

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER

Happy St. George's Day



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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the April, 2018 edition. Issue No.130.

Plenty of showers lately, which have helped stock up the reservoirs. The storms and strong winds have also raised the sea level locally by around 30 cm's. This has had a devastating effect in some areas and removed some beaches.

Although there have been some beautifully sunny days, the strong cold north winds have shown that the time is not quite right yet for summer clothing! The daily highs for the next two weeks are predicted to be between 15 and 25°.

Although still only Spring, the 114 kilometres of beaches on the Costa Blanca, 64 of them with blue flags, will be visited by more than a half million tourists this Easter. Sand has been brought in, wooden footbridges have been placed, foot baths have been inspected and lifeguard and extra security services have been contracted - all in all a hive of activity. Free WiFi is also being tried out on some beaches, mainly in Benidorm. Unfortunately, the road surfaces in the Los Altos area are still dreadful after the recent pipe and cable laying, which are still not completed! Let's hope they are resurfaced before the summer.

Special thanks to Gary G, Mike & Diane, Gerry, Richard H, Pete & Bren H, Bob & Mags, Carol & Brian C, Beryl & Denis, Dawn S, Mick & Beth H, Eddie A, for their kind donations towards printing costs during March. Honest, it was like Oxfam without the sex!

An elderly couple, aged 88 and 77, have been injured when their car went off the CV-95 road between San Miguel de Salinas and Los Balcones. The vehicle crashed into a tree. The Guardia Civil, San Miguel Local Police, two fire brigade units and two ambulances attended. The man had to be cut from the vehicle. Looking at the car, photo, it is amazing that anyone survived.



Lisa Brown, photo, was 31 when she vanished from her home in Guadiaro, Cadiz province, on November 4, 2015. Craig Douglas, Ms Brown's brother, said their family believes that there is a 'wall of silence' among the English-speaking community in southern Spain over his sister's disappearance. An appeal for information has been launched, by the



Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Spanish authorities and is backed up by a reward of up to £100,000 from the family, which is supported by UK charity Crimestoppers. Crimestoppers are on 0800 555 111 and 900 555 111 in Spain.

Wishing you all a Happy Easter and a wonderful month. Mick & Tid

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Angela's Cartoon

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'Ignore her! I know for a fact that she's exaggerating.'

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

Brendan Behan



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Thank you David - my wife and I would never have negotiated all that form filling without your help and superior knowledge which meant everything has gone smoothly in such a short time and the result will make a big difference. we will certainly recommend you. Ted Adams, Daya Nueva

David is so caring and knowledgeable. He helped me and my husband filled in the forms for attendance allowance. We now get it all thanks to David. He has also given us help and advice about getting my husband back to the uk. I can't recommend him more highly. Thank you David. Sue Fisher, Dream Hills

Contact David on - 602465565 or 966392026.

- advocacycostablanca@outlook.com

Did you know that

...shocking hygiene failings have been discovered in some of the US's biggest meat plants, as a new analysis reveals that as many as 15% (one in seven) of the US population suffers from food borne illnesses annually? US campaigners are calling once again for the closure of a legal loophole that allows meat with salmonella to be sold in the human supply chain, and also warn about the industry's push to speed up production in the country's meat plants. And UK campaigners warn that the UK could be flooded with "dirty meat" if a US trade deal is signed post-Brexit. European food standards are higher than in the US. Kath Dalmeny, chief executive of Sustain, expressed concerns about future US-UK trade deals: "The US has already warned us that we will need to lower our food standards in exchange for a quick trade deal, but we need to fight this hard. They are desperate to sell us their chlorine-washed chicken, but we know chlorine and other unpalatable treatments can mask dirty meat, low hygiene standards and poor animal welfare, which the UK consumer will not stand for. In recent years, the UK meat, dairy and egg industries have improved food safety; so we should all be alarmed about any trade deal that opens up our market to products that undermine this progress."

...an Egyptian pop star was sentenced to jail for insulting the Nile? Sherine Abdel-Wahab, photo, made an offhand comment that the river contains parasites and people should "drink Evian" instead. A Cairo court sentenced prominent Egyptian singer Sherine Abdel-Wahab to six months in prison in absentia for offending Egypt. At a concert a fan asked her to play the song, "Have You Drunk from The Nile?" Abdel-Wahab responded: "No, you'd get Bilharzia. Drink Evian, it's better!"



This verdict comes after in December an Egyptian court sentence a female pop singer to two-years in prison for a sexually suggestive music video. Shaimaa Ahmed, who goes by the name Shyma, was accused of inciting debauchery and harming public morality. The court also ordered her to pay a fine of 10,000 Egyptian pounds, about €476. Naturally, in the interests of cultural research and intellectual stimulation, we have located a copy of the video here for you -

<http://www.dw.com/en/egyptian-singer-jailed-for-music-video-inciting-debauchery/a-41767086>

The Seer.

I was telling a woman in the pub about my ability to guess what day a woman was born just by feeling her breasts.

"Really" she said, "Go on then... Try."

After about thirty seconds of fondling she began to lose patience and said, "Come on, what day was I born?"

I said, "Yesterday."

Cost me a kick in the nuts, but...when you're seventy.....who cares?

(Carol Martin)

The **farce in Catalonia** continues. On Friday, March 23, a judge reactivated international arrest warrants against six of the Catalan fugitives from justice, including ousted premier *Carles Puigdemont and four former regional ministers, Toni Comín, Meritxell Serret and Lluís Puig, all of whom are in Belgium, as well as Clara Ponsatí, who is in Scotland. He also issued a warrant for Marta Rovira, the secretary general of the Catalan Republican Left (ERC), one of the main separatist parties inside the regional parliament, who has now absconded to Switzerland. Another separatist leader, Anna Gabriel of the anti-establishment CUP, fled to Geneva earlier this year. If the Catalans cannot elect a premier in the next two months, they will have to go to the polls again. The several separatist parties that exist just cannot agree on a candidate and imprisoned candidates.

Relating to **Brexit**, the UK has been forced to make a series of major concessions to reach the basis of a transition agreement with the EU. There is certainty for EU citizens (in the UK) as a result of another climbdown over whether they will continue to enjoy their rights in the UK during transition, but campaigners fear the concession is not entirely reciprocated. Jane Golding, the chair of British in Europe, which represents 1.2 million Britons living in other EU countries, said the agreed legal text provided more free movement rights after Brexit for English produce than to British citizens. The latest draft drops article 32, which included an explicit ban on British citizens living in another EU country moving on to live and/or work in a third EU country. But Golding said that its omission did not mean they had suddenly been allowed to keep free movement as it did not change the substance of the agreement.

“In fact the agreement is as clear as mud when it comes to our future rights to move and work across the EU, either as people falling under the withdrawal agreement or as third country nationals,” said Golding. “With 80% of British people living on the continent working age or younger, free movement and its associated cross-border economic rights are a necessity, not a nice to have, for many ... As things stand, after Brexit, English cheddar will have more free movement rights than we will.”

La Opinión for Málaga that youngsters in 76 municipalities in the province of Málaga can obtain now obtain **aid to rent homes**. The provincial government will pay as much as 20% of the buying price and 40% of the monthly rent, which must be under €900. The plan is helping to keep youngsters in the smallest villages where many have lost half the population.

La Opinión for Málaga also reports from the ITB Berlin Tourism Fair – ‘**Spain is losing German tourists** – choosing Turkey, Tunisia and Egypt with lower prices.’

Spanish life expectancy is increasing with the figure aged over 90 now reaching more than 465,000. This is 1% of the total population, with 72% of them being female.

Late News:*Puigdemont arrested in Germany, on 25/3/18!

The Murcia Health Service has **suspended diverting patients to a private clinic** after the death of a patient.

A 29-year-old entered a coma after minor surgery in Alcantarilla – the management of San José explained to the family that José Manuel suffered a sugar rush. The father denounced ‘this would not happen in public hospital equipped with an Intensive Care Unit’.

There are 50 public universities in Spain. 46 of the rectors are men. In 1982 Elisa Pérez Vera became the first female rector in Spain. **Just four female rectors** is very little progress over 36 years!

‘**Gender equality**’ strikes and demonstrations took place throughout Spain on March 8, when several cities hosted historic marches to demand an end to gender discrimination.



Hundreds of thousands of protestors took to the streets, photo, in 120 different cities, calling for more to be done about the pay gap, gender violence and harassment. The Spanish unions said 5.3 million observed the morning strike on Women’s Day.

Coming from other countries, we are always surprised that although significant building works are carried out here in Spain, there is very **little building supervision** by the authorities other than nit-picking. The authorities seem to dwell on minor matters - see page 14 - leaving the building of whole estates unsupervised. This of course leads to shortcuts, faults and shoddy workmanship. A telling statistic has just emerged from Málaga. Here, between 2006 and 2014, 5,400 complaints were put before the building inspectors, which were ignored or shelved.

A total of **484,000 applications** have been received for 10,000 temporary placements in the Spanish Post Offices. The union claim that these temporary posts do not cure the structural problems of the organisation, which has lost 15,000 jobs since the start of the economic crisis.

The number of people authorized to work with **drones** in Alicante has multiplied fivefold in less than three years to reach 119 flight operators. I wonder if any are being used by the local authorities to identify illegal builds etc?

200 coaches took thousands of farmers to Madrid on March 7, when they demanded solutions to the **water shortages for irrigation**. They demonstrated outside the Ministry of Agriculture. ‘They will not stop us’ said the massive demonstration of irrigators from Murcia, Alicante and Almería in Madrid ‘We haven’t come to see the minister but for her to see us’.

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6 What's Up? continued

A national television program accused the Socialist led council of Pilar de la Horadada of 'enchufismo' - cronyism & nepotism. It alleged that the local government hired up to 50 people as councillors and advisors, not because of merit but solely because they were relatives and friends. So what's new? The PSOE hit back at the accusations by flooding the area with leaflets denouncing the slanders and the accuracy of the television program.

The cases of **missing people in Spain** is increasing alarmingly every year. During 2016 there were 21,500 people reported missing of which 1,520 cases have remained unsolved.

A **recording device** (bug) was found hidden in the furniture of the town planners office in Alicante.

Electric utility companies opened around 8,200 cases of **fraud** in the province during 2017, mostly by Iberdrola and, to a lesser extent, by other companies in the area. Comparing the data with that of 2016, the irregularities in the network have increased by 28%. Out of a total of 35,964 inspections carried out by Iberdrola, 8,189 fraudulent cases were detected, while in 2016, 5,941 were discovered.

Regarding the Valencian Community, Iberdrola carried out a total of 110,103 inspections during 2017 and 22,861 cases were opened due to irregularities. 96.8% of the defrauded energy detected by Iberdrola during the past year occurred mainly in the residential sector and in the industrial sector. It seems that the area of Los Palmerales in Elche are the 'Kings of Electricity Hook-ups'!

Only 1.2% of the defrauded energy in the province was located in dwellings inhabited by vulnerable families.

Three HGV drivers were found to be under the **influence of drugs and alcohol** in a single week in nearby Murcia. Two of the men were between four and seven times over the legal alcohol limit.

In late February, the king of Spain, Felipe VI, attended the opening dinner of the World Mobile Congress in Barcelona. In an incredible **act of rudeness**, neither the mayor of Barcelona, Ada Colau, nor the president of the Catalan parliament, Torrent, - nor indeed any senior governmental official, were there to greet him. Los Mossos (regional police) placed the centre of Barcelona on lock down against the protests as 19 people were injured in scuffles during the royal visit.

A motorist in Alicante thought he could **fool the speed cameras** by altering his licence plate. During January 2017, his car was detected speeding in the city. He had altered the letter 'C' on his plates with insulation tape to look like a 'O'. Although it took the fuzz almost a year to locate him, he now faces a possible jail sentence of eight months and a fine of €1,440.

Ecologists in Majorca are very annoyed as they have amassed evidence that some of the golf courses there are using aquifer water to water the courses. However, they cannot understand why the Public Prosecutor and the Minister of the Environment there does not prosecute the relevant businesses. For years, the ecologists have asked for some golf courses to be closed as, a standard course of 18 holes used in summer between 1,500 and 2,000 cubic meters of water per day, "the equivalent to the consumption of a population of 8,000 inhabitants."

On a percentage of population basis, the Balearics lead in the number of **corruption indictments** or oral proceedings (phases of the legal proceedings that begin when there are clear indications of possible guilt) for the last quarter of 2017, with 40 cases.

Of the 26 convictions for corruption crimes issued in Spain during the last quarter of 2017, a total of 7 were in the Balearic Islands. Only the regions of Andalusia (5 judgments) and Valencia (3) registered more than two convictions of this type in the period.

It is certainly clear that the Balearics are also facing **many environmental concerns**, not only due to the lack of water, but invasive species, a massive growth in the snake population and widespread infection of the Xylella pathogen, which has destroyed thousands of olive, cherry and almond trees. Although the tourist industry has brought massive wealth to the islands, many islanders are now regretting the downside of the constant influx of foreigners with the associated noise, drunkenness, high rents, traffic, disruption and damage to their culture and way of life.

There is also a risk of an **exodus of doctors** from the Balearic Islands because of the imposition of the Catalan language. This has alarmed patients and the public at large. Should this nonsense be extended to Valencia, and under the current political regime it is possible, the effect would be similar.



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HOLE 9 ROGER LILES

HOLE 14 DARYL D'SILVA

HOLE 18 KEN STYAN

As usual an enjoyable day out returning to the Lime Bar for refreshments and presentation.

Thanks to the committee, Lime Bar staff and the ladies for the football draw.

Eddie Allan.



Golf balls are attracted to water as unerringly as the eye of a middle-aged man to a female bosom.
Michael Green



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You know the phrase, 'to take care of something' - well, I realise now that you meant it in a sort of Al Pacino way. Whereas I was thinking more along the lines of Julie Andrews. Father Ted to Tom, *Father Ted*

The Guardia Civil have arrested a 27 year old Moroccan man in Torrevieja for allegedly raping a 32-year-old Belgian woman. They are also looking for several people who took advantage of the struggle to steal from the victim. The woman was walking her dog at 6am when she was attacked by the man. During the struggle, members of the public arrived and instead of defending and helping the poor woman, stole her phone and belongings. So much for a caring society! The Moroccan was tracked down and is now in jail. I'm not sure what part of Torry this took place, but walking dogs early mornings or late evenings anywhere is not recommended.

The City Council of Torrevieja will invest 745,000 euros in renovating the athletics track and two football fields with artificial turf. If the roads in Orihuela Costa were looked after as well as the sporting facilities of Torrevieja.....well, it would be a surprise. Hopefully, the poor condition of the local roads will be improved significantly before the summer season begins.

The three chiringuitos around the Punta Prima area which were closed last year have not reopened. There are still problems with the approvals and the units may be demolished shortly.

There has been a large increase in cash machines (ATMs) around the coast. There is one by the pharmacy in Los Altos, one outside Domino's Bar, outside El Capitan in Lago Jardin 2, and one outside the Post Room in Via Park III. There is also a cash exchange point now in this Post Room. Many other ATMs are springing up around the coast. They generally charge between €1.50 to €1.89 per transaction, regardless of the amount, so it makes economic sense not to withdraw just small amounts regularly. If drawing euros for sterling, or other currencies from these machines, the exchange rate will be appalling!

A Madrid prosecutor at the Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office, has been transferred to Murcia to deal with one of the AVE high-speed frauds. (There are more than one!) The fraud, believed by the Guardia Civil and the Tax Agency to be in excess of 20 million euros, basically consisted of charging the public coffers for nonexistent works that were supposedly to be made to the AVE line between Crevillente and Murcia. Also being investigated in this case is the Community of Irrigators of San Felipe Neri, a town located in the Vega Baja of Alicante, near Catral, where a payment of €3 million is under the microscope, again possibly for nonexistent works.

In Murcia, Local Police have fined nearly 2,000 pedestrians for not walking on the pavement! Too much time on their hands; why not catch some crooks? Still plenty of those about!

"All the services on Orihuela's beaches will be ready this weekend, 24th/25th to receive the thousands of tourists who choose to spend their holidays in Orihuela," says Councillor Luisa Boné. All the beaches will have lifeguards. The service has 27 workers, which includes two lifeguards per beach. A coordinator, two medical technicians and a boat captain are part of the overall team.

In a rather surreal and comic event at Alicante Cemetery during March and worthy of the Keystone Cops, the Policia Local and



squad cars were chasing Vietnamese pigs for two hours around the gravestones. The pigs, photo, were digging up the ground and I am sure no one would like to see one of the pigs running around with grandad's hip bone! In Alicante a stray population has become established after a number of animals escaped or were abandoned. More than a dozen pigs were eventually captured and brought to the Protectora de Animales in Bacarot.

The Federation of Musical Societies of the Valencian Community (FSMCV) are to receive financing to the tune of €13 million from the Valencian Generalitat. I wonder if any of the non-Spanish bands, such as Just Brass, receive any of this largesse?

After a drop-off in numbers, tourists from Russia began to return in 2017. Alicante-Elche Airport plans to double its flights to Russia and bring 300,000 tourists to the Costa Blanca this year. This will be an increase of the 176,000 reported last year. By the time you read this, there will be two daily flights to Moscow and two weekly flights to St. Petersburg. There are about 70,000 Russians living in Spain, the largest colony in Alicante with 25,000. Torrevieja is, next to Barcelona, the Spanish city with more registered Russians (4,300), followed by Alicante (1,500), Orihuela (990), Benidorm (640), Altea (580), Guardamar (475), Calp (429) and Rojales (389).



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The wife said " here's €20, get the dog a warm jacket, if there's any money left, get yourself a beer" .

Noel T.

'It only takes one drink to get me loaded.
Trouble is, I can't remember
if it's the thirteenth or fourteenth.'
George Burns



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The Russians are 'shit-scared'!

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Apology!

Can't believe I got Sue's surname wrong in the last issue.

It is of course Birchenough and not Birchington as stated in the March issue.

By way of apology I include a more up-to-date photo of the lovely Sue.



The Psych' Test.

'And what does this inkblot look like?'

I said it looks like a horrible, ugly blob of pure evil, that sucks the souls of men into a vortex of sin and degradation.

He said, 'No, uh, the inkblot's over there, that a photo of my wife.'

Emo Phillips

April

Now we're into April
the noted month of showers
we really could do with a lot of it
for the farmers and the flowers

Spring is in the air
with temperatures increasing
but not all is fair
with the cable work ceasing

From the Torrevieja Hospital
to Los Altos Aldi's gates
The roads are concrete one and all
and in an awful state

We can only pray for tarmac
from our Orihuela host
but will we get our roads back
or is it dependant on the cost

While we wait and hope
ours cars will take a bashing
we'll all just have to cope
while our tyres take a thrashing

Even if it happens
but do not hold your breath
they'll be more interruptions
or we'll have them to the death

After all this is the Costa
and not Orihuela town
will we get our roads back
or they'll kick us while we're
down

The Phantom Poet



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

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

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

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

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

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

Thinking of Putting in a Car Port, Garage, Pergola Etc? BEWARE!

Many of you property owners in Spain will be only too aware of the restrictions there are if one wants to carry out any alterations to one's property. It is very difficult, almost impossible, to obtain planning permission or indeed urbanisation approval for any works which might increase the rentable/livable space on your property.

But the problems are not just related to your main dwelling as the experience of one British owner in Lago Jardin II experienced recently, concerning his car port. Many thanks to B.P. for the details.

In 2002, this couple decided to erect a car port to keep the sun's damaging rays off their car. They erected six wooden post and placed a corrugated plastic roof with bamboo on the posts. Sometime later, he removed the plastic and bamboo and put in new plastic tile sheets with bitumen. The bitumen melted in the summer heat and damaged his car, so in May 2017 he removed the existing plastic and bitumen roof and replaced it with an attractive wooden roof on the posts, see photo.

On February 28 this year, B.P. received a letter delivered by courier and dated 22/2/2018 from the Torrevieja Town Council offices. The letter referred to the structure as 'a pergola' and outlined a number of offences/restrictions and demanded that the structure be removed. The letter stated that no licence had been applied for; that the structure exceeded the maximum size; that the structure was not three metres or more from the front boundary wall of the property and that the structure was prohibited under sections 213 and 237 of Ley 5/2014, de 25 de julio, de la Generalitat, de Ordenación del Territorio, Urbanismo y Paisaje, de la Comunitat Valenciana. The letter also assessed the value of the car port at €2,185 and demanded it be removed by April 28, 2018, otherwise a fine of a minimum of €600 (but could be increased to half the estimated cost of car port roof), if it was not removed, the council could cut-off the utilities to the property, send a team in to remove the wood roof and send the bill to B.P. The letter was accompanied by aerial photos of the property dated 2009 and 2012. Big Brother!



The owner visited the town architect with his lawyer for clarification and was told that the wooden columns could remain - three metres from the front boundary - but the roof had to go. Flower pots could be placed on the wooden columns/post but not on the roof! The owner is appealing the decision but does not hold out much hope. (Lack of space prohibits further information, but contact me if you want a link to the Valencian 2014 regulations.)

1st Prize! ©

A woman arrives home from work and her husband notices she's wearing a diamond necklace. He asks his wife, "Where did you get that necklace?" She replies, "I won it in a raffle at work. Go get my bath ready while I start dinner." The next day, the woman arrives home from work wearing a diamond bracelet. Her husband asks, "Where did you get the bracelet?" She replies, "I won it in a raffle at work. Go get my bath ready while I start dinner."

The next day, her husband notices she arrives home from work wearing a mink coat. He says, "I suppose you won that in a raffle at work?" She replies, "Yeah I did! How did you guess? Go get my bath ready while I start supper."

Later after supper, she goes to take her bath and she notices there is only one inch of water in the tub. She yells to her husband, "HEY! There's only an inch of water in the bath!"

He replies, "I didn't want you to get your raffle ticket wet."



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Oz.

Bush Jnr, Bush Snr and Trump are out in the Rose Garden discussing their careers, when all of a sudden a gigantic tornado comes and sweeps them up into the air, only to bring them crashing down a little while later. They get up, dust themselves off, and look out in the distance, where they see the Emerald City. They suddenly realize they're in the land of Oz. "Oh, boy!" says Bush Jnr "I'm going to go see the Wizard and ask him for a brain!"

"Yeah!" says Bush Snr, "And I'm going to ask him for a heart!"

"Hey!" says Trump, looking around. "Where's Dorothy?"

SO YOU THINK YOU'RE TOO YOUNG?

A large number of Brit's who come to Spain to live do so at or near official retirement age. And when it comes to thinking about funeral cover a lot of people decide to leave this idea at the back of their minds until they attain the age of 70 years or more (the magical 3 score years and 10). Sounds like a reasonable plan, you'd think?

But it's not! I say this is because....

A) Who says you will reach 70+ years anyway?

Death has little respect for age, fitness or diet. It's a gamble. But remember you are gambling with your loved ones ability to organise and in some cases pay for your funeral.

B) Some funeral insurance companies will not insure people of 70 years and over.

C) There are some insurance companies where even if you join when younger, may reject you at 70 years, leaving you uninsured and uninsurable.

So, if your under 70 years, start thinking about funeral arrangements now. It is most certainly cheaper with insurance; no large lump sum to pay and you get full and immediate worldwide cover, so no risk for you or your family. Should you think you prefer a Company offering funeral plans just be aware that when you opt to pay over say a 10 year period you will pay a lump sum and you will pay interest. After all that your funeral costs are not covered until the 10 years is paid. You are taking the risk that you will survive that long. If not, your family will be asked to pay any shortfall.

Whatever you decide it is better a decision is made rather than none at all.

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An appropriate English speaking cleric can be arranged to undertake a religious service if required. Floral tributes will also be arranged and two cars will be provided to transport family from home to *tanatorio* and return.

If you are already over 70 years and reading this do not feel like you've missed the boat completely. Rocamer will consider taking new clients onboard up to and including 74 years. And once on, you stay on. As you would expect the cost is a little higher but you can get covered thus protecting your family.

(Should you be considering Residencia you will need Health Insurance. I can assist with this also.)

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- I can't play tennis. My plastic surgeon doesn't want me doing any activity where balls fly at my nose.

- Well, there goes your social life.

Amber and Dionne, *Clueless*



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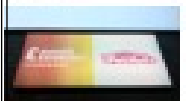
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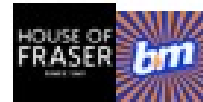
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Dumb Fred!

Fred gets married and on his wedding night he calls his father for some tips on what to do, since he has never been with a woman before, spending too much time on computer games and texting. "So what do I do first?"

His father replied, "Take her clothes off and lay her on the bed."

5 minutes later Fred's on the phone again. "She's naked and in bed, what do I do now???"

His father can't believe what he is hearing, "Take your damn clothes off and get into bed with her."

After another 5 minutes poor Fred is on the phone again. "Dad, I'm naked and in bed with her, what do I do now?"

His dad's patience is now running thin so he says, "Shit, son! Do I have to spell everything out for you? Just put the hardest thing on your body where she pees. Now Goodnight!!!"

Just when the old man starts snoring, his son is on the phone once again. "Ok Dad, I have my head in the toilet bowl what do I do next?"

"DROWN YOURSELF, YOU F**KING IDIOT!"

A Close Shave!

A father passing by his teenage daughter's bedroom was astonished to see the bed was nicely made and everything was neat and tidy.

Then he saw an envelope propped up prominently on the centre of the pillow. It was addressed "Dad". With the worst premonition, he opened the envelope and read the letter with trembling hands:

"Dear Dad,

It is with great regret and sorrow that I'm writing you, but I'm leaving home. I had to elope with my new boyfriend Randy because I wanted to avoid a scene with Mom and you. I've been finding real passion with Randy and he is so nice to me. I know when you meet him you'll like him too – even with all his piercing, tattoos, and motorcycle clothes. But it's not only the passion Dad, I'm pregnant and Randy said that he wants me to have the kid and that we can be very happy together.

Even though Randy is much older than me (anyway, 42 isn't so old these days is it?), and has no money, really these things shouldn't stand in the way of our relationship, don't you agree? Randy has a great CD collection; he already owns a trailer in the woods and has a stack of firewood for the whole winter. It's true he has other girlfriends as well but I know he'll be faithful to me in his own way. He wants to have many more children with me and that's now one of my dreams too. Randy taught me that marijuana doesn't really hurt anyone and he'll be growing it for us and we'll trade it with our friends for all the cocaine and ecstasy we want. In the meantime, we'll pray that science will find a cure for AIDS so Randy can get better; he sure deserves it!!

Don't worry Dad, I'm 15 years old now and I know how to take care of myself. Someday I'm sure we'll be back to visit so you can get to know your grandchildren.

Your loving daughter,
Rosie."

At the bottom of the page were the letters "PTO". Hands still trembling, her father turned the sheet, and read:

PS:

Dad, none of the above is true. I'm over at the neighbours house. I just wanted to remind you that there are worse things in life than my report card that's in my desk centre drawer. Please sign it and call when it is safe for me to come home.

I love you!

Your loving daughter,
Rosie

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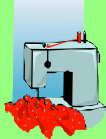


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Duty of care must be upheld.

Parents in Spain who reject medical help for their children could be held accountable by the justice system if this decision causes harm to the child. This is the warning that has come from the latest Supreme Court ruling, which upheld a 15-year prison sentence against a couple for the death of their newborn daughter. The couple had decided to have a home birth without medical assistance, and the baby died when she did not receive the necessary care and was not brought to a doctor when her symptoms worsened. According to the official account, the mother decided that she would give birth at home without the help of a medical professional and the father agreed. After the birth, they did not cut the umbilical cord, clean the secretions or properly wrap up the child. The parents didn't feed her the next day or take her to the hospital despite signs that her life was in danger (she was breathing less frequently and was increasingly still). They only took her to the hospital once she had died.

The warning of the Supreme Court is especially important because in the current case, there is no evidence of a reckless act – which carries a shorter sentence. Instead the parents committed a crime of omission because they failed to take their daughter to a doctor even though the baby showed clear signs she needed help. Her death has been blamed on this failure. Regarding the decision to charge the parents with the more serious crime, the court explained: "Knowing the risk [of a home birth without medical help] and the evident obligation of the caregiver, their passivity is indicative that they accepted the outcome or, at least, were indifferent to it."

For this reason, the court ruled to uphold the 15-year-prison sentence against the mother and father of the deceased child.

Romantic Spanish Nicknames.

So spring is in the air and the thoughts of many turn to romance. The following are some nicknames which might be suitable to communicate with or woo your Spanish sweetheart.

But be warned! Some are most unsuitable for use on natives from more northern and colder climes.

So for example, calling your loved one '*agordi*' (my fatty), would probably earn you a kick in the nuts from your Geordie girlfriend, but to the Spanish it is an affectionate name.

Calling your 'honey-bun' '*mi media naranja*' (my half an orange) means my better half or soulmate and has nothing to do with sourness or sticky.

On much more dangerous ground is the nickname '*chochito*', which is a Spanish slang word for female genitalia and is considered a term of endearment. Just don't use to or in front of your Spanish grandma.

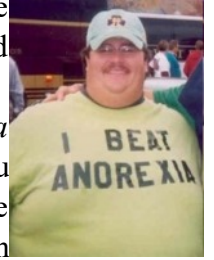
Next '*Pichoncito/a*' (little bird) is a sickly sweet name and not offensive, unless your partner is pumped-up, steroid munching weightlifter.

Calling your loved one '*bicho or bichito*' has nothing to do with 'bitch' but means 'my little insect'. Now that could be a ladybird or a bed-bug!

Other loving nicknames include '*mi cielo or just cielo*' - my sky; '*Mi amor and cariño*' - my love/darling and '*Corazón*' - heart.

But thread carefully, it is very easy to mispronounce some Spanish words, which could all-too-easily land you in the *mierda*!

(Abridged from The Local)



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PUKKA-PIES

A teacher goes up to Patrick in the woodwork class. 'What are you making?' he asks. 'It's a portable,' he replies.

'A portable what?' asks the teacher.

'I don't know,' said Patrick. 'So far I've only made the handle.'

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PHOENIX



Via Park V

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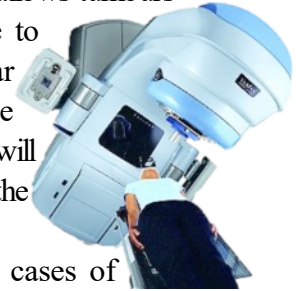
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CANCER TREATMENT GETS BETTER!

The Sant Joan Hospital in Alicante will become the main technological centre in Alicante for the treatment of cancer.

The oncology department at the hospital, which has been in existence for 27 years, will receive investment to the tune of €10 million over the next two years. Six million euros is being donated by the Galician businessman Amancio Ortega, a most generous philanthropist, the remaining four million from the Department of Health in Madrid. These new funds will allow state of the art improvements which could not have been introduced in recent years due to lack of investment.

In the coming months, the two linear accelerators, will be renewed and improved, which will, when completed, allow the IMRT technique to be applied, which allows tumours to be irradiated with minimal damage to healthy tissue. Two new high-end linear accelerators (photo) will also be introduced in 2018 and 2020 which will reduce the toxicity and improve the accuracy when treating patients.



In the Valencian Community, 20,100 cases of cancer are diagnosed every year and it is currently the leading cause of death in Spain. Throughout Spain lung cancer is the leading cause of death in men, with 1,875 deaths, followed by colorectal, with 898 deaths and prostate with 609. In women, colorectal cancer is the cause of most deaths with 667 followed by breast with 645 and lung with 372 deaths.

The new improvements will be life saving.

The Treatment.

A doctor in Dublin wanted to get off work and go fishing, so he approached his male nursing assistant, Murphy, and said, 'Murph, I am going fishing tomorrow and don't want to close the clinic. I want you to take charge of the clinic and take care of all my patients.'

'No problem,' said Murph.

When the doctor returned from his trip he asked Murphy how he got on. Murphy told him that he took care of three patients.

'The first one had a headache, so I gave him some Paracetamol.'

'Sound man!, and the second one?' asked the doctor.

'The second one had indigestion so I gave him some Gaviscon,' said Murphy.

'Bravo!' Said the doctor, 'you're good at this, and what about the third patient?'

'Well,' said Murphy, 'I was sitting here and suddenly the door flies open and this gorgeous woman bursts in, and like a bolt out of the blue, she tears off all her clothes - including her underwear - and lies on the table, spreading her legs and shouts: "For the love of St. Patrick, help me! I have not seen a man for more than five years!"'

'Thundering Jasus,' said the doctor. 'What did you do?'

'I put drops in her eyes.'



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What I look forward to most on returning from a long tour of India is a dry fart.

Cricketer Phil Edmonds

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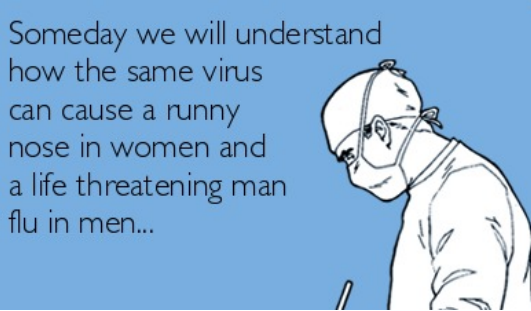
FIND US AT GROUND FLOOR ,VIA PARK 3.

The Killer Flu!

Okay, the headline might be a bit dramatic, but there is no doubt that the flu epidemic in Spain this winter has been deadly. Up to mid-March this year, the National Epidemiological Surveillance Network advises that there have been 791 deaths in Spain this winter due to the virus. This is 87% more than the previous winter - 2016/2017, but almost triple that caused by the 2009 Influenza A (H1N1) pandemic which caused 271 deaths.

The Network, part of the Carlos III Health Institute, also reports that the mortality rate this winter

Someday we will understand how the same virus can cause a runny nose in women and a life threatening man flu in men...



has begun to show a progressive decline during the last seven weeks. The excess of deaths this year is mainly concentrated in those over 64 years and coincides with both the rise of the flu epidemic and the cold wave recorded in Spain in recent weeks.

84% of those affected were older than 64 years, with a median age of 82 years, and 98% had risk factors with complications. 53% of the cases developed pneumonia and of the 680 cases belonging to groups in which vaccination is recommended, 50% had not been vaccinated. Of the 4,858 serious cases hospitalised for influenza & registered up to mid-March, 53% had not received the flu vaccine despite it being recommended, the vast majority of these cases having risk factors for complications, such as chronic cardiovascular disease or diabetes.

Within the UK, using reported cases up to late January, 155 people have died of flu & complications, almost three times more than in the same period last year.

Fortune magazine reports that 4,000 people are dying of flu every week in the US, with up to 40,414 related deaths up to just the third week of 2018!

Considering the easy access and availability of the vaccine here in Spain, there is no



"Everyone is out with the flu, the computers all have a virus and the shredder just threw up."

excuse for refusing the shot. Usual excuses such as 'Oh, that jab gave me the flu' or 'It has too many complications' are just nonsense. Help yourself - GET THE JAB!

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*My husband and I divorced over religious differences.
He thought he was God. I didn't.*



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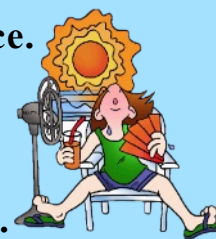


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Problems with Tokyo Olympic Medals.

The medals at the Tokyo 2020 Games will be made out of recycled metals extracted from old phones.

0.048 grams of gold, 0.26 grams of silver and 12 grams of copper¹; the metals recycled from a typical mobile phone that are helping to create approximately 5,000 medals for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020.

Over 80,000 mobile phones and other small electronic devices have already been donated directly to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TMG) building alone, with the organizations involved hoping it will make the nation feel like active participants in the Games. This effort is just one small part of TMG's own challenge to become a more sustainable city for Tokyo 2020 and beyond.

However, research has now shown that if these new metallic medals are firmly rubbed for an unspecified time, they increase in size! This is apparently because of the previous (mobile) users prevalence of visiting porn sites online, and the warmth of manual rubbing causes the medals to expand. The real problem here is that if, for example, a female American shot-putter wins a Bronze and strokes her medal, it might appear larger than the Gold, which would piss-off the Russians no end! (Photos of offending metal medals on page 41.)

Scientists at Porton Down in the UK will assist by investigating this phenomenon after they have identified the various nefarious substances used recently by Russian and North Korean espionage agencies (i.e. after they have got back from the pub!).

Spanish Pension Problems!

There have been many demonstrations by Spanish pensioners throughout Spain in recent weeks. Some have been organised by the trade unions and a large one on March 17 by the pensioner collectives. They see the purchasing power of their pensions being eroded by inflation and small pension increases. The 8.7 million collecting retirement pensions are getting an average state pension of €932 a month, certainly much larger than the average in the UK. However, nearly 110,000 pensioners earn less than €585 a month in 14 monthly payments over the year. The amount paid in retirement pensions in Spain varies from €600 to €2,600 a month. More than 2.1 million get between €600 and €900 a month and 700,000 get between €2,100 and €2,600 a month.

Over recent years the Spanish government has been robbing the pension reserves to fund other programs. According to the IMF, 'The future of Spanish pensions depends on millions of new immigrants.'

They calculate that over the next three decades, some 5.5 million new foreign residents will be needed to sustain the Social Security accounts. With a falling birth rate among the indigenous Spanish, one can only imagine the demographic and social problems which lie ahead!

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The Power of Prayer.

A woman was asked to give a talk on the power of prayer to her local women's group. With her husband sitting in the audience, she recounted how they had turned to God when her husband suffered an unfortunate accident.

"Three months ago," she began, "my husband Colin was knocked off his bicycle and his scrotum was smashed. The pain was excruciating and the doctors didn't know if they could help him. They warned that our lives might never be the same again. Colin was unable to get close to either me or the children and every move caused him enormous discomfort. It meant we could no longer touch him around the scrotum.

"So we prayed that the doctors would be able to repair him. Fortunately our prayers were answered and they were able to piece together the crushed remnants of Colin's scrotum and wrap wire around it to hold it in place. They said he should make a complete recovery and regain full use of his scrotum." As the audience burst into spontaneous applause, a lone man walked up to the stage. He announced: "Good afternoon. My name is Colin, and I just want to tell my wife once again that the word is 'sternum'."

The Phoenix Golf Society

We played at New Sierra Golf Course on Sunday 18th March and the weather was dry but very windy, almost gale force at times, but everyone enjoyed the day.

Nearest the Pin winners were:

HOLE 3 - JOHN WALLS who missed on the "two's competition by 1" inch.

HOLE 12 - IAN GRANT

Overall winner was DARYL D'SILVA

We had a new member playing with us, Joe Mills, who enjoyed his game and the company.

We returned to the PHOENIX BAR to lovely grub supplied by Donna & Paul - many thanks again.

We would also like to say a 'Fond Farewell' to Terry Dunn and his wife who will be returning to the UK.

Dave Wightman



'Cattle prod!'

The best thing that can be said for France is that it's not Germany.

Anon.

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What's the difference between a nympho, a hooker and a wife?
The nympho says, 'You're done already?'
The hooker says, 'Are you done yet?'
And the wife says, 'Beige, I think I'll paint the ceiling beige.'



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*Normal people believe that if it ain't broke, don't fix it.
Engineers believe that if it ain't broke, it doesn't have enough features yet.*

Scott Adams

34 As Brexit starts to bite, more and more Brit's are selling up and leaving Spain.*

According to Spain's National Statistics Institute (INE), in the last five years, the number of British residents in Spain has dropped from 397,892 to 240,785 – a fall of 157,107. Part of the reduction is to do with the new regulation on municipal enrolment in Spanish regions. Official figures show that while the number of residents from 15 EU-countries (before eastern European countries joined the EU) in Spain has fallen by 25%, the number of British expats has dropped by 40%.

The INE's migration statistics also show that 102,367 British residents left Spain between the beginning of 2012 and 2017. While each year people from the United Kingdom continue to move to Spain – 88,799 in the same period – the number of Brit's leaving the country now outnumbers those who arrive. It's a complete reverse of the previous trend, where between 2008 and 2012, 40,454 more Britons arrived in Spain than left. The number of residents and the migration balance reflect a negative trend to differing extents.

Experts indicate that the drop in British residents is due to two main factors. Firstly, changes to municipal enrolment rules revealed that there were tens of thousands of Brit's who were registered in Spain but who weren't in the country, either because they had gone back home or had died without the town hall being informed. Town halls benefit from having more residents – more residents mean more funding – but there is no incentive to encourage people to enrol on the *padrón*, as the municipal register is known.

But changes introduced in early 2010 mean that municipalities must now confirm if a person is still in the area every two years, or every five years if the person is listed in the Central Registry of Foreigners. This has led to the second factor that experts argue is responsible for the disparity in official numbers: municipal enrolment now leaves out EU-members who continue living in Spain but who have not applied for residency. Many mayors in Spain – including the mayor of Torrevieja, José Manuel Dolón – support this argument.

In this case, it is in the town hall's best interest to ensure people enrol. Those with a large population of EU-residents have launched widespread education campaigns, including telephone calls, to encourage registration.

The drop in the official number of Brit's has been particularly severe in the region of Valencia, which was the first massive residential destination for British people in Spain.

In the past five years, the number has nearly halved: from 145,652 to 75,054. Andalucía has also lost many British people but not as many, and is now the Spanish region with the largest British community.

Brit's in Spain believe the impact of Brexit will also force many more to leave. "I don't know if I will return. It will depend on how our health coverage ends up," says Patricia Mary Sawers, a 69-year-old former admin worker at Cambridge University who has lived in Pedreguer in Alicante since she retired. "Now the care is excellent but we don't know if we will continue receiving public healthcare here after the United Kingdom leaves the European Union. It's a big question," she adds, while sipping a cup of tea.

Although the Valencian premier Ximo Puig has assured British people that they will continue receiving public healthcare in the region after Brexit, the issue will be decided in the negotiations between Brussels and London, or bilaterally between Spain and the United Kingdom.

The falling number of UK residents in Spain is also linked to the loss of purchasing power. As a closed community with members who tend to frequent their own bars, restaurants, stores and clubs, the Brit's were buffered to a degree from the effects of the financial crisis. But this attitude has worsened the impact of the fall in the pound, as pensioners have less to spend at these establishments, argues Carmen Ródenas, a lecturer at the University of Alicante.

As the community gets older – many Brit's arrived to the Mediterranean Coast when they were over 65 at the beginning of 2000 – and are left widowed, there has been a greater push to return home, says Jordi Giner, a professor at the University of Valencia, who wrote doctoral thesis on the subject.

(*Abridged from El País)

Although some have left, there are still many more Brit's either moving or hoping to move to Spain. Many existing residents have been knocked-off the *padron* for no reason. Last year I noticed and spoke to the *Policia Local* who were touring this urbanisation checking to see if the various properties were visibly occupied. If you had been shopping and had your blinds down when they visited, that was enough to be knocked off the list, unless a neighbour spoke up for you! Many full time residents here now are unaware that they have been removed from the *padron*. It will only come to light when they apply for an up-to-date copy! (Mick)

Ye-Ha Honeymoon!

A cowboy and his wife had just been married and went to a hotel for their honeymoon. The man went to the front desk and asked for a room. He said, 'This here is a very special 'casion - our wedding night - and we need a good room and a strong bed. The clerk winked and asked, 'Do you want the Bridal, Sir?'

Tex thought about it for a while and then replied, 'No, I guess not, I'll just hold onto her ears until she gets used to it!'

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Bearded!

A man and his wife had worked hard, scrimped and saved, in order to send their son to college and university. As soon as the lad had enrolled at university, he started to grow a beard. Next he grew a large moustache and sideburns. Being pleased with his new hirsute adornment, he had his photo taken and sent it off to his parents. On the back of the photo he scrawled: "How do you like it? Some of my friends think it makes me look like a Count."
A few days later he received a short letter from his father, saying, "Dear Son, Your mother and I are a little disappointed. We feel that the growth doesn't suit you but, if you like it then so be it. When considering the cost of educating you, we are further saddened that you can't even spell....."

IDIOTS OF THE MONTH

This young man in southwestern China decided to pee on the buttons of the elevator control panel. Unfortunately



for him, it shorted the system and the lift got stuck, his dirty deed being caught on camera. His parents had to pay for the damage. The video was published in one of the official accounts that the Chinese government has on the Weibo social network under the title: 'Stop being a thug'. I would have imagined the punishment for such a deed in North Korea would have been much more dramatic!

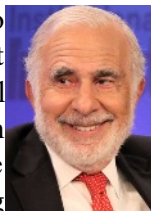
During the recent Italian elections in Milan, an activist of the Femen group surprised former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi as he was about to vote when he was confronted by a bare-chested lady standing on the voting table and shouting



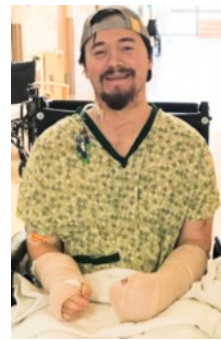
and shouting

"Berlusconi, your time has expired." But what a waste of time! Berlusconi would not be surprised by this behaviour and has probably having paid good money in the past for such a welcome. I bet he left her his phone number!

President Trump's decision to impose crippling tariffs on the imports of steel and aluminium took many by surprise — particularly investors, as the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed the day's trading down more than 400 points, or 1.7%, at 24,608. However, one billionaire investor and former Trump adviser, Carl Icahn, photo, was calm, having dumped a million shares tied to the steel industry a week before the president announced 25% tariffs for foreign-made steel in early March 2018. In late February, Icahn sold off his \$31.3 million stake in the Manitowoc Company, which is a leading global manufacturer of cranes for heavy construction at \$34 per share. A week later following Trump's public announcement, the shares dropped to \$26 each. All perfectly innocent of course, and the fact that Icahn had not dealt in these shares since January 2015 is neither here nor there. So who are the idiots here?



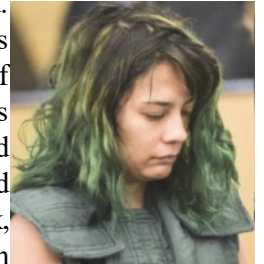
Alex Lovell, a 29-year-old living in Clarke County in the US is frankly, a bit of a dick. Alex, photo, spends between



12 and 13 hours every day playing "PlayerUnknown's Battleground" a multiplayer online fighting game.

However, Alex's live-in girlfriend of two years, 30-year-old Emily Javier, suspected that he was having an affair as she noticed he had the Tinder dating app on his phone, scratches on his back and she noticed red hair in the shower drain. Emily, photo, who has green hair,

then went and bought a Samurai sword and two knives and taped them underneath their bed.



Finally, frustrated further by his constant game playing and by lack of attention, she waited until he was asleep one night, dragged the sword from beneath the bed and started hacking. During the savage attack, Alex managed to get a bear hug on

Emily and get her to phone the emergency services.

Doctors were able to reattach Lovell's fingers where they were nearly hacked off at the base. He also suffered wounds to his feet, legs, torso, neck and head. His right arm is in a cast. Members of the local gaming scene set up a GoFundMe page for his medical bills reaching the goal of \$10,000. Lovell said he anticipates a long road to recovery. It could be six months until he's walking again, and he will require extensive physical therapy to regain the full use of his hands. "The feeling I had when I won the fight with my bare hands is just absolutely the best feeling," he said. "I've played all the sports, won big games, landed some decent tricks on my snowboard. This was better."

Javier's trial is set for May 7. She remains detained in the Clark County jail. Her bail is set at \$350,000, and she could do with a new boyfriend.

Finally we take a look at management/employee relations in Spain, in a department store of the Elche owned sport's firm Sprinter. This particular store in Asturias was managed according to Dickensian norms. How would you like it if your boss turned off the staff refrigerator and remove the microwave so that the workers could not use it? And leave only the emergency lights of the work break room on to prevent staff from enjoying their work break? Would you be willing to cancel two weeks of vacation, with the flight tickets and hotels overseas already paid, because your boss tells you the day before that he had changed his mind and denied the leave? Two workers also lost a days pay when they were sent home for painting moustaches on two staff photos in the warehouse. Workers were also forced to do a SWOT analysis focusing only on the negative aspects of their colleague's work performance. One of the workers took their case to the Superior Court of Justice of Asturias - which dismissed it, but the company itself sided with the workers and sacked two of the middle managers. Well done, Sprinter!

Lime Bar Fishing SUNBATHING Club

The weather can't make it's mind up this year, a couple of cold days followed by a couple of scorchers then rain. Even the processionary caterpillars got it wrong this year. Their nests appeared earlier than normal at the end of December, and then were hit by the frosts, rain and fluctuating temperatures. As a result, we have seen very few on the ground this year. Good for the dogs running off the lead!

The March meeting was another quickie at only 30 minutes to decide where we wanted to fish this month!

This month's match was fished at El Bosquet again. This was the last chance to score points to decide which 6 anglers would go into the final. We had a good turn out with more than half the club on the bank. We have several "mature" members and the cold mornings can knock them for six, so maybe they were all out to score points just to thwart 3 rods' last ditch attempt to get into the final.... It was good to see Snapper out for the first time this season also Punchy on the bank again (with his assistant Terry). As it turned out 3 rods just scraped through, just beating anti social by 3 points. It wasn't anti social's day. After being dropped at his peg by new boy Pete, he realised he had left his bait in the car and had to walk on his dodgy pins over to the far side of the complex to retrieve it. Then being a woosy, he put his umbrella up only to have it blown away. Thank you Fagin for recovering it. Unfortunately, ball boy was in bed with "man flu", if he had made it to the match and caught just 1 fish, he would have beaten 3 rods into the final. Unlucky mate. In the previous 2 matches Phil and I had alternated in 1st and 2nd spots so I was hoping to beat him this time. We drew pegs next to each other on the oblong so we could see what each other were catching. The bugger pipped me into 2nd spot again by half a kilo. Phil had 5.78 kilos to my 5.35. Fagin came 3rd with 1.62 kilos.

The points league wasn't rigged (honest), but the 6 finalist were all club committee members! From 1st to 6th they were Phil, Ghost, Fagin, Fagash, just John & 3 rods. Well-done Phil.

We agreed to fish the final at Bigastro using a roving draw. Numbers 1 to 6 went into the hat and whoever picked number 1 had the 1st choice of any peg, number 2 had the 2nd choice etc. Befitting the points league results, Phil drew number 1 and 3 rods drew number 6. As Phil had fished the favoured peg 2 in the past and had some good results, that was his choice. Just John who had 2nd pick decided to fish peg 14, because it is my favourite the sod!

It was another good day weather wise. The forecast showers held off, the wind wasn't too strong and the sun was burning my neck until it went behind a cloud with the sudden temperature drop. My day didn't start off very well, as I was plumbing the depth of my swim, a huge pair of Nora Batty's cotton knickers came drifting down the river snagging my gear. It took ages to drag them in and must have weakened my line as on my 2nd cast, I snagged the bottom and lost a float.... As per usual, the Bigastro match day demon was about again with the fish hard to find and then would only feed for about an hour before disappearing again. The carp were few but their weights made up for it, with both just John and Fagash catching carp over 3 kilos.

Just John won with 7 fish for 7.42 kilos (from my peg 14 - b*^%*^*d), 2nd came Fagash with 3 fish for 7.26 kilos, 3rd was Ghost with 5 fish for 4 kilos. Phil who won the league and had 1st choice of pegs blanked! Oh well, that's why it's called fishing, not catching. Roll on summer.

Next meeting bun fight is at The Lime Bar @ 17.00 Mon 2nd April.

Fishy fingers!
The Ghost

The Sexless Sect!

Three couples went in to see the minister to see how to become members of his strict religious sect. The minister said that they would have to go without sex for two weeks and then come back and tell him how it went. The first couple was retired, the second couple was middle-aged and the final couple was newlywed. Two weeks went by, and the couples returned to the minister. The retired couple said it was no problem at all. The middle-aged couple said it was tough for the first week, but after that, it was no problem. The newlyweds said it was fine until she dropped the can of paint.

"CAN OF PAINT!" exclaimed the minister. "Yeah," said the newlywed man. "She dropped the can and when she bent over to pick it up I had to have her right there and then. Lust took over!"

The minister just shook his head and said that they were not welcome in the church.

"That's okay," said the man. "We're not welcome in Leroy Merlin either."



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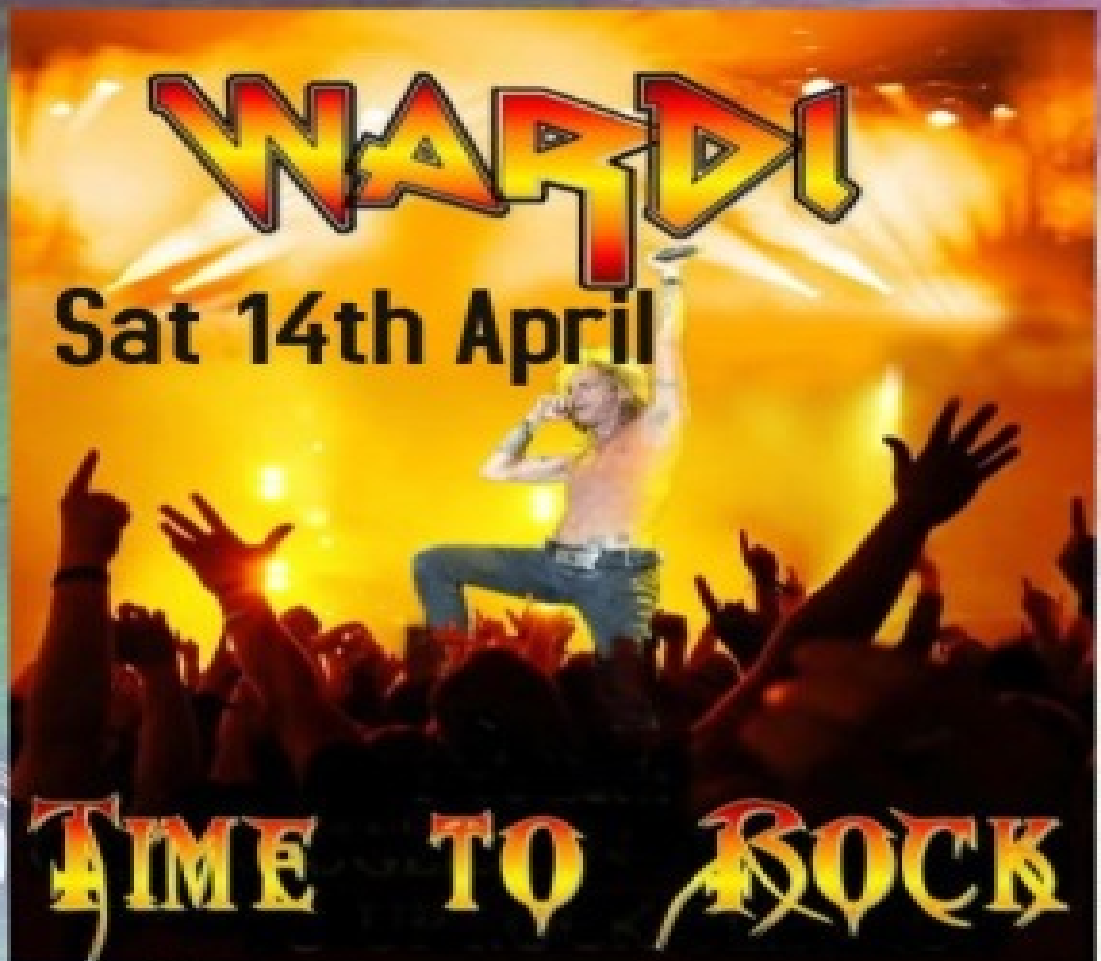


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I had a guy at a gas station in New York say to me, 'Hey, you look like Hugh Grant. No offence.'
Hugh Grant

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HAVING A BAD DAY? COULD BE WORSE!

There was a case in one New York hospital's Intensive Care ward where patients always died in the same bed, on Sunday morning, at about 11am, regardless of their medical problem.

This puzzled the doctors and some even thought that it had to do with the supernatural. No one could solve the mystery as to why the deaths occurred at that time. So a worldwide team of expert was assembled to investigate the cause of the incidents.

The next Sunday morning, a few minutes before 11am, all doctors and nurses nervously wait inside the ward to see for themselves what the terrible phenomenon was all about. Some were holding rabbits' feet, wooden crosses, menorahs, prayer books and other holy objects to ward off any evil. Just when the clock struck 11, Shorty Johnson, the part-time Sunday cleaner, entered the ward and unplugged the life-support system so that he could use the outlet for the vacuum cleaner.

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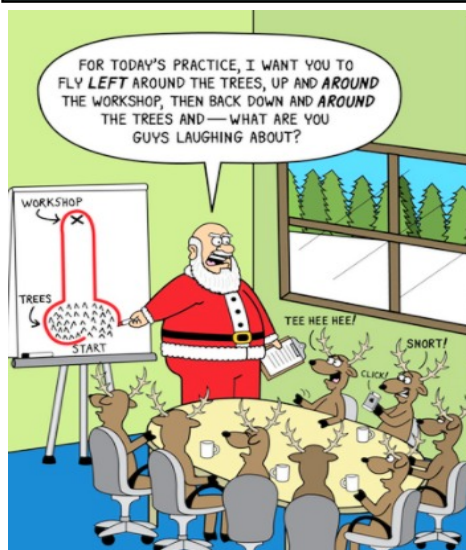
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The editor, Mick, can be contacted at mick.dreamscene@gmail.com or at 586 Dream Hills. (Or in some Bar!)