

# THE DREAM SCENE



## NEWSLETTER



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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the February, 2018 edition. Issue No.128.

For both December and most of January, we have been incredibly lucky with the warm weather. Beautiful blue skies most days, very warm unless a chilly north wind was present. The temperature hit 24/25° several times, eight degrees more than normal for this time of year, although the record was at 29.2° on January 7, 1982. Most evenings are now quite chilly, the temperature dropping quite a bit in late January. The processional caterpillars are also making an early appearance locally due to the mild weather, so careful when walking your pooch.

The Spanish Met Office tell of a 'warmer and dryer winter' with little chance of substantial rain before the spring. Alicante province faces its fifth consecutive year of droughts, and the driest Autumn for the last 36 years. Water levels in the few reservoirs are very low and farmers are having to deal with greatly reduced crops with little hope of adequate water supplies in the short and medium term. Citrus crops are expected to be down by 30%, in the case of lemons by 200,000 tons. Artichokes, the best selling vegetable have also been badly hit.

It was decided to increase the production of the desalination plant in Torrevieja from the current level of 40 cubic hectometres to 80. (Much of the water coming out of your taps at the moment is from the desal' plant.) But the problem is the plant has

insufficient power to cope with the increase and both Red Eléctrica and Iberdrola advised that the work to supply the extra power to the plant could take up to nine months! Bad planning or what!

Roadworks to bring the extra power to the plant began in December and they have been causing traffic chaos locally. It is fair to say that there are many other roadworks as well for other utilities because of the increase in newly built housing estates, but the electric works are easily identifiable because of the giant spools of black heavy cabling with a copper core as thick as a man's arm. Security guards watch the cables at night to avoid theft.

Locally, many businesses are suffering because of the restrictions with many roads blocked. The local Consum supermarket and other businesses in lower Los Altos have been badly hit and are furious.

The new management contract for the operation of Corvera Airport has been awarded to AENA. This is hardly surprising as their's was the only bid left on the table. No news yet on when San Javier Airport will be closed or when Corvera will open for business.

Many thanks to Terry & Judy and Barry & Carol, for their kind donations towards printing costs.

The new subscription year for the newsletter begins in March and I will be sending out reminders and payment requests in due course.

*Wishing you all a  
Wonderful month.  
Mick & Tíd*

### LOCKSMITH

CERRAJEROS - SCHLOSSER  
SEGURIDAD UNION



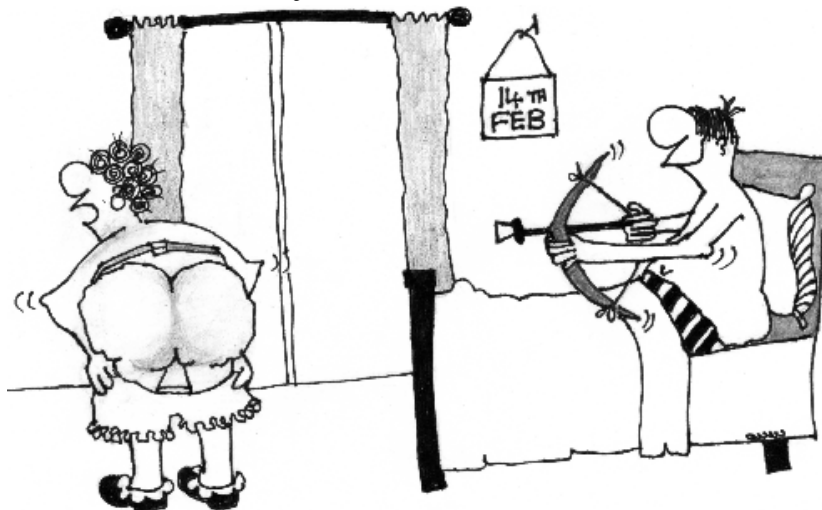
LOCAL



607 493 118

(Cut out & keep.)

### Angela's Cartoon



**'You never give me a surprise on Valentine's Day!'**

After divorcing his first wife, Mark Thatcher has married again. And whose the lucky lady?  
Well, the first wife, obviously. Clive Anderson

# Advocacy Costa Blanca

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**Has your health declined?**

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

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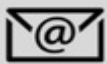
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## Did you know that .....

...South Africa is the world leader in penis transplants? I kid you not! This is mainly due to the persistence of traditional male circumcision in many communities — particularly the amaXhosa, the second largest ethnic group in South Africa. The traditional procedure leads to dozens of South African men's deaths each year—many from dehydration or septicaemia. As many as 46 initiates died in the Eastern Cape in the 2015-2016 season alone. Attempts to reduce the number of deaths through legislation like the Application of Health Standards in Traditional Circumcision Act of 2001 have had little impact, and among those who survive botched circumcisions, complete amputation is often the only recourse. Roughly 48,000 traditional circumcisions took place nationally in 2015, according to government estimates, with most occurring in the Eastern Cape—the poorest province in the country. In one ceremony, 13 boys had their foreskin removed with the same knife. The wounds are then dressed with leaves, which often leads to infection, and if not treated correctly, gangrene and amputation. In one case a donor white penis was transplanted onto a black man. (I suppose they could call it a 'Michael Jackson.') Still, maybe the other way round could become very popular!

...seedless avocados are now available? M&S in the UK has been selling these, with a pack of five costing around £2. These seedless/stoneless avocados are between 5 and 8cm long, are said to be very creamy in taste and the skin is also edible. They are grown in Spain, and are the result of un pollinated avocado blossom. The fruit is "only available during

December, when usually it is sent to a Parisian food market and bought by chefs to be used in top-end restaurants. This year M&S has been able to source a small number of the avocados "exclusively," for their supermarkets. Unfortunately I doubt whether any are available locally. When M&S first introduced avocados to the public in 1968, they were described as 'avocado pears' and were meant to be eaten with custard!



...the 'Three Kings' might originally have come from Andalusia? The last Pope thought so. In his 2012 book *Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives* Pope Benedict XVI claimed the gift-bearing trio came from Tarsis — or Tartessos — a kingdom that historians place somewhere between the provinces of Huelva, Cadiz and Sevilla.

...the Vatican uses milk to paint its buildings? An ancient recipe mixes milk from the Pope's cows with slaked lime and natural pigments. The Belvedere Palace, which dates back to 1484 and houses precious art of the Vatican Museums, is currently being repainted with milk. It's an ancient recipe that has proven more lasting than any modern synthetic paints: "We're not nostalgic for the past," said the Vatican's chief architect, Vitale Zanchettin. "The point is that we think these solutions age better. They are tried and tested."

Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea.

After the snap regional election in Catalonia on December 21, no single party there gained an absolute majority. The turnout rate was a historic high of 81%, higher even than at the landmark post Franco Spanish elections of 1982.

The centre party, Ciudadanos, was by far the most voted party, attracting over 1.1 million votes (25.37%) compared to 940,000 (21.65%) for its nearest rival, the separatist Junts per Catalunya, the party of ousted Catalan premier Carles Puigdemont, which won the largest number of seats (34) of the three pro-independence parties. Catalonia's three secessionist parties had secured a combined 70 seats in the regional parliament, two more than the 68 required for a majority in the 135-seat assembly. While Puigdemont's party won less votes and seats than the constitutionalist party Ciudadanos (37), it hopes to govern with the support of the Catalan Republican Left (ERC) and the anti-austerity party CUP, which won 32 and four seats respectively. The biggest surprise of the election was the growth of Ciudadanos (Citizens). The regional election was disastrous for the PP, who now have less than five seats in the region. Although still languishing in Belgium (with a short trip to Denmark), Carles Puigdemont still wants to be premier and says he can govern from abroad! However, parliamentary bylaws expressly forbid remote appointments, meaning the sacked premier would need to physically appear before Congress in order to be sworn in.

Following the increase in votes for Ciudadanos in Catalonia, a national poll revealed that if a General Election was held in Spain today, Ciudadanos would be the party most voted for.

Although they would not have an absolute majority, they would if necessary, ditch their support for the PP, whose voters seem to be in rapid decline.

After waiting 10 years for compensation, property owners who have had their land expropriated for the building of Corvera Airport are being forced to incur judicial costs to secure their agreed payments.

There are lots of red faces concerning the high speed rail link between Alicante and Barcelona. The 'high speed' link is now 15 minutes slower than it was 20 years ago! Excuses are being offered such as track modifications and it did not help when one train ploughed through 60 sheep on January 2.

Anybody like to buy some cheap lamb? A bit mangled.



"Can't we talk about something other than the way I parked the car?"

The Spanish football Liga wants to cutback the excessive amounts surrounding the British Premier League, with a plan for the next decade to expand the international audience. Javier Tebas, president of the Spanish Liga, said that the Premier League earns approximately 40% more than the Spanish do, who obtain 1.7 billion € for audio/visual rights.

Banks in Spain have already returned two billion euros to clients, in repayment of the 'ground clauses.' That represents 43% of all claimants so far according to sources. If you have had a mortgage for some years and have not checked whether there was a 'ground clause' in the mortgage, you could be throwing thousands of euros in compensation away. Worth checking out?

Pfizer has given UK pharmacies permission to sell Viagra over the counter in the UK from Spring 2018. But of course you were always able to buy it online.....so I am told!

The Ministry of Finance is withholding over €2 billion in support for the various regions until they have their budgets approved.

Wages in Spain are only increasing at a quarter of the average increases in Europe.

During the last two months, almost everybody I know has come down with a very bad cold, often accompanied by an annoying cough, particularly restricting one's sleep. As we are also in the 'flu season' doctors are demanding extraordinary measures from the Department of Health to tackle the current flu epidemic. In the Valencian Community the epidemic reached its peak with a rate of 281 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in weeks two and three of January. The most affected are children and young people up to 14 years old and 92% of the patients were not vaccinated. The influenza vaccine being used this season is showing an effectiveness of only 25% due to the unanticipated predominance of the B strain.

Heavy snowfalls in Northern Spain converted the AP-6 into a rats' maze' after 400 cars were trapped on the motorway for some 18 hours. The Government is fining the concessionary company who blames the volume of traffic combined with the snowfall. The Military Emergencies Unit mobilised more than 240 soldiers to free the cars and rescue the passengers.

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New York just had the first white Christmas in 30 years. A note, though, to you guys in Greenwich Village:  
When you build a snowman, the carrot goes on the nose.

Conan O'Brien

## What's Up? continued

The National Police has arrested 32 people accused of defrauding 1,076,000 euros in unemployment benefits, hiring subsidies and other aid they obtained without being entitled to them through different companies in the province of Las Palmas in the Canaries. The defendants, of Spanish nationality, Moroccan, Senegalese, Mauritanian and Bangladeshi, benefited from all kinds of benefits and subsidies for unemployed and foreigners in need that were granted after claiming that they had been hired by the companies involved in the fraud, who also did not pay their corresponding fees to Social Security. The 32 people are accused of crimes of document forgery and Social Security fraud.

Attempted frauds to claim insurance in Murcia have increased by 127% in a year – the assurance companies have detected some 12,500 cases in the region in 2016 – exaggerated amounts around 20 million €.

each resident in the Murcia region owes on average 20,706 € to clear the regional administration debt.

Probably worthy of an entry to the 'Idiot's' section is the left wing mayor of Madrid, Manuela Carmena, seen here on the right of , the equally controversial mayor of



the city of Barcelona. She made two major pedestrian thoroughfares one way on the same street in the downtown shopping areas. So, if you were on one side of the street and wanted to cross to the other, you had to walk to the end of the pavement you were on, cross in the only permitted area, and then walk back up the other street to the shop you wanted to visit. Madrileños were not amused. One said, 'Baaaa! We look like sheep. They won't even let us walk wherever we like on the street,' complained one man walking ahead of a number of police officers stationed there to enforce regulations. One woman barred by police from crossing before the designated cross over commented, 'Carmena will say that this thing has worked. By force, that is. If you try to go in the wrong direction, you get slapped with a fine, I shouldn't have to go all the way around the block because a random politician wants me to. This year they've come up with a real dumb-ass idea.'

More than 22,000 migrants from Africa entered Spain via the Med' during 2017. The figure for 2016 was 13,000. The ever increasing flood of misery has put great strain on the provision of adequate detention facilities. Inadequate warehouses and old jails are now being used.

Ten traffic radars in the Balearics collected nearly two million € last year from Jan' to October. The Calvià motorway alone captures around 40 speeders a day.

The number of British buying homes in Spain fell by 16.4% in the first half of 2017, but still remain the largest group, followed by the French and Germans, according to the General Council of Notaries. British made 13.9% of the total foreign purchasers, French 8.8%, Germans 8.2%, Italians 7.7%, Romanians 6.9%, and Belgians 6.2%, totalling 51.2% of total sales. Sales to Russians are now down to 3% and 4.7% to the Chinese.

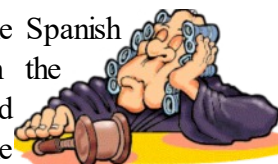
The trade unions in Spain have been quite successful in negotiating retirement (ERE) deals for bank staff facing early retirement. Staff between the ages of 55 and 63 in the Santander and Popular banks receive pensions of 80% of their wages. Very generous. Nice to know that the bank charges on your pension are going towards another pension!

The Catalan separatists opened a number of Catalan 'embassies' throughout the world in an effort to promote their 'independence.' These were all closed down by the government in Madrid under Article 155. The 'embassy' in the US of A cost €1,100,000 and one in Geneva, Switzerland cost €760,000. Another seven embassies were also created, Portugal (€450,000), France (€895,000), Germany (€500,000), Italy (€738,000), Austria (€700,000), Denmark (€520,000) and Poland (€500,000). These represent a cost, for 2017 alone of €6,163,000! The 33 people who staffed these have also been sacked.

Two school bus drivers have been detained after testing positive for drugs – both from Alcantarilla in Murcia, one for hashish and the other for cocaine. So far this year, 56 professional drivers under the influence of alcohol or drugs have already been caught on the roads in Murcia.

One would think that companies (or individuals) securing a supply contract to a town hall would be a major boost to their business, however in many cases it can be an economic kiss-of-death. The problem is that many town halls can't afford to pay their suppliers quickly or on time. The government amended the law so that all suppliers should be paid within 30 days. But this is still extremely rare. One town council in Malaga, Andalucia - Cortes de la Frontera - takes more than two years to pay its bills. In the province of Malaga alone, 25 town councils exceed the 30 day pay limit and 13 take more than 100 days to pay.

The appalling slowness of the Spanish judicial system continues. In the Murcia Region during the third quarter of 2017 alone, the regional courts received 42,300 cases. Of these, only 3.5% of the cases were ruled on according to the General Council for Judicial Power. Nationally, 165,000 ground clause cases are delayed.





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FACING  
TERRACE**

## Scumbag!

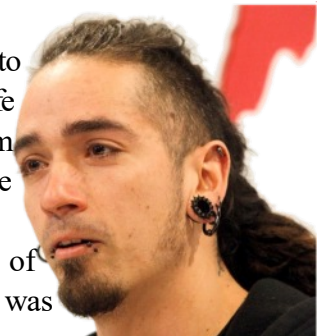
Rodrigo Lanza is a squatter and political activist of the extreme anti-system left and *independenistas* in Barcelona. In February 2006, a group of agents of the Guàrdia Urbana were called to a squat in Barcelona following reports of disturbances to public order during an alcohol and drugs party. Lanza, photo, threw a rock from five metres at one of the guards, 33-year-old Juan José Salas, which hit him on the forehead. Juan collapsed and hit the back of his head on the ground. Lanza remained in a coma in hospital for several months, but when he finally awoke, it was discovered that he was now a quadriplegic, with lasting mental damage as well. Lanza was 33 at the time.

In 2009 the Supreme Court sentenced Lanza to five years in prison. He was also ordered to pay Juan Salas €935,641.85 for the assault and injuries and €120,767.65 euros to his wife and children for moral damage. Of course, Lanza never paid a penny and was released from jail after serving just two and a half years. Some of the warders referred to Lanza as 'the worst we ever had!'

Then in 2015 a TV documentary, *Ciutat Morta*, partly financed by the current mayor of Barcelona, Ada Colau, and promoted by the far-left Podemos Party, claimed that Lanza was innocent. Barcelona City Council awarded Lanza, not the victim, €7,000!

On December 8, 2017, 55-year-old Víctor Laínez was having a drink in a bar in Heroísmo, Zaragoza. Laínez was wearing trouser braces which had the colours of the Spanish national flag. Lanza was also in the bar with three friends, a man and two women. The group started to call out to Laínez - 'Fascist' and 'pro-Franco'. When Laínez tried to leave the bar it is alleged that Lanza attached him from behind and hit him on the head with a blunt object. It is also alleged that Lanza's friend also kicked Victor when he was on the ground.

Victor Laínez died in hospital four days later and Lanza was arrested. No doubt this jerk will, if convicted, be out in a couple of years and once again claim to be the victim. I just wonder how much Barcelona City Council will pay him this time?





# LIME BAR



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P.J. O'Rourke

The councillor for Infrastructure & Beaches, Luisa Boné, (photo) came to Dream Hills for a question & answer session. Boné is no lightweight. A graduate with two Masters degrees, she is also responsible for our local excellent beaches. I was surprised at how few attended the meeting. I supposed it is easier to moan about things in a bar, rather than fire some questions at a councillor. A number of issues were raised by those present, with the councillor promising to address them on her return to work. Unfortunately this meeting was before the current traffic chaos locally. Stefan Pokroppa translated at the meeting which was friendly, unlike the usual bun-fights.



A private company is hoping to exploit the tourist attractions of Torrevieja by promoting an introduction to the traditional fishing industry of local fishermen there. This will include small tours and boat trips.

A male resident of San Miguel de Salinas has been blackmailed by a Romanian prostitute who promised to tell his wife unless he paid her. He paid her €90,000 in cash and two cars before he told the police. There's dumb and, .....dumber?

During December and January, everybody seemed to have very bad colds and coughs. These generally lasted a week plus. Add to this the 'normal flu season.' The most virulent flu virus has already taken five lives in Elda and Alicante. These were pensioners who developed complications. Health officials note the high incidence of contagion from the virus and those affected by the epidemic should take two weeks' rest to fully recover. If you are a pensioner here you should get your free inoculation and ignore the usual bullshit stories about adverse reactions. Rest assured, the flu itself is bad enough!

Oh dear! Sometimes the past can reemerge and bite you on the ass! The ex-secretary general and current deputy secretary general of the Popular Party in Elda, Iván Obrador (photo), appeared in a porn video in 2012. Contrary to the photo, it is claimed that Iván did not appear in any 'explicit' sex scenes but used coarse abusive language. Interestingly neither his own nor the opposition parties censured him. But I ask you, what's with the wellies.....and the rubber gloves?



In Spain, mental health care is dreadful. The province has no free places for mentally ill patients. Specialised public centres for depression are unable to cope with an extra thousand patients. The waiting time is now several years.

Due to an incredible cock-up, the Valencian Government failed to collect €4 million in interest due on loans of €11 million to the Terra Mitica consortium from 2009 to 2011.

The PP are blaming the left-wing ruling coalition, while the coalition is blaming the PP and it goes around & around with the taxpayers continuing to fund the salaries and pensions of incompetents.

In the regional capital, Alicante, 4,243 homes were sold between January and September, 2017, compared to 3,601 in the Vega Baja area.

It is estimated that 73% of the tourists on the Costa Blanca stay in rented apartments – the large majority in unregulated tourism flats. It is believed that there are 500,000 rentals but only 100,000 are regulated.

The municipal veterinarian in Alicante (yes there is one!) has warned that there are deficiencies in the caring of the police dogs in the city, who number between seven and twelve. The new police working shifts of seven days on and seven days off, means that although some of the policemen take the dogs home with them for a week, the other dogs are left for a week in an area described as totally inadequate measuring 18 metres long and 1.8 metres wide, without exercise and with little human contact. The kennel area is dirty with stagnant water in the gullies as there is no program for cleaning or disinfection of the facilities. The vet also emphasised that keeping the dogs inactive and with little human contact for a week is not good for keeping their skills at peak levels.

The average mortgage loan in the province is €87,000, (in January 2017 it was €103,906!) with repayments of around €280 euros per month. One of the Spanish newspapers, *Informacion*, quoted the average monthly rental in the province as €700! That seems incredibly high, if it is true.

In 2017 the city of Benidorm hosted 95 video productions. These ranged from feature movies to adverts. In the year that was 350 days of filming! This resulted in 8,700 overnight stays, car rentals, more than 150 contracts with companies and more than 3,000 extras recruited.

These movie related activities are believed to have brought an extra €3.5 million to the municipality. Contrast this with the failed film studios in Alicante. The Ciudad de la Luz, or "City of Light," cost €500 million of public money and was closed in 2012. It is now being broken up and sold piecemeal.

- How many bureaucrats does it take to change a light bulb?
- Two. One to assure us that everything possible is being done while the other screws the bulb into a hot water tap.



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### Keeping a Positive Attitude!

One must always keep a positive attitude in this life - in sickness, in health, good or bad times it really helps...!!

Late in the night, he finally regained consciousness. He was in hospital, in agony. He was in ICU with tubes in his mouth, needles and IV drips in both arms, an oxygen mask, wires monitoring his every function, and a gorgeous nurse hovering over him. He realised that he was obviously in a life-threatening situation.

The nurse gave him a serious, deep look, straight into his eyes, then spoke to him slowly and clearly, enunciating each word and syllable: "You..... May... Not... Feel.... Anything.... From.... The... Waist... Down."

Somehow he managed to mumble in reply to : ..... "Can I feel your tits then? "

(Carol Martin)



JJ's

Café  Bar

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TWEET!

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## The Lottery, Cheese and Messi.

The story of Joni Jiménez is one of the many behind a great lottery prize. In the draw for the 'El Niño' Lottery, Joni was one of the winners with a tenth of the first prize. That is, 200,000 euros. He has been out of work for over ten years, marches with his old van looking to win at least to feed his two teenage daughters and on January 6 fortune smiled at him. Five years ago his wife left the family home leaving Joni and their two daughters alone, but, and after learning that her family had a tenth prize winner, " she has not stopped calling, " Joni said.

Spain and Mexico are in dispute over Manchego cheese. The Spanish version is made from sheep's milk in the region of La Mancha, while the Mexican queso is made with cow's milk and often bulked out with vegetable oil. Spanish

Manchego cheese has a Denomination of Origin recognition whereas the Mexican variety, the purist say, is insipid and only good for hamburgers and sandwiches.

The Spanish cheese can be bought for around €13 a kilo while the Mexican is only around €5/6 a kilo. The Spaniards want Mexico to drop the word 'Manchego' as they feel that the public is being cheated and misled. But, whereas the Mexicans are always quick to protect their own denominations of origin, such as those for tequila and mescal liquor, they couldn't give a fig (or a grape) for cheese.



The Spanish Treasury is investigating Barcelona Club for paying the footballer Messi with black money. They suspect that the club hid part of his salary via donations to his foundation for which he gets 35% tax relief. Messi was fined millions last year for evading taxes.

Even if he wasn't paid, he would still play! Oh yea?

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## TARGET SHOOTING.

Over the past year a number of people on Dream Hills have expressed an interest in taking up target shooting as a hobby, this happily coincides with membership vacancies at the club where a number of us from this area already shoot namely CPTO Elche (Club Precision de Tiro Olimpico) so here's some details.

The club is located just off the AP-7 on the outskirts of Elche, about a 40 minute drive from here, open every day except Monday from 10:00 to 20:00 hrs.

There are 6 separate ranges at the club for everything from air pistol, small bore and full bore pistol, 100

metre indoor rifle range as well as muzzle loaders and historical arms. In addition there is a large clubhouse/bar and there is an active social side to the club which has a membership from all over Europe and Scandinavia.

Up until a year ago members were allowed to take guests to "have a go" but sadly, due to tightening of firearms regulations this is no longer possible, instead the initial membership fee includes a 6 week course of 2 hours a week the first being safety and the next 5 practical tuition leading to a simple proficiency test after which a firearms licence is granted, after that, membership is €40 (€25 for over 65's) a quarter and for that you can use the ranges without limitations.

The club has a website <https://www.tiroelche.com/> with further information or feel free to give me a call on 653553715.

Lee Bell



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## VALENTINE'S DAY

A card dropped through my door today  
as I heard the postman call  
I wonder what this is I say  
as I hear it gently fall

I pick it up and open it  
and inside to my delight  
a Valentine's card sits  
so colourful and light

My wife asks what's the mail  
seeing my obvious glee  
nothing just another bill  
as she grabs it off me

Violets are blue roses are red  
the words flow off the page  
you're sweeter than honey it said  
my wife she's in a rage

After fifty years of married life  
the cards just stopped being sent  
all those years a faithful wife  
her furies she lets vent

I thought it was from you  
who else could it be  
but if you didn't send it though  
It's surely not for me

She stares at me and looks so cruel  
and picks the envelope from the floor  
it's addressed to the tart next door you fool  
what's all this anguish for

We hug, both laughing at our fears  
limping, short of teeth and hair  
that even after all these years  
we both still love and care

The Phantom Poet



"Thank you for asking, but I'm  
already married to my phone."

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## Luv, etc.

*I just took two Viagra.  
Now I'm as hard as Chinese algebra.*  
Robin Williams



*"Just think Nigel, if you weren't wearing grey socks and sandals this could be romantic."*



*"He'll take a dozen long-stemmed roses."*

## Airport Bus Timetable.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Heathrow Airport Complaints.

Heathrow received 78,794 noise complaints last year, and 62% of those were made by 10 people, according to new figures from the airport.

The 10 people who made the most complaints last year accounted for 48,562 complaints, while 2,775 individuals filed a complaint over 2017.

Just 10 residents in Slough clocked 6,074 complaints over the course of three months.

## Direct Ferry Service - Ireland to Spain.

Brittany Ferries have announced the launch of the first ever direct ferry service from Ireland to Spain. The route will be from Cork to Santander, departing from Cork every Wednesday and Friday and will take 26 hours. The newly chartered ship, the 'Connemara' (photo), will have a capacity for 500 passengers and 195 cars.



The new route, which runs from late April to November should be a boon to haulage companies and give Irish tourists a greater choice of holiday options. Bookings will be available from late January this year. The company expects a 50/50 split between passengers and freight carried.

## Red Days in the Valencian Community 2018.

January 1 and 6, March 19 and 30, April 2, May 1, August 15, October 9, October 12, November 1, 6, 8 and December 25th

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A man goes to see the Rabbi. "Rabbi, something terrible is happening and I have to talk to you about it." The Rabbi asked, "What's wrong?" The man replied, "My wife is going to poison me." The Rabbi, very surprised by this, asks, "How can that be?" The man then pleads, "I'm telling you, I'm certain she's going to poison me. What should I do?" The Rabbi then offers, "Tell you what. Let me talk to her, I'll see what I can find out and I'll let you know." A week later the Rabbi calls the man. He says, "I spoke to your wife on the phone for three hours! You want my advice?" The man said, "Yes" and the Rabbi replied, "Take the poison."

Derrick Green



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25 EUROS PER PERSON

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#### The Truth.

A man with a scarf covering the lower half of his face burst into a bank brandishing a sawn-off shotgun but as he grabbed the money his mask slipped. He quickly pulled it back up again but panicked that some one might have seen his face. Pointing the gun at a couple standing nearby, he growled at the man: 'Did you see my face, because if you did I'll have to kill you?' 'No, I didn't see your face,' said the man. 'Are you sure?' yelled the robber. 'Absolutely,' replied the man, 'but I'm fairly certain my wife did.'



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4 onion rings, dips, spicy onions  
Coleslaw & garlic dip**

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**4 Chicken Wings, 4 Chicken Goujons,  
4 Breaded Mushrooms, 4 Spring Rolls,  
8 Onion Rings, Chips, Spicy Onions,  
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*Absolute Beginners  
class at 10am  
Intermediate class  
At 11am  
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Full Breakfast €4.25 Mon-Sat 10am-1.30pm

2 Sausage, Bacon, Egg, Hash Brown,  
Tomato, Beans, Mushroom, Toast,  
Fresh Orange & Tea or Coffee

Veggie Breakfast €4.25

Sorry, no changes to menu.



3 Course Menu Starting February - Choice 4 Starters, Mains & Sweet  
Includes Small Beer or Glass of Wine €9.95!!!

## Unbeatable Sundays Lunch €6.00!

Lunch only 1pm to 6pm

Booking essential! Always Busy!

Choice of Roast Beef, Roast Lamb,  
Honey Glazed Gammon, Roast Chicken

Served with Peas, Carrots, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Broccoli, Stuffing,  
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**CHECK OUT OUR MARVELLOUS SPORTS COVERAGE  
ON THE NEXT PAGE!**

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WINTER LEAGUE**

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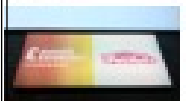
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### Domes!

Iain Duncan Smith and William Hague looked like to boiled eggs in blue eggcups. Their pates gleamed in unison. I gazed from the balcony in awe.

If you'd stuck a few sequins on their heads, they'd have looked like Dolly Parton's cleavage.

Simon Hoggart, at the Tory Party Conference.

The most expensive haircut I ever had cost a tenner. And £9 went on the search fee.

William Hague

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## Low Crime Figures for Orihuela.

According to an annual report of the Ministry of the Interior, both Orihuela Costa and Elche, are towns/municipalities with populations in excess of 60,000 with the lowest crime rate in Alicante.

Both have a crime rate of 21 crimes per 1,000 inhabitants.

However, things are worse in Benidorm, with an average crime rate of 43.87 per 1,000 inhabitants and 42.36 in Torrevieja.

Experts say that the figures are rather surprising in respect of Elche and Orihuela, since both cities have a large population area, with many districts and country areas, where robberies are traditionally more frequent due to the difficulty of the police agencies to "cover" many of the outlying areas.



In Alicante, with a population of almost 330,000 people, the crime rate is 27.25 crimes per 1,000 inhabitants whilst in Villajoyosa the report shows 22.52 crimes per thousand inhabitants

Police sources say that the towns with a higher incidence of crime are usually in coastal areas where many of the properties lie empty for much of the year, thereby proving to be a major attraction to criminals.

The figures above relate to reported crimes, obviously. Many thefts and other illegal activities are not reported, due mainly to the palaver involved in reporting them.

The law is scarcely a deterrent with jail sentences of two years or less being rarely served for first offences. Also, if the goods stolen are less than around three to four hundred euros, it is unlikely to come to court. Add to this an incredibly slow judicial system. It is no wonder that there are legions of thieves still plying their trade.



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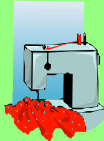
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## DREAM HILLS INCONTINENCE SOCIETY

The annual coach trip of the society will take place on Sunday  
February 11. The destination will be Santa Pola.

The coach will depart from Via Park V at 10:00am.

There will be stops at Via Park III, Domino's, Punta Marina,  
Torrevieja (two stops), La Mata, the big hedge by Portico  
Mar, Guardamar, the garage past Guardamar, La Marina, La  
Marina del Pinet, and finally Santa Pola (two stops).

The usual competition of *Who can hold it the longest?* on  
the trip will not be held this year due to the many unfortunate  
accidents in the bus last year and the garage bill for cleaning.

### The Passengers.

A bus stops and two Italian men get on. They seat themselves and engage in animated conversation.

The lady sitting behind them ignores their conversation at first, but her attention is galvanized when she hears one of the men say the following: "Emma come first. Den I come. Den two asses come together. I come once-a-more. Two asses, they come together again. I come again and pee twice. Den I come one lasta time."

"You foul-mouthed swine," retorted the lady indignantly. "In this country we don't talk about our sex lives in public!" "Hey, coola down lady," said the man. "Who talking abouta sexa? Imma justa tellun my frienda how to spella "Mississippi"!"

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**Русский говорят.**



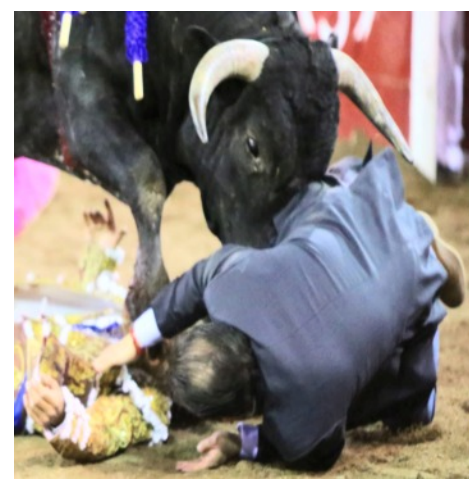
## Brotherly Love !

There is little doubt that bullfighting is a dangerous pastime. I hesitate to call it a sport, but it is always fatal for the bull and dangerous and very occasionally also fatal for the bullfighters. (In fact, the various fiesta bull -runs in towns such as Pamplona, lead to far more fatalities than the organised bull fights.)

In July 2016 the Spanish bullfighter, Victor Barrio was killed following a bullfight in Teruel. This was the first Spanish bullfighter to have been killed in action since 1985. This was followed by the death of the Basque bullfighter Iván Fandiño, who died following injuries received in a bullring in Aire-sur-l'Adour, southwestern France, in June 2017.

Waning in popularity in Spain, with an active and vociferous anti-bullfighting lobby, it was banned in Catalonia in 2012. However in October 2016, the ban was lifted by the Spanish Constitutional Court.

Bullfighting is very popular in Mexico where there are many bullrings and famous bullfighters. But what caught my eye was a bullfight in the new year in Plaza de Querétaro, Mexico City. During the fifth bullfight of the day, 21-year-old Francisco Martínez, was knocked unconscious. The banderilleros managed to move the bull from the inert bullfighter, but the bull quickly returned to continue his attack. It was then that the brother of Francisco - Felipe - jumped into the ring and protected his brothers head and torso with his own body. See photos, (El Mundo). Other than some cracked ribs and extensive bruising, the injuries to the men were not serious. Brotherly love? It does exist!



**PAID FOR TEN YEARS - BUT NEVER WENT TO WORK!**

There is no doubt about it, but the rampant bureaucracy in Spain does lead to excesses. First there are the formidable obstacles at the local town hall, Orihuela. Above Orihuela is the Alicante Province with yet another level of bureaucratic leaden-footed overpaid politicians and officials, who shuffle paper and hand it on to the next level of wasters in the Valencian Community, where the Corts Valencianes, the regional parliament, then pass the paper on to Madrid for the national government to handle. This ridiculous sysrtem leads to massive delays, incompetence, corruption, and of course

Carles Recio, photo, could be described as a colourful character but his most recent claim to fame is that he collected a salary of almost €50,000 a year (€48,620) for 10 years without ever going to work. His job was Head of the Bibliographic Action Unit of the Diputaci3n de Valencia Library Archives. Every working day, Carles signed on in the morning at 7:30am and left the building, returning at 3:30pm to sign out! Referred to as 'the Zombie Boss' by the other workers, Carles only ever called at the actual office was to arrange his holidays.



Prior to his 'job' with the Bibliographic Action Unit, Carles flirted briefly with the far-right politically and then joined as a member to the GAV (Grup d'Acci3 Valencianista) -a collective that aims to defend the Valencian cultural and artistic heritage and the Catalan language. This led to Carles creating a number of colourful graphic comics, all with superheroes and a sexual content, but also with heavy references to Valencian nationalism. Notable at the time was the creation of *Fallerela*, photo, a superhero who flew and fought the enemies of Valencia with explosive oranges.



Another one of his super heroes was *Españísima*, photo, who flew around on a guitar, used a fan as a shield and imparted justice in Valencian lands. (I think I'm in love!)



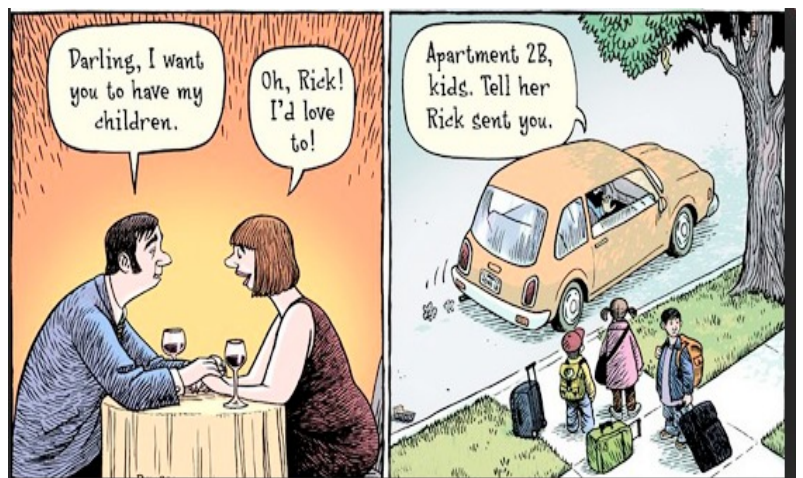
Carles was then given the job of Head of Publications in the Valencia Delegation. Soon gained an audience with King Juan Carlos I in San Miguel de los Reyes, where he explained to the monarch the importance of the Spanish and Valencian identity in the administrative organization of the State.

But in 2005, Carles was evicted from his house, being charged with turning it into a gay brothel. Carles alleged that he was only 'looking after the four gay boys and arranging their sex advertising.' Quite innocent really.

Although Carles was a card carrying member of the then regional government, this was an embarrassment to his political masters. The then president of the Diputaci3n de Valencia, Fernando Giner, gave the order to remove Recio as much as possible from the public and sent him to the Archive. President Giner confirmed to EL MUNDO that at the time, he felt sympathy for the worker for his faithful Valencian. A new position was then created for him as the head of the Bibliographic Action Unit. Once in the job he never did a days work or even sat at his desk for a day! But Carlos now insists that he was working from home "like a black man" advising politicians during the 10 years, but it was then revealed that he had not even logged in to the Unit websites for more than eight years!

All in all, this was also an example of how the political classes look after their own at a cost to the public purse. It also highlights the profligacy and failure of the system. But this official from Valencia does not hold the record, which is in Cádiz, where an official was paid for six years without even having to sign in, although it is suspected that there were, and indeed are many more.

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Two Scots were talking. 'You know, Hamish,' said one, 'ma fether wis a Socialist, his fether wis a Socialist, an' his fether afore him. So, that why ah'm a Socialist.'  
 'But Duncan,' said the other, 'that's a pathetic argument. I mean, if your fether wis a swindler, and his fether wia a swindler, an his fether afore him wis a swindler. Now, would that mak you a swindler?'  
 'Naw, that would me me a Member of the Scottish Parliament!'

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It was so cold in New York today the guy who gives me the finger was wearing mittens and said I'd have to take his word for it.

David Letterman

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## Stop Charging Your Phone Overnight!

Most nights, the last thing I do before I close my eyes and drift off to dreamland is scroll through my phone and charge it by my bedside overnight. If you are like me, your phone battery won't last the entire day and you've made a routine out of charging up your phone while you sleep. However, the convenience of charging overnight may actually be killing your phone's battery

According to tech experts, charging your phone overnight chips away at the phone's long term battery capacity much faster than if you only charged your phone for a couple of hours each day.

"If you think about it, charging your phone while you're sleeping results in the phone being on the charger for 3-4 months a year," says Hatem Zeine, founder of Ossia, a developer of wireless charging technology told Time. "So even though the manufacturers try their best to cover this scenario, this process inevitably lowers the capacity of your phone's battery."

The good news is that tech experts agree, you can't overcharge your phone. Once your battery is charged to 100%, the hardware inside shuts off the charging. "Modern



smart phones are smart, meaning that they have built in protection chips that will safeguard the phone from taking in more charge than what it should," says Edo Campos, spokesperson for battery-maker Anker.

"Good quality chargers also have protection chips that

prevent the charger from releasing more power than what's needed."

However, what is killing your battery is the "trickle charge." What happens during an overnight charge is your charger turns off when your phone reaches 100%, but the charger tops off the charge during the night--this is called the "trickle charge." So overnight, your phone is constantly switching between 100 percent, a little less, and the "trickle charge."

While you won't see the battery damage immediately, you will see the effects of overnight charging in about two to three years. If you get a new phone every couple of years, great--but if not, a failing battery can be a real pain.

So what do these experts recommend?

Don't wait until your phone gets close to a 0% battery charge until you recharge it.

Once your phone gets down to around a 35% or 40% plug it into a charger since full charges wear out your battery faster. Keep your phone cool while it charges because heat damages you phone. So take it out of the case while it charges and don't put it under your pillow or blankets.

(Amanda Mushro, www.tlc.com)

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*Charles Saatchi*



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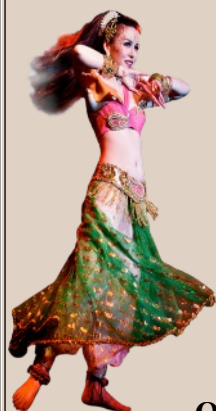
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I once tried to smuggle my Peke, Pinkie Panky Poo, past customers by wrapping him in my cloak.  
Everything was going splendidly until my bosom barked.

Mrs Patrick Campbell



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## Spiteful tenant!

Jaime Cantó owned a flat in Alicante which he let out to tenants. At the end of the rental period, he decided not to issue a new contract. Unfortunately, the departing tenants took the refusal of a new contract very badly, badly enough to turn on the taps in the apartment when they left. Jaime never bothered to check the flat when they left in late July 2017 but rushed there in November after he got a three-month bill of €3,000 from the water company!

As the metre was a 'smart' metre, Jaime felt that the water company had a responsibility to inform him if there was excessive use. The company countered that they had several hundred thousand 'smart' metres and it was impossible to monitor them all. Eventually, the water company lowered the bill by €1,000 and Jaime was allowed to pay the remainder in monthly instalments.

Probably not an unusual occurrence. I heard an interesting tale from an electrician recently. He was aware of a case where tenants in a house connected their cooker through a shared wall, to the back of the cooker on the adjoining property, stealing their electricity. Marijuana growers, who grow a lot of their weed in underbuilds, commonly steal electricity or run up massive bills for landlords. The police will often investigate properties with unusually large bills.





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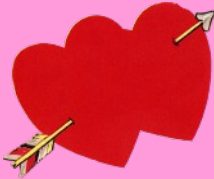
I got a new Star Wars DVD,  
with a bonus 40 minutes taken out.  
Marcus Gibb

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We all watched The Elephant Man and we were moved to tears, thinking it was a wonderful example of man's humanity to man, and my dad just said, 'Wouldn't he make an amazingly novelty rucksack?'

Ricky Gervais



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*Did you hear about the man whose wife asked him to go into town and buy a baby monitor?  
He couldn't find one anywhere, so he bought her an iguana instead. (Groan!)*

## Lime Bar Fishing CULTURE Club

Hello all, I hope you have all sobered up. Before Christmas the club celebrated it's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, so it was decided to celebrate at the Florantilles campsite venue as we had seen the adverts in the Dream Scene. We had a good turn out with 34 booked to go including Pete & Sue as our guests. Just John had booked an 8 seater mini bus and everything was going to plan until new boy Tom forgot his time slot. He missed his bus and had to follow on in his car. The venue had put on a hog roast, which went down really well, and we were entertained by a DJ, a 60s–80s singer and accompanied by a Spanish opera singer.

I didn't realise that our club was so cultured; they actually applauded when Nessun Dorma finished! Overall it was a good night with the last singer keeping the ladies on the dance floor until the bus came to take them away. Well-done John. Unfortunately the 70's disco lighting bugged up all the photos. I am still seeing stars.

In December after some really good catches from Bigastro, we looked forward to the monthly match there. We had a really cold night and when we got to the bank there was a thick frost on the ground, the river was mega low with hardly any flow.... It did not bode well. Only 9 anglers turned up on the day and 5 of them blanked. There was nothing showing and the bites (if you had one) were few and far between. Definitely a need for the nomads "concentrator"! 3 rods was so desperate that he went bleak snatching but he couldn't even get them feeding.

Phil H (without his poorly butler) won the match with just 4 carp for 4.5 kilos. Fagin & ball boy who were in the favoured pegs came 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> with 3.5 and 2.5 kilos.

3 rods had ordered a petrol trimmer off EBay to help in clearing the bamboo from the fishing pegs. It arrived before Christmas so a few of us went to test it out by clearing a couple more pegs. Unfortunately, we had to cut them by hand. In his wisdom (who needs a manual 3 rods), he put the washer on back to front so when the tree cutter hit a blade of grass it stopped! No problem you think, just take the blade off and swap it. Nope, even though testing, he had forgotten to bring the spanner or the spare blade. Plonker! RTFM next time.

I don't think any of us dared to go fishing on Christmas day but a few days later, we went out for a 2<sup>nd</sup> test run with the trimmer. Surprise, surprise it worked a treat, although it is a bit thirsty on the juice. Over the Christmas period we have now cleared 14 pegs including the paths to them and the far bank.

The January meeting had nothing on the agenda so it only took about 15 minutes giving us time for a leisurely pint. The longest discussion was where we were going to fish the January match. It boiled down to a choice of 2, El Bosquet or Bigastro where we have been clearing the pegs.

The other 3 clubs were going to fish El Bosquet for the 3 days prior to us. This could either stimulate the fish into feeding on the 4<sup>th</sup> day or kill it off altogether. It was voted to fish Bigastro again even though we had had several blanks in December. It couldn't happen again could it?

On match day, it was cold and windy with the river flowing well even though the water level was low. It didn't look too bad as we drew our pegs. 3 rods, Ball Boy & Phil drew the favoured pegs of 2, 13 & 14. I drew peg 7 and thought, Oh s\*\*t! We fished for 6 hours and up until 10 minutes to go, Phil was the only angler to catch. At this time I had started packing my spare gear away when I heard a rattle (not my teeth). I had not had a bite all day and didn't see this one either, but the last resort tactics of putting a huge lump of bread on a size 4 hook did the trick. The fish hooked itself. Of the 7 anglers that blanked several did not get a bite during a long cold day. The Bigastro match day demon had struck again. Phil won with 4.6 kilos and I was 2<sup>nd</sup> with the 1 fish.

Maybe we will fish El Bosquet for the February match!

4 days after the match, I fished the same peg in the same conditions with the same bait / tactics etc. I had bites throughout the day and ended up with about 4 kilos. Why?

Keep warm.

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

Fishy fingers!

The Ghost

*Did you see her boob job? You don't wanna drive around in an old Transit  
just because it's got new headlamps.*

*Ripley Holden, Blackpool*

### Getting the message across!

According to a news report, a certain private school in Newcastle upon Tyne was recently faced with a unique problem. A number of 12-year-old girls were beginning to use lipstick and would put it on in the toilet. That was fine, but after they put on their lipstick they would press their lips to the mirror leaving dozens of little lip prints. Every night the maintenance man would remove them and the next day the girls would put them back.

Finally, the Headmistress decided that something had to be done. She called all the girls to the bathroom and met them there with the maintenance man. She explained that all these lip prints were causing a major problem for the caretaker who had to clean the mirrors every night (you can just imagine the yawns from the little Geordie 'Princesses').

To demonstrate how difficult it had been to clean the mirrors, she asked the caretaker to show the girls how much effort was required. He took out a long-handled squeegee, dipped it in the toilet, and cleaned the mirror with it.

Since then, there have been no lip prints on the mirror.

There are teachers.... and then there are educators.

(Lee Bell)

## The Christmas Lottery Launderers & the Crooks.

In the hours after the winning numbers in Spain's massive El Gordo Christmas lottery are drawn every December 22, discreetly dressed men and women carrying suitcases stashed with bank notes fan out across the country headed for bars, lottery outlets, and banks before the fortunate owners of the prized tickets cash them in. Acting on behalf of wealthy clients, their mission is to buy their winning tickets: they pay cash, ask no questions, and offer a generous bonus on top. It's a very simple way to help reduce their clients' tax bill.

"Everybody knows that the Christmas lottery has always been used to launder money," says veteran tax inspector José María Peláez Marcos, adding that it is almost impossible for the authorities to detect this kind of fraud.

"Lottery tickets are untraceable, so unless we are present when they are bought [...] it is pretty much impossible to establish who originally purchased them," he says.

According to Spain's OCU consumer rights organization, winning lottery tickets can be sold on for up to 20 percent more than their value. But the association warns that the seller of a winning lottery ticket will then have the problem of explaining to their bank and the tax authorities how they came into so much money, and may end up being fined.

The odds of buying one of the big winning numbers are one in 100,000 – the amount of El Gordo ticket numbers available – so it's little wonder that the authorities are suspicious when well-known figures such as Carlos Fabra, the former head of the Popular Party-run provincial government of Castellón, are photographed holding a winning ticket for the umpteenth time. Fabra,



photo, who was sentenced to four year's prison in November 2013 for fraud, won the lottery nine times in 10 years. Gosh, he was so lucky!

In 2011, another Popular Party (PP) politician, Enrique Crespo, the former mayor of the small town of Manises, in Valencia province, was seen on television toasting his good fortune with his colleagues after winning second prize in the Christmas lottery, although he was unable to say just how many tickets he had. It turned out that the local PP had bought 850 décimos – or tenth shares in a ticket – with the winning number. Hmmmm? Crespo, who was being investigated for corruption at the time, was summoned by a local magistrate that very day and given 24 hours to

explain how many winning tickets he had bought. Crespo admitted he had purchased just one. "The judge was smart and fast," says tax inspector Peláez, noting that this case was very much the exception. Public prosecutors later asked for Crespo to serve a three-year prison term for having allegedly hidden 99 other tenths of the winning



number, equivalent to €12.3 million. But Spain's Christmas lottery is not always the best

way to launder money, says Peláez. "You have to bear in mind the amount," he notes. In El Gordo, the maximum prize for a décimo is €400,000. "It's doubtful that this is going to solve the money-laundering problems of somebody involved in criminal activities," says Peláez, adding that it is a more attractive system for somebody who has the equivalent of three or four décimos, which is to say less than €2 million.

"If you want to buy 20 décimos, you have to buy them from a number of different people, and this increases the risk of somebody finding out what you are up to," continues Pérez, pointing out that when it comes to large amounts of money, most people looking to avoid paying tax use other means, such as keeping their money in offshore accounts. But for "those who have a bag full of money at home earned from illegal commissions and bribes, the Christmas lottery is still the simplest way to launder money."

The OCU website warns lottery winners against selling their winning tickets, even when offered generous incentives. The main problem is proving the origin of the money to your bank. If the tax office becomes involved, it can impose heavy fines.

The organization illustrates the dangers with an example: a person with an average annual income of €30,000 who wins €400,000 on the Christmas lottery and sells their winning ticket for €450,000 could face a fine of more than €200,000.

*I always like to compare models to supermodels in the way I compare Tampax to Super Tampax: supermodels cost a bit more and they are a lot thicker.*

*Jo Brand*



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A gynaecologist had a burning desire to change careers and become a mechanic. So she found out from her local tech college what was involved, signed up for evening classes and attended diligently, learning all she could. When time for the practical exam approached, she prepared carefully for weeks, and completed the exam with tremendous skill. When the results came back, she was surprised to find that she had obtained a mark of 150%. Fearing an error, she called the instructor, saying "I don't want to appear ungrateful for such an outstanding result, but I wondered if there had been an error which needed adjusting." The instructor said, "During the exam, you took the engine apart perfectly, which was worth 50% of the total mark. You put the engine back together again perfectly, which is also worth 50% of the mark. I gave you an extra 50% because you did all of it THROUGH the exhaust..."

## IDIOTS OF THE MONTH

Maybe it's the time of year, but we do really have some gems to share from the last couple of months.

Pride of place goes to Jay Swingler, a 22-year-old from Wolverhampton. Together with his accomplice, Romell Henry (photo), they posted videos of themselves playing



with explosives, soaking in tubs of fake tanner or trying to set themselves in jelly on YouTube. In their latest, almost fatal lunacy, Jay decided to have his head encased within a microwave oven. They then filled the remaining space in the microwave with Pollyfilla, (obviously the same material they have as brains!) using a hairdryer to hasten the drying process and, unappreciated by themselves, the hardening process. Swingler then found he could hardly breath - requiring an immediate rescue by firefighters, who took an hour to remove the microwave. The firemen were not amused as saving idiots is not part of their job description. They didn't charge these clowns the service fee of £650 as Swingler was in serious danger. Swingler said, "I wasn't wasting their time. They saved my life."

The search for beauty and perfection can be a rocky road. As long as the quest is sensible, there need be few problems. However for some, it is disastrous. This is a photo of 19-year-old Sahar Tabar from Tehran, Iran.



Sahar is reported to have has undergone 50 surgical operations, she says only three. Some say it is to make her look more like the movie actress Angelina Jolie, others say the Corpse Bride! The photo shows a 'before & after', the latest photo using heavy make-up.

Five Spanish women who were secretly filmed stealing products from their workplace have each been awarded €4,500 in compensation by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in Strasbourg. The women launched the case after they were dismissed after being caught on hidden cameras robbing or helping other employees rob products from the supermarket where they worked as cashiers. The court ruled that while the women received a fair trial and were dismissed on fair grounds, an employer cannot secretly film their employees in the workplace.

The Spanish women had demanded compensation for lost wages, €6,500 each for "considerable moral damage" and another €2,906.80 to cover legal costs. The ECHR refused wage compensation and reduced the non-pecuniary damage to €4,000. The first applicant López Ribalda received €500 for legal costs and expenses and rest received €568.86.

*A man visiting a friend in the hospital couldn't help noticing that the nurses wore a badge with an apple on it. He asked one of the nurses what the badge meant. 'Nothing,' she said with a smile, 'it's just to keep the doctors away.'*

Torre Vieja for our next 'hero' which has a chap driving his BMW model 530 at speed through the town at 2:25 in the morning. The driver, of Slavic origin, did not notice the 'STOP' sign at the end of the street, nor indeed the police car he then ran into on the corner!



The Local Police were on their way to a house nearby following complaints about a noisy party when this chap hit them head on. See photo of police car. The driver had double the allowable rate of alcohol.

An overweight woman, Carolina, went to her doctor in Andalusia with complaints of pain last June. All in all she saw five different doctors. In her first visit the 38-year-old complained of 'great pain in my legs, gaining weight and loss of menstruation'. She was told to go on a diet. Then on August 1, 2017, she was admitted to emergencies at the Clínico Hospital with her husband as she was 'suffering severe abdominal pains' and inflamed legs. Diagnosed with low blood pressure and lower back pain, she was released without any tests being carried out.

On 10 September, Carolina returned to hospital, given the inflammation and pains had grown unbearable. As noted in her medical record, she told the doctors of her loss of menstruation which had lasted for four months. The diagnostic was the same - lower back pain prescribed on the earlier visit. Again, not a single test was carried out. Three days later, she attended the health centre with a new symptom 'a growth on the lower part of her belly'. Her family doctor diagnosed a 'lump of grease' down to her morbid obesity, and again suggested she should lose weight. There followed two other visits to the salud and doctors and it was not until Carolina and her husband demanded that test be carried out that it was found she was pregnant with two girls. After Carolina gave birth she was rushed into the ICU in a 'very grave condition' noted her lawyer, given she had developed two clots in her head, among other complications after the Caesarean.

Fortunately both mum and babies are now doing well, and those doctors in Andalusia are still probably as dumb as ever.





# Florantilles

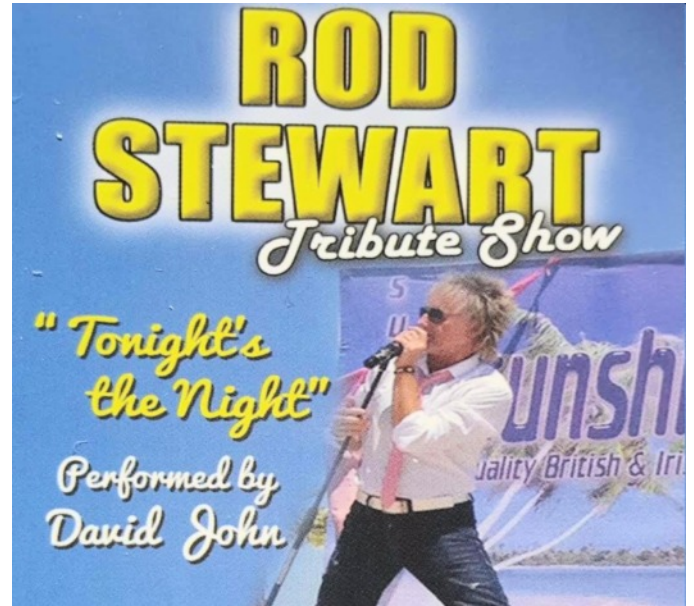


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### The Salesman.

A young guy from Liverpool moves to London and goes to a famous big department store looking for a job. The manager says, "Do you have any sales experience?" The kid says, "Yeah, I was a salesman back home in Kirby." Well, the boss liked the kid so he gave him the job. "You start tomorrow. I'll come down after we close and see how you did."

His first day on the job was rough but he got through it. After the store was locked up, the boss came down. "How many sales did you make today?" The kid says, "One." The boss says, "Just one? Our sales people average 20 or 30 sales a day. How much was the sale for?"

Kid says, "£101,237.64." Boss says, "£101,237.64? What the hell did you sell?"

Kid says, "First I sold him a small fish hook. Then I sold him a medium fish hook. Then I sold him a larger fish hook. Then I sold him a new fishing rod. Then I asked him where he was going fishing and he said down at the coast, so I told him he was gonna need a boat, so we went down to the boat department and I sold him that twin engine Broom. Then he said he didn't think his Honda Civic would pull it, so I took him down to the automotive department and sold him that 4X4 Range Rover."

The boss said, "A guy came in here to buy a fish hook and you sold him a boat and truck?"

Kid says, "No, he came in here to buy a box of tampons for his wife and I said, 'Well, your weekend's fucked, so you might as well go fishing'"



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

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