

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the March, 2018 edition. Issue No.129.

One again we start another year of The Dream Scene. After the launch of the first issue in March 2007, we have gone from six to 40 pages, with a distribution now of between 1,300 and 1,500 copies. This does not count the viewings on the internet.

Each year I take a view of whether to continue it or not. 40 pages is a lot for one person to fill every month and remain topical, however I will continue with it for another year, which may be the last, at least in its current format.

Subscriptions are now due for the coming year from those of you who have it delivered to your post box or by email. I will be sending out the PayPal requests shortly, so you have a month's grace.

Winter has certainly set in locally. Although it can be quite chilly with the cold north wind, we have hit 23 in the shade on a number of occasions during February. Some rainfall, but certainly not enough to keep the reservoirs at a decent level. Desalinated drinking water is now a fact of life locally.

The laying of the various pipelines and power cables to the Torrevieja desal' plant has caused tremendous inconvenience on the roads locally, particularly in the Los Altos area. The roads here are now in a terrible condition and will need recovering before the summer, which will of course lead to more disruption. Increasing the power to the desal' plant will not be finished until June this year, and this will only bring the plant to just over half its possible capacity. With the massive electricity increase now being brought to the plant one would ask what all the solar panels on the roof there are doing!

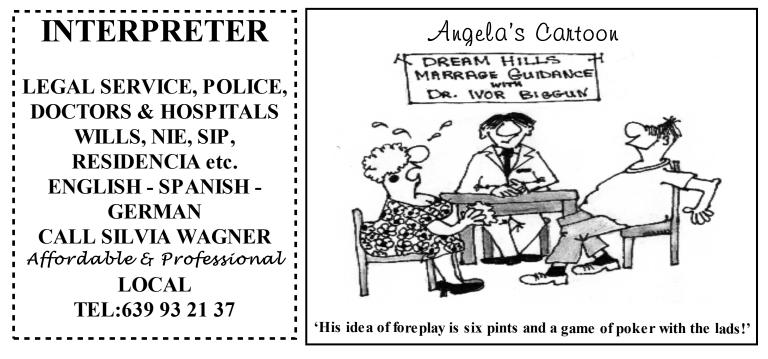
Keep a look out for this guy. His name is Bradley Blundell, is aged 18 and is wanted in connection with the murder of 34-year-old John Pordage, who was shot in the chest outside a BP petrol station in Chelmsford in August 2017. Blundell is believed to be hiding-out



in either the Balearic's or mainland Spain. A £10,000 reward is offered for information leading to his arrest.

March 17 will see the St. Patrick's Day Carnival Procession in Cabo Roig, where there will be a parade and 'the wearing of the green.' Our coastal area is really starved of Fiesta-type events, while the city of Orihuela keep them all. Maybe we should stop paying! Not sure what the Welsh do on St. David's Day?....probably take a sheep out to dinner. I dunno!

Wíshíng you all a Wonderful month. Míck & Tíd



Korean food is great! It's the dog's bollocks. Jimmy Carr

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Did you know that

...at a glance, the Celsius scale makes more sense than the Fahrenheit scale for temperature measuring. But its creator, Anders Celsius, was an oddball scientist. When he first developed his scale, he made freezing 100 degrees and boiling 0 degrees, or upside down. No one dared point this out to him, so fellow scientists waited until Celsius died to change the scale.

...shampoo, oven cleaner, deodorant and other household products are as significant a source of the most dangerous form of air pollution as cars, research has found? Scientists studying air pollution in Los Angeles found that up to half of particles known as volatile organic compounds (VOCs) came from products, also include domestic which paint, pesticides, bleach and perfumes. These compounds degrade into particles known as PM2.5, which cause respiratory problems and are implicated in 29,000 premature deaths each year in the UK. Traffic had been assumed to be the biggest source of air pollution. The new findings, published in the journal Science, led to warnings that countries may struggle to hit pollution targets, with most tackling vehicle emissions. The research came as another study claimed that professional cleaners suffered a decline in lung function comparable to that seen in regular smokers

function comparable to that seen in regular smokers. PM2.5 are one of the biggest global air pollution concerns. Scientists who had blamed them mainly on traffic realised that they could not account for measured air quality levels simply by looking at car emissions, however. They estimate that in Los Angeles as much as 50 per cent of VOCs came from domestic products and said there was no reason why the research would not be replicated in other cities. In past decades, cars have become significantly cleaner and their PM2.5 output has plummeted. Household products, which are also often derived from petroleum, have been overlooked.

The research, presented at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, came as a Norwegian study found that over 20 years cleaners had a fall in lung capacity and rise in asthma similar to that seen among regular smokers. The scientists, whose work was published in the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, blamed chemicals in the cleaning products.







A selection from Noel Taggart Little positive or inspiring has come out of the BREXIT negotiations to date other than bluster and wishful thinking. However, it is reassuring to see that the 'remain' lobbies are not letting the grass grow under their feet.

Bremain in Spain (http://www.bremaininspain.com), a group campaigning for the UK to remain in the European Union and to protect the rights of British migrants living in Spain, issued the following press release on the Amsterdam court decision Feb' 7, to refer specific questions to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

The purpose of the case was to establish whether EU citizenship rights would automatically be lost by British citizens living in Europe, in the event of Brexit happening. The case was brought by five British nationals, including Debbie Williams, Chair of Brexpats-Hear-our-Voice, who welcomed today's decision. The ruling brought feelings of relief and hope to members of Bremain in Spain.

Sue Wilson, Chair of Bremain in Spain, says: "The question regarding our EU citizenship rights has kept many Brits awake at night. The purpose of the case was to determine whether EU citizenship stands alone or is tied inextricably to EU membership. Would we automatically lose our EU citizenship rights if the UK was no longer a member state? Our hope was a referral to the ECJ, so this is a great result."

The Amsterdam court stated it was: "Reasonable to doubt the correctness of the interpretation of Article 20 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union that the loss of the status of citizen of an EU member state also leads to loss of EU citizenship. On these grounds, preliminary questions will be put to the ECJ."

Jane Golding, Chair of British in Europe, said: "The applicants have raised fundamental questions about the nature of their EU citizenship and the circumstances in which such essential rights can be removed. The ECJ has played a key role in clarifying the scope of EU citizenship and should be asked to identify when those rights end."

A spokesperson for Brexpats-Hear-our-Voice added: "This case has always been about seeking clarification for the 46,000 Brits living in the Netherlands and the 1.2 million Brits living in other EU countries. As has been demonstrated in recent days, what Brexit means is still extremely unclear. You cannot play with the lives of 1.2 million people as if they are pieces on a chessboard." Wilson concludes: "We hope a hearing and decision will be imminent, providing clarification for those living in limbo. What seems clear is that negotiations on citizens' rights cannot be signed off until the ECJ has made a ruling."

"We have many unresolved issues and the current citizens' rights deal contains more holes than a sieve. Should the ECJ decide that leaving the EU doesn't mean losing our EU citizenship rights, that would be a game-changer. We will follow developments closely in the hope of a good night's sleep!"

Property sales in Spain continue to be buoyant. During 2017, 464,423 homes were sold, up by 14.6% over 2016 and the fourth consecutive year of growth, post crisis.

Rental prices in Barcelona are at an all-time high – new contracts have broken the $900 \in$ a month on average barrier – some $140 \in$ a day in some cases!

The Danish media described Carles Puigdemont, the fleeing would-be president of Catalonia, as "a demagogue" and "selfish" during his recent visit to Denmark to promote the separatist issue. In one newspaper column, Jens-Kristian Lütken affirmed that "Catalan independence is as stupid as the British exit from the European Union", and jokes about Puigdemont's trip: "The vanguard of the revolution arrived in a Ryanair plane. "

In an effort to combat climate change, the Balearic Government have introduced a law which will prohibit the arrival of diesel cars on the island after 2025. From that date, tourists who drive a diesel car onto the islands will be fined! Locally registered diesel cars will not be affected. The same statute will prohibit new petrol cars from 2035. The objective is to get completely electric or 90% by 2050.

The footwear industry has some 2,579 companies in the Valencian Community. Over the last two years, these have experienced a fall-off in export orders, particularly from France and the UK. This has led to the closure of 160 companies, mainly small and medium workshops, and the loss of 1,500 jobs. A new marketing strategy to concentrate on other EU countries appears to be slowly bearing fruit.

Luis de Guindos, photo, the current Minister of

Economy and Competitiveness of Spain , has been appointed as Vice President of the European Central Bank. He played a crucial role in negotiating the European Union's $\in 100$ billion bailout of Spain's stricken savings banks, and in spearheading the country's overhaul of the banking



sector, labour market and other parts of the economy. His implementation of a program of both structural reforms and austerity measures has earned praise from Spain's European partners and the OECD which estimated that no country other than Greece had implemented more structural reforms than Spain.

The Client.

An Arab enters a taxi. Once he is seated he asks the cab driver to turn off the radio because he must not hear western music as decreed by his religion and, in the time of the prophet, there was no music, especially Western music which is music of the infidel's and certainly no radioSo the cab driver politely switches off the radio, stops the cab and opens the back door. The Arab asks him: "What are you doing man?" The cabby answers: "In the time of the prophet there were no taxis. So get out and wait for a camel."



I'm not saying my husband is stupid or anything, but, when he went to the doctor about his hearing, the doctor asked him to describe the symptoms.



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6 What's Up? continued

There is a pioneering night bus service in the city of Vigo in Galicia. Female bus passengers can alight on request and do not have to wait for scheduled stops.

The Guardia Civil is investigating the death of a British woman aged 39, whose body was found in a watercourse at Los Ramos (Murcia) – she could have been run over on a nearby road – between San Javier and Torreagüera. The owner of a car which was found burnt out a kilometre from the body has been taken into custody and declined to declare before the Murcia Local Police.

The man who invented the USB port was buried today. They got the coffin halfway into the grave, but had to pull it back up and turn it round.

In Murcia, the prosecutor has denounced the 'pardoning' of drivers tested positive for drugs – only 5 of the 1258 tested positive reached court last year in the region. A road safety spokesman wanted the offence to become penal. I would have thought it was anyway!

Electricity thefts in Mallorca have drastically reduced using remote meter readings' – frauds detected have fallen from 4,235 to 1,782 in one year – half of the stolen power corresponded to businesses and some to illegal drugs plantations.

Remaining in Mallorca, it seems that health officials have detected many cases of companies reselling out-of-date food. They also state that 'these are not isolated cases in the region.'

A 3.6 metre dead shark weighing 200 kilos was discovered on the beach of Levante de Santa Pola on February 22nd. Not sure I would like that cosying up to me on the beach at Playa Flamenca!



LOCKSMITH

CERRAJEROS - SCHLOSSER

SEGURIDAD UNION

(Cut out & keep.)

La Verdad (Murcia) reports 'HIV+ test is now in the chemists' – the test costs between 27 and $29 \in$ and reveals in 20 minutes if the tested is carrying the aids virus.

The worst storm in 10 years has removed sand from the beaches in Malaga and as far as Torrox. There were 300 'storm incidents' across the province with fallen trees and broken power cables the most serious.

The Spanish Government wants to extend 'permanent imprisonment'. PM Rajoy wants to progress a draft law to extend the sentence for the crimes of hiding a body, fatal kidnappings and the illegal use of chemical compounds. (Not really quite sure what the latter means.) Anxious to respond to the previous terrorist attacks in Spain, a review of sentencing was announced by both the major parties. The current maximum prison sentence for any crime in Spain is 40 years, though it is rare for anyone to serve that long. Under the new law, anyone found guilty of carrying out a deadly terror attack can get a life sentence but after serving 35 years a judicial review will decide whether they can be released. So it is not a true 'life sentence', but so-called 'reviewable life imprisonment'. Many hold this particular legislation as unconstitutional. The Socialists are likely to revoke the life sentence possibility if they regain power.

Anyone convicted of supplying weapons to terrorists faces up to 20 years in prison, while financing terror networks is punishable by up to 10 years. People who repeatedly visit web pages or social media sites that incite people to join terror groups can be sentenced to five years. Any Spaniard who joins foreign radical groups or receives training from them also can get up to five years in prison.

More cock-ups with the introduction of the high-speed AVE rail link in Murcia. This time the railway infrastructure company Adif budgeted $\notin 11$ million for placing posts for the line to pass over watercourses. The actual costs were $\notin 71$ million!

The Prescription.

After working most of her life Grandma finally retired. At her next checkup, the new doctor told her to bring a list of all the medicines that had been prescribed for her.

As the young doctor was looking through these, his eyes grew wide as he realized she had a prescription for birth control pills.

"Mrs. Smith, do you realize these are BIRTH CONTROL pills?"

"Yes, they help me sleep at night."

I.

"Mrs. Smith, I assure you there is absolutely NOTHING in these that could possibly help you sleep!

She reached out and patted the young Doctor's knee. "Yes, dear, I know that. But every morning, I grind one up and mix it in the glass of orange juice that my 16 year old granddaughter drinks . . . and believe me, it helps me sleep at night. "



Adding Insult to Injury.

Take a look at the jerk on the right of this photo (Informacion). In the early hours of August 2, 2014, 39-year-old Yolanda Aniorte was raped by her husband in Orihuela, who then beat her to death with a dumbbell. After the savagery (too gory to relate here), he told police: "After killing my wife I sat on the couch with a beer He then washed his hands of the blood, travelled to and a joint." Murcia, rented a pension and had sex there with another woman.

When the case finally came to trial in Elche this February, he had to be ejected from the court for some of the proceedings, due to his arrogant

attitude and continuous interruptions. The Public Prosecutor requested a 27-year jail sentence although the victim's family demanded a longer term.

After the jury left the courtroom to formulate its verdict at 10am on the Monday morning, the lights in the Justice Palace (which are controlled by computer) failed. A dozen relatives and close friends of the victim, together with the attending reporters, still in darkness and freezing were, after some hours, moved to the cafe, which was on a separate electrical circuit, where there was at least some lighting.

When the jury returned with the verdict at 10pm that evening, it was found that the prisoner had been moved back to the prison in Fontcalent! Mad rush then to get him back to the courtroom to face the 'guilty' verdict which was not given until 1:45am on the Tuesday morning!

Naturally, the family of the victim were furious at their treatment and the incompetence. One commented, 'It seems that they are laughing at us. This is not normal. The murderer is having a better deal than we are!'

The magistrate will now determine what the actual jail sentence will be, usually less that what the public prosecutor demands. So much for 'justice' being swift!





Many times on the beach a good looking lady will say to me, 'I want to touch you.' I always smile and say, 'I don't blame you lady.' (Arnold Schwarzenegger, as Mr Universe)

Hangovers installed.....and serviced.

41 days. €30 million has just been paid for 13,000 rushed to the vet. Although invoices from suppliers.

The IBI (Impuesto de Bienes Inmuebles) property tax hypothermia and with their which we pay to Orihuela has increased by 45% in just six years! The increase was 10% in 2015, 10% in 2016 and 7% last year - 27% in all. If the coastal area was getting some decent services for all this money, then it would be But, as we all well know, there is little acceptable. investment for the coastal residents, the bulk going to the city. Particularly lacking is a proper transport system for ageing population on the Costa with many now unable to drive and that figure is increasing. The current limited service is totally inadequate and, in view of the considerable number of new properties being built, it needs to be improved quickly and substantially.

I frequently pass through the Entre Golf area and have to say that a number of unwelcome additions are blighting the area. Although a golf course was once supposed to grace the area, the recession quickly cancelled that. We now have a marshalling and parking area for the municipal rubbish vehicles, together with a new large electric pylon being built to cater for the new requirements of the Torrevieja Desalination Plant. But, as if that was bad enough, I have noticed that various builders are dumping their rubbish at the top of the hill at Entre Golf, with a line



See photo. furniture and God knows what else to encourage rats. Ironically, there is a show-house and property sales office just 50 metres away!

'Desalinated water will oblige the region to drink softer and more acidic water' as the local desalination plant is expected to be the main supplier of drinking water to the area. Desalinated water will leave more calcium inside the pipes so 'good housekeeping' will be important.

Guardia Civil were called to a farm in the municipality of the ladies braving Mula in Murcia. Here, a labrador gave birth to nine puppies in a depression in the ground. For some days, various people visited to see how the dogs were faring, but See photo. The when they returned one day, none of the puppies were there, with the mother alone, nervous and upset. A mound of earth and stones was found nearby. When they dug into wrapped-up!

The municipal council in Orihuela are tightening-up on the the mound they found that the nine puppies had been payment of their bills. Last year, it took an average time of buried alive. Just two of the puppies will still barely alive at 117 days to pay their bills. This year it takes an average of this stage and together with the mother (photo), were

> suffering with severe passages clogged with mud, the two puppies survived. See photo. The bitch and puppies are now with



different caring household. Three people from the same family on the farm have been charged by the Guardia.

The Guardia Civil have arrested a 33-year-old Spaniard the coast with good links to nearby Torrevieja. There is an in nearby Benejúzar. This chap was selling fictitious tickets for shows and sporting events. The forged tickets cost between $\notin 20$ to $\notin 140$, and he obtained more than $\notin 5,000$ from his hapless victims in at least 11 provinces. At least 23 people have been defrauded but complaints were received from only 14.

> The Ministry for Health is to invest €20.4 million into Alicante. Although this does include the building of new hospitals, it is to help roll-out the Infrastructure Dignification Plan of 2016-2019, which will fundamentally reform and expand the existing public hospitals and health centres and to acquire new technology. The Hospital de Sant Juan is the centre that will receive the lion's share of the investments this year, 5.2 million euros, to expand the oncology day hospital there. In Orihuela Hospital, €1.26 million euros works will be carried out in the hospital's operating area, "which will acquire new state-of-the-art equipment". I did not see any of the new investment awarded to Torrevieja Hospital or to the Salud in Cabo Roig.

La Verdad for Murcia reports that PM 'Rajoy has unblocked the Northern Arch and a third lane between Alhama and Crevillente'. The ministry will strengthen the The unauthorised dump also contains old A7 between Murcia and Alicante with an investment of €580 million. Most of the 72.8km will be given to private investors. Alicante airport will get a new train station and Torrevieja a new ring road. Now I can't see a new ring road for Torrevieja. I think it may just be improvements and enlargements to the existing N332.

Despite the cold weather the pre-Lent Torrevieja

Carnival was a colourful success, the cold with their skimpy costumes. spectators were sensibly wel





Celibacy can be a choice in life, Or a condition imposed by circumstances.

While attending a Marriage Weekend, Ken and his wife Janet, listened to the instructor declare, 'It is essential that husbands and wives know the things that are important to each other.'

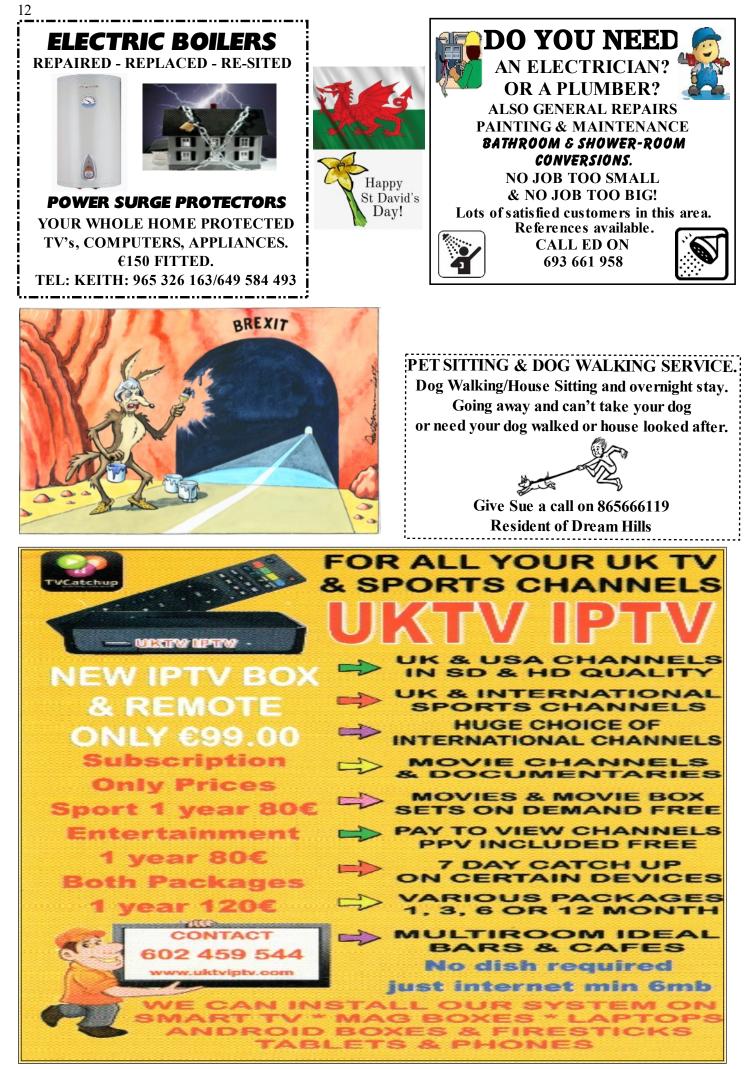
He then addressed the men: 'Can you name and describe your wife's favourite flower?'

Ken leaned over, touched Janet's arm gently, and whispered, "It's Homepride, isn't it ?"

And thus began Ken's life of celibacy

(For our Scandinavian readers, 'Homepride' is an English baking <u>flour</u>!)





They all start out as Juliets and wind up as Lady Macbeths.

Bernie Dodd, The Country Girl



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The Month of March when Spring begins and animals awake from their hibernation spins for sustenance to take

> Some people call March mad the month of daffodils but it's really not that bad nearing the end of Winter chills

But here on the Costa in Spain the Irish season is near on the seventeenth, let's hope no rain just food and fun and beer

Cabo Roig all decked in green the parade and those of note all at the front, to be seen in their brightly coloured coat

Every nationality along the way decked in green, white and gold enjoying this special day and partaking the Guinness sold

It's a great day for those from the Emerald Isle locals, ex pats and tourists too a chance that once in a while you can do what you want to

> But remember the demon drink and the headache the next day after a gallon of Guinness, think do I want to be that way

Everything in moderation this day is probably best enjoy yourself have a good drink and ensure plenty food and rest

The Phantom Poet





George Mikes on Sex and the English.

Continental people have sex lives; the English have hot-water bottles.

(Later) It's no longer true that Continental people have sex lives whereas the English have hot-water bottles -

the English now have electric blankets.



Doggies in the Diner!

The Portuguese Parliament has amended the law, so that animals can now enter restaurants as long as a series of requirements are met.

The regulation comes into effect this May and allows



establishments

that wish to allocate an area or space where the presence of animals can be accepted. This means that it will be the owner of the establishment who will decide

whether to accept animals or not, and may also limit the number of these. Dogs must be on a short leash and will not be able to roam freely around the restaurant.

In Spain, most of the autonomous communities ban the entry of animals to where food is prepared and served. Some European countries do allow animals in restaurants and on public transport. But then again, some animals are cleaner than some people!

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 toTorrevieja: 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: $\notin 6.92$. 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.

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

CAM Deadline!

March 31st 2018 is the deadline for reclaiming money from CAMbank. CAM aggressively sold a range of financial products, including preference shares to customers, without explaining the risks involved. Banco Sabadell bought the failed CAM institution for one euro in 2011. Sabadell have already paid many claims relating to the misselling by CAM.

Successful claimants can also claim back interest and the legal fees.

If you lost money in the bank failure and have not claimed yet, get your documentation and visit a competent lawyer asap, well before the deadline.



(From Noel T)

A Stinker!

The husband, a vicar, kept farting horribly in bed, for years, it was terrible. His wife suffered greatly and kept nagging him to do something about his indigestion, often saying, "One day, Trevor, your horrible farting is going to force your guts right out!" The husband only made fun of this, feeling very macho.

Until one Christmas day the wife was gutting a turkey for Christmas dinner and had an idea... She took the intestines out and placed them quietly in her sleeping husband's bed, under the covers.

She couldn't wait for the husband to wake up – and sure enough, in about one hour, Trevor, all white and shaky, came down the stairs: "Mary, by Golly you were right! That horrible farting did force my guts out! But with the help of our Lord and these two fingers, I set everything right again!"



A little boy got on the bus, sat next to a man reading a book, and noticed he had his collar on backwards. The little boy asked why he wore his collar that way. The man, who was a priest, said, "I am a Father" The little boy replied, "My Daddy doesn't wear his collar like that". The priest looked up from his book and answered, "I am the Father of many". The boy said, "My Dad has 4 boys, 4 girls and two grandchildren and he doesn't wear his collar that way".

doesn't wear his collar that way". The priest, getting impatient, said, "I am the Father of hundreds" and went back to reading his book. The little boy sat quietly thinking for a while, then leaned over and said, "Maybe you should wear your pants backwards instead of your collar".

What the Banks Do with the Properties They Seize.

The banks still have more than 5,200 homes for sale in the province of Alicante. In 2014 this figure was 7,000, so the reduction is scarcely dramatic. But this does not mean that the banks have just sold 1,800 in that time, as the banks continue to seize new properties, at the same time selling others. Neither are all the properties the bank wishes to dispose of eventually on the market at the same time.

Of the companies who have been authorised to sell the properties, Haya, has the largest allocation with 1,200 properties. This company was awarded the management of the asset sales of Bankia, Cajamar, Liberbank and one of the lots awarded by SAREB, the 'Bad-Bank' set up by the Spanish government.

Next is Solvia with 1,065 properties, which includes batches from Sabadell and SAREB. In third position is Casaktua, with 973 homes; followed closely by Servihabitat, with 877; Altamira (Santander), with about 500; BBVA Vivienda, with 453; and Escogecasa (Abanca), with about 120. Idealista also carry a large stock, including most of the above - almost 3,000 properties.

Idealista compiled a study of the properties the banks were selling and found that 53% of the properties for sale, mainly flats, were in areas with a population of less than 20,000 inhabitants. This is not good news as the recovery in the property market has been concentrated in the large cities and coastal areas. Moreover, almost a quarter of the properties are in municipalities with fewer than 5,000 residents, where demand has barely awakened! 63% of the properties advertised throughout Spain by and for the banks have a value of less than 100,000 euros; another 22% is between that amount and 150,000 euros; and 8% between 150,000 and 200,000 euros.

Although the above figures of bank properties for sale might seem substantial, they are small in comparison to the overall market. Idealista claim that bank properties for sale in the Alicante region represent only 4.3% of the total sales catalogue. In Murcia the figure is 13.7% and 12% in Almeria.

No doubt some of you will be as curious as I was to see what some of the asking prices are, so I have added some of the web addresses of the sales companies mentioned above. I noticed a three-bed roomed flat for sale in Alicante

for €12,043! Mind you, I wouldn't put a dog in it.....maybe a mother-in-law!

https://www.haya.es/en/sale/houses/alicante/

RUPO

https://www.solvia.es/es/inmuebles/viviendas-alicante-alacant-alicante-alacant-3-3014 https://www.casaktua.com/resultados?pg=1&st=Segunda%20Mano&tx=alicante%20alicante https://www.servihabitat.com/es/venta/vivienda/valencia https://www.idealista.com/en/venta-viviendas/alicante/



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Example: person of 60 yrs currently pays 17.00€ per month This is not a new idea! Over 21 million Spaniards have funeral insurance. **Contact KEITH 650461816** Office 968185152 ext 2

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DEBENHAMS



What a Drive!

A guy had his little dog with him whilst practising on the golf driving range. He made a really good shot and the little dog sat up and frantically clapped it's paws together. Another golfer walking past said "That's amazing, does he always do that when you make a good shot?"

The guy answered "Always."

The other golfer said "Wow, fantastic, what does he do if you make a bad shot?" The guy said "He turns somersaults." The response was again "Wow." Followed by "How many somersaults does he turn?"

The guy answered "Depends?"

Other golfer asks, "Depends? On what?"

Gets the reply...... "How hard I kick him up the arse."



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It is fair to say that relationships between the Local

Policía Local in the Dark!

Police in Torrevieja and the town council - no matter what political hue the council are - has always been fraught with misunderstanding and hostility. Regular readers will remember the protests at council meeting, the most notable when a 'crucified' policeman appeared outside the first floor window of a council meeting. This time we turn to nearby Los Balcones, where the police station is located on Warsaw street of the urbanization and houses the premises of the Mediation Unit (UMEPOL) dedicated, among other objectives, to resolve conflicts between neighbours hoping for agreements to avoid judicial intervention, the unit of environment, health and activity (GRUMA) and the police officers of proximity in this area of Torrevieja. The police station, unknown to most, occupies an old villa in the urbanization and even keeps the "Villa Praga". Photo. Without wasting time, it seems that every



time the police in the station turn on the heating or the air-con, the lights go out and computer equipment turns off! And this has been happening

21

for months! The trade union official for the police has been beautifully sarcastic about the lack of solution from the council saying that maybe 'We should dedicate ourselves to bear hunting or ice skating.' She also wrote to the Mayor Dolón (Greens) that in the council office's 'There are people who know how to work and do not want to, others who want to and can not, and all of them with a single politician at the controls, who does not know, does not want to know or does not care.'

Donde?

When I went to lunch today, I noticed an old lady sitting on a park bench sobbing her eyes out. I stopped and asked her what was wrong.

She said, 'I have a 22 year old husband at home. He makes love to me every morning and then gets up and makes me pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit and freshly ground coffee.'

I said, 'Well, then why are you crying?

'She said, 'He makes me homemade soup for lunch and my favourite brownies and then makes love to me for half the afternoon.

I said, 'Well, why are you crying?'

She said, 'For dinner he makes me a gourmet meal with wine and my favourite dessert and then makes love to me until 2:00 a.m.'

I said, 'Well, why in the world would you be crying?' She said, 'I can't remember where I live!'

Pete Dudman





Two men met at a bus stop and struck up a conversation. One of them kept complaining of family problems. Finally, the other man said:

"You think you have family problems? Listen to my situation. A few years ago I met a young widow with a grown-up daughter and we got married". "Later my father married my step daughter. That made my step daughter my stepmother and my father became my stepson. Also, my wife became mother in-law of her father-in-law. Then the daughter of my wife, my stepmother, had a son. This boy was my half-brother because he was my father's son, but he was also the son of my wife's daughter which made him my wife's grand-son. That made me the grandfather of my half-brother.

"This was nothing until my wife and I had a son. Now the halfsister of my son, my stepmother, is also the grandmother. "This makes my father the brother-in-law of my child, whose stepsister is my father's wife, I'm my stepmother's brotherin-law, my wife is her own child's aunt, my son is my father's nephew and I'm my own grandfather!



Changes to ITV - no, not the TV channel dummy, but the car inspection!

The government have introduced a number of changes to the Vehicle Technical Inspection (ITV) similar to the MOT in the UK.

New equipment and new tests are now better able to detect fraudulent manipulations of emissions by the vehicle software. Whereas the modern vehicle can have 100 electronic control units and thousands of electrical components, special equipment is needed to detect any issues relating to the emissions and the vehicle safety.

Another change is that if the vehicle fails the first inspection, the user will have the right to go to another ITV centre throughout the national territory within a period of one month and without an extra cost for a retest. Previously, it was necessary to go to the same centre after correcting the anomalies within that same period.

The new decree also transposes a set of community directives that, among other things, will allow the recognition of ITV certificates issued in other EU member countries. This is to facilitate the process of registration in Spain of a car brought from abroad.

Whereas it used to be cheaper to get your car tested in Murcia rather than Valencia, the costs are now almost similar. In Valencia the charges are: Gasolina €44.19, Diesel €55.54, Motorbikes €17.56 and in Murcia the charges are Gasolina €39.85, Diesel €53.70 and Motorbikes €24.09.

Manners Maketh Man!

During one of her daily classes to a group of bright six formers, a teacher was trying to teach good manners and asked her students the following question: "Michael, if you were on a date having dinner with a nice young lady, how would you tell her that you have to go to the bathroom?"

Michael said, "Just a minute I have to go pee."

The teacher responded by saying, "That would be rude and impolite. What about you Sherman, how would you say it?" Sherman said, "I am sorry, but I really need to go to the bathroom. I'll be right back."

"That's better, but it's still not very nice to say the word bathroom at the dinner table.

And you, Johnny (much older now), can you use your brain for once and show us your good manners?"

"I would say: Darling, may I please be excused for a moment?, I have to shake hands with a very dear friend of mine, whom I hope to introduce to you after dinner."

Even teachers can live and learn!

Catalan Regional Police Under Investigation.

The Catalan regional police force, the Mossos d'Esquadra, is being investigated for allegedly providing protection to politicians responsible for organizing the illegal independence referendum that took place in the region on October 1. In a decision issued on Thursday, High Court Judge Carmen Lamela demanded the Mossos hand over records relating to the creation of the so-called "TIC commission," which was set up for the "security and protection" of regional government members, authorities from other institutions and other public figures.

This record will reveal "who ordered the protection of politicians linked to the preparation of the referendum and how this protection was managed," according to Lamela's writ.

The illegal independence referendum was the pretext for the unilateral declaration of independence passed by the Catalan parliament on October 27. The Spanish government responded by invoking Article 155 of the Spanish Constitution, which stripped Catalonia of its selfrule and gave the central government in Madrid emergency powers.

Lamela has called upon the Mossos to explain if in September and October the so-called TIC commission was tasked with providing security measures to "specific individuals" – including those who were part of a security

operation known as Ágora. The judge has directed her request to the former Mossos chief of police, Josep Lluís Trapero, photo, and superintendent Teresa Laplana. Both police officers are under



investigation for sedition. Laplana is being investigated for her role in the protests on September 20 and 21 outside

DALJIT'S MINI SUPERMARKET VIA PARK V Robert's Bread, Eggs, Pukka Pies, Pizzas, Fries, Bacon, Sausage, Ready made Onion Bhajis, Greeting Cards, Off Licence Credit Cards Accepted OPEN FROM 11:00 UNTIL 21:00 the Barcelona building that houses the Catalan government's department of economic affairs. The protest involved acts of vandalism against Civil Guard patrol cars, and hindered the work of officers who were inside the building in search of election material to confiscate.

Trapero, meanwhile, has been accused of directing the Mossos to support the independence movement in defiance of orders from the courts.

Judge Lamela has also called on Civil Guard Colonel Diego Pérez de los Cabos, chief of the body tasked by the Spanish Interior Ministry to stop the October 1 referendum, to testify on February 14. During the referendum, efforts by the National Police and Civil Guard to close voting centres ended in confrontations with regional police officers, who refused to follow orders and faced off against the state authorities.

As part of the sedition probe, Judge Lamela has asked the Catalan prosecutor's office and regional prosecutors to provide copies of all reports and records presented by the Mossos, in accordance with the judicial instructions related to the October 1 referendum. In the decision, Lamela also demanded the Mossos Internal Affairs division hand over information on the investigations into Mossos police officers who defied the Civil Guard and National Police - instances that were captured in numerous videos. Lastly, the judge has asked the Mossos for information on the intervention of former Catalan Interior Minister Joaquim Forn on September 14. In the lead-up to the referendum, Forn said that the Mossos would "ensure the people can vote with freedom and security." The ousted minister is now serving pre-trial detention for charges of sedition.

(Source: El Pais)

But the treachery of the Mossos Regional Police goes even deeper. National Police foiled a plan by the Mossos to destroy 36 boxes of documents which reveal that various members of the PP [Popular Party] were put under surveillance and followed by members of the Mossos force. According to documents that have been seen by EL PAÍS, as well as sources close to the investigation, the operation was ordered by officials from the Democratic Convergence of Catalonia (CDC) party. An investigative report says the goal was to collect compromising information about the politicians' "movements, meetings and links in Catalonia," which could then be used as leverage in potential negotiations with the Spanish government over the independence drive. But there are still many skeletons in the Catalan cupboard yet to be revealed including those of Artur Mas and Pujol family! And maybe the Mossos should be disbanded?

Been there, done that!

They left home and arrived at the airport laden with luggage, most of it hers. They managed to cart seven suitcases, triple-deck make-up case, and five bags of hand luggage to the check-in counter by which time the husband mournfully mumbled,'God, I wish I'd brought the piano with me!"

'No need to be sarcastic,' she snapped. 'No, really,' he replied, 'I left the plane tickets on top of it.....'

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT



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Fred Elliott at your service, I say, at your service. Weatherfield's butcher, I'm known for my meaty sausage and spicy ring. Fred Elliott, Coronation Street

Meet the Dream Scene Team.



On the left is John Kerr. John, a proud Scot, helps me deliver the Dream Scene printed copies every month, but John, being much fitter, does the bulk of the Distribution ranges leg-work. Montesinos from Los to Torrevieia and Orihuela Costa. The boxes on the left were the February issue - there are more for March! I also have to mention Steve, Alan, Paul, David & Sue, who have also helped with the monthly distribution in previous years.

This can be enjoyable in the winter but murderous in peak summer!

On the left is the lovely Angela Cresswell, who produces the original and witty cartoon for the front page every month -Angela's Cartoon.

I notice when people pick up their copy every month, their eyes first go to her cartoon, and it is always followed by a smile or a laugh.

Aside from being creative, funny and a lover of animals, Angela is also a biker - not the pedal variety but more of the Harley Breed, one of her trips to Valencia featured in the DS some time ago.

A core and vital part of the team also are the advertisers, subscribers and

donators, without whom we would not have the current distribution nor size. From six pages in March 2007 to 40 pages this March, we have never increased the advertising rates, as, if it breaks even and not makes a profit, we are happy. It is a hobby, not a business. For many years Tid and I (photo) would spend hours collating and stapling copies every month. Then



a friend, K, introduced us to Joachim of Media Costa Blanca in Los Balcones, who took over the actual printing. Since then, Joachim has offered a superefficient, rapid and affordable printing service which is why we are still operating after 11 years. They are certainly part of the team as well.



Above is the lovely Sue Birchington. Sue collects the money and advert changes from some of our regular advertisers. Although believed to travel on these collection trips with a baseball bat and her regular bodyguard - Misty, a Rottweiler -Maltese Terrier cross. Thankfully, she has not had to resort to either yet.



Another of your creative contributors is 'The Phantom Poet' featured above, whose original and topical poems are now a regular monthly feature. Also a generous donator to the newsletter, he prefers to remain anonymous.





Having a multiplicity of screwdrivers reminds me of the old Irish saying, 'It will come in handy, even if you never use it.' Frank P. Dilkes

Who pays mortgage expenses – lender or borrower? The jury is still out!

Spain is divided between Provincial Courts (*Audiencias Provinciales*) who rule that lenders should reimburse borrowers for 100% of mortgage setup costs, and those that do not think banks should return the AJD tax (Actos Juridicos), which represents the lion's share of setup costs. While waiting for the Spanish Supreme Court to clarify the issue, we will review the current case law.

The clause that appears in mortgage loan deeds commonly described as "expenses borne by the borrower" (*gastos a cargo del prestatario*), is generating much expectation in recent weeks.

It is estimated that consumers spend an average of \notin 3,500 on mortgage setup costs, between taxes, registration and notary. It is an important sum, both for lenders and borrowers, so the jurisprudential evolution in this regard causes so much expectation.

If the court considers that the clause expenses charged to the consumer is abusive due to the fact of being generalized contracts in which the consumer does not have negotiating capacity, the bank will have to take care of all the expenses of constitution of the mortgage: notary, registration and tax.

If the court considers that these expenses benefit both parties equally and both the bank and the consumer are interested in formalizing the deed, the bank will be responsible for half of the expenses.

If the court considers that the interest of the consumer is only the loan itself, as a contract, and it is the banking entity that has the greatest interest in being formalized before a notary and registry, in order to have greater guarantees, then the bank will not be responsible for the AJD tax.

The controversy is greater when referring to the AJD tax (*Actos Jurídicos Documentados*), due to this tax supposes between 70 and 80% of the total of the expenses. The fact that the mortgage expenses are declared null assumes that the bank must return to the borrower the amounts paid in the constitution of the mortgage. According to Intereconomia.com, the Spanish banks risks the payment of 18,300 million euros, almost triple the return estimated by floor clauses.

At the moment, as we see in the map above, 10 provincial courts (*Audiencias Provinciales*) have ruled that it is up to the bank to return the mortgage expenses to consumers, including taxes (AJD), compared to 8 who consider that only the Notary fees and registration are returned, but not the tax. Until the Supreme Court makes a clear decision on this matter, the balance is not tilted on either side: consumer or bank. (Abridged from Del Canto Chambers)

(I would be surprised if the Supreme Court will find for the consumers. The establishment will be anxious to protect the banks and no doubt looking for a seat on the board when they retire!)

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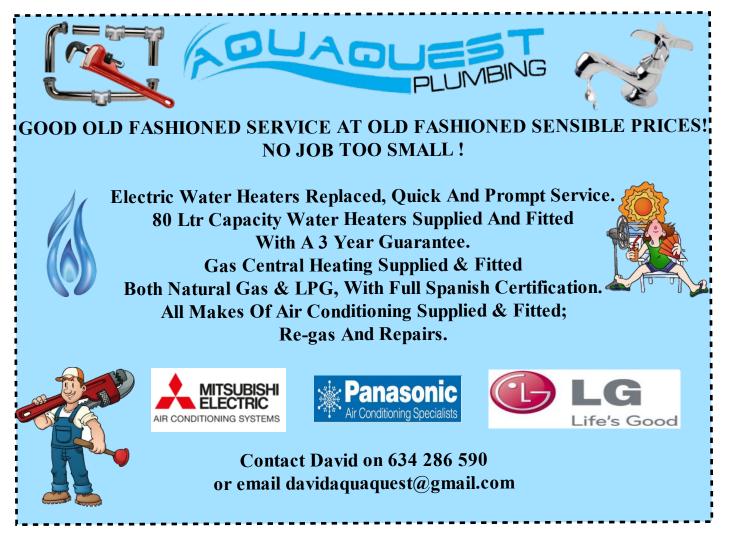
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Profound Things That Confucius Says

- Virginity like bubble, one prick all gone.

- Man with hand in pocket feel cocky all day.



Neymar - Another Spoiled Football Brat.

The privileges of Neymar are not liked by his companions at his new club, Paris Saint-Germain (PSG).

Neymar is not only the best paid Paris Saint Germain player but also the most expensive transfer in the history of football - \notin 222 million. In addition, he has certain privileges within the new club, that puts him a step above his companions.

The Brazilian enjoys two personal physiotherapists who only dedicate themselves to pamper the star. Also, in training, players can not make hard-nosed tackles on Neymar, to avoid injuries, which will to some extent restrain the intensity of his peers.



Neymar does not have to carry out defensive

work . If he does, it will be because he thinks it is convenient.

He is the only player in PSG who is allowed to carry a backpack with his own brand or the sponsor of his choice, something that is prohibited for the other players. The bags of his companions have the black logo of the PSG on them and are not allowed to advertise other brands on them.

In his particular war against Cavani, a fellow striker at PSG, the Brazilian seems to have won. From next year, that is, the 2018/19 season, the Uruguayan will stop taking the penalties - which this season he shares with Neymar - with the Brazillian only taking them next season. Bet someone pisses in his half-time drink!

Met his Match!

Typical macho man married a typical good-looking lady and after the wedding, he laid down the following rules:

"I'll be home when I want, if I want and at what time I want-and I don't expect any hassle from you. I expect a great dinner to be on the table unless I tell you that I won't be home for dinner. I'll go hunting, fishing, boozing and card-playing when I want with my old buddies and don't you give me a hard time about it. Those are my rules. Any comments?" His new bride said, "No, that's fine with me. Just understand that there will be sex here at seven o'clock every night... whether you're here or not."

Fido's Burial.

"Father, my dog is dead. Could there be a service for the poor creature?"

Father Murphy replied, "No, we cannot have service for an animal in the church. But there is a new Prody church down the road. Maybe they will do something for the animal".

The man answered "Father, but do you think they will accept a donation of €10,000 in return for the burial service?"

Father Murphy exclaimed, "Sweet Jesus! Why didn't you tell me that dog was a Catholic?"





The Phoenix Golf Society

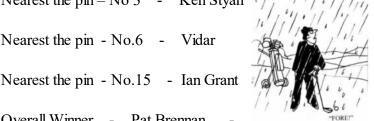
We played at New Sierra Golf Course on Sunday 18th February 2018. The course has improved quite a lot and the greens were hard to read - but overall fair.

The weather was overcast to start with but, later on in the day, it turned wet.

I played for the first time in eighteen months but came off when the rain started but thoroughly enjoyed my game.

Nearest the pin – No 3 - Ken Styan

Nearest the pin - No.6 - Vidar



Overall Winner - Pat Brennan

Ken was put out as his wife beat him Ha! Ha! Ha!....

When all was finished we returned to the Phoenix Bar for our usual lovely grub supplied by Donna & Paul - many thanks you two.

Next game will be on the 18th March – sheet is up in the bar.

Dave Wightman

Wanted: Knife-thrower's assistant with more faith than the Pope. Advertisement by the Cottle & Austen Circus



I am looking for a wedding present for two of my friends...I was going to get them a dinner service, but I'm not actually convinced their marriage will last, so I settled for two picnic baskets. Victoria Wood



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British Consulate Meetings Recently in Alicante Province.

(Press release from British Embassy, Madrid) British Consul Sarah-Jane Morris, photo, visited nine

towns in the Alicante province over the past month to update British nationals on the progress of the citizens' rights part of the Brexit negotiations and to answer questions. Mrs Morris also reminded British nationals of the



benefits of registering as a resident in Spain, both with the national police ("residencia") and with their local town hall ("padron").

Attendance across the towns was high, the Consul having reached nearly 2000 people. Representatives of Brexpats in Spain pressure group were also on the panel at the meetings, as were local mayors and councillors. Various topics came up during the question and answer sessions, especially regarding healthcare, pensions and residency rights and obligations. On residency rights, all speakers were united in encouraging British nationals to check they are properly registered in Spain, and to get registered if they haven't already done so.

Consul Sarah-Jane Morris said, 'I would advise anyone who is concerned about Brexit to make sure they always go to the original source for information. Everything that has been discussed and agreed so far can be found on the gov.uk website – it's easy to check and sign up for email alerts. I also picked up that a lot of people are still not clear about their residency status in Spain in terms of renewing their residency and padron. As I said in the meetings, I will follow this up with the relevant local authorities and we will continue to publish up-to-date accurate information on our gov.uk website and Brits in Spain Facebook page.'

The number of British people registered on the padron, the local register held by the town halls which is used to allocate funding from central government, has been in decline over the past few years. Mrs Morris stated that despite the one million homes in Spain owned by British citizens, less than 300,000 are registered on the padron nationally. Town hall representatives welcomed attendees at the meetings to come and check their registration status at their local town hall office.

The Consul finished the meetings by reminding people to check for updates about the Brexit negotiations from the official sources – namely the Gov.uk website (www.gov.uk/world/brexit). Videos and interviews recorded at the recent meetings will soon be posted on the Brits In Spain Facebook page.



The Daily Telegraph (Brexit Pravda) referred to the above three Brexiteers, Gove, Rees-Mogg & Johnson, as the Three Musketeers. I think Larry, Moe and Curly would have been much more appropriate.



(Kal - The Economist)

Small Talk!

An atheist was seated next to a little girl on a plane and he turned to her and said, "Do you want to talk? Flights go quicker if you strike up a conversation with your fellow passenger."

The little girl, who had just started to read her book, replied to the total stranger, "What would you want to talk about?" "Oh, I don't know," said the atheist. "How about why there is no God, or no Heaven or Hell, or no life after death?" as he smiled smugly.

"Okay," she said. "Those could be interesting topics, but let me ask you a question first. A horse, a cow, and a deer all eat the same stuff - grass. Yet a deer excretes little pellets, while a cow turns out a flat patty, but a horse produces clumps. Why do you suppose that is?"

The atheist, visibly surprised by the little girl's intelligence, thinks about it and says, "Hmmm, I have no idea."

To which the little girl replies, "Do you really feel qualified to discuss God, Heaven and Hell, or life after death, when you don't know shit?"and then she went back to reading her book.



Dan was a single guy living at home with his father and working in the family business. When he found out he was going to inherit a fortune when his sickly father died, he decided he needed a wife with which to share his fortune. One evening at an investment meeting he spotted the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Her natural beauty took his breath away. "I may look like just an ordinary man," he said to her, but in just a few years, my father will die, and I'll inherit \$200 million."

Impressed, the woman obtained his business card and three days later, she became his stepmother. Women are so much better at financial planning than men. 35

IDIOTS OF THE MONTH

Although arranged marriages are a standard practice in Pakistan, some Pakistani women will take extreme steps to escape them and marry men of their choosing. 21-year-old Aasia Bibi was one such who wanted to divorce her new husband but was not allowed by her parents. She went to her previous boyfriend, Shahid, who gave her a substance



to poison the new groom. (See photo of both.) She then mixed it with some milk and gave it to her new hubby but he refused to drink it. Bibi's mother-in-law then found the milk and decided to make lassi with it, a

yogurt-based drink popular in South Asia, which she gave to 27 members of her extended family. All 27 lost consciousness and were hospitalised, 17 of them dying shortly afterwards. More have probably succumbed since. Just hope they don't get a job in the prison kitchen.

While the above was tragic (and dumb) why is it that the quest for love can make idiots of most of us. 26-year-old Anxo from Arteixo in La Coruña appeared on the dating social network Badoo with a profile, looking for a partner. Days later a woman contacted him and they developed a friendship that then turned romantic - all via online messages and phone calls. Anxo told his new friend that he had a rare form of epilepsy that required costly medicine; this medicine had to be sent from the United States and paid for at the US Embassy in Madrid. Each box cost €600 and he needed €6,000 a month to pay for the treatment. One month later, after he felt he had the ladies trust, Anxo called her and said he had been in a car accident on the way to Madrid to collect his medicine and realised that he left his wallet and the €6,000 at home. "The car needs to be urgently repaired and as soon as I

return home I will pay you back," he told her. His girlfriend deposited €13,000 in his bank account that day to cover the costs of the car repairs and the treatment. Anxo never repaid the saying he lost his wallet. Later, he disguised his voice saying he was a friend of Anxo, who was now in hospital and needed a specialist to put an electrode in his (A kick in the arse maybe!) This charade brain! continued several times until he had obtained a total of €53,081 from the unfortunate woman. Finally, she called the police and Anxo appeared in court in early February this year. He now faces four years in jail and has been asked to return all the money he stole from his online girlfriend, with interest, as well as €10,000 in compensation for psychological damage. But of course the money will never be returned and the poor lady has been well and truly suckered.

You can read more details on this sorry story here https://elpais.com/elpais/2018/02/08/inenglish/1518089823_ 422072.html Way back in 2015, on December 4, this unnamed chap entered a brothel called EVEN / ELEVEN in Valencia at 3:34am. He then left the brothel 15 hours later, after spending \in 3,900! When his family/relatives queried his absence, he decided to report to the police that he had been drugged and the money stolen. During the police investigation they discovered that this particular Don Juan had made a number of cash withdrawals at the knockingshop and had 'interviewed' a number of girls during their

various shifts. The case did not come to court until this February when the judge in the Number 2 Criminal Court in Valencia fined the man $\in 2.400$



for making a false accusation. So I make that €6,300 for 15 hours! More expensive than a libel lawyer! Now I know that most, not all, of our readers are genteel and have never seen the inside of a 'knocking-shop', so, to satisfy your curiosity, I have included a photo of a room in the brothel, submitted by our roving investigative reporter, 'Dirty' Denis Longhorn, who makes all sorts of sacrifices to bring the latest news to our readers. Keep going for the Pulitzer, Denis!

In the town of Pontevedra, Galicia, the Guardia Civil arrested a man who was driving in an illegal race in an industrial estate on Sunday, Feb' 4. The 42-year-old tested negative for alcohol, but when it came to the drug's test, he registered positive for cocaine, opiates, amphetamines, methamphetamines, and THC - what the drug's squad would call a 'Full House'!

On a Wednesday in late January in Torrevieja, an employee of a fast food restaurant noticed a three-year-old boy wandering around at 8:30pm. The young boy was in his pyjamas, was wearing socks but no shoes. The police were called, but other than smiles from the little chap who spoke some English could not determine where he lived. No one had claimed the boy and there were no phone calls about missing kids. The police took the lad to the University Hospital of Torrevieja at around midnight, where paediatricians conducted some tests on him. At around 9:30 pm the same employee who originally called the police, noticed a woman seeming to search the area. He spoke to her and she told him she was looking for her son. He informed her that the police now had her son and she should contact them immediately. However the mother, a 34-year-old British woman, did not phone the police until 8:30 the following morning and did not pick up her child until 10:30am that day. She could not explain to the police why she waited so long to inquire about and pick up the child. The child is now in care and the mother charged with abandonment.

Lime Bar Fishing SUNBATHING Club

This month the weather has been bitter cold some mornings with frost on the ground and the car computer warning of a "Risk of Ice!" Depending on where you are fishing, if you can find a good spot out of the wind, it can get really warm. One day Fagin was even talking about getting down to his shreddies! The cold weather is really putting the fish off feeding so if you can find a shoal's hideout, make the most of it. If not, you can sit back have a cup of coffee and watch the wildlife. I have seen a kingfisher, loads of warblers, unknown types of kites / hawks, what I think is a little bittern and a robin coming down for some free food.

There were no dramas at the monthly meeting (to the chagrin of the bar staff) but Pete B came off the waiting list into the club. Another whippersnapper against the old farts team! Welcome Pete I hope you enjoy yourself. After the dire results of the December and January matches, we decided to fish El Bosquet this month.

When we arrived it was 2°C with a stiff breeze that made it feel even colder. The flask was definitely close to hand and I had my woolly hat on all day. For the conditions we had a good turn out with 11 on the bank and several other anglers around us. As expected, the fishing was hard with a few anglers not having a bite all day.

Anti social drew the "prime" peg 1 with Phil H and 3 rods close by, so we were expecting them to hammer the rest of us. As it turned out, I found a shoal of mullet and after missing loads of bites I changed tactics and went big. A size 4 hook and a huge lump of bread flake. It worked! I ended up with 5.7 kilos beating Phil's 4.9 kilos

into 2nd place, which is the opposite way round to last month. Anti social came 3rd with 1.9 kilos. Unfortunately for 3 rods, he was one of the anglers that didn't have a bite. That's 3 blanks on the trot! With only 1 match to go in the winter league, he needs to win and his near rivals to blank in order to reach the final.

Another angler to blank during the match was punchy Bob, although he made up for it the following day at Murcia. He had 8 fish for over 50 lbs, which for February is amazing! This haul included a 3 lb barbel and a 10.5 lb carp, which puts him above 3 rods in the "Largest Carp" competition. Well done punchy (see photo –



he's a bit camera shy but you can see the size of it curled up!).

As this is going to print, we have had a couple of glorious warm and sunny days. The big fish must be stocking up after winter and getting ready for spawning. After Punchy's Murcia carp, BFK Sweeney was smashed by a monster at the Bigastro tennis courts. I was 200 yards away and could feel the heat of his rage! Not to be put off, a couple of days later he went back to have another attempt to catch it. Unfortunately 3 Rods had heard about the fish and beat Sweeney to the peg. 3 Rods buggered up his chances though, whilst pushing his bank stick

in, the bank gave way and he went in head first (AGAIN). KARMA? No harm done though, as the river is so low there was only about 2' of water and the sun had dried him out by the time he went home. The monster is still there waiting to be caught, but until then, Punchy's carp is still the biggest.

Fishy fingers! The Ghost



Crafty Parrot!

A lady was walking past a pet store when a parrot said,

"Hey, lady! You're really ugly!" The lady was furious and continued on her way. On the way home, she passed by the pet store again and the parrot once more said:

"Hey, lady! You're really ugly!" She was incredibly ticked now, so she went into the store and said that she would sue the store and kill the bird. The store manager apologized profusely and promised he would make sure the parrot didn't say it again.

The next day, she deliberately passed by the store to test the parrot.

"Hey, lady!" it said. "Yes?" she said. "You know."

Our neighbourhood was so tough, any cat with a tail was considered posh. Les Dawson



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The Mohel!

Bloke walks the same way to work everyday, one day, his watchstrap breaks and as he's picking the bits off the floor, he notices a new shop: velvet covered display stands, tasteful mahogany boxes, lovely display of carriage clocks, fob watches, wristwatches, sundials even, and so on.

So he nips in and asks the shopkeeper if he's got a nice watchstrap for his Rolex.

Shopkeeper: "No, no Rolex watchstraps, sir."

Bloke: "A plain leather strap, any kind would do."

SKp "No watchstraps at all, buddy."

Blk: "OK, how about a watch chain? I could hang my watch off that for a while" Skp: "Chains, we don't have, sorry."

Blk: "A clockshop, you must have some AA batteries for my alarm clock, then?"

Skp: "Batteries you say? AA you say?. No."

By this time the bloke's getting a bit wound up & goes off on one, ranting about what the hell kind of shop it is that hasn't got straps, batteries...and the shopkeeper explains that he's a mohel.

Blk "A mo-what?"

Skp: "A circumcizer. For the little boys of the Jewish faith, they have to be circumsized and that's what I do. I do it very well, I make a good living, so I got a shop."

Blk " But all the clocks and watches & chains! what's all that about?" Shopkeeper: "You want I should put what in the window, now?"

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