

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER



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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the June, 2018 edition. Issue No.132 .

After a fairly cool winter and wind swept spring, it seems summer has just arrived.

Although we have had some rainfall locally during May, some of the showers in Murcia were particularly heavy, causing power cuts in several areas of the region. The recent rainfall however did wonders for the wildlife in the Fuente de Piedra Lagoon in Malaga attracting more than 34,000 flamencos. Although we



escaped much of the heavy rain locally, several parts of the Vega Baja's planted areas suffered very heavy hail

storms which did destroy many crops and was even strong enough to puncture the plastic protective sheeting in some areas. See photo, *Informacion*. This video will give you a good idea of the power and intensity of the hail - https://videos-cdn.diarioinformacion.com/multimedia/videos/2018/05/09/143175/fuerte-granizada-catal-almoradi-callosa-1_g.mp4

Locally, most of us felt the **earthquake tremor** on Friday, May 11 at 17:26. The initial report said it had a magnitude of 3.2 and was located offshore of Pilar de la Horadada. But it seems the initial report was an

error. The magnitude was actually 3.3 and the epicentre was south east of San Miguel de Salinas, half way between the town and the coast, i.e. **HERE!**

If the regular opinion polls are to be believed, it appears that Spain is heading away from being a two-party state. The ruling *Partido Popular* are getting a hammering in the polls, losing much ground to *Ciudadanos* (Citizens) who, if there was a general election now, would be the main political party. People are sick of the **constant corruption reports** concerning the PP (see page 29), the fragmentation of the left-wing parties and of course the Socialist frauds in Andalucia.

A mixed bag again in this issue, but I would like to draw your attention to the article by **David of Advocacy Costa Blanca** on page 2, which I know will be very helpful and informative for some.

Unfortunately, there is nothing new or meaningful coming out of the **Brexit fiasco**. As many say, 'Nothing will be agreed until everything is agreed.' Breman in Spain reports that 'Johnson, Fox and Davis are proving yet again they're as much use as a chocolate teapot, we're still left in limbo waiting for the grown ups to show up and take charge.'

Many, many thanks to the following for the 'extra' towards printing costs: Tracy A, Bill & Kath, Keith D, Stefan N, Lynn L, Adrian & Pat C, Tony & Lil H, Les B.

Wishing you all a wonderful month. Mick & Tid

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Angela's Cartoon



'Don't flatter yourself, it was a little earthquake!'



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Attendance Allowance



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

ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE

Attendance Allowance is a benefit for older people who may need extra help to stay independent at home, due to an illness or disability.

You could get: £57.30 a week if you need help either in the day or at night or £85.60 a week if you need help both in the day and at night.

You can claim Attendance Allowance while living in Spain if you are 65 or over and have any type of disability or illness, including sight or hearing impairments, or mental health issues such as dementia. It may be difficult to apply for if you have worked in Spain or another EEA state for more than five years.

Using the lengthy form available online or from Advocacy Costa Blanca, you need to demonstrate that you would benefit from help with personal care.

This can include help such as getting washed or dressed, or supervision to keep you safe during the day or night.

You need to have required help for at least 6 months.

If you're terminally ill different rules apply.

You can use it in any way you like to meet your needs and stay independent in your own home.

The benefit does not affect your state pension or other income.

Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) helps with the extra costs of disability or long-term health conditions for people aged 16 to 64.

It is a non-means tested benefit that is available to claim if you are living in Spain.

You need to demonstrate that you have maintained a connection to the UK welfare system.

This is a complicated process so please feel free to contact **Advocacy Costa Blanca** for further information.

To get PIP, you need to complete the application form to show you need help with everyday tasks and have needed this help for at least 3 months and expect to need it for at least another 9 months.

If you're terminally ill different rules apply.

You can claim the Daily living component of £57.30 or £85.60 per week.

You claim Personal Independence Payment (PIP) by initially making a telephone application to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

They will then check you're eligible to claim. If you're eligible, DWP will send you a form called 'How your disability affects you'. Once this is completed you will likely be sent to Alicante or Cartagena for a physical assessment.

This is a very complicated process so please feel free to contact Advocacy Costa Blanca for further information.

Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

If you are over 65 and already claiming DLA it is possible to request a review of your benefit rate.

The weekly rates are £22.65 (lower) £57.30 (middle) or Frequent help or £85.60 (higher)

This will require you to complete the DLA claim form, available online or from Advocacy Costa Blanca.

Carers Allowance

If you are under 65 and providing support for someone on the above benefits it is possible to claim Carers Allowance while living in Spain. It's quite easy to apply but contact **Advocacy Costa Blanca** for further free information and guidance.

The **Basque terrorist organisation, ETA**, has thrown the towel in following an admirable and effective cooperation between the French and Spanish security authorities. No concessions have been won or promised, although it is likely that in due course, the incarcerated Basque terrorists in prison will be moved to prisons closer to their families. There is no appetite for this yet among the ruling PP government nor the very vocal victims' associations.

Catalonia has at last chosen a new regional president. **Quim Torra**, the nominee of Carles Puigdemont, his separatist predecessor, was elected in the Catalan parliament by 66 votes to 65, with four abstentions, on May 14th. The region's new premier, photo, is top of the separatist's looney woodpile with views any fascist would be proud of.



Torra comes from the right wing of Catalan nationalism. He has shown enthusiasm for Estat Català, a quasi-fascist outfit that set up violent militias in the 1930s and has also supported its leaders, particularly the notorious Badia brothers, two terrorists and torturers whom Torra has defined as "the best examples of separatism," praising one of its leaders who in the 80's wrote a text titled "The scientific basis of racism." Included in this was the phrase "We consider that the Catalan racial makeup is more purely white than the Spanish one, and hence that Catalans are racially superior to Spaniards." Torra has always expressed a visceral hatred of Spaniards. In 2012 he wrote that those who live in Catalonia but who do not embrace its culture were "carrion-eaters, scorpions, hyenas, wild beasts in human form". Other comments include "Spaniards only know how to plunder;" and: "Above all, what is surprising is their tone, poor manners, their Spanish snobbery, the sense of filth. Horrible." A lovely man I'm sure!

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Palma is the first town in Spain to **prohibit all tourism flats**, except in detached property. In late April, the governing team approved a new zoning project that will then undergo public scrutiny before being put to a final vote at a council session in July. At that point, tourists seeking this kind of accommodation will no longer be allowed to rent apartments in multi-family residential housing. Instead, they will only be able to stay in detached, single-family homes, which are being left outside the ban. Yet even these properties will be off limits if they are located on protected rural land, near the airport, or in non-residential areas. There are around 180,000 homes in Palma, of which 23,000 (12%) are single-family homes, according to local authorities.

The city of Barcelona wants to **restrict water usage** to 100 litres per person a day – the City Hall is preparing a plan of 242 actions to combat climate change.

In Alicante province more than 10,500 new foreigners have joined the census establishing the total number of residents as 1,835,916 – **an increase for the first time in four years.**

Mallorca only has only **one Tourism inspector for every 100 hotels and 1,000 holiday homes.** The 15 civil servants each has to respond to 26,000 beds to ensure quality standards are met and also examine more than 10,000 restaurants

Infant and Primary **school classes** in Alicante will end on June 20. In Secondary, Bachillerato and FP colleges, break-up day is June 18. The school year then begins again on Monday, September 10. Almost three months of bliss or hell, depending on your circumstances.

559 people in the Alicante Province lost their driving licence during 2017 (474 in 2016) due to the accumulation of too many points. Drivers with more than three years driving experience start with 12 points whereas those with less experience or re-offenders have just 8 points. Most of the offenders are under 25, and men, who drive under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

El País reports that 'the Balearics Health Department has rejected 60% of the health workers job applications for **not speaking Catalan.**' Unfortunately, similar soundings are coming from the Valencian government!

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NEW! NEW!! NEW!!

Many of you will be aware that Doolin's Bar in Via Park III closed down some weeks ago.

The good news is that the venue will be reopened with new owners, a new name, new decoration and better deals. The principals here are Paul from CK1's and Steve. This new venture will operate independently of CK1's as a completely separate business.

They plan to change the current look and content of the bar considerably, bringing in better lighting, warmer colours, food being provided daily until late in the evening and no doubt the usual drink promotions Paul excels in.

Live sports viewing will be an important feature of this bar, but there will be a determined effort to make the location more female friendly.

There will also be a good entertainment program. This will compliment and not conflict with similar entertainment events at CK1's. The new bar will have a proper lounge/entertainment licence and will no doubt enhance the appeal of Via Par III greatly.

A new name has not been selected yet, but COZY CORNER or maybe KOZY KORNER have been bandied about but we just have to wait and see. It is planned to open the new bar a.s.a.p. depending on local permissions and off course the significant works relating to redecoration, lighting changes and building a new kitchen. Hopefully it will be open at some stage during the upcoming World Cup Competition.

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I was dating a younger man. I asked him where he was when Elvis died. He said he was in amniotic fluid.

Robin Roberts



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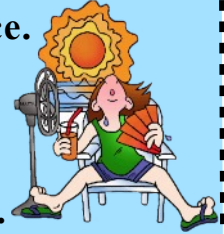


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Show Me the Money!

With municipal elections in Orihuela due in May 2019, the local political parties are beginning to cozy up to the voters in the municipality. The PP mayor of Orihuela, Emilio Bascuñana, has announced that €24 million is available for investment in various projects throughout the Orihuela district. Some of the investments already agreed/promised are: four new garbage trucks at a cost of €900,000 and expenditure of €350,000 for additional bins and containers; works to the Civic Centre in La Aparecida (with a tiny population) which will cost €915,254 (now two million spent on the Centre) and a skate park which will also be installed in the area. A sports track is planned for La Murada and land in Molins will be purchased for a sports facility. The various centres for the elderly (there are none in Orihuela Costa) will be upgraded, and bicycle lanes will be installed in Hurchillo and Escorratel-La Matanza.

Unfortunately there are no new plans to introduce significant projects to the coastal area.....once again! Although security cameras will be placed in 'depressed' areas of Orihuela, the coast will get new signs. Yippee! Just what we needed! Who needs facilities and amenities for the elderly, a decent civic or community centre, a concert hall, an ambulance service, proper street cleaning, proper flood protection on the coast or a decent bus service, when we can have new signs.....and more holes in the road than the city of Homs in western Syria?

€300,000 in subsidies has been reserved for the provision of

eye-glasses, prostheses, hearing aids and orthopaedic material for the elderly in the municipality. (If you are on a low income check for eligibility with the social workers in the local *ayuntamiento*. This applies to the Orihuela municipality only.)

Orihuela Costa contributes the largest percentage to the annual finances of the Orihuela municipality: €53 million towards a total budget of €83. The annual spending for the services on the coast amounts to €15 million, or just over 18% of the budget, which means that we on the coast are subsidising Orihuela City and the little villages to the tune of €38 million!

Now, if this happened in 'Game of Thrones', there would be war!

Aside from the willingness of the

politicians to continue to use the coast as the 'milch cow' for the remainder of the municipality, the other unacceptable fact is that the coastal residents are too passive about the inequity. With over 30,000 coastal residents on the local padron, if these would only get off their butts and vote, they could bring about real change and benefits quickly to the coastal area. I just cannot understand their meekness and pacificity.

Stay as it is and they/we, will continue to be taken for a ride!



What's Up? continued

Last year, Spain was the **seventh largest exporter of military equipment/weapons** worldwide, exporting €4.3 billions worth, up 7.3% on 2016. Within the European Union, Germany was Spain's best client last year with €1.2 billion.



Other major clients were Britain, France and Turkey. Outside of the EU, Outside the European Union, which accounts for 72.6% of Spain's weapons exports, the country's biggest client was Saudi Arabia with €270.2 million in sales, a 133% rise from 2016. The

Spanish government denied permission for four sales last year, including two shipments of equipment worth €1.9 million that would have gone to Israel. A sale to China and another one to Myanmar also failed to secure authorization.

A **Guardia Civil** in la Vila Joiosa has just received a **22-year prison sentence**. He became besotted with the wife of a Guardia colleague and tried to murder the family. It is believed that he regularly tried to poison them - husband, wife and three-year-old son. They grew suspicious as their food often smelled bad. They installed a secret camera in their apartment in the barracks, which recorded the man entering the property using a set of keys and poured an insecticide, chlorpyrifos, onto their cooked rice. Around 10,000 people die every year after ingesting this particular insecticide.

Police also found a letter by the man which read, " I am constantly in a state of unfulfillment because of him, meanwhile, she seems to be immensely happy and I can not stand it, she does not let me sleep at night . Envy corrodes me, and it drowns me, if I do not do it, I think I'll burst." Let's hope he enjoys the next 22 years in cell 69 with Big Gay Juan.

Mark Carney, the governor of the Bank of England, claimed households were at least £900 a year worse off and the economy as much as £40 billion smaller as a result of the Brexit vote. This is even before the UK leaves the EU. Mr Carney has compared lost national output to "**Brexit buses**" in reference to the claim made on Leave campaign buses that exiting the EU would secure £350 million a week for the NHS. His claim that the economy was £40 billion smaller equates to lost tax revenues of about £15 billion, or £300 million a week!

The **Tiger mosquito** is now, regrettably, in many areas of South and South Eastern Spain. However, the Ministry of Health has identified the areas in a number of provinces where the insect is described as prolific. In our province, Alicante, they have identified 43 localities here where there is an overabundance of the insect. From this list the closest are Torrevieja, Orihuela (city), Benijofar, Pilar de la Horadada, Los Montesinos, Santa Pola and Guardamar.

18 dogs have been **poisoned** around the Benissa area of Alicante. 12 of the dogs have died so far. It is believed that the toxic substance they ingested may have been strychnine.

In a further savage case of animal cruelty, this time in Mutxamer, Alicante, four dogs were tortured to death, had limbs chopped off and then dumped in a stagnant farm reservoir. The Seprona section of th Guardia Civill are investigating.

The town of Burjassot in the north of the Valencian Community has a population of about 37,000. Not much there really, except the Museum of Geology. But it emerged during April that the town also has a **large cock-fighting problem**, so much so that a massive police operation where more than 60 police officers raided a number of buildings there and seized 56 fighting cocks, six chickens (probably cock-fighting groupies!) and a racing pigeon. The police, who had to batter down doors

to find the birds, did not have enough cages and had to use cardboard boxes to take the birds away,



photo. Many of the birds had 'battle-scars' from both old and new fights. The raid took place at 9:20am on Tuesday April 24. The birds were then taken to an animal sanctuary in the area. All 'done-and-dusted' then you would think? But no! Just four hours after the birds were deposited in the animal shelter, some people entered the shelter and stole 12 of the fighting cocks! Security surveillance has now been stepped up at the facility, in a clear case of 'shutting the doors after the cocks have bolted.'

In early May, the Mossos police force clocked a car travelling at 180kph in a 120kph motorway near Barcelona. When they stopped the car they found that the driver was an **88-year-old male**, who wore glasses, had a hearing aid and had movement difficulties. The driver's licence had been withdrawn twice previously as he had exceeded the total penalty points on more than one occasion. He faces a fine of €500 and six more pointsto his non-existent licence!

Late Sport's News: Arsenal F.C. Turned down a £50 million sponsorship deal with a leading dog food manufacturer. A club spokesman said having 'Winalot' across their shirts would just be taking the piss.

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LIME BAR GOLF SCORES - MAY 2018

On a beautiful day at Font de Llop 27 golfers teed off on this very scenic golf course.

Played in the Stableford format, the following scores were recorded.

GOLD CLASS

1st MIKE HEIGHWAY 34pts

2nd KEN STYAN 31pts(CB)

3rd JOHN WILLIAMS 31pts

SILVER CLASS

1st MICK CHURCH 34pts

2nd BAZZER 30pts(CB)

3rd DIGGER 30pts

NEAREST THE PIN

HOLE 3 NEV GREENWOOD

HOLE 7 ED ALDRED

HOLE 8 MIKE HEIGHWAY

HOLE 12 MIKE HEIGHWAY

HOLE 16 ARTHUR JONES

HOLE 17 MICK CHURCH

In the **KNOCKOUT COMPETITION** the following golfers went through to the next round.

BUD BUTLER, KEN STYAN, KEN FARROW, JOHN MCGREGOR.

MIKE HEIGHWAY, TONY JONES and ARTHUR JONES. Well done all. A good days golf in lovely surroundings enjoyed by all returning to the Lime Bar for presentation of prizes and refreshments. Thanks to the Lime Bar staff and to the ladies for the football draw.

EDDIE ALLAN



My dear, did you ever stop to think what a wonderful bunker you would make?

Walter Hagen, to a buxom opera singer



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*I went out on a first date, but I don't think I'll be seeing her again.
She got mad when I didn't open the car door. I just swam to the surface.
Emo Philips*

With summer fast approaching, it's good to see that the Vega Baja area has secured **25 Blue Flags**, four more awards than last year. Torrevieja secured six awards for their coast, Orihuela increasing their awards by two to nine.

The only fly in the ointment has been the lack of *chiringuitos* / beach bars on Orihuela Costa due to a cock-up at council level. Following the tender process, six firms have responded and their tenders are being now evaluated.

Securing the **chiringuitos contract**, which also includes the deck chairs, sun umbrellas, water attractions, etc., is quite lucrative - both for the council and the contractor.

Bids are split into three sections, firstly, the bidding firm has to show that it capable financially and organisationally to handle the contract. The second phase is supposed to be anonymous where the contractors have to outline what they plans to introduce by way of services, new additions to facilitate the public etc. The final phase is the all



important financial bid for the job.

All three phases receive a scoring, the applicant with the highest

total score winning.

It is unlikely that the successful applicant will be chosen by mid-June unless the council evaluators pull their finger out. In the meantime, some portable toilets have been placed on a couple of the beaches. It seems that the existing closed *chiringuitos* are now the property of the council, so the successful bidder should be able to open to the public rapidly. The bars and amenities should surely be available for July.

I am wondering though, how these delays will impact on the awarding of the Blue Flags next year. Unless the issue is resolved rapidly, Blue Flags could be lost.

There is also a court case pending, which is investigating whether the awarding of the previous contract was rigged, judicial scrutiny focusing on a ex-councillor for Los Verdes.

One thing I found strange during the last municipal elections in Orihuela, was that none of the previous Green councillors stood for election again, despite holding the position of mayor and other responsible jobs during the previous term. I wonder why!

I am glad to see that they have started to **tarmac the roads** at Los Altos, hopefully covering the damage to the roads caused by the provision of additional power to the

desalination plant. This 13 kilometre cable project will help double the production flows of desalinated water for irrigation and human consumption by 40 cubic hectometres to 80 p.a. Over 60% of the water coming out of our taps locally is now from desalination resources. The new large electricity pylon being constructed in Entre Golf, which brings the extra power from the San Miguel grid is fundamental to the project. The last phase, of bringing the new line through the graveyard in Torrevieja is now almost completed.

Ten new bus lines locally have been put out to tender. Unfortunately none of them facilitate the Orihuela Costa, as they link the smaller towns of Bigastro, Jacarilla, Los Montesinos etc., with both Orihuela and Torrevieja Hospital. Just two of the lines will pass through Los Balcones. The slightly isolated urbanisations in Las Narangas and Torremendo are very pissed-off as although several of the lines will pass these areas, none have plans to pick-up and drop-off there at this stage.

The **dumping of green waste** on the coastal area has caused Orihuela Council to double the fines to 23 during the last four months. Fines for this illegal dumping are between €750 for minor offences to €3,000 for more serious infringements.

The ordinance indicates that the prunings should be placed in bags of 1 cubic meter, closed and deposited in a specific



container. This is for small pruning. For trees or large shrubs it is best to contact a maintenance company who should take these large cuttings to an authorized plant. The problem is many of these firms also dump the cuttings illegally. The council now wants you to take photos of these miscreants and report them. This is also a local police responsibility, who unfortunately have failed to stop the tipping of building rubbish at the top of Entre Golf.

The salt works in Torrevieja have been importing salt from Tunisia. This is to help it meet its commitments to its customers, demand being greater than the current local production capacity.

A South African firm bought the Habaneras Shopping Centre for 80.6 million €. It is the third owner change of this commercial space since its opening in 2005.

Habaneras was the main shopping complex in the area until Zenia Boulevard arrived, drastically reducing its appeal.

For Dream Hills property owners: the urbanisation fees for your properties during the coming year are - Villas €262.92; ground floor apartments €197.19 and first floor apartments €175.28. The fees are payable during June.

- You've got to say that Tony Hateley's good in the air, Bill. - Aye, so was Douglas Bader - and he had a wooden leg.
Tommy Docherty and Bill Shankly

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Not withstanding the recent earthquake - not a rare event on the coast - we have been experiencing what Stan Laurel once remarked, 'We have been having a lot of weather lately!' A sandstorm cleared a packed Campoamor beach one afternoon in early May, forcing sunbathers to seek shelter in local cafes and bars and there have also been heavy hailstone falls inland in some local Vega Baja areas. But very dramatic has been the sandstorm/mini tornado which occurred at the beach market in Guardamar on May 13. These photos give an indication of the power and damage caused by the event.



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The Law & Protesting.

Introduced in 2015, the *Ley de Seguridad Ciudadana* (Law of Citizen Security) or *Ley Mordaza* (Gag Law) as many Spanish refer to it, does rare its ugly head occasionally. (I have covered this law in previous articles.) This time it was during late April in the city of La Laguna in Tenerife, considered by many to be the most beautiful town on the island, that one early morning, a dozen police officers burst into a house there and arrested and handcuffed Roberto Mesa, photo. So was Roberto a drug-dealer, gun-runner, terrorist, a professional footballer or politician accused of bringing bag loads of 'Bin Ladens' (€500 notes) to Andorra? Certainly not! Roberto considers himself a 'political activist' and when King Filipe VI visited the island in March this year, Roberto wrote on his Facebook page "*Los borbones a los tiburones*" o "*Me cago en la monarquía, en el Rey y en todos sus cuerpos represivos*" ("Bourbons to sharks" & "I shit on the monarchy, the King and on all its repressive bodies"). Under the 2015 law, insults to the Crown are punishable by imprisonment.



Roberto has enjoyed several arrests in recent years. In 2012 he was charged for the crimes of attack, public disorder and resistance to authority during a plenary session of the City of Santa Cruz de Tenerife where the General Plan for Urban Planning (PGOU) was approved. Roberto didn't like it! Then in 2014 he was detained with four others for assaulting a photojournalist during a protest march against oil prospecting on Spanish soil. But Roberto's protests go beyond borders. The 24-year-old has been expelled from El Alaiún in Western Sahara by the Moroccan police on numerous occasions because of his support for the cause of the Saharawi people.

During March, the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg censured Spain for imposing a prison sentence on two protesters who burned photos of 'Los Reyes' in 2007 and stated that this gesture was not a crime but a form of political expression and ordered Spain to compensate the two protestors for the fine they paid - €2,700, together with an additional €9,000 to cover expenses, etc. Royal photo burnings used to be common place in parts of Catalonia but are now just boring. However, the original law still stands!

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Shit Happens!

Juan, the mayor of a small town in Castilla-La Mancha, was returning with his wife Cristina, from their honeymoon in New York and the east coast of the United States, when his world caved in. As they were going through customs at Adolfo Suárez-Barajas airport in Madrid, Juan was arrested by the police and told "You are under arrest. There is a search and arrest warrant against you." Juan was then hustled off to a police station where he was made to strip and squat, then thrown in the back of a van without seats with seven other prisoners and taken in "subhuman conditions" to a cell at another police station, where he was forced to spend the night.

The next day he was brought before a court, which agreed that Juan had done nothing wrong. It seems that a long time ago Juan had been indirectly involved in a workplace accident. The judge had issued an arrest warrant for him, but the case was dropped after investigation except the judge forgot to cancel the arrest warrant.

Now this incident took place in July 2014. The couple decided to claim compensation of €6,000 from the Justice Ministry and it is only now in 2018 that an award was made - just €126 in damages! The couple haven't bothered to pick up the money.



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.

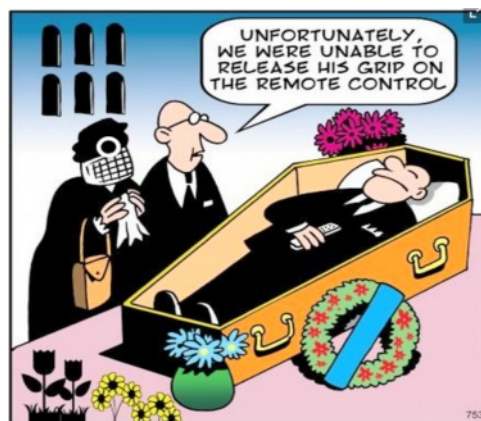
Torrevieja to Airport: 7:00 - 9:00 - 10:00* - 11:00 - 12:00* - 13:00 - 15:00 - 16:00* - 17:00 - 18:00* - 19:00 - 21:00

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 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.



Let's Hear It for the Coroner!

(From actual court proceedings)

ATTORNEY: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?

WITNESS: The autopsy started around 8:30 PM.

ATTORNEY: And Mr. Denton was dead at the time?

WITNESS: If not, he was by the time I finished.

ATTORNEY: Doctor, how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?

WITNESS: All of them. The live ones put up too much of a fight.

ATTORNEY: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for blood pressure?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for breathing?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

WITNESS: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

ATTORNEY: I see, but could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?

WITNESS: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law.

Elizabeth Green



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The Scots!

•Gerry's wife was not so good with the money, so he determined to have a wee discussion with her about the economics of life. The following day his pal asked how he had got on with the chat to his wife, and whether she got the message. 'Aye, sort of,' came Gerry's cautious reply, 'I'm going to have to give up whisky & fags!'

•A loud voice was heard in a bank in Glasgow. 'Did anybody drop a roll of notes wi' a rubber band roon them?' 'Aye, ah did!' said several voices. 'Well, ah jist found the rubber band!'

FUNERAL PLANS, A LAST WORD.

When a retiree moves to Spain, I suppose the two big expenditure items they have is first, a property and then a car. With almost 15 years here, I have had plenty of time to observe a number of hurdles and challenges which the expat's face, which can ultimately be quite costly. The third largest expense they are likely to have is funeral costs. Inevitable to us all and can be extremely costly to someone if they haven't prepared for it. This is part of what I have learned from observing dozens of funeral arrangements in that period.

If it is your responsibility to arrange a funeral for a loved one who has just departed and you go to a *tanatorio* to arrange it and you don't have a funeral policy or pre-paid plan - they will take advantage of your situation! I have seen this happen so often in recent years with the survivor being royally stuffed with an expensive solution when only a simple cheap funeral was needed. During the last year alone, I was aware of one friend who ended up paying more than €5,500, when a figure of €3,000 to €3,500 would have been more appropriate. Unfortunately, I know of many similar cases. *Tanatorio* staff might all wear dark suits and be very comforting but they are no different to car salesman. It is a business. Even more tasteless is the fact that hospital staff will get a 'bonus' from the *tanatorio* if they direct trade to them. I have heard of one very unsettling case where a chap was told

that they wouldn't sign his wife's death certificate until he rang a particular funeral firm. He told them to 'F*ck Off!' and he still got the certificate.

Popular with expats on the costa are the lump sum payment type of plan. The suppliers of these are not *tanatorio* owners but they will ensure that, because of the volume of trade they have, they will get for themselves, a reasonable financial deal with the funeral home. However, don't expect any hand-holding, trimmings or generosity.

It is the use of your money they want, preferably over a long period and with the lump sum payable they will try and maximise their gain! Reviews on these schemes here - <https://www.over50choices.co.uk/funeral-planning/funeral-plans/reviews>

Over the last few years, the most positive responses I have heard are from people have been dealing with Rocamer (see below), and no, I am not on commission!

Speaking with people who have used them, they have had nothing but praise for this particular firm ranging from the provision of vehicles, hands-on, to giving the customer exactly what they wanted. I would not carry adverts in the newsletter for any other funeral plan providers.

There is a short but informative article on funeral insurance here - <https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2018/03/28/insurers-and-undertakers-profit-as-people-prepay-their-last-bill>



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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

The food was memorable. Tiny fragments of nouvelle cuisine, everything tastefully decorated with crossed chives. I obviously stopped at McDonald's, Wandsworth, on the way home. Charles Saatchi after dining at Windsor Castle with Prince Charles



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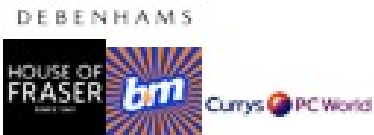
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(Noel T)

The Sarni!

A guy walks into a 'club' on the Cabo Roig strip and sees a sign hanging over the bar which reads: Cheese Sandwich: €2.50; Ham Sandwich: €3.50 Hand Job: €10.00.

He walks up to the bar and beckons to one of the three exceptionally attractive blondes serving drinks to an eager-looking group of men.

"Yes?" she enquires with a knowing smile, "Can I help you?"

"I was wondering", whispers the man, "are you the one who gives the hand-jobs?"

"Yes", she purrs, "I am."

The man replies "Great! Go wash your hands, I want a ham sandwich!"

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How Long?

The average waiting time for surgery in the Valencian Community is 99 days

However, the average waiting time for planned non urgent surgery in the two hospitals managed by the group *Ribera Salud* (Torre Vieja and Vinalopó) is 42 days, 57 less than the other public hospitals in the Community, according to data which the Department for Health published on March 31st, 2018.



“Patients assigned to hospitals managed under the concession model (outsourced) have waited an average of two

months less than if they had been operated on at any other public hospital,” commented Ribera Salud.

At Torre Vieja University Hospital the average wait for surgery is at 40 days. For specialities, the average wait for general surgery is 12 days, 20 days for maxillofacial surgery, 42 days for traumatology, 23 days for plastic surgery, 10 days for thoracic surgery, 38 days for vascular surgery, 28 days for gynaecology, 45 days for odontostomatology, 44 days for ophthalmology, 27 days for otorhinolaryngology and 47 days for urology, among others.

STINGERS!

Not actually jellyfish, but a siphonophore, a single animal made of a colony of organisms working together, the Portuguese-man-of-war has made a number of appearances locally. At least five have been spotted either in the local waters or on then beaches. A five-year-old was stung off the coast on an Elche beach but has now fully recovered. Local authorities are also using drones as well as jet-skis at the local beach areas to detect them. Bathing has been banned on many beaches for the moment.

A cooler than usual sea temperature and unfavourable winds are to blame for the current appearances but the warmer temperatures we are now enjoying will keep them away.

Stings from these ‘jellyfish’ are extremely painful. People in the water may see one some distance away but do not realise that the stinging tentacles are extremely long, averaging about 30 feet in length but are known to have reached up to 160 feet.

Info’ on treating the painful stings here - <https://www.livescience.com/51418-man-of-war-sting-tips.html>

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I'm dating a homeless woman. It was easier talking her into staying over.

Gary Shandling

The temperatures are already starting to rise on the Costa Blanca. Mid to high 20's is now common daily and the nights are also becoming quite warm, and soon trying to sleep during a sweltering summer can be difficult unless you have air-conditioning. Cotton sheets are cool to sleep on and some people put the sheets in a plastic bag in the fridge or freezer for a few minutes before sleeping, which can cool you down enough to get to sleep.

The following are extracts from an article in El Pais which was printed four years ago but is still topical. I have supplemented it with my own comments.

1. Be creative. Come up with methods to stop hot air from entering the room. For instance, point a fan toward the windows, or place a bowl full of ice or very cold water in front of the fan to cool the air further. A damp sheet placed over the window also helps.

2. Wear light pyjamas or Go Commando! According to a study by the Association of American Cotton Producers Cotton USA carried out in the UK, 57% of people who sleep naked are happier in their relationship with their partner.

3. Apply compresses dipped in lukewarm water on parts of the body most sensitive to heat, such as the neck, elbows, ankles and the backs of the knees. The contact with cool water has a refrigerating effect that triggers a narrowing of the blood vessels, heating up the skin. In turn, the heat cools you down as a result of the difference in the surrounding temperature. (Now, I can't get my head around this one.)

4. Sleep alone. It's the best thing to stay cool. Sleeping alongside someone else increases your body temperature and makes the bedclothes cling, explains dormir.org.es, a website devoted to sleep problems. What's more, doing so at floor level will make you even cooler as hot air tends to rise. Having pets - another heat source - in bedrooms will also raise the temperature.

5. Shower in warm water to reduce your body temperature. This is a good tip for feeling fresh and clean. Many people say that, even though the shock of a cold shower produces an instant feeling of coolness, it

reactivates your body and energy consumption, which makes you feel the heat more quickly afterwards than if you had showed in warm water, explains the Biological Health Institute. Also, be sure to keep your feet cool as heat enters the body here. Washing them before you turn in for the night or sleeping with them outside the bed are two good tips.

6. Eat salad for dinner. Avoid big meals and hot dishes such as stews, soups and roast chicken. These force the body to produce more heat in order to digest them. A yoghurt, salad or that Spanish summer favourite, cold gazpacho, are perfect for summer nights. And don't forget to drink plenty of water, the WHO says: the body uses it to get rid of heat. So, tucking into a Chicken Madras late at night is obviously out!

7. Turn off all lights and electronic gadgets completely. Putting them on standby is not enough: they go on using energy and giving off heat, according to the International Energy Agency - between five and 10% of what they would use when switched on. Also: replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent ones, which produce the same amount of light but use a fifth of the energy and give off less heat, according to the emergencies centre in Arlington, Virginia.

One can also sleep outside, usually cooler, however then there is the downside of a) insects, b) boozed noisy tourists returning from a night on the hooch and c) early morning traffic.

But, for me, air-con does the job!



GLASBERGEN
"These pills will help you stay asleep. They change your dreams into Powerpoint presentations!"

The Scotch Connoisseur.

A man walked into a bar and ordered a twelve-year-old scotch. Believing that the customer would not be able to tell the difference, the bartender poured him a shot of cheap three-year-old house scotch.

The man took a sip before spitting it out on the bar. "I'm not drinking this!" he complained. "This is cheap three-year-old scotch. Now give me the good twelve-year-old scotch that I asked for!"

Still looking to cut corners, the bartender poured him a shot of a moderate six-year-old scotch.

The man took a sip before once again spitting it out on the bar. "This is just a six-year-old scotch," he moaned. "I'm not paying for this! Now will you give me the twelve-year-old scotch I ordered?"

The bartender finally relented, and served the man his best quality twelve-year-old scotch.

The entire episode had been witnessed by an old drunk at the other end of the bar. He now walked up to the selective scotch drinker, put a glass down in front of him and asked: "What do you think of this?"

The scotch expert took a sip of the golden liquid and spat it out violently on the bar. "That's disgusting!" he said. "It tastes like piss!" "It is," replied the old drunk. "Now tell me how old I am."

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Forget the Plastic! That Sunscreen Is Also Damaging the Ocean!

This story from Hawaii in the US of A caught my attention, probably because of a number of similarities with our own situation on the Costa Blanca, except for their heavy rainfall.....their volcano.....and their hula-hula girls. It seems that Hawaii is set to become the first state in the US to ban the sale of sunscreen chemicals that are toxic to coral reefs and marine life. Oxybenzone and octinoxate, two chemicals found in many common sunscreen products, are known to kill coral and marine life. Oxybenzone and octinoxate are found in almost all common sunscreens, including products sold by Hawaiian Tropic, Banana Boat, and Coppertone, as well as some face lotions. In Hawaii, a study conducted last year by the nonprofit Haereticus Environmental Laboratory at the iconic snorkelling spot Hanauma Bay found that the nearly 2,600 average daily visitors left about 412 pounds of sunscreen in the ocean. The damaging effects of sunscreen can occur in concentrations as low as 62 parts per trillion, which is equivalent to one drop of oxybenzone in six Olympic-sized swimming pools. About 14,000 tons of sunscreen lotion ends up in coral reefs around the world each year, with the highest concentrations in the US found in tourist-filled beaches, like many in Hawaii and the US Virgin Islands.

No such studies have been carried out yet on the Costa Blanca, but if you take a look at say La Mata beach in its entirety during the summer, the amount of chemicals in the sea water must be staggering. I have no doubt that these chemicals have been an additional pollutant to the farm chemicals now destroying the water at La Manga lagoon and seafront. Even if you shower before entering a swimming pool, the damage caused by the remaining oils to the pool water is still considerable. This is why some urbanisations close the pools for some hours, even during the busy season, so the water can relax. Even if you shower your sunscreens off before going in the pool, this shower water eventually finds its way to the ocean together with those chemicals! Normal water treatment does not remove them.

Alternative safer sunscreen options are available. These use ingredients such as titanium oxide or zinc oxide for skin protection.



The tyrannical beauty of Hawaii, after a little while, becomes a little troubling.
The beauty, the palm trees.....it's like being hit over the head with a rainbow.

Russell Brand

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Main part of Gürtel Case Concludes.

After several years of court proceedings, the main part of the Gürtel Case, which referred to the illegal funding and bribery of the Partido Popular (PP) has come to an end with some savage jail sentences. Out of the 36 charged, 30 have been found guilty, with many now facing a long jail sentence and some with a hefty fine.

If you wish to see a full breakdown of the jail sentences go here

<http://www.elmundo.es/espana/2018/05/24/5b068a9f268e3e26548b460a.html>

but these are the main ones.

Francisco Correa, photo right, businessman and main organiser of the payments, etc. 51

years.

Pablo Crespo – Correa's right hand – 37 years.

José Luis Izquierdo – Accountant for Gürtel – 17 years.

Luis Bárcenas, photo below, – former PP Treasurer – 33 years and a fine of €44 million.

Rosalía Iglesias – Wife of Luis Bárcenas – 15 years.

Guillermo Ortega – former mayor of Majadahonda – 38 years.

Alberto López Viejo – former head of CAM – 31 years.

The remainder received jail sentences ranging from 14 years to one year.

Ana Mato (a former Minister of Health, Social Services and Equality) will have to repay €27,857 representing gifts and holidays she received while in office.

Gema Matamoros (wife of Guillermo Ortega, former mayor of Majadahonda) will have to repay €45,066.66 relating to travel and gifts she received, being fortunate she didn't share in her husband's 38 year jail sentence.

This was actually the fourth Gürtel trial. There are at least six other trials pending. These range from other matters rising out of the Barcenas Papers to various cash payment made during the Pope's visit in 2006. Some believe that PM Rajoy also received large cash payments as his name appears alongside large cash sums in the Barcenas Papers.



"I wish you'd wear a hat in there.
I've been looking all over for you."

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Once, while working at home, Salvador Dali surprised a burglar. The intruder escaped, but Dali told the police he could draw a picture of the suspect.

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Penny Wiggins

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- When they put me in prison I'll be brave, I can handle it.
- But, Blanche, you don't understand. They put you in a women's prison.
Blanche and Rose, The Golden Girls

First we visit Alicante, where this particular nut-case who received two restraining orders for threatening his neighbours preventing him from approaching his neighbours for six months. On this occasion this unnamed 'nut' approached his neighbour again saying that he was going to kill him and his children. He then returned after midnight, banged on the neighbours door and continued to issue threats. The police were called and found the man hiding under the stairs of an adjoining property. When the Policia Local went to handcuff him, he kicked one of them in the leg and grabbed the other policeman by the testicles. He has now received two fines of €3,240 & €180 together with a six month jail sentence, which he probably won't serve. In his defence he said his actions against the police were because of nerves. Just the thing to do when you are nervous - grab someone's testicles! These events took place in December 2014 and only now just came to court.

OUCH



Spanish rapper Josep Miquel Arenas, from Mallorca, known by his artistic name Valtonyc, has fled Spain for Belgium, to avoid a three-and-a-half-year prison term for glorifying terrorism and insulting the Crown in a series of song lyrics. Valtonyc, photo, had ten days to turn himself



in which expired on May 24 but failed to report in. Just a week before he continued with his mission of verbal hate where at a concert he rapped, "Go kill a fucking civil guard tonight; go to another town where there are civil guards and kill one."

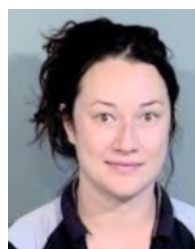
The court rejected his appeal and ruled that the songs included expressions "in support and in praise" of the terrorist organizations First of October Anti-Fascist Resistance Groups, known as GRAPO, and the now-disbanded Basque group ETA. The songs were also found to have insulted Spain's King Felipe VI and his family, and to contain personal threats against Jorge Campos, president of the right-wing Spanish foundation Círculo Balear.

A group of five African American women - all experienced golfers - were playing at a Pennsylvania golf club, when the club owners decided to call the police because they felt that they were playing 'too slow!' The club has since apologised. In his book about winning the 1997 U.S. Masters, Tiger Woods wrote of how golf has long been an unwelcoming and uncomfortable sport for black people. And it was only in 2012 that Augusta National, one of the most exclusive golf clubs in the country and that hosts the Masters, admitted its first female members.

Fernando Villen Rueda, is the ex-director general of the Faffe, the Andalusian Foundation Training and Employment Fund. The fund is one entity among others now being investigated regarding the diversion of more than €100 million which should have gone to the unemployed, but went instead to boost the finances of the unions, other entities and individuals in Andalusia. However, it seems that Fernando, photo, went to a 'bachelor party' at a 'hostess club' (knocking-shop) and paid €538 for the evening's entertainment using his Faffe bank card. He has now repaid the money but is holding out from explaining whether a further €1,563 was spent at the club. Andalusian Socialism would impress Trump!



A brawl broke out between two gangs of squatters in Toledo at 5am in early May during the festivities of the Most Holy Christ of the Cross. Guardia Civils arrived and brought order. But then a male, wearing a telematic bracelet for gender violence fired a shotgun twice into the ground of the town square. Unfortunately the pellets rebounded off the ground and injured 13 people! The man was arrested, but only after he struck a Guardia in the jaw with the but of the shotgun.



Once again, the problems with online dating comes to the fore. Jacqueline Claire Ades, photo, from Phoenix, Arizona, became infatuated with this guy, but he didn't reciprocate the feelings. So she harassed and stalked the guy, sending him 65,000 texts, sometimes 500 a day.

Some of the texts read, "Oh, what I would do w ur blood!" she allegedly once wrote. "I'd wanna bathe in it.", "Don't ever try to leave me ... I'll kill you ... I don't wanna be a murderer!" & "I hope you die . . . rotten filthy Jew . . . lololol Im like the new Hitler... man was a genius," she allegedly wrote on another occasion. Police arrested Jacqueline and found a large butcher's knife in her car. 'Perfectly innocent' she said, obviously not the sharpest knife in the drawer, herself.

Next is Zoe Adams, 19, from Carlisle, a nutter straight out of Pandora's Box. Zoe, photo, dressed in clown-make-up and put a pillow over her 17-year-old boyfriends head (he didn't want to be tied up!



Wisely!), "to make it kinkier". She then told her boyfriend Kieran - "trust me" before stabbing him in the chest, arm and thigh with a ten-inch blade, collapsing one of his lungs. Zoe, who police later reported, 'had very concerning images on her phone, including images of bloodied testicles,' got an 11 and a half year jail sentence.

*Aside of the murders, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country.
Marion Barry, Mayor of Washington DC.*

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The Phoenix Golf Society

We played at Mar Menor on Sunday, 20th May 2018. The course was in a very good condition also the weather was just right for playing golf and everyone enjoyed playing. We have to say a 'Good Bye' to Joe as he is returning to the UK because he was only on an extended holiday over here.

Nearest the Pin No.3

John Walls

“ “ No.17

Dave Wightman

The overall winner was Brian Archer.

Once again we want to say many thanks to Donna & Paul for the lovely grub as usual. "Thank-you you two."



Dave Wightman

Congratulations to Jon Jarski!

In just eight weeks while on the new FitPro Herb Diet, Jon, (see photo below) of Los Altos, has lost a total of €600!
Well done, Jon!



"Well, if he's not a burglar, then what's he doing climbing over our fence?"



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Mark Lamarr

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Let's Hear It from the Ladies!

Show me a man who loves football and nine times out of ten you'll be pointing at a really bad shag.
Julie Burchill

I was a convent girl and didn't lose my virginity until I was 21 so I had no knowledge of sex at 20.
At 30 it was getting better, 40 a bit better, 50 good and 60 terrific. In fact, I might do a sex video.
Anne Robinson

That's it! I've had enough of men. There isn't one worth shaving your legs for. I'm going back to being a virgin.
Rose, KEEPING UP APPEARANCES

Lime Bar Fishing SUNBATHING Club

The monthly meetings are becoming mundane and this was another quiet one. We had 7 apologies from the sick, lame or weary so maybe when they get back to full health the bun fights will start to liven up again. I can't wait!

This month's match was due to be held at the Eden, so 5 or 6 anglers agreed to go and make sure that the pegs were clear. We needn't have worried, the pegs were clear but there was only about 12" of water, so we resorted to our fall back option – Bigastro. The night before the match, there must have been a monsoon inland, because when we arrived at the bank, it was covered in a layer of silt where the river had flooded overnight. Perhaps the 12" of water in the Eden was now a handsome 5"? Anyway, the decision had been made so we drew pegs and hoped for a good days fishing in amongst the slime and the raging torrent. 10 anglers fished but only 3 caught. I was one of the "blankers" and sat there all day without a bite **AGAIN**.

3 Rods had drawn peg 2 which usually produces between 10–30 fish, even he struggled only catching 2 small fish to win the match with 1.9 kilos. Phil H was over the moon when he came 2nd with 1.7 kilos and is way out in front in the points league as he is the only angler to catch in both matches! The rest of us definitely need more training!

Fagash deserves a mention as he also caught and came 3rd with 1 kilo. Every time we have a match at Bigastro the fishing is crap. The Bigastro match day daemon had struck again.

Our oldest "old fart" Punchy Bob was 80 in May and as he isn't so nimble on his pins I offered to take him fishing (and hopefully learn how to catch fish). His favourite stretch is Murcia town centre so we decided on a day to go.

As it turned out, it was the same day that the "professionals" (Abbey Angling) were having a match there, but they agreed to let Punchy join them as long as I looked after him. We left home at 05.45 and started the match at 09.00. Maybe this is what the sunbathers are doing wrong, we should get on the bank 2 hours early and talk to the fish. After a long but enjoyable day and heeding the professionals' advice, both Punchy and I flew the flag for the sunbathers coming 1st and 2nd on our stretch. Since the fish have spawned they fight like mad and loads of fish are spitting the hook out. It even happens to the professionals. We were sat alongside an Abbey angler who lost 7 fish in mid river (no where near the weeds) and he sat there fuming and scratching his head looking at his perfectly sharp hook. What the *^/** is going on?

On another day 5 members turned up to clear the pegs at the tennis courts. There wasn't much work needed, just a bit of tidying up and recutting the steps down from the road (thank you Sweeney, 3 rods & fagash for that). We then settled in for some fishing while we waited for Fagin and Grumpy (our sous chef) to arrive with the "burger van". Everybody caught except me **AGAIN!** I had 1 bite, hooked him, and then lost the bugger in the weeds.

6 of the keener anglers went on a 2 day trip to the Argos reservoir overnighting at a local hotel. (See photo).

I had never been before so I got a briefing from the "old hands". Bring your feeder rods. The water turns black with fish as they take the bait on the drop. Nobody blanks at the Argos etc. We arrived at about 08.30 to find that the locals had taken the best pegs so we slotted in around them. After the big build up about the place crawling with fish, I was feeling expectant as I set up my gear. The water level was high and the bottom dropped away right at your feet into very deep water, it was about 10 to 15 feet deep at your rod tip. I like float fishing and with so many fish here I reasoned that I could use a sliding float close in, but it didn't work for me so after a couple of hours without a bite I changed over to method feeder. First cast and the line was ripping off the reel with



a fish on, I lifted the rod and felt the fish for about a second before it spat the hook out. This went on for the rest of the day and I only ended up with 4 fish, even when you got them to the bank some of the fish were diving into the reeds to dislodge the hook. Very frustrating and too clever for me! That night we went back to the hotel and over a few beers we discussed how to get them out the following day.

Day 2 was similar to the first, my first cast with the feeder and the line ripped off again only for the fish to dive into the rocky bottom and straighten one of my strongest hooks. I thought, no not again! After adjusting my tactics I ended up with 18 fish for about 35 pounds, so I was happy. Everybody caught this day but it depended on which side of the point you were as to how well you did, 3 rods, Sweeney and I had the best pegs. Several of us had double runs where you had a fish on both rods at the same time, Fagin had forgotten to set his reel clutch correctly on one occasion and both rods went sailing off into the lake. He made the dive into the water and caught both rods, but only managed to land one of the fish. Poor effort!

The fishing was fantastic so if you decide to try a visit yourself, watch where you are walking as Fagin has renamed the place as "Pockle Point" after his trip into the bushes when he got caught short. If the hotel staff mentions anything about smelly Ingleesh, don't worry, it will be our attempt at the "Blazing Saddle" sketch farting round the campfire. Initiated by the Lime Bar farting champion, Fagin started followed close behind by the stinking Daffy, from there it just got worse. A good time was had by all. ☺

We have just received some sad news. Ponytail Phil (aka the butler) has passed away. Although not a member of the club, Phil was regularly with us on the bank and at the Lime Bar. RIP mate.

Next meeting bun fight is at The Lime Bar @ 17.00 Mon 4th June.

Fishy fingers! The Ghost

Lady Godiva put everything she had on a horse. W.C. Fields



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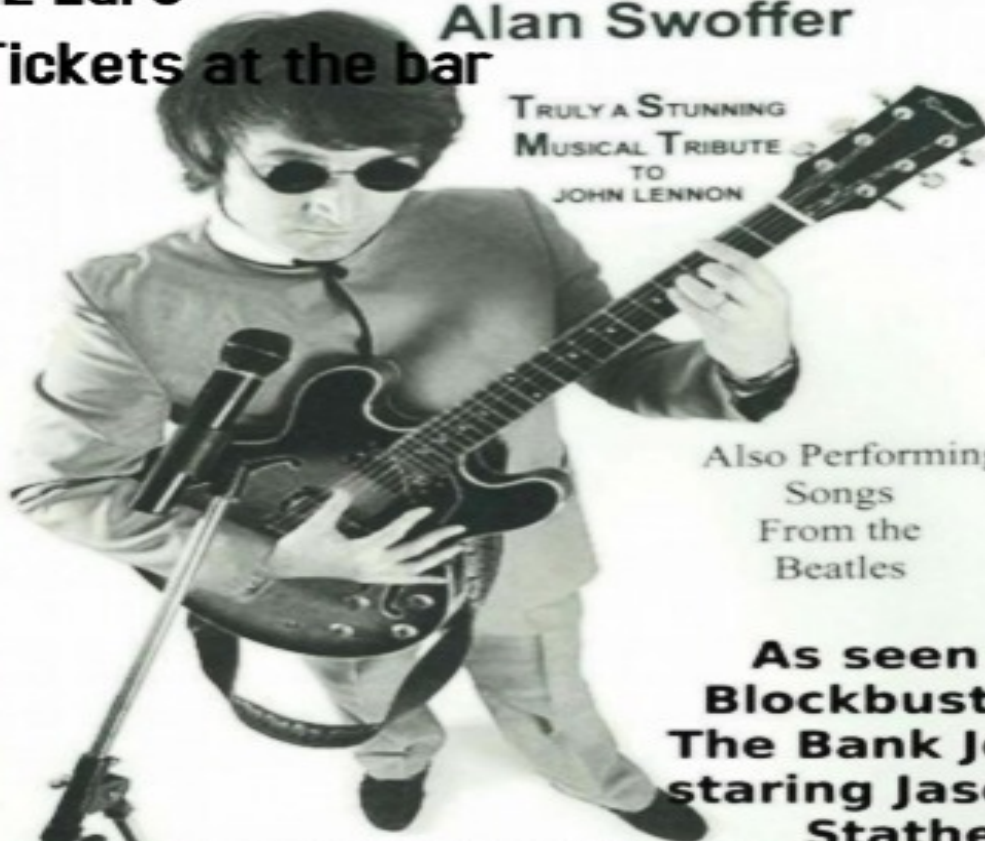
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The Tale of the Two Woodpeckers

A Mexican woodpecker and a Canadian woodpecker were in Mexico arguing about which place had the toughest trees. The Mexican woodpecker claimed Mexico had a tree that no woodpecker could peck. The Canadian woodpecker accepted his challenge and promptly pecked a hole in the tree with no problem. The Mexican woodpecker was amazed. The Canadian woodpecker then challenged the Mexican woodpecker to peck a tree in Canada that was absolutely 'impeckable' (a term frequently used by woodpeckers).

The two flew to Canada where the Mexican woodpecker successfully pecked the so-called 'impeckable' tree almost without breaking a sweat. Both woodpeckers were now terribly confused.

After much woodpecker pondering, they both came to the same conclusion: Apparently, your pecker gets harder when you're away from home.

Sue Robinson

Conrad Arnold of Dream Hills II has a weekly podcast which is informative on local events. You can listen to these podcasts here - <http://www.dreamhills.podbean.com/>

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