



THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER



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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the July 2020 edition. Issue No.156

Beautiful weather here on the Costa. Property owners and holiday-makers are beginning to trickle back. Unfortunately many returning from the UK are being **very lax** about the wearing of masks and physical distancing. Hopefully the locals are putting them right! Although the bars and restaurants are practising recommended distancing, close standing groups in bars are a problem. The beaches have been carefully marked to accommodate the recommended distancing, however one hopes that these controls will be maintained on the beaches and public and urbanisation pools for late July and the whole of August, otherwise these locations will become 'petrie dishes' for the Covid-19 virus.

Europeans have started to go out, to shop and dine, reports the 'Financial Times', which suggests that the worst of the economic effects of the coronavirus have passed, but activity is still well below normal and points to a very **long recovery stage ahead**. Neil Shearing, chief economist at Capital Economics, says he believes "the recovery is going to be extremely weak." For many economists, current data supports the view that the pandemic has aggravated the economic gap between northern and southern European countries.

In both the UK and Spain (and many other countries as well), the Covid-19 statistics are being **manipulated** to favour the political briefings. "Our scientific community has become the public relations wing of a (UK) government that has abjectly failed to respond to this

pandemic" says Richard Horton, The Lancet's editor-in-chief.

The **reopening of the Spanish borders** to the British is due, according to Minister González Laya, to "respect" for the 400,000 who have second homes in Spain. In total, 17.4 million Britons visited Spain, their favourite tourist destination, in 2019, reports 'The Times' .

An **earthquake of 3.1** magnitude and epicenter northeast of San Miguel de Salinas has been felt in the rest of the region at 5.51am. June 27. This seismic activity is frequent in the Vega Baja where dozens of small earthquakes occur each year, most of which are not felt by the population. During the 19th century, several earthquakes caused serious damage to the victims in towns in the region. The most severe episode was the Torreveja earthquake of March 1829, which devastated thietown and caused serious damage in Guardamar, Almoradí and Orihuela, with hundreds of fatalities - up to three hundred - according to the chronicles of that time.

Many thanks to Milou & Denis, Dave D., Michael & Diane L, for their **kind donations** towards printing costs. Printed copies of the Dream Scene will return with the August edition. Due to vastly increased costs (more than doubled) 1,000 issues will be printed instead of the usual 1,340. Also **the printed size of the newsletter will be reduced to A5** instead of A4 but will still run at a loss.

Hoping you all will keep safe and healthy.
Mick, Tid and the Dream Scene Team.

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LOCAL



"So, I'm the only one who sees a conflict of interest here?"

Divorce is a system whereby two people make a mistake and one of them goes on paying for it.

Len Deighton

Well, by the time you are reading this, the long proposed re-start to the construction of the **Emergency Centre** in Orihuela Costa should have begun. Around



ten years ago, construction of the proposed centre began, but after taking a million euros, the

construction company went bust, leaving just a couple of dozen concrete columns for all that dosh, see photo.

A company, Doalco, has now been chosen to pick up and complete the project at a cost of around two million euros. The project, which should take no more than six months, covers a plot of 4,700 sq. metres. The centre should be housing the National Police, Civil Guard, 24-hour Local Police, Fire, Civil Protection, Immigration as well as a summer base for SAMU. No one has outlined how these positions will be staffed, as the Guardia Civil's local HQ is in Pilar de la Horadada and there is no fire brigade presence in Orihuela Costa!

Unfortunately the tardiness of the Orihuela City Council continues. **Damage to the La Glea promenade** in Campoamor, which was caused by the DANA storm last September, has still not been rectified.

Photo. Nine months after the damage, the city council has now implemented the administrative procedures to allow the tendering



process to commence. The proposed works (€95,000), to repair the promenade and services, are unlikely to be finished by the start of the tourist season. However, these works do nothing to address the real problem which occurred last September, when the storms brought 200 litres of rainfall per square metre in just two and a half hours. The lack of an appropriate drainage system to the Río Nacimiento ravine caused the damage. As nothing is being done to rectify the poor drainage here, the damage could be repeated again this year or next.

On the positive side, the **local reservoirs** are up to 50% of their capacity, the first time in five years.

After several years of campaigning for **dog-friendly beaches** in Torrevieja, two beaches - Cala del Moro and Punta Margallo - were declared dog-friendly all year round. Mayor Dolon has now rapidly changed his mind issuing a decree that the only dog friendly beach now is at Cala Rocio, a 1,600 square metre rocky outcrop with signage, fencing and shading for the mutts. The mayor felt that there would be conflict with the non dog owning people on the beaches, particularly when there would be restricted access.

La Vega Baja has obtained **26 awards** on its beaches. Torrevieja recovers the blue flag in Torrelamata Sur and Pilar de la Horadada in Las Higuericas. The Vega Baja beaches have obtained 26 blue flags that will fly from June on the coast, which is two more recognitions than last year. The main novelties this year are the recovery of the blue flag on the beach in Torrelamata sur, in Torrevieja, and that of Villas Higuericas, in Pilar de la Horadada; likewise, the flag of Puerto Dársena, also from Pilar de the Horadada. With this result, Vega Baja continues to be the region with the most awards in the province for another year, in addition to the Valencian Community, which is the autonomy that has obtained the most blue flags this year with a total of 148 (134 on beaches and 14 in marinas).

There is now a plan to combat the **flooding of Torrevieja** caused by the heavy rainfall experienced in recent years. Aguas del Arco Mediterráneo (Agamed) plans to invest €82 million introducing infrastructure that would minimize the effects of the flooding. Work is expected to begin at the end of 2020 and last for at least six years. The water management company is majority owned by Hidraqua (76%) and with public capital from the Torrevieja City Council (24%). The company states that the project will be without cost in the municipal coffers or impact on the rates paid by consumers.

The Valencian regional government plan to fund a feasibility study on the conversion of the CV-95 between Orihuela City and Torrevieja to a dual carriageway. The planning dates back to 2007, but was cancelled due to the recession. Don't hold your breath!

Police have arrested eight people in Torrevieja who were operating a fraudulent pyramid scheme. The gang, who include a British chap, have conned more than 250 people out of more than €10 million. 43 bank accounts were frozen, €50,000 in bank notes being found in a baby's pushchair belonging to one of the gang leaders.

These crooks were promising clients returns of between 30 and 40% pa. Why are people so stupid?

A man in Saudi Arabia has been caught stealing hand sanitizer. He probably won't need it now.

22 years ago on June 25, Manuel Zamarreño, a PP city councillor in Renteria, San Sebastián, left his house to buy some bread. On his way back from the shop, he passed a motorcycle parked outside his home. Three kilos of explosive was hidden within the bike which was detonated



remotely, killing Manuel and seriously wounding his bodyguard. Photo. Ironically Manuel, who had only been in the job for 34 days, was replacing another PP councillor, 64-year-old José Luis Caso, who had been shot dead in a bar by ETA in December 2017. A judge in the National Court believe that there is now enough evidence to charge a named ETA terrorist who is also believed to be the link to another four murders at least. More than 300 ETA-related murders still remain unsolved.

The Catalans were hit with another economic blow during late May, when it was announced that Nissan would be closing down its Barcelona car plant in December. 3,000 direct jobs will be lost. The closure will also affect around 20,000 workers in supportive industries. The company has received €25 million in public aid over the last 12 years. The closure is part of Nissan's drive to become profitable again after posting net losses in the last fiscal year. The car maker is also reinforcing its alliance with Renault and Mitsubishi, and planning to leave the European market to Renault while Nissan focuses on Japan, China and North America.

The courts are slowly and carefully returning to work. There are now more than 20,000 hearings pending in the Valencian Community. Expect further years of delays!

A town in the province of Segovia has decided to use the funds it has left over with the cancellation of its patron saint festivities to pay for serological tests for every single resident. Navas de San Antonio has 328 registered residents, although in normal times it swells up at weekends, during the summer and when the town throws its annual party to honour San Antonio de Padua in mid-June. But this year, the lockdown imposed across Spain to control the spread of coronavirus means that the festivities are cancelled. The mayor of the town decided that rather than carry them over, the town could put the funds reserved for the fiesta to better use and test the entire population for covid-19.

Valencia only has enough money to pay healthcare salaries until the end of August. Starting in September, they will have to ask for more loans.

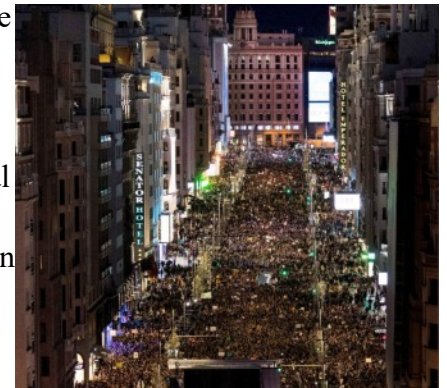
Child vaccination in Spain falls between 15% and 50% due to Covid-19. Paediatricians warn that this decrease increases the risk of outbreaks of diseases such as measles or whooping cough.

In the province of Alicante, waiting periods for hospital operations have increased by around 70% - delays increasing from 62 days in February to more than 110 days now. The waiting list is now 21,164 long, with 4,902 waiting for more than six months.

Residents of the Costas have and are being very nervous about visitors and tourists from the heavily virus infected areas of Spain and internationally. However, other parts of Spain have been equally nervous. By early June, the Galicians in the north were saying that their coasts are already filling up with Madrid residents, "with no control", when Madrid was still supposed to be in phase 1.

Hosbec warns that hotel reservations on the Costa Blanca will barely reach 25% for the month of July - Benidorm will host some 7,000 tourists a day in regulated places compared to more than 37,000 in 2019. Although the businesses are very cautious, everything indicates that the situation will improve significantly in August, especially if foreigners also start travelling. This is indicated by Hosbec and confirmed by studies such as one prepared by the Mirai specialized hotel distribution firm, according to which, while for the month of July the sales volume is 62% lower than last year, in the month of August the difference is only 37%.

The dismissal of the head of the Civil Guard in Madrid, Colonel Diego Pérez de los Cobos, was revealed by El Mundo, causing a huge political and institutional shock. It is suspected that the officer had been removed from his post for refusing to leak to the Interior Minister,



Fernando Grande-Marlaska, the investigation into the Women's March of March 8, photo, Police believed that the government encouraged all citizens to participate and led the march/demonstration, despite the Covid-19 dangers.

Opposition parties - PP, Vox and Cs demanded the "resignation" of Marlaska after a document highlighted that he "lied" to Congress and the Senate and gave "an illegal order." After the dismissal, several colonels in the Guardia refused to take the vacant job as they felt very 'uncomfortable' with the situation..

It is so warm here at the moment.....I am sweating like Prince Andrew at a High School Prom..... or in an FBI interview room.

COSY

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* message the answer to Viva Morgans 60's music Bar on facebook * first 10 correct winners will be contacted

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A thousand young people, between 18 and 30 years old, will help **maintain the security measures with which the beaches** of the Valencian Community will operate this summer. These 1,000 young people, hired by the Generalitat, will work in coordination with the Local Police officers of each municipality, so that the beaches of Alicante, Valencia and Castellón are a space of quality and safety against the coronavirus. Called "tourist assistants", during the last ten days of June, the young recruits received training on the security and protection measures that must be communicated and supervised with the tourists and beach users.

Ramón López, councillor of Playas de Orihuela, has announced that the rescue and first-aid service is provided on the Oriolan coast from Friday, June 13 until mid September. The rescue and rescue team, in charge of AmbumarSYA, will provide its service on the **11 Oriolan beaches with lifeguards**, emergency health technicians, boat skipper, rescuers and a coordinator. In the moments of maximum development, there will be 42 professionals working and a rapid intervention vehicle (VIR), a motorcycle, three boats, an SVB ambulance and an SVA ambulance to attend to any incident that may occur, in addition to informing and advising the Citizens in the face of possible bathing risks, and this year, in the context caused by COVID19, will collaborate to contribute to the safety and proper functioning of the Oriolan beaches.

Ramón López has indicated that "the service will be provided from 10 in the morning until 8 in the afternoon and appeals to the correct behaviour of beach users so that they follow basic guidelines such as social distance, respect for capacity, etc..".

From June 15 to September 15, the **adapted bathing service** (for the physically handicapped) will be provided at four beaches: Cala Capitán, Cala Bosque, La Glea and Barranco Rubio. "This service will have access walkways to the wider shading and bathing area, amphibian chairs and qualified personnel so that anyone with functional diversity can enjoy our beaches," said Ramón López.

Part of the roof of the Santas Justa Rufina Catholic church in Orihuela **collapsed in early June**. The recent extremely heavy rainfall may be the cause. Fortunately, no one was hurt. Looking at the damage in the photos, it could have been fatal if the church was occupied at the time..



The closure of borders to international travel due to the Covid-19 has deprived Alicante of **thirty cruise stops** in three months and, with it, the arrival of 60,000 passengers, reducing the provincial economy's income of about four million euros. A stopover tourist spends about 65 euros on average during his stay, either in the capital or on excursions.

Air carriers flying into Spain's airports are to be charged **lower landing fees** in a move aimed at boosting the number of flights in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. Aena, who run most of the country's airports, say that other costs for airlines will also be cut or delayed.

The Valencian Generalitat has decided to **eliminate the noise test** from the region's ITV testing for four-wheeled vehicles. The test was unique to cars within this region from 2004 and not required in other regions. The test for motorbikes and mopeds remain.

Our methods to prevent the spread of the coronavirus keeps growing: social distancing, rigorous hand washing, face masks and now the latest — **closing the lid before we flush**. Scientists who simulated toilet water and air flows found that aerosol droplets forced upward by a flush appear to spread wide enough and linger long enough to be inhaled. Experts call it the "toilet plume." Combine that with the fact that coronavirus has been found in the faeces of patients, and you can see what we're getting at.



A Premature Explanation?

Bill rents an apartment in Chicago, and goes to the lobby to put his name on the group mailbox. While he was there, an attractive young lady comes out of the apartment next to the mailboxes wearing a robe. Bill smiles at the young girl, so she strikes up a conversation with him. As they talk, her robe slips open, and it's quite obvious that she has nothing on under the robe. Poor Bill breaks out into a sweat trying to maintain eye contact. After a few minutes, he places her hand on his arm and says, "Let's go to my apartment. I hear someone coming..." Bill follows her into the apartment. Once inside, she leans against the wall allowing her robe to fall off completely. Now completely nude, she purrs, "What would you say is my best feature?" The flustered, embarrassed Bill stammers, clears his throat several times, and finally squeaks out, "Oh, your best feature has to be your ears!" She's astounded! "Why my ears? Looks at these breasts! They're full, they don't sag, and they're 100% natural! My butt is firm and doesn't sag, and have no cellulite! So, why in the world would you say my ears are my best feature?" Clearing his throat once again, Bill stammers, "Because, when we were in the hallway you said you heard someone coming..... that was me!"

It's Open!



The Project Group are very happy to announce that the first phase of the garden improvements in Dream Hills is completed.

Garden 1 with the petanca, table tennis, padel and gym equipment have now been opened with some restrictions and twice daily sanitisation when access will be limited due to the current situation.

To use the padel court you will need your swipe card and to make a booking please email dreamhillproject@gmail.com with your name and house number to obtain your login for the booking calendar.

There will be a charge during the winter months to cover the costs of the lights when you use them and any under 18's need to have a responsible adult Owner with them.

To use the gym, table tennis and petanca just go along with your swipe card and enjoy it.

The Project Group would like to thank the Administrators, President and Committee for their support and look forward to continuing with the next phase as soon as possible, any suggestions welcomed to the Project Group email. Enjoy!

A Non-resident PropertyOwner?

Residents and non-residents alike who own a holiday-home in Spain have to pay an imputed income tax even if they don't rent it out, because the Spanish tax code asserts that owners get a 'benefit in kind' from their holiday-homes that is fair game for taxation. The imputed income varies between 1.1% and 2% of the cadastral value, so between €220 and €400 p.a. imputed income-tax on a home with a cadastral value of €100,000.

The Spanish press reports that high-ranking officials in the Tax Office are toying with the idea of temporary tax breaks for holiday-home owners who can't use their properties due to Covid-19 travel restrictions.

Thanks to Spain's draconian coronavirus lockdown policy, travel to and from Spain is highly restricted for the time being, as is travel between Spanish provinces. This means that many second-home owners, both resident in Spain and abroad, are unable to enjoy the use of their properties in this period.

With this in mind, high-ranking Treasury officials are said to be looking at the possibility of a temporary reduction in taxes paid by second-home owners, such as the imputed income tax owners have to pay. (Spanish Property Insight) Don't hold your breath on getting any reduction.

Only trying to help!

A woman is in the ICU ward and is in a coma. Nurses are in her room giving her a sponge bath.

One of them is washing her "private area" and notices that there is a response on the monitor when they touch her.

They go to her husband and explain what happened, telling him, "Crazy as this sounds, maybe a little oral sex will do the trick and bring her out of the coma."

The husband is sceptical, but they assure him that they'll close the curtains for privacy. Besides, it's worth a try. The hubby finally agrees and goes into his wife's room.

After a few minutes the woman's monitor flat-lines... no pulse... no heart rate.

The nurses run into the room.

The husband is standing there, pulling up his trousers and says, "I think she choked."

Can you help?

Channel 4 are looking for people to take part in a documentary about people who made the most of the summer holiday by camping in their back gardens.

It's being directed by Tentin Quarantino.

Ortega's Inditex to Expand Online.

The owner of Zara will close as many as 1,200 stores around the world as the clothing retailer tries to boost online sales during the chaos wrought by the Covid-19 pandemic. Inditex said it would "absorb" between 1,000 and 1,200 mainly smaller stores, with losses concentrated among older shops from brands other than Zara. The Spanish company's other brands include Bershka, Pull & Bear and Massimo Dutti. Closures are expected to be concentrated in Asia and Europe. Inditex, one of the world's largest clothing retailers, has been hit hard during the pandemic, with sales down 44% to €3.3bn (£2.9bn) between 1 February and 30 April, the first quarter of its financial year. Under Inditex's new plan online sales will account for more than 25% of the total by 2022, compared with 14% in its 2019 financial year. Larger stores will act as distribution hubs for online sales.

Sorry I Asked!

I took a nurse back to my place last night. As I stripped off I said to her, "You must have seen a few dicks where you work. How do you rate mine?"

She said, "It's much bigger than most I see."

"Wow," I said. "What sort of nursing do you do?"

"I'm a midwife" she replied.....

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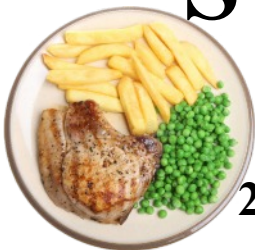
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Gary Lineker

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THE SUN & SKIN CANCER.

Well, we certainly live in interesting, if not dangerous times.

Recessions, austerity, global warming, Brexit, Covid-19, corrupt, inefficient politicians and mosquitos - yes, we've forgotten about them and the prevalent, dangerous and painful Tiger mosquito, which is now unfortunately prolific in many parts of Spain.....but what about the sun?

Yes I know that is why many of us have decided to live here and bask in it regularly. During January, I asked a number of non-Spanish residents what they liked best about living in Spain during the previous 12 months? The great majority answered, 'The Sun!'

Now coming from The Emerald Isle, which is slowly turning to rust due to monsoon-like rainfall, to now awaken almost daily to blue skies, is good for the mind and soul. An puts a smile on your face!

But all this sunshine can carry a price! The sun in this part of Spain is extremely powerful, particularly during the long hot summer. We have often smiled at the careless tourist who gets sunburned during their first day here. But it is really not funny but dangerous.

Every year a million cases of skin cancer are diagnosed in the world and every four minutes a person dies from it! In a decade, global melanoma cases have increased nearly 50%, according to the 2020 Skin Cancer Report:

Stopping the Global Epidemic, prepared by the Euromelanoma organization.

90% of cases are due to overexposure to the sun, while the other 10% are due to genetic conditions. In Spain, more than 5,000 cases of melanoma are diagnosed and around 900 related deaths are generated annually. Regarding other types of skin cancer, which can be less serious, about 71,000 cases of non-melanoma skin cancer are detected here every year. The chances are you will know at least two people who live in Spain and who have already been diagnosed. Melanoma is the most dangerous because it causes more deaths.

It is also worth knowing that tanning booths before the age of 30, can increase the risk of developing melanoma 6-



fold! The list of movie actors who have had skin cancer would surprise you. One of the most notable is Hugh Jackman, photo, who has undergone surgery at least six times for basal cell carcinoma on the nose.

Basal cell carcinoma is the most common cancer that exists (of any type). It has different forms of appearance, but it is usually a small pupita that never heals (on the face or other area of the body). It grows locally and can be very bloody, although it hardly ever metastasizes.

Squamous cell carcinoma usually appears in areas exposed to the sun and is an actinic keratoma: rough, scaly, rough spots, brownish, slightly reddish. They grow very large, destroy the area, and can metastasize to organs and lymph nodes.

Melanoma, the most dangerous, is basically a mole with irregular edges or that has grown or changed. It can appear again or be the transformation of one that we already had.

SELF EXAMINATION & the ABCDE RULE

Asymmetry (half of the mole does not coincide with the other half), **B**orders with irregular edges (poorly defined, with elevation of the area), **C**olouration (presents different colours distributed irregularly), **D**iameter (greater than 6 mm) and **E**volution in the last year or the last months (if it has grown a lot or has started to hurt, itch or bleed.)

Another way to detect changes, perhaps more difficult for people to interpret than the ABCDE rule, is the 'ugly duckling' rule. Normally a person's moles usually have the same pattern, when one is different from the rest one must be **Attentive**. It may be a large mole but it follows the same pattern, but suddenly a small one is very different and has to be watched. Any small lesion that does not heal, bleeds and which is rough and does not respond to creams etc., should be referred.

Many take photos regularly of their moles so they can detect any changes and refer to their GP.

But remember, almost 90% of skin cancer cases, if detected early enough, are cured.

Limit your exposure to the sun and use plenty of high-factor sun screen.

Abridged from https://www.elmundo.es/ciencia-y-salud/salud/2020/06/14/5ee66c99fc6c83e3688b458d.html?___

Quickies!

Last night I rang up the local takeaway and said 'Do you deliver?' They said 'No. We do chicken, beef and fish.' It was a start I suppose.....

A priest, a rabbit, and a minister walked in to a bar. The rabbit said; "I think I'm a typo....."

A centurion walks into a bar, holds up two fingers and says "Five pints please"

Went to the Sperm Clinic earlier, the nurse asked if I'd like to masturbate in the cup? I said I'm good but I'm not ready to compete in a tournament yet

SPAIN: THE MOST EXPENSIVE & THE CHEAPEST.

The repercussions of Spain's all-important tourism industry grinding to a halt will leave their mark on people's wallets, something that's already become clear to many residents who've found the price of coffee or beer at their local hiked up post-lockdown.

Price comparison website Rastreator has carried out a study into this, **using six variables** to ascertain whether cities in Spain are now cheaper or pricier.

These are the cost of seven nights in a three-star hotel in the city centre, the cost of renting car for that period of seven days, dinner for two in a restaurant in the city centre, a 500 ml beer in a central bar, a cappuccino coffee and the cost of 1 litre of petrol for a 280km journey.

Rastreator has narrowed down its study to the **ten most visited cities in Spain** according to the country's National Statistics Institute (INE) : Alicante, Madrid, Malaga, Almería, Coruña, Barcelona, Asturias region (Gijón, Oviedo etc), Tarragona, Cádiz and Palma de Mallorca.

With these parameters, the city that takes the prize for **the cheapest in Spain** to spend a few days in summer is **Alicante**, 11% below the average, and the city with the most expensive Palma de Mallorca, 39% above than average.

What are the cheapest and most expensive places to stay? Spending seven nights in a three-star hotel costs an average of 508 euros. However, in Almería, the cheapest city to stay, the average cost is 314 euros (about 44 euros per night), 38% below the average. Almería is followed by Madrid (51.5 euros per night), a city whose prices outside the summer season are usually much higher than in the month of August, Alicante (60 euros per night) and Barcelona (65 euros per night). As the cheapest cities to stay in a hotel. In contrast, Palma de Mallorca is the most expensive city, with an average price per night of more than 102 euros, followed by Cádiz (100 euros per night), Gijón (85 euros) and Tarragona (77 euros).

A repeat of one of my favourite jokes.

A little old Jewish lady has taken her young grandson to the beach. He is playing in the shallow water. She is standing on the beach not wanting to get her feet wet, when all of a sudden, a huge wave appears from nowhere and crashes directly over the spot where the little boy is wading.

The water recedes and the boy is no longer there. He has simply vanished into the sea.

The grandmother raises her hands high up toward the sky, screams and cries, "Lord, how could you take him? Have I not been a wonderful grandmother? Have I not been a wonderful mother? Have I not given to Bnai Brith? Have I not given to Hadassah? Have I not lit candles every Friday night at dusk? Have I not tried my very best to live the life that you would have me live?"

A loud voice booms down from the sky, "Okay, okay, already!" A few seconds later another huge wave appears out of nowhere and crashes on the beach.

As the water recedes, the little boy is back playing there, smiling, splashing around as if nothing had ever happened. The loud voice booms again "I have returned your grandson. Are you satisfied?"

The grandmother looks at the boy for a moment, cups her hands to her mouth and yells up at the sky, "He had a hat!"

I've just met this Chinese drug addict down at Playa Flamenca.

He asked, 'Have you seen my cocaine?'

I replied, 'Not since he starred in Zulu.'

What about transportation?

When it comes to moving around the city and going from beach to beach, many people decide to rent a car at their destination. In this regard, Cádiz ranks as the city with the highest price (235 euros for a seven-day rental, 68% above the average) and Alicante -due to the greater offer of this service in the region- is the cheapest city (35 euros if the collection point is the airport, 75% below average).

Now I can't believe that a car can be hired for that sum during the summer in this province!

And to make plans?

Almería is the most expensive city to have a beer, with an average price of 6 euros per half liter, 35% above the national average, which stands at 4.40 euros. On the contrary, Cádiz is positioned as the cheapest, with a price of 2 euros, 55% below the national average. If we talk about the price of a dinner for two in a restaurant in the city center, A Coruña is the cheapest city, with an average price of 34 euros, 22% below the average, followed by Cádiz (34 euros, -20%), and Malaga (37 euros, -15%). At the opposite extreme is Palma de Mallorca, with an average price of 53 euros, 22% above the average, followed by Tarragona (51 euros) and Barcelona, with a cost of 49 euros (+ 12%).

What do the Spanish prefer?

When selecting a holiday destination, among the factors that Spaniards most focus on, according to the study are the price (65%), the interest in its tourist attractions (monuments, museums, landscapes, beaches ...) and leisure options (61%) and the weather (47%). Regarding the type of accommodation, 68% say they choose to enjoy their stay in a hotel / resort, while 43% choose to book a rental apartment and 32% choose the home of a family member and / or friend.



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Paddy and Murphy are on a building site when a slate falls off a roof and slices Paddy's ear off.

Murphy finds it and asks 'Is this yours, Paddy?'

'No,' says Paddy. 'Mine had a pencil behind it!'



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**TWEET!
TWEET!**



Asociacion Help Vega Baja



The UK Government awarded Asociación Babelia grant funding to assist UK nationals who have been struggling with the residency process in the province of Alicante. This is thought to be particularly valuable to the elderly and those with disabilities.

Today we spoke with the organisation to clarify some points relating to the help that they are able to offer and were advised that their service also extends to your padron/NIE.

It is very important to understand that although Babelia can assist with the administration of obtaining residencia, applicants **MUST** still meet ALL criteria required by the Spanish Government. **This criteria is very strict and includes such things as a minimum amount that you**

must have in your Spanish bank account (currently 9,000 euros for one person and 18,000 euros for a couple). This must show that the money has been in the bank for a minimum of 3 months. If basing on private income, this is currently between 800 and 900 euros per month and must be being transferred into a Spanish bank account for one year. There is other criteria that is in place although it must be remembered that of course the Spanish government have the right to amend as necessary. Requirements are also in place with regard to healthcare.

HELP Vega Baja are keen to work with this organisation and therefore, if you have been experiencing a problem applying for your residencia, NIE, padron, please contact our San Miguel Centre on 966 723 733 or email office@helpvegabaja.com and we will happily put you in contact with Babelia if you wish.



PRACTICAL SUPPORT FOR UK NATIONALS IN ALICANTE

Asociación Babelia has been awarded grant funding by the **UK Government** to provide practical support in the province of Alicante to UK Nationals who may struggle to complete the necessary paperwork when making their residency applications*

WHO ARE WE?

BABELIA is an intercultural non-profit organisation whose purpose is to provide support to individuals and families of foreign background living in Spain.



HOW CAN WE HELP?

- Linguistic Mediation
- Administrative Support
- Legal Consultancy



OUR PURPOSE

Supporting UK Nationals applying for residency

STEP 1

Town Hall Register (*Empadronamiento*)

STEP 2

Healthcare Access

STEP 3

Residency Document

The Great Escape! How the Judges 'saved' the Politicians.

The Brugal case is a case in which crimes of bribery, extortion and influence peddling were investigated in the award of public contracts for garbage collection services in various localities governed by the Popular Party in the province of Alicante, Spain. The investigation began in 2006, with six arrests made in May 2007, three of which ended in prison terms. In July 2010, the case was reopened with new implicated parties.

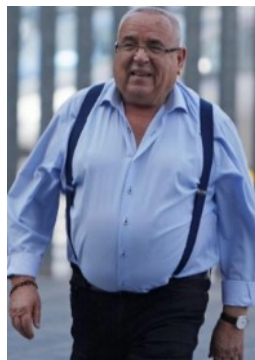
In this article we will only look at the elements of the case that refer to the municipality of Orihuela and the awarding of the lucrative multi-million garbage/rubbish contracts.

In 2002, an Alicante court found Ángel Fenoll, an Oriolan businessman and Luis Fernando Cartagena, mayor of the Popular Party in Orihuela, both guilty of crimes of falsehood in a commercial document and embezzlement of public funds in relation to the basura contracts. Fenoll falsified invoices to get Luis Fernando out of trouble, and in gratitude for his loyalty, Luis Fernando Cartagena awarded Fenoll the entire shoreline garbage contract, which he continued to enjoy for many years. Fenoll was sentenced to one year in prison, but being a sentence less than two years, he did not have to enter prison, but Cartagena, who was sentenced to four years, entered the Alicante II Penitentiary Center of Villena on 17 July 2008.

The case entered a **second phase** in 2010 when on July 6, 2010, eleven new arrests were made in connection with the case. The more fundamental arrested was Jose Joaquin Ripoll, president of the Popular Party of Alicante and head of the provincial council. Ripoll was released on charges after testifying at the Alicante police station. Along with Ripoll, the police arrested another 10 people, including three councillors from the PP of Orihuela and seven businessmen. This case, which involves everything from football bribery to gifts of boat trips to the Balearics as well as bribery, influence peddling and insider disclosure.

Also arrested and charged were two Bancaja executives, the ex-president of the Caja Mediterráneo and another director from the board. But, as this case has not quite crystallised yet, we will jump to **the third phase of the case** - Orihuela and the rubbish contract there.

On Thursday, June 7, 2012, the head of the Court number 3 of Orihuela imputed 29 other people for fixing the garbage and street cleaning contract in that municipality in favour of the businessman Ángel Fenoll, photo above. Among the 29 accused were the ex-mayors of the PP José Manuel Medina and Mónica



Lorente, photo, seven former councillors also from the Popular Party, in addition to the brother of former mayor Lorente and her former chief of staff.



During the lengthy almost ten year investigation, it was revealed that Fenoll had been secretly recording his conversations with the politicians and their assistants for many years and using these recordings to pressurise the elected PP mayors and councillors. Eventually it was 34 suspects that went to trial in 2019. Fenoll handed his taped conversations to the police.

The public prosecutor and the lawyer representing the town hall accused the defendants of fraud, abuse of power, bribery, influence peddling, disclosure of privileged information, an electoral offence, conspiracy, coercion and extortion. **They asked for a 37-year jail sentence for Fenoll, 12 years for Medina and eight years for Lorente.**

After a 10-month trial in Elche during 2019 with five judges, a bombshell was dropped on June 10, 2020, when **all the 34 accused were acquitted!**

According to the judgment, the main evidence provided by the Prosecutor's Office, audios and videos recorded by Fenoll, were not valid, since "they were not carried out with the consent of the interveners, but surreptitiously." It had not been possible to demonstrate their "authenticity and integrity". The court used the same argument to block copies of conversations which had been taken from the police SÍTEL phone-tap database because the original recordings had been damaged. (Now I wonder how that happened?) Other evidence was also ruled inadmissible as it had been obtained without a court order by police not working on the case.

The acquittal can now be appealed to the Supreme Court but as the current PP mayor of Orihuela, Bascunana, says **he feels that the verdict was fair**, the case is highly unlikely to be resurrected if the town hall will not pursue it!

Not only does this judgement destroy any faith one may have had in the Spanish justice system, but the defendants in other Brugal cases throughout Alicante will now want the wire-tapping in their cases to be inadmissible as well!. Some have already changed their pleas! (See also <https://www.elmundo.es/comunidad-valenciana/alicante/2020/06/10/5ee0a68121efa016498b46c3.html>)

IDIOTS & ODDITIES OF THE MONTH

Christina Pomfrey (photo), 65, from Runcorn in Cheshire, was sentenced to prison in the UK for one of the biggest social security frauds to be prosecuted by the



Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). Using two names – Christina Pomfrey and Christina Brown – she fraudulently claimed £1,010,090.66 in welfare benefits over almost 15 years. At one point she received more than

£13,000 in a month! Pomfrey was sentenced to three years and eight months imprisonment for 34 counts including fraud, false accounting and making or supplying articles for use in frauds. The court heard that despite an admission of guilt and remorse to investigators in December 2017, Pomfrey continued to make dishonest benefit claims while on bail!

"You are the biggest scum that your mother's bitch has screwed up ", "I wish you the worst death ", "you are the biggest virus that exists in Spain" & "nor do I want your vomiting mental diarrhoea, if this is our perfect goodbye, I wish you the worst goodbye and I hope I will never see you again ". . These are some of the pearls of wisdom



that the president (Jonathan Gras, photo) of the Moors and Christians of Xixona, (a town and municipality in the Valencian Community on the eastern coast of Spain,) has dedicated on Facebook to the followers of PP and Vox political parties. Jony, as he likes to be called, says he 'is hot' and apologises for the words but not the ideas.

A charitable trust supporting the work of Prince Andrew has been required to return more than £350,000 in payments made to a trustee after a public watchdog intervened. The Charity Commission has revealed the Prince Andrew Charitable Trust broke the law by handing over large sums to the prince's household to compensate for time spent on other activities by one of his employees.

A man in Vienna has been fined €500 (£447) for breaking wind loudly in front of police in a move the Austrian capital's police force was at pains to defend. The Österreich newspaper reported that the penalty stemmed from an incident on 5 June and that the offender was fined for offending public decency. City police wrote on Twitter that "of course no one is reported for accidentally letting one go". They added that the man had behaved provocatively and uncooperatively during an encounter

with officers that preceded the incident. He got up from a park bench, looked at officers and "let go a massive intestinal wind apparently with full intent", they said. So there we go, it could be a new crime - Farting with intent!

A personal trainer who claims his online date gave him cold sores is suing her for £136,328. Londoner Martin Ashley Conway, 45, said a woman he knew as Jovanna Lovelace failed in her "moral, ethical and legal duty" by not informing him of her sore before they kissed during a date last year. He claims he contracted mouth ulcers and was diagnosed with the herpes simplex virus days later, adding: "I feel traumatised by the sudden reduction in my quality of life." Lawyers for Ms Lovelace said the claim was "frivolous and vexatious". Maybe Ms Lovelace also got a sore throat?

Doctors have removed a two-foot phone charging cable from an Indian man's bladder, after he went to hospital complaining of abdominal pain. The 30-year-old man initially claimed he had swallowed some headphones – but doctors later established he had inserted the cable into his penis. "If he had been honest then we could have treated him sooner," said Dr Waliul Islam, who said he had removed the cord and the patient is now fine. "The psychiatrist can help him beyond this point."

Now there's weird, very weird andTheerapat Klaiya, a 24-year-old Thai

man, who has been arrested after being found with a staggering 126 pairs of stolen flip-flops. Police said he had taken them over a two-year period to fuel his footwear fetish. "He fully admitted stealing the sandals for lewd purposes," said Ekkaphop Prasitwattanachai, a police colonel, at a press conference in Nonthaburi, central Thailand, where an array of flip-flops was laid out for the cameras. Klaiya allegedly likes to cuddle and kiss them, before "having sex with them".



The German chemical company Bayer has settled 95,000 lawsuits filed by US citizens alleging that its herbicide Roundup is carcinogenic, paying \$ 10.5 billion in extrajudicial compensation, reports The Wall Street Journal. The company inherited the problem by buying the Monsanto company, creator of the Roundup. The most curious thing is that Bayer, which ensures that it is not carcinogenic, will continue to sell it under the same brand and has reserved a sum for future similar demands and for a study that establishes that the product is safe.

I was watching porn with the wife and she complained "This is so unrealistic."

I said, "Just because you are unwilling to try new things, doesn't mean everyone is like that."

"Not that," she explained, "It's just that all the plumbers that come to our house have tiny penises!!"



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Sophie and Shirley, two elderly spinsters in a Benidorm adult community, are curious about the latest arrival in their building -- a quiet, nice looking gentleman who keeps to himself. Shirley says, "Sophie, you know I'm shy. Why don't you go over to him at the pool and find out a little about him? He looks so lonely." Sophie agrees, and later that day at the pool, she walks up to him and says, "Excuse me, sir. I hope I'm not prying, but my friend and I were wondering why you looked so lonely." "Of course I'm lonely," he says. "I've spent the past 20 years in prison."
"You're kidding! What for?" "For killing my third wife. I strangled her." "What happened to your second wife?" "I shot her." "And, if I may ask, your first wife?" "We had a fight and she fell off a building."
"Oh my," says Sophie. Then turning to her friend on the other side of the pool, she yells, "Yoo hoo, Shirl'. He's single."

More Local News

Pilar de la Horadada council has chosen its own San Isidro neighbourhood to pilot a **door-to-door rubbish collection** scheme. It reportedly started during March with four collections a week. Local Councillor for the Environment, Pedro Miguel Moya, said residents would leave rubbish out in designated bins, four times a week.

Different days of the week represent the collection of different kinds of waste – paper, glass, organic material etc.

Provia, the Association of Realtors, denounces the **blockade of building licenses in Orihuela** and asks Mayor Bascuñana to immediately improve the chronic situation. Provia confirms that 2,500 “essential” files for the economic activity of Orihuela Costa are paralyzed. The main real estate companies in the province are tired of waiting and denounce the inefficiency of the council. After the commitment some months ago announced by the City Council of Orihuela that it would expedite the concession of urban planning licenses, the situation remains the same: blocking and delays, in some cases, of more than a year and a half, despite that the delays in other municipalities do not exceed four months. The PP mayor emphasizes that it is Citizens Party (Ciudadanos) who manages that particular area of business area!

The renovation of the Cabo Roig promenade costs **461,000 euros**.

70% of the province's trash is buried in landfills and **recycles 30%**.

Three men from Murcia, aged 28,36 and 37, were arrested on March 10 in Torrevejeja for passing forged banknotes. The men, who had more than **€11,000 in forged 50's and 20's**, were released on charges.



The same day an unnamed British man was also arrested in the town after being stopped while driving a high-end UK licensed

vehicle at speed through the town. As the man appeared nervous, the police searched the vehicle and found over a kilo of marijuana in a sealed container. Police also found £4,000 sterling in 20, 10 and five pound notes, photo. The vehicle, which is valued at €50,000, was also seized. The man did not have a driving license.

A man of 40 years and Belgian nationality has been arrested, accused of **beating his mother with a baseball bat** - 81 years old and Spanish - in the family home in Torrevejeja. He had a restraining order with respect to his mother after a previous attack which occurred in October 2019. The son telephoned emergency services alerting that his mother was badly injured after a wardrobe fell on her!

The response of the Orihuela Town Hall to hardship cases on the coast during this emergency has been **nothing short of scandalous**.

No one appeared to be answering the telephones in the social services departments of either Orihuela or Torrevejeja.



A local charity worker told me the most helpful response they got from the local establishment was from the tourist office in Torrevejeja!

If one asked a local council official for assistance, the answer was always the same - **‘Contact Caritas.’** Caritas Spain is the Catholic Church's official organization in Spain for charity and social relief. Here on the Orihuela Costa it was the local expats as well as the expat-run charities who did the ‘heavy lifting.’

Although the **Help Vega Baja** office was closed, volunteers operated from their homes through the lockdown, answering queries from people on the rules of the state of alarm and helping people get in contact with the authorities where needed. They are still assisting people who are not yet back on their feet and are able to provide Mercadona food vouchers to people in need.

A wonderful initiative by some expats in La Florida launched a **Food Bank**. Their work and the contribution by the public has been inspiring. Up to June 6 alone, they have assisted 449 individuals with 164 food parcels and the work continues. If you would like to help or contribute, go to the Facebook *la Florida friends food bank*.

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POOL ON THE ROOF?

Just some months ago we reported on an inflatable swimming/paddling pool which caused the roof of a garage to collapse. Seems people never learn! This time it was the town of Elda in Alicante where an inflatable pool on the first floor patio/balcony caused the floor to collapse into the lounge below it! Photo. Fortunately, the seven inhabitants of the house - three adults, two teenagers and two minors - were



asleep in another part of the house when the floor collapsed at 6:30am on Tuesday June 24. No one

was hurt although a 37-year-old male had a nervous breakdown. Two dogs were also uninjured.

It appears that regulations state that upper floors/patios should have a pressure tolerance of 200 kilos per square metre. That is sufficient for some furniture and a person but not for a pool. For example, an inflatable or removable pool with a water depth of just 30 cm's to well below your knee, means 300 kilos of weight per square metre! Add the weight of people & kids in the pool.....possible disaster! These mini-pools should only be placed outside and on a firm surface.

Similarly, the placement of a Jacuzzi on an upper floor patio or balcony is also very dangerous. Not only will the weight of the water and the installation be a factor but it will also vibrate.

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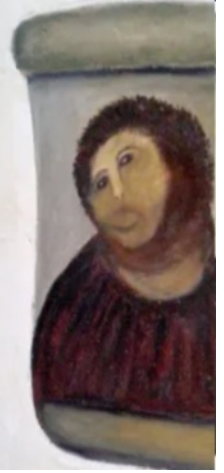
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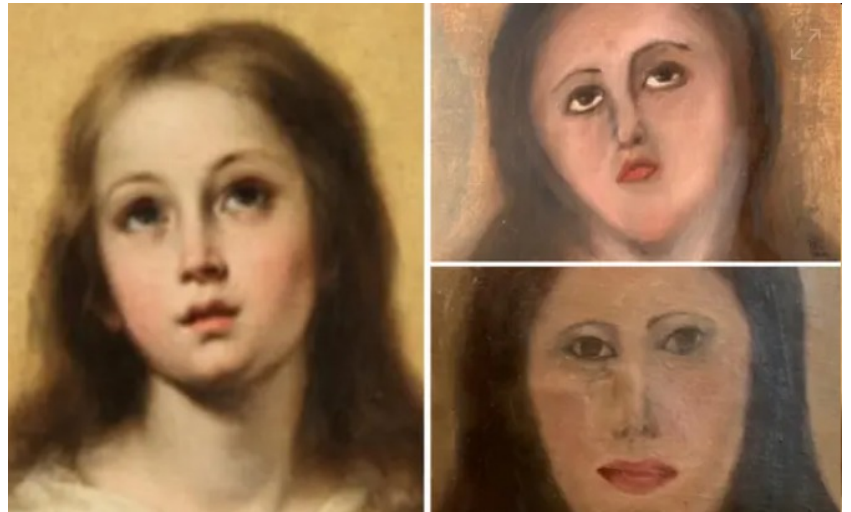
RESTORERS R US - NOT!



Some Time ago we covered the botched attempt at the restoration of the Christ painting in a church in Zaragoza. People then called the new painting the 'Monkey Christ.'

As ever, history seems to be repeating itself, this time with a painting from a private art collector in Valencia who was reportedly charged €1,200 by a furniture restorer to have the picture of the Immaculate Conception cleaned. As you can see from the picture below it was a disaster! Despite two attempts to restore it to its original state, a beautiful painting was ruined.

These so-called restorers can't have been professionals, but if they were one would suggest they lay off the 'wacky' and the booze!



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Fancy a Ruby?

An Indian bloke, an Iranian bloke and a Japanese bloke were ship wrecked and found themselves in the same lifeboat. For days they drifted over a huge expanse of empty ocean.

After a week or so a huge great white shark appeared and circled the boat. The three men started jabbering for help, with the Japanese praying to Buddha, the Iranian praying to Allah and the Indian praying to Shiva.

Suddenly the great white launched itself at the boat and grabbed the Iranian and ate him.

The next day the shark appeared again and the two remaining men started praying to their respective deities (Ok I know that Buddha isn't a deity, but it's just a joke, so shut it). The great white shark again launched itself at the boat and grabbed the Japanese guy and ate him, leaving the Indian bloke all alone.

The next day the great white shark appeared again. The Indian was terror-struck and started praying, "oh Lord Shiva safe me from this terrible beast of the depths".

The shark swam closer and examined the Indian bloke from head to foot and then spoke: "I'm not eating you, I had an Indian last week and my arrse is still burning".



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Italian Moratorium

The decision of the Italian government to approve a moratorium on the payment of mortgages for families affected by the coronavirus crisis has alerted the sector to the possibility that something similar could happen in Spain.

The initiative launched in Italy allows the freezing of mortgage payments to all those who have lost their jobs or have been temporarily fired from their companies due to the pandemic. The term of the moratorium can go up to 18 months and, once it expires, the payment of the terms is restarted in the same conditions in which it had been interrupted.

According to the approved rule, "the freeze does not entail the application of bureaucratic fees or expenses and occurs without the need for a request for new guarantees from the bank." Likewise, small companies may request deferment of the payment of a credit.

Renfe

Renfe will facilitate changes and cancellations of railway tickets at no cost to affected travellers. The measure will be in force for all tickets and rates, including those that do not allow changes and cancellations.

A woman recently lost her husband. Their marriage had been a very lousy one, and she was relieved that he was finally gone. She had him cremated and brought his ashes home. Picking up the urn that he was in, she poured him out on the patio table. Then she started talking to him, and tracing her fingers in the ashes, she said, "You know that fur coat you promised me?" She answered by saying, "I bought it with the insurance money!" She then said, "Remember that new car you promised me?" She answered again saying, "Well, I bought it with the insurance money!" Still tracing her finger in the ashes, she said, "Remember that blow job I promised you? Well here it comes..."

A Scotsman, an Irishman and a Welshman all owe an Englishman £10.

Sadly, the Englishman dies before he can collect on the debt.

The three debtors all attend his funeral. As the coffin is lowered into the grave, the Irishman and the Welshman each throw in a £10 pound note. The Scotsman takes the two £10 notes out of the coffinand put in a £30 cheque.

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YOUR DOG & HEATSTROKE!

As temperatures begin to warm up, it might be tempting to take your dog for a long walk or run to soak up the weather while it lasts. But it's important to exercise caution, as dogs can easily develop heatstroke in hot temperatures.

However, some dogs are at greater risk of heatstroke compared to others. Latest research has identified which dog breeds are most likely to suffer from heatstroke.

We found that nine breeds, in particular, had a significantly higher risk of heatstroke compared to labrador retrievers:

1. chow chow (17 times more likely to suffer from heatstroke)
2. bulldog (14 times more likely)
3. French bulldog (six times)
4. French mastiff (five times)
5. greyhound (four times)
6. cavalier King Charles spaniel (three times)
7. pug (three times)
8. English springer spaniel (three times)
9. golden retriever (three times)

Purebred dogs had twice the risk compared to crossbreeds. The labrador retriever (traditionally the UK's most popular breed) had a similar risk to crossbreeds, so we used it as the model breed for comparisons.

Most of the breeds at higher risk of heatstroke are brachycephalic (flat-faced). In fact, brachycephalic dogs had twice the odds of suffering heatstroke than dogs with an average muzzle (like labradors). Brachycephalic dogs are more likely to overheat because they often already



struggle to breathe, even at rest.

Effective panting is essential for cooling, as dogs cannot sweat like humans.

Over a third of brachycephalic dog owners have previously reported their

pet struggled with "heat regulation". The growing popularity of flat-faced breeds, coupled with rising global temperatures, could see heatstroke become a major welfare risk to these dogs in the future unless action is taken to prevent them from overheating – or reducing their popularity altogether.

The chow chows and golden retrievers also had increased risk of heatstroke because of their thick "double coats".

A thick coat acts as insulation, trapping hot air and limiting heat loss if the dog overheats. It would be like having to wear a thermal jacket during a heatwave.

Heavy dogs also showed an increased risk of heatstroke. Importantly, this group includes both obese dogs and dogs that are large or muscular. Large dogs, in general, were more likely to develop heatstroke than dogs under 10kg, with giant breed dogs (weighing over 50kg) three times more likely to develop heatstroke.

Dogs aged over two years old were also at greater risk, with elderly dogs (over 12 years) most likely to develop heatstroke. This is because younger dogs may be more active, while older dogs with reduced cardiovascular and respiratory function and may struggle to lose excess heat as efficiently.

The study included over 900,000 UK dogs and used historical, anonymised veterinary records, so included roughly 10% of the estimated UK dog population. In 2016, the fatality rate for heatstroke cases in the UK was 14%, meaning one in seven dogs with heatstroke died from their condition.

Preventing heatstroke

Any dog can develop heatstroke if left or exercised in a hot environment. For any dog, it's far safer to skip walks altogether during hot weather and you may need to find ways to keep your dog cool, such as paddling pools, fans and grooming. However, owners of the breeds highlighted by this study should be particularly cautious in hot weather. If your dog is on the larger side, you need to be careful regardless of their breed, especially if they are a large or giant breed. If your dog is overweight, they are not only at increased risk of heatstroke but also other potentially fatal conditions such as joint disease and cancer. Helping your dog shed excess weight will help them feel more comfortable in hot weather and will reduce their risk of heatstroke.

If you have an older dog, you should also be cautious exercising them in the heat. Dogs with underlying health problems affecting their heart or breathing are particularly at risk and may need help keeping cool during warm weather.

This is an abridged version of an article which appears here <https://theconversation.com/nine-dog-breeds-at-higher-risk-of-heatstroke-and-what-you-can-do-to-prevent-it-139501?>

Bare in mind that those of us who live in Spain, know all too well that the temperatures here greatly exceed those of the UK and Northern Europe. This study refers to the UK

Also pavements and roads here in Spain get extremely hot, more than enough to burn little Fido's feet!

U.K. Welfare Benefit Information

BREXIT Update: People currently in receipt of welfare benefits will continue to receive these for life irrespective of the outcome of BREXIT negotiations at the end of 2020.

Its possible that after 31st December 2020 new benefit applications will not be allowed.

Attendance Allowance is a benefit for people in receipt of a UK state pension 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.

David, at Advocacy Costa Blanca is always happy to meet up for a chat. No charge.



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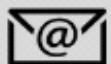
Attendance
Allowance



*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.



- 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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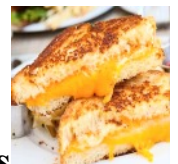
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Cutting Back!

One day Mr. Smith, the president of a large corporation, called his vice-president, Dave, into his office and said, "We're making some cutbacks, so either Jack or Barbara will have to be laid off." Dave looked at Mr. Smith and said, "Barbara is my best worker, but Jack has a wife and three kids. I don't know whom to fire."

The next morning Dave waited for his employees to arrive. Barbara was the first to come in, so Dave said, "Barbara, I've got a problem. You see, I've got to lay you or Jack off and I don't know what to do?"

Barbara replied, "You'd better jack off. I've got a headache."



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Talking Dog!

A man sees a sign outside a house - 'Talking Dog For Sale.' He rings the bell, the owner appears and tells him the dog can be viewed in the back garden. The man sees a very nice looking Labrador Retriever sitting there.

"Do you really talk?" he asks the dog. "Yes," the Labrador replies. After recovering from the shock of hearing the dog talk, the man asks, "So, tell me your story."

The Labrador looks up and says, "Well, I discovered that I could talk when I was pretty young. I wanted to help the government, so I joined MI6. "In no time at all they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, because no one imagined that a dog would be eavesdropping. I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years. But the jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger so I decided to settle down. I signed up for a job at Heathrow to do some undercover security work, wandering near suspicious characters and listening-in. I uncovered some incredible dealings and was awarded several medals. I got married, had a few puppies, and now I've just retired."

The man is amazed. He goes back into the house and asks the owner how much he wants for the dog.

"Ten quid," the owner says.

"£10!?! But this dog is absolutely amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheaply?"

"Because he's a lying bastard. He's never been out of the garden!!"





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Spent the weekend in the city of London with the wife; bought her some lingerie for the occasion. Got caught up in a Black Lives Matter demonstration today and ended up getting severely beaten. All she said was "These knickers are making me feel uncomfortable".



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I was watching porn with the wife
and she complained "This is so
unrealistic."

I said, "Just because you are
unwilling to try new things,
doesn't mean everyone is like
that."

"Not that," she explained, "It's
just that all the plumbers that
come to our house have tiny
penises!!."

Made the wife a Caesar salad last
night.

The dog wasn't very happy..... it
was his last tin.

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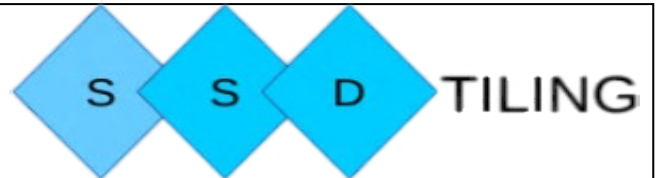
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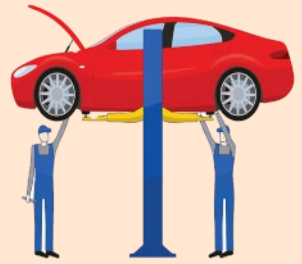
The Conversion!

A priest, a minister, and a rabbi want to see who's best at his job. So they each go into the woods, find a bear, and attempt to convert it. Later they get together. The priest begins: "When I found the bear, I read to him from the Catechism and sprinkled him with holy water. Next week is his first communion." "I found a bear by the stream," says the minister, "and preached God's holy word. The bear was so mesmerized that he let me baptize him."

They both look down at the rabbi, who is lying on a gurney in a body cast. "Looking back," he says, "maybe I shouldn't have started with the circumcision."

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ORTEGA'S GENEROSITY

Although one of the richest men in the world, Amancio Ortega - the founder//owner of the Indetex Group - has always been very generous philanthropist to the Spanish.

In recent years, he has donated several million euros to purchase advanced medical equipment for hospitals in Spain. €309 million euros from his foundation supported the acquisition of more than 440 devices for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer in public hospitals throughout Spain. These included digital mammographs, magnetic resonances, linear accelerators, etc.

However it is regrettable that his generosity was not matched by the efficiency in the introduction or installation of these devices. Big money is no match for Spanish bureaucracy! During 2019 only 50% of these lifesaving machines were operating. The public tender process takes about a year, with the following evaluation taking up to eight months! Add to this the necessary permits from the Nuclear Safety Council. One of the worst cases is that of

Galicia where an agreement was signed with the foundation for €16.7 million in October 2017 - but the installation and start-up of the equipment will not be until 2021! Most of this equipment relates to the detection and treatment of cancers that reduces the treatment of cancer patients from 35 to five days.

Oddly, the far-left who make up much of the current Frankenstein coalition government in Spain are not in favour of this generosity. "Billionaire alms that a decent democracy should not accept," said Pablo Iglesias, head of the Marxist Podemos Party, said in support of the candidate of the Purple Party to the Community of Madrid, Isabel Serra, who also criticized the donations. Iglesias received several hundred thousand euros for writing a report for the former Marxist president of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez. I cannot understand the love the far-left, including Corbyn, have for this failed and corrupt state.

What a surprise!

An old man woke up in the middle of the night and found, to his utter astonishment, that his pecker was as hard as a rock for the first time in several years.

He shook his wife by the shoulder until she woke up and showed her his new pride & joy.

"Check this out!" he happily exclaimed. "What do you think we should do with it?"

With one eye open, his wife replied, "Well, now that you've got all the wrinkles out, now would be a good time to wash it."

MAQUILLAJE
MAKEUP

EXTENSION
DE PESTAÑAS
EYELASH
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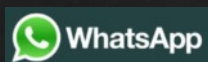


Mujer
Hombre

Woman
Man

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WASH, CONDITIONER, CUT, MOUSSE & BLOWDRY (FROM).....	22,00 €
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Q: How do you get 500 old cows in a barn?
A: Put up a Bingo sign.



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The Randy Rooster

A farmer buys a young rooster. As soon as he brings the bird to the farm, it rushes & fucks all 150 hens.

The farmer is impressed thinking about all the eggs the hens would hatch. At lunch, the rooster again screws all 150 hens.

The farmer gets a bit worried now. The next day, he finds the rooster fucking the ducks, geese, & a parrot too which is now scaring him. Later that day, he finds the rooster lying pale, half-dead with vultures circling over its head. The farmer says, "You horny bastard, you deserve this."

The rooster opens one eye, points up, & whispers, "Shh! Don't shout, they'll be down in a minute"

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A 92 year old man is walking through a park and sees a talking frog. He picks up the frog and the frog says, "If you kiss me, I will turn into a beautiful princess and be yours for a week." The old man puts the frog in his pocket. The frog screams, "Hey if you kiss me, I will turn into a beautiful princess and make love to you for a whole month." The old man looks at the frog and says, "At my age I'd rather have a talking frog."

Switzerland teaches us a hard lesson about EU

(This article appeared in The Times online on June 19, and is by Ed Conway, the Economics Editor of Sky News.)

The landlocked state's tense relationship with Brussels is a sign of things to come after Brexit.

Here is a story in two chapters. Chapter one opens with a referendum over European integration. The people vote against it. The establishment is outraged. The initial uproar is followed by years of difficult negotiations. There are scare stories: we're heading for economic disaster! The financial sector will implode!

The upshot is that as chapter two begins everything looks a bit bleak. But eventually both sides choose pragmatism over drama and piece together a future relationship. Compromises are made and what emerges is a patchwork quilt of deals that allow various sectors to trade. Borders stay open, goods and people pass smoothly over them even though the "third country" is not part of the customs union or single market. Thanks to a combination of calculated messiness and a few carefully placed fig leaves, the economy — and everyone's dignity — remains intact. The end.

Though not really, because this story isn't over. Perhaps you've already twigged that the protagonist in question is not Britain. Chapters one and two are broadly what happened after Switzerland voted not to join the single market in 1992.

The Swiss relationship with the European Union is something of a peculiarity. It is not, like Norway, a member of the single market. It is not in the customs union. Instead its relationship is covered by more than a hundred treaties and agreements. There are continual administrative headaches on both sides and the relationship is not without its problems. The Swiss are rule-takers but have reasoned that that is a price worth paying for being able to trade freely. So they are inside the club but very much outside.

One thing that repeatedly struck me as odd throughout the Brexit saga is how rarely the Swiss model comes up. It's been Canada this and Norway that, mainly I suppose because those countries signify a simple relationship with the EU: a comprehensive trade deal or single market membership respectively. The Swiss model signifies, well, a bit of a mess and until a few months ago, whenever I asked ministers whether we should contemplate something like it, the idea was dismissed.

Yet when you chat to them these days you tend to hear a lot more about Switzerland. To understand why, step back from the important yet dreary detail of Brexit talks — fishing quotas and so on — and consider the deeper philosophical difference between the two sides.

For decades, those guiding the European project have been intent on creating overarching treaties that apply to everyone. Is that because most EU members are civil law

societies where rules have been carved on tablets of stone ever since the era of Justinian? Either way it's all about codes and constitutions, in stark contrast with the English common law system where legal precedents accrete over decades, are renewed and revised. Simplicity and uniformity versus an organic muddle.

So it is with the Brexit negotiations. Michel Barnier is pushing for a grand deal that unites the main pillars of the future EU-UK relationship — trade, security, justice, home affairs — into one all-encompassing agreement. The British want each pillar to be negotiated separately; gradually if need be. In other words, having completed chapter one of the Swiss story above, Britain wants to continue with chapter two.

That said, the Swiss model involves free movement of people, payments into the EU budget and a form of oversight by the European Court of Justice. That seems incompatible with Boris Johnson's stated aims, though he has been known to occasionally overlook red lines.

More fundamentally, there is no way something like that could be finalised before the end of the transition period in December, so what then? Does Britain revert to World Trade Organisation rules, face economic difficulty head-on and then gradually piece together a patchwork quilt of EU deals akin to Switzerland? Back before Covid-19 the idea of inflicting that kind of economic pain was anathema to many ministers. Now, given the UK is already in a deeper recession than anything a no-deal Brexit could inflict, they are considerably more gung-ho.

They are underestimating the risks. The sectors of the economy stricken by Covid-19 aren't necessarily the same as those that would be affected by a no-deal Brexit. And don't underestimate how determined the Europeans are not to give in and repeat the Swiss story.

That brings us to chapter three, which is playing out now. Over the past few years Switzerland and the EU have been negotiating a new "common institutional framework" on trade relations. The objective is, guess what, to consolidate those hundreds of trade deals into one uniform arrangement, not a million miles from what Brussels wants from the Brexit deal.

The Swiss have so far failed to ratify the deal, prompting anger from the EU, which last summer ended equivalence for Swiss stock exchanges, meaning shares listed in Zurich cannot be traded on EU exchanges. The sky didn't fall in, though the EU may yet tighten the thumbscrews.

It is worth bearing this in mind in the months ahead as the Brexit soap opera takes off again. This is not just about tariffs and regulations but about a double-fronted battle the EU is waging to standardise its relationship with non-members. It is too early to tell whether this will make Britain's task in the coming months any easier.

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The Wake-Up Call

I was checking into a hotel the other day and when I had finished the receptionist asked if there was anything else I needed. I said "Can I have a wake-up call"
 She looked at me, paused and said "Well, you're about two stone overweight, you've got alcohol on your breath at eleven o'clock in the morning and I bet you haven't sorted out your pension"

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Lime Bar Fishing SUNBATHING Club

Hello all, it was a nice break not having to think what to put in here, but here we go again.

I hope you have all survived without too many scraps with 'er indoors, mine was surprisingly lenient!!!

Due to social distancing and only allowed to have 10 people sat on a 20-metre table, I don't think we will have a bun fight until July maybe even August. Hopefully we will be able to fish the winter final before October but the summer league will probably not happen.

During lock down, most of us have taken the opportunity to service our tackle!!!! - and repack our boxes. I took everything out of my box with the intention of reducing the weight. Everything went back in so no weight loss for me! Well, you never know when you will need that bit or this bit

In phase 1 at least we are allowed out onto the bank. The Spanish govt must be full of golfers or more likely, took a big brown envelope!! You could play golf in a 4 ball a week before we were allowed to sit self-isolated 10 metres apart. Who came up with that idea?

Monday 18th was the 1st day we were allowed to go fishing and most of us shied away from going to El Bosquet



as it was bound to be packed. Everyone had the same idea, as there were only about 12 people there. Big Fish Chris (BFC) was one of them and 1st day back he continues catching biggies. Sat in peg 11, he had 22 carp including 2 x 9 lb mirrors. A cracking day at anytime of the year but on day 1 after lock down, well done sir.

1 of the professionals from Abbey Angling (Ian Brown) also used lock down to perfect his camera skills. Also on Mon 18th, he videoed himself catching 59 carp from El Bosquet peg 1. The video is about 1 hour long (I haven't watched it all yet but you & I

might learn something) and is on YouTube.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=pRpFPcflst0>

On day 2 (Tues 19th), 3 of us went to Bigastro expecting to see it totally overgrown. Surprisingly it was fairly clear so we made short work of clearing a track down and making 6 pegs fishable. During the lock down, I had said to Sweeney "I wouldn't mind blanking as long as we can get out." I should have kept my mouth shut. The fish were still in lockdown, 14 fish between us and a terrapin. Never mind it was a lovely day out.

Bigastro hasn't changed!! The following day, BFC and Ball Boy took the chance to use the recently cleared pegs and rubbed salt into our wounds. Fishing the same pegs, Ball Boy had 13 carp and BFC had 24 including another 8 lb mirror (see photo).

Since then, we have been back to Bigastro and now cleared all 12 pegs and 3 tracks down from the road.

Unfortunately, the Eden canal venue did not fair as well as Bigastro and was totally overgrown. Carp R Us put a call out on Facebook for



volunteers to help clear these pegs on Mon 25th. There was quite a good turnout, Fagash and I turned up from the Lime Bar and in a couple of hours we had most of the pegs cleared. It was hard going and quite warm. See a

before and after photo below of Terry Screen in the jungle. A few of us fished it afterwards and it is fishing well. Plenty of bites and everybody caught. The invasive blue crabs have been doing well during lockdown. They are large and even more aggressive. I



hooked into a carp and it felt massive. When I landed it, it was only a 2 pounder on the hook, but a bloody great crab had hold of the swim feeder and wouldn't let go. It was a bugger getting it out of my landing net, when I went near it with my forceps to release the swim feeder the claws bit down onto them!!! Glad my finger wasn't there.

Tom thumb, you had better be careful next time you fish here.....

Lockdown has given us anglers time to catch up with a few bits.

Rummaging through our boxes, a few of us realised that our licences had expired. Oooops! As we had time to play with our PCs, we found that we could renew our licences online. If you want

to renew yours on line, it is in Spanish but Google Translator worked for me. Link is;

<http://www.agroambient.gva.es/va/web/medio-natural/licencias-de-caca-i-pesca>

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

Fishy Fingers!

The Ghost

After lockdown here in Spain, I was standing in a pub with my mate when these four massive blocks started mouthing-off at us.

My mate said, 'Pretend we're the police.'

I only got through the first verse of Roxanne before they kicked the shit out of us!

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Two photos of beaches taken a few days ago - one in Bourne mouth, the other in Benidorm.
Guess which?

Two Blimps.

Two old colonels sitting in the sunshine outside their retirement home.

Gladys rips off her clothes and streaks across the lawn.

OC1: "I say old chap. Did you see Gladys just now. What was she wearing?"

OC2: "Not sure old boy but it needed ironing"

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Let's have a go at the Germans!

How do you say 'brassiere' in German? 'Keipsemfrumfloppin.'

What did the German clockmaker say to the clock that only went 'tick, tick, tick?'
"We haff vays of making you tock!"

A British sailor got into trouble off the German shore. In desperation he radioed in to the coastguard 'Mayday.....Mayday.....we are sinking.....we are sinking!!!'
With great relief he heard the radio crackle into life, followed by.....
'Und what are you sinking about....?'

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