

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER

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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the April 2020 email edition. Issue No.152

Welcome to latest edition of The Dream Scene in what are surely very difficult, worrying and dangerous times. This issue of the newsletter is only available by email or on the web, as 99% of our normal distribution points for the printed copies, including our own printers, are closed and may remain so for some time.

Most of the newsletter will be concerned mainly about the coronavirus, but the remaining pages will relate to other news in Spain or elsewhere. As you have access to the Internet you can obviously keep up to date with current recommendations and developments. The newsletter is neither a medical nor scientific journal. Hopefully it may keep you informed on some things and possibly even make you smile.

The Spanish Prime Minister, Pedro Sánchez, photo, has announced a relief package of €200 billion to fight the economic fallout of the coronavirus crisis. The measures include delaying mortgage payments, easing social security contributions and allowing employees who need to care for dependent relatives to reduce their workday by as much as 100%. Of the €200 billion fund, half of the money is tied to a public guarantee scheme to ensure liquidity for struggling businesses. Another €17 billion is being earmarked to support the groups most likely to suffer from the effects of the pandemic.



At least 100,000 workers are facing temporary layoffs as a result of the halt in economic activity after the country went into lockdown on Saturday, March 14. Most retail businesses have closed after Spanish authorities ordered people to confine themselves to their homes. Some of the measures listed in the 45-page decree include the possibility of delaying mortgage payments on primary residences for employees who lose their jobs, as well as self-employed workers who sustain dramatic income losses due to the coronavirus crisis.

The aid package revolves around four main guidelines: easing the conditions of the temporary collective layoffs (known as ERTes in Spain), supporting workers and businesses affected by the slump in activity, guaranteeing liquidity for businesses, and supporting research to find a coronavirus vaccine. The mortgage moratorium will last between one and three months, according to experts consulted by the El Pais newspaper. (In Italy the government are offering mortgage pauses of up to 18 months.)

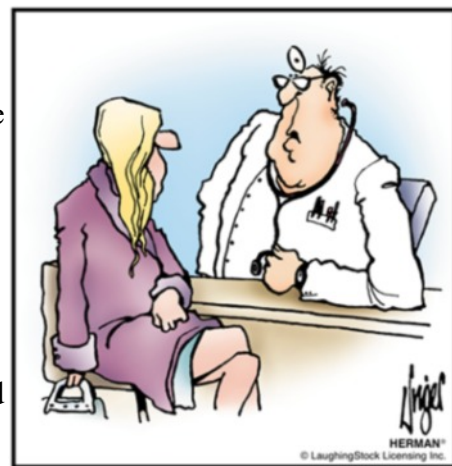
The draft also contemplates lifting social security contribution requirements for small and medium businesses who do not lay off workers, and adjusting the social security system contributions made by self-employed workers whose income plummets due to the crisis. The decree also allows workers to adapt and reduce their working hours, by as much as 100% if necessary, if they need to provide care to dependents.

The measures also target the self-employed and small businesses, which stand to sustain significant losses. "We will work to allow the self-employed to receive a subsidy if they are affected," said PM Sánchez, who called on employers not to lay off workers. A €30-million allocation will also be made to reinforce "scientific research to develop a vaccine and a cure for Covid-19." The beneficiaries of these funds are the state scientific research council CSIC and the research institute Carlos III.

Don't forget that the clocks go forward on Sunday, March 29.

Hoping you all will keep safe and healthy.

Mick, Tid and the Dream Scene Team.



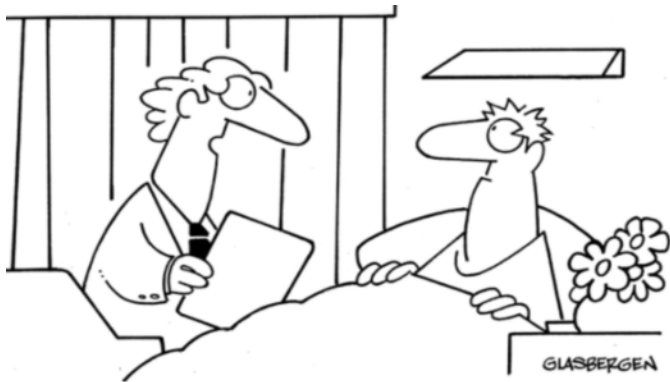
"You've got Egyptian flu. You're going to be a 'mummy.'"

I got some new underwear the other day. Well, new to me.

Emo Philips

In this particular area of Spain, we live in the Valencian Community. The governing body is known as The Generalitat. The Community comprises three provinces - Valencia, Castellón and Alicante. We live in Alicante.

The decree of the Government of Spain that activates some 200,000 million (2 billion) euros to address the social and economic chaos of the coronavirus has already become the largest aid plan during the modern democracy. On the table is also the release of the surplus of the municipalities in 2019, about 525 million throughout the Valencian Community and 180 in the province of Alicante. However only part of that money will be spent on social action to face the economic and social impact of the coronavirus with about 33 million euros in the Community and about 12 million in Alicante Province. This will be clearly inadequate on its own and additional funds from central government are critical to dealing with this, likely on-going disaster.



"I ran all of your symptoms through the computer and now the computer is sick too."

Locally, the lockdown appears to be being adhered to but what has been less effective has been the effort to keep the people from Madrid, by far Spain's most virus ridden area, away from their holiday homes. When the Madrid regional government announced that they were going to lockdown in advance, many already jumped in their cars and travelled to the coastal areas.

On the weekend March 20-22, there were around 30,000 police roadblocks nationwide to deter Spaniards from going to their holiday homes.

ICU doctors in Spain state that there would be 56,000 deaths if the advised measures are not followed.

An action plan for intensive care doctors and nurses warns of the worst scenarios of the pandemic in Spain if containment measures had not been taken and raises possible deaths to a range of between 36,000 and 87,000.

Here the supermarkets are well organised and still appear to be well stocked. Distances between customers, limited numbers in the stores and the use of gloves are common.

Many of the stores have recruited extra workers to rapidly re-stock shelves etc. The supply of meats and milk can be a little erratic but the stores are thankfully, not as chaotic as those reported from in the UK. My next door neighbour, went to Consum this morning (March 21) and said that queues were minimal and the store well stocked. The local Consum now opens at 10am. I went to Aldi yesterday; small queue, controlled access and reasonable stocks.

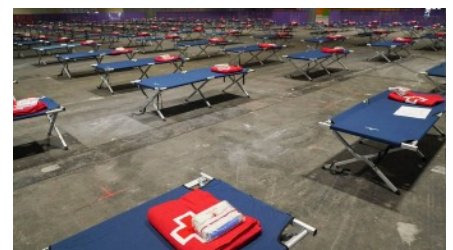
According to sources consulted by a local Spanish newspaper, the Local Police has begun to sanction citizens who were not complying with the restrictions in place. Penalties of "700 euros" in these cases. In addition, reports have also been drawn up in some premises of the hospitality sector that have violated the closing order. Some reports that are sent to the Generalitat, who has jurisdiction in this regard, indicate that fines can go up to 1,500 euros in minor cases; from 1,501 to 30,000 euros in some cases; and from 30,001 to 600,000 euros plus jail in the very serious ones.

You can see more details of the restrictions on page 3.

Since the order to close bars, restaurants and coffee shops was decreed Friday, March 13, the National Police and the Local Police have worked together, especially in the "English zone" in Benidorm to confine visitors to hotels. However, many of them resisted and decided to spend their days buying alcohol in supermarkets and being on the streets drinking! You may have seen it on Facebook and they were gormless!

The Generalitat of the Valencian Community have been 'on the ball' with the early close down of bars, restaurants, etc. They have reacted quickly, certainly faster than central government. On March 19 they ordered three field hospitals to be constructed in Valencia, Alicante and Castellón, with a capacity of 1,100 beds: 500 in Valencia, 400 in Alicante and 200 in Castellón. They plan for half the beds to be available within 15 days. The new field hospitals will be modular according to operational requirements and will be air-conditioned. They will have an isolation unit and quarantine areas, toilets and services separated by sex, reception, triage and a rest area for medical personnel. In addition, agreements have already been signed with hotel companies to increase the number of care beds. The first agreements are in Valencia and Alicante.

More than 5,000 hospital beds have been set up at the Ifema convention centre in Madrid.



The State Security Forces; Military, Guardia Civil and Police may sanction those who do not comply with the restrictions set by the Government in application of the state of alarm decreed to deal with the coronavirus pandemic. Law enforcement bodies follow a guideline to ensure compliance with the State of Alarm.

The guideline is as follows:

Pedestrian:

Mobility is limited to the following activities: buying food, going to the pharmacy or bank. Travelling between workplace and place of residence. Taking care of children, the elderly and other especially vulnerable people. These activities are to be done alone, except when accompanying people with disabilities or for another justified reason. Law enforcement bodies may request documentation and proof for such presence on public roads, such as supermarket tickets, prescriptions, etc. In addition, pedestrians may be asked for their identification and sanctioned for repetitive, invalid and dishonest behaviour.

Vehicles:

Vehicles cannot be shared, except for justified reasons. In this case the passenger must sit at the rear of the car and both occupants of the vehicle must wear a mask.

Work vehicles:

In this case, there is no limit to the number of people that can occupy the vehicle. Everyone must wear a mask under the responsibility of the employer.

Second home:

Movement between homes is not permitted. If already in the second home, this property will be considered the habitual one and the same restrictions are applied.

Joint custody and visiting rights:

Authorised, travel of minors to visit / stay with the other parent. Always following the health security measures.

Agriculture and Livestock:

The movement of people to take care of land, livestock, greenhouses, extensive production fields, etc. is permitted.

Self-employed:

Movement for work purposes is permitted (plumbers, courier service, electricians, builders, salesmen, etc.) Always following the health security measures.

Automotive repair shops:

They may be open to the public, following the health security measures, but they will only be able to make repairs. The sale of parts, vehicles, accessories, etc. is prohibited during the state of emergency.

Note that locally, Dream Hills Auto Repairs is open, phone 966 724 346.

Fast food:

Pizzerias, hamburger joints, etc., must be closed to the public, and only home delivery is accepted.

Petrol Station and service areas:

They may remain open to the public, however the shops must be closed, as well as the cafeteria and bathroom, except for the use of lorry drivers, bus drivers, ambulances, etc.

Multi-price shops, hardware stores and bazaar:

Closed. Only those with an opening license to sell authorised items such as food, beverages, telephones, toiletries, tobacco, animal food, or stationery can open and only sell those items. Employees and customers must maintain security measures, such as keeping their distance in queues.

Construction:

Authorised. Builders must follow health safety measures.

Phytosanitary (relating to the health of plants) and building material:

The sale to professionals such as freelancers and wholesalers is authorised. However, sales to the public is prohibited.

Catering:

Business in this sector must be closed. However, home delivery is permitted under the same conditions as fast food businesses.

Open establishments:

Supermarkets, food shops, pharmacies, medical centres, opticians, orthopaedic centres, hygiene and cleaning product shops, press and stationery shops, tobacconists, telephone shops, pet shops for food only, dry cleaners and laundries may be open. Health security measures must be followed at all times.

FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES, ISOLATE AND KEEP YOUR DISTANCES!

The Labour Market, Water, Trump, Russia & the SGAE-Spain's Sheriff of Nottingham! 4

The Spanish labour market will remove in 15 days the ground that has gained inch by inch over the last 10 years. The number of **unemployed will now go above four million** from around three million in 2019.

The **water supply** in Torrevieja has experienced an increase of 3.2% in a middle week in March compared to the same period last year, according to data handled by the supply management concessionaire. So far this month, almost 298,000 cubic meters have been provided, 9,000 more than in the same period last year. The difference can be explained by the start of the period of confinement, but above all by the arrival out of high season of a significant number of residents from other communities, especially Madrid.

President **Trump** personally reached out to the primary investor of a German pharmaceutical company to purchase exclusive rights to a vaccine, for use only in the United States, according to German Chancellor Minister Angela Merkel. The company, CureVac, has repeatedly denied



that there was an offer and says it "rejects all allegations in the press." Merkel said the "government took care of it very early on." During a conference call with the nation's

governors, Trump said states should figure out how to obtain life-saving medical equipment on their own. "Respirators, ventilator, all of the equipment – try getting it yourselves," Trump told the governors, according to the New York Times.

After the call, Trump went to Twitter to single out New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) to "do more." Cuomo shot back: "I have to do more? No — YOU have to do something! You're supposed to be the President." Trump later deleted his tweet.

President Trump and members of Congress failed to heed repeated early warnings from U.S. intelligence agencies about the outbreak's potential severity, according to a blockbuster story in The Washington Post. Despite CIA and national intelligence reports from January and February that the coronavirus had the potential to sweep the globe and that Officials reported that China appeared to be downplaying the outbreak and said swift action could be needed to contain the coronavirus., Trump continued to trust (and tweet) the Chinese government's false claims that its spread was being controlled. "The system was blinking red," a U.S. official told The Post. "**They just couldn't get him to do anything about it.**"

It is of particular concern that with the close relationships to China and extensive national resources, **Russia has**

only reported 63 cases. While it is possible that this low number reflects their active border control and screening there is a concern that this reflects either a lack of screening or a lack of reporting. Combined with the recent evidence that Russia has been behind several recent COVID-19 disinformation campaigns, this raises the concern that Russia may be playing a dangerous game with global health.

Finally, the low levels of reported cases in many countries may be due to a lack of testing or a lack of reporting. Many countries are actively pursuing policies in which only those with serious illness and a travel history to an area with strong local transmission will be tested, including the UK. This will lead to a dramatic under-reporting of case numbers and can jeopardise the ability to contain the pandemic, as the WHO has stated: "You can't fight a virus if you don't know where it is. Find, isolate, test and treat every case, to break the chains of transmission."

The two **performing rights society** in Spain, the SGAE and AGEDI-AIE, sends a bill every month to 8,356 bars and restaurants and 694 nightlife venues, pubs and clubs in the Valencian Community and to 4,231 bars and restaurants, and to 401 nightlife venues, pubs and clubs in the province of Alicante. Problem is the direct debits for their charges are made mid-month in advance so we now have the situation that all these bars, restaurants and clubs are paying for the month that they are closed! One chap who manages a pub in Benidorm said that he received direct debits to his account totalling around €170, 119.52 from the SGAE and 47.12 for AGEDI -AIE Basically, being charged while not playing music! The SGAE charges outlets, bars etc based on the square meters, the capacity of the premises and the opening days. Their rates for a pub range from a minimum of 129 euros per month for a 60-meter site, open two days a week.

Comments to current articles on the SGAE in the media range from 'Scoundrel Gang' to 'They have gone from bloodsuckers to scavengers.'

Some year ago The Dream Scene reported on the head of the SGAE who was milking the organisation of millions! On 1 July 2011, six members of the SGAE, including the president, Teddy Bautista, caricature, were arrested and charged with embezzlement. All were released without bail and to date no one has gone to jail.

The Investigation Committee estimated that as much as 87 million euros were embezzled directly or indirectly from 1997 to 2011. A common description of SGAE by independent songwriters in Spain is that the organization is made up of pirates who prefer to keep and spend royalty money owed to the writers. Hmmm, they should do well in politics here.



If you are reading this you are already on the Internet and have plenty of access to advice on how to personally deal with the current crisis. Most of it is common sense. The following is an **abridged** version of one I read in The Times:

Don't deep clean your home

You can't get infected by touching a contaminated surface, only if you touch your mouth, eyes and nose. "Be sensible about where you are going to come into contact with infection," says Sally Bloomfield, honorary professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and chairwoman of the International Scientific Forum on Home Hygiene (IFH). "If you sneeze and it lands on the floor, you or someone else is not necessarily going to touch the floor with their hands. Focus on cleaning surfaces and banisters." Clean and disinfect toilet seats and flush handles, especially after defecating.

Do use diluted bleach on your home surfaces

Although the virus can only "breed" inside human or animal cells and cannot multiply on surfaces, it is important to keep frequently used surfaces — and that includes computer keyboards, TV remotes, telephones, kettle handles, door handles, tap handles and kitchen tops — scrupulously clean. Cheap bleach is as effective as more expensive products. "We know that bleach destroys the biological structures that make up the virus and so kills it rapidly," Bloomfield says. "Both thin and thick bleach is about ten times stronger than you need, so use one part bleach to ten parts water dilution to disinfect surfaces." Avoid using old cloths and sponges, which can harbour germs — disinfect all re-usable cloths immediately after each use using a bleach disinfectant.

Don't use cash

According to the Bank of England, notes can carry bacteria or viruses, but "the risk posed by handling a polymer note is no greater than touching any other common surfaces such as handrails, doorknobs or credit cards". (And of course ATM's & supermarket bank card readers)

Do clean your phone

"Your mobile phone is an extension of your hands and probably the item you touch most regularly and which also comes into contact with your face," Bloomfield says.

Squeezing toothpaste that may have been used by an infected person on to your brush could spread the virus. "It's worth buying a tube of toothpaste for everyone in the house and the same goes for other toiletries, and any glasses in the bathroom," Bloomfield says.

Do wash salad vegetables

There is no evidence that the virus can be transmitted by food and much remains unknown about how long the virus could survive on the surface of food, but it is theoretically possible if someone who has the virus but doesn't know it coughs, sneezes or handles fresh produce.

Don't share towels

Get into the habit of using separate hand towels, bath towels and flannels for each member of the household. Wash your hands after putting laundry into the machine and remember to disinfect the buttons and door

Do shop online

"The supermarket is a great place for passing on the coronavirus," Bloomfield says. "Shop at off-peak times when it is likely to be much quieter in store." Since everything in a supermarket is in high demand, be extra careful. Wash your hands before you go and when you get home. Ideally you should wash your hands immediately after leaving the supermarket when you get to your car.

Don't re-use a tea towel

If you have a dishwasher, use it. Like cloths and sponges, tea towels can readily spread viruses from the surface of one item to another so you must wash them at 60C between uses and dry thoroughly before using again — alternatively use a disposable cloth or paper towel to dry things.

Do rotate coats and shoes

In general you should rotate clothes that aren't routinely washed, such as coats and shoes. "The coronavirus dies off after about 72 hours, so leave them somewhere cool to dry out, like a porch, and wear them again three days later," Lisa Ackerley, a chartered environmental health practitioner and IFH spokeswoman, says. "It should not be necessary to wipe all outer clothes down after wearing them unless you have been in contact with an infected person."

Continued on next page.



Ladies bikini waxes now have fancy names like the 'Hollywood', the 'Landing Strip', and the 'Brazilian'.

Personally, I prefer the 'Rainforest'.

Jim Davidson

Don't bother wearing a mask (!??)

The advice is not to wear a mask unless you have been advised by a health practitioner to do so — usually only if you are living with someone who is vulnerable to infection. “In most cases masks are not well fitting or are not worn properly anyway, so offer little if any protection,” Ackerley says. “There’s evidence that people touch their faces more when wearing a mask and also that they fiddle with the mask, neither of which is beneficial.” (I don’t necessary agree with this. At least if you cough or sneeze wearing a mask, you surely are spreading less germs.)

In the US, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued a poster displaying 36 different kinds of facial hair and whether each style is compatible with a mask or not. It led to some NHS trusts asking staff to shave off beards to allow masks to fit better in a bid to reduce the spread of coronavirus.

Do use a nasal spray

If you have to travel in a confined space plane — consider using a “cold and flu pharmacies) before during and after your virus from infecting via the mucosa of the the personal ventilation system above from you and towards the floor of the person next or in front of you. Also carry more germs than the toilet seats.)

Do limit use of public transport if

Walking or cycling alone is less risky make sure you disinfect the steering especially if you have given someone a bus, take precautions. Try not to sit coughs and remember that the virus can linger for up to 72 hours on handrails, buttons, doors, poles and other hard surfaces.

“Hold handrails using a tissue and dispose of it afterwards,” Ackerley says. “Remember to keep a small plastic bag in your pocket for dirty tissues.” On a train or plane, wash your hands in the washroom, but be aware that, having touched surfaces touched by other people before returning to your seat, you will need to use a hand sanitiser when you sit down. Wash hands before and after using public transport and take a hand sanitiser with you.

Do keep your distance

We’ve all heard the social distancing recommendations that include cancelling large public gatherings such as weddings or parties and staying home rather than going out to eat, but how far should we take them? And should we stick to standing 2m (3 steps) apart from the nearest person? “Try to avoid gatherings and heading to crowded pubs and restaurants if it’s not necessary and understand the relative risks,” Bloomfield says. “If you are elderly and at greater risk of infection, you should be more careful and should probably avoid going out to lunch and meeting friends and family if possible, communicating by (Skype, Facebook,) FaceTime and phone instead.”

If you can stand 2m from people and avoid hand-shaking and any contact, it reduces your chances of getting infected, but it is not always realistic or possible. If you are self-isolating, however, stay at home and keep to your room as far as possible — keep the door closed and window slightly open and avoid close contact with anyone.

You can access the full text of this article here, but you may have to register or sign-up, as The Times is usually subscription only.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/coronavirus-hygiene-advice-dont-use-cash-do-wash-veg-qchfn9wl8?>



“Not the whole bed, nurse, just his mattress.”

for a long time — on a train, bus or defence nasal spray” (available from journey. “It could help to prevent the nose,” Bloomfield says. On a plane, use your seat to direct any viruses away cabin. (Yes, and probably onto the remember, seat trays on planes can

possible

than using public transport. If you drive, wheel, gear stick and door handles daily, lift. If you have to go to work by train or within 1 or 2 metres of someone who

The Rabbi

When Rabbi Shpielman picked up the phone, Special Investigator Brown from the Inland Revenue on the line. "Hello, Rabbi Shpielman?" "Yes, this is." "I'm calling to inquire about a member of your congregation, a Dr. Samuels. Do you recognize the name?"

"Yes, he is a member of our congregation. How can I be of service?"

"Well, on last year's tax return, the doctor claimed that he made a sizable tax-deductible contribution to your synagogue? Is it true?"

"Well, I'll have to have my bookkeeper verify this information for you. How much did Dr. Samuels say he contributed?" "One hundred thousand pounds," answered the agent. "Can you tell me if that's true?"

There is a long pause. "I'll tell you what," replied Rabbi Shpielman, "Call back tomorrow. I'm sure it will be."

Lime Bar Fishing Sunbathing Club

Hello all, I would like to wake up and find I have been dreaming. Unfortunately, it is real.

Although the club has a reputation for being a bunch of neurotic sickies, I hope we skip this one. The enforced lock down is a bit of a bugger but if it helps the World get a handle on the virus, then I'll stay put. In the meantime, instead of self-isolating on the river bank, isolate yourself on the sofa with a beer watching lots of old fishing DVDs and YouTube vids. At least you have a chance to service all your tackle, and come back like a professional when the lock down is finally lifted. Treat it a bit like the old days during closed season in UK.

We are giving the fish a rest.... Ho Ho !



At the end of February, on the day the last report went to print, Big Fish Chris was at it again. This time he landed a 13.8 pounder from Nancy's. Maybe he can give us online tuition during the lockdown? See photo.

The monthly meeting was actually held in the Lime Bar this month as the racket maker from the "Noisy Bingo" had a sore throat. It was nice to be able to hear yourself think! A few bits were discussed and we decided to fish the last match of the winter series at Bigastro. After all, it couldn't be any worse than last month's match at the Eden canal. Could it? Yes, it could. 12 anglers on the bank between pegs 1 to 12 and only 3 caught 4 fish between them. It was dire, even our professional "the

Shropshire lad" blanked. That is the 1st time since he has been with us! Not only was the fishing crap, it was cold and windy too making it difficult to use the pole. Where the week before Fagin was poncing around in his shreddies, today he was wrapped up like Michelin man. He got bored waiting for a bite and went for a bumble along the bank. See photo, right. But at least he caught.

1st was Just John again with 2 fish for 2 kilos, 2nd was Fagin (1 fish of 1.5 kilos) and 3rd was me with a tiddler (it got me 18 points and into the final though).

This match confirmed the 6 x winter finalists. They are Fagin, Just John, Ghost, 3 Rods, Ball Boy and the Cheshire cat. The final was going to be held later in March but the lock down has put it on hold.

Due to the circumstances that's all for now until we are allowed out to play with our rods again. Don't forget, her indoors isn't used to you being at home, so maintain your sense of humour, smile and do as you are told! Then we'll see you all soon up the Lime Bar without a black eye.

Next meeting bun fight is at The Lime Bar (hopefully soon).

Stay safe
Fishy fingers!
The Ghost



Healthcare creates a self-test to detect the coronavirus

The Ministry of Health has made a self-test available to citizens according to the criteria of the Ministry of Health, to serve as a guide on the coronavirus . To obtain information on how to proceed in the event of symptoms or other circumstances related to the disease , simply access the following link: http://coronavirusautotest.san.gva.es/autotest_es.html

The test can be carried out in Spanish or Valencian. For the test to load correctly, Flash must be allowed in your browser.

Tengo síntomas y me preocupa que pueda ser por coronavirus

I have symptoms and I am concerned that it may be due to coronavirus

Estoy aislado/confinado en casa y:

I am isolated / homebound and:

He dado positivo por coronavirus y:

I have tested positive for coronavirus and:

Tengo dudas acerca de temas relacionados con el coronavirus

I have questions about coronavirus related issues

This application, following the criteria set by the Ministry of Health, offers information and aims to guide citizens on whether they should go to a Health Center or call the phone number enabled by the Ministry, 900 300 555, depending on the symptoms they present and other circumstances such as the places they have visited or the contacts they have had in recent days. Remember that the main symptoms of a Covid-19 infection are very similar to those of the common flu. Among the most prominent signs are the following: Fever; Cough; Shortness of breath; Headache; Generalized fatigue. Lack of senses of smell and taste may also be a factor. The diagnosis of the disease goes beyond these symptoms. Coronavirus infection, however, can only be confirmed by specific tests.

Maybe not 'Leader of the Free World' but who the hell is today - certainly not that idiot Trump, I have always had great regard and respect for Angela Merkel although I am sure that many of you would not share the same feelings! I believed she always brought sanity, reasonableness, patience and wisdom to difficult situations. The following article by Justin Davidson appeared in the NYMAG, *Intelligencer* section on March 18.

The Leader of the Free World Gives a Speech, and She Nails It

Angela Merkel doesn't do drama and she doesn't give speeches on TV. So the mere fact that the German chancellor faced the camera across a desk and spoke to the nation Wednesday evening made the gravity of the situation clear. "Es ist ernst," she said—"This is serious"—and those three bland words had more power than a hellfire sermon. Then she pivoted from statement to plea: "Take it seriously." Quickly, she moved on to historical context, the reason for her unprecedented impromptu appearance: "Since German unification—no, World War—no nation has ever degree of action."



She gave full-throated thanks to front-line medical workers, assured Germans that there is no need to hoard, and paused to offer gratitude to a group of workers who rarely get recognized by heads of state on national TV: "Those who sit at supermarket cash registers or restock shelves are doing one of the hardest jobs there is right now."

This is a war without a human enemy, and Merkel lays no blame. She asked for the sacrifice of discipline, for heroic acts of kindness. She acknowledged the paradox in calling for solidarity and apartness at the same time. She understood how painful it is that just when people desperately want to come together, families and friends have to endure separation. To Americans, Merkel's appeals to democracy, and her sadness at having to use the full weight of her authority, come as a welcome shock.

No German could listen to her calls for self-policing without recalling that she grew up in East Germany under the eye of the Stasi. "For someone like myself, for whom freedom of travel and movement were hard-won rights," she said, "such restrictions can only be justified when they are absolutely necessary." No American could hear that statement and fail to contrast it with our own leader's ringing words: "I don't take responsibility at all."

Merkel made no specific announcements and called for no nationwide curfews or additional closures. Yet what gave her address its force was her tone, which was direct, honest, and searingly empathic. She laid bare not just the test we all face but also the solace that leadership can provide. Without accusations, boasts, hedges, obfuscations, dubious claims, or apocalyptic metaphors she did what a leader is supposed to do: explain the gravity of the situation and promise that the government's help would flow to everyone who needed it.

The Interrogation

A French spy, an English spy, and an Italian spy were sent to North Korea. Unfortunately, they were caught within a few days and held in captivity for a week and interrogated.

The French spy was first. They tied him, tortured him, and after 20 minutes he gave them all his information. The English spy fared the same. After being tied and tortured for 20 minutes, he gave in and gave up all his information.

But when they tried the same with the Italian, he refused to give up anything and stayed tied to the chair for 3 hours until the Russians gave up and threw him back in the cell.

"How did you do that!" The other two were amazed at his endurance.

"I wanted to give up all my information," replied the Italian. "But they tied my hands, so I couldn't talk!"



Okay, we all know that at certain times bulls are seen running in the streets of Spain, but lions! This was in nearby Molina de Segura in Murcia. The police bravely stopped the animal and scanned for a chip. The scan revealed that the "lion" was actually a large dog groomed to look like a lion. The scan also showed that the dog belonged to a nearby resident, so the police returned the animal to its owner.

Enough cologne? You smell like Paco Rabanne crawled up your ass and died.

Chris Moltisanti, *The Sopranos*

OTHER STUFF!

PORNHUB has dropped the paywall for its premium content in Spain in a bid to show solidarity amid the ongoing coronavirus lockdown. Very kind, but it's not like we have plenty of free time to spend hours on the Internet.....wait a minute!

Meanwhile, Netflix is cutting streaming quality in Europe. The temporary measure will be in place for the next 30 days to cope with surging demand.

Norway banned its residents from their own vacation homes. The government fears that rural hospitals will get overrun if people flock to their cabins to shelter from the pandemic. Spain has done much the same, not that many Madrilenos took notice of it.

This harridan is the former Catalan councillor Clara Ponsatí. She faces a charge of sedition in Spain over her role in Catalonia's illegal independence referendum in 2017. She has now taken refuge in Scotland. Efforts to extradite her have failed as she was nominated as a Euro MP at the last European elections and the Scottish justice system stated that being a Euro MP, she had immunity. Clara is now back in the news again after she sent a Twitter message making fun of the dead in Madrid saying 'From Madrid to Heaven.' The message was re-tweeted by Carles Puigdemont, yet another former Catalan politician and president of that province, this one hiding out in Belgium. However the response of several thousand on Twitter condemned the message as cruel and insensitive caused the original entries to be deleted by them both.



The number of gender violence convictions in Spain has reached a record high in 2019. Seven out of ten gender violence cases according to the Observatory Against Domestic and Gender Violence of the Judiciary (CGPJ), resulted in a sentence in favour of the victim. Last year the percentage of cases that ended in convictions were 70.54%, which is a 0.09% increase in comparison to the previous year and a 3% jump since 2017, when it was 67.4%. Out of 51,790 cases that went to court, 36,534 resulted in convictions and 15,256 in acquittals. An increase was also seen in the number of complaints filed, with a 0.67% growth compared to the previous year.

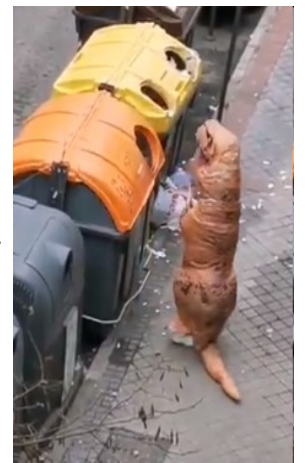
A man has been arrested while jogging along the seafront of Malaga during the nationwide coronavirus lockdown. The 29-year-old was stopped by the local police while putting on running gear but refused to answer their questions. The chap then pretended to be a tourist from Madrid who was visiting for few days, reported Diario Sur. He then told officers: "Everyone's time has come and I'm not going to stop doing what I want to do."

Six patrol cars arrived on the scene after the local started becoming increasingly aggressive while refusing to identify himself. As officers tried to frisk him, he pulled his trousers down in a bid to hinder the process. (Bet he wouldn't do this in L.A.) Despite resisting, he was arrested and bundled into the police car. The arresting officers, who wore



masks, forced one on the man as a precaution. Don't think it will improve his fucked-up brain though!

One Murcian thought he could evade the rules by wandering the streets dressed as a Tyrannosaurus Rex. See photos. Despite being questioned by police, he was later seen (and filmed) by a neighbour taking his rubbish out. Our own Jurassic Park! You can view the T Rex's excursions here- <https://twitter.com/MurciaPolicia/status/1239659731377098752> & <https://twitter.com/i/status/1239676400162004992>



The Diagnosis

This bloke goes into see his doctor and says, 'Every time I see a lorry, I get an erection'. The doctor laughs and says, 'Impossible.' So the bloke stands up and walks over to the window and, after a lorry passes by, he pulls his trousers down to reveal a huge hard-on. The doctor says, 'This defies medical science, but give me a sample of blood, then come back in three days and I'll have a result.'

Three days pass by and the bloke returns to the doctor. On entering his office, the doctor says, 'Sit down, I have some bad news for you.' The bloke slumps into a chair and says, 'What is it. Doctor?'

The doctor explains, 'You're HGV positive.'

I had planned to fill this page with a list of the events cancelled in our region and throughout Spain, but that is now so 'old hat' as everything was cancelled and events here are almost changing hourly!

During March 19 & 20, the Orihuela Local Police have identified 400 people, who were on the street or **driving, without just cause**, against the decree of the state of alarm which allows those who to go to work (for which you need a certificate issued by the company), to the supermarket (always the one closest to your home), to pharmacies or medical centres.

Dog Walking: The Local Police have been requesting the DNI or NIE of those who are just walking the dog to escape confinement or just being curious. Do not walk your dog more than 100 metres from your home and not for too long or you will be sanctioned. Do not dog walk with other people

Driving: When driving, only the driver may go, unless an elderly person, a minor, a disabled person or a dependent is accompanied (they must be seated in the rear seats). Also in the case of taxis, only one person per vehicle may use them. Two chaps were found driving around in Dolores, the driving testing positive for drugs.

Shopping: Police are also monitoring the capacity of the supermarkets, & that there are no more people within the permitted limits and that the safety distances between people of more than one metre are kept. The police will be able to ask for the receipts from the supermarkets to verify that the purchase has been made and that it has been in the supermarket closest to the driver or shopper's address.

One chap in Orihuela Costa was found rollerskating down the middle of a main road with ski poles!

The quieter streets are also making it easier for the police to detect robbers, closed shops being a target.

Since Saturday, March 21, 64 people had been arrested across Spain for disobeying the state of alarm, and 23,000 reports of disobedience had been filed which may result in fines.

The Red Cross and the Torrevieja City Council carry out daily monitoring of **fifty homeless people** living on the street and rule out improvising a shelter as they cannot guarantee hygiene and distancing conditions. Some of the homeless refuse to leave the street. A dozen homeless people have been relocated to two hostels and hotels in Torrevieja. Although there is no official number of passers-by in previous care campaigns, in order to protect these people from extreme weather events such as cold waves, the municipality pointed to the existence of fifty homeless people and temporarily re-housed them in the municipal sports facilities. This was the case of January 2017 and January 2019.

Tips to Avoid Climbing the Walls!

By Dr. Jesús Mesones, head of the Psychiatric services at the University Hospital of Torrevieja

1. **Understand the situation.** It is our main responsibility and it is something temporary that will pass.
2. **Be informed? YES.** Uncertainty generates emotional distress. We will try to maintain awareness of the situation through information offered by official sources with truthful and trustworthy information.
3. **Being over-informed? NO.** Let's try to limit the time spent searching for information, for example, to one or two moments a day, avoiding viral information by messaging or social networks.
4. **Disconnect.** Let's find a way to have varied conversations with our loved ones and / or work teams.
5. **Stop irrational catastrophic thoughts.** Let's direct our attention to positive information.
6. **Maintain social contact.** Let's take advantage of alternative means of communication (calls, messaging, videoconferencing) to stay connected to family and friends.
7. **Structure daily life.** Plan activities within the home as well as allowed outings following the sanitary recommendations. For the little ones, it will be essential to maintain a daily structure similar to the school one.
8. **Plan comforting activities.** We can dedicate the free time that confinement provides to developing pleasant activities alone and also with those who accompany us.
9. **Tolerate emotions.** Feeling bored, irritable, fearful or worried in this situation is part of the expected. Let's see what we are feeling, what produces them for us. We have the right to feel that way at certain times.
10. **Regulate emotions.** Maintaining regular physical activity at home, taking deep and conscious breaths, as well as sharing with others how we feel, are suitable ways to channel them.



0-15 © Jim Unger/dist. by United Media, 1997

"Me and the boys were trying to guess how you spell your name."

A doctor in Malaga was discovered **taking 300 masks** from the hospital where he worked. 14 boxes He declared that he wanted to distribute the 14 boxes among the residents of his town to protect them against the coronavirus.

The Civil Guard have arrested a 48-year-old man for violently **assaulting a 65-year-old woman** in the corridor to her apartment in Torrevieja. He stole her purse and you can see the assault with the link below. Hopefully her younger relatives will locate the thug and 'educate' him. You can see it here -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABFCATIXH_Q&feature=youtu.be

A British tourist was **stabbed, robbed and hospitalised by three children**, recording the attack on their phones. The trio were detained by Nacional Policia in Sant Vicent de Raspeig, near Alicante, for the alleged stabbing and robbery. A statement released February 29, says the gang stabbed the victim in the back with a pen-knife, whilst recording the attack on their mobile phones. The holiday-maker, as yet unnamed, was taking a morning stroll when he sensed he was being followed, so returned home as a precaution. The gang caught up with him and a struggle ensued, where he was attacked and robbed of his wallet and mobile. A passerby stopped to help, calling an ambulance straight away. The man suffered a collapsed lung and was operated on as soon as he reached hospital. A study of CCTV revealed the identity of the attackers, two of which were already known to Police. Matching clothing and the weapon used were found in subsequent house searches. The 16 and 17-year-olds arrested were charged with the crimes of robbery with violence, wounding and crime against moral integrity (as the attacked was filmed) and were presented to the Juvenile Prosecutor's Office of Alicante. No doubt just another suspended sentence and told not to do it again.

Police arrested 41 people and confiscated 5,176 kilos (**that's 5.7 tons!**) of hashish in an operation in Andalucia. The drugs were brought by small fast boats from Morocco to the beaches of Bolonia and the port of Tarifa in Cadiz.

At the Vet's!

Two ladies are sitting in a veterinary waiting room with their dogs. One of them has a large Rottweiler. She peers over at the other and asks "What are you in for?"

The second has a tiny Terrier. She looks up abruptly and replies "Rosco here gets so excited when the mail is delivered. He runs all over the house and then mounts my leg. I can't do anything with him in that state, so I'm having him fixed. How about you?"

The first lady snaps back "Oh my! I have the same issue with Brutus here! When I go out to get the paper, as soon as I bend down he's all over me!"

"Oh you're getting him fixed then?"

"No, I'm getting his nails trimmed..."

THE Mayor of Nerja, in the Costa del Sol, along with current and former councillors has been called to give evidence over the **untreated sewage water being pumped into the sea**. Nerja Town Hall is also accused of fraud as residents were paying for non-existent water treatment in their bills apparently since 2011. EU rules state that towns with populations over 15,000 should be treating their own water. Ecologists have highlighted that there are three towns; Coin, Nerja and Alhaurin el Grande, all in Andalucia and all with over 15,000 residents yet none of them have operating water treatment facilities.

In March 2014 three women, marching on behalf of the "**Guild of the Sacred Rebellious Pussy and the Sacred Burial of Social and Workers' Rights**", paraded a large model of a vagina around the city of Seville simulating an Easter religious procession. The women called this event "the procession of the Insubordinate Pussy." The women were arrested and put on trial for blasphemy. The case was finally dismissed in October 2019. In July 2017, Willy Toledo, a Spanish actor and activist, took exception to the treatment of the feminist activists and put on Facebook, "I shit on God and have enough shit left over to shit on the dogma of the saintliness and virginity of the Virgin Mary. This country is unbearably shameful. I'm disgusted. Go fuck yourselves. Long live the Insubordinate Pussy." He has only recently been found not-guilty of any offence. I have noticed that over the years, there has been several attempts by a number of organisations and individuals in Spain to mock and insult Catholic and Christian beliefs without sanction. Now I am not a religious person but I would ask 'What would happen if a similar bunch were to say, insult the Muslim religion?' I would guess that rather being dismissed as 'nutters' they would probably find at some stage an AK47 shoved up their arse!



"The journey of a thousand bad decisions begins with the first one, so let's get started."

This French couple, he 40 and she 39, had been partying all afternoon in Torre del Mar on the Costa del Sol. He drove home and asked his wife to park the car in the garage. Problem was, he was in front of the car when she drove it into the garage, through the closed garage door, trapping her husband between the wall and the front of the car under the front left wheel! The man is still in a coma and the only thing the wife remembers is the airbags inflating! BTW, she was five times over the alcohol driving limit!

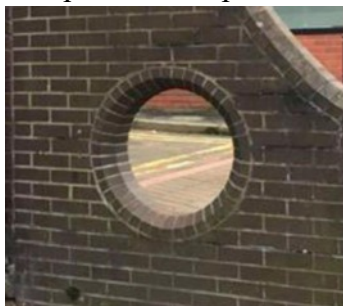
Toto has been featuring its technological innovations at the Consumer Electronics Show, and they've made a splash. The company showcased products such as its glistening Neorest NX2 dual flush toilet. Photo.



It's got the dryer and a temperature also has a system," a neutralizing a "titanium toilet bowl," a remote control, a toilet seat that automatically opens and closes and an air deodorizer. It costs \$17,300. Other Toto toilets and seats can cost much less.

Defrosting a rack of veal ribs on the washing line may have seemed a great idea at the time. But for one apartment owner in Pamplona, northern Spain, the ingenious idea led residents below to panic call police as 'drops of blood' started appearing on their patios. Agents on the scene realised the blood was coming from the clothes line before the apartment owner confirmed hanging out the veal ribs. As the meat was still raw, blood had had begun falling as it thawed. "It freaked everyone out," a statement from Policia Municipal Udaltzaingoa said.

TripAdvisor suspended reviews for a hole in a wall next to a NatWest 'hole in the wall' (an ATM for our foreign readers) after jokers promoted it to one of the top attractions in Ilkeston, Derbyshire. The website was inundated with glowing reviews comparing it to the Taj Mahal, Sydney Opera House and the Eiffel Tower. "One for the bucket list!," enthused another.



A man from Hampshire claims to have found an unlikely cure for his mental health struggles. "I drank my fresh morning urine, and dark clouds of depression were lifted from me," said Harry Matadeen, 32. Soon, he found an even better tonic: urine which has been "aged" for up to four days. "I felt an instant uplift in my energy...I grew to love it." Now, he says he drinks 200ml of urine a day – and even moisturises his face with it.

A man from Florida, photo, has complained to a hospital after being told to stop taking a life-sized Donald Trump cut-out to kidney dialysis sessions. Nelson Gibson said he started taking the model to the treatments for "emotional support", but has since been asked to refrain. "They told me it was too much," he said, "and that it wasn't a rally."



Going through airport security in Tenerife a woman left her watch in one of the plastic trays by the x-ray machine and forgot to pick it up. However a quick 27-year-old neer-do-well chap behind her pocketed the watch and boarded the plane. At this stage the woman alerted the authorities of the loss and boarded the plane. The gold and diamond Swiss Richard Mille watch, photo, is valued at €200,000! Police in Tenerife airport managed to identify the tea-leaf, probably by camera, and when the flight arrived at Alicante-Elche airport, the young man was arrested wearing the watch! The watch was returned to the original owner and the man released.



"Dad why is my sisters name Rose?"
 "Because your Mother loves roses"
 "Thanks Dad"
 "No Problem B.J."



Just asking.....

A distressed and very attractive woman stands at the edge of a cliff at Dover, trying to get up the nerve to jump. A wandering tramp stops and says, "Since you're about to kill yourself anyway, would you mind if we had sex first?" The woman screams, "Get away from me, you sicko!" The bum turns to leave and mutters, "Okay then, I suppose I'll just go wait at the bottom....."

Now with the restrictions and lockdown the home schooling of the kids is going very well. Two kids were suspended for fighting and the teacher was fired for drinking on the job.

Bits & Bobs

It is again worth knowing that **Dream Hills Auto Repairs** are still open and can be contacted at 966 724 346 &

info@dreamhillsautorepairs.es

Productos Frescos De La Huerta De Orihuela (Fresh Products from the Gardens of Orihuela) have around 25 different vegetables and about seven different fruits available for home delivery. They can be contacted at 676 500 499.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER IN SPAIN 112

Keith of Affordable Aircon kindly sent me a copy of the Spanish Social Security guide relating to the extraordinary benefit **for self-employed workers** with the aim of alleviating the negative effects on their businesses of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is too long (three half-pages) to include in this newsletter. It is written in both Spanish and English. Email me and I can send it to you.

mick.dreamscene@gmail.com

I think it is probably fitting to end this issue with a 'groan' joke. Unfortunately, our non-British readers will not understand it.....

Gervaise was Head Chef at a famous seafood restaurant and his claim to fame was that he could cook from scratch whatever the customer ordered.

One day, the nation's leading food critic came in and ordered the hairy green squid. Gervaise picked the finest specimen but as he was about to plunge it into the boiling water it looked up at him with its big dark eyes and began to lick his hand. Crushed by pangs of conscience, Gervaise knew he couldn't kill it but with the restaurant's reputation on the line he needed to think fast.

His eyes fell on the dishwasher, Hans - 6 foot 10 ex-SS trooper. Surely he could do the deed? He explained the situation and with a terse "*ja natürlich*" Hans marched over to the stove and grabbed the hairy green squid in his shovel-like paws. Just as he was about to plunge it into the pot, the green squid looked at him with its big dark eyes and began to lick his hand, causing Hans to burst into tears that he could ever have considered killing such a beautiful creature.

The moral of the story: Hans that does dishes can be soft as Gervaise with mild green hairy lick-squid.

(Okay, I'll get my coat!)



So, what are you going to do with all this time on your hands?

Okay, as you are on the Internet, you will get plenty of suggestions. If you enjoy reading and have a Kindle or similar, you will at least be able to access a vast range of reading material, without having to leave your home.

I offer two suggestions which may make some of your free time more productive and also make your leisure time more enjoyable.

Firstly, if you are reading this you are either living in or own a property in Spain.

Why not learn or improve your knowledge of the Spanish language?

There are plenty of online course, many of which are free. For the last two weeks I have been using the free version which can be found at [duolingo.com](https://www.duolingo.com)

This is a progressive course which starts with the basics, repetition and requires just a few minutes a day per lesson, but you can have as many lessons during a sitting as you want. I don't bother much about the accents to the lettering but find the learning fun and I'm 72 and a thick Mick! Having an English/Spanish dictionary by your side during lessons is also helpful.

Secondly, make sure you have a good TV system.

This should give you many hours of good entertainment.

As Tid has been largely housebound for some years, we have an IPTV system, TV from Ole, Amazon Prime TV, Netflix and HBO. This particular IPTV system is now very poor and at €120 a year it is a bit of a joke! However, my friend Nick introduced me to a new IPTV system which is most impressive. It contains massive resources ranging from UK TV and satellite channels, movies on demand and a huge range of TV series, old and new, together with a large range of sports channels - not that there is any sport to watch at the moment!

I view this excellent IPTV system for some months through an android box (because of the large memory), but it also works on Firesticks and a range of Smart TVs, which may require different set-up instructions. Not only does this system cost just £40 for a year's subscription, you can have a free 24-hour trial to check it out! I highly recommend you contact the suppliers at office@grouponline.xyz for more details.

They also have a Facebook page, email for information.

Highly recommended!

