

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER

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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the September, 2017 edition. Issue No.124.

Following the terrorist attacks in Catalonia, Spanish cities are now reinforcing security in central pedestrian areas.



The most common method of doing this is using large, heavy concrete plant pots, which are at least attractive. The Government has called on 20 municipalities within Alicante Province to strengthen the protection of public spaces. Prevention measures recommended include the reinforcement of agents on tourist rides, transport stations and areas of large crowding, as well as the installation of planters or bollards that prevent attacks by restricting vehicles. These measures have already been implemented in Alicante, Benidorm and Torrevieja, as well as some other cities. More on the attacks

in Catalonia on page 3.

So far it has been a brutally hot summer with very high and uncomfortable humidity levels. As I write this on August 26, temperatures are still peaking in the shade at 31/32°. Locally we have had no rainfall this summer aside from a couple of short light sandy drizzles. However, on the early morning of August 10, much of the Costa Blanca North was subjected to a storm and heavy rainfall. Fortunately our particular part of the coast was spared, but a number of beaches, Granadella de Xàbia and Les Deveses in Denia, were washed away, or as the Spanish press reported “eaten by the storm”. 100 litres of rain fell in both these areas, 30 litres in less than an hour. The beaches of Albufereta and Pichón Tire were closed as a flood of rainwater passed through a ravine carrying assorted garbage and dead rats to the beach. Lovely! The resultant stink was appalling. Heavy rainfall on the island of Ibiza caused many flight cancellations. There was also significant damage to beaches around Mar Menor and the heavy rainfall on nearby farming land would have done little to improve the pollution in the lagoon, carrying pesticides, fertiliser and chemicals into the once crystal-clear waters.

28 people had to be rescued from drowning in Guardamar in one day; strong currents and high waves trapped the bathers. Two bathers will have to pay some €1,500 for not respecting the red flag in La Manga. It is worth noting that the lifeguards you see on the beaches are, technically, not supposed to enter the water to save people in trouble. They are there to warn bathers of dangers and to call the emergency services when bathers are experiencing difficulties. The fact that they will ‘dive-in’ is down to them and admirable.

Massive thanks for all the food collected by Joyce and the Sequential Numerical Selectors (Bingo Ladies) at Macklin’s Welcome Inn. Their regular generous food donations go to the charity *Reach Out*.

Thanks to Jan R, Ann & Roger, Bjorn & Inge, for their generous donations to printing costs, which now cost a minimum of €450 a month.

Have a great month, Mick & Tid

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Angela's Cartoon



**“Pete! When I said ‘thaw out the leg of lamb’
I meant in the microwave!!”**

An Irishman will always soften bad news, so that anear-hurricane that leaves thousands homeless is ‘good drying weather’. Hugh Leonard

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A man goes into a house of ill-repute. He's got both legs in a cast, both arms in a cast. The Madam opens the door, takes one look at him and says: 'What d'you want?'
The man says, 'I rang the bell, didn't I?'
Redd Foxx

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(Cut out & keep.)

Did you know that

...Chinese users rely on virtual private networks (VPNs) to circumvent the country's internet filters and access the open web. But in late July, Apple confirmed that it had removed the software from its China app store in order to comply with a law, approved in January, that bans all VPNs operating without government approval. Also, Vladimir Putin, the Russian president, signed a new law that prohibits the use of VPNs and other technologies allowing people to surf the web anonymously. The regulations will go into force in Russia on Nov. 1.

...alien cults are making a comeback in France. Despite a 1995 government crackdown, more than 600 sects exist today. France began cracking down in 1995, in response to a murder-suicide in the Vercors Mountains, where 16 members of the Order of the Solar Temple were shot and killed and arranged in a star formation by two other members who then committed suicide. In 2001, the repressive policy culminated in the controversial About-Picard Law, which allowed the government to ban religious groups if they were found to be manipulative and abusive.

...there are 4,772 legal political parties in Spain? According to the Ministry of the Interior, 51 new parties were registered to date in 2017, although only 10 of these have ambitions at a national level. During the last 10 years the number has skyrocketed by 50%, a trend linked to the municipal elections – 2011 and 2015 were the two years when most entities signed themselves up with the ministry. One of the reasons there are

so many parties in Spain is that it is extremely easy to register. Curiously, there's little red tape involved.



Moreover, once they are signed up, parties are considered "permanent" and actually need to inform the authorities should they wish to be dissolved. Consequently, many fail to take the last step. During the last general elections in Spain, for example, only 51 parties actually took part.

The terrorist attacks in Catalonia has grabbed most of the Spanish media coverage in recent weeks, with coverage of the proposed 'independence' referendum firmly on the back burner.

Central to the terrorist gang appears to have been the Imam Abdelbaki (photo), in Ripoll, Catalonia, who acted as their mentor and advisor, as well as giving bomb-making training to members of the gang in France and nominating the Sagrada Familia church in Barcelona as one of the targets. Of some surprise was the revelation that the Belgian security authorities had previously raised questions concerning him with the Catalan police 18 months ago.



Although he left prison in Spain in 2014 after serving four years for drug smuggling, the Spanish authorities told the Belgians that "he had no links with terrorism."

Prior to the terrorist attacks, the media gave comprehensive coverage to the 'touristphobia' which seems to be hitting Barcelona (and the Balearics). A bus with tourists was stopped by anti-tourist activists who shouted slogans and daubed it with paint. The left-wing mayor of Barcelona, Ada Colau, remained mute on the bus attack until some 30 economic bodies demanded some action from her. She then qualified the assault on the coach as 'attacking coexistence' and tried to downplay the vandalism.



Cataluña is the region which most benefits from the spending of foreign tourists with a record 37 billion € in the first six months of this year. The far-left CUP party (looney left) are the main instigators of the anti-tourist behaviour. These

photos show some of the graffiti now appearing in Barcelona together with other slogans such as *Tourists go home, you are not welcome* and *Tourists No, Refugees Yes*. The Government



has assumed the investigation of the assault on the tourist bus given the lack of municipal action in Barcelona. Nothing will happen. Toni Mayor president of a hoteliers association stated 'In Benidorm we are not concerned about tourism-phobia - this city is a tourism factory and the locals have learnt to sacrifice - the real problems are Brexit and more going to Tunisia and Turkey.'

Sky offers pay TV in Great Britain, Ireland, Germany, Italy and Austria via satellite or broadband. Now Sky sees the Spanish market as attractive, particularly due to the low uptake of pay TV for the size of its economy. Andrew Griffith, financial director of Sky, said entering Spain would be a modest investment of several dozens of pounds (?), given the company already has the technology and programs. Looking to the future, if a significant audience is obtained, Sky will turn to Spanish content providers and develop programmes with content direct to Spain. However the British company arrives late in Spain, with Telefónica, Vodafone and Orange who now offer television. Other companies, such as Netflix and HBO also offer video on demand for their subscribers. Disney has now withdrawn from Netflix and plans to launch a subscription service of its own, starting in the U.S.

The health service in a number of regional location in Spain is deteriorating. Diario de Ibiza reports 'Patients on the island are waiting for more than three months for an operation' -the waiting list for surgery in the Can Misses Hospital has doubled in a year - on Eivissa and Formentera 9,306 people are waiting for an X-ray.

'Doctors on the Costa del Sol are those most under pressure in Andalucía' - a health report reveals each medical professional on the coastline has assigned 1,812 health cards, 500 more than the national average - those who leave from exhaustion are not being replaced, and it is only paediatricians are not under pressure because of the lower birth rate.

In Murcia "the average waiting times have soared in vascular and pain units and rehabilitation" - the patients are suffering delays between 84 and 318 days on average, depending on the medical speciality, and between different areas. 30% of patients using the Murcia Health Service are sent to private clinics for surgery.

Murcia Health will try to reduce the number of patients being referred to private clinics – last year the public system referred more than 33,000 surgical operations.

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I went to the pub last night and the barman asked me what I wanted, so I said, 'Surprise me!'
He showed me a naked picture of my daughter.

What's Up? continued

El País reports 'Bullfighting without blood in the Balears' - the autonomous parliament will prohibit killing the animal, and limit the bullfights to 10 minutes. Diario de Mallorca headlined 'The pact also bans the use of banderillas or picadors.' The regional law challenges the Government and the ruling PP warn about its unconstitutionality. Despite its growing unpopularity with some regional Spaniards, the right of centre PP continue to support and promote bullfighting as one of the keys to Spanish culture.

Increasing numbers of babies are being removed from parents in the region of Valencia, when newborns test positive for drugs. The Generalitat of Valencia warned that in the province, it takes into care an average of four babies every week because of this.

There have been all-out strikes by taxi drivers in Madrid and Barcelona. This has caused chaos and resulted in hundred of missed flights at the airports. The drivers were striking because of 'private rentals.' There has also been a strong reaction to the introduction of Uber, particularly in Andalucía. The EU has warned that the regional restrictions being placed on Uber (taxi service) and Airbnb (accommodation) are not in accordance with the normal EU competition rules and are putting obstacles in the way of these platforms.

The Supreme Court has annulled the sentence against Miguel Blesa (former head of Caja Madrid) for the opaque cards, following his suicide. Although he obviously cannot pay any of the compensation fines, it has been confirmed by the National Court that payment to be made by his inheritors, if they don't renounce their proportional part of the inheritance.

Información in Alicante reports 'the special court established for the ground clauses has collapsed after two months' - the judges urge a separate tribunal to deal with the avalanche of claims - already 1,200 across from province.

House burglaries in Mazarrón, Murcia, have soared by 80% in just six months.

El Mundo reports that in 2016 'Podemos earns nearly €12 million and is already the most profitable party' having lifted their income by 412% because of their greater presence in the elected institutions. The PSOE earned €11 million in 2016 thanks to dramatic spending cuts and the PP lost more than €600,000, according to the accounts made public.

La Opinión de Málaga reports that 'USA has placed Málaga as an example in the fight against jihadism' - the US State Department 2016 report on terrorism praised the pioneering program launched by the City Hall to prevent radicalisation - by using all municipal resources as a prevention.

A Malaga hospital has been using Botox to treat patients with chronic migraine. The department specialising in headaches at Malaga's Clínico Universitario hospital is a pioneer in Malaga and in Andalucía in the use of the botulinum toxin on patients with chronic refractory migraine (the type that does not improve through pharmaceutical treatment). The use of the botulinum toxin for this type of complex migraine is authorised by the Spanish Medication Agency. It is applied to different points of the cranium and neck, and it reduces the frequency and intensive of the pain.

The Spanish Foreign Ministry has sacked the Spanish consul in Washington for taking the mickey out of Susana Díaz and her accent. Díaz is the socialist president of Andalucía.

In an effort to contain hooliganism and anti-social behaviour, the Police in Calvià, Majorca, has imposed 24 sanctions for openly having sex in the street. 24 sanctions? Maybe it's a different fine for each sexual position.

El País notes 'none of the Spanish university are on the list of the best 200. Spain is the only developed country without any university of quality in the list, which is led by Harvard, Stanford and Cambridge. La Verdad in Murcia reports 'Murcia University has for the first time made the list of the top 800 in the world' - only 11 Spanish campuses are in the top 500 of the most prestigious.

The council in Pontearreas, Galicia, hopes to combat absenteeism by rewarding employees for turning up! It is well-known and possibly too readily accepted in Spain that there is a high degree of absenteeism among those who have managed to secure a job for life in public sector administrative roles - *funcionarios*. It has been agreed by the nationalist-led council that money should be set aside to pay bonuses to any staff who manage to attend work regularly and to complete at least 90% of their theoretical working hours. In other words, it appears that laziness in the Town Hall has reached the point where staff are under the impression that their salaries are paid in order for them to be absent from the workplace for at least 10% of the time!

Army Leave.

The young Swedish au pair had been working for the Smiths for more than a year. While hard-working and efficient, she still struggled with the English language. One day she told Mrs Smith that she had received good news from her boyfriend Sven. 'He is coming visit me from army next week!'

'That's wonderful,' Mrs Smith replied. 'How long is his furlough?'

'Oh,' the young woman said, 'about as long as Mr Smith's. Maybe a little thicker.'




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THE LIME BAR GOLF SOCIETY

The Lime Bar Golf Society Captain's Day Competition was held at La Torre Golf Club on Wednesday the 24th July 2017.

On a scorching hot day 26 players turned up at La Torre Golf Club for Captain's Day. The day began with a putting competition with each player having to down a stiff tot before attempting the challenge of a 20m putt across and down an undulating putting green. All was going well until the last putt of the day by Captain Mike Heighway (who had to use a left handed putter). Mike did what he does best.....and putted the ball straight into the hole!!! Some people have all the luck!!!

Unknown teams of 4 players set out in different groups playing the Stableford format. The course was in great condition although the bunkers proved to be a problem for many and this was reflected in the scores. A fantastic day was had by all and all players returned to the Lime Bar for prize giving and drinks and buffet very kindly provided by the Lime Bar. Many thanks to Pete and the Lime Bar Team.

Results were as follows:-

Putting Competition - Mike Heighway; Front 9 Winner - J Nicholls 19pts;

Back 9 Winner - M Heighway 15pts (Who very kindly donated his prize to 2nd place K Farrow)

Nearest to Captain's Drive - J Roberts; Nearest the Pin no. 3. - M Heighway; Nearest the Pin no. 5. - J McGregor;

Nearest the Pin no. 9. - D Wilkinson; Nearest the Pin no. 15 - A Thorpe; Nearest the Pin no. 17 - D Da Silva

Team Winners: 1st place - E Alfred, J McGregor, G Mitchell (124 pts)

2nd place - P Gillespie, J Nicholl, D Wilkinson, R Johnstone (117 pts)

3rd place - K Farrow, E Allen, J Curley, J Williams (116 pts)

Ian Johnstone.



There are two sides to every divorce: yours and shithead's.



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*I wasn't a very athletic boy. I was once lapped in the long jump.
Ronnie Corbett*

A new Cafe/bar has opened in the commercial area adjoining Dream Hills II, with OC Garage, a Chinese *todo* and Aldi's taking most of the other units. The new bar is called *Sorraia* and is a very welcome addition to the area. The name, *Sorraia*, comes from a rare breed of horse indigenous to part of the Iberian peninsula and named after a river in Portugal.

La Pedrera, is the most important fresh water reservoir in



the province of Alicante and the second in the Segura river basin after the Cenajo. It is situated just a ten minute drive from Orihuela Costa, photo. Because of the

very hot summer and lack of rainfall, the reservoir was storing just over 73 cubic hectometres at the time of writing, which represents just 30% of its total capacity, which is 246 cubic hectometres. Fortunately this summer we have not experienced any water cut-offs (nor electricity cuts) in this area, which is remarkable. Other Mediterranean tourist spots have not been so lucky and have had to ration water, particularly in the city of Rome, where water cuts of eight hours a day are being contemplated. The problem there is that the older pipeworks leak between 40% and 60% of the water into the subsoil. Fortunately, the pipework in this part of the Costa Blanca is relatively new and regularly upgraded. However, the 1,000's of new properties now being built in the area will surely put tremendous pressure on the coast's limited resources. And the misery of the traffic jams on the N-332 during summer are set to continue for several more years.

Water supplies in the Costa del Sol are not as reliable. Málaga is having to finance 136 new projects to improve the water supply. There, €72 million will be spent on replacing old piping and €52 million on improving the network.

The lucky-lucky men and their ilk, are an utter nuisance on the beaches and bar terraces. They can be aggressive and form gangs when police arrive, particularly in Torrevieja. Most of their wares are dodgy, with even the mojitos they sell are contaminated by human faeces.

Their presence is also a real problem on the packed beaches of Benidorm.

In just 76 calendar days this year, the local police in Benidorm have issued 1,400 fines to these illegal traders. The fines, for just over two months, totalled €400,000. But guess what? None of these fines have been paid nor will be paid. These individuals have no assets, no wages to garnish and claim to be insolvent so no fines are collected, ever. So, once they receive the fine, it's back to selling on the beaches again.



Información in Alicante ha a photo of the waters of Torrevieja salt lake coloured pink with several tourists floating in the lagoon at las Salinas despite it being prohibited.

Salt production in these lakes has been very poor this year.

A target of 600,000 tons was planned for 2017, but heavy rains



in December and January now means that at most around 400,000 tons will only be produced this year. The Torrevieja facility produces salt for ten months of the year. The French owners, Groupe Salins, have already had to import 31,000 tons from their salt farms in Tunisia and Ibiza as demand has been exceeding the local supply. Half of the salt produced is used as table salt, the remainder for the chemical industry and the 'snowy roads' in northern Europe. Organised tours of the salt farm took place during August and it is hoped that during next year's season a tour of the facility will be included in the tourist-train route.

Alicante-Elche airport has had an incredibly busy summer season. The airport registered the passage of 65,000 passengers and 400 flights in just one day!

The grape crop locally is down this year, but the quality of the wine is expected to be good. If you like a robust red, try a bottle (or several) of Jumilla from Murcia.

A plague of rabbits are doing great damage to the table grapes and vines in some areas of the Vega Baja. Trying to eradicate them with shotguns put leaks in the watering pipes!

El País notes 'the number fatally drowned is already half the deaths on the roads'. In the first seven months this year 305 people have drowned in Spain, up 14.6% on the same time in 2016 while the number of road fatalities was 673.

Most of these deaths have been caused by stupidity and rip-tides.

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New Laws on Spanish Mortgages.

The government plans to introduce new laws governing mortgage transactions after the summer period. More transparency, information, ability to change conditions and greater protection for the consumer are promised.

To date the financial institutions have complained that the new laws demonise them whereas the customer associations complain that the new legislation favours the banks and "will only protect banks from extrajudicial and judicial claims".

Any improvements in this particular aspect of bank borrowing is welcome, particularly as the banks in Spain have demonstrated that with mis-selling and the ground floor clauses, they cannot be trusted.

What is interesting is that some of the new regulations are retroactive. I briefly outline some of the key changes hereunder.

Pre contract preparation: Previously unregulated, the lender will now have to offer all documentation to the client seven days before the signing of the mortgage. This will include much more information, including future options on variable aspects of the mortgage. With these papers, the client will be obliged to visit a notary to discuss any issues arising out of the terms. This visit to the notary is free!

Second Visit & Signing: The client will also have to visit (not free this time!) the notary again prior to the second signing of the mortgage. Both the notary and the registrar have an obligation not to authorize the contract if there are clauses therein declared to be abusive or if all the requirements have not been met. Notaries can face sanctions in case they do not fulfil these obligations.

Cross Selling: Banks will be prohibited from selling products linked to mortgages, as only packages deemed beneficial to the client and authorized by the Bank of Spain will be authorized. In addition, banks will only be able to charge a single opening commission.

There are a number of other major changes to the legislation, some very beneficial to the borrower. Due to lack of space I'll report on these in a future issue.

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Wi-Fi **SKY SPORTS**



A blond goes into an electronics store and asks one of the staff how much a TV is. The salesman says straight away, 'Sorry, we don't sell to blondes.'

She storms home, goes to the bathroom, pulls out some hair-colour, and the next day comes back as a brunette.

She asks another salesman, 'How much is that TV?'

He also says, 'Sorry, we don't sell to blondes.'

She goes home and the next day comes back as a red-head, and asks yet another salesman, 'How much is this TV?'

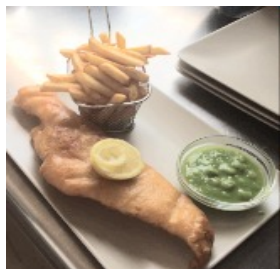
He says, 'Sorry, we don't sell to blondes.'

She says, 'How can this be? I have come back here as a brunette and a red-head. How do you know I was a blonde?'

And he says, 'Because that is not a TV, that is a microwave!'



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It's the thought.....

A man went to the perfume counter of a big department store and said he wanted a bottle of Chanel No. 5 gift-wrapped for his wife's birthday. 'A little surprise, is it?' asked the sales assistant. 'Yes,' said the man. 'She's expecting a new car!'



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For the Ladies.

Cash, cheque or charge?' I asked, after folding the items the woman wished to purchase.

As she fumbled for her wallet, I noticed a remote control for a television set in her purse.

'So, do you always carry your TV remote?' I asked.

'No,' she replied, 'but my husband refused to come shopping with me, and I figured this was the most evil thing I could do to him legally.'

A husband read an article out loud to his wife about how many words women use a day..30,000 to a man's 15,000.

The wife replied, 'The reason has to be because we have to repeat everything to men.....'

The husband then turned to his wife and asked, 'What?'

A man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the coffee each morning.

The wife said, 'You should do it because you get up first and then we don't have to wait as long to get our coffee.'

The husband said, 'You are in charge of cooking around here and you should do it, because that is your job and I can just wait for my coffee.'

Wife replies, 'No, you should do it and besides, it is in the Bible that the man should do the coffee.'

Husband replies, 'I can't believe that, show me.'

So she fetched the Bible, opened it and showed him at the top of several pages, that it indeed says...

'HEBREWS'

Carol Martin

Lime Bar Golf Society - 9th August 2017 - Riquelme Golf Club

On a lovely cool (at last!) day, and with the course in excellent condition, 30 players teed off. With the greens cut very short the putting (and the water) caused a few headaches, but an enjoyable day's golfing was had by all. All players returned to the Lime Bar for the necessary thirst quenchers and once again, great food was provided by the Lime Bar. Many thanks again to the Lime Bar.

The next outing will be on the 13th September 2017 at Vistabella Golf Course. Results were as follows:-

Gold Section

- 1 - M Highway 32pts
- 2 - I Johnstone. 32pts c/b
- 3 - L Newbury 32pts c/b

Silver Section

- 1 - Bud Butler 28pts
- 2 - G Mitchell 27pts
- 3 - K Jackson 26pts

Nearest the Pin No. 5. - L Newbury; N'st the Pin No. 7. - G Lester

Nearest the Pin No. 10 - T Reeve; Nearest the Pin No. 15 - N Dobson

Nearest the Pin No. 17 - I Grant

Match play Semi Final Winners - C Taylor and I Johnstone



Iberdrola Expands in the UK.

Iberdrola is to construct in Britain their largest renewable energy park in history after withdrawing from the Spanish renewable energy auctions. It means an investment of €3.3 billion after receiving the go ahead from the British Government - the marine wind farm will have a potential power generation of 1,200 Megawatts sufficient to supply power to a million British homes. The permission to build East Anglia Three, joins other renewable projects in the country, and comes after the Spanish company dismissed the idea of bidding in the three auctions planned by the Spanish Government to reintroduce green energy.

Iberdrola, directed by Ignacio Galán has become of the past decade a worldwide brand for renewable energies in Mexico, USA and now the United Kingdom despite Brexit on the horizon.

Q: So why didn't Iberdrola invest in the Spanish scheme?

A: Basically because the current Spanish Government cocked-up its handling of incentives for investment in renewable energy.

Government energy reform in 2013 and 2014 included retroactive cuts to renewable's incentives, affecting the performance of many power producers and igniting numerous disputes. Incentives introduced to encourage investment in this particular area were withdrawn AFTER a number of large companies had committed and spent hundreds of million of euros in new energy projects.

Many of these companies are now taking the government to court for compensation. A London-based asset manager Eiser Infrastructure Ltd. and Energia Solar Luxembourg SARL, a Luxembourg-based company have just won a award of €128 million from the Spanish Government (who are continuing to appeal all compensatory awards) in a New York court. Eiser and Energia sunk more than a hundred million euros into three solar energy projects in Spain and then found that the government pulled the financial rug from under them depriving the companies of the anticipated return on their investment. The companies had previously won their case in front of a World Bank tribunal.

This will lead to an avalanche of claims from other companies who feel they were cheated by the government.

WATCH OUT FOR.....

Flying to/from Spain in September?

Spain's labour unions have called for 25 days of strikes among members of AENA, the Spanish airports authority, to begin September 15.

The announcement comes as security staff at Barcelona's El Prat airport continue their dispute over pay and conditions, while workers at two airports in northwestern Spain have threatened to stage partial stoppages.

The Guardia Civil are manning the positions left by the striking security guards at El Prat.

AENA's 8,200 employees are calling for pay rises of around 8%, 15 monthly payments a year, as well as the hiring of around 700 more people.

If the dispute is not solved, 24-hour stoppages will take place nationwide on the following dates in September: 15, 17, 22, 24 and 29, with follow ups in October: 1, 6, 11, 15, 27, 30, and 31. There would be stoppages in November: 3 and 5, with further action in December: 1,4,5,7, 8, 10, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30.

Property Tax.

If you own property in Spain, your IBI tax (Impuesto sobre Bienes Inmuebles) is payable before October 6. It is important to note that whether or not you receive a payment request from your town hall, legally the responsibility lies with the property owner to pay on time each year.

All town halls add surcharges for late payments.

The Racist.

Two blokes were walking down the street. One of them is notorious for his prejudice against Italians. Yet when he sees an Italian organ grinder with a monkey, he throws €50 into the monkey's hat. The friend is surprised. 'But people have been telling me for years how much you hated Italians!' To which the bloke replies, 'Well, they're so cute when they're are little.'

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The Baby

- It's a funny-looking baby. I've never seen one with a cleft chin and two warts under its nose.

- You're looking at the wrong end.

- No wonder it struggled when I tried to put the dummy in.

Cissie and Ada, aka Roy Barraclough and Les Dawson

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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.

Lime Bar Fishing Sunbathing Club

At last someone has turned the heat down to normal! August has been relatively cool compared to last month.

The fish don't seem to mind either, as there have been some good catches recently.

Lots of people were away in August so only 10 members attended the monthly bun fight, this led to a quick meeting without ANY bickering. Anti Social confirmed details of the quiz night and the chairman (Sweeney) brought along a new member that wanted to join (the mad fool). Tom was discussed and admitted into the club unanimously as he is "supposed" to be a novice angler. I have heard that before!

This month's match was held at El Bosquet on pegs 1 to 10 (canal 1). A few of us had fished pegs 4 to 9 recently and it was fishing well with the newly added tench also being caught. On match day, I even made it there before the draw at 07.45. The others asked if I had s**t the bed or had an argument with the boss! 9 members fished and Tom (our new boy) had his first day out with us. The match was decided at the draw with pegs 1 to 4 taking the honours and the high numbers struggling. I don't think anyone caught any tench during this match. Fag ash drew the favourite "peg 1" and we all thought he was going to take the 20 points but I disappointed him from peg 3 with 20 fish for 11.5 kilos to his 9.5. New boy Tom, was fishing peg 2 and after a bit of instruction from the Sweeney on how to use his landing net (he was leaning out into the canal chasing the fish with it) he ended up with an excellent 14 fish. So much for being a novice, we have been duped again. Sweeney was having a lousy day not even getting a bite, so he had a bumble along the bank until he helped Tom. Anti social took 3rd spot from peg 4. With only 1 match to go, the points league already has 5 anglers with over 60 points, so the fight for the last place in the final is going to be tight.

Anti Social organised the quiz night in the Lime Bar. Talk about quick fire! If you knew the answer, you just had enough time to write the answer down before the next question was being asked. There was a lot of frantic scribbling of notes and guesses so we could go back to them later. How about we get the Sweeney to do the next one?

Maybe he'll have the right questions / answers

We had a good turn out with 7 teams of mixed ability, the final scores ranging from 45 to 83 out of 105. Well done to Fag ash and his "doughnuts" who came 1st and won €16, followed by Fagin's "6

amigos" who were 2nd and won a tenner. Belinda & Yvonne ran the raffle again (thank you) which raised €86 for the club.

On the night we had an American supper (everybody brings some food) and as per normal the variety, quality and quantity were amazing. We fed both the Lime Bar and the Bar Next Door and we still ended up taking loads home. Thank you to everyone for his or her efforts.

Next meeting bun fight is at The Lime Bar @ 17.00 Mon 4th September.

Fishy fingers!

A woman ordering for her kids in a Dublin take-away:

'Can I have fries, onion rings andwhat do youse two want for your third vegetable?'





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The little sobbing boy replies that he is.

'What's your mummy like?' asks the security guard.

The little boy looks up and says, 'Big cocks and Bacardi Breezers.'

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WHY

I wonder if there's life on Mars
and possibly there could be?
But if there is I don't think
it would be like you or me

Of course they're all God's creatures
whatever you believe
Is there one God or are there more
it's difficult to perceive?

Here on our world people live
whatever shape and form
It shouldn't really matter
where on Earth you're born

So why have all this conflict
whether black or white
colour, creed, religion
is no thing for us to fight

Yet still there's all this trouble
in the world today
Strife and racialism
are never far away

Just let all people live their lives
whatever way they choose
and if all do the same
we have naught to lose

Please live as your God wanted
and never bear a grudge
You are just the same as us
So who are you to judge.

The Phantom Poet

"We can afford to get married soon.
I'm almost halfway done with my
student loan payments!"



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**PHOENIX GOLF SOCIETY
HACIENDA RIQUELME GOLF CLUB –**

Sunday 20th August 20127.

The course was in excellent condition although some found the greens slow but others thought they were fast, it made the putting very interesting. Mick Currie joined us on his yearly trip over. This time he played very well as last year he blamed his clubs saying "they were bent!!" – he played with the same ones this time so it just goes to show he must have been lucky this time – Ha! Ha!

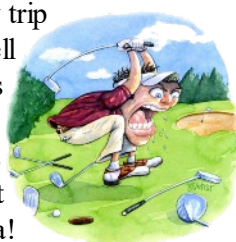
We had a new lady member join Karen Styad, it was her first time playing on a golf course. She played very well and enjoyed the experience.

Nearest the Pin: Ian Grant.
“ “ “ Ken Styad
“ “ “ Mick Heighway

Overall Winner was: Ian Grant.

Well done to Everyone. Once again our thanks to Donna & Paul for the lovely grub as usual.

Dave Wightman



Half of Male Pensioners Frustrated Because Their Partner Has Given up Sex.

Half of male pensioners are sexually frustrated because their partner has given up making love, a survey has found.

The figures produced by ComRes show that one in six over-70s say they have sex a few times a month or more - but many are not having it as much as they would like.

Almost half told the BBC Radio 5 Live survey that they would like to have more sex than they currently do, but the figure is very different for women than for men.

Only 21% of women aged over 60 say this is the case, compared with 61% of men.

And half of men who would like to do it more say they can't because their partner is unwilling.

Sex is also more significant to older men than it is to women. 42% of men say it's an important part of their lives, compared to 16% of women.

Corinne Sweet, a sex therapist who works primarily with older clients, said she was surprised at the figures because she has found that women are less likely to lose their sex drive.

"Women are more like Duracell bunnies when it comes to sex, they tend to keep going for longer," she said.

Customers as old as 95 are now buying sex toys, with some recommended by NHS clinics.

Samantha Evans, who runs sex toy company Jo Divine, said: "Sometimes they go to the GP with problems and when they don't get helpful advice they think: 'I'm going to buy a vibrator!'"

The survey of 1,330 over-60s also showed that one in ten have sex once a week, and 35% never have it at all.

Earlier this year a study by Coventry University suggested that regular sex could help the over-50s stay mentally sharp.

Source: Telegraph Online. Olivia Rudgard, social affairs correspondent.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/08/09/half-male-pensioners-frustrated-partner-has-given-sex/>



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Three women are having lunch, discussing their husbands. The first says, 'My husband is cheating on me, I just know it. I found a pair of stockings in his jacket pocket, and they weren't mine!'

The second says, 'My husband is cheating on me, I just know it too. I found a condom in his wallet, so I poked it full of holes with my sewing needle!'

The third woman fainted.

6th Annual Dream Hills II Fiesta.

On a sunny and warm summer's evening, the 6th Annual Dream Hills Fiesta took place on August 19th 2017.

Tables, chairs and parasols started appearing mid-afternoon and over 220 people attended the event. A party atmosphere was soon evident, with much table sharing of soft drinks, beers and of course wine.



The Hog Roast, provided by Sean Bell (Hogs on the Costa) and the Paella provided by Andrew Brett (I want Paella) were delicious.

Many thanks to the R2, R3, R5 and R6 urbanisations for their donations and to all those who donated the 33 raffle prizes including JJ's Café Bar, past winners at the darts and quiz nights, also Reg Groves for his wonderful framed drawings and his wife Sandra for her lovely fruit hampers.

Most of the tables won a prize, and some were even lucky enough to win more!!



Before the evening's entertainment began, Tony Jones called for a minutes silence as a mark of respect at the terror attacks

that have occurred this week in Barcelona and Finland.

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The artistes, Tony Jones, Nikki G, Just Ollie and Duo Melodias, entertained us brilliantly throughout the evening. The music and dancing stopped at midnight, but many people lingered on and chatted for another hour, as it was such a pleasant evening.

Our 2017 Fiesta was a huge success and a great time was had by all !! This year's event was a sell-out, so look out for the posters next summer and buy your tickets early.



Thank you to everyone who supported the event. There are more photos on the Dream Hills 2 Facebook page. If you have any comments, please leave them on the Dream Hills 2 Facebook page or email me at janordave@talktalk.net

Like for Like?

A man said to his drinking buddy: 'My wife is the double of Kate Moss.'

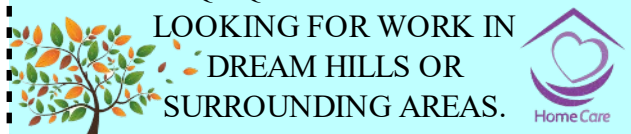
'Really?'

'Yes. Kate Moss weighs eight stone and my wife weighs sixteen stone.'

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ALMORADI

A couple of stories relating to the nearby town of Almoradi caught my attention during August.

The first is, I suppose, a happy story and relates to the children in the town 'running with the bulls'! Thankfully they are not the real bulls that one would encounter in Pamplona and other towns, but inflatable ones operated by adults. This particular 'run' is part of the recent Moors & Christians Fiesta in Almoradi. The photos, *Informacion*, speak for themselves and require no comment.



Our second story on the town comes from El País and DiarioInformacion.

Hey Dude! Where's my \$1.5 million?

She was an ordinary bank employee in the small municipality of Almoradí, population 20,000, located in Spain's Alicante province. Yet for 25 years she lived far beyond her means: she owned a big house, drove a luxury car, and took expensive trips to exotic destinations with her partner, then openly boasted about it on social media.

The Spanish Civil Guard has just discovered the origin of her wealth: for a quarter century, she had allegedly been stealing from a Russian client who had an account at her bank.

Investigators believe that the suspect, a 51-year-old woman whose identity has not been disclosed, diverted \$1.5 million (around €1.28 million) in funds from an account held by a Russian national now aged 80. She is being charged with bank fraud and forging documents.

The investigation began a month ago, when the account holder filed a complaint with the local Civil Guard in Almoradí. The name of the bank has not been released either.

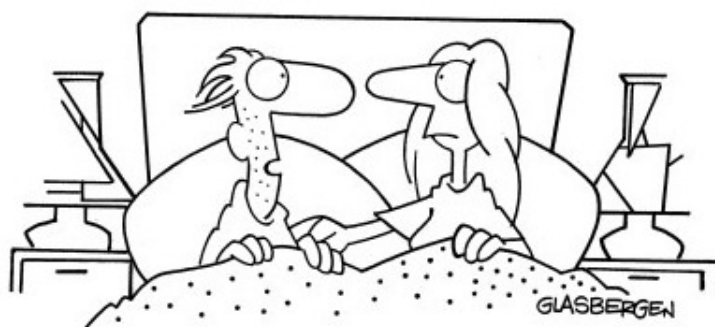
According to police sources, the Russian national arrived in Rojales, located eight kilometers from Almoradí, in 1992. He then opened a bank account in the latter municipality, and developed a relationship of trust with the suspect.

The account holder rarely checked his balance, but in June of this year he requested a detailed statement because he was considering switching banks. That is when he realized that over \$1.5 million was missing.

Investigators analyzed all the transactions linked to that account, and realized that most money transfers had taken place while the account holder was in Russia, meaning that he did not authorize them.

Every time the man returned to Russia, his bank balance would be depleted a little more. But every time he requested information about the balance, the employee would provide unofficial documents forged by herself, to make it look like his balance had not changed.

The suspect was arrested and released pending trial following her arraignment.



"Let's try getting up every night at 2:00 AM to feed the cat. If we enjoy doing that, then we can talk about having a baby."

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An Honest Man.....at last!

What with corrupt politicians, corrupt businesses, shifty business practices and a decidedly odd, inefficient and often malleable criminal legal system, one would wonder if there are any honest men left in the country. But of course there are, it's just that we don't hear about them often enough.

In late July, a 37-year-old Romanian woman went to her bank but found the queue to be too daunting. Unfortunately, possibly due to her frustration, she left her shopping bag in a doorway and shuffled off to do another errand.

Enter stage left, Lahouari Saidani (photo), an Algerian waiter and Muslim, who was on his way to check his mail box. Lahouari noticed the abandoned bag and looked inside, to find the woman's passport, various identification documents, three newly purchased garments, two wallets, €17,000 in cash and 83 cheques from ten different banks totalling €60,000! Lahouari then did the right thing and took the bag and contents to the police station. It is fair to say that there the collective jaws of the policemen dropped at the whole situation, so much so that Lahouari had a good laugh.



The woman was traced quite easily due to the documentation in the bag and recovered was in the property business, offered to reward Lahouari but he would not accept anything. The Romanian woman then bought his wife a present.

Lahouari, who still works at the 'Best Kebaps Bar' in Las Palmas, earns €1,000 a month, and thanks to his honesty, the bar is now being visited by many wishing to see him. The Algerian says he was not even for a second tempted to keep the valuable contents of the bag. "Islam forbids robbing, and I received a very strict education from my parents, and from a very young age they taught me that I could never stay with what was not mine. No, it never crossed my mind."

Look-Alike?

A mother-in-law said to her daughter-in-law who had just given birth, 'I don't mean to be rude but he doesn't look anything like my son.'

The daughter-in-law lifted her hospital gown and said, 'I don't mean to be rude either, but this is a pussy, not a fucking photo-copier.'



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When I told the people of Northern Ireland that I was an atheist, a woman in the audience stood up and asked if the God I did not believe in was Protestant or Catholic.

Quentin Crisp.



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When I was a kid, I used to pray every night for a new bicycle. Then I realised that the Lord doesn't work that way, so I stole one and asked him to forgive me.

Emo Philips

Men, Listen Up: Women Like The Smell Of Guys Who Eat A Certain Diet.

What we eat can influence more than our waistlines. It turns out, our diets also help determine what we smell like.

A recent study found that women preferred the body odour of men who ate a lot of fruits and vegetables, whereas men who ate a lot of refined carbohydrates (think bread, pasta) gave off a smell that was less appealing.

Skeptical? At first, I was, too. I thought this line of inquiry must have been dreamed up by the produce industry. (Makes a good marketing campaign, right?)

But it's legit. "We've known for a while that odour is an important component of attractiveness, especially for women," says Ian Stephen of Macquarie University in Australia. He studies evolution, genetics and psychology and is an author of the study.

From an evolutionary perspective, scientists say our sweat can help signal our health status and could possibly play a role in helping to attract a mate.

How did scientists evaluate the link between diet and the attractiveness of body odour?

They began by recruiting a bunch of healthy, young men. They assessed the men's skin using an instrument called a spectrophotometer. When people eat a lot of colourful veggies, their skin takes on the hue of carotenoids, the plant pigments that are responsible for bright red, yellow and orange foods.

"The carotenoids get deposited in our skin," explains Stephen. The spectrophotometer "flashes a light onto your skin and measures the colour reflected back," says Stephen. The results are "a good indicator of how much fruits and vegetables we're eating," he says.

Stephen and his colleagues also had the men in the study complete food frequency questionnaires so they could determine the men's overall patterns of eating. Then the men were given clean T-shirts and asked to do some exercise.

Afterward, women in the study were asked to sniff the sweat. (Note: The methodology was much more scientific and precise than my breezy explanation, but you get the picture.) "We asked the women to rate how much they liked it, how floral, how fruity," and a bunch of other descriptors, explains Stephen.

It's a small study, but the results were pretty consistent. "Women basically found that men who ate more vegetables smelled nicer," Stephen told us.

Men who ate a lot of meat did not produce a sweat that was any more — or less — attractive to women. But meat did tend to make men's odour more intense.

A lady goes to the bar on a cruise ship and orders a Scotch with two drops of water.

As the bartender gives her the drink she says, 'I'm on this cruise to celebrate my 80th birthday and it's today..'

The bartender says, 'Well, since it's your birthday, I'll buy you a drink. In fact, this one is on me.'

The old woman says, 'Thank you. Bartender, I want a Scotch with two drops of water.' 'Coming up,' says the bartender As she finishes that drink, the man to her left says, 'I would like to buy you one, too.'

The old woman says, 'Thank you. Bartender, I want another Scotch with two drops of water.'

'Coming right up,' the bartender says.

As he gives her the drink, he says, 'Ma'am, I'm dying of curiosity. Why the Scotch with only two drops of water?'

The old woman replies, 'Sonny, when you're my age, you've learned how to hold your liquor. Holding your water, however, is a whole other issue.'

D. Green

"This is not the first study to show that diet influences body odour," says George Preti, an adjunct professor in the dermatology department at the University of Pennsylvania and a member of the Monell Chemical Senses Centre in Philadelphia.

A study published in 2006 found that women preferred the odour of men who ate a non-meat diet, "characterized by increased intakes of eggs, cheese, soy, fruit and vegetables."

But Preti points out that the relationship between diet and body odour is indirect.

Some people think if they eat a garlic or onion — or a piece of meat — they will smell like that food. "But that's not what happens," Preti says. Your breath might smell like the food you eat, but not your sweat.

Body odour is created when the bacteria on our skin metabolize the compounds that come out of our sweat glands.

"The sweat doesn't come out smelly," Preti explains. "It must be metabolized by the bacteria that live on the surface of the skin."

Now, of course, at a time when good hygiene and deodorant use are commonplace, is the smell of our sweat a big concern?

I put that question to the happy hour crowd at a bar down the street from the NPR headquarters in Washington, D.C.

"I'm pretty OK with my smell," Stefan Ruffini told me. That evening he was ordering a burger on a bun and a side of fries, along with a beer. When I told him about the findings of the study, he laughed it off. "I've got a girlfriend, so I don't worry about these things," he said.

The study did not assess diet and odour attractiveness among same-sex couples.

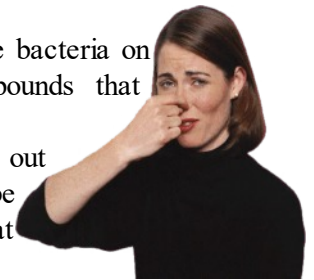
"As a lesbian, I haven't smelled a man in several years," Stacy Carroll, who was also at happy hour, told me. "I eat a lot of produce, I have a girlfriend, so it's working out."

Carroll says people who eat a lot of fruits and vegetables are more likely to be interested in their health — "feeling good, looking fit" — than their smell.

(Transcribed from radio show - Morning Edition.

Allison Aubrey|)

So there you go, Stinky! Lay off the pork pies, lamb vindaloos, smelly Spanish chorizo and bacon sarni's if you want to smell better to the fairer sex.



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Armless!

An armless man walked into a Scottish village pub. He ordered a pint and when it was served, he asked the barman if he could get the money out of his trouser pockets. The barman duly did this.

The armless man then asked the barman if he could lift the pint to his lips so he could drink it.

The barman duly did this.

He then asked the barman if he would get his hanky out of his pocket to wipe the froth from around his limps.

This the barman duly did.

He then asked the barman where the gents toilet was.

'About five miles doon the road, pal.' came the reply.

IDIOTS OF THE MONTH

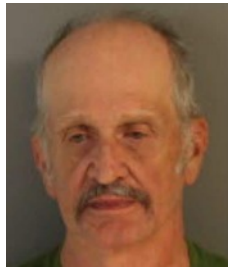
This month we seem very short of idiots in Spain. Maybe the hot weather has been keeping them indoors. However, world-wide we have lots to choose from this month, with two 'stars' from the UK.

In 2001, a 31-year-old woman was walking home in Memphis, U.S.A., when she was violently attacked and sexually assaulted. When police arrived at the scene, they found an odd piece of evidence the rapist had forgotten: his dentures. Along with other physical evidence from the assault, the false teeth were reportedly bagged and placed in a Memphis Police Department property room. There, like an estimated hundreds of thousands of rape kits across the country, the material sat untouched for more than a decade. It was not until last year that the Memphis authorities started to try and address the backlog and discovered that the man's name was printed inside the false teeth. This does not say a lot about the initial investigation other than it was negligent.

But equally upsetting was the knowledge that the rapist, Thomas Maupin (photo), 67, had an earlier conviction for the kidnapping and murder of a six-year-old child. When Maupin was arrested and given a 40-year jail sentence for this, an error at the trial, however, reversed the conviction. Maupin was tried and convicted again. And once again, an error at the trial wiped the conviction away on appeal. Rather than face a third trial, Maupin pleaded guilty to second-degree murder, received a 12-year sentence with time served, and was released in 1997.

None of the above would inspire you in the efficiency of the police or courts there. Incidentally, he only received a jail sentence of eight years for the assault and rape. Out in five to carry on as before!

Pictured on the right is the striking 24-year-old Kate Prichard. When Tennessee bride, Kate, and her groom, arrived back at their motel after the ceremony, matters took a very bad turn. During a drunken argument, Kate pulled a 9mm handgun out of her wedding dress, pointed it at the head of her new hubby, James, and pulled the trigger. Fortunately the pistol was not loaded. She then loaded the pistol and fired it into the ceiling. Motel staff called the police, who shortly after they arrived told the groom that 'the honeymoon was over!' And the bride was off to jail. But what is it about weddings that brings out the best or worse in people? See next column.



Neil McArdle, 36, was due to get married but had 'forgotten' to fill in the wedding forms. As his bride-to-be, Amy Williams, was putting on her wedding dress, McArdle (photo) slipped out of their house in Kirkby, Merseyside, went to a phone box, disguised his voice and rang Liverpool Register Office, claiming: "This is not a hoax call. There's a bomb in St George's Hall and it will go off in 45 minutes." Miss Williams was left standing outside in her wedding dress with her mother and the rest of the wedding party as the area swarmed with police racing to the scene. Police quickly traced the call and the defendant was arrested the same day and admitted to his "embarrassment and shame" that he panicked over bungling the forms and staged the bomb scare. McArdle got a 12-month jail sentence.

Wayne Esmonde, 35, had his face put on South Wales Police's Facebook appeal over an alleged assault. This is the actual photo, but Wayne took exception to the photo believing that it did not do him, if you pardon the word, justice. So Wayne, not the sharpest knife in the drawer, handed himself in at Swansea Central police station on in late July, after putting a request to the police on Facebook to 'I am him. Not a very flattering mugshot. I'd appreciate it if you'd take this post down.'



A toxicology report on the former world No. 1 golfer Tiger Woods revealed he had five different drugs in his system when police found him stopped and asleep on the side of a Palm Beach-area road in his Mercedes-Benz at about 3am in late May this year. A recent copy of the toxicology report had hydrocodone, the generic form of a painkiller branded as Vicodin; hydromorphone, a painkiller known as Dilaudid; alprazolam, a mood and sleep drug known as Xanax; zolpidem, a sleep drug known as Ambien; and delta-9 carboxy THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, in his system. It is not known if Woods had prescriptions for all of the medications. Medical marijuana is legal in Florida. At one time an inspirational golfer to many, he now seems a sorry, lost soul.





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

The above is a newish website devoted to Orihuela 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.



Submitted by Carol Martin.

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

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(016 is the phone line to report domestic violence. It is free and leaves no trace on your phone bill.)

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

- What's the best way to tune a banjo?

- With wire cutters.

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