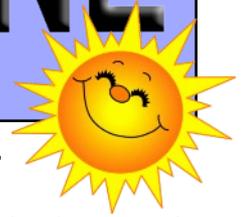


THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER

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



Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the November, 2017 edition. Issue No.126.

The main news from Spain has undoubtedly been the Catalan separatist bid. A referendum was called by the separatists, which was illegal and unsupervised. Despite efforts by the Guardia Civil and National Police to close the voting stations, many remained open. The lack of supervision made it possible for voters to vote several times at different locations. Propaganda from the separatists went into overdrive with even the BBC showing bloodied victims, supposedly from the demonstrations in Barcelona, but in reality from a miner's demonstration some years earlier. One journalist in the left-leaning national newspaper called the whole debacle *La Gran Mentira* - The Great Lie, classing it along with BREXIT and Trump as belonging directly in the world of 'fake news.' Ultimately the referendum was a farce but its consequences could take years to rectify. The future of the *Mossos* regional police force must surely also be in doubt now. The Madrid national government have been forced to revert to the constitution and is now in the process of enacting Article 155 of the Spanish Constitution which states:

1. If an autonomous community fails in its obligations to imposes the Constitution and other imposed laws, or acts against the general interests of the State of Spain, the Government will require the president of said autonomous community and in the case of his absence, with an overall majority in the Senate, to trigger reprisal measures and forces to urge compliance of said obligations or for the protection of the mentioned general interest.
2. To exercise said measures above, the Government can give instructions to all the authorities of the autonomous communities.

The activation of Article 155 has only one precedent in the history of Spanish democracy: in 1989, when the government of Felipe González threatened to use it in the Canary Islands, but he managed to stop the fiscal rebellion of the regional government before taking the matter to the Senate. More on the current situation on page 3.

Many forested areas of the northern peninsula have been devastated by more than 150 fires. More than 30 people have perished in these, mainly in Portugal. Criminally, most of these fires have been started deliberately.

Sorry to see that the Sun Bar in Via Park V has finally closed its doors. We wish Dal and family all the best.

The demise of Monarch Airlines and the debacle at RyanAir has been playing havoc with flights to Spain. Once again not helped by the French air-traffic controllers. A new low cost carrier is urgently needed, otherwise flight costs will rocket. Competition is essential in this particular market.

Many thanks to David, Valerie and Karen B. of DH2, who have donated a substantial amount to a charity of our choice. Their kind gift has been donated to the Franciscan Hospice in Palma de Gandia, for destitute elderly men, many of whom are physically and/or mentally disabled. The Order gets no government help, they accept no wages & they have no time off. With donations from local people, businesses and the many volunteers from the surrounding district, they wash, cloth, feed and care for the various illnesses and needs of some 65+ patients.

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

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(Cut out & keep.)

Angela's Cartoon



'You've never really approved of *Trick or Treat* have you, Maurice?'

There is nothing the British like more than a bloke who comes from nowhere, makes it and then gets clobbered.

Melvyn Bragg about Richard Burton

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Bagpipes!

What is the difference between a dead hedgehog on the road and a dead piper on the road?

There are skid marks in front of the hedgehog.

Keep it down!

A travelling salesman was testifying in divorce proceedings against his wife. His attorney said: 'Please describe the incident which first led you to suspect that your wife was being unfaithful.'

The salesman answered: 'I'm on the road during the week, so naturally when I get home at weekends I am particularly attentive to my wife. One Sunday morning we were in the middle of a passionate sex session when the old lady in the apartment next door banged on the wall and yelled: 'Can't you at least stop that racket at the weekend?'

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Did you know that

...the Swiss sewage system is clogged with gold? An estimated 95 pounds of gold is flushed through Swiss sewage systems each year, according to a study by the aquatic science institute Eawag. The lost gold is worth nearly \$2 million at current prices.

The researchers believe the tiny flecks of gold flow into the waste water system from the country's famed watchmaking industry and gold refineries.

The study, commissioned by the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, involved surveys of 64 waste water treatment plants across the country. Some areas had higher concentrations of gold than others.

In one part of southern Switzerland that is home to several gold refineries, elevated levels of metal deposits might even be worth collecting.

"Concentrations of gold in sewage sludge are sufficiently high for recovery to be potentially worthwhile," the researchers wrote. Researchers estimate flecks of gold that together are worth \$2 million are discarded by the refineries and Swiss watch firms.

The scientists found other unexpected elements in the water: large amounts of silver and even rare earth minerals often used in the manufacture of electronic devices.

The researchers estimated that over 6,500 pounds of silver (\$1.8 million at current prices) flows into Swiss waste water each year.

Reminds me of the movie 'Paint Your Wagon.' But gold and silver aren't the only valuable items found in Swiss waste water this year as well.

In September, Swiss investigators launched a probe into why two Spanish women flushed roughly €100,000 (\$120,000) down toilets in Geneva. The Geneva Prosecutors' Office said they found cut-up €500 bills had been flushed down toilets at a UBS bank branch and three nearby restaurants. The investigators said they were concerned the women were trying to get rid of illegal cash.



A religious group came to my door yesterday selling cosmetics. They call themselves Jojoba's Witnesses.

Unless you have been on the moon, you will now be aware that the Spanish government has **invoked Article 155**, imposing direct rule over Catalonia. This still needs to be ratified by the Senate. In a news conference following a two-hour Cabinet meeting on Saturday, Oct' 21, Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy announced that Catalan premier Carles Puigdemont, his deputy and all the members of the Catalan government will be removed as part of emergency measures to restore the law in the breakaway region. He also said that elections will be held in Catalonia as soon as possible within the next six months. "It is my wish to call elections as soon as normality is restored," said Rajoy. Both these measures are a result of invoking Article 155 of the Spanish Constitution, an obscure provision allowing the central government to take direct control of a region's affairs if the latter is in breach of the law.

Spain's Constitutional Court on Tuesday unanimously confirmed that the referendum law passed by the Catalan parliament on September 6 **was unconstitutional**, and devoid of any binding legal force. In its decision, the court states that the referendum law "encroaches upon state powers on referendum-type consultations, and violates the supremacy of the Constitution, national sovereignty and the indissoluble unity of the Spanish nation."

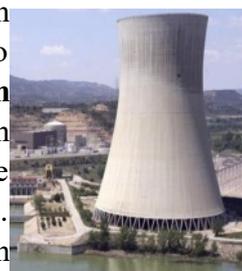
Under the Spanish Constitution, referendums may only be held at the national, not regional, level. The illegal Catalan referendum law skirted this rule, while the transition law awarded itself a higher position on the legal hierarchy than the Constitution itself. The court notes that whether Catalonia remains or not a part of Spain is not the sole decision of residents of Catalonia, **but of all citizens of Spain.**

700 companies have moved their headquarters from Cataluña so far this month. La Razón recorded the number of Catalan companies leaving in a single day as 268. Car sales in Barcelona have fallen by 10%, tourism arrivals have fallen by 15% and sales in the department stores in Cataluña are down by 20%.

Artur Mas, the former president of Catalonia, has to pay a **€5.2 million holding deposit/bail/bond** towards possible contingent costs of his illegal 'referendum/consultation' on November 9, 2014. This is in case there will be subsequent fines. Mas had 15 days to pay the deposit. In mid-October, €2.2 million was deposited on his behalf by Òmnium Cultural and l'Assemblea Nacional Catalana (ANC) with a request to hold off on the remaining €3 million for another 15 days. Mas has called for 'the solidarity of the Catalans,' i.e. more money, please. Both the head honchos of the ANC and Òmnium have now been placed in jail as the judge said that they, 'were feeding the frenzy' to 'impede the application of law'. A couple of weeks ago, the company SegurCaixa Adeslas, which the Catalan Generalitat had contracted as liability insurers, refused to pay the bond of 5.2 million euros that the Court of Auditors imposed on Mas.

Madrid taxi drivers are on the road to becoming English speakers. Some 500 cabbies in the region are taking a state-funded online course to improve the tourist experience. English, said one driver, is like his GPS, meter and air conditioning: a requirement of the job. As soon as a foreigner gets in his taxi, he is ready with his first question: Is this your first time in Madrid? As he pointed out: "We give tourists their first impression of the city. If we help their trip to begin well, the rest of their visit will go better."

Spain is to pay the UK - British International Nuclear Services (INS) formerly British Nuclear Fuels - €50.4 million to remove the **remaining plutonium** from the now closed nuclear plant in Garoña. Only the Spanish could name such a facility - photo - *Santa Maria*.



Who knows, maybe coming to an allotment near you in the UK soon?

Those carrots will be glowing in the dark!

Diario de Ibiza reports - '80% of the doctors in the Can Misses hospital are against the requirement of the Catalan language' – the medical professionals are defending the right of the patients to express themselves in their own language.

The rampant **Xylella bacteria** in Mallorca has already infected a million almond trees on the island and reached 90% of experimental cultivations. The bacteria causes sudden death in trees by making the wood go mouldy.

The drought in Málaga is being exacerbated by the proliferation of **illegal wells and leaking pipeworks**. 20% of the water transferred is lost every day, enough to supply 500,000 people.

The **survival rate** of **breast cancer** in Málaga has reached 87% of the cases – early diagnoses combined with better treatments are behind the higher cure rate.

Marta Ribeiro, the coordinator of the breast cancer unit in Carlos Haya hospital in Málaga, said 'It is very probable that in 15 years breast cancer will be cured without surgery' – 'the illness is no longer a symptom of death.'

The lorry driver in Murcia, who caused the massive road accident during October, with five dead, tested **positive for cocaine**. Cocaine does appear to be the main illicit drug used by lorry drivers.

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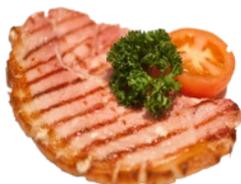


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I have no intention of uttering my last words on the stage, darling.
Room service and a couple of depraved young women will do quite nicely for an exit.

Peter O'Toole

What's Up? continued

A man whose prison sentence has been deemed to have been completed in the Málaga jail of Alhaurín de la Torre has surprised the authorities by requesting to be allowed to stay in his cell until the end of November so that he can complete a training course he has started while serving time. 36-year-old J.L.R., who is of Bolivian origin, was originally sentenced to over 4 years behind bars after being found guilty of sexually abusing his flatmate. He 'interfered' when she was asleep and she was not aware of what was happening, (one heck of a deep sleep!). After the assault he sent her a text message begging forgiveness for his acts. But now he is pleading for a rather different kind of clemency on the grounds that the early release agreed upon by the authorities will not allow him to finish his course, which he maintains he would be unable to pay for if granted his freedom. This places the prison authorities in a difficult situation, and one for which they are unlikely to be prepared, and one intriguing question is to what lengths the individual concerned is prepared to go in order to remain in jail....

Experts and the University of Alicante warn that over-fishing threatens 90% of species. The Civil Guard intervenes 150 kilos of immature octopus in a fishing boat in Torre Vieja

Picture the Hospital La Fe in Valencia at 10:am on a busy Saturday. A goat wanders in, striding nonchalantly and no doubt inquisitively through the automatic glass doors into the main building. As normal, the dozy security staff did not notice anything (probably too busy texting) and it was nursing staff who eventually raised the alarm. Corraling the beast proved very difficult until they used two wheelchairs to corner it and keep it in one of the toilets for the disabled. Hopefully, there was no one in there at the time! The police arrived and the intrepid goat was taken away by the stray animals organization *Modepran*, and is now at an animal refuge in the Las Moreras, Murcia.



From from February 1, 2018, it will be illegal in Spain to cut the tail, ears, remove nails or teeth, of any pets for cosmetic purposes. It will also be illegal to give animals as a prize. In addition, it provides that any intervention in which the animal may suffer pain may only be carried out under anaesthesia administered by a veterinarian and those which do not require anaesthesia may be performed by a competent person in accordance with national legislation.

Rewarding Failure in Spain.

Four former directors of CAMbank, one woman and three men, have been given jail sentences ranging from four to 2.9 years. Unless they win their appeals, all four should go to jail as the sentences are greater than two years. They were found guilty of corporate crime by falsifying the bank's annual accounts in the year 2010 and 2011. The financial fines for fudging the figures however, could be as low as €18,000.

But take a look at the graphic on the right. It lists the former directors of the now defunct CAMbank, their previous annual salary, their annual pension together with the monthly pension payment each receives. While the bank was sinking, they were all happy to feather their collective retirement nests. At least four of them -, Roberto López Abad, María Dolores Amorós, Francisco Martínez and Teófilo Sogorb - are hopefully going to jail. It should be several more. (Graphic: *Informacion*)

Ex Director's Name	Annual Salary	Annual Pension	Monthly Pension
Gabriel Sagristá Ramis	261.895,82	129.187,68	10.765,64
Vicente Soriano Terol	298.571,98	150.804,04	12.567,00
Joaquín Meseguer Torres	266.601,12	132.611,65	11.050,97
Daniel Gil Mallebrera	279.453,48	136.470,41	11.372,53
Francisco José Martínez García	296.905,48	164.570,22	13.714,19
Idelfonso Jesús Riquelme Manzanera	296.886,58	154.538,03	12.878,17
Agustín Llorca Ramírez	298.866,94	152.813,61	12.734,47
Bernardo Chuliá Martí	297.327,76	156.595,78	13.049,65
Teófilo Sogorb Pomares	265.223,40	137.958,97	11.496,58
Pedro Torres Ribas	261.895,82	133.818,29	11.151,52
José Pina Galiana	298.176,60	157.256,79	13.104,73
María Dolores Amorós	593.654,90	369.497,20	30.791,43
Roberto López Abad	593.654,90	345.988,33	28.832,36

Three little ducks go into a Bar.....

'Say, what's your name?' the bartender asked the first duck. 'Huey,' was the reply.

'How's your day been, Huey?'

'Great. Lovely day. Had a ball. Been in and out of puddles all day. What else could a duck want?' said Huey.

'Oh. That's nice,' said the bartender. He turned to the second duck, 'Hi, and what's your name?'

'Dewey,' came the answer from duck number two.

'So how's your day been, Dewey! ?' he asked.

'Great. Lovely day. I've had a ball too. Been in and out of puddles all day myself. What else could a duck want?'

The bartender turned to the third duck and said, 'So, you must be Louie?'

'No,' she said, batting her eyelashes.

'My name is Puddles.'



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A woman walked into a bar and asked for a double entendre.
So the bartender have her one.

Once again the **Orihuela Costa has been shortchange** by the city. For the second time the promised Moors & Christians parade for World Tourist Day has been cancelled. While the tourism councillor, Sofia Alvarez, is happy to appear in photo op's, she is clearly unable to provide even the smallest enjoyable event for those of us on the coastline. However, the city is very grateful for the million the coastal population give towards the city and villages so that expensive projects can be introduced there.

While the Catalan crisis has been fermenting, things in Murcia have also been quite dramatic, and all because of the proposed arrival of the high speed train (AVE) tracks. An agreement signed by the local, regional and national authorities in 2006 promised that a tunnel would be built to house the line, but in recent weeks they commenced the building of a high wall and screen to hide the trains, dividing some districts in two. Several thousand locals have been carrying out demonstrations, gathering on the tracks to stop the building works. There have also been violent incidents with the police and unknowns have sabotaged the railway tracks that left Murcia without trains between Cartagena and Alicante for a week. Renfe was obliged to transfer passengers by coach, 78 times a day. 8,000 passengers were affected and more than €650,000 worth of damage was done to the tracks. The locals eventually got their way. The proposed temporary wall will now be lower and a



€606 million contract to build a four kilometre tunnel will be put out to tender next spring. This photo illustrates the height of the proposed original wall to

house the tracks. One can hardly blame the locals for objecting to it, but the vandalism to the AVE tracks continues.

Other good news from Murcia is the opening of a new motorway, bringing the city only two hours from Valencia.

Bathing and the supposedly therapeutic use of mud/sludge **in the main Torrevieja salt lake** has become increasingly popular, particularly with the visiting Russians and citizens of Eastern European countries.

The preferred bathing areas are on the southeastern shore of the Torrevieja lagoon,



the most accessible, parallel to the urbanisations of Las Torres and La Siesta. But now bathing is to be banned in the salt lake (because of the risk of accidents), although one may still cover oneself with the mud in a limited area of the lake. But this begs the question, after you put the mud on, how can you wash it off? Illegal bathers will face penalties of up to €6,000! Ouch!!

During October, Tid & I enjoyed the **50th wedding anniversary** bash of Beryl and Denis (photo) at JJ's Cafe Bar. It was an excellent event and they both would like to thank JJ, Rob and the hard-working staff for such a wonderful buffet and evening. Also thanks to Tony Jones who kept us all entertained throughout and to all the guests for the lovely cards and presents.



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lovely cards and presents.

Reports of bites by the **tiger mosquito** are on the increase. The rainfall in September and on October 18 has left surface water and puddles ideal for breeding conditions for all mosquitos. Health centres in the Valencia region have reported an increase of 37.8% in the number of people seeking medical attention after being bitten. Almost 18,000 people have been treated so far this year as against 12,577 last year. You can do your bit by emptying any saucers or containers of water around your home hear so the blighters can't breed. If there is a major local problem with an infestation, residents can call 96 674 2374 to report it.



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Bank Ordered to Refund Mortgage Setup Costs.

A court in Barcelona ruled earlier during October that CaixaBank must refund mortgage costs paid by a client, namely notary, registry and administrative fees as well as stamp duty (Impuesto de Actos Jurídicos Documentados/ADJ in Spanish).

In total, the bank must refund €5,237 as well as interest accrued since the payments were made. It has also been ordered to pay costs. The client signed a mortgage agreement with CaixaBank in December 2015 and the contract included a clause obliging the client to pay all costs associated with the mortgage.

The client later filed a claim requesting the clause be declared null and void, plus a refund of all costs: €630 in notary fees, €409 for registry fees, €279 for administrative fees and €3,919 in stamp duty.

Arguing that it should not have to pay any costs, CaixaBank defended the transparency of the clause and claimed it was “clear and perfectly understandable”, and that the client was aware of the costs before signing the contract.

Legal precedence for Spanish mortgage setup cost claims

The judge based the decision on two previous court rulings. One in Santander that pointed out that the most important thing in this type of clause is not transparency but whether there’s imbalance between the two sides. The judge ruled that the clause in question stated that the client was responsible for all costs associated with the mortgage. “This alone makes it an unfair clause. It is unacceptable to make the borrower pay all costs,” said the ruling.

The court in Barcelona also cited a ruling by the Supreme Court, which stated that “it’s incomprehensible that the lender should not pay any of the costs. In the case of stamp duty, the lender is liable for payment of the tax and associated documentation. This is stated in the law but not in the clause.”

The judge states that “once the clause is declared unfair because it allows an unjustified imbalance between the two sides, it must be considered non-existent. The rest of the contract remains valid, however, because the clause was obviously not an essential part of it.”

Safe Sex?

Three women were discussing contraception. The first said she used the pill, the second said she always carried a packet of condoms and the third said she always used a tin with a few pebbles inside. The other two looked at her in amazement. ‘How does that work?’ they asked. ‘Oh, it’s easy really. I get the man to stand on the tin and when I hear the pebbles start to rattle I kick it out from under him.’

(Stuart)

At the Emmys

“I want to thank Trump for making black people no. 1 on the most oppressed list. He’s the reason I’m probably up here.”
 — Donald Glover



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The National Police Identified 800 British Tourists for False Poisonings.

Spanish police said Friday they had identified around 800 British tourists suspected of having made fake food poisoning claims after going on holiday in the Balearic Islands to try to win compensation.

Police have listed 77 law firms allegedly used by the tourists to file their complaints as part of their investigation, a statement said.

The law firms "orchestrated a possible criminal network based on fake claims that have generated significant economic damage to the Balearic and Spanish tourism sector," it added.

The Balearic Islands -- which include Ibiza, Mallorca and Menorca -- saw a 700% rise in sickness claims from January 2016 until the end of September, with the overall cost of the claims worth four million pounds (4.5 million euros), police said.

Police said the problem of fake food poisoning claims was also affecting Spain's Canary Islands and the Levante region on the eastern Mediterranean coast, which includes the resort of Benidorm, popular with British tourists.

Hotels complain that British claims management companies openly tout for business in Spanish resorts, promising not to

charge any fees if no eventual damages are paid out.

An ambulance emblazoned with the words "Claims Clinic" was last year pictured driving around Tenerife on Spain's Canary Islands, where more than one in three tourists is British.

Spanish tourism officials say the problem has arisen because British consumer law does not require claimants to produce any medical evidence of illness, and claims can be filed up to three years after a stay at a hotel.

Spain has stepped up its cooperation with Britain to halt the flood of fake claims which led British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson to say earlier this year that the digestive "systems of British people" had "become the most delicate in the world".

The British authorities have given an undertaking to fight against this type of fraud and last week the first prison sentence was handed down. A couple from Liverpool were sentenced to two years in prison for faking sickness during two summer holidays in 2015 and 2016. The couple had demanded 22,000 € from the tour operator.

Two year sentences in the UK are served, unlike Spain.

Locally there is plenty of anecdotal evidence of rising property prices. However, some sellers continue to ask silly prices. Most of the new builds locally are also very expensive and are on very small footprints. Unfortunately, the developers are shoehorning in more apartments and villas at the cost of comfortable space.

The following are short extracts from reports in Spanish Property Insight and *Informacion*.

The Overall Market –

Concern as to amount of new construction.

We repeat our caution as to the amount of new build alongside a possible surplus of existing property. As one agents said when asked, “The market is full of people who can’t spot value. They will overpay by 30-40% for a shiny white box with no community, no history, a poor location and a guaranteed instant loss of value.” There will be a number of disappointed investor buyers if they need to be sellers in the near future.

In addition, an agent active at the lower end of the market, reported that, “A number of new builds are not moving as fast as the developers anticipated. Clients are very cautious and wanting to make sure everything is correct before signing.” This is evidenced by developers offering ‘free’ furniture packages or cars with every sale within a certain time period. However, it does appear that caution does not include value research!

All agencies have reported that 2017 is better than last year. Whilst the British interest undoubtedly dropped, it is still a most significant source of new buyers. They are now competing with increased numbers of Nordic, Belgian, Dutch, German and Finnish buyers, many of whom tend towards the locations where there are similar language neighbours and facilities. This has resulted in a number of new agencies being created to serve these nationalities, and they report strong activity. There is an increase in the number of Irish buyers, who used to be numerous, as their home market improves. An increase

in the number of French buyers was also reported, with the high prices of S of France reportedly driving them further south for better value for money and a longer season. Russia was not mentioned by any agent, indicating that demand from there is still significantly reduced.

With the improvement in the Spanish economy, there has also been an increase in the number of Spanish buyers. However, this may be halted by the Catalan crisis. The effect of that has not yet been noticed, but with the movement out of Cataluña of many firms, including Banks, due to their wish to avoid disruption and the importance of staying within the EU, there could be a significant increase in domestic demand in the relocation areas, which include Alicante, Valencia and Mallorca.

<https://www.spanishpropertyinsight.com/2017/10/13/survey-spain-quarterly-market-report-summer-2017>

.....

The impact of Brexit on the Alicante economy begins to reach significant figures. Although the arrival of tourists from the United Kingdom to the hotels of the Costa Blanca has continued to grow, the real estate sector has been very different, where the operations carried out by citizens of this nationality accumulate four consecutive quarters of falls - since the referendum was held - and sales of € 125 million have already been lost, according to the calculations made by this newspaper based on data provided by the Notarial College of the Valencian Community. If you take into account that the average amount that the British spend when they buy a house or apartment in the province is about 125,000 euros, according to the same sources, this means that the breach caused by the Brexit in the province already reaches 125 millions of euros in 1,000 lost sales.

<http://suscriptor.diarioinformacion.com/economia/2017/10/14/brexit-supone-quebranto-125-millones/1946056.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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Mother Goose 2017

Monday's child is in your face

Tuesday's child is a big disgrace

Wednesday's child just wants your
dough

Thursday's child is on drugs and blow

Friday's child sells sex for a living

Saturday's child just moans your not
giving

But a child born on the Sabbath day

Is twisted and bad and demands that you
pay

The Phantom Poet



The Nail.

Before hurrying into town on business, a farmer said to his wife: 'Oh, I nearly forgot. That guy will be along this afternoon to impregnate one of the cows. I've hung a nail by the correct stall so you'll know which one I want him to impregnate. Are you clear with that?'

The wife, who knew precious little about farming nodded hesitantly.

That afternoon, the inseminator arrived, and the wife, as instructed, led him out to the barn and directly to the stall with the nail.

'This is the cow right here,' she said.

'What's the nail for?' Asked the inseminator.

The wife shrugged and replied: 'I guess it's to hang up your pants.'

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Scotsman to wife. 'Do you think, my wee pet, that in my next life I might come back as a worm?'
'Don't be daft, Donald. Sure ye always come back as something else.'

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This service will provide eight return trips between Alicante-Elche Airport and Torrevieja central bus depot. It will operate every day of the year and without any stops.

Torrevieja to Airport: 7:00 - 9:00 - 10:00* - 11:00 - 12:00* - 13:00 - 15:00 - 16:00* - 17:00 - 18:00* - 19:00 - 21:00

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

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

Price: €6.92. Children under 4 years travel for free but ID may be requested.

Pensioners can get a 30% discount but only if they are registered as permanent residents in the Valencian Community. You may need to show proof of age ID plus Residencia, NIE or DNI. A bit of a palaver really. Prior booking is not required. Sometimes the bus fills up quickly with people and you have to wait more than 2 hours for the next bus.

Although Orihuela Costa has once again been denied a Moor's and Christian's parade by the money-sucking vampires in Orihuela City, you might enjoy a look at the recent marvellous Romans V Carthaginians spectacle in Cartagena.



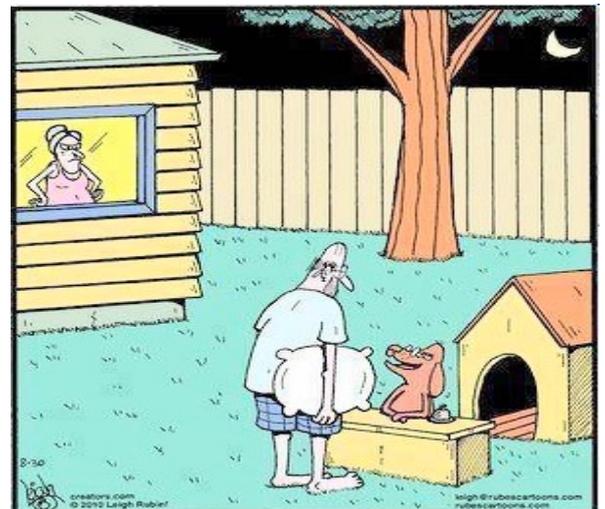
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So Kind!

With his wife ill in bed, a man volunteered to do the weekly supermarket shop. Kind soul.

By the time he reached the checkout his trolley was overflowing. Behind him in the queue was a little old lady with just a loaf of bread and a packet of cheese in her basket. He turned to her and said: 'Is that all you've got, love?' Her face lit up, 'Yes, dear.' she said.

'Well,' he said, if I were you, I'd have a sit-down, because I'm going to be ages here.'



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The Police Dog.

A woman saw a newspaper advert that offered a pure-bred police dog for sale for €25. Thinking it was a bargain, she rang the number and bought the dog. But when the owner delivered it, she found that she had bought nothing but a mangy-looking mongrel. She told the owner, 'How can you possibly call that scruffy mutt a pure bred police dog?' 'Don't let his looks deceive you,' said the owner. 'He's working undercover.'

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facebook

A woman went to a plastic surgeon and asked him to make her like Bo Derek. He gave her a lobotomy.

Joan Rivers

Football and Messi's Secret.

The following is taken from *The Fiver*, a tongue-in-cheek regular commentary on football, in *The Guardian* online.

Secret tiny mystery performance-boosting miracle mystery things. CHEW ON THIS

A couple of years ago the Seattle Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch volunteered to coach some kids near his home. Midway through the session he must have felt a hunger pang, because he bent over, reached into his sock, pulled out some fried chicken he'd stored there, and chowed down. "My auntie fried up some chicken and I had my hands full, and I don't have any pockets on my shorts, so I just had to use what I had," he explained. The problem wasn't so much that he ate chicken during a training session – though that was a little unusual – but that humans, prone as they are to storing food in fridges and cupboards, consider socks to be an unconventional larder, particularly if they are being worn at the time.

In 1998 the Atlético Mineiro striker Edmilson scored against América, a team from Belo Horizonte widely known as Coelho, or rabbit. He had planned a celebration for precisely this occasion, which was why he'd spent the preceding 20 minutes playing football with a carrot in his underpants. He pulled it out of his jockstrap and joyfully munched it in front of his fans. "Did I find it revolting to eat it? Of course not," he scoffed. "I don't find my own body revolting." Then there was the game between Manchester United and Charlton in 2006 when Rio Ferdinand fell to the turf. The physio ran on, fumbling in his bag. But instead of bringing out a bandage, magic sponge or anything with acknowledged medical benefit, he produced a couple of Jaffa Cakes, which the defender ate before getting on with the game. Tom Ince has admitted occasionally eating Fruit Pastilles mid-match. There are probably others.

So it's not unheard of for sportsmen to eat while playing, nor for them to have kept said stuff in their undercrackers.

But all these cases involve identifiable foodstuffs, not secret tiny mystery performance-boosting miracle mystery things. So what did Lionel Messi pull out of his socks and gobble after nine minutes of Wednesday night's win over Olympiakos? And is it coincidence that it was only after he ate it that he and his team started being actually good? It has been widely described as being "a pill" and Spanish hacks have suggested it contained nothing more sinister than glucose. To *The Fiver*, it is yet more evidence that Messi is not entirely human. He already possessed many of the attributes of a superhero but the evidence is becoming incontrovertible. Consider this:

1) Spinach capsules are a thing. Popeye gained superhuman strength after eating spinach and while he generally got his from a tin, that was primarily because spinach capsules didn't exit in the 1930s. He consumed his spinach in the most easily transportable form available at the time, which is now a pill. Messi ate a pill. Messi and Popeye share many characteristics, including ... well, mainly becoming more amazing at stuff after eating spinach.

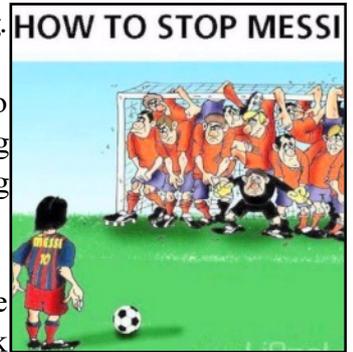
If that's what Messi was eating, Which it might have been.

2) Other superheroes also became powerful after eating particular things, including Bananaman.

3) That's really all we've got.

But this could change everything. Until his sock-snuck

snack was spotted, nobody really knew how to stop Messi. Now they must simply get their hands on whatever he keeps down there before the genius himself does. This, *The Fiver* hopes, will lead to some comic scenes in future Barcelona matches. Though, if he starts keeping his mini mid-match meal where Edmilson hid his, things might start to get really messy.



Prior's Compensation Reduced.

Many of you may be aware of the awful story of the Priors in Andalusia. The Priors, a retired British couple, had a beautiful villa, garage and swimming pool built in the Andalusian area of Vera for €375,000, with planning approval and licences from the local Vera Town Hall. The building was completed in May 2003, photo, and the priors moved in. In May 2006, the Priors were called to the town hall and told they had 15 days to demolish the building otherwise the regional junta would have it pulled down and the Priors billed with the cost. Although the town hall issued a licence, the regional government advised that the land was designated rural. There followed lots of reassurances from the town council but on January 9, 2008, the bulldozers moved in and demolished the villa and pool, but not the garage which was not deemed to be illegal. After supplying the couple with two days B&B locally, the Vera town council turned their back on them even after promising them another house.

Lots of petitions and unfulfilled promises followed with the case going through the usual lengthy legal proceedings. Some years later a court in Almeria awarded the couple damages/compensation of €425,183. This was appealed by the Vera town hall, no less, and a higher court has reduced the compensation to €220,344.



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Watch out for.....

There is no doubt that a Mediterranean diet is a healthy one, undoubtedly much better than the 'processed' northern European one. However, there are traps even in a healthy diet and you have to be careful about the quality and honesty of the produce you purchase. Tuna is a very popular fish with the Spaniards, who consume three kilos of the fish per annum per person and the demand is growing. This is six times more than the world's average. However, the 'healthy option' is not always the best. Fresh tuna will always command a high price, but the problem is wholesalers can, and sometimes will, enhance the colour of the fish with additives. Sometimes these additives are vegetable extracts from beetroot and celery, but other chemical preservatives are also often used.

On September 27, the Spanish Ministry of Health reported that there were 154 people in Spain poisoned during the consumption of adulterated tuna. This is not a problem unique to Spain as the EU reported a further 150 cases of histamine intoxication during the same month in other European countries.



According to the Ministry of Health, tuna poisoning with histamine has not posed a serious risk to the health of those affected, although it has been suggested that it may involve "commercial fraud or improper handling of the product".

Histamine poisoning is characterized by sore throat, flushing, facial sweating, nausea, vomiting, headache and cutaneous erythema.

Detecting fraudulent tuna is not easy unless you are used to eating a lot of this particular fish. But if you see one supermarket selling tuna at say €30 a kilo and another selling some with a beautiful red colour at €15 per kilo, well!

Unfortunately it is not just tuna which gets this colourful makeover. A couple of years ago I bought some large beautifully coloured cooked prawns from a local supermarket. While enjoying them a couple of hours later, my daughter pointed out that my face was very red. My throat and airways then started to swell, so it was off *mas rapido* to Torry Hospital, where I was taken in to A&E immediately and give a shot. Six months later, I experienced a similar episode, after consuming a prawn omelette in a local Chinese restaurant: prawns obviously from the same supermarket. I still love prawns, but now only pale pink ones and not too many!

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The Real Swine!

Last year, two young men, aged 20 and 23, who worked on



a pig farm in

Almeria, were

arrested for animal

cruelty. They

crushed and killed

79 piglets by

jumping on them

(photo). One of the

human swine filmed

his companion on

his mobile phone

while he was jumping on the pigs and sent the video out on social media, proud of their heroics.

During early October this year, they were both sentenced to

15 months in prison and ordered to pay €4,740 in

compensation to the pig farm. They were also banned from

working in animal-related trades for three and a half years.

The prosecution asked for 30 months in jail, but as is often

the case, the judge halved the prosecutor's request and gave

the 'heroes' a sentence of 15 months each.

But, as you may be aware, sentences of two years or less in

Spain are rarely served if it is a first offence. Also, it is most

unlikely that the fine will ever be paid.



I am amazed at radio DJs today. I am firmly convinced that AM on my radio stands for Absolute Moron.

I will not begin to tell you what FM stands for.

Jasper Carrott

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join the fun!**



Cop This!

A police officer arrested a man and told him: 'I'm afraid I'm going to have to lock you up for the night.'

'What's the charge?' asked the suspect.

'Oh, there's no charge,' said the officer. 'It's all part of the service.'

Call it what it is.

A man in a ski mask ran into a bank, pointed a banana at the cashier and yelled: 'This is a cock-up!'

'Don't you mean a stick-up?' asked the cashier.

'No,' said the robber. 'It's a cock-up. I forgot to bring the gun!'

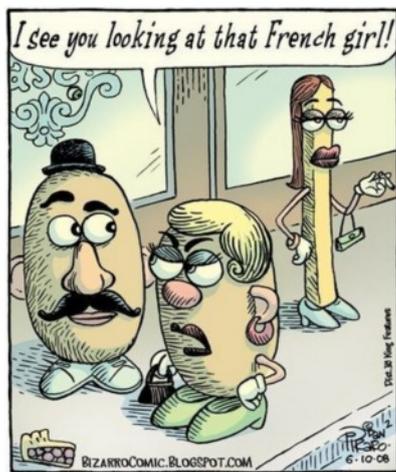
Is There a Single Food That You Can Survive on Forever?

Potatoes Are Close, but Not Close Enough.

For all of 2016, Andrew Taylor ate only potatoes. There were a few caveats: He ate both white potatoes and sweet ones, and sometimes mixed in soymilk, tomato sauce, salt and herbs. He also took B12 supplements. But, overall, he ate potatoes for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. He took four blood tests over the year which he claims all came back normal. He even lost weight and felt more energized.

“If you have to choose one food, if you’re one of the people that’s getting sent to Mars, choose potatoes,” says Taylor. “I’m not trying to be evangelical about potatoes, but it was a really good experience for me.”

First and foremost, it’s not a good idea to only eat one kind of food. To survive, we need 20 amino acids—of which nine are essential, meaning we can’t make them



ourselves and must get them from food—as well as a plethora of minerals and vitamins. (And, obviously, we need water in addition to food to keep our cells hydrated so they don’t wither and stop functioning.) Throughout history we’ve often combined foods, like rice

and beans, yogurt and nuts, and even macaroni and cheese to a certain extent, in an attempt, or by accident, to intake the proper balance of nutrients that you usually can’t attain from eating a single food item. But in times of famine, fasting, or strange double-dog-dares, there are a couple of foods a human could survive on.....at least for awhile.

The potato is one good example. Andrew Taylor isn’t the only person in history who has relied almost exclusively on potatoes for sustenance. In the beginning of the 1800s, about a third of the Irish population got most of their calories from spuds. The average American ate about 113 pounds of these starchy tubers in 2015. “For the money and your blood pressure, you can’t beat a traditional baked spud,” says Joan Salge Blake, a clinical nutrition professor at Boston University.

Five a Day?

Technically, the traditional white potato contains all the essential amino acids you need to build proteins, repair cells, and fight diseases. And eating just five of them a day would get you there. However, if you sustained on white

potatoes alone, you would eventually run into vitamin and mineral deficiencies. That’s where sweet potatoes come in. Including these orangey ones in the mix—technically, they belong to a different taxonomic family than white potatoes—increases the likelihood that the potato consumer will get their recommended daily dose of Vitamin A, the organic compound in carrots that your mom told you could make you see in the dark, and Vitamin E. No one on a diet of sweet potatoes and white potatoes would get scurvy, a famously horrible disease that happens due to a lack of Vitamin C and causes the victim’s teeth to fall out.

Even with this combo, you’ll still need to eat a lot of spuds before you intake the right levels of everything. Consuming five potatoes would give you all the essential amino acids you need to build proteins, repair cells, and fight diseases. But unless you ate 34 sweet potatoes a day, or 84 white potatoes, you would eventually run into a calcium deficiency. You would also need 25 white potatoes a day to get the recommended amount of protein. Soybeans have more protein and calcium—but they don’t have any Vitamin E or beta-carotene.

Of course, there are a lot of health disadvantages to potatoes, especially when you eat them en masse. White potatoes are high in a kind of carbohydrate that causes your blood sugar to spike and then dip, which puts a strain on the insulin system. People who ate a lot of these tubers were more likely to get diabetes and become obese, according to multiple studies.

Andrew Taylor actually lost weight—probably from eating less overall and giving up sugar—which wasn’t his ultimate goal. He quit eating most food to train himself to get comfort and joy from other areas of his life. But now even though his spud experiment is over, he still gets pretty excited about potatoes. “It was just an experiment and turned out to be exactly like I wanted,” he says.

No nutritionist would get on board with an all-potato diet. Nor would they recommend an all coconut, kale, seaweed, or yogurt one either. There’s a reason that the U.S. dietary guidelines recommends eating a variety of vegetables, grains, proteins, fruits, and oils. Eat any of these just by themselves and you would soon run into the same nutritional deficiencies that you would with a potato. Variety is important, and in this case, it’s vital. So don’t just eat a baked potato, load it with other healthy stuff, too.

http://www.popsoci.com/nutrition-single-food-survival?mc_cid=7010bca3d7&mc_eid=404da3553f

As an Irishman I take great comfort in this and can’t wait to tell my GP. Mick

Paddy is in jail. The guard looks in his cell and sees him hanging by his feet. ‘What the hell are you doing?’ he asks.

‘Hanging myself,’ Paddy replies. ‘It should be around your neck,’ said the guard.

‘I know,’ says Paddy. ‘I tried that but I couldn’t feckin breathe.’

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Officially Dead, But Still Walking Around!

Most of us are only too aware of the bureaucratic nature of life in Spain, but the following story widely reported on in the Spanish media illustrates the problem which for many is a nightmare.

If you have ever read 'Catch 22' you will recall that Doc Daneeka suffered a similar 'fate'.

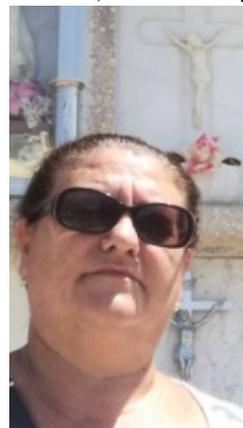
For seven years, Juana Escudero Lezcano, a 53-year-old woman from Alcalá de Guadaíra, a town outside of Seville in the south of Spain, has been struggling to carry out simple tasks, such as renewing her driver's license or going to a doctor because, despite being alive, various administrative offices believe she's dead.

This is because there is a woman buried in a Málaga cemetery whose information, including her full name and date of birth, match Juana's exactly. This strange coincidence has caused their Social Security data to clash, and subsequently seen her registered as deceased.

It was a doctor who first informed her of her death when she visited an emergency room. She was fortunate that her primary care physician took care of her. "He looked at her, not knowing how to break it to her, and told her that according to Social Security records she was deceased," explains her daughter Marta, who confesses that "the family has not found the funny side of this story for a long time now."

Juana told the *Diario de Sevilla* newspaper about the moment she found out: "When she put my name in the computer, I appeared as dead. She turned the screen for me to see. Dead. She still treated me because she knew me and knew my situation was urgent. She told me that we would take care of it later."

At first, Juana thought it was just computer error and could



be remedied in a few days, but later she learned that not only was she dead, but also that she was buried in the Málaga cemetery. (Photo shows Juana next to her gravestone.) Once she recovered, she went to Social Security to clear up the misunderstanding. "At Social Security they explained to me that someone probably made a typo or maybe it was a computer error. But we went to the Treasury, to the courts... and everywhere I appeared as deceased," Juana told the newspaper.

Juana says she has "suffered for more than six years," or since May 13, 2010, when she was first registered as deceased. The publication of her non-death in the state's official gazette has been one of her biggest headaches. A

case is published in an official gazette when a person's relatives cannot be contacted. In the case of the other Juana, they were looking for that woman's family to inform them that they had to evict the body from the tomb because the family had not paid the maintenance fee.

"That day [in April 2016] we called the Malaga City Council and they told us was that since my mother was buried there and we had not paid the fee, the tomb had been emptied after the legal period and the bones deposited in an ossuary. So what I had to tell them was difficult, because I had my mother in front me and I was talking to her," explains Marta. Since the family had not paid, the remains of the other Juana were exhumed and now rest in the Malaga ossuary.

After years of dealing with the problem and after making the case public last May, Juana has appealed to the justice system. She filed a petition before a court in Malaga to claim that her information was mixed up with the other Juana. "What I want to be told is who that person was who was buried in that grave, and I want all the information they have because I don't know anything. I imagine that there will be medical tests we can do," says Juana, who has offered to do DNA testing "or whatever it takes" to remedy the problem.

So far, according to her account, the only explanation she has received is that in the grave there was a person with the same name, surname, and date of birth. In 2011, her husband died and she needed a certification of life to receive her widow benefits. She also needed that certification to renew her driver's license in 2012.

According to Juana, the place she was treated worst was at the Treasury, where according to her testimony, they said she could be fined for identity theft.

"On top of killing me, they fine me, without hearing my story," she says. She jokes that she is dead "to everyone, except the banks," since she continues to pay her loans, mortgage, and life insurance regularly. "On the government's computers I am dead, but for the banks I am alive and kicking," she laughs.

Juana believes that she has been confused with a sister with whom she has no contact, whose whereabouts she does not know, but she has no relation whatsoever to Malaga province or with anyone who could match the data of the person buried.

The journey to prove that she is still alive continues.

STOP PRESS: The Court of Instruction Number 2 of Malaga has in today's press (Oct 19) confirmed that Juana did not die in 2010. However, the resulting supporting DNA tests will not be back until late November! So

A Blast from the Past!

Shopping at a supermarket, a married man noticed a pretty young woman waving at him and mouthing 'hello'. But he was puzzled because he couldn't place her. So when he caught up with her, said: 'I'm sorry. Do you know me?'

'I think you're the father of one of my kids,' she replied.

He started to panic. His mind raced back to the only time he had ever been unfaithful to his wife and he blurted out: 'My God, are you the stripper from the office Christmas party who got me so worked up we had sex right there and then on the desk while all my colleagues sprayed whipped cream on us?'

'No,' she replied calmly. 'Actually I'm your son's maths teacher.'

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The Phoenix Golf Society

played at EL VALLE GOLF COURSE 15th October 2017.

The weather was not in our favour on that particular Sunday unfortunately. Thankfully not as hot as high summer but nice for playing in, and the course at El Valle, seems to get better every time we play it.

There were some nice high scores and every one enjoyed themselves.

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Dave Wightman, Captain.



"It's my wife...I'm a father!"

The Transfer.

Newcastle United's manager, Rafa Benítez, flies to Kabul to watch a young Afghani play football. He is suitably impressed and arranges for the player to come over.

Two weeks later Newcastle United are 2-0 down to Liverpool with only 20 minutes left. The manager gives the young Afghani striker the nod, and on he goes.

The lad is a sensation. He scores 3 goals in 20 minutes and wins the game for them. The fans are delighted, the players and the coach are delighted and the media love the new star.

When the player comes off the pitch he phones his mum to tell her about his first day in Premiership football. 'Hello mum, guess what?', he says, 'I played for 20 minutes today, we were 2 - 0 down but I scored 3. They call it a hat-trick, and we won. Everybody loves me, the fans, the press, they all love me.'

'Just wonderful,' says his mum, 'Let me tell you about my day. Your father got shot in the street, your sister and I were robbed and assaulted, she would have been raped but for a passing police vehicle, and your brother has joined a local gang of looters and set fire to some buildings. But it's OK because you're having a great time!!'

The young lad is very upset. 'What can I say mum, but I'm really sorry.'

Sorry...!!! Sorry...!!!' says his mum. It's your bloody fault we came to Newcastle in the first place!'

Carol Martin



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Jessie's Bar Golf Society

The society day was held at the Mar Menor Golf Course we had 17 players turn out The day started overcast but soon turned into a very nice day for golf which was reflected in most of the scores Winner with 36 points playing off 28 was Patrik Ljungbad.

2nd place 35 points on count back was Ken Styan playing off 16.

3rd place 35 points was Julie Adams playing off 36.

Nearest the Pins

2 hole Patrik Ljungbad

8 hole Vidar Fjeld

14 hole Julie Adams

17 hole Stece Cottle

It is reported that everyone had an enjoyable day and looking forward to next one. Many thanks to staff at Jessies for food and sale of tickets.

Alan Jackson

Booze!

There are better things in life than alcohol, but it makes up for not having them.

Terry Pratchett

The drink in that pub is not fit for washing hearses.

Brendan Behan

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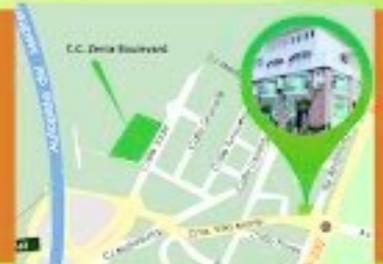


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Silly!

*A motorist took his car into a garage. 'Could you check the battery?' he asked the mechanic. 'I think it's flat.'
'Why?' said the mechanic. 'What shape did you want it to be?'*

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*The best measure of a man's honesty isn't his income tax return.
It's the zero adjust on his bathroom scale.
Arthur c. Clarke*

Lime Bar Fishing Sunbathing Club

Hooray, back on the sports page!

Well that's another year gone! It feels as though BFK Sweeney has been the chairman forever but it was "only" 29 months! During that period, he has been through the mill a couple of times!! Thank you BFK.

The AGM went off without a hitch for a change, so the bar staff were disappointed! Anti social Baz wanted to relinquish the taxing role of social secretary. He was only allowed to do this if he volunteered for something else, so he opted for chairman, as that is a doddle. Really? We then needed a new social sec, so Just John sprung at the chance to show off his organisational skills!!!! ☺ He was of course voted in unanimously. Everybody else stayed in post with Phil H also volunteering for the match committee.

We also welcomed back a "new" member taking us up to 19. Roger rejoined after a break in UK.

This month's match was the first of the winter series and also for the rod & reel trophy. Like last month, this is a one off trophy but this match has to be fished using rod & reel only (no poles). All the "non pole" men were looking forward to this match to level the odds of them winning. As there were no venues with enough clear pegs, we ended up fishing at El Bosquet again. It is a good venue but we like a change now and again. On the day we only had 10 anglers again but everybody caught. 3 rods proved that he didn't need his pole, however if you saw the length of his rod, you could be mistaken thinking it was. It was about 8 metres long! Anyway, he went on to win the match with a weight of 6.4 kilos, the 2nd year on the trot to win this dust gatherer. Fagin who didn't fish much during the summer has come back with a bang coming 2nd with 5.7 kilos.

We usually fish the old farts match in October, but due to lack of venues and mega low levels in the rivers, we decided to delay it until November giving the river a chance to recover and us time to clear some pegs.



Over the past couple of weeks, a few of the fitter members have been trying to clear enough pegs on the Rio Segura so that the next monthly match can be held there. On the 2nd week we even deployed a petrol driven strimmer! See before and after photos.

We have now cleared 13 pegs out of a jungle of bamboo giving us the option of holding 2 matches this month at different venues. The old farts match can still be held at El Bosquet where the less mobile anglers can get to their pegs easily, hopefully with a good turn out.

Clearing the pegs was hard work but well worth it. In 1 week we have had a 7, a 9 and a 10 pounder (give or take an ounce) from the freshly cut pegs. 2 of these fell to 3 rods who is currently 1st and 2nd on the largest carp board with the better fish being a cracking mirror of 9.94 lbs. He did need someone else to help him land it though, the wussy! See photo. Not to be outdone, Fagash went on to hook a 10lb oven ready turkey that was floating down the river. 3 rods wouldn't have it though; he reckoned it was only 6lbs.

The club is 10 years old in November so just John (our new social sec) is looking into a venue for a party.

Our presentation night is booked for Thursday Nov 16th so if you are in the vicinity, come and join us for a laugh and some good food.

Next meeting bun fight is at The Lime Bar @ 17.00 Mon 6th November.

Fishy fingers!

The Ghost



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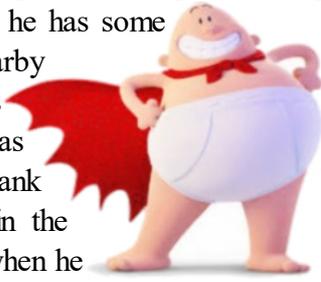
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The Choice.

A man was in a terrible accident, and his 'manhood' was mangled and torn from his body. His doctor assured him that modern medicine could give him back his manhood, but that his insurance wouldn't cover the surgery since it was considered cosmetic. The doctor said the cost would be \$3,500 for 'small', \$6,500 for 'medium', and \$14,000 for 'large.' The man was sure he would want a medium or large, but the doctor urged him to talk it over with his wife before he made any decision. The man called his wife on the phone and explained their options. The doctor came back into the room, and found the man looking dejected. 'Well, what have the two of you decided?' asked the doctor. 'She'd rather remodel the kitchen,' he replied.

IDIOTS OF THE MONTH

So, what is the superhero *Captain Underpants* doing on this page? Well, it seems he has some competition, here in nearby Torrevieja. On July 12 this year, a 30-year-old man was taking money out of his bank account at a cash machine in the centre of Torrevieja at 3am, when he was attacked from behind by a 41-year-old chap who



held a large kitchen knife to the younger man's throat and demanded the money. After a scuffle the victim managed to run away, but without his money. The incident was caught by the camera in the ATM and revealed that the aggressor was wearing a blue underpants on his head as a disguise. See photo of villain and

you can watch a video of the robbery here -

<http://www.diarioinformacion.com/vega-baja/2017/09/28/prision-hombre-atraco-cliente-cajero/1940636.html>

The robber, who also threatened his own father with the same knife, is well known to the police. *Los Calzoncillos Bandidos*, the Underpants Bandit, was soon arrested and placed in prison.

This 92-year-old Australian was arrested after arriving at Sydney Airport after a trip to India.



He was found to be carrying 4.5 kilos of cocaine which was masked in 27 bars of coloured soap. The soap was allegedly given to him by a man in New Delhi who asked him to take it back to his family. Fortunately because of his age, and no doubt stupidity, it was decided not to prosecute him. Criminals just duped an old man.

Amancio Ortega Gaona is a Spanish business tycoon. He is the founder and former chairman of Inditex fashion group, best known for its chain of Zara clothing and accessories retail shops. Amancio is the wealthiest retailer in the world. Although probably the fourth richest man in the world he is also very generous to charities and to health organisations. This year he offered to donate €10 million towards fighting cancer in the Spanish region of Aragón in Northern Spain. However the donation was rejected by an Aragonese socialist association for the defence of public health. They stated, 'We don't accept charity. We aspire to an adequate financing for the necessities via a progressive taxation to redistribute resources prioritising public health.' Dumb, dumb, dumb!

Finally, an older story from the US. Tim Bender 'knew he needed to start getting things organised,' said his wife, Lani, of their upcoming move. So the Madison, Wisconsin, man went down into the basement of his rented townhouse to start packing. He moved a table that knocked over a can of spray paint that fell on a hammer lying on the floor. The claw of the hammer punctured the spray paint can, which started spraying like an out-of-control garden hose. The can spun around and squirted paint on the pilot light of the hot water heater.

The flame roared up and set fire to a cushion and quickly spread to a container of gunpowder. (Remember this is the US.) From there, things just got worse and eventually the fire consumed everything in the house. Lani was quoted in the *Madison Capital Times* as saying, 'You couldn't set up this scenario to happen.'

To which I would say, 'Why would you want to?'

And finally, the author of the book *Understanding Stupidity* and the self proclaimed authority on dumb decisions, James F. Welles, was arrested for soliciting sex on the Internet from a 40-year-old policeman who was posing as a 15-year-old girl.

The Difference between Oo and oO

Two young guys appear in court after being arrested for smoking dope. The judge says, "You seem like nice young men, and I'd like to give you a second chance instead of jail time. I want you to go out this weekend and try to convince others of the evils of drug use. I'll see you back in court Monday."

On Monday, the judge asks the first guy, "How did you do over the weekend?" "Well, your honour, I persuaded 17 people to give up drugs forever." "Seventeen people? That's wonderful. How did you do it?"

"I used a diagram, your honour. I drew two circles like this: Oo. Then I told them that the big circle is your brain before drugs and the small circle is your brain after drugs."

"That's admirable," says the judge. Then he turns to the second guy. "And how did you do?"

"Well, your honour, I persuaded 156 people to give up drugs forever." "Wow!" says the judge. "156 people! How did you manage to do that?"

"Well, I used a similar diagram," the guy says. "I drew two circles like this: oO. Then I pointed to the little circle and said, 'This is your asshole before prison.....'"



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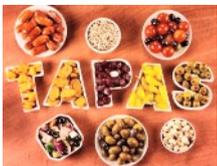


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The above is a newish website devoted to Oriuela Costa. It has some good photos, some excellent virtual tours and lots of information in Spanish, German and English on this marvellous area.

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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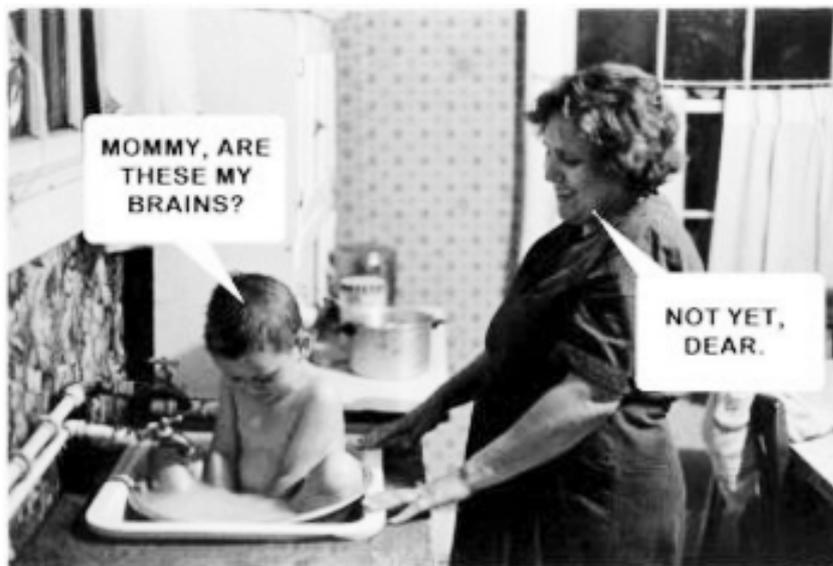
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Arriving home from school, little Johnny told his mother: 'My teacher thinks I'm going to be famous.'

'Really?' said his mother. 'Why? What did she say?'

'She said all I have to do is mess up one more time and I'm history.'

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