



THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER



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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the November, 2019 edition. Issue No.148

Although summer is now officially over, **cooler winds from the north** are bringing chilly evenings but the daytime temperatures are still within the low to high 20's range with some lovely blue skies. Warnings of a second damaging *Gota Fria* locally were exaggerated although very heavy rainfall in Catalonia resulted in one death and four people missing.

The **Brexit farce** continues and sorry to say that for three years now, we have been unable to report anything positive or indeed helpful, other than, if you live in Spain get your *residencia* and a Spanish driving licence.

Spain will have **another General Election** on November 10, its second this year and the fourth time that Spaniards will have gone to the various polls this year.

Taking into account the most recent opinion polls, it is still highly unlikely that any one party will command an overall majority. The top two largest Parties - the PSOE and the PP - are only separated by about 6% of the vote at this stage so it is still unlikely that this second election will achieve anything. So, if the political parties cannot form a coalition government, there could very well be another general election early next year!

(And you thought it was only the Westminster Government that was screwed up!)

Whereas the current Spanish caretaker government (no absolute majority) has been downplaying the **current**

economic indicators on unemployment, the Bank of Spain worsened its employment estimates and now expects that the unemployment rate will continue to exceed 14% at the end of this year, which in 2020 will still be around 13.2% and that in 2021 will barely retreat to 12.8%. This has already been highlighted by the IMF and the Bank of Spain has also warned that there is a real risk that, in just two years, the trend of job creation will not only slow down, but that it will be reversed unless the economy receives sufficient stimulus.

Add to the above the fact that there are just short of **half a million unsold new homes** in Spain and ask yourself what sort of pressure this is putting on the construction industry and on the banks who have funded the sector.

Also taking into account the effects of Brexit and heightening commercial tensions between Europe and the U.S. (See page 20.) The economic outlook is hardly rosy!

I have decided to increase the monthly spend on printing the newsletter **from €500 to €600**. Greater demand from the existing distribution points has made this inevitable which hopefully, will help our advertisers.

Many thanks to Milou and to Val, David & Karen B, for their generous donations towards printing costs.

Thanks again to the Dream Scene team.

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

LOCKSMITH

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607 493 118

Antonio

LOCAL

(Cut out & keep.)



Angela's Cartoon



Then he said "You don't need a costume, just get a broomstick!"

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Bacardi Rum & Mixer

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BOTTLED SAN MIGUEL,

AMBAR, ESTRELLA 2 FOR €1.70



FUN MUSIC BINGO EVERY FRIDAY 2:30pm

MUSIC THURSDAY 8:30pm;

KABAROKÉ FRIDAY 8:30pm; MUSIC SUNDAY 8:30pm

ALL SPORTS ON 6 GIANT SCREENS!

Aside from another Spanish general election in early November, events relating to Catalonia have been the main news story here, in recent weeks.

Following the **illegal referendum** and declaration of independence by the Catalan separatists in October 2017, 12 Catalan secession leaders were arrested in the same month, charged with multiple offences. Six more ex-government officials, including Carles Puigdemont, the former Catalan premier who headed the breakaway bid, fled Spain to avoid arrest and have not been tried for their role in the secession attempt. The Supreme Court hopes to do so in the coming months, once international and European arrest warrants against them are reactivated.

Of the original 12 arrested, three of the original 12 arrested were released due to of lesser charges, the remaining nine remaining in preventative custody.

On October 14, the Spanish Supreme Court has sentenced nine Catalan separatist leaders in custody to **between nine and 13 years in prison** after finding them guilty of sedition in connection with the unilateral breakaway attempt. Fortunately for those being tried, none were convicted for rebellion as demanded by the prosecution, entailing prison terms of up to 25 years, as the court found that although there were "undeniable acts of violence" in Catalonia, these were not severe enough to convict the defendants of rebellion.

Oriol Junqueras, photo, the leader of the Catalan Republican Left (ERC) party and the deputy premier of Catalonia at the time of the breakaway bid, is facing the highest prison term: **13 years** for sedition and misuse of public funds.



Three other ex-government ministers – Raül Romeva, Jordi Turull and Dolors Bassa – have been sentenced to 12 years in prison and a 12-year ban on holding public office. They have also been convicted of sedition and misuse of public funds, aggravated due to the large amount of money involved - several million euros. Two other ex-cabinet members have been acquitted of misusing public funds, and are facing a 10-and-a-half year prison term for sedition. The former speaker of the Catalan parliament, Carme Forcadell, has been sentenced to 11 years and six months **for sedition**, while the leaders of the civil society groups ANC and Òmnium, have been sentenced to nine years in prison and given a nine-year ban on holding public office.

The three who were not jailed were found guilty of disobedience and fined the equivalent of €200 a day for 10 months.

The trial lasted for four months from mid-June and heard the testimony of around 400 witnesses.

The various defence teams have already announced that they will appeal the decision before the Constitutional Court as well as with the European Court of Human Rights.

But as expected, there were **riots and violent protests** in Catalonia (mainly Barcelona) for several days following the verdicts. Cars were set on fire, service on the high-speed train between Barcelona and Girona were stopped due to 'sabotage'. 150 barricades were ablaze in Barcelona and 72 policemen were injured during one day alone.

One of the worst scenes was at Barcelona-El Prat Airport where thousands of protesters blocked the roads and caused chaos and damage at the airport. Passengers and crews were forced to walk several kilometres to reach the terminals, 153 flights being cancelled.

But then the region descended into further madness when the Catalan regional government, headed by hard-line separatist **Quim Torra**, photo, **refused to press charges** against any of the individuals arrested for the violence, which included burning cars and street furniture, erecting barricades, looting stores and pelting the police with acid, rocks, Molotov cocktails and other projectiles.



Instead he has ordered an investigation into 'police violence' and instructed the head of the regional interior department, Miquel Buch, to conduct "the necessary investigations" into the regional police! This is what happens when the inmates take over the asylum!

I suppose it was only a matter of time before the separatist loonies in Catalonia began to look towards violence to promote their dubious objectives.

During late September, the Guardia Civil arrested **nine members of the ERT**, a self-appointed technical response team dedicated to the advancement of the Catalan republic even by violent means. Police also seized 20 manuals relating to the manufacture of explosives, including that of Goma 2, a powerful explosive common in terrorist actions. Police also confiscated material that could be used to make homemade bombs, including ammonium nitrate, sulphuric acid, paraffin, aluminium powder, industrial paint stripper, gasoline and thermite. Two of the suspects have confessed that they were making and testing explosives, and detainees were found to be in possession of information about several Mossos d'Esquadra police stations as well as the Civil Guard barracks in Canovelles (Barcelona). According to police sources, the ERT was planning to plant explosives in parts of the AP-7 highway and to damage mobile communications towers as part of a bid to disrupt critical public infrastructure.

The Old Soldiers.

Some old soldiers from various European countries were discussing their war experiences while sipping coffees and Sobranos in the front of the Casino Bar in Torrevieja. One old chap, who had been in the Italian army, just stares ahead, shakes his head and says "There we were, it was night, the odds were 1,000 to 3. We didn't know what to do." "Well, what did you do?", a much-decorated French Foreign Legion veteran asked. "Well, when morning came, we charged and got all three of them!"

The French football forward, Antoine Griezmann, moved from Atlético to Barça in July after the Catalans exercised his release clause, although Atlético complained negotiations took place when Griezmann was under contract with them.

Barcelona have been fined only €300 (£265) by the Spanish football federation (RFEF) after they were found to have broken the rules in their pursuit of €120m signing Antoine Griezmann from Atlético Madrid. Gosh, €300! How can they afford that!

The owners of the food company responsible for the **worst-ever listeriosis outbreak** in Spain has been arrested for manslaughter. Since August, the outbreak has killed three people, caused seven miscarriages, and infected more than 200 people. The source of the bacterial infection was traced to a Seville-based company called Magrudis, which sold a contaminated pork loin product called carne mechada under the brand name La Mechá. Three more products produced by the company also tested positive for Listeria monocytogenes. The owners of Magrudis, José Antonio Marín Pince and his two children Sandro and Mario, have been accused, to different degrees, of involuntary manslaughter, crimes against health and causing injury to a fetus. Listeria is a bacterial infection that can cause severe



illnesses such as sepsis, meningitis and encephalitis. In a healthy person, the symptoms are minor but for unborn babies and people whose immune systems are

“My fortune cookie says to call the food-poisoning hotline.”

compromised the infection can be fatal.

According to investigators, the three men knew in February that some of their products had been contaminated but did nothing to eliminate the bacteria from their facilities. Instead they continued producing and distributing their products. It now transpires that Magrudis distributed 110,000 kilos of product after becoming aware of listeria contamination in December 2018. Investigators believe the owner of the company, his wife and son were aware that at least one batch,

Business Man in 1st Class, to a Sexy Gorgeous Air Hostess.....

Business Man: What is your name?

Hostess: Angela Benz, Sir!

Business Man: Lovely name, any relation to Mercedes Benz?

Hostess: Yes Sir, very close.

Business Man: How close?

Hostess: Same price!

labelled December 20, was carrying the bacteria, causing the three deaths and seven abortions. Magrudis owner Jose Antonio Marin Ponce, his wife and eldest son Sandro have been in prison since their arrests in late September.

The Valencian Community will receive **€4.89 million** from the government to repair the beaches following the *gota fria*. Of this sum, €2.33 million will be allocated to Alicante. The various repair works are expected to take four months.

A cinema in Extramadura has been fined €3,000 for banning customers from **bringing in their own food** to screenings. A 2017 report co-authored by the Spanish Consumer Agency and the Ministry of Health said the prohibition of food and beverages bought elsewhere from inside cinemas was ‘illegal and abusive.’ Facua, a Spanish consumer organisation, said that there had been a huge increase in the number of cinemas prohibiting food and drink bought elsewhere in the last year.

On Sept’ 29, an explosion in a Red Eléctrica substation in Granadilla, in the south of Tenerife, has **left the entire island without electric power**. Almost one million people were affected. The outrage occurred at around 1pm causing chaos throughout the island. Traffic lights, ATMs etc were all out and kitchens in restaurants and hotels couldn’t operate. More than 70 people had to be rescued from lifts by firemen. Of the 460,000 electricity customers on the island, 70,000 had power restored after six hours, the remaining customers having to wait between an additional eight to ten hours. Hospitals there could operate normally with generators and the two airports were ‘self-sufficient.’ No cause was given for the stoppage.

Safe in an ambulance? Not always! An ambulance in A-Coruña, Galicia, was taking four dialysis patients, two males aged 77 and 74, and two females aged 60 and 75 when the 54-year-old male driver drove into a river by accident. Fortunately all survived, the driver who tested negative for drugs and alcohol being taken to a separate hospital from the others.

I have noticed this separation of patients being taken to different hospitals before. Maybe the authorities were afraid that the old ‘uns might duff him up!

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This big angry guy with a gun walks into a bar in Los Balcones and says "Which one of you slept with my wife."
This little guy at the back stands up and says "You don't have enough bullets."

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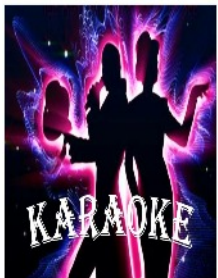
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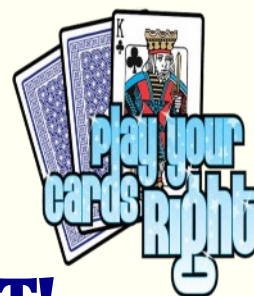


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More than half of all students in the province of Alicante are housed in **prefabricated school buildings**. Although these structures were meant to be 'temporary', many students will never sit in a 'brick' school. One prefab primary school, Doctor Esquerdo's in Villajoyosa, has been in operation for 40 years! Why is it that the Spanish regional and municipal 'burgers' cannot grasp that basics should be sorted out before grandiose schemes? There are still more than 6,500 students in 45 centres learning in some sort of hut!

It is planned to connect transport from Torrevieja to the high-speed rail station in Elche. Unfortunately this will not be a rail link but a bus one, this immediate area still being deprived of a train service, the closest being in Orihuela.

Also unfortunately, this will not be a direct bus link but one that will take in almost **20 stops** from Torrevieja including La Mata, Guardamar, San Fulgencio, Dolores, Catral, Crevillent and finally Elx. Although timings, prices and start date have not been announced yet, the route will be called 5B and will be 60 km in length. Might be quicker to walk it!

But don't hold your breath on this one as there is still no high-speed station in Elche yet! Although it was scheduled to open in 2015, its delivery became a victim of false promises, budget reductions, lack of manpower and general inefficiencies. There is still no date for the arrival of the high-speed AVE in Elche.

Under pressure from the various town halls, the Spanish vehicle authority, the DGT, is to introduce new rules/laws relating to the sudden **influx of electric scooters**. This will include their banning from sidewalks and a speed limit of 25km ph. The new laws should also include banning using mobile phones while scootering and alcohol testing.

The **flu vaccination program** will begin on November 4 in the Valencian Community, a fortnight later than in 2018, due to the heat and high temperatures that remain until the autumn. See page 13.

Yeehaw!

A woman from New York was driving through a remote part of Arizona when her car broke down. An American Indian on horseback came along and offered her a ride to a nearby town. She climbed up behind him on the horse and they rode off.

The ride was uneventful, except that every few minutes the Indian would let out a "Ye-e-e-h-a-a-a!" so loud that it echoed from the surrounding hills and canyon walls. When they arrived in town, he let her off at the local service station, yelled one final, "Ye-e-e-h-a-a-a!" and rode off.

"What did you do to get that Indian so excited?" asked the service-station attendant.

"Nothing," the woman answered, "I merely sat behind him on the horse, put my arms around his waist, and held onto the saddle horn so I wouldn't fall off."

"Lady," the attendant said, "Indians don't use saddles.

Take a look at this room - what a mess! Bit like your son's bedroom....or my 'office'! Actually, it is one of



the evidence rooms on the fifth floor of **Torrevieja Courthouse**. Fortunately, all this evidence - 20 tons of it - relates to cases which have been concluded since 2007. (So, the photos of your Uncle Derek exposing himself publicly during 2010 will soon, thankfully, go up in smoke.) Destroying the documents, computers, licence plates etc will cost €4,600 but an additional €460,000 will be spent on upgrading the building and providing a link between the Guardia Civil barracks and the Palace of Justice. This will allow the transfer of those being tried in the courts from being walked on the public pathways between the buildings.

A 61-year-old man died on the evening of Sept' 24, in El Rebolledo in an accident while driving an electric scooter and was hit by a tourist driving a car. The 78-year-old driver of the car was unharmed and tested negative for alcohol. This is the **first fatal accident** that has occurred in Alicante with this type of scooter. The deceased was driving along the carriageway without lights and without a helmet.

The introduction of **5G to Spain** has not been without the usual conspiracy theorists. Two expats who were early recipients of the service in Barcelona were not too happy. One said it 'scrambled his brain' while the other said it 'fried his leg!' Maybe it was booze.....or drugs!

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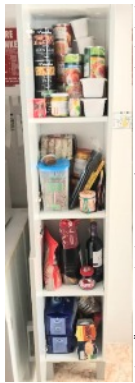
Web: www.alarmastorrevieja.com

Email: lostermansronny@hotmail.com

For Sale: Four piece Patio set, complete with cushions. Very Good condition. Buyer to collect, Punta Prima area. €125. Photo right.



Kitchen storage unit. €25.
Photo left.



5Kg Tumble dryer. Good working condition. €20.

Five Drawer Storage unit complete with cushion. Cost €135 at JYSK.....Only €35.
Photo, bottom right.



Tel/WhatsApp: John: 0044 7809 567 549.

Sharp as a knife!

Two businessmen in the centre of London were sitting down for a break in their soon-to-be new store. As yet, the store wasn't ready with only a few shelves inside set up. One said to the other, 'I bet any minute now some pensioner is going to walk by, put their face to the window, and ask what we are selling.'

No sooner were the words out of his mouth when, sure enough, a curious old woman walked to the window, took a peek, went inside and in a soft voice inquired 'What are you selling here?'

One of the men replied sarcastically, 'We're selling arseholes!'

Without skipping a beat, the old woman said, 'Must be doing well then..... only two left!'

(Carol M.)

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Every Sunday

Quiz Night 8:30pm.



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Johnny kept telling the teachers that his dog always ate his homework.
Nobody believed him until his dog graduated from Cambridge.



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SUNDAY 12pm - 5pm

BAR OPEN DAILY 10:30am - 10pm.



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Tuesday - Coffee Morning from 11am.

FUN DARTS! Wed 7:30 - 11pm

THURSDAYS

Jilly's Slimming Club - 4pm.

"Loose Women Club!" - 5pm

The Grumpy Old Men's Club - 5pm

So you men don't feel left out!



SAT NIGHT IS GRILL NIGHT

Bookings only (Steaks, Mix Grill, Ribs)

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JJ, Rob & Bobby

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Dog Walkers.

DOG owners in Benalmadena in the Costa del Sol will have to carry a bottle of soapy water with them when they take their dogs out for walks, or risk being fined. The new rule is intended to prevent bad smells from dog urine on street pavements. Mayor of Benalmadena, Victor Navas, handed out small bottles of water to dog-walkers and said, 'We live in a city with lots of sunny days. Urine dries quickly on public pathways if it is not diluted, causing bad odours. We all have to be responsible and respectful when living together.'

What a great idea! Now, if we could only come up with a solution to the excessive dog-barking in some areas as well as the dog walkers who don't pick up their dog's waste.

So Sweet!

Wife: "There's a classified ad here in The Dream Scene where a guy is offering to swap his wife for a season ticket to Man United."

Husband: (smirks)

Wife: "Would you swap me for a season ticket?"

Husband: "Absolutely not,"

Wife: "How Sweet!"

Husband: "The season's almost over!"

Get Your Flu Jab Now!

If they haven't done so already, the Spanish Health Authorities will soon be promoting the flu vaccination for this year. They are currently taking a very pro-active approach now in the U.S. Last year, the US Centre for Disease Control estimated that between 37.4 million and 42.9 million people in the U.S. contracted the virus, and between 36,400 and 61,200 people died from it during 2018.

According to a new report in the New York Times, Australia had

YES, DAN, I KNOW THE DOCTOR SAID YOU SHOULD GET PLENTY OF REST TO GET RID OF YOUR COLD... BUT THAT WAS NINE YEARS AGO!



"an unusually early and fairly severe flu season" this past year, which has public-health experts concerned that the U.S. (And of course other countries) may suffer the same fate. Therefore, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention is urging Americans to get their flu shots at their earliest convenience.

Similarly here in Spain it is most unwise to drag your feet about getting the 'shot'.

When all around you are sniffing, snuffing, snorting and wheezing, you may already have the flu. You should get the flu vaccine before flu viruses begins spreading in your community, since it takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body and provide protection against flu. You can still get the flu even if you have already had the vaccine but having the vaccine does not give you the flu, despite the usual pub-talk waffle. It will however make the symptoms less severe.

Freshly Cooked Food at Mercadona.

I notice that Mercadona in Los Balcones are working on refurbishing part of their premises there to include a new section which will allow the sale of freshly cooked food, from paellas to burgers. This additional service is planned for most of their stores nationally. I have also noticed a large increase in the range of pre-cooked chilled foods now available there.

Fudged Qualifications.

Tamanna Nusrat an MP in Bangladesh's ruling party, has been expelled from her Bachelor of Arts degree course at university. It seems that when it came o the exams, Tamanna used up to eight lookalikes to take 13 tests on her behalf. But during the past two years, a number of scandals regarding the awarding of Master's degrees in Spain have emerged. Spain's current acting PM, Pedro Sanchez is accused of massive plagiarising in his doctoral thesis. Similar allegations have been made against the head of the opposition Partido Popular, Pablo Casado. The practice of 'bought Master's' is also believed to be widespread in SpaiCristina Cifuentes, a senior female in the PP government, being forced to resign, over a year ago.



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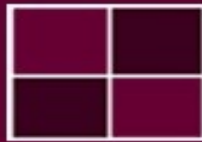
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November

Remember remember
the fifth of November
gunpowder fire and plot
have we had our exit
the saga of Brexit
or have we all lost the plot

Still suffering effects of Gota Fria
the government promising aid
but will it be a panacea
and will it in fact all be paid

Local charities have come to the fore
with food and donations for all
but there is always need for more
so we all need to answer the call

If your celebrating Guy Fawkes
be careful with your fireworks
it's good to have little safety talks
then all the precautions will work

Now autumn is still hot and sunny
and most of the tourists have gone
let's drink, be merry, have fun
while lounging about on the lawn

Look after your friends and neighbours
especially those living alone
always be open with favours
and decency you will have shown

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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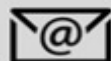
Attendance
Allowance



*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.

I didn't know what to get my 9 year old Scouse nephew for his birthday.....
so I put 20 quid in his nan's purse.



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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

Honest!

I got chatting with a girl in a bar, "Can I buy you a drink?" I asked.

"Have you not got a girlfriend?" she replied, "Guys like you always have girlfriends."

"No, sadly we broke up just over a month ago," I assured her.

"Oh I'm sorry to hear that," she said, "Go on then, I'll have a white wine please.

A few drinks later after a kiss and a cuddle we headed off back to her place and made passionate love.

While I was putting my clothes back on she said, "So, you're good looking, a nice guy and amazing in bed, can I ask why on earth you split with your girlfriend?"

I said, "My wife found out."



Caring for our community in our community.

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Email: charitycentre.helpathomecb@gmail.com

Web: www.helpathomecb.com

The Cantor

A cantor, the man who sings the prayers at a synagogue, brags before his congregation in a booming, bellowing voice:

"Two years ago I insured my voice with Lloyds of London for £750,000."

There is a hushed and awed silence in the crowded room.

Suddenly, from the back of the room, the quiet, nasal voice of an elderly woman is heard,

"So what did you do with the money?"



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Starters

Homemade soup

Homemade soup served with crusty bread

Prawn cocktail

Served on a bed of crisp salad

Pate and oatcakes

Smooth liver pate served with oatcakes and a crisp salad



Main course

Roast turkey breast

Honey glazed gammon

Roast beef

All served with roast & mash potatoes, broccoli, Swede, carrots,
Brussels sprouts, parsnips, stuffing, pigs in blankets & gravy



Deserts

Christmas pudding

Hot Christmas pudding topped with a brandy sauce

Baileys cheese cake

Served with cream

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2 course 10.95 3 course 13.95

Monday 16th to Tuesday 24th December

1.30pm to 6.00pm

Bookings Essential

Other dates available for large bookings



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GLAMOUR GLAMOUR FASHION SHOW THURS' DEC 19 FROM NOON

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CHRISTMAS MEAL FROM 6:30pm - LIMITED SPACES

ENTERTAINMENT WITH TERRY HART FROM 8:30pm

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CODERE BETTING MACHINE NOW IN!

The remains of the Spanish dictator, **Francisco Franco** have been exhumed and removed from the Valley of the Fallen in the Sierra de Guadarrama, near Madrid. This has been a long standing objective of the Left in Spain and



is about the only thing the current left-wing caretaker government have achieved. The

Valley of the Fallen is the resting place of

more than 30,000 dead from both sides of the 1936-39 Spanish Civil War, in which Franco's Nationalists defeated the Republicans. Much of it was built by Republican prisoners subjected to forced labour. Spanish social media celebrated the exhumation with a series of humorous memes, including this one. Franco has now been rburied in a private family vault in the Mingorrubio cemetery in the north of Madrid.

Banco Sabadell has announced that it will be **closing 200 branches** from its current network of 1,850 in Spain. The bank's CEO also said that they are contemplating putting negative interest on deposits. He explained that of the 39 billion euros of corporate and institutional client deposits, only about 2.5 billion is being charged at negative rates, so he noted that there is room for more.

The US announced **huge tariffs on EU exports**. The WTO granted the country permission to tax up to \$7.5 billion of EU exports annually, including Scotch whisky and Spanish olive oil. The tariffs, part of a 15-year trans-Atlantic fight over subsidies given to European plane maker Airbus, came into effect on Oct. 18. Spanish cheese, wine, olive oil and pork products will be affected by the United States government's decision to introduce new duties on certain European Union exports.

Gibraltar Health Authority (GHA) doctors will be allowed to hand out '**cannabis-based products**' once they have undertaken the appropriate training. According to a government statement, the GHA will 'not administer such products by smoking'. Patients with any of the following conditions are eligible for the medical cannabis:

- Moderate to severe muscle spasticity in multiple sclerosis that has failed to respond to standard medications
- Severe, refractory epilepsy that has failed to respond to standard medications
- Severe and life-altering pain that has failed to respond to standard and rising levels of pain control medications
- Intractable nausea and vomiting associated with chemotherapy despite the use of standard treatments under supervision

The pharmacy at St. Bernard's Hospital is the only place the newly-authorised products are available from.

On September 19, Police were called when a barefooted British tourist from Manchester was **chasing an old woman** through the streets of Malaga. Police thought 'another drunk tourist' but it seems the chap was chasing the old lady, photo, because she surprised his family of holiday-makers by opening the door to their



rented flat with a key. While being chased the old lady dropped two bunches of keys - 20 in all. Police took them both to the police station where the police took the fingerprints of this 78-year-old lady. Soon they were amazed to find that 'Maria' had been **arrested 40 times** since the 70's under eight different names and had been in and out of prison several times! The keys they recovered were of the front doors of local tourist and residential

apartments. 'Maria' was released but was arrested again on October 11 after police stopped her again to charge her for at least three more robberies. A judge has sent her to prison, and the National Police are now investigating how she made copies of the keys to the tourist apartments.

Her modus operandi allowed her to steal periodically: most tourists don't report robberies, and no one believes those who do, thinking that they just want to claim insurance. No one changes the locks and, a few days later, there's new tenants with new loot. At 76, 'Maria' knew what she's doing.

Study: More senior citizens using pot ...



Mrs Murphy goes round to see her neighbour and says, "Your son has been peeing in the sand behind my house!" Mrs O'Reilly replies, "That's no big deal. Lots of boys pee in the sand!" "Yes, I know," says Mrs Murphy, "but he's written my daughter's name!" "So what?" says Mrs O'Reilly, "there's no need to make such a fuss about it!" "Yes, but you don't understand," says Mrs Murphy, "it's her handwriting!"



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INVIERNO

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Courgette and halloumi kebab - Pintxo de calabacin y queso
halloumi

Winter nicoise salad - Ensalada nicoise de invierno

MAIN COURSE

Mixed Grill - Parillada mixta Extra 2€
Boned seasoned chicken thigh with cous cous - Muslo de
pollo deshuesada con cous cous
Vegetable lasagne - Lasagne de verduras

Desserts

Banoffe Cheese Cake - Tarta de queso banoffe
Belgian chocolate crepes - Crepes de chocolate belga

10 euros

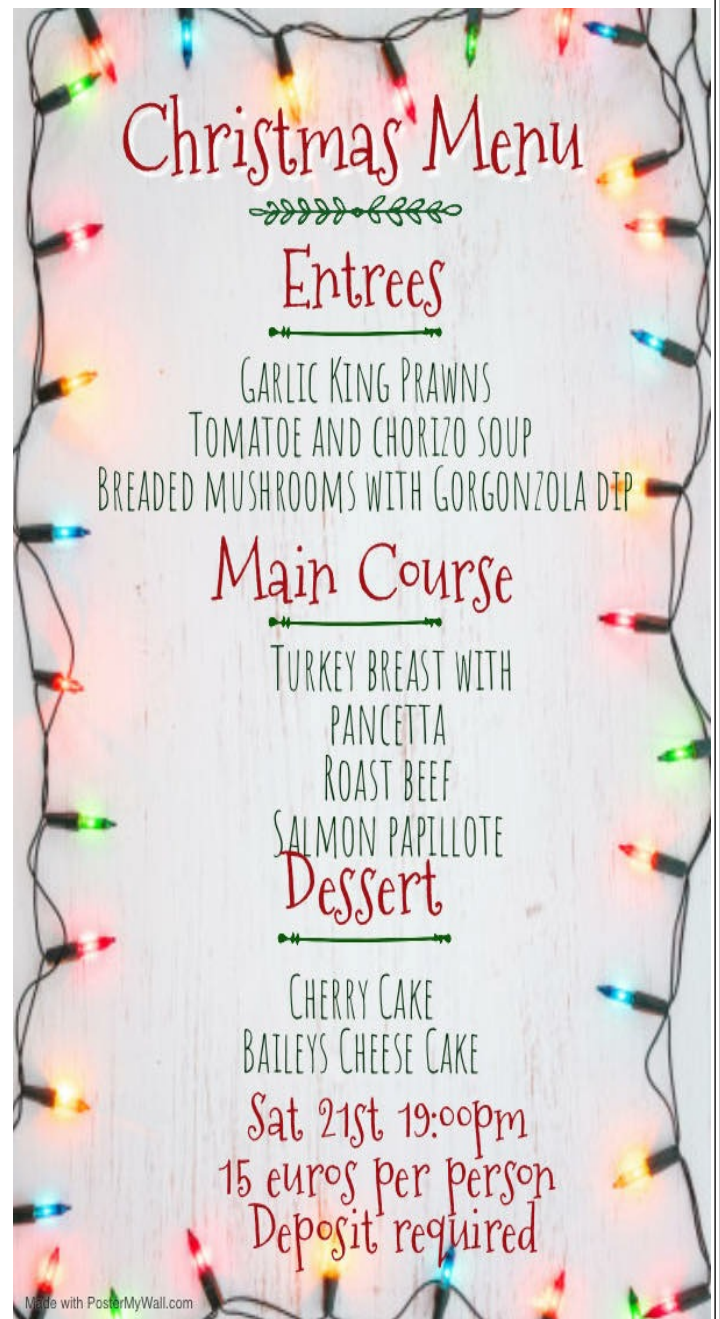
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Hair cut from 13€ * Hair cut & Beard trim 15€ * Full head razor shave from 15€ * Boys (under 12) from 10€ * OAPs (over 65) from 9€ * *I.D. may be required.


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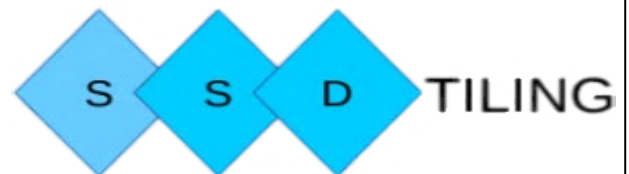
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MEN & BREAST CANCER

Though men don't have as much breast tissue as women, they can still get breast cancer. Male breast cancer isn't common—less than 1% of all breast cancers occur in men, and about one in every 833 men will get diagnosed. Because male breast cancer is so rare, there's a lot that scientists don't know about it, including its biological drivers and, in some cases, the best way to treat it.

Even though breast cancer is less common in men, it's more likely to be fatal. A study published last September in JAMA found that men have a 19% higher overall mortality rate and that, three to five years after a diagnosis of breast cancer, are less likely to be alive than women.

One major reason why male breast cancer is so deadly: stigma. Multiple studies have found that men feel embarrassed when their breast tissue is enlarged (often a symptom of breast cancer), so they don't seek out a doctor's help. This means men are often diagnosed at later stages, which can make the disease harder to treat and increase the risk of mortality.

Men want to keep it hidden, because they feel embarrassed. If they are diagnosed, men are less likely to tell others about their diagnosis—which might raise awareness—since most people still consider breast cancer a “women's disease.” A diagnosis of a “feminized illness” negatively alters their body image; one study found that 43% of men would question their masculinity if they were diagnosed with breast cancer. Redefining masculinity for themselves has proven to be an effective way for men to cope with the disease.

Awareness of male breast cancer can help lead to early diagnosis. And the best way to increase it is to lift the stigma around the condition.

Extract from <https://qz.com/1720389/beyonces-father-speaks-out-about-his-breast-cancer-diagnosis/>

So chaps, if you have any lumps, bumps or sore bits there, go to the doc's **NOW!**

The four worst words.....

The four worst words or phrases in the English language are : 'We have to talk!'
Rivaled only by 'Whose bra is this?'

MORE DODGY LAWYERS!

All Spanish businesses deduct IRPF, as the levy is known, from their workers' incomes, but foreigners who are not tax residents in Spain can claim back nearly half of this money by proving that they are living in another country.

A Madrid court and the public prosecutor for financial crimes have busted a criminal organization that was defrauding foreign soccer and basketball players at Spanish clubs of potential income tax refunds.

The scam worked by forging the signatures of the players and submitting the necessary forms to Spain's Tax Agency in order claim the funds that were owed to the sports people in question.

According to the prosecutor's written accusation, the scheme operated between February 23, 2015 and November 28, 2016, and managed to defraud €6.3 million without the knowledge of the soccer and basketball players in question, some of whom had played for high-profile clubs such as Real Madrid and Barcelona. The scam was run by three lawyers, with the help of Leonor Sánchez-Caballero, a top official at the Spanish Tax Agency.

Sánchez-Caballero used her access to tax data to alert the lawyers to the foreign sports people who had left Spanish teams without requesting their IRPF refund, either out of ignorance of the entitlement or because they had forgotten to do so. The top tax official then provided the names and tax details of the players to her cohorts, who forged the players' signatures and completed the paperwork to request the refund. Sources from the investigation say that the criminal network gave Sánchez-Caballero gifts and paid for vacations to entice her into looking for potential victims. On February 23, 2015, the lawyers requested a tax refund of €94,700 by falsifying the signature of a sports player, who in this case was a tax resident of the United Kingdom, and later that year, another €209,896 pretending to be a player resident in Brazil.

The Madrid court and the public prosecutor for financial crimes have been investigating the scam for two years. In the written accusation, the prosecutor has called for each of the lawyers to be sentenced to nine years in prison, and for Sánchez-Caballero to be given 11 years and a five-year ban from public office. As well as jail time, the accused are also facing fines of more than €18 million.

The prosecutor has contacted the soccer and basketball players affected by the scam, who say they never requested the refund nor do they know any of the members of the criminal network.

"Waggy Tails"

DOG GROOMING

In San Miguel de Salinas

FOR APPOINTMENTS
Phone Vicky:672 326 979



Doing a runner!

A man wearing a hospital gown with his backside flapping in the wind was seen fleeing down the hall of the hospital just before his operation.

"What's the matter?" somebody asked him.

He said, "I heard the nurse say, "It's a very simple operation, don't fret, I'm sure it will be all right."

"She was just trying to comfort you, what's so frightening about that?"

"She wasn't talking to me. She was talking to the bloomin' surgeon."

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SUCCULENT MEATS RANGING FROM ROAST LAMB,
ROAST KNUCKLE OF PORK AND ROAST CHICKEN
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**AND WONDERFUL HAND-CUT CHIPS.
TASTY FISH RANGING FROM SALMON AND SWORDFISH
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DELICIOUS SEAFOOD WITH PRAWNS,
CALAMARES, CHIPIRONES etc.**



**A VARIETY OF TAPAS
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A RANGE OF GENEROUS DELICIOUS SALADS ALSO AVAILABLE**

¡Visítanos y disfruta los auténticos sabores de la cocina española!

'Come and enjoy the authentic taste of Spain.'

Русский говорят.

Effective Advertising!

Two businessmen, both shop owners, were having coffee in Punta Marina. One asks the other, 'So, have you had any responses to your ad that you are looking for a night watchman?'

'Yeah,' replied the other. 'We got robbed last night!'



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Payment is on pick-up, and you can contact Peter on 966 798 517. You will not be disappointed.

Mick

Gloria.

Gloria's husband had been slipping in and out of a coma for several months, yet she had stayed by his bedside every single day.

One day, when he came to, he motioned for her to come nearer. As she sat by him, he whispered, eyes full of tears, "You know what? You have been with me through all the bad times. When I got fired, you were there to support me. When my business failed, you were there. When I got shot, you were by my side. When we lost the house, you stayed right here. When my health started failing, you were still by my side... You know what?"

"What dear," Gloria gently asked, smiling as her heart began to fill with warmth.

"Gloria, you're a f*cking jinx.....!"



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 ASK IN BAR

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I went to my English teacher and I said, 'Mr Spinoza, which A levels do you think I should take?'
 He said, 'Think of the things you like doing and take subjects involving those.'
 So, I'm doing Eating, Sleeping and Wanking at A level.
 Daniel Kitson

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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.



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 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.

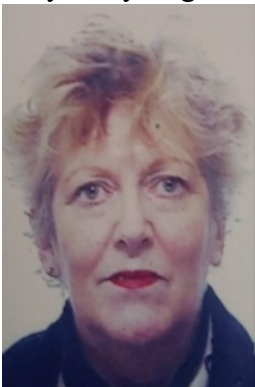
The charity has invested in an extensive training package for all volunteers which will provide them with the listening skills required for the calls that they may receive whilst on duty. Volunteers will be given a mobile phone in order that they may take calls privately in their own environment. Ongoing 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 or their Facebook page.

Alternatively, email the San Miguel Centre on office@helpvegabaja.com

ROBBING BASTARD!

74-years-young Julia Upton, photo, planned to return to the UK for a short trip and had booked a flight from Alicante to Exeter for July 28. Julia, who lived in Calpe, was going to use a bus to go to the airport, but as she was feeling quite unwell decided to go by taxi instead. A taxi arrived from Taxi Calpe and Julia set off on the 76 km trip which should take about 52 minutes by car. But what Julia didn't



know was that she was suffering from double pneumonia at the time but also that her driver was an absolute shit. Exhausted, Julia fell asleep during the trip.

When the cab arrived at Alicante airport, the fare meter read €377! At this stage Julia did not have enough strength to argue with the driver and could not even pay him herself. Julia had to be given oxygen on the plane and was taken straight to Exeter Hospital on landing.

There she remained on oxygen for seven days. While recovering, she contacted the taxi firm, a representative advising her that the maximum charge for any airport trip on a Sunday was €120. The company also advised her that it was clear fraud and to do a *denuncia* to the Spanish police against the driver.

Julia plans to return to Spain during November and do just that.

Julia who thought she had the flu said, 'The driver knew I was ill, and he asked if I had cards and cash before I got in the car. His metre started running, but I was so ill, I fell asleep until we arrived, and I saw 377 euros on there. I think he must've changed the figures when I was sleeping.

He took the notes carefully out of my purse, and said the extra price was due to it being a Sunday.' 'What an arsehole, taking advantage like that,' she said.

Like a camel, I can go without a drink for seven days - and have on several horrible occasions. Herb Caen

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A young lawyer, defending a businessman in a lawsuit, feared he was losing the case and asked his senior partner if he should send a box of cigars to the judge to curry favour. The senior partner was horrified. "The judge is an honourable man," he said. "If you do that, I guarantee you'll lose the case!"

Eventually, the judge ruled in the young lawyer's favour. "Aren't you glad you didn't send those cigars?" the senior partner asked.

"Oh, I did send them," the younger lawyer replied. "I just enclosed my opponents business card with them."



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Any Curry Dish

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South Facing Terrace, Opposite Mercadona in Los Balcones

With the summer almost over and the temperature dropping, I thought that this might be a lean month for Idiots & Oddities, but thanks to 61-year-old Carmen Merino living in the Basque Country, things started to look up!

Carmen, whose father was a police officer, shared her life for seven years with Jesús María Baranda, 66, former director of a bank branch who retired in 2018, was divorced and with children. But Jesús seemed to disappear off the face of the earth last February. By the end of March his brother informed the Guardia Civil about his disappearance, which was very strange since his car was still there and his bank account did not have any entries. The Guardia informed Carmen that they were coming to interview her, she insisting that Jesús María had contacted her by WhatsApp, but when the Civil Guard asked for her cell phone she said she did not have it because it had fallen into the toilet. "He left home because



he didn't love me anymore," she insisted. Photo shows victim and the accused.

But before the visit from the police, Carmen gave a friend and neighbour a box for the woman to hold. She said they contained sex toys belonging to her partner and she didn't want the embarrassment of the police seeing them. Several months later, curiosity got the better of Carmen's friend, who together with her husband decided to open the wrapping paper securing the box as it started to smell. Wrapped in plastic in the box was a human head. The couple immediately called the police and also for medical assistance as they were both in shock, which may account for the odd fact that the woman also phoned Carmen and told her she opened the box! Carmen's immediate explanation was "Someone left it at my door; I kept it because it was the only memory I had of him ..."
Carmen is now in the clink.

It has since emerged that Carmen has a bit of history, with two scams in recent years. In the most recent one in 2017, she cheated the male partner of her aunt out of €6,600.

Spanish police arrested four drug traffickers who stopped to save the lives of three officers after they were thrown overboard during a high speed boat chase off the coast of Malaga on Friday, October 4. The three police officers fell into the sea following a collision with the trafficking boat during the chase, a Guardia Civil statement said. A police helicopter hovering overhead appealed to the speedboat via megaphone to stop and help the officers after their boat "span out of control", and the traffickers did so, pulling the agents to safety unharmed. However, when police found three tonnes of hashish in the waters nearby, the rescue did not appear to work in the traffickers' favour. The four on board were arrested regardless. Remember, no good deed goes unpunished!

The New York Times bestselling Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls is a children's book packed with 100 bedtime stories about the life of 100 extraordinary women from the past and the present, illustrated by 60 female artists from all over the world. Each woman's story, from Cleopatra and Amelia Earhart to modern day heroines, is written in the style of a fairy tale. Each story has a full-page, full-colour portrait that captures the spirit of the portrayed hero. The book was first published in English in 2016, and has been translated in the meantime to about 30 languages and sold more than one million copies. BUT the Turkish Authorities have described the book as "obscene" and harmful to children, only suitable for people over 18 years, treating it the same as pornography. The decision means that the work cannot be displayed in shop windows and can only be sold to adults, always in an opaque bag. Well, we don't want our young Turkish girls getting any ideas, do we?

A nine-month-old baby survived a heart transplant at the Gregorio Maranon Hospital in Madrid in November 2018. During his recovery in February, the baby boy needed 100 milligrams of mycophenolate, an immunosuppressive drug which is used on transplant patients. However, the baby was given an injection of more than 1,000 milligrams! The boy died days later from intestinal necrosis, despite doctors trying to reverse the effects of the overdose. The court will now investigate whether it was the doctor who prescribed the wrong dosage or the nurse who simply administered too much. Lawyers for the family said it was wrong that the hospital 'has not even provided psychological help' to help them get over the ordeal.

- Gracie, isn't that boiling water you're putting in the freezer?

- Yes. I'm freezing it, so whenever I want boiling water, all I have to do is defrost it.

Harry von Zell and Gracie Allen

Sephardic Jews

More than 127,000 Sephardic Jews living outside Spain, mostly in Central and South America, have applied for Spanish nationality. The deadline closed on October 1, with Jews in Mexico submitting 30,000 applications for citizenship – the largest from any country. This was followed by Colombia (26,000), Venezuela (14,000), Argentina (7,000), US (5,400) and Israel (4,900).

It comes after the Spanish Government passed a law in 2015 in order to make amends for the expulsion of Sephardic Jews in 15th century Spain. Catholic monarchs of the time defeated the Moors and then forced Jews to either convert or leave the country. Many of those who did convert were subject to ‘investigation’ by the Inquisition soon afterwards. Little thanks for the Jewish financiers who helped Queen Isabella fund the first Columbus voyage.

The Phoenix Golf Society

We played the New Sierra Golf Course on Sunday 20th October and found the course was in perfect condition and they are progressing with the extra Nine holes, Everybody enjoyed the day.

Nearest the Pin - No.6 - Douglas Gilzen

“ “ - No.12 - “ “

Overall Winner was JOE SEEDY - 39 POINTS

2ND on countback TIM RYAN - 36 POINTS

Mick The Grip joined us at Jessies Bar, we also had a raffle on behalf of the British Legion Poppy. We collected 74 Euros on the Raffle and the Phoenix Golf Society added 50 Euros making the overall total of 125 euros.

Many thanks for the lovely food received at Jessies Bar.

Our next outing is at Mar Menor on the 17th November.

Dave Wightman

The Rich & the Poor.

A rich man and a poor man are both buying gifts for their girlfriends. "What are you getting your girlfriend?" asks the poor man. And the rich man says "I'm getting her a diamond ring and a Mercedes."

"Why both?" asks the poor man.

And the rich man says "That way if she doesn't like the ring she can still enjoy the Mercedes when she returns the ring."

And then the rich man asks the poor man "What are you getting your girlfriend?"

And the poor man says "I'm buying her a pair of slippers and a dildo. That way if she doesn't like the slippers she can always go fuck herself."

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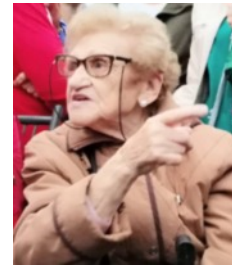
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SQUATTERS!

If you live in Spain, heed the following tale.

94-year-old Victoria de Castro, living in Portugalete, in Spain's northern Basque Country, decided to visit her sister for a few days in mid-October. When Victoria, photo,



returned back to her house, one she has lived in since 1931, she found it occupied by squatters! She was now locked out of her own home!

Fortunately, the neighbours and locals came to Victoria's aid and several hundred of them gathered outside her house, photo. As the angry crowd threatened to kick the door down, the squatters called the police. When the police arrived, the squatters, who had been in residence for five days, said they would leave if the police guaranteed their protection, eventually leaving with a police escort. With Victoria back safely in her own home, the crowd moved on to two other properties occupied by squatters and ‘persuaded’ them to leave immediately.

Now you might think that the police could have removed the squatters from Victoria's home?

No! Under Spanish legislation, getting one's home back involves lengthy



procedures that until recently could take up to two years. A new law introduced in 2018 seeks to reduce that to 30 days through civil, rather than criminal proceedings. But the long time frames and complicated paperwork pushes many homeowners to simply pay the squatters to leave. When Victoria found her home occupied she lodged a complaint with the courts, which was not due to be heard until November 20, over a month since she was locked out!

Evictions can only be mandated by a judge.

There are around 87,000 homes in Spain being illegally occupied. But those are just the ones whose owners have filed police complaints, and the real number could be closer to 100,000.

The practice is widespread in Madrid where there are about 306,000 empty homes. Here a proliferation of gangs will break into an empty house for between €200 and €500. Rent it to you for a month for much the same price (including water and electric - which are billed to the original owners, sometimes the banks) or let you have the property for a lump sum payment of between 1,000 to 2,000 euros!

So, what can You do? Firstly look at your door locks and upgrade them if needed. Prevention is better than cure and there is a good and fair locksmith featured on page one of this issue.

If you are occupied, there is a company called Desokkupa, who will ‘persuade’ the squatters to leave. This would cost you about €2,000. There are now several other companies offering a similar type type of ‘recovery’

Mujer
Hombre

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Elisabeth
HAIR & BEAUTY
FRISEURSALON UND ÄSTHETIK

Woman
Man

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WASH, CONDITIONER, CUT, MOUSSE & BLOWDRY (FROM).....	22,00 €
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- What's a geriatric?

- A German footballer scoring three goals.

Why it makes medical - and mathematical - sense to finally vaccinate boys against the HPV virus

I must admit I have never heard of HPV. I would hazard a guess that many of you probably haven't either. Read on.

From September 2019, boys aged 12 and 13 in the UK are being offered free vaccination against the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) for the first time. **HPV causes cervical cancer, and girls and young women have been receiving the vaccine for over ten years.** So why is it being rolled out for boys too? And why only now?

One reason for giving the vaccine to boys is that the vast majority of cases of cervical cancer-causing HPV infections are transmitted through sexual intercourse. **Men can carry the virus without symptoms** and pass it on to their sexual partners.

In fact, HPV is the **most frequently sexually transmitted disease in the world**, and over 60% of all cervical cancers are caused by two HPV strains. Cervical cancer itself is the fourth most common cancer in women, with around half a million new cases and over quarter of a million deaths reported worldwide each year.

Unsurprisingly, given this high prevalence, when the first vaccines against HPV were approved in the US in 2006, there was great hope surrounding their potential. Mathematical modelling studies carried out around that time indicated that the most cost effective strategy would be to immunize adolescent girls between the ages of 12 and 13 - the likely future sufferers of cervical cancer.

But, as I uncover in my new book *The Maths of Life and Death* (along with many other surprising occasions where maths have played a crucial, but sometimes unseen, role) the mathematical models didn't capture the whole picture. Most of the analyses did not include an important feature of HPV in their assumptions: that the strains of HPV guarded against by the vaccine can also cause a range of non-cervical diseases in both women and men.

In July of 2018, a new mathematical study led to a recommendation that all boys in the UK be given the HPV vaccination at the same age as girls.

This is in part because as well as causing cervical cancer, HPV types 16 and 18 contribute to 50% of penile cancers, 80% of anal cancers, 20% of mouth, and 30% of throat cancers. In both the US and the UK, the majority of cancers caused by HPV are not cervical.

This fact came to the fore when the actor Michael Douglas was asked, during **his recovery from throat cancer**, if he regretted his lifetime of smoking and drinking. The actor candidly replied that he had no regrets about this, because his cancer had been caused by HPV, which he contracted through oral sex.

Warts and verrucas are also caused by different types of HPV, **and 80% of people in the UK will be infected with one strain of HPV at some point during their lives.**

So cervical cancer is an important part of the HPV picture, but it is not, by any means, the whole story. It seemed that the link to other cancers and diseases had been underestimated.

The Rest of the Picture

The public, perhaps aware only of HPV's role in cervical cancer, seemed to accept the decision to only vaccinate females. Why would we waste money vaccinating boys if they don't suffer from the headline HPV cancer?

On top of this, mathematical models into the impact of HPV vaccination suggested that by vaccinating a sufficiently high proportion of females, the prevalence of HPV-related diseases in males would also decline.

But imagine the outrage if a vaccination for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) was given only to women for free, in the hope that men would be protected through women's immunity.

Perhaps the first point that critics would make (aside from the issues of partial vaccination coverage and vaccine inefficiency) would be about the protection of gay men - why should they be left defenceless against one of the most deadly viruses of our time, just because they don't have sex with women?

Exactly the same argument holds true in the case of HPV. Early mathematical studies had ignored the impact of same sex couplings on the dynamics of HPV spread.

Models that include gay relationships suggest a higher rate of sexual disease transmission than those which consider only heterosexual relationships. And the prevalence of HPV in men who have sex with men is significantly higher than in the general population.

When models were recalibrated to take into account gay relationships, protection afforded against non-cervical cancers, and new information on the length of protection that the HPV vaccination provides, it was found that vaccinating boys as well as girls became a more cost-effective option.

Now that the vaccination is finally here, available to boys as well as girls - in a move which will reduce the rates of many kinds of cancer as well as other HPV-related diseases.

This is good news for all of us. And on a personal note I am delighted that my son, as well as my daughter, will now be afforded equal protection against catching and spreading the virus that killed their grandmother. In the case of cervical cancer, as with many of the other cases I have investigated, maths really can be a matter of life and death. <https://theconversation.com/why-it-makes-medical-and-mathematical-sense-to-finally-vaccinate-boys-against-the-hpv-virus-124298?>

Christian Yates, Senior Lecturer in Mathematical Biology, University of Bath

Lime Bar Fishing SUNBATHING Club

We had our AGM in October where we usually select the new committee members. ALL the volunteers took 2 steps backwards, so last year's workers are going to carry on. Thank you all. Not a lot happened at the AGM because most things worked last year, so we didn't need to change anything. This saved on a lot of time and no arguments. Boring for the bar staff though!

The 1st match of the winter season is fished using rod and running line only, and the winner gets the rod and reel trophy. This trophy was originally thought of by 2 ardent rod anglers, Fagin and the late Big Paul Birdsall (Feathers). The idea was to level the playing field and give rod anglers a chance against the pole men. This worked out well as Feathers won the trophy that 1st year.

This year because of the floods, we are still limited to fishing El Bosquet so that is where we headed.

We fished pegs 17 to 40 but as we only had 14 anglers, we decide to leave out the "least productive" pegs. Yeah right!! I drew peg 20 where a couple of weeks before I had caught 8.5 kilos in the knockout final so I was happy. 3 Rods drew peg 34 where someone had caught 30 kilos the week before so he was happy too. The "none" pole anglers were rubbing their hands hoping to show the pole anglers how to fish "properly". I don't know what put the fish off this time but this match was very peggy. On the short back canal that usually fishes evenly and consistent,



fish were caught at either end, the rest struggled. Most of the big weights came from the far end of the long canal (pegs 32 to 40) except that is for 3 Rods in peg 34. He was surrounded by people catching loads of fish, but he struggled to find any and ended up with just 1.8 kilos. This added to the glee of the "none" pole anglers who didn't take the p~** much! ☺

The 3 best weights came from pegs 40, 32 and 33 all to "none" pole anglers. Fagin right in the far corner won with 10.5 kilos, 2nd was big Fish Chris with 9.7 kilos and in 3rd (sat right next to 3 Rods) was Anti-Social Baz AGAIN with 7.6 kilos. Not only does Fagin get his name is on the trophy alongside Feathers', but he was also using Feathers' rod that had been passed onto him.

Spooky!

Although several of us struggled, we only had 1 blank so well done all.

We also held the Old Farts match at El Bosquet. This is an open annual competition pitting the Old Farts against the Whipper Snappers, the score from previous years being 3-2 to the oldies. On the day we had 17 anglers on the bank, where to be a "youngster" you needed to be less than 70 years old! The draw was done by alternate pegs so that a young angler (even number peg) sat next to an old fart (odd number peg) and you just had to beat your neighbour.

When we arrived, the temperature was down to 9°C and we didn't know if the fish would be put off by the cold, but luckily the water was still warm. The match got off to a flyer when the Cheshire Cat had a run (and caught) before he had even set his rod down properly.

There were lots of fish caught and only 2 blanks (both to old farts). At the end of the match, the winners of each pairing "mathematically" resulted up in a 4-4 draw, but the youngsters know that we won really.

We didn't have any blanks, we caught the 1st fish, most fish and heaviest weight. Never mind, as all the match committee are old farts, we will let the annual score go to 3.5 -.2.5. After the match we retired to the Lime Bar and had a couple of free beers courtesy of the club.

As the whipper snappers had won last year, the 2nd oldest fart (Ball boy) re-presented the quaiach to the youngest whipper snapper (Big Fish Chris). The quaiach was then topped up a couple of times and passed round to imbibe in a toast of friendship.

Roll on next year.

Our presentation night will be held in the Lime Bar on Thursday 21st November (after the musician has finished his bit).

Next ~~meeting~~ bun fight is at The Lime Bar @ 17.00 Mon 4th November

Fishy Fingers!

The Ghost

Just Weird!

A guy walks in to a bar with a cat and an ostrich. He orders a pint for himself a half for the ostrich and a vodka for the cat... Half an hour later the ostrich comes up to the bar and orders half for himself, a pint for the guy and a vodka for the cat. Half an hour later the man comes to the bar and orders again... this goes on all night... first the man,.... then the ostrich... At the end of the night the barman says to him.... "I couldn't help noticing, you and the ostrich bought all the drinks". The man replied "Well its a long story" and continues... "I was walking down a beach and saw a lamp, I gave it a rub and a genie appeared and gave me a wish, so I wished for a Bird with long legs and a tight pussy!!"



Licence of First Occupancy

The Licence of First Occupancy (LFO, for short) is a crucial document on buying off-plan property in Spain that draws a line between what is legal and what is not, in general terms. A LFO does not (usually) apply to resale properties.

A Licence of First Occupation is a certificate issued by a town hall which confirms that a newly-built property (off-plan) fully complies with all planning and building regulations and is fit to be used as a dwelling. It assures compliance with Health, Access, Safety, Planning and Construction laws, and that the property has been fully completed, with no outstanding works.

The LFO allows off-plan purchasers to dwell in a property legally. A LFO is also known as Habitation Licence or Certificate of Habitation and in Spanish, Licencia de Primera Ocupación or Cédula de Habitabilidad.

An LFO is important for four main reasons:

- It provides a check on the planning legality. A LFO means the developer has built the dwelling in accordance with the original town hall's Building Licence as well as with all

Planning laws. The inspection to grant this licence is carried out by town hall's chartered technicians who certify the dwelling is deemed apt for human habitation.

- It is required by utility companies to have access to official supplies: water, electricity and gas. Spanish law requires the granting of a LFO to hook up the dwelling to the supply grid.

- Lenders will ask for it if you require finance. Banks will also be asking you for a LFO. Even on reselling the property, your buyer may request a copy for his own lender.

- Holiday lettings. If you are looking to buy as an investment (buy-to-let), a LFO is required by Regional Tourist Authorities to rent out your place on a short-term. If your property hasn't attained a first occupancy licence, you will not be able to legally rent out your house and may be landed with humongous fines if caught red-handed. The fines for non-compliance are six-figures in some regions of Spain.

(Raymundo Larraín Nesbitt, Director of Larraín Nesbitt Lawyers info@larrainnesbitt.com)

A group of kindergartners were trying very hard to become accustomed to the first grade. The biggest hurdle they faced was that the teacher insisted on NO baby talk! You need to use 'Big People' words,' she was always reminding them. She asked John what he had done over the weekend?

'I went to visit my Nana'. 'No, you went to visit your GRANDMOTHER. Use 'Big People' words!'

She then asked Mitchell what he had done. 'I took a ride on a choo-choo'. She said. 'No, you took a ride on a TRAIN. You must remember to use 'Big People' words'.

She then asked little Harry what he had done? 'I read a book' he replied.

That's WONDERFUL!' the teacher said. 'What book did you read?'

Harry thought real hard about it, then puffed out his chest with great pride, and said: 'Winnie the SHIT'

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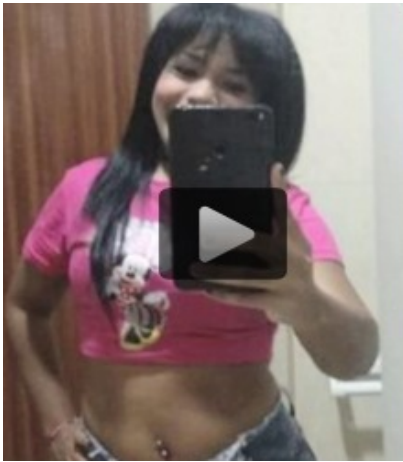


Online Dating.

Hopefully those who avail of the above to meet new companions are aware of the dangers. In recent weeks two stories concerning one dating portal, Badoo, caught my attention.

The first story came from Scotland where 57-year-old Catherine Bowe, who blackmailed a married man who chatted her up on an online dating site. By chance, Bowe knew her suitor's wife and threatened to expose him if he didn't pay her £2,000 within four days. The man told his wife and went to the police. The woman escaped jail but the Scottish sheriff imposed an electronic tagging order which confines Bowe to her home at night for two months. The married would-be suitor was unable to come to the phone for questionsuntil he finished all the ironing!

Our second story is much more serious, again involving the Badoo dating network. 54-year-old José Antonio Delgado Fresnedo, travelled from Getxo to Zaragoza to meet an as yet unnamed 34-year-old Venezuelan woman, photo.



Delgado's family reported him missing on September 9 and his body was found on September 27. The Venezuelan woman and her accomplice, a 35-year-old Moroccan man, were arrested on October 2. An autopsy revealed that Delgado had soil in his lungs meaning he had been buried alive. His bank card had been activated by the pair and his car sold.

Further police investigations revealed that this violent criminal pair had conducted a number of similar scams, leaving their victims handcuffed and hooded in remote places.

Any Cook's Travellers Cheques?

Some of you, or your family, may be holding some Thomas Cook travellers cheques, possibly from a previous holiday. The demise of the travel agency on the high street and in the skies has not 'killed' the traveller's cheques. Travelex, which bought Thomas Cook's travel money business in 2000, will still accept the cheques, albeit for a 5% fee. You may also be able to pay them into your bank.

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

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

Airport Bus Timetable.

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

Torrevieja to Airport: 7:00 - 9:00 - 10:00* - 11:00 - 12:00* - 13:00 - 15:00 - 16:00* - 17:00 - 18:00* - 19:00 - 21:00

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

(*) - From 1st April to 31st October only.

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!)



- Don't you have anything at this barbecue that wasn't slaughtered?

- I think the veal died of loneliness.

Lisa and Homer Simpson

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