the more than €300 million in funds were siphoned off from the Syrian state's public coffers. The investigation is focusing on the president's



uncle, Rifaat al-Assad. Photo.

The Spanish inquiry has unearthed 503 properties owned by Rifaat al-Assad and his relatives, including holiday homes, parking spaces, apartments inside a luxury hotel and country estates,

among others. The majority of this real estate is located in Puerto Banús and Marbella, on the popular Costa del Sol.

Chief among all the properties is a €60-million estate called La Máquina, which covers more than 33 million square meters and takes up a third of the municipality of Benahavis, adjoining upscale Marbella.

The family's real estate assets in Spain are worth around €691 million, according to sources familiar with the investigation.

Operation Scar, as the raid has been dubbed, is being led by

the Team Against Organized Crime at the Civil Guard's Málaga command center. The judiciary police's actions, which did not result in any arrests, were triggered by a complaint brought by prosecutors at the High Court in December 2016. For months, investigators have been drawing up an inventory of the family's properties and tracking their movements in Spain.

Rifaat al-Assad was vice-president of Syria under the presidency of his own brother Hafez al-Assad, who was in turn the father of current president Bashar al-Assad. In the 1980s, Rifaat was kicked out of the country by his brother, who was then in power, over fears that he was organizing a coup. There is evidence that Rifaat was given over \$300 million from state coffers, money that the exile used to settle down in France, from where he started to buy up property.

An investigation by French authorities concluded that his fortune was amassed by embezzling public funds, which were used for his own personal gain in detriment of the Syrian state. Rifaat al-Assad has since accumulated properties in France, Curaçao, Liechtenstein and Luxembourg. The French investigation estimates that his assets in that country are valued at around €90 million.

Later, French investigators confirmed that Rifaat al-Assad had begun building up his real estate empire in the Spanish resort of Marbella. In 2016, the French judiciary charged him with several crimes, including embezzlement of public funds and money laundering. Thanks to cooperation among EU members states, it was discovered that the Syrian president's uncle owns property in Spain using companies run by his relatives.

Source: El Pais

Aye!

A Scottish couple were celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary with a slap-up meal. The wife turned to the man and said, 'You know, darling, I still love when we have sex together.'

The husband thought about this for a couple of minutes then said, 'So do I, dear, but I think on balance I prefer Hogmanay.'

The wife was taken aback. 'Don't you prefer sex?'

'Difficult to say,' he replied. 'It's just that Hogmanay comes around more often!'



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PP Corruption in Spain.

The map on the right highlights the current corruption cases relating to the Partido Popular (PP) in Spain. But these refer to just one of the political parties and the list is not complete. The socialist party, PSOE, are up to their necks in it in Andalusia* with the ERE and Training Fund scandals and millions of euros have been 'side-tracked' by the Pujol separatist dynasty in Catalonia.

Imputados: Imputed or being investigated.

Tramas: Plots or cases.

Condenados: Condemned or sentenced.
(*Here, 115 mayors are being investigated!)

One of the many cases relating to the PP, Gürtel, is outlined below.



The Gürtel case: The sprawling Gürtel case involves a corrupt business network that operated across six Spanish regions between 1999 and 2005. It was allegedly run by Francisco Correa (whose surname loosely translates as belt, or Gürtel in German), a businessman who cultivated relationships with PP officials, offering them gifts in exchange for government contracts in public works and event organization. At the height of his power, Correa went by the nickname of Don Vito, after the character in *The Godfather*.

With nearly 200 official suspects, it became the largest pre-trial probe in modern Spanish history and was broken up into sections to facilitate the investigation. The main trial began on October 4 at the Audiencia Nacional, Spain's high court, with 37 people in the dock.

In February of this year, Francisco Correa, considered the mastermind behind the bribes-for-contracts network, and his aides Pablo Crespo and Álvaro Pérez, aka El

Bigotes (the Mustache), were found guilty in connection with a section of the Gürtel case known as Fitur, involving embezzlement, influence peddling, bribery of public officials and conspiracy in the Valencia region.

They were sentenced to 13 years in prison each by the Valencia region's High Court. All three now face further trials in connection with the Gürtel network.

One of the other ramifications of the case involves the possibility of illegal party financing by the PP. Secret accounts kept by former treasurer Luis Bárcenas suggest the existence of a slush fund within the conservative party, something that he himself has admitted to be true. Over two-thirds of the alleged donations to the PP violated party financing legislation, either because they went over the legal limit or because they were made by individuals or businesses that were barred from being donors. (ElPais)

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Buying Fish in the Supermarket.

Standing in a Spanish *pescadería* can be intimidating, even to the most acclimated *guiri*. Unlike the UK., where the fish counters are neat and organized, filets in even rows, a Spanish fish market is not for the squeamish. Whole fish are displayed on ice, heads and tails intact. Large shiny eyes stare up at you, mouths gape wide to reveal rows of razor-sharp teeth with some of the ugliest critters in creation. To conquer a Spanish fish market is, to some, a test of one's knowledge and stomach.

That said, one of the best things about markets in Spain is the individualized attention that each customer is given. It is no different in the *pescatería*. There is a process to ordering fish from a fishmonger. It is often long and requires some patience while the *pescatera* cuts each customer's fish to order with a long, machete-like blade. She will give you the whole fish if you want it, after scaling it. She slices off the head, slices down its belly, and removes all the parts you may or may not choose to keep. It is left whole or sliced into filets per your preference. If you plan to make a caldo—a fish stock—she'll throw in the head, bones, and tails too. The moral of the story is that it takes time because it's a labour of love.

So, armed with a shopping list and instructions provided by the *Obergruppenführer*, I headed straight to the fish counter at Mercadona on a Saturday morning. A small crowd was waiting so I thought, 'Easy-peasy! I'll be out of here in no time.....might even make it to Jessie's across the road for a breakfast bap with extra bacon. Was I wrong: although there were only three women in front of me and three serving, their orders seemed to be taking hours! One seemed to be buying for a restaurant with each fish being scaled, gutted, cleaned and sliced.

I was beginning to give up hope and walk off in a huff when one of the fishmonger ladies called out my number. I noticed there were three other numbers in front of me who obviously got tired of waiting and pissed-off. But I got the fresh mackerel, which were delicious.

But what really intrigued me about this visit was the number of Spanish women talking to themselves by the fish counter. I was amazed! As the crowd waiting grew, several individual older women would walk around in front of the stall murmuring and talking to themselves. I don't know; maybe some of the fish were their friends.

Go in and listen one day. I kid you not!

I went for a job at one of the airlines. The interviewer asked me why I wanted to be a stewardess, and I told her it would be a great chance to meet men....She looked at me and said: 'But you can meet men anywhere.' I said, 'Strapped down?'

Martha Raye



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*I used to enjoy Mr. Grumpy's blogs in Tumbit.
This one dates back several years but is still
pertinant.*

The Spanish Lifestyle.

This past weekend I had the misfortune to be stuck in an airport lounge for a couple of hours en-route to a business meeting somewhere, with nothing but one of those God-forsaken glossy "Spanish Lifestyle" magazines for company.

The much-clichéd cover photograph of a setting sun over a desolate sandy beach, and the 90% advertorial content, gave way to the usual predictable crap that was hastily re-written in a slightly different format every other week.

This Week / Fortnight / Month's chosen ramblings about the Spanish Lifestyle went on to give us the usual stereotypical guff about Tapas and Jerez in deepest Andalusia, and then went on to tell us about an early-retired couple who were in the midst's of reforming an old watermill in darkest Galicia.

Then later in the mag, some other Property Agent had sponsored another advertorial about a further expat couple who had purchased a run-down Finca in rural Murcia. The photographs of oranges being harvested in the field and some rustic bread and olives being served in terracotta bowls on the table could not have been more predictable or stereotypical if they tried.

Of course, I fully appreciate that these Magazines have to make a living by selling such advertising, and of course a tiny minority of smug expats do actually manage to renovate a 12th Century Monastery in some idyllic rural village.

I suppose my argument is that in reality an overwhelming majority of expats are lucky if they can afford the luxury of a life in Spain, or living in Spain, and that a Spanish lifestyle is simply something that has been created to sell Magazines.

Pressing our own Olive oil and tending our own free-range Hens after walking along a dusty mountain track to the local village bakery might be a dream for many a Expat, but the reality is that thousands more will count themselves lucky to be able to afford a second-line apartment somewhere on one of the Costas.

Nothing at all wrong with that, and probably more typical of the average expat – therefore that is quite possibly more worthy of being a realistic and reliable read.

I suppose the problem is that 'average' and 'typical' doesn't sell advertising. Most people in the UK don't dream of relocating for a new life in Spain, but an (affordable & realistic) 'lifestyle' in Spain.

Moses, returning from the mountain, spoke to his people,
"The good news is I got them down to ten.

The bad news is that adultery is still in there."

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BBQ STARTING IN MAY!



On a very hot summer's day, a man decided to sunbathe nude in his back garden in Los Altos. The house was surrounded by a high wall. 'I wonder,' he said to his wife, 'what the neighbours would say if they could see me?'
'They'd probably say I married you for your money!'

Most of you will have already seen the hideous bust of Ronaldo which makes him look like a grinning village idiot. But the reality is, the idiot is the sculptor and whoever paid



him. The bust, photo, was unveiled at a bizarre ceremony when Madeira Airport in Portugal was

renamed Aeroporto Cristiano Ronaldo, with Portugal's president, the prime minister.....and Batman also in attendance. What the latter was doing there, nobody knows.

But this is not the first botched image of the big-headed footballer. Not far from the airport is a full figure statue of Ronaldo which bears no resemblance to the soccer star.

As you will see from the photo on the right, the statue looks more like a cross between Beckam and Vardy, the arms are way out of proportion and he has a bulge in his shorts! I think the sculptors on the island should lay off the controlled substances, magic mushrooms or whatever it is that is altering their reality. As there is already a museum and a hotel named after the footballer, I wonder how long it will be before the island is renamed?



A fake doctor in Florida received a 10-year jail sentence from a court for manslaughter. Known to her patients, mainly black women, as 'the Duchess,' Oneal



Ron Morris (photo), a transgender woman, would inject their bottom and hips with a near-lethal formula of cement, mineral oil, bathroom caulking and Fix-a-Flat tire sealant. After plumping up their behinds, she would then seal the injection site with cotton-balls and superglue. Although the patients knew that the woman was not a qualified surgeon, they were happy to part with around \$2,000 for each procedure. One of her patients who complained to the state health authority in late 2011 that her cosmetically enhanced buttocks became rock hard and black, died later in prison. Morris, who denied any wrong doing at her trial, was previously convicted in Miami-Dade County for practicing without a license and served one year in prison.

Next we go to nearby Redován during early April, where neighbours reported suspicious characters trying to enter a dwelling. Police arrived quickly and began searching the houses. In one of the bungalows they found two Romanian males hiding, one in a cupboard and the other under a pile of clothes. Both men had an extensive criminal record and are believed to be dangerous. Unfortunately these villains are never held for long and are soon released to rob again.

Podemos (We Can) are a populist far-left political party in Spain. Currently they are the third largest party in Congress with 69 out of 350 seats as well as five MEPs in the EU.

It is fair to say that human relations within the Coca Cola company in Spain have been contentious during the last couple of years, as staff were made redundant in the Fuenlabrada factory. Podemos organised a petition to both Congress and the Senate to boycott the Coca Cola product from the canteens restaurant and vending machines, as they said the firm was attacking the rights of workers. But then, in a clear case of 'Do as I say, not as I do,' the general secretary of Podemos for Madrid and senator, Ramon Espinar, was seen in the dining room of the Senate purchasing two bottles of the forbidden liquid. Espinar had also visited the workers in the Fuenlabrada several times to express his support.

See photo (Okdiario) on left.



Politics is derived from two words - poly, meaning many, and tics, meaning small blood-sucking insects.

Chris Clayton

Corvera Airport - The Latest.

The regional government of Murcia has made definitive steps toward reviving the region's international airport in Corvera and is once again putting the management contract for this 'ghost' travel hub out to tender, despite the failure of other similar ventures in Spain to pay off and in spite of the fact it is still embroiled in a long-running legal battle with the first company to win the concession back in 2007.

The new phase of this crippling expensive aviation saga began on March 25 with the bidders' conditions released in the Official Journal of the European Union. Interested companies have until May 2 to register. After that date, those who can provide proof of financial buoyancy and experience will have two months to provide detailed technical and economic plans.

Corvera airport received an initial investment of €270 million and building work on it is all but finished. But the facility was never opened to the public and, in December 2015, the regional government was forced to cancel the contract with Madrid-based Sacyr on the grounds that the company granted the concession had exceeded its allotted time period.

The subsequent legal battle between Sacyr and Murcia's authorities has become increasingly complex and is now headed for the High Court. This will mean further delays.

Corvera is the first regional airport to be put out to tender since the frenzy to open small airports across Spain began sapping resources and leading – in the case of Castellón and Ciudad Real, to years of disuse – or, in the case in Huesca, Lérida, Salamanca, León, La Rioja, Burgos and Albacete, to crippling losses absorbed by the airport networks. When it opens, it will replace the region's San Javier airport.

Meanwhile, the regional government has introduced two conditions to recoup some of the taxpayer money that has been sunk into the project: the successful bidder will pump €0.73 per passenger into state coffers for the first 10 years, €2.09 per passenger in the five years following that, €2.27 in the subsequent five years and €2.56 for the last five years. A total of 10% of income earned by cargo airline companies on cargo weighing more than 50,000 tons will also be paid to the region.

(Abridged from Tumbit & El Pais)

Dreadful flowers bought at a garage were a perfect metaphor for my wedding to Chris Evans: last-minute, cheap and dead within hours.
Carol McGiffin

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*There was a 4.5 earthquake in Alabama - a tragedy.
It'll spawn at least ten thousand country and western songs.*
Craig Kilborn

AFARADO!

I touched on this particularly unique aspect of the Spanish legal system in the past, but here is a closer look at it.

The Ciudadanos (Citizens) Party are trying to get the ruling PP to limit the right of Aforado to just a handful. Understandably, the PP, where many of their political big wigs are destined for the courts anyway, are not too keen to introduce the change.

What is an aforado?

An aforado is someone who has the right to be tried for crimes by a different court than those that try other citizens. This right is bestowed because of the aforado's profession or position as an elected official. Favouritism really.

How many aforados are there in Spain?

There are 17,621 aforados, not counting members of law enforcement agencies, who have partial aforamiento. Including them, the total figure rises to 280,159!

Which laws recognize aforamiento?

The Constitution recognizes that the Spanish king, the royal family and politicians may be aforados.

Who judges Spain's political class?

Minister wants to cut number of public figures with immunity from 17,621 to 22, together with three Spanish royals to get immunity from lower courts

The Organic Law of Judicial Power does the same for members of the judiciary.

Regional charters (Estatutos de Autonomía) recognize aforamiento for regional elected officials.

Who are the aforados?

The king: He enjoys the greatest protection of all, since he is free of any responsibility. Article 56 of the Constitution even protects him from any inquiry into his private, civilian life. The royal family: Queen Letizia, King Felipe VI's parents, Juan Carlos and Sofia, and the king's eldest daughter, the Princess of Asturias.

Politicians.

There are nearly 2,000 of them: the prime minister, members of his cabinet, regional premiers, regional department chiefs, the speakers of Congress and the Senate, the speakers of the regional parliaments, the president and board members of the Audit Court, the president and board members of the State Council, and the Ombudsman.

The judiciary.

Aforamiento is enjoyed by 5,171 judges, 2,407 attorneys and 7,685 justices of the peace. They include the chief justice of the Supreme Court, the president of the General Council of the Judiciary, the president of the Constitutional Court, the president of the High Court, the presidents of the High Courts, the attorney-general, and the attorneys at the Supreme Court.

Which courts try these people?

Members of the royal family may only be tried by the Supreme Court in both criminal and civil law cases.

National politicians are also tried by the Supreme Court, and this exemption from the lower courts extends to their private lives. In the case of deputies and senators, the corresponding house must first authorize the trial, which means that a majority could stop the legal proceedings. As for regional politicians, they are tried by the High Courts in their particular region, and in some cases by the Supreme Court.

Members of the judiciary may only be tried by the Supreme Court. Protection from the lower courts extends to their private lives. Judges and attorneys may only be tried by the High Courts, and only in relation to alleged crimes committed in the exercise of their duties.

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**SPECIAL OFFER TO
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Hello again! Unfortunately you have got me again for a couple of months. We missed last month's Dream Scene so apologies to the readers!

We got a few bits sorted out at the monthly bun fight but it did go on a bit.

A couple of months back, the snake charmer had set up a club Facebook page to share useful bits of info. Unknown to him was what a bunch of "techno dinosaurs" we are! Only a couple of the "sunbathers" actually have facebook accounts let alone know how to use it (that's left up to the "other halves"). Due to a lack of interest, it was decided to close the page.

We also did the draw for the summer knockout competition, arranged an extra "social" days fishing & hopefully organised a 10 pin bowling evening towards the end of April.

At the end of March we held our winter final. This is where the top 6 anglers over the winter season have a fish off to see who gets the trophy. The weather forecasts over here aren't always accurate and being March, we ended up rescheduling the final twice. This really p****d off Feathers, as he could fish the original Friday but not the latter dates.

Step forward Sweeney who was 1st reserve. He came in as sub but went on to win it with 6.9 kilos beating Just John into 2nd with 5.1. Sweeney must have a lucky streak, last summer he got into that final as 3rd reserve and came out 2nd.

The match in April was fished at El Bosquet and was the 1st of the summer series. The forecast was good so I decided to wear shorts for the first time this year and Lucky Bob looked like he had just had a spa treatment; his face was smothered in factor 50. All he was missing was a couple of slices of cucumber over his eyes. What a shock we had as the cars drove through the puddles in the track, they were breaking ice!!!! Before we started fishing Pepe told us that he had introduced 40 large barbel into the match stretch. He may well have done but they weren't feeding and they scared all the other fish away..... it was a long day for a few of us! The Shropshire Lad went on to win with 8 kilos, followed by Anti Social with 5 kilos then Just John with 3. Anti Social did not fish over winter but he is back now!

During the match Fagin wasn't getting any bites so he was laid back sunbathing. Fag Ash asked if he had any white bits – so Fagin displayed his full moon (commando again). Fag Ash responded with "Christ, that's bigger than Joe Pascuale's". Lost on me!

Just for a change, Sweeney, Grumpy & I went to Pedrera. We found a good looking spot and parked up. Being a thoughtful & caring person, I pulled off the track in case anybody else came down. I did the obligatory jumping up and down to make sure the ground would take the weight of the car. My guestimate was wrong! 1 minute later the front right wheel had sunk about an inch. In I jumped to move it onto harder ground. Careful on the clutch not to spin the wheels, but as the wheel moved it just sank into the clay with no room to rock back & forward. Sweeney magicked some rubber matting from his boot, we used sticks and stones to pack under the wheel and give some grip but it just went deeper. With the help of a Spanish fisherman, we tried a towrope and that wouldn't budge it either. I needed a tractor or a 4x4, but it was "Good Friday and a red day". That will teach me for not going to church! Sweeney ran me up to the Pedrera house in his car – they couldn't help, as they were busy with loads of kids having an Easter egg hunt. Down to the Black Bull to ask if they knew of anyone nearby that could help. "Sorry mate, I'm new here!" So up to see the owner of Lo Rufete. He was busy throwing kids down a zip wire. "Just ring your insurance." But I'm stuck in mud near the lake. "They'll get you out."

Back at the car with my insurance details, I explained to the call centre where I was and 30 minutes later a recovery truck met with me at the Black Bull. I asked the driver if he was sure about going down the rough track? No problem senior!

In 2nd or 3rd gear all the way I was hanging on for grim death in the cabin. He saw my car and sucked his teeth... O sh*t I thought. Then he grinned and 5 minutes later I was on my way to wash the 20 kilos of clay from my front wheels. See Photo.



2 lessons learnt. 1- I did not think that the insurance would cover me in these circumstances.

2- Stay on the track!

Well done to Pepe the trucky & Liberty Seguros for a fast and efficient recovery.

A special thank you goes to Grumpy & Sweeney for first trying to rescue me, then running me around and keeping me sane. Sorry for spoiling your days fishing lads! It gave you a laugh though.

If you see me, call me a plonker and remind me not to be such a prat next time!

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

Fishy fingers!
The Ghost

The minister in a small Scottish town was reported to his Church Board for an indiscretion with his housekeeper. It was alleged his vest had been found in her pantry, and her pants in his vestry!

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Sex Education.

- Mummy, where do babies come from?
- Why, the stork brings them, of course.
- So who f*cks the stork?

Anon.

I'm a virgin and I brought up all my children to be the same.

Shirley Bassey

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

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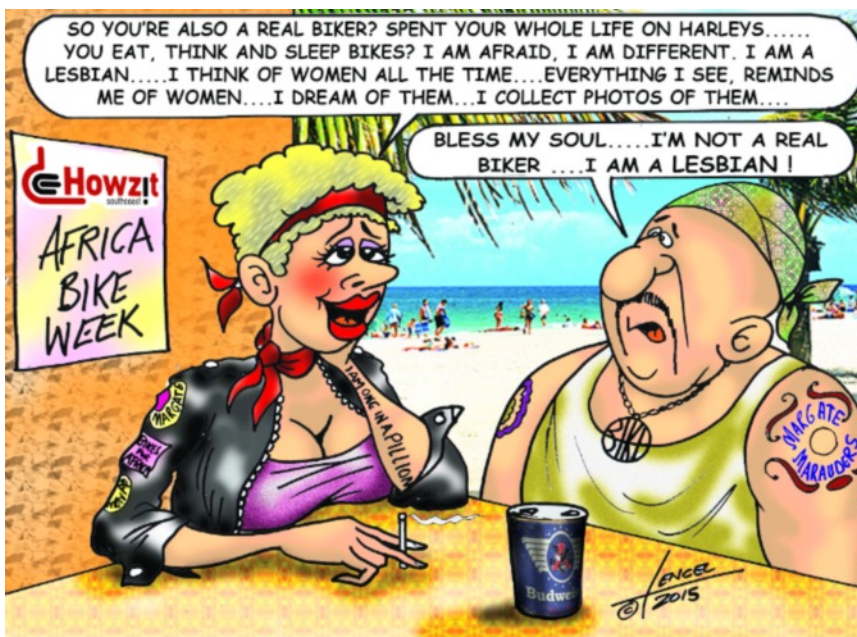
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DREAM HILLS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM for Dream Hills (1) will take place on May 12, 2017, at 16:00 in the first assembly at the Merendero Los Cucalos, Avenida de Montesenia, La Solana, Orihuela Costa. Hopefully this year we will be spared the verbal diarrheac filibustering of some Spaniards.

Committee member Terry Dunn would appreciate some help with the tending of our newly acquired green areas.

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