

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER

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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the June, 2019 edition. Issue No.143



What with a general election, municipal and European elections, these have dominated recent news coverage in Spain. The General Election is covered on page 3 of this issue. Expat's could vote, if registered, in the municipal and European elections. It's no secret that in Orihuela Costa we have been starved of amenities with most of the investment going to the city and outlying villages. Some villages have sport and leisure facilities - ours is closed! Mini demonstrations outside the Ayuntamiento on the Costa are just a waste of time. You need to get busloads to create a stink in Orihuela itself and vote the buggers out! Now, if you just sat on your butt and didn't bother to vote in your local election, there is little point in whining and whinging about shortcomings or lack of amenities. You obviously can't be too bothered!

See cartoon on page 30.

Orihuela Municipality: Here, 25 councillor seats were up for grabs. The PP secured 9 (down two seats), the PSOE 6 seats (also down two), Ciudadanos 5 (gaining two extra seats), Unidos Podemos - an alliance of three parties - gained 3 seats. Vox, the newly participating far-right party, made it's debut and gained three seats.

It is interesting that neither the PP nor the PSOE had any expat's on their election list. Ciudadanos had some, but all placed in unelectable positions - s sop! This has got to stop!

To rule the municipality again, the PP will have to form another alliance with Ciudadanos. Let's hope that C's can finally extract some decent investment for the coastal residents. If not, well, vote for somebody else!

Torrevieja Municipality: Some real surprises here! 25 council seats were available. After being kicked out by a left-wing alliance in the previous local election, the PP made a massive comeback this time gaining 14 of the 25 seats available (up three seats). The PSOE secured 5 seats (up 1), Compromis, a new entry with 3 seats, SUEÑA one seat (down 1), Ciudadanos 1 seat (down 1), and new entrant Vox with 1 seat. Now the PP have an absolute majority, they will be able to, good or bad, rule unhindered for the next four years.

Now that the summer is approaching, there will be usual invasion of pests. If mosquitos are a major concern to you get something with DEET in it. It works best. Also look out for the human pests - the so-called charity collectors who will call at your gate and have colourful ID cards, the bogus gas engineers, the guy who can't get into his house and needs money for a locksmith, and don't forget the bars who have two prices, one for locals, the other for tourists.

Thanks to Les B, Soren O, David D, Tom ?,for their generosity.

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

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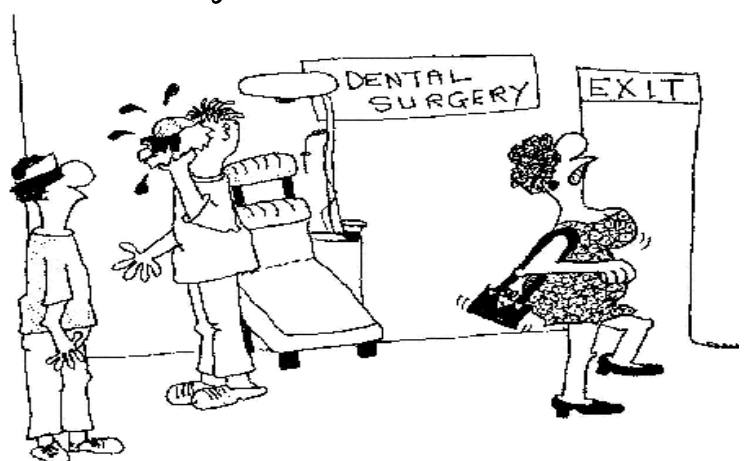
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It is now some weeks since the Spanish General Election, so let's take a brief look at what happened.

This was the thirteenth general election since Franco took the fast-train to Hell. 36,893,976 voters -34,799,999 residents in Spain participated and 2,093,977 abroad. 1,257,196 young people also participated for the first time, or at least were entitled to.

Also, for the first time, 100,000 people with intellectual disability, mental illness or cognitive impairment were also able to vote, thanks to a reform, in October 2018, of the Organic Law on the General Electoral System.

There's been a **huge turnout** for the election, 75.8%, with nearly three in four eligible adults voting.

Now on to the results where it had been widely and correctly predicted that no one party would get an overall majority. There were however some significant changes.

The **PSOE** (Socialists) were the most voted-for party obtained 7,480,755 votes, 28.68% of total votes, which gives 123 seats. This was a major increase from the 2016 election when they only had 85 deputies.

The **PP** (right of centre) remains the second political force in Congress, but nobody denies that they suffered an electoral debacle. They dropped from 137 deputies in 2016 to just 66 deputies now; 7,941,236 votes to 4,356,023!

Ciudadanos (Citizens - centre/liberal) was another of the big winners on the night, gaining an additional 32 deputies making a total of 57 deputies.

Unidas Podemos (United We Can - so far left they're looney!) were the other big losers dropping from 71 seats to 42.

The far-right **Vox** party achieves its goal of entering Congress for the first time with 24 deputies - 2,677,173 votes, 10% of the total vote. (Vox have a traditionalist, anti-immigrant and anti-regional agenda.)

The Basque, Catalan separatists and a number of other smaller parties took the remainder of the seats. Four of the Catalan separatists, who are currently in preventative custody due to the illegal referendum, won seats.

Around 66 parties stood at the General Election, the greater majority of them not obtaining any seats. The two bottom performers deserve a mention - **Death to the System** getting 46 votes and **Union of Everyone** with 28.

Enough with the Politics! Some Jewish Humour.

Sadie goes to see her rabbi and complains about her bad headaches. She whines, cries, and talks about her poor living condition for hours.

All of a sudden, Sadie shouts, overjoyed, 'Rabbi, your holy presence has cured me! My headache is gone!'

To which the rabbi replies, 'No Sadie, it is not gone. I have it now.'

As we have seen, the Spanish Socialists won the most seats in the General Election by a wide margin, but not enough to govern on their own. **An overall majority can only be secured with 176 seats** or more in Congress (Parliament). To get a working majority they will either have to turn to the hard-left (Podemos) plus Catalan / Basque nationalists, or, to a liberal party more to the right of them. The decision is likely to have an impact on the economy, housing policy, and the prospects of Spanish real estate market in the years to come.

So far the Socialists have been playing it cool, saying they plan to go it alone as a minority Government, whilst Podemos, whose leaders are desperate to get their hands on power, say the only option they will consider is a coalition Government with them in it. Citizens, who want to displace the PP as the main opposition, have unfortunately ruled out any collaboration with the Socialists, despite pressure from the EU, banks, and business leaders who like the idea of a moderate coalition between Citizens and the Socialists.

Rather than providing clarity, the election delivered the same uncertain and insecure outlook that existed before. Who knows, maybe there will be yet another General Election in a year's time!

Donkeys Are Dying Because China Wants Their Hides For A Traditional Remedy.

China reportedly needs 4 million donkey hides a year for the traditional medicine "ejiao". Ejiao or donkey hide glue, is a gelatinous substance, made from boiling the hides of donkeys, which is used in traditional Chinese medicines and beauty products. You can purchase it on Amazon.

The donkey skins used in the product were previously largely sourced from Chinese farms. But with China's donkey population dropping from 11 million in 1990 to 5.4 million in 2016, manufacturers are now targeting donkeys from Africa to meet demand. They're importing hides from poor countries -- and dealing a blow to people whose livelihood depends on the animals. Donkeys that are sold for their skins are often treated terribly throughout the transport and slaughter process loaded roughly onto cramped, dangerous vehicles, starved, and killed brutally.

One day Moshe is crossing the street and gets knocked down by a car. Although only slightly hurt, an ambulance is called.

When it arrives, the attendant puts a blanket over Moshe and a pillow under his head and asks,

'Sir, are you comfortable?'

Moshe looks up and says, 'Vell, I make a living!'

Spain's acting Defence Minister, Margarita Robles, said that the Spanish frigate Méndez Núñez has been **pulled out of a US-led naval group in the Persian Gulf** because American authorities have changed the original mission. Robles insisted that the decision is technical and military, not political, and that Spain respects Washington's choice. "We respect the decision and when things go back to what was planned with the Spanish Navy, we will resume [the mission]," said the minister. The Spanish frigate will rejoin the fleet once it reaches the Indian Ocean. On May 5 Washington announced it would send the fleet led by the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln to the Persian Gulf amid growing tension between the US and Iran. Spain's previous entry into the Gulf War was extremely unpopular with the Spanish populace and was a major cause of the PP losing a general election during the tenure of PM Aznar.

For the second year in a row, Spain has shattered its own record for **weapons exports**. The country sold military equipment worth €4.3 billion last year, a 7.3% rise from 2016. Outside the European Union, which accounts for 72.6% of Spain's weapons exports, the country's biggest client was Saudi Arabia with €270.2 million in sales, a 133% rise from 2016. Germany was Spain's top client last year, purchasing €1.2 billion worth of weapons. The Spanish government denied permission for four sales last year, including two shipments of equipment worth €1.9 million that would have gone to Israel. A sale to China and another one to Myanmar was also blocked.

A government decree went into effect on May 12 forcing companies **of all sizes to keep records of when employees start and end their working day**. The goal is to clamp down on unpaid overtime, and failure to comply carries administrative penalties ranging from €626 to €6,250. Unpaid overtime has been a major problem in Spanish employment for some time, the banks and hotel industry being among the worst offenders. According to the new law, self-employed entrepreneurs who employ other people do have an obligation to keep records, while single-employee outfits do not. There has been little information supporting the directive. Basic paper time sheets will be used by many, while sophisticated hi-tech solutions such as fingerprint signing in and out and facial recognition are already employed by others. It is expected that its introduction to construction workers and sites could be difficult to implement.

The Catalan government has passed a new law to try and tackle the problem of rising rents and greedy landlords, especially in Barcelona, **by capping rental prices** in neighbourhoods deemed to have a dearth of affordable housing. This type of control could easily pass on to other coastal regions as some are currently contemplating new rental controls.

Sandro Rossell, a former president of Barcelona FC has been released from prison after serving 643 days of incarceration. Rossell, with five others, was charged with money-laundering in relation to a €12 million payment on a €20 million deal relating to transfer rights and Nike sponsorship. Rossell and the others have now been completely exonerated but his incarceration again raises the **serious problem of preventative custody** in Spain. Rossell was stuck in jail because the judge thought he might flee the country. As of March this year, 9,218 people were being held in preventative custody in Spain. This represents around 15% of the total prison population. The average length of this type of custody is 298 days, almost 10 months! No doubt some of these are suspected terrorists or murderers, however, the Spanish Human Rights Association found that 35% of those imprisoned are eventually found innocent and released.

The Spanish anti-austerity party Podemos (looney-left) has questioned donations made by Inditex founder Amancio Ortega to Spain's public healthcare system. The business mogul – who, with a fortune of €56 billion, according to Forbes magazine, is Spain's richest man – promised in 2017 to donate €320 million through the



Amancio Ortega Foundation so that public hospitals across Spain could buy new equipment to diagnose and treat cancer patients. But the Podemos candidate for Sunday's Madrid regional elections, Isa Serra (photo), argued that the public health

system **should not accept the donation** in a radio interview last week. The leader of Ciudadanos (Citizens), Albert Rivera, said Serra should "look in the eyes of a cancer patient" and tell them that "your ideological sectarianism does not allow you to accept these donations." Serra has never had a paid job before entering politics.

Preliminary data offered by Spain's Attorney General's Office show a 10% rise in just one year in convictions for driving **under the influence of alcohol or drugs**. These convictions grew to 56,173 in 2018, compared with 51,085 in 2017, representing 21% of all convictions for any kind of crime. More than 40% of drivers who died in traffic accidents had consumed alcohol or drugs. Last year, a total of 89,264 people were convicted of driving offences, representing 34% of all convictions for any crime. This is an 8.9% rise from 2017.

After the doctor gave me a thorough check-over the other day, he seemed a bit concerned.

So I asked him, 'Is there any hope?' He said, 'Reincarnation!'



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Three friends had a good friend named Joe and he was, naturally, an eternal optimist. At every bad situation, he would always say: "It could have been worse." His friends hated that quality about him, so they came up with a story so horrible that not even Joe could come up with a bright side. So the next day, only two of his friends showed up for a golf date. Joe asked: "Where's Gary?" One of his friends said: "Didn't you hear? Yesterday, Gary found his wife in bed with another man, shot them both, and then turned the gun on himself." Joe says: "Well it could have been worse.." Both his friends said: "How in hell could it be worse? Your best friend just killed himself!" Joe says: "If it had happened two days ago, I would be dead now!"

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This large truck took out the central reservation after overturning and blocking the A-7 near the Orihuela turnoff on May 26. A car also crashed into the wreckage. Fortunately, **no one was hurt** although the road, both sides, was blocked for some hours.

The Cold Drop!

Those of us who experienced the Gota Fria (**Cold Drop**) during April and the torrential deluge, would have been impressed (and probably soaked!). Less impressive however, was the fact that little of this rainwater was collected in the province of Alicante. The lack of an efficient infrastructure for regulation and subsequent distribution of rainwater in the province meant that 60 billion litres of rainwater ended up in the sea - 50 billion from the Vega Baja and 10 billion from the Marina Alta. What a waste!

Rising Costs!

Household electricity bills rose by **almost 20%** during the last six months of 2018.

According to official figures the price of petrol has risen by 15% since the beginning of the year. Diesel is up by 11%. This is still 10% lower than the maximums achieved in September 2012. Fuel is still cheaper in Spain than the average for the whole of the EU.

Tourism up in First Quarter.

Between January and April this year, hotels in the Costa Blanca enjoyed 7.7 million overnight stays, the community welcoming more than 2.5 million visitors. The hotel occupancy is growing by around 3% for this period annually. The increase this year was very welcome, making up, in many cases, for a disastrous Easter trading period.

Paddy is doing a crossword. He says to Murphy, 'I'm stuck on 2 down, a flightless bird from Iceland, (6,7).

Murphy thinks about it and replies, 'Ah, you great big eejit, that's easy. It's Frozen Chicken!'

My son has just finished 7 years of medical training and in the first week is likely to get struck off and possibly jailed for sleeping with one of his patients. He was all set to be a great vet too.

Called *Veella*, these jellyfish-like creatures have been washed up in a number of Costa Blanca beaches between Altea and Denia. Not strictly a jellyfish but floating colonies of microscopic hydrozoans that typically live far offshore in open ocean waters, where their little 'sails' help distribute them using the power of the wind. Although related to the deadly Portuguese Man O'War, **Veella are completely harmless** to humans. (Several Portuguese Man O'War, were noticed off-shore in Altea during April and several beaches were closed off to the public.)

The species, known in English as

'By-the-Wind Sailor', are fairly common in open waters but are rarely seen washed up in Mediterranean waters. Such mass strandings are common on the West coast of the USA.

Recent high southerly winds and strong sea currents are blamed for washing carpets of them on shore at beaches along Spain's eastern Mediterranean coast.

Good to hear that Orihuela Costa has secured its **11 Blue Flags** for the beaches for another year. There were some doubts that a couple may have been dropped due to the cock-ups with the *chiringuitos* last year, but it does not seem to have been an issue with the judges.



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Amy Winehouse is more famous for her drinking and drug-taking than her singing. If only the same were true of Celine Dion. Sandy Toksvig, *The News Quiz*


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Growth in Foreign Buyers Easing?

Foreign buyers acquired 50,249 homes in Spain in the last six months of 2018, up 1.4% compared to the same period a year before, reveals a report just published by Spain's General Council of Notaries, a trade body. Notaries witness the vast majority of property sales that take place in Spain, and according to their figures, foreign buyers made up 18.2% of the market, down from a high of 20.3% in the second half of 2015.

Although the number of sales involving a foreign buyer increased in the period, the notaries point out that, "in comparison to the previous year, the increases registered in the two halves of 2018 were a long way from the results of 2017, when growth was above 10%." Foreign demand looks like it might be running out of momentum.

The British are still by far the biggest group of foreign buyers and their numbers just keep growing having recovered after the initial shock of the Brexit referendum.

WEATHER!

If God had intended man to live in England, he'd have given him gills.

David Renwick

The climate of England has been the world's most powerful colonising influence.

Russell Green

Immigrant Labour and Spanish Farming

Many do not, or even want to, remember the misery that was in Spain during the Franco regime. In the 50's and 60's, thousands of Spaniards went to work harvesting in France under very difficult conditions. Labour emigration to France, Switzerland, Germany, Holland and Belgium was the one that, with its cash transfers, maintained for many years the influx of foreign currency into Spain, far in excess of exports and tourism.

Now of course it is a different story. Compared to the Franco regime, Spain is now much more advanced socially and economically - and many more ways as well.

A story way back in April caught my attention. Here a reporter was having a look at immigrant labour in strawberry fields and others in Andalucia. In this case the reporter, Olga, interviewed 45-year-old Cristóbal, owner of 40 hectares of red fruits and avocados in Lucena del Puerto, a municipality of Huelva. Lucena del Puerto has a normal population of just around 3,000, which can treble during peak picking season. Every day, 20 immigrant women from Morocco pick strawberries under his giant plastic domes. When asked why Cristóbal did not employ Spanish pickers he said that the Spanish don't want to work picking and would rather claim benefits. Also, the Spaniards, he said, kept eating the strawberries!

This year the Government authorised the recruitment of 19,179 workers from Morocco. 11,500 of them worked in Spain in previous years while the remainder are selected from different Moroccan cities. They are all women who have children in Morocco, so they won't be tempted to stay in Spain. Even so, around 20% of these immigrant workers are expected to remain in Spain fraudulently.

Zahra, a 35-year-old Moroccan woman, has worked for Cristóbal since 2011. He pays for the trip and accommodation and pays her 42 euros gross per day for 39 hours per week of work. "It's more than what is paid in Morocco for the same task," Zahra says. "With what I earn here in three months, I support my husband and my three children the rest of the year." (The word "gross" here worries me!)

Last year, several seasonal workers in Huelva reported sexual abuse, unpaid salaries and deficiencies in working conditions and accommodation. The complaints were filed but there is a second case opened. The Junta de Andalucía and the strawberry sector have developed an action protocol in response and have also deployed a team of 15 "integration consultants" who visit the farms every week to make sure everything is in order.

Immigration rates only 11th in the Spaniards list of concerns according to a recent poll. 8.9% of respondents listed it as among their main headaches. This is up from 2.6% in the previous year.

"There is an anti-immigration discourse in several countries that is becoming contagious and normalizing. Now it is not politically incorrect to say certain things. There are more people who put immigrants as scapegoats. Something that had not emerged in Spain during the economic crisis has occurred when we started to leave it," responds Markus González Beilfuss, professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Barcelona.



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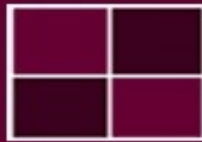
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June

Another royal baby born
and Archie is his name
another mouth for us to feed
but the child is not to blame

European finals beckon
all English teams in both
a month ago who would reckon
on this successful growth

Local elections loom in the Costa
all parties primed and ready
the same open promises fasta
we've heard it all already

The Brexit saga lingers on
where will it all end
politicians welcome this con
it sends us round the bend

Summer's well and truly here
for this we give our thanks
now globally another fear
the Chinese and the Yanks

Trade wars and star wars
China and Iran
when will Trump stop this farce
if he does not; who can

The World is not a nice place
strife and conflict loom
but here we live at a nice pace
and forget the doom and gloom

The Phantom Poet

*I've found very little evidence of
regional stereotyping.
I can count on one hand the
occasions when someone has been
derogatory towards my Welsh
heritage - seven!*

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.

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

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

Contact David on - 602465565 or 966392026.



- advocacycostablanca@outlook.com

Are you thinking about a return to the UK?

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

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

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

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

- Desire, greed, lust. We're all in prison for different reasons, aren't we?
- With respect, Godber, we're all here for the same reason: we got caught.

LENNIE GODBER & NORMAN STANLEY FLETCHER, PORRIDGE.

("Porridge" for our non-English readers is a slang term for 'jail-time'.)



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The Romance.

My grandma told me how she ended up marrying Grandpa. She was in her 20's, and the man she was dating left for war. "We were in love," she recalled, "and wrote to each other every week. It was during that time that I discovered how wonderful your grandfather was."

"Did you marry Grandpa when he came home from the war?" I asked.

"Oh, I didn't marry the man who wrote the letters. Your grandfather was the postman."

After Men in Spain Got Paternity Leave, They Wanted Fewer Kids

In March 2007, Spain introduced a national policy granting most new fathers two weeks of fully paid paternity leave. The policy proved exceptionally popular, with 55% of men eligible in the first year opting to take the paid time. The amount of leave covered by the program was doubled in 2017 and expanded to five weeks in 2018, with additional increases expected between now and 2021.

Economists studying the effects of the original 2007 policy examined what happened to families that had children just before and just after the program began, and found differences in the outcomes. While the early cohort of men who were eligible for paternity leave were just as likely to stay in the workforce as the men who weren't eligible, they remained more engaged with childcare after their return to work, and their partners were more likely to stay in the workforce as well. In that sense, the program seems to have done what policy makers would have hoped.

Unexpectedly, though, the researchers also found that families who were eligible for the paternity leave were less likely to have kids in the future. In a study published in the *Journal of Public Economics* (paywall), economists Lidia Farré of the University of Barcelona and Libertad González of University of Pompeu Fabra estimate that two years on, parents who had been eligible for the newly introduced program were 7% to 15% less likely to have another kid than parents who just missed the eligibility cutoff. While the difference dissipated further into the future, even after six years, parents who had been eligible for the leave were still less likely to have a child again.

The researchers suggest an intriguing reason why. After paternity leave was instituted, surveys of Spanish men ages 21 to 40 showed they desired fewer children than before. Farré and González think that spending more time with their children—or the prospect of having to do so—may have made men more acutely aware of the effort and costs associated with child rearing, and, as the researchers put it, “shifted their preferences from child quantity to quality.”

At the same time, women started showing preferences for slightly larger families—perhaps a sign that having more children seemed more desirable with a slightly more equitable balance of labour at home.

As the authors point out, it's impossible to draw sweeping conclusions from this observation of a single data point in a single country. Correlation isn't causation, and it's possible that other factors weighed more heavily than paternity leave on men's family preferences. (The global financial crisis, for example, hit Spain in full force about a year after the leave policy was introduced.)



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SIPRESS

*“We thought about having children,
but we decided to have fun instead.”*

*Starving Africans - it is a serious
problem. But then again, they don't
get our winters.*

I saw an ad for a charity, which said:

*'Little Zuki has to walk 15 miles
each day just to fetch water.'*

*I couldn't help thinking: she should
move.*

Jimmy Carr



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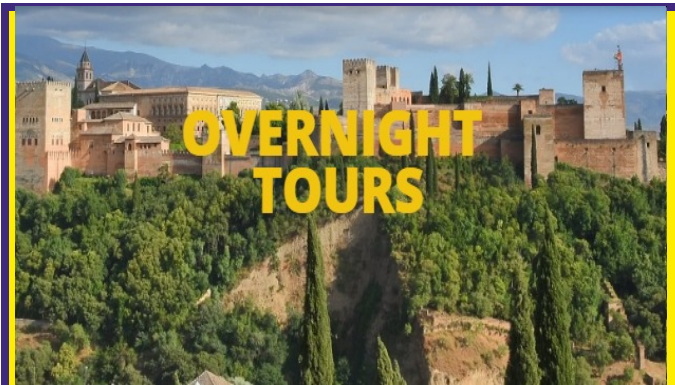


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I found myself utterly depressed the other day and spent the entire afternoon listening to Celine Dion records... at least that's what I thought I was doing. Turns out the cat had just fallen into the dryer and was trying to get out!



VIA PARK V

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coming events



Monday - Curry Night

Friday - Quiz Night

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As it was my birthday, I said to my wife 'Why don't we try something from the Kama Sutra?'
'Lovely,' she said, 'I'll have the Chicken Biryani.'

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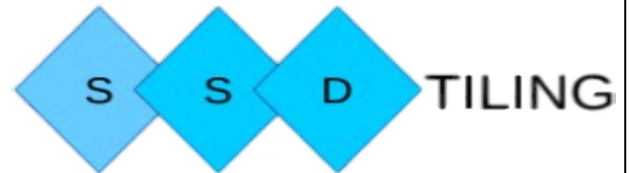
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(From Susan R.)

Old Jewish Proverb.

'A Jewish wife will forgive and forget,
But she'll never forget what she forgave.'



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The cost per player is €55.00 (includes golf, buggy for 2 and charity donation) and there will also be a raffle on the day.
Individual players can enter and will be paired with other players to constitute a team.
There will be a shotgun start in operation at 08:15 and players must arrive at least 45 minutes prior to the start time.
There will be nearest the pin prizes on all par 3 holes and longest drive holes for ladies and men.
There will be Trophies for the teams finishing 1st, 2nd and 3rd

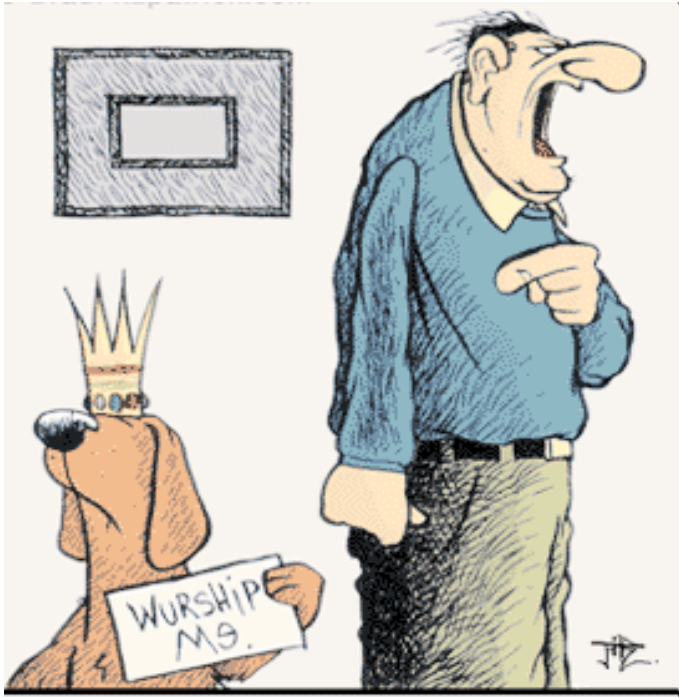


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Brian Davis
Events Co-ordinator

at: helpvegabajaevents@gmail.com
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“Have you been feeding him catfood again?!”



The Nude.

Doreen was very rich. One day she telephoned a famous young artist and said she wanted to commission him to paint her. He said his fee would be £5,000, which she immediately accepted. When she arrived at his studio for the first sitting, she gave him a cheque for £7,000. The artist was very surprised and asked what the extra money was for. ‘I want you to paint me in the nude,’ she said. ‘Do you have a problem with that?’ ‘Not for £7,000 I don’t. But I would have to keep my socks on. I must have somewhere to put my brushes.’

“Waggy Tails”

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Русский говорят.

Sex Trafficking in Spain

Unless you are blind, you will of course have noticed the 'working-girls' at the various roundabouts in the coastal area. We now take it as a normal part of the Spanish social scenery and prostitution is seen as a leisure activity here.

To say that prostitution is big business in Spain would be a gross understatement. The country has become known as the brothel of Europe, after a 2011 United Nations report cited Spain as the third biggest capital of prostitution in the world, behind Thailand and Puerto Rico. Prostitution has boomed since it was decriminalised here in 1995. Recent estimates put revenue from Spain's domestic sex trade at \$26.5bn a year, with hundreds of licensed brothels and an estimated workforce of 300,000. However, it is a largely unregulated market which has become infested with criminality, turning Spain into a global hub for human trafficking and sexual slavery.

Prostitution becomes sex trafficking when one person moves, detains or transports someone else for the purpose of profiting from their prostitution using fraud, force or coercion. In the UK, thousands of women are thought to be trapped in sexual servitude, but the scale of the problem in Spain is staggering. Until 2010, the law didn't even recognise human trafficking as a crime. Now the Spanish government estimates that up to 90% of women working in prostitution could be victims of trafficking or under the control of a third party – such as a pimp – who is profiting from them. Between 2012-2016, security forces in Spain

rescued 5,695 people from slavery but acknowledge that thousands more remain under the control of criminals.

Since it passed its first anti-trafficking laws in 2010, the government has been scrambling to get on top of this crisis, spending millions of euros on an emergency plan to target the individuals and gangs operating with impunity. In 2015, it went further and created formal alliances between security forces, prosecutors, judges and NGOs, to rescue victims and prosecute the perpetrators.

José Nieto, Spain's leading anti-trafficking law enforcement officer, explained why Spain is such a magnet for sex-trafficking networks. "First, we are fighting a crime that is socially acceptable, because prostitution is accepted and embraced by many people here." Second there is geography: "We are at the centre of all major migratory routes. The main victims we are seeing trafficked and forced into prostitution are Romanian, West African and South American. You can cross from Romania to Spain with an ID card. Africa is just 15km from us. We have a historic and a linguistic connection to South America."

The above has been abridged from a lengthy, informative and disturbing article in The Guardian, which is well worth reading:

www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/may/11/prostitution-tackling-spain-sex-traffickers



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Thursdays - Absolute Beginners

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So what do you think the above refers to?
Please give Sun readers and Man U supporters
some assistance.

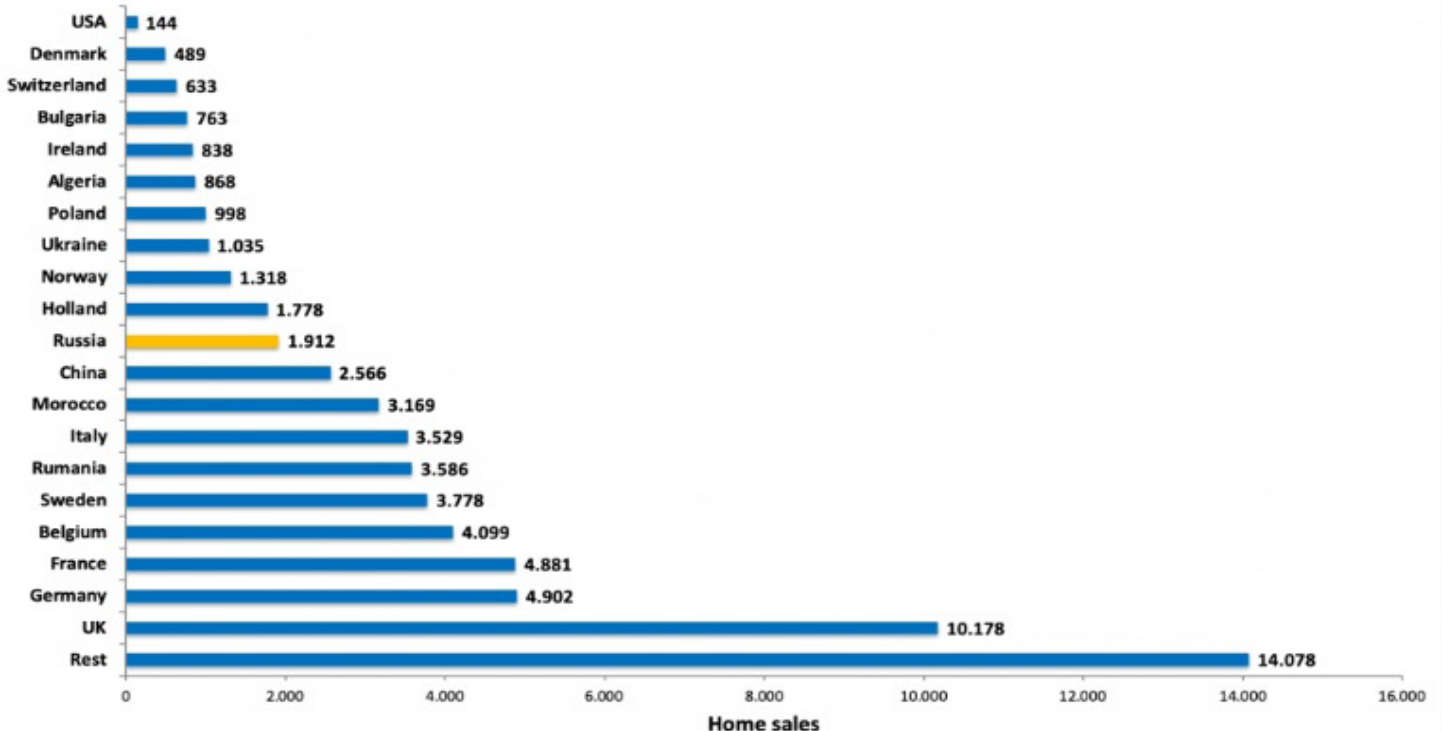
Boxers don't have sex before a fight. You know the
reason why? They don't fancy each other.

Jimmy Carr

They say a picture is worth a thousand words and the graph below was published by www.spanishpropertyinsight.com while covering a report on the gradual rise of Russian property purchases here. Russian purchases collapsed by 43% in 2015 but have started to rise gradually during the last two years. Last year Russia was the 10th biggest foreign market for property in Spain, whereas back in 2014 it was the third biggest foreign market. Notice the impact of buyers from the UK.

SPANISH PROPERTY SALES BY NATIONALITY - 2018

www.spanishpropertyinsight.com Source: Registradores





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 Rocamer Funeral Service

I went to the doctor the other day.
I told him 'I applied that haemorrhoid cream you prescribed me the other day and I got a very angry reaction to it.'
He asked, 'Where did you apply it?'
I replied, 'On the bus.'

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Hot-Fuzz!

My girlfriend and I tried a bit of role play last night. She dressed up a police woman and said 'You are being charge for being good in bed!' After 2 minutes she dropped the charge due to lack of evidence.



The Spanish Job!

When I first came across this story, the movie *The Italian Job*, starring Michael Caine, Bennie Hill, Noel Coward and of course the Mini, came to mind.

On May 9, very early in the morning, a green camper van with three people inside overturned and careered towards a sheer drop in the mountain pass of Puerto de la Mora, 40 kilometres northeast of Granada, photo. The Guardia Civil arrived at the accident scene at around 5am.

None of the three were badly hurt but a Lithuanian man and woman on the road were sent on to hospital to be checked out. But when the police reached the van which was close to the edge of a fatal drop, they found a third Lithuanian man inside, who was under the effects of booze and drugs and was desperately searching the van. (Maybe he was driving?) The man, who was slightly injured, was also sent to the nearest hospital while the van was taken to the police headquarters in Granada.

While searching the van, the police found a suitcase with €18,000 in cash inside. They then found a large stash of banknotes hidden under one of the seats which they believe amounted to between €400,000 and four million euros.

"We are trying to find a bank that is willing to take it and help us count it, but it is proving impossible because there is so much of it," says a spokesman for the Civil Guard in

Granada, explaining that the difficulty stems from security problems and the standard protocols for checking and depositing large amounts of money.



The three Lithuanians, none of whom have a criminal record, have denied that the money belongs to them. Unless the investigation turns up further evidence, they will simply be fined for money laundering, and have not been arrested. (My guess is that they will probably scarper now.)

The maximum amount of cash that can be transported legally in Spain is €100,000. A higher sum requires a certificate from the tax agency or customs. Carrying cash across the border into another country reduces that figure to €10,000. These legal limits were established to avoid money laundering and other serious crimes such as financing terrorism, according to the Civil Guard.

I was singing Barry White songs at karaoke in CK1's last night when the crowd shouted "You are soul!"
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I was at the swimming pool with the kids when this Muslim chap took a run and jump into the pool. The lifeguard blew his whistle and shouted 'No Bombing!'Little bit racist I thought.....

A Muslim woman has been arrested in Guardamar on two charges of indecent exposure.

Yoseen Mamuff, 22, will appear in court on Friday.

New Initiative to Support People in the Community from HELP Vega Baja

Knowing where you can turn for help is an important issue and one that many people, particularly expats, face day after day. HELP Vega Baja decided they would do something to try to alleviate this problem and recently introduced an Emergency Contact card (in both English and Spanish) providing valuable information of where support may be available.



This full-page card comes already folded to the size of a credit card and therefore fits very easily into a purse or gents wallet. On one side of the card details of charities are listed together with other useful telephone numbers, including hospitals, police etc. On the reverse, there is space for the holder to put as much personal information as they wish. There are boxes for medical conditions, contact information in the event of an accident, allergies, medication and much more – even details of any pets that may be at home alone! President of the charity, Michele Masson, told us “getting this new card off the ground has taken a significant amount of organizing plus of course gaining sponsorship which we were fortunate to receive from Arocasequier, Torrevieja. The card is aimed to provide, for example, emergency services details should the holder be taken to A & E and unable to communicate. We have gained permission to have the cards available at GP surgeries in the area, chemists, town halls and many other outlets have already started to take them in to offer to clients. Certain areas of the police are now aware of the leaflets including the N332 group who have also kindly agreed to circulate them in their talks around the area. We also aim to speak shortly with the ambulance service, again to raise awareness. This way we can ensure that we have the best chance of people knowing about the card should someone be involved in an accident or perhaps simply found wandering the streets”.

100,000 of the leaflets have been printed and Michele advised that these are available from the charity’s San Miguel Centre if anyone would like to go along to collect one, or if they would like to take a supply to distribute to

perhaps a group that they are involved with.

Michele ended by saying “it is one thing to have the leaflets distributed but the most important thing is for people to ensure they fill them in! They will only help you if you fill in the details and carry it with you at all times.

We will shortly have a copy of the leaflet on our website that people can print off plus details of some of the outlets that have them in stock. If anyone is interested in having a supply they can simply call our San Miguel Centre on 966 723 733 or email office@helpvegabaja.com and we can ensure that some our put to one side. Businesses and other organisations are welcome to have a supply in a display box”.

For more information on the Emergency Contact Leaflet or any of the other services that HELP Vega Baja offer, please visit their website at www.helpvegabaja.com or their Facebook page.

<p>HELP Vega Baja 966 723 733 office@helpvegabaja.com www.helpvegabaja.com</p> <p>Connections team 965 021 552 support@helpvegabaja.com</p>	<p>AROCASEQUIER ABOGADOS TAKING CARE OF ALL OF YOUR LEGAL, TAX & INSURANCE NEEDS IN SPAIN WITH MORE THAN 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE. See Our Ad Inside for More Details</p>	<p>EMERGENCY DETAILS DATOS DE EMERGENCIA</p> <p>NAME/NOMBRE: _____</p>
<p>How to use this card Fill in this card with all your medical details and other information that can be useful in an emergency. Remember to carry the card around with you at all times.</p> <p>Instrucciones de Uso Rellene la tarjeta con sus datos y lívela con usted todo el tiempo en su bolsillo o en el bolso donde le sea más fácil encontrarla.</p>	<p>BLOOD GROUP TIPO DE SANGRE</p>	<p>S.I.P. NUMBER/NUMERO S.I.P. _____</p> <p>EMERGENCY CONTACT / CONTACTO EN EMERGENCIA: _____</p>
<p>SURNAME/APELLIDOS: _____</p> <p>FIRST NAME/NOMBRE: _____</p> <p>NIE/DNI: _____</p> <p>ADDRESS/DIRECCIÓN: _____</p>	<p>CHRONIC ILLNESS/ ENFERMEDADES CRÓNICAS</p>	<p>DOCTOR'S DETAILS/DATOS DE SU MEDICO NAME/NOMBRE: _____</p> <p>ADDRESS/DIRECCIÓN _____</p> <p>TEL: _____</p>
<p>Passport Number/ Número Pasaporte _____</p> <p>TELEPHONE / TELÉFONO: _____</p>	<p>MEDICATION /MEDICACION</p>	<p>OTHER INFORMATION/ OTRA INFORMACIÓN</p>
<p>DO YOU HAVE ANIMALS AT HOME? TIENES ANIMALES EN CASA? : YES/NO _____ SI/NO _____</p> <p>WHAT TYPE OF ANIMAL? ¿QUE TIPO DE ANIMAL? _____</p>	<p>DO YOU TAKE MEDICINE FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING?/ ¿TOMA MEDICAMENTO POR ALGUNO DE LOS SIGUIENTES? <input type="checkbox"/> Asthma/Asma <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-Coagulant <input type="checkbox"/> Epilepsy/Epilepsia <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes <input type="checkbox"/> Heart Problems/Problemas De Corazón</p>	<p>ALLERGIES/ALERGIAS</p> <p>I GIVE MY PERMISSION FOR THE INFORMATION ON THIS LEAFLET TO BE USED TO SUPPORT MY WELL BEING.</p>
<p>ORGAN DONATION I confirm that my organs may be used to help other people after my death. Yo confirmo que mis órganos pueden ser usados para ayudar a otras personas después de mi muerte. Signature/Firma: _____ Date/Fecha: _____</p>	<p>Others/Otros <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Details/ Indique detallada: _____</p>	<p>DOY MI PERMISO PARA QUE LA INFORMACIÓN EN ESTE FOLLETO SE UTILICE PARA APOYAR A MI BIENESTAR.</p> <p>SIGN/FIRMA _____</p>

Now Hear the Word of the Lord!

The priest began his sermon with this story: "I was on a plane last week, flying from London to Dublin, when we ran into some very severe turbulence. As it got worse, the passengers became more and more alarmed, and eventually even the flight attendants began to look concerned..... Finally, one of them noticed that I had 'Fr.' in front of my name on the passenger list, came over to me, and said, 'Father, this is really frightening. Do you suppose you could... I don't know... do something religious?' "So I took up a collection."

STRIKE A LIGHT!

I have to admit that when I first saw this photo taken from the International Space Station, I was quite impressed. Here we see the Iberian Peninsula, a little bit of the south of France and part of North Africa, all lit up like a Christmas tree. Madrid stands out like a beacon, almost in the centre, and the Portuguese coast appears to be a carpet of light. But that's the problem - light pollution!

Now this photo was taken in 2012, but, as the Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) – a detector installed in international satellites which measures light contamination – is unable to detect blue light which means it cannot read contaminating emissions from LED light bulbs, which have become very popular in Spain over the last five years. This means that the current light pollution is far worse than appears in the photo. So, does light pollute? Of course.

The light pollution here has got so bad that it is not only affecting our view of the stars, it is also having a major impact on the environment – excessive light directly affects our health, and the flora and fauna around us, particularly pollinating insects and bird species whose habits have been disturbed by the artificial nighttime light. “We’re not the only astronomers in the animal kingdom,” says Sánchez, co-author of the study Ranking of the Light Pollution of Spain, which has recently been published by the European Scientific repository Zenodo. “This is now a major environmental problem.”



A study of 2,000 Spanish districts, taking into account different aspects, such as the number of street lamps per square kilometer and output per person. According to the research, Madrid emits the most light into the sky and is the worst culprit due to its sheer size. However, size appears to be irrelevant when it comes to the runners-up: Zaragoza, Seville, Barcelona, Valencia, Murcia, Málaga, Cartagena, Vitoria and Córdoba.

LED lighting has long been believed to be more efficient, but this has been contradicted by the financial and environmental cost as most of the light bulbs have a colour temperature that wavers between white and blue and usually exceed 4,000 Kelvin degrees, meaning the pollution is worse. If LED lighting is used, the bulbs should have a colour temperature less than 3,000 degrees Kelvin, while scientists recommend an even lower figure of 2,200. The shift to LED has cost Spanish towns €600 per street lamp. Many believe that it would make far more sense to use sodium bulbs which cost just €12 each, are equally efficient and do not contaminate if they are fixed in such a way that the light shines downwards. However, this option is far less profitable for the suppliers! It is estimated that more than €1.6 billion of public money is spent every year on street lighting in Spain.



Asking a town hall to slim down its staff is like asking an alcoholic to blow up a distillery.
Sir Humphrey Appleby, *Yes, Minister*

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Unfortunately, it is now very evident that far too many people never develop beyond this stage.....

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Female Squash Players in Spain Shocked at Tournament Prize: Leg Wax and a Vibrator!

I suppose this really belongs in the Idiot's Page but, here we go!

Four female athletes who won prizes in a squash competition in Asturias, in northern Spain, were shocked when they received their prizes. Besides their trophies, the winners in the female category of a squash championship in Asturias, in northern Spain, received a gift set containing two boxes of hair-removal wax, an electric callus remover, and a vibrator (photo). The male winners did not get a beauty pack with their prizes. The matter is being investigated by the Asturias Women's Institute, and it has already triggered resignations at the club that organized the competition and at the regional squash federation. "I felt surprise and indignation," says Elisabet Sadó, the top winner in the female category, recalling the gala event held on May 11 in Las Vegas, located in the Asturian municipality of Corvera. The 37-year-old has been competing professionally for more than 15 years. She has been the world champion and is a seven-time national champion in the sport.

Female squash players had already been dealing with other forms of discrimination such as lower salaries, fewer promotions and more run-down facilities than those enjoyed by their male counterparts. But they had never received such a gift pack before. Two club managers and a federation leader have resigned, and the club itself might dissolve over the scandal. But Sadó says it is enough for people to simply take note of what has happened.

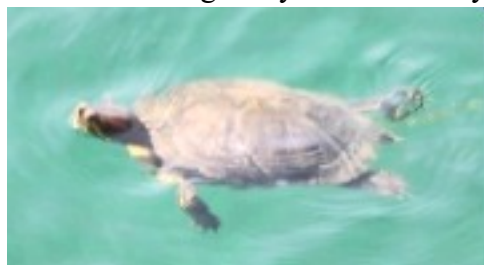


Stick a cork in it!

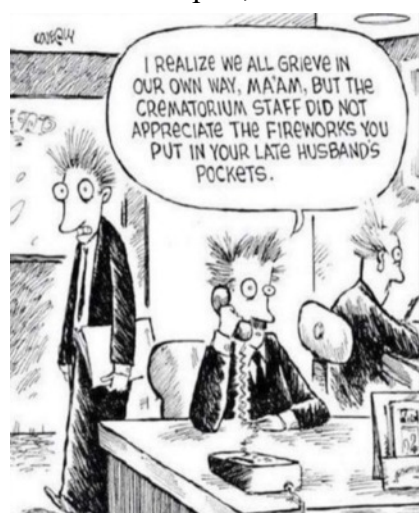
This guy wants to be a proctologist, and he wants to be a really good proctologist, so he decides to go down to the morgue after medical class and practice a little. He uncovers the first guy and there is a cork in the dead guy's butt! He thinks it's a little strange, so he pulls it out and music starts playing! ". . . On the road again, just can't wait to get on the road again....." The guy really freaks out! He runs and gets the M.A. and drags the guy back to the table. "Look!" he says and pulls the cork out again, ". . . On the road again" The M.A. is totally unimpressed. "So what?" he says. "Isn't that the most amazing thing you've ever seen?" the guy asked. "Are you kidding?" says the M.A. "Any asshole can sing country music!"

Two suspected piranha fish have been found in a lake in South Yorkshire – which may explain the recent disappearance of a number of ducks from the former clay pit. The flesh-eating, razor-toothed fish, more normally found in the Amazon, were spotted dead in the water by a local man while fishing. “We couldn’t believe that we’d found a piranha fish,” said his partner. “It’s not the kind of thing you expect to find in Doncaster.”

But something else you don’t usually find in Doncaster - giant terrapins! A huge terrapin has been spotted in a Doncaster lake – just days after dead piranha fish were found at another town beauty spot. The reptile has been spotted basking in the sun at Lakeside over the weekend – entertaining visitors who have flocked to the area in a bid to catch a glimpse of the creature, photo. It comes just days after Martinwell Lake at Edlington made global headlines after two separate walkers found deadly razor-toothed piranha fish floating in the water. Unlike piranhas, which are used to warmer climes and warmer waters, terrapins can survive in British ponds, lakes and rivers – but they are known predators, eating fish, frogs, newts, ducklings and eggs.



Surprisingly, we have had very few Spanish idiots featured in this page in recent months. Maybe the weather is not hot enough yet. Fortunately, the town of Vigo in northwestern Spain, have bucked the trend. Here a funeral



home in Vigo picked up the wrong corpse from a medical centre and had it cremated by mistake. The deceased in this case was a Portuguese man. The firm then delivered the other ‘wrong’ corpse to the Portuguese family who noticed the problem. Maybe if they added some water to the

ashes? I dunno.

A parrot has been taken into custody in Brazil on suspicion of working as a lookout for a drugs gang. According to local media, the bird had been taught to alert its owners to the arrival of local law enforcement by screeching “Mum, the police!” The unnamed bird “must have been trained for this”, said one officer. But whatever it knew, it wasn’t squawking: a journalist who met the bird

behind bars reported that it was keeping its beak shut. “So far, it hasn’t made a sound... completely silent.”

A solid gold lavatory is to be installed in Blenheim Palace. The 18-carat WC forms part of an exhibition of



work by the artist Maurizio Cattelan, but it has been plumbed in and will be available for use by visitors. Entitled America, it attracted 100,000 users when at New York’s Guggenheim Museum, with cleaners attending to it every 15 minutes. “Despite

being born with a silver spoon in my mouth, I have never had a s.h.i.t on a golden toilet, so I look forward to it,” said Lord Edward Spencer-Churchill, founder of the Blenheim Art Foundation.

The unusual death of a woman’s dog in Virginia has sparked outcry and a debate over whether it is ok to kill a healthy pet and bury it with its owner according to their dying wish. Emma, a shih tzu mix, was euthanised and cremated in March as per its owner’s will. The dog was put down despite the efforts of animal shelter workers who spent two weeks trying to talk the executor of the woman’s estate out of the plan. Emma was reportedly taken to a vet, put down and then taken to a pet cremation centre in Richmond, Virginia, and the ashes given to the executor in an urn for burial. In Virginia, pets are considered personal property and, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association, vets are allowed to perform euthanasia in such cases.

A woman who infamously married a 300-year-old ghost pirate is now wanting a divorce because he made her so sick she became hospitalised. Irish woman Amanda Teague, 46, has broken up with Jack, the Haitian pirate after he apparently gave her sepsis. According to Dublin radio station FM104, she was taken to hospital in June with sepsis and hasn’t spoken to her husband Jack in six months. She previously had a pregnancy scare with Jack. Teague spent more than €5,000 to legally change her name, but doesn't seem bothered she spent all that money yet the relationship ended so soon. Their marriage ceremony was off the Irish coast, only one year ago.

According to the Irish Mirror, she took to social media to announce her divorce plans: "So I feel like it's time to let everyone know that my marriage is over. I will explain in due course but for now, all I want to say is be VERY careful when dabbling in spirituality, it's not something to mess with."

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Rewarding Failure in Andalucia.

You may recall that the socialist regional government were kicked out in Andalucia after a less than inspiring 40 years at the helm of the region. I have always referred to them as the 'Guicchi' socialists and despite the emergence of two massive frauds in the regional government - the ERE Retirement and Training Fund frauds - the large slab of left-wing politicians there always arranged to reward themselves handsomely.

But the respected Spanish daily, El Mundo, came up with an interesting tidbit due to the Transparency Law. It has only just emerged that after several of the socialists lost their government jobs in the December regional election, most are now going to be handsomely compensated!

71 former senior officials of the socialist Susana Diaz's (photo) administration who lost their job after the election have the right to continue collecting the full salary that they received in previous senior positions for a maximum period of up to two years! The layoff compensation scheme was implemented in Andalusia in 2005, within a legislative package called "democratic impulse." The thinking behind the award is that having held a relevant position in the Administration or having been a deputy may make it difficult for them to reintegrate into the labour market due to incompatibility and problems finding a job.

The poor dears! Since then, all senior officials with the rank of general director or higher, as well as 109 Andalusian parliamentarians, are shielded on their exit from their official office or their seat thanks to these controversial compensations.

Now the least a deputy can earn is €4,400 a month, while the maximum is €5,800. The regional Minister of Education, Adelaida de la Calle, was only a counsellor for two years - from June 2015 to June 2017 - she has the right to collect severance for another two years. That amounts to €123,424.08! If however you do get a government job in say parliament or the senate, which entails a salary, the compensation payments cease.

Some former senior officials have renounced the compensation, two I believe so far.

Two former senior officials, Mar Villafranca and Francisco Triguero, who are being investigated for fraud and have resigned are being compensated with €58,850 and €60,808.

If you were or indeed are a senior government official there and have to travel more than 60 km to work from your habitual residence, you will also get a monthly payment of €1,344.27 towards renting a flat.





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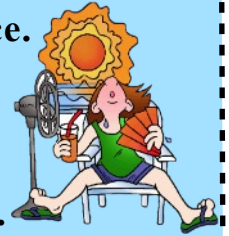


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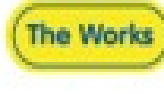
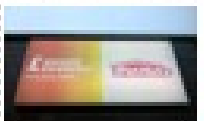
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A man asked his beautiful girlfriend to marry him, pointing out that his dying father owned a vast fortune, and would leave it all to him upon dying. The girl asked him for some time to think about it
,,,,,two weeks later she became his stepmother.

Lime Bar Fishing SUNBATHING Club

At the beginning of May we lost Geoff Ditchburn (Snapper) to the golden peg above. He was our club photographer, hence his nickname, a keen angler (especially fly fishing), a petanque player, an illustrator, a cabinet maker the list goes on. Above all he was a true gentleman and a nicer man, you will not be able to find. He had been ill for several years which frustrated him as he couldn't get out with us sunbathing or to go fly fishing which was his passion. Catch a whopper up there and keep the pegs clear for us.



The deluge at Easter has flushed the rivers out, as the fish have spawned and the monsters are putting in an appearance. In the first week in May, Chris (not in the club) landed a 21-pounder from Bigastro using a size 5 hook and a huge lump of luncheon meat. Has anyone seen a bigger fish from the rivers over here? This was followed a couple of days later, from the same peg, by Sweeney with a 14 pounder. See photos. This puts BFK Sweeney back at the top of our biggest carp competition. As can be expected, that stretch of river is now getting hammered by anglers trying to find a bigger one! A bit unfair using a beach caster and 50-pound line though! Well done both of you.



Our monthly match was fished at Pedrera (the big reservoir past San Miguel). I hate the place after getting my car stuck so mine was parked on top of the hill. The Cheshire cat had fished it the week before and had filed a good recce report. That Friday was a scorcher with hardly a cloud in the sky but we did have a cooling breeze for most of the day. At this venue, the fish are hard to find and even once you have found them, they seem to patrol around or decide to have a siesta for a couple of hours. This time the "fishy siesta" coincided with the wind dropping then coming back from the other direction so this may have had something to do with it. We had 12 anglers on the bank but had 3 blanks and a few single fish catches.

The plaudits this month go to our resident professional (Shropshire Lad), just days back from UK and he hammers us with 6 fish for 7.8 kilos using a method feeder and pellets. 2nd was 3

Rods (3 fish for 3.1 kilos) and 3rd was Ghost (3 fish for 3.0 kilos). The fish here are usually only about a kilo in weight but they scrap like mad. On the day, I had multiple runs where the fish spat the hook out as soon as it felt any resistance, but I was gobsmacked when I got 4 of them on the surface only to lose them when I thought I had them beaten. Looks like another day watching the "masters" to see how to do it properly!

The 2nd round of the summer knockout has to be fished this month, but as we go to press there is only one result so far. The "Antique man" and "Ghost" fished off at El Bosquet on a very windy day where we both found a corner out of the wind. Ghost came out on top but that may have been because the "Antique man" had his rod

dragged into the water by a large carp. He rescued his rod using a grapnel hook, to find that the fish was still on! He played it carefully to the net only for it to spit the hook out at the last gasp. B*%*%*R! Needless to say, the grapnel trawling probably didn't do his swim (or his chances) any favours.

A couple of months ago, the Bigastro banks were totally cleared by tractors and cutters. After the last bit of rain, the bamboo has shot up again and in places, it's as thick as a jungle. As the stretch has some huge carp, we want to keep it clear so we had a morning hacking and slashing followed by a pan day lunch provided by Fagin. Thank you, chef. The fishing afterwards was crap but the banks are clear and we left with full bellies.



Several of the club are off on a Rio Ebro expedition. Tales of the huge carp and catfish in next month's ditty.

Next ~~meeting~~ bun fight is at The Lime Bar @ 17.00 Mon 3rd June.

Fishy Fingers!
The Ghost

The Towns in Spain Where Brits Outnumber Locals

In 2018 Spain estimated there were 300,000 Brits officially registered as residents in the country, although the numbers have dropped by almost 50,000 in 2019. According to Spain's national stats agency INE, the two autonomous regions with the most Brits are Andalusia, where they number almost 77,000, and the Valencia region, where there are 78,422.

Trailing behind are the Canaries (25,500 British residents), Catalonia (20,350) and the Balearics (14,870).

To narrow it down even further, the three provinces with the most resident Britons are Alicante with 69,289, Málaga with around 47,000 and Almería with roughly 15,000. By contrast, in Spain's capital Madrid there are only 10,000 British residents.

But the real surprise is that there are a couple of dozen towns and villages where Brits, often retirees, outnumber the locals.

Here are the eight most British municipalities in Spain:

Poble Nou de Benitachell (Alicante) - A coastal town with a British international school, the town's population is 60% foreign, half of whom are British.

Benahavís (Málaga) - This inland municipality between Marbella and Estepona is 64% foreign, 40% of whom hail from the British Isles.

San Fulgencio (Alicante) - British retirees make up roughly a third of this town's 8,000-strong population.

Daya Vieja (Alicante) - Just a kilometre from San Fulgencio lies this quaint village where sixty percent of its 430 foreigners are Brits.

Llíber (Alicante) - 729 of its 1,051 residents, 70% of which are British and 18% German.

Rojales (Alicante) - 68% of its 16,560 residents are foreign (11,283), half of whom are over the age of 65. The vast majority are British.

Partaloa (Almería) - Eight out of every ten residents of the Andalusian municipality are British, almost half of whom are over the age of 65.

Arboleas (Almería) - An incredible 83% of the 3,054 people registered in this small inland municipality 20km from the Almería coast are British. (Abridged from The Local)



A luxury liner is really just a bad play surrounded by water. Clive James

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The priest shortage is so bad that today in Brooklyn an altar boy had to grope himself.

David Letterman

June Events in Torrevieja.

San Juan Bonfires

The San Juan bonfires mark the arrival of the summer, with the bonfires being lit in celebration. Torrevieja has different "barrios" (neighbourhoods), each holding their own bonfires and celebrations for the arrival of the summer, such as the Barrio de la Punta, the Barrio del Acequión and the Barrio de los Molinos del Calvario. But without a doubt, the most spectacular event is the firework display from the sea. Not to be missed!

Make a note of the day: 23rd of June at 23:59 in the Natural Baths of the Juan Aparicio Promenade.



Virgen del Rocío

The town becomes the stage for religious fervour and devotion every year during the middle of June when the celebrations are held to honour the Virgen del Rocío. More specifically, a pilgrimage takes place together with various other events, such as mass, equestrian activities, children's games, etc. The starting point is the area of Lo Ferris, where the "Blanca Paloma" (the Rocío Virgen) is taken to the San Roque y Santa Ana Parish, where she is sung a hymn.

Sagrado Corazón de Jesús

Also known as the Fiestas del Barrio de la Punta, this celebration is made up of a series of popular events to commemorate the festivity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus: mass, processions, "chinchón" games, "ludo", raffles, fireworks displays, etc. held in the Plaza de la Ermita del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús.



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://turismodetorrevieja.com/movil3/indexEN.htm>

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 (I hear that the summer timings are now year round.)

(* - 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/>

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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After 10 years, the wife starts to think their kid looks kinda strange so she decides to do a DNA test. She finds out that the kid is actually from completely different parents.

Wife: "Honey, I have something very serious to tell you."

Husband: "What's up?"

Wife: "According to DNA test results, this is not our kid."

Husband: "Well, you don't remember, do you?? When we were leaving the hospital, you noticed that our baby had pooped, then you said: "Please go change the baby, I'll wait for you here."

So I went inside, got a clean one and left the dirty one there."

Dream Hills Urbanisation AGM 2019

At the meeting held in May it was approved that a Working Group would be set up to continue with the creation and installation of facilities and amenities in the garden areas around the pools.

This group will ensure suitable recreational amenities are securely installed and provide facilities to be as inclusive as possible for the whole Urbanisation. This will be an ongoing project to be developed over the next 4 years. If you would like to volunteer to join the Working Group or have any suitable suggestions please contact us on dreamhillsproject@gmail.com.

It is our chance to continue to enhance and improve the amenities on our Urbanisation and make it an even better place to live.

You can find archived copies of The Dream Scene & much more at <http://www.dreamhills.orihuela-costa.eu/>

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Any profit is spent by producing extra copies.

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Images in this newsletter from El Pais, El Mundo, ABC, Informacion, The Week, Wikipedia, EFE, and other fine media sources.

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