

# THE DREAM SCENE

## NEWSLETTER

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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the April, 2019 edition. Issue No.141



As I write this, on the evening of Sunday, March 24, the Brexit fiasco continues. We are all now no wiser than we were almost three years ago with regard to our future in Europe. In the past I have often joked about Spanish woolly thinking and bureaucracy stating that we are lucky that the Spanish don't have nuclear weapons. Apologies to them. When one sees the dithering and incompetence coming from a nuclear UK during the last few years, one has little confidence in or indeed any reassurance from the idiots now running the that country.

Although there have been positive signs regarding the continuance of healthcare in Valencia from the regional government, providing of course that the UK reciprocates to the Spanish there, there is some slight assurance from the UK. The UK's Health Minister Stephen Hammond said that in the event of a no-deal Brexit the government would cover the health costs of pensioners throughout the EU for up to 12 months. The UK has suggested to EU Member states that the current reciprocal arrangements continue up until December 2020 in the event of a no-deal to "minimise disruption."

But that proposal needs agreement from EU states. However if those agreements are not made the UK will cover the health costs for a period of 12 months for those who relied on NHS cover via the S1 reciprocal scheme.

The weather here in Spain continues to be a little erratic. Temperatures on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, reached 30° in the shade. The following day, we only had highs of around 15°! Swimming one day and wearing jumpers the next! Reminds me of summers in Cornwall! As it has not rained normally here since October 2018, Feb' and March have been the fourth driest since 1950. This dry trend has been evident since the year 2000, cumulative rainfall being 94% lower than the climatic average for the period 1981 to 2010.

Annual subscription reminders will be sent out as soon as I get off my ass! Many thanks to the following who generously paid more than the annual sub' towards printing costs: Lisa B, Bob & Mags, Barry & Carol, Ellen & Davy, Carol & Brian C, Cath F, Lisa B, Richard H, Mick & Beth H, and, if I have forgotten anybody, apologies.

Peter from Lime Bar tells me that he has acquired the first floor space previously occupied by Azuretel/Vega Fibra. He plans to convert the area into a business centre containing an estate agency, gestoria, insurance broker and more. The area will also house a new studio for Fresh Radio.

Many thanks to my good mate and neighbour, Alby, for his help in delivering the newsletters every month.

Have a wonderful month from Mick, Tid and the Dream Scene Team

### INTERPRETER

LEGAL SERVICE, POLICE,

ALL MEDICAL

APPOINTMENTS

WILLS, NIE, SIP,

RESIDENCIA etc.

VEHICLE TRANSFERS

ENGLISH - SPANISH

- GERMAN

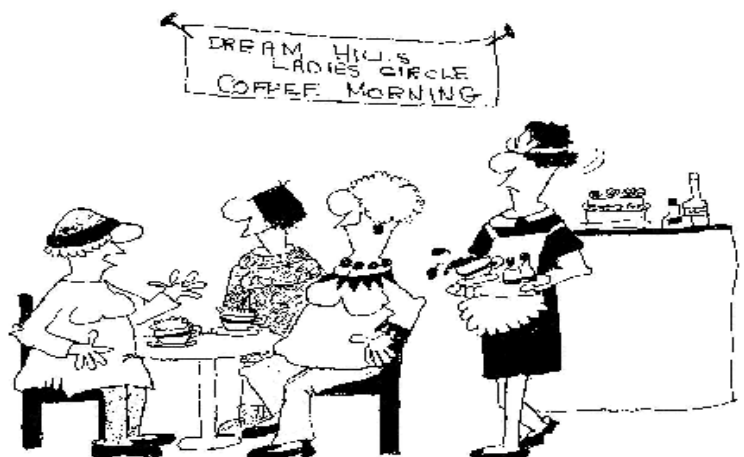
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### Angela's Cartoon



'We used to have sex most nights, but now he needs 3 week's notice and a fire in the bedroom!'

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WELL STOCKED & COMFORTABLE LOUNGE BAR  
WITH SOUTH FACING PATIO AREA.**

# **COSY**



# **O**

**SUPERB RANGE OF BEERS,  
SPIRITS & WINES.**

# **R**

**DRAFT BEERS - GUINNESS, CARLING,  
MAGNERS, ESTRELLA & COOR'S LIGHT,  
WORTHINGTON SMOOTH BITTER  
ON DRAFT!**



# **N**

**WIDE SELECTION OF SPIRITS  
WITH SPECIAL GIN SECTION!  
EURO BOTTLE DEALS!!**



# **E**

**FRESHLY PREPARED FOOD  
THE BEST BREAKFASTS FROM 9:30am**

**INCLUDES FRESH PIZZAS,  
BURGERS, KEBABS etc.**

# **R**

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KITCHEN OPEN UNTIL 9.00pm!**



**FOOTBALL SPECIAL**

**Pie, Chips & Pint of Estrella €5.50!**

**ALL SPORTS ON 6 GIANT SCREENS!**

**CHECK OUT OUR**

**GREAT ENTERTAINMENT NIGHTS!**



**SAT NIGHT - POOL KNOCKOUT! €5 entry. Starts 8pm.**

*With two dart boards, pool table, we are now inviting new pool and dart teams. We can also accommodate a new golf society.*

Although chaos appears to be ruling in the British parliament, the next couple of months in Spain will determine the country's political future for the next four years.

First of all, there will be a **general election on Sunday, April 28**. Although this is the third general election since December 2015, the current political landscape shows how quickly the country has changed.

The past two general elections were held in the shadow of austerity and corruption involving the PP. The Socialists (PSOE) then seemed to be facing extinction at the hands of Podemos, a far-left party. Now Podemos is fading amid internal splits, but still remains one of the top four parties.. Pedro Sánchez, the socialist PM has won some favour by introducing a hefty increase to the minimum wage and promises of higher social spending. However, he appeared to be softening in his approach to the Catalan separatists and this led to substantial criticism and suspicion leading to a drop in popularity.

The **Ciudadanos (Citizens) Party** are a centrist party, who have been gaining solid support at the expense of the PP and the PSOE. Their moderation and their ability to introduce reforms while acting as a coalition support has introduced many worthwhile initiatives, such as the almost elimination of the hated inheritance tax in Andalucia.

But it is the emergence of the VOX party that politicians and voters are watching closely. Their first serious foray into politics came during the Andalucian regional elections where they defied opinion polls and pundits by securing 12 seats, after taking 10% of the votes, even though they never gained a seat previously! Their impact on the general election should be dramatic as polls in late January saw them taking more than 10% of all votes. **VOX** is a far right party and there is little doubt that **right-wing populism** is growing in Europe. Although they have some great ideas such as the reduction or even the removal of 'regionalism', some of their proposals are what I would call to the right of Genghis Khan. Their latest has called for the country's criminal code and gun regulations to be reformed to make it easier to own a gun and to ensure people who shoot home invaders are not prosecuted by the law. Still, it will be some time before I will be carrying ads for AK47's in the classifieds!

It is **highly unlikely that any one party will get a majority** in the general election in late April. The erosion of the previously two main parties and the proliferation of other political parties will probably lead to either a centre right coalition or a left-leaning one. The former being an alliance of the PP, Ciudadanos and VOX. The latter a coalition of the PSOE, Podemos and a smattering of several smaller parties.

**Catalan separatism** remains Spain's thorniest problem. Should the several separatist parties there do less well this time, it will be a bonus, saving us from their lunatic rants.

**Experienced retail staff required to join the Overseas(Iceland) Team. Positions are available in new stores coming soon to;**  
**Guadalmina, Costa del Sol**  
**Lomas de Cabo Roig**  
**Successful applicants must have worked in the retail sector previously and pride themselves on excellent customer service standards.**  
**(Okay, Costa del Sol might be a bit difficult to cycle to!)**  
**To apply, simply email your CV to:**  
**jobs@overseas.es.**

A tweet by a Catalan government official who paraphrased Anne Frank to describe the situation in Catalonia has received widespread criticism, including from Israeli diplomats and former French Prime Minister Manuel Valls. "Nothing, nothing can be compared with the Holocaust to promote a political cause. This comparison is shameful!" responded Assaf Moran, the deputy chief of mission at the Israeli embassy in Madrid, to a tweet posted by Elsa Artadi, photo, the Catalan regional government spokesperson. The Catalan separatists appear to have their own highly delusional grasp of history and reality.



**Local and regional elections** are to be held in Spain during May. More on this in the next issue.

### Quickies:

The **Mercadona supermarket** in Los Balcones will be closed from March 23 until April 12. Extensive renovations are planned.

About 131,000 adolescents between 12 and 18 years in the province of Alicante will be **vaccinated** within three years against new variants of meningitis, specifically against meningococcal A, W and Y, due to the increase in cases occurring in recent years of this serious disease throughout Europe and also in Spain.

Currently, babies are vaccinated at four months against meningococcus C, which causes one of the most severe and fulminating types of meningitis. At 12 years of age, a booster dose of this vaccine is given, since after the newborns, the group with the highest incidence of meningitis is adolescents.





What's Up? Continued.....Maybe I should just call this the Crime Page?

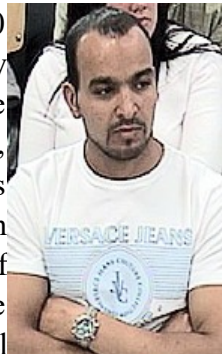


A HGV driver shed his cargo of oranges in San Pedro del Pintar in Murcia during late February. He was arrested after being found **six times over the legal alcohol limit.**

This is the third such case in Murcia in the first

two months of this year. And close to San Pedro, a couple from Los Alcazares were arrested after stealing 50 drain covers. They also stole electricity and water meter covers in the municipality to be sold as scrap. A walk around many urbanisations locally will reveal that some of the covers to the street lighting posts have been removed and sold.

Fifteen years after the **2004 Madrid terrorist attacks** that killed 193 people and left around 1,700 injured, eight of the 18 men sentenced by the Spanish Supreme Court for the massacre remain in prison. Of this group, three have been given improved conditions thanks to good behaviour, including Otman El Gnaoui, photo, an actual perpetrator of the bombings. The other five remain in the most restrictive prison regime. Although El Gnaoui along with Jamal Zougam, was sentenced to 42,922 years in prison for being direct perpetrators of the massacre, they are expected to be released on March 19, 2044. Others are expected to be released between now and 2023 save for José Emilio Suárez Trashorras, who was sentenced to 34,725 years and Antonio Toro Castro, who got four years but remains in prison after accumulating another 18 years of prison time for drug trafficking and possession of explosives in other cases. He is not expected to be released until March 30, 2022. The long jail sentences in Spain are just a joke.



Spanish police have arrested five people for operating a lucrative **IPTV system**, believed to be one of the largest illegal TV streaming businesses in Europe. Operating with branches in Denmark, the United Kingdom, Latvia, the Netherlands and Cyprus, thousands of people from 30 different countries paid between €40 and €460 a month to watch their favourite football games, TV shows and movies. What they did not know was that they were doing so via a pirate operator. The Spanish police led a joint investigation with Denmark and the United Kingdom in which 14 other branches were found: eight in Spain (in Málaga, Madrid and Alicante), four in Denmark and two in the United Kingdom. As a result of the investigation, 66 servers were disconnected and the rest, which were part of a network of internationally connected computers, were detected and identified.

My missus just asked, 'What are your plans for Easter?'

I replied, 'The same as Jesus.

Disappear on Friday and turn up on Monday!'

Alby

On February 22 at 3pm, 10 masked men carrying imitation weapons (allegedly) burst into the **North Korean embassy** in the residential area of Aravaca, just to the north of the city of Madrid. Photo.



They tied up the eight people inside and put bags on their heads. They then beat up and interrogated the eight, two of whom required medical attention later.

They were believed to be an efficient military type unit as the operation was perfectly planned, the assailants taking with them all the mobile phones and computers.

A woman managed to escape from a window on the second floor and her screams for help were heard by a neighbour, who contacted the police.

Officers arrived at the scene but when they tried to enter the embassy a man opened the door to them and told them that there was nothing going on. Minutes later, two luxury vehicles sped out of the embassy. The cars used for the getaway belonged to the diplomatic mission and were later abandoned in a nearby street.

It was then that the police found the victims inside.

Investigators from the Spanish police and National Intelligence Centre (CNI) have linked the attack on the North Korean embassy to the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

At least two of the 10 assailants who broke into the embassy and interrogated diplomatic staff have been identified and have connections to the US intelligence agency. The CIA has denied any involvement but government sources say their response was "unconvincing."

Sources believe the goal of the attack embassy was to get information on the former North Korean ambassador to Spain.

Kim Hyok Chol was expelled from Spain on September 19, 2017 by the then Spanish Foreign Minister Alfonso Dastis given that the nuclear testing that the country was carrying out at the time was in serious breach of United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Just bumped into an old mate of mine today. I asked, 'What are you doing these days?' He said, 'I prepare meals for the homeless, drug addicts, piss-heads and down-and-outs.' I said, 'Oh, are you working for the Salvation Army then?' 'No,' he said. 'Wetherspoons!' (Steve H)

Skin is our largest organ and something we may take for granted when it's healthy. Sara Brow, Professor of Molecular & Genetic Dermatology, Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow, University of Dundee, writes 'As an academic dermatologist I frequently hear misleading "facts" that seem to be stubbornly enduring. Here are some of the most commonly shared myths that can be cleared up immediately, and some truths you can rely on.'

### **Skin constantly renews itself**

**TRUE** The skin provides a dynamic barrier between your body's internal environment and the outside world. Cells called keratinocytes in the epidermis (the outer layer of skin) are constantly dividing to produce a supply of cells that move up through this layer and are shed from its surface. Skin is a rich source of stem cells with the capacity to divide and renew themselves.

### **Drink two litres of water a day for healthy skin**

**FALSE** The amount of water you drink does not directly affect your skin. Water is supplied to the skin by blood flowing through the dermis, the inner layer of skin; water is lost from the epidermis, especially in a dry environment.

Water is needed to maintain skin hydration and when you become seriously dehydrated your skin appears dull and is less elastic. In a healthy person the internal organs – kidneys, heart and blood vessels – control the amount of water reaching the skin. There is no fixed volume of water that you need to drink, it simply depends on the amounts you are using and losing.

### **Stress can make skin unhealthy**

**TRUE** There are many health issues in modern life that we blame on stress, but several skin conditions have been shown in scientific studies (see below), to be worsened by life events, possibly via stress hormones including cortisol (a steroid hormone made in the adrenal glands). Notable examples are alopecia areata, an auto-immune condition where the body's immunity begins to attack the hair follicles, causing hair to fall out; psoriasis, another auto-immune condition that causes skin thickening, scaling and inflammation; and eczema, itchy red skin inflammation often occurring alongside asthma, hay fever and other allergies. Unfortunately a flare up of these skin conditions is exactly what you don't need when you are feeling stressed or under pressure.

### **Eating chocolate causes acne**

**FALSE** Acne vulgaris, the common "teenage" acne which can actually persist into your 30s and 40s, occurs as a result of the interaction between hormonal effects on grease glands in the skin, plus the skin's immune response to blocked pores and microbes living on the skin.

Eating a high fat diet is unhealthy for many reasons, but it doesn't cause acne. In fact some tablets prescribed for severe acne such as oral isotretinoin are better absorbed when pills are swallowed with a fatty meal – and that could include chocolate.

### **Washing powder causes eczema**

**FALSE** Eczema is a condition where the skin is dry, itchy and red. It is caused by a combination of genetic factors (how your skin is made) and environmental effects, leading to inflammation. Soap, detergents and washing powders can irritate the skin and contribute to dryness because they remove oil from the skin (just as washing-up liquid removes grease from your dishes). Biological washing powders contain enzymes – proteins that break down fats and other proteins to remove stains – and these can irritate sensitive skin, so they may worsen eczema. It is important that any washing power is thoroughly rinsed out of clothing before it is worn, to avoid skin irritation.

### **White marks on nails = calcium deficiency**

**FALSE** Nails are manufactured in the nail matrix, an area under the skin at the top edge of your nail. If the matrix is traumatised, bumped or bitten, an irregularity in the developing nail occurs and air can become trapped. This appears as a white mark as the nail grows out. Calcium is important for healthy nails (as well as bones and teeth) but these white marks are not a sign of deficiency.

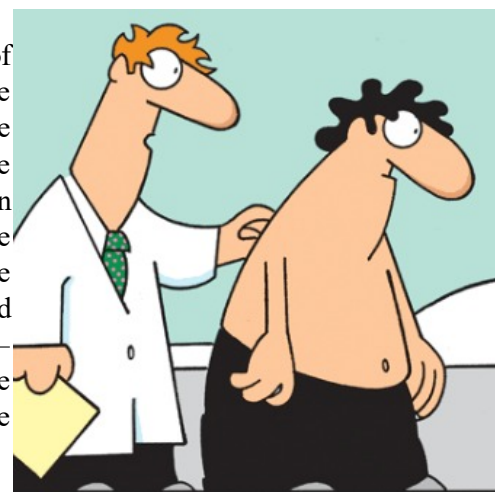
### **Sunshine is good for you**

**TRUE & FALSE** Many people have experienced the feel-good factor of a sunny day, but there are good and bad effects of sunlight. Light from the sun includes a mixture of different

wavelengths of light: some are visible to the human eye, some are shorter than the colours we can see – these are called ultraviolet (UV) – and some are longer, the infrared.

Different wavelengths have different effects on skin. UVB is used by skin to manufacture vitamin D which is essential for bone health. Without sun exposure this vitamin must be obtained from the diet. Dermatologists use specific wavelengths of UVA and UVB in carefully controlled doses to reduce skin inflammation, a valuable treatment for some skin conditions. But when the skin is exposed to too much UV it can damage the skin cells' DNA, leading to uncontrolled growth – the basis of cancer. As a simple rule, unless you have a disease or treatment that suppresses your immune system, sunshine is good for you in moderation, but always avoid getting sunburned.

(Abridged from The Conversation)



**"It's not a rash, it's moss. You need to start being more active than a tree."**

A local barber in my area just got arrested for selling drugs...

Blew my mind, I've been his customer for years and had no idea he was a barber!





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OUR FAMOUS

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APRIL 22nd

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2 COURSE €8.50, 3 COURSE €10.50!

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Quiz  
night

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CIDER

MAHOU  
LAGER

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When one recalls the cock-ups of Orihuela Council concerning the beach bars last year, you would think that the other councils would 'pull their socks up' and raise their efficiency. But not so, I'm afraid. This time it's the dullards



**in Torrevieja.** It seems that the contract for the beach beds, umbrellas, inflatable's and jet skies has not been renewed. The contract expired last September and unless the council start compiling and issuing the tender document - which takes considerable time - it is unlikely that these services will be available for Easter. The council may have to make special arrangements to cover the Easter holidays, but the absence of a contract would be disastrous for the summer! Look what happened in Orihuela Costa last year with the *chiringuitos*.

From a short tour of Orihuela Costa, the amount of **new building works** currently under way is stunning. However, the relevant property developers are far from happy with the local council. It seems that there are 1,200 properties which are still awaiting building permits, some for over 22 months! Representatives from TM Real Estate Group, Trivee and Marjal, among other development companies, along with the Association of Real Estate Developers of the province of Alicante, Provia, met with the mayor of Orihuela, Emilio Bascuñana (PP). The City Council has again claimed that it lacks personnel sufficient and that the limitations of the sustainability law prevent hiring more technicians. Developers are demanding that the process be outsourced so that building permits and occupational licences are speeded up. They point out that the neighbouring municipalities of Torrevieja, Pilar de la Horadada or Guardamar, the waiting period is only four months. Provia stated that "Orihuela has the dubious honour of accumulating the greatest delay in the province of Alicante and most likely of the entire Valencian Community."

The City of Orihuela was placed in third place in the community by volume of construction activity in 2018, just behind the city of Alicante and Torrevieja, although this is still at 30% of the level of activity prior to the crisis. Last year, the municipality received more than four million euros between construction and construction taxes and license fees. In addition, the collection of Real Estate Tax (IBI), generated mostly by residential development on the coast, accounted for another 28 million euros for the municipal coffers, to which there are another two million added by capital gains, derived from the activity of buying and selling real estate. This 34 million euros account for 40% of the total income chapter of the municipality in the 2018 budget.

Unfortunately, only a tiny portion of these funds were invested back into the coastal area.

The Guardia Civil arrested 21 people in Torrevieja for cultivating and supplying narcotic substances to **various cannabis associations** of the town, in an operation which included five establishments and two private homes. In addition to narcotic substances, other products were found, such as cream chocolate spread, chocolate bars, muffins, jelly beans, lollipops, cookies, honey, cotton candy and jams, all of which contained different levels of cannabis. Of the 21 arrested, were 17 men between the ages of 25 and 57 and of different nationalities (Spanish, Senegalese, Chadian, Dutch, Swiss, Russian and British) and 4 women, between 28 and 48 years of age and of Spanish, Canadian and British nationalities. The crimes charged are those of drug trafficking and criminal organization. A British couple, residents of Torrevieja, are alleged to be the leaders of the organisation. These 'legal' cannabis associations in Torrevieja have more than 6,000 registered members.

The Mercadona supermarket in Los Balcones will be closing from March 23<sup>rd</sup> until April 12, due to extensive renovations.

An Iberian Lynx has been spotted and filmed near the nearby town of Villena. The **Lynx**, one of only 600 believed to be in Spain, was filmed by two naturalists using a remotely operated camera during January. Believed to be one of the most threatened felines on the planet, whose population is recovering thanks to ongoing conservation and breeding programs in captivity. This



is the first time that the wild breed have been seen in Alicante, several hundred Km from their normal habitat.

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### THE PHOENIX GOLF SOCIETY – SUNDAY 17TH MARCH 2018

We played at EL VALLE Golf Course and the weather was just perfect and everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They found the course quite challenging and enjoyable.

Nearest the Pin:

Ian Grant in two

Ian Grant in two

Ian won all the Two's for that day,

The Overall Winner was Pat Brennan.

When all was finished we returned to Jessies bar for great food and drinks. Many thanks to Julie, Kath & Steve.

The next game is the 21st April at New Seirra Golf Course

Anyone interested in playing with us please phone John or Brenda on 966199232.



Dave Wightman

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## EL CAPITAN



Lago Jardin II.

DAILY SPECIALS  
& TAPAS

**BINGO! Thursdays 3pm**

Every Friday

**-Fun Darts at 8pm.**

**Every Sunday**

**Quiz Night 8:30pm.**



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### Party Talk!

I love to go to a party all dressed in black. Usually some smarty pants asks 'Who died?'

I usually just look around the room and then whisper, 'I haven't decided yet.'

They tend to leave me alone after that.





**JJ's**

**Café Bar**



VIA PARK V.

**KITCHEN OPEN TUE-SUN 10 - 7pm**

**BAR OPEN DAILY 10am - 10pm.**



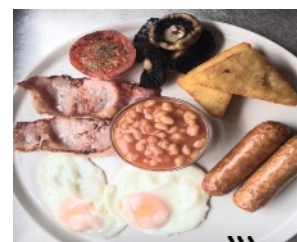
**CHECK OUT**

**OUR EXTENSIVE MENU**

**Featuring a Vast Range of Choices from Breakfasts, Sandwiches, Jacket Pot's,**

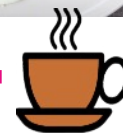


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## **SPANISH POLICE RESCUE ELDERLY PEOPLE FROM 'HOUSE OF HORRORS'**

Spanish police have rescued two elderly people who had allegedly been locked up and drugged by a couple who posed as carers while draining more than €1.8m from the bank accounts of a string of victims. The Guardia Civil was eventually led to what it described as a "house of horrors" after police in Frankfurt asked for help in tracking down a 101-year-old German woman called Maria Babes.

Officers from the Spanish force located Babes in a care home in the town of Chiclana de la Frontera, near the southern city of Cádiz. The elderly woman was seriously ill and her hospital records raised suspicions about the behaviour of the people who had been looking after her before she entered the care home.

An investigation found that a Cuban-German couple, who have not yet been officially named, had befriended Babes in Tenerife and brought her to southern Spain "so that they could control her better". Police said the couple had used the same technique to take advantage of other vulnerable people.

Once she was well enough to talk, Babes told the Guardia Civil the couple had kept her in a rented house for months, bound by her hands. Unbeknown to their prisoner, they sold her house in Tenerife and took more than €160,000 (£120,000) from her bank account.

A day before officers arrested the couple, the man and woman managed to persuade Babes to leave the care home with them. Within five hours, she was dead. "The death was strange given that that morning a video was shot showing her in perfectly good health and playing the tambourine during Christmas breakfast in the home," the Guardia Civil said in a statement.

**No postmortem examination was carried out on her body as the couple insisted on an urgent cremation.** The undertaker told police he had thought it was odd that the couple had not asked for Babes' ashes, despite claiming to be very fond of her. (Postmortems are not very common in Spain. One would wonder how many murders of elderly people have slipped through the net?)

When the Guardia Civil arrived at the rented house, they found two plane tickets to Cuba – and evidence of another rented property close by. It was there that they found an elderly Dutch woman and an elderly German man in dire hygiene and health condition. "Both were found in rooms that were bolted shut from outside, and both were being fed through nasal tubes and could not move about," said the statement. They are now recovering.

The notary who did the paperwork for Babes' estate identified the Dutch woman as the person who had posed as Babes during the signing over of her assets.

The couple remained in custody. Investigators have come across €1.8m "obtained in similar circumstances" from another four people they had "looked after".

The Spanish authorities are seeking legal assistance from courts in England, Italy, Germany and Cuba to help determine the scale of the couple's international finances and holdings.

The couple are accused of fraud, misappropriation, domestic abuse and money laundering. Four other people have been arrested and a further nine are under investigation.

## **So, How Much Do the Fat Cat Mayors Earn?**

César Sánchez, the president of the Diputación de Alicante and the mayor of Calpe, is the highest paid politician in the province of Alicante, earning 80,999 euros per year, almost seven thousand euros more than the President of the Generalitat Valenciana, Ximo Puig.

The mayor of Alicante, Luis Barcala, 66,004.62 euros per year and Emilio Bascañana, mayor of Orihuela, has a salary of 57,125 euros.

The left-wing female mayor of Madrid 102,010 euros and the mayors of other major capitals such as Barcelona (€ 100,000), Bilbao (€ 91,318.28), Valencia (€ 82,602.94) and Vitoria (€ 81,860.70) also received remuneration last year higher than that of the Prime Minister (79,757 euros) or any of its ministers (the person who charges the most is the Interior Minister, 81,064 euros).

Interestingly, if you serve just two full terms of four continuous years in Spanish politics you receive a full political pension.



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## April

Oh the months are flying through  
and April's now is here  
weather warm and sunny too  
time for a cold beer

It's crazy on the Brexit front  
politicians in a dither  
just give the people what they want  
and get out of Europe forever

Whether your a Brexiteer  
or maybe want to stay  
be nice if we could give a cheer  
and UK win the day

The local bin men are playing hard  
this month they say they will strike  
work conditions and their local yard  
none of it they like

The cannabis clubs are all shut down  
and many arrests as well  
so should be nicer round the town  
less wacky backy smell

St Patrick's day now been and gone  
revellers safely in their beds  
everyone enjoyed the fun  
nought left but a few sore heads

Around the World the news not right  
atrocities far and wide  
people need to all unite  
and help to turn the tide

**The Phantom Poet**





## 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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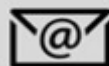
Attendance  
Allowance



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](mailto: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

-It isn't fair what people say about him. They'd tell you he'd sell his own mother. I heard that on very good authority.

-Who from?

-The two blokes who bought his mother.

Ingrid & Norman Stanley Fletcher, *Porridge*.



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"Y'all got any American razor blades in here ?" the Texan asked the London pharmacist. "All I see are these damn Wilkinson's." "Sir," the Englishman patiently replied, "Wilkinson has been producing the finest surgical instruments, weapons and razors since before Waterloo."

"I don't give a damn if they passed them out on Noah's Ark if they ain't any good," the Texan retorted.

"I can assure you they are very good sir." the peevish druggist said. "Why just last year, my wife swallowed one. It gave her a tonsillectomy, an appendectomy, a hysterectomy, circumcised the gardener, emasculated a neighbour, cut two of a delivery boy's fingers off at the knuckle -- and I still got 10 shaves out of it."





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### Not a bite, but.....

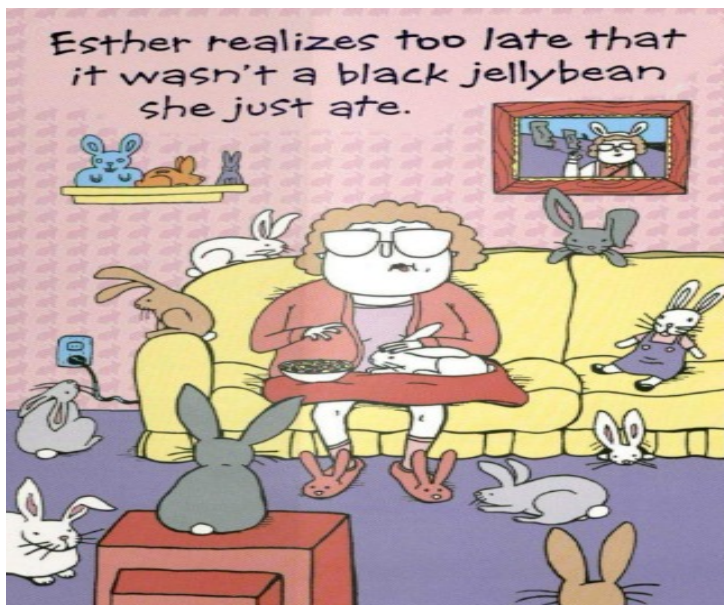
A salesman was travelling through the countryside, selling insect repellent. He came to a farmhouse and tried his pitch on the farmer. "Sir, my bug spray is so good you will never be bitten again, I guarantee it."

The farmer was dubious. "Young man, I'll make you a proposition. I'll tie you out in my cornfield buck naked, covered with that bug spray. If there is not a single bite on you come morning, I'll buy a whole case from you."

The salesman was delighted. They went to the field and he stripped. The farmer sprayed him thoroughly with the bug spray and tied him to a stake. Back to the house went the farmer.

The next morning, the farmer and his family trooped out to the corn field. Sure enough, the salesman was there, hanging in his bonds, not a single bite on him. Yet he was a total wreck! Pale, ghastly, haggard, and drawn, but not one bite on him. The farmer was perplexed. "Son," he said, "Now, you don't have a bite on you but you look like hell! What the devil happened?"

The salesman looked up through bloodshot eyes and croaked, "For crying out loud, Mister, doesn't that calf have a Mother!!!"



## Hitler Wearing Lipstick?

The ultra-conservative association Hazte Oír chartered a bus against what they consider "radical feminism" and to ask the PP, Ciudadanos and Vox for the repeal of gender laws and against sexist violence. The organization refers to the law against gender violence of 2004 and the rules of protection or respect for the LGTBI community promoted by the autonomous communities. The vehicle travelled several cities before March 8, International Women's Day, when the feminist strike was called.

"It is not gender violence, it is domestic violence" is the main message of the campaign, which includes a second slogan: "Gender laws discriminate against men" and urges the leaders of the PP, Citizens and Vox to repeal them. In addition to these messages, Hazte Oír uses the figure of the dictator of Nazi Germany, Adolf Hitler, who appears drawn with his makeup face with lipstick and with the feminist symbol on his cap. Photo.



The initiative was first presented in Madrid, in the parking lot of the Santiago Bernabéu stadium. The organizers had the bus circulate through the streets of the capital and that it approached the headquarters of the PP, Ciudadanos and Vox. The other days, vehicle travelled through Barcelona, Valencia, Seville, Cádiz and Pamplona.

The Hazte Oír association revoked its status as a public utility as the Ministry of the Interior, which grants it, believes its campaigns are contrary to the general interest. The organization became known in 2017 by a propaganda action also inserted in buses, which read "Male children have penis, girls have vulva, do not be deceived, if you are born man, you are male, if you are a woman, you will continue to be." Photo.



Don't worry about your enemies,  
It's your allies who will do you in.

James Abourezk





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**Sausage, Bacon, Egg, Hash Brown,  
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**Veggie Breakfast €4.50**

**2 Eggs, Hash Brown, Mushroom, Beans & Toast**

**Includes tea or coffee & orange juice. Sorry, no changes to menu.**



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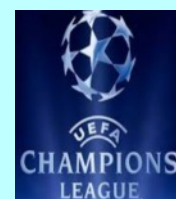
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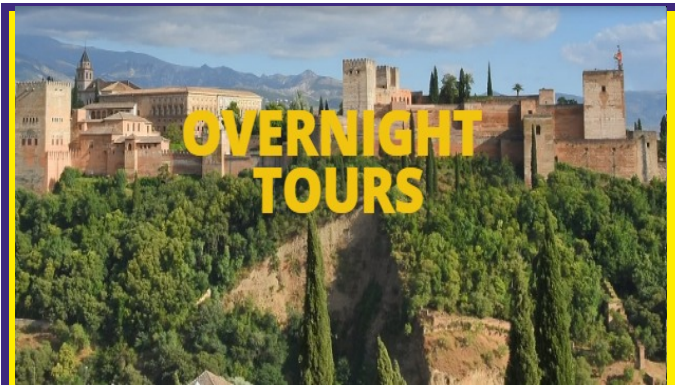


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I knew a man who neither drank, smoked, nor rode a bicycle.  
Living frugally, saving his money, he died early, surrounded by greedy relatives.  
It was a great lesson to me.  
John Barrymore



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Full menu**





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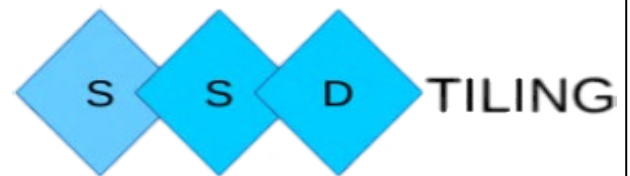
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### **PLUSVALIA TAX: BIG REFUNDS COULD BE ON THE WAY FOR HOME SELLERS OVER "WRONG TAX CHARGE" IN SPAIN**

Many people have paid a 'plusvalía' levy when selling their property, even if its value has dropped, but this might be declared unconstitutional.

After the scandal over the misleading sale of preferential shares in savings banks and the upcoming big payouts to homeowners for 'floor clause' interest rate over payments, the next wave of mass financial lawsuits and possible refunds is already on the horizon.

An increasing number of property owners are taking legal action against local councils over the forced payment of 'plusvalía' (increased value) tax when they sell up. Town halls are continuing to charge the seller this tax even if the property is being sold at less or at the same price than the price they originally paid for it. Also, there are cases involving properties in which the sales price was slightly superior to the purchase price but once all the expenses were deducted, there is no gain actually.

The loophole arises as the value of the home that the council uses for its calculation is its '*valor cadastral*', (official taxable value). Following the pre-crisis property boom, real market values rose well above this official valuation and councils can still therefore keep collecting the money, which is an important source of revenue, even if the seller is losing money.

In December, a case was filed against Fuengirola town hall, after a woman who had bought a flat for 220,000 euros and sold for 70,000 euros less still had to pay 5,000 euros of this increased value tax. The woman won her case. Campaigners against the charges, who are increasing in number, argue that the charge violates article 31 of the Spanish constitution which covers taxpayers' rights.

In order to study a possible claim, the following documents are necessary: title deed of the purchase, title deed of the sale and the proof of value added tax payment. You will also need lots of patience!

**LIME BAR GOLF SCORES - 13th MARCH 2019**

On a sunny Spring morning 32 golfers set out at Elle Valle golf course.

Played in the Stableford format the following scores were carded.

**GOLD CLASS**

1<sup>st</sup> John Williams 34pts

2<sup>nd</sup> Daryl D'Silva 32pts

3<sup>rd</sup> John McGregor 28pts

**SILVER CLASS**

1<sup>st</sup> John Winkley 33pts

2<sup>nd</sup> Ray Hanlon 32pts (CB)

3<sup>rd</sup> Bazzar 32pts

**NEAREST THE PIN**

Hole 6 Roger Liles

Hole 9 Graham Mitchel

Hole 12 John Grey

Hole 18 Ian Grant

We returned to the Lime Bar for presentation and refreshments. Thanks to the bar staff and the ladies for the sweep.

NEXT VENUE RIQUEME 10th APRIL

Eddie Allan

**Presidential Wit.**

Unlike the present incumbent at the White House, many previous holders of the highest office, even Nixon, were capable of some funny and witty off-the-cuff remarks.

- Ronald Reagan - "I have left orders to be awakened at any time in case of national emergency -- even if I'm in a Cabinet meeting."

- John F. Kennedy - "Forgive your enemies, but never forget their names."

- Richard Nixon - "You don't know how to lie. If you can't lie, you'll never go anywhere."

- Bill Clinton - "Being president is like running a cemetery: you've got a lot of people under you and nobody's listening."

- George W. Bush - "I always look forward to these dinners where I'm supposed to be funny - intentionally." (at the 2005 White House Correspondents' Assn. Dinner)

- Franklin Delano Roosevelt - He once asked where his wife Eleanor was. She was visiting a penitentiary. He was told, "She's in prison," he responded "I'm not surprised. But what for?"

- John Adams - "No man who ever held the office of president would congratulate a friend on obtaining it."

- Harry S. Truman - "If you want a friend in Washington, get a dog."

- Jimmy Carter - "I have often wanted to drown my troubles, but I can't get my wife to go swimming."

- Herbert Hoover - "Blessed are the young, for they will inherit the national debt."

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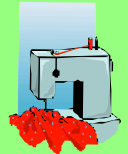
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#### **School Football.**

At one point during a school football match, the sports master called one of his 7-year-old players aside and asked, "Do you understand what cooperation is? What a team is?" The little boy nodded in the affirmative.

"Do you understand that what matters is not whether we win or lose, but how we play together as a team?" The little boy nodded yes. "So," he continued, "I'm sure you know, when a penalty is called, you shouldn't argue, swear at and attack the referee, or call him rude names. Do you understand all that?" Again the little boy nodded.

He continued, "And when I call you off the pitch so that another boy gets a chance to play, it's not good sportsmanship to call your sports master a stupid a\*sehole', is it?" Again the little boy nodded.

"Good," said the sports master. "Now go over there and explain all that to your mother."

#### **The Philosopher & Gossip.**

In ancient Greece (469 - 399 BC), Socrates was widely lauded for his wisdom. One day the great philosopher came upon an acquaintance who ran up to him excitedly and said, "Socrates, do you know what I just heard about one of your students?"

"Wait a moment," Socrates replied. "Before you tell me I'd like you to pass a little test. It's called the Test of Three."

"Three?" "That's right," Socrates continued. "Before you talk to me about my student let's take a moment to test what you're going to say. The first test is Truth. Have you made absolutely sure that what you are about to tell me is true?" "No," the man said, "actually I just heard about it."

"All right," said Socrates. "So you don't really know if it's true or not. Now let's try the second test, the test of Goodness. Is what you are about to tell me about my student something good?"

"No, on the contrary..."

"So," Socrates continued, "you want to tell me something bad about him even though you're not certain it's true?"

The man shrugged, a little embarrassed. Socrates continued. "You may still pass though, because there is a third test - the filter of Usefulness. Is what you want to tell me about my student going to be useful to me?"

"No, not really."

"Well," concluded Socrates, "if what you want to tell me is neither True nor Good nor even Useful, why tell it to me at all?"

The man was defeated and left, ashamed.

This is the reason Socrates was a great philosopher and held in such high esteem. It also explains why he never found out that Plato was having an affair with his wife!



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**CONTACT**

Terrí

Shirl

634344641

659259706



*I must admit I'm a great fan of the siesta. Tid and I have enjoyed them now for more than 22 years. The article below was the Leading Article in The Times on March 8, 2019.*

## The Times View on the Health Benefits of a Siesta: You Sleep, You Reap

The gains of a daytime nap are both physical and psychological

The Mediterranean custom of taking an afternoon siesta has long been stigmatised in more northerly climes. Sleeping during the day is frowned upon in North European and American culture. The daytime doze is associated with laziness or a response to lunchtime overindulgence, gluttonous and probably bibulous as well.

A new study in Greece, however, suggests that the siesta deserves a better press. An afternoon nap, researchers have found, has as much health benefit as the olive oil and fresh vegetables that, as is more than likely, preceded it. Specifically, they discovered that a short sleep is almost as effective at lowering high blood pressure as medication.

The evidence is mounting that a lack of sleep has deleterious health effects among those toiling in the contemporary workplace. The average British adult manages just six hours and 49 minutes of sleep each night, and none in the day. That is at least an hour less than required.



Studies indicate that the rampant sleep deprivation of the modern world may be contributing to increases in Alzheimer's disease, diabetes and obesity. A lack of sleep leaves a high level of cortisol, the so-called stress hormone, in the body. A tired nation makes for an anxious, intolerant, irascible nation. Getting enough sleep should not be seen as a luxury, more a medical and social necessity.

Power-naps have a beneficial effect on levels of concentration, creativity and co-ordination. One Nasa study found that a 40-minute daytime sleep doubled alertness. Winston Churchill

swore by his 20 minutes of "blessed oblivion" every afternoon, which set him up to work steadily into the small hours. Thomas Edison favoured several shorter sleeps throughout the day. So did Leonardo da Vinci. So, for that matter, did Aristotle. Not so much a case of you snooze, you lose, more you snore, you score. Rest is best.







# Funeral Plans Plus



Unless you speak the language, arranging a funeral in a foreign country can be both very stressful and expensive. To avoid leaving your loved ones with the immense problems and financial hardship on the fateful day, GRUPO ROCAMER welcome you to an all-inclusive funeral plan payable by very affordable monthly contributions

## What is covered? In brief, listed are the important things:

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## Here is a cost example

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[www.rocamer.es](http://www.rocamer.es)

 Rocamer Funeral Service

### Comparisons.

Some guys are chatting in the pub about their sexual conquests. One says "I've been shagging a blind woman this week." Another of the guys says to him "I understand that sex with a blind person is great as they have such a sensitive touch?"

He answers "Oh yes, it's absolutely amazing, the best ever.....mind you, it isn't easy getting her husband's voice right though."

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**TOMIOKE SAT APRIL 20th**

### Longevity drops in England and Wales.

British adults' life expectancy has been cut by six months in the biggest reduction in official longevity forecasts.

The Institute and Faculty of Actuaries, which calculates life expectancy on behalf of the UK pension industry, declined to speculate on why longevity is deteriorating for men and women in England and Wales. Some analysts, however, blame austerity and cuts in NHS spending, others point to worsening obesity, dementia and diabetes.

The institute said it now expects men aged 65 to die at 86.9 years, down from its previous estimate of 87.4 years, while women who reach 65 are likely to die at 89.2 years, down from 89.7 years.

The actuaries said the evidence of slowing life expectancy that first emerged around 2010-11 is "a trend as opposed to a blip".

Falling longevity has accelerated. Last year's analysis cut forecasted life expectancy by two months. This year it took off another six months. Compared with 2015, projections for life expectancy are now down by 13 months for men and 14 months for women.

Flat or falling longevity has major implications for health, finance and government policy. The state pension age is planned to rise to 68 in 2037, and the government has floated the idea of increasing it to 70 but will come under pressure to backtrack if longevity drops.



Objection overruled. Answer the bloody question."

### Strike One!

Three men were sitting around telling stories about their professions. The first, a retired sheriff, described the terrifying excitement of a shoot-out with a Columbian drug's gang. The others agreed it sounded pretty exciting. The second gentleman was a retired fireman. He told about a huge fire at the university, where young coeds jumped naked from their dorm windows into his arms. The other gentlemen all agreed that sounded pretty exciting. The third retiree began his story, "I was an undertaker. One night I got a call to pick up a body that was under a sheet in a hotel room. When I got there, the guy had a huge erection sticking straight up. I knew I couldn't take him through the lobby that way, so I found an old broom handle and hit that erection just as hard as I could." The old man paused - "You talk about excitement," he continued. The other old man said, "So what's so exciting about that?" "Well, I was in the wrong damn room!"



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 ASK IN BAR

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This is a fascinating story I found several weeks ago in El Mundo.

Fifteen people, 13 men and two women, were arrested in Valladolid, a city in north west Spain, in relation to an alleged fraud. It seems that the employees of a funeral home there were switching expensive coffins purchased



by the families for cheaper ones when the undertakers were taking the coffins to both their

crematoriums. The second crematorium is in Santovenia de Pisuergra, just 5k from Valladolid.

Initially the authorities believed that the fraud only commenced during 2017, but they quickly ascertained that the fraud went back 20 years and affected thousands of people. Wreaths and flowers were also reused in successive funerals.

76 police and officials took place in the raids on the business and homes and discovered €961,785 in cash in one of the suspect's home.

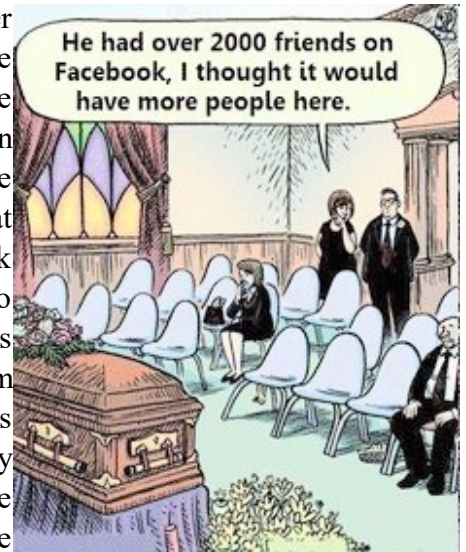
The police became interested in this case firstly in 2017 when a retired employee of the firm tried to blackmail his employers for a larger pension, or he would disclose their shenanigans. The company called the police and the pensioner was subsequently convicted. However, the pensioner gave the police a pendrive which contained numerous details and documentary evidence of the fraud. Police say that the initial investigations are limited to two decades, between 1995 and 2015, although they do not rule out that the criminal acts investigated can be extended to other periods and, above all, lead to the arrest of more people for continued crime of fraud and belonging to a criminal group.

There is no doubt about it, but when one decides to pay for a funeral in Spain, and probably any other country as well, one can be very vulnerable. It is always a stressful time and regrettably during my decade and a half in Spain I have come across many cases of people being sold very expensive coffins when simple ones were all that were requested. If one is asked to pay more than €3,500 to €4,000 for the whole procedure, it is time to ask questions and get a breakdown. I am also aware next-of-kin being put under pressure by hospital staff to

arrange a funeral quickly and providing the phone number of a tanatorio, one even threatening not to sign a death certificate until a funeral was arranged!

Many people are now opting for funeral insurance schemes with either monthly or lump sum payments, the former being particularly popular with the Spanish public.

I have carried several articles on funerals over the years and after researching the market, I found the scheme outlined on page 26 to be one of the best. What particularly struck me after speaking to several relatives who benefited from this scheme, was how complimentary they were about the quality of service offered during such a stressful time. Both Tid and I then signed up for it.



**No Crematoriums in Greece!**

I was amazed to read that there are no crematoriums in Greece. Senior Greek Orthodox clerics argue that funeral rites other than burial defy gospel teachings and can never be condoned. Ecclesiastical condemnation effectively quashed legislation in 2006 that approved cremation and would have brought Greece in line with other EU member states.

For decades Greeks seeking cremation for loved ones have had to go abroad. Neighbouring Bulgaria is the nearest country where cremation is allowed. Several Greek politicians have been campaigning for the construction of crematoriums since 2014 and it is now planned to have a couple constructed in Thessaloniki and Greece's western port town of Patras, but progress has been very slow and building works have not commenced yet. Meanwhile, the Orthodox church's ruling body, the Holy Synod, is expected to try and cancel the works. The mayor of Thessaloniki, Yiannis Boutaris, has spoken openly of his own bitter experience being forced to transport his late wife's body across the border to Bulgaria for cremation.

**How!**

A Red Indian introduced me to his wife. He said, 'This is Four Horses.'  
 I said, 'Wow, what a beautiful name. What does it mean.....?'  
 He said, 'Nag, Nag, Nag, Nag!'

## Spain introduces new rental rules with more safeguards for tenants

### Contract periods are extended, price hikes are contained, and evictions must first be notified with social services

A new government decree regulating rentals in Spain went into effect on Wednesday, March 6, five days after being approved by the Cabinet. The measures introduced by the government of Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, of the Socialist Party (PSOE), seek to improve protection for tenants at a time when affordable housing is becoming increasingly difficult to find.

The decree extends the duration of the rental contract from three to five years (or seven if the landlord is a company), and prevents annual rent hikes of more than the consumer price index (CPI) within that period. The new rules do not put a cap on how much monthly rent a landlord can ask for, as the anti-austerity party Podemos had lobbied for.

Deputy Prime Minister Carmen Calvo said recently that the decree is “an action plan for an unacceptable situation,” adding that the measures will be particularly helpful for young people.

Like all government decrees, this one will have to be ratified by Congress within a month. But because of the snap election called for April 28, parliament has been dissolved and this task will fall to a permanent congressional committee. The PSOE executive has already secured pledges of support from left-wing group Podemos and the Catalan nationalist party PdeCAT. The Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) is expected to back the decree as well.

The main changes will only apply to new lease agreements signed on March 6 and later. Earlier ones will continue to be covered by the previous legislation, although if both parties agree and there is no legal impediment, older contracts may be upgraded to reflect the new situation.

#### These are the key aspects of the decree:

**Contracts extended.** The minimum length of a contract has been extended from three to five years (or seven if the landlord is a business). To provide greater stability for tenants, the period of tacit renewal has been extended from one to three years. After the mandatory renewal period, landlords must give four months’ notice to end the contract and tenants must give two. Previously, owners could give two months’ notice and tenants one.

Many a man that would rule a hundred million  
strangers with an iron hand is careful  
to take off his shoes in the front hallway  
when he comes home late at night.

Finlay Peter Dunne

**Rent hikes limited to CPI.** While earlier contracts could establish their own provisions for annual reviews, the new decree prevents annual rent hikes of more than the consumer price index (CPI) within the contract period.

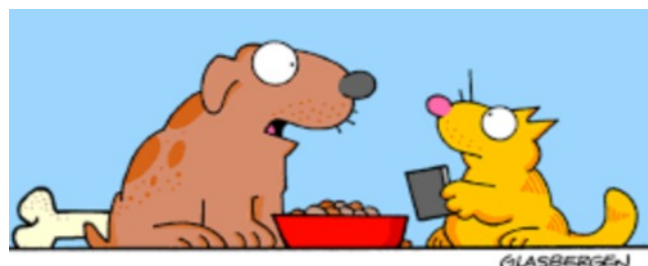
**Price benchmark system.** The decree introduces a state benchmark index for rental prices that will be used to follow changes in the market and help determine whether an asking price is adjusted to market realities. This index will provide the average price in any given part of Spain, and undergo annual reviews. The government has given itself eight months to produce the first figures.

**Limit on property costs.** In addition to a one-month deposit, property owners can only ask a tenant for additional guarantees equivalent to two months of rent. If the landlord is a legal entity, it must cover any real estate agency expenses.

**More security for tenants.** The decree equally recognizes contracts registered with the Property Registry and those that have not been registered. In other words, if someone buys a property that is already rented out, they must respect the tenant’s lease agreement.

**Evictions.** All eviction processes will go through the social services first to determine whether a tenant is in a vulnerable situation. If so, the eviction process will be pushed back one month (three if the owner is a business) to help the tenant find a new place to stay. Judges must also communicate the exact date and time that the eviction will take place.

**Vacation rentals.** The decree says that a building’s apartment owners may collectively agree to place limits on the use of units for the purposes of tourist accommodation. The measure comes amid growing public debate over the impact of online services such as Airbnb on city centres and on the price of housing.



“Today I ate two bowls of dog food, a sandwich crust, some spaghetti that fell on the floor, half of your cat food, a wet tea bag, three bugs and the inside of a sneaker. How many grams of fat is that?”

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### The Born Loser.

A loser is having a hard time picking up girls, so his well traveled friend takes him to a nightclub in Torry where he tells him that he will score for sure. The loser enters the bar, sees his prey, and begins to barrage her with pick up lines that he acquired from his friend. The young lady continues to ignore him but finally gives in.

She says " OK, I'll spend the night with you, but I've got to let you know up front that I'm on my menstrual cycle. The loser looks at her and says " That's OK. I'll follow you on my moped.



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## Uncovering the Mess in Andalucia

If you are a regular reader of the political news in this newsletter you will no doubt be aware that the socialist regional government of Andalucia were ousted in December 2018 after being in power for more than 37 years.

During early February this year, the new incoming regime did not expect any good economic news following their take-over, but were astounded to discover that the outgoing government had stashed hundreds of thousands of unpaid invoices in drawers as they did not have the funds nor the authority to pay. These totalled €1,074.5 million euros - that's more than a billion euros!

The highest mountain of unpaid bills corresponds to suppliers of medicines and sanitary material. The Andalusian Health Service (SAS) incurred expenses without budget support for a total amount of 607.12 million euros. They account for 56.5% of the unpaid invoices that emerged at the end of the year. 300,000 SAS invoices for the 2017 year and previous years remain outstanding. The amount outstanding for 2018 is not known yet.

Granted many of the invoices outstanding are from the huge drug companies but there will also be many small to medium sized companies who would have to wait more than a year for payment.

A supplier payment plan was introduced by the national government of Mariano Rajoy in 2012 to ensure that suppliers to the regions and municipalities would not have to wait more than a couple of months for their money. Whereas many regions and towns have greatly improved their payment practices, many others have not.

## Training Funds Spent at Brothel!

The Andalusian Foundation Fund for Training and Employment (Faffe), the now closed and shamed body of the Junta de Andalucía, is currently the subject of a number of fraud cases.

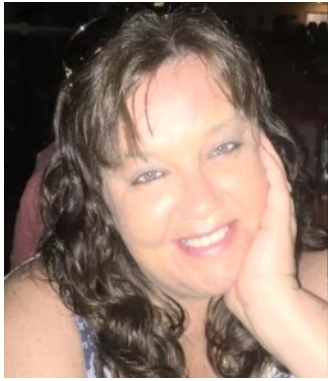
Although funds from central government should have been utilised to train unemployed Andalusians, much of the funding was rerouted to the unions and to the staff themselves and friends.

Although one could write a book about what was going on, one particular case, which involves the then director of the now defunct foundation, Fernando Villén, (photo) is intriguing.



In just six hours, between 20.57 and 2.43 hours, Fernando paid a total of €14,737 at Don Angelo's brothel in Seville on the night of March 22, 2010 and the morning of the following day. The money was classed as representation expenses paid for by the training foundation. Funds destined for training went to pay nightclubs, jewelry, supermarket shopping, meals at the Seville and Jerez fairs, as well as traffic fines!

A south Wales detective could lose her job after being accused of 25 counts of inappropriate behaviour. The complaints against DC Claire Fitzpatrick, 44, photo, being investigated by a disciplinary tribunal include: telling a motorist that he was “driving like a c\*\*\*”; breaking wind outside the sergeant’s office; and asking a colleague whether he fancied “an affair with a fatter, ugly, older woman”.



When he said no, she allegedly replied: "I'll be gentle, I promise." DC Fitzpatrick admitted that the incidents took place, but said they were part of a “culture of banter” at the village police station in Bedwas, Gwent. DC Fitzpatrick also admitted breaking wind outside the sergeant's office at the station - but said: "It wasn't deliberately". She said: "I would joke about it. Sometimes I would speak like the character Borat, or use a silly voice to say: ‘Rather out than in’." Glad she’s not living next door!

Customs agents found more than 1,500 live, exotic turtles duct-taped inside luggage at an airport in the Philippines. The turtles — 1,529 of them — were of several different species.



They were found in plastic boxes inside four suitcases left by a Filipino passenger coming from Hong Kong. Officials said the passenger abandoned the suitcases in the arrival area of the airport. Authorities said in the Facebook post that they believe the passenger may have been told that possible penalties for illegal wildlife trade includes monetary fines and possible jail time. If caught, they could face two years in jail and a fine of up to 200,000 pesos.

A woman in her 30’s crossed the barrier in the big cat’s enclosure at Wildlife World Zoo in Arizona so that she could take a selfie with a jaguar! Jaguars are opportunistic



hunters that prey on more than 85 species and no doubt viewed the woman as food! The big cat, photo, grabbed the woman’s with its claws and would not let go. The woman’s screams

brought another woman to the enclosure who stuck her water bottle through the railings, attracting the cat before pulling the injured woman to safety. The woman is recovering and is hopefully now just a little wiser.

A vegan bride-to-be has un-invited from her wedding all those guests who refused to agree to her demand to give up meat for the rest of their lives. In a post to a Facebook group called Vegan Revolution that has now gone viral, the 20-year-old wrote that among those eliminated from her guest list were her mother and two cousins who were to act as bridesmaids. “We don’t want to host murderers,” she explained. “Our wedding is supposed to be one of the happiest days of our lives.”



There were many who remarked the bride's stance reflected badly on vegans as a whole. One woman wrote: 'Unless they are planning on showing up with bucket-loads of KFC, this person is batsh\*t crazy. 'Does she really not associate at all with people who aren't vegan? Because that's at least 95 per cent of the world's population.' Another chimed in saying: 'Christ I hate vegans that do sh\*t like this. Being vegan isn't a personality trait.' And just for vegan fans, I've included this photo of a vegan turkey.....made from tofu! Mmmmmmmmm, enjoy!

Did you know Cow Dung Soap Is Sold By Amazon India? Cows are sacred in Hinduism, and many Indians



believe that their dung, milk and urine have healing properties.

Although there's no scientific evidence to back this up, the market for soap with cow dung as an ingredient is growing. There's even cow dung toothpaste. And no, it doesn't smell like ... Dung! The wet dung is dried, pulverized and treated with heat to destroy bacteria before being added to other ingredients like citronella and sandalwood.

And now some plane madness..... A Malaysia-bound plane en route to Kuala Lumpur, made the unusual request to return to the airport in Jeddah shortly after takeoff when the passenger told cabin crew she had forgotten her child, when she realised she left her baby in the terminal.

In 2013, an American Airlines flight from Los Angeles to New York diverted to Kansas City because of a “very unruly passenger” who refused to stop singing Whitney Houston’s I Will Always Love You.

In New York the following year, a taxiing plane heading to Seoul returned to the gate after the South Korean airline heiress Cho Hyun-ah forced a senior crew member to disembark because she had been served macadamia nuts from a packet instead of a bowl.

A US court affirmed the right to ‘flip cops the bird.’ The ruling vindicated a Michigan woman who sued after she got a traffic ticket for making a gesture “without four of her fingers showing.” How about two fingers - the British way?



*Kath & Jules Welcome You to*




# JESSIE'S BAR

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**Sunny South Facing Terrace, Opposite Mercadona in Los Balcones**

### HUMAN BLOOD SAUSAGE?

Raúl Escuín, photo, a 30-year-old wood cutter in the remote village of Alloza in the Teruel province, believes he has come up with a blood sausage that is suitable for vegans. He insists that his version of morcilla is vegan friendly because it doesn't involve any animal abuse in its creation. "If you are vegan and want to eat morcilla then the only option you have is to make it with your own blood."



His recipe involves extracting 40 ml of blood - which is done by a professional nurse who lives in the village - before frying it up with rice, onions, water and a selection of herbs and spices. The mixture is then inserted into a vegan sausage casing before being boiled, sliced and fried in the usual way. He has encouraged others to make their own morcilla using their own blood. "So far everyone who has tasted their own blood sausage, has been surprised by how tasty it is!" he insists. But he warns that under no circumstances should the morcilla be shared with another person. "No, that really would be cannibalism," he said.



Escuín has plans to take his project on the road and host workshops - with trained nurses to extract the blood - enabling others to create their own blood morcilla. Tentative dates are already set for Zaragoza, Madrid and Barcelona.

Hmm! Wooley hats and wooley thinking, I believe!



"All the girls are off sick!"

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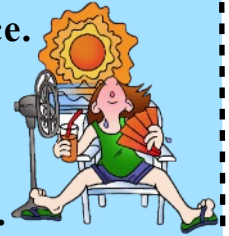


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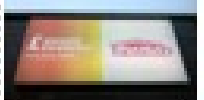
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MARKS & SPENCER



**You can also contact Mick Church on  
0034 634 321 372**

Sigmund Freud asked the question: 'What is it that women want?'.....But it's obvious, isn't it?

They want the central heating turned up, don't they?

Al Murray, The Pub Landlord's Book of Common Sense.

## Lime Bar Fishing SUNBATHING Club

One of our members has had to return to UK so we now have 3 vacancies in the club. We limit the club to 20 members due to the lack of venues that can take that many, so if you and your mate want to get a suntan while watching the wildlife, now's your chance. Mind you we don't take just anybody and you might get blackballed! If you can't fish don't worry, neither can most of us. If you can fish, then it will give the trophy hunters some competition. If interested, pop along to the Bar Next Door on any Monday between 17.00 and 18.00 and ask any of the "Monday Club" for more info. You will have to listen carefully though as they all speak different dialects!

Bring a translator and 15 copies of your residencia. Oh, and your wallet!

Although the fishing this winter has been terrible, there have been some big fish around. Several of the club have hooked into something huge before eventually being snapped off or lost in the weeds. It has been reported (Lime Bar gossip) that a 17 pounder was caught at Bigastro. For the local rivers this is a monster!

At the end of February with the thought of catching it again, Beat Me Phil and Ball Boy were fishing Bigastro when Beat Me landed a whopper of 11.3 pounds. Unfortunately, the only person able to witness it was Ball Boy who up until this fish was leading the biggest carp competition with 10.4 lbs. Although Ball Boy acknowledged he had been beaten, he still couldn't get a photo sorted out. Come on Ball Boy if you want your photo in here you will have to invest in a camera!

This month's match was held at El Bosquet and out of 12 anglers on the bank, only 2 blanked, a vast difference to the last 2 matches at Bigastro. I was starting to get a complex with the number of blanks I have had this winter.

We fished the oblong and the back canal (pegs 12 to 24). Even though the forecast was good, when we arrived the car's thermometer was blinking with a "Risk of Ice" at 3° but there was a light breeze and the water looked OK.

Beat Me Phil (who had 2 wins to my 1) and I both drew pegs on the oblong again (to the disgust of 3 Rods) so at least we could see how each of us were doing. Beat Me started off well landing a few early carp while Anti-Social and I were feeding maggots to a stonechat (feathered bird) in between cups of coffee. After 4 hours Beat Me Phil and the Antique man were well in the lead with several carp each where as I had only had 2 small mullet. This was

when the wind picked up and started gusting which it made it very difficult for me to control my pole! 😊 I decided to set up a feeder rod and cast into where I had seen some fish earlier in the day. 1<sup>st</sup> cast and I had a 2 pounder, 2<sup>nd</sup> cast (I was short by about 12") and didn't get a bite. 3<sup>rd</sup> cast was on the money and I had a 3 pounder within a couple of minutes. When I realised that the fish were SO localised, if I missed the sweet spot, I wound in and recast until I hit it. I ended up with 10 fish for 9 kilos to win the match, followed by Antique Man in 2<sup>nd</sup> (his best result) with 7 kilos then Beat Me Phil in 3<sup>rd</sup> with 6 kilos. The top 3 weights had all come from the oblong again.

This match confirmed the finalists for the winter competition. They were Beat Me Phil, 3 Rods, Ghost, Just John, Sweeney and Ball Boy.

The following week the 6 finalists left home bright and early in a temperature of 14°C, full of anticipation and raring to go. As we pulled into the fishing complex, the car thermometers were flashing 2° again. There was even a bit of ground frost. Unperturbed (as we had such a good day the week before) we drew pegs on the back canal and set our kit up. We didn't draw on the oblong as 3 Rods wanted an "even" competition. There was no sign of any fish so it was pot luck where you tried, most of us opting for the far bank to start with. I was at the far end in peg 24 and had seen a carp swirl just before the start of the match. I put my pole away and lobbed a swim feeder to where it had been. 1<sup>st</sup> cast and after waiting about 5 minutes, the rod tip swung round. Thank goodness, I hadn't blanked and it was a good fish of about 3 pounds. Then nothing! So, I then joined everyone else trying to coax a bite from anywhere. Compared to last week's match the fishing was terrible. 3 Rods had found some small mullet so was trying to keep them on the hook to build up a weight. He hooked one good fish but it got snarled up in his keepnet and spat the hook out. This match really was luck of the draw as only pegs 18, 22 and 24 caught. On this canal you can see all the other anglers so it is disappointing when you are trying your best (not getting a bite) and the bloke next door is catching! With 30 minutes to go, I could see 3 Rods was probably beating me with his catch of small mullet so I lobbed the feeder where I had caught 1<sup>st</sup> cast in the morning. Luckily, I caught another carp of about 3 pounds. All day, I only had 4 fish but it was enough to win the final with 4.4 kilos. Silver went to 3 Rods with 2.73 kilos of mullet and a very close bronze was Beat Me Phil with 2.69 kilos. Roll on summer and some fish that want to be caught!

Next ~~meeting~~ bun fight is at The Lime Bar @ 17.00 Mon 1<sup>st</sup> April. NO REALLY!!

### Fishy Fingers!

#### The Ghost

#### My Dad!

A teacher asked her young class what their Dads did for a living. The usual assortment of answers were eagerly given by the proud kids - fireman, builder, train driver, etc. Young Joshua, however, seemed unusually reticent.

"What does your Daddy do, Joshua", the teacher asked.

"My Daddy dances and takes his clothes off in a gay club", the boy replied, "Sometimes if the men offer him enough money, he goes to a private room and has sex with them".

The teacher was momentarily stunned, before hastily telling the class to get on with some colouring while she had a word with Joshua outside. "Is that really true about your Dad", she asked.

"No", replied Joshua sadly. "He's a Conservative MP, but I was too embarrassed to say that in front of the other kids".





# BEFRIENDING SERVICE

## Volunteers needed to become "Befrienders"

We are looking for people to join our team visiting people in their homes or perhaps in a nursing home, keeping them company, listening and chatting – perhaps even a game of cards! Volunteers should have a caring nature, be non-judgmental, with good listening skills and be able to maintain confidentiality at all times

**IMPORTANT: This role does not require any hands-on personal care or practical duties. It aims to enhance the quality of life of both the person you are befriending and that of their carer**

### *Comment from existing HELP Vega Baja member (names have been changed)*

*Brian and Jackie have been married for 50 years and for 15 of those years, Jackie has been caring for her husband who has dementia. Jackie told us "You often find yourself isolated as a carer and Brian's day-to-day needs take-over any plans that I make. Brian loves to talk and always keeps Wendy, the HELP Vega Baja Welfare Officer, chatting when she comes to visit! Wendy has told us about the new free Befriending Service that the charity is starting, and this is exactly what both Brian and I need and have been hoping for. I will be able to take a break knowing that Brian has someone to keep him company and that will put my mind at ease. The service will allow me to pop out every now and again even if it is only to go to my own doctors, have a haircut or simply go and meet a friend for a coffee...."*

To find out more about how you can become a volunteer with this worthwhile service, contact HELP Vega Baja San Miguel Centre on 966 723 733 or email [befriending@helpvegabaja.com](mailto:befriending@helpvegabaja.com)

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### Need a Spanish Mortgage?

Whether you need a mortgage, a second one or one just to purchase a second property, you should find the following website very helpful.

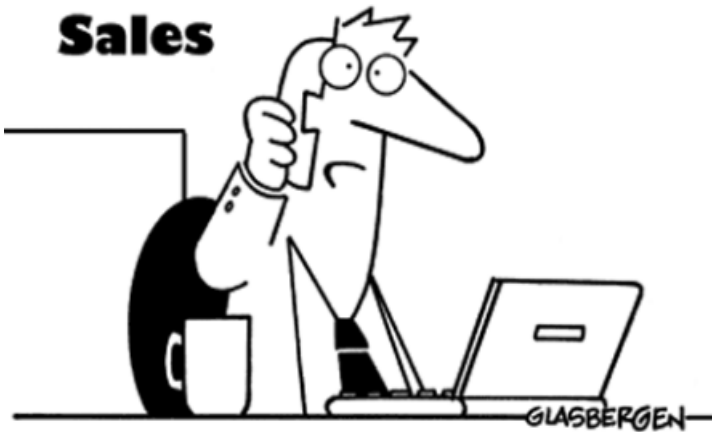
The site is chock-full of links to information on mortgages, best rates, tips, conditions, process, etc., including a mortgage calculator.

As of December 2018

- Mortgage cost in Spain: newly mortgages issued have an interest rate of 2.6%
- Duration of mortgages in Spain: an average length of 24 years.
- Loan to Value on new Spanish mortgage loans: 66% on average
- Percent of newly issued mortgages in Spain with a Loan to Value higher than 80%: 15%
- Average size of the newly issued mortgages in Spain: € 127.732
- Average monthly mortgage cost in Spain per €100.000: €467

See: <https://howtobuyinspain.com/en/spanish-mortgage/>

### Real Estate Sales



**“The property is flooded, so we can describe your home as an ‘island getaway!’”**

The following is a good information site for tourist info’ in the Torrevieja area. It is available in English and a number of other languages.

<http://turismodeorrevieja.com/movil3/indexEN.htm>

There is no proposition, no matter how foolish, for which a dozen Nobel signatures cannot be collected.

Daniel S. Greenberg

### 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 toTorrevieja: 8:00 - 10:00 - 11:00\* - 12:00 - 13:00\* - 14:00 - 16:00 - 17:00\* - 18:00 - 19:00\* - 20:00 - 22:00 (I hear that the summer timings are now year round.)

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

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

Pensioners can get a 30% discount but only if they are registered as permanent residents in the Valencian Community.

You may need to show proof of age ID plus Residencia, NIE or DNI. A bit of a palaver really.

Prior booking is not required. Sometimes the bus fills up quickly with people and you have to wait more than 2 hours for the next bus.

### 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/>

### 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/>

### 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 don't forget your local municipality will also have at least an extra two days of holidays, dependent on the local patron saint days, although most stores will ignore these.



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Jack Donaghy, *30 Rock*

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