

# THE DREAM SCENE

## NEWSLETTER



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



Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the June, 2017 edition, Issue No.121.

Hello summer! Temperatures in the high 20's from now on.....I hope!

Three large sperm whales were seen off the coast of Torrevieja on the morning of May 18. The incidence of dolphin and whale sightings in local waters appears to be increasing. Maybe they are tourists!

### **You should know.....**

If you pay income tax (**Renta**) in Spain, the tax payable for 2016 is payable by end June 2017. You can however pay in two tranches, one in June and the other in November.

If you are registered as disabled in Spain you may be able to claim an additional tax-free allowance, depending on your disability rating. Again, depending on this rating, you can also apply for a reduced rate of IVA (VAT) when purchasing equipment such as electric wheelchairs etc. However the application process to get registered as disabled is time-consuming and patience testing. Tid applied for this and received it, but it took 18 months and numerous visits to the salud, social workers and to an assessment in Alicante. All she wanted was the correct handicap/parking sticker!

There is a reasonable but not extensive tax guide here for residents and non-residents -

[http://www.expatica.com/es/finance/Taxation-in-Spain\\_471614.html](http://www.expatica.com/es/finance/Taxation-in-Spain_471614.html)

**Plus Valia Charge:** If you paid this and you sold your property at a loss, you should be claiming a refund now. This local municipal tax may have also become payable if the title in the house deeds was amended. You may also be aware of previous neighbours who moved back to their home countries in the last few years and are still eligible for the refund.

Local municipalities in Murcia are very concerned as they believe that the Plus Valia they have to repay in their region comes to €94 million!

**Floor Clause:** Once again, if your mortgage had a floor clause, it was deemed abusive and you can now claim a refund. A couple of banks have decided not to contest it and will refund the additional interest paid once you apply. If you do not agree with the amount of the refund, or if you had a floor clause with the many other lenders, you will have to take the case to court after June 1. But once again the judicial system has made it more difficult for the poor consumer. Only one specific court in each province will be authorised to handle the cases. This may mean having to travel to the provincial capitals for the court case. This daft directive means that, for example in the Murcia region alone, there will be 45,000 of these law suits this year and the system will collapse!

Thanks to Bill & friends who raised €130 for charity from Bill's birthday lunch. It has been donated to *Reach Out*. Well done also to JJ's Cafe/Bar and to the Lime Bar for their fundraising efforts. More details on these inside.

Thanks to John & Gloria for the extra donation and to John Kerr for once again collecting and delivering the Dream Scenes.

Have a great month, Mick & Tid

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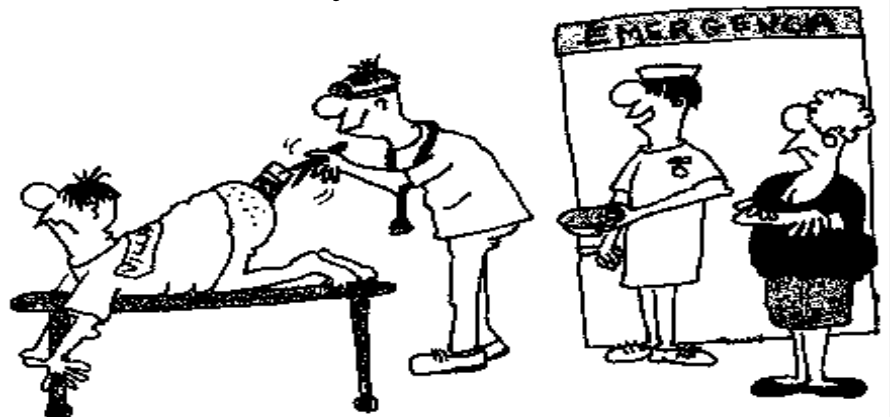
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### *Angela's Cartoon*



**"Apparently Doctor, she was watching *Coronation Street*  
and he switched over to the football!"**

**"Were you as surprised as we all were when Steven Collins came from behind and licked you in the ring?"**

**Mrs Merton to Chris Eubank**

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**Did you know that .....**  
...the World has gone mad? Well particularly when it comes to doughnuts! The traditional doughnut is particularly popular in Spain; circular with a hole in the middle and is either fried plain or covered in a mediocre chocolate. In the UK one can have doughnut without a hole which normally will have jam in the middle.  
But look at what the New Yorker's are doing. Fancy a spaghetti doughnut? Yep real spaghetti wrapped in a ring and cooked! No dough!



A travesty! But it doesn't end there. If you think that's weird then how about two traditional glazed doughnuts with some fried chicken and a fried egg in between them? See left.  
Doughnuts can now have popcorn, bacon, cherries, rhubarb, toffee..... you name it and they will stick it



in. Wouldn't be surprised to see fish in them soon! But surely the prize for the most grotesque must go to the 'dog-donut'. A traditional doughnut deep fried together with sliced frankfurters!



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**(Cut out & keep.)**

As a minority PP government continues to rule here in Spain, the only significant political development in recent weeks has been the election of a new leader for the main socialist party here, the PSOE. Pedro Sánchez, photo, is



the new socialist boss. A hardliner, the purges within the party has already begun. Sánchez is unlikely to be very cooperative with the current PP government and this could lead to greater instability, particularly if he bonds with the far left parties.

PM Rajoy managed to get the minority government's budgets through, but only with the help of the Basque nationalist party, the PNV. This cost him an extra €2 billion in subsidies to the Basque Country. This is, unfortunately, a regular occurrence with minority governments during recent decades. Nationalist parties in both Basque and Catalan areas will always support...providing the price is right!

Social Security coffers will end 2017 with an accumulated deficit of 80 billion € - accumulated since the PP has been in office – poor workers cannot sustain rich pensioners and the Government has removed from the pension piggy bank more than 67.3 billion € since 2012! How in hell's name can that be replaced?

The Spanish banking sector has, during the last eight years, sacked around 200 workers weekly – banks, savings banks and credit cooperatives have lost 81,000 jobs and closed 17,000 branches due to the crisis and the rescue. The emergence and success of online banking has also contributed to the reduction in staffing.

Foreigners purchased 13.75% of all house sales in Spain in 2016, of which 19% were British, despite their weight falling by 6% because of Brexit and currency issues. according to the College of Registrars. The slowdown in British activity was compensated by increased interest from the French and Belgians.

Diario de Mallorca reports 'the Baleares Government finger picked 70% of public contracts without advertising them' And, if you think this is 'crooked', you would be correct!

One newspaper has highlighted that the Costa del Sol has become one of the destinations for medication tourism. Foreign tourists are purchasing large amounts of medicines and pills there, which are several times cheaper than in their home countries and most do not require a prescription. It is also a growing market here in the Costa Blanca with the visiting British stocking-up.

The six large telecommunications operators in Spain, are being accused by a number of consumer associations of fraudulently pricing their optical fibre products. Orange Espagne (Jazztel and Orange), Mas Móvil, Telecom 3.0 (Mas Móvil), Telefónica de España (Movistar), Vodafone España (Vodafone-Ono) and Xfera Mobiles (Yoigo) are hiding additional charges by either not mentioning them or by putting them in the small print, without naming the actual amount. These hidden charges can come to 200% of the initial charges and hit the consumer later. Consumer associations also advise that fibre optic is an independent infrastructure, with no need for a phone line, or a charge for it, so 'it is definitely an abuse'. The large telecom's companies are the institutions which gather the most complaints in Spain and they just appear to be unable to tell the truth.

Fishermen in Caleta de Vélez, Málaga, are complaining that the Malayan dolphins are proliferating in the coastal area and are destroying their nets and eating their catches. They say the losses are enormous.

A number of hospitals in Spain are now coming under pressure due to the continuing austerity measures and lack of staffing and resources. Fortunately, that is not so in our immediate area. However in Malaga some patients are waiting 70 hours for a bed. It is similar in the Isle of Palma. Here, the Hospital Son Llàtzer is full with their overflow patients being moved to the hospital in Son Espases. But the situation is now getting increasingly chaotic with 146 waiting for a bed for almost 24 hours and ten of them had been waiting more than 48 hours. The 'oldest' patient was waiting for 67 hours and 19 minutes, and an 82-year-old spent 18 hours on a trolley. All this before the high-season and the tourist influx!



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*I hated the lingering nude scenes in the television adaptation of my book, The Camomile Lawn. They simply wouldn't have happened. Nobody had central heating in those days.*  
Mary Wesley



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After the Easter Sunday egg hunt, a farmer's son played a prank by going into the chicken house and replacing every egg with a brightly coloured one. A few minutes later, the cockerel walked in, saw all the coloured eggs, then stormed outside and beat up the peacock.

## What's Up? continued

Below is a photo of hundreds of cyclists who have followed a funeral for a cyclist who was rundown and killed by a drunk and drugged driver during May in Ibiza.

The driver had already been caught for drunk driving in 2015 and 2016. Another tragic incident locally with much the same circumstances is on page 8.



25-year-old Neymar, one of Barcelona's top players is to stand trial for alleged corruption. Two presidents of Barcelona FC together with two football clubs - Barcelona and Brazil's Santos - are also facing a range of charges. An investigation began after a Brazilian investment company, DIS, received €6.8 million - its 40% of the €17 million fee paid to Santos by Barcelona in 2013. However DIS now say that a large part of the transfer fee was concealed by the two clubs and the Neymar family and that the amount Santos was actually paid was €25 million.

Lawyers for DIS want five-year jail sentences for Neymar, photo, and his parents as well as eight years for the Barcelona FC presidents.



But Spanish prosecutors have recommended that Neymar be given a two-year suspended sentence and the family fined €10 million. Once again the Spanish establishment has 'bent-over-backwards' for its heroes, the professional footballers. You would think that Neymar, with a weekly paycheck of €300,000 and a €100 million + fortune, could afford a decent haircut.

The European Union has fined the cash-strapped Valencia Region €19 million. The former regional government run by the Partido Popular cooked the books when reporting public expenditure. There was a massive 'falsification of accounts.' Unpaid bills totalling €1.9 billion were discovered hidden in drawers when the new coalition regional government took over. Public debt for the region now stands at €40 billion. What is truly amazing is that no one will be hauled to account for this!

The media in Málaga have reported that 'the crisis has multiplied the number of squatters living in holiday homes on the coast.' It seems a legal loophole exists making it difficult to expel the intruders, and those owned by the banks are the most affected. In Marbella and Estepona, the neighbourhood communities are attempting to upgrade local security.

In their seemingly never ending quest towards extra taxation, the Secretary of Finance for the Catalan Generalitat, Lluís Salvadó, is to introduce a new tax on sugar drinks "as part of a new culture to correct health issues." According to the Association of Manufacturers and Distributors (AECOC), the measure foresees two increases: one of 8 cents per litre if the product has between 5 and 8 grams of sugar per 100 millilitres, and another of up to 12 cents per litre in case the sugar exceeds 8 grams per 100 millilitres. The affected products are all soft drinks or sodas, fruit nectar drinks, sports drinks, tea and coffee drinks, energy drinks, sweetened milks, alternative milk drinks, milkshakes and milk drinks with fruit juice, vegetable drinks and waters with flavours. Salvadó states that the objective of the legislation is to "correct certain habits". What a pity they didn't 'correct' the 3% 'commission' the separatist parties collected from government contracts for decades nor the scores of millions purloined by Pujol Dynasty. The Catalans now want to extend the 'sugar tax' to other foodstuffs.

The University Hospital of Torrevieja, managed by the Ribera Salud group, has installed an open, free Wi-Fi network aimed at its patients, making it the only public hospital in the area with this service. From now on, all users who visit the hospital have an open internet connection, making it possible to quickly consult their emails, applications and web pages, with a broad bandwidth, capable of providing coverage to all dependencies of the Hospitals. Users can easily access the internet by entering their health card number and date of birth, obviously not restricting it to patients only.

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## THE LIME BAR GOLF SOCIETY

On a lovely sunny day on the 10th of May 35 players from the Lime Bar Golf Society teed off at Roda for their monthly Stapleford competition.

The scores were as follows:-

Nearest the pin - Hole No. 2. John McGregor

Nearest the pin - in 3 - Hole No. 5. Mike Heighway

Nearest the pin - Hole No. 7. Bud Butler

Nearest the pin - Hole No. 11. Bud Butler

Nearest the pin - Hole No. 13. Ian Johnstone

Nearest the pin - in 2. - Hole No. 16. Dave Wright

Best guest player - Tim Meehan

### SILVER SECTION RESULTS

3rd Place - Norman Dobson - 29 pts

2nd Place - George Ruston - 33 pts

1st Place - Bud Butler - 34 pts

### GOLD SECTION RESULTS

3rd Place - Mike Heighway - 33 pts

2nd Place - Ken Farrow - 35 pts

1st Place - Ian Johnstone - 41 pts

A great day was had by all. All members gathered at the Lime Bar 19th hole after the game for prize giving and much needed refreshments! Many thanks to the Lime Bar for providing the food after the golf.

Ian Johnstone.



‘The blondest suicide note in history.’

Ming Campbell, on Boris Johnson



# LIME BAR



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On Sunday, May 7, a 28-year-old woman, while driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol, ploughed into a group of six cyclists on the N-332, between Denia and



Oliva. Two of the cyclists, aged 28 and 50, were killed while three of the others were placed in intensive care, the sixth allowed to go home. The driver suffered only superficial injuries but was detained by the police without bail. It seems that in 2013 the same woman was arrested, charged and found guilty of driving under the influence. The photo above of the scene illustrates the carnage and damage caused, with bits of bicycle scattered over a large area. A third cyclist died some days later. The sixth cyclist, who suffered minor injuries, stated that the car was driving fast on the outside lane, when it then swerved across and into the cyclists.

The DGT says more than 400 cyclists have been killed on Spain's roads since 2008.

During 2016 the Civil Guard performed 525,000 alcohol controls with just over 2,000 ending with criminal proceedings for exceeding the maximum limit of alcohol allowed.

The Mar Menor beaches and ports lost 19 Blue Flags this year! This was due to the deterioration in the lagoon water quality which was largely ignored by the relevant authorities until after the 2016 summer. After they gathered in the millions of euros from the tourists, they threw their hands in the air and said, 'Oh my God, how could this happen?' This despite the once beautiful lagoon turning cloudy during very early summer. The water may look clear there now but it could take a long time for the sea grass and water quality returns.

But it is good news in Orihuela Costa! Blue flags have been awarded to the beaches of Punta Prima, Cala Mosca, Cala Estaca, Cala Bosque, Cala Capitán, La Caleta, Cala de Aguamarina, La Glea and Barranco Rubio. This makes eight, one more than last year. In addition, our marinas at Cabo Roig and C.N. Dehesa de Campoamor have also received these awards.



For the first time in 30 years, the Torrevieja Salt company has had to import salt this year. Heavy rainfalls in December and March has reduced salt harvesting in the nearby lakes. The French owned company has imported 3,500 tons of salt from another one of its resources in Italy. The salt was brought to the port in Torrevieja in May by a German freighter.

A man phones a taxi company because his cab hasn't turned up. 'I'm supposed to be at the airport for nine o'clock,' says the man.

'Don't worry,' says the girl. 'The taxi will get you there before your plane leaves.'

'I know it will,' says the man. 'I'm the pilot!'

Police in Torrevieja are attempting to trace the owner/abuser of this dog. The dog, weighing less than two kilos, was in a dreadful state and had to be put-down just a day after being found, due to lung and heart problems. If you can provide any information email: sanidad@torrevieja.es or by calling the local police on 965 705 326 preferably in the morning and ask for the patrol of the environment.



A six-year-old girl has died after a bouncy castle full of children flew up into the air at a restaurant on the Costa Brava. Six other children were injured, two of them seriously, in the incident on Sunday afternoon, May 7, when the giant inflatable uprooted and lurched into the air at the Mass Oller restaurant in the resort of Caldes de Malavella on the coast of Catalonia in northeastern Spain. The children were hurled through the air from a height of over ten metres before hitting the ground. One theory is that a faulty air valve led to a built up of pressure within the inflatable causing it to blow up. Local reports claimed it was only secured at just two of the six anchor points.

More weirdness in early May in the Vega Baja area. A 16-year-old girl hid in the church of the monastery of Santa Faz de Alicante on Saturday May 6, and remained there until the church reopened on the following Sunday, when she escaped. While there the young girl turned seven crucifixes upside down and engraved '666' and an inverted cross on the protective glass to a sacred relic. (The relic is purported to be the shroud that Veronica dried the face of Jesus on his way to Mount Calvary.) Video cameras in the church identified the girl who was arrested on the following Monday.

The Friday Market in Torrevieja has now moved to it's new location next to the water park.

On the early morning of Friday, May 12, a German shepherd belonging to a British man saved his life by barking a warning about a fire in the kitchen in a house in Almoradí. Although the man survived with no injuries, unfortunately the dog succumbed to smoke inhalation and died.

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### Jessie's Bar Golf Society

Altorreal, Murcia, was the venue for the May Society Day, 18 players attended this stunning course designed in the hills above Murcia. Weather was very good and sunny.

The Golf was played in a Stapleford format with the following results.

1st Place Dave Try, 37 Points

2nd Place Darryl D'Silva, 36 Points

3rd Place Ian Grant, 34 Points

Nearest pins 5<sup>th</sup>, Dave Try

8th Ian Grant

10th Ian Grant

17th Darryl D'Silva

Everyone had a pleasant day. Thanks again go to Kath Jules and staff for the lovely spread laid-on and the sale of tickets.

Alan Jackson



That putt was so fast I don't think they mow the greens, I think they bikini wax 'em!  
Gary McCord, at The Masters in Augusta

### 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 31th 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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*Many of my roles were what I call 'up periscope' parts.  
 I played opposite more submarines than leading ladies.  
 Sir John Mills*



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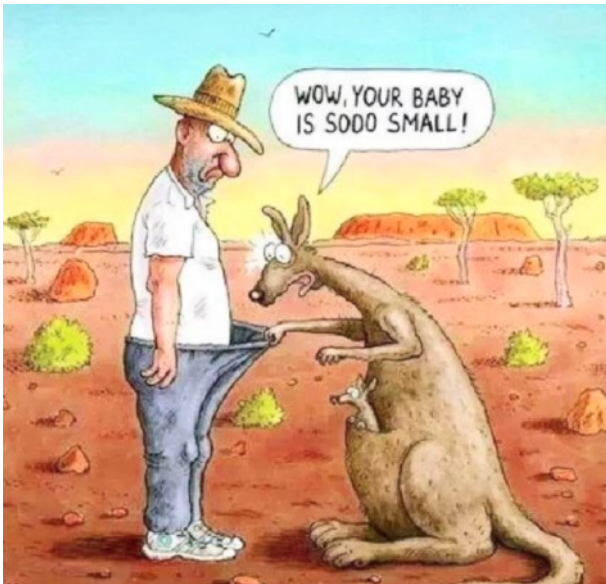
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Is Jack Duckworth light-fingered? Put it this way - they say the midwife that delivered him is still looking for the scissors.

Beth Lynch, Coronation Street

## Should You Tip Your Hotel Room Cleaner in Spain?

Many hotel chains on the Costas now outsource their room cleaning services. The reasons for this are the same for much outsourcing - less administration and it's cheaper!

But of course it is the working individual who is at the end of this particular food-chain who pays the price - the cleaner.

*Informacion*, my favourite Spanish organ, carried out a good expose on the matter during May.

Outsourcing on room cleaning varies throughout the Costas, varying from 10% of hotels to 90%, depending on the seasonality of the business in the area. It is estimated that in Benidorm outsourcing cleaners is around 10%, whereas in cities like Alicante it is closer to 90%.

However, the demands placed on the cleaners are exploitative and the rewards are paltry.

A typical contract will be classed as part time for a maximum of six hours daily. The cleaner will not be able to take holidays or free days and if the cleaner falls ill, she, (as is mostly the case) will have to take the time off as unpaid leave, if she wants to be hired again in the future.

Outsourced cleaners can earn a gross pay of



approx. €770 monthly. (This is just 40% of what a directly employed cleaner by the hotel would receive.) After deductions, this is a take-home pay of €707. This works out at about €23.57 for

cleaning an average of 27 rooms. This comes to 87 cents per room!

Last April, the General Directorate of Labour fined 22 hotels in the province for infringing workers rights. The fines amounted to €268,700.....or the cleaning of 310,000 rooms.

**Men at 25 play football.  
Men at 40 play tennis.  
Men at 60 play golf.  
Have you noticed that  
as you get older your  
balls get smaller?**



## Why the Spanish Love Belize.

Well, not all Spaniards, just the crooked ones! Belize formerly British Honduras, is now an independent country on the eastern coast of Central America. T one time it was home to pirates who would raid the Spanish Main. Nowadays it is home to a new kind of pirate booty, that of Spanish politicians and hucksters. Belize has a diverse society, composed of many cultures and languages that reflect its rich history. English is the official language of Belize, with Belizean Kriol being the unofficial language. Over half the population is multilingual, with Spanish being the second most common spoken language. Belize offers nonresidents the ability to establish offshore accounts. Because of this loophole, it is desirable for many drug



traffickers and money launders to utilize Belize as a money laundering banking entity. As a result, the United States Department of State has recently named Belize one of the world's

“major money laundering countries” following reports from the CIA.

So little wonder that several Spanish scammers have channeled millions through the tiny country using ‘front-men’.

Iñaki Urdangarin, who is married to Princess Cristrina, the kings sister, embezzled around six million euros of public money and used Belize Bank as a tax haven and ‘hidey-hole’.

Louis Barcenas, the former treasurer of the PP, also used the island to hide over €22 million but came clean about another €21.9 million during the 2012 tax amnesty. He used the Sinequanon Foundation. This was money from “commissions and donations.” Once again Belize Bank was used for the foundation.

Then there is the Pujol clan from Catalonia, who are alleged to have extracted not millions but billions of euros in commissions and dodgy dealings while complaining over three or four decades that their region needed independence as it was being starved of funds by Madrid! Huge amounts have been channeled through the Kopeland Foundation whose legal address in Belize Bank.

Last, but certainly not least, is Ignacio Gonzales (see *Idiots*, page 32), former PP president of the Madrid Region, who with others, is believed to have spirited-away some €23 million plus, once again using the facilities of the Belize entity. Gonzales, the latest of the New Pirates was taken into preventative custody in April.

The current executive president of Belize Bank is the British Michael Ashcroft, who until 2015 was the representative of the Tory party in the House of Lords and in 2010 was distinguished by the Queen of England with the title of Baron Ashcroft. It is estimated that his personal fortune is around 1,300 million pounds .

(Abridged from Wiki & OK Diario.)

### Apples.

A little girl walks in on her naked father. Intrigued, she points to his testicles and asks, ‘Daddy, what are those?’ ‘These,’ replies her father, ‘are the apples of life.’

Puzzled with this explanation, the little girl wanders off to find her mum and tell her what Daddy said.

‘Well, dear,’ says her mother, ‘they might be apples, but did he tell you about the dead branch they’re hanging off?’

# EL CAPITAN

Lago Jardin II.



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### Ask the Rabbi.

'Rabbi, what should I do. My son has converted to Christianity.'

'I don't know,' answered the Rabbi. "Come back tomorrow, and I'll ask advice from God.'

The man came back the next day.

'I can't help you,' says the Rabbi. 'God told me he has the same problem.'





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### **Lime Bar Fishing Sunbathing Club**

The snapper is trying to keep up with BFK Sweeney & Ball boy. He has caught a cracking carp of 10.5 pounds from the tennis court stretch at Bigastro. Unfortunately, he didn't have a witness so cannot list it on the board, nor does it beat BFK's current 11 pounder.

The summer knockout competition is underway and the Shropshire Lad thrashed me. I thought I was having a good day with 7 fish until he tried to pull his keep net out. He said, "I've only got about 12 fish". Lying b\*\*#\*\*d.

He'd caught 25 fish for 24 kilos against my 3 kilos! Surprising how you lose count when you are having fun.

Our monthly meetings are starting to draw an audience (not just Martin behind the bar), we even had a guest sat in amongst us this month. It turns out that he was one of the founding members of the club who is moving back into the area. Hopefully Roger will rejoin the club after his summer break to UK.

The May match was fished at Bigastro. It was a hard days fishing with most anglers catching either 1 or 2 fish.

The Shropshire Lad has done it again with his 2<sup>nd</sup> league win out of 2. He won with 4 fish for 5 kilos beating Punchy Bob into 2<sup>nd</sup> who had 3.5 kilos (this included a good fish of 3.3 kilos).

Below is from roving reporter BFK Sweeney.

Sunbathers at the Argos again! 6 early risers were on the bank by 09.15 but with the water level at it's highest for several years, many areas were inaccessible and many of the "more productive" swims were difficult to fish. Little Big Mick's arrival at 10.00 (via a more scenic route) coincided with a visit from a couple of "uniformed officials" who carefully scrutinised our licences and insurance docs. The elder (mega jobs worth) even asked to see confirmatory ID from a couple of the more ugly anglers. We all passed the test!

Shortly after jobs worth's departure (luckily) and despite there being prominent "No Bathing" signs, Fagash took a dip to save his rod as it took off heading for the far side of the lake. In true British tradition he rescued the rod and landed the fish. However neither his watch nor his lighter survived the plunge.

He was still wearing the watch the following day, perhaps it was an heirloom.

Day 1 passed without further incident with bags of fish varying from 1 to 15. Mainly carp and a few barbel were caught, but loads were lost.

The hotel is still being upgraded although the new shower cubicles are a bit "neat" for the more portly members. The food was excellent again in both quality & quantity. The only downer was the lack of draught beer and the €1 increase for a large bottle of beer. This didn't deter anyone from enjoying one or two though (lost count after 2).

Fagin's 2<sup>nd</sup> day didn't start well. Having seen his previous evening's meal for a 2<sup>nd</sup> time and feeling a tad queasy, it came as no surprise to see him wandering the lakeside bushes clutching a little poly bag. There should now be another warning sign, "Beware of Pockles".

Again, we all caught (and lost a few) ranging from 4 to 20 fish. Once Fagin had recovered, we enjoyed another pleasant evening at the hotel.

An early start on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day produced a few fish but nothing spectacular.

Next ~~meeting~~ bun fight is at The Lime Bar @ **17.00** Mon 5<sup>th</sup> June.

Fishy fingers!

The Ghost



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Angus Burger

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Breast of Chicken

3 Sausage Baguettes with fried onion

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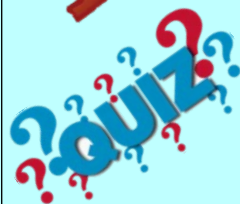
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*A blond went to a seafood restaurant and saw the tank where they kept the lobsters. Taking pity on them, she hid them in her handbag. Later she went to the woods and set the poor animals free.*

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#### Ask the Rabbi!

‘Rabbi, I don’t know what to do. Should I marry my girlfriend or not?’  
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## Spain's Golden Visa.

Spain's Golden Visa scheme, introduced in 2013, offering qualified residency in return for certain investments has brought in €2.16 billion since then, with results improving after the scheme was tweaked in 2015 to make it more attractive to foreign investors.

Under the Spanish 'Golden Visa' residency scheme non EU-nationals can get a qualified type of permanent residency including Schengen-area travel in return for certain types of investment, including €500,000 or more in real estate.

The scheme got off to a slow start being more bureaucratic and less attractive than similar schemes in countries like Portugal and Malta, not to mention the USA. But results improved after the Government streamlined the visa application process in July 2015, and allowed investors to include more family members. Golden Visa investment in 2016 was four times greater than in 2014.

In the three years since it was introduced 27,301 residency permits handed out to 2,236 investors and their family members, and 72% of investments were in property, with 59% of investors coming from China (714 investors) and Russia (685 investors).

Close to half of all property investments driven by Golden Visa demand has been in Barcelona (893), followed by Malaga / Costa del Sol (348), Madrid (306), and Alicante / Costa Blanca (151). My sources in the industry tell me that Chinese and Russian investors favour Barcelona, and Latin American investors (many from Venezuela) favour Madrid.

Given the housing crisis in Barcelona, with prices and rents increasing fast, I'm sure the local Government would like to see the back of the Spanish Golden Visa scheme.

Mark Stucklin. [spanishpropertyinsight.com](http://spanishpropertyinsight.com)

## Time.

A cowboy was riding in the desert, when he came across an Indian lying on his back with his dick out. The cowboy asked him what he was doing. 'Me telling time. Penis act as sundial,' replied the Indian.

'Really! What time do you make it?' asked the cowboy. 'Me say it is 2.33pm,' said the Indian.

The cowboy checked his own watch. 'Me too. That's amazing.'

Riding on for a few miles, he came across another Indian lying with his dick out. 'I know what you're doing,' said the cowboy. 'What time do you say it is?' '2.47pm,' replied the Indian.

'That's right,' said the cowboy. 'Incredible.'

Riding on a while longer, he came across another Indian, lying on his back and vigorously jerking-off.

'What the hell are you doing?' asked the cowboy.

'Me winding clock.'



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### The Phoenix Golf Society.

THE NEW SIERRA GOLF –

played on Sunday 21st May 2017

There was a slight delay before teeing off but everything went according to plan and everyone enjoyed the day and the course, which is improving every day.

John Walls had a lucky hole in two, but that's John's luck ha! Ha! We had three guests Gary, Kerry and Julie and hoped they enjoyed themselves and had a good game with us.

Nearest the Pin 12 - Brenda Foley

Nearest the Pin 15 - Brian Archer

Overall winner - Brenda Foley - who will now have her handicap cut.

After the game we all returned to the Phoenix Bar for a nice drink and lovely grub as usual, many thanks to Donna and Paul.

Dave Wightman

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Brian Cook

Julie Wilson



Clyde

Oil Rig



and to all who sponsored the above

Money Raised 3,092 Euros Thank You

Congratulations to all those who contributed to the appeal for Pete. It was a marvellous response.

In the photo above, Pete's t-shirt reads

"This guy is not drunk.  
I have HD."

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**Gertie.**

Now Gertie is not the sharpest knife in the drawer. She had two very red ears so she went to her doctor. The doctor asked her what happened. 'I was ironing a shirt and the phone rang,' she said. 'But instead of picking up the phone, I accidentally picked up the iron and stuck it to my ear.'

'Good Lord!' the doctor exclaimed in disbelief. 'So, what happened to your other ear?'

'The person rang back.....'



**WATCH OUT FOR.....****Did you benefit from a PIVE plan?**

This was where you received a subsidy of €1,000 from the government if you traded in your old car for a new one. The car dealers would also add another €1,000 to the discount.

BUT, the grant of €1,000 from the government, not the car dealership, must be declared on your tax form and taxed accordingly!

In the Valencian Community, there were 15,704 who benefited from the grant. Nationally the figure is more than 100,000. I would guess that most were not informed of their subsequent tax liability.

At this stage the government is taking a 'softly, softly' approach. All those affected are exposed to a possible sanction by the Tax Agency. However, this public law entity attached to the Ministry of Finance and Public Administration provides the fine as a last option. In fact, the central government explains in its parliamentary statement that "each citizen is being notified of his duty to declare the amounts corresponding to the aid of the PIVE Plan (Efficient Vehicle Incentive Program)" and at the same time encourages them to submit a Additional statement to avoid sanction (fine).

José María Mollinedo, the secretary general of the Technical Union of the Ministry of Finance (Gestha), corroborated to the newspaper Informacion that the Tax Agency "prefers to inform rather than sanction", although he qualified that in case the affected ones ignore its

recommendations and do not carry out the supplementary declaration statement, there will be a fine. Then it would proceed to make a request requesting the taxation of the aid and the sanction will be imposed. This could reach 50% of the subsidy - that is 500 euros - which could be reduced to approximately 260 if the infringement is then accepted and paid in a short period of time. Mollinedo explains, however, that the sanction will depend on the taxable base of the taxpayer's declaration.

Gestha's secretary general also clarified another question:



**What happens if a citizen has benefited from the aid of the PIVE Plan, but his income does not reach 17,000 euros and therefore they are not obliged to make the declaration of income?** "All aid that exceeds 500 euros has to be declared," said Mollinedo, so a tax declaration form to include the grant has to be submitted, even though it is most unlikely to be taxed.

Do bear in mind that the tax agency will have details of all who benefited from the PIVE.

*It's not just the Spanish who produce the marvellous satirical paper mache creations. These come from Frankfurt in Germany I believe.*

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PHOENIX



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I had a girlfriend who told me she was in the hospital for female problems.....  
I said, 'What? You can't parallel park?' Pam Stone



Ah, springtime (or even early summer). Filled with flower blossoms, new beginnings — and, for a lot of people, red-eyed, snot-nosed misery. Welcome to the club.

If you've never before been one of the estimated 50 million Americans who suffers from some sort of nasal allergy, consider yourself lucky. At least you've made it this far. But, yes, there's a chance those good times are ending. Because in between the chronic seasonal-allergy sufferers and the lucky jerks who have somehow escaped scot-free, there's a third group: the people who, after decades of enjoying the spring without any allergy-induced misery, suddenly find themselves one warm May day sneezing at everything in sight. According to immunologist Kanao Otsu, an assistant professor of medicine at National Jewish Health, it is possible to develop seasonal allergies later in life — not terribly common, but definitely not unheard of, either. Here are a few of the unfortunate reasons why adult-onset allergies can strike.

**Because you're going through the second "peak" of allergies.**

Most people generally develop allergies in one of two time periods, Otsu says: either the early elementary school years or early adulthood (from around 18 to the early 20s). It's pretty rare to develop brand-new allergies any later than that, especially as people move in to their 30s and 40s — but once you do have allergies, they tend to worsen gradually. "Over time, people who have had symptoms of mild allergies can increase to have more symptoms," she explains.

So what can trigger this second onslaught of allergies? Part of the reason may be that, as adults, we just have less exposure to seasonal allergens — grass, pollen, and mold are the most common culprits — than we did as children, when we were constantly running around outdoors. "A lot of the immune system is developed as children, but it does constantly change," explains Feryal Hajee, an allergy and immunology doctor at Metropolitan Asthma and Allergy in Little Silver, New Jersey. If your immune system doesn't regularly come into contact with those outside allergens, it's possible that it may start to recognize them as foreign or toxic agents.

**Because you may have had allergies all along, and they've just gotten worse.**

It's possible that your seasonal allergies aren't new, but a



**In the Chair.**

A woman goes to her dentist and after he'd given her a thorough examination, he says, 'I am sorry to have to tell you that I am going to have to drill a tooth.' The woman says, 'No! Oh my God! I'd rather have a baby!' The dentist replies, 'Make your mind up, love. I'll have to adjust the chair.'

change — like a move to a new environment — might make you more aware of them, Otsu says. For instance, if you move from a cooler, drier climate to someplace like humid, vegetation-rich Florida, your previously dormant allergies might suddenly kick into high gear. The reason has to do with how long the trees there are pollinating: If they don't die off in winter, you're around these outside allergens a lot longer.

You could also suffer more seasonal allergies if you move to a place with more pollution, like going from a rural to an urban setting, Hajee says. Traffic congestion makes a difference, as excess diesel and gasoline fumes can exacerbate allergies. So do animals: If you've recently brought home a furry friend, you may have noticed an uptick in allergy like symptoms. It could be new seasonal allergies, but it could very well be that a pet allergy is making itself known.

Because you're actually experiencing something that just looks like seasonal allergies.

During allergy season, many people assume that common symptoms like nasal congestion and sneezing are a sign that their allergies are acting up. But those same symptoms can be caused by a sinus infection, a cold, or even just be your body's reaction to the changing temperature.

If you're not sure if you have allergies, Otsu says, you can get a test to find out for sure. (The test looks for a specific antibody that your body produces to battle certain allergens.) And if you're worried about allergies developing or worsening, there are some steps you can take to keep allergens out of your house: Try changing your mattress every 10 to 15 years or so, and wash your linens every other week. If you think your home is mouldy, or you smell something strange, make sure to get it tested.



But there is some good news: As you get older — think 60s and later — your allergies will likely start to fade, Hajee says. Granted, it's a piece of good news that comes with a pretty big caveat: The reason for the change is that as you hit your later years, your immune system begins to weaken, which also leaves you more susceptible to infection. But hey, at least you can look forward to the outside world in the springtime becoming a little more pleasant.

(Stephanie Bucklin, Science of Us, nymag.com)



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## BREXIT - THE CURRENT POSITION.

The EU's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, has penciled in 19 June for the first formal day of talks with Britain about its withdrawal from the European Union. Barnier wants to reach agreement on citizens' rights, the UK's EU divorce bill and on the border of Ireland in a first phase of talks which he hopes will be concluded by the end of 2017. If it is then deemed appropriate by the EU 27 leaders, Barnier will spend from December 2017 to the spring of 2018 negotiating the scope of a future trade deal with the UK.

But the Brexit secretary, David Davis, said the EU's programme was "wholly illogical and wrong", predicting "the row of the summer" as the UK would insist none of the above could be addressed until the future relationship, particularly trade, was clear.

The foreign secretary, Boris Johnson, told the Telegraph the EU could end up paying a Brexit bill to Britain rather than the other way round, warning that Brussels would "play dirty" and "try to bleed this country white". When it comes to spouting nonsense and wishful thinking, Johnson appears to be UK's version of the Trump verbal train wreck. Certainly never short of bombast, particularly as there is a general election due in early June, the Tories initial stance on the Brexit negotiations is opposite their European neighbours, who see its citizens as a priority.

Meanwhile Guy Verhofstadt, the European parliament's Brexit coordinator, said MEPs would veto any Brexit deal that failed to uphold the rights of the 3.5 million EU nationals in the UK and 1.2 million Britons in Europe. The EU parliament, which has the right of veto over any Brexit deal, will ensure it exerts "the necessary pressure" to bear. Verhofstadt said: We will never give consent if the issues of citizens' rights, on both sides, has not been dealt with in a satisfactory way.

Certainly for the expat's in the EU (and of course Europeans in the UK), this is at least reassuring. On the other hand, the noises coming from Downing Street are much less supportive. The Conservatives see a 'trade deal' as the priority and will use the issue of EU expat's as a bargaining tool. Their new manifesto commits to bringing immigration below 100,000 a year and businesses will have to pay more to hire overseas workers. There will also be higher payments for foreign workers who use the NHS! Hardly a good start!

It is fair to say that the Spanish are much more pro-active and supportive in the present circumstances of their countrymen and women in the UK. Madrid is creating an inter-ministerial work group called "Task Force Brexit" with the aim of providing "support and advice for Spanish citizens in the United Kingdom" ahead of the country's exit from the European Union. The task force, the creation of which is already "considerably advanced," will be based at the Spanish embassy in London and will count on a team of 15 people, spread across the embassy, sectorial departments and the consulates in London and Edinburgh. This is much more supportive than the watery platitudes and lukewarm reassurances the Brit's are currently receiving from their embassies in Europe.





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arranged along the street  
but no population meeting  
to sit and chat and eat

The latest on the pavements  
stainless steel bins all around  
but not a brick's been laid  
or construction to be found

Perhaps sometime later on  
we may see something new  
like the ones half finished up the top  
but I'll not bet on it, would you?

The Phantom Poet

(*Surveying a packed room*) - Well, there's one thing you can say  
for Frankie Howerd. He certainly puts bums on seats.

- Yes, safest place for them.

Unidentified Friend and Tommy Cooper, at a showbiz dinner.

## SPAIN RANKS EIGHTH IN THE WORLD FOR BEST HEALTHCARE!

*A report funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and published by The Lancet, indicates that Spain obtained a 90% success rating in the world ranking.*

The access and attention to healthcare in Spain is eighth with 90 points among a ranking of 195 countries, published recently by the prestigious British magazine The Lancet.

Andorra leads the rankings with 95, Iceland (94) and Switzerland (92) in their first edition of the report 'Healthcare Access and Quality index based on mortality from causes amenable to personal health care in 195 countries and territories, 1990-2015 – a novel analysis from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2015.' (Gasp! What a long title!)

According to the report the Spanish health system has increased by 15.7 points over the last 25 years, leapfrogging Italy (89), France (88), Greece (87), Germany (86), UK (85) and Portugal (85).

Other countries to obtain over 90 points are Sweden, Norway, Australia, Finland and Holland.

Spain gained 100 points in the treatments of ditherier (probably meant diphtheria), tetanus and measles, and 99 points for disorders related to maternity and respiratory infections.

Lowest points are for the curing of Hodgkin Lymphoma (64) Leukaemia (66) bile conditions (74) and skin cancer without melanoma (74).

The report also highlighted the differences with the Central African Republic with the lowest rating (29), Afghanistan (33), Somalia (34), and Chad (38).

### The Message.

Mr. Johnson, a business-man, went on a business trip to Kuala Lumpur. Upon arrival he immediately sent an e-mail back home to his wife, Jean. Unfortunately, he mis-typed one character and the e-mail ended up going to a Mrs. Joan Johnson, the wife of a minister who had just passed away that morning. The vicar's wife took one look at the e-mail and promptly fainted.

When she was finally revived, she nervously pointed to the message, which read: 'Arrived safely, but it sure is hot down here.'



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**Late News:** As of next week, Viagra in Spain will only be available through the chemists by its chemical name.  
Please ask for *mycoxafloppin*.



## IDIOTS OF THE MONTH.

I suppose a visit to the dentist is probably one of the least pleasurable outings we enjoy or endure. However, this guy does little for the profession.

Seth Lookhart (photo), described as Alaska's most



extreme dentist, has been charged with 17 counts of Medicaid fraud and 'unlawful dental acts' after he allegedly billed \$1.8 million in IV sedation for procedures that didn't require it. But Seth is also also accused of pulling out an unconscious patient's tooth while

standing on a hoverboard! Investigators found the video on his phone. His office manager, Shauna Cranford, is facing her own set of 16 charges, 10 of which are felonies. In another colourful moment from the indictment, Lookhart allegedly allowed his office manager to remove two teeth from a patient despite the fact that she did not have a medical license. The prosecutors allege that Cranford was the person who first convinced Lookhart to use IV sedation more frequently than it was required. If Lookhart is convicted, he will face up to 10 years in jail, up to \$100,000 in fines, and be ordered to repay Medicaid and affected defendants as much as \$2.5 million in fees.

During the last week in April, former president Barack Obama made his first formal post-presidential appearance at a panel discussion at the University of Chicago. He spoke of his plans to mentor the next generation of leaders and bemoaned the influence of money in politics. But, on the same day, Obama also accepted \$400,000 to speak at a Wall Street conference, reports the Financial Times. This follows a book deal for ex-president and first lady worth over \$65 million! 'Do as I say not as.....'

A woman who gave birth nine months after a three-night tryst took a German hotel to court to find out the identity of the likely father of her child. The woman, who has not been identified, gave birth to a son, Joel, after the encounter in Halle, eastern Germany, in 2010. She wanted to force the hotel to reveal her lover's identity and address as she was seeking child support. All she knew about him was that his first name was Michael.

The hotel refused, arguing that it had no legal obligation to hand over the personal data of one of their former guests, according to German newspaper the *Abendzeitung*. A court has now rejected her legal bid, saying that she had no legal right to demand the data from the hotel and did not provide enough information to be sure of the man's identity. The court argued it could

also breach the privacy of four men named "Michael" who were registered at the hotel at the time. The judgment was reached last October but was only recently made public.

According to the court, the father's right to self-determination of his own information took precedence over the woman's right to child support. Publishing its decision under the title 'Father Roulette', the court wrote: "This right is affected by the exposure of the data because as a result, the possibility of [the man having] a sexual relationship with the complainant, as the mother of the child, would be irrefutably placed in the room."

Francisco Granados, who has appeared in these columns before, is one of a legion of corrupt PP politicians. Formerly the Counsellor of Presidency, Justice and Interior of the Community of Madrid, he is now held in prison on remand in case he scarpers and will face a raft of charges including money laundering and fraud. The court blocked his accounts in Switzerland and Singapore, with total balances of €11 million. The head of a large construction firm that 'bunged' Granados



said, 'Of all the uncles we paid commissions to, he was the greediest.' When questioned by the judge as to why he never declared his Swiss bank account, Granados (photo) said, 'I forgot I had a Swiss bank account.'

Interesting during 2010 Granados was accused of spying and phone tapping his own PP colleagues. A judge later shelved the case, but it is unlikely that the PP would want it reopened.

Last year we reported on this German hippy who live in a cave on the island of La Palma. He made the idiot column because when he went to the toilet outside his cave, he would set fire to the soiled toilet paper. This caused a massive forest fire which devastated 5,000 acres of forest on the island but also took the life of Francisco José Santana, a 54-year-old forest ranger and father of five, who was a member of one of the teams battling to control the flames. The German, 27-year-old



Scott Verdine Stumpf (photo), has now received a three-and-a-half year jail sentence and a provincial court in Santa Cruz de Tenerife ruled that Verdine should also pay €1.8 million for the restoration of the affected forest areas and compensate the relatives of the deceased forest worker. But of course financial awards in Spain are a joke and this will never be paid.

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#### **The Good Deed.**

A drunk is in an hotel bar, lying on the floor and looking worse for wear. Other hotel patrons decide to be good Samaritans and to take him home.

They search his pockets, get his address and pick him up off the floor, and drag him out the door. On the way to the car he falls down three times. When they get to his house, they help him out of the car and he falls down four more times. Mission accomplished, they prop him against the door jam and ring the doorbell.

'Here's your husband!' they exclaim proudly.

'Where's his wheelchair?' asks the puzzled wife.....



## HOOK, LINE & SINKER!

In 2011, 68-year-old Robyn A. M. from Australia believed she had found the love of her life. Her Facebook friendship with Nicaraguan student Bismarck A.L., 36, had developed into so much more than she could have hoped for.

After three years of virtual intimacy, Robyn travelled from Singleton, New South Wales, to Madrid to meet her suitor. The encounter was a success and Bismarck, ever the perfect gentleman, continued to woo her. So in love were they that it didn't seem at all odd when he suggested she sell her home in Australia and buy a flat in Madrid where they could live together.

Robyn agreed and, in February 2015, she transferred €136,347 from Westpack Banking Corporation to Bismarck's account in the Spanish capital. Bismarck bought a flat in the commuter town of Alcalá de Henares on the outskirts of Madrid and told Robyn she wouldn't be able to put her name on the property deed as she lacked the required Identification Number for Foreigners (NIE), a document which costs €9.45 and can be obtained from embassies in just five days.

In June 2015, Robyn received some unexpected news: Bismarck told her he was already married to a Spanish woman and had a four-year-old daughter. They would all be living together in the flat he had just bought with her money, he said. Understandably, Robyn flew into a rage and told Bismarck in no uncertain terms that she wanted to sell the property and for him to return her money.

Bismarck went onto the attack and wrote a stream of messages on Facebook, including one that called her "an arrogant old woman."

"The property is in my name, not yours, you idiot. I'll throw you out," he said in a mail. "There's nothing to say the house is yours. I'll sell it if and when I want," said another. "And I will treat you well when you deserve it. Starting from tomorrow, I'm going to watch you in the house." In more sinister vein, he said: "The first thing I'm going to do is be your enemy," adding in another, "As soon as you transferred me the money, you were in my power and under my control."

To all of this, the beleaguered Robyn replied: "You're not my employer, you're my lover."

On May 15, Bismarck found himself on the bench of Madrid's Provincial Court as the prosecutor demanded seven and a half years behind bars for severe threats and fraud. He also demanded a three-year restraining order and, of course, the return of the €136,347 that paid for the supposed love nest in Alcalá de Henares, northeast of Madrid.

(El Pais)

## The Little Shit!

It could have been an incredible act of generosity or a misguided attempt to win friends but it certainly tested even the most doting of grandmother's love.

When a ten-year-old boy from Caldes de Montbui, near Barcelona, discovered his grandmother's stash of banknotes, he took it into school and distributed €100 notes among his classmates.

The alarm was raised after a teacher at the school noticed that several children were carrying the large denomination, a rarity in Spain and particularly unsuitable for the canteen. They questioned the children and traced the source to the boy who had come across the money his grandfather had put aside to buy essential medical equipment.

The story came to light after the teachers at the Escola Montbui primary school created a WhatsApp group for parents asking for the money to be returned and the exchange was read on the radio programme Julia en la Onda on Onda Cero.

"This morning a fifth-form primary school pupil has distributed 100 euro notes he'd taken from his house. 'If your child has been given any of this money, please contact the school immediately so it can be returned to the pupil's family.

"More than €10,000 needs to be recovered. We ask for your utmost understanding and cooperation. This is not a joke."

One of the parents of a child who had received some cash told the radio station: 'Yes, it's true. Unbelievable but true.'

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## EU agencies: a Brexit loss nobody's talking about

Brexit doesn't only mean the UK leaving the European Union, the single European market, the European Economic Area, the customs union, the European Investment Bank and the European Atomic Energy Community. There are also more than 40 specialist EU agencies throughout the continent from which the UK will no longer benefit.

Some, such as the European Food Safety Authority in Parma, have important regulatory roles. These agencies are full of experts whose work directly benefits British people's health, security and economic well-being. Are they experts Britain can do without?

Leave campaigners implied that quitting the European Union would be as easy as giving up a gym membership. Instead, the process looks fiendishly complicated – and that's before the impact of abandoning EU agencies has been discussed. Presumably Britain will no longer contribute, nor have access to agency expertise unless it negotiates continuing association. It would have to pay for that privilege.

One of these bodies is the European Defence Agency in Brussels. The EDA seeks to enhance European defence and security by identifying duplication and inefficiency between nations. It makes recommendations about how to improve equipment interoperability between armed forces, weapons systems, and software. It encourages pooling and sharing in the interests of efficiency and effectiveness, pushing member states towards a better use of their resources. This is clearly in the UK's national interest and in the interests of NATO. Reduced engagement with the EDA cannot possibly benefit Britain's security.

Other agencies include the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, based in Stockholm, the Agency for European Global Navigation Satellite Systems in Prague, and the European Chemicals Agency in Helsinki. These all deal with global concerns of high importance, so reduced UK involvement smacks of insularity and arrogance.

### Manifold benefits

EU agencies cover many health, safety and security issues. Collectively they help to ensure the quality of the food people eat, the medicines they take, chemicals, education, justice, the quality of working life, environmental protection (European Environment Agency), and the safety of transport by air, sea and rail (European Aviation Safety Agency, European Maritime Safety Agency, European Agency for Railways). They work on international security (Institute for Security Studies), policing (EUROPOL), fundamental rights, justice, cybersecurity and many other fields. The UK should remain at the heart of international efforts to boost safety and the quality of life in all these areas.

Among the more esoteric but nevertheless important is the wonderfully named Clean Sky Joint Undertaking. Clean Sky works with European aviation industries to reduce the environmental impact of flying by developing technologies to halve noise, cut carbon dioxide emissions and reduce fuel consumption.

Two EU agencies are based in London. One, the European Banking Authority, was set up in the wake of the financial crisis to help stabilise the EU by safeguarding the integrity and efficiency of the banking sector. It will now almost certainly move to a eurozone country. This would mean a loss of expertise that contributes to the security of UK banking. The financial crisis and the Libor scandal highlight the arrogant complacency in assuming that the City can manage banking perfectly well without the transnational expertise the EBA contributes.

The European Medicines Agency is also in London. This researches chronic conditions including AIDS, cancer, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, and diabetes. It contributes to developing medicines for children, rare diseases, advanced therapies, and herbal and veterinary medicines. It brings together clinical research from across Europe. In 2013, the EMA dealt with over a million adverse drug reports and recommended 81 medicines for authorisation, including 13 for treating cancers. Does Britain no longer wish to engage with the EMA?

Presumably, UK negotiators will enjoy the immense challenge Brexit presents. They might arrange continued membership of a few EU agencies, some of which may welcome UK involvement, but the most rabid Brexiteers would cut all links. Will the government regard agency expertise as expendable and give up the benefits? Or will the UK create its own equivalents? This would mean duplicating work and failing to profit from the international knowledge, intellectual capital and economies of scale provided by these agencies. It would also damage the UK's reputation as a valued partner in creating knowledge capital for the benefit of all humanity.

Unfortunately, post-Brexit resentment is inevitable. Britain will suffer from cutting its engagement with EU agencies, adding to the already visible loss of expertise from universities, hospitals and research institutes. Prominent Leave campaigner Michael Gove declared that the UK has had enough of experts. No-one expected the government to adopt this sentiment with such bizarre enthusiasm.

Quitting the single market will close down access to EU agencies. Some transactional relationships will survive, but few divorces end up as harmonious partnerships between friends.

(<http://theconversation.com> Simon Sweeney, Senior Lecturer in International Political Economy and Business, University of York)

### Coming Round.

A husband was coming out of anaesthesia after some tests in the hospital. His wife was sitting at his bedside. His eyes fluttered open, and he murmured, 'You're beautiful.'

Flattered, his wife continued her vigil while he drifted back to sleep. Later he woke up and said, 'You're ute.'

'What happened to beautiful?' the wife asked him.

'The drugs are wearing off,' he replied.



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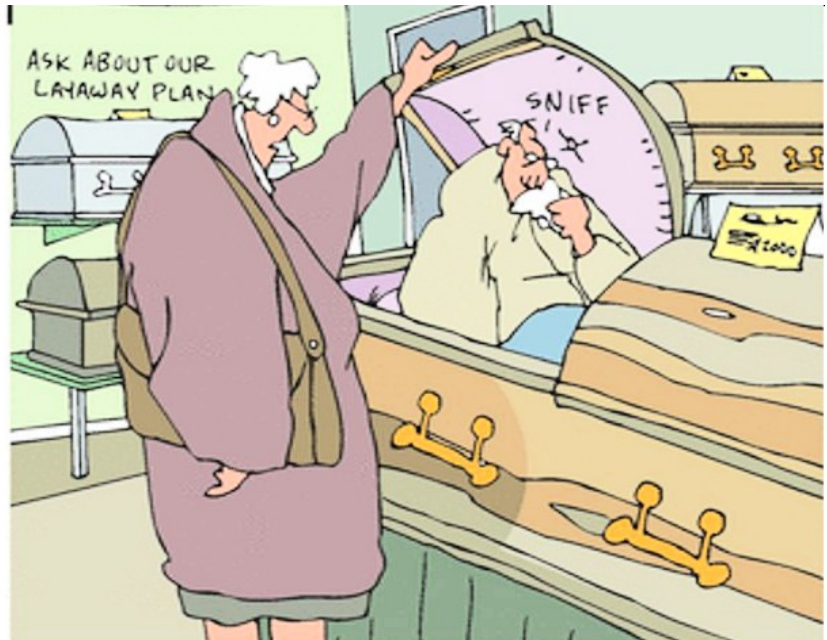
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<http://www.oriuela-costa.eu/index.php>

The above is a newish website devoted to Oriuela Costa. It has some good photos, some excellent virtual tours and lots of information in Spanish, German and English on this marvellous area.

The site is regularly updated and is well worth a visit.



"Quit blubbering. This is why I hate taking you shopping."

99.9% of the work of a professional bodyguard consists of one activity: frowning. Martin Amis

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