



THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER



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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the August 2020 edition. Issue No.157

Welcome to the **first printed edition** of The Dream Scene since the lockdown in March. Due to the lockdown, there were no printed copies as all distribution points were closed. However I sent email versions to existing subscribers and anyone who requested it.

The **new A5 size** means that some may have problems reading much of the text. The reduction in printed size is purely down to increased costs, having more than doubled since March. Remember, you can get the newsletter monthly in PDF, colour and full A4 size by email **for just €5 a year!**

In the new printed issue I have experimented with **various text sizes and fonts** to see if it is easily readable. I hope I'll get some feedback on this.

The wearing of a mask is now mandatory in almost all of Spain. You must now wear a mask in any public space, interior or exterior, even if the safety distance can be maintained. There are still exceptions, such as practicing sports, sunbathing on the beach, bathing in swimming pools or when you eat and drink in a restaurant or bar . In this sense, it should be remembered that in a swimming pool it must be worn whenever you are out of the water and that in bars and restaurants its use is also mandatory except during the period when you eat or drink. Even if you are walking to the toilets, you must wear a mask. The fine for not wearing it in

the indicated cases will be 100 euros.

But how about **when driving in a car?** This depends on the passengers. Individual use of the car frees the driver from wearing the mask while travelling. The same is true if you travel with one or more people in your family unit or who live under the same roof. On the other hand, in the case of travelling with people who do not live in the same house, such as coworkers, friends or other family members, the mask will be mandatory for everyone, including the driver.

Despite the differences between the northern and southern & eastern countries in Europe, the EU has finally agreed on a **€750 billion coronavirus pandemic recovery fund**. This will be €390 billion in grants and €360 billion in loans. Spain will receive a total of €140 billion from the fund, of which €72.7 billion will be a direct aid grant.

There is little doubt that Covid-19 infections are **beginning to rise** in the Vega Baja area. Although not yet dramatic, it does not bode well!

I am very sorry to report that **Bill Craig, our Phantom Poet**, sadly passed away in his native Scotland during early July.

Thanks To John W & Julian S, for their kind donations towards printing costs

Hoping you are all keeping safe and healthy.

Mick, Tid and the Dream Scene Team.

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LOCAL



Sorry, Ladies! They're enjoying lockdown so much they won't go home!

During the war my grandfather was responsible for bringing down 7 Messerschmitt 109's.
Worst mechanic the Luftwaffe ever had.

During early July, the beach cleaning services of the Torrevieja City Council removed a **Portuguese Man-of-War** from a beach in La Mata. Although not



a jellyfish but a siphonophore, its sting is very painful and dangerous.

Their stinging tentacles can extend to 50 metres but 10 metres is most

common. Its sail appearance will usually herald its presence. Although not native to the Med', winds carry it from the Atlantic through the Straits of Gibraltar to the Med'. In 2018, an abundance of these unwelcome creatures closed a number of beaches on our local coastline during the summer season.

Every day, two **breaking and entering** robberies are registered with force in homes located in Torrevieja. The Ministry of the Interior accounted for a total of 179 assaults on homes during the first quarter of the year, being the city of the province where crimes of this nature were most common, above even the Alicante capital, which holds more than four times the population of Torry.

A 70-year-old British woman was murdered in her home in the village of Granja de Rocamora, to the north east of the city of Orihuela. The crime was committed on November 18, 2019. Two men, a 49-year-old man from the Netherlands and a 33-year-old Spaniard were arrested during January but the court proceeds have been kept secret until July. It seems one of the men was a close friend of the woman so they easily gained access. The woman was fatally punched in the chest and the these 'brave' robbers got away with**just €600!**

Then on July 16, a 58-year-old woman was stabbed in he neck and face by an assailant who fled the scene without taking anything. He is believed to be between 30 and 40 years old.

Never underestimate the power and dangers of the sea currents off our local beaches. Two people were drowned in one week off the La Mata beach during early July, both males, aged 72 and 58. Gardia Civil officers saved two Spaniards - a 27-year-old man and a 37-year-old woman - from drowning off La Mata beach, on Tuesday July 14.

The couple were 50 and 75 metres from the beach when they were unable to swim back. The Guardia were assisted by two Policia Local who held a rope for the Guardias, who finally reentered the sea diagonally to the bathers. Lifeguards were not present as it was 20:00 hours and a red flag - banning bathing - was evident. One of the rescuing Guardias was exhausted and had to be taken to a hospital ICU.

A female shop worker with a labelling gun in Torrevieja fought off an armed robber last weekend. Police are now looking for a man with a price on his head.

Another Health Centre for Orihuela Costa?

The mayor of Orihuela has offered the regional Ministry of Health a 10,693 square metre plot of land to build a badly needed second health centre for Orihuela Costa. The location is in the Pao-20 sector, La Ciñuelica, close to the Moda Fashions outlet.

Ribera Salud, the private company that has the current concession for the Torrevieja Hospital, state that they will inject six million euros into the project to build a multipurpose health centre, with specialties to improve the care of Orihuela citizens, if their concession at the hospital is extended.

The projected centre would promote specialties related to treatment of chronic patients, a rehabilitation service, as well as a high-performance sports medicine centre, given that the environment has an important sports and social fabric from which all patients in the Department of Health could benefit, not only those attached to this centre. The first mayor urged the Ministry to speak up now to show their position on this project. "The next step is to make this land available to the Ministry of Health and I request that they demonstrate to carry out this basic and essential project that we will continue to demand so that the health service in the area improves from objective criteria," Mayor Bascuñana said.

BUT, the Valencian Government is run by the Left while both Torrevieja and Orihuela have got majority right-of- centre councils and Valencia want the Torrevieja Hospital to revert to regional management once the current concession expires next year. Both local councils and certainly many of the public don't want this as waiting times etc., will shoot up to match the other regionally operated ones. Orihuela Costa is likely to get another *salud*, but hopefully it will be one with added value and not solely for GP consultations.

Did you hear about the rent boy who got leprosy?

He was doing okay for a while, but then his business dropped off.

The pharmacy in Via Park III was **broken into** at around 5:30am on the early morning of July 16. The large cash counting & storage machine and drugs were stolen. A substantial amount of money is believed to be missing.

An eight-year-old girl who was riding on a jet ski with her father, tragically died when the jet ski collided with a boat. Her father fell off the ski as she remained on and crashed into a boat. The accident occurred in the Mar Menor, San Javier.

The Vistabella Golf Club straddles two municipalities, Orihuela and Jacarilla. This lovely 18-hole golf course and driving range has been in operation for almost 11 years. The facilities include a restaurant-cafeteria, shop, golf club, 37-meter bowling green on grass and three paddle tennis courts. So, what's the problem? Well, it seems the venue does not have a licence. Nor have they had an environmental impact assessment. The petition for normality and legality which began in 2018 was reactivated again in 2019. The Councilor for Urban Planning for Orihuela stated that the regulated procedure normally begins at the beginning of the execution of a project and not when more than a decade has elapsed since its start-up. The golf course was originally closely linked to an urban initiative in which the Orihuela City Council validated the reclassification of non-developable agricultural of land of millions of square meters in the early 2000s, in the midst of a real estate boom. This led to a political and media storm with complaints to the Anti corruption Prosecutor's Office against the then mayor José Manuel Medina*. Proceedings were filed but never went to trial.

Another interesting **point about this is that both councils must agree. What happens if say, Orihuela gives it the go-ahead but Jacarilla doesn't?**

*You may recall that Medina featured in last month's newsletter under an article entitled 'The Great Escape. How the judges helped the politicians.'

The **wearing of masks** in public places became mandatory in the Community on July 18. The new measures were approved following 20 outbreaks, which included areas such as Santa Pola, Elche and Benidorm. The health authorities have expressed concern about the evolution of the pandemic and stressed that contagions in the age range between 20 and 40 years are quadrupling, as a result of private parties and not maintaining the security



Lack of social distancing at Alicante Immigration offices.

Our Provincial firefighters have been testing



an underwater drone, photo, off the Isle of Tabarca. Alicante firefighters have a diving unit of 25 professional divers, with equipment and technology to carry out search and rescue operations, either at sea

or in lakes or reservoirs. They are also very useful for the control of aquatic fauna and flora, sampling and pollution control, the inspection and maintenance of boats, and the control of the state of reservoirs and hydraulic plants. Some models of drones are also used for other tasks such as the fight against drug trafficking.

There are now 20 **smoke free beaches** in the province, including El Campello, Elche and Dénia. It is still possible to smoke on Benidorm and Vega Baja beaches. This may change in the future. It is interesting to note that all the beaches in Galicia have been 'non-smoking' since 2012!

Fishing Buddies

A Kiwi and an Aussie went fishing one afternoon and decided to have a couple of cold beers. After a while the Aussie says to the Kiwi, "If I was to sneak over to your house and made wild passionate love to your wife while you were at work, and she got pregnant and had a baby, would that make us related?"

The Kiwi after a great deal of thought, says, "Well, I don't know about related, but it sure would make us even."

COSY

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Mahou bottles 2 for €2!



E

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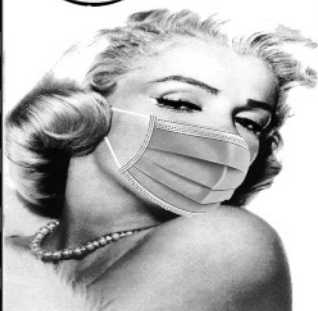
Enjoy a fantastic meal with fine beers and wines and have a
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Yeah, I know James Bond wouldn't lock his keys in his car. Don't tell anyone please.
Pierce Brosnan, to a security guard who helped him break into his own car outside MGM Studios

Two Regional Elections

The regional elections in the Basque Country during July brought great success to the local nationalist parties.

The PNV secured 31 deputies, while the Bildu Party (a bit like a Basque *Sinn Fein* party - support for ETA prisoners etc) won 22 seats. The centre and right parties did very poorly in the election. The right-of-centre PP joined with Ciudadanos to run an experimental joint ticket. Together the two parties won five seats, four fewer than the PP won in 2016 when running alone. Interestingly, the far-right Vox party will make its debut in the Basque parliament with one seat.

The other region to **hold its elections was Galicia.**

Here, the PP secured 42 seats in the 75-seat regional parliament with nearly all votes counted, one more than in the 2016 election. The leftist Galician Nationalist Bloc (BNG) more than tripled its parliamentary presence to win 19 seats and become the region's second-biggest force. The far-left Podemos appeared under various guises during both elections but did very badly.

Minks Slaughtered.

The Aragonese Government in northeastern Spain has ordered the slaughter of 92,700 minks following positive Covid-19 tests on the animals and seven positive tests on human workers there. This follows the detection of the virus in mink farms in the Netherlands. There, nearly one million minks have been slaughtered in 130 mink farms.

Drug Arrests

Police have detained 30 people in Murcia and Alicante and seized 7 high-speed narco boats, which were being used to transport drugs from North Africa. 3,357 kilos of hashish, two articulated trucks and five passenger cars were also seized. One drug trafficking gang had its logistical base in an industrial estate in Santa Pola., where three high-speed boats were also seized.

Life's a Beach!

Police were forced to close a beach, Playa de las Higuericas, in Pilar de la Horadada during July due to the beach being so packed with people, it was impossible to maintain any social distancing.

Unfortunately, social distancing also seems to have disappeared in many outdoor food markets.

Beach surveillance officers registered over 26,000 incidents during the first weekend of July in Spain's Andalusia. Roll on August!

When I go to a nude beach, I always take a ruler, just in case I have to prove something.

Rodney Dangerfield

Another Naughty Royal?

The former king of Spain, King Juan Carlos, although now retired, has been unfavourably back in the news again.

Although considered by many to be the prime architect of Spain's return to democracy post the Franco dictatorship, he has certainly 'fallen into a few potholes' in recent years.

Now, we all know that Royals get many gifts, not only from the public but also from foreign heads of state.

The former Spanish king, now emeritus, has received many valuable gifts from abroad: including the house-palace of La Mareta in Lanzarote, a gift from King Hussein of Jordan and two Ferrari F151, a gift from the United Arab Emirates. According to protocol all these gifts and others were donated to Spanish Heritage.

BUT, when it comes to gifts of cash...well?

A short few years ago, the then king received a gift of €65 million from the Saudi Arabian Royal Family. Very nice! But it has since emerged that the king never informed the Spanish Treasury!

Rumours about the money abounded, a common one that the then king helped the Saudi's to lower the price of the proposed Medina to Mecca high-speed rail link, which was a project being put together by a Spanish consortium. This contract was awarded three years later at a cost of seven billion euros. It has been argued that the cash gift was paid three years before the contract was awarded in 2011, which would be highly unlikely as a bribe!

But more interesting has been the destination of the 65 million. King Juan Carlos transferred the money to his then lover, Corinna Larsen, a Monaco-based businesswoman, photo.



Larsen and a couple of others are now being investigated by the Swiss courts regarding money laundering and tax havens. The investigations have now spread to Spain's courts, which will have the speed of a sluggish snail.

Ms Larsen insists that the 65 million was just a gift from a true and loyal friend. Well, some girls just deserve it!

A Swiss prosecutor is investigating a €3.5-million transfer from a bank account held by Spain's emeritus king Juan Carlos I to another account in The Bahamas, is part of a wider ongoing probe into alleged financial irregularities involving the father of Spain's reigning monarch Felipe VI. Swiss prosecutors are not investigating the former king for now, although they have not ruled out doing so in future. King Felipe VI recently announced he is relinquishing any inheritance from his father, after news emerged that he himself was a beneficiary of two foundations named in the Swiss investigation.

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Former Barcelona football star and professional diver, **Neymar**, filed a lawsuit demanding €46.3

million in loyalty bonuses from his old club, Barcelona FC, once he joined PSG in August 2017. Unfortunately for him, the Spanish courts have decided that Neymar must now pay his old club €6.7 million!

Tax increases are now inevitable in Spain. Even the right-of-centre parties here are not disputing that. The Minister of Finance, María Jesús Montero, photo, repeats whenever she has the opportunity that she wants to bring **tax revenues here up** to the European average levels and that there is a "margin" of up to "seven" points of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which means **a further 70 billion euro** rise in revenue! Higher tax rate payers are in for a hammering. The Treasury also want to impose a corporate tax minimum rate of 15%, which in the case of banks and oil companies would go up to 18%. From the business perspective, the Government does not take into account that these companies mostly have part of their business in other countries where they already pay taxes. And the General Council of Economists adds that, according to OECD data, Spanish companies actually pay more than French or German companies in tax.



One would like to see the almost elimination of the Inheritance Tax, as has happened in Andalucia. But this is most unlikely with the coalition of left-wingers. Much more taxes are on the way. A large increase in rolling tobacco has already been squeezed in.

The **King and Queen** visited Benidorm in early July and no, they didn't go to a karaoke bar!



The current Minister of the Interior, Fernando Grande-Marlaska, **has eased the prison conditions** of more than 70 convicted ETA terrorists. 49 of these have now been moved to prisons in or around the Basque Country. Another 22 of these convicted terrorists have been given a softer degree of confinement. This all heralds a much more lenient approach to the Basque nationalist parties by the current Frankenstein coalition government. It is somewhat sickening that many town councils in the Basque area hold a welcoming reception for released ETA terrorists.

In an effort to boost the economy, the governing team in Pilar de la Horadada have **repealed** the local ordinance against **noise pollution** so that the bars and restaurants can, well, continue to play loud music. This decision gives priority to economic activity linked to the tourism and services sector over the rights of the neighbours. This will, no doubt, also allow noisy drilling and tile removing during siesta hours; tough if you live in that area!

The Spanish Ministry of Transport have announced that ITVs expiring between **June 21 and August 31** will have an extra three month grace period. There are however inconsistencies from the various test centres which have been causing some confusion among motorists.

The new expiry dates on the pass sticker should be calculated from the pass date, not the original test due date.

Squatting is now the new normal in Spain. Since the start of the lockdown, illegal occupations/squattings have increased nationally by 300% and it is throughout Spain, north to south and from the centre to the coasts. During 2010 there were 2,207 illegal squattings registered nationally. In 2019 that figure had increased to 14,394. The figure for 2020 is expected to be much higher. Bank repossessions are also a favourite of squatters.

Ah, isn't that nice, the wife of the Cambridge president is kissing the cox of the Oxford crew.
Harry Carpenter

10 Fertility Rate: 'Jaw-dropping' Global Crash in Children Being Born

The world is ill-prepared for the global crash in children being born which is set to have a "jaw-dropping" impact on societies, say researchers. Falling fertility rates mean nearly every country could have shrinking populations by the end of the century.

And 23 nations - **including Spain** and Japan - are expected to see their populations halve by 2100.

Countries will also age dramatically, with as many people turning 80 as there are being born. What is going on?

The fertility rate - the average number of children a woman gives birth to - is falling. If the number falls below approximately 2.1, then the size of the population starts to fall. In 1950, women were having an average of 4.7 children in their lifetime.

Researchers at the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation showed the global fertility rate nearly halved to 2.4 in 2017 - and their study, published in the *Lancet*, projects it will fall below 1.7 by 2100. As a result, the researchers expect the number of people on the planet to peak at 9.7 billion around 2064, before falling down to 8.8 billion by the end of the century.

"That's a pretty big thing; most of the world is transitioning into natural population decline," researcher Prof Christopher Murray told the BBC.

"I think it's incredibly hard to think this through and recognise how big a thing this is; it's extraordinary, we'll have to reorganise societies."

It has nothing to do with sperm counts or the usual things that come to mind when discussing fertility.



Instead it is being driven by more women in education and work, as well as greater access to contraception, leading to women choosing to have fewer children.

In many ways, falling fertility rates are a success story.

Japan's population is projected to fall from a peak of 128 million in 2017 to less than 53 million by the end of the century.

Italy is expected to see an equally dramatic population crash from 61 million to 28 million over the same timeframe.

They are two of 23 countries - which also include Spain, Portugal, Thailand and South Korea - expected to see their population more than halve.

(<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-53409521>)

The New Machine.

A dairy farmer decided to boost productivity on his farm so he ordered a high-tech milking machine. As his wife was out of town when it was delivered, he decided to test it on himself first and see if it gave him any pleasure. Being a dirty bugger, he inserted his penis into the machine's teat cups, turned it on, and everything else was automatic. It didn't take long before he realized the equipment provided him with several moment of kinky bliss. However, when he tried to withdraw his todger from the cup, he realized, because of the vacuum, he couldn't get it out. In a panic, he read the nearby manual but still couldn't find a way out. He hurriedly tried every button on the instrument, but still, nothing seemed to work.

Finally, he decided he'd have to call the supplier's Customer Service Hot Line on his mobile for help. When he got through, he said, "Hello, I just bought a milking machine from your company. It works fantastic, but how do I remove it from the cow's udder?"

"Don't worry," replied the customer service guy on the other end of the line, "The machine will release automatically once it's collected two gallons."

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When I got married my feminist friends went mad. One sniffed, 'are you going to take your husband's name?'
I said, 'No, because I don't think "Dave" suits me very much.'

Jo Brand



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CIDER**

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VIA PARK III

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Sue & Peter, Carly & Mark.*



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&
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Wed 7:00pm - 10pm

Everyone Welcome!



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& OUTSIDE THE BAR

Thank you to everyone for your continued support throughout this situation, we value your support



FREE
WI-FI

JJ, Rob & Bobby



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

We all know that the heat during a Spanish August can be brutal., Particularly for those of us from northern European climes; reminds me of Billy Connolly's statement that Scotland has only two seasons - June & winter!

So, how can you cool down in your casa during August? There are really two options: fans or air conditioning. Fans are the cheapest, easily accessible and virtually maintenance-free. Whether anchored to the ceiling or wall or free standing, the range available is vast with plenty of colour options including remote control. Most ceiling fans not only allow for the various speeds but by simply changing the rotation direction of the blades, it can help keep the house warm in winter as well. "The winter position takes the warm air from the upper part of the room and pushes it down. The summer position takes the cold air from the floor and lifts it upwards," explains José



'Shut the door...it's another 10 minutes before your turn.'

Arboledas, an air quality expert from the General Council of Official Associations of Industrial Technical Engineers in Spain (COGITI).

BUT, a fan's effectiveness depends largely on the humidity. Recent research in the Sydney University in Australia simulated a very dry heat wave and also a humid heat wave, and observed that it was only in humid heat that fans significantly reduced body temperature, regulated stress and improved heart rate and thermal comfort. In dry conditions, the effect was the opposite even when the temperature was lower – the fans exacerbated all these parameters and even increased the feeling of being stifled by the heat! For a fan to realize its full potential, there must be some humidity in the atmosphere, fortunately this is the type of heat we experience in Spain. A fan helps sweat to evaporate on the skin, a natural process that cools the body down. To improve the fan's effectiveness, you can spray your body with water and put the fan in swing mode. This fools your body and increases coolness!

When the heat is too dry for a fan to work, air conditioning comes into its own. But you have to bear in mind it will dry out the environment even more, and could

lead to health problems. Most of these derive from the irritating and inflammatory effect that cold produces in the upper airways – the pharynx and larynx – and even the bronchi.

"Air gets warmer when it enters the nostrils, so when it reaches the bronchi it is the same temperature as the body," says Olaia Bronte, a member of the environment wing of the Spanish Association of Pulmonology and Thoracic Surgery. "When that air is too cold, it doesn't have time to warm up in the nose. To counteract this dryness, people who spend a lot of time in air-conditioned areas should drink water often to keep their bodies adequately hydrated."

Fortunately, these ailments are almost always mild. "The most serious problems are often caused by germs that accumulate in filters when they are not cleaned or maintained properly," says Bronte. "Up to 20% of colds, laryngitis, pharyngitis and bronchial conditions that occur in the summer are due to improper use of air conditioning."

She adds that these filters also tend to accumulate dust and other types of organic substances, which can lead to problems ranging from a simple cold to a potentially serious bacterial or fungal infection.

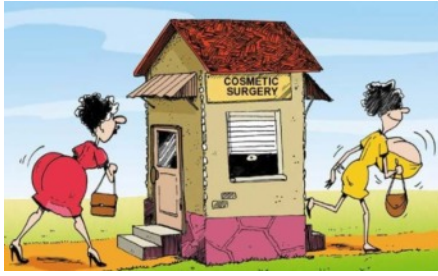
Filters in modern A/C unit are very easy to detach and wash under a tap and then replace. Unfortunately few do this. This can lead to clogging by various particles, including mould!

Joaquín Sastre, head of the allergology department at the Jiménez Díaz Foundation's University Hospital in Madrid, says: "When we sleep, our body temperature always drops – due to inactivity – but normally the temperature of the device is adjusted to suit daily activity; this means that we get cold if we sleep with the air conditioning on.

Another problem is that air conditioning reduces humidity due to the compression system used for cooling, and the resulting dry air is more irritating, especially if you snore or breathe through your mouth."

Similarly, Fernández Nieto, the allergology department of the Jiménez Díaz Foundation's University Hospital in Madrid, recommends opening a window instead of using these devices at night, stressing that the irritating action of cold air on the upper and lower airways can lead to voice loss and coughing. In people with asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), they can trigger an attack. "Another effect is that prolonged exposure to a cold, dry air stream can lead to muscle contractures," he says. "As for ceiling fans, which are often used in bedrooms, despite the fact the air current is being moved around rather than cooled, I would apply the same criteria as I would for air conditioning: better not to use them when sleeping."

A number of **cosmetic surgery** clinics around the world are reporting a rise in people getting treatment during the coronavirus outbreak as they can hide their treatment behind a mask or work from home.



Despite the virus shutting businesses across the globe, a number of plastic surgery clinics have remained open, adopting stricter measures such as Covid-19 tests and more frequent cleaning. Clinics in the US, Japan, South Korea and Australia have all seen a rise in patients coming in for treatment including lip fillers, botox, face lifts and nose jobs.

A councillor from Torrelavega in northern Spain inadvertently live streamed himself **showering during an online council meeting**. Fearing he'd be late for his day job if he didn't wash, Bernardo Bustillo took his laptop into the bathroom and minimised the screen during the meeting about cleaning up a local river. But as he got into the shower, colleagues could still see him on their screens. "Say something to Berni. Say something to him quickly," pleaded one councillor as he stepped out, hairy-assed and naked, before the mayor abruptly ended the meeting. Bustillo apologised, but said he was at "complete peace" with his nudity. Yea, not like the rest of us, Berni, who are still having nightmares!

Lynx has teamed up with Marmite to create a breakfast infused version of its top-selling body fragrance. It describes the new Africa & Marmite scent – which comes as a body wash and a deodorant – as the joining together of "two iconic legends that have shaped dating and breakfast culture across the nation". Others have suggested the new product might be an effective social-distancing tool. Can't wait to try it out!

Make bathtime as much fun for the kiddies as a trip to a British seaside, by chucking a bucket of sand, a bag of salt, a dog turd and a broken bottle into the bath with them.

Viz, top tip.

Sacha Baron Cohen's latest stunt almost went badly wrong, when he enraged a group of **pro-gun campaigners at a rally** in Washington State. The comedian donned a fake beard and dungarees and, from a stage, started singing a country number about coronavirus being a hoax. "Mask-wearers. What we gonna do? Inject them with the Wuhan flu," he sang. "Journalists. What we gonna do? Chop 'em up like the Saudis do." At first, a few people at the sparsely attended event sang along, but it seems the lyrics were too outrageous for them and, realising they were being set up, they reportedly stormed the stage, forcing Baron Cohen to flee the scene in a private ambulance.

British rock band Queen's 1978 B-side "**Bicycle Race**" was allegedly written after Freddie Mercury was enchanted watching the Tour de France pass by under his hotel window. Wherever the band played live, bicycle shops sold out of bells, which fans would then ring during the performance. And according to a story that is difficult to verify, Queen once rented 65 bikes for a staged nude all-female race, and the rental company made them **buy all the saddles**.

A video of nesting baby owls was removed by Facebook – for **breaching its rules on nudity and sexual activity**. Graham Moss, a pensioner from Doncaster, was baffled when the social media giant removed his video of owl chicks hatching in a bird box in his garden. "They have basically labelled me a pervert," he complained. "They are saying I've uploaded something involving adult nudity and sexual activity." Facebook later apologised and said the video was wrongly removed by its "automated tools".

Always knew Facebook was 'a tool!'



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

BREXIT AND YOUR PENSION

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

Contact me on 634305881 to discuss your options.

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The Final Test

Twelve monks were about to be ordained. Their final test was for them to line up, nude, in a garden while a nude female model danced before them. Each monk had a small bell attached to his privates, and they were told that anyone whose bell rang would not be ordained because he had not reached a required state of spiritual purity. The model danced before the first monk candidate, with no reaction. She proceeded down the line with the same response until she got to the final monk. As she danced, his bell rang so loudly it fell off and clattered to the ground. Embarrassed, he bent down to pick up the bell,and eleven other bells began to ring.....

The Two Nuns

Two nuns, Sister Marilyn and Sister Helen, are traveling through Europe in their car. They get to Transylvania and are stopped at a traffic light. Suddenly, out of nowhere, a diminutive Dracula jumps onto the bonnet of the car and hisses through the windscreen.

"Quick, quick!" shouts Sister Marilyn. "What shall we do?"

"Turn the windscreen wipers on. That will get rid of the abomination," says Sister Helen.

Sister Marilyn switches them on, knocking Dracula about, but he clings on and continues hissing at the nuns. "What shall I do now?" she shouts.

"Switch on the windscreen washer. I filled it up with Holy Water in the Vatican," says Sister Helen.

Sister Marilyn turns on the windscreen washer. Dracula screams as the water burns his skin, but he clings on and continues hissing at the nuns.

"Now what?" shouts Sister Marilyn.

"Show him your Cross," says Sister Helen.

"Right," says Sister Marilyn as she opens the window and shouts, "Get the fuck off our car!"



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SMUGGLING ON THE INCREASE!

On July 1, Italian police made the largest amphetamine seizure in the world. At the port of Salerno, just south of Naples, they used chainsaws to open large cylinders of paper and industrial machinery that were inside shipping containers from Syria and found **14 tonnes of pills**.

In Hong Kong, customs officials seized record numbers of illegal shark fins in April and May, **from an estimated 38,500 sharks**. Meanwhile, the trade in counterfeit drugs and medical equipment has been in overdrive. US border authorities recently confirmed that they had seized nearly a million units by the beginning of June.

These record seizures are puzzling, since they suggest that such activities are increasing. The trade in illicit and legitimate goods are usually closely connected, with traffickers and smugglers often using legitimate goods to conceal their commodities – just like in the Italian amphetamine bust. Yet the global trade in legitimate goods has declined sharply during the pandemic and is forecast to be down 10% year on year in 2020. So what is going on?

To some extent, illicit traffic will be more visible to authorities **because legal trade flows have shrunk** and there is additional checking at national borders. The seizures are also a sign of criminals taking greater risks because they can make higher returns on scarce goods. In the UK, criminals have been smuggling drugs in bulk because it's harder to smuggle lots of smaller shipments. Larger players can often cope with the increased transaction costs, while petty smugglers sometimes end up getting pushed out of business.

Criminals have had to innovate to keep their supply chains open. A good example is **concealing illegal drugs in consignments of face masks or other medical supplies**. We are also seeing changes in the modes of transport that smugglers are using. Some activities that usually move by air or road – certain wildlife trafficking, for example – have switched to rail and maritime routes.

Shipping is more attractive because most seaports have continued to operate. In some cases, illicit trade on ships has increased. For example, the port of Antwerp in Belgium reports that cocaine shipments **from Latin America have risen**.

Online trading has long been the main platform for illicit goods, and this too has grown in 2020. At least **100,000 new websites have emerged** since March selling COVID-related substandard or fake medical items. There are also signs of more counterfeit consumer goods selling online, including fake car parts and accessories. Demand for counterfeits is likely to keep rising as the economy worsens, and **because some legitimate goods are more scarce than usual**.

(Abridged from <https://theconversation.com/how-smugglers-are-shifting-staggering-amounts-of-contraband-despite-the-pandemic-142776?>)



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The Promotion!

A petroleum station owner in Dublin was trying to increase his sales, so he put up a sign that read: 'Free sex with Fill-up.'
Soon Paddy pulled in, filled his tank and asked for his free sex. The owner told him to pick a number from 1 to 10. If he guessed correctly he would get his free sex.

Paddy guessed 8, and the proprietor said, "You were close, the number was 7 sorry, no sex this time."

A week later, Paddy along with his friend Mick, pulled in for another fill up, again he asked for his free sex.

The proprietor again gave him the same story and asked him to guess the correct number. Paddy guessed 2 this time.

The proprietor said, "Sorry, it was 3. You were close but no sex."

As they were driving away, Mick said to Paddy, 'I think the game is rigged and he really doesn't give away free sex.'

Paddy replied, 'No it ain't Mick. It's not rigged at all, my wife won twice last week.'



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CODERE BETTING MACHINE NOW IN!

LIVE RACING DAILY!

On July 6th, the Spanish government began preparing its foreign offices for the processing of the new post-Brexit document for Brits living in Spain. Here are the requirements and the steps to follow.

Spain's long-awaited TIE (Tarjeta de Identidad Extranjero), photo, for its British residents is now a reality.

The Spanish government confirmed that from July 6th 2020, UK citizens registering for the first time as residents in Spain will be issued with the biometric credit card-sized document instead of the previously issued green residency A4 certificate or small green residency card.

It's important to remember that for UK citizens who have already registered as residents in Spain and are in possession of either of these green residency documents, the TIE card is optional. **So, if you already have the green A4 certificate or the small green residency card, you do not have to change!**

That's because both of these 'residencia' documents - whether temporary (less than 5 years of residence) or permanent (more than 5 years) - already guarantee Brits' rights in Spain under the Withdrawal Agreement.

In fact, the British Embassy in Spain has called on UK citizens who are registered already to not try to make appointments so as to avoid overloading the Extranjería appointments system, which already has a huge backlog exacerbated by the partial shutdown of public institutions during the coronavirus lockdown.

How do UK citizens who are already registered in Spain apply for a TIE?

We should reiterate again that this is not compulsory to do before the transition period ends on December 31st 2020.

Go on the cita previa website, choose your province and the new option available for the TIE card issuance: "POLICIA-EXP. TARJETA ASOCIADA AL ACUERDO DE RETIRADA CIUDADANOS BRITANICOS Y SUS FAMILIARES (BREXIT)".

Then fill in your personal details and make an appointment.

Before your appointment at the immigration office/police station, you will have to:

Fill in "modelo 790" (code 012), print it out and pay the processing fee at a bank. They will stamp the form to prove that you have paid. Take this along to your appointment.

Fill in the EX-23 TIE application form and print it out to hand in during your appointment. Form here - http://extranjeros.mitramiss.gob.es/es/modelossolicitudes/mod_solicitudes2/23-TIE_RU_JUNIO_2020.pdf

Prepare to present your passport. In the event that your passport is expired or lost, you must show a copy and proof of the renewal application for it.

Get a passport photo of yourself. To be completely sure it meets the requirements, have this done at a shop or photography studio where Spanish DNI (Spanish National ID) photos are taken.

There isn't a timeframe yet for how long the TIE issuance takes, but when they do contact you for you to pick it up, you will again have to present your passport as proof of ID.

Holders of a green temporary registration certificate with less than five years of residency will receive a TIE valid for five years, whereas holders of a permanent residency certificate will get a TIE valid for ten years.

BUT, as usual, expect to be put through hoops to get an appointment. In some provinces, the Spanish Public Administration's "cita previa" system isn't allowing TIE appointments to be made, due to them being snatched up as soon as they're made available and other administrative reasons. There are also specific offices where appointments can only be made over the phone. So much depends on the region and their devolved powers and it has probably not filtered down to many regions yet!

Many of the appointments are block booked by immigration "gestores" so if you are willing to pay, you can bypass the process and employ someone to do it for you.

If you are a UK citizen, have never registered in Spain and now wish to apply for the TIE card, email me at mick.dreamscene@gmail.com and I will send you the details.

Sundance is weird. The movies are weird.

You actually have to think about them when you watch them.

Britny Spears at the Sundance Film Festival

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.

We had a topless lady ventriloquist in Liverpool once. Nobody ever saw her lips move.

Ken Dodd



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South Facing Terrace, Opposite Mercadona in Los Balcones



Most car dealerships have re-opened after the Covid19 Lockdown, with the notable exception of BMW. A spokesman for the company was asked when they might do the same but he gave no indication.....



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

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If you have health or social problems the welfare service can visit you to talk about how this may be affecting you. Our volunteers offer short term support to all ages and nationalities in their own home.

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Lost in Translation!

An American businessman was in Japan. He hired a local hooker and was going at it all night with her. She kept shouting "Fujifoo, Fugifoo!!!", which the guy took to be pleasurable.

The next day, he was golfing with his Japanese counterparts and he got a hole-in-one.

Wanting to impress the clients, he shouted "Fujifoo".

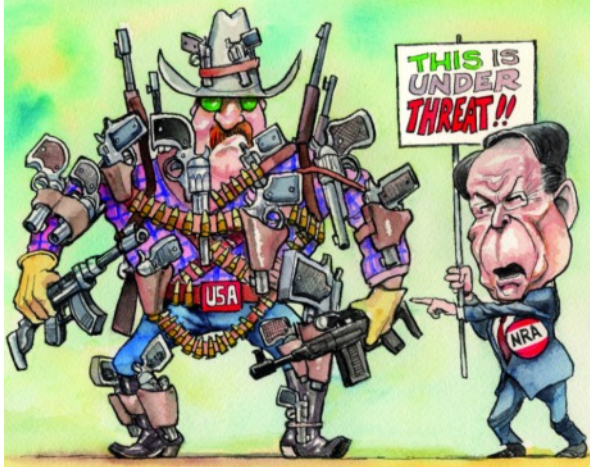
The Japanese clients looked confused and said "No, you got the right hole."

GUNS! GUNS! GUNS!

When one looks at the US of A, it is clear that they are having a terrible time with the Covid-19 virus, particularly as many seem unable to recognise the severity, while others believe that only Communists wear face-masks! (If Americans would watch more CNN and less FOX, they wouldn't be such a fuck-up!)

But they have also, for many years, been fighting a drug epidemic. To that I would also add a gun epidemic!

What caught my attention recently was that during the July 4 holiday weekend in the US this year, between the Friday and the Sunday, 160 people in the country, including a four



and a five-year-old, lost their lives to gunfire. More than a further 500 received wounds due to

being shot during the same weekend.

Then in mid-July, The Washington Post reported on the fatal police shootings by the police in the US during 2019.

Things are lookin' up!

A rather well proportioned young lady, spent almost all of her holiday sunbathing on the roof of the hotel because being locked down in her flat she didn't really get much fresh air/sun for months. She wore a bathing suit the first day but, on the second, being a naturist, she decided that no one could see her way up there, and she slipped out of it for an overall tan. She'd hardly begun when she heard someone running up the stairs. She was lying on her stomach, so she just pulled a towel over her bum.

"Excuse me, miss," said the flustered little assistant manager of the hotel, out of breath from running up the stairs. "The hotel doesn't mind you sunbathing on the roof but we would very much appreciate you wearing a bathing suit as you did yesterday."

"What difference does it make," Joan asked rather calmly. "No one can see me up here, and besides, I'm covered with a towel."

"Not exactly," said the embarrassed little man.

"You're lying on the dining room skylight."

It revealed that 1,009 people had been fatally shot by police there during that year.

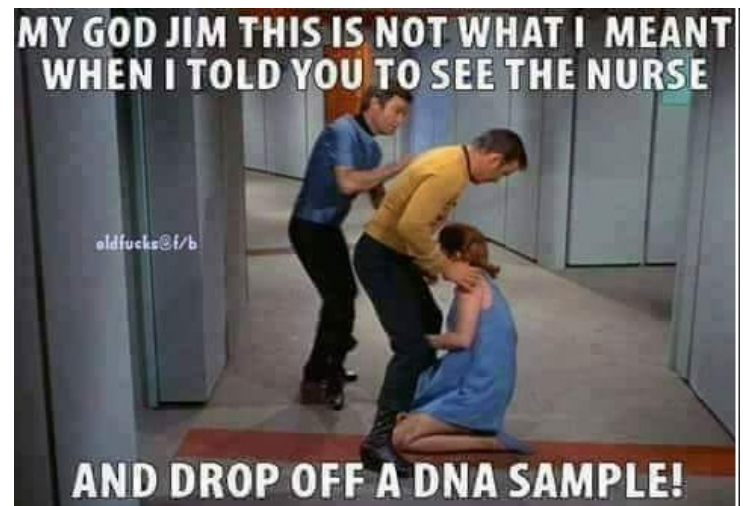
The Washington Post began to collate and publish data on police shootings in the line of duty since 2015. During 2014, after an unarmed black man, was killed in 2014 by police in Ferguson, Mo., a Post investigation found that the FBI undercounted fatal police shootings by more than half. This is because reporting by police departments is voluntary and many departments fail to do so.

Since The Post began its project in 2015, the fatal shootings by police have maintained at around 1,000 a year.

During 2019, 2,497 white people were shot and killed by police in the US; 1,301 black people were killed by them and 908 Hispanics. Other race fatalities were 220. However, The Post does mention that proportionally, the fatal rates for blacks and Hispanics was higher; black fatalities at a rate of 31 per million of a black population of 42 million; a Hispanic fatality rate of 23 per million out of a race population of 39 million and a white person fatality rate of 13 per million out of a white population of 197 million.

The Post's database is very informative and detailed, also reporting by gender, age, state etc and can be found here:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/investigations/police-shootings-database/>



It's a fair cop!

I was driving along the road the other night and a police car pulled alongside.

The bobby in the passenger seat motioned for me to wind down my window, which I did.

"Pullover". He shouted.

"No, it's a cardigan, but thanks for noticing."

And why can't dyslexics tell jokes?

Because they always punch up the fuck line.



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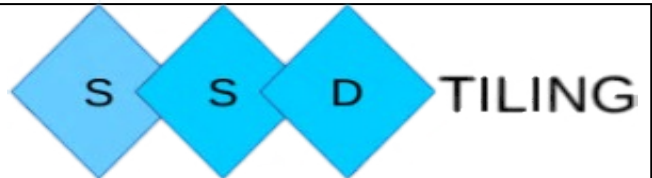
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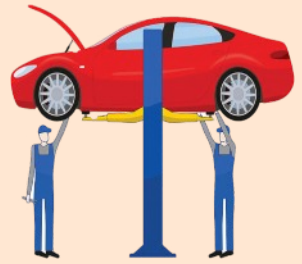
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So I kissed Lucy, and was very surprised to feel her tongue pop out.
It was my first real snog and I loved it you can imagine that I fell in love instantly.
Sadly the next year Lucy developed distemper and had to be put down.

Hugh Laurie

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How do you tell a Communist? Well, it's someone who reads Marx and Lenin. And how do you tell an anti-Communist?

It's someone who understands Marx and Lenin.

Ronald Regan

My father was a Conservative and my mother voted Labour, so by rights I suppose I should vote Liberal Democrat. But in fact I'm a Nazi.

Funny how things turn out.

Stephen Fry

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BRINGING FIDO & TIDDLES TO THE EU

Pet owners wanting to travel between EU countries and the UK from January are being warned of a four-month waiting period to register dogs, cats and ferrets to travel. At present we are still in the Brexit transition period during which most travel rules - for both humans and animals - stay the same.

But when the transition period ends on December 31st that will change, and the British government is now warning pet owners that they should begin preparations for travel at least four months in advance.

So if you want to make a trip in January, you need to begin preparations in September. At present the EU Pet Passport scheme allows for fairly frictionless travel for four-legged companions but that will no longer apply to the UK once the transition period ends. From January, the UK needs to become a listed country in order to keep restrictions on pet travel light. For the moment the UK will continue to accept Pet Passports & digital info.

The UK government's Brexit web page is therefore now telling pet owners: "To make sure your pet is able to travel from the UK to the EU from 1 January 2021, you should contact your vet at least 4 months before travelling to get the latest advice."

Going from the UK to the EU

1. Firstly if your dog or cat is not already, it needs to be microchipped.
2. Your pet then needs to have a blood sample taken at least 30 days after its most recent rabies vaccination (whether that is a vaccination or a booster).
3. Your vet then needs to send the blood sample to an EU approved blood testing laboratory (of which there are only two in the UK) which will check that your pet has the correct level of rabies antibodies in its blood. If the level is not high enough, then your pet will need a booster vaccine.
4. You cannot travel until three months after a successful rabies test.
5. When you get to within 10 days of your travel date, you then need to get an animal health certificate from your vet. To get the certificate you will need to provide; proof that your pet is microchipped, its vaccination history and the successful rabies antibody test result. The certificate will only be accepted at the border if it has been issued within 10 days of your date of travel.
6. You do not need a new blood test every time you travel, but you will need a new animal health certificate for each trip. (More next month.)

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MAKEUP

EXTENSION
DE PESTAÑAS
EYELASH
EXTENSION

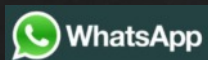


Mujer
Hombre

Woman
Man

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Did I sleep with her? Not a wink, Reverend Father, not a wink.

Brendan Behan



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Les Battersby to Cilla Brown, Coronation Street

(It is surely no secret at this stage, that I am very unhappy with the performance of the local Orihuela Council. As long as the beaches look good and get their Blue Flags, the city's care, attention and spending on its coastal residents has been negligible. It is like a vassal state in Game of Thrones! The council's contribution to the coastal residents during this Covid-19 crisis has been invisible. But earlier, their response to the the horrendous flooding during the September DANA and the damage done by the Gloria storm has been late, bureaucratic and minuscule.

Compare this to the immediate response of Help Vega Baja charity to the flood victims, quickly supplying new furniture, appliances and grocery vouchers.

I came across the following 'opinion' in an Alicante newspaper, Informacion, which tears a substantial chunk out of the indolent mayor of Orihuela, Emilio Bascuñana.)

Ten months as Bascuñana just crossed his arms

Tragedies often bring out the best or worst in people. In the case of Emilio Bascuñana , the September DANA that flooded Orihuela, the storm GLORIA that hit our territory hard and, finally, the COVID-19 pandemic that have generated an unprecedented social and economic crisis, have shown us its worst version and they have revealed that all the management it constantly boasts of is pure theatre and fiction.

The **poor leadership capacity of Bascuñana** and his entire team was evident from the first moment: they have had no leadership to respond to a society that has lived a dramatic half year. Their lack of initiative has been more evident if we take into account that they have received constant support from the rest of the Administrations: both the Valencian Generalitat and the Government of Spain have put in the necessary means and their representatives have come to Orihuela to live alongside citizens times of difficulty. In none of the cases has Bascuñana lived up to the circumstances.

During these critical months, he has masked his lack of ability to find solutions to the real problems of families and companies with an increasingly cynical and cocky attitude, charged with improper victimhood of those who hold the mayoralty of a city as relevant as Orihuela.

A good example of this passive and indolent attitude is that, to this day, **the only aid that the families of Orihuela have received have been those approved by the Generalitat Valenciana,**

while the local government spends the day on its advertising policy. and headlines, without any effectiveness. If anyone doubts what I say, they can ask the residents of the city or of any district.

Bascuñana's limited political capacity is more than evident. In all these months, he has not managed to agree on an action plan, not with the opposition, which could put difficulties in the negotiation, he has not even been able to reach an agreement with Ciudadanos, his government partner, who has stood out as if What happened in September depended solely on the Mayor's Office, applying the attrition policy based on the fact that the worse the mayor does, the better it will be for Citizens. And meanwhile, Orihuela is still paralyzed by the quarrels of a leaderless team, mired in the most absolute of misrule, which increasingly **resembles Pancho Villa's army.**

And why do I explain this? Well, for the record that while Bascuñana and his partners are dedicated to doing nothing, other Administrations are working, relentlessly, from the first moment, contributing not only money but also proposals such as Vega Baja RENHACE or the Report of the Consell Valencià de Culture, which has been possible thanks to the work of many people convinced that Orihuela and the Vega Baja region as a whole have a future, provided that things are done in a different way.

Bascuñana has taken ten months to show a timid reaction and present his own RENHACE Plan, in the form of the Civic Council, which he presented on Tuesday with the sole purpose of having an excuse that would allow him to leave Orihuela's place in the important Dolores meeting, in which the President of the Generalitat, Ximo Puig , presented the cultural legacy of the Vega Baja as a fundamental element to promote the economic development of the territory. One more example of sectarianism, the lack of institutional sense and the pusillanimous spirit that accompanies him in all his decisions. And there are still three years of legislature, which with this government team can be long and tortuous for Oriolan men and women.

Carolina Gracia Gómez 07.07.2020 .



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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, we were allowed to start fishing matches again in June so we decided to get the winter final out the way. We fished El Bosquet and chose to fish the oblong (pegs 11 to 16) as this gave the best chance of everyone catching a good net full, thereby making it “more interesting”.



On recent visits before the final, there were some massive fish caught here and lots of smaller ones throwing themselves at the hook. The 2 fish below came from peg 16 and 11 and were both personal “Spanish” bests. Well done to the Cheshire Cat & his mate Bud.

The 6 finalists drew pegs the night before so that we could save time in the morning and discussed having a half time weigh in / use 2 keepnets as we expected to catch loads of fish. 3 Rods and Ball Boy drew the favoured pegs 11 & 16 but everyone was in with a shout! We arrived at 07.15 and there were STILL other anglers there before us..... Conditions looked good and everyone was eager to get going. As per usual with us sunbathers – the hype didn’t live up to expectations. The fish were there in the swims but they really had to be coaxed into taking the bait. All we were getting were tiny little nibbles and line bites. We tried all sorts of

bait, tactics, size of hook etc. 3 rods even resorted to a size 16 and maggots, but the fish weren’t having it. Why? God knows!

After a long hot day, I won with 14.6 kilos (peg 14), Ball Boy was 2nd with 5.5 kilos (peg 16) and 3rd was the Cheshire Cat with 4.1 kilos (peg 12).

Our first meeting since lockdown was held in July where we welcomed Mick Lock into the club. This takes us back up to our maximum of 20 angling members. Due to the lockdown we decided not to fish the full summer league but just to have 1 match.

Whoever wins this gets the Summer Shield. We will have to decide what to do about the Memorial Trophy!

The KO competition is running as normal so we did the draw at the meeting. Fagash and I had byes in the 1st round. Results “so far” as we go to press are: 2 x KOs were held at Bigastro on different days and both were close finishes. “Beat Me Phil” beat 3 Rods (3 fish to 2 fish) and Sweeney beat Ball Boy (13 fish to 10 fish). This just helps to prove how fickle the fishing can be over here!



Has anybody else noticed that the fish start feeding confidently after 13.00? You can pick up the odd fish here & there before hand but after lunch they seem to wake up. Maybe they think it is safe to come out as the locals are off for a siesta?

The biggest thing to come from the monthly meeting was that we would not compete with the racket from music bingo, which is now every Monday. We discussed moving venue, time and date. We decided that we would remain with the Lime Bar but our future meetings will be held on a Tuesday at 17.00.

Next meeting bun fight is at The Lime Bar on **Tuesday 4th August @ 17.00.**

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For some, almost there!

When we first arrived in Spain, almost 17 years ago, corruption was endemic, any idiot could and did start up a house-building company as buyers were lining up. The Land Grab Act was in full swing, several estate agents were dodgy and many lawyers were incompetent. Many new buyers were signing agreements with the bank virtually guaranteeing the developer's debt! It was truly a case of *caveat emptor* (Let the buyer beware).

Banco Popular must now repay victims of the Almanzora Country Club in Almeria (photo) scam



115 million euros, according to the Spanish media. Totana Court N° 4 has decided that although Banco Popular never issued individual purchase guarantees, since it accepted the deposits as guarantee to issue a promoter loan to the builders, the bank is liable under law for the lost deposits. Over a thousand mainly British and Irish expats were ripped off in the ACC urbanisation by buying offplan. Deposits were handed over ranging from a few thousand euros to well over a hundred thousand. Banco Popular

must repay this money plus interest.

Huma Mediterraneo went bust after the environmental police raided the complex and stopped work in 2005. The massive complex was being built without any permissions or licenses, other than a simple *obra* permit from Cuevas town hall. Boss Antonio Subiela was later jailed for one year (but never entered prison) and fined (but probably never paid a penny).

No doubt Banco Popular will now appeal this ruling and drag it on for a further 5 or 10 years.

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



“Feel free to loosen your tie, Harrison
-The air-conditioning is out.”

Harold & Hetty

One morning, while she was making their breakfast, Harold walked up to his wife, Hetty, pinched her on the bum and said, ‘You know, if you firmed this up, we could get rid of your girdle.’ Hetty was shocked but said nothing. Next morning, Harold woke Hetty by squeezing her breast. He said, ‘You know, if you firmed these up, we could get rid of your bra.’ Hetty again thought this was totally unacceptable so she rolled over and grabbed him by his penis. With a strong grip, she said, ‘You know, if you firmed this up, we could get rid of the postman, the gardener and your brother.’

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