



THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER



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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the May, 2018 edition. Issue No.131 .

As Alicante has entered its **fifth year of drought**, the Government promises more desalinated water for the province, but warns that the EU won't supply a grant. Isabel García Tejerina, Spain's Minister of Agriculture, Fishers, Food and Environment, said pipeline water transfers from el Tajo will start during May and promises that an additional €45 million will be spent on desalination plant in Torrevieja to increase the supply to 120 cubic hectometres, that's 120 million cubic metres! The Tajo(Tagus)-Segura Water Transfer is one of the largest works of hydraulic engineering ever produced in Spain. Water from the Tagus River is channelled through this transfer system from the reservoirs of Entrepeñas in Guadalajara and Buendía in Cuenca, into the Talave Reservoir on the Mundo River, a tributary of the Segura River. This pipeline supplies both Murcia and Alicante, at the rate of 9.83 cubic meters per second. During April, 20 cubic hectometres was transferred, and the contributions of May and June, at another 20 cubic hectometres per month, until completing the 60 cubic hectometres approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and Environment

Although the water transfer is not popular with environmentalists, the Tagus-Segura Water Transfer makes intensive farming possible in the Spanish southeast, consequently placing the region among the

largest European outdoor producers of out-of-season crops. For this reason, it is widely known as the "vegetable garden of Europe."

Some Spanish **air traffic controllers are threatening to strike** in summer – the controllers in Barcelona voted on April 20 to stop work despite their workforce being numerically increased. Any strike there would affect Cataluña, Baleares and Valencia. But no doubt the French air traffic controllers will once again become very vocal during the summer season.

The British are still the **main single foreign property purchasers** in Spain. Last year British buyers bought 9,114 properties here. However, these purchases during 2017 were down by 10% on the previous year's figures, despite year on increases every other year. This drop mean a decrease of at least €100 million to the various coffers in Spain!

The closest other nationalities behind the British buyers were the French with 5,300 deals; the Germans with 4,744 and the Belgians with 3,914. Sweden comes next with 3,902 purchases; Italy with 3,530, China with 2,647 and Russia with 1,750.

Many, many thanks to the following for the 'extra' towards printing costs on top of the usual sub's: Adrian & Pat C, Lynn L, Ulf & Stina, John K, Dave & Justine, Bjorn & Inge, Kathryn J, Dave & Sue P, Ellen & Davey, Mandy & Mark.

Wishing you all a wonderful month. Mick & Tid

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Angela's Cartoon



'His wife's spring cleaning and throwing out all the useless crap she doesn't need!'

I once dated a guy who was so dumb he couldn't count to 21 unless he was naked.

Joan Rivers



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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

...loneliness is a serious problem world wide? Every aging society faces distinct challenges. But Japan, with the world's oldest population (27.3% of its citizens are 65 or older, almost twice the share in the U.S.), has been dealing with one it didn't foresee: senior crime. Complaints and arrests involving elderly people, and women in particular, are taking place at rates above those of any other demographic group. Almost 1 in 5 women in Japanese prisons is a senior. Their crimes are usually minor—9 in 10 senior women who've been convicted were found guilty of shoplifting.

Caring for Japanese seniors once fell to families and communities, but that's changing. From 1980 to 2015, the number of seniors living alone increased more than sixfold, to almost 6 million. And a 2017 survey by Tokyo's government found that more than half of seniors caught shoplifting live alone; 40% either don't have family or rarely speak with relatives. These people often say they have no one to turn to when they need help.

Sad as their plight is, prison appears to offer the aged lonely there, community and stability. The companionship of other inmates, regular food and reasonable healthcare are the attractions. But expenses associated with elder care helped push annual medical costs at correctional facilities past 6 billion yen (more than \$50 million) in 2015, an 80% increase from a decade before. Specialized workers have been hired to help older inmates with bathing and visits to the toilet during the day, but at night these tasks are handled by guards. At some facilities, being a correctional officer has come to resemble being a nursing-home attendant. However, more than a third of

female correctional officers quit their jobs within three years.

One 80-year-old prison inmate commented, 'I can't tell you how much I enjoy working in the prison factory. The other day, when I was complimented on how efficient and meticulous I was, I grasped the joy of working. I regret that I never worked. My life would have been different. I enjoy my life in prison more. There are always people around, and I don't feel lonely here. When I got out the second time, I promised that I wouldn't go back. But when I was out, I couldn't help feeling nostalgic.'

...a huge asteroid about the size of a football field narrowly missed earth on Saturday April 14? NASA scientists noticed the massive asteroid at an observatory in Arizona just 21 hours before it gave Earth a surprise flyby. Travelling around 106,000 kilometres per hour (66,000 miles per hour) the asteroid was as far away from Earth as half the average distance between Earth and the Moon. Once or twice a week, scientists will notice an asteroid that gets closer than the distance to the Moon. The difference is, those asteroids are usually about the size of a bus, or maybe a house. The asteroid during April, Asteroid 2018 GE3, was roughly 3.6 times the size of the one that cleared 2,000 square kilometres (500,000 acres) of Siberian forest in 1908. And that particular asteroid was estimated to have produced about 185 times more energy than the Hiroshima atomic bomb.

You can read more (on what could have been a major world disaster) here -

<https://www.sciencealert.com/giant-football-field-size-asteroid-surprise-flyby-earth>

There is a dramatic shift in opinions and voting preferences for political parties in Spain at present. El Mundo published the results of a poll by Sigma Dos, which indicate that the **Ciudadanos Party (Citizens)** would take significant votes from the two main parties, the conservative PP and the Socialist PSOE. (Podemos voters are likely to always vote Socialist anyway - and would probably be a 'dream party' for Corbyn in the UK, but that is a personal view.) The poll indicated that if a general election was held at that time, the results for the major political parties would indicate the following results:

- Ciudadanos 26.7% (up 16.6%)
- PP 23.2% (down 9.7%)
- PSOE 19.7% (down 3.0%)
- United Podemos (looney left) 18.4% (down 2.7%).

Ciudadanos was formed in Catalonia in July 2006, seeing itself as a centre-left party, although the left-leaning media see him as centre-right.

Headed by Alberto Rivera, photo,



the party is the largest single party in Catalonia, gaining 25% of the votes in the 2017 regional election. The party uses the phrase "Catalonia is my homeland, Spain is my country and Europe is our future" to outline the party's ideology. It is strongly opposed to Catalan nationalism. Launching the Citizen's campaign for the Parliament of Catalonia in 2006, Rivera published a number of leaflets where he posed naked (photo) alongside the caption: "We don't care where you were born. We don't care which language you speak. We don't care what kind of clothes you wear. We care about you". Can you imagine Corbyn, May, Rajoy or Merkel doing this? Yikes.....the nightmares!

Okay, I hear you saying, 'Mick, this sounds like a Party Political Broadcast! What's up?' Well, the interesting thing is that throughout Spain, Ciudadanos, although still not a majority party in either the municipal (including Orihuela), regional or national government groups, they have, by forming temporary alliances with the various political groups, been able to introduce significant reforms nationwide. This has resulted in many new initiatives, ranging from demanding anti-corruption practices while supporting the PP in Madrid, to supporting the Socialists in Andalusia as long as they introduced reductions to the penal inheritance tax there. The party continues to 'punch above its weight nationally' and hopefully will continue to do so, bringing in badly needed reforms. Many Spaniards are now sick of the corruption, lying and ineffectiveness of the two traditional big parties and who can blame them.



IVA/VAT charged on cultural events such as movies and theatre has finally been **reduced from 21% to 10%** after six years of complaints. The higher tax was introduced during the austerity period.

Foreign tourism has fallen in Andalucía, including the Costa del Sol, for the first time after 33 months of growth. The region has lost business to the recovering and cheaper markets of Turkey, Tunisia and Egypt. German tourists are believed to be a major factor here.

The Alicante Province registered 3,179 homesales in the month of February, 2018. **For every new build that was sold there were seven re-sales completed.** However, the province of Alicante in the region of Valencia leads in family poverty with over 22% of homes affected and many families unable to afford accommodation.

Only 36% of the Spanish members of Congress have any business experience. 78% of the socialist parliamentarians have never worked outside the public sector, while nearly 70% of Ciudadanos, the centralist and fastest rising party in Spain, have come from the private sector.

Former **Corvera landowners are to be compensated** with €22 million plus interest in 2019 for the land expropriated for the new airport in 2008.

There have been over **60 earthquakes** so far this year in the Alhama de Murcia and Mula areas of the Region of Murcia. The latest, on April 7, reached 3.6 on the Richter scale.

Who give a hoot?

Night after night, a keen ornithologist stood in his backyard hooting like an owl. After weeks of getting no reply, he suddenly heard an owl hoot back at him. He was overjoyed at the response and for the next nine months man and bird kept up a regular dialogue of hooting. He was fascinated by his ability to relate to a wild creature and kept a detailed record of all their conversations.

Just when he was about to take his findings to the Natural History Society, his wife happened to be talking to a neighbour who lived four doors away.

"My husband spends his night calling to owls," she confided.

"That's funny," said the neighbour. "So does mine!"

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Two Chinese dudes break into a distillery. One turns to the other and says, 'Is this Whiskey?'
The other one says, 'Yes, but not as Whiskey as wobbling a bank!'

Tom Ward



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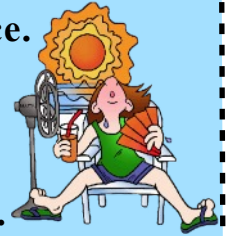
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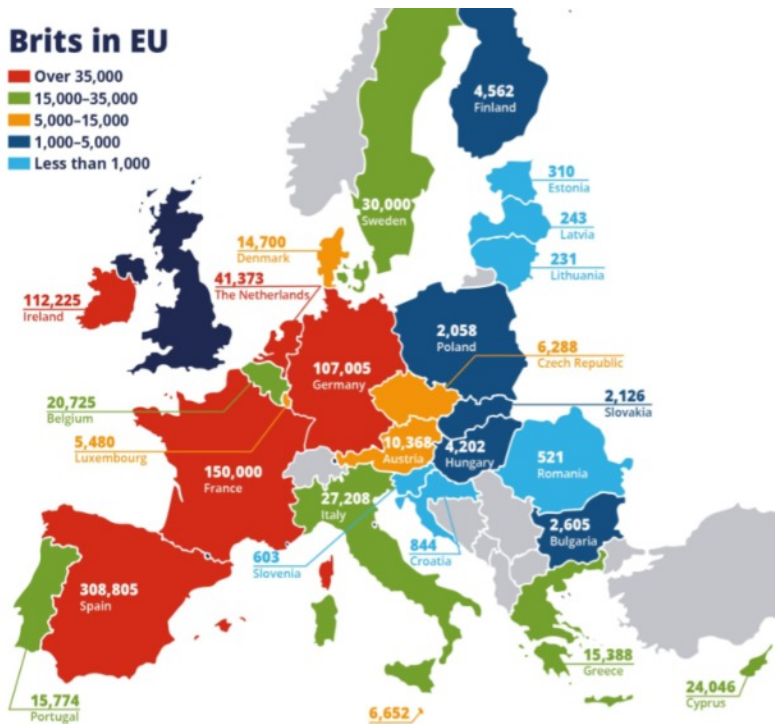
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The above gives a graphic example of the British distribution throughout the EU. I would expect that these figures relate to individuals who have registered in the various countries, and that the unregistered, probably many thousands, are not included.

The inefficiency, chaos and continued cruelty (Windrush), highlighted by the tenures of May and Rudd at the British Home Office offers few if any assurances to EU citizens living in the UK. Let's hope that a 'tit-for-tat' response does not emerge against British expats throughout the EU after Brexit.

Water, water, everywhere.....

Spanish airport authority Aena has taken note of the most common complaint from passengers: overpriced water. Aena is going to force all operators of vending machines and convenience stores in Spanish airports to sell small water bottles for no more than €1, sources at Aena told EL PAÍS.

This condition has been included in the terms of the new tenders to acquire commercial space in the airports. Convenience stores and vending machines will have to sell 300-millilitre bottles at that price. Half a litre bottles, typically sold in vending machines, will also cost €1.

Aena has also responded to requests for more free drinking fountains and is planning to place more units in its airports. There are currently 193 water fountains in the airport network – 41 in common areas and 152 in the passenger boarding zones.



6 What's Up? continued

London has overtaken New York in the **number of killings** taken place in this year up to early April - 48! Knife crime there appears to be epidemic!

The **drug running in Spain** has led to lawlessness in parts of the south. 200 residents of La Línea, north of the Gibraltar-Spain border (or should we call it 'Dodge City?'), gathered there to stop police detaining a drug-runner.

The various cooperatives in Ibiza are to share out a further **200 snake traps** in an effort to combat the rapid rise in the snake population there, many of whom are not indigenous to the island.

During 2017, more than **5,400 people** have been arrested in the Balearic Islands following positive tests for alcohol or drugs. There were 1,881 positive drug tests.

The Balearics continue to reap the good with the bad when it comes to tourism. Massive tourist related income has made it impossible for many of the locals to rent or buy property. In Mallorca alone, the addition of **54,000 rented cars** during August does little to alleviate the already congested roads. Local government are unable or unwilling to control the rental numbers, saying the matter is 'complicated,' i.e. - many of the officials own rental firms!

Many Spanish holiday destinations are attempting to spruce up their image during the high season. The city of Marbella is to **fine those** who walk bare-chested in the streets this summer.

A joint operation of the Civil Guard and the Tax Agency in Castellon has detected a criminal plot that managed to defraud more than 25 million euros in the **non-payment of VAT on alcoholic beverages**. The operation, called 'Spirit', has resulted in the arrest of 43 people. The Guardias also seized alcoholic beverages worth more than four million euros, together with 12 expensive vehicles and an unmarked firearm.

A female director of a geriatric facility in Torreveja, Maria Ignacia IB, has been sentenced to three years in jail. She acted as power-of-attorney for an old man there in 2003, when she sold three property plots belonging to the old man for **€54,000 and kept the money**, buying a new Jaguar car with part of the proceeds.

Meanwhile in Austria, members of parliament from the ruling right-wing coalition voted to overturn a smoking ban in bars and restaurants. I wonder if this will actually happen.

RANT: Although I am not (now) a smoker, the regular coming and goings of smokers in bars here in Spain can be particularly annoying, and it generally, but not exclusively, seems to be the ladies! What should be a haven of conviviality, tranquility and sociability has become more like a bus station, with the constant coming and going. If you leave your seat at the bar for ten or 15 minutes, can you expect to keep it on your return and then do the same thing five or six times an evening? Okay, when one needs to go to the loo, one can expect to return to your seat, but if you were to go five or six times an evening, you should be in hospital!

Now, many bar staff smoke - I have no problem with that unless I am waiting for service while the bar staff are smoking and gabbing outside instead of doing their job. Also, I am aware of only one bar person locally who washes their hands before serving, after enjoying a ciggy.

If you can name the person and bar - advising me by email - I will set you up with two of your favourite drinks there. And only one winner will be chosen, probably in a total arbitrary and corrupt manner! Heck! I might even win! Estamos in España!

The district of San Vicente del Raspeig, north of the city of Alicante has **banned the opening of new fuel service stations for a period of two years**. There appeared to have been a spate of new petrol stations in the area - 14 in all. This has led to many complaints from neighbouring residential properties concerning the noise from the stations, particularly the car washes and gas canister movements. The council will now draw up a plan defining location and requirements for new petrol stations. This may take up to two years. There are already on hold 19 applications for new petrol stations in the locality.

29 kilos of plastic waste were found in the stomach of a dead young sperm whale which was washed ashore at Cabo de Palos in Murcia. Much of the plastic, photo, could have been in the whale's stomach for many years.



I once had a large gay following,
but I ducked into an alleyway and lost him.
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LIME BAR GOLF SCORES - APRIL 2018

On a very windy day at Saurines de la Torre, a hardy bunch of 22 golfers faced the elements for a challenging round of golf. Despite the conditions some respectable rounds of golf ensued. Played in the Stableford format the following scores were recorded.

GOLD CLASS

1st JOHN WILLIAMS 35pts
2nd DAVE WRIGHT 33pts
3rd KEN STYAN 31pts (CB)

SILVER CLASS

1st EDDIE ALLAN 32pts (CB)
2nd JOHN NICOLL 32pts
3rd NEV GREENWOOD 27pts

NEAREST THE PIN

HOLE 3 STEVE BIRKETT
HOLE 7 ROGER LILES
HOLE 10 NEV GREENWOOD
HOLE 14 KEN STYAN
HOLE 18 EDDIE ALLAN



Several KNOCK OUT COMPETITION matches ran concurrently with the above with the following players reaching the next round: JOHN MCGREGOR, ARTHUR JONES, KEN FARROW and MIKE HEIGHWAY - congratulations all. A good, if a bit windy day's golf returning to the Lime Bar for presentations and refreshments.

A warm thanks to the Lime Bar Staff especially Carly and Sue and to the ladies for the football draw.

Eddie Allan



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My brother took going to jail really badly. He refused all offers of food and drink, spat and swore at anyone who came near him, and smeared the walls with his own shit. After that, we never played Monopoly again. (Noel T.)

Tragically, a **young boy died** on one of our beaches on Tuesday, April 3. Much of what was reported locally was inaccurate, the following being the facts.

A seven and a half year old boy and others were throwing a rugby ball to each other on the Cala Bosque beach in Orihuela Costa. The hard ball hit the youngster on the head and he collapses immediately. A gentleman working in the nearby chiringuito (now closed) immediately administered first aid and an emergency call was made. The police arrived within 10 minutes and the first ambulance manned by basic vital service staff within 20 minutes. Another ambulance, this time with a doctor, arrived after another 20 minutes, possibly from Orihuela. The child was then taken to the heli-pad at the private hospital, Quirón, in Torrevieja and then moved by helicopter to the Alicante General Hospital and was later officially declared dead.

This tragic event has highlighted a number of issues. Firstly, the delays caused by the ambulance service are clearly inadequate. But this is where the Spanish curse of regionalism once again comes to the fore. Emergency services are not organised nor introduced by the local government, but by the shambolic multi-party regional government in Valencia. Orihuela Town Hall has formally contacted the regional government on three occasions demanding better emergency services for the coast. Even when the new Emergency Centre is built in Orihuela Costa, the existing minimum establishment of emergency vehicles will remain the same unless the Valencian Government agrees to increase it!

The second thing which concerns me about this mess is, why was the child brought to the Quirón Hospital facilities and not Torrevieja Hospital? Was the emergency service at the hospital in Torry too busy to cope with this? And Quirón are surely not geared to respond to emergency situations.

A lorry carrying **five circus elephants** overturned on the A-30 just north of the Murcian border in late March. See photos.



One elephant died in the crash. Another was seriously injured, the other three with minor injuries. The dead elephant was later winched away by crane, the others being taken to a holding area until proper transport was organised.



Airbnb has 3,153 apartments for rent in Torrevieja that generate one million euros per month. The properties on the beach front of Los Locos, El Cura and around the bay are the most abundant in the online offers. Its accommodation potential reaches up to 250,000 places. The economic impact of the Airbnb rental platform for Torrevieja has been 20 million euros in only 21 months - from February 2016 to October 2017- as revealed in a study by the University of Alicante.

The **chiringuitos** (beach bars) on **Orihuela Costa** are closed at present. The contract for their renewal which also included that for the sunbeds, umbrellas, toilets, etc., finished in mid-November, 2017. The facilities were then reopened for the Easter break but councillor Luisa Boné, who now has responsibility for the beaches, already announced that she refused to extend the concession to the current contractor, Chiringuitos del Sol SL, because of a court case involving them and the then councillor for the Greens, Martina Scheurer, alleging that the awarding of the contract was fraudulently rigged. Even if a new tender process started immediately, it would take a minimum of two months, according to a council source, to choose a new contractor. The outgoing operator, Chiringuitos del Sol, is lobbying intensively to get the lucrative contract back and has launched an email address asking for comments - serviciosplayaorihuela@hotmail.com

It seems that when the original contract expired last November, the Contracts Dept in Orihuela did not inform any of the parties involved, although I would imagine Chiringuitos del Sol were fully aware. All in all, beach bars, sunbeds, etc., are unlikely for most of the summer on the Orihuela Costa! Such incompetence!

Despite increases in flights and passengers at **San Javier Airport** and its closure on the opening of Corvera Airport (still to be announced), the airlines have placed on sale 1,127,000 tickets until November, an annual growth of 5.8% - reopening routes to Frankfurt and Brussels and maintaining the 14 flights to the UK.

The **Cruz Roja (Red Cross)** are to open an office in Orihuela Costa. The new office will be based in the Reading Point at Ramon de Campoamor. The Spanish Red Cross are very active with a large portfolio of activities which includes dealing with the disabled, children and youth work, health, the environment, gender violence and emergency aid. I am particularly interested in their home emergency cover service. This is a paid for service - around €20 a month - but I have felt that it would be particularly appropriate to some of the older population in the O.C. particularly where it involves vulnerable individuals who live on their own. I mentioned it to local politicians in the past in an effort to get them to promote it but got no response. I will try and organise a presentation during the autumn if I feel there is sufficient interest locally.

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Confucius says.....

- Passionate kiss like spider's web, soon lead to undoing of fly.
- Man who run in front of car get tired, but man who run behind car get exhausted.
 - Man who fishes in other man's well often catches crabs.
 - Man who fight with wife all day get no piece at night.

I think that gay marriage should be between a man and a woman.

Arnold Schwarzenegger



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**New Curbs on Bogus Holiday Sickness Claims.**

The rules will fix the legal costs that can be claimed in package holiday sickness claims, closing a loophole which the travel industry believes has helped fuel a rising number of claims. This claims epidemic, the industry fears, is raising the prospect of higher travel costs for British tourists.

The rules will come into effect in the coming weeks - ensuring the curbs will be in place before the coming summer holiday season.

Up to now, legal costs in overseas package travel claims have not been controlled, which has meant costs for tour operators can spiral out of all

damages claimed. operators to settle out of court, rather Industry experts major factor in a rise sparked concerns

overseas is being damaged and that British tourists will face higher package holiday prices.

The (British) Government is committed to tackling the country's compensation culture, and recently introduced a Civil Liability Bill which includes measures to reduce the unacceptably high number of whiplash claims and allow insurers to cut premiums.

Other reforms include the forthcoming ban on cold calling and tougher regulation of claims management companies.

(Abridged from British Embassy, Madrid)



proportion to the This has led many holiday sickness claims than challenge them.

believe this has been a in claims which has that Britain's reputation

will face higher package holiday prices.

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May (be)

Spring is well and truly set
now it's the month of May
with only an occasional wet
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Away from us the World's gone mad
with threats and rockets flying
humanity has gone quite sad
with lots of people dying

Religion is a thing of peace
and a personal choice for you
so why don't all these conflicts cease
and let our hearts be true

Every recent war and fight
is about people's different Gods
but who's to say which one is right
let's stop this flow of blood

This may be a simple solution
as there are other things at stake
politics and retribution
good bedfellows don't make

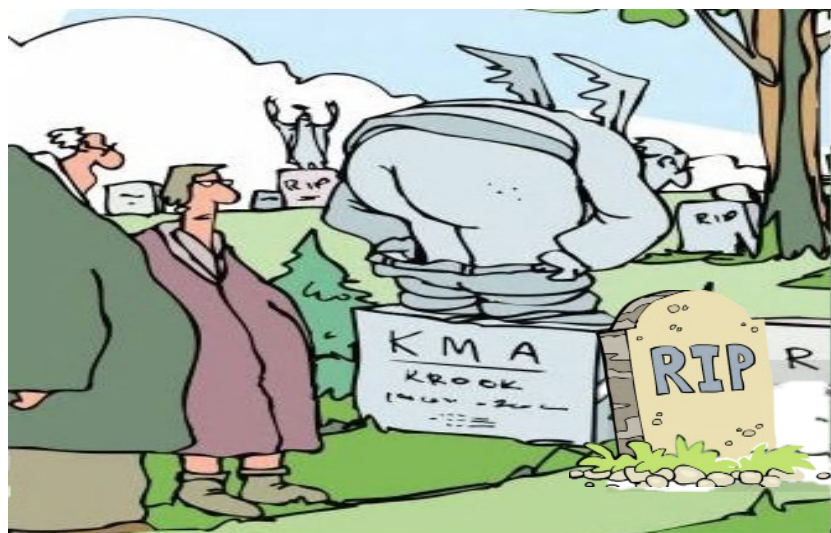
I hope it does not escalate
or Armageddon falls
I really hope it's not to late
and peace on earth to all

The Phantom Poet

Any Questions?

On the first day of uni, the Dean addresses the students, pointing out some of the rules. 'The female dormitory will be out-of-bounds for all male students, and the male dormitory for female students. Anybody caught breaking this rule will be fined £20 for the first time. Anybody caught breaking this rule for the second time will be fined £60. Being caught a third time will cost you a fine of £180. Are there any questions?'

A male student in the crowd inquires, 'How much for a season pass?'



"He owed a lot of money."

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Cannot be bothered to vote?

I am always surprised by the unwillingness of expat's to use their vote in the Spanish local elections. Despite a coastal population in excess of the city of Orihuela, and the city itself gaining the majority of funding from the annual budget, the coastal areas are always short of funding unless, of course, it's something to boost tourism. Expat's appear happy to whine and complain about the shortcomings in services and facilities to their friends and acquaintances but are not prepared to get off their butts and vote the incompetent and lying promise-makers out.

During March, the Orihuela Council called for suggestions regarding the introduction of new programs for the coastal area. Although it is fair to say that this initiative was badly launched and advertised (received too late for inclusion in this newsletter), the response from the coast was pathetic, described by The Leader as 'apathetic'!

Also, when BREXIT takes hold, it is highly unlikely that British resident expat's will be able to vote in the local municipal elections, giving them less ability to influence coastal developments which effect their lives.

Bearing expat's apathy in mind, I was struck by some recent reports from the press in the US of A of some individuals there who paid a very big price in their efforts to vote.

-A Texas woman, Crystal Mason, 43, has been sentenced to five years in prison for attempting to vote in the 2016 presidential election when she was ineligible because she was on probation. The sentence was handed down despite the fact that Mason's provisional ballot was not ultimately counted.

-Another Texas woman, Rosa Ortega, was sentenced to eight years jailtime for illegally voting in several elections because, according to her, she believed her permanent residency card made her a US citizen.

Airport Bus Timetable.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Better Safe than Sorry!

During early April, a married woman went to the police station in Elda, Alicante, with her 15-year-old daughter, to complain that they both suffered insults, threats and physical assaults from her 47-year-old husband. A police section who specialized in gender violence at the Elda Police Station took charge of the investigation, which arrested the husband within hours of receiving the complaint.



Shortly afterwards, the woman brought to the police station a small arsenal of weapons which she said belonged to her husband and was afraid that he might use them against both her and her daughter during future aggression.

When you see the cache, photo, which include swords, machete, pistols and rifles, I think it was a very prudent move on her part!



"Sure, I'd love a second honeymoon dear... who with?"



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Only trying to help!

A depressed blonde decided to commit suicide by hanging herself from a tree in the park. A few days later, a man was walking his dog and spotted her hanging from the tree.

He asks the blonde what she is doing and she replies, 'I'm hanging myself.'

'You're supposed to put the noose around your neck, not your waste,' said the onlooker.

'I tried that,' replied the blonde, 'but I couldn't breath.....'

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.

Your bank account would certainly appreciate the low cost of monthly funeral insurance being offered by ROCAMER FUNERAL SERVICES.

All too often, many insurers – particularly in the lump sum payment sector – just notify the undertakers, pay them and then leave the insured at the mercy of the *tanatorio*. This usually means a less-than impressive cheap arrangement rushed ahead in 72 hours. However with Rocamer extended time can be arranged to allow time for family and friends to travel.

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.)

Call, text, email, whatsapp, today for a quote. I only need your age.

Keith.

Tel 0034 650461816 Email. keith.rocamer live.co.uk

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We are here to offer urgent assistance to anyone.

You do not need to be a client.

**We also have many funeral insurance clients around Orihuela Costa,
Torrevieja and Murcia.**

Should you prefer to organise in advance call, text, email or WhatsApp for a no obligation quote which could provide full and immediate worldwide funeral cover and see just how superior and affordable our insurance is compared to other funeral plans.

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

Email: keith.rocamer@live.co.uk



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Overheard on Playa Flamenca Beach.

- Henry! Cover up! Your business is hanging out of your bathing suit!

- That business closed down years ago.



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ON THE NEXT PAGE!**

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& Domino Corvettes 3rd Place in Second Division**

**Well Done to Domino McCoys Sunshine Petanca Plate Winner
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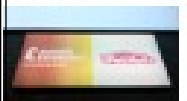
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Getting Old!

An old man gets on a crowded bus and no one gives him a seat.. As the bus shakes and rattles, the old man's cane slips on the floor and he falls.

As he gets up, a seven-year-old kid, sitting nearby, turns to him and says, 'If you put a little rubber thingy on the end of your stick, it wouldn't slip.'

The old man snaps back, 'Well, if your daddy did the same thing a few years ago, I would have a seat today.'

Two octogenarian men are talking in the park. The first looks at his watch and says, 'I must go now, it's time to meet my wife for sex.' The other man says, 'We're in our late eighties now, how do you still manage to get it hard?'

'By eating a lot of rye bread,' comes the reply. 'That makes it hard as a rock.'

The other man simply has to try it and goes to the bakery. He asks the girl for ten loaves of rye bread. The girl asks if it's for a party and he replies, no, it's all for me.'

The girl says, 'All for you? It's going to get hard.'

The man replies, 'God, everybody knows about it but me!'

Smuggling Eels!

It seems that vast amounts of money can be made by smuggling glass eels from Europe to the Far East.

Authorities across the continent have been trying to tackle the smugglers, who take European glass eels to Asian countries, where they are raised into adults and their meat commands high prices for local delicacies.

In the latest operation against the traffickers, four Chinese citizens, three Spaniards and three Moroccans were arrested in Spain in an operation coordinated by the European Union's police body, Europol. Spain's Guardia Civil said 460 kilograms (1,014 pounds) of glass eels were seized in southern Spain. Their market value, once the eels have grown into adults, was estimated at over 400 million euros (\$490 million). One kilogram of baby eels, photo, can yield 1.3 tons of adult eels, investigators say.

More than 100 tons of juvenile eels evade wildlife traffic controls every year in Europe, according to Andrew Kerr, chairman of the Sustainable Eel Group.

"That's nearly one fourth of the total European eel natural stock," Kerr said Friday. "It's the biggest wildlife crime action in Europe, and it's hidden from everyone." (*Interestingly, I found this story in the New York Times, and not in the Spanish media! Mick*)

The baby eels bought in Spain are smuggled through Portugal and Morocco and are concealed in suitcases or in cargo containers and sent to Hong Kong, mainland China, South Korea and other Asian countries.

Police also seized 364 suitcases possibly used to smuggle the eels, Civil Guard Coronel Jesus Galvez told reporters Friday in Madrid.

Because eels can't be bred in captivity, the wriggling glass eels—or elvers—are usually fished and raised to maturity in aquaculture companies in Asia, where pollution, climate change and poaching has diminished stocks of the Japonica Anguilla species.

Since the glass eel fishing season began at the end of autumn, Portugal has arrested 28 people and has seized 1 ton of glass eels in 18 raids.

Meanwhile, Spain has arrested or identified as suspects 89 people since November, snatching more than 2.3 tons of baby eels. The seized eels have been reintroduced to the wild.

The operations come as environmental crimes are on the rise globally and in Europe, said Europol's chief for organized crime, Jari Liukku, who compared the benefits from illicit wildlife trading to those of drug, arms or human trafficking.

"Punishments are low and the conviction rate for environmental crimes is still low," he said.

'I'm only in prison because of my beliefs:
I believed the nightwatchman was asleep.'

Fletcher, *Porridge*

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Some dog I got. We call him Egypt because in every room he leaves a pyramid.

Rodney Dangerfield

Brexit - some recent views from the media.

In the **Observer**, William Keegan says Brexit was making Britain a joke nation even before the blue passports affair, with May's transition deal no cause for optimism. And what is this dire threat from the ubiquitous Conservative MP Jacob Rees-Mogg that the UK risks becoming a "joke nation" by giving in on so many fronts to Michel Barnier? Surely Mr Rees-Mogg has noticed that, thanks to the disruptive antics of himself, his fellow Brexiters, their puppet master Nigel Farage, and the pernicious sway they hold over Theresa May, the UK is already a joke nation in the eyes of the rest of the world. Indeed, it is a laughing stock. As the Financial Times journalists George Parker and Alex Barker commented after following my misguided friend David Davis around: "The Brexit secretary may be enthusiastic about leaving the EU but, on his tour around European capitals, he has struggled to find interlocutors who think the project is anything other than mad at worst or an unwelcome distraction at best."

Meanwhile, in the **Financial Times**, Philip Stephens argues that Britain's latest Brexit strategy is that "any deal will do" – as long as it keeps the Tory party together.

The following is an abridged version of his article, which is headed:

Britain's latest Brexit strategy: any deal will do

As the clock ticks, the UK's position only grows weaker. The story of the first phase of article 50 negotiations was a procession of capitulations. British demands collided with European realities and Theresa May retreated at every turn. The second phase will be much the same except that, as the clock ticks faster, she will be even quicker to abandon her positions. May has other priorities. Politics must trump economics, and the interests of the Conservative party those of the nation. Supply chains, investment and jobs cannot be allowed to get in the way of her efforts to avoid a Tory rupture. For her, the vaguer the autumn accord the better. A fuzzy statement of intent will be sold as all things to all sides – to her party's nationalists as a clean break with the wicked EU, and to pro-European Tories as the precursor to a close and strong relationship. Most MPs, including those on the Tory side, think Brexit will be bad for Britain. So do a majority of cabinet ministers. At the very least they want to soften the blow. But they are told by the prime minister they must vote for the good of party before country. Perhaps there is a precedent. I cannot recall it. When last did Britain's elected representatives take a decision that they fully expected would make the nation poorer, less influential and less secure? The cynicism takes one's breath away.

*Only in Britain could it be thought a defect to be 'too clever by half'.
The probability is that too many people are too stupid by three-quarters.*
John Major

In **The Economist online**, April 12 2018, an article headlined "An amiable delusion", the writer (anon) poured a lot of cold water on the idea that the Commonwealth could substitute for the EU in terms of trade.....Keen Brexiters have long hailed the Commonwealth as an alternative to the European Union, most hopefully as a would-be trading bloc, at a time when Europe has been growing a lot more slowly than countries in the Commonwealth. But a glance at the statistics shows that trade with the Commonwealth is small in comparison. Whereas the EU accounts for nearly half of Britain's trade, the Commonwealth accounts for just a tenth. And its share has been slightly falling.....India, Britain's biggest potential trade partner within the Commonwealth, is widely considered the trickiest with which to do a deal. A loosening of entry visas for Indians into Britain, one precondition by India, would be anathema to most Brexiters.

A senior Australian diplomat is blunt: the Commonwealth has "no capacity on trade. We see it as a useful adjunct to our engagement with small island nations but give it no priority."

The Home Office "hostile environment" inflicted on Windrush-era citizens from the Caribbean could bode ill for EU nationals in the UK. A tweet by **Michael Crick (of Channel Four news)** on April 16 read: "If the Home Office is making all these cock-ups over the Windrush generation, how can they possibly hope to register the more than 3m EU citizens living here? I suspect that this is just a tiny taste of what is to come post-Brexit."



On April 18, the House of Lords inflicted a **crushing defeat on the Government** in a bid to keep the UK in a customs union with the European Union. Remain-backing lords succeeded in their bid to amend the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill to force ministers to set out the steps taken during negotiations with Brussels to enable the UK to stay in a customs union with the bloc.

However, government ministers say they may just ignore the decision!

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Pig Invasion!

Last month we reported on the Vietnamese pigs that were digging up a cemetery in Alicante. It seems this pig colony is still several dozen strong and regularly walk through one of the larger industrial estates in the city, Llano del Espartal, in search of food. Unfortunately this industrial estate, which houses around 200 companies, has fallen into a considerable disrepair with pot-holes, uncollected rubbish and now pigs (photo) roaming about day and night, crapping everywhere and causing an additional health hazard. There have already been 12 accidents caused by the pigs. Cages have been installed in the graveyard to catch the pigs, but many more cage/traps will be needed in the industrial estate.



The relevant neighbourhood association blame laziness on the part of the council.

Still, I would imagine the many Chinese restaurants are probably doing well out of it.

Congratulations!

No, this is not a Crimestoppers poster, but a photo of the winning team of the Second Division Las Salinas Petanca League 17/18 - Domino's Phoenix team.

Domino's have a thriving petanca club with several pistes. New members and social members are always welcome. Why not pop in for a chat and more information.



Dónde?

I stopped a man from Wigan in the street on the way to the football match and I asked him, 'How do you get to the JJB Stadium?'

And he said, 'Me brother takes me.'

Dave Spikey

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I was riding a horse, and its leg was broken, so I had to shoot it.
Everybody on the carousel freaked out!

How to Find Out Everything Facebook Knows About You!

(This article refers particularly to individuals who access Facebook through a smart-phone or iPad type of device. I have placed a link at the end of the article.)

If you can't bring yourself to delete your Facebook account entirely, you're probably thinking about sharing a lot less private information on the site. The company actually makes it pretty easy to find out how much data it's collected from you, but the results might be a little scary.

When software developer Dylan McKay went and downloaded all of his data from Facebook, he was shocked to find that the social network had time stamps on every phone call and SMS message he made in the past few years, even though he says doesn't use the app for calls or texts. It even created a log of every call between McKay and his partner's mom.

To get your own data dump, head to your Facebook Settings and click on "Download a copy of your data" at the bottom of the page. Facebook needs a little time to compile all that information, but it should be ready in about 10 minutes based on my own experience. You'll receive a notification sending you to a page where you can download the data—after re-entering your account password, of course.

The (likely huge) file downloads onto your computer as a ZIP. Once you extract it, open the new folder and click on the "index.html" to view the data in your browser.

Be sure to check out the Contact Info tab for a list of everyone you've ever known and their phone number (creepy, Facebook). You can also scroll down to the bottom of the Friends tab so see what phase of your life Facebook thinks you're in—I got "Starting Adult Life."

McKay also set up a script on Github to analyze the data for you, but even with the included instructions it's not the most user-friendly tool if you aren't already a competent coder. You're probably better off just sifting through the data yourself—a fun weekend project, no?

(As I only access Facebook through a laptop, none of my phone calls came up but the amount of detail I got from my search was surprising, including the websites I visited using Facebook as a connection. Mick)

<https://lifehacker.com/how-to-find-out-everything-facebook-knows-about-you-1824022899>

The Act Down Under.

A young ventriloquist is touring the outback and stops to entertain at a bar in Alice Springs. He's going through his usual country bumpkin jokes, when a big, burly guy in the audience stands up and says, 'I've heard just enough of your smart ass jokes. We ain't all stupid here, you know.'

Flustered, the ventriloquist begins to apologise.

But the big guy cuts him off, 'You just stay out of this mister, I'm talking to the little smart ass that's sitting on your knee!'

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It's foolish to bet on a horse without talking to him first. I know it seems silly to ask a horse who's going to win a race - but it's no sillier than asking anyone else.

Gracie Allen

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A couple was told at a counselling session to individually write a sentence using the words 'sex' and 'love.'
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it is morally acceptable for them to engage in sex.'
Bob wrote, 'I love sex.'

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Idiot Sightings by Elizabeth Green

•My daughter and I went to the McDonald's checkout to pay our bill and I gave the clerk a £5 note. Our total bill was £4.20, so I also handed her a 20 pence piece. She said, 'You gave me too much money.'

I said, 'Yes I know, but this way you can just give me £1 back.' She sighed and went to get the Manager who asked me to repeat my request. I did so, and he handed me back the 20 pence and said 'We're sorry but we do not do that kind of thing.'

The clerk then proceeded to give me back 80 pence in change.

Do not confuse the clerks at MacDonald's in St Albans, Hertfordshire!!

•We had to have the garage door repaired. The GARADOR repairman told us that one of our problems was that we did not have a 'large' enough motor on the opener. I thought for a moment, and said that we had the largest one GARADOR made at that time, a 1/2 horsepower.

He shook his head and said, 'Lady, you need a 1/4 horsepower.'

I responded that 1/2 was larger than 1/4 and he said, 'NOOO, it's not. Four is larger than two.'

We haven't used Garador repair since.

Happened in Moor Park, near Watford

•My daughter went to a local Kentucky Fried Chicken and ordered a Taco. She asked the person behind the counter for 'minimal lettuce.' He said he was sorry, but they only had Iceberg Lettuce. From South Oxhey.

The Phoenix Golf Society

We played at ALENDA Golf Course on Sunday 15th April, with lovely weather which pleased most people but of course the wind was around! But as we played the wind did drop and the lovely sun was out for us.

The course was in a lovely condition and the greens were so fast.

Results:

Nearest the Pin No 12 - Pete Grimms

Nearest the Pin No 5 - Pete Grimms

Nearest the Pin No 6 - John Walls

The overall Winner was John Walls – Well done John.

The two's winner was Antony Doyle.

One again back to the Phoenix Bar for lovely grub, many thanks once again Donna & Paul.



Dave Wightman



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I know what a goal is, which is surely the main thing.

I don't know the offside rule or free kicks - or side kicks - Or whatever they're called.

Victoria Beckham

But Which Is Worse?

Okay, we are never short of a meaty story concerning political scandal in Spain. But ignoring the current quagmire of, and now boring Catalan politics, the most reported and enduring political story appearing in the Spanish press in recent weeks has been the Cifuentes affair.



Cristina Cifuentes, photo, is Madrid's regional premier and a member of the conservative Popular Party (PP). Cifuentes is accused of using her influence in her role at the time as central government delegate in Madrid to obtain a master's degree from King Juan Carlos University

(URJC) in 2012, without doing anything to earn it. The regional leader has denied the charges and refused to resign despite revelations she did not attend classes, take exams or defend her thesis – a copy of which no one has yet been able to produce. Although she has now handed the degree back - of which at least two of the three signatories to the certificate are alleged to be forgeries, opposition parties have clamoured for her resignation, but she says she won't go unless PM Rajoy requests it. So far, he hasn't, believing it is a minor issue over a CV. A university employee who altered her grades transcript to make it look as if she had completed her coursework, has since resigned.

But there is another story, the ERE scandal/fraud in Andalusia, which surprisingly, has been receiving little coverage in the Spanish press, particularly the left-wing media. El Mundo, (the Spanish equivalent of The Times) is oddly enough the only national to carry comprehensive details of the developments in court.

Although the ERE fraud has been the biggest in Spain, and the Dream Scene has been carrying reports on it since 2011, it was not until the two ex-presidents of the Junta de Andalucía, Manuel Chaves and José Antonio Griñán, photo, were being questioned in court during this April that public interest seems to have been renewed.



To recap: In 2001, the Socialist government in Andalusia set up a fund to help companies make severance payments to laid-off workers - the ERE Fund Scheme.

Between 2001 and 2010, more than €850 million was doled out by the scheme without any procedures, controls, audits or supervision. Basically, the fund became a slush and reptile fund. Although many laid-off workers received pay-outs, excessive commissions were paid to trade-union officials, company directors, insurance agents and indeed anyone who 'managed' the transactions. Large retirement pay-outs were also paid to friends, family or as favours to those who never worked in the affected industries or even worked at all! In 2003 one miner's union complained that miner's pay-outs were being given to people who had never even seen a mine. The chauffeur of one of the Socialist regional deputies even bought cocaine with some of the money.

The main investigating magistrate, Mercedes Alaya, photo, has been doggedly handling the investigation since 2012, despite threats & pressure from politicians, trade unions and much of the Andalusian Socialist establishment. Part of the Judiciary also attempted to remove the case from her.



The 'two big-wigs' being investigated, former junta presidents, Manuel Chaves and José Antonio Griñán, now appear to be suffering from amnesia, blaming their subordinates and employment councillors. Griñán testified that in his 10 years in power, he 'saw nothing, heard nothing, held no meetings, finding out about it only from the press. I didn't exactly know what happened.'

Chaves, who served as president before Griñán, suffers from the same amnesia. Between 2004 & 2006, 3.6 million euros was taken from the reptile fund and given to 'fund' a company owned by a businessman who, every summer, gives his chalet to Manuel Chaves to spend his holidays on Huelva beach in La Antilla.

Surely it is inconceivable that with more than €800 million being ploughed into the regions funds that they would not ask some questions?

The Heavenly Game.

God and St. Peter were playing golf one day. St. Peter teed his ball up and hit it. It was a real nice shot about three hundred yards down the fairway.

Then God teed his ball up. He took a big swing and hit it. At first it looked like a real nice shot. Then all of a sudden, it hooked and started for the woods. Just before it went into the woods, a bird flew out and grabbed the ball and flew over the water trap and let it go. Just before it went into the water, a turtle surfaced. The ball landed on it's back as he swam to the shore. Just as the turtle got to the shore, a squirrel ran out of the woods and grabbed the ball. Then the squirrel ran up on the green and dropped the ball in the cup.

St. Peter turned to God and said, "Listen, Big Guy! If you're going to fuck about I'm going home!!!"

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Good Enough!

A man realized he needed to purchase a hearing aid, but he felt unwilling to spend much money. "How much do they run?" he asked the clerk.

"That depends," said the salesman. "They run from £2.00 to £2,000."

"Let's see the £2.00 model," he said. The clerk put the device around the man's neck. "You just stick this button in your ear and run this little string down to your pocket," he instructed.

"How does it work?" the customer asked.

"For £2.00 it doesn't work," the salesman replied. "But when people see it on you, they'll talk louder!" (D. Green)

IDIOTS OF THE MONTH

We start this month with a real gem. This chap in a rural area of Murcia was very annoyed with his neighbours. They used to tether their donkey to his fence. Personally, donkeys are one of my favourite animals, but this man, lets call him Pedro, hated the animal and would get incensed when it started to bray. On this particular occasion he was so annoyed that he threatened the neighbours with an axe! The neighbours then chased him, so he locked himself in his villa and phoned the police for help.



When the police arrived, they noticed that there was a very strong smell of marijuana from inside his villa and further investigations revealed that the man had **69 marijuana plants** together with a dedicated heating, irrigation and fertilisation system for the plants. Pedro was then arrested....and the donkey had the last laugh, while another went to jail!

Maybe not an idiot but idiotic that he got away with it for so long. Andrew Taylor, photo, a 55-year-old Londoner, was the main locksmith for Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust in London. Taylor was responsible for obtaining a best value quotes for locksmith supplies, but purchased locksmith materials from a company that he owned himself.....at inflated prices, often with mark-ups of 1,200%. Taylor was found guilty of **defrauding the trust of £598,524.27** and has been sentenced to six years in jail. The health trust will now try to recover the money.....and the best of luck with that!



Back to Palma, Mallorca for this one. In March 2009, Inmaculada M drove her Volvo into a private parking lot. The parking space was in a prime location, close to the entrance. Inaculada put the handbrake on, locked the car and **left it there for eight years**. In 2013 the car park owners took their plight to the courts and were awarded damages of €28,000. However, Inmaculada still failed to materialise even after the debt was declared to be in default. In 2017 the courts finally awarded ownership of the car to the parking lot proprietors. They waited a few more months to see if the original owner would come back, but when common sense got the better of hope in 2018, they decided to take the car to a junk yard, receiving only a tiny fraction of what would be an enormous bill. But interestingly, this particular parking lot had at least four other vehicles which had been abandoned for months.

One such vehicle belonged to a recently divorced couple who had become confused over who owned the car. Another motorist had died, having parked his car there to go to a nearby hospital. In all four cases, the car park owners were able to extract at least some of the parking fees. You may also have noticed, over the years, a number of vehicles outside San Javier & Alicante-Elche airports, abandoned and covered with dust. More serial car-abandoner's?

Facebook's largest Black Lives Matter (BLM) page, with 700,000 followers, appears to have been a fraud run by a white Australian man who walked away with more than \$100,000 in donations. The page had almost twice the followers as BLM's official Facebook presence. Facebook have since removed the page.

Ryozo Tatami, the 67-year-old mayor of Maizuru in northern Kyoto, Japan, collapsed while giving a ring-top speech at a sumo wrestling match on April 4. Two female medics rushed in and started performing first aid as several male sumo officials surrounding the mayor looked on. When two more women, photo, walked into the ring trying to join the first aid effort, the sumo referee gave them a stern warning:



“Ladies, please get off the ring. Only gentlemen can go up.” Footage posted on social media triggered outrage, with many criticizing sumo officials and saying they were choosing tradition over life. The head of the sumo association later apologised. The mayor, who had an acute cerebral haemorrhage, survived and was in stable condition the following day after receiving emergency surgery at a hospital, city officials said.

Women are traditionally barred from entering or even touching the sumo ring, known as the *dohyō*. Japan's first female governor, Fusae Ota, repeatedly clashed with the sumo association over whether she would be permitted to crown the champion of an annual tournament, a traditional responsibility of the governor of Osaka. Her requests were denied. **You are now entering Japan. Please put your watch back 100 years.**

Agents of the Civil Guard released a young woman in the town of Bueu (Galicia) after she was **locked inside a car for six hours**, apparently because her boyfriend forgot that she was inside. According to reports, the car battery was flat and the mobiles of the couple had no charge either, so they could not phone anyone. The couple were coming from a wedding and it was Sunday, April 8, at 10.00pm when a person who was going to pick up his vehicle in the parking lot saw a woman inside a car asking for help. He called 112 and the Civil Guard showed up at the scene. The woman explained to the agents that her boyfriend locked the car and went home without realizing that she was inside. The agents went to her partner's house to get the key to open the car. Once she was released, the young woman insisted to the police that it was a mistake and did not proceed to lodge a complaint.

The comments to this news report in El Mundo were also quite amusing, ranging from “Maybe she just liked to have the door opened for her”; “Maybe she was very ugly and he forgot about her”; “If it was a dog left in the car he would have been fined.” and “It happened to me a few times. I arrived at the car with a new girlfriend and forgot that I had put the previous one in the trunk!”

Lime Bar Fishing SUNBATHING Club

The weather still can't make it's mind up. The end of March and the first few days of April were gorgeous and warm. The carp thought so too as a lot of the fish being caught have fat bellies and seem to be getting ready to spawn. A couple of days later, there was a blanket of dark grey cloud along with a really strong and cold wind. We don't know whether to wear shorts and t-shirts or wellies and foulie jackets! Decisions, decisions!

Sweeney and I have decided to try a few different spots rather than fishing the same pegs over and over again.

We ventured upstream from Bigastro's tennis court stretch and just looked for some likely spots that may hold fish.

We had to clear the banks of reeds before we wet our lines but it was well worth the effort. On the first day, Sweeney had a 3.9 lb barbel and I had a personal best session with 16 fish for 55.5 lbs, which included a 9.1 lb carp. Obviously we were on a roll, so the following week we went and found another pair of likely spots and did the same thing clearing the bank etc. This day was even better as we both had personal best sessions. Sweeney ended up with 20 fish for over 58 lb and I bettered last week's PB with 30 fish for 80.5 lbs. We were gob smacked but we are not telling you where we caught them☺

The monthly meeting was another quiet one. We were expecting to fight for space as it was Easter Monday and we were expecting the bar to be packed with footie fans. We were OK though, Mad Mandy behind the bar scared most of them outside! Nothing much happened except we drew our opponents for the summer knockout then organised the monthly match and a pairs match to be held the following week.

As we hadn't fished the Pedrera lake for ages, some muppets decided this would be a good venue for the monthly match, so just for a change they voted it in. I hate the place after getting my car stuck last year..... The match was fished on a really dark, overcast and stormy day. It was freezing! I tried fishing the pole but nearly had it pulled out of my hands due to the wind. After having such a fantastic session the week before, I knew my luck couldn't last.

It didn't. I sat there all day without a single bite, with my hood up, back to the wind and my hands in my lap trying to keep them warm. I wasn't the only one without a bite though. 4 of us were fishing in a small bay, 3 rods, new boy Pete, me and the Shropshire lad. The only one to have a bite (all day) was the Shropshire lad and he took the p**s out of us by winning the match with 10 fish for 8 kilos. Phil H came 2nd again with 2.6 kilos and the dark horse, anti social was 3rd with 1.9 kilos. Out of 13 anglers, only 5 caught. I hate Pedrera.

The following Friday we held an open pairs match at El Bosquet where everyone drew a peg but you didn't know who your partner was until after every one had weighed in. On the day, 4 anglers could not get to the match but we still had 12 on the bank. It was another of those days where the fish wouldn't play and it was luck of the draw how you did. New boy Pete and Phil H drew the favourite pegs 1 & 2 so the rest of us knuckled down and hoped that one of them would be our partner. They did well on the day but the ghost who drew the "unlucky" peg 13 beat them into 2nd & 3rd. The weights were not good on the day and we did have 2 blanks.



After the weigh in, the pairs were drawn to see who would win the prize bottles of vino. 3rd were Fagash and Tom with 2.9 kilos, 2nd were new boy Pete and ball boy with 4.8 kilos, but the winners were ghost and daffy (he blanked) with 9.8 kilos. This is the 2nd pairs match we have held and it was the same pairing that won the 1st match! Friday the 13th and the winner from peg 13..... spooky! This month sees the start of the summer knockout. The draw was 3 rods v fagash, fagin v just John, ghost v new boy, Shropshire lad v Gary and ball boy v anti social. As this goes to press, those through to the next round are 3 rods, ghost, Gary and anti social. Just John & fagin are still to fish off.



3 rods fished fagash at the tennis courts. Only a few fish were caught but 3 rods landed a 10.75 pounder which not only took him through but also puts him in the lead for the biggest carp. He wasn't doing back flips due to his age and his knobby knees but he was grinning like a Cheshire cat. See photo.

Next meeting bun fight is at The Lime Bar @ 17.00 Mon 7th May.

Fishy fingers!
The Ghost

The Run.

A woman came from the parish council and asked me if I wanted to run a half marathon.

And I said, 'Oh, no, I couldn't do a half marathon.' And she said, 'You really should think about it. It's for partially sighted and blind children.' So I thought, 'Well, fuck it, I could win that.'

Dave Spikey



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Vanessa Dobos is a gunner on a USAF AC-130 gunship. She has seen action in Iraq and Afghanistan. She likes back rubs, long walks, men who aren't afraid to cry and puppies.

Her dislikes include feed tray stoppages, tracer flareout of her NVGs, premature fixed-wing strikes scattering her high-value targets and Chelsea FC.



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