

# THE DREAM SCENE

## NEWSLETTER



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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the December, 2017 edition. Issue No.127.

Much chillier here now in the early mornings and evenings with heavy dews, but still experiencing temperatures in the 20's during the day.

As we edge into winter, the number of building cranes we see dotted around the Costa is staggering. Although re-sales still have the edge when it comes to volume of sales and prices, the developers continue to shoehorn in new, yet smaller dwellings on any available land. After 16 years of deliberation, the rustic land at the back of nearby Lago Jardin II has finally been reclassified to allow new dwellings. The available space of 300,000 square metres has a capacity for 1,300 new homes. This area, within the Torre Vieja municipality, is known in the town plan as *La Coronelita* and now has planning approval for the first 300 homes. Previously this general area was the by-word for agent's broken promises, failed developments and legal proceedings. Let's hope the new developers are not going to take the same route. The proposed extra builds have necessitated lots of extra roadworks in the area to accommodate the enlargement of pipes for drainage and water supply. Even travelling from Los Altos to Punta Marina entailed a number of diversions!

Some utility prices are now facing large increases. Electricity prices soared in October, with a rise of 7.2% for the average user compared to September, which represents an average increase of 5.17 euros per property. Over the year to this October, your electricity bill will have increased by an average of 12%! This represents an average bill per consumer of €688 a year, €74 more than in 2016 according to the Digital Agenda, Tourism and Energy Ministry.

Unfortunately water charges here should also see a hefty increase. The less-than-average rainfall of recent years and the recent drought has meant that locally, water from the local desalination plant now goes to boost supplies to the home. As this is several times more expensive than normal supplies, price increases are on the way.

This month I am particularly pleased to see that David of *Advocacy Costa Blanca* is offering experienced professional advice to expat's with dependency issues, whether they are just arriving in Spain, have been here for some time or are now returning to the UK. You can find David's details on page 2.

Luisa Boné is Councillor for the Beaches and Infrastructure on Orihuela Costa and is a member of the Ciudadanos Party (Citizen's Party). She will be addressing a public meeting here in Dream Hills. See page 21 for details.

Thank you to all the ladies who are continuing to bring food for 'Reach Out' to Macklin's Welcome Inn, VP3. Remember, there is no Dream Scene in January. We will be resting and 'drying out.'

*Wishing you all  
A wonderful Christmas and  
A Happy & Prosperous New Year.  
Mick & Tild*

### LOCKSMITH

CERRAJEROS - SCHLOSSER  
SEGURIDAD UNION



607 493 118

(Cut out & keep.)

### Angela's Cartoon



'That's the table laid! Now I'm going to crack some nuts!'

I inadvertently dropped some perfume on my pussy and I had tomcats banging against my catflap all night.

Mrs Slocombe, *Are You Being Served?*

# Advocacy Costa Blanca

*Helping you receive the care and support you need.*

**Has your health declined?**

**Do you now need care and support at home?**

**Remain in Spain- receive expert guidance and support with UK welfare benefit applications.**

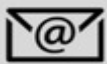
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## Did you know that .....

...new research says eating chocolate regularly can actually improve brain function? Yes, that sweet, sticky treat you seem to crave at the most inopportune times is now being associated with a host of cognitive benefits, including memory and abstract reasoning. It's all part of a long-term, large-scale study out of Syracuse University in New York that measured the effects of chocolate consumption on 968 people aged 23 to 98, without changing their overall dietary habits. "Habitual chocolate intake was related to cognitive performance, measured with an extensive battery of neuropsychological tests," the researchers wrote. "More frequent chocolate consumption was significantly associated with better performance on these tests." Link to science abstract of actual study here -

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0195666316300459>

We're willing to bet that's not the first time you've heard about a study touting the benefits of chocolate on your health. A few years ago, researchers at Tel Aviv University in Israel reported that eating chocolate in the morning – yes, every morning – was found to help people lose weight, despite long-held beliefs that chocolate is one of those occasional splurge foods that dieters must resist in order to achieve their weight-loss goals.

The biggest takeaway of this research, according to study leader Dr. Daniela Jakubowicz, is that eating a higher-calorie breakfast in the morning reduces

cravings throughout the day and prevents late-night snacking.

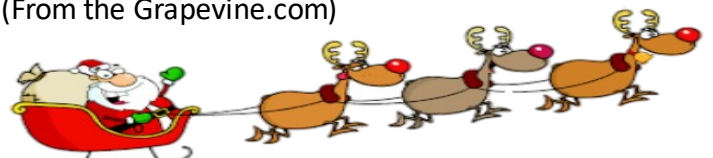
"When you wake up, your brain needs energy immediately," said Jakubowicz, whose book "The Big Breakfast Diet" became a bestseller. "This is the time of the day when your body converts food into energy. Later in the day, when you eat, your body and brain are still in high-alert mode, saving the energy from food as fat reserve. This is how you gain weight even eating less."

So what kind of breakfast does she suggest? Breakfast with dessert, of course. Jakubowicz said in her study, people who were given a 600-calorie breakfast that included dessert as well as proteins and carbohydrates lost more weight than people who were given a 300-calorie breakfast but ate more later in the day.

What is it about chocolate that's so beneficial? Experts say it's a nutrient called a flavonoid that's commonly found in plant-based foods and represents up to 20 percent of the compounds present in cocoa beans. High levels of flavonoids are also found in tea, red wine and fruits such as grapes and apples.

So next time you're thinking about that chocolate cake looking all lonesome on your counter, sleep on it – and indulge in the morning. Your brain – and your waistline – might thank you.

(From the Grapevine.com)



*To eat well in England, you should have breakfast three times a day.  
W. Somerset Maugham*

## What's Up?

As most know at this stage, the **Catalan bid for independence** ended in a shambolic circus with former President Puigdemont with five of his ministers fleeing first to Marseilles and then off to Brussels.



In the High Court, Judge Carmen Lamela has accepted the formal accusation of rebellion filed by the Spanish public prosecutor's office against Puigdemont and 13 members of his former cabinet. The crime carries a possible sentence of 30 years in prison. The former president is also being investigated by the Catalan High Court (TSJC) for disobedience, misusing public funds and making deliberately unlawful decisions as elected officials (known in Spanish as prevaricación). **A European Arrest Warrant (EAW) has been issued for Puigdemont.** Although the simplified EAW system is based on "an elevated level of confidence" between EU member states, and on the fact that judicial resolutions in one country will be recognized by others, people named in these warrants can claim – and everything suggests Puigdemont will do this – that they are afraid their fundamental rights won't be respected in Spain. Article 1.3 of the European legislation of 2002 opened the door to this possibility and has allowed Belgium to stop the handover of various ETA prisoners to Spain in the past. The former president has retained the legal services of a lawyer who has defended ETA terrorists in the past. He charges €1,000 an hour, so I wouldn't bother calling him about your noisy neighbours or those barking dogs!

The damage done by the separatist bid was not only very damaging for Catalonia but also for Spain as a whole.

Amsterdam won the battle for the European Medicaments Agency, despite Cataluña was the favourite before the illegal referendum. With this move alone Spain (and Catalonia) have lost - 900 civil servants, each being paid 5,000 € a month; an annual income of €340 million and 36,000 visitors. More than 2,000 have now moved their H.Q. from Catalonia.

**Life expectancy** in Málaga has increased by nearly three years in the last decade – still below the Spanish national average, the men there are now reaching 80 and the women close to 85. Spaniards on average live for 83 years, only behind Japan with 83.9 years. Spanish life expectancy has been growing steadily since the 70's.

**Nursing professionals** in Spain will no longer need the supervision of a physician to use or dispense some prescription drugs. The agreement establishes that nurses "may indicate, use and authorize the dispensing of prescription drugs, by means of the corresponding dispensing order".

An effort is being made to remove the common carp and the **rainbow trout from the list of invasive species** in Spain. Although removed from the list in 2013, they were put back on in 2016. Also on this list is the red crab, one of the main livelihoods of some municipalities in the Guadalquivir marshes. Some politicians are hoping for an 'amnesty' for these species.

The general secretary of Spain's main socialist party, the PSOE, Pedro Sánchez, **charges his party a salary of 4,134.23 euros net per month.** With 14 payments, his gross annual salary (which includes his remuneration as a member of Congress) amounts to 102,273.22 euros, which is 28% more than what Mariano Rajoy earns as president of the Government.

However, the ruling Partido Popular do not divulge how much their party sub's their political leaders, probably substantially more. The socialists are much more transparent when it comes to financial disclosure. But all political parties do well from the taxpayer in Spain. The socialist party received revenues in 2016 of €63 million, of which 70% came from public funds by way of grants etc. The membership fees - the PSOE has just over 187,000 militants - barely represent 14% of total revenues.

La Verdad in Murcia reports 'The judge which uncovered the **AVE high-speed train fraud** has ordered to *extend the case* to eight major construction companies' – they could be accused of subsidiary civil responsibility, for gaining lucrative contracts (after paying bribes). They are Sacyr, Acciona, Tecsca, Villegas, Neopol, Dragados, Cements Muñoz and San José.

Many will have noticed a **proliferation of wasps** (and flies) locally.

On Tuesday Nov' 14, a 54-year-old man in Pontevedra, Galicia, died after receiving 25 Asian wasp stings.



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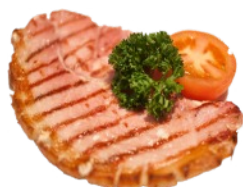
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EXTENSIVE  
MENU!**



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HOMEMADE CHIPS, NEVER FROZEN!**



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2 'WEEKEND-AWAY' PRIZES TO BE WON  
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KARAOKE & FOOD - BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

**ENTERTAINMENT!**

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SATURDAY NIGHT KARAOKE!**

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON 1 - 3PM  
CROONING SESSION!**



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**FOR BOOKINGS TELEPHONE 966 393 602 OR 637 046 438.**

If I had been around when Rubens was painting, I would have been revered as a fabulous model.  
Kate Moss? She would have been the paintbrush.

Dawn French

## What's Up? continued

The National Police and the Civil Guard have dismantled a group specialized in **stealing high-end cars** for sale later in Morocco and has recovered fifteen vehicles. Six people were arrested in Malaga and Almeria, provinces where the organization had been settled after having been in Santa Pola, Almoradí and Orihuela. So far they have been able to prove 40 vehicle stolen, valued at one million euros, according to the police. The organization was composed of Italian, Spanish and Moroccan crooks. According to the investigation, the network rented vehicles with false documentation, especially in establishments located near airports. Three Italians used fake identity cards to rent the cars. They then either took the cars apart to get them out of the country loaded in trucks or they moved them whole through Almeria, Algeciras and Ceuta to Morocco to sell them.

Diario in Mallorca reports '**Mallorca registers an average daily six abortions** – half for not using contraception' - the number of voluntary interruptions from pregnancy has stabilised at 2,400 a year – most are practiced in public hospitals and the under 14's has increased to reach an annual figure of 17.

**Two Policia Local in Torrevieja were arrested** on October 31 for an alleged crime of extortion. It is believed they served in the Environmental Unit which monitored sound levels in bars, clubs, etc. New arrests are not ruled out.

A 30-year-old resident of Monforte del Cid in Alicante, **faked a robbery** with violence after spending €400 on a night partying and couldn't tell his wife the truth. He put marks on his neck from plastic ligatures but the Guardia Civil, rumbled his deception. Crime simulation is apparently a common offence, but apparently the culprits are, thankfully, fairly stupid!



The Law of the Statute of the presidents of the Generalitat states that a former head of the Government, such as Carles Puigdemont, left, could charge an allowance corresponding to 80% of his salary as president of Catalonia. Puigdemont's public salary amounted to €140,000 p.a., so in theory he would now be able to receive €112,000 p.a. for the foreseeable future! However, this remuneration does not have an automatic nature and should be expressly requested through official channels. However, after breaking several laws in recent weeks and 'doing a runner' to escape arrest because of his separatist bid, any compensation is highly unlikely as it has to be approved by Madrid. But this example does illustrate how **the political class in Spain are favoured and rewarded....continuously!**

The National Police have arrested three workers of a kebab outlet in Pamplona as alleged perpetrators of a crime against the public health and another of injuries by the **intoxication of food with rat poison**. The investigation began after a young woman entered hospital as her blood was experiencing "a strange alteration in coagulation" of which the "only possible cause" was the ingestion of a rat-poison product. The searches led to a food establishment in Guelbenzu Street where the victim and his partner had ordered the dinner days ago, noticing a "strange taste" that they attributed to some change in the sauces used. While the young man recovered in just seven days, his partner's pain and discomfort became worse and was finally admitted to hospital. An inspection of the premises by the Labour Inspection and Health Services of the City of Pamplona, found different amounts of a "highly toxic" rodenticide which "impregnated even the worktop where the employees manipulated the food before serving it." The premises were sealed at the time of inspection as a precautionary measure and the detainees, of Pakistani origin, were arrested.

The Hospital del Vinalopó in Elche has been fined €150,000. The fine relates to a complaint made by the works committee regarding the **high exposure of formaldehyde** to which personnel from the Department of Pathological Anatomy were subject. Formaldehyde is a highly toxic systemic poison that is absorbed well by inhalation. The vapour is a severe respiratory tract and skin irritant and may cause dizziness or suffocation. Contact with formaldehyde solution may cause severe burns to the eyes and skin.

**Foreign investors** in Spain *renewables* are reclaiming 7.566 billion €, following the government cuts in grants to the sector – during the years 2010 to 2013 – that's 36 international reclamations.





SOUTH FACING TERRACE

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VIA PARK III  
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AT 3PM.

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OPEN 3pm - 12am  
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### Some political cartoons from Spain.



Merkel says to PM Rajoy, '(branding) Iron or Whip?' Rajoy answers, 'It depends.'



Rajoy telling Puigdemont to 'Return to Legality' while behind him are a number of decidedly dodgy (and some criminal) PP politicians.

#### St Pete's List of Rooms.

A man arrived at the gates of Heaven and St Peter asked: 'What religion are you?' 'Methodist,' replied the man. St Peter checked his list and said, 'Okay, Methodist, go to room 20 but please be quiet as you pass room 6.'

Moments later, another man arrived at the gates. 'Religion?' asked Peter. 'Catholic,' said the man. 'Right, Catholic,' said Peter while checking the list. 'Go to room 15 but please be quiet as you pass room 6.'

A third man arrived at the gates and same question from St Peter. 'Baptist' said the man. 'Fine,' said St Peter, 'Baptists are in room 28, but please be quiet as you pass room 6.'

The Baptist said, 'I can understand the different rooms for different religions, but why *quiet past room 6?*' St Peter said, 'The Jehovah's Witnesses are in room 6, and they think they're the only ones up here.'



# LIME BAR



VIA PARK III

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**+ A NEW 75inch HDMI TV!**

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**THE NUMBER ONE SPORT'S BAR**

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**FRIDAYS AT 9PM**

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**WITH MEAT RAFFLE,**

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*to all our Customers.*

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At the beginning of October, a married couple living in Torrevieja went away for a few days on vacation and, upon returning to their home, discovered that someone had accessed the property, changed the locks and let the property out to another family! The Guardia Civil began an investigation, discovering that, in that same building in which the owners lived, there were five other homes that were being occupied illegally. A 28-year-old Spanish woman of Bosnian origin was arrested and is charged with the crimes of falsification of documents, fraud, burglary and robbery with force. The woman has been kept in prison because she is a repeat offender, arrested for this same type of offence in November 2016! The investigation has revealed that some of the homes were even offered on the Internet, in a well-known second-hand buying page. She obtained information about the legitimate owners by forcing the mailboxes and extracting their personal data from the correspondence, to give more truthfulness to the false contracts that she later drafted. When she was arrested, she carried with her several letters from different homes. She went monthly to collect the different rents in person, house by house. (I would guess that this is a common scam with properties which are vacant for a large part of the winter.)

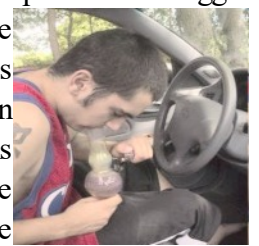
*La Aparecida*, is a shit-hole, sorry, beautiful village close to and part of the Orihuela municipality. It has a population of approx. 2,200, basically a suburb of Orihuela. Due to the generosity of the Orihuela council, and no doubt the revenues from Orihuela Costa, the village will have a brand new civic centre, probably by the end of next year. The cost is budgeted at €936,000. I would point out that with 886 dwellings alone in this urbanisation, our urb' population is either equal to or greater than *La Aparecida*. I certainly don't begrudge the village its luck, even though the little village also has its own sport's centre (!) and a swimming pool, photo, but as the O.C. appears to be the major tax donor to the Orihuela coffers, maybe we should change the name from Orihuela Costa to Oxfam Costa. Another annoying thing is, a former councillor with responsibility for Orihuela Costa, was a resident in *La Aparecida*, and certainly did more for his own area than for the coast, although he did open a bridge here once and posed for photos.



Thousands of families in the Murcia region will receive money to pay for water, electricity and gas. A decree was agreed by the PP and Ciudadanos parties to spend a million € to combat energy poverty in the region.

A 28-year-old Romanian national has acknowledged attempting to kill her newborn son after giving birth at an Alginet (València) youth club in October 2015. She was accused of attempted murder and faced a sentence of 14 years in prison, but confessed and accepted a five and a half year sentence. According to her own confession, she put the baby into the toilet and covered it with toilet paper to hide it. Were it not for the intervention of the Alginet Local Police, whose agents found the baby face down in the toilet when they heard his cries, the little boy "in a few hours would have died of bleeding or hypothermia". (The umbilical cord was not pinched.) The baby survived and is now with a foster family.

The DGT traffic inspectors have captured 19 drugged lorry drivers in a single day in the Murcia area. One of them was heading towards the A-7 motorway in Las Torres de Cotillas with forty tons of propane in the load. This is not the first time that they have caught more than a dozen drugged drivers in one day!



The contract to fight mosquitos in the Torrevieja area has expired and has not been renewed..... yet. Residents in Torretas III have complained about an infestation of the blighters and are hoping that the Torry town council 'pull their finger out' and introduce a solution to their misery.

In a previous issue we mentioned that there were some alleged 'dodgy' dealings in the allocation of the lucrative contract for the *chiringuitos* (beach bars) on the Orihuela Costa. It now seems that this has come to a head as fraud allegations have been levied against a former councillor and others. The new councillor for Infrastructure on the coast and the beaches, Luisa Boné of the *Ciudadanos* (Citizens) Party, has announced that the current contract will end after the Holy Week of 2018. This contract includes the possibility of an extension for two more years, but this will not apply now as the judge in charge of the case believes that there is evidence that the 2014 bid was "made to order" to favour the company "*Chiringuitos del Sol*". The judge also indicates that those possibly responsible are ex-councillor Martina Scheurer, photo, (The Greens), and the manager of the beach bar company. The other companies who quoted for the original contract registered the complaint. Former councillor, Pedro Mancebo, also raised the matter before.



*A politician never believes anything he says, so he is always amazed when other people do.*  
Charles de Gaulle



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## EL CAPITAN



**Lago Jardin II.**

**XMAS DAY MENU.**

**4 COURSES - €30.**

**Incl. Bottle of Wine per Couple.**

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**FRIDAY - FUN DARTS**

**FROM 8PM.**

**SUNDAY - QUIZ FROM 8:30PM**

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## Goin' Fishin'.

Put in charge of his baby sister for the day, a young boy decided to take her fishing. But when his parents returned home, he was in a bad mood'

'I'm never taking my sister fishing again,' he told his mother. 'I didn't catch a single thing!'

'Never mind,' said his mother. 'Next time I'm sure she'll be quiet and not scare the fish away.'

'It wasn't that, said the boy. 'She ate all the bait!'

# JJ's Café Bar

VIA PARK V.

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**KITCHEN OPEN - TUE - SAT 12pm-8pm**

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**Sunday Lunches Starting from December 3!**

**1 Course €6.95; 2 Course €8.95; 3 Course €10.95**

**Beef/Chicken/Pork (or mix), Seasonal Veg'**

**& Proper Oven Roasties!**

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**Merry Christmas and a Healthy & Happy New Year!**

**Thank you for all your support this year.**

**JJ, Rob & Bobby**

**693 985 122**



**TWEET!  
TWEET!**



## The New ITV Rules That You Should Know.

The Council of Ministers on Oct' 18, approved a Royal Decree that allows users who do not pass the Technical Vehicle Inspection (ITV) to repeat the test at a different station within a month. In addition, the standard requires stations to have electronic diagnostic tools to improve emissions control. This Royal Decree tries to relax some aspects of existing ITV regulations to comply with European legislation.

Among its novelties, it forces for the first time the stations to have diagnostic reading tools that connect with the on-board computers of the vehicles, which is "a first step towards the inspection of electronic security systems and the improved emissions control".

On the other hand, the standard facilitates the free choice of ITV station when the result is unfavourable or negative. Until now, it was mandatory to present the new inspection at the same station with a maximum term of one month. While this date is maintained, it offers the possibility of repeating the inspection at a station other than the one that gave a negative diagnosis.

As for the system that establishes the mandatory date for the next revision, it states that the expected date for the next one will not be modified if the vehicle passes the inspection in advance, provided that this advance does not exceed one month.

this Royal Decree also favours the exchange of electronic information between stations and Public Administration with the aim of promoting the best supervision of the inspections. Extract from La Verdad)

## Animal Abuse.

Spain's Civil Guard carried out more than 12,000 operations against animal abuse over the course of 2016, resulting in some 490 people being arrested or investigated, the force said in an annual summary. Under Spanish law, mistreating or abandoning domestic animals is now punishable by an 18-month prison sentence for first offences (sentences of less than two years rarely involve spending time behind bars) and prison terms of six months for a second offence.

The Civil Guard report for 2016 highlighted an operation into cockfighting in the northern regions of Cantabria and Asturias, seizing 217 animals. A prize Spanish fighting cock can fetch prices of up to €100,000, says the Civil Guard.

In the southwestern province of Huelva, the Civil Guard arrested 32 people, among them veterinarians, for cropping the ears and tails of hunting dogs.

Meanwhile, in Zaragoza, in the northeast of the country, the force rescued 82 dogs that had been illegally imported from Eastern Europe. They also found 46 dead puppies. Five people were arrested for mistreatment, forging documents and fraud.

In Guadalajara, in central Spain, the authorities detained somebody for stabbing a domestic cow to death.

*If cats were in the police they'd never  
come below the ranks of detective.*

*Paul Jennings*



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## Corvera Airport - the latest.

Corvera Airport remains finished but closed. The latest news is that of the two bidders to the airport - AENA and Edeis - the latter, a French company, has decided not to present the financial and technical details of its proposal. This has ruled it out of the competition leaving the way open for AENA, the Spanish airport authority. AENA already own the commercial part of the San Javier military airport and have already built a second runway there at a cost of €70 million. AENA will undoubtedly take over Corvera Airport but are also certain to shut down their facility at San Javier, which is just 30 km away. It does not make sense to keep both open, and the 400 employees there will probably be relocated.

But AENA will surely be looking for compensation for closing down San Javier, not the least for



spending 70 big ones on the extra runway there.

There is also the question of the €200 million which the Murcia Region unwisely lent to the original developers of Corvera Airport. Who will repay this?

I doubt that AENA will offer the €600 million which the government of Murcia would like for the facility, but as AENA is 51% state owned, will this be a virtual rescue of this purely political me-too folly. The new airport was finished five years ago and has remained empty since.

Personally, like many, I will hate to see San Javier Airport close down. It is just 20 minutes away, is small and easy to use. Corvera will be as far away as Alicante/Elche Airport. I hope a giant earthquake swallows it up!



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if you, what would you do

If one hundred of the wealthy  
gave ten million to this aid  
we could keep these children healthy  
when these monies are paid

We must keep politics out of it  
so many fingers in the pie  
means a reducing money pit  
and many more would die

The solution is really tangible  
this cash the rich don't need  
with grace it's very manageable  
if they surpass their greed

One thousand million  
wrote off as tax relief  
expensive lawyers would do this  
and help with all this grief

Why plead the general populace  
when the solution is clear  
you wealthy set this in place  
the rest of us will cheer

We understand the quest for more  
the riches and the power  
from your heart let relief pour  
this is the time and hour

The Phantom Poet



My college had so many drugs, we didn't have class reunions, we had flashbacks.

Charlie Viracola

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## BREXIT.

After all this time, there still appears to be nothing tangible coming out of the Brexit talks. PM May has once again pulled the chequebook out of the drawer in an effort to speed things up, but Boris Johnson's "We can have our cake and eat it" is now looking like a distant dream from the College of Wishful Thinking.

Now the Northern Ireland issue has emerged as a major stumbling block. In reality, just one of many. Get ready for a bumpy ride!

In the Financial Times, Gideon Rachman reckons the British government is so enfeebled and divided between leavers and remainers, and the EU so unyielding, that the most probable outcome of the Brexit talks is that the bloc will impose a solution:

"Britain is drifting towards disaster on Brexit without a viable diplomatic, economic or political strategy to make a success of the venture. The central problem is that the government is stuck between an implacable EU and an unrealistic Conservative party. The EU will not offer anything like the deal that Britain's Brexiters still dream of. but Theresa May's Conservative colleagues are still unprepared to accept this unpleasant reality. In this paralysing situation, it seems increasingly likely the UK government will simply be politically and technically incapable of delivering a negotiated Brexit. As a result, the likeliest outcome is that, late in the day — perhaps in January 2019 — the EU will present Britain with a "take it or leave it" deal."



## Airport Bus Timetable.

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

Torreveja 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 Torreveja: 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.

## Problems with learning Spanish?

### Try Booze!

A little Dutch courage could be the key to helping travellers speak the local lingo, according to new research.

A study published in the Journal of Psychopharmacology exploring the "popular belief that alcohol improves the ability to speak in a foreign language" found that booze has a positive impact on people's grasp of foreign pronunciation.

Researchers used 50 native German speakers who recently learned Dutch, providing some with a "low dose of alcohol" matched to their weight and others with an alcohol-free control drink. Each then took part in a casual two-minute discussion in Dutch with observers who rated their language skills. The participants were also asked to rate their own linguistics.

The scientists found that those who had consumed alcohol were handed "significantly" better ratings from the observers compared with those who did not. "However, alcohol has no effect on self-ratings," the report found.

The evidence showed that despite pronunciation improving, grammar, vocabulary and argumentation were similar between both groups.

The researchers, who came from the University of Liverpool, Maastricht University and King's College London, said more studies were needed to identify the exact effects alcohol has on speaking foreign languages.

"We need to be cautious about the implication of these results until we know more about what causes the observed results," they wrote. "One possible mechanism could be anxiety-reducing effect of alcohol."

A 1972 study along a similar theme found that low doses of alcohol improved American's pronunciation of Thai words. (*Mind you, it does nothing for the Jocks! Mick*) The authors found that it was possible the drink could reduce "language anxiety".

(Hugh Morris, travel news editor, Telegraph Online).



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### Christmas Shopping.

A woman was out Christmas shopping with her three young children. After hours of trailing around toyshops and hearing her kids asking for every item on the shelves, she was thoroughly fed up. Weighed down with bags, she squeezed herself and her kids into a crowded shopping mall lift and sighed aloud, to nobody in particular: 'Whoever started this whole Christmas thing should be arrested and strung up!' A voice from the back of the lift replied quietly: 'Don't worry, ma'am, I believe they crucified him.'



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Madonna is so hairy - when she lifted her arm, I thought it was Tina Turner in her armpit.

Joan Rivers

Almost **200 mayors of Catalan municipalities** in favour of the independence of Catalonia chartered aircraft and travelled to Brussels in order to demonstrate before the headquarters of the European Commission and the Council of the EU to demand "freedom for political prisoners" and show support for Carles Puigdemont, the former president. On their return the question of whether public money was used for the junket was not answered.

It is now well accepted that teaching practices in Barcelona are skewed towards the separatist movement there. Not only have the **history books been doctored** in relation to the older history of the Spanish province but teachers and indeed the regional TV service, TV3, continue to manipulate the children and of course the gullable. A regional judge has charged hate crimes at eight teachers for 'indoctrinating children' (Instruction Court 1 in La Seu d'Urgell, Barcelona) and has decided to persist with the case maintaining that the eight teachers under investigation were, allegedly, teaching hate in the classroom. Following the pre-trial jailing of the politicians for sedition the separatists called for a general strike in



support of what they called 'political prisoners.'

It was a very lame and weak affair but

what struck me was once again, the use of children to support the protest. One tactic was to place children on roadways/motorways to halt traffic: see photo from El Pais. (No doubt this was a 'posed' photo.)

19 people were arrested for drug trafficking, bribery etc., on November 8. These included **10 Guardia Civil agents in the Vega Baja region**. The original investigation began two years ago on the instruction of a judge in Torre Vieja. Then on November 11 it was announced that the judge in Torre Vieja is also investigating another nine Guardia Civil agents for corruption after more irregularities have been found.

The establishment of Policia Local in Torre Vieja numbers 156, a figure which has **not increased in eight years**. 22 may retire early during the next five years and another 25 will be taken off the streets and placed in more sedentary activities due to illness or age. There is now a need to recruit 36 additional agents, but the budgets, which are tied to the 2015 figures because of the minority council, do not provide the necessary funding. It is also fair to say that the relationship between the Local Police and the councillors of various political hues has been less than cordial.

Sat' Nov' 25<sup>th</sup> Saturday was the International Day for the Elimination of Gender violence. However, **domestic violence** continues to be a major problem in Spain, with 57 women being murdered so far this year. Nearly 500 spouse/partners abusers re-offend every year, and that's in Alicante alone. Something is not working! The Spanish refer to it as 'macho violence' which is scarcely the correct term. It should surely have a more shaming and demeaning (to the abuser) name. However, I was pleased to see that the *Cruz Roja* (Red Cross) came up with a marvellous initiative four years ago. Called *Atenpro*, it consists of an **electronic geo-locator**, photo, which looks like a mobile phone. When the woman feels threatened, for example if her partner breaks the restraining order, she only have to press the side key three times to contact the Red Cross centre. An operator immediately answers the warning and at the same time the geo-locator determines the exact position of the woman in case it is necessary to quickly mobilize the security forces.



If the victim is unable to speak, the necessary security services are alerted immediately. The average age of *Atenpro* users is 30 years. This system, managed by the Ministry of Health through a collaboration agreement with the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces, offers protection 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and wherever the victims are located. The system is used by 738 victims in Alicante and 2,230 in the Valencia Community, the second highest in Spain after Andalucia.

The arrival of hundreds of **illegal immigrants** on the southeastern coast of Spain, including Torre Vieja but particularly Murcia, during mid-November caught authorities unprepared. Faced with a lack of proper facilities, the Interior Ministry on Monday transferred a group of around 500 immigrants to a penitentiary still under construction in Archidona, Málaga, photo below, where they received food, water and medical assistance. The migrants who arrived in Cartagena have also been 'imprisoned' in the new jail in Málaga which has resulted in a wave of complaints. The Interior ministry claims this a temporary measure caused by overcrowding of current facilities and notes the jail has never before held anyone captive. Because the facilities still lack a kitchen service, the ministry sent in 2,000 food rations, as well as thousands of bottles of water because the tap water at the penitentiary is still not fit for drinking.



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## 'Fat Cats' are Thinned Out!

The so-called "Black/Opaque Cards" case engulfed figures from across the world of politics and business in Madrid as it probed the use of credit cards at Caja Madrid and Bankia from 2003 to 2012, when the lender's near collapse forced its rescue with funds borrowed from Europe. The National Court condemned sentences between three months and six years in prison for the 65 accused in the Caja Madrid and Bankia, for the continued crime of 'indebted appropriation' between 2003 and 2012. Basically, those with the cards, which included union officials, could spend what they wanted on the cards and not pay anything back. Altogether, they spent 12.5 million €, and they now have to pay back the amounts with interest. Some sources report that the amount spent was nearer to 15.5 million €. With the opaque cards the 'executives' and board members spent 9.34 million € while Miguel Blesa was in charge and 2.69 million € when Rodrigo Rato – the former president of Bankia and also former head of the IMF! Photo below shows Blesa on the left and Rigo on the right, no doubt having a good laugh about how they got away with screwing the system. ...almost!



Miguel Blesa, who it is believed committed suicide in July this year, was found guilty of misappropriating €436,700 of funds, and given a six-year sentence. He was also facing trial for €14.8m paid out in irregular bonuses by Caja Madrid for which anti-corruption prosecutors were seeking another four years in jail. His name appeared in the leaked "Panama Papers" suggesting he held funds offshore and in 2003, he spent a fortnight in jail over his saving bank's 2008 acquisition of the City National Bank of Florida. Mean while, Rato has received a four-year sentence for the Black Card Case. However, as a result of his management at Bankia, he was named by the economic magazine Bloomberg as the fifth worst CEO of 2012, when investigations began for fraud, price fixing and embezzlement in relation to the fall and subsequent rescue of Bankia. The magazine cites that Bankia announced profits of 309 million euros in 2011, which after the resignation of Rato turned out to be three billion euros of losses. To think that this guy was once head of the International Monetary Fund!

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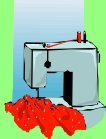
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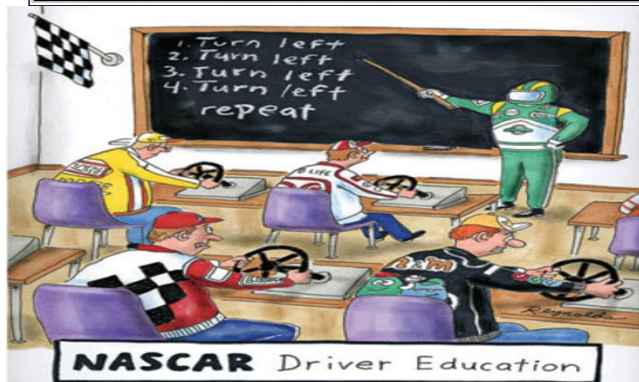
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## Food Myths.

There are so many myths and strangely specific rules about when to eat to lose weight, but alone they do nothing to help. Eat a hearty breakfast and light all day. Eat small meals every few hours. Rules around when you eat are less important than you think, and even when they do help, they're not for the reasons you think.

Myth: Eat a Hearty Breakfast, First Thing in the Morning

Sorry, there's nothing special about eating breakfast. It's not "the most important meal of the day." At least, not for everyone. For years, people (especially cereal marketing companies) touted the benefits of breakfast because it supposedly kept you from overeating, jump-started your metabolism, or ..... insert any other reason to manage weight and obesity.....

But here's the wrinkle: a majority of breakfast studies are biased. A study from The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition found that most research on skipping breakfast and weight gain was conducted with the explicit intent to force that correlation. Similarly, the argument that school-age children who skip breakfast are more likely to be overweight seems compelling, but the focus is more on the school's breakfast program and whether a child eats enough at home, rather than breakfast itself being some game-changer.

What's more, some of these breakfast studies are funded by the food industry, including cereal companies like Kellogg's and General Mills, who have a vested interest in you eating their very breakfast-y foods. In other words, many of these nutrition studies were methodologically doomed from the get-go.

Personally, I flip-flop between eating breakfast and skipping it. Alone, eating breakfast or skipping it matters less than what you eat, how much of it you eat, and what your other lifestyle choices are. Bottom-line, people eat breakfast for a variety of reasons, but eating or skipping breakfast itself isn't going to help you suddenly drop a pant size. Eat breakfast because you want to and punch anyone who makes you feel bad for skipping it, right in their breakfast-eating face.

<https://vitals.lifehacker.com/it-doesnt-matter-when-you-eat-1787711505>

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## MEETING AT LA CASITA, DREAM HILLS

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 15 AT 1pm**

A public meeting has been arranged at the above location and time, to introduce Luisa Boné (photo), Councillor for the Beaches and Infrastructure on Orihuela Costa. Luisa is a member of the Ciudadanos Party (Citizen's Party), who are in a coalition position on the town council in Orihuela.

As Councillor for Infrastructure on Orihuela Costa, Luisa is responsible for repair of roads and pavements, green areas and street lighting. However, she is not responsible for certain council services such as rubbish bins, the collection of rubbish and other municipal services.

Stefan Pokroppa from Dream Hills will be acting as translator for the meeting and there will be opportunities for 'Question & Answer' with Ms Boné.

If numbers are greater than expected, the meeting will move to the children's playground, weather permitting.



**Tell it like it is!**

A woman and her 12-year-old son were riding in a taxi in Detroit. It was raining and all the prostitutes were standing under awnings. "Mom," said the boy, "what are all those women doing?" "They're waiting for their husbands to get off work," she replied. The taxi driver turned around and said, "Geez, lady, why don't you tell the kid the truth? They're hookers, boy! They have sex with men for money." The little boy's eyes got wide and he asked, "Is that true, Mom?" His mother, glaring hard at the driver, answered, "Yes." After a few minutes the kid asked, "Mom, if those women have babies, what happens to them?" She replied, "Most of them become taxi drivers."

Sue Robinson

## How Clean is Your Fruit?

One of the many benefits of living in Spain is the abundance of and the easy access to fresh fruit. In the past I have always just lightly washed apples, pears and of course tomatoes - which are a fruit by the way! But is that enough? After reading this short report from the States, I am not sure if that is enough.

How do you clean your apples before you eat them? A rinse under the tap? A brisk wipe with your sleeve? Whatever the method, chances are you're doing it wrong, according to a new study.

Unless they're organic, apples have probably been sprayed with synthetic insecticides. (Organic produce is supposed to be sprayed with organic pesticides.) In the US, the Environmental Protection Agency requires that they be washed with a bleach solution for two minutes and thoroughly rinsed before they get sold to consumers. While that gets rid of bacteria and dirt it doesn't wash away the pesticides, Lili He, a chemist at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, told Consumer Reports.

The researchers led by He set out to test three different washing styles. They sprayed organic Gala apples with the fungicide thiabendazole and the insecticide phosmet—both of which are EPA-approved for use on apples—and let the fruit sit for 24 hours.

They then washed each apple with plain water, a bleach solution typically used by US fruit purveyors, and a solution of water with 1% baking soda. For each of the three options, they tested both a two- and an eight-minute wash before rinsing each apple again with water.

After two minutes, baking soda had removed more pesticides than the other two methods. (In fact, plain water was more effective than the bleach solution.) The baking soda solution cleared off all of the thiabendazole from the apple skins after 12 and all of the phosmet after 15 minutes. That said, by that point, small amounts of pesticide had seeped through the apple skin and into the flesh, so even washing fruit thoroughly won't prevent you from low levels of chemical exposure.

Though thiabendazole and phosmet might be toxic in very large quantities, they are safe for human consumption at the levels they're typically used at for apple farming, according to the EPA. But if you really want to minimize your exposure, the study suggests, wash them in a mixture of one teaspoon of baking soda for every two cups of water. Peeling them also works, though trace levels of chemicals will have gone into the fruit itself, and, the researchers note, you'll be miss out on some of the fibre and vitamins in the skin. Or you could just buy organic. (Quartz)



*Photos of some of the visiting 'monsters' this Halloween in Dream Hills.*



**The Poke!**

On a crowded commuter train in rush hour, a middle-aged woman found herself pressed up against a male passenger. As the train rocked from side to side, their bodies repeatedly made contact. His presence made her extremely uncomfortable until finally she turned to him and said: 'If you don't stop poking me with your thing, I'm calling the police.' 'I don't know what you mean,' said the man. 'It's just my wages packet in my pocket.' 'Well, you must have a good job,' she scoffed, 'because that's the fifth raise you've had in the last twenty minutes!'

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PIE NIGHT at the Phoenix...**



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My ex went out one Halloween, years ago. She came back with 13 Mars bars, 4 Kit Kats and a shed load of Haribo.  
I can see why she was upset as she was only doing her Avon round.

Lee Bell.

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## Hats off to Susana (and Ciudadanos)!

The Inheritance or Succession Tax (and Gift Tax) in Spain can be onerous and penal. Many would-be inheritors reject their inheritance as it means they have to borrow substantial sums of money to pay the tax. Last year over 2,000 did so. Each region sets its own inheritance tax level and it can vary widely.

So, it was quite a surprise when Susana Díaz (photo), president of the socialist-run region of Andalucía introduced some dramatic changes to the tax. There is now an exemption of one million euros when direct family members (spouse and children) inherit, provided that the existing estate of the inheritor does not exceed €450,000.



There are however many details in the new legislation to be corrected. For example, if a widow were to inherit one million euros under the proposed legislation, there would be no tax to pay. However, if the sum inherited was one million and one euros, the tax would be in excess of €300,000!

The proposed changes, which are being championed by the Ciudadanos Party, are not popular with the trade unions and town mayors. (They need the extra taxes!) However, the ruling PSOE are depending on Ciudadanos to support the acceptance of the 2018 budget.

In the latest initiative, Díaz is offering businesses €8,000 for every person aged over 45 that employers take on with a new permanent contract.

What a pity the other regions, including ours, do not incorporate similar tax reductions and other incentives President Díaz has launched.

### Guess?

A man was sitting in the bar in Departures at Heathrow. A beautiful woman walked in and sat down at the table next to him. He decided because she had a uniform on, she was probably an off-duty flight attendant. So he decided to have a go at picking her up by identifying the airline she flew for, thereby [he thought] impressing her greatly.

He leant across to her and said the Delta Airlines motto: "We love to fly and it shows."

The woman looked at him blankly. He sat back and remembered another line. He leant forward again and delivered the Air France motto: "Winning the hearts of the world." Again she just stared at him with a slightly puzzled look on her face.

Undeterred, he tried again, this time saying the Malaysian Airlines motto: "Going beyond expectations."

The woman looked at him sternly and said, "What the f### do you want?"

"Ah!" he said, sitting back with a smile on his face, ".....Ryanair!"

Lee Bell

## Promises! Promises!

The mayor of the city of Valencia, our region's capital, is Joan Ribó. Joan belongs to the Compromís political party, a left-wing gathering of similar political leanings in the Valencia region only. He became mayor in June 2015.

For many years, high profile Spanish politicians enjoyed bodyguard protection. This was because of ETA, the basque terrorist organisation. A PP mayor in the Basque Country, was among the hundreds of their victims. But as ETA has now been decimated due to increased efforts by the French and Spanish security services, the need for bodyguards has reduced substantially.

The former mayor of Valencia, Rita Barbera, had ten bodyguards. During the election campaign in 2015 Ribó announced that "I do not need an escort. Valencia is not dangerous. If I have an incident I will solve it by talking like any neighbour." A keen cyclist, who often takes his bike to work, photo, has now increased his personal security to twelve bodyguards!

Whereas the previous mayor had 10 bodyguards, each costing approx. €21,693, the current mayor's 12 bodyguards enjoy a significantly increased remuneration, with rises of between 16 and 22% awarded for next year. This means that the salaries for the 12 next year will range from the lowest at €55,591 to the highest at €59,575. In 2018 the bill for the mayor's security will come to €710,000!

The mayor also enjoys an official car, although he previously said he would renounce it.

All this comes out of the public purse - your taxes!



"Susie wants to win an MTV Music Award. Jimmy wants his own reality show. Molly wants implants, lipo, and an entourage. Doesn't anyone want toys anymore!?"

When you go to work, if your name is on the building, you're rich. If your name is on your desk, you're middle class. And if your name is on your shirt, you're poor.

(Rich Hall)

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## The Phoenix Golf Society.

The golf society played at Roda Golf Course on Sunday, November 19. There was a very good turnout for the meeting and all thoroughly enjoyed themselves on an excellent golf course, which was in an extremely good condition.

Nearest the Pin - No.2 Pat Brennan

“ “ - No.7 Charlie McGonagle

“ “ - No.11 Ken Styan

“ “ - No.13 Ian Grant

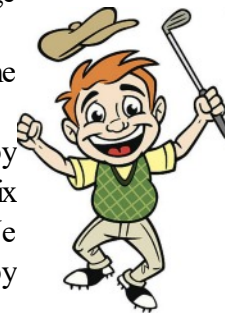
The overall winner was Ken Styan – Well done Ken. Special Prize going to Marge Roundwaite.

All prizes were donated by Mick The Grip on behalf of The British Legion.

We had a raffle with prizes donated by members and Donna of the Phoenix Bar, which went down very well. We collected 107 Euros for the Poppy Appeal.

After the prize-giving and raffle, we then sat down to food provided by Donna & Paul, many thanks again you two.

Dave Wightman.



*Kath & Jules Welcome You to*



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## KARAOKE XMAS PARTY

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accidentally ordered 80,000 battle helmets with the horns on the inside.

Captain Blackadder.

## Lime Bar Fishing Sunbathing Club

The club has been a bit thin on the ground recently as we have a couple in UK and several sick, lame and weary. That's without taking into account the cold weather on the old farts' bones!

We had 2 matches in November, the winter comp and the "old farts" v the "whippersnappers".

The monthly match was held at Bigastro which we had cleared last month. We couldn't use one of the pegs though as there was a blockage in the river. This was the result of a dead sheep carcass trying to get into a discarded fridge freezer that had got lodged in the reeds. This then caused a backlog of the usual debris of plastic bottles, dead cats and pigeons in plastic bags, interwoven by reed stems and blanket weed. Is this the same Rio Segura that won an EU cleanliness prize this year? Anyway we fished around it and everybody caught except Grumpy who hates everywhere except Benijofar. We had some good weights with Fagash winning with just under 10 kilos, followed by just John with 8. A special mention must go to the nomad who was knackered after landing 6 kilos of fish (he doesn't usually catch). He was that busy he didn't even have time for a nap or to eat his lunch!

The old farts match was held at El Bosquet. This allowed the "older" members to attend, where they can get to their pegs easily. We still have several sick but we had a good turn out with 12 anglers on the bank.

The temperature was 1° C when we arrived but it warmed up into a sultry UK summer's day. Unfortunately the cold nights have chilled the water and the carp / barbel did not want to play ball. If you drew a peg at either end



you caught, any where in the middle and you twiddled your thumbs all day. The teams were sorted out by age and the pegs alternated old, young, old etc. To be a young "whippersnapper" you had to be less than 73 years old! The old farts trounced us youngsters again; it is now 3-1 in aggregate. They were lucky though. 3 rods (old fart) had suggested a points system between each "pair" of fishermen. This was dismissed as a stupid idea (by the old farts), but if we had used this system the whippersnappers would have won. As it turned out on the day punchy Bob (the oldest old fart who doesn't get out very often) could have won the match on his own.

Punchy netted over 10 kilos of fish to the whippersnappers' cumulative 5.6 kilos. One of his fish was a cracking carp of 3.5 kilos (8 lbs in old money). Well done Bob.

After the match, we retired to the Lime Bar to commiserate where Fagin dipped in his pouch and bought everybody a couple of pints. Ghost (the youngest) presented the Todd quaiche to Punchy (the eldest).

See photo. It was then topped up passed around in a show of friendship (gloating). 1<sup>st</sup> time round was OK as they had topped it up with cava. 2<sup>nd</sup> time round was a bit "different". Punchy was "happy" and spiked the quaiche's cava with some of his Pernod. A taste that grew on you!

Our presentation night went well, with lots of good food and drink, a raffle and a close run quiz. Thank you to the Lime Bar for putting up with us again and a big thank you to Sue for presenting all the trophies. Fagin supplied the raffle prizes and anti social's Belinda ripped us off with the ticket sales. Thank you both. Anti social was going to sing but gave the presentation spiel instead.

This year we had a couple of new names on the trophies, including little big Mick who was grinning like a Cheshire cat when he collected the knockout trophy. There were also a couple of "special" awards this year.

Butler (ponytail Phil) got one for being the best butler an angler could have and the nomad received the "most consistent angler" award. He blanked in every match he entered last year...☺ See photo.

The morning after the presentation night, 3 of the hardier members went and cleared the fridge blockage out of the river. It also cleared our heads!

Have a fantastic Christmas and New Year!

Next meeting bun fight is at The Lime Bar @ 17.00 Mon 4<sup>th</sup> December.

Fishy fingers!

The Ghost



### Just a Pinch!

An elderly, but hardy, cattleman from Texas once told a young female neighbor that if she wanted to live a long life, the secret was to sprinkle a pinch of gunpowder on her oatmeal each morning.

She did this religiously and lived to the ripe old age of 103. She left behind 11 children, 30 grandchildren, 41 great-grandchildren, five great-great-grandchildren..... and a 40-foot hole where the crematorium used to be.

Sue Robinson

Céad Mile Fáilte  
\*A Hundred Thousand Welcomes\*



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*His singing was something between that of a rat drowning, a lavatory flushing and a hyena  
devouring her after-birth in the Appalachian Mountains under a full moon.*

*Auberon Waugh*



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### **Your Good Health!**

The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans. The French eat a lot of fat and also have fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans. The Japanese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans. The Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and also suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.

Conclusion: Eat and drink what you like. What kills you is speaking English.

(Michael Fitzpatrick)

I hastened over to the Orthopaedic Ward, hoping to find the man who knew more about surgical procedures than anyone else in the hospital. Luckily he was still in his Porter's Cubicle.

(Denis Norden)

## IDIOTS OF THE MONTH

A 36-year-old British woman went ‘bananas’ at a bank branch in Calle Sant Miquel in Palma. When she tried to draw some money from her account she was told that her account was empty. She became aggressive and angry, threatened that she would kill all the bank cashiers and set the branch on fire. When the police arrived, she continued with her tirade, threatened them also and was eventually taken away in handcuffs.

During late October, firemen from Denia were called to a local store where a 50-year-old man managed to trap his head behind a toilet w.c. See photo. One must surely ask, ‘What was his head doing there?’ Police had to remove the toilet bowl and supports as his head was securely jammed behind it. But, coincidentally, it was the same crew of firefighters who attended another idiot who we featured in these columns last year. This was the case of the 36-year-old Lithuanian who had put four steel rings around his todger and then couldn’t remove them. The firemen cut the rings off, not his dick, with a Dremel! But we still have no idea how and why the previous guy got his head stuck!



Remaining in Spain, last month an unidentified council worker painted the sign below on Calle Terremoto (Earthquake Street!) in Torreveija. After it did the rounds in social media, the council quickly corrected it. A similar blunder occurred in Orihuela last year. Maybe it was the same guy!



Now on to the UK where bakery-chain Greggs had to apologize to Christian groups after replacing baby Jesus with a sausage roll in a nativity scene in an advert. Although Jesus was also a Jewish prophet and the sausage was pork, thankfully there were no Jewish complaints. I found it amusing but thought that if a similar type advert was published which offended radical Islamists, someone would probably be dead by now!



Now back to Torreveija, where a 93-year-old British lady driver had a bit of a mishap driving on a Torry street. According to witnesses she reversed at speed while trying



to park, hit some cars, lost control of the car, turned around and hit another car and ended up facing the other way on the pavement,

finishing up touching the wall (photo) and blocking the front door to the building. Although there was a lot of damage, fortunately, no one was hurt.

But lets not forget the stupid answers on some quiz shows. Pointless, a popular TV quiz show in the UK produced some gems, like the young lady when asked to name a country that starts and ends with two consonants: she said, ‘Paris.’ Then there was the lass who said that Jimi Hendrix was a famous drummer! And then there was the girl (notice these are all ladies, just a coincidence of course) when asked a question about American presidents said that ‘J.R. Ewing was assassinated in Dallas.

Finally, Zhang Wei, a popular Chinese writer, took his grandmother on vacation to St. Moritz, Switzerland, where the two decided to splurge a bit. The pair sauntered into the luxurious Hotel Waldhaus am See and plopped down at the bar. Called the Devil’s Place, it’s known for its vast collection of rare whiskies, self-described as the largest in the world. They eyed the more than 2,500 bottles lined up behind the bar in perfect rows. One immediately stood out: an unopened bottle labelled as an 1878 Macallan single malt. Zhang Wei knew it would be expensive, but his martial art fantasy novels made him a multimillionaire, according to China Daily. And he felt a special connection with the bottle. It was 139 years old..... and a single glass of the whisky cost him US\$10,000! But, the taste was fairly disappointing! Zhang later described the experience on Weibo, a Chinese microblogging platform similar to Twitter, merely saying the whisky “had a good taste.” He stressed, though, that, “It’s not just the taste, but also history.”

Unfortunately, that history was hogwash — and so was the Scotch.

Readers of Zhang’s blog pored over the photos he posted and began to notice some discrepancies in the bottle’s label and cork. Something didn’t seem right, so a few experts reached out to the hotel. The hotel manager called in experts that found the bottle was filled with a blended whisky, probably distilled between 1970 and 1972 — about a century from the dram of history Zhang Wei thought he had purchased. Researchers at the University of Oxford then performed carbon dating on the label and the cork, finding it was also probably from the 1970s.

The bottle, which Bernasconi, the hotel manager, thought was worth around \$350,000 turned out to be “almost worthless as a collector’s item.” He quickly flew to China to reimburse Zhang.





# Florantilles



## Show Bar



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GRAVY

#### DESSERT

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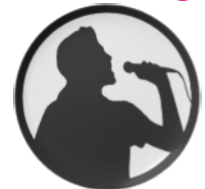
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<http://www.oriuela-costa.eu/index.php>

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

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

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!)



— We're going to have a baby. That's my Christmas present to you.  
— All I needed was a tie.

Woody Allen

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