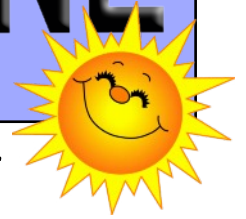


# THE DREAM SCENE

## NEWSLETTER



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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the October, 2017 edition. Issue No.125.

Thankfully, the weather is at last a little cooler, still good for the visiting tourists and now much more enjoyable for the residents. Temperatures can still hit the low 30's, but this should settle down shortly to an average of 27 to 28° soon.

The main news in Spain is the threatened illegal referendum in Catalonia, scheduled to take place on Sunday, October 1st. This has led to a major constitutional crisis with several senior Catalan *funcionarios* now arrested. It would be prudent to expect some violence, possibly rioting, from the more aggressive of the separatists, particularly the far-left, the CUP, on or after October 1. You can read more on page 3.

But undoubtedly of more interest to the resident British expat's is the BREXIT issue. British pensioners who have retired to other EU countries will continue to have their healthcare paid for by the NHS post-Brexit, after a deal in principle was agreed by negotiators in Brussels. Also, professional qualifications would be recognised across the bloc after Brexit, allowing lawyers, doctors, accountants, seafarers, train drivers and others who have moved to or from the UK to another EU country to work under their existing credentials. There was also agreement to coordinate on social security post-Brexit. However, there was still disagreement on more than half the issues discussed, including the eventual oversight of the legal rights of EU citizens. This is before any positive agreements on either the 'divorce bill' or the Northern Ireland issue. So far, progress has been disappointing.

Of some significance is the recent aspiration of PM May for a transition period (of an unspecified length at this stage) following the BREXIT deadline. This makes sense if only because the British team still do not have their act together but also because many British businesses will require time (and money) to adjust to whatever post BREXIT trade will entail. A two-year period has been bandied about as a transition period, although the British Chamber of Commerce have stated that it should be longer than three years. Some have also argued that, under certain circumstances, the transition period could be indefinite!

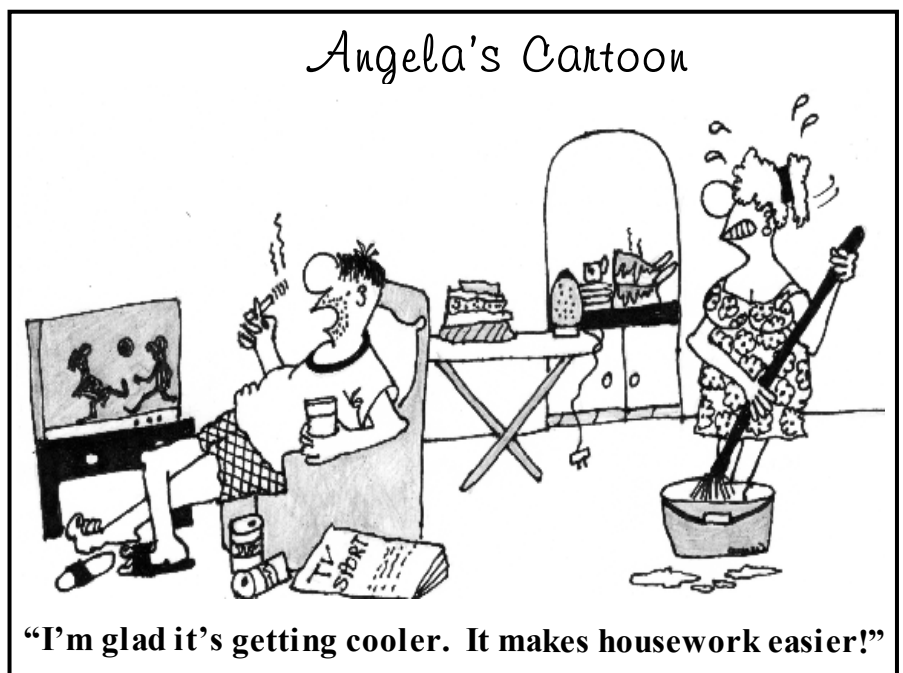
Of some concern also is the lack of support and integrity within May's own cabinet. The Conservative Party are notorious for back-stabbing their own and it is not inconceivable that BO JO and the other ideological lunatics within the party could, with a 'coup', upset the whole apple-cart and any agreements reached before the BREXIT deadlines.

It is good to see that many of the local bars are now offering live music for their customers. The Phoenix continues to provide live acts; Baja Bar has three live sessions coming up in October; Doolan's continues to provide live events, as does CK1's, Jessie's Bar and now Lime Bar. Check them out. Worth a special mention is Florantilles Show Bar, where Martin has now opened (after a 12-year closure) an additional larger venue at the location, which can seat up to 300 and will, no doubt, attract many good new acts. Why not pay it a visit!

**Remember your property tax, IBI, has to be paid before October 6, or you will incur a fine!**

*Wishing you all  
A wonderful month.  
Mick & Tíd*

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The itemised telephone bill ranks up there with suspender belts, Sky Sports channels and *Loaded* magazine as inventions women could do without. (Maeve Haran)

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

...cats falling between five and nine stories are most likely to be injured rather than killed. Thanks to a combination of air resistance and weight, felines have better odds when falling from greater heights. But young Jethro, don't try this at home with Tabby!

...in 2005, the British Army issued antimicrobial, silver implanted underwear that can be worn for 2-3 months without being washed?

...although around one third of Iceland's population is armed for hunting purposes, gun crimes are extremely rare, and Iceland's police officers do not carry guns?

... England has a tax on televisions that is formally called a 'television licensing fee.' If you are blind and own a television, though, you only have to pay half the tax. How generous!

...the most popular boys' name in England & Wales is Muhammad. If you include various spelling variants, it far surpasses the country's 6,623 Olivers. Muhammad is not a name native to English, so it has several spellings, or transliterations, from the original Arabic.

...it is now illegal to use, manufacture, or import plastic bags in Kenya, according to a new rule that came into effect during late August? Offenders will be fined as much as \$38,000, or serve up to four years in jail. Travellers coming into Kenya with plastic bags will have to leave them at the airport. Kenya joins a list of almost a dozen African countries that have tried to ban the bags that environmentalists say harm both soil and water, and mar tourist sites. In Kenya, where an estimated 24 million plastic bags are used every month, the carriers litter most roadsides and clog sewers and streams.

**Bagpipes!**

- Q. What's the difference between a bagpipe and an onion?  
A. No-one cries when you chop up a bagpipe.

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**LOCAL**



**(Cut out & keep.)**



At the time of writing, the Catalan separatists insist they are going to hold the illegal referendum on independence/separation from the Spanish state on October 1. There is not one iota of lawfulness in it. The Catalan bill the separatists rushed through is peppered with legal violations.

Spain's constitutional court has suspended Catalonia's referendum law. Madrid has taken temporary charge of Catalonia's finances, in an attempt to prevent spending on the referendum. The attorney-general has begun proceedings against Mr Puigdemont, President of Catalonia and his cabinet for misappropriation of public funds, a charge that carries a potential prison sentence. The police have seized campaign materials, and have orders to do the same with ballot boxes as they are deployed. On September 20th, acting on the orders of a judge, the Guardia Civil raided offices of the Generalitat, arresting 14 officials involved in organising the referendum. Nevertheless, more than 700 mayors (out of 948 in the Catalonia region) say they will defy a legal warning not to assist the holding of the vote.

Law enforcement forces in Catalonia – the Mossos d'Esquadra regional police, the National Police and the Civil Guard – were instructed on September 12 to confiscate all voting material, from campaign posters to ballot boxes. But Spain's public prosecutor is unhappy about the way the Mossos have been acting – or failing to act – to stop these preparations. In July of this year, the Mossos chief was pressurised to resign and regional authorities appointed a replacement with a public history of supporting secession. Instead, the Civil Guard has been taking the lead in anti-referendum operations, due to lack of cooperation by many of the Mossos and Madrid has now appointed a Guardia Civil colonel in charge of security in Catalonia.

Mr Puigdemont claims a mandate for pursuing independence, but it is a debatable one. His coalition of nationalists and republicans won only 39.5% in a regional election in 2015 that it had claimed was “plebiscitary”. His narrow majority in the parliament comes from an alliance with an anti-capitalist looney-left outfit, CUP, which won 8.2% and also supports independence. Catalan governments have educated two generations of youngsters in the historically questionable notion that Catalonia is an ancient nation-state oppressed by Spain. However, polls suggest that only around 40% want independence.

*The cold of the polar regions has nothing  
to the chill of an English bedroom.  
Fridtjof Nansen,  
Norwegian Explorer*

The Balearics are no longer demanding that replacement doctors possess the Catalan language. The alarming lack of professionals has obliged the regional executive to modify the norm which was approved in 2016. However, this is not so for nurses. 4,000 nurses have been unable to complete their examinations for not accrediting their level of the Catalan language. Only 1,500 have been accepted according to the health union SATSE. Doctors and technicians consider it should only be considered as just an additional merit. Surely discriminatory?

Last month we reported that the Spanish firm, Iberdrola, secured a massive energy contract in the UK. We now know that Iberdrola is the foreign company which receives the most aid from the United States. The energy giant obtains more than the equivalent of two billion € from the American administration via subsidies, grants, credits and tax breaks at a State, federal and local level.

Spanish airport unions have agreed to give negotiators more time before calling strike. The stoppages planned for September have been called off but a strike could be called for October if a deal isn't reached to end the conflict before the end of September.

El País notes ‘the end of summer has stopped the reduction in unemployment’ – the loss of jobs after the summer is the highest for August since 2008. El Mundo adds August ended with more than 300,000 jobs lost in one day – unemployment rose by 46,400 after the summer.

More than a million precarious new jobs have been created over the six years the PP has been in power and they question the quality of the green shoots – Data from Social Security crossed with the EPA Survey of the Active Population - reflect there are 300,000 fewer full-time fixed employment, and 1.3 million more temporaries and or partial than when the PP arrived in Government, while three million workers are entering and leaving the labour market on rubbish contracts.

More than 3,000 students in seven schools in the province of Alicante are still learning in prefabricated classrooms. They may be cosy in the winter, but are hell in the summer.

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## What's Up? continued

Málaga is to bollard all the streets all year to prevent attacks – more police and more flowerpots and obstacles all year round and not only just for the holiday season, together with more video controls to prevent terrorist attacks. This is likely to continue, at least throughout touristic Spain.

A study revealed at the annual conference of the American Association of Sociologists, that September is the most popular month in Spain for divorces. Last year in Alicante, there were 4,000 divorces and separations in



"Didn't you get my e-mail?"

the region, up from 3,913 in 2014, more than 30% of them in September alone. It seems that when troubled couples spend so much time together in late summer, particularly during a scorching August, it usually just heightens their difficulties and confirms what the Spanish describe as 'the lack of coexistence.' Lawyers also confirm that many clients book the appointment for September from mid to late August and when they arrive at their offices, they come "very determined together with the prepared papers (certificates of birth, marriage, economic information, etc.), as well as - thanks to the internet - posts, blogs, articles, but especially Facebook entries. It is then much easier to explain everything that comes to them".

The city of Valencia was stunned on Tuesday, September 12, by two related incidents which involved firstly the discovery of a dead body in a suitcase on the streets and just a few hours later the fatal stabbing of a police officer who was attempting to detain a man in connection with the corpse. The first incident was reported to the police when a member of the public spotted a suspicious-looking bag next to two large rubbish containers. On inspection it was found to contain human remains which were taken for forensic analysis, cause of death believed to be knife wounds. The homicide squad soon traced a man they believed to be connected with the macabre suitcase discovery. It was then on entering one of the residential buildings in the street where the 'person of interest' was, when two police officers were attacked without warning by an individual armed with a knife. One of them suffered several knife-wounds in just a few seconds and barely had time to react, while his companion put an end to the attack by drawing his weapon and shooting the assailant. Both the wounded officer and his killer were dead by the time an ambulance arrived.

Diario de Mallorca reported 'three hotel chains claim it has cost them €10 million due to the fake food poisonings' scam. See page 13.

A Spanish fortune-teller called, Pilar Abel Martínez, claimed she was an illegitimate daughter of the famous painter, Salvador Dalí. Martínez, photo, – who was born in 1956 in Figueres, the same town in northwestern Spain where Dalí was born – has been publicly claiming to be the famous painter's daughter since 2007. She says that her mother told her that she had a secret affair with Dalí. She intended to bear his surname and inherit 25% of his estate. With the result of the tests, the Dalí Foundation declared it "an absurd end to an artificial controversy." The mortal remains of Dalí that were extracted at the end of July (nails, a tooth, and two long bones) will soon be restored. His corpse will now be interred for a third time! It is a tragedy that any remains have to be disturbed because of human greed. And a fortune-teller! You would think she would have been able to foresee that she was not related and would lose the case!



La Verdad in Murcia reports on 'an outbreak of hepatitis A has expanded the number of cases tenfold in the Murcia Region.' So far this year 155 patients have been affected, against the 16 treated in the same period in 2016. Most of the ill are men aged between 30 and 40 and main transmission is sexual.

Spaniards are still hoarding 1.6 billion euros worth of pesetas! At the current rate it would take 74 years for all peseta banknotes to be handed in. When the euro was adopted as Spain's official currency on 1 January, 2002, no limit was established for the period during which the Banco de España would continue to change pesetas into the new currency, but now it seems that the clock is slowly ticking down to the time in 2020 when this service may no longer be offered, and after 15 years, according to the latest data, there are some who are clearly in no hurry to take advantage of this option



"Snow White was poisoned by an apple, Jack found a giant in his beanstalk, and look what happened to Alice when she ate the mushroom! And you wonder why I won't eat fruit and vegetables!?"



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## LIME BAR GOLF SOCIETY - VISTABELLA GOLF - 13TH SEPTEMBER 2017

On a very warm but pleasant day on the 13th September 2017, 31 players visited Vistabella Golf Course to play Stableford format. The match play final between Colin Taylor and Ian Johnstone was also played.

A warm welcome back to Colin Clarke after 6 months out.

An enjoyable day was had by all with some great scores achieved. All players returned to the Lime Bar for prize giving and food and refreshments kindly provided by the Lime Bar Staff.

Results as follows:-

Gold Division - 1st - Bill Denne (37pts), 2nd - Tony Brain (35pts), 3rd - Ian Johnstone (35pts c/b)

Silver Division - 1st - George Ruston (38pts), 2nd - Bud Butler (38pts c/b), Les Thwaites (33pts)

Nearest the Pin:-

No. 4 - Dave Wright, No.10 in 2 - Anton Doyle, No. 15 - John McGregor, No. 18 in 3.- Anton Doyle

2 Club Winner - Jeff Roberts

Match Play Winner - Ian Johnstone



Ian Johnstone.

### What!?

I knocked at my friend's door and his wife answered the door.

I said, 'Is Jim in?' She didn't reply, just stood there looking at me. So I asked again.

Just then a woman appeared at his wife's elbow. 'Sorry luv' she said, 'we buried him last Thursday'.

'He didn't say anything about a pot of yellow paint before he went, did he?'



# LIME BAR



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In September at last, my favourite month of the year. The bulk of the tourists have departed, the heat and humidity is less oppressive and the roads are becoming a bit more navigable. This summer, a couple of other things did piss me off however. The first being the dreadful N332 stretch through



Torrevieja, which continues to be a nightmare during the tourist season. This has also been exacerbated by traffic going to Zenia Boulevard. This photo was an all too common occurrence during the summer months. After years of toing and froing, the various governments - national, regional and local, have finally agreed that there is an issue which needs to be resolved. But getting something done quickly? Don't hold your breath.

Secondly, the *chiringuitos* on the Orihuela Costa. The beach bars on some of the other costas, particularly the Costa del Sol, are always good to visit with BBQ's grilling sardines and such, together with a good selection of beverages, friendly staff and great atmosphere. Unfortunately, a few trips to the local ones this summer revealed just tasteless fast food, expensive drinks and outlets with the personality of a lump of coal.

Now the concession for these bars go out to tender, with the next review coming up in approx. a year or so, I believe. The last tender for the five-year period was won with a bid of around €363,000. But what I find really surprising is that with the previous five-year concession, the bid was won by the existing operators with a quote of more than €500,000! I believe the Greens in the local council had the responsibility for this and this surely needs more explanation.

The local police in Torrevieja are to finally receive 150 bullet-proof vests and 50 tasers. The purchase has been held up for months due to budget problems. Well, it's not like they're a life & death matter - which of course they are! I believe an order has been finally placed for the items.....and that's a definite 'maybe.'

Only two patrols of the Local Police of Torrevieja were operative during some nights of August, a month in which the population multiplies and can reach up to 400,000 people.

The Valencian Tourism Agency has hired a communication and public relations company with the intention of improving the competitiveness and popularity of the Comunidad Valenciana as a tourist destination in the United Kingdom. In fact, this is the main international tourism market, especially in areas such as the Costa

Blanca. Tourists in the United Kingdom and Ireland account for about 4 million visitors guaranteed each year and with a high level of repetition on the Costa Blanca. Torrevieja now seeks to host 400,000 tourists all year round. The municipality wants a new tourist model that breaks with the current emphasis on seasonality.

Many of you will now be aware of the high-tech nature of the local Torrevieja Hospital. Computerisation of the hospital records, X-rays, triage, the appointment system and many other aspects, have introduced much needed and appreciated efficiencies. Prior to the establishment of this hospital, we all were obliged to use the Vega Baja Hospital in Orihuela. This was rarely a pleasant or speedy visit. I recall waiting nine hours in casualty at one time, kept in for a night and then released next day with no diagnosis. Efforts are being now made to improve the efficiency at this important location, which caters for Orihuela City and many villages. It has now been decided to digitize the medical records of 280,000 individuals and the subsequent destruction of the paper files. At present the paper files are distributed in different rooms throughout the hospital. A budget of €628,000 has been allocated to this titanic modernisation, which is expected to take 48 months.

Orihuela will pay up to 314,000 euros a year for repairing their garbage trucks. After assuming the management of the refuse contract in 2012, the City Council will now outsource the vehicle maintenance. Orihuela currently has about 60 vehicles assigned to this service, of which 10 are pickup trucks. Most are 10 years old and suffer a great deal of 'wear and tear'. The trucks work an average of 18 hours a day, in day and night shifts, taking into account that they have to drive to Murcia and Jijona to be able to dump the garbage, since the Vega Baja still has no facilities for this purpose. It will be interesting to see if the 'parking' facility adjoining Dream Hills II for some of the vehicles is altered..... or expands!

Those responsible for the lack of management leading to the environmental mess at the Mar Menor lagoon this year may be brought to court according to the Murcia press.

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## New Laws on Spanish Mortgages.

### Part 2

**Change in conditions:** Changes to the agreement can now be made more easily. Moving from variable to fixed rate mortgage will be more affordable by lowering the costs that are incurred by changing the bank loan or a modification of its terms. The bank that originally granted the loan will only receive compensation for the change in conditions in the first three years of the mortgage life and notary expenses will be reduced to a minimum. In addition, those affected by loans in other currencies (mainly signed in yen or Swiss francs) may exchange them in the currency of the country in which they reside (in euros) or in which they earn their income. An outlet for those trapped in multi-currency mortgages.

**Early repayment:** The bank can now only claim 'limited' compensation because of the early repayment of a loan. Currently the customer must pay an early redemption fee, which is usually 0.5%, and another for compensation for interest rate risk that is not limited. After the approval of the Law in the coming months, those who have a mortgage with a variable interest rate can amortize early by paying a commission for the amount delivered of 0.5% in the first three years, which will fall to 0.25% until the fifth year, from which it is reduced to zero. For fixed rate mortgages, the repayment fee will be 3% in the first four years and 4% thereafter. The commission will always be calculated on the capital to be amortized.

**Default interest:** Default interest is limited to three times the legal interest rate of the loan and new deadlines are established so that the bank can request the early maturity of a mortgage.

**Evictions:** Currently, as of the third month of non-payment of the mortgage payment, the bank considers the customer to be in arrears and can start proceedings to seize the property. This threshold now changes.

The bank will not be able to foreclose during the first half of its life (for example during the first 15 years of a 30-year mortgage) until the amount of the default exceeds 2% of the granted capital or nine monthly payments have been unpaid. In the event that the defaults occur during the second half of the life of the mortgage, the percentage rises to 4% of the capital and the time limit up to 12 months. This new early maturity clause will apply to all existing mortgage loans.

But you must remember that in Spain if the house is handed over to the bank, that does not necessarily clear the debt! The bank can and will still pursue the debtor and guarantors for interest and shortfalls.

Link in Spanish to the new legislation, due to be changed this autumn here -

<http://www.diarioinformacion.com/economia/2017/08/07/son-hipotecas-llegaran-verano/1924447.html>

This article is for general information only. Always consult a competent professional in these circumstances, not a bloke in the pub!

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**Dougal.**

'Let's do spelling this morning,' the teacher announced to her class.

'Dougal. How do you spell 'farm'?'

'E-I-E-I-O, miss.'

'And where are you from, Dougal?' asked the teacher.

'Glasgow, miss.'

'Which part?'

'The whole lot o' me, miss.'



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PARTY  
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**VIA PARK V.**

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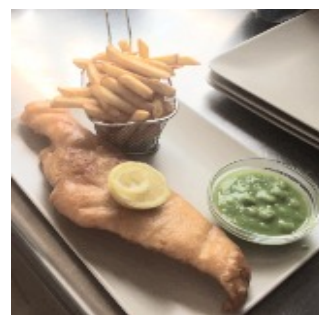
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Alejandro Mira, a biologist from the province of Alicante, leads the research that seeks to end the most widespread infectious disease in the world...End cavities! This is the objective of the research of the biologist Alejandro Mira. The team that has led in recent years has discovered a new bacterium that promises to eliminate this infectious disease, considered the most widespread in the world, affecting 90% of the population.

Mira and her team, who work in the Foundation for the Promotion of Sanitary and Biomedical Research of the Valencian Community dependent on the Department of Health, are now taking another step to put into practice what promising results in the laboratory. For this they are recruiting these days to a hundred volunteers to participate in a trial to test the effectiveness of the anticaries bacteria, called "streptococcus dentisani", administered through a gel, specifically designed to allow the bacteria to adhere to the tooth. It is the largest test developed so far to find a practical application to this bacterium, unknown until now for science, and promising to revolutionize the field of dentistry.

Streptococcus dentisani acts as a shield against bacteria that cause cavities, producing a substance that inhibits them and prevents the onset of this infectious disease. Half of the volunteers participating in this trial, according to Fisabio, will receive a dose of the bacteria daily for seven days. The other half will receive a placebo. The application of the gel will be done with different formulations to see which is the most effective combination.

The researchers "will take samples of saliva and plaque of volunteers and measure the pH values and colonization of the bacteria at 15 days and a month, as well as the ability to neutralize acids," explained since the foundation.

Volunteers who want to participate in this trial must be

between 18 and 65 years old and have a previous history of cavities or active caries at the moment. In addition, they should not have taken medication during the previous month.

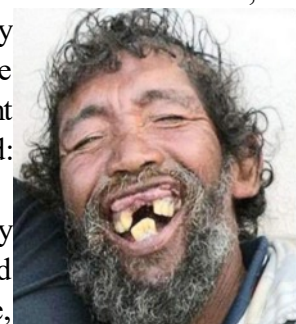
To participate in the clinical trial as a volunteer, an appointment can be made by calling 96 386 41 75. For more information, the email account has been enabled: [estudiocaries@gva.es](mailto:estudiocaries@gva.es)

The results of a preliminary preliminary clinical study, carried out in a sample of 12 people, showed that after administration, colonization of the bacteria takes place, which ends up in the patient's mouth. This study also confirmed that there are no side effects after its application, and that, in addition, it produces an improvement in the pH values of the volunteers.

After the preliminary study, the researchers conducted the first clinical trial, with 70 people, between July 2016 and February 2017. It involved 70 volunteers, who were given a dose of streptococcus dentisani daily for 7 days. The results of this trial are still being analyzed and will be published. The researchers hope to confirm the values of the preliminary study and that the results of both clinical trials help to establish the exact dose to be administered to patients and the optimal duration of treatment with the bacteria.

Alejandro Mira studied Biological Sciences at the University of Alicante, took his doctorate at the University of Oxford and did postdoctoral stays in the US and Sweden. Since 2008 he has been working in València.

<http://suscriptor.diarioinformacion.com/alicante/2017/09/02/sanidad-recluta-centenar-voluntarios-probar/1931845.html>



### The Sausage.

Shamus and Murphy fancied a pint or two but didn't have a lot of money between them; they could only raise the staggering sum of one Euro. Murphy said "Hang on, I have an idea." He went next door to the butcher's shop and came out with one large sausage.

Shamus said "Are you crazy? Now we don't have any money at all!" Murphy replied, "Don't worry - just follow me." He went into the pub where he immediately ordered two pints of Guinness and two glasses of Jameson Irish Whiskey.

Shamus said "Now you've lost it. Do you know how much trouble we will be in? We haven't got any money!!"

Murphy replied, with a smile. "Don't worry; I have a plan, Cheers!"

They downed their drinks. Murphy said, "OK, I'll stick the sausage through my zipper and you go on your knees and put it in your mouth."

The barman noticed them, went berserk, and threw them out.

They continued this, pub after pub, getting more and more drunk, all for free.

At the tenth pub Shamus said "Murphy - I don't think I can do any more of this. I'm pissed and me knees are killing me!"

Murphy said, "How do you think I feel? I can't even remember which pub I lost the sausage in."



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of all that grows around

A flower of more radiance  
has not as yet been found

This beauty with stature  
a plant with regal pose

Is that wonder of nature  
the one we call a rose.

The Phantom Poet

### The Wine Taster

At the Inskillin Winery warehouse in Canada, the regular taster died, and the director started looking for a new one to hire.

A homeless street person, drunk and with a ragged dirty look, came to apply for the position.

The director wondered how to send him away. They gave him a glass to drink.

The tramp tried it and said, "It's a Muscat three years old, grown on a north slope, matured in steel containers. Low grade but acceptable."

"That's correct," said the boss.

"Another glass, please."

"It's a cabernet, eight years old, south-western slope, oak barrels, matured at eight degrees. Requires three more years for finest results."

"Absolutely correct. A third glass."

He calmly said, "It's a pinot blanc champagne, high grade and exclusive."

The director was astonished and winked at his secretary to suggest something. She left the room and came back in with a glass of urine.

The homeless street person tried it. "It's a blonde, 26 years old, three months pregnant, and if I don't get the job, I'll name the father."

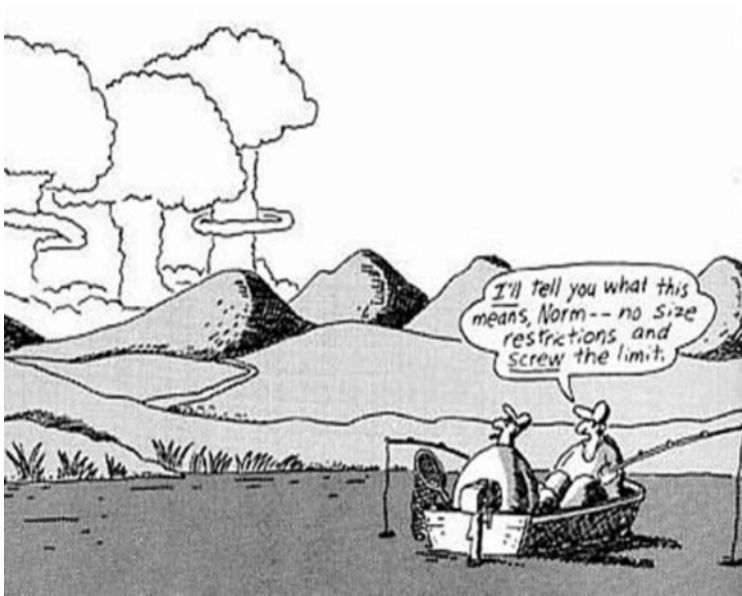
Carol Martin.

### Claim's Firm Closed.

A firm responsible for pressuring people into making holiday-sickness claims has had its licence stripped by the Claims Management Regulator, the UK's Ministry of Justice has reported.

Intelligence gathered by the Claims Management Regulator (CMR) officers revealed that Lancashire based Allsure Ltd had encouraged British tourists on holiday in Spanish and other European resorts to fabricate or embellish symptoms of gastric illness to get compensation. Further evidence showed the firm had used deceptive sales scripts, exaggerating expected payouts to entice consumers. The action taken against Allsure Ltd is the latest in a series of moves by government to crackdown on fake sickness claims, following concerns from the travel industry of a surge in insurance claims for gastric illnesses like food poisoning being brought by British holidaymakers.

These false claims were substantial enough for the Spanish government to request the British government to take action following substantial lobbying from the Spanish hotel industry. It is believed that hotels in Spain have been forced to pay out tens of millions to cover dubious claims.



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### Drownings!

A total of 375 people have died of drowning in Spain in the first eight months of the year, of which 235 have been drowned during the three months of summer, with July being the most tragic, with 95 deaths. This figure is only for the first eight months of this year. There have been 50 more drowning deaths than in the same period of 2016 and almost 100 more than in 2015.

The profile of the drowning victim in Spain is that of a male (80 percent), of Spanish nationality (75 percent), older than 35 years (71 percent), between 10 am and 8 pm (70 percent).

By autonomous communities, Andalusia is the one with the highest number of deaths until August 31, with 66 victims (17.6 percent of the total), followed by the Valencian Community and the Canaries, with 55 deaths (14.7 percent) and Galicia, with 49 deaths (13.1 percent).

This figure is far too high, particularly for a country with so much beach tourism.



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### **Bennies!**

During the Falklands War, British soldiers nicknamed the Islanders 'Bennies', after Benny, the gormless but likeable moron in the TV soap, *Crossroads*.

When the Ministry of Defence banned the term, the soldiers called them 'Stills', as in, 'Still Bennies'.

Bernard Clarke

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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**

We have had some weird weather this year, rain in August, and the temperature up and down like a yoyo. Hopefully in the autumn the weather will settle down and the big fish will be stocking up for winter..... The largest carp comp ends at the end of September and as I write, BFK sweeney is in the lead with an 11 pounder. Good hunting all! During September we still had a lot of members away or in poor health, so the bun fight went quite smoothly again. Not a lot to report so we finished in 30 minutes. Hooray!

This month's match was the last of the summer points series and also for the memorial shield.

The memorial shield commemorates our passed anglers, so some of the members don't want to win it as it may tempt fate. I bet they walk under ladders though! Mathematically, there were 5 or 6 that could still make it into the top 6 in the league (to reach the summer final) so the pressure was on 3 rods. During his summer soiree in UK, he missed a few matches and was back on 45 points, so he needed to get 16 points or better. As it turned out, it was the luck of the draw again with the favoured pegs taking the top slots. I drew peg 1 and ended up with 20 kilos to take the 1<sup>st</sup> place. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> time our club has recorded a match weight over the magic 20. I'm chuffed to bits and I don't mind having my name on the shield. 3 rods came 2<sup>nd</sup> and got his required 19 points, which saw him into the final. After the match the usual crowd were in the Lime Bar where 3 rods was taking a bit of stick from grumpy.

Grumpy must have hit a raw nerve as 3 rods nearly dislocated his shoulder. Grumpy is still flashing his "war wounds" 2 weeks later....

This year the points league was really close. The finalists ranged from 75 points down to 62. Ball boy dipped out by 1 point on 61, Shropshire lad had 60 and grumpy was right behind on 58. Well done all.

The 6 finalists (just John, 3 rods, Phil, Sweeney, Fagash and ghost) agreed to fish the following Friday. We also agreed that we needed a venue where no single peg would have the advantage so we decided on El Bosquet again but the back canal, pegs 18 to 23. On the said day at o crack dark o clock we drew pegs, then proceeded to get bitten to death by mossies. Sometimes I wish I still smoked. I lit mossie coils under my seat trying to force them down to Fagash in the next peg. It was a dry day but a bit blowy so the mossies soon went back to their nests. I knew there was a reason not to get up too early.

On the day everyone caught but by lunch time, just John had lost so much tackle in the reeds he gave up and went home early without weighing in. Perhaps he needed to valet his car or lick his wounds? Then there were 5. We all caught well but at the weigh in, I was 1<sup>st</sup> with 11.8 kilos followed by Phil H (8.2) and Fagash (7.9). According to 3 rods he had drawn a bad peg!!!! Shame. ☺

Fagin (not in the final) was spotted with an orange balloon tied to the top of his umbrella! Perhaps he was expecting jaws to leap out and take it to the depths? All was well until the heat of the sun expanded it and it went pop! He nearly s\*\*t himself.

While we were at El Bosquet, Pepe disrupted a few of the anglers when he drove past in his 4\*4. He stopped to show us some of the 20 \* gypsy barbel they were putting into canal 4. The one I saw was about 3 to 4lbs. Nice! Somewhere to fish next week?

Presentation night is booked for Thursday Nov 16<sup>th</sup> so if you are in the vicinity, come and join us for a laugh and some good food.

Next meeting bun fight is the **AGM** at The Lime Bar @ 17.00 Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

Fishy fingers!  
The Ghost



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Sex, on the whole, was meant to be short, nasty and brutish.

If what you want is cuddling, you should buy a puppy.

Julie Burchill

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### UK passport — made in France?

It was supposed to be a defining symbol of Britain's identity post-Brexit — traditional, blue and embossed with a proud lion and unicorn crest.

But it has emerged the new British passport could be designed and made by a European company after two foreign firms were shortlisted for the £490m contract.

Insiders say the companies, believed to be French and German, will battle it out with the British private security



company De La Rue to win the contract to produce 6m passports a year. The Home Office is expected to announce the winner before Christmas.

The prospect of a European Union company winning the contract has left some Eurosceptic MPs seeing red. They were counting the days before ditching the burgundy-covered document introduced in 1988 to match the other EU countries.

Last night the Conservative MP Andrew Bridgen said the proposal was bordering on the ridiculous: "While I want to see the government achieving the best value for money, it would be ludicrous if our passports were made in Europe."

Andrew Rosindell, chairman of the parliamentary flags and heraldry committee, said: "I want to see the new British passport manufactured in Britain in a British factory employing British people because if it is not it rather defeats the objective of upholding British identity."

The Home Office and De La Rue declined to comment. (Sunday Times)

(I would lay a bet that the British company wins the contract.)



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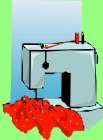
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## Pee in the Pool!

Now hold on! This is not a request. It is an antisocial act that normally goes under the radar (or water), but many swimmers have long suspected the truth: people are peeing in the pools.

Now scientists have been able to confirm the full extent of offending for the first time, after developing a test designed to estimate how much urine has been covertly added to a large volume of water.

The test works by measuring the concentration of an artificial sweetener, acesulfame potassium (ACE), that is commonly found in processed food and passes through the body unaltered. After tracking the levels of the sweetener in two public pools in Canada over a three-week period they calculated that swimmers had released 75 litres of urine – enough to fill a medium-sized dustbin – into a large pool about one-third the size of an Olympic pool, and 30 litres into a second pool, around half the size of the first.

The findings make for unwelcome reading, but swimmers might find some comfort in the measurements from eight hot tubs, which were found to have far higher urine levels. One hotel Jacuzzi had more than three times the concentration of sweetener than in the worst swimming pool.

But it gets worse! Urinating in a chlorinated pool creates a toxic chemical called cyanogen chloride. Cyanogen chloride forms when chlorine from the pool reacts with nitrogen in urine. It acts like tear gas, roughing up the eyes, nose and lungs, and it's classified as an agent of chemical warfare. So, next time you are relaxing in the pool, that eye-stinging is not caused by chlorine, but by ..... Yes, you guessed it!

### The Gift.

A Scottish Highlander died and went to heaven. (Well, it could happen!) At his audience with the Almighty he said, 'Oh Lord, I just want to thank you for my long life in the most beautiful country in the world, with its sparkling lochs, mountains, salmon, oil and of course the whisky. And as an appreciation of my gratitude I've brought you a bottle of the finest malt.'

'How thoughtful of you,' replied the Almighty. 'Is there anything else you wish to say?'

'Aye, that'll be 25 pounds!'

- I'm finished with men! They're nothing but trouble and heartache.

- I know what you mean, dear. I can never get Richard to fold his pyjamas.

Rose, and Hyacinth Bucket, *Keeping Up Appearances*

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## The Replacement.

The congregation were shocked when it was announced that their minister had been called to another church. After the service, a distraught woman came up to the minister with tears in her eyes and said 'We are going to miss you.' After the service the vicar patted her hand and said, 'Don't worry, my dear. The minister who takes my place might even be better than me.'

'Huh,' she said, with a tone of disappointment in her voice, 'that's what they said the last time!'

## Dying is not free!

*This is what can happen when a deceased person has no funeral insurance and his family cannot afford the funeral in Spain. This is a rough translation of a comment column by José Antonio Casado Mena in Informacion on 13/09/2017.*

At dawn on Friday, September 1, the soul of my dear cousin José María Perello Mena left the body of the one who used this earthly life to meet God in Heaven, as a man of faith who he always was.

My parents and my sister ran to the morgue. A silent anguish drowned them. Jose Maria, our Jose Maria, had died. I arrived a little later. Between tears and memories, an incredible thing began to happen.

I tell you a little to give you some background. My cousin was a young man of 43 years, divorced. He had a 7-year-old daughter with his first wife and a 3-year-old daughter with his second partner. His mother, my Aunt Rafaela, is a pensioner of 600 € / month. The deceased had no death insurance, as did 43% of those who die in Spain. Nor did he have money saved, neither his descendants, nor his mother, nor his ex-wife, nor those who in life would have been obliged to feed him (as the Civil Code says) could cover the expenses of the funeral, so a problem arose.

The morgue, faced with insolvency, stated that if there was no insurance and no one taking care of the expenses, the protocol to follow was to put the body in cold storage for about eight or ten days, until a competent court gave them the order to bury it in a common grave, to be paid later by the city. My family put their hands to their head, in tears, as they wondered how it was possible that in the XXI century the Spanish State could not cover something like this. The undertakers immediately took out a fee schedule and said that depending on a number of circumstances, such as the destination of the coffin (cemetery or cremation), coffin, certificates, fees, mass, wreaths, tombstone, obituaries, funeral services and taxes could cost about €6,000, but adjusting it could leave it at €4,600, when the average cost of a funeral per municipality is about € 3,545, according to the OCU!

And so it is, however sad and because of many taxes we have paid during our life and how honourable it has been, that the State abandons you without any mercy, although not before charging you a luxury tax of 21% for funeral cost & expenses due to the fact that Minister Cristóbal Montoro was responsible for increasing VAT by 13 percentage points (from 8% to 21%) in 2013 - except flowers, where the VAT is 10% and rent of the niche and religious service which are exempt. Thanks for the gesture. With this scenario, the Mena family had only two options left, a collection between friends and family, or wait for someone to offer to pay for everything so that my cousin

could have a wake, a mass and a dignified burial. Finally, my father did, in order to grant my cousin the dignity that the Spanish state had usurped. The cousins on our part proudly carry the coffin on their shoulders.

This brings me to moral issues in which I wonder what we have done wrong as a society so that the guests at a wedding give gifts and huge amounts of money to the couple but we are not able to put even a single euro for the funeral of a deceased or to help the widow or orphaned children who, on many occasions, are so helpless.

When God judges us may we have many banknotes!

*If you have, or are about to become a resident in Spain, there are a couple of things you should do to ensure that your passing does not have cause even more misery to your nearest and dearest.*

*First, take out a Spanish will, with a notation to mirror the inheritance nuances of your previous home-country. See Sol Med on page 12 who offer a reasonably priced and very competent service.*

*Secondly, sort out your funeral insurance. There are many schemes available locally - some better than others. I have written at length on this subject before and if you do not organise this, the tanatorios will take advantage of you or your loved ones! I have seen many cases of how they have inflated the costs to expats regularly, by between one and two thousand euros.*

*We particularly like and have availed of the funeral plan offered by Rocamer on page 28. This plan is very affordable and has much going for it.*

*Even if you 'peg-it' while visiting the UK or any other location in the world on holiday, they will repatriate your remains back to your home town in Spain, together with travel assistance for others on the policy.*

*Frankly, if you are middle aged or of mature years, i.e. an old fart, to ignore either of the above is irresponsible.*



*"Viking funerals aren't what they used to be"*

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Dave Allen

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## New Builds booming in Alicante, Resales still top and Brits still main foreign buyers.

The following article is an abridged and adapted translation (by Spanish Property Insight) of an article published by the Spanish daily El Mundo on the 11th of September 2017, explaining how real estate development is recovering faster in the Valencian Region's Alicante province than in the regional capital itself, largely thanks to Alicante's foreign demand. I have also added my own comments to it in brackets.

Alicante doesn't beat Valencia very often when it comes to big economic figures, but there's one activity where it does win against its northern neighbour: the property sector. Construction in Alicante is recovering at a faster rate than in Valencia.

Both have suffered similar problems since the property bubble burst back in 2008, although the impact was higher in Alicante. But almost ten years later, the property industry is on the way to stability. And in the race to recovery, Alicante is ahead of Valencia thanks to the driving force of residential tourism.

While Valencia beats Alicante in some market sectors such as luxury city homes, offices, business premises and industrial warehouses, when it comes to sales of houses and land, new developments, finished projects and investment figures, Alicante leads the race.

In terms of sales, Alicante is way in front of Valencia. Official statistics point to 32,068 sales in Alicante province in the year to June compared to 23,644 in Valencia province.

The trend for number of new-build starts is similar. According to the latest Spanish government figures, some 2,080 new builds were started in Alicante between January and May this year. The Alicante Architects Association say 2,544 were started by June. In Valencia, the figure sits at just 698, three times lower than Alicante.

Houses are also being finished more quickly in Alicante – between January and May this year 1,487 were completed. In Valencia, just 501 and it's a similar story for non-residential construction. In Valencia, work started on 60 buildings in the first five months of the year while in Alicante, the figure was 63. Office and industrial construction is, however, higher in Valencia (11 buildings) than Alicante (5).

**Real Estate Investment:** According to the Alicante Technical Architects Association, some €182 million was invested in new residential projects in Alicante in the first six months of this year. Bearing in mind that construction activity in Alicante is considerably higher than in Valencia, it seems to logical to conclude that investment is also much higher.

Spanish government figures put new-build investment in the Comunidad Valenciana region at €236 million. If Alicante is building 70% of the developments, some €165 million of the total was invested between January and May.

Land sales are also more active in Alicante than Valencia. In the former, there have been 796 land sales over the last

year with a value of €135 million and a total size of 1.3 million square metres. In Valencia province, 692 land sales took place with a value of €86 million and 1.08 million square metres.

There are several reasons why the residential sector in Alicante is busier than in Valencia. The main one is demand from foreigners who buy 40% of all homes in Alicante, 12,700 properties out of the total 32,000. In Valencia, just 2,000 homes are bought by foreigners. *(The British continue to be the main foreign buyers. Even though their overall percentage in the foreign buyers has dropped because of Brexit uncertainties and a weak sterling rate, British purchasers remain, by far, the major foreign buyers.)*

Alicante has always had more appeal for foreign buyers. Resorts such as Las Marinas, Torrevieja, Orihuela Costa and Pilar are dominated by the foreign market. "There are more residential projects because there's more demand, especially for holiday homes," say construction companies.

Proof of this is the fact that Spain's largest new-build construction companies are concentrating more on Alicante than Valencia. Aedas, Neinor, Activum SG and Lar y Merlin all include the Costa Blanca in their new development plans. Valencia is also included, although to a lesser extent. And Sareb (Spain's so-called bad bank) also does more business in Alicante, tipping the balance in favour of Alicante.

*(It is worth bearing in mind that purchases of resales still remain significantly more than new build purchases. More taxation is paid on the latter and I believe that most new builds are small - too many little boxes squeezed into smaller plots, some too close to the main roads and just too expensive for such small living spaces.*

*Prices: It is good to see that, after the collapse of property prices for several years, prices are on the 'up' again. But resale prices are more realistic than the new little boxes currently being offered by the developers. Resales on the Costa Blanca are up*

*between 3 and 5% on last year, while some banks, such as BBVA, are predicting rises of up to 10% next year. This is a bit of wishful thinking, I believe.*

*Spain does not need a new property bubble so soon after the last one. But then again, even the lessons of history, no matter how recent, are rarely learned. Mick)*



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Stan wakes up at  
the crack of Dawn.

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## The Phoenix Golf Society

17th September 2017 – Vistabella Golf Course.

We played Vistabella Golf course on the 17th September and as usual the course was in excellent condition.

We played for two Trophies –

THE PETER DAWSON TROPHY (Stapleford)  
and THE JOHN GILLISHAM TROPHY (Hidden Pairs) which everybody enjoyed.

Nearest The Pin: Number 15 Ken Styan

“ Number 4 Ken Styan

“ Number 8 Mick Highway

Peter Dawson Trophy - Ken Styan

John Gillisham – Hidden Pairs. Ken Styan and Terry Dunn.

Two's winner – Ken Styan

I think you could say it was a KEN STYAN Day!

Many thanks to Donna & Paul for lovely grub as usual after play.

I heard some sad news! An old member Tony Hardie has died suddenly – we all send our most sincere condolences.

Dave Wightman

## Back to School?

Well, not really! The poster/flyer on the right has caused panic in the city of Cartaya in Andalusia. The

'Back to School' party was not being organised by a school or college, but by a roadside brothel. There was going to be schoolgirls with short plaid skirts and white button-down shirts (that are unbuttoned), go-go dancers, strippers, erotic shows, and a chance to win a €300 voucher. No explanation of what the €300 could be spent on - probably textbooks!

The town council dispatched the Policia Local to the whorehouse to get the owner to collect all the offending flyers, but the brothel was shut until late afternoon! The owner couldn't understand all the commotion as the party has been running for 10 years! The town council, the Andalusian Women's Institute and the Huelva Feminist Movement are not amused.



## The Lab.

Two Scottish scientists were discussing their research methods. 'We're no longer using rats in our experiments,' said one fellow, 'we now use Englishmen.' 'Englishmen instead of rats?' queried the other. 'What's the advantage in that?' 'Well,' said the first scientist, 'you know how it is. You get so attached to rats.'



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## Sky TV Comes to Spain.

Sky has now officially launched a TV service in Spain. This is an online TV platform providing providing a package of 12 pay-per-view channels, plus films and series on demand.

The 12 channels on offer are FOX, Fox Life, TNT, Historia, SyFy, Disney Junior, Nickelodeon, TCM, Comedy Central, Calle 13, Disney XD and National Geographic; hardly a starting selection. As with two other providers - HBO and Netflix, the first month is free and there is no compulsory term contract. Then it is €10 per month.



This particular Sky service can be viewed in Spain with iOS and Android via its website or by buying a Sky TV Box, which costs €25. Other Sky channels such as Sky News are included in the box apps.

You can find more information on this package at [www.sky.com/es-spa](http://www.sky.com/es-spa) but the site is in Spanish only.

However, I believe that this is quite a limited package on offer. There are no sports nor premium channels available, but then again, €10 a month is not a hell of a lot! The content may improve in time.

At present, this package is not available as an app for Smart TV or Chromecast.

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W.S. Gilbert

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*Irene Graham*

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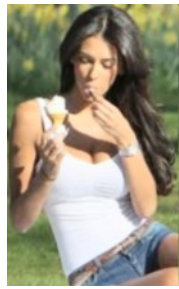
## Learning Spanish - 101

### Expressions for sex not found in the Spanish dictionary.

**TO WET THE DOUGHNUT:** Yes, churros: those long, thick doughnut sticks we all love to dunk in chocolate. Like most stick-shaped food, churros are euphemistically used to describe a man's Johnson. *'Mojar el churro'* means to have sex.



**TO RUB THE SPRING ONION:** No brownie points for guessing what the veg is meant to represent. *'Arrimar la cebolleta'* is an expression used to describe close physical contact between two people, kind of like dry humping.



**TO GO ON THE ICE CREAM CONE DIET:** *'La dieta del cucurucho'*, as it is called in Spanish, is usually followed by the words *'comer poco, follar mucho'* (Eat little, have plenty of sex). Whether eating wafer biscuits while engaging in tantric sex is scientifically proven to help weight loss we don't know, but this funny rhyming expression is used a lot by Spaniards when joking about dieting.

**TO SHOW SOMEONE WHERE CUENCA IS:** Legend has it King Philip The Handsome of Spain (1478-1506) had an observatory built for him to look out at cities surrounding Madrid on the horizon. It also doubled up as a love nest where he could keep his affairs hidden away from his wife Juana The Mad. As he escorted one young lady up the tower, he reportedly told guards *"la voy a poner mirando a Cuenca"*. They read between the lines and popularized the expression with its new hidden meaning: to have sex 'doggy style'.

**TO PLAY THE 'ZAMBOMBA' DRUM:** Watch musicians play the Spanish friction drum known as the zambomba (*darle a la zambomba*) and you will understand where this expression for 'jerking-off' comes from. This guy looks exhausted!



## The Olive War.

In March, 2017, the US Department of Commerce kick-started an anti-dumping campaign with a review of all US imports as part of Trump's bid to protect local jobs.

Following complaints filed by two Californian companies, the US Department of Commerce opened an investigation on the grounds that Spanish producers may be benefiting from unfair aid that allows them to sell below market price. The companies reject such accusations.

The Department of Commerce warned in July that tariffs would be imposed if these companies were found to be in violation of the rules and have sent 150 page questionnaires together with a complete in-debt analysis of each olive exporting company outlining all the information regarding its costs, its productivity, its prices and its distribution.

The Spanish olive company federation argue that their prices are a result of their high efficiency and that they will demonstrate that the difficulties the Californian companies are facing are not because of



the imports. Spanish producers exported 32 million kilograms of this type of olive to the US last year, with a value of €70 million and accounting for 36% of the total sold abroad.

This investigation process, which will take several months, will give the US authorities a considerable amount of intelligence on efficient table olive harvesting in Spain. No doubt it will be passed on to the heretofore unsuccessful and inefficient olive growing companies in California.

This is of course grossly unfair.

## The Blonde Student

A blonde teenage student, wanting to earn some extra money for the summer, decided to hire herself out as a "handy-woman." She started canvassing a nearby well-to-do neighbourhood. She went to the front door of the first house and asked the owner if he had any odd jobs for her to do.

"Well, I suppose I could use somebody to paint my porch," he said, "How much will you charge me?"

Delighted, the girl quickly responded, "How about £50?"

The man agreed and told her that the paint brushes and everything else she would need was in the garage.

The man's wife, hearing the conversation said to her husband, "Does she realize that our porch goes half way around the house?"

He responded, "That's a bit cynical, isn't it?"

The wife replied, "You're right. I think I'm starting to believe all those dumb blonde jokes we've been getting by email lately."

Later that day, the blonde teenager came to the door to collect her money.

"You're finished already?" the startled husband asked.

"Yes, she replied, and I even had paint left over, so I gave it two coats."

Impressed, the man reached into his pocket for the £50 and handed it to her along with a £10 tip.

"Oh, and by the way," the blonde teenager added, "It's not a Porch, it's a Lexus."



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### **Step Up!**

After a holiday on the Costa Blanca a young man boarded the aircraft for the flight to Newcastle with a parcel of freshly caught crabs for his girlfriend to eat with a bottle of Cava that night.

The hostess took them from him and put them in the fridge to keep them fresh.

The plane landed, the passengers were asked to remain seated until the plane came to a halt and the air hostess asked, "And will the gentleman who gave me the crabs in Alicante, please come forward."

There was a young girl from Cape Cod,  
Who thought babies all came from God.

But it wasn't the Almighty  
Who lifted her nightie

It was Roger, the lodger, the sod.

Anon

## IDIOTS OF THE MONTH

Okay, maybe not idiotic but certainly quirky! The post office in Santibáñez de Vidriales, a town in the northwest province of Zamora with a population of 1,000, is only open for 15 minutes a day. Locals were complaining and ‘harumpling’ as the opening hours (minutes) were changed from 10.30am to 10.45am to from 11.15am to 11.30am. “The person in charge of opening the Santibáñez de Vidriales office has a daily route of 101 kilometers,” a spokesperson from Correos explains. In addition to Santibáñez, the employee has to make deliveries in six other towns, including Brime de Sog, Rionegro del Puente, Milla de Tera, Villageriz, Fuente Encalada and Mombuey. What’s more, they also open the post office to the public for 10 minutes in Rionegro, 15 minutes in Santibáñez and 15 minutes in Mombuey.

A runaway bride who allegedly fled with £13,000 of her fiance’s stag-do fund has been arrested.

Rachel Doran, photo, vanished following the incident regarding a missing stag-do fund during early September. Her fiance Chris Mahone, 27, had reportedly let her



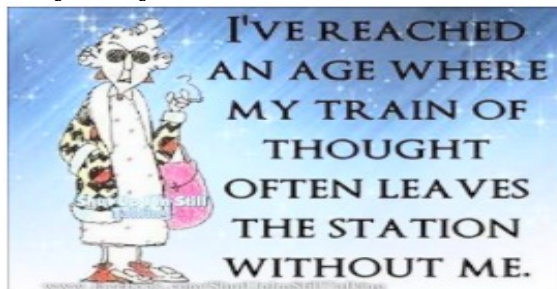
organise his stag party to Ibiza. However he was left red-faced when he and 30 friends found out she had allegedly done a runner with the money.

The 29-year-old was already on bail for credit card fraud. The extent

of Rachel’s reported deception then became apparent and the friends were left stranded at Leeds and Bradford Airport as Chris desperately tried to speak to her.

Rachel had already left their home by the time he had returned home. Forget the money! I think he got off lightly in the circumstances!

The National Police arrested a 24-year-old from the Valencian town of Utiel for speeding on a local road. This idiot was driving at 260kph on a road where speed was restricted to 70kph and 50kph. He also filmed his driving and the speedometer with his mobile phone and then posted it on Facebook. Several citizens reported this dangerous idiot to the Police Social Networks Group anonymously who then located and arrested him.



(Mel B.)

A late entry to this column is Ryanair, who, when compiling the staff holiday-rotas ‘forgot to include the pilots’. This...  
AFTER SEVEN HOURS OF WADING THROUGH HEIGHTENED AIRPORT SECURITY, LARRY FACED ONE FINAL CHALLENGE...

has resulted in the cancellation of flights for up to 400,000 passengers (2,259 flights until Oct’



28). This also comes following the news that the airline Norwegian has poached more than one hundred pilots from Ryanair and that Ryanair are to change their policy of allowing an extra small bag in the cabin. No doubt Ryanair have got PR consultants; maybe someone should wake them up!

A British man has been fined for swimming across the Colorado river at the Hoover Dam, photo, while drunk on a stag do.



Aaron Hughes is thought to be the first person to survive the swim across the reservoir at the 221m-tall (726ft) structure, which is on the border

of Arizona and Nevada.

The 28-year-old was told he escaped being dragged under only because nine of the 10 hydroelectric turbines were not in operation at the time.

Hughes, a forklift truck driver from Denbighshire, north Wales, was arrested and handcuffed immediately after getting out of the water and fined \$330 (£250).

“It was around 45-50 degrees outside and we were on a stag do in Vegas. You go to Vegas to have fun, don’t you? We made the *Hangover* movie look tame.....we were all just standing there and I thought fuck it, I’m going for a swim. I got to the bottom and thought: I can make that,” said Hughes. It took him 30 minutes to cross the reservoir.

“Even though I was knackered halfway across, I knew I had to get to the other side. The water was pulling me in towards the dam.”

In the last 10 years, 275 people have died at the site and no one had previously survived swimming across its breadth. However, it is thought that had all of the turbines been switched on, Hughes also would not have survived. I bet his parents are very proud.



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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.

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

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



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