

# THE DREAM SCENE

## NEWSLETTER

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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the July, 2019 edition. Issue No.144



Finally we can welcome the summer, but as usual the season also brings with it a number of pests - and I'm not just talking about the more annoying of the Madrilenos!

There is now a province-wide high alert for the **Tiger mosquito** (*Aedes albopictus*), an invasive species. Unfortunately this pest has now colonised two thirds of the Valencian community. It can transmit numerous diseases including West Nile virus, encephalitis and dengue fever. This biting insect is also the primary vector for **Chikungunya**, a virus similar to dengue fever.

Unfortunately a tourist from Iceland on holidays at the San Juan beach in Alicante in recent weeks returned to his homeland after contracting Chikungunya here. This is the first case ever detected in Spain. This causes an illness with an acute febrile phase that lasts from two to five days, followed by a period of pain in the joints of the extremities. Pain that may persist weeks, months or can be even years in 12% of cases!

To date, there is **no specific treatment for the virus**, but there are medications that can be used to reduce symptoms. Rest and fluids can also be useful; children and people older than 65 years are at a more sensitive risk from the virus for which there is no effective antidote. All medical staff are on alert. You can do your bit to limit the spread of the pest by emptying any stagnant or surface water in plant pots, tubs, or even glasses. And do go to the

medics if you have a painful and inflamed bite.

Torrevieja introduced **surveillance cameras** in streets in 2010. Unfortunately, the lack of a maintenance program meant that many cameras and part of the system did not work. Almost a million euros has now been spent on improving the system with 90% of the 200 cameras now linked to a recording system. 75 of these are traffic cameras. Higher quality and more stable images together with licence plate recognition is now operating.

**Alicante-Elche Airport** is to open a new embarkation and passenger control area on July 1, which will increase by 25% the travelling capacity to board flights. 24 new automatic doors with automatic readers of boarding cards, together with specific doors for families with children and for those with reduced mobility also planned.

You are probably aware that the Dream Scene operates on a non-profit basis, but it is nice to break-even occasionally. Printing costs alone come to a minimum of €500 each month. One full page **advertiser has not paid** for their advert since 2017. If they do not pay by late July, they will be named and shamed in the August edition.

Thanks to Dave and Alby for helping with the distribution 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.

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- GERMAN

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### Angela's Cartoon



'She says she's getting married so she can give up work!'

A man is in Intensive Care in Torrevieja Hospital, after being assaulted at the Teddy Bear's Picnic.  
Doctors say 'He is not out of the woods yet.'

# COSY

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**EVERYDAY!**

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John Smiths €2 a can!

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**Spirits & Mixers €3.00**

Smirnoff Vodka & Mixer

Soberano Brandy & Mixer

Bacardi Rum & Mixer

Original Larios Gin & Mixer

**HOUSE WINE - RED, WHITE, ROSE €1.40!**

**BOTTLED SAN MIGUEL,**

**AMBAR, ESTRELLA 2 FOR €1.70**



**FUN MUSIC BINGO EVERY FRIDAY 2:30pm**

**SUNDAY JULY 7th 1pm - LATE**

**CHARITY EVENT (Pink Ladies & Panthers) for AECC**

Live entertainment - with many artists PLUS Sunshine FM

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT EVERY NIGHT FROM 9pm!**  
**SPORTS ON 6 GIANT SCREENS!**

As expected, the recent Spanish **General Election did not clarify anything**. Although the socialist PSOE were the most voted for party, they are well short of an overall majority. Once again it is **Pacts! Pacts! Pacts!** The far-left anti-austerity party Unidas Podemos say that they want to govern with the PSOE and want ministerial appointments, something acting PM Sanchez is not prepared to do. Either way, both parties' numbers still do not attain an overall majority.

Acting PM Sanchez asked the PP and Ciudadanos to abstain so that he can become PM officially. As Sanchez was responsible for the ousting of the previous PP president, he is unlikely to achieve this. This could mean **another General Election** within a year, the fourth within five years!

It is much the same story in many of the regions and municipalities. Party A will say to Party B, we will let you govern in city or district 5 if you allow us to rule in district 6.

Three parties - PP, Ciudadanos & Vox banded together to oust the left-wing mayor of the city of Madrid, Manuela Carmena. In a deal done with far-right Vox to ensure the majority, the PP there have agreed that gender violence be rebranded as "intra-family violence," all mentions of gay pride celebrations and "LGTBI diversity" are gone, and Carmena's signature project Madrid Central – a low-emissions area in the city centre – is singled out for probable cancellation.

The Spanish Supreme Court has **denied the leader of the Catalan Republican Left (ERC), Oriol Junqueras, permission to leave prison** to attend a ceremony at the National Electoral Commission (JEC) on Monday, June 17, where he would be sworn in as a member of European parliament (MEP).



The former deputy premier of Catalonia, who is one of nine separatist leaders currently being held in preventive custody in Soto del Real prison in Madrid for their role in the 2017 Catalan independence drive, won a seat in the European Parliament at the May 26 vote. According to the court, if Junqueras, photo, were granted permission to attend the JEC session in Madrid, he would also have to be allowed to attend the swearing-in ceremony at the European Parliament in Brussels on July 2. The hearings ended on June 12 and a verdict is expected within four months. Junqueras faces up to **25 years in prison** if found guilty of rebellion and misuse of public funds for his involvement in the illegal referendum on Catalan independence on October 1, 2017 and the unilateral declaration of independence that was passed in the regional parliament a few weeks later.

The General Hospital in Alicante **will close 100 beds** for the summer, despite longer waiting list and the massive influx of tourists. When staff go on holidays they are not replaced. As also happened last year this usually leads to a massive build-up of work in September. Also, in summer evenings, the Ministry of health will close the health centres in the area of Alicante, in line with recent years. This means that health centres open at 8 a.m. and will close at 3 p.m. in July and August. All this despite the population of Alicante tripling in the summer!

Netflix, the streaming giant, has opened its **first European production centre outside Madrid**, where it aims to make between four and six TV series a year – a figure that will rise to between 10 and 12 productions that will be filmed across the length and breadth of the country. Netflix Spain contains a huge amount of movies and TV series in English and at around €8 a month it is well worth it. You need a reasonable broadband signal.

On June 19, Ana Lucía da Silva, a Chilean and mother of five became the **1,000 gender violence fatality** in Spain since official records began in 2003. Her partner, 45-year-old Salvador Ramírez is the prime suspect.

Ramírez already had a murder conviction for killing his then-wife, Amanda del Carmen Cabeza, in Algeciras (Cádiz), when he was 27 and she was 22. He was sentenced to 17 years in prison and set to be released in 2020. But according to sources in the government subdelegation, he was granted Grade 3 prison status – the least restrictive – in October 2017, and conditional release in February 2018. Da Silva's family is hoping to launch a GoFundMe campaign to raise €5,700 to repatriate her body to Brazil. The City Council of Córdoba have stated that it is possible to bury her in the city for free in case the family does not have resources.

Queen Elizabeth II of England invested **King Felipe as a knight of the Order of the Garter** on June 17, the highest distinction granted by the British Monarchy. The solemn ceremony was held at Windsor Castle, where Don Felipe was accompanied by Doña Letizia, the Spanish Queen. According to the protocol, Don Felipe covered himself with a coat of ermine and velvet and wore a velvet hat with an ostrich feather. The Order of the Garter, which also includes King Don Juan Carlos, is the oldest and most important in the United Kingdom. It was established by King Edward III of England in 1348 to recognize courage and loyalty. Thankfully, POTUS Trump does not qualify for such an honour. However, one hopes he is in line for being invested in the Order of a Great Kick Up the Arse.

My grandpa tried to warn everybody that the Titanic was going to sink. He kept on and on about it. Eventually they got very pissed-off with him and kicked him out of the cinema.

## What's Up? Continued

The PSOE Socialist candidate Ángel Víctor Torres in the Canaries was, following the recent elections, to be named as the president of the Islands. However, there is the little matter of the alleged disappearance of €660,000 from the Institute of Sports there. It seems that Ángel was the Sports Councillor for the years 2015-2019 and well.....I suppose the ping-pong balls for the table tennis were very expensive. The Presidency could now be handed to a PP politician.

A taxi driver in Vigo, Galicia, is likely to be fined for inappropriate dress, photo. The driver decided to combat the high heat, 30°, by wearing a dress. New regulations by the town hall stipulates that shorts, sandals, sleeveless t-shirts and tracksuits are inappropriate. The driver was reported by a rival taxi firm.



A 32-year-old Venezuelan woman was arrested before the European Football Championship Final for selling two fake tickets for 8,400 euros. The victims, a Romanian of 43 years and his friend, immediately realized the deception and denounced her to the national police.

Maybe the following should be in the Oddities column. Towards the end of May, a passenger on a bus from Oviedo to Madrid has been arrested in Leon after masturbating openly and touching the breasts of a woman in the vehicle. Bad enough you would think, but after spending the night in a cell, while appearing before a judge in Leon the following day, he dropped his trousers before all! His excuse was, 'I like all women!' The unnamed flasher is believed to appear in several police files.

On Sunday, June 2, the local police in El Palmar in the city of Murcia, breathalysed a driver who was found to be five-times over the permitted level of alcohol. The man was not in possession of a valid driver's licence as it had been suspended on two occasions previously. But this guy was behind the wheel again on the following Monday, when he was stopped and found to be six-times over the permitted alcohol limit. A real bad-ass you might think, BUT, on the Tuesday morning he was stopped for the third time and found to be five-times over the limit! So that's three times on three consecutive days! It didn't get to a fourth day as the police wisely impounded his vehicle.

### The Skiing Jock!

This Scottish bloke goes on a skiing holiday to Canada. After a hard day on the slopes, he retires to a bar at the bottom of the mountain. After about five or six whiskeys, he looks up and notices a stuffed animal with antlers on the wall.....

He asks the bartender, "What the hell is that?"

The bartender replies, "It's a moose."

The Scottish chap shouts back, "Fuck me! How big are the cats?"



Liverpool football fans visiting Madrid decided to rename the **Margaret Thatcher Square** there as **Jeremy Corbyn Square**, see photo.

During late May, the canine unit of the local police in Benidorm arrested a woman carrying 106 grams of hashish hidden inside of her vagina. The woman, aged between 30 and 35 years of age and of Swiss nationality, was travelling by bus on the Algeciras-Barcelona route, and had a stop in Benidorm, when it has been caught by the police. A routine inspection in the bus station discovered that the woman was carrying the drug and arrested her. The bus station is seen as a **drug transit hot-spot**, due to the large daily transfer of people on dozens of lines.....bus lines, Andrew, not coke lines!

### ANIMAL CHARITIES.

There is an abundance of animal charities on the various Costas, most financed due to fundraising by expats. But if you are an active supporter of similar charities, it is always a good idea to visit these locations and find out how and what they are doing. I have no doubt many are operating very professionally.

The Guardia Civil are investigating an animal rescue and protection group based in Mazarron, Murcia. It is believed that the group were trading illegally in Samoyed dogs, with some 40 dogs transported to Sax in Alicante.

When the Guardia investigated the facility in Sax they noticed many irregularities there and ill-treatment of the animals. They found 36 live dogs and the dead bodies of eight more, as well a four newly-born puppies. All the signs were that the dogs were killed in the same pens housing the others. On a second inspection, three more dead dogs and a dead cat were found. Of the 27 dogs examined by vets, nine were found to be suffering from leishmania and 13 from rickettsia. Only four of the dogs were declared to be in good health. One of the dead dogs was chipped and when the police had traced the owner, she said that she was told that her dog had escaped from its protectors!

Over 3,000 dogs are abandoned in Murcia every year.



## **Caring for our community in our community.**

We are a local charity whose aim is to provide free assistance to all nationalities, of any age, who find themselves in difficulty following illness, feeling isolated or struggling to care for a loved one..

The areas covered are from Pilar de Horadada to La Marina, Including Torrevieja, Quesada, Rojas, San Luis, La Zenia, Playa Flamenca, all areas of Orihuela Costa.

# **WELFARE SERVICE**

If you have health or social problems the welfare service can visit you to talk about how this may be affecting you. Our volunteers offer short term support to all ages and nationalities in their own home.

- Social care advice and guidance.
- Family carer support.
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- Local & UK social services/welfare advice.
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Our Welfare Team are qualified U.K. social worker & Care Managers who have between them many years of health and social care experience.

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**Email: [charitycentre.helpathomecb@gmail.com](mailto:charitycentre.helpathomecb@gmail.com)**

**Web: [www.helpathomecb.com](http://www.helpathomecb.com)**

### **Paleface speak with forked tongue!**

An Indian walks into a trading post and asks for toilet paper. The clerk asks if he would like no name, Charmin, or White Cloud. "White Cloud sounds like good Indian toilet paper," says the Indian. "How much is it?"

"\$1.00 a roll," the clerk replies. "That seems pretty expensive," responds the Indian. "What about the others?"

"Charmin is \$2.00 a roll and no name is 50 cents a roll." The Indian doesn't have much money so he opts for the no name.

Within a few hours he is back at the trading post. "I have a name for the no name toilet paper," he announces to the clerk. "We shall call it John Wayne." "Why?" asks the confused clerk.

"Cause it's rough and it's tough and it don't take no shit off an Indian."

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**Quiz  
Night**

**WEDNESDAYS - WITH PAUL AT 8:30PM**

**WEDNESDAYS - ALTERNATE WEEKS**

**NO LIMIT 4 - 7pm**

**TERRY JAY 4 - 7pm**

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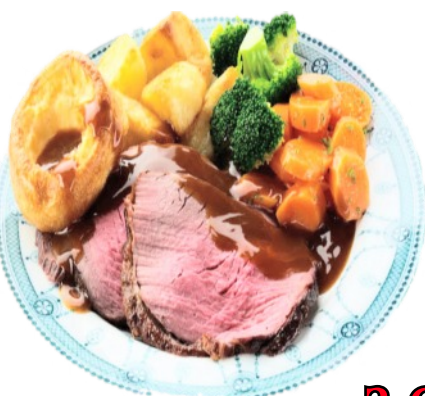
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# LIME BAR



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Orihuela City Council is planning to introduce a **new larger rubbish collection and parking area** close to the existing one in Entre Golf and near housing! This will be 14,000 square metres and cost €140,000. An area of 4,000 sq.mtrs. will be allocated for truck parking, a two-story administrative building and an eco-park will also be included. They state that 'One of the main objectives is to impact as little as possible in urban areas where the field is located.'

Rubbish collection in Orihuela Costa is just another area of neglect here by the City Council. This may ease some of the pressure and improve the basura service. However, seven years in planning and as is often the case - NIMBY!

Link here in Spanish -

<https://www.diarioinformacion.com/vega-baja/2019/06/15/orihuela-anuncia-cabo-7-anos/2159500.html>

A new drug which is a **synthetic form of cannabis** is gaining popularity among the youth in Alicante. Known popularly as Spice, Jocker, Zombie or K2, it is ten times more powerful and more addictive than marijuana. The fact it triggers a rapid effect on the consumer and is only detectable in a urine sample during the first five hours of intake makes it attractive to some. As it is undetectable in drug tests is another aspect that has increased its popularity among teens.



Synthetic cannabis is a psychoactive that can multiply by 50% the effects of the tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) that contains the Cannabis sativa. It is produced in chemical laboratories in Asian countries but it was initially developed in scientific centres to use the properties of cannabinoids in the manufacture of drugs that help, for example, to alleviate the effects of chemotherapy and some degenerative diseases. It is a liquid drug that is usually consumed inhaling it in impregnated wipes or sprayed on the leaves or buds of marijuana, photo. In these cases it intensifies the effect of the natural compound that can trigger psychotic outbreaks which in some cases, end up generating psychiatric illnesses. On June 4, a 17-year-old was rushed to the University Hospital of Elda after he tried to bite a policeman and several members of the public. It is believed he was under the influence of the drug.....or else just supremely dumb!

**Las mascletàs in Alicante** was the usual noisy success.

The bonfires of the paper mache figures and the fireworks drew the usual thousands of spectators. If you had an apartment with a balcony overlooking the main events you could have charged between €3,500 and €6,000 in rental for a week! Here, entrepreneurs charged between 40 and €55 per person for a few hours (food & drink incl.) to witness the spectacle. The noise from the pyrotechnics alone reached 130DB rendering sleep in the city impossible!

The closure of the airport in San Javier and the opening of the new 'International' airport in Corvera has caused much discontent. **The taxi drivers at the San Javier airport** were particularly vociferous and effective in their complaints. The regional government has agreed to award the 15 registered vehicles a subsidy of €180,000! The money will be spent on adapting and modernising their vehicles.

If you had used San Javier Airport between January 2017 and June 2018 **and was fined or towed away** for a traffic offence there, you will be entitled to a refund. It seems that the agreement which allowed the Policia Local to fine drivers there had expired.....and nobody knew! €7,035 will have to be paid back for 126 traffic offences. If you were one of the unlucky ones, it is suggested that you contact the San Javier town hall - and the best of luck with that!

The former PP mayor of nearby San Fulgencio, Carlos Ramirez, photo, has been sentenced to eighteen months in prison for the crime of **fraud**. It seems he employed a member of the PP as a caretaker without any selective or employment procedures. This caretaker/manager was employed in the La Marina Sports facility, which received €87,859. Ramirez has also been banned from public office for seven years. Being less than two years, the prison sentence will not be served. Ramirez and the caretaker/manager must also compensate the City with €16,695.



Now it's summer in the UK and Ireland, make  
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a syringe and a broken bottle into the bath with them.  
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Alan Minter*



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A mate of mine in Quesada is taking Viagra for his sunburn.  
It doesn't cure it but it keeps the sheets off his legs.



**JJ's**

**Café Bar**



VIA PARK V.

**KITCHEN OPEN TUE - SAT 10 - 8pm**

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



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Poached Cod, Half Roast Chicken,  
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**Tuesday - Coffee Morning from 11am.**

**FUN DARTS IS BACK ! Wed 7:30 - 11pm**

**Thursday - Jilly's Slimming Club - 4pm.**

**New Members Welcome**

**Then at 5pm, the "Loose Women Club!"**

**Grab a wine or two, where you can meet new friends  
and have a natter!!**



**SUNDAYS!**

**BBQ 1pm - 5pm**

**KARAOKE - 7pm - 10:30pm**



**THE BEST FISH & CHIPS - DAILY!**

**ALL SPORTS SHOWN INSIDE & OUTSIDE THE BAR**

**JJ, Rob & Bobby**

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TWEET!**



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# Show Me the Money!

A number of first and second division footballers have been arrested in Spain over suspicions of forming a criminal organisation dedicated to match fixing, according to Spanish reports.

Spanish newspaper El Pais reported on Tuesday, May 28, that Leeds United forward Samuel Saiz is one of those individuals detained, having spent the season on loan with La Liga side Getafe. However, Spanish radio station COPE claims that while Saiz is being investigated, he has not been formally arrested by police.

Asked about the report, a spokeswoman for the Spanish police confirmed that there was an open investigation though did not give any details.

According to El Pais, several current footballers were detained by Spanish officials on May 28, which included on-loan Leeds player Saiz. The report also claims that former Real Madrid defender Raul Bravo has been allegedly identified as being at the head of the criminal organisation.



Other players to have been arrested includes Deportivo La Coruna's Inigo Lopez Monatana, recently-retired Borja Fernandez and former striker Carlos Aranda. Agustrin Lasasosa, president of relegated La Liga side Huesca, and Juan Carlos Galindo Lanuza, head of the club's medical team, have also been detained.

Police raided the Huesca training base early on Tuesday and all of those detained have been accused of being part of the alleged criminal organisation, corruption and money laundering.

The raid started at 8:30am local time, with Spanish state broadcaster TVE claiming that 11 individuals had been arrested.

A spokesman for Spain's National Police said: "I can confirm a police operation against match-fixing is ongoing. I cannot confirm any of the names of the detainees that are circulating in the Spanish press at this moment in time. That is because the operation is still ongoing."

## The Bar Bill.

Take a look at this bar bill. A waitress in the Basque Country has gained notoriety after slapping a customer with an extra charge for being bothersome. Using the most typical of Spanish swear words – cojones (meaning testicles) - the phrase

Uds.	Producto	Importe
4,00	VERDEJO	6,40 €
1,00	CRIANZA 2,00	2,00 €
1,00	CHAMPAGNE	2,50 €
1,00	Viña Real	1,80 €
1,00	POR TOCAR LOS COJONES	10,00 €
10,00%: Base:		20,45 €
Cuota:		2,05 €
Total:		20,45 €
Total (Impuestos Inc.)		22,50 €

'tocar los cojones' – literally means "touching the testicles" and is used to describe behaviour that is persistently annoying.

After a round of drinks at Taberna Eguzki, which comprised of four glasses of verdejo, a crianza, a Viña Real and a glass of champagne, all for a very reasonable €12.50, the customer was presented with a bill with an extra €10 added: "Por tocar los cojones".

It turns out the addition to the bill was a joke thought up by waitress Anka, on her boss, Fernando, who spends every Thursday afternoon in the establishment drinking with a group of friends while playing the Spanish card game Mus.

"Yes, he paid the extra!" confirmed Anka to Publico newspaper. "It was the most well-spent money of his life".



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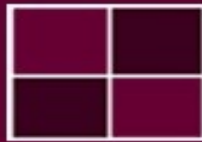
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## July

Again here comes July  
and summer every day  
with politics unruly  
as now we have no May

From out of the woodwork  
contenders aplenty  
all with fancy footwork  
and plans like confetti

One is caught out snorting  
albeit long ago  
revelations not very sporting  
that colleagues stoop so low

It's wonderful they have great plans  
for Brexit to be completed  
the last three years sitting on their  
hands  
the voters lied to and cheated

Still with sun and sea and tourists  
let's put politics aside  
the contenders aren't purists  
so it's another bumpy ride

Look after friends and relatives  
and any lonely neighbours close by  
let us not be negative  
be caring and giving or try.

**The Phantom Poet**



## U.K. Welfare Benefit Information

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: £58.70 or £87.65 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 dress.

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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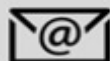
Attendance  
Allowance



*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.

The vicar addressed his congregation: 'I have good news and bad news,' he said. 'The good news is, we have enough money to pay for a new roof on the church. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets.'

Lewis Rathbone



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### **Tourist!**

Was listening to the Met office forecast on BBC this morning and they advised: 'If you're travelling today carry a shovel, blanket, spare warm clothing, a thermos flask with a hot drink, and a torch to attract attention.'

I looked a right idiot on the bus to Torre Vieja this morning.

One wag on the bus asked, 'Hoi, Nanok, what size fuc\*ing sandcastle are you building, Mate?'





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### How Much?

Guatemala is now the single largest source of migrants attempting to enter the United States. In western Guatemala, one of the biggest factors in that surge is the falling price of coffee, from \$2.20 per pound in 2015 to a low this year of 86 cents — about a 60 percent drop. Since 2017, most farmers have been operating at a loss, even as many sell their beans to some of the world's best-known specialty-coffee brands. A staggering amount of those farmers have decided to migrate. (Sarah L. Voisin/The Washington Post)

I haven't seen much of a price reduction for coffee in the supermarkets here, have you?

### TAXI DRIVERS!

Love them or hate them, taxi drivers can become unstuck with unpaid fares. But sometimes.....

A taxi in Gijón was hailed at 4am by a woman in her fifties. She asked to be taken to Oviedo, about 28 clicks away. The taxi driver obliged but when they got to the destination, the woman refused to pay! This is called a 'simpa' and is not uncommon, say taxi drivers. Usually it's for a smaller amount - between five and seven euros - with the customer giving their DNI number and promising to pay later, but then never does.

In this particular case the driver locked the doors before the woman could exit the car and drove the 28k back to Gijón and then chucked the woman out of the cab. Nice one!

But another incident in Gijón makes your wonder about the customers. In this case a man paid his fare, but when he left the cab he leaned in the window to try and grab the drivers cash. The driver raised the window, trapping the man who was half way in the car and drove straight to the police station.

I had a black cab driving mate in London who chased after non-payers and took their shoes. They didn't know that he was a cross-country runner and an ex-Para!

## 25 cups of coffee a day?

**No problem!**

Coffee lovers who drink up to 25 cups a day can rest assured the drink is not bad for their heart, scientists say.

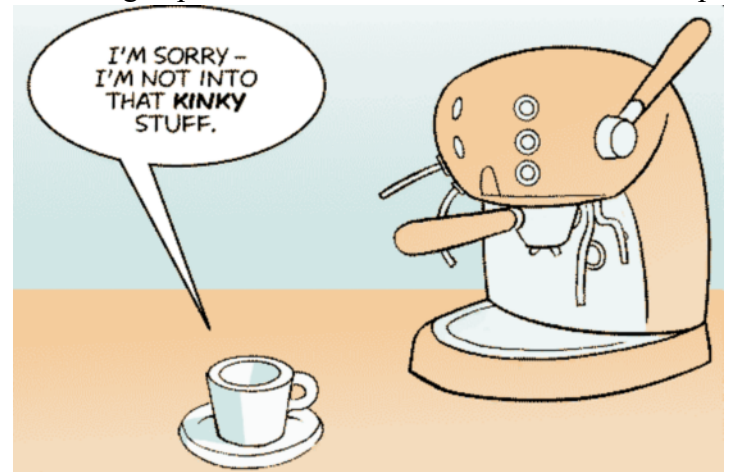
Some previous studies have suggested that coffee stiffens arteries, putting pressure on the heart and increasing the likelihood of a heart attack or stroke, with drinkers warned to cut down their consumption.

But a new study of more than 8,000 people across the UK found that drinking five cups a day, and even up to 25, was no worse for the arteries than drinking less than a cup a day.

The research, part-funded by the British Heart Foundation (BHF), is being presented at the British Cardiovascular Society conference in Manchester.

Experts from Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) divided 8,412 people into three groups for the study.

The first group was of those who drink less than one cup



of coffee a day, the second was of those who drink between one and three cups a day, and the third was those who drink more than three.

Some people in the latter group drank up to 25 cups a day, although the average number for people in this group was five cups a day.

Researchers found that even those drinking up to 25 cups of coffee a day were no more likely to have stiffening of arteries than those who drank less than one cup a day.

All the participants in the latest study underwent MRI heart scans and infrared pulse wave tests, and the results held true even after factors such as age, weight and smoking status were taken into account.

Dr Kenneth Fung, from QMUL, said: "Despite the huge popularity of coffee worldwide, different reports could put people off from enjoying it.

"Whilst we can't prove a causal link in this study, our research indicates coffee isn't as bad for the arteries as previous studies would suggest."

Prof Metin Avkiran, associate medical director at the BHF, said the study "rules out one of the potential detrimental effects of coffee on our arteries".



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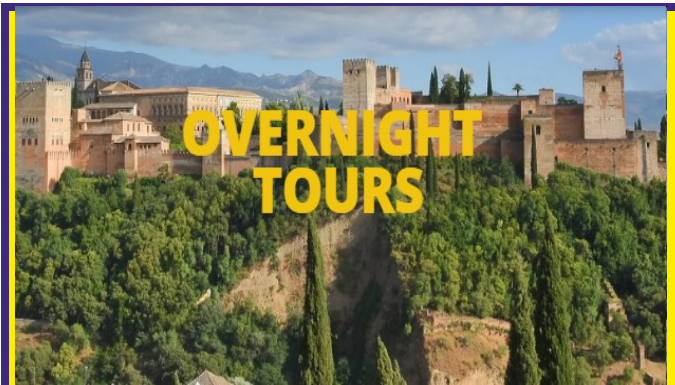


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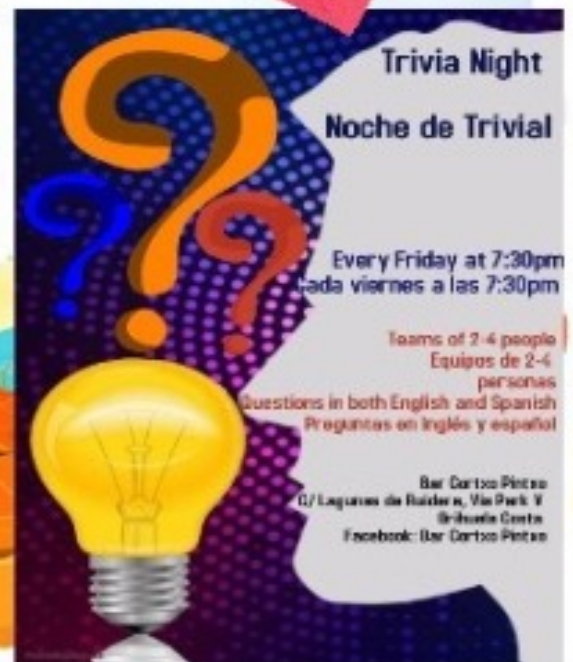


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I don't know why they call the House of Commons the 'Westminster Village'  
because most villages usually have only one idiot.

Andy Hamilton, *The News Quiz*

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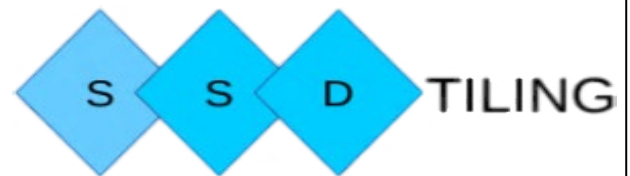
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## CORRUPTION IN THE MEDICAL SECTOR

Fresenius Medical Care, a German based medical equipment company, has been fined \$231 million by the U.S. Justice Department. The company specialises in the production of medical supplies, primarily to facilitate or aid renal dialysis. It has a network of more than 3,900 dialysis clinics in North America, Europe, Latin America, Asia-Pacific and Africa. The company has been accused of paying off health and government officials in various countries to retain business there. Nearly \$85 million is to



be paid in exchange for the justice department not pressing criminal charges, while the other \$147 million will

go to settle civil charges for the Securities and Exchange Commission. The company's misconduct has allegedly affected 13 countries and netted it some \$140 million illegally. In addition to Morocco, Angola and Saudi Arabia, the company also paid bribes in Spain, the Justice Department said.

Between 2007 and 2015, nephrologists from public health centres in Valencia, Almería and Barcelona, among others, took millions of euros from the company. In exchange, the company wanted advance information about tender specifications, to have patients referred to their own clinics, or for hospitals to use FMC's more expensive products.

Although there was an agreement to leave doctor's names unmentioned, an investigation by El País revealed two, the former head of the nephrology department at Torrecárdenas Hospital in Almería and the head of the nephrology department at the General Hospital of Valencia.

In other cases, "FMC Spain made improper payments and provided benefits to six publicly employed doctors at a Spanish state-owned hospital. FMC Spain acquired a clinic owned by the doctors and then paid them 5% of all subsequent sales. In total, FMC paid the doctors over \$3 million." As for the alleged consulting work, "payment ranged from \$16,000 to approximately \$187,000 per year."

The investigation began in 2012 thanks to a whistleblower who threatened company officials to go to the US authorities.

### It's a long story!

A father put his three-year old daughter to bed, told her a story and listened to her prayers which ended by saying, "God bless Mommy, God bless Daddy, God bless Grandma and good-bye Grandpa."

The father asked, "Why did you say good-bye Grandpa?"....The little girl said, "I don't know daddy, it just seemed like the thing to do."

The next day grandpa died. The father thought it was a strange coincidence. A few months later the father put the girl to bed and listened to her prayers which went like this, "God bless Mommy, God Bless Daddy and good-bye Grandma."

The next day the grandmother died.

"Holy shit" thought the father, "this kid is in contact with the other side." Several weeks later when the girl was going to bed, the dad heard her say, "God bless Mommy and good-bye Daddy."

He practically went into shock. He couldn't sleep all night and got up at the crack of dawn to go to his office.

He was nervous as a cat all day, had lunch and watched the clock. He figured if he could get by until midnight he would be okay. He felt safe in the office so instead of going home at the end of the day he stayed there, drinking coffee, looking at his watch and jumping at every sound. Finally midnight arrived; he breathed a sigh of relief and went home.

When he got home his wife said, "I've never seen you work so late. What's the matter?"

He said, "I don't want to talk about it, I've just spent the worst day of my life."

She said, "You think you had a bad day, you'll never believe what happened to me. This morning my golf pro dropped dead in the middle of my lesson!"

### Still a Glut in New Homes!

The glut in (unsold) new homes in Spain exploded in just four years, from 195,184 in 2005 to peak at 649,780 in 2009, an increase of 454,596 or 233%. The new build inventory that has such big implications for the Spanish housing market, banking system, and economy. All those homes tie up a lot of capital that reduces bank lending to others increasing risks in all sorts of ways. The new homes glut is still 70% of what it was at its peak in 2009.

The latest figures just published for 2018, reveal that the Spanish new homes glut shrank by just 4% last year, from 476,938 to 459,876, a decline of just 17,000 new homes sold. It is of course much easier to build new properties during a boom than it is to sell them during or after a crash! By autonomous region, the glut is biggest in Andalusia (15% of the total), the Valencian Community (19%), and Catalonia (16%). There is also a sizeable glut in Madrid (9%) and Castilla-La Mancha (9%).

Homes that haven't found a buyer in a decade will probably never find one. In the long run it would be cheaper just to knock them down now. But think of the size of the resultant bank debt!

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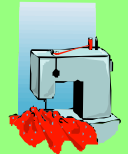
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**'Come and enjoy the authentic taste of Spain.'**

Русский говорят.

### Terror Alert in France!

The French government announced yesterday that it has raised its terror alert level from "Run" to "Hide." The only two higher levels in France are "Collaborate" and "Surrender." The rise was precipitated by a recent fire that destroyed France's white flag factory, effectively paralyzing the country's military capability.





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**Monday - Sunday 10:00 - 24:00**

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**Mondays 10am - 3pm**

**Tues - Sat 10am - 3pm & 5pm - 9pm**



**SUNDAY LUNCHES**

**1pm - 5:30pm**

**1 COURSE €7, 2 COURSE €9.50.**

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL.**

**LINE DANCING**

**Tuesdays - Improvers**

**10:30 - 11:30 - €5**



**QUIZ NIGHT THURS**

**AT 8pm**

**With "Our Einstein."**



**The Craftsman.**

A young man is walking down by the docks in Glasgow one day, and decides to stop by a bar and have a beer. He walks into a bar, and sees a grizzled old man crying into his beer.

Curious, the young man sits down and says, "Hey old timer, why the long face?"

The old man looks at him and says, "Angus MacGregor be my name and a craftsman by trade. Why, see that bar-top the tavern keeper polishes after pouring Scotch and pints of brown ale? I built that bar-top with me own two hands, but do they call me MacGregor the carpenter? Nae, nae they don't."

Then Angus MacGregor points out the window, "See that stone wall goin' round the tavern? I built that wall with me own two hands, laid stone after stone, but do they call me MacGregor the mason? Nae, they don't call me tha' neither."

The old man continued, "And do ye see that dock out there? I built that dock with me own two hands, plank by plank, nail by nail, but do they call me MacGregor the quayman? Nae, they surely don't."

The old man sighs as he stares into his beer, "But ya fuck one goat....."

*I never married because there was no need. I have three pets at home which answer the same purpose as a husband. I have a dog which growls every morning, a parrot which swears all afternoon, And a cat that comes home late at night.*

*Marie Corelli*

## FUSION!

When I see the word 'fusion' in an advert, I find it a big turn-off. Flamenco fusion is shite and if I see the word on a menu I know it is going to be pretentious crap or food porn, so best avoided.

But it is interesting how certain Spanish or Mediterranean dishes have come up with some British add-ons during recent years, to both the amusement and scorn of the Spanish.

In 2016 Jamie Oliver committed a cardinal fusion sin by launching a paella recipe which included chicken thighs and (Heaven help us!) Chorizo! Well, it is fair to say that there was a wave of collective choking throughout Spain. Although paella is a Valencian dish, the social media was jammed with indignant responses. These are some of them: That thing ain't paella; chorizo in paella? NEVER; from Valencia, Spain, don't call that paella please; Remove the chorizo. We don't negotiate with terrorists. First warning; (and my favourite) - My version of fish and chips combines aubergines with duck.

Then in 2018, the British supermarket Morrisons, launched its take on a traditional treat, cherished by the Spanish nation: The churro. While Spaniards eat the sweet dough sticks as a breakfast treat, dipped in a cup of thick rich chocolate, or as a pick-me-up after a night out on the town, Morrisons dared to come up with a new concept entirely - savoury churros filled with melted cheese for dipping in a tomato and red pepper salsa with a dry cheese sprinkle.

Suffice to say hundreds reacted with horror! These are some of the responses on Twitter: Wars have been declared over less; Keep Gibraltar but don't do this please; British cooking', nice oxymoron; We will strike back with fish & chips layered over maple syrup and sprouts; & Is this what the Brits eat before they jump of balconies?

But please raise your hat, glass or skirt for the latest Brit food fusion, this time from the Good Times Bar & Grill in Benidorm with the Breakfast Pizza! A full English breakfast on a doughy, cheesy pizza base.





# 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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- ENGLISH SERVICE
- FLOWERS
- CREMATION OR BURIAL
- CASKET
- .....and more

## ALL funeral costs are covered PLUS....

- 24 HR ENGLISH CONTACT
- IMMEDIATE COVER
- NO ADVANCE PAYMENT UP TO 70 YEARS
- NOTHING TO PAY AT DEATH
- NO MEDICAL
- DISCOUNTED MEDICAL SCHEME

**So why are you waiting?  
For less worry and peace of mind**

## Here is a cost example

For a couple 60 & 61 years of age  
Total Monthly Premium 34 €  
Persons up to the age of 74 years accepted

Grupo Rocamer are one of only a few companies who offer this type of plan to prepare for your funeral expenses. Rocamer have been in existence for over 70 years and have built up a trust and reliability within the Spanish community and have in excess of 12,000 clients. Now this opportunity is being offered to the British & Irish communities too and you don't have to be a permanent resident in Spain.

Call Keith on 650 461 816 or email [keith.rocamer@live.co.uk](mailto:keith.rocamer@live.co.uk)

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

 Rocamer Funeral Service

A large group is gathered at the graveside to bid farewell to Harry Tate (comedian). One of the mourners is Charles Coburn (actor), so ancient he's retired. As the coffin is being lowered into the grave, one curious sprout leans over and whispers, 'How old are you, Charlie?'

'I'm 89,' Coburn replies.

'Hardly seems worthwhile you going home,' the young 'un says.

Alfred Hitchcock

## The Hard Facts!

Ever since one could buy Viagra 'over-the-counter,' there has been a tidal-wave of 'todger-enhancers' available on the mail-order market. For the following information I am grateful to the newsletter's dedicated psychologist (and amateur gynaecologist), Dr. 'Dirty' Dingus O'Donoghue, who has just completed his fifth re-hab program at the Murcian Hospital of St. Jude (Patron of Lost Causes).

The Spanish Agency for Medicines and Health Products (La Agencia Española de Medicamentos y Productos Sanitarios) has ordered the withdrawal of six food supplements distributed by the company MARCO CORDONE-Spain,

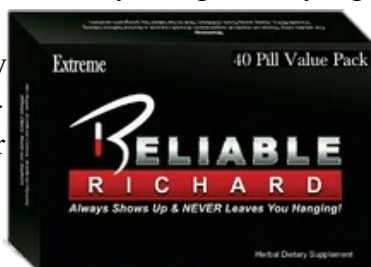
which contain sildenafil, the active ingredient in Viagra, also with tadalafil, but have not declared them on the ingredients on the label! The six in question have been named: Bioacvit capsules, Bioacvit Extra Forte Capsules, Torexan Capsules, Devit Forte Capsules, Devit Solo Piante Capsules and Bull Extreme Capsules.

Okay, this could no doubt lead to some embarrassing situations but an even bigger problem could be the interaction of these active ingredients with other medications and physiological conditions.

Sildenafil and tadalafil are indicated to restore impaired erectile function by increasing blood flow of the penis by the selective inhibition of phosphodiesterase 5 (PDE-5). But PDE-5 inhibitors are contraindicated in patients with acute myocardial infarction, unstable angina, stress angina, heart failure, uncontrolled arrhythmias, hypotension (blood pressure <90/50 mmHg), uncontrolled hypertension, history of ischemic stroke cerebral (ischemic stroke), in patients with severe hepatic impairment and in people with a history of non-arteritic anterior ischemic optic neuropathy or with hereditary degenerative disorders of the retina. Gasp! These active substances (the selective inhibitors of PDE-5) also present numerous interactions with other drugs, and adverse reactions of various severities is possible or even probable!

While researching some images of these concoctions online, I was intrigued by the repetition of the word 'Bull' in these pills: Super Bull, Raging Bull, Thunder Bull and a favourite in South Africa - Black Bull! I dunno, maybe it gets really big and turns black!

But how could one possibly ignore 'Reliable Richard' - Always shows up and never leaves you hanging!



Gill welcomes you to




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**ALL STANDARDS WELCOME**

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**Thursdays @8pm**

**MEAT RAFFLE & QUIZ**

Wi-Fi

Dream Hills Music Fiesta (DH2)

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August

Everyone Welcome  
from 7pm til late

Adjacent to the Petanque Courts / Children's Play Area DH2

Live Music with:



T J Jones

Tickets 2 euros each if purchased in advance.  
Tickets available from 15<sup>th</sup> July.  
2.50 euros if purchased on the day.

Second Artist to be  
Confirmed

**Bring your own!  
Food and Drinks!  
Table and Chairs!**

Remember - All Dogs must be kept on a lead



WANTED: good home for year-old basset hound. Understands every word owner says, but ignores it.  
Notice in Portsmouth shop window.

*Macklins*  
 VIA PARK 3  
 LOUNGE BAR & GAMES ROOM

LEGAL  
**LIVE BETTING**  
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**QUIZ NIGHT**  
 HERE



**SUNDAYS 8PM**

FOLLOWED BY:



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*Play Your Cards Right*

**FULL SIZE SNOOKER & POOL TABLES**



**POKER & DARTS**  
 ASK IN BAR FOR DETAILS



DRINK PROMOS



ASK IN BAR

Free  
**WiFi**  
 spot

**DREAMBOX IPTV**  
 AVAILABLE HERE

I persuaded my girlfriend to smuggle my coke through customs by sticking it up her bottom. I didn't know I could buy another can in the Departure Lounge.

# The Beauty Lounge

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Atmosphere At a Great Price

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WITH EMMELY

**WAXING**  
EYEBROWS  
BODY

**SPRAY**  
TAN

**ABIERTO**  
**AHORRA**

**SKIN**

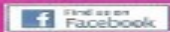
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THE BEAUTY LOUNGE VIA PARK 111



## AQUAQUEST PLUMBING



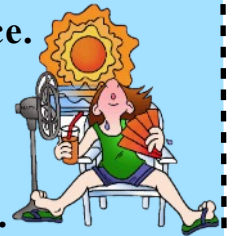
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or email [davidaquaquest@gmail.com](mailto:davidaquaquest@gmail.com)

## HELP Vega Baja Connections Team expanding.....

Following a recent committee meeting HELP Vega Baja (registered charity) have announced that they are expanding the number of trained Listeners they have in their Connections Team in order to cope with the increased demand for the service.



The Connections Team offers a 24-hour confidential, emotional support helpline on 965 021 552 and has proved to be a much-needed support for people who are struggling emotionally, since the service was introduced in July 2018. Calls to the team of trained Listeners cover a variety of issues including grief, depression, addiction, suicide to name just a few. With the backing of the charity that has been supporting people for over 35 years in the Vega Baja area, callers to the service receive emotional support and where necessary, practical support is often available through the charity.

Michele Masson, Help's President told us "our Listeners are working incredibly hard and it is becoming very apparent that we need to bring in new Listeners to the team in order to cope with the number of calls we receive. Anyone who would like to know more about the role should contact our charity secretary, Richard

Garland on 966 723 733 or email us direct at [office@helpvegabaja.com](mailto:office@helpvegabaja.com) The Connection Team volunteers, once trained, will join the rota to ensure that we are available when people need us – often at their darkest moments. It is an extremely rewarding role and one that requires a special individual who can show empathy, is non-judgmental and can also be a team player. We need both male and female Listeners of all ages who are prepared to make a commitment to the service.

The charity has invested in an extensive training package for all volunteers which will provide them with the listening skills required for the calls that they may receive whilst on duty. Volunteers will be given a mobile phone in order that they may take calls privately in their own environment. Ongoing mentoring and support will also be provided. The next training course will be held in August or September, one day per week over 4 weeks (Saturdays) in our San Miguel Centre. Final dates will be agreed once we are aware of number of candidates interested in the role. I would also like to remind people that if they are going through a difficult time, please do not struggle alone. Call the helpline on 965 021 552"

For more information on any of the services offered by HELP Vega Baja visit their website at [www.helpvegabaja.com](http://www.helpvegabaja.com) or their Facebook page.

Alternatively, email the San Miguel Centre on [office@helpvegabaja.com](mailto:office@helpvegabaja.com)



### At the Flicks!

This couple were at the cinema in Manchester when the chap notices a wedge of bank notes on the ground.

He says to his wife: "Quick, put your bag beside that money and pick it up before anyone sees it."

She says: "What shall I do with it?" He says: "Stuff it down your knickers until we come out of the Cinema."

Two hours later they come out. He says to his wife: "Give me that money."

She says: "It's gone!" He says: "It's gone! How did you manage that?"

She says: "I bet it was that bloke sat next to me." He says: "Why did you let him put his hand down your knickers?"

She says: "Well, I didn't know he was a thief, did I?"

# FAMOUS STEAK - HOUSE

INDIAN RESTAURANT

## Special Menu

Choose from Chicken or Lamb Curry, Pizza or Pasta

Plain naan, garlic naan or plain rice

4 Course €9.99!

Incl. small beer, small glass of wine or a soft drink

2:30 - 8pm



**HAPPY PLATTER ONLY €25 (for 2 pers)!**  
**Starters: Chicken Tikka or Vegetable Samosa**  
**Mains: Lamb Dopiaza, Chicken Korma or Beef Curry,**  
**Rice or Naan, Dessert or Coffee.**



**Free Bottle of Wine with  
Every Take Away over €22**



**Opening Hours**  
**2:30pm to 11:30pm**  
**Calle Panticosa, 14, Via Park III,**  
**Los Altos, Orihuela Costa**  
**965 993 264 632 315 391**



**Are you a deuterostome?**

Humans are deuterostomes, which means that when they develop in the womb, the anus forms before any other opening. Which basically means that at one point in your life, you were nothing but an asshole!

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

# PUNJABI PALACE



**THE NUMBER ONE INDIAN RESTAURANT  
ON THE COSTA BLANCA.**

Local 6 Calle Mayor, off CV945, Los Montesinos.

**INDIAN CUISINE AT ITS FINEST.**  
**OVER 130 FRESHLY PREPARED DISHES  
FOR YOU TO CHOOSE FROM.**

**TRY OUR FAMOUS LUNCH MENU SERVED 12pm - 3pm**

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Includes a generous glass of wine, small beer or soft drink. **ONLY €8.95!!**

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*Kath & Jules Welcome You to*



## JESSIE'S BAR



**MONDAYS 5:00 - 7:00**

**"THE DISTURBED"**

**CHARLEY FARLEY & ANDY MCBRIDE**

**HAPPY HOUR PRICES 'TIL 7PM**

**THURSDAY 9pm - QUIZ NIGHT WITH PHIL**

**FRIDAY 9pm - KARAOKE WITH ANG & RAY**

**ALL LIVE SPORTS SHOWN**

**FREE  
WIFI**



**TRY OUR FAMOUS ENGLISH BREAKFAST BAPS  
SERVED 11 - 3.  
PROPER ENGLISH TOASTIES SERVED TILL 8pm**



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



Alan "Nasty" Nash was crowned the toe wrestling world champion in Wetton, England, on Saturday, taking home his 16th title. After having their feet inspected for fungus



and injuries by officials, contestants sit on the ground facing each other, lock toes and try to push their opponent's foot to the side. The world championships of this niche sport began in 1976. Competitor Ben Woodroffe outlined how serious an endeavour they are. "I had my toenails removed on my feet for toe wrestling purposes, so there's a lot of things you can do, a lot of preparation and if you're dedicated to it, you will do it." Woodroffe was defeated by Nash in the men's final, while Lisa "Twinkletoes" Shenton claimed this year's women's crown.

Police in western Germany say divine intervention saved a speeding driver from getting a ticket, after a pigeon photobombed a traffic enforcement camera at just the right moment. Perhaps inspired by this week's Ascension Day national



Christian holiday, Viersen police said "the Holy Ghost must have had a plan" to help the driver. Just as the radar clocked the driver at 54 km/h (33.5 mph) in a 30km/h zone and the camera flashed, the pigeon flew in front of the car, obscuring the face of the driver with its spread wings and thereby concealing the necessary evidence of who was at the wheel. Police say "thanks to the feathered guardian angel," the driver was spared a 105 euro fine but should take it as "a sign from above" to slow down.

Lincoln Police in Nebraska arrested 26-year-old Markel Towner for allegedly resisting arrest and providing a false name to officers, the department wrote on Facebook earlier during May. Police responding to a report of a domestic assault around 10:30 p.m. found the suspect, Towner, sitting in a parked vehicle outside the



home. They noted that Towner also had two warrants for his arrest. When they questioned Towner, he allegedly gave his name as Deangelo Towns. However, the officers say they noticed a lanyard around Towner's neck that read "Markel Towner." Towner is charged with resisting arrest, obstructing a government operation, false reporting, child neglect and third-degree domestic assault.

A British tourist who'd booked an Airbnb in Amsterdam turned up to find that his £100-a-night "clean home with a private bathroom" was a roadside shipping container.

Located near Amstel station, it had three mattresses on the floor and a Portalo. Ben Speller said he had driven past the container



three times in a taxi while looking for his lodging, before realising that this was it. Airbnb refunded him for his stay and the cost of the hotel he eventually stayed in. But "to be fair", he said on Facebook, "I got my £100's worth in comedy value".

A French anaesthetist has been accused of deliberately triggering heart attacks in 24 patients, so that he could heroically bring them back to life.

Although most were indeed revived, nine of them died as a result of his alleged poisoning. Prosecutors started investigating Frédéric Péchier, 47, after a suspicious number of patients at two clinics where he worked suffered cardiac arrests during

routine operations. Péchier – who denies all the charges – is accused of injecting them with excessive quantities of potassium chloride. He is due to stand trial later this year, and if convicted faces a life term.

A former nurse has been convicted of murdering 85 patients at two hospitals in northern Germany and handed a life sentence. Judge Sebastian Buehrmann described Niels Högel's killing spree as "incomprehensible".

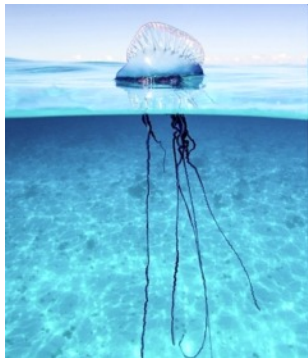
Högel, photo, who is already serving life for two murders, administered lethal doses of heart medication to people in his care between 1999 and 2005. He is believed to be the most prolific killer in Germany's modern history. Similar to Péchier, Högel 'bumped them off' and then also heroically tried to resuscitate them.



## THIS SUMMER, WATCH OUT FOR.....

The hot weather here on the Costa certainly has its benefits. Unfortunately it can also encourage and play host to a number of pests. The human ones you should really be well aware of by now, but in this particular column I will concentrate on a number of 'curve balls' provided by Mother Nature.

When you venture into the sea, it is always prudent to look out for jellyfish. This is their season locally and they can be in abundance due to the lack of their natural predators in the Med' together with a warm sea and favourable winds. One of the most dangerous is the **Portuguese-Man-of-War**, photo. Although their stinging tentacles can reach more than 100 feet in length, 30 feet is probably the



average. From distance they can look like a plastic bag floating in water. Although they are more at home in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans, winds and warm currents bring them here. Life guards and coast guards do keep an watch for these but there are

no jellyfish nets in our local areas. I raise the warning now because there have been two sightings recently on Costa areas which bracket our beaches.

During early June an experienced strong swimmer was stung just 150 yards from the beach in Alicante. She described the pain as excruciating and it paralysed her. She had to be helped from the water and rather than wait for an ambulance she was taken to hospital by car. There she received continuous medication for 24 hours. This particular lady had been stung on numerous occasions previously by other jellyfish but this sting was horrific. The fatalities that usually occur are not from the sting but from the subsequent paralysis when people drown. This attack happened in Cala Cantalar, which is just a little north of Santa Pola.

Fortunately the other incidents involving these dangerous creatures were just sightings off the coast of nearby Mar Menor. Who knows where the winds will send them. But remember there will be other types of jellyfish in the sea and most of them sting anyway!

There are more than 1,700 species of spiders in Spain, four of which are potentially dangerous to humans. The Black Widow Spider, Mediterranean Tarantula, Brown Recluse Spider and Mediterranean Funnel Web Spider can all deliver a nasty bite and although very painful, are very rarely fatal to humans, but will ruin your day/month!

In this column I will refer mainly to the Brown Recluse.

Now this is a very small spider, photo, measuring between 10 and 20 millimetres; this is about the size of your thumbnail. These little blighters take refuge in corners and small wall cracks and can move very



fast. But for such a small insect, they carry a very big punch with venom that is reportedly 15 times more toxic than a cobra, and 10 times more potent than sulphuric acid.

During mid-May, 45-year-old Manuel Gil Pardo was walking his two dogs with his wife on some rough ground between Sax and Elda in Alicante when he felt a pinch on his knee. He thought nothing of it at the time but his leg soon ballooned and he had a fever of over 40°C. He spent 10 days in hospital needing urgent surgery to remove necrotic tissue and expulse the venom. He says it still



hurts! Spider bits sometimes start off with a bulls-eye type of marking (photo right) and become very itchy.

In another case a woman living in Sax, near Elda, has been in and out of hospital for a month and a half following a violin spider bite on her right leg, photo below. The spider bit both Miranda Navarro Pla, 25, and her partner at their home. She was treated for a month and a half and would not return home until her property was fumigated.



These are three of four known bites on the Costa Blanca this year – the Spanish public health body

has refuted the idea of a 'plague', however. (Does this sound a bit like the mayor in the movie *Jaws*?)

If, after washing a suspected bite with warm soapy water, applying ice, and taking ibuprofen, you find yourself having a more extreme reaction, including symptoms like rapid heart rate or difficulty breathing, get to the emergency room asap.

I have included these notes on spiders above as many readers of this newsletter are not permanent residents. As their Spanish homes will be empty for some considerable periods, guess who loves to set up home in cracks, vents and sheds?

(Also see rip tides/currents on page 39. And don't even start me on ticks and Tiger mosquitos!)

My wife says she is going to leave me because of my poker addiction.

I think she's bluffing.

Mujer  
Hombre

PELUQUERÍA Y ESTÉTICA  
**Elisabeth**  
HAIR & BEAUTY  
FRISEURSALON UND ÄSTHETIK

Woman  
Man

Horario ininterrumpido de Lunes a Viernes 9:30 a 18:00 hs. · Sábados 9:30 a 13:00 hs.

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LAVAR, CREMA, CORTE, ESPUMA Y BRUSHING (DESDE) .....	22,00 €
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CORTE HOMBRE .....	9,00 €
WASH, CONDITIONER, MOUSSE & CUT .....	15,00 €
WASH, CONDITIONER, CUT, MOUSSE & BLOWDRY (FROM).....	22,00 €
WASH, CONDITIONER, COLOR, MOUSSE & BLOWDRY (FROM) ..	28,00 €
WASH, CONDITIONER, HIGHLIGHTS & BLOWDRY (FROM) .....	37,00 €
WASH, CONDITIONER, PERM & BLOWDRY (FROM) .....	37,00 €
CUT MEN .....	9,00 €
PEDICURA / PEDICURE .....	20,00 €
LIMPIEZA DE CUTIS / FACIALS .....	30,00 €
DEPILACIONES:	
PIERNAS ENTERAS / FULL LEGS .....	15,00 €
MEDIAS PIERNAS / HALF LEGS .....	12,00 €
MANICURA / MANICURE (DESDE / FROM).....	10,00 €
UÑAS DE GEL / GEL NAIL .....	35,00 €
MAKE-UP (FROM)	

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COME AND MEET US !**

C/ Lagunas de Ruidera C.C. Via Park V, Local 13  
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**Tel. 678 643 692**



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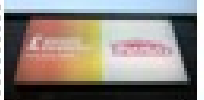
ASDA TESCO

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HOME BASE

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



**BORIS!**

Boris Johnson is known as the thinking man's idiot. Humphrey Lyttelton  
Boris Johnson is the person to lead this country.....back into the seventeenth century. Paul Merton

Before we started the June monthly meeting, we raised a glass to our late "Snapper". Nothing out of the ordinary happened at the meeting. We drew for where the monthly match would be and drew the opponents for the summer knockout semi-final. 3 Rods v Fagin and Ghost v the Cheshire Cat. These need to be fished before the July meeting.

At the end of the meeting we voted in 2 new members. Before they paid their dues, we made sure that they were aware that the average age is 70 and that we have a "dodgy" track record health wise! Apparently, the golf society are running a book on who will be next..... Welcome to Mick and Shaun, one either side of 70 years old which will maintain the balance during the old farts match.

We may have to have a special corner for new boy Mick, the Antique man and Fagash. They can turn their hearing aids down and shout at each other whilst practicing lip reading.

This month's match was held at El Bosquet but some bright spark suggested we fish pegs 26 to 40 so we could all be on the same stretch. As we found out later, even the professional clubs have been struggling to catch on these pegs. Although Dodger tried to persuade us to fish elsewhere, the match committee had only brought the numbers of 26 to 40 for the draw so that's where we fished. I think it must be the first time for ages, but everyone turned up early so we did the draw and eagerly moved through the swarms of mossies to our pegs.

Everyone was respraying themselves with mossie rep, putting on extra layers and lighting cigarettes or mossie coils. The Antique man had come prepared. He was wearing lederhosen shorts held up by gay braces, so tight they were crushing his manhood (I wish I had my camera). He could be seen cavorting about his peg slapping his thighs in the age-old Bavarian tradition – or was he just swatting mossies?

We had 12 anglers in the competition and new boy Mick fished alongside us in peg 24. He had 21 fish! He told me before he joined that he just likes to chuck out a feeder and have a nap. Lying sod!

On the day the Ghost ran away to win with 14 kilos, 2<sup>nd</sup> was Beat me Phil (6 kg) and 3<sup>rd</sup> was Anti Social (4 kg). Keep this up Baz and you could make a final.

**From the roving reporter – Sweeney:**

On Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup>, six sunbathers set out in a 2-car convoy for the Rio Ebro. Fagash and Sweeney were chauffeured by Just John, with Dodger looking after 3 Rods and Fagin. True to form, after 100m Just John's satnav lady told him to "Turn around at the next roundabout!" She got the boot straight away and they decided to follow Dodger. After an uneventful journey with only 3 pit stops for a fag / aseos, we arrived mid-afternoon. We claimed our bunks then set off for a quick recce and was suitably impressed by the river which was only 100 m away.

Monday was kickstarted by Fagash's alarm at 06.00 – everyone woke, except him (hearing aid switched off?). After a substantial breakfast courtesy of 3 Rods and Fagin (Just John on toast duty), we were taken to 2 swims on the river bank. 3 Rods and Dodger in one, the rest of us close by (unfortunately within hearing distance). A stiff

Northerly wind was not conducive to shorts and T shirts and most of us felt under dressed until late morning. 1<sup>st</sup> to catch was 3 Rods – 11 lb cat, then Fagin – 22 lb cat, Fagash – 16 lb cat, Sweeney – 4 lb Canadian cat, 3 Rods again – 36 lb cat, a big mullet and a blue crab. Dodger brought up the rear with a 6 lb mullet. It came to light later that 3 Rods had "tested the water" in his own inimitable fashion, even before starting fishing (not totally immersed and he kept his shreddies on as it was cold).

That evening a few cans, the evening meal (Pukka pies, beans and peas) and then some more cans presaged yet another "windy" if not "malodorous" morning (heaven help us!).



Our host informed us that the Northerly wind was due to increase overnight and would have an adverse effect on the fishing. Tuesday at 06.00 the wind was blowing hard, so after a hearty breakfast we dressed in extra warm clothing and by 07.45 were all together on the bank in one long peg. Sweeney spent the first 20 minutes clearing branches and undergrowth to improve his peg then 5 minutes later promptly caught the first fish of the day, a 16 lb cat. The other "lucky anglers" were: Fagin – 1 lb mullet, Dodger – 6 lb carp, Just John – 18 lb cat and

Fagash showing off with the best catch of the trip with a trio of a 53 lb cat, a 24 lb carp and a tiddler 2 lb Canadian cat. See the photos but blame 3 Rods for the poor quality! He is definitely not a snapper.

As catches tailed off mid-afternoon, yours truly went off to the nearest supermarket for a few essentials and to restock the sorely depleted beers. Dinner of fresh pizzas was courtesy of Dodger.

Wednesday dawned with the same stiff Northerly wind, so after a quick breakfast, 4 of us went off to 2 separate swims on the bank while Dodger and 3 Rods went afloat in a rented boat in search of a monster. Although the wind eased at midday, we all had a very poor day fishing. On the bank Just John had 1 small Canadian cat and Fagin had 2 larger ones. Of the sailors, 3 Rods caught a 22 lb cat. Our last supper was thanks to Fagash celebrating who supplied the makings of a BBQ, a culinary delight thanks to Just John – not a single cremated chop or rib! The return journey was uneventful and all arrived home safely after a very pleasant if somewhat disappointing trip.

Next ~~meeting~~ bun fight is at The Lime Bar @ 17.00 Mon 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Fishy Fingers!  
The Ghost



**THE PHOENIX GOLF SOCIETY**  
**SUNDAY 16th JUNE 2019**

We played at HACIENDA REQUELME; unfortunately the weather was overcast and windy, but the players enjoyed their day out. We had our yearly visit from John Bradbeer as well.

**NEAREST THE PIN:**

No.5 - Colin Soones

No.7 - John Walls (Got to be a first!)

No.15 - Ron Smith (Well done Ron.)

No.17 - Ian Grant

Winner of the TWOS – Ian Grant and Colin Soones

Overall Winner: IAN GRANT

Second Place: JOHN WINKLEY

Third Place: KAREN STYAN

After the game we returned to JESSIES BAR for lovely grub, many thanks to Jilly & Kath.

The next game is at VISTA BELLA on 21st July.

Anyone interested in playing please ring:

JOHN OR BRENDA ON 96619922

**The Big Club!**

A Hunter walking through the jungle found a huge dead elephant with a pigmy standing beside it. Amazed, he asked: "Did you kill that?" The pigmy said, "Yes."

The hunter asked, "How could a little bloke like you kill a huge beast like that?"

"I killed it with my club."

The astonished hunter asked, "How big is your club?"

The pigmy replied, "There's about 60 of us!"



After many years of marital bliss, tension enters the Kent household.

**So Sexist!**

When I was in the pub last night I overheard a couple of dickheads saying that they wouldn't feel safe on an aircraft if they knew the pilot was a woman! What a pair of sexist twats! I mean, it's not as if she'd have to reverse the bloody thing, is it?

**N.A.M.**

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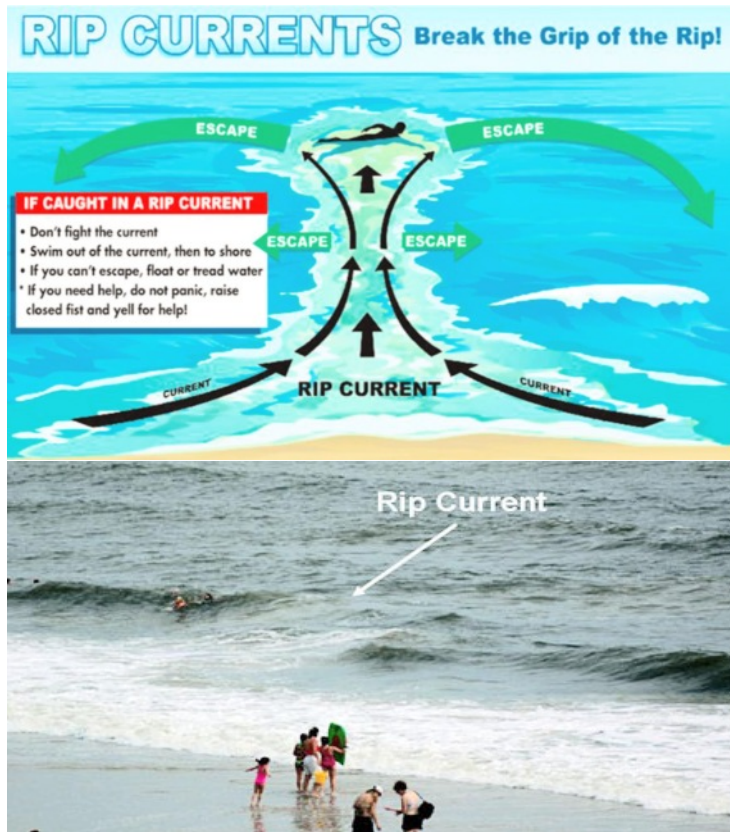
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**OR NEIL ON 650 842 711**



*Neil, Ade & Mark*

**Rip currents or rip tides** are common off parts of Orihuela Costa. If you are caught in one and swim against the current you will be exhausted. Swim with the current and then swim to the side.



**Prescriptions Are Now Needed on Certain Kinds of Common Medication.**

It is common practice in Spain for people suffering headaches or other minor complaints to purchase medications such as Ibuprofen and Paracetamol over the counter at their local pharmacy. But this is about to become far more difficult due to decisions made by the Spanish Society of Community Pharmacies.

The sale of these products without prescription has been reported as a possible breach of the Law for Guarantees and the Rational Use of Medications due to the “judicial uncertainty” surrounding the practice, and as a result a prescription will be needed to acquire Paracetamol, Ibuprofeno and Omeprazol in future. The restriction applies to boxes of Ibuprofeno 600 mg and Paracetamol 1-gram pills, as well as to Omeprazol and some anti-histamine syrups. However, Ibuprofeno 400 mg and Paracetamol 500 and 650 mg pills are not affected, at least for the time being. In theory this restriction came into force in February of this year, but it is now to be applied rigidly, and dispensing chemists found to be failing to abide by the rules will be subject to fines of between 3,000 and 6,000 euros.

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://turismodeorihuela.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 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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A Pastor was explaining that he must move on to a larger congregation that will pay him more. There is a hush within the congregation. No one wanted him to leave.

Joe Smith, who owns several car dealerships in the City stands up and proclaims, 'If the Pastor stays, I will provide him with a new Cadillac every year and his wife with a Honda mini-van to transport their children!'

The congregation sighs in relief, and applauds. Sam Brown, a successful entrepreneur and investor, stands and says, 'If the Pastor will stay on here, I'll personally double his salary, and also establish a foundation to guarantee the college education of all his children!' More sighs and loud applause.

Sadie Jones, age 88, stands and announces with a smile, 'If the Pastor stays, I will give him sex!' There is total silence.

The Pastor, blushing, asks her, 'Mrs. Jones, whatever possessed you to say that?' Sadie's 90 year old husband Jake is now trying to hide, holding his forehead with the palm of his hand, and shaking his head from side to side, while his wife replies, 'Well, I just asked my husband how we could help, and he said, "Fuck him!"'

## 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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