

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER

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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the October, 2018 edition. Issue No.136



Gosh, what a September! Temperatures still in the low 30's, still with uncomfortable humidity levels.

Experts already see **three clear signs of climate change** in the Spanish Mediterranean areas. The seasonal change of the rains with the intensification of the showers, the increase of the "tropical nights" and the warming of the sea constitute three "clear" examples and evidence, of the climatic change in the Spanish Mediterranean coast, according to the president of the Association of Spanish Geographers (AGE) and head of the Climatology Laboratory of the University of Alicante (UA), professor Jorge Olcina.

The **variation of rainfall** is reflected in an increase in precipitation during the autumn and a fall in the spring. This has a direct impact on hydrological planning, since the rainfall in the first quarter of the year is very valuable for the normal development of the agrarian activity and for the accumulation of water reserves in reservoirs and aquifers.

According to the president of the Spanish geographers, from 1970 to the present, the number of **tropical nights** in many cities of the Mediterranean region has tripled, going from 20 to between 60 and 70 nights of intense heat per year. Since 2000 there has been an increase in the number of nights when the thermometer does not drop below 25 degrees centigrade.

The increase in **marine surface temperature** is estimated at an average of 0.8 degrees in an accelerated

ascent since 1980, particularly in the spring months (May-June) and that now extends into Summer and well into the autumn, October and early November. The increase in sea surface temperature in the western basin of the Mediterranean, especially in its central sector (Balearic Sea and Algiers) is particularly high. "If we do not stop emitting CO₂, the coastline will have disappeared by 2100" says Senior Olcina.

One of our neighbours discovered a **live scorpion** while having some tile work done to his front drive recently. Be aware that there are plenty of these about. Cracked walls around swimming pools and villas are favourite hiding places.

It seems that some people in Dream Hills have complained that the security guards are 'sweeping their house frontages **with torch lights**' and want them to stop. Look, they do this to spot any thieves and any doors or door grills that you left open, protecting you and the rest of us! So dry up and get a life! And keep on shining, guards.

A **special thank you to David** of Advocacy Costa Blanca. Page 15. Without him we would have been unaware of the financial assistance available to carers, nor have his assistance in securing a successful claim. Of course David charges a fee, but this is agreed up front and is well worth it.

Have a great month,
Mick, Tid & the Dream Scene Team

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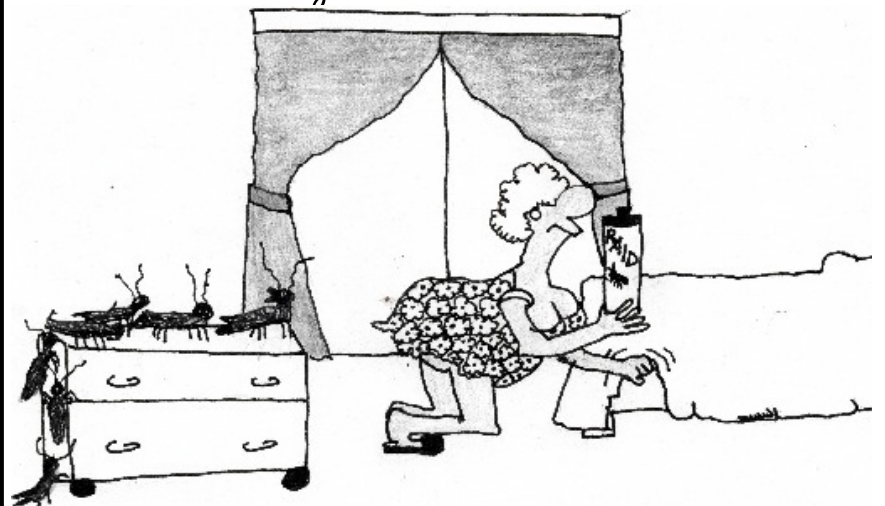
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Angela's Cartoon



'Right Lads - soon as she sprays, all up the back of her nightie!'

We suffer from bad luck in our family. My great grandfather once came third in a duel.
Dave Spikey

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R

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COSY

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O

ENTERTAINMENT

R



Coming Soon



MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS 21:00 - 23:00

N

PIANO MAN - BAZZ /JAZZ!

Fantastic Nights!

THURSDAYS 21:00 - MIDNIGHT

E

SOUL NIGHT

Coming Soon

FRIDAYS 21:00 - MIDNIGHT

R

TERRY JAY - VOCALIST

All the Music You Remember
Bringing Back the Good Times!

SUNDAYS 21:00 - MIDNIGHT

Alan Warden



**The Best Rock Guitarist on the Costa playing
Dire Straits, Santana, Thin Lizzy, G'n'R,
Status Quo, Gary Moore, Pink Floyd, Etc, etc,etc.**

GET UP AND DANCE!

She plunged into a sea of platitudes, and with the powerful breast stroke of a channel swimmer made her confident way towards the white cliffs of the obvious.
W. Somerset Maugham

PM Sanchez has already served his 100-days in office. He said that he was in favour of a referendum on **Catalan self-government** rather than on independence. Sanchez wants his administration to last the full two years until the next general election is scheduled so don't expect any decisions which will rock his already unstable political boat. However, look out for the following -

Spain is working to include a **specific chapter on Gibraltar** in the Brexit agreement. Britain's planned departure from the European Union in March 2019 is being viewed by Spanish authorities as a good moment to make progress on long-standing claims involving taxes, environmental issues and smuggling in the British overseas territory, which is located in southern Spain. The Socialist Government are less adamant on the sovereignty issue than the PP Government was. Spain's new foreign minister, Josep Borrell stated, 'I am a lot more worried about the situation in Campo de Gibraltar than about sovereignty.'

PM Sanchez is also keen to address the question of **Aforados** in Spain. He plans reforms to the protection that Spanish politicians and others - around 20,000 of them - are afforded from the lower courts. I have covered this matter in previous issues and plan to report some more on this in the next issue.

Calpe is the Spanish municipality with the horrific distinction of having the **most reports of rape per inhabitant**. Most of the victims are young tourists on holiday. The rapists know that the holidaymakers will be returning to their own countries after a few days and are unlikely to remain in the area. This is a known rapist strategy throughout the holiday areas of Spain.

The number of civil servants in Murcia has increased by 25% during the last four years. This is not a good sign for the regional economy. These people will not create any wealth and will do little to battle the ever increasing bureaucracy that is keeping Spain from being the well-oiled democracy it should be.

The Health Department has launched a plan to reduce **Spain's 3,600 suicides a year** - the Government intends to increase early detection of the problems which cause double the number of deaths on Spain's roads.

On Page 17, I report some details on the 'degree scam' in Spain. After I wrote that article I came across some incredible news concerning the university where most of these originated, the Rey Juan Carlos. A judge is now investigating how **500 Italians citizens obtained degrees** there in Legal Sciences, required in Italy to practice law, which costs around 18,000 euros, when in Spain they only had to pay less than half! Because with the title obtained in Spain and collegiate in this country, Italian citizens could practice throughout Europe, including Italy. The complaint also refers to the "very striking" fact that on May 18, 2016 there had been up to eight buses travelling from the Atocha station in Madrid to the university "as if they were on a field trip".

Religious assistance in hospitals costs the Valencian health administration €856,000 last year. The Conselleria assumes the salary of 62 Catholic priests based on an agreement between the State and the Church signed in 1985. Once again, like the section in your Spanish tax form, where if ticked, part of your income tax will be donated to the Catholic Church, other religions correctly say that current Spanish legislation favours the Catholic religion while ignoring the others. It will be interesting to see how the new socialist government will react to this over the next two years. The Government will try to recover immovable property that the Catholic Church inscribed in its name and that the Executive considers that they should be of public domain. The Church does not have a list of assets and asks not to be discriminated against.

The Executive is drawing up a list of goods unregistered by the Catholic Church in recent decades with the intention of **recovering those that it considers should be public**. The Ministry of Justice assures that the Church cannot appropriate "public domain assets". A significant amount of land was also 'absorbed' by the church during the Franco era. As with the corruption of the politicians during his era, he was quite willing to turn a blind eye to their indulgences as long as they all 'towed the line'.

The price of a square metre of urban land on the Balearics is the **second most expensive in Spain** - only Madrid with 296€ psm beats 263€ for the Balearic Islands. Land costs in Palma have risen by 46% within the last two years.

The Valencia region has the most cases of **measles** in Spain - The Valencia control centre for the affliction warned of some 191 total cases.

A **massive real estate fraud** has been uncovered in Mallorca amounting to over five million € with more than 200 people affected. Victims made payments towards off-plan developments which were never built. After living in Spain for many years, I am convinced that buying off-plan is just dumb! You certainly can't trust the property developers and the so-called bank guarantees well!



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The iDental Scam.

For most of us, going to the dentist is rarely a pleasurable experience. For many in Spain however, it has been a financial disaster as well. Funnydent had nine dental clinics in Spain, seven in Madrid and two in Catalonia when it was announced in 2017 that they had an accumulated debt of €15.7 million and went into administration. Facing an avalanche of lawsuits from 2,400 customers and an unknown number of staff who were verbally dismissed, Funny dent closed its doors. It is believed that a number of staff also 'purloined' much of the expensive dental equipment in lieu of wages.

In 2015, iDental arrived on the scene with an aggressive marketing campaign promising "Dentists with hearts" and "Dentists with Democracy", offering implants at €12.95 a month, 80%-off deals and dentures at low cost. The business soon grew to 24 macro clinics low or medium income, were cover the cost of procedures, which the quality of service and lack of good

One patient was attended to by ten clinics carried liability insurance. Once delays and cancellations. If they usually with inferior products often with



nationwide. Customers, mainly of encouraged to take out loans to were paid for in advance. However, dentistry from the firm was appalling. different dentists! None of the the customer paid, there followed managed to get treatment, it was damaging consequences.

But unlike Funnydent, iDental is believed to have had up to 400,000 customers. Annoyed customer complaints reached tidal proportions and soon dental staff, most of whom were newly qualified professionals with an average age of 25, remained unpaid although the company continued to spend fortunes on advertising. It is alleged that funds were also diverted to over 100 companies and external sources. When the clinics closed their doors this summer, outraged patients demonstrated outside the clinics, photo, only too keen to show their oral deficiencies and demand compensation. Many still have loans outstanding and uncompleted or faulty dental work.

The National Court is now gathering information and coordinating evidence but need feedback from affected users in 14 communities in Spain. Early approximate estimates indicate that the Comunitat Valenciana alone has more than 200,000 claimants; Andalusia, 90,000; Catalonia, 42,000; Murcia, 12,000; and Aragón, 12,000.

iDental was sold by its founders to Weston Hill Capital in October 2017.

What's Up? continued

La Verdad for Murcia reported that **'Internet crimes have soared in the Murcia region'**, with some five a day.' Last year, the security services registered 1,768 cases of internet crimes, mostly frauds, with 180 arrested for credit card fraud, data theft and child porn. Unfortunately, the authorities in our region are not so forthcoming with such data.

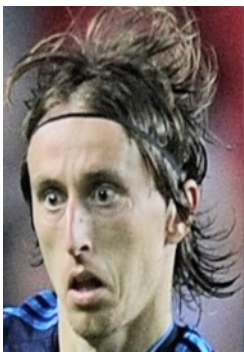
Drones have been seen spotted flying over Malaga's main prison complex, outside Alhaurín de la Torre, photo, on two occasions. It is believed they were delivering drugs! The prison, is reportedly badly overcrowded with inadequate staffing. It is worth nothing that some local councils in Spain, including Torreveja, are now using drones to spot illegal builds such as swimming pools.



People being harassed by **cold calls in the UK** about PPI compensation or personal injury claims could gain some respite under new rules being introduced by the government there. The new measures mean companies will only be allowed to contact people who have opted-in to receive the calls. Claims management companies that break the rules can be fined up to £500,000. Minister for Digital Margot James said: "Today we are one step closer to ending the menace of nuisance calls." Wish we had something similar in Spain!

A couple of weeks ago, **FC Barcelona footballer** Munir El Haddadi refused to pay a bill of €16,000 at Tiffany's exclusive nightclub in the Chamartin (Madrid). After enjoying more than seven hours in a room in which he celebrated his 23rd birthday with 30 others, the party ended badly, with the soccer player or the owners of the place arguing over the bill. In the end, after arduous negotiations and mediation by the police, the player agreed to pay the bill although it was reduced by approximately one thousand euros.

Real Madrid player Luka Modric, photo, has accepted a suspended sentence of eight months in prison and a fine of 1.4 million euros (of which he has already paid one million) for two fiscal offences, after reaching a pact agreeable to the Prosecutor's Office, Madrid, in exchange for recognizing the fraud of which he was accused. He is charged that between the years 2013 and 2014, he defrauded



at least 870,728 euros from the taxman. It amuses me that if a politician or business person was guilty of a similar offence in Spain, there would be a hell of a hullabaloo! But since it is a football player, nobody gives a damn! Heaven help us that we should ever view professional football players as heroes!

The **Mossos**, the Catalan regional police, photo, are again being associated with political policing, being puppets of the separatist government there. Separatists have been placing plastic yellow ribbons in public places to show their support for the jailed separatists and the ones who ran abroad. 14 people, who were obviously not separatists, began



to remove the yellow ties in Tarragona, when the Mossos stopped them demanding their names and addresses!

There was such a stink nationally that the Mossos 'archived' their complaint. A woman, who was with her children, began removing the said yellow ribbons in the city of Barcelona, when she was punched in the face by a male and had her nose broken.

The secretary general of the PP, Teodoro García Egea, has encouraged citizens to **remove the yellow ties**. In an interview with Cadena SER, García said that yellow ties represent "exclusion" and "the vast majority of Spaniards do not like them". He also stresses that "if they are in public spaces he has the same legitimacy to remove them as those who have put them there." García also said that, in his opinion, the pro-independence parties "are trying to build a new story to keep the 'process' alive artificially and with assisted breathing."

Later, an organised band of 80 people began to remove



the yellow plastic ties from various towns in Girona. They wore clothing and masks to hide their identity, see photo, and avoid

retaliation. The group stated that their goal was 'to clean populations which had a high plastic index!'

I was also very surprised to learn that **the Mossos have refused to join the Spanish Anti-Terrorist Centre** which comprises the National Police, the Guardia Civil, the National Intelligence Centre and Ertzaintza (the Basque police), where intelligence is collected and collated. The Mossos will neither share data nor adapt their systems for combined use.

It is no surprise that Madrid has sent over 1,000 additional police officers temporarily to the Catalan Region. This is supposedly to 'support' the Mossos. **October 1** is the anniversary of the illegal independence referendum last year, so expect some fireworks and possibly some broken heads! The Mossos are not to be trusted and I cannot understand why they have not been disbanded already.

THE BAR NEXT DOOR.

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CIDER

MAHOU
LAGER



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Will the Fun Never Stop?

LIME BAR GOLF SCORES -- SEPT 12, 2018

On a slightly overcast morning at Vistabella Golf a full compliment of 36 golfers assembled to play Vistabella which was in beautiful condition.

The weather improved during the morning resulting in some very high scores being posted, Played in the Stableford format the following scores were recorded.

GOLD CLASS

1st MIKE HEIGHWAY 42pts (CB)

2nd LYNN NEWBERY 42pts

3rd KEN FARROW 40pts

BEST GUEST BARRY ESSAY 44pts

NEAREST THE PIN:

HOLE 2 DEREK MOUNTFIELD

HOLE 5 BARRY ESSAY

HOLE 7 DEREK MOUNTFIELD

HOLE 11 JOHN NICOLL

HOLE 15 JOHN NICOLL

HOLE 17 DAVE WRIGHT

SILVER CLASS

1st BAZZER 42pts

2nd EDDIE ALLAN 41pts

3rd GARY LESTER 40pts



"I'm sorry for doubting you. I guess
I can shop by myself."

As can be seen some excellent scores above and some very close scores in the chasing pack also.

We returned to the Lime Bar for refreshment and presentation of prizes.

The new 18 hole Vistabella is certainly one of our best local courses.

Many thanks to the Lime Bar especially Carly and Sue and to the ladies for the football sweep.

No photo this month.

EDDIE ALLAN



THATCHERS
CIDER

LIME BAR



MAHOU
LAGER

VIA PARK III

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Formula 1



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Tough? Tough? It's the toughest chicken I've ever known.
It's asked me for a fight in the car park twice.
DEL BOY TROTTER, ONLY FOOLS AND HORSES

The National Geographic Institute (IGN) has registered an early morning earthquake of 2.1 degrees on the Richter scale and with an epicenter in the north of Torrevieja, although, according to police sources and neighbours, it went largely unnoticed as it coincided with an electrical storm. The **earthquake** took place at 3.38 hours, at a depth of ten kilometres, in early September.

The IBI (property tax) in the Orihuela municipality has risen by 45% in just seven years, not that the coastal areas - save for the beaches - benefited much from the extra taxation.

Meanwhile in Torrevieja, it has been revealed that **825 swimming pools** which were constructed but not registered, will be paying the IBI (tax) for the pools this year. It is uncertain whether three previous year's tax may also be collected. These pools were constructed illegally between 2006 and 2018. It seems that 528 of these properties will also incur additional charges relating to porches, extra rooms etc., which occupy extra floor area.

In 2017, only 67 licenses were granted for the construction of swimming pools in Torrevieja and another three were legalized. The council are currently using drones to gather evidence.

Two British men, one a 60-year-old, the other 30, **were stabbed** by two Romanians outside a bar in the San Luis-El Chaparral urbanization. Both men were seriously injured, one being stabbed in the back and thorax, the other being stabbed in the left armpit, close to the heart. Although both lost a lot of blood, their condition has now stabilised and is not life-threatening. One of the assailants dropped his mobile phone and police are confident they will track the aggressors.

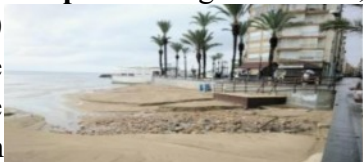


Although the historic **Eras de Sal** venue in Torrevieja has hosted the International

Habaneras and Polifonia competitions for decades, the venue has never held an activity license authorising events.

To obtain this the council would be obliged to show liability insurance, fire insurance, electrical certification, security staff if the audience is in excess of 500 and an ambulance if the crowds exceed 1,000. One would wonder how the insurance companies would react if there was a disaster there.

Following the torrential **downpour** during mid-month, Torrevieja brought in 600 cubic metres of sand, some 40 truck loads, to replace what was washed away on the beaches of Los Locos, El Cura and Los Náufragos. The sand was stored in a ravine in Torreblanca.



Although 350 million euros was spent on the local desalination plant infrastructure, 80% of its water flow serves only the farmers of Murcia. The lack of a pipeline prevents 30,000 farmers in Alicante benefiting from irrigating with **desalinated water** from Torrevieja.

The grape (or vine)harvest began in the province of Alicante with an increase in production of 15%. The wineries under the **Alicante Denomination of Origin** expect to collect 30,000 kilos of grapes. Average total grape collection for the area is around 30 million kilos. Last year the collection marked a minimum of 26.33 million kilos.

Dream Hills II experienced **a number of robberies during September**. In Dream Hill (I), residents sitting in low chairs on their balcony one evening, were surprised to see a young man in a balaclava climb over their first floor wall. Equally surprised, the would-be thief jumped straight down to the ground from the first floor where two other similarly clad young men were waiting. All three, now called 'The Ninjas,' vaulted the six-foot gate with spikes! The incident happened before the security guards came on duty that night.

El Consorcio Vega Baja Sostenible is a consortium which has been sitting for 10 years to try and find suitable sites for dumping the rubbish collected in the Vega Baja region. For several years untreated rubbish has been dumped illegally in the La Murada area, the local residents forming a 24-hour vigil for years to try to halt the dumping *basura* lorries. Finally a site was found near Dolores over a year ago, but thanks to the usual bureaucracy not a stone has been turned yet on the new site! However, the consortium (photo) have managed to pay themselves a total of **€180,000 in bonuses**. Typical!



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The Way of the World!

I told my son, "You will marry the girl I choose." He said, "No."

I told him, "She is Bill Gates' daughter." He said, "Yes."

I called Bill Gates and said, "I want your daughter to marry my son." Bill Gates said, "No."

I told Bill Gates, "My son is the CEO of the World Bank." Bill Gates said, "Ok.."

I called the president of World Bank and asked him to make my son the CEO. He said, "No." I told him, "My son is Bill Gates' son-in-law." He said, "Ok."

And that's exactly how politics works. And thus began the practice of hiring dumb asses to work in influential positions of government worldwide.

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The British National Party's Christmas bash turned out to be a fiasco when they mistakenly booked a black DJ.

A BNP spokesman said: 'He sounded white on the phone.'

The Daily Mirror

JJ's Café Bar

VIA PARK V.

KITCHEN OPEN TUE-SAT 10:00am - 8pm

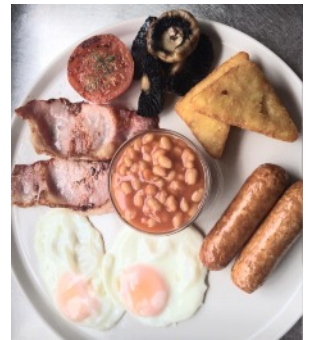
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CHANGES AT MERCADONA

Following a survey of its customers, or 'The Bosses' as the firm calls them, Spain's most profitable and successful supermarket has decided to introduce two major changes to its services.

The first follows a test run in a supermarket in Granada during 2017 where they expanded their beer selection from their own brand beers to include a range of other beers. They have now decided to introduce 45 different types of beer to its supermarkets.

The initial launch will be to 80 supermarkets in Madrid and Granada, which will then be introduced nationally during 2019. Although the range will still include certain beers made exclusively for the supermarket, brands such as Coronita, Alhambra, La Virgen or Paulaner and a 10-litre barrel of Krombacher are also being introduced.

The second welcome change will be the introduction of a hot-food unit to sell cooked food to the public. After a trial launch in Galicia, it has now been decided to launch the new service nationwide. This will roll out over 2019, and will probably include freshly roast chickens, pork dishes, paella etc.

A number of other supermarkets offer this service locally but the range on offer is usually small. It will be interesting to see what this supermarket will finally come up with.

Mercadona was founded by Francisco Roig and his wife in 1977 when it began as a small butcher shop in Valencia.

Mercadona now employs more than 70,000 people, all on permanent contracts!

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October

We roll into October
the month of Halloween
they say we should stay sober
but I'm not sure what they mean

A recent medical survey
says the over fifties drink too much
but the whole worlds topsy turvy
I think they're out of touch

After a life of employment
and raising families
we deserve some enjoyment
and should do as we please

This Brexit thing goes on we find
the way agreed at Chequers
now half of them have changed their minds
I think their all just crackers

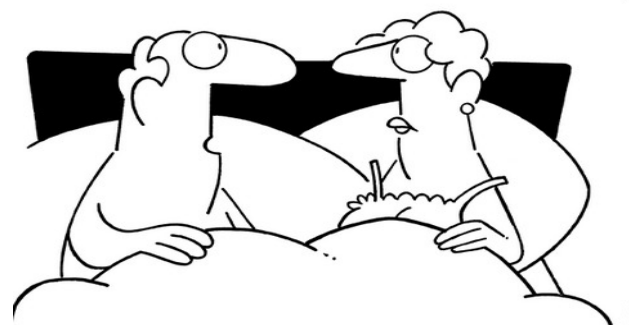
Whether your remain or go
we need some sense and passion
not Boris jumping high and low
in a demented fashion

It's all so much a play on words
that no one understands
the whole thing is so absurd
we don't know where we'll land

Politicians never answer questions
or give straight replies
never heed the good suggestions
all smoke and mirrors and lies

Let's only hope when its all over
we've got our freedom back
or build a wall at Dover
to keep out the wolf pack!

The Phantom Poet



"Ours is an eternal love. It takes you an eternity to get started and it takes me an eternity to finish."

ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE

Attendance Allowance is a benefit for people aged over 65 and who may need extra help to stay independent at home, due to an illness or disability.

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

Completing the lengthy form, you need to show that you need help at home or someone to keep an eye on you. This can include help such as getting out of bed, help to wash and dressed.

You don't need to have carers to help you but the money can help pay towards this.

The benefit is not means tested and does not affect your state pension or other income.

David, at Advocacy Costa Blanca is always happy to meet up for a chat. No charge.

If you would like support with the process, you can be assured there are no up front fees to pay.



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Attendance
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Thank you David Minto for all your help and advise.
David came to my home in Dec. and filled in all the forms
etc. my claim was turned down so David persuaded me to
appeal Last week I heard from the court and I have been
awarded the higher offer plus back dated from January.
David you are an ultimate professional so once again thank
you
RW, El Galan

David Minto gives the most excellent service. I was
given a couple of groups to contact when I needed
some financial help for my disability. One group
just passed me on with tel. nos to contact . David
was immediately on the case , visited my home,
filled in forms with the info. No stress for me . Yes
David charges a fee , you would expect that, but he
certainly works hard and expertly for it and could
easily be paid from the award I received. Would
recommend Advocacy Costa Blanca to anyone
needing help. GR-San Luis

Contact David on - 602465565 or 966392026.



- advocacycostablanca@outlook.com

Are you thinking about a return to the UK?

Are you aware of the Habitual Residence Test and Ordinary Residence?

Should you decide to return to the UK, it may be that you could have housing, social services and benefits declined because of Habitual Residency Test and Ordinary Residence.

David, at ACB, has been a UK social worker for eighteen years, many of these at a very senior level and is very accustomed to helping people access UK services on return.

For free advice and guidance regarding a return to the UK please don't hesitate to contact David at Advocacy Costa Blanca on 0034 602465565 or 966392026

When I was a nurse, my favourite assignment was the anorexic ward.

Sometimes I ate as many as 17 dinners.

Jo Brand



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Counter punch!

A middle-aged executive was becoming increasingly irritated by the constant ribbing he was taking from the junior employees who couldn't resist mocking his baldness. One morning, a particularly brash trainee had the gall to run his hand across the older man's gleaming head while loudly exclaiming: "Feels similar to my wife's ass."

A look of genuine curiosity came over the aging executive so he rubbed his hand across his head and then said, "I'll be damned. You're right, it does..."

A Scam by Degree's!

It used to be an urban myth that rats are so numerous there is probably one just six feet from you now. Thankfully, that has since been debunked, but while living in Spain, you will never be very far from some kind of scam.

During March this year an investigation by Eldiario.es into the academic record of the PP president of the Community of Madrid, Cristina Cifuentes, photo, revealed that she obtained a Master's Degree from the King Juan Carlos University in Madrid without providing any substantial coursework and never seen in class. Some of the signatories to the final certificate were also forged. While the story was bouncing around the media, it was also revealed that Cifuentes was also arrested for shoplifting in 2011, but political pressure at the time managed to 'hush up' the case. On April 25 this year, she resigned from her various appointments and retired from politics.



Just after PM Rajoy resigned this year, Pablo Casado took the helm as head of the conservative Partido Popular. But it emerged in May that Casado also obtained a Master's Degree from the same university without producing any papers or attending any classes. Gosh! What a coincidence! But then when you would think that this was just another PP scam, the socialist Spanish Health Minister, Carmen Montón, was forced to quit the socialist government after it was revealed that some of her grades were altered by the university in 2012, that her coursework was incomplete, but that she still received a Master's Degree from the same university featured in the previous cases.

Then, as we all laid back, exhausted by these educational excesses, the leader of the centre-right Ciudadanos group, Albert Rivera, voiced for the first time doubts over the content of the thesis written by PSOE Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, who holds a PhD in economics. "There are reasonable doubts about your doctoral thesis," he said to the PM during a debate on September 12. "Why are you hiding it?" The Spanish daily ABC published a story claiming that Sánchez had copied entire paragraphs from other authors. The digital newspaper OK Diario also stated that the economist Carlos Ocaña had written practically the entire academic work, for which Sánchez was awarded the highest possible grade. I would guess there are many other Spanish politicians in a similar position with questionable educational awards.

The Spanish social media is now having a field day claiming that Master's Degrees and Phd's can now be had by collecting bottle tops and similar. This graphic shows that the person who bought this yogurt won an award - 'Congratulations! A Doctorate in Economics.'



And, as for myself, I would like readers to know that I am so smart at times my brain hurts! But I am particularly proud of my Phd in Wishful Thinking which I received with all appropriate honours from the renowned Alicante University of Santo Miguel de Los Testículos Gigantes.

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IMSERSO HOLIDAYS.

The Imserso is a government backed scheme whereby residents in Spain, including expat's, can avail of subsidised autumnal holidays in Spain and its islands.

The two wholesalers who manage the tourism program of the Imserso began selling during mid-September to accredited pensioners - on Sept' 14 it started taking bookings in Asturias, Catalonia, Galicia, Rioja and the Basque Country, and in the Valencian Community on Sept' 17. This season, which begins in mid-October, will bring 300,000 retirees to the Costa Blanca thanks to the 180,000 places allocated. This expected surge of booking during the off-season and after irregular summer bookings, is most welcome following the diversion of foreign tourists, mainly British, to the resorts of Turkey, Tunisia and Egypt.

The Costa Blanca has 180,000 places assigned to the Imserso tourism quota, which allows it to receive 300,000 retirees between October 2018 and April 2019.

The Government has increased the prices by 4.5% after 14 years of frozen charges. As far as the cost is concerned, the actual hotel rates will be raised to 22 euros per day on a full-board basis for three-star establishments, at 22.50 for four-star hotels.

The following website in Spanish contains helpful details on the program -

<https://www.viajerosonline.org/reservas/ofertas-tercera-edad/7316-campana-viajes-imserso-2019-toda-la-informacion-precios-y-destinos-sepa-si-esta-acreditado.html>



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Sorry, no changes to menu.

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ON THE NEXT PAGE!**

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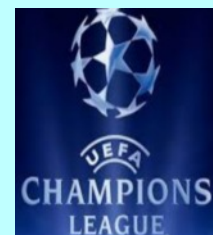


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"What's newpussycat?"

"Whoa-oo whoa-oo whoa-oh oh!"

Tom Jones



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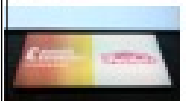
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The Royal Visit.

HM, the Queen was paying an official visit to a psychiatric hospital. She talked to a male patient who was tending the hospital flowerbeds and asked him why he was there. In a calm and orderly manner, he told her his sad life story, adding that he had been in the institution for more than twenty-five years.

The Queen was greatly impressed by his manner and hinted she might be able to secure his release as he seemed completely cured and ready to resume his place in society. The man was extremely grateful and returned to his gardening duties as the Queen departed.

Her Majesty was just about to leave the hospital grounds when a flying brick hit her on the back of the head. With blood oozing from the wound, she turned groggily to see the man standing there.

He said: 'You won't forget, will you?'

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Make sure Onslow's got a shirt on, otherwise it will be like watching some bad Italian film. Hyacinth Bucket, Keeping Up Appearances

PHOENIX GOLF REPORT

We played our monthly golf on Sunday September 16 at EL VALLE Golf Course.

The course was in absolutely perfect condition and we all enjoyed playing, with the sun shining as usual, but with perfect playing conditions for golf.

Nearest the Pin Number 6 Nigel Venus

Nearest the Pin Number 12 Ian Grant

Nearest the Pin Number 15 Gary Heskey

Nearest the Pin Number 9 Pat Brenham

Overall winner was IAN GRANT with 37 points

2nd place was ALAN PICKET with 34 points

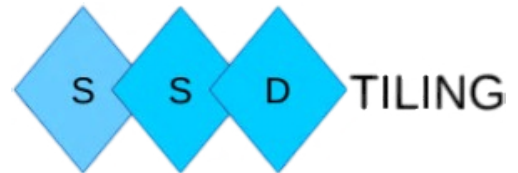
3rd place was BRENDA FOLEY with 30 points

We returned to the Phoenix Bar for our usual prize giving and lovely grub supplied by Donna. Many thanks Donna.

Dave Wightman

Definition of a gentleman:

Someone who knows how to play the bagpipes, but doesn't.



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One morning, a crippled man hobbled into a Catholic church on crutches. He stopped in front of the holy water, rubbed some on both legs and threw away his crutches. An altar boy witnessed the scene and ran into the rectory to tell the priest what he had just seen.

'Son, you've just witnessed a miracle!' said the priest. 'Tell me, where is this man now?'

'Flat on his arse, over by the holy water,' replied the boy.

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Another Wall?

Donald Trump suggested the Spanish government tackled the Mediterranean migration crisis by emulating one of his most famous policies and building a wall across the Sahara desert, the country's foreign minister has revealed.

According to Josep Borrell, a Spanish politician, the US president brushed off the scepticism of Spanish diplomats – who pointed out that the Sahara stretched for 3,000 miles – saying: “The Sahara border can't be bigger than our border with Mexico.”

Trump wooed voters in the 2016 election with his promise to build a “big, beautiful wall” across the US/Mexico border, which is roughly 2,000 miles long.



A similar plan in the Sahara, however,

would be complicated by the fact that Spain holds only two small enclaves in north Africa – Ceuta and Melilla – and such a wall would have to be built on foreign territory. But then again we are used to dumb nonsense from POTUS.

Spain has found itself on the frontlines of the migration crisis, with more than 33,600 migrants and refugees arriving by sea so far this year, and 1,723 dying in the attempt.

The increase in arrivals, amounting to three times the total for the same period last year, has meant Spain overtaking Italy and Greece as the main destination for migrants crossing the Mediterranean.



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The trouble with tranquillisers is that you find yourself being nice to people you don't like.

Mark Bushman



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CONTACT

Terri Shirl

634344641 659259706

The Autopsies.

Three dead bodies, all MEPs, turn up at the mortuary in Brussels, all with very big smiles on their faces. The coroner calls the police to tell them what has happened.

"First body: Frenchman, 68, died of heart failure while making love to his mistress. Hence the enormous smile, Inspector", says the coroner.

"Second body: Scotsman, 25, won a million on the lottery, spent it all on whisky. Died of alcohol poisoning, hence the smile."

The Inspector asked, "What of the third body?" "Ah," says the coroner, "this is the most unusual one. A gentleman from the Irish EU delegation, struck by lightning."

"Why is he smiling then?" inquires the Inspector.

"Thought he was having his picture taken.

*'I love a Martini,' said Mabel,
'I only have two at the most.
After three, I am under the table,
After four, I am under the host.'*

Anon



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La Verdad!

Yesterday, a couple of my buddies and I stopped in a topless bar in Alicante for some drinks. After being there for a while, one of the bartenders asked me which waitress I would like to be stuck in an elevator with. I told her "The one who knows how to fix elevators." I'm old, tired, and have to pee a lot.

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Big Drop in Food Poisoning Claims.

The number of compensation claims against hotels in Spain has now dropped significantly, with 95% of all claimants withdrawing their claim. The surge in claims started in 2016 when many British holiday makers returned to the UK and made spurious claims re food poisoning in the Spanish hotels. In that year alone there were 2,000 claims against hotels in Benidorm, with a potential cost to hotels (and/or insurers) of €6 million in that town or €60 million nationally. The claims were promoted by a number of dodgy lawyers, who would keep a significant part of the settlement eventually. A recent change in the UK law, requested by the Spanish, resulted in some exemplary judgements against some claimants, now discouraging others. Unfortunately the new law was not retrospective. Claimants can still claim for three years back, but can now expect much greater scrutiny. It emerged that Facebook evidence caught a lot of false claimants, who swore they spent days suffering in bed, while the photos showed them enjoying the high life!

The Plan.

A little French boy about 12 years old is walking down the street dragging a flattened frog on a string behind him. He came up to the doorstep of a 'house of ill repute' and knocked on the door.

When the Madam answered it, she saw the little boy and asked what he wanted. He said, "I want to have sex with one of the women inside. I have the money to buy it, and I'm not leaving until I get it."

The Madam figured, why not, so she told him to come in. Once in, she told him to pick any of the girls he liked. He asked, 'Do any of the girls have any diseases?' Of course, the Madam said, 'No'.

The boy said, 'I heard all the men talking about having to get shots after making love with Amber. THAT'S the girl I want.' Since the little boy was so adamant and had the money to pay for it, the Madam told him to go to the first room on the right. He headed down the hall dragging the squashed frog behind him.

Ten minutes later he came back, still dragging the frog, paid the Madam, and headed out the door. The Madam stopped him and asked, "Why did you pick the only girl in the place with a disease instead of one of the others?"

He said, 'Well, if you must know, tonight when I get home, my parents are going out to a restaurant to eat, leaving me at home with a baby-sitter.

After they leave, my baby-sitter will have sex with me because she just happens to be very fond of cute little boys. She will then get the disease that I just caught.

When Mum and Dad get back, Dad will take the baby-sitter home. On the way, he'll give her one in the car and he'll catch the disease. Then when Dad gets home from the baby-sitter's, he and Mum will go to bed and have sex, and Mum will catch it. In the morning when Dad goes to work, the milkman will deliver the milk, have a quickie with Mum and catch the disease.

HE'S the prick who ran over my FROG!

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NIGHTS!**

LIVE

SPORTS

6

SCREENS

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AND WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO PUT IT ON**



WHY GO ANYWHERE ELSE !!!

Free Zone

FIND US AT GROUND FLOOR ,VIA PARK 3.

A female friend of mine once told me that Ice Lollies are a lot like penises: no matter how old you get you are happy to get one, the pleasure lasts a few minutes and in the end you are left with a sticky mess.

SPANISH RADAR TRAPS.

The radars of the Spanish country roads are not all the same. There are different types having different allowances or tolerances for the same speed. Detection depends on a large number of factors such as, for example, the type of radar, the maximum speed allowed or even the accuracy of the radar itself. The most advisable thing is not to exceed the maximum speed allowed in any case. However, these are the tolerance levels. Briefly, while circulating on Spanish roads, we can find four different types. They are the following:

Fixed radars: Are those that are placed in boxes or on poles. For speeds of up to 100 km / h, these radars have a 5 km / h tolerance margin. For more than 100 km / h, the radars are calibrated with a 5% margin.

Mobile radars: These are placed in police or Guardia Civil vehicles. For speeds that do not exceed 100 km / h, there is 7 km / h of margin. For more than 100 km / h, a 7% tolerance margin is applied.

Section radars: These calculate the average speed on a section of the road, by obtaining images at the beginning and end of it. For speeds of up to 100 km / h, 10 km / h of margin. For speeds above 100 km / h, there's a 10% margin.

Pegasus helicopter radars: . These can capture images 300 meters high and 1,000 meters away. Not only do they detect excess speed, but many other infractions. For speeds of up to 100 km / h, 10 km / h of margin. And for speeds of more than 100 km / h, 10% tolerance margin.



LOCKSMITH

CERRAJEROS - SCHLOSSER
SEGURIDAD UNION

607 493 118

(Cut out & keep.)



(Key)

Top this for a speeding ticket...

Two British traffic patrol officers from North Berwick, east of Edinburgh, were involved in an unusual incident, while checking for speeding motorists on the A1 Great North Road.

One of the officers (who are not named) used a hand-held radar device to check the speed of a vehicle approaching over the crest of a hill, and was surprised when the speed was recorded at over 300mph. The machine then stopped working and the officers were not able to reset it.

The radar had in fact locked on to a NATO Tornado fighter jet over the North Sea, which was engaged in a low-flying exercise over the Borders district.

Back at police headquarters the chief constable fired off a stiff complaint to the RAF Liaison office.

Back came the reply in true laconic RAF style. "Thank you for your message, which allows us to complete the file on this incident. You may be interested to know that the tactical computer in the Tornado had automatically locked on to your 'hostile radar equipment' and sent a jamming signal back to it. Furthermore, the Sidewinder air-to-ground missiles aboard the fully-armed aircraft had also locked on to the target. Fortunately the Dutch pilot flying the Tornado responded to the missile status alert intelligently and was able to override the automatic protection system before the missile was launched."



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BATS!

Two people in Spain had to seek medical treatment this summer after being bitten by bats with rabies. The first case took place on June 21, near the northern Spanish city of Valladolid, while the second happened just two days later more than 650 kilometres away in the southern city of Huelva.

In the first incident, a 59-year-old woman was bitten by the animal when she opened a cupboard in her house and it flew out from within. The second case saw a 19-year-old man bitten after he tried to take the bat away from his cat, which was toying with it.

The two victims received early treatment against rabies, which involves cleaning the wound, an injection of rabies immune globulin, and a course of vaccinations. In both cases, the victims took the bats with them to the health center, allowing for analysis at the National Microbiology Center. Both animals were carrying European bat Lyssavirus type 1 (EBLV-1). The coincidence of the two cases taking place in barely three days is attention-grabbing, but not statistically relevant, experts say. Since 1987, there have been just 17 cases of people being attacked by bats in Spain.

The rabies viruses are divided into what researchers call “two cycles.” The so-called “urban” cycle, caused by just one virus, is responsible for around 60,000 deaths a year worldwide, almost always due to dog bites in developing countries.



The last outbreak of the urban cycle in Spain took place in Málaga in 1975, killing two people. After mass vaccination campaigns in the 1960s and 1970s, there were no more reported cases in the country. But in 2004 a woman of Moroccan origin died in Madrid after having contracted rabies in her country, where rabies in dogs is yet to be wiped out.

The “bat cycle” is caused by the other viruses in the family. Some of these viruses cause the animals to get sick, but others simply carry the virus and transmit it, without suffering any of the ill-effects. In this case, the virus travels directly from the carrier to humans. If anyone comes into contact with a bat, they risk contracting the virus. That’s why it’s important not to touch them, dead or alive.

In the rest of Europe, a dozen people have died over the last 20 years after being bitten by bats and not requesting medical assistance until the symptoms started to develop. In the United States, around three people die every year of the same cause.

(Abridged from El Pais)

It is worth noting that there are plenty of bats around this area, some being used in Torrevieja to reduce the mosquito threat.



Very creative Granddad! Now put it back as the ladies in the nursing home all have their legs crossed!

Better than a Flu Shot!

Miss Beatrice, the church organist, was in her 80’s and had never been wed. She was admired for her sweetness and kindness to all. One afternoon the pastor came to call on her and she showed him into her quaint sitting room. She invited him to have a seat while she prepared tea...

As he sat facing her old Hammond organ, the young minister noticed a cut glass bowl sitting on top of it. The bowl was filled with water, and in the water floated of all things, a condom!

When she returned with tea and scones, they began to chat. The pastor tried to stifle his curiosity about the bowl of water and its strange floater, but soon it got the better of him and he could no longer resist.

‘Miss Beatrice’, he said, ‘I wonder if you would tell me about this?’ pointing to the bowl.

‘Oh, yes,’ she replied, ‘Isn’t it wonderful? I was walking through the park a few months ago and I found this little package on the ground. The directions said to place it on the organ, keep it wet and that it would prevent the spread of disease. Do you know I haven’t had the flu all winter.’

Carol Martin

The Helmet & Ant eater

A rabbi and priest found themselves sharing a compartment on a train. Striking up a conversation. The priest said: ‘I know that in your religion, you’re not supposed to eat pork. Have you actually ever tasted it?’

The rabbi replied: ‘I must confess I have on the odd occasion.’ After a brief silence, the rabbi turned to the priest and said: ‘I know that in your religion you’re supposed to remain celibate. Have you ever had sex?’

The priest said: ‘I must confess that I have succumbed once or twice.’

And the rabbi said: ‘Better than pork, isn’t it?’

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Emerald Isle Charity Market

THURSDAY

La Marina Urbanisation

SATURDAY

**c.c. Bahia del Las Dunas
La Marina (opposite Lidl)**

SUNDAY

**Lemon Tree No.44
San Isidro**

ALL MARKETS

9:00am - 1:00pm approx.

I picked up a hitchhiker last night. He said, 'Thanks, but how do you know I am not a serial killer?'
I said, 'The chances of two serial killers being in the same car are astronomical!'

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While I was sitting at the bar in Benidorm palace, I asked the bartender: 'How late does the band play?'
The bartender replied: 'About a half-beat behind the drummer.'

Maybe it has been the summer heat and humidity, but there seems to have been an abundance of oddballs and oddities.

First of all we take a look at the regional government of Castilla y Leon, thankfully up north. Here the Regional Minister for Economy & Treasury, María del Pilar del Olmo, photo, has proposed that retailers **charge shoppers to use changing rooms** to try on clothes. She explained that too many shoppers are using the option, not as a means to “try before they buy”, but rather to find the right item and correct size before then sourcing the outfit online at a cheaper price. What can I say except that it is you, the public, elect these people. At least she is not in charge of anything important, like the economy. Hang on a minute!



Now to the superstore Carrefour. Their outlet in El Pinar de Las Rozas, in Madrid, has **withdrawn a series of ‘Back to School’ items** from their shelves, following a comment from a parent on Twitter. Mixed in with the school notebooks were a series of notebooks with ‘rude’ statements on the covers. One read *‘Walking drunk and with heels Is a risky sport’*, another *‘Autumn rhymes a lot with do not touch my pussy’* and *‘Beware of eating the world that then you have to shit’*. (Spanish version here: *‘Caminar borracha y con tacones debería ser deporte de riesgo’*, *‘El otoño rima bastante con no me toquéis el coño’* o *‘Cuidado con comerse el mundo que luego hay que cagarlo’ son algunos de estos lemas.*) The offending notebooks were eventually moved to the adult section.

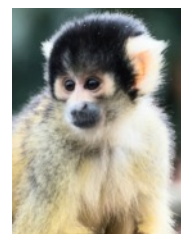
Thieves in Paraguay stole 42 powerful rifles from a police armoury in the city of Capiatá. The thieves **replaced** the Belgian-made FN FAL rifles **with wooden and plastic replicas**. The switch was not discovered until after the rifles began appearing in neighbouring Argentina and Brazil, prompting an inspection which discovered the toys!

The National Police in Leganés (Madrid) arrested an unnamed man for making videos on his mobile phone of females inside the changing rooms in various clothing stores. He made **108 different recordings** in just three different days - 55 of them on a single day! He was rumbled when a minor, who was trying on swimwear in one store, noticed a reflection of the phone in the mirror.

The police were called and the man said he couldn’t remember his pin code. The Unit of Attention to the Family and Woman of the National Police took charge of the case with the assistance of the Research Group of

Technological Crimes and it was verified that the memory of the telephone stored 108 videos of women, many of them minors. The police are finding it difficult to trace many of the victims filmed. Maybe they should put some of the recordings on YouTube.....NOT!

I loved this story from New Zealand. 23-year-old John Owen Casford, photo, decided to break into a zoo in Wellington, New Zealand, and **steal a squirrel monkey** for his girlfriend. Casford, who



later described himself as ‘high as a kite’ during the escapade, broke two padlocks to get into the monkey enclosure. However the would-be thief soon found that the tiny squirrel monkeys, photo, were not as meek as he anticipated. Although he is fairly uncertain of what happened next, Casford ended up outside the monkey enclosure with a broken leg, two fractured teeth, a sprained ankle, bruises on his back but no monkeys! And, to add to his embarrassment and discomfort, the local district court sentenced him to two years and seven months behind bars, thankfully for him, not monkey ones. So, watch out for these little squirrel monkeys - they’re ninjas!

Still with an animal story - sort of! A doctors in the Nuestra Señora de La Candelaria Hospital, in Mojón de Arona, in the south of the Canary Island of Tenerife, could not believe what he was seeing when, on Saturday, Sept’ 15, he attended to a British woman who was complaining of strong pains in her genital area. He extracted a small **dead Chinese turtle** from the 26-year-old’s vagina. The woman, who had been vacationing on the island for several days, reported that on the previous Thursday she had met with some compatriots and had joined them but did not want to specify any more details about the party which took place in the Fañabé beach area.

Police sources reported that the doctor who treated the young woman, warned the Civil Guard, who transferred the case to the National Police, which has closed the case for the time being because of lack of evidence, despite the suspicion that she had been the victim of a sexual assault.

The young lady did not file a complaint nor did she say that she was a victim of a sexual assault. But honestly, what do some people get up to? The University Hospital is to open an investigation, as



someone from the hospital leaked a photo of the bloodied dead turtle to WhatsApp, which was also published by various media sources. This is a stock photo of a similar live baby Chinese turtle.

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Sunny South Facing Terrace, Opposite Mercadona in Los Balcones

Yet Another Weird Bloke.

Marjorie Moon's date with Paul Guadalupe Gonzales, photo, at a swanky restaurant in Los Angeles in 2016 was going fine. That is, until he disappeared.

Gonzales was charming at first, if a little fawning, Moon said. She met him online through the dating site Plenty of Fish and hit it off, swapping pictures of their kids and sharing their appreciation for good food. On their first date, she realized he wasn't kidding: Gonzales ordered two entrees — a chicken dish and four lobster tails, she said. He ordered expensive wine and then a soufflé for dessert. And then, he told her he had to go make a phone call. Moon thought he was on the call for a long time and asked her waiter if he had seen her date. Yes, the waiter said. Her date left. "I couldn't believe it," Moon told The Washington Post. "I just handed [the waiter] my credit card and said, 'I just want to go home' — \$250 later, I was out the door."

Moon is one of at least eight known women who allegedly ended up footing the bill after police say Gonzales, 45, invited them out to dinner via online dating then ditched them before the meal was over, the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office said Monday. Gonzales, known as the "serial dine-and-dasher" in local media, was arrested this week on 10 felony charges in connection with his alleged awful dating etiquette between May 2016 and April 2018. In addition to the eight women, two restaurants are also listed as victims because they picked up the tab.

Gonzales has pleaded not guilty to seven counts of extortion, two counts of attempted extortion and one count of grand theft, accused of cheating his dates out of more than \$950. He faces a maximum penalty of 13 years in prison, the district attorney's office said. "I'm just shocked this thing went as far as it did," said Moon, since happily engaged. "I never thought my date would turn into news like this."

It was always the same pattern for Gonzales, according to police: a lavish, expensive meal, followed by an excuse to leave the table and, ultimately, disappear. Sometimes, his aunt was really sick, CBS Los Angeles reported. Sometimes, he left his phone charger in his car and really needed to go get it. Sometimes, he had to go to the bathroom.

Diane Guilmette, the first woman to come forward to CBS, said she met Gonzales on Plenty of Fish and he took her out to Morton's Steakhouse in downtown Los Angeles. He ordered an appetizer, wine, steak, a couple of sides, "really enjoying himself," Guilmette told the station. He had to make a phone call leaving her with a bill of \$163.

According to the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, Gonzales is also suspected of skipping out on the bill at a hair salon. He was caught on video leaving the salon with wet dye still in his hair, still wearing the salon's smock, CBS reported in 2016. He reportedly said he had to get his iPad from his car. (Abridged from The Washington Post)





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Commercial Centre at Dream Hills II, next to Sorraia Cafe Bar and Aldi's.

The Ball Run!

The Madrid town of Mataelpino decided that 'bull runs' were too dangerous, so eight years ago they brought in the mock bull run, but this time with a giant 250-kilo (?) Styrofoam ball, with smaller ones for the kids. However this year a 29-year-old man taking part received serious head injuries and had to be airlifted to a hospital!



The Pink & Blue Suit!

When the store manager returned from lunch, he noticed his clerk's hand was bandaged, but before he could ask about the bandage, the clerk had some very good news for him. "Guess what, sir?" the clerk said. "I finally sold that terrible, ugly suit we've had so long!" "Do you mean that repulsive pink-and-blue double-breasted thing?!" the manager asked. "That's the one!" "That's great!" the manager cried, "I thought we'd never get rid of that monstrosity! That had to be the ugliest suit we've ever had! But tell me, why is your hand bandaged?" "Oh," the clerk replied, "after I sold the guy that suit, his guide-dog bit me."

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My uncle was a political writer for one of those London tabloids. I can still remember his biggest scoop. The headline read, 'High Ranking Politician Caught Wearing Women's Clothing'. Of course you turned to page two and you found it was Margaret Thatcher, but by then you'd already bought the paper.

Daphne Moon, FRAISER.

Lime Bar Fishing SUNBATHING Club

What a bloody year we are having! In May we lost 2 of our mates to the "big C", mid Sept we also lost big Paul (aka Feathers). Anyone who frequents the Lime Bar will know Paul, photo, as a fantastic "northerner" who called a spade a spade and wouldn't put up with any crap. He was great at the bun fights; someone would wind him up, light the blue touch paper and let him go! He loved his fishing and was one of our founder members. Over the years he won The Knockout Cup, The Rod & Reel Trophy and The Memorial Shield. Any excuse for a party and he would be front and centre with a big cheesy grin, our functions just won't be the same.



After escaping the thunderstorms at our August match, the September match was forecast for light showers and a possibility of lightning. 3 rods doesn't like El Bosquet and his rain dance to the storm God certainly got through. I think Jupiter, Auros and Thor all received his message as this month we fished the match in some frightening conditions. Driving out to the venue we had a taster of what was to come, the heavens just opened in a sudden deluge that lasted for about 5 minutes. Wipers were on full speed and the rain was bouncing a couple of inches off the road. Then it stopped!

When we arrived at El Bosquet the ground was dry but there were a few angry clouds about. Pepe (the complex owner) said "No problema, no lluvia hoy." After collecting our entrance fees he disappeared into his shed. The match start was delayed for 30 minutes to allow the worst of the clouds to pass over but the lightning could be seen all around us arcing and forking in the Elche hills a few miles away. It brightened up for an hour then the 1st downpour hit us and that set the pattern for the mornings fishing. After each downpour it brightened up again for an hour. At about 10.30 the horizon turned black with a huge thunderhead cloud coming our way. The lightning could be seen shooting out of the storm and we were all hoping that the hooter would sound to cancel the match.

Fortunately the storm veered off at the last minute so we only caught the edge of another deluge. It was enough to have Sweeney paddling in 3 inches of rain in his peg so he bottled it and went to sit in his car. Those wary of the lightning joined him, but most people just huddled under their umbrellas and carried on fishing (just like in UK).

Jim Prigmore, a former club member who lives in UK, was out on holiday and had joined us for a days fishing using borrowed tackle. Unfortunately he didn't have a brolly so he just sat there and fished through it. He was drenched!

He was later seen in his shreddies ringing out his clothes and hanging them on the branches to dry out. Anti Social Baz didn't fair much better as he only had his sun parasol and the rain just poured through it. The Muppet! Although Jim was using borrowed tackle, he still caught when Anti Social blanked.

The match was fished on pegs 1 to 16 using a roving draw. Fagash had 1st choice and headed straight to peg 1 followed by Cheshire Cat Pete into peg 2. These 2 pegs always fish well, after that it is potluck where you fish.

"Beat me Phil" had 3rd choice and chose peg 16 where he has had good results before, then every body else slotted in between them. I had last choice and chose peg 4 which I thought was the best that was left. Those that chose to fish the oblong (pegs 11 to 16) struggled for fish all day and most only caught mullet.

After a stormy day, Fagash won the match (using a swim feeder) with 13.5 kilos, I came 2nd with 12 kilos and "Beat me Phil" was 3rd with 7.25 kilos. Cheshire Cat Pete was 4th with 4 kilos but he had to weigh each fish individually because he had forgotten his keepnet. He arrived at the venue with Anti Social in the muppet car!

This was the last match of the summer season that sorts out who goes through to the summer final, but it is also for the Memorial Shield which remembers our passed members. Appropriate this month!

The final was scheduled for Tue 18th September at the tennis courts but the torrential rain caused the river to flood the banks so it has been postponed to 2nd October. Through to the final with points ranging from 76 to 57 are 3 rods, Beat me Phil, Ghost, Sweeney, Fagash and Ball boy. Anti social only had to catch a bleak at the last match and he would have made his 1st final, but he lost a good carp whilst he was having a fag. That will teach him to give up.

"Beat me Phil" and I had also agreed to fish our knockout final in conjunction with this monthly match. For once in a blue moon I beat him to win the knockout, but he still scored more points than me in the league. Grumpy Bob is convalescing at home now so the Torre nurses will have some peace and quiet! Apparently he is grumbling at Joy now for being too organised and caring.

If you feel a bit peckish, a date for your diary is our presentation night that will be held at the Lime Bar starting at 19.30 on Thurs 22nd Nov.

Next ~~meeting~~ bun fight is our AGM at The Lime Bar @ 17.00 Mon 1st October.

Fishy Fingers!
The Ghost

*Jim Tavaré once walked on stage and said, 'Hello, I'm a schizophrenic,'
and was greeted by the heckle, 'Well you can both fuck off then!'
Malcolm Hardee*

Spanish Government Planning Measures against Owners of Empty Homes

The Spanish government is planning “coercive measures” against the owners of empty homes, according to an internal report to which EL PAÍS has had access.

In a bid to regulate housing “as a public service in the general interest,” the Socialist Party (PSOE) government has drafted a set of initiatives that would affect property owned by banks and developers, but also private citizens. The measures are part of a report by the Housing Secretary General’s Office, which says they must now be elevated to national law.

There are an estimated 3.4 million homes lying empty in Spain, according to a 2011 census by the National Statistics Institute (INE), the latest available. “Mobilizing” this pool of property has become one of the main goals of Spain’s Public Works Ministry.

Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, who leads a minority government, wants to build enough consensus to start drafting a national housing law. But his weak position in Congress and the 2020 deadline for new national elections will complicate the initiative. And regional governments currently have the biggest say in housing policies, leading to diverging approaches to the problem of affordable housing. In a report dated September 11 and presented to the Cabinet, the ministry insisted on the need for a national law to end the current discrepancies stemming from different criteria followed by the various regional governments of

Spain. Only this, said the report, can end the situation of “inequality.”

Some regions currently apply sanctions against the owners of empty homes. Forced renting and temporary expropriation are also options in some cases. The targets of these measures also vary: in some places only banks holding repossessed homes can be sanctioned, while in other regions, private individuals are also being targeted.

And there are also instances where a regional government has sold off public housing to investment firms. At the height of the economic crisis, Madrid regional and local authorities sold 5,000 public housing units to Goldman Sachs and Blackstone, who raised the rent and evicted anyone who could not pay.

Meanwhile, the Spanish courts are beginning to recognize the social role of public housing. A Madrid court recently accepted an appeal filed by a group of citizens against the sale of 2,935 apartments owned by the former Madrid Housing Institute (Ivima) to the investment fund Encasa Cibeles. And in May, another Madrid court said that these projects “serve a social purpose.” Both rulings found that the sale of public housing violated “the principles of family protection, protection of minors, and the right to adequate housing.”

(This is an abridged version of an article which appears in the Spanish daily, El Pais.)

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Neil, Ade & Mark

I met my husband when I worked in a delicatessen on the King’s Road. He had come in to buy an apple pie.

I sold him a meat pie by mistake and we fell in love over a plate of steak & kidney pie and custard.

Alice Thomas Ellis

BARE OWNERSHIP

From the outset, I am not saying 'I am recommending this', I am only letting you know about it.

Many of you may already be aware of *Usufruct*. *Usufruct* is a limited real right found in civil-law and mixed jurisdictions that unites the two property interests of *usus* and *fructus*:

Usus (use) is the right to use or enjoy a thing possessed, directly and without altering it.

Fructus (fruit, in a figurative sense) is the right to derive profit from a thing possessed.

A simple example would be say, I could own a property in Spain, but my mother could have an *Usufruct*, which would allow her to live in the property for the rest of her life.

Bare Ownership comes about when say, Mrs Bloggs down the road owns a house and is in her late years. The remainder of her family are all doing well financially but Mrs Bloggs, a widow, would like some money now to enjoy her twilight years more comfortably. The house is worth €200,000 but she will sell me the house now for €100,000 provided she has an *Usufruct* which will allow her to continue to live in the house for the remainder of her life plus the advantage of a large cash lump sum. (This is not an equity release scheme, where interest is paid.) When Nanny Bloggs eventually 'pops her clogs', I then have an asset worth considerably more than I paid for it.

Bare ownership is not a new scheme and I was surprised to see it already operates in various parts of the world, dependant of course on the relevant local laws. It is now gaining popularity in Spain, France and Belgium. The scheme is probably more popular with rich individuals and organisations anxious or able to expand their property portfolios. Various taxes should also be taken into account. You will find out more on this topic with the following links:
<https://howtobuyinspain.com/en/property-purchase-spain-usufruct-bare-ownership/>

<http://bareownership.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Property-Wire-Confidential-March-11.-expert-view.pdf>



Airport Bus Timetable.

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

Torreveja 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 Torreveja: 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.

Red Days in the Valencian Community 2018.

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

Applying Online for A Padron Appointment In Orihuela.

Many of us who have been over here for some years will only be too aware of the many, many hours of seemingly endless queues while waiting to register for Padron, Residencia, SUMA - in fact most things. The bureaucracy in Spain teaches us all patience.

Fortunately the local council have come up with a very welcome efficiency, where one can now register online for an appointment.

On this website you can choose day, date and time for your appointment, subject of course to availability.

The web address is located below and is, helpfully, also available in the English language.

When you first try to access the site, you may get a warning saying that this particular website does not have a security certificate. I just ignored it.

Aside from the appointments facility, the website also contains information relating to participation, transparency etc. <https://orihuela.governalia.es/en/>

Don't forget your IBI (property tax in Spain) is payable by October 5. Fines for late payment.

Lee's Event's List

Sad to report that Lee Bell, who provided this very helpful link, passed away suddenly during August. Those of us who knew him will greatly miss his many kindnesses, wit and humour.

This helpful and informative internet link will remain in this publication as Lee's Event's List.

<https://www.eurotourguide.com/en/events-calendar/2245/>

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Call Sam on 672 51 02 49.

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For details contact Kev on 608 410 008

Chinese Sick Leave



Ho Chow calls into work and say, 'Hey, I no come work today, I really sick. Got headache, stomach ache and legs hurt, I no come work.'

The boss says, 'You know something Ho Chow, I really need you today. When I feel sick like you do, I go to my wife and ask her for sex. That makes everything better and I go to work. You try that.'

Two hours later Ho Chow calls again. 'I do what you say and I feel great. I be at work soon.....
You got nice house.'

Carol Martin

The juice of the grape is the liquid quintessence of concentrated sunbeams.

Thomas Love Peacock

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

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