

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER



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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the December 2019 edition. Issue No.149

Well, we seem to have gone straight **from summer to winter**. Not sure when autumn was! Still some lovely blue skies during the day, but evenings are now quite chilly. The cold and strong winds from the north have put an end to *al fresco* dining, at least until next year.

There have been a number of **security incidents** locally. One restaurant was broken into in Via Park V and a cash register stolen and there was an attempted break-in to a Chinese restaurant in Via Park III.

Congratulations to the **security guards in Dream Hills** in helping to detain two thieves in Dream Hills. The police attended the scene rapidly. The two were released the next day but are at least now, not likely to return to DH in the future. The security guards are also now varying their hours so that the criminal gangs are kept guessing.

Nationally, the recent general election **solved nothing**. The PSOE party may now try to form a government with the far-left Unidos Podemos party, but they will still need the support of the minority parties, such as the separatists in Catalonia and the Basque Country, to gain an absolute majority. Otherwise their budget will be limited to the same amount as during the PP last tenure in Congress. As this was then an austerity budget, it will again leave the regions with insufficient funding.

The rise of the **far-right Vox party** in Spain is undoubtedly the single biggest change politically.

Sorry to see that **Bill Craig** and his lovely wife, Moyra, are leaving us and returning to Scotland. Bill, I can now reveal, is **The Phantom Poet**, who has supplied us with his wonderful original poems. Bill, I know you are now on a difficult 'journey' but anytime you feel your creative poetic juices rising and have the urge to share something, there will always be space for you in the newsletter.

The **illegal occupation** of property is on the rise in Spain with 12,214 reported during 2018, that's 33 cases a day. Although the law has been changed to help the owners, it is still a lengthy and costly business to remove the squatters. The most affected province is Barcelona, which with a total of 17,465 cases during the last six years. Repossessed or holiday properties appear to be the target of the squatters, those who leave their property unoccupied for several months being the favourite target. A large increase in cases has also been reported in the city of Alicante. The illegal squatters will often sell the fixtures and fittings of the property. It takes an average of **four to five months** to evict the squatters, which is totally unsatisfactory. Thanks to John W for his kind donation towards printing costs.

**Have a wonderful month, a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Peaceful and Prosperous New Year
From Mick, Tid and the Dream Scene Team**

LOCKSMITH

CERRAJEROS - SCHLOSSER
SEGURIDAD UNION



607 493 118

Antonio

LOCAL

(Cut out & keep.)



Angela's Cartoon



**'Load that one on first. It's for the House of Parliament.
They're running out!!**

Before we make love, my husband takes a pain killer.

Joan Rivers

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O

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N

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EVERYDAY!



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COORS LIGHT €2.20

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GUINNESS €2.70

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HOUSE WINE - RED, WHITE, ROSE €1.40!

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

Every other Sat - SOUL EXPLOSION

ALL SPORTS ON 6 GIANT SCREENS!

As anticipated in the opinion polls, the **Spanish general election held on November 10 was inconclusive** and did not provide a ruling majority for any party. The acting PM and head of the PSOE socialist party, Pedro Sanchez, gambled on another general election – Spain's fourth in four years – to increase his majority and lead to stable government. Far from increasing it, he lost three seats and 800,000 votes, bringing the total of his deputies in Congress to 120. 176 seats are required to attain a majority in Congress.

The other large left-wing party, Unidos Podemos, secured 35 seats, down seven seats from the earlier general election last April.

The conservative right-wing party Partido Popular – who got a hiding in the April election - increased their seats from 66 seats to 87, now the second largest party.

But the big changes coming from the election was **the emergence of Vox**, a newish (founded in December 2013) right-wing populist party and the decimation of Spain's only liberal party, Ciudadanos (Citizens). Vox went from 24 seats in April to 52 now, while Ciudadanos went down from 57 seats to just 10, after losing over two and a half million votes since April! **Vox are now the third largest party in the country.**

But one of the factors that have played most in favour of Vox is that their support to the governments of PP and Citizens in autonomous communities such as Andalusia, Murcia or Madrid banished the fear of the influence of Vox, since it did not involve any move towards their extreme right policies in these regions.

Once again the general election solved nothing in the case of national stability, only highlighting Spain's continuing Left V Right divide with the removal now of the liberal middle political ground.

Acting PM Sanchez will now attempt to form a left-wing government with the help of the far-left party Unidos Podemos, but they will need substantial help from the other smaller parties, particularly the Basque and Catalan nationalist parties to achieve a governing majority. Considering the imprisoned Catalan nationalists this is unlikely. **16 different political parties won seats** in the election. This will lead to what the Spanish call a **Frankenstein government**, and should this fail, it will be another general election in spring 2020! Sometimes democracy can be a pain in the ass!

More details of **local voting patterns** in the Local News page.

The owner of British Airways, IAG, has agreed to buy Air Europa for €1bn (£860m) in an attempt **to make Madrid a key aviation hub** that will challenge rivals such as London's Heathrow and Charles De Gaulle in Paris. The acquisition of Spain's third-largest airline is expected to take place in the second half of next year and comes after IAG bought the Irish carrier Aer Lingus in 2015.

The **Training Fund fraud hearings in Andalusia** continue to move excruciatingly slowly through the courts - both the largest frauds in Spain. One of the common issues in the training fraud was that funds from Madrid were meant to be spent on training courses for the unemployed in the region were diverted. The money was never spent on training courses but used by the giant trade union UGT and the socialist regional government for 'other purposes' generally to pay union wages, bonuses, brothel charges and favoured funding projects. During late October it was revealed that the then socialist regional government hid in a drawer a claim ordering the UGT union to repay €18 million in training funding. Since then it has emerged that the **UGT actually have to repay €40 million** but the then PSOE government left the files in 'administrative limbo' which allows the UGT not to have to return the money. The total amount believed to be fraudulently diverted in the training fund scam alone is believed to exceed €120 million.

Meanwhile, the trial on the massive ERE fraud, has at last come to a head with several jail sentences after a ten year investigation.. You can find more on this on page 14. Some of the top politicians there in recent times are now facing long jail sentences.

José Luis Acuña, a marine environmentalist at the University of Oviedo, warns of the impact on sea life of **rising sea temperatures** around the peninsula.. "In the Cantabrian (Northern Spain), where there are more and more days when the temperature is above 20°C, seaweed forests have virtually disappeared in the last 10 years," he says, adding that rising water temperatures are problematic for migratory animals, such as Mediterranean turtles. Another consequence of **warmer sea water** is the arrival of invasive species. "It is possible that populations that do better in warm water will begin to move in. In the Cantabrian we are starting to see fish that are typically from the south," he says. The problem is particularly serious in the Mediterranean areas where there are at least **775 invasive species**, according to recent studies.

No good deed.....

As I pulled into the petrol station, I noticed a woman trying to push her car toward the pump. Having always considered myself a Good Samaritan, I parked and joined her in pushing her car.

"What are you doing?" she asked.

"I'm giving you a hand," I said. "What are you doing?"

"I'm stretching before my run."

A Spanish married couple in La Linea de la Concepcion near Gibraltar have been arrested after allegedly using **electric scooters to deliver cocaine** around the Campo de Gibraltar. Policia Nacional arrested the pair after a search on their home in La Linea de la Concepcion revealed more than one kilogramme of cocaine and around €5,000 in cash.

Known as **'tele-coca'** (after Telepizza), the couple would travel to a users' home after receiving an order by telephone.

The mode of transport included electric scooters and bicycles. Drop offs were made in busy streets as well as private homes, police said.

"Only 7,000? What a pity. They should have been many more." David Roig, a member of the candidacy for Unidos Podemos who attended the last municipal elections in the Valencian town of Meliana, expressed himself in these terms in response to a report by ABC information on the 7,000 clerics executed by the Left during the Civil War in Spain. The persecution by the Second Republic of the Spanish clergy until 1936 and during the Civil War cost the lives of 4,184 priests, 2,365 friars and 283 nuns.

According to data from the NAR (National Association of Realtors), 35% of home sales in the US are closed without any meaningful discount extracted from the vendor. The same cannot be said of Spain, where an estimated **90% of vendors give ground on price** before the sale is closed.

Research of the Spanish market by an outfit called the Spanish International Realty Alliance (SIRA) in collaboration with the NAR, finds that a large majority of vendors in Spain admit to having negotiated a significant discount with the buyers. **Talking of inflated asking prices, "It's almost standard practise,"** explains Francisco Fernández, a director of SIRA, quoted in the Spanish press. "Vendors take it for granted that they will get a counter offer and start off with an asking price that leaves them room for manoeuvre, **in some cases as much as 20% higher."**

Catalan separatists continue to cause chaos with road blockages in the region, the most serious being on the AP7 motorway linking northeastern Spain and southern France. Organised by activist group Democratic Tsunami, it was just the latest operation in an ongoing campaign of protest that began in mid-October when Spain's top court jailed nine separatist leaders over a failed 2017 independence bid. Traffic routes were blocked for more than 48 hours, with many cars and trucks stuck overnight. The demonstration caused chaos on an artery which is particularly important for cross-border freight transport and is used by some 20,000 lorries per day. Although the activists erected barricades which were torched and the police were stoned, only one person was arrested in Spain, the French police arresting more than 20+. Fresh fruit and vegetable suppliers in Murcia fear a grave loss of earnings after 3,000 lorries from the region had been stuck at the French border following Catalan

separatist demonstrations. Each driver is estimated to be losing between €350-500 a day for their respective businesses with other businesses also suffering. At the time of writing the disruptions have been going on for a month and the public's patience has begun to wane. One business manager commented, 'It's a revolution, but a nickel-and-dime one, because Catalonia actually has one of the best living standards in the world. Residents are sick of it. Fortunately the roadblocks are always short, because these revolutionaries are the kind who like to be home in time for a warm meal and a soft bed,' he noted. 'I'd never seen a revolution where the oppressors are the working class from Sant Adrià and the oppressed are the elites.'

According to an official poll by the Catalan regional government, **48.8% of citizens now reject secession from Spain**, compared to 41.9% in favour.

The Civil Guard has dismantled a criminal network led by Albanians, dedicated to passing **immigrants clandestinely** from Spanish ports. Spanish lorry drivers, particularly those from Murcia who carry fruit and veg' to the UK are particularly concerned about the number of 'stowaways' on the lorries and many drivers prefer not to do the route.

The National Police have dismantled the largest marijuana plantation to date in Aragon, with **16,000 plants** and a



weight of about 3,500 kilos. Six Albanians were arrested and also charged with 10 robberies in different bars and gas stations in the

province of Huesca. According to the police, to reach the plantation, which was in the middle of a large forest, it was necessary to drive half an hour in off-road vehicles, and another half an hour walk through open paths in the forest.

INTERPRETER

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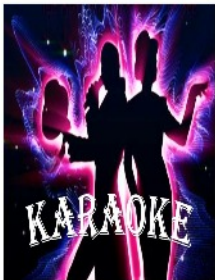
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LAGER**

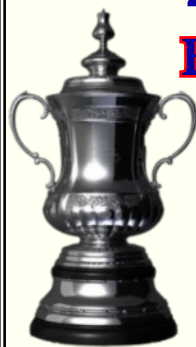
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An analysis of the data in the recent Spanish general election shows that most people in Torrevieja voted for the socialist PSOE, whereas the majority in the municipality of Orihuela voted for the right-wing PP. On the Orihuela Costa itself, **most voted for the far-right Vox party**. In the **whole region of Murcia**, more voted for **Vox** than any other party.

Vox were also the most voted for party in Crevillent, Pilar de la Horadada, Jacarilla, Molina de Segura and San Javier.

Vox received 3,640,063 votes nationally - 15.09% of the total vote and are now the third largest party in the country. (More about the Vox party and their aims in future issues.)

Orihuela has **bought 740 new refuse containers** and bins, the first since 2008. As many as 450 were damaged in the September storms. The new bins cost more than €200,000 and will be distributed throughout the municipality.

And speaking of Orihuela, I see that the current mayor of the municipality, Emilio Bascunana, photo, is under preliminary investigation for the alleged crime of

misappropriation of funds from 2007 to 2013. It is alleged that during those years he was paid €50,000 a year by the then PP regional government as a medical advisor to the health department offices in Alicante.

That department is now run by the Socialist party-led coalition, who state that he never attended the place of work in Alicante. If the allegations are confirmed by the health department, the prosecutor will then start an extensive investigation. Mr Bascunana denies the charge. Here in Orihuela Costa we are only too aware that Bascunana is yet another mayor of Orihuela that has done f*ck all for the coastal residents except keep the beaches clean, while the bulk of the revenue gained from the coast is spent in the city of Orihuela.

After seven years of investigation, yes seven, the court case into the alleged fraudulent tender process for the multi-million cleaning and rubbish contract for Orihuela. The trial only started nine months ago and there are 34 defendants - seven councillors and 26 businessmen. The anti-corruption prosecutor insist that there is overwhelming evidence that **two former mayors of the municipality** - Jose Medina and Monica Lorente - rigged the contract. Prison sentences requested by the prosecution range from 37 year for the businessman Sr Fenoll, to 12 years for former mayor Medina and eight years for former mayor Sra Lorente. The verdict is likely early next year.

Opposition party Cambiemos Orihuela pointed out that the former town hall lawyer who did the bulk of the case was fired without any reason by Mayor Bascunana and alleged that the mayor 'chooses to protect corruption rather than expose it defending his political godfathers.'

16 fish farms operating in Alicante this year will produce more than 5,000 tons of fish, 10% more than in 2018, and supply fishmongers and markets scattered throughout the country and in Italy.

In just three month this summer, over **9,000 mattresses have been dumped** in Torrevieja. Now that's an average of a hundred a day! Some days up to 300 have been found and this for a registered population of just 85,000!

Local police have warned about the 'massive' **poisoning of cats** in specific areas of Los Montesinos. Police have not released the numbers but have advised dog owners to keep their dogs on a lead, less they too consume the poisoned food.

The **wheels of justice** in Spain turn **very slowly** if at all! On October 30, a woman was sentenced to two years in prison for exploiting women for prostitution and drugging them, most of them illegal immigrants, in a villa that ran in Torrevieja, which was advertised as 'Torrevieja VIP 24H'. Problem is the original arrest was made 11 years ago! Two other defendants in the case absconded. It seems the 'working girls' in the villa were kept in 'precarious conditions, subjecting them to rigorous and exhaustive controls and work schedules, in a way that prevented them from leaving for more than two hours a day, appropriating a large part of the money paid by customers and imposing fines on the women for any infringement of the rules imposed on them.' The police also found drugs and cash in the villa. The prison sentence was suspended, conditional on not committing a crime again, and the woman will have to pay a small fine for not entering prison.

Several weeks ago **my mate got arrested** by airport police in Alicante after getting very abusive about the luggage delays. He's still waiting for his case to come up.





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"Loose Women Club!" - 5pm

The Grumpy Old Men's Club - 5pm

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TWEET!



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December

Christmas is coming and the end of the year
time to remember the past with good cheer
with families and friends for all to enjoy
and children all happy with presents and toys

Look to your neighbours and those all alone
try to give them some time and happiness
and even those distant at the end of a phone
they'll all want to hear nonetheless

Merry Christmas to all from the Poet
and to you a prosperous New Year
be kind and loving and show it
to all that you hold dear

This ode is the end of a journey
with writings for over four years
an end to the blether and blarney
but another will rise never fear

With a heart full of regret
I leave you all forever
but I will never forget
and hope I gave some pleasure

The Phantom Poet

"Bill and Moyra would like to say thank
you to all our neighbours and friends, too
many to mention. We do not want a fuss
and are leaving quietly to return to our
family in Scotland to enjoy whatever time I
have left in their company. It's funny the
way things turn out as we expected to live
here forever, but you never know what life
will throw at you so we just need to carry
on as best we can.

God Bless You All
Bill & Moyra"

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*All Ireland is washed by the Gulf
Stream, except my wife's family.
- Brendan Behan*



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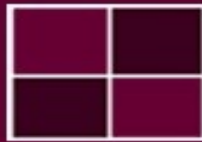
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The ERE Fraud.

For almost as long as I have been doing the Dream Scene, I have been reporting on the ERE scandal in Andalucia.

The ERE case is the Spanish acronym for a mass-layoff plan (expediente de regulación de empleo, or ERE), relates to significant amounts of money meant to assist redundant workers being spent elsewhere.

The scandal broke in 2010 when El Mundo reported that 'miners' were paid hefty redundancy payments in Andalucia, but these 'miners' had never worked in a mine!

Prosecutors estimated that, over a decade, members of the Andalusian socialist administration diverted **680 million euros** in public funds. They say it was discreetly passed on to people and businesses, often with close ties to the Socialist party, some of whom were not affected by layoffs -- which the funds were intended to compensate. The court said there was an "absolute lack of control" in the management of the funds.

The following judicial investigation took nine years with 507 people under scrutiny by a series of seven investigating judges. Eventually the case became so unmanageable, it was divided into 146 separate probes.

After more than a year's trial, just one of the probes concluded in mid-November, with 19 people convicted and receiving jail sentences.

Among them two former socialist presidents of the region, José Antonio Griñán and Manuel Chaves, both received jail sentences of six years each and been bared from public office for nine years. You would think it should be a lifetime ban! One of 19 who received an eight year jail sentence was the former Employment minister Javier Guerrero, who helped set up the scheme



which embezzled the money from 2000 to 2009.

This bent politician, photo, was particularly guilty having set up two bogus companies with his former driver – dubbed the 'Cocaine

Chauffeur' – defrauding over €700,000 between them. The pair are said to have spent much of their afternoons spending the money taking cocaine with prostitutes at brothels near Sevilla.

(Now you know why I referred to the 'Andalucian Gucci socialists' in the past.)

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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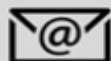
Attendance
Allowance



*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.



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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?

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Contact me on 634305881 to see if I can help.

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A man and a woman meet at bar one day and are getting along really well. They decide to go back to the woman's house where they engage in passionate lovemaking. The woman suddenly sits up, saying, "I think my husband just got home. Quick, go hide in the bathroom!" So the man runs into the bathroom. Her husband comes up into the bedroom and looks at her. "Why are you naked?" he asks. "Well, I heard you pull up outside, so I thought I would come up here and get ready for you." "Okay," the man replies, "I'll go get ready."

He goes into the bathroom before his wife can stop him, and sees a naked man standing there clapping his hands.

"Who the heck are you?" the man asks. "I am from the exterminator company; your wife called me in to get rid of the moths you are having problems with." The husband exclaims, "But you are naked!"

The man then looks down and jumps back in surprise..... "Those little b*stards!"



Caring for our community in our community.

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

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

WELFARE SERVICE

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

Telephone: +34 965 328 794 / 634324389

Email: charitycentre.helpathomecb@gmail.com

Web: www.helpathomecb.com

Doggone it!

An old tired-looking dog wandered into the yard. I could tell from his collar and well fed belly that he had a home. He followed me into the house, into the kitchen, and on to the couch. An hour later he went to the door, and I let him out. The next day he was back, resumed his position on the couch, and slept for an hour. This continued for several weeks. Curious, I pinned a note to his collar, "Every afternoon your dog comes to my house for a nap."

The next day he arrived with a different note pinned to his collar, "He lives in a home with eight children. He's trying to catch up on his sleep. Can I come with him tomorrow?"



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THATCHERS,
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DRAFT!

Christmas Lunch

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

Viennetta & Strawberries



2 course 10.95 3 course 13.95

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1.30pm to 6.00pm

Bookings Essential

Other dates available for large bookings



PETANCA MELLE!

1:30pm Start Tuesday Nov' 12, Nov' 26, Dec' 10

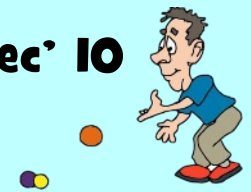
Members €2 - Non Members €3

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Ladies Petanca Thurs' 11am start, Beginners Welcome!

Boxing Day: Petanca Mixed Trebles Comp' 11am start

New Year's Day: Petanca Doubles Comp'



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AGE CONCERN STALL DAY TUES' DEC' 10 FROM NOON.

GLAMOUR GLAMOUR FASHION SHOW THURS' DEC 19 FROM NOON



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FRIDAY DECEMBER 20

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CODERE BETTING MACHINE NOW IN!

How to Squeeze the Most from Your Smartphone's Battery

Okay, as my friends know, I am not a big fan of mobile phones. I do have one but leave it turned off for several weeks. Nevertheless, I dare say most of our readers have one and should find this article from WIRED helpful.

Keep your phone near 50 per cent charge

Charging is the most complex aspect of looking after your phone's battery, and it's useful to have a basic understanding of how the process works.

A phone battery is made up of two layers, one of graphite and the other of lithium cobalt oxide. Energy releases when lithium ions move from the graphite layer to the lithium cobalt oxide layer. Charging up a battery shifts the lithium ions back the other way, preparing the process to start again.

What this tells us is that the real sweet spot for a battery is a 50% charge – when half of the battery's moveable lithium ions are in the lithium cobalt oxide layer and the other half in the graphite layer. This equilibrium puts the least amount of strain on the lithium ions that power your battery, and basically extends the number of charge cycles it can take before degrading. Therefore it's best to keep your your battery between 20 and 80%, and regularly top up with partial charges.

Don't leave your phone on charge overnight

This isn't, as is sometimes claimed, because you're overloading the battery with excess power, but instead because of a mechanism called a 'trickle charge'. This stops the charge when it reaches 100%, and only starts it up again when it falls a bit below 100 (ie your battery won't just stay charged at 100). This is bad for the reasons outlined above – it's another strain you don't want to be putting on those precious lithium ions.

Finally, definitely don't use an unofficial charger – these may not have safety settings that prevent the charger delivering more current to the battery when its full, again damaging those ions. While some chargers will be fine, it really isn't worth the gamble.

Buying a battery case (from a reputable company) is also a good option – this is basically a case that slots onto the back of your phone and contains its own battery, extending the life of yours.

Play around with your phone's settings

First things first, activate your phone's low power mode – this is found under settings of both your iPhone and Android. (On Android, it's called "battery saver mode".) This mode modifies your phone's notification settings, screen brightness and CPU usage, optimising it to reduce energy consumption. Turn off battery intensive features like Bluetooth, Wi-Fi and GPS. These waste battery trying find and connect to Wi-Fi or data networks – not turning these off on a speeding train is particularly grievous. However, when your at home, switch over from 4G to Wifi – the latter has been shown to be 40 per cent less wasteful of battery.

You can also turn on airplane mode outside the airplane if you're not using your smartphone for anything that involves connectivity. If you have airplane mode on and the screen off, the device will only use 5 per cent of its usual energy consumption, compared to 15 per cent when simply placed in idle.

Turning off your LED notification light, keyboard sound, vibration and haptic feedback are all beneficial to battery life. (These are accessed in your phone's sound settings). Finally, delete unused accounts from your phone's memory – these can drain battery too.

Adjust your phone's brightness

It's worth accessing your phone's display settings – manually reducing brightness to suit your surroundings is a fast way to saving battery.

If your phone has one, turn off its adaptive brightness setting – the screen's brightness will change depending on the light around you, something you want to have control of during a battery pinch.

Also, reduce the amount of time you have to leave your phone on for it to go to sleep – the quicker it darkens the screen, the less battery it will be using.

If your smartphone has an OLED display, switching to dark mode or applying coloured wallpapers will also help you save battery life. If you have a traditional LCD display, this won't make a difference unfortunately – OLED pixels generate their own light, so when they're black they don't drain power. LCD screens are instead lit from the edges – it doesn't matter what colour the image is, it will draw the same power.

Keep an eye on your apps

Apps can also be a serious battery strain – under your phone's settings, go into the battery menu. You can see here which apps are draining your battery, turn on "background restriction", "battery optimisation" or fully uninstall those you do not need. Turning off unnecessary notifications will also stop these apps waking your screen. The top battery draining apps are all video streaming apps: Snapchat, Netflix and YouTube, which makes sense, since streaming video is incredibly battery intensive. However, Facebook's App is also a famously big battery drainer – make sure you turn off its notifications, and restrict battery usage and background data.

Finally, always download updates to both your apps and your operating system – these will often optimise battery life.

Stay away from heat

Don't get your battery hot, as high temperatures stress the battery and make it lose capacity. Android Authority reports that: "A cell kept between 25 – 30 degrees Celsius (77 – 86 degrees Fahrenheit) should retain around 80% of its capacity after the first year even when cycling from empty to full charge."

It's a five minute walk from my house to the pub.
It's a 35 minute walk from the pub to my house.
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Banoffe Cheese Cake - Tarta de queso banoffe
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10 euros

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Man just phoned his missus and said he was just leaving work, did she want him to pick up Fish and Chips on his way home? He was met with a stony silence. He thinks that she still regrets letting him name the twins.

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Ears from 15€ * Face from 20€ * Body from 25€ * Micro Dermal from 40€ * Ear stretching from 20€ * Greatest selection of piercing jewellery from 5€.

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Cosy Corner Golf Society

The ever expanding Cosy Corner Golf Society met to play New Sierra on Wednesday 6th November. In blustery conditions the day was carried by Dave Wright with 43 points (he assured me he played at the weekend and was useless) winning himself a meal for 2 at Cosy, followed by Tim Meehan and Tony Brain. Nearest the pins were won by Kevin Milford, Tim (good day at the office), Stuart Rennie and myself. Two other nearest the pin prizes went unawarded but carry over to next time. As well as the fantastic condition of the course, all enjoyed great food and hospitality back at Cosy - big thanks to Steve and all the staff.

The next society outing is on Wednesday 18th December at Roda with first tee-time at 9:39am. Cost is €46 pp including buggy, prizes and food. Names to be put on poster in usual place at the bar with green fees collected on Sunday 15th, between 5-6pm at the bar.

We are looking at holding the AGM on Monday 9th December at the bar and this will be confirmed via the Whatsapp and Messenger groups closer the time. Next year we are moving to 2 rounds a month such has been the interest in the society with the first round of each month being the society competition ongoing throughout the year (with great prizes at year end) and being held at Vistabella each month. The second outing of the month with move between clubs each month. We hope to be able to announce all 2020 dates at the AGM.

If you want details of the society please contact Clinton Sprague via Messenger/Facebook or by Whatsapp on 711 002 856



Oy Vey!

Bernie was unfortunate enough to be hit by a ten-ton lorry and landed up in hospital in intensive care. His best friend Morris came to visit him. Bernie struggled to tell Morris, 'My wife Sadie visits me three times a day. She's so good to me. Every day, she reads to me at the bedside.'

'What does she read?'

'My life insurance policy.'

Chinese Take-Away!

Three travellers from China were arrested at the Manises



Airport in Valencia on suspicion of violating the smuggling laws. The two men and woman, aged between 38 and 79, were found to be carrying almost a million euros divided across three suitcases, mostly bundles of €50

notes, photo. The three could not tell where the money came from and will now face charges.

The Phoenix Golf Society

We played MAR MENOR Golf Course on Sunday 17th November, and found the course in a very good condition.

The players of course enjoyed playing there although a little late in Teeing-off at 2.00pm. They finished playing just before the light dispersed.

Nearest the Pin - all three were won by Michael Bond, he certainly did well for extra golf balls!

1st place was won by JOE SEEDY with 37 points

2nd place was won jointly by NICCO AND JOHN WINKLEY with 33 points

After play we returned to JESSIES BAR for lovely grub – many thanks girls.

The next outing will be at RODA on the 15th December.

To all our members we wish you “a Very Happy Christmas”.

Dave Wightman

Oh, Gawd!
First Trump, then BoJo!
What next
The Three Stooges?



I once said Gazza's IQ was less than his shirt number and he asked me, 'What's an IQ?'

George Best

“Waggy Tails”

DOG GROOMING

In San Miguel de Salinas

FOR APPOINTMENTS

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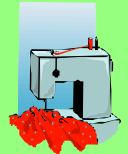
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Mon - Sun including Holidays



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**Oxana & Oscar Welcome You
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**WE FEATURE A WIDE RANGE OF
EXCELLENT WINES,
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**ALL FOOD IS FRESHLY PREPARED
WITH A FRESH SELECTION OF TAPAS DAILY**

**A WIDE RANGE OF MEAT, FISH,
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AND SHELLFISH DISHES AVAILABLE**

**BREAKFASTS, SANDWICHES, BAGUETTES & SNACKS.
SUCCULENT MEATS RANGING FROM ROAST LAMB,
ROAST KNUCKLE OF PORK AND ROAST CHICKEN
TO DELICIOUS BURGERS, MOUSSAKA & LASAGNE,
CHICKEN WINGS**

**AND WONDERFUL HAND-CUT CHIPS.
TASTY FISH RANGING FROM SALMON AND SWORDFISH
TO MERLUZA AND SARDINES.
DELICIOUS SEAFOOD WITH PRAWNS,
CALAMARES, CHIPIRONES etc.**

**A VARIETY OF TAPAS
FROM €2.50**

Wishing all our customers

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

LARGE SELECTION OF WINES FROM €1 PER GLASS!

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.



Hannah goes to visit her dentist. When Moshe finishes examining her teeth, he says, 'I'm sorry to have to tell you this, but you need root canal treatment to one of your molars.'

Hannah cries, 'Oy Vay iz meer! I'd rather have a baby!'

Moshe replies, 'Well, let me know what you decide - I'll have to adjust the chair either way.'



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OPENING HOURS: Monday - 3pm to 24:00

Tue - Sun 10am to 24:00

Closed Tues - Sat 3pm - 5pm

FRESHLY COOKED FOOD SERVED

Mondays - Kitchen closed

Tues - Sat 10am - 3pm & 5pm - 8pm

SUNDAY LUNCHES

1pm - 5:30pm

1 COURSE €7, 2 COURSE €9.50.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL.



LINE DANCING

Tuesdays - Improvers

10:30 - 11:30 - €5



QUIZ NIGHT - THURSDAYS



AT 8pm

With "Our Einstein."



Gill welcomes you to

JILLY'S

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LARGE SOUTH-FACING TERRACE

FOOD SERVED DAILY 11:00am - 8pm

NEW MENU - TASTY HOMEMADE DISHES

Large Coffee Or Tea With

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TOMEOKÉ - SAT DEC 28



Wi-Fi

PETER'S PORK PIES

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 bought 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! Peter can also add hardboiled eggs to the pies for an additional €1.

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

Mick

Coming Out!

A gay man, finally deciding he could no longer hide his sexuality from his parents, went over to their house, and found his mother in the kitchen cooking dinner.

He sat down at the kitchen table, let out a big sigh, and said, "Mom, I have something to tell you: I'm gay."

His mother made no reply or gave any response, and the guy was about to repeat it to make sure she'd heard him.

When she turned away from the pot she was stirring and said calmly, "You're gay -- doesn't that mean you put other men's penises in your mouth?"

The guy said nervously, "Uh, yeah, Mom, that's right."

His mother went back to stirring the pot, then suddenly whirled around, whacked him over the head with her spoon and said, "Don't you EVER complain about my cooking again!!!!!"

Kevin Molford: 744605865

Victoria: 744616586

abfinteriors@gmail.com

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www.rocamer.es

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A New York attorney representing a wealthy art collector called and asked to speak to his client. "Saul, I have some good news and I have some bad news." The art collector replied, "You know, I've had an awful day, Jack, so let's hear the good news first." The lawyer said, "Well, I met with your wife today, and she informed me that she had invested \$5,000 in two very nice pictures that she thinks will bring somewhere between 15 to 20 million dollars ... and I think she could be right." Saul replied enthusiastically, "Holy cow! Well done! My wife is a brilliant business woman, isn't she? You've just made my day. Now, I know I can handle the bad news. What is it?" The lawyer replied, "The pictures are of you and your secretary."

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ASK IN BAR

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Practically every game played internationally today was invented in Britain, and when foreigners became good enough to match or even defeat the British, the British quickly invented a new game.

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PLUMBING

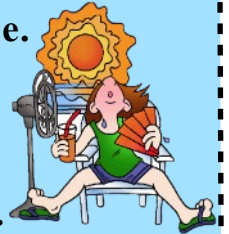


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HELP VEGA BAJA

FLOOD VICTIM ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

For many, the recent Gota Fria floods are becoming a distant memory as life returns to normal. For others, the devastation that they experienced will continue for many months to come. HELP Vega Baja (registered charity) have been working with various businesses to raise funds for those people affected and to date, 26,541 euros has been raised. The Elective Committee of the charity have today (Monday) agreed to increase this by a further 30,000 euros. President, Michele Masson, stated "the support from people in the community, both individuals and businesses, has been phenomenal. Our volunteers are now in the process of working with local people in the affected areas and town halls to identify where the greatest needs are. We have started visiting homes ourselves to see where our support is most needed. Many homes need a great deal of repair and we therefore envisage that this work will be ongoing for several months. It is important to us that we do what we can to ensure that people are safe and living in homes that are habitable, but we can of course only do this if we are aware where these homes and families are". We would like to issue an appeal to anyone who is struggling as a result of the floods to please contact us on 966 723 733 or alternatively, email to president@helpvegabaja.com We will continue to provide updates on progress via the local press and social media. Please remember to check our website at www.helpvegabaja.com and the HELP Vega Baja Facebook page.



Help Vega Baja Christmas Fayre 2019
Saturday December 7th
from 10am to 2pm
at Parroquia Cristo Resucitado church in La Zenia



Please join us for a lovely day out with the family, including live entertainment, tombola, raffle and games !
Sales stall will include both men and womens clothing, bric a brac, books, house decor, toys, kitchen ware, handbags, shoes, jewellery, golfing items, arts and crafts, Christmas decorations, wonderful freshly baked goods and so much more !

Help us help the less fortunate in our community and enjoy the start of the holiday season



The Sportsman's Double!

I met an older woman at the bar last night. She looked pretty good for someone in her late 60's, in fact quite tasty and I found myself thinking she probably has a real hot daughter. We drank a couple of beers and she asked if I ever had a "Sportsman's Double"? 'What's that?' I asked. 'It's a mother daughter threesome,' she said. As my mind (a very dirty one!) began to embrace the idea, I wondered what her daughter might look like and the vision was that of a stunner! 'No, I haven't,' I replied. We drank a little bit more and then she said with a wink, 'Tonight's your lucky night.'

We went back to her place and as we walked in she put the hall light on and shouted upstairs, 'Mom, are you still awake?'

Famous

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New Year Eve Menu

39^{'95}
PER PERSON

PRE-STARTER

Popadoms with dips

STARTER (CHOOSE 1)

Onion Bhaji, Chicken Pakora,
Famous Special Starter or any Tandoori

MAIN COURSE

Any Tandoori, any curry,
Famous Special, any rice,
any naan bread

DESSERT

Chocolate cake with ice cream
Rice pudding

UNLIMITED DRINKS

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New Years Eve
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per person

Christmas Day Menu

12pm - 3pm

APPETISER
Popadoms & Dips

STARTER
Special Starter (per couple)

MAIN COURSE
Choose Lamb, Chicken or Vegetable Curry
Served with Pilau Rice OR Garlic Naan

DESSERT
Coffee OR Ice Cream

LIVE Music

New Years Eve Menu

PRE-STARTERS
Popadoms & Dips

CHOICE OF STARTERS (per couple)
Onion Bhaji & Chicken Pakora
OR Mix Starters

CHOICE OF MAIN COURSE (per person)
Any Curry Dish

CHOICE OF SIDE DISH (per couple)
Bombay Aloo OR Saag Aloo

CHOICE OF SUNDRIES
Naan Bread OR Garlic Naan
Pilau Rice OR Boiled Rice

DESSERT
Gulab Jamun

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NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY 8PM
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FRIDAY 9pm - KARAOKE WITH ANG & RAY
ALL LIVE SPORTS SHOWN



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



FREE WiFi

South Facing Terrace, Opposite Mercadona in Los Balcones

I used to play football in my youth. Then my eyes went bad. That's why I became a referee.

Eric Morecambe

When Hurricane Dorian crashed into North Carolina's coast in September, three cows were swept out to sea along with dozens of wild horses. The horses all drowned but the cows were found good and well a month later in an island five miles from the coastline. Surprisingly, cows are decent swimmers and it is not unusual for them to paddle to higher ground during a hurricane.



As Joey Pedersen made his way to solitary confinement last month, Washington State prison officers handed him a roll of toilet paper, a bar of soap and a pack of documents including a flier titled "101 Ways to Relieve Stress." He reviewed the suggestions in his new cell, where he would spend 23 hours a day alone. "Plant a tree." "Go on a picnic." "Put air freshener in your car." "Avoid negative people." "Relax," the document concluded, "you have the rest of your life." The options did not give Mr. Pedersen, who is serving life sentences for murders, much peace, but they did make him chuckle.

A South Korean mortuary is offering people the chance to experience their own "living funerals". The Hyowon Healing Centre invites members of the public to dress in shrouds, write their last testaments and lie in closed coffins for around ten minutes. More than 25,000



people have made use of the free service. According to the centre's head, Jeong Yong-mun, the aim is to help them appreciate their lives and reconnect with estranged friends and relatives before it's too late. "We don't have for ever – that's why I think this service is so important. We can apologise and reconcile sooner, and live the rest of our lives happily."

A conductor proved his composure by not missing a beat when his trousers fell down mid-performance. Chinese maestro Muhai Tang was conducting the orchestra of La Scala in Milan at a concert to mark the 70th anniversary of the People's Republic of China recently, when his boxer shorts made an unscheduled

appearance during a powerful brass fanfare. Tang has a history of mishaps – he lost his footing at a 2016 concert in China while mounting the podium and ended up in a heap with his leading soprano. You can see the whole 'performance' here -

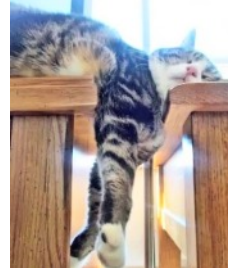


<https://www.classicfm.com/music-news/conductors-trousers-fall-down-during-performance/>

Wild boars snuffling in the forests of eastern Tuscany, Italy, have dug up and destroyed a €20,000 stash of cocaine buried by drug dealers, police report. The animals unearthed and broke into a sealed package of cocaine. The unconventional drugs bust was discovered when police wiretapped suspected drug traffickers - an Italian and three Albanians – and heard them complain about the damage to their woodland stash. Meanwhile, the wild boars are still partying!



A Chinese man who paid for his prized cat to stay at a luxury "pet hotel" came back to find the tom so drained by a night of feline passion, vets had to put it on a drip to recover. Staff had allowed the Russian Blue, named Xiaopi, to roam free when they went home, in which time it mated with at least five females. Yet they blamed the owner for the incident, which had left some cats having kittens. "They wanted me to explain the situation to all the other owners," said Mr Zhao. "My f**king cat is exhausted and on a glucose drip, and this is my fault?"



A Russian man is suing Apple, on the basis that an iPhone app turned him gay. The claimant, D. Razumilov, says he felt compelled to dabble with homosexuality after receiving an app payment in a cryptocurrency called GayCoin, instead of the bitcoin he had been expecting. "Don't judge until you try," read a note that allegedly came with it. "I thought, in truth, how can I judge something without trying?" So he decided to try a same-sex relationship. "Now I have a boyfriend and I do not know how to explain this to my parents," reads his court submission. He claims Apple manipulated him into becoming gay, and is demanding one million roubles in compensation – about £12,600.

'They nicknamed me Ena Sharples because my head was never out of the net.'
Ian Thain, non-league Keith's goalkeeper, after conceding ten goals in a Cup tie against Rangers.

Dream Hills Project Group Update

In order to begin the process Owners were asked via the AGM minutes to contribute suggestions to the project email address. Owners were also asked to contribute via the DreamScene and the Dream Hills Urb. Facebook Group. The Group have received a number of suggestions and ideas from Owners and have discussed them with both the long-term project plan (Voted as a 4 year project at the AGM) and with the short term objective that has been funded for this year.

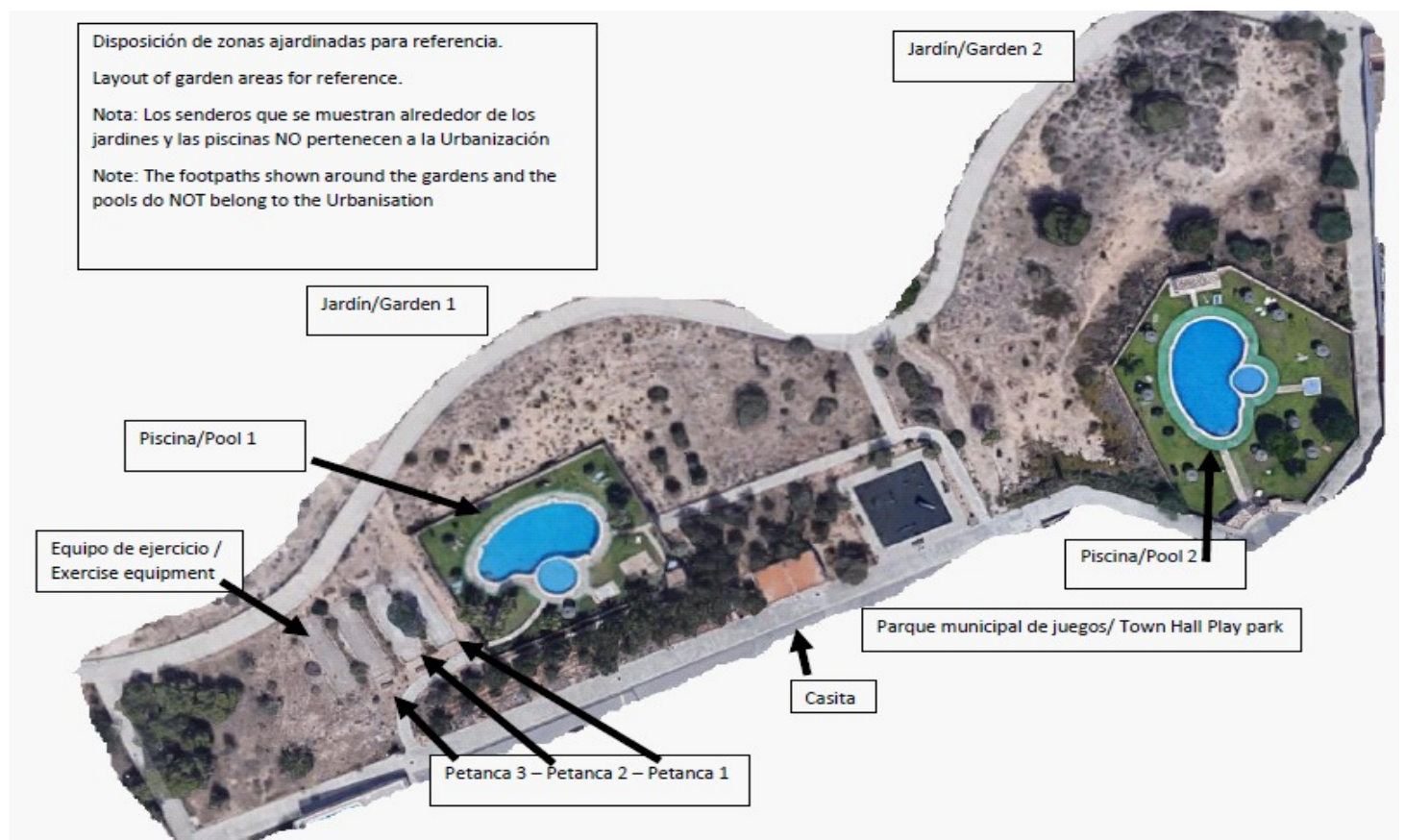
Consideration has been given to how best to achieve the overall plan without causing too much disruption to any neighbours or access problems over the 4 years as well as ensuring that facilities become available as soon as possible but remain secure for use by the Owners.

As well as considering the ecological effect particularly regarding water, wildlife, vegetation and noise as well as potential changes to the opening hours of the garden areas to become different to those of the pool areas particularly during the winter months.

As well as long-term maintenance requirements to ensure that any facilities introduced come not only with installer's guarantees and are of quality construction but are contributed to, where necessary, by the individual users thereby helping to fund their future maintenance.

As a result of these discussions the Project Group went out to suppliers to request quotes. This years plan is to install in Garden 1 using the current keycard system, 2 table tennis tables using the petanca court 3 next to the gym equipment and a Padel court to the northwest of the pool and if there are any funds remaining to start to install infant play equipment within the same garden to the northern end adding to it over the project lifetime of 4 years.

For further information or contributions please email the Project Group: DreamHillsProject@gmail.com



The Vicar

Picture a small church in a little village in Herefordshire. It had a very attractive big-busted organist named Susan and her breasts were so large that they bounced and jiggled while she played the organ. Unfortunately, this distracted the male part of the congregation considerably. The very proper church ladies from the WI were appalled! They said something had to be done about this or they would have to get another organist with fewer contour lines. So one of the ladies approached Susan very discreetly about the problem and asked her to mash up some green persimmons and rub them on her nipples and all over her breasts which should cause them to shrink in size. But she warned Susan not to taste any of the green persimmons because they are so sour they will make her mouth pucker up and dry up her gastric juices for awhile.

So, Susan, the voluptuous organist, being a good Christian and a team player, reluctantly agreed to try it.

The following Sunday morning the minister walked up to the pulpit and said, "Dew to thircumsthanthes bewond my contwol, we will not hab a thermon tewday."

Mujer
Hombre

PELUQUERÍA Y ESTÉTICA
Elisabeth
HAIR & BEAUTY
FRISEURSALON UND ÄSTHETIK

Woman
Man

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LAVAR, CREMA, TINTE, ESPUMA Y BRUSHING (DESDE)	28,00 €
LAVAR, CREMA, MECHAS Y BRUSHING (DESDE)	37,00 €
LAVAR, CREMA, PERMANENTE Y BRUSHING (DESDE).....	37,00 €
CORTE HOMBRE	9,00 €
WASH, CONDITIONER, MOUSSE & CUT	15,00 €
WASH, CONDITIONER, CUT, MOUSSE & BLOWDRY (FROM).....	22,00 €
WASH, CONDITIONER, COLOR, MOUSSE & BLOWDRY (FROM) ..	28,00 €
WASH, CONDITIONER, HIGHLIGHTS & BLOWDRY (FROM)	37,00 €
WASH, CONDITIONER, PERM & BLOWDRY (FROM)	37,00 €
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The Christmas Lottery Launderers

Winning tickets are sought out by crooks looking to avoid paying tax on their ill-gotten gains

(This article appeared in El Pais way back in 2015, but it still holds true.)

In the hours after the winning numbers in Spain's massive El Gordo Christmas lottery are drawn every December 22, discreetly dressed men and women carrying suitcases stashed with bank notes fan out across the country headed for bars, lottery outlets, and banks before the fortunate owners of the prized tickets cash them in. Acting on behalf of wealthy clients, their mission is to buy their winning tickets: they pay cash, ask no questions, and offer a generous bonus on top. It's a very simple way to help reduce their clients' tax bill.

"Everybody knows that the Christmas lottery has always been used to launder money," says veteran tax inspector José María Peláez Marcos, adding that it is almost impossible for the authorities to detect this kind of fraud.

"Lottery tickets are untraceable, so unless we are present when they are bought [...] it is pretty much impossible to establish who originally purchased them," he says.

According to Spain's OCU consumer rights organization, winning lottery tickets can be sold on for up to 20 percent more than their value. But the association warns that the seller of a winning lottery ticket will then have the problem of explaining to their bank and the tax authorities how they came into so much money, and may end up being fined.

The odds of buying one of the big winning numbers are one in 100,000 – the amount of El Gordo ticket numbers available – so it's little wonder that the authorities are suspicious when well-known figures such as Carlos Fabra*, photo, the former head of the Popular Party-run



provincial government of Castellón, are photographed holding a winning ticket for the umpteenth time. Fabra, who was jailed for corruption in 2014, won the lottery nine times in 10 years. Gosh! How lucky!

In 2011, another Popular Party (PP) politician, Enrique Crespo, the former mayor of the small town of Manises, in Valencia province, was seen on television toasting his good fortune with his colleagues after winning second prize in the Christmas lottery, although he was unable to say just how many tickets he had. It turned out that the

local PP had bought 850 décimos – or tenth shares in a ticket – with the winning number.

Crespo, who was being investigated for corruption at the time, was summoned by a local magistrate that very day and given 24 hours to explain how many winning tickets he had bought. Crespo admitted he had purchased just one. "The judge was smart and fast," says tax inspector Peláez, noting that this case was very much the exception. Public prosecutors later asked for Crespo to serve a three-year prison term for having allegedly hidden 99 other tenths of the winning number, equivalent to €12.3 million.

But Spain's Christmas lottery is not always the best way to launder money, says Peláez. "You have to bear in mind the amount," he notes. In El Gordo, the maximum prize for a décimo is €400,000. "It's doubtful that this is going to solve the money-laundering problems of somebody involved in criminal activities," says Peláez, adding that it is a more attractive system for somebody who has the equivalent of three or four décimos, which is to say less than €2 million.

"If you want to buy 20 décimos, you have to buy them from a number of different people, and this increases the risk of somebody finding out what you are up to," continues Pérez, pointing out that when it comes to large amounts of money, most people looking to avoid paying tax use other means, such as keeping their money in offshore accounts. But for "those who have a bag full of money at home earned from illegal commissions and bribes, the Christmas lottery is still the simplest way to launder money."

The OCU website warns lottery winners against selling their winning tickets, even when offered generous incentives. The main problem is proving the origin of the money to your bank. If the tax office becomes involved, it can impose heavy fines.

The organization illustrates the dangers with an example: a person with an average annual income of €30,000 who wins €400,000 on the Christmas lottery and sells their winning ticket for €450,000 could face a fine of more than €200,000.

*Although Fabra received a four-year jail sentence, he only served 16 months. Although businessmen testified that they had paid Fabra millions for political favours, the court felt that the case for bribery was unproven and Fabra was only jailed for defrauding the Treasury of €700,000 in taxes.

I was in a beauty contest once. I not only came in last,
I was hit in the mouth by Miss Congeniality.
Phyllis Diller

Lime Bar Fishing SUNBATHING Club

Due to the racket emanating from the new Monday music bingo, we had to move our meeting to the Bar Next Door. Very pleasant it was too, with the doors shut it was nice and cosy and we could hear what was being said. There were no arguments to entertain Darren but thanks for looking after us. Crisps would be a nice touch next time! Fagin is rolling in dosh so any "decent" ideas how to spend it will be welcomed.



Punchy is recovering from an operation so we hope to see him on the bank again soon, other than that, we seem to be "relatively" fit! We have also had an enquiry from a possible new member who will go on to the waiting list.

The November match venue was drawn from the hat, but we only had 2 options; Pedrera or Mercadona drain. Depending on how you view it, we were lucky to draw the drain because on the day, we had fierce cold Easterly winds that were gusting up to 50 kph. It doesn't sound much in old money but it was bad.

Abbey Angling fished Pedrera a couple of days before and said that the waves were rolling up the beach and filling their wellies!

The Easterly wind blew straight down the drain with the flow of water, which made bait presentation more difficult than usual. We struggle to catch normally so we don't need any extra dilemmas. We only had 15 anglers on the bank as Anti-Social cried off (perhaps he knew what was to come). Most of us were wrapped up warm with a hot flask but not "Old Bill" he was in shorts and sweat shirt... hard as nails or cold?

Over the last couple of weeks some big catches had come from the drain, but the combination of the cold, wind and difficulty presenting the bait put the mockers on that. Of the 15 fishing, 10 sat there in the cold all day without a fish, several without getting a bite! Our "professional angler" The Shropshire Lad

won with a "bag" of 2.5 kilos, 2nd was Fagin with 1 carp of 1 kilo, 3rd was ghost with 2 carp for 0.5 kilos. Other than Fagin's, all of the fish caught were small (only about 4 to 8oz). Big Fish Chris caught 1 carp about 2 ounces, weighed in and bugged off to fish somewhere in comfort.

Sensible and he still scored 17 points!

Our presentation night was held in the Lime Bar.

The Winter Winner Cup 2018/19 was The Ghost with 4.45 kilos and 2nd place was 3 Rods with 2.73 kilos. **The Summer Shield Cup 2019** was presented to Anti Social Baz with 8.12 kilos and 2nd place was Just John with 5.2 kilos. **The Knockout Cup 2019** was taken by 3 Rods with 10.7 kilos while 2nd place was The Ghost with 8.5 kilos. **The Biggest Carp Cup 2018/19** went to Sweeney with 14.06 kilos. **The Memorial Shield 2019** winner was Big Fish Chris 19.43 kilos.



Winner of The Rod and Reel Cup 2019 was Fagin with 10.5 kilos and **The Special Award** (which was a key ring for the Ferrari) was awarded to 3 Rods.

It was a good evening with a quiz, American Supper and raffle. A big thank you to the wives, Pete and Sue, and everyone for attending such a wonderful evening.

(Photos provided by Nigel & Gillian.)

Next ~~meeting~~ bun fight is at The Lime Bar @ 17.00 Mon 2nd December.

Fishy Fingers!

The Ghost

What are the measurements of the perfect husband?

82-20-45. That's 82 years old, €20 million in the bank and a 45- degree fever.

How should you reply to a bloke who says: 'Hey, you're just my type.'

'I think you must be mistaken - I have a pulse!'

Hey, we're going to Ibiza - No! We're not!

BRITISH bride-to-be Rachel Doran, waved off her hubby to beand his 30 pals as they headed to Leeds airport on what they thought would be the stag do of a life time in Spain.

However when Chris Mahone and his mates left their local pub in Cumbria and arrived to the airport, they were told there were no flights or hotel bookings under their names.

They soon discovered that Doran (photo), 32, had instead pocketed the £11,160 kitty destined for the three-day trip to Ibiza and had forged a Jet2.com booking form, duping the group into thinking they had everything booked.

The stag trip, on September 6 2017, was scheduled just 10 days before the couple were due to tie the knot.

According to Leeds Live, Doran pleaded guilty on Tuesday to theft and fraud by forging the flight details.

Carlisle Crown Court heard how each of the pals had chipped in £360 each to pay for the trip.

The court heard how Doran suffered three miscarriages in the period leading up to the stag do, and that this may have affected her mental health and behaviour.

She was handed a 15-month jail sentence, suspended for two years.

Factory worker Doran, who now has a new partner, was also sentenced to 240 hours unpaid community work and 20 rehabilitation activity days.

She must also pay £3,600 compensation to be shared between the stag party.

Judge Nicholas Barker told her: "On the face of it you have acted in a deceitful and callous way. You must have known the theft would be found out and the world would come falling down around you.

"You did all this at a time you were preparing for your marriage."

Mahone's lawyer Gerard Rogerson previously told the court how the pair had known each other since school and that he had proposed on September 13 2015.

The group arrived at the airport at 5am when they discovered the gutting news.

Rogerson said: "It was then it dawned on Mr Mahone what was going on and he realised no bookings were made.

"Paperwork was produced including a Jet2 confirmation form. When it was looked at it became clear it was a fake document."

The court then heard how when Mahone tried to ring Doran, she did not pick up the phone.

When she rang back later saying she wanted to talk, he told her he wanted 'nothing to do with her'.

Rogerson added: "He then received a text message stating, erroneously, she was pregnant."

Mahone told the court: "The whole experience has left me embarrassed. I trusted her, I loved her at the time and put all of my trust in her. I've lost confidence, I find it difficult to talk to women because I'm scared of getting hurt.

"I feel sorry Rachel took others' hard-earned money too."

Kim Whittlestone, representing Doran, detailed how she had tragically suffered three miscarriages in just 14 months.

"The impact on her mental health was significant," Whittlestone said.

"It's clear they did have an impact on her state of mind. One can only assume as a result of these pressures she behaved in the way she did."

"This is a devastating case for all involved."



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Spanish Prescription Sheets.

If you are benefiting from the Spanish health system, you will shortly notice a change to the normal dating information on your prescription sheet.

Until now if a doctor had prescribed some medicines for you and they appeared on your list with a particular date, if you didn't go to the chemist and take out that particular drug within 10 days of that date, it expired.

From now on, specified dates to collect the drugs do not now appear on the prescription covering sheet. This means that chronic drugs do not expire and you can go to the chemist/pharmacy and draw a fresh supply of a drug, when you only have a handful of them left.

It is fair to say that this new system is causing confusion, not only with older patients but also with the doctors themselves. The local pharmacist staff appear to be the fount of knowledge on this, so speak to them. I did but am still no clearer!

Problems booking an appointment with your doctor in Spain?

If you have an SIP card, go to the pharmacy half-way down the Los Altos hill and they will do it for you.

However, it is very easy for you to do it online also.



'Looks like the doctor confirmed my diagnosis. ' It's not just your bowel. Everything about you is irritable.'

Robin Hood's Squeeze!

A teacher asks her class, 'Can anyone tell me the name of Robin Hood's girlfriend?'

Little Tommy raises his hand and says, 'Yes, Miss, it's Trudy Glen.'

'No Tommy, the answer is Maid Marion.'

'But Miss, what about the song? "Robin Hood, Robin Hood, riding Trudy Glen!"'

Airport Bus Timetable.

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

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

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

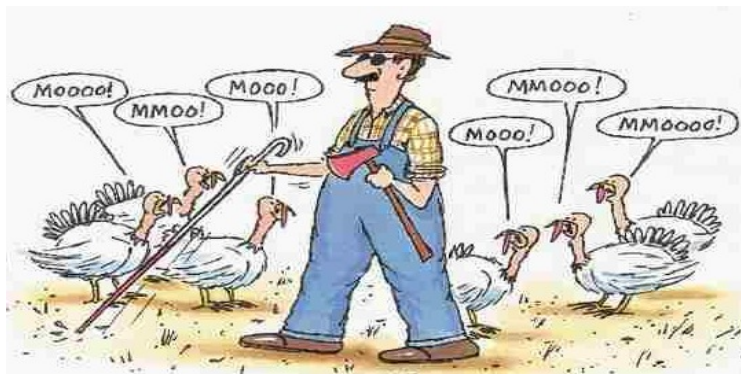
The web address is located below and is, helpfully, also available in the English language.

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/>

**Red Days Valencian Community - 2019
December 6 (Constitution Day); December 25 (Christmas).**

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



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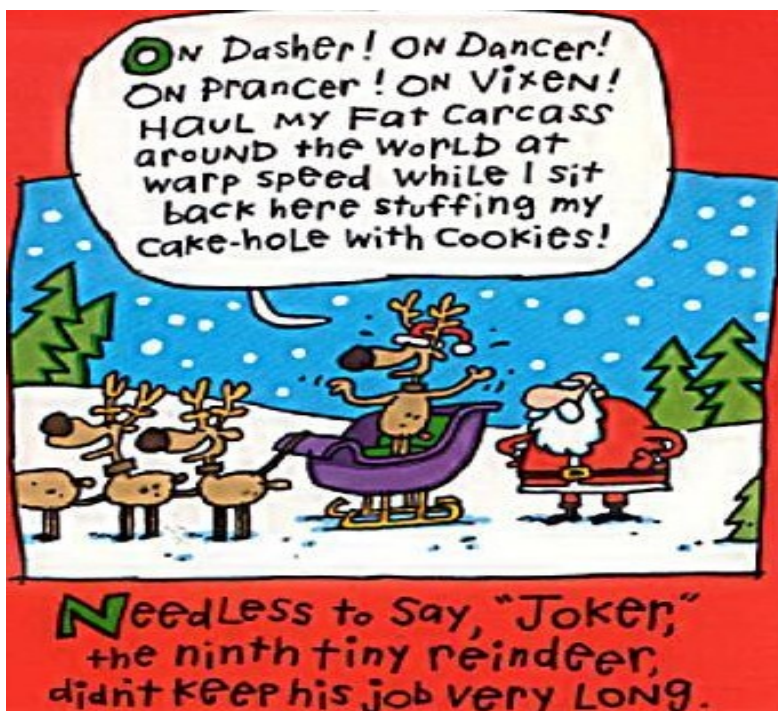
(016 is the phone line to report domestic violence. It is free and leaves no trace on your phone bill.)

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



*New Year's Eve, when auld acquaintance be
forgot -
unless, of course, those tests come back positive.
Jay Leno*

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