

# THE DREAM SCENE

## NEWSLETTER

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



Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the September 2020 edition. Issue No.158

It is fair to say that it has been an eventful month here in Spain. While the Covid-19 rates in Madrid, Catalonia and a handful of other regions have been ballooning, the massive influx of Spaniards from the regions to the coastal areas of Spain during late July and the whole of August, have brought an unwelcome and worrying increase in the virus cases locally. A recent medical survey in the Vega Baja area revealed that after a recent random testing **40% of those who tested positive** for the virus had come from outside the region. As I write this on August 22, the province of Alicante as experienced 143 positives in the last 24 hours, whereas the region of Valencia has had 483 during the same periods.

Two freebie newspapers or advertisers, the Euro Weekly News and the Costa Blanca People caused **some consternation locally** with some unconfirmed reports. The former reported that Spain was planning to introduce a three-phased lockdown during September and had discussed the introduction with the UK's PM, Boris Johnson.

The latter reported that all bars which did not provide food, i.e. ones without a kitchen, would be closed within 24 hours for a period of 21 days. Both claims were found to be untrue. Whereas Spain is unlikely to introduce another lockdown – which **would be disastrous** for an already shattered economy – there is no doubt that when the Spaniards and others return to their own areas in September, some form of local

tightening-up on the Costas may be called for. The situation in Madrid and Barcelona remains dire.

Appointments with local GP's in some areas can now **take up to 20 days!** Going online at Yo Salud, it is much easier to update prescriptions etc., by emailing your Spanish GP direct.

Then during all the Covid commotion, King Juan Carlos, now know here as **the King Emeritus**, left the country, because of a number of financial scandals. He is now believed to be residing in Abu Dhabi. All this had given the far-left grist for the abolition of the monarchy and the reestablishment of a republic. Socialist PM Sanchez described his exit as 'adequate.'

While driving around this area, Tid has noticed that several houses have had **a stone or small rock** placed on the outside front wall of the house. Now this cannot be an accident. All of these houses looked empty and the placement of stones may be placed there to highlight this. We have removed the stones, some in our own road. Beware of squatters!

**Many thanks** to all who renewed their email sub's and especially those donating extra towards printing costs - Melanie S, Clive M, Ulf R, Andy M, Brian H, Sadie P, Glenda C, Andy M, Peter J, Stephen B, Sallianne B, Les B, Paul D, Keith D, Sharon & Ken G, Dave P, Richard & Tina.

Hoping you are all keeping safe and healthy.  
Mick, Tid and the Dream Scene Team.

**INTERPRETER**  
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### Angela's Cartoon



**So he said 'Can't go out - too hot for sex - I'm going to learn the banjo!'**

**Talk about getting old. I was getting dressed and a peeping tom looked in the window, took a look and pulled down the shade! Joan Rivers**

The noise from a **pile-driving machine** preparing groundworks for a new Aldi supermarket close to Dream Hills 2 managed to drive everybody nuts for a couple of weeks. Thankfully it is now stopped.

A four-year-old boy of Belgian nationality, **drowned** in a swimming pool in Quesada on the evening of August 8. It seems the family and relatives were distracted and left the child on his own. Then a two-year-old boy drowned in the Sonia urbanisation pool in La Zenia on August 9. The French family of seven had just returned from the beach when the child went missing.

Unfortunately this type of tragedy is repeated all too often, not only in Spain but worldwide.

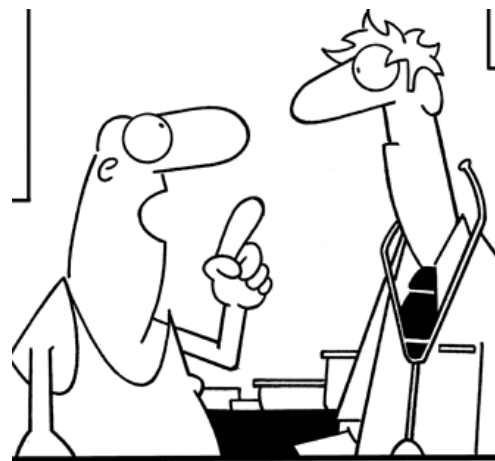
Orihuela has at last stepped on the accelerator in terms of the granting of **construction licenses**. After years with unbearable blockades when many applications were waiting up to a year. The reorganization and the increase in staff with the incorporation of auxiliaries and the consolidation of some interns (including several architects) in the Urbanism area is paying off.

On August 3, the green light was given to the construction of 237 homes, all in Orihuela Costa where real estate activity is concentrated in the municipality. Licenses for the construction of 11 swimming pools on Panticosa and Lago Sanabria streets locally were also granted.

About **8,000 tons of ammonium nitrate**, the fertilizer that destroyed part of Beirut, enters through the port of Alicante each year from where it is immediately moved to a company located in the Babel neighbourhood industrial estate. They distribute it as fertilizer for the agriculture in the Community and in neighbouring Murcia and Castilla-La Mancha, among other destinations. The unloading from the ships is supervised by firefighters. However, the conditions for its unloading and transport pass because the material has the certificate of non-detonability and because the percentage of nitrate does not exceed 30%. The higher the concentration, the greater the risk of burning and detonation. Easy accessibility to this type of fertilizer makes it a favourite with terrorist organisations worldwide.

A baby of only nine months has been admitted to the Marina Salud Hospital in Dénia, after being **intoxicated with cocaine and cannabis** during an adult birthday party in a rented chalet in Calp. The little one is now out of danger, but the Department of Equality and Inclusive Policies has requested that the child not return to the family at present. It was reported that the baby put the remains of tobacco and cigarettes left on the floor in his mouth. I think this is unlikely. The baby had significant amounts of cocaine and cannabis in his body, so the doctors decided to leave him hospitalised.

Tobacconists on the Costa Blanca say they've **had a bad year for sales** as travel restrictions have slashed their main customer base, which



"Dinosaurs didn't smoke cigarettes, drink alcohol, or eat junk food... and where are they now!?"

could force some of them to close. The province's tobacconists invoice 55 million euros less than in the first half of 2019.....does not believe that smokers have quit during this

period, at least not in any significant proportion. It does note, however, that there has been a small percentage of substitution of cigarettes and combustion products by vapers and other tobacco systems. There are many tobacconists on the coast that depend 95% on tourism, " explains Sergio Sánchez, secretary general of the Alicante Association of Tobacconists. "If this situation continues, many will have to sell the license, " he adds.

A 41-year-old woman was arrested on the morning of August 17 at her apartment on Régulo Street, **La Florida**, for **allegedly stabbing** a 65-year-old man who was with her at the time. She then called SAMU reporting that the man had a heart attack. The man was dead upon their arrival but the knife wounds they later reported as superficial.

As was expected, the pandemic has taken its effect on the property market sales. Nationally, for the month of June, **property sales fell** by 34.3% compared to the same month last year. For the Valencia region, the fall was 43.9% but the decrease in sales in the Alicante Province was 45.6%, from 3,105 during June 2019 to 1,688 during June 2020. Obviously, the economic effects of the lockdown, lack of flights and absence of foreign buyers were the main contributors.

A fire started in an abandoned warehouse on the road connecting Almoradi and Dolores at 4:45am on the morning of Sat' August 8. Problem also was there was a **large marijuana plantation** inside and some dodgy wiring caused the lot to ....go up in smoke! The three emergency firefighting units which attended appeared to be, well..... quite happy with it all!



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A short circuit started a fire in a house during the early hours, one August morning in Murcia. The two older residents, a 72-year-old man and a 65-year-old woman, were woken by the **barking of their dog** (photo), and managed to vacate the house together with their children and grandchildren. After being treated for smoke inhalation, everybody was able to return to the house. The dog's name is Desil. Hero!



The Alicante Province demands **14 new courts** to avoid the current saturation of outstanding court cases which are in their thousands. This is most unlikely to happen. It would mean introducing a certain level of efficiency to the legal system!

The Guardia Civil have **seized almost 12 tons of sea bream and seabass** from a well-known fish farm in Guardamar del Segura. The origion of the fish was labelled as Spanish when it was Turkish!

The expiration dates were also changed. The fish were located in a warehouse and three supermarkets.

The decision of the Valencian Ministry of Equality and Inclusive Policies **to eliminate the PCR test** for admissions in nursing homes has unleashed a wave of criticism from doctors, workers and family members, who consider that with this measure, which in their opinion is based on an attempt to reduce costs, increases the risk of coronavirus infections. Fortunately, the national government in Madrid have just heard this and have **immediately overruled** the left-wing regional government's stupid decision. Now, in social health centres or nursing homes, it will be mandatory to carry out PCR on new admissions with a maximum delay of 72 hours and on employees returning from absences or vacation periods. When you think of the hundreds of millions of euros now being ploughed in to the Valencian region, their earlier action was dumb, miserly and dangerous.

**Eight nursing homes** in the province of Alicante were hit by the virus during just the first week of August. Its rapidity was alarming. Visits and exits to and from the homes have been banned. There are also cases of coronavirus in eight other residences in the province of Valencia.

**A brothel** in the Costa Blanca has been closed down as at least four people there had contracted Covid-19. There has been a problem trying to contact the clients -some of whom are married - as there is a reluctance to come forward. And the name of the town - Cox, I kid you not!

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My secret for staying young is good food, plenty of rest, and a make-up man with a spray gun.  
 Bob Hope

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Soberano Brandy & Mixer

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ON  
6 GIANT  
SCREENS!**



Benny, the *shadchen* (Jewish matchmaker), goes to see Abe, a confirmed bachelor for many years. 'Abe, you mustn't wait too long. I have exactly the one you need. You only have to say the word and you'll meet and be married in no time!' says Benny. 'Don't bother,' replies Abe, 'I've two sisters at home, who look after all my needs.' 'That's all well and good,' said Benny, 'but all the sisters in the world cannot fill the role of a wife.' 'I said "two sisters". I didn't say they were mine!'

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SO **GIVE US A CLUE** AS TO WHO YOU ARE SO WE DONT DRAW ANY  
**BLANKETY BLANKS**. HAVE WE GOT A **DEAL OR NO DEAL**  
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Anon

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**Quiz  
night**

**WEDNESDAYS 8:00PM**

Everyone is a Winner!

**THURSDAYS FUN DARTS! 8pm**



**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**



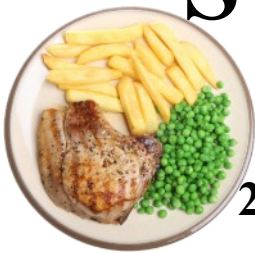
**FRIDAY NIGHT IS  
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**WITH MUSHY PEAS WITH BTL WINE  
€14 PER COUPLE!**



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NIGHT**



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OR

**2 X STEAK PLUS BTL WINE ONLY €16!**

OR

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**1 X MIX GRILL & 1 X STEAK PLUS BTL WINE ONLY €18!**

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A Jewish grandmother is walking home after a long day at a garment factory. Suddenly a flasher jumps out and opens his coat in front of her. The lady looks at him and says, 'You call that a lining.....?'

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## The Growing Menace of Squatting in Spain!

In the August issue, I included a short paragraph concerning the national problem of squatting in Spain. However, it is interesting that, at least in the Balearics, there is some improvement in the situation. In the city of Palma, there were 190 cases of illegal occupation in the city dawdling in the courts. One owner caught the squatter throwing his belongings and furniture onto the street but could do nothing, nor could the police, until the matter went through a judicial maze!

In another case an octogenarian woman had left her home for a few days for health reasons, returned to find it occupied by a stranger. The stranger said he had a contract and would not allow the woman in!

The poor woman had to file a complaint and was waiting a year for a decision. This particular case led the Chief Prosecutor of the Balearic's to issue a new pioneering instruction to the police. This gave the police legal coverage for the immediate and judicial eviction of an illegally occupied house as long as the crime is blatant. Only if there is doubt that a crime has been committed should a judge be consulted. This is still not a watertight response as many squatters say they have a contract albeit a dodgy one from the mafias who take the houses and insert a tenant who pays them rent. Contracts are also handwritten on the fly at the same time that the Police knocked on the door of the home. The inclusion of minors in the squats also complicates matters.

Now, why is this practice not extended to other regions and the police authorised accordingly?

Basically, because they couldn't be arsed!

Many of you will be aware that the three-time Wimbledon tennis champion Boris Becker has been



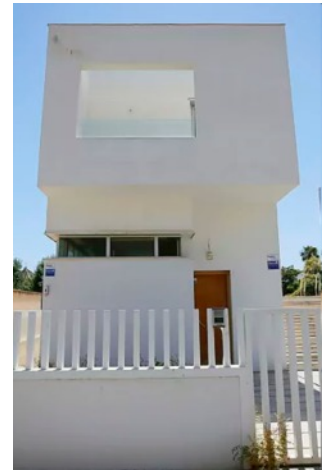
declared bankrupt by a London court. His palatial mansion in Mallorca, photo, including pool and tennis court was seized by the court.

While the mansion was empty, it was occupied by four Germans who stayed there for two years. When they were eventually evicted, they were ordered to pay a fine of just €480, which was never paid!

Squatters in Spain are indulged by the law, which seems to take more care of them than owners. Squatters also now have friends in high places. Ada Colau, the Mayoress of Barcelona, is a former squatter activist, and the hard-left Vice President of Spain, Pablo Iglesias has made a big show of sitting down with squatter activist groups to discuss housing policy. Though the Spanish Right recently proposed changing the law to clamp down on squatters, as things stand they are treated softly by Spanish law, and except for the Balearics, that's unlikely to change whilst the hard-left are in power.

Take a look at this detached property in Alicante, on the 'golden mile' of Playa de San Juan. During the early winter of 2018,

Ivaylo, Pavlina and their two children broke into and occupied the house. They then hooked up to the water and electricity from the street. As it was winter, the owner had returned back to Madrid and only became aware when the neighbours informed him. Two other couples moved in to the squatted house for the summer.



When the police called the squatters produced a spurious rental contract, saying that they had paid rent of €12,500. However, there were no bank accounts evident. Meanwhile, as the courts dragged on, the owner had to pay €1,151 each year for the IBI tax as well as not being allowed to enter his property!

After two years the squatters were only now turfed-out this July and fined a total of €540 - €270 each! But they can't pay this as they are insolvent.



Global warming? When my globes get warm, I just take off my sweater.

Dolly Parton



One of the far and occasionally **looney Left** parties of Spain, Podemos, is to get a new HQ in Madrid at a cost of two million euros. No problem paying for that as the **public subsidies** the party receives amount to 7.2 million euros. The agent, who organised the sale/purchase received a commission of €72,000, is the aunt of the party head, Pablo Iglesias. Gosh! What a coincidence! The political party has, in the past, received substantial funding from, of all places, Venezuela!

Dramatic situations have been experienced during recent days on numerous beaches in the province of Alicante. As confirmed by the Red Cross, a total of **79 people have reached the Alicante coast in six boats** from North Africa in just twelve hours. Members of the Civil Guard and Local Police intercepted the vessels in Benidorm, La Vila Joijosa, Santa Pola, Teulada, Calp and Alicante. Among all of them were six minors and one of them was a nine-month-old baby. According to the care provided by the NGO, all the people were in good health and claimed to be of Algerian nationality.

There have been **several other boatloads** arriving and intercepted throughout the Costas. One boatload of around 17 people were intercepted off our local coastline, seven of which were tested positive for Covid-19. The seasonal good weather has encouraged many to make the trip from North Africa. One of the illegal immigrants has described his journey, its costs and consequences. This is detailed on **Page 32** of this issue and is worth reading.

The Health Dept detected **high levels of Covid-19 in the wastewater** of 28 areas of Madrid. The information collected through samplings in the sewer networks and treatment plants will now be linked to the appearance of infections in those locations.

In the Chinese city of Shenzhen, traces of coronavirus have been found in samples of a batch of frozen chicken wings **imported from Brazil**, local press reported. Consequently, all related personnel who may have touched the product in question have also had to undergo tests, which so far have been negative. In the Chinese city of Wuhu, they found traces of coronavirus in the packaging of shrimp imported **from Ecuador**, while in the port city of the province of Shandong, in the east of the country, remains were detected in the packaging of frozen fish.

"The squirrels are messing with the bird feeder again!"



### Charity!

A wife arrived home from a shopping trip and was shocked to find her husband in bed with a lovely young woman. Just as she was about to storm out of the house, her husband called out "Perhaps you should hear how all this came about....."

I was driving home when I saw this young woman looking tired and bedraggled. I brought her home and made her a meal from the roast beef you had forgotten about in the fridge.

She was bare-footed so I gave her your good sandals which you had discarded because they had gone out of style.

She was cold so I gave her the sweater which I bought for your birthday but you never wore because you reckoned the colour didn't suit you.

Her pants were torn, so I gave her a pair of your jeans, which were perfectly good, but too small for you now. Then just as she was about to leave, she asked, 'Is there anything else your wife doesn't use anymore?'"

*I contact Alun Owen (screenwriter) in Ireland and ask him what the tax advantages would be if I became domiciled in Dublin. 'None,' he says. 'What you save on tax you spend on drink.'*

*Spike Milligan*

# THE BAR NEXT DOOR.

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**AT 3PM. GREAT PRIZES!!**

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12 noon - 12 midnight.

*Will the Fun Never Stop?*



*My drinking  
team has a  
darts problem*



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Bar & Bra .....

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but both keep men waiting eagerly until they open!



THATCHERS  
CIDER

# LIME BAR

VIA PARK III

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**- Every Monday 3pm with Gina Gee**

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**OUR QUIZ WILL BE BACK IN SEPTEMBER**

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**4 'TIL 7ish.**

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**SPORTS BAR**

**IN THE COSTA BLANCA**



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*Wed 7:00pm - 10pm*

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**ALL SPORTS SHOWN INSIDE**  
**& 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!**



# Membership Benefits



In accordance with its Statutes, HELP Vega Baja provides members with a wide variety of benefits. These include, whilst not limiting to, the following:

**MEMBERSHIP FEE: €10 PER PERSON, PER ANNUM.**

<b>BENEFIT</b>	<b>QUALIFYING PERIOD</b>
<b>Interpreting service</b>	<b>3 months membership*</b>
<b>Discount on mobility equipment/aids hire</b>	<b>1 month membership</b>
<b>3% discount at Casa Verde Hospital &amp; Nursing home</b>	<b>No qualifying period</b>
<b>6.5% discount on ambulance transport to UK (named ambulance company)</b>	<b>No qualifying period</b>
<b>Legal consultation (up to 30 minutes)</b>	<b>No qualifying period</b>
<b>Reduced rate of €35 for preparation of "new" will with named solicitor (NB notary fees payable by member)</b>	<b>No qualifying period</b>
<b>Package from Quirónsalud Hospital, Torrevieja. Ask for details</b>	<b>No qualifying period</b>
<b>Home Costa Blanca Insurance, Preferential rates</b>	<b>No qualifying period</b>
<b>Specsavers 30% discount</b>	<b>No qualifying period</b>
<b>15% discount at Centro Clinico &amp; Dental Torrevieja</b>	<b>No qualifying period</b>
<b>Preferential rates for funeral and ambulance services provided by ASV Grupo</b>	<b>No qualifying period</b>

\*Qualifying periods and limits apply

HELP Vega Baja make every effort to retain all benefits however it reserves the right to remove or amend any benefit if it is deemed necessary and in the interest of all members. Certain benefits are restricted to the Vega Baja area. For more information on any of the above, please contact our San Miguel office on 966 723 733, Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 10 am and 1:30 pm or email [office@helpvegabaja.com](mailto:office@helpvegabaja.com)

Members must renew their membership within one month of expiry to retain continuous benefits

Memberships can only be obtained through our San Miguel Centre, La Marina Helpdesk, online at [www.helpvegabaja.com](http://www.helpvegabaja.com) our welfare team and when attending talks or events held by the charity.

*Some people get so rich they lose all respect for humanity. That's how rich I want to get.*  
Rita Rudner

## Don't Forget the Mosquitos!

As we are all - or should be - taking the recommended precautions when dealing with the Covid-19 outbreaks, it is easy to forget about **the mosquito menace**. Unfortunately, the warmer climates attract not only tourists but also a host of unwelcome pests. The Tiger mosquito is now flourishing in the warmer parts of Spain and a bite from one of these little devils is often much more than just an itchy nuisance.

Whereas malaria outbreaks do not appear at this stage to be a problem in Spain, both El Pais and El Mundo have been carrying disturbing reports of a new menace in Andalucia. **The West Nile virus**, which is transmitted via mosquito bites, has led to an outbreak of viral meningoencephalitis in Seville, in Spain's most southern region. This is a condition that simultaneously resembles meningitis and encephalitis. As I write this on August 22, a total of 39 people have been infected with the Nile virus, of which eight are in the Intensive Care Unit. **Two, aged 85 and 77, have since died.** The total number of cases associated with this virus in the province of Seville, between probable and confirmed, is 39, while 19 are fully confirmed as carriers of the disease.

The West Nile virus can also affect birds, horses, and other mammals. During the month of August, the Andalucian Junta has detected four cases of Nile fever in horses, two in the province of Huelva, one in Jerez de la Frontera

### Never mind the quality.....

The young Swedish au pair had been working for the Smiths for more than a year.

While hard-working and efficient, she still struggled with the English language.

One day she told Mrs Smith that she had received good news from her boyfriend Sven. 'He is coming to visit me from army next week!'

'That's wonderful,' Mrs Smith replied. 'How long is his furlough?'

'Oh,' the young lady said, 'about long as Mr Smith's. Maybe little thicker.'

(Cádiz) and another in Dos Hermanas (Seville). The virus cannot be transmitted from human to human. The regional health department there is advising people not to wear short sleeve shirts and to keep their arms covered - almost impossible in August!

Sevilla have certainly been experiencing more calamities than most.

Last year, the city was the site of the largest listeria outbreak in Spain's



history, with 222 cases, three deaths and seven miscarriages. Then, this January, the town of Coria del Río discovered that the municipal sewage system was releasing toxic gasses that were harmful to human health. Then on top of all this, there was the Covid-19 lockdown in mid-March.

Fortunately local pharmacies here are well stocked with anti-mosquito repellents. (In one store in Andalucia, two women were fighting over repellents when one of the women wanted to take away the remaining four bottles. The store keeper only allowed her two.) Most of us have our favourite repellent. Mine is 'Goibi Xtreme Spray' which I consider as a repellent of industrial scale!

### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

#### - RED DAYS -VALENCIA.

15 Aug Sat Assumption of Mary;

9 Oct Fri Valencian Regional Holiday;

12 Oct Mon Fiesta Nacional de España

1 Nov Sun All Saints' Day;

6 Dec Sun Constitution Day;

8 Dec Tue Immaculate Conception;

25 Dec Fri Christmas Day.

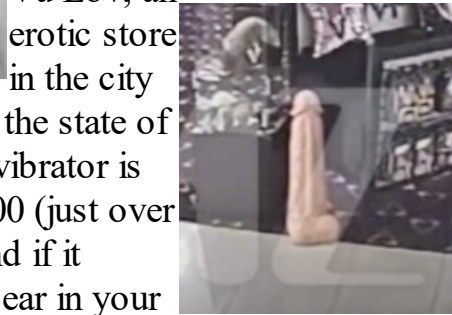
These are not necessarily National Red Days.

On many regional Red Days, many supermarkets remain open.

(These dates may be modified.

Search gva.es for updates.)

This man entered one of the largest sex shops in Las Vegas in broad daylight, hiding behind a cap, glasses and mask and took a **meter-high plastic penis** from one of the displays . The event took place on July 14 at Déjà Vu Lov, an erotic store in the city



of gambling, in the state of Nevada. The vibrator is valued at \$ 1,200 (just over 1,000 euros) and if it happens to appear in your neighbourhood, well, keep it to yourself!

A 30-year-old Valencian chap was arrested by police during July. It seems he paid three hookers **€9,000 for 27 sexual encounters**.

But he cancelled all the card payments later telling the ladies that his cards were stolen. The ladies told the police who found out from the bank that the cards were perfectly in order. He is now charged with fraud.

Berliners out enjoying the sun at a lakeside area during early August got an additional treat when an overweight nude man ran past them chasing a wild boar and its piglets. Problem was the **boar had stolen** the man's bag which had his laptop in it. Boars are seemingly used to humans in the park and the boar thought the bag contained a pizza, which many sunbathers were eating. The man managed to retrieve his laptop as the boar's escape was hindered by a cardboard box its foot was stuck in. The man had a good laugh and agreed to have the incident appear in Facebook. What a good sport!



managed to carry **29 litre vessels of beer**, weighing more than 70kg for 40 metres to smash the world record at the Gillamoos Fair in Abensberg, one of Bavaria's oldest beer fairs. Strümpfel has been working on his barman skills for almost 10 years, initially taking up the sport in order to oust an



Australian who held the record as the Meister of Maßkrugtragen. He managed to beat him in 2010, when he carried 21 tankards. By 2014 he had upped the number to 25. According to the rules no more than 10% of the beer is allowed to slosh out of the glasses. Even empty, a single glass weighs 1.3kg.

Elvis's business manager, **Colonel Tom Parker**, was perhaps the most successful manager in American entertainment history, but was not actually born in the United States, contrary to popular belief. He was born in the Netherlands as Andreas van Kuijk, and never naturalized as a US citizen after moving to the United States. He took up to 50 percent of Presley's earnings towards the end of his life. Oh, and Elvis was a natural blond! He had his hair dyed black since a teenager.

A council worker who accidentally played pornography in a staff meeting has been sacked – after a tribunal rejected his “implausible story” that the noises were, in fact, **made by a goose**. Staff broke into awkward laughter when David West, an electrician for Redditch Borough Council, played footage of a woman making loud “sexual moans” for about 30 seconds during a meeting with 100 colleagues. When bosses confronted him, West insisted the since-deleted video, sent on WhatsApp, had shown a “goose honking”. Colleagues disputed his story. “I know the sound of a goose,” said one, “and it wasn't [that].” An employment tribunal rejected his claim for unfair dismissal.



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### **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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A man is out shopping and discovers a new brand: "Olympic Condoms." Impressed, he buys a pack. Upon arriving home he announces to his wife the purchase he just made. "Olympic condoms?" she blurts. "What makes them so special?" "They're in three colours," he replies, "gold, silver, and bronze." "What colour are you planning on wearing tonight?" she asks cheekily. "Why, gold, of course," says the man proudly. "Really?" she responds. "Why don't you wear the silver tonight? It'd be nice if you came second for a change."



## Míster España 2020

This is a photo of Manuel Romo, who was selected as Míster España, the most handsome man in Spain, for the year 2020. Hailing from Extremadura, it is obvious that Manuel was not



at the front of the queue when it came to looks, but what does it say about the judges? No Specsavers locally? Social media in Spain, particularly Twitter, has been having a ball with the decision, homing in on his hair, nose and teeth and pairing his photo with some other complimentary images, left.

Beauty in the eye of the beholder or just terrible eyesight?

*After I decided to become a Jew, only then did I learn the Jews don't really have all the money. When I found out Rockefeller and Ford were goyim (non-Jew) I almost resigned.*

*Sammy Davis, Jr.*

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There is a vegetarian option: you can always fuck off! Frankie Boyle

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**ABANDONED PETS ON THE  
INCREASE AGAIN**

The number of abandonment's of pets has increased during the final period of confinement due to the Covid-19 pandemic and represents an increase of 25% compared to the same dates last year, according to data from the Royal Canine Society of Spain (RSCE).

The beginning of the 'new normal', coinciding with the beginning of summer, has caused an increase in abandonments, since many households cannot or will not assume the cost of caring for a pet or the responsibility that comes with maintaining the welfare of an animal.

In Spain around **138,000** pets are abandoned annually and, although dogs and cats represent the majority, it should be remembered that every year the number of abandonment's of rodents, birds, turtles and even fish, which are left in gardens and in ponds in major cities, according to data from the Affinity Foundation.

Certainly, the number of abandoned pets in the coastal areas increases each year by the end of August, when the out-of-town holidaymakers return to their own homes elsewhere in Spain.

**Caught in the Act!**

A man returning home a day early from a business trip, got into a taxi at the airport after midnight. While en route to his home, he asked the cabby if he would be a witness. The man suspected his wife was having an affair, and expected to catch her in the act.

For £100, the cabby agreed to be a witness.

Quietly arriving at the house, the husband and cabby tiptoed into the bedroom. The husband flipped on the lights, pulled the duvet back and there was his wife in bed with another man.

The husband put a knife to the man's throat, and the wife shouted "Don't do it! This man has been very generous.

Who do you think paid for the Mercedes I said I bought for you? He did!

Who do you think paid for our new cabin cruiser? He did!

Who do you think pays our monthly golf club dues you believe I budget for? . . . He does!"

The husband, looked over at the cab driver and asked, "What would you do?"

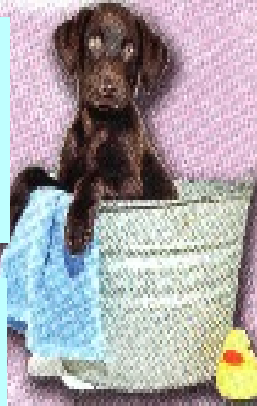
The cabby said, "I'd cover him with that blanket before he catches a cold."

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## **WORTH KNOWING! BUYING YOUR PILLS**

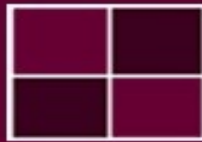
If you are prescribed your pills and medicines by a GP, these will always be the generic and cheaper version but no less effective.

Unfortunately, if you will be buying the tablets yourself, unless you state “generic”, many pharmacies will sell you the more expensive ones - particularly if you are a tourist or non-Spanish. In the case of many common drugs such as Omeprazol, Paracetamol, Ibuprofen etc., these are often at least twice or three times more expensive than the generic ones, with fewer in the packet. Despite all the smiles and white coats, remember that pharmacies are businesses like any other and if you have the misfortune to be served by one of the business owners, look them straight in the eye and state “generic”!

## **FLU**

The influenza vaccination campaign in the Valencian Community (ours) will be advanced to the month of October, as confirmed by information in Public Health sources, who have still not yet given a definite start date. This decision is in any case an advance compared to last 2019, since then it began on November 4, when no one yet knew what the Covid was, which is the main cause for this advance. The aim is to avoid confusing one disease with the other and to reduce the number of hospitalisations. Public health professionals have one clear message: Get your flu vaccine, and get it early. In most countries they're expecting an increased demand for flu vaccines because of the pandemic. Both diseases impact the respiratory tract, so a person who contracts a relatively mild case of Covid-19 could then wind up in the hospital if they catch the flu shortly after, even if normally they'd be able to fight off the flu at home. Getting your flu shot early also helps vaccine administrators avoid bottlenecks of high demand for the flu vaccine while they're also giving Covid-19 vaccines when they become available—which is realistically some time next year at the very earliest.

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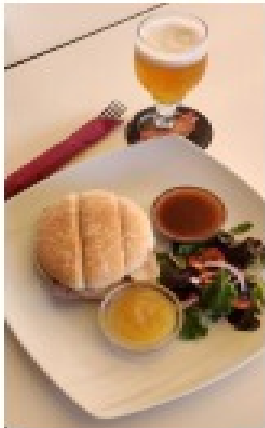


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## Some New Friends!

There is no doubt but the pandemic has been disastrous for businesses locally. The lockdown followed by more restrictions and of course then general fear of contagion inspires little confidence in the future.

Consequently, it was good to see two new cafe bars emerge after the lockdown. **Harleys**, next to Mercadona in Los Balcones and **The Hut** in the Filton Centre are two welcome new additions and are both well worth a visit.

I also hear that in Via Park III, the **Lime Bar Bakery Shop** is due to open sometime in September - Spanish bureaucracy allowing! I understand that this new venue will be selling a wide selection of pies, pasties, wraps, kebabs and cakes. Sounds great!



## Confessions!

Two women were having lunch together, and discussing the merits of cosmetic surgery. The first woman says, "I need to be honest with you, I'm getting a boob job." The second woman says "Oh that's nothing, I'm thinking of having my asshole bleached!" To which the first replies, "Whoa, I just can't picture your husband as a blonde!"

## U.K. Welfare Benefit Information

23

**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](mailto:advocacycostablanca@outlook.com)

**Are you thinking about a return to the UK?**

**Are you aware of the Habitual Residence Test and Ordinary Residence?**

Should you decide to return to the UK, it may be that you could have housing, social services and benefits declined because of Habitual Residency Test and Ordinary Residence.

David, at ACB, has been a UK social worker for eighteen years, many of these at a very senior level and is very accustomed to helping people access UK services on return.

For free advice and guidance regarding a return to the UK please don't hesitate to contact David at Advocacy Costa Blanca on 0034 602465565.

"I had difficult childhood, covered in chocolate and cream, cherries on my head.

Life was tough in the gateau."



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**South Facing Terrace, Opposite Mercadona in Los Balcones**

I just asked my husband if he remembers what today is .....

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### **Caring for our community in our community.**

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

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

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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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**Web: [www.helpathomecb.com](http://www.helpathomecb.com)**

When a grandmother was in her late eighties, she decided to move to Israel. As part of the preparations, she went to see her doctor and get all her charts.

The doctor asked her how she was doing, so she gave him the litany of complaints - this hurts, that's stiff, I'm tired and slower, etc. He responded with, "Mrs. Siegel, you have to expect things to start deteriorating. After all, who wants to live to 100?"

The grandmother looked him straight in the eye and replied, "Anyone who's 99."

# New High Court ruling will force the Spanish Tax Authorities to be better behaved

26

*Many long term residents in this country will be well aware of the power and ruthlessness of the Spanish Hacienda.*

*They can take late payment fines etc., from your bank account and other payment tricks without any prior permissions or approvals. Fortunately, a recent court case has eased some of their aggressive behaviours a little.*

In late July this year, the Spanish High Courts passed judgement on a case preventing the Spanish Tax Authorities (Hacienda Pública) from taking action against people and companies before any ruling has been handed down, in cases where an appeal has been filed.

Previous to this judgement (number 586/2020), handed down on May 28th, Hacienda used to start the execution process against people deemed debtors by Hacienda, even if court proceedings were still ongoing to establish if the Tax Authorities were right or not.

The only way to stop them grabbing your assets before a court ruling in their favour was to apply for a stay of execution at the time of lodging an appeal; in other words, if you didn't want your assets to be seized by the Spanish Tax Authorities, you had to ask them not to seize them in advance. But this meant Hacienda would be violating a important constitutional right, as per the Spanish Constitution (article 24).

The reason Hacienda could get away with this sneaky trick is because of a Spanish practise

known as Silencio Administrativo, or 'Administrative Silence', which denotes a public authority's failure to respond to a request, petition or appeal, resulting in a passive decision in itself: positive or negative.

The original intention of Silencio Administrativo was to prevent things from collapsing into stagnation on account of inaction by some level of the public administration. However, it seems that Hacienda has been considering this "no ruling" as a "go-ahead" for debt execution.

So, for example, if hacienda thought you owed them money for undeclared rental income, before this ruling, they would go ahead and pursue you on the basis of Administrative Silence, without waiting for a firm judgement of any appeals process.

Now, however, potential debtors can breathe a sigh of relief, because it has been decided that Hacienda cannot act against them until a final ruling is on the table. In cases where they have the right to appeal, they are now entitled to a firm ruling on appeal before Hacienda can start handing out fines, and seizing assets. So, from now on, potential debtors must considered innocent until found guilty, as stated in the above-mentioned article 24 of the Spanish Constitution. And, to my knowledge, no penalty is allowed to be imposed on innocent individuals.

(Abridged from an article by Marta Sánchez who is a Spanish legal consultant at Del Canto Chambers in London.)

## Just an Observation.....

There is some science showing that past exposure to common-cold coronaviruses might be playing a protective role for some people during the Covid-19 pandemic.. **This is a big claim — and I should caution that it is not fully resolved** — but several studies are now showing that 20 to 50% of people who had never been exposed to the novel coronavirus have immune cells — known as memory T cells — in their body that react to this new virus. The **speculation** is that this is due to prior exposure to common-cold coronaviruses. We still don't know why some people fare better than others, or why a few spread the disease to many while others do not spread it at all, but these findings might hold some answers to those questions. We know so little about this terrible virus.

(From The Washington Post)



"Any requests?"

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*Boris Johnson*



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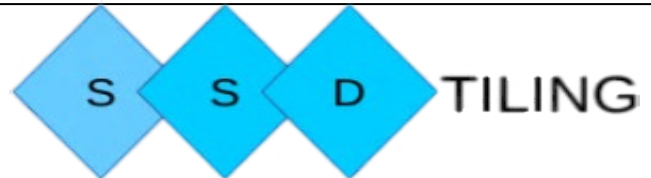
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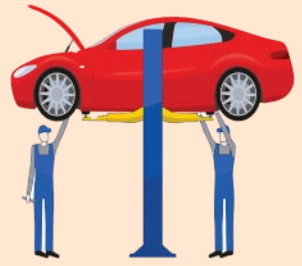
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### Taking your Pet from the EU to the UK

Last month we looked at the reg's for taking a pet from the UK to the EU after Jan' 1, 2021, if the UK becomes an unlisted country

But going the other way should be easier, because the UK has stated that for the moment it will continue to accept Pet Passports. Your Pet Passport and microchip information will be checked at the border. Tapeworm requirements for dogs will not change from the current system.

Good news for people who are resident in an EU country, as their waiting time for travel after the rabies test is slightly shorter - instead of waiting three months after a successful test they only need to wait 30 days, as long as the test is carried out in an EU country.

If you don't have the correct paperwork your pet could be put into quarantine for up to four months or they might be refused entry if you travelled by sea, and you will be held responsible for any fees or charges.

The above rules apply for all unlisted countries, which the UK will become automatically if an arrangement it not reached before December 31st. If the UK does gain listed status, the restrictions are lighter and the waiting times after rabies tests are generally shorter.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-europe-after-brexit>

### Play that Funky Music Now, Boy!

A newly married sailor was informed by the Royal Navy that he was going to be stationed a long way from home on a remote island in the Pacific for a year. A few weeks after he got there, he began to miss his new wife, so he wrote her a letter. "My love," he wrote, "we are going to be apart for a very long time.

Already I'm starting to miss you and there's really not much to do here in the evenings.

Besides that, we're constantly surrounded by young attractive native girls. Do you think if I had a hobby of some kind I would not be tempted?"

So his wife sent him back a harmonica saying, "Why don't you learn to play this?"

Eventually his tour of duty came to an end and he rushed back to his wife.

"Darling" he said, "I can't wait to get you into bed so that we make passionate love!"

She kissed him and said, "First let's see you play that harmonica."

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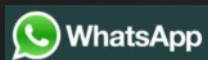


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Hombre

Woman  
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The way I understand it, the Russians are a sort of combination of incompetence and evil -  
Sort of like the Post Office with tanks. Emo Philips

## Madrid's Unclaimed Bodies

The Community of Madrid has been holding onto the bodies of 59 who died of Covid-19 in the municipality of Madrid during April this year.

Unfortunately, **no one has claimed any of the bodies yet.**

The Community has now put aside €134,000 for the burials. Rather than placing all the

unclaimed bodies in one plot, it has been decided to allocate a niche for each cadaver, photo. The bodies will be held in the niches for a period of 10 years to allow relatives to claim them.



### British Emigrants on the up!

The number of British nationals emigrating to other EU countries **has risen by 30% since the Brexit referendum**, with half making their decision to leave in the first three months after the vote, research has found.

Analysis of data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Eurostat shows that migration from Britain to EU states averaged 56,832 people a year in 2008-15, growing to 73,642 a year in 2016-18.

While the withdrawal agreement signed in January enshrines the residency, work and social rights of EU citizens in the UK and Britons in the rest of the bloc, it failed to guarantee the free movement rights of British migrants, restricting future employment and residency prospects in other member states.

The biggest jump in migration **was to Spain**, where an estimated 380,000 British nationals live. Registration has not been essential in the country so many have lived there without being included in official Spanish immigration data, with an average of just 2,300 a year registering as migrating to the country between 2008 and 2015. After the referendum, this jumped fivefold, with 21,250 registrations in the two years between 2016 and 2018.

## Human Trafficking - Orihuela

A 28-year-old Moroccan man walked into a police station in Orihuela. He complained that he had been beaten and kicked by a people trafficking gang. Police took the man to hospital for treatment and as his story unfolded, many details of human trafficking to Spain from North Africa came to light.

The youngest of five siblings he decided to go to Europe to be able to send money to his family. While in Morocco, he met a man who was involved in irregularly transferring people from Morocco to Spain. The trip would be made by boat and they offered to take him to Spain for **a total price of €5,000**. Half of the amount had to be paid before making the trip, while the other €2,500 would be paid as soon as he could work in Spain. Then in September last year, he was contacted and told the trip would begin shortly and was instructed to go to the El Oudaya river area, in Morocco. He was not to bring any documentation or mobile phone on the trip. He appeared at the indicated point with the agreed money and was given a telephone number in Spain with which he had to contact so that they could pick him up after reaching the peninsula. He travelled to Spain together with 20 other people in a wooden boat with a small outboard motor. Three people with little nautical knowledge piloted the boat with the help of a compass and their intention was to also stay in Spain. The lack of skill of the pilots caused them to get lost and it took more than three days to reach the Cadiz coast!

When they reached the coast the police were waiting for them. They were taken to a police station and later released. He phoned the contact number provided in Morocco and a van arrived to pick up him and another and take them to Orihuela.

He was reminded on the trip that he still owed €2,500. While in Orihuela he managed to pay a further €500, but in June this year he was approached by members of the gang who demanded payment of the remaining €2,000. As he couldn't pay right then, they beat him up, took what money he had and stole his mobile phone as well. Police arrested three Moroccans who were charged and **later released** and good luck in finding them for the court case!

When I was a baby, my father used to throw me up in the air and then go and answer the phone.

Rita Rudner





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### **Clever Dog!**

A man goes to the cinema to watch a film in the middle of the day. The only other person in the cinema is an old guy with a dog sitting in the front row. As the film goes on, the man can't help but notice that every time the hero is on screen, the dog wags its tail, but every time the bad guy appears the dog growls and bares its teeth. When the film is over, the man goes over to the old bloke and says, "Excuse me, but I couldn't help but notice your dog's reaction to the film. That was amazing!"

"I know!" says the old bloke. "He hated the book."



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## Bus Service Orihuela Costa - Orihuela

There is now a bus service linking Orihuela Costa to the city of Orihuela. It operates all year round from Monday to Friday except for public holidays and all of August.

Buses leave Zenia Boulevard at 7:00, 13:00 and 19:00, stopping at the Town Hall Playa Flamenca at 7:05, 13:05 & 19:05; Torrevieja Hospital at 7:15, 13:15 & 19:15; Entre Naranjos at 7:30, 13:30 & 19:30; arriving at Orihuela Bus Station at 9:00, 14:00 & 20:00.

The return trip leaves the bus station at 9:30, 15:25 & 20:55, stopping at Entre Naranjos at 10:00, 15:55 & 21:25; Torrevieja Hospital at 10:15, 16:10 & 21:40; the Town Hall in Playa Flamenca at 10:25, 16:20 & 21:50; and Zenia Boulevard at 10:30, 16:25 and 21:55.

A ticket from one end of the line to the other costs just €1.35.

## Airport Bus Timetable.

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Torrevieja to Airport: 7:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 13:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00, 19:00, 21:00

Airport to Torrevieja: 8:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 13:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00, 18:00, 20:00, 22:00

Departure and arrival (in Torrevieja): From Torrevieja bus station. Calle del Mar, 50

Departure and arrival (in Alicante Airport): 2nd Floor

Ticket Price: 7€

Children under 4 years free (ID required)

Pensioners can get a 30% discount, with appropriate ID.

A skinny little white guy goes into an elevator, looks up and sees this HUGE Black guy standing next to him. The big guy sees the little guy staring at him, looks down and says: "7 feet tall, 350 pounds, 20 inch cock, 3 pound testicles, Turner Brown." The little guy faints and falls to the floor. The big guy kneels down and brings him to, shaking him.

The big guy says: "What's wrong with you?"

In a weak voice the little guy says: "What EXACTLY did you say to me?" The big dude says: "I saw your curious look and figured I'd just give you the answers to the questions everyone always asks me. I'm 7 feet tall, I weigh 350 pounds, I have a 20 inch cock, my testicles weigh 3 pounds each, and my name is Turner Brown."

The small guy says: "Turner Brown?! Sweet Jesus, I thought you said, 'Turn around!'" (Drew)

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My mate Andy fancies himself as a bit of an inventor. He went to the Patents Office to register a new folding bottle. 'What's it called?' asked the clerk. 'A fottle,' replied Andy, 'it's short for "folding bottle".' 'That's a silly name,' said the clerk. 'And I've also invented a folding carton called a farnton,' says Andy. 'I'm sorry, there's no way we can allow that. It's too rude.' 'Oh dear,' said Andy, then you're going to hate the name of my folding bucket!



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I said, 'Shouldn't you take me out to dinner first?'

Spike Milligan

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## **Lime Bar ~~Fishing~~ SUNBATHING Club**

Hello all, as I am typing this, I am hoping that there is not another mini lock down on its way. There are reports of restricting groups to no more than 10 in a bar. If this extends to sporting areas that might put the mockers on fishing matches again. Oh well! We'll have to wait & see.

In August, we had our 1st monthly meeting on a Tuesday. It was brilliant. We sat outside in the fresh air (so the smokers could indulge), spread ourselves out (socially distanced) and didn't have to shout at each other (well not as much). If we are still allowed to have a meeting in September, it looks like we will have to be "even more" spread out so the outside is good. We won't be able to smoke which is good too.

This month, we sorted out who is fishing who in the 2nd round of the KO, organised the "one off summer final" match for the Summer Shield and arranged a pan day / clearing party for the Bigastro match stretch.

The Summer Shield match was held at El Bosquet, as its easy access allowed our less mobile old farts to compete for the trophy. We booked pegs 17 to 40, but agreed to leave out pegs 25 (as it's crap) and pegs 37 to 40 (as they are too good!). 14 of us arrived at O crack sparrow fart just as the sun was coming over the horizon. As we drew for pegs there weren't too many mossies but it looked like it was going to be a hottie. Several of us thought that the winning weight would come from the short canal (17 to 24) so we were hoping to draw one of these. 3 Rods and I drew next to each other right in the middle of the long back stretch 31 & 32. Bugger! At least we could keep an eye on each other. Yet again, the fish were there in numbers as you could see the water fizzing where they were stirring up the bottom, but coaxing them to take the bait was a different matter. One peg would catch a couple then they seemed to move off for a 30-minute rest then they'd come back! At least we had zero blanks. Anti-Social Baz did well on peg 23, having a good day using a swim feeder and luncheon meat. Sweeney also had a good day landing 2 carp of 4.4 & 3.9 kilos. He didn't think about getting a selfie with them as he was anxious to get his line back in and carry on catching. After all there was a trophy at stake! During the day he tried every tactic & bait he had, but would it be enough?

At the weigh in, 3rd place went to Anti-Social Baz with 10.2 kilos (luncheon meat), just beating him into 2nd was Sweeney with 10.4 kilos (liquorice all sorts) but the Summer Shield went to Ghost (me) with 23.6 kilos (paste). Sorry Baz, no trophy for 3rd place.... again! Good luck with the Memorial Shield next month, now concentrate. As with all finals, we ended up at the Lime Bar for a few free sherbets.

Early the following Friday, 7 of our fitter members went to Bigastro match stretch to clear the jungle of bamboo from the tracks and pegs. Luckily, we had an extra volunteer (thank you Richard from Carp R Us) who turned up with a strimmer. Our club's strimmer failed to work so Richard was a god send. We managed to clear 11 pegs and most of the tracks leading to them plus several of the bays on the far bank. By 10.00 we were all hanging out, so we pitched our brollies and settled in to reap the fantastic fishing rewards for our hard work. HO HO! Usually after stirring up the bottom and thrashing about in the margins, after about 1 hour the fish come back in to graze on the freshly turned silt.

Not today, most of us only had the odd 1 or 2 fish but loads of bloody terrapins! Except Richard that is, who had 10 carp before lunch time, but then he is one of the professionals. Thank you to Fagin who provided a lunch of burger and onions, then also dipped into the kitty to reward the workers with a couple of beers later on in the Lime Bar. Well-deserved too.

A couple of the KOs have already been fished. Sweeney beat Fagin at Bigastro tennis courts by about 2 ounces, they both had a carp of about 1 kilo then Sweeney went and caught a tiddler. This is quite surprising really as he spent nearly an hour scrambling up and down on the far bank retrieving tackle and bits of his pole.

In the other KO, Just John fished Ghost at El Bosquet on the oblong, as that seems to give the fairest results with anybody having a chance. As John had a dodgy back, we decided to fish rod and reel only (no poles). Our pegs were next to each other and after about 15 minutes we both caught our 1st carp within seconds of each other. Brilliant we thought as it would be a close match...then it died! From then on, we struggled with the odd bite here and there which were both tentative and hard to hit. After 4 hours (Just John had a blow out on his reel) so we called it a bad day and checked each other's catch. We both lost a few fish but I went on to win with only 5 fish to John's 3. It was a close match, but not the way we had hoped for.

Hopefully, the next meeting bun fight is at The Lime Bar on Tuesday 1st September @ 17.00.

Stay safe  
Fishy Fingers!  
The Ghost

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**A Kiss Is Just a Kiss.....**

- When I was a kid, all of us kids played 'Spin the bottle'. A girl would spin the bottle. If it pointed to you when it stopped, the girl could either kiss you or give you 5p. By the time I was 16, I owned my own house.
- Receiving a kiss while sleeping is the purest form of love there is ... ..unless you're in prison!
- Wife: Our neighbour kisses his wife every day before going to work. I wish you did the same.  
Husband: I wish I could.
- The worst part about kissing a perfect ten ....  
that cold feeling your lips get from touching the mirror.
- He used to kiss her on her lips, but it's all over now!

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