



THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER



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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the December, 2018 edition. Issue No.138

The evening of November 18 and the early hours of the following morning saw some **torrential rainfall in the coastal areas**. The subsequent flooding was quite serious. Many of the local beaches, particularly La Glea in Campoamor were badly damaged, the nearby roads also being closed to traffic. Over 100 litres of rain per square metre fell in just a few hours in Torrevieja with several vehicles partially submerged. Although this flooding appears to be at least an annual event now, the local authorities seem to lack the ability to either mitigate the damage or introduce measures to improve storm drainage.

Congratulations to **Colin Philpot** who managed to raise the equivalent of **€650 for charity** throughout Via Park III. Colin went on a month-long alcohol-free sponsorship drive. Local sales of cider slumped enormously, while Colin drunk enough blackcurrant juice during the period to guarantee signing up to Type 2 Diabetes. €505 has already been donated to the Pink Ladies' Cancer Charity and £135 sent to Macmillan Nurses Cancer Support. Well done, Grizzly!

Flu vaccines are now available at your local health centre. One can also purchase the vaccine at your local chemist/farmacia.

Spain has claimed a major diplomatic **last-minute coup** after forcing Theresa May into giving written confirmation of their 'veto' **over Gibraltar** being covered by post-Brexit trade negotiations.

The Spanish move, which hands Madrid massive negotiating leverage over the future of the British overseas

territory, came after days of diplomatic wrangling had threatened to derail the 'seal the deal' Brexit summit in Brussels.

After 48 hours of diplomatic arm-twisting, the British government conceded in writing that no part of the future agreement can apply to Gibraltar without the agreement of the Spanish government! Spain's foreign minister Josep Borrell said the agreement was "highly positive" for Spain and "the most important one since the Utrecht Treaty of 1713" when Gibraltar was ceded to the British Crown.

At an extraordinary summit in Brussels, the bloc's 27 heads of state and government took a decisive and historic step towards **sealing the terms of Britain's split** from Brussels after 44 years of membership. Unanimous support was given to the terms of a voluminous draft withdrawal treaty, covering citizens' rights, the £39bn divorce bill, and the Irish border issue, along with a 26-page political declaration setting out the basis of the future relationship.

But this deal is most unlikely to be passed by the British parliament, adding more uncertainty to that of the previous two years. I think the Lithuanian Prime Minister put it in a nutshell when he said that 'this deal is good for no one!'

**Wishing you all a
Wonderful Merry Christmas and a
Prosperous and Happy New Year
from all our advertisers,
Mick, Tid & the Dream Scene Team.**
(Remember no DS for January 2019, but back in February.)

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I went to watch Pavarotti once. He doesn't like it when you join in.

Mick Miller

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ENTERTAINMENT

R



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PIANO MAN - BAZZ THE JAZZ!

Fantastic Nights!



THURSDAYS 21:00 - MIDNIGHT

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FRIDAYS 21:00 - MIDNIGHT

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TERRY JAY - VOCALIST

**All the Music You Remember
Bringing Back the Good Times!**



NEW YEAR'S

EVE!

BAZ THE JAZZ & MOIRA

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Black & White Theme!



They were able to get him to hospital. He's in the intensive care ward at Our Lady of the Worthless Miracle.
Det. Frank Drebin, *Police Squad*.

What's Up?

Although initially hailed as a 'Frankenstein Government,' the relatively new government of PM Pedro Sanchez, photo, is now being referred to in some media as a 'Zombie' one. As several previous supporters, including the separatists of Catalonia, have withdrawn their cooperation, Sanchez no longer boasts a majority, with few new changes being introduced, save for a few decrees. Being **unable to pass a new budget** due to lack of support, the socialist government will now have to rely on budget of the previous PP government.



One commentator referred to the administration as *mucho ruido - sin nueces!* (much noise - no nuts!) A general election is possible during 2019, or at the latest 2020.

On December 2, **Andalucia**, the most populous community in Spain, **will hold regional elections**. The region has had a socialist government for the past 37 years. Known as the 'black hole' for funding in Spain, it also has the highest unemployment rates and the longest hospital waiting times. At present two of Spain's largest fraud & corruption trials, the ERE and Training Fund Cases, are underway in the the region, but the collective amnesia of those now in the dock - some 20 to 30 plus - is staggering and is rarely mentioned in the media. The Spanish seem very forgiving!

Around 100 lorries from Murcia are believed to have been **stranded by fuel tax protestors** in France. Perishable goods and late deliveries are expected to lead to heavy losses for Murcia transport companies. As the protest has been going on for five days at least, fresh food is bound to be damaged. In all there are 4,800 HGVs in Murcia which are licensed for use in international transport.

Dog therapy is being used at the Santa Lucia Hospital in Cartagena to aid the recovery of children. The scheme is called 'Doctor Guau' ("guau" being the Spanish equivalent of "woof", the sound of a dog barking). The five dogs are highly trained and are helping to improve the physical, social, emotional and cognitive wellbeing of child patients. I would still keep them way from the Koreans though.



It was on November 1, 1988, that the **first migrant body**, a Moroccan, was washed up on the shores of the province of the province of Cádiz. Since November 1, 1988, 6,714 migrants have died or gone missing in the Strait of Gibraltar, according to a report by the migrant support group Andalucía Acoge. Experts of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimate that for each person whose death was recorded, there were another two that went unrecorded.

There have been at least 235,568 **illegal immigrants** into Spain via the Med' between 1999 and 2017, to which must be added the 43,467 people who have arrived in Spain during 2018, in 1,636 boats, according to official data updated on October 15.

Aside from the recent disastrous flood on the island, Menorca has also suffered a **lengthy power failure** of 55 hours and 53 minutes after two high-tension pylons collapsed in the recent heavy winds. Angry tourists, and locals, were also without water or power for three days!

During a state visit to Morocco by Spanish PM Sanchez during November, he invited the country to make a **joint bid for the 2030 FIFA World Cup**. The Moroccans are reported to be interested.

Residencia and the Five Year Period.
In the November newsletter, a lawyer writing in El Pais advised that the actual residencia certificate or card, should indicate if the subject has been permanently resident in Spain for more than five years. I checked this out with the Town Hall in Orihuela Costa. They advise that this is unnecessary as this will be acknowledged and noted in their computer records anyway. However, if one changes say a name or an address on the residencia certificate or card, I am told that the five-year notation will then be included in the certificate or new card.

The **average salary** of a worker in the province of Alicante p.a. is €15,938. This is €3,234 below the national average and €1,719 less than the regional average. Workers in the capital, Madrid, averaged €25,120 p.a. although it is believed that workers in the Basque Country earned more on average. During 2017, 271,338 workers in Alicante earned less than the €9,907 which is less than the minimum wage for that year. This is because of sporadic and part time jobs in the tourist and agricultural sectors.

Once you're dead, you're made for life.
Jimi Hendrix

What's Up? continued

Some 136 years after construction began, Barcelona's Sagrada Familia basilica is finally to get a building permit. Gaudi's unfinished masterpiece is Barcelona's most famous landmark, but according to city officials, **it lacked the proper paperwork**. Although the basilica argued that it had been granted a licence in 1885, it has now agreed to pay €36m to settle the dispute – money that will be spent on improving public transport and nearby streets. Work on the cathedral slowed after its architect was killed by a tram in 1926, but is now due for completion in 2026.

The Spanish government has announced that it is going to present a reform to the Criminal Code so that sexual abuse cases involving minors have **no statute of limitations**, thus putting pedophilia offences on the same level as terrorist attacks and genocide, which are the only other crimes with no time limit.

A mother of a young boy in Vigo, Galicia, has been sentenced to a year in jail and a fine of €1,500 (payable to the child) for the crime of **habitual abuse**. The father received a similar jail sentence plus 60 days community service. The boy began to be abused since 2013 when he was eight years old. He received frequently blows, kicks, hair and ear pulling from the parents for bad grades, bad 'behaviour,' or any other inappropriate attitude in the opinion of his parents. Continued absence from school was noticed by his teachers in 2017 and after an investigation the boy was removed from his parents in April 2017 and placed in the provisional custody of his grandmother. The boy remains in the custody of his grandmother and as the jail sentence is less than two years, the parents are unlikely to serve jail time.

This chap was the victim of an assault on the Metro in Barcelona. He was wearing a cap which said **España and was carrying a Spanish flag**. Seems this is enough to bring some of the Catalan separatists to violence. The attacker escaped helped by a gang of his friends. The victim had only recently been operated on and was receiving treatment for cancer.



Final Request.

A sobbing Mrs Murphy approaches Fr O'Grady in the street. He says: "So what's bothering you?" She replies: "Oh, Father, I've terrible news. My husband passed away last night." The priest says: "Oh, Mary, that's terrible. Did he have any last requests?" "Certainly father," she replied. "He said: "Please Mary, put down that damn gun."

Someone with a **UK pension and living overseas** - currently about 220,000 people - will still receive their payments, whatever the outcome of the UK's departure from the EU. What is uncertain is exactly how much that pension will be worth as time goes on. At present the UK has a reciprocal deal with the European Economic Area (EU countries plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) as well as various other countries that means residents living in these countries see their state pension rise with the cost of living. So, for a UK resident living in one of these countries, their state pension rises by the triple-lock - the highest of earnings, prices or 2.5% - as it does in the UK. The intent on all sides is for this to continue, alongside inflation up-rating for EU residents in the UK. However, if there is no deal, this will require its own mini-deal, or there could be a possibility of the UK having to make an agreement country-by-country as it did before joining the EU. Otherwise, pensions would be paid but the level would be frozen, as it is for some UK pensioners living in countries such as Australia or Canada.

The National Police have arrested in Madrid eleven people of Spanish nationality involved in 254 scams when renting **nonexistent holiday apartments** in coastal areas of the Mediterranean Sea with which they obtained around one hundred thousand euros. Ten of those arrested have a history of similar acts, some even more than a score, and four are already in prison, reports the Madrid Police Headquarters. The detainees published advertisements on prestigious websites offering apartment rentals in Benidorm (Alicante), Gandía (Valencia), Salou (Tarragona), Oropesa del Mar (Castellón), Benalmádena (Málaga) and La Manga del Mar Menor (Murcia). After making the payment for a reservation and going to the supposed vacation apartment, the families realized that they had been victims of a scam since the property did not exist.

Those arrested had inserted advertisements on free websites offering rentals in coastal areas at a price much lower than the real market price.

The International Olympic Committee says it will encourage international federations **not to host competitions in Spain** unless Kosovar athletes are allowed there under their own flag. Spain, together with Greece, is the only large European country that does not recognize Kosovo, which proclaimed its independence from Serbia in 2008.

*Those presents the Three Wise Men brought
Jesus - were they for his birthday or Christmas?
Karl Pilkington*

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**SOUTH
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TERRACE**



LIME BAR GOLF SCORES - 14th NOV 2018

A gloomy start to the day soon cleared to produce another sunny day for the 28 Lime Bar golfers at Vistabella. The day saw "Mick the Grip" from the British Legion Poppy Appeal in attendance providing prizes, much appreciated. The golfers also made a donation to this appeal, a very worthy cause. The golf was played in the Stableford format.

GOLD CLASS

1st JOHN McGREGOR 40pts
2nd ROGER LILES 39pts
3rd MIKE HEIGHWAY 35pts

SILVER CLASS

1st DIGGER 35pts
2nd ALAN THORPE 34pts(CB)
3rd MICK CHURCH 34pts

NEAREST THE PIN

HOLE 2 IAN JOHNSTONE
HOLE 5 IAN GRANT
HOLE 7 JOHN McGREGOR
HOLE 18 ROGER LILES

The players returned to the Lime Bar for presentations and refreshments.

Thanks to the bar staff for the food and the ladies for the draw.

Special thanks to the British Legion Poppy Appeal for the prizes.

THE AGM WILL BE HELD IN THE LIME BAR ON 10th DECEMBER AT 2pm,
COME AND VOICE YOUR OPINION.

Eddie Allan



"Remember I said I wanted you to stop golfing so you could spend more time at home? Well if you don't mind, I'd like you to go back to golfing."

LIME BAR

VIA PARK III

A warm welcome awaits you from Sue & Peter, Carly & Mark.



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CIDER**



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Formula 1



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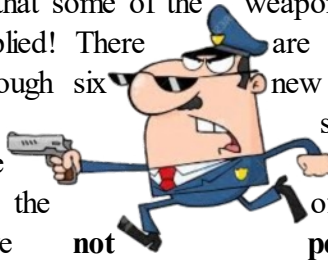


**CHECK OUT
OUR
SPECIALITY
COFFEES!**

The Local Police in Torrevieja appear to be in dire need of **uniform renewal**. The uniforms and boots should be replaced annually but a renewal contract has not been renewed since December 2017. This is a photo of one of the officers boots!



Although we have had plenty of reports of 'unhappiness' in the Policia Local in Torrevieja in recent years, the gripes now seem to have spread to the local police in Orihuela. It seems that the pistols they carry are mostly more than 25 years old and that some of the weapons will fire even if the safety is applied! There are also other defects. Although six new pistols were purchased several months ago, they have not been distributed to the officers. Also, the officers have **not performed their compulsory shooting practice** for more than a year as the shooting gallery has been closed since June 2017. It seems the reason for the closure was that the councillor in charge of the police refused to take out liability insurance in the event of possible accidents and injury to officers in the training range and wanted to get the police to sign waivers exempting the council from any responsibilities. The three police unions, yes three! - the UGT, SPPLB and CSIF, want the removal of the relevant councillor, Mariola Rocamora, for her 'inaction and lies'. Also, the ammunition - 4,000 cartridges, which should be changed every year has not been done for two years. The last time the police practised their shooting skills was during early 2017; they had to use leftover cartridges from previous years.



The Directorate General of Traffic (DGT) plans to **reduce the speed limit on many secondary roads** in the province from 100 to 90 kph. Around 2,090 of roads are likely to be affected. The goal is to reduce the steadily increasing accident rate on these roads which recorded 947 traffic accidents in which there were 27 fatalities, 91 serious injuries and 1,330 minor ones during 2016. The DGT plans to introduce the changes by Royal Decree in January 2019. From then vans, buses and trucks will have a speed limit of 80 kph on these roads.

An audit commissioned by the Ministry of Health has revealed that the privately managed **Torrevieja University Hospital**, run by Ribera Salud, is 30% more efficient than the remainder of the publicly run hospitals in the province. This represents a savings to the taxpayer of €45 million p.a.

The AP-7 is expected to be **toll free** from January 2020, and that is a definite MAYBE! This depends on a number of local and regional bureaucrats getting their act together.

The Flomar cooperative in Pilar de la Horadada has become the national epicenter of the flower trade in Spain. The cooperative, with thirty members, sells approx. **20 million flowers annually**. Although their exports abroad to the UK and Italy are important, fiesta periods such as All Saints and Christmas, particularly in Madrid, Galicia, Catalonia and Andalusia, generates massive demand for the crop. All Saints (Todos Santos) alone accounts for 20% of its annual sales.

The **beach bars** in Punta Prima, Cala Estaca and Cala Capitán will be closed for the winter. However, the beach bars in Cala Cerrada, Cala Bosque, La Caleta and La Glea will remain open.

Like to move to a **larger property**? Then why not the Palace of the Marquis of Rafal, in the historic centre of Orihuela, photo. Built over three centuries ago, this building has

13 bedrooms and nine bathrooms in a thousand metre plot.



Originally built in the eighteenth century, the facade was restored between the years of 1915 and 1920. The price? Yours for four million euros, but wouldn't it be so handy for the grandchildren when they visit.

Locally there has been some **disruption to traffic** in the La Florida, Citrus Centre and nearby areas due to roadworks. The electricity supply in these areas is being upgraded.

Alingui, the popular Spanish restaurant in Los Balcones has now moved to its new purpose built location nearby. I have not been inside it yet but it looks quite impressive. Unfortunately, local parking problems persist.



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**PHOENIX GOLF REPORT
SUNDAY 18TH NOVEMBER**

The match was played for the President's Trophy in memory of Peter Dawson. We played at Vista Bella golf course and the weather was very kind to us and was sunny for most of the day.

It was also good to see Ron Smith back playing after his bad shoulder.

Nearest the Pin No.2 - Mike Heighway

1st Place - Mike Heighway

2nd Place - Ian Grant

3rd Place - Pat Brennan

Mick the Grip came on behalf of the British Legion and presented prizes to the winners.

We had a raffle at Jessie's Bar and collected 38 euros for the British Legion.

The food was very good so many thanks to Julie at Jessie's Bar.

The Phoenix Golf Society are now meeting at Jessie's Bar for the foreseeable future.



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~ Henry Ford



Café Bar 

VIA PARK V.

Christmas Fayre at JJ's

ON ARRIVAL BUCKS FIZZ

STARTERS CHOICE:

CLASSIC PRAWN COCKTAIL

FISH CAKE SERVED ON A BED OF MIXED LEAVES & SWEET CHILLI DIP

TOMATO BASIL & RED PEPPER HOMEMADE SOUP & CRUSTY BREAD

PATE SERVED WITH SWEET RED ONION CHUTNEY & WHOLEMEAL TOAST

CHILLI CHEESE NUGGETS & GARNISH

PEACH SLICES WITH CREAM CHEESE & HAM

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MAIN:

TRADITIONAL ROAST TURKEY

ROAST BEEF

ROAST CHICKEN

OR

ACCOMPANIED WITH ROAST POTATO, PIGS IN BLANKETS, HONEY GLASED PARSNIPS, CARROTS, PEAS, BROCOLI, SPROUTS, YORKSHIRE PUDDINGS & STUFFING

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APPLE PIE WITH CUSTARD OR ICE CREAM

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Spain & Gibraltar.

Spain and the UK have reached a bilateral preliminary agreement on Gibraltar. Both governments have closed the deal that will guide relations between Spain and The Rock once the UK withdraws from the European Union in the process commonly known as "Brexit."

The preliminary agreement, which is part of the Gibraltar Protocol in the draft Brexit deal, comprises four memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and one tax treaty, according to Gibraltar Chief Minister Fabian Picardo.

This negotiation has been conducted on the sidelines of the general Brexit agreement, to which Spain is still voicing strong objections. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez on Wednesday, November 21st, admitted to this preliminary deal, but said that he would still veto the general Brexit agreement if Spain's conditions regarding future relations with Gibraltar are not met. Sánchez spoke on the telephone with British PM Theresa May to tell her that Spain will vote no to the draft Withdrawal Agreement on Sunday, November 25th, unless the document makes it clear that the way in which the future relationship between the UK and EU applies to Gibraltar must be negotiated solely between Madrid and London, said sources in the Spanish government. "If the problem is not resolved, Spain will have to vote **no** to the Brexit agreement because it affects the essence of our country, of our nation," said Sánchez. Environmental issues, cross border security, tobacco products and around 10,000 Spanish cross border workers are also key to the final agreement.

(Abridged from El Pais)

Spain to top longevity chart

Japan has long enjoyed the longest life expectancy of any country, but it may soon lose its crown to Spain (currently ranked fifth). A new report by the Global Burden of Disease study predicts that by 2040, life expectancy in Spain will have risen from 82.9 to 85.8; during the same period, Japan's is expected to rise only from 83.7 to 85.7. The forecast is partly based on extrapolating from recent trends, but also factors in "drivers" of health, such as smoking, diet, sanitation and income. According to Dr Christopher Murray, the director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation in Seattle, Spain does "really well" on most of these – though it "could do better" when it comes to smoking. The UK is predicted to rise from 26th to 23rd place (with life expectancy increasing from 80.8 to 83.3) and the US to fall 20 places, from 43rd to 64th.



"For those of you not following me online, here's what I did on my summer vacation."

SENIORS & COMPUTERS

As we Silver Surfers know, sometimes we have trouble with our computers.

Yesterday, I had a problem, so I called Georgie, the 11 year old next door, whose bedroom looks like Mission Control, and asked him to come over.

Georgie clicked a couple of buttons and solved the problem. As he was walking away, I called after him, 'So, what was wrong? He replied, 'It was an ID ten T error.'

I didn't want to appear stupid, but nonetheless inquired, 'An, ID ten T error? What's that? In case I need to fix it again.' Georgie grinned 'Haven't you ever heard of an ID ten T error before?'

'No,' I replied. 'Write it down,' he said, 'and I think you'll figure it out.'

So I wrote down:ID10T

I used to like Georgie, the little shithead.

(Richard Hext)



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December

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they're selling us out to the devil

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look for your neighbours on their own
with talk and good humour some time
you can fill
and let them feel not alone

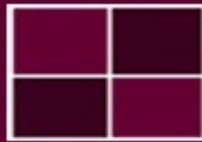
Enjoy all there is of the season
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before this year ends

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The Phantom Poet



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

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David you are an ultimate professional so once again thank
you
RW, El Galan

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'Sorry,' said the assistant, 'they're off.'

The robber fled empty-handed.

The Sunday Times

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The Controversial Mortgage Tax and an Indecisive Supreme Court.

The Spanish judicial system at its highest level - the Supreme Court - got itself into an unholy mess this autumn. The *Impuesto sobre Actos Jurídicos Documentados* (AJD) is a stamp tax paid in Spain by the homebuyer at the time of purchase, when a notary officially documents both the sale and the bank mortgage.

Around mid-October, the Supreme Court decided on appeal that the said tax should be paid by the banks not the client as was the previous practice. As a result of this decision bank shares on the market tumbled as, if the eight million mortgage holders in Spain were to demand the fee back, the litigation could cost the banks €24 billion on the basis of an average AJD fee of €3,000 per loan.

Less than two days after the Supreme Court's decision, the court agreed to reconsider the decision because of its "enormous economic and social repercussions." Then on November 6, the Supreme Court did another U-turn stating that it is the clients who must pay for a controversial mortgage tax, and not the banks! 15 justices were in favour of making the client pay the levy, while just 13 voted

to confirm a groundbreaking decision reached by this same court in mid-October that it should be the banks who pick up the tab. But three weeks of legal chaos and mind changing did little for the public image of the most senior court in the land. The decision drew widespread criticism from politicians, unions, consumer groups and citizens alike.

There were demonstrations and an understandably angry public as the consumer once again was to be shafted by the banks, who were rescued with public money just a few years ago.

The Spanish PM, Pedro Sánchez, then jumped into the ring saying the 'no Spaniard will have to pay the tax again' and introduced new legislation stipulating that the banks would pay the charge 'from now on.' This meant that no claims for the tax paid previously by the public would be entertained. So no refunds!

As the tax has not actually been cancelled, many believe that the banks will just increase the mortgage interest rates to compensate for the tax which must still be paid to the government. So maybe a Pyrrhic victory.

My wife was a very ignorant woman. For years she thought the Charge of the Light Brigade was the electricity bill.

Les Dawson



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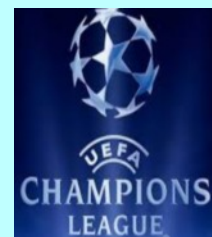
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This woman goes into a gun shop and says, 'I want to buy a gun for my husband.'
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Phyllis Diller



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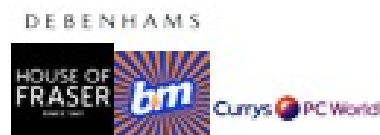
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At the Pearlies.

Three blokes arrived at the gates of Heaven, and are greeted by St Peter. He says to the first man: 'Have you been a good person?' 'Yes,' the first man replies, 'I've led a truly worthwhile life, and I've never been unfaithful to my wife.' So St Peter gives him a Rolls Royce car to aid his travels in Heaven. Then St Peter asks the second man if he led a good life. The second man replies: 'Well, mostly I've been honest and caring but I have been unfaithful to my wife once.' 'Very well,' replies St Peter. 'You may have a Ford Fiesta.' He goes to the third man and asks him the same question, to which the man replies: 'Well, no. I've stolen from my loved ones, and I've not been faithful to my wife for more than a week.' So St Peter gives the third man a bicycle.

A few days later, the second and the third man pass the first man in his gleaming Rolls Royce, sobbing his heart out. The second man asks him: 'What's the matter? If I had your car I'd be the happiest man here!' 'I was,' he replies, 'but I've just seen my wife, and she was on roller-skates.'

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Vitamin D Advice May Be Flawed

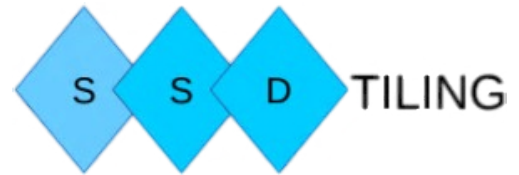
As vitamin D is generated in the body by exposure to the Sun, people in northern climates are often deficient in the hormone, which promotes calcium absorption and bone growth.

To make up for this, adults are advised to take supplements in the winter to keep their bones dense and strong, and prevent osteoporosis. But according to a new study, the supplements do not, in fact, significantly boost bone health in adults.

The Lancet-published research, which involved analysing data from 81 randomised control trials, found no evidence that the supplements improve bone density, or prevent fractures or falls injuries beyond a clinically meaningful threshold. Its authors suggest that the current guidelines should be changed, so that vitamin D supplements are recommended only to adults at a high risk of rickets and a rare condition called osteomalacia, and to children.

Me Too?

When she got home from school, a six-year-old girl told her mother that Timmy Morrison had kissed her after class. 'How did that happen?' asked her mother, a little surprised. 'It wasn't easy,' said the little girl. 'Three other girls had to hold him down for me!'



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New Rules for Ryanair Hand Baggage

Passengers who buy Priority Boarding with their tickets, at a cost of €6, will be able to take a 55cm x 40cm x 20cm item onto the plane along with a small item of baggage measuring 40cm x 25cm x 20cm. Those who don't will have to pay €8 per larger item, and drop it off at the Ryanair check-in desks before going through security. The item will be stored in the hold and will have to be collected from the baggage carousels on arrival at the destination airport.

Until now, passengers without Priority Boarding had to leave their suitcase at the gate, where it was taken down into the hold for free, and also had to be collected from the baggage belts on arrival. After this change, these passengers will have to pay and check in their cases.

This payment will have to be done during the online booking process. But if a passenger opts to add a case later on – this is permitted up to 40 minutes before the flight time – the cost will go up to €10. If you arrive at the gate with a case and have not checked it previously, and you don't have Priority Boarding, you will have to pay €25 and your case will be taken down to the hold.

There will only be 95 Priority Boarding passengers on each flight. That means that half of the passengers will not be able to buy these tickets and will have to pay a minimum €8 instead of €6. More palaver from Ryanair!

Legalising pot: Canada takes the plunge

Legal pot: “a wrecking ball to a delicate social order”

One of the key reasons for making pot smoking illegal, said J.J. McCullough on MSN.com, is that it serves “to reinforce a message every civilisation benefits from hearing: drugs are bad and should not be consumed”. Even if, as in Canada, the law was never strongly enforced, the low-level sense of guilt and anxiety around the drug ensures the message gets through. But last month Canada’s liberal PM, Justin Trudeau, “took a wrecking ball to this delicate social order” by pushing through a new law that makes use of marijuana legal for over-18s. Canada is only the second nation – Uruguay did it in 2013 – to do this. Nearly five million Canadians currently smoke dope, said The Independent, and they were so excited to mark the end of prohibition, the country’s stocks of recreational marijuana were reportedly running dry.

If only British politicians would follow Trudeau’s lead, said Simon Jenkins in The Guardian. What he has realised is that drug laws are the most “pointless and socially harmful foible” of modern government. They don’t affect the level of consumption: even with the laws in place, anyone who wants to score can do so. What legalisation – and its accompanying regulation – does is alter the dynamics of how they get the drug, and from whom. Canada can now steer users away from high-strength skunk – which police claim accounts for 95% of British consumption – to safer varieties, while freezing out criminals and enjoying additional revenue from sales tax.

Colorado, one of nine US states to allow recreational weed, has collected nearly \$1bn in tax since 2014. The US government collected an estimated \$4.7 billion in taxes from legal cannabis companies last year on nearly \$13 billion in revenue. Unlike most American businesses, which pay tax electronically or by check, most of these marijuana-product firms were forced to pay their federal taxes in cash. This is expensive!

It’s also another step towards a hugely profitable industry, said The Economist, and one not confined to smokable pot: one company in LA is already marketing cannabis-infused sauvignon. “Financial markets are giddy at the prospect.” Constellation Brands, the maker of Corona beer, has invested \$4bn in one Canadian producer; Coca-Cola and tobacco giant Altria are also looking for openings. Legalisation at the federal level in the US would create a market worth \$55bn and there is no shortage of bills in Congress to hurry that forward.

Let’s not get too complacent, said Diane Kelsall in the Canadian Medical Association Journal: this is “a national, uncontrolled experiment in which the profits of cannabis producers and tax revenues are squarely pitched against the health of Canadians”. Sales of the drug are likely to cause health problems in one in three adult users, with one in ten becoming addicted. Worse still, said Robert Schwartz in The Washington Post, is the real danger that by making pot legit, the act of smoking will become renormalised, “setting back years of tobacco-related gains”.

“Waggy Tails”

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Русский говорят.








Metamizole (Nolotil)

The Spanish Health Ministry has issued a warning regarding the misuse of metamizole, a painkiller whose most popular brand name in Spain is Nolotil.

Following reports of British citizens who died after being prescribed the medication in Spain, the country's health authorities are reminding users about the risk of a dangerous and unpredictable side effect known as agranulocytosis, which drastically lowers the patient's white cell count and can even lead to death.

On October 30, the Spanish Medication and Health Products Agency (AEMPS) issued a reminder that metamizole can only be purchased with a doctor's prescription, even though many Spanish pharmacies continue to sell it over the counter.

During early November, British news outlets reported that ten UK citizens had died after taking metamizole in Spain. It is one of the most commonly prescribed anti-inflammatory medications in Spain and Latin America, although it is banned in several European countries, including Sweden, the UK and Ireland.

While there are no conclusive studies to prove it, many health specialists suspect that people from northern Europe may be more sensitive to metamizole than Spaniards.

Dead Pimp Wins Election!

Politics in the US is certainly weird at the moment, but I thought the following 'took the biscuit'.

Dennis Hof was an American brothel owner, entrepreneur, restaurateur, politician and star of the HBO series *Cathouse*. He was best known as the owner of seven legal brothels in Nevada.

Dennis, seen posing here with some books, was celebrating his 72nd birthday at one of his brothels on October 16,

when he died, cause of death still unknown but one can only guess!

Although now playing the harp in heaven or the accordion in hell, Hof, a Republican, won the election for Nevada's



36th Assembly District on November 6, 20 days after he died, defeating Democratic challenger Lesia Romanov by more than 7,000 votes. County officials will now appoint a fellow Republican who also resides in the district to take Hof's seat.

I know this serial flasher. He was thinking of retiring, but he's decided to stick it out for another year.



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CONTACT

Terri Shirl

634344641 659259706

I loved the way all the actresses smelt.

*I didn't realise until years after
that it was gin.*

*Rhys Ifans,
recalling his days as a stagehand.*



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Email: keith.rocamer@live.co.uk

Vandalism in Dream Hills!

I go to Via Park III quite often. With a post room, chemist, cash point, excellent bars and restaurants, it's a wonderful helpful and enjoyable handy hub for residents and tourists. I park in a side road within the Dream Hills urbanisation, which adjoins the side and back of the Via Park complex. The car, which has an official Spanish 'handicapped' sticker, can be parked there for anything from five minutes to two hours. It obstructs no driveways and would not cause any hassle - you would think!

However, on at least two occasions, I have found that on returning to the car, someone has forced the left hand wing-mirror in an attempt to break it. Fortunately it is made of sterner stuff than the hooligan. But like mosquitos, you can't let the bastards get the better of you, so I continued to park there.

But then on the evening of November XX, while I was enjoying a restorative libation at one of Via Park III's finest, some anti-social jerk wrote 'PRIVATE PARKING' in felt pen on my car door, see photo.

Now, there is no such thing as private parking in Dream Hills and Dream Hills is not a closed urbanisation.

Although I do live in this particular urbanisation, even if I



did not, I would be still able to park where I want.

I continue to park there. Every urbanisation has its own share of barrack-room-lawyers, whingers, anti-social jerks, territorial sensitives and 365-day-a year moaners. We have to live with them, but must never give in to them.

If anyone has any idea of who the offender in this case is, I would greatly appreciate some information. The culprit is possibly a dog-walker, male but undoubtedly a nut-job!

Would love to talk to him!

Nutcase with an Arsenal.

Manuel Murillo, 63, was arrested on September 19 for plotting to kill Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez. In various WhatsApp groups, Murillo had declared his "clear intention and will" to murder the leader of the Socialist Party (PSOE). He had thought about how to do it, he just needed a little logistical support, said police spokesperson Albert Oliva. He needed people who could help him get hold of the prime minister's agenda and a place where he could hide out once he had killed Sánchez.

Murillo decided to shoot Sánchez after the prime minister announced his plans to exhume the remains of former Spanish dictator Francisco Franco from the Valley of the Fallen monument, northwest of Madrid. Police say that Murillo, who defines himself as a supporter of Franco, believed that Sánchez had crossed the line.

The Catalan regional police, the Mossos d'Esquadra, chose the safest way to arrest Manuel Murillo Sánchez: out in the street. They were worried he might have weapons at home. But they had no idea that they would find an entire arsenal (photo) in his apartment in Terrassa (Barcelona) – four precision rifles, a military assault weapon, a submachine gun, scopes, bows, lots of ammunition and 16 handguns.



Here comes de Judge.....again!

The defendant and his lawyer are in the courtroom, the man being charged with theft. The lawyer tells the crusty old judge, "My lord, my client has produced receipts for, firstly, the high speed modem."

"High-speed modem?" questions the judge.

"Yes" replies the lawyer, "It allows computers to communicate over vast distances at high rates of speed. It allows email and something called cybersex in AOL chatrooms, your honour."

"Cybersex?" says the judge, "You mean sex through a modem? You mean sex on a monitor? Good lord, the morals of this society! Sex should be a natural event of nature!"

"Secondly, my lord," continues the lawyer, "My client can produce a receipt for the multispeed DVD."

"Multispeed DVD?" queries the judge.

"Yes my lord, it enables millions of bits of information to be read off a small disk."

"And I suppose most of this information is cybersex related... Modern technology and modern society, baffling, just baffling," comments the judge. "I'm appalled at what technology is doing to society these days."

"Thirdly my lord, my client can produce a receipt for the super deluxe inflatable milk maid, whatever that is."

"That's the one with the silicone breasts and real hair," replies the judge.

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New Fuel Labelling.

Petrol stations throughout Spain are introducing new labelling to comply with European regulations.

The traditional labels for diesel and gasoline will remain alongside the new labelling system for some time to minimise confusion.

The new labelling system for petrol/gasoline is



Gasolina 95
Gasolina 98



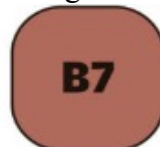
Gasolina con un 10% etanol



Gasolina con un 85% etanol

The E on the label refers to the volume of ethanol in the fuel.

Labelling for diesel will be a different shape, see below



Gasóleo más habitual



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Here, the B refers to the volume of bio diesel in the fuel.

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Jail for Fake Claims!

A British family have just been convicted for filing a fake food poisoning claim for their holiday in southern Spain.

Four members of the same family were sentenced to three months in prison by Liverpool High Court.

They were also fined €842 each for ‘concocting a fake claim for gastric illness to win compensation’ and will have to pay the travel operator’s legal costs.

The family had claimed they fell ill from food poisoning while staying at Benidorm’s all-inclusive Aqua Magic Rock Gardens in July 2015.

The claim was filed against the travel operator Jet2 Holidays, from whom they demanded around €50,000 in damages.

“For some time we have warned that making false claims could lead to serious consequences, and this ruling shows how serious they can be,” said Steve Heapy, CEO of Jet2.com and Jet2holidays in a statement.

Michael Jameson, Claire Weir, Janet Weir and Jane Weir alleged that the hotel food had given them nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea and stomach cramps.

But all four boasted they were having ‘the best holiday ever’ and ‘enjoying every minute’ on social media.

Hotel records also showed them enjoying alcoholic beverages, including beer, gin and vodka, even as they were supposed to be suffering from gastric illnesses.

“We always held that it was a false claim because our food meets all safety standards,” said Pilar Lafuente, an official with the hotel chain Magic Costa Blanca, which operates the Benidorm hotel.

Lafuente said that the family was only thinking about ‘the possibility of getting a free vacation and some extra money, a technique that the British courts are already acting against.’

Although the four defendants blamed the advice of their previous solicitors – an accusation disputed by the firms involved – they pleaded guilty to contempt before High Court judge Justice Choudhury – who branded the evidence against them as “little short of overwhelming”.

Below is one of their Facebook entries after the holiday:



In Grandma’s Day.

On a visit to see his grandma, a teenage boy listened to her complaining about the high cost of living. ‘When I was a girl,’ she said, ‘you could go out with just 10 bob and come back home with a dozen eggs, two pints of milk, a pound of bacon, half a pound of tea and a fresh chicken.’

‘That’s inflation for you,’ the boy said.

‘It’s nothing to do with inflation,’ she snapped. ‘It’s all the damn security cameras that shops have nowadays!’

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Wi-Fi



8-26

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HERMAN

“How much longer you gonna be in here?
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the coffee and butter are gone.”

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Coincidence!

“Shaaaayyyy, buddy, what’s a ‘Breathalyser?’” asked a drunk of his barman.
“That’s a bag that tells you when you’ve drunk too much,” answered the barman.
“Ah hell, whaddya know? I’ve been married to one of those for years.”

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Second Opinion?

I was waiting in the examination room of Dr. Gold, a famous specialist. "So, who did you see before coming to me?" asked Dr. Gold. "My local General Practitioner, Dr. Cohen," I replied. "Your GP?" scoffed Dr. Gold. "What a waste of time. Tell me, what sort of useless advice did Cohen give you?" "He told me to come and see you."

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"Is that the Ballycashel Echo?" asks Mick. "How much would it be to put an ad in your paper?"

"It's five euros an inch," a woman replies. "Why? What are you selling?"

"A ten-foot ladder," said Mick before slamming the phone down.

We start in the jail in Almería, where two prisoners tried

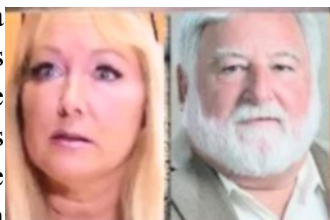


to escape. The first managed to get through the cell window but after shimmying down the escape rope made of sheets, injured

himself in the fall. The second was ignominiously stuck in the window, Photo. Probably too many carb's in the prison diet!

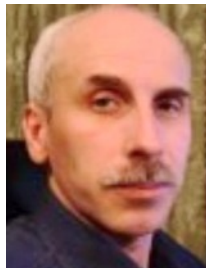
A Missouri landlord stumbled upon an unwanted house guest while evicting a tenant: a large alligator in a hot tub. The tenant described the 150-pound reptile as “gentle as a puppy” after animal control workers were called to the Kansas City home. The workers also found two boa constrictors and a rabbit. The Kansas City Star reports a specialist removed the alligator, which was at least 6 feet (1.8 meters) long. No one was injured. The tenant, Sean Casey, said he'd owned the alligator for four years and named it Catfish. He called the reptile “a big cuddly lizard.”

A Florida mayor has been accused of soliciting sex from a local resident in return for installing traffic calming devices in her neighbourhood. Lantana Mayor David Stewart has denied the claims, but the Florida Commission of Ethics has decided to pursue the case against him. I suppose it is a case of getting a ‘hump’ for a bump!



Police in Oakland, USA, have confirmed that a severed head found in an abandoned car during Halloween may actually belong to a recently discovered headless corpse. Officers told local media they initially thought the grisly discovery was a Halloween prank, but have since begun working to identify the victim.

A Russian scientist stationed in Antarctica plunged a kitchen knife into a colleague because – it's alleged – he



was fed up with the man telling him the endings of books he was reading. Sergey Savitsky (left), 55, had spent six months at the isolated Bellingshausen Station on King George Island with

Oleg Beloguzov (right), 52, before the reportedly alcohol-fuelled altercation. Beloguzov was evacuated to Chile with a chest injury, but is not believed to be in danger. Savitsky, who has been charged with attempted murder, has expressed remorse over the attack.



The “worst robbers in Belgium” were tricked by a shopkeeper into returning to his business so that police could arrest them. The owner of the e-cigarette shop in Charleroi, Belgium, identified as Didier, was confronted by six robbers at about 3pm. “I told them that 3pm is not the best time to hold up a store,” he said. He convinced them to come back later, promising them €2,000-€3,000. They came again at 5.30pm, but Didier told them it wasn't yet closing time. When they returned at 6:30pm, the police were in the shop, ready to catch them.

The local council at Barnsley, UK, has had to abandon a civil defence post designed to survive a nuclear war because it has been wrecked by vandals.

Tito and Amanda Watts were arrested in Jacksonville, Florida, for selling “golden tickets to heaven” to hundreds of people. The couple, who sold the tickets on the street for \$99.99 per ticket, told buyers the tickets were made from solid gold and each ticket reserved the buyer a spot in heaven — simply present the ticket at the pearly gates and you're in. Tito Watts said in his police statement:

I don't care what the police say. The tickets are solid gold... it ain't cut up two by fours I spray painted gold. And it was Jesus who give them to me behind the KFC and said to sell them so I could get me some money to go to outer space. I met an alien named Stevie who said if I got the cash together he'd take me and my wife on his flying saucer to his planet that's made entirely of crack cocaine. You can smoke all the crack cocaine there you want... totally free. So, try to send an innocent man to jail and see what happens. You should arrest Jesus because he's the one that gave me the golden tickets and said to sell them. I'm willing to wear a wire and set Jesus up...

Amanda Watts said in her police statement: We just wanted to leave earth and go to space and smoke rock cocaine. I didn't do nothing. Tito sold the golden tickets to heaven. I just watched. Police said they confiscated over \$10,000 in cash, five crack pipes and a baby alligator. (I'm not convinced by the above story. I can't believe that people in Jacksonville could be that dumb.....but then again, look who they elected president!)

And once again, thanks to the Jacksonville Sheriff's Department for the following:

Florida Man Attempts to Cash \$368 Billion Dollar Check



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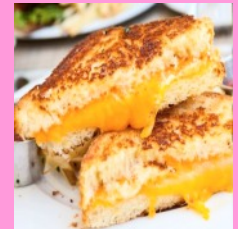


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Fourth Time Lucky?

A woman goes into a shop to buy a wedding dress - for her fourth wedding. She chooses a traditional white dress, which surprises the sales assistant.

'Oh but I'm still a virgin,' the woman replies.

'How can that be,' says the sales assistant, 'if this is to be your fourth wedding?'

'My first husband was a psychologist, he just wanted to talk about it; my second husband was a gynaecologist he just wanted to look at it; my third husband was a stamp collector.....God I loved him!'

Cats are smarter than dogs. You can't get eight cats to pull a sled through snow. Jeff Valdez



AQUAQUEST
PLUMBING

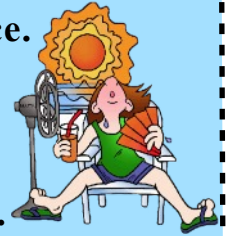


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... and that is WHY the chicken crossed the road.

(Carol Martin)

**Coming in the New Year
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WATCH THIS SPACE!

Och, Aye!

Two Scotsmen - Hamish and Angus - were sitting in a hotel bar discussing Hamish's forthcoming wedding.

'How are the preparations going?' asked Angus.

'They're coming along nicely,' replied Hamish. 'The invitations have been printed, I've got my best man and I've arranged my stag night. And I've even bought a kilt to be married in.'

'A kilt?' said Angus. 'You'll look very smart, I'm sure. What's the tartan?'

'Och,' replied Hamish, 'I imagine she'll just be in white.'

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The Nun's Story.

Two nuns went on a shopping trip to France to load up with duty-free. On the way back they were just about to drive through 'Nothing to Declare' when a customs officer waved them to the side.

The first nun said to the Mother Superior, who was driving: 'Don't worry. Just show him your cross.'

So the Mother Superior wound down the window, leaned out and shouted: 'Fuck off, you ugly bastard!'

Lime Bar Fishing SUNBATHING Club

Grumpy Bob had been in and out of hospital for the last several of months. He has finally lost his battle with the big C and gone to join our other mates in the golden pegs above. No more suffering now mate. Bob was a typical grumpy old sod from up north, who called a spade a spade and took no shit from anyone. When on the bank he had his rituals (between naps) of bringing the beer round or shouting 'yahoo' when he caught. During pan days he always helped Fagin as his sous chef and it was Bob who nicknamed me "ghost" as I used to turn up out of nowhere to beat him.



At the end of October we fished our annual "Old Farts" match at El Bosquet. This is just a fun match splitting the club into 2 teams by age. Up to 69 years old and you are a "whipper snapper", 70 and over makes you an old fart. Before we started Rodger the Dodger was bragging about how many fish he had caught here a couple of days before. Never tempt fate when fishing a match Dodger, he blanked! We fished the back canal pegs 31 to 40 and this year we decided to fish in pairs and whoever won that pairing scored his team 1 point.

This would counter 1 angler drawing a favoured peg and winning the match with 1 big weight. During the draw, 3 Rods pulled a fast one and announced that the old farts had 1st choice. He decided that they would have the odd numbered pegs as "he thought" peg 40 was crap! It backfired because he ended up in peg 39 fishing against Beat Me Phil in peg 40 who went on to thrash him by 5 kilos.

As it turned out the whipper snappers won by 4.5 to 0.5 points (18.8 to 8.4 kilos) which now makes it 3 – 2 to the old farts. 3 Rods was heard whinging that he was down 2 of his better "old farts" as they were away. After the match we retired to the Lime Bar so that the oldest "old fart" could present the quaich to the youngest whipper snapper. See photo. The quaich was then filled with muddy river water (baileys) and passed around for everyone to drink in friendship! Followed by a couple of free beers to get rid of the mud!



Because of the poor weather conditions, we fished our monthly match at the Eden canal. Again the conditions looked good but it depended on the draw how you did. The usual good pegs (10 to 14) didn't produce at all this time with only a couple of small carp and bleak to be weighed in. The best pegs were just round the corner (15 to 17) and guess who drew them.... Beat Me Phil won with 6.2 kilos followed by 3 Rods with 2.9.

Fagash did well in peg 8 with a couple of carp for 2.5 kilos closely followed by Ball Boy with 2.3 kilos from Peg 2.

We usually go social fishing a couple of days per week but it has been a bit hit and miss this month due to the heavy rain and the river flooding over the banks, so we just had to talk about a good catch over a beer!



Our presentation night was held at the end of November. We had a fantastic turn out and the ladies did us proud with enough tasty food to feed the 5000! Eddy (one of the sunbather's followers) ran a quiz for us. I'm not sure if it was blatant cheating or just dodgy scoring but his team came 1st. Not to worry though as Sweeney had already eaten the

winning prize of a left over tuna sandwich. The raffle was different this year. To save time Sweeney suggested that the winners draw a second ticket for a designated prize rather than spending ages choosing what to have. It speeded the draw up but several people won prizes that they had donated. The prizes were fantastic this year. Keith the stick brought some "special" biscuits, another friend of the club (Mick) donated a €30 Iceland voucher, loads of top brand spirits, smellies, chocolates etc Fagin left happy! Loads of thank yous were said on the night but a special thank you again to Belinda for doing the raffle, only problem was I didn't win the Bushmills - Carly!!

Fishy Fingers!
The Ghost

The last time I was in Dublin Airport I spent hours waiting for two bags. My wife and my mother.
Brendan Grace

Spain Wants to Ban Sale of Petrol and Diesel Cars from 2040

Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's government on Tuesday included the proposal in a draft document for an energy transition law which also calls for Spain to completely decarbonise its economy by 2050.

The announcement comes a year after Britain and France both pledged to ban new diesel and petrol cars by 2040, while Norway is aiming to end the use of all cars running on fossil fuels by 2025.

Sanchez's government lacks a majority in parliament and it will need to gain the support of other parties to approve the law.

The plan calls for setting up charging points for electric vehicles while cities with over 50,000 inhabitants will have to set up "low emission zones" before 2021, like those that already exist in the centre of Madrid and Barcelona where traffic is restricted.

"By 2050, the electricity system will have to rely exclusively on renewable energy sources," the document said.

Under the plan new licences for hydrocarbon exploration and fracking will be banned and subsidies that "favour the consumption of fossil fuels" will end.

Sanchez warned Sunday that climate change was "the biggest challenge we face globally", adding it was necessary to "act with urgency and determination" before this "great silence war".

Now I am not sure just how much of this is just wishful thinking. There are eleven car manufacturers in Spain. It would be interesting to hear what their opinions on the matter are and how likely they will all be able to develop practical prototypes of electric cars.

Other Driving News!

Spanish police are hot on the trail of a couple caught on film **having sex while driving on a motorway** say the Guardia Civil. They tweeted a video that first appeared on social media showing a couple in the driving seat, one driving and the other undressed and squeezed between the driver and the steering wheel. The clip was filmed by another car as it passed them. The incident happened on September 15th and took place on the motorway that links the capital, Madrid, with Valladolid. If caught, they could face up to two years in jail, a fine of up to €500 and a driving ban of up to six years.

You can see the short and unclear video here -

<https://twitter.com/guardiacivil/status/1054708556254142464>

A chap called Carlos tweeted: "You're right, the minister should take measures, to see if they can make the larger cabin that doesn't look uncomfortable for them. PS: the statistics say that nobody has died while practicing sex on our roads, therefore it is safe."

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The best advice against the atom bomb is not to be there when it goes off.

British Army Journal 1949

Brit's Losing Local Voting Rights?

In recent weeks, many British expats have been receiving a postal questionnaire from the Oficina del Centro Electoral in Alicante. The various sections are helpfully translated into English.

The information on the form will include some of your personal details such as date of birth, address and nationality.

If you wish to partake in the municipal and European elections on May 26, 2019, you are required to tick the appropriate boxes, sign the bottom part and return it to the institute using the already franked and addressed form. It can also be done online.

HOWEVER, you will notice that in the form explanation, it carries the following information -

This communication is sent as a precaution and will cease to have effect if the separation of the United Kingdom from the European Union is completed on March 30, 2019.

Basically this implies that after Brexit, British expats will no longer be able to vote in the Spanish municipal or European elections. Although not many expats exercised their voting rights in the past in Spain, after Brexit they will be unable to vote locally while the comfortable under-performing local politicians will take even less notice of the needs and wishes of the significant British resident population, the single major contributor to the local economies, annually.

Red Days Valencian Community - 2019

These are the holidays: January 1 (New Year); March 19 (San José); April 19 (Good Friday); April 22 (Easter Monday); May 1 (Labour Fiesta) June 24 (San Juan); August 15 (Assumption of the Virgin); October 9 (Day of the Valencian Community); October 12 (National Holiday); November 1 (All Saints' Day); December 6 (Constitution Day); December 25 (Christmas).



'And then....and then....and then.... Barnier said to May "How many Brexiters does it take to change a lightbulb? One to promise a brighter future and the rest to screw it up!"'

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.

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) was payable by October 5. Fines for late payment.

Lee's Event's List

This helpful and informative internet link was submitted by the late Lee Bell.

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

Remaining Red Days in the Valencian Community 2018.

December 6, 8 & 25th.

The Big Bunch

A Man went into a florist's and asked for a very big bunch of flowers. 'How big exactly?' asked the florist.

The man replied: 'Caught in bed with my sister-in-law size.'

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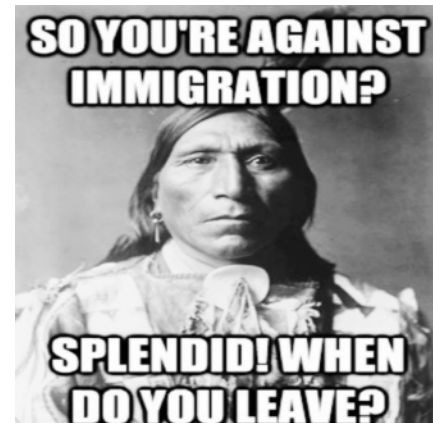
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**The Bargain.**

Red Dawn, an elderly native Navajo activist was driving home from a somewhat violent protest demonstration near the Mexican border when she saw an elderly Mexican woman walking on the side of the road carrying a small plastic bag. As the trip was a long and quiet one, she stopped the car and asked the woman if she would like a ride. With a silent nod of thanks, the woman got into the car.

Resuming the journey, Red tried in vain to make a bit of small talk with the Mexican woman. The old woman just sat silently. After a while, Red's curiosity got the better of her and asked her quiet passenger: "What's in the bag?"

The Mexican looked down at the bag and, smiling, said, "It's a box of chocolates. I got it for Trump's bollocks."

Red Dawn was silent for a moment or two. Then speaking with the quiet wisdom of an elder, she said, "Good trade."



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(016 is the phone line to report domestic violence. It is free and leaves no trace on your phone bill.)

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