

THE DREAM SCENE



NEWSLETTER



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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the October, 2019 edition. Issue No.147

While fires devastated large areas of north western Spain, (seven hundred hectares in Galicia alone) the south east has seen suffering **massive flooding and damage.**

Most of you will already have witnessed much of the flooding and damage on social media. On page 36 I devote the whole page to the Gota Fria and its aftermath. This photo of the tunnel on the AP7 on the way to San Javier should give you some idea of the scale of the damage.



Rectifying it is expected to cost around €1.5 billion.

In a bid to provide financial aid to the homes, livelihoods and many of

the industries that were ruined in the recent gota fria, the Valencian Generalitat is set to sign two decrees **granting financial aid** to those affected. President of the Generalitat, Ximo Puig, signed the decrees releasing funds at a council meeting in Orihuela – “We have seen in all areas there has been devastating damage, especially in agriculture, but also in housing, and in all infrastructures,” he said.

The first decree will be aimed ‘directly at people, especially those who have suffered losses to their homes and their belongings’, said the President. He added that a rapid package of ‘shock aid’ will gift homeowners between ‘€3,000 and €5,000’ to meet urgent needs and replace lost items. The damage to agricultural areas has been catastrophic, much of the lower parts of the Vega Baja covered in water.

I have a PDF copy of the claim form courtesy of Stefan Pokroppa of Ciudadanos, who now form part of the Orihuela Council. If you want a copy just email me.

A second decree will then help city councils.

The funds will come from Valencian coffers, but Puig expressed concern that the region needs ‘resources from the state’ and from the ‘European Union’.

It comes as the EU topped up vital funding from the Junta de Andalucía to help flood victims in that autonomous community.

Amber Rudd, of Her Majesty's House of Fun and the former UK work and pensions secretary, has just had to clarify that the **pensions of British citizens** resident in the EU will continue to be **uprated** for the next three years.

After three years....who knows!

Many thanks once again to Jerry O for the kind donation,

Have a wonderful month from

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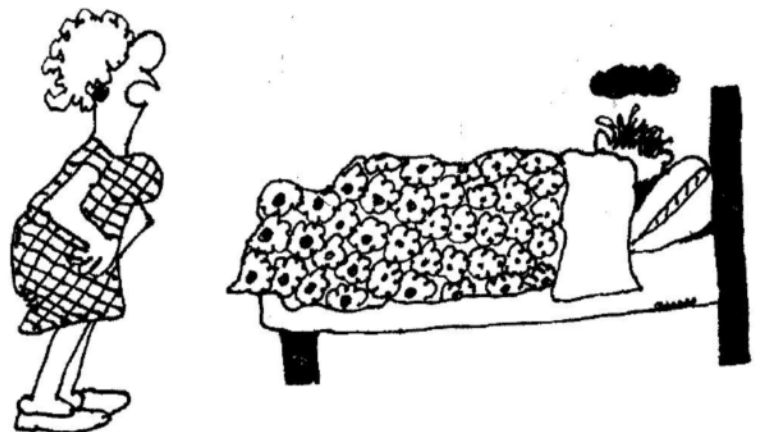
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Angela's Cartoon



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AMBAR, ESTRELLA 2 FOR €1.70



E

R



FUN MUSIC BINGO

EVERY FRIDAY 2:30pm

ALL SPORTS

ON 6 GIANT SCREENS!



Spain is **demanding reciprocity** from the United Kingdom in one of the most sensitive aspects of Brexit: treatment of its migrants. The Spanish government has urgently passed legislation in order to protect the rights of the 365,967 Britons who are officially resident in the country, but is yet to see similar mechanisms put in place in the United Kingdom for the Spaniards who have made that country their home. The caretaker foreign minister, Josep Borrell, has already conveyed this concern to the British government of Prime Minister Boris Johnson, and has warned that, if there is no equivalent move from the UK as the country leaves the European Union, the Spanish framework for British residents will decline.

The future of more than half a million people – the 365,967 Britons who officially live in Spain and the 180,000 Spaniards who reside in the United Kingdom – will depend on the way that the divorce between London and Brussels is consummated. Both the governments of caretaker Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez of the Socialist Party (PSOE) and of Boris Johnson of the Conservative Party have said that they want to preserve the rights of this collective, but the formulas used to do so differ. **The United Kingdom has put in place a general scheme for all European Union citizens – Spaniards among them – that, with some nuances, freezes the range of rights that they currently enjoy under the rules of the European Union.** The mechanism consists of two categories: “settled status,” with very generous conditions, and so-called “pre-settled status,” which carries with it fewer rights. The official figures from the UK show a fall in the proportion of citizens who fall into the former category. In April of this year, when the system officially began, 66% of applicants received settled status. Today the percentage has fallen to 57%.

Spain has opted for a different route. In March, the government approved a law by royal decree that went into great detail to cover a potential “hard Brexit” – i.e. the UK crashing out of the bloc without a deal. This legislation covers nearly all of the facets of daily life for citizens, including the recognition of university degrees and driving licenses, as well as healthcare coverage and work permits. It also guarantees, with some limitations, the continuance of the activity of British companies that are operating in Spain.

The UK’s current Brexit minister, Steve Barclay, has been warned by Spain’s caretaker Foreign Minister Josep Borrell that these advantageous conditions will only be maintained if they are reciprocal. “We have told them that our royal decree will ensure that everything remains the same in the case of a no-deal Brexit,” said Luis Marco Aguiriano, Spain’s secretary of state for the EU, and who took part in the meeting with the British minister on Sept’19. “But for that, reciprocity is necessary. And reciprocity cannot be guaranteed in half-measures – it is either there, or it isn’t.”

While the Spanish are offering blanket coverage for all British residents living in Spain, the British are offering a two-tier system administered by the Home Office. In the

last decade, the Home Office has become **notoriously xenophobic** and unresponsive to applicants who are unable to afford specialist immigration lawyers (namely, people on low incomes). With Priti Patel (see page 13) now running the British Home Office, do not expect any generosity.

Groundhandlers for **Iberia** are set to stage an eight-week walkout this autumn in protest at the national airline’s suspension of negotiations with unions. The Union General de Trabajadores (UGT) has called for strikes every Monday from September 30 until November 18. The nationwide strikes come off the back of August strikes that took place at airports in Madrid, Barcelona, Malaga and Bilbao and led to the cancellation of hundreds of flights.



Check-out the right-hand side of the above photo. The growers of a marijuana plantation on the rooftop of an apartment in Catalonia have **been rumbled** after viewers spotted the greenery in aerial footage of Spain’s Vuelta cycling race. The crop was revealed as a helicopter hovered over the building in Calle Lleida in the Catalan town of Igualada recording live footage of the final kilometre of the eighth stage of the race. Police visited the building later and found 40 individual plants on the rooftop but no arrests were made as the growers had reportedly “left the property in a hurry”. While the buying or selling of cannabis is a criminal offence in Spain, growing it on private property for private consumption is legal. But it’s a grey area. Don’t plan on any new plantations!

Pet owners wanting to travel between Spain and Britain after Brexit are being warned of a possible four-month registration process before pets are allowed to travel.

The British government has warned that in the case of a no-deal Brexit, travelling between Britain and the EU with a pet will get a lot more complicated.

It is currently warning pet owners: “To make sure your pet is able to travel from the UK to the EU after Brexit, you should contact your vet at least four months before travelling to get the latest advice.” So anyone planning a trip at Christmas time, for example, needs to start now.

Under the current Pet Passport scheme, travel with an animal is relatively simple, but because this is an EU scheme it will cease to apply to Britain after Brexit.

The British government is currently stating that it will allow Pet Passports to be used to bring animals from the EU into the UK, but they will not be accepted going from the UK into the EU.

And if the UK leaves the EU without a deal, it will become an ‘unlisted’ country in terms of pet travel - and that means a whole raft of new requirements for people wanting to travel with a cat, dog or, if you are a Northerner, your ferret.

I hate when doctors ask silly questions like “Are you sexually active?”

Depends on what you mean by “active”. There are plenty “active” volcanoes that haven’t gone off in over 50 years!

It should be obvious to all that the abundance of graffiti is a problem in Spain. The Madrid City Council has distributed 28 operators with 24 vehicles throughout the city to deal with the problem. It is not known with certainty how many 'drawings' of this type exist in the city at present, as the City Council of Madrid has made 35,706 cleanings/removals in the first half of this year alone. The number of removals that has been growing exponentially since 2017, where 19,641 jobs were registered in the same period. All the removal equipment, chemicals and staff used for the cleaning generate high costs to the municipal coffers. Every working day, the city invests 10,780 euros to eliminate graffiti. This means that per year the average budget in Madrid exceeds 2,640,000 euros. Current regulations penalize these acts with fines ranging from 300 to 3,000 euros. The law even details that, in case of reiteration, the offender could pay up to 6,000 euros.

The mayor himself, last May, erased a graffiti in the Vicálvaro district. It was the acronym ACAB, which in Spanish means "all cops are bastards ." Almeida said then that he will not tolerate insults to the police or illegal graffiti. Although days later, in the same place, the graffiti artists filled the wall with colour again.

This is Ciudad Real Central Airport in Castile-La Mancha. It featured regularly in our pages some years ago. Constructed at a cost of €1.1 billion, it was opened in 2009, and became the first international private airport in Spain. It went bankrupt and closed in 2012. But guess why? No flights! Ciudad Real's was at least privately funded (in theory, no doubt the banks took a big hit), the first of its kind in Spain, although costing an eye-watering €1 billion to build it was sold at auction later for just €10,000!



It's changed hands a couple of times since and its current owners, realizing that labelling it as Madrid South Airport was a bit of a stretch (235km from

the capital! Bit like Ryanair's London - Luton I suppose!). The focus of their business strategy will now be on aircraft maintenance, pilot training and tech research instead. They have been given a license to operate commercial flights as well, but we'll have to wait and see if tourists decide to flock to barren and empty Castilla-La Mancha in Spain's interior.

Thursday 10th October 12 - 3pm
Domino Bar, Av. de Espuna
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Raffle proceeds to Age Concern 

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Entertainment 2 - 3pm

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Full daytime menu available 



"Grandma says it's important to use the proper fork when you eat in a restaurant. What's a fork?"

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Peter is a retired gent who lives locally and who makes the most wonderful pork pies to order. Now these are vastly superior to those you would buy in a supermarket or shop. When last did you find jelly in a pork pie? Peter's pies are made to his mum's Melton Mowbray recipe and you will not eat finer.

His large rectangular pie, 10 inch with 500 grams of pork costs just €10. His round tall (4 inch) pie contains 330 grams of pork and costs €6.50. The pastry in both is to die for. Ideal with a salad!

Payment is on pick-up, and you can contact Peter on 066 798 517. You will not be disappointed. Mick

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Mark W.

BEAUTIFUL FOOD WITH BACKGROUND 60'S MUSIC
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Sharon M.

VISITED WITH MY FAMILY
LOVELY FOOD, BURGERS
ARE AMAZING AND THE
STEAK PIE IS MELT IN THE
MOUTH.
Clare LM.

AMAZING NIGHT, FAMILY RUN
RESTAURANT WITH FANTASTIC FOOD.
WOULD HIGHLY RECOMMEND A VISIT
YOU WONT BE DISAPPOINTED.
Paula W.

MORGANS FAMOUS STEAK PIE
TASTES SO WONDERFUL.
GREAT BURGERS AND
BEAUTIFUL MILKSHAKES
Birthe T.



FABULOUS FOOD
GREAT ATMOSPHERE
FUN STAFF
GREAT MUSIC
GREAT FOOD
Tanya C.

GREAT FOOD, SUPER
ATMOSPHERE PLAYING MUSIC
WHERE WE KNOW ALL
THE LYRICS .LOL!
Paul C.

GREAT SERVICE,
GREAT FOOD.
10 OUT OF 10
Ali B.

JUST HAD THE STEAK PIE AND CURRY.
AMAZING. TOTALLY RECOMMEND.
Deb C.

LOVED IT HERE. HIGHLY RECOMMEND THE HOUSE WINE
AND THE HOME MADE CHILLI WAS LOVELY
Sandra E.

OMG! JUST HAD A TASTE OF HEAVEN
SIMPLY AMAZING T BONE STEAKS
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Lisa S.

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Adele S.

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I asked the clothing store clerk if she had anything to make me look thinner,
and she said, 'How about a week in Bangladesh?'

Roseanne Barr

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night**

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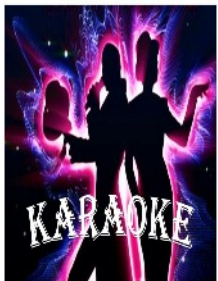
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Orihuela Council have spent €455,000 on purchasing 29 gleaming new vehicles. 15 of the vehicles are hybrids, but the 29 only make up a third of the vehicles in the municipal mobile park.

The mayor of Orihuela, Emilio Bascunana, has been awarded two of these vehicles for his office, but has, once again, come under criticism from the socialist PSOE opposition. It appears that the mayor has increased his annual salary from €56,000 euros to €61,537 and has not told anyone about it! You will no doubt recall an earlier story where Bascunana has been accused of drawing a medical salary for several years in Orihuela without seeing any patients or doing any assessable work.

The Orihuela government team, which comprises 14 politicians from the Partido Popular (PP) and Ciudadanos parties are paid a total annual salary of €703,200. These totally honest, unselfish and hardworking servants of the community have now authorised an additional €839,200 be allocated to the annual payment of up to an additional 25 advisors (politicians) to assist them in government and care of the municipality. Except for the Playas, as the Orihuela coastal area will be bereft of services and innovations for a further four years, you will no doubt be comforted by the fact that your taxes are keeping almost 40 local citizens in clover.

The local town of San Miguel de Salinas has been experiencing a wave of robberies during the nights. This is largely due to the total lack of any local police to patrol the



district in the evenings. 200 of the town's residents have now gathered in a WhatsApp group to alert rapidly about thefts and organise patrols (photo) with whistles during the night. It is hoped that the Policia Local will soon return to the area in the evenings so the local citizen patrols can end.

Criminal gangs have their own intelligence systems and are made aware very quickly when and where areas are vulnerable. I recall that when Tid and I first arrived in a developing Dream Hills, almost every house in our street had been robbed. Bob X, a Spanish chap and I decided to do a small number of early morning walking patrols in the urb', but all we got was tired! The most vulnerable properties then were the ones with high walls (no one sees what's going on behind the walls) and people leaving accessible ground and first floor windows open. Some thieves would just walk from roof to roof, trying upper doors and windows.

Playa Lisa at Santa Pola has been closed for a short period during September due to the presence of faecal matter in the water. The culprit is believed to be the Virgen del Pilar canal which flows into the area. However, this has been a problem for some years and has still not been resolved satisfactorily.

Take a look at this photo taken in a mountain range in



Calp, Alicante. It appears to be a mixed breed of a dog and a fox. It has the snout and tail of a fox and legs of a

dog. Maybe we should call it a Fog or even a Dox!

The animal has been spotted by a number of people and other photos were taken so this is probably not a fake.

The latest crime statistic of the Ministry of the Interior maintains the rise of sexual crimes during the first half of this year, with an increase of up to 20% in sexual assaults in the province of Alicante during the first semester of the year. According to the data, it is in the province of Alicante where sexual assaults grow the most in the Community, since between the three provinces the increase was 17.5%. Of these, 328 cases occurred in the province of Alicante with an increase of 21% (42 of them for rape, up 20%); in Valencia there were 423 (17.5%), while the number of rapes was maintained with 37 cases; and finally in Castellón, the increase was 5.3% with eighty cases, of which seven were violations.

These figures are very high, and remember these are just the reported figures.

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HELP VEGA BAJA would like to thank everyone who contributed and who are also still helping those in need particularly as a result of the recent flooding.



The appeal at The Vista Club in Quesada on Thursday Sept' 19 raised €1,400 while the appeal for the Gota Fria victims at the Villamartin on Sunday Sept' 22 raised more

than €10,000.

Please keep up your wonderful support for those unable to help themselves now

EL CAPITAN



Lago Jardin II.

DAILY SPECIALS
& TAPAS

BINGO! Thursdays 3pm

Every Friday

-Fun Darts at 8pm.

Every Sunday

Quiz Night 8:30pm.



Wi-Fi

SOUTH
FACING

Mildred's Accident

My aging Aunt Mildred in the US of A, was a 93-year-old woman who was particularly despondent over the recent death of her husband. She decided that she would just 'top' herself and join him in death.

Thinking that it would be best to get it over with quickly, she took out his old Browning army pistol and made the decision to shoot herself in the heart, since it was now badly broken in the first place. Not wanting to miss the vital organ and become a vegetable and a burden to someone, she called her doctor's office to inquire as to just exactly where the heart would be on a woman.

The doctor said, "Your heart would be just below your left breast."

Later that night, Mildred was admitted to the hospital with a gunshot wound to her knee.

There is crowd-funding for a wheelchair.

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I don't think I'll ever have a mother's intuition. My sister left me alone in a restaurant with my 10-month-old nephew.

I said, "What do I do if he cries?" She said, "Give him some vegetables."

It turns out that jalapeno is not his favourite.

JJ's Café Bar

VIA PARK V.

KITCHEN OPEN TUE - SAT 10 - 7:30pm

BAR OPEN DAILY 10:30am - 10pm.



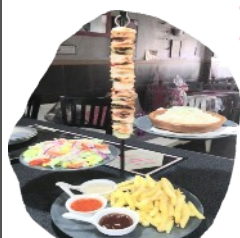
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FUN DARTS IS BACK ! Wed 7:30 - 11pm

Thursday - Jilly's Slimming Club - 4pm.

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

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and have a natter!!**

SAT NIGHT IS GRILL NIGHT

Bookings only (Steaks, Mix Grill, Ribs)

MEAL DEALS! See FB for details

MENU DEL DIA TO RETURN IN OCTOBER!!

Theme Nights coming soon!

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JJ, Rob & Bobby



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TWEET!**

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**Good News!**

The Spanish National Health Authority has reduced the prices of 16,000 types of medication, including over-the-counter, prescription and Hospital dispensary drugs, which, will save the public around €118 million a year.

The cost to the end-consumer will drop from November the 1st, which is a public holiday in Spain.

This includes drugs such as Ibuprofen and Paracetamol, the stomach-protector and proton-pump inhibitor Omeprazole, and prescription medication such as antibiotic Amoxicillin and tranquilliser and sleeping pill Lorazepam.

Most of these products have now dropped to an average of between €1 and €2, with twenty 650mg Paracetamol tablets costing just 55 cents.

(Think Spain)

**When the Home Secretary
Should Stay at Home!**

The latest plans of Priti Patel, the home secretary, to end freedom of movement on October 31 have had to be abandoned after lawyers informed ministers they would probably lose a court case that the legislation would inspire.

Ms Patel planned to use provisions in the European Union Withdrawal Act to change the law without the need for primary legislation. A challenge to this ruling not only has a good chance of success, it could also unravel 500 no-deal planning measures which have been put in place using the same powers.

Not for the first time, practical change is proving harder than Brexit enthusiasts imagined.

On September 11th it was announced that foreign students will be allowed to stay in Britain for two years after their degrees while working or looking for a job, rather than the current four months. It is the most significant sign yet that Mr Johnson's government will abandon the hostile approach to immigration favoured by his predecessor, Theresa May.

Let's not forget that it was Theresa May's toxic time as Home Secretary that led to the Windrush Scandal.

The choice of Priti Patel as British Home Secretary is certainly an odd one. Even a cursory scan of her career outlined in Wikipedia raises more questions than answers but then BoJo is not noted for his wise choices. It has just been released in David Cameron's biography that one of his regrets was not sacking Patel from the cabinet, while he was PM.

Forget Patel's links to the tobacco and alcohol lobbies, her questionable activities during a 'holiday trip' to Israel or the fact that she may have broken the ministerial code for a second time without seeking prior approval from the government's Advisory Committee on Business Appointments concerning her work for Viasat as a strategic adviser on a salary of £5,000 a month for just five hours' work a month.

But when she suggested that Britain should use the potential damage to the Irish economy, including possible food shortages, to secure a better Brexit deal from the EU, her comments sparked a furious backlash, with other MPs claiming that using food shortages as a bargaining chip was deeply inappropriate, especially given Ireland's history of famine. Irish EU Commissioner Phil Hogan said that a food blockade would result in Britain starving, not Ireland, since 43% of food consumed in the UK comes from Ireland. One million people died during the country's Great Famine between 1845 and 1849.

Patel co-authored a book published in 2012 that stated "once they enter the workplace, the British are among the worst idlers in the world". Good luck with her in the UK, folks!

Danny's New Friend!

Danny was lying in bed with his new girlfriend. After having superb sex she spent the next hour just rubbing his balls because it was something she just loved to do.

As he was enjoying it, he turned and asked her, 'Why do you love doing that?'

'Because,' she replied, 'I really miss mine.'



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October

Sober October the same every year
so give up the spirits, the wine and the beer
it's good for your liver and good for your health
but it won't do much for your landlords wealth

The Brexit disaster just keeps rolling on
now ruled by the parliamentarians
democracies dead the Government gone
now ruled by crazy sexagenarians

It's really quite simple but taken three years
the people voted for out
but now individuals are airing their fears
the rules they blatantly flout

The weather's still hot as summer ends
and tourists are leaving our towns
time to get together with friends
and enjoy the welcome slowdowns

Halloween beckons monsters and all
is Britain in Europe or not
children at large and having a ball
but will the people get what they sought?

Still it's not all bad for us who live here
sun sea, friendships and siestas
and after October it's back to the beer
and enjoying our local fiestas

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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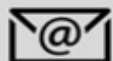
Attendance
Allowance



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

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.

A little girl walks into a pet shop and says to the guy behind the counter "Have you got any wabbits?"

The guy smiles and says "Yes, would you like a white wabbit or a brown wabbit?"

She replies "I don't think my python givth a thit"



ARE YOU WASTING MONEY IN YOUR PENSION SCHEME?

There are many pension schemes, especially QROPS, where the administration, advice costs etc are very overly charged. I have been able to reduce fees for pension plans by on average 55% and also able to provide a regular review of the pension value. This can amount to considerable savings over the years. In fact one new client that we reviewed recently now has a pension that will provide him with a further £150,000.

DON'T MISS OUT, contact me on 634305881 for details.

BREXIT AND YOUR PENSION

No one knows what will happen with BREXIT , but I do know that anyone who did not live in the EU and wanted to transfer their pension overseas was hit last year with a 25% TAX CHARGE. Ouch! This could also be the case for transferring within the EU if we leave.

Contact me on 634305881 to discuss your options.

NEED A FINANCIAL ADVISER?

Are you one of the many who have taken out an investment or pension and never see the adviser again? You need regular updates of what is happening within the industry that could save you a considerable amount.

Contact me on 634305881 to see if I can help.

Contact us now for a free assessment, initial discussions are free and always without obligation.

Visit our website: www.mhpensions.co.uk

The Lamb Lieth down with the Lion!

When the Pope visited Ireland, he was shown around Dublin Zoo by Head Keeper Seamus O'Toole. When they got to the Lion House, the Pope was amazed to see a lamb lying down next to a lion. The Pope was amazed. "For 2000 years, we've prayed for signs of the messianic era and the prophecy that the lion will lie down next to the lamb. I see you must really be a man of peace. How did you do it?"

"No problem, really," said Seamus. "Mind you, we have to put a new lamb in each day!"



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..

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- Social care advice and guidance.
- Family carer support.
- Volunteer transport- health appointments.
- Befriending/companionship.
- Local & UK social services/welfare advice.
- Legal advice
- Translation services.
- Access to other charities.

Our Welfare Team are qualified U.K. social worker & Care Managers who have between them many years of health and social care experience.

Telephone: +34 965 328 794 / 634324389

Email: charitycentre.helpathomecb@gmail.com

Web: www.helpathomecb.com

Good Advice!

Woman takes her dog to the vet with an ear infection. Vet says to get some hair removal cream from the chemist and when the dog's ear hair is gone wash it three times a day with disinfectant. The chemist hands over the cream the following conversation takes place: "You'll be a bit tender after using this so don't wear long sleeves for a few days".

"It's not for my arms" "Well don't wear trousers for a while "

"It's not for my legs" "Well what's it for then?"

"It's for my Schnauzer"

"OK, don't ride a bike for a week"



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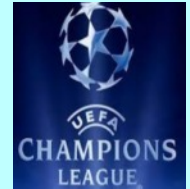
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The Limitation on Housing Rental Price in Catalonia

Although this article refers to Catalonia, similar legislation could very well be introduced in our region, Valencia, depending on the political colour of our regional government and pressure groups. Regions will copy each other's legislation.

The Bank of Spain warns of a 50% rise in the rental price in Spain since 2013. The August report revealed that since 2013 rents have risen by an average of 40% in the biggest Spanish provincial capitals, Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia and cities that are popular tourist destinations such as Malaga, Palma in Mallorca and Santa Cruz de Tenerife. Meanwhile in less popular cities, especially those in the interior of Spain, rents have risen by an average of 10% since the last quarter of 2013. Palma de Mallorca has seen the largest growth with rents soaring by 55% since 2013, followed by Barcelona at 50% Malaga at 45%.

Although the report didn't go into detail about the cause of the increased rents, it will strengthen the argument that tourist flats have driven up rents and priced out locals.

On May 21 this year, the Generalitat of Catalonia has approved a Decree Law of urgent measures regarding the containment of income in housing lease contracts, in order to limit the price of housing rents.

Before a limitation of the rental prices of housing rents can be established, the areas or areas of "tense market" housing (these are the municipalities or the areas of municipalities where the supply is at risk of insufficient rental housing in affordable conditions); for this, various

Take it with a pinch!

Fella walks into the pub which has just opened back up under new owners and had a bit of work spent on it from the new owner.

Owner "Welcome to the Red Lion, make yourself at home, there's sandwiches and sausage rolls on the side to celebrate our grand opening, free pool all night, first drinks free, I've spent a fortune on this pub"

Bloke "Well, I've been coming his pub for 45 years and every owner has always had snuff on the bar, free of charge. If you don't do that then you're as good as finished with me".

Owner thinks 'Blow me what an ungrateful bastard, I'll show him' so he went outside and picked up some dog shit, dried it out in the oven and cut it into a fine powder and sprinkled it into a nice silver case and placed it on the bar next to the previous bloke.

Bloke "Oh cheers pal, you'll do well here" and takes a big snifter of snuff and begins to keep sniffing, he keeps sniffing the air and then looks at the soles of his feet then looks around, in walks his mate, Charlie.

Bloke "Hey Charlie, can you smell dog shit?"

Charlie "No, I'm full of a cold, I can't smell fuck all"

Bloke keeps checking his feet, sniffing the air and looking on the floor whilst Charlie takes a large amount of snuff.

Charlie "Fuck me that's good snuff, it's cleared me right up....I can smell that dog shit now!"

aspects must be stated:

- as if the growth of the rental price and its cost in the family budget is clearly higher than the average in Catalonia;

- as if that there is a disproportion between the increase in the population and the number of available rental homes, or - as if the cost of rentals increases above the CPI of the affected area.

Once the "tense market" zone or area has been fixed, the rent of the housing lease contracts may only exceed the Reference Index of the Rental Prices by 10%. An additional increase of 5% can be allowed due to special characteristics of the house (views, community areas equipped with a garden, swimming pool, etc ...).

Likewise, newly built and fully redeveloped homes may be rented at 20% above those established by the Reference Index, but only for 5 years after the completion of the works.

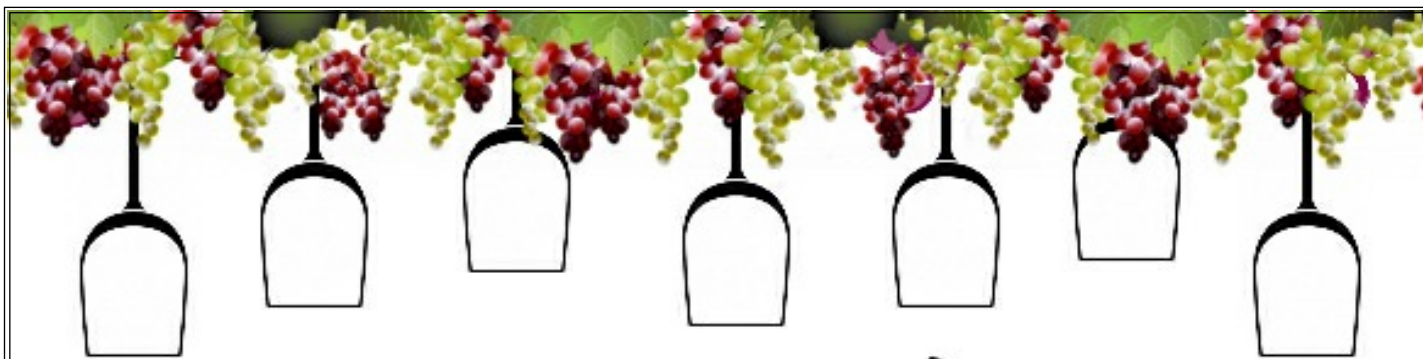
In homes that were already rented, and when the rent was higher than the price set by the reference index that should be applied, the last rent of the previous contract can be set as the initial rent of a new contract (producing, as evidence, the amount of the last receipt).

If the lessor collects rents above the limits established, the lessee will have the right to recover the difference between the legal limit and the rent he paid, with interest.

*I knew Doris Day before she was a virgin.
Groucho Marx*

And suddenly, Bob found himself the topic of all the office gossip.





Bar Cortxo Pintxo



Tuesday Bingo from 15:00
Friday Trivial Quiz
from 20:30



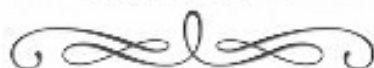
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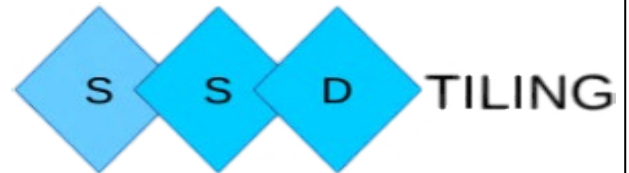
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HEALTH SERVICE TIPS - CHANGING YOUR DOCTOR.

Speaking to many people I am aware that some are dissatisfied with care at their local Salud, for example - "My doctor can't or won't speak English to me.....He's a different doctor when I go for my appointment....in an emergency or at short notice.....I cannot get an interpreter....or I can't get on with my male doctor..... he has no sympathy or understanding of women's complaints." The immediate answer, at least because of your lack of Spanish or interpreter, is to use Google Translate or a similar app on your mobile and play the translations for your doctor.

Easy Solution - Change Your Doctor!

Very easy to do, go to the desk at the Salud and ask for the form to change your doctor. You don't have to explain why to the receptionist - it's none of their business! It took me a couple of years to realise that the key phrase to use on such occasions is 'I want!' - that's what the Spanish do! I have never been refused tests - x-rays or referral - if you use those two words - Yo Quiero!

Once you have the form, TAKE IT HOME WITH YOU, as it has to be completed in Spanish.

Translate your request keeping it short and precise, including the following phraseology in your request - I want to change because.....Quiero cambiar porque.....Return to the Salud counter with the completed form.

You should be notified within 2-3 weeks of the new doctor that has been allocated.

There is no stigma in doing this. It is your right, and it is common!

Tid

Self Medication

My doctor took one look at my gut and refused to believe that I work out.

So I listed the exercises I do every day: jump to conclusions, climb the walls, drag my heels, push my luck, make mountains out of molehills, bend over backward, run around in circles, put my foot in my mouth, go over the edge, and beat around the bush.



"Sounds pretty serious. Is it contagious, Doc? Doc?"

HAVE A BANANA!

Bananas have to be one of the most accessible and most popular fruits in the world. Although you may only find a couple of types in your local supermarket, there are over 1,000 different types worldwide, which include both sweet and savoury varieties. Bananas are classified as either dessert bananas, which are sweet and eaten raw, or cooking bananas (Plantains), which are starchy and similar to potatoes. Cooking bananas are usually boiled, fried, or grilled and eaten alongside savoury dishes.

The banana is a good source of potassium and magnesium, which your body uses for nerve and muscle function, as well as to maintain fluid and pH balance. Their starches turn into sugar as they ripen. If you eat your bananas before they're fully ripe, you'll get the benefits of different types of healthy starch. Their rapidly digestible starch is metabolized into glucose, which your body can use for a quick burst of energy, while their slowly digestible starch acts as a longer-lasting form of fuel and helps stabilize blood sugar levels. Bananas' resistant starch is fermented in your large intestine, where it feeds your healthy gut bacteria. Additionally, antioxidants like phenolic compounds and carotenoids in this tasty fruit may protect your cells from oxidative damage.

Bananas are also rich in serotonin, dopamine, and norepinephrine. These neurotransmitters help regulate your heart rate, blood pressure, and mood. Bananas may aid digestion and help balance your blood sugar, among other benefits. To get the most beneficial starch, eat them when they're slightly under ripe, particularly if you are diabetic (less sugar).

Your local Spanish supermarket will undoubtedly stock sweet bananas of the Cavendish variety, the most consumed variety in both the US and Europe, which is known for its durability in shipping.

Other varieties available in different parts of the globe are Gros Michel, Lady Finger, Blue Java, Manzano, Red, Goldfinger, Mysore (most popular in India) and Praying Hands.

However, the big banana companies, Chiquita and Dole, grow and transport the Cavendish variety mainly - 99% of all bananas exported - almost all grown in Latin America. But a deadly soil fungus, Tropical Race 4, has for the last 30 years, devastated banana plantations throughout southeast Asia, in the Lebanon, Israel, India, and Australia and has now reached Columbia. The TR4 pathogen is extremely difficult to eradicate and many have now predicted the demise of the Cavendish variety. Profit margins on bananas are already wafer-thin and the big plantations have not yet developed or grown a suitable substitute.

Expect more expensive 'na-na's', if any, in the shops!

"Waggy Tails"

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Русский говорят.

My kids keep laughing at me with my Alzheimer's.

They won't be laughing at me at Christmas when they look for Easter eggs under the bonfire!



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Adam was hanging around the garden of Eden feeling very lonely. So, God asked him, "What's wrong with you?" Adam said he didn't have anyone to talk to. God said that He was going to make Adam a companion and that it would be a woman. He said, "This pretty lady will gather food for you, she will cook for you, and when you discover clothing, she will wash it for you. She will always agree with every decision you make and she will not nag you, and will always be the first to admit she was wrong when you've had a disagreement. She will praise you! She will bear your children and never ask you to get up in the middle of the night to take care of them. She will NEVER have a headache and will freely give you love and passion whenever you need it." Adam asked God, "What will a woman like this cost?" God replied, "An arm and a leg." Then Adam asked, "What can I get for a rib?"

Of course, the rest is history



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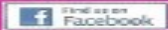
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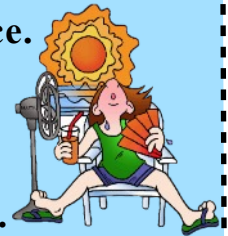
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Contact David on 634 286 590
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HELP Vega Baja Connections Team expanding.....

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.



Garland on 966 723 733 or email us direct at 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 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.

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”

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

For more information on any of the services offered by HELP Vega Baja visit their website at www.helpvegabaja.com or their Facebook page. Alternatively, email the San Miguel Centre on office@helpvegabaja.com

FROM THE CRAZED IMAGINATION OF THE KINALLEN KILLER (N.T.)



My mum and dad were dwarfs. All their lives they struggled to put food on the table.

ALL MEN LIKE TO THINK THEY ARE MARRYING NYMPHOMANIACS. THE PROBLEM IS THAT AFTER A FEW YEARS, THE NYMPHO LEAVES AND THE MANIAC STAYS



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I'm just saying.....

My wife just gave birth today and after thanking the doctor I pulled him aside and sheepishly asked 'How soon do you think we'll be able to have sex?'

He winked at me and said, 'I'm off duty in ten minutes - meet me in the car park.'

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South Facing Terrace, Opposite Mercadona in Los Balcones



Police were called by a suspicious neighbour in the Californian town of Mission Viejo. Here they found a 26-year-old driver who was trying to repair the damage to his car tyre with band-aids which were littered next to his car. This ‘would-be MacGuyve’r was arrested for being under the influence of drugs while driving.

The seven books of the Harry Potter series written by JK Rowling have been banned from a school in the US by Reverend Dan Reehil, following the advice of several exorcists. The pastor of St. Edward Catholic School argues that reading these books are dangerous for both children and adults, since there are "real curses and spells" that can lead to "conjuring evil spirits. " Well, it's not like the kids are in danger from paedophiles or..... WAIT A MINUTE!

We all know the saying ‘A fool and his money are soon parted’ but take a look at the Doctor Life Clinic in



Madrid. Inside the clinic, patients can let their imaginations run wild. On the wall there are drawings of penises as superheroes – one wears a Superman cape, another a Batman mask. A sales rep is just about to explain the benefits of Priapus Shot, a treatment that

involves injecting stem cells into the penis to strengthen erections. The salesperson explains the treatment: a doctor extracts blood from the patient, eliminates toxins and fats from the sample, and injects it back into the penis with a secret formula, patented by the company.

The effect of the injection is supposed to last a year and every so often, the patient has to use another one of the company’s products, the P-Pump, which is meant to increase the amount of blood in the penis. The complete treatment costs €2,900. According to a study published in July, in the specialist journal Current Opinion in Urology, there is no solid evidence that stem cell use in penis injections has any benefit. The investigation concludes that the therapy should only be administered in a research clinic. José María Moraleda, the coordinator of the Spanish Cellular Therapy Network of the Carlos III Health Institute, believes there are enough signs to call the treatment a scam. The network has reported Doctor Life to AEMPS for false advertisement. “The PRP the clinic proclaims to give is a simple centrifugation. There is no cleansing of toxins, and it doesn’t have stem cells. It is rich in platelet and growth factors, but also in coagulation and fibrinolysis proteins. And its improper use could do more harm than good.” Beyond the placebo effect, the experts agree the treatment does not appear to live up to its promises. A patient leaves the clinic the same man as before – neither as Batman, or Superman.

29-year-old San Diego resident, Jenna Evans, was having a bad dream. She dreamed that her fiance and her were being chased by baddies in a high-speed train, so to foil the thieves she swallowed her 2.4 carat diamond engagement ring.

The problem was, when she woke up she found she had swallowed it!

Photo. The specialists had a plan: Evans



would undergo an upper endoscopy later that morning. They would pluck it out of her. They said, “don’t worry its not big deal,” Evans wrote, “but please sign this release form just in case you die.”

Well the ring has now been recovered, the couple plan to marry next May, and in the meantime Jenna takes the ring off at bedtime - for now!

Close Call!

I almost caught someone screwing my missus last night but he dived out of the window as I burst into the bedroom. After calling the wife a cheap slut I chased after him. ‘He went that way,’ said my mate Dave, while pointing to next door’s garden.

‘Cheers, mate,’ I replied, scaling the fence, ‘and get some fu*king clothes on, you’ll catch your death.’

SWEARING.....LIKE A SPANIARD!

Look! Everybody swears, well almost! No doubt there are some 'Holy Marys' out there but swearing - moderately - can be used to highlight exasperation, annoyance, disappointment, surprise, rejection, affirmation and a whole host of feelings and emotions. With us Irish it can be 'feckin' this and 'feckin' that, but the letter 'u' can also be substituted regularly as well.

The English writer (and composer) Anthony Burgess tells a wonderful story about swearing from his time in Malaya. In this example he relates how after a military

truck broke down, an NCO from REME came to repair it but failing to do so used just five words - the definite article, an adjective, noun, adverb and verb to describe the mechanical trouble with 'The fucking fucker's fucking fucked!'

Genius! No wonder Shakespeare was English!

Now it may come as a surprise to you, but the Spanish swear a lot! Forget swearing like a trooper, the real phrase should be swearing like a Spaniard. Everyone in Spain, from sweet little kids to frail old ladies, peppers their everyday conversation with enough swearwords to make a sailor blush. So beware, the

longer you live in Spain, the more normal you'll think it is to drop rude words into everyday conversation.

Unlike in many other countries, references to toilet habits, male and female genitalia and other taboo subjects pop up in general conversations all the time without anyone giving it a second thought. Swearing in Spain is as common as it is ludicrous, so if you wish to embrace the ever-present potty language or simply want to understand what your Spanish friends are trying to convey, read on!

If however you are of a genteel persuasion, read no further!

Me cago en la leche: Spaniards metaphorically crap on all kinds of things when they want to express anger or frustration; from God Almighty (Dios) or to 'your' mother (tu madre). Perhaps the most bizarre thing they choose to mentally defecate on is 'the milk'. All these expressions sound very vulgar in English but in Spanish they're so common most recipients would barely bat an eyelid. Feel free to use it on the mayor and councillors in Orihuela.

Que coñazo!: The Spanish version of the 'C' word. If something is a drag you use the expression '¡Qué coñazo!'. The Spanish C-word, much more socially acceptable than in English-speaking countries, is also used to express everything from surprise to indignation: ¡Coño!. Don't be surprised if you hear everyone from

grandmothers to schoolkids shouting it out at top volume.

Estar pedo/llevar un pedo: 'To be fart' or 'to carry a fart' has nothing to do with flatulence surprisingly. Although the word for a fart in Spanish is pedo, the expressions are a colloquial way of saying 'to be drunk'. For interest's sake, in Spanish you 'throw a fart' if you want to say you've passed wind - **tirarse un pedo**. Why not impress your friends! But be careful to use the Spanish pronunciation as 'Pedo' in English means something totally different!



Me importa tres cojones: This saying means 'I couldn't give a damn' in English, 'I don't care about three balls!'. 'Why testicles?' you may ask. Well, '**cojones**' (balls/nuts in English) is commonly recognized as the Spanish word with the highest number of derivative meanings. It's used as a verb (acojonar - to scare), as an adjective (acojonante-amazing) and many more! Even the number of 'cojones' can change the whole meaning of the sentence: ¡Y un cojón! means 'not a chance!' while '**hacer algo con dos cojones**' means to be brave.

De puta madre: Calling someone a '**hijo de puta**' (son of a bitch) might land you in trouble in Spain despite the customary use of swearwords by many Spaniards. But the most common superlative in colloquial Spanish is '**de puta madre**', which means great or awesome. It can also be used as an adverb: **juega de puta madre** - he plays really well.

Llevar los huevos de corbata: Male genitalia used again in a common colloquial expression in Castilian Spanish. 'To wear your balls as a tie' translates as being tense or nervous. In fact, Spaniards will often hold their throat and say 'this is where I have my balls'- **con los huevos aquí**- when they want to express nervousness or fear.

(Partially abridged from The Local)

Mujer
Hombre

PELUQUERÍA Y ESTÉTICA
Elisabeth
HAIR & BEAUTY
FRISEURSALON UND ÄSTHETIK

Woman
Man

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The Vega Baja and Flooding.

(Thanks to David of the very excellent *Aquaquest* (see page 29) for the following links from *The Olive Press*.)

Jorge Olcina, a leading climatologist and responsible for the Climatology Laboratory at the University of Alicante, said despite four other major Vega Baja floods since 1946 this year's was 'a beast'.

The Professor of Regional Geographic Analysis explained that the Mediterranean Sea is warmer than it was just 30 years ago – now reaching 'tropical levels' of 27°-28° c.

Clouds are therefore larger and loaded with more water and energy resulting in 'rains with increased intensity', according to Olcina. The *gota fría* phenomena that caused catastrophic flooding last week are now more frequent because the Atlantic 'jet-stream' that normally regulates our climate has been compromised by the melting of the Arctic polar ice caps – a consequence of global warming.

Olcina said: "When the last great flood of November 1987 occurred and a flood defense plan was launched, we were assured that it would never happen again ... but the Segura continues to overflow. "I feel cheated." He went on to blame the 'development' of rural areas, which exacerbate flooding as water cannot sink into the ground.

Additionally, he cited poor maintenance as a reason for flooding.

"There is more abandonment of river areas and less removal of unwanted vegetation," he said.

As for the future, Olcina proposed a number of solutions :

- Reroute the Rio Segura, especially in Orihuela and Rojales.
- Install large capacity collectors, rain tanks and flood parks in cities.
- 'Educate the population' for situations of risk and emergency.

- Implement personal alert systems through mobile technology.

- Promote risk management with realistic flood maps.

The professor concluded with a message for Spanish authorities: "In a few years, we may return to report a new disaster, possibly worse than this. So you have to get to work"

The Vega Baja region is prone to flooding because it was once part of the Mediterranean Sea, a Roman-era map, below, of the area shows. The map, from the Museo de Arqueología de Elche, shows the Dolores, Catral, Almoradi and Algorfa municipalities were all underwater

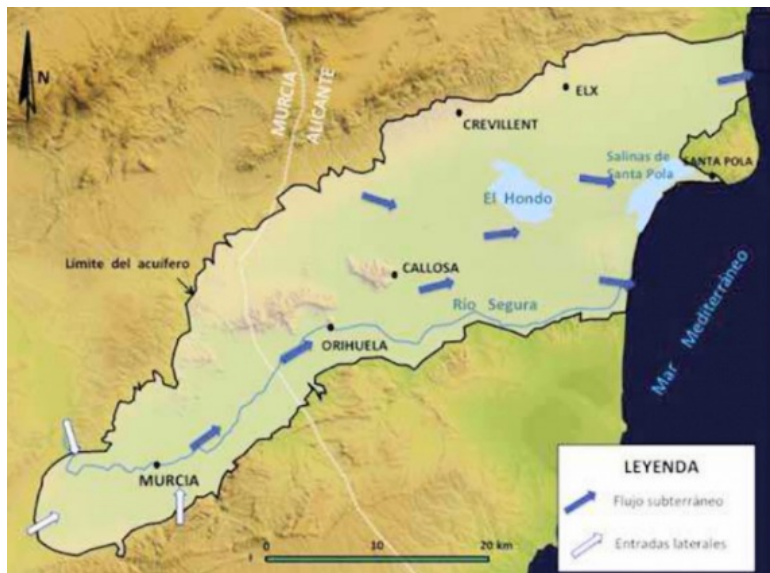


just centuries ago. The aforementioned areas were some of the worst affected by the catastrophic flooding that has rocked the Costa Blanca recently. Weather watching site MeteOrihuela published the map explaining that the Vega Baja was 'a gulf that existed south of Elche in Roman times' over 2,000 years ago. Sediment over the following centuries eventually silted up the shallow waters, providing a very fertile environment for agriculture, according to MeteOrihuela.

The area's history is retained in the name Baja (low), as it sits little higher than sea level – leaving it exposed to flooding from both east and west.

"Perhaps this second map, left, helps us to reflect and understand what has happened these days," a statement from MeteOrihuela said. The second map illustrates the current waterflows from the River Segura and the nearby mountains. The *gota fría* storm that caused seven fatalities saw record-breaking rains hit the Vega Baja – the city of Orihuela received nearly twice its annual rainfall when 400 l/m² fell in a two-day period.

The lowlands of the Vega Baja were the only destination for the floodwaters, leaving destruction and devastation in their wake.



Lime Bar Fishing SUNBATHING Club

I have heard people say that there is no such thing as global warming. Well something is upsetting the apple cart! We had a major downpour at the end of August, which coincided with our night out at the Captain's Table, followed in September by the worst gota fria in Eastern Spain for 140 years. I hope you and your families are all safe and well as some of the stories and near misses are frightening. For those that have been affected in any way, we wish you good fortune and a speedy recovery.

At the end of August, we were watching the weather forecast keep changing as our Captain's Table do approached. On the day, it hammered down but eased off by mid afternoon and by the time we arrived for the meal it had stopped. The staff were squeegeeing the tables dry but had also reserved us some dry tables inside.

Thank you. The food was excellent, the service good, the singer had most people dancing and the booze was cheap and plentiful. As tested by the Demon and Ball Boy. Thank you Sweeney for a great night.



I had 2 of my grand children out in August. They had been fishing before but needed to be re-motivated as the last time they fished from Plymouth harbour, they caught nothing and lost all their tackle as the line had gone rotten and snapped. I took them to El Bosquet and introduced them to pole fishing with paste with mum and dad helping to make it a boys against girls match. They both had bites from the 1st drop in, but mullet or something was knocking the paste off on the way down. We thickened the paste and wrapped it around some sweetcorn or bread. That did the trick and they both had a few good

runs but lost them on the way to the net. After just 2 hours fishing (the 1st time with a pole) they had both caught. Zac had 3 carp for about 3.5 pounds and Naomi had a carp and a mullet for about 4 pounds, so we declared the match a draw. The mullet Naomi caught was about 2.5 pounds and went off like a torpedo stretching the elastic into Zac's swim. They were both grinning and want to go fishing again, but on a river next time, not in Plymouth harbour!

The September match was the last of the summer season and the last chance for Anti-Social to catch a fish, thus getting him into his first final. The winner of this match also wins the Memorial Trophy (Shield of Death). Our new guys turned out in force trying to get their first trophy for on their mantelpiece / bar and we had 13 anglers spread between pegs 1 to 16 at El Bosquet. Unusual for us, we had no blanks and the runaway winner was Big Fish Chris in peg 11 with 19.5 kilos of carp on luncheon meat. His 1st match and his 1st win, well done Chris.

One to watch in the future maybe? I came 2nd in peg 2 with 12.7 Kilos and 3rd was Seadog (sat next to me) in peg 3 with 7.9 kilos. Anti-Social did catch a fish and was seen punching the air when the scales hit 6.1 kilos. This catch knocked 3 Rods out of the final.

As the mega storm was forecast and Fagin (a finalist) was also due to go to UK, we fished the final on the following Tuesday. In hindsight, a good job we did. The 6 finalists fished El Bosquet again, on pegs 11 to 16 giving everybody an even chance. This was just before the storm and the wind was gusting severely, making pole fishing difficult for us amateurs. The match was close, but again everybody caught with the weights from 3.5 to 8.1 kilos.

Anti-Social must have given up smoking as he concentrated and won his 1st ever final with Just John coming in 2nd with 5.9 kilos. I think everybody in Orihuela Costa knew who had won that night, just ask the bar staff! Well done Anti-Social, a popular win, and this year there will be at least 2 new names on the trophies.

3 Rods and I fished the final of the Knockout Cup a week after the mega storm. All the rivers and drains were flooded so we fished at El Bosquet again. I don't know how it survived the storm as it is on flat land in the Hondon nature area, surrounded by salt marsh and drainage ditches. The nearby village was flooded but El Bosquet was bone dry. The fish weren't biting as well as usual but that is hardly surprising so soon after the storm. We decided to fish fairly even pegs giving both anglers a chance of winning, so pegs 20 & 21 were chosen. 1st drop in and 3 Rods landed a nice carp which didn't bode well for me. It took me a while to get my 1st bite but when I did, I hooked into a good carp, only to lose that and my 2nd fish on the way to the net. I caught, then 3 Rods had a couple, then I had a couple and that's how the day went. There were a few barren spells and we both lost a few (but I think mine had to be the bigger ones) 😊 Towards the end of the match 3 Rods landed a 3 kilo carp and that was the fish that won the final. We both had a good day with 3 Rods ending up with 10.7 kilos to my 8.5. Well done mate, a good final – you b*#@#*d!

Next meeting bun fight is the AGM at The Lime Bar @ 17.00 Mon 7th October



Fishy Fingers!
The Ghost

Hairy Babies!!

At least 17 children developed so-called “werewolf syndrome” after a major medicine mix-up, Spain’s health ministry has said.

The children – some of them babies – began growing hair all over their body after being given what was thought to be omeprazole, a drug that helps with gastric reflux, which was distributed in March this year.

After investigating, authorities discovered the treatment actually contained minoxidil, medication used for the treatment of hair loss.

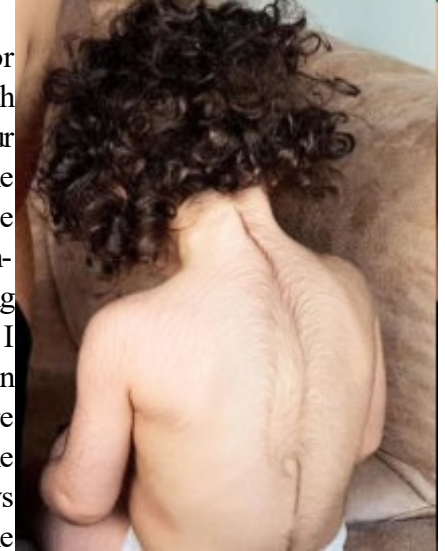
The health minister, Maria Luisa Carcedo, said they found that the bad batches came from a laboratory that had “put this medication [minoxidil] in a container that was marked omeprazole” and distributed it to pharmacies as such. The



children are now suffering from the rare condition known as hypertrichosis, which causes abnormal hair growth. The photo to the left shows the hair growth on the child's shoulders and forehead. It is unclear how the laboratory FarmaQuimica Sur, a supplier of active ingredients and pharmaceuticals based in the southern city of Malaga, made the mistake, which emerged in June.

A health ministry spokesman said the 17 children affected so far were in the northern region of Cantabria, Andalusia in the south and Valencia in the east. In a statement, the ministry said the condition was expected to reverse after the children stopped taking the drug, which has been withdrawn from the market. Carcedo said the laboratory (which does not have an operating licence) had been closed as a precaution.

A spokeswoman for Andalusia’s health department said the four affected children in the southern region – three babies and a seven-year-old – were doing well. (Although I believe they began howling whenever there was a full moon!) The photo on the right shows the hair growth on the child’s back.



Although the Spanish Agency of Medicines said that the reversal of the condition would happen within a month, the children in these photos are still hairy after three and a half months!

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Paying Online?

It could become more problematic!

Thousands of consumers who can't get a mobile signal at home – or don't own a mobile phone – face being frozen out of internet shopping as banks are increasingly insisting that online payments are verified by text.

Customers are being told they will have to register a mobile phone to enable it to verify future online card payments.

This relates to tougher new European requirements for authenticating online payments laid out in the second payment services directive (PSD2). These came into force on 14 September and will change the Verified by Visa and Mastercard Secure Code processes used by banks to reduce fraud.

Customers verifying online purchases – or logging in to online banking – will not be able to do so just by inputting a password as they do now. Instead, they will most likely have to input a code sent to them by the payment provider – in most cases by text.

Non-mobile users, and those who cannot get a signal at home, face having to start using card readers that generate a pin every time they make an online purchase from a company they may not have previously bought from. But if you don't bank online, you may not have a card reader, so you would have to apply for one.

Our particular area of Dream Hills is cursed with poor mobile coverage and I usually have to go into the back garden or go upstairs to get a clear authorisation code.

Sometimes there is a short time limit allowed for you to enter the code - say three minutes, which only increases stress!

Now I hate mobile phones - so much for technology making life easier!

What's also clear is that banks are taking different approaches. You will have to see what are your bank's particular requirements.

There will be exemptions – for example, for “low value” purchases (under €30), and recurring payments where the amount stays the same. However, a customer who made a series of smaller purchases could trigger the requirement to input a code.

It is understood the regime will allow consumers to set up a list of “trusted beneficiaries” – basically, retailers or other companies that the cardholder trusts and uses regularly which could be exempt from the SCA rules.

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

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

Airport Bus Timetable.

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

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



In an effort to make POTUS Trump feel at home and not in any way inferior during his recent visit to the UK, the Queen managed to arrange some special awards.

Shame he wasn't given the Order of the Golden Boot as well!



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& much more at <http://www.dreamhills.orihuela-costa.eu/>

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