

# THE DREAM SCENE

## NEWSLETTER



*Helping to keep expat's informed.....and smiling.*  
Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the May, 2021 edition. Issue No.164

The weather here has been a bit **unsettled**, lovely blue skies for a couple of days, then followed by a day or two of rain.

But it is **Covid-19** that is still dominating everything. Older people are at last now being offered their jabs. However at the various vaccination sites, there has been varying numbers of '**no-shows**', mainly Spanish, sometimes as high as 20/25% when it is AstraZenica being given. I have also noticed quite a number of 'no-shows' at the Cabo Roig Salud and that was for the Pfizer vaccine.

Some believe that is because notifications are being made by SMS and not received, whilst others believe it is just hesitancy. In Murcia they have now stopped sending the appointments by SMS and **are phoning direct** instead. In the Orihuela Costa area it is a mix of both, some getting the jab at the Cabo Roig, but most going to either Pilar de la Horadada or Torrevieja. All the sites have been running very efficiently but the mass vaccination sites now open are very dependent on large promised deliveries of the various vaccines on time.

Bars and restaurants are now allowed to **open until 10pm**, although the curfew still stands at

10pm! Many believe that central government's plan to end the state of alarm on **May 9** is a dreadful mistake. This will remove the legal rights of regions with low incidence of the virus to introduce any further controls.

The PP president of the **Madrid Region** has called for a surprise regional election on May 4.

Pablo Iglesias, the boss of the far left-wing party, Podemos, has resigned from his position as Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Equality, and will now try to wrest control from Isabel Díaz Ayuso, the maverick conservative president of the region. The lead up to the election has been very stormy, Ayuso claiming that Iglesias is trying to whitewash ETA, while Iglesias is stating that the far-right party Vox, who called him a 'disgusting rat' are like the Nazis in the 30's.

The average price of drinking water for the residents of **San Miguel de Salinas** is 208% higher than the average of the 53 main cities in Spain. This percentage rises to 251% when compared to the national average!

Thanks to Milou & Denis and Judy & Terry for their kind donations. Keep well and safe,

Mick, Tid & the Dream Scene Team

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### Angela's Cartoon



**'No Mr Cresswell! I said "Bare your arm"!'**

If you ever date a dominatrix.....never ever suggest it's time to hit the sack.

Some of us learned this the hard way.

Just before mid-April, a number of beaches in Guardamar, Torreveija, Orihuela and Pilar de la Horadada experienced a jellyfish invasion. These were actually very small **mock jellyfish**, photo,



whose tentacles were too small to penetrate human skin. One still had to be careful if collecting them as

some of the more dangerous species were mixed in the shoals.



About the size of one's thumb and called 'tears of the sea' in Spain, the recent easterly winds brought several hundred thousand to local shores. Teams of local council workers then cleaned up several local beaches.

Residents in Dream Hill II and Entre Golf are very worried about the presence and planned **expansion of the rubbish facility** between both urbanisations. Last December it was announced that the local government planned to expand the area with an investment of more than a half million euros. There is also the possibility that the area may house an eco park. The current noise from the area is unacceptable to locals with lorries reversing loudly and slamming doors in the early hours of the morning. Of course the presence of an eco park would also add smells, more noise pollution etc. A meeting was held on the matter in the Sunset Bar in early April. It was attended by representatives of the Claro and Cambiamos Orihuela political parties together with a small number of local residents. An environmental study has yet to be done on the project and this would be a good time to gather and present information concerning the effect the proposed works will have locally.

The average waiting time for an intervention in the University Hospitals of Torreveija and Vinalopó, managed by the Ribera group, is **67 and 79 days** respectively. This figure is considerably lower than the average of the public hospitals in the Valencian Community, which is **150 days**, according to the latest data published by the Ministry of Health.

An Orihuela court is now investigating whether the mayor, Emilio Bascuñana (PP) **embezzled public funds**. It is alleged he worked for six years as an advisor to the Ministry of Health, was paid more than €200,000, but never did any work. Bascuñana said the claim is rubbish.

Torreveija town hall have been **very busy** during the last month. A major road resurfacing project began on April 5, lasting until May 7. The town hall is also fumigating against all types of mosquitos and is urging the public to report any mosquito problems to [sanidad@torreveija.eu](mailto:sanidad@torreveija.eu) who will send operators to spray the problem area.

The Policia Local in Torreveija have not had their overtime paid since **September 2019**. This is due to the screwing around of a sub-delegation in the local council. Business as usual! The Policia Local in Torry are now at their lowest level in numbers - 118 with an average age of 40. Ten years ago they had a staff of 165.

The Policia Local in Elche arrested a 55-year-old man on April 8. He had hidden in his clothes goods stolen from a 24-hour shop. When the shopkeeper demanded payment he shoved and punched her. However, she managed to get out of the store and locked the door **trapping the thief inside**. When the police arrived he continued to be aggressive so he had to be, in the local vernacular, 'reduced!' After being taken to the health centre for patching-up, he was then taken straight to jail.

Orihuela Council are now looking for a large plot to house **a cemetery** for the coastal residents. It has to be sufficiently substantial to facilitate residents for at least 25 years.

Clint Eastwood is looking increaingly like an Easter Island statue. Anon

Most unusually, politicians from all sides in the province of Alicante have joined forces to object to **proposed cut in the Tago-Segura water**



**transfer** to the area. See photo. Central government plan a 50% cut to the supply, which has enraged the regions' farmers and irrigators. The president of Riegos de Levante, Javier Berenguer, criticised the government plans saying 'We want water to produce food for Spain and Europe.' The proposed cuts could add over 30% to the cost of water in some areas, particularly farming. It is also very annoying that whereas central government only directs an average of 330 hm<sup>3</sup> (cubic hectolitres) annually to Alicante and Murcia, it sends Portugal an annual average of 6,800 hm<sup>3</sup>!

The number of **registered British residents in the province of Alicante has increased** in the last year, from 71,277 to 73,524 people. The province has 1,878,970 people registered, compared to 1,879,888 at the beginning of 2020, a very slight decrease. The numbers from other EU countries and Africa have dropped by around 4,000 people.

Corvera airport relies almost entirely on flights from the UK for its traffic, as a result of which the airport is now at **an almost total standstill**, the only traffic currently being the weekly Binter airline flight to the Canary Islands. This resulted in a spectacular 98% fall in passenger traffic during February at the airport with just 28 passengers a day using the 200 million euro airport. However, hopes are high that once the British government finally gives the go-ahead for international holidays to resume, aircraft will replace sparrows on the runway and the airport will spring back to life. In the meantime, domestic tourism is likely to be the principal focus of the tourist sector this summer, and for this reason Vueling, which belongs to IAG, has announced that it is putting three new routes on sale from Murcia, connecting Corvera airport with Barcelona, Bilbao and Santander as of June 18.

The Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, Reyes Maroto, met with the president of the Generalitat Valenciana, Ximo Puig and announced that it's the Government's intention that the **Imsero program** of subsidized holidays for the elderly resumes from September, depending of course on the evolution of the pandemic. The hotel management in the Costa Blanca has demanded that the province almost double its places for the next low season, reaching 450,000 bookings. The Imsero scheme is also open to non-Spanish pensioner residents in Spain whatever their nationality. Brit's can and have availed of it.



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My father said to me, 'Son, what would you like for Xmas?' 'Dad, I said, 'I'd love an action man soldier!'

'Ok son,' he said 'put it on your letter to Santa.'

On Xmas morning I couldn't unwrap that present quick enough, but when I did the box was empty!

'Dad,' I said, 'it's empty!' 'I know son,' he said, 'he was a deserter.'

Spain's foreign ministry doesn't mention what the consequences of overstaying 90 in 180 days in Spain are in its FAQ or its state bulletin but fines and temporary bans from the Schengen Area are widely mentioned online, without any specifics usually given.

The Local has done some digging and found that according to article 53.1.a of Spain's Immigration Bill, surpassing the 90 days could be considered a serious violation in the eyes of the law, with fines going from €501 to €10,000, a possible expulsion from Spain as well as a potential ban from the Schengen area for six months to five years.

We reiterate that this is for a serious offence. Minor wrongdoings can result in fines under €501. Very serious breaches can lead to penalties of €10,000 to €100,000.

But as last year's Spanish state bulletin dealing with overstays of third-country nationals did give them a further three months' grace period during the state of alarm in 2020, there is less reason to think that any of these penalties should be applicable if reasonable and justified reasons are given for not sticking to the deadline i.e. flights cancelled due to coronavirus restrictions.

For non-EU nationals like Americans and Australians, Spain has earned itself a reputation for being not too fussy about the exact exit date of people who aren't working or claiming benefits in Spain as long as it's fairly close. It's also true that there is likely to be a 'bedding in period' for the new rules.

The obvious advice however is that if you're not planning on applying for residency in Spain, you should book your flight out long before the end of your 90-day stay, to give yourself some leeway in case your flight is cancelled.

It's highly unlikely Spanish police will be deployed to hunt out overstayers and deport them, as claims made in some UK newspapers

have suggested.

A spokesman for Spain's Interior Ministry stated that those British nationals who do not apply for residency will be "advised of the situation. We will act with proportionality," he said. (TheLocal)

### **An Early German Response To Unregistered Brit's.**

During April, The Times contained an interesting article about unregistered Brit's in Germany.

Three British tradesmen have been fined and deported from Germany as the country toughens its stance on unregistered workers after Brexit. Officials from the customs authority in Stuttgart inspected the paperwork of five workers who were fitting out a sports shop on behalf of a Slovenian company. The men were told that they did not have sufficient documentation to justify their stay in the country. The men included a Croatian, a Serb and the three British electricians, aged 22, 30 & 51, from Hornchurch, east London.

Although the three Britons had not been prosecuted, they had to pay an upfront fine before they were deported. The official accusation against the men is that they were working illegally in the Federal Republic of Germany, as they did not have a place of residence or the correct paperwork. Based on this, they had to deposit a 'financial security' for the expected penalty.

The UK government advises that Britons who were legally resident in Germany by January 1, 2021, will now require a special residency permit — an Aufenthaltsdokument-GB — and must report their residence to the local Foreigners Authority **by June 30.**

Under the terms of the withdrawal agreement, any unregistered British citizen can face fines or even a ban on re-entering an EU member state.

The advantages of dating younger men is that on them everything, like hair and teeth, is in the right place as opposed to being on the bedside table or bathroom floor.

Candace Bushnell

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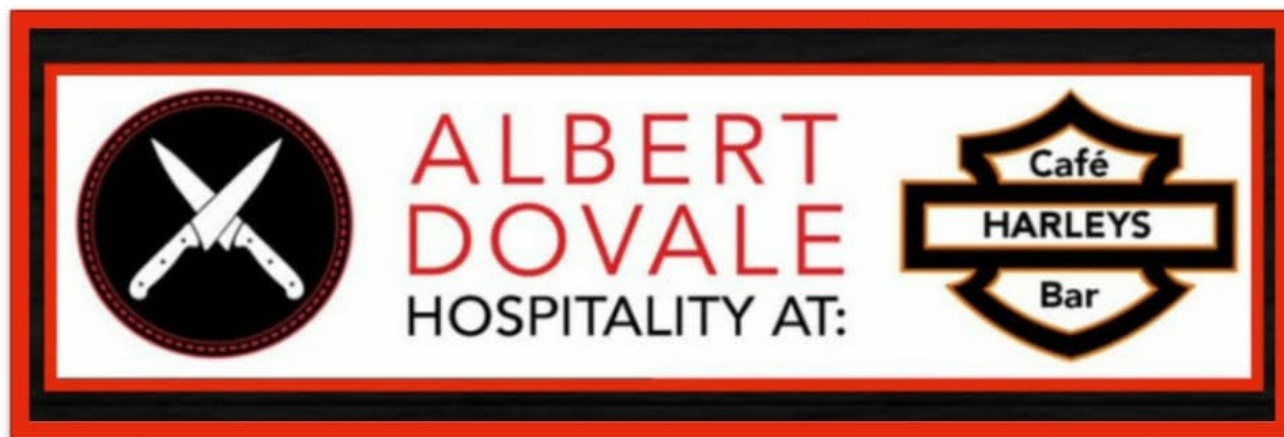
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**MESSENGER - CAFE HARLEY'S BAR**





Dominic Dromgoole, photo, is a world-renowned British theatre director. (Of course



you haven't heard of him, Ethel, because you only watch soaps!)

Around sixteen months ago, a Spanish company called Fundación Siglo de Oro (Golden Age Foundation) invited

him to direct a Lope de Vega classic, *The Dog in the Manger*, in Madrid. Although it was originally scheduled for spring 2020, various surges of the Covid-19 pandemic required a number of cancellations till now, and now being post Brexit he had to apply for a visa. He was advised to apply through a particular agency for this, who eventually proved to be useless.

He now had to put together a visa form, a letter of invitation in Spanish, proof of his occupation, a letter from his accountant, proof of his most recent year of taxes, bank statements for three months, proof of booked travel, proof of accommodation, an insurance policy and every page of his passport photocopied. And a checklist itemising the above, all to be gathered in Covid world.

After bringing it all to the agency he asked if everything was in order to be told by the only person in the office, 'I have no idea, I don't speak Spanish.' Now, the agency office was only open on Wednesdays and the Spanish Consulate only accepted applications on Fridays. The agency suggested a courier service as the consulate was only a short distance away. The documents did not get to the Consulate until the following Tuesday! Before long, the application was rejected as the Consulate said that he was not deemed a 'direct artist,' and advised by them to apply for a residential work visa rather than a temporary one for performers.

Flights were cancelled and accommodation delayed. The company of actors waiting were put on standby.

The same papers were reacquired or renewed or renegotiated. And there were new

stipulations: a medical record, which was easily obtained, and a criminal record check, less so. This necessitated a fee, and the sending of passport photos and documents. It was at this point that the Hague Apostille entered the story. Having obtained the records, we were told that we had to send them to the Hague Apostille to get them stamped. Nowhere else would do. To achieve this, one had to fill out a form and make a payment online. This got you a number, which you appended to your documents before putting them in the post. He sent them off, special delivery, and sweated over their return. He chased them up to be told that as they were just an agency - there to make things simpler - they had to be sent to a government office in Milton Keynes to be stamped!

But that was still not the end of it! He had to rush across London to get all the documents translated by a sworn translator who could append yet another stamp.

Now completed, it took six weeks out of his life and cost £850 out of his pocket.

Now in Dominic's own words -

'It was at this point that I asked the burning question: how, precisely, is this taking back control? How is drowning in paperwork, at the mercy of agencies and licensed operators and couriers and postal services and government officers, how is that shucking off bureaucracy? I turned on the television and witnessed a Brexit politician placing the blame for all such problems on the Europeans. The wilful disingenuity of this was breathtaking. We have shackled ourselves in the name of a bogus freedom. It is not a problem for Iain Duncan Smith, or John Redwood, or Mark Francois. They don't want to go to Europe, and the Europeans don't want them.

But for the many musicians, dancers and opera singers who earn a third of their living there, for the many more market researchers, salesmen and academics who need to talk to Europeans in Europe, and the many others who need to work with Europe to survive, this degree of excess paperwork, not to mention the many costs, is brutally unsustainable.

(This is a greatly abridged article from *The Times*, March 10, 2021. Paywall)

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TWEET!**





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MONDAY - SATURDAY

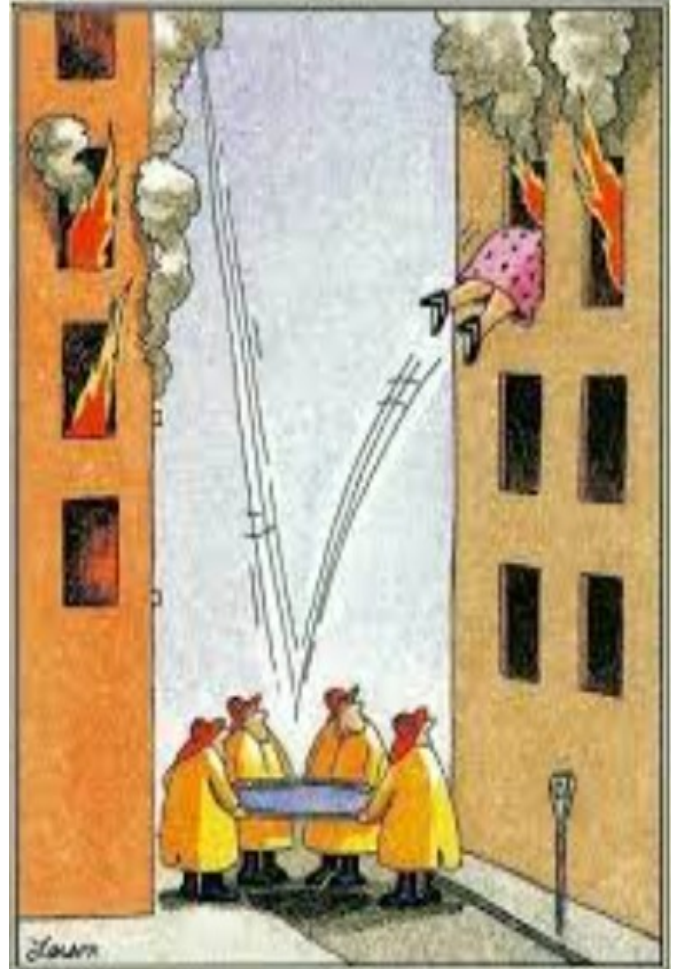
11am - 5pm



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## PAYING THE COVID FINES.

The Valencia Generalitat is to pay a company, Martínez Centro de Gestión, €1,742,700 who will assist in providing technical support in the processing of the more than 100,000 sanctions (fines) imposed in the Community since last July 24, when the Generalitat assumed the power to collect them. Of this total volume of fines, just under half correspond to the province of Alicante. In the first state of alarm, from March to June of last year, the sanctioning authority was the central government. As usual, collection will be an administrative nightmare. After starting the process, an agreement is sent to the offender which, if accepted, gives a 40% reduction in the amount of the fine. Otherwise, one have ten days to present any mitigation that the Administration must resolve in six months. The decision can be appealed again in ten days with another six months to respond. If it is rejected again, the affected party still can appeal for reconsideration and go to court through the contentious-administrative route. Gasp!



- I could have sworn the Nazis would never break through the Maginot Line.

- They didn't.....they went round the side.

- I see.....they what? That's a typical shabby Nazi trick. You see the sort of people we're up against Wilson.

- Most unreliable, sir.

*Captain Mainwaring and Sergeant Wilson, Dad's Army.*

## The EU's Covid digital certificate for travel is set to be launched in late June 2021.

### What will it state?

A Digital Green Certificate is digital proof that an EU traveller has either - been vaccinated against Covid-19 or received a negative Covid test result or recovered from Covid-19.

It's completely free and comes in digital or paper format. It includes a QR code and will appear in the language of the country in which it was issued as well as in English.

The green passport/certificate will also contain key information such as the person's name, date of birth, date of issue, relevant vaccine/test/recovery information, and a unique identifier.

### What will it look like?

This image below shows examples of how the certificate would look, the larger image being the paper certificate and the smaller image being the digital version.

### What does the Covid certificate contain?

The certificate contains a QR code with a digital signature to protect it against forgery. When the certificate is verified, the QR code is scanned to verify the signature and relevant information.

The European Commission will create a portal to verify all certificate signatures throughout the EU.

### Who will issue the certificates?

Although it's an EU-wise scheme, the issuance, stamping and delivery of the certificates will be the responsibility of Spain's autonomous communities, for those travelling between Spain and another EU country. This applies to both electronic (QR Wallet, PDF with QR) and paper formats.

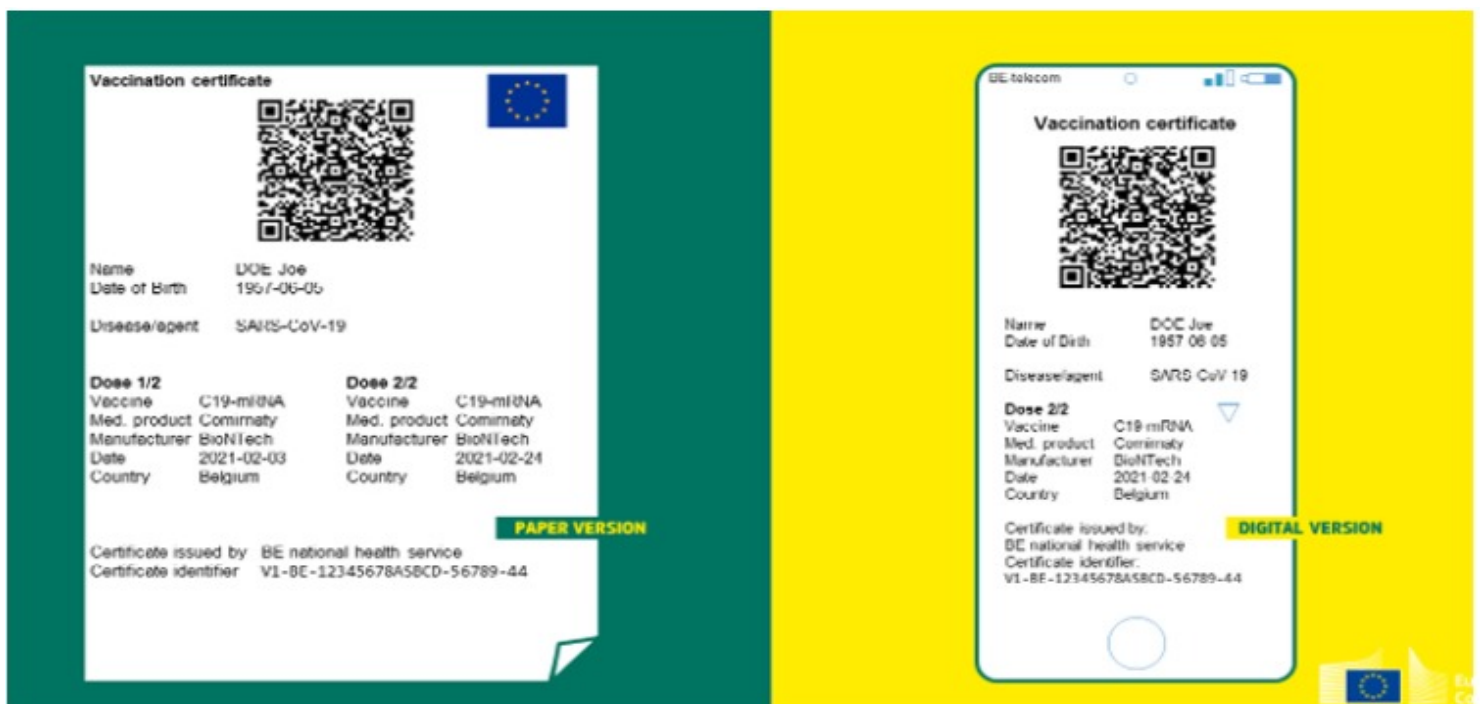
Each issuing centre (a hospital, test centre or Spanish health authority) will have its own digital signature key. This information will be stored in a secure database in each country.

### What are the benefits of the certificate?

The aim of this certificate is to facilitate tourism and travel across the EU this summer.

The main advantages are that Spanish authorities will allow EU citizens and residents to enter Spain without having to quarantine or present a negative Covid test if they instead show a "digital green certificate" or vaccine passport, said the country's General Secretary of Digital Health.

The full implications and conditions are yet to be clarified by the EU but judging by the prerequisites for the Covid passport, the exemption from presenting a negative PCR test would presumably apply to those who have had Covid or been vaccinated, as the other possible criteria to obtain the Digital Green Certificate is to present a negative test result.



In the early hours of Monday (April 5), six inmates, aged between 18 and 21, forced the locks on their cell doors **using picks made out of plastic cutlery** and met in a predetermined area to play card games and the board game Ludo, as well as to place bets.

One of the young criminals was seen walking around on the prison's camera system by the officer on duty, who was alone at the time.

The officer then raised the alarm and called for reinforcements. The prison staff quickly realized that more inmates were missing from their cells and undertook a search in order to locate them. The irony is that this incident took place in Villena prison, Alicante, which is considered one of the safest in the country.

Not a new story but certainly up there with the loonies. A few years ago, Thad Roberts, who was in love with his girlfriend of three weeks, decided to show her a grand, romantic gesture by **stealing \$21 million worth of moon rocks** so they could jam the rocks under their motel room mattress and have sex on the moon. Because Roberts was an intern at NASA, he didn't have to go far for his moon rocks, but he had to circumvent NASA's security system. Now I'm not sure how the romantic episode unfolded, but Thad came to grief soon after the 'horizontal jogging' when he tried to sell the moon rocks over the internet. Thad saw it all as just a prank, however the Law saw it otherwise and he received a seven and a half year sentence in a federal jail. "Get your rocks off, get your rocks off, Honey!"

Vladimir Putin has been voted **Russia's hottest man**, once again. According to a poll by the SuperJob.ru jobs website, 18% of men and 17% of women named the 68-year-old bachelor as the country's most handsome man. "Neither actors, nor athletes, nor other politicians can compete with him today," SuperJob.ru declared. Nineteen percent of men named themselves as the most handsome man in the country, while 18% of women said there are no handsome men in Russia. (Obviously all that vodka carries a price!)

A Georgia man has accused his former employer of "childish" behaviour – after he received his final payment of \$915 (£666) in pennies. Andreas Flaten discovered the haul of **91,000 coins**, photo, covered in oil, dumped at the bottom of his driveway. On top of the pile was his final payslip, along with a rude parting message from the car workshop where he worked.

Flaten left the job last year, and had had trouble getting paid. When questioned, the owner of the garage, Miles Walker, said: "He got paid, that's all that matters." He then called Flaten a "weenie"



When the pallbearers brought Phil McLean's coffin into the chapel, there were gasps before a wave of laughter rippled through the hundreds of mourners. The coffin was **a giant cream donut!** Photo. "It overshadowed the sadness and the hard times in the last few weeks," said his widow, Debra. "The final memory in everyone's mind was of that donut, and Phil's sense of humour."

The donut was the latest creation by Phil's



cousin Ross Hall, who runs a business in Auckland, New Zealand, called Dying Art, which custom builds colourful coffins. Other creations by Hall include a sailboat, a fire truck, a chocolate bar and Lego bricks.



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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.

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Bloke walking down the street, see's his Welsh mate coming towards him holding his left eye.

Bloke says "Hello Taff! What's wrong with your eye then?"

"Evan Pugh, hit me in the eye just now, so he did" says Taffy

"Was he holding anything then?" says the bloke on seeing the damage done to Taff's eye.

"He was holding an iron bar so he was."

"Wasn't you holding anything then"? asks the bloke

"I was holding his wife's left tit, but that's no good for fighting with, is it now!"



## You owe us, but here's half a mill'.

After several years without receiving subsidies due to the scandal of the alleged diversion of public funds during the tenure of the previous socialist Andalusian governments of the PSOE, the UGT- a large trade union, will now begin to receive financial aid. The Andalusian ruling executive of the PP and Citizens has granted him a subsidy, despite the fact that, at the same time, they are demanding the return of about 40 million euros.

Sources from the regional Ministry of Employment, explained that they have granted a "nominative" subsidy to the union, after it requested it on 18 November 2021. The amount of the aid is 546,108.07 euros and will be used to finance the actions framed in the project "Trade union organizations." (Probably pay union wages.)

Most of the claim of the 40 million claimed by the current regional executive from the UGT, relates to the alleged fraud of the training courses during the previous Andalusian governments of the PSOE. The current Andalusian Executive, has already demanded **the return of 198 million** in reimbursement from the various recipients of aid who did not use the millions paid out for the intended purposes. It was used as a money trough by the unions, insurance companies, 'agents' and politicians, with little going in training to the massive number of unemployed in that region.

Regarding the claim of 40 million, the union sources say that, when the lawsuits in the administrative contentious courts end, they will pay what the Justice dictates, which, they say, could be less than what the Administration initially demanded. And they gave as an example the latest lawsuit in the Supreme Court. In it, the High Court has ruled against the union and has forced it to return to the Board 136,442 euros plus legal interest, whereas initially, the Andalusian Administration claimed about 700,000 euros. Known as the Andalucian ERE Scandal, it is the biggest fraud in Spain.

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## EL CAPTAN

**Lago Jardin II.**



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*I haven't been putting in the various bus schedules as these are regularly being changed due to the pandemic. However, thanks to Help Vega Baja, I can report the new Torre vieja/Airport ones.*

**Torre vieja - airport**

**11:00 - 12:00 - 13:00 - 16:00 - 20:00**

**Airport - Torre vieja**

**12:00 - 13:00 - 14:00 - 17:00 - 21:00**

I was with this girl the other night and from the way she was responding to my skilful caresses, you would have sworn that she was conscious from the top of her head to the tag on her toes.

Emo Philips

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Phone Vicky:  
672 326 979**NEW SPEED LIMITS.**

From May 11th 2021, roads in Spain with one lane in each direction will go from having a general speed limit of 50km/hour to a maximum of 30km/h. Single lane roads with one-way traffic where the pavement is raised above the road will also have a new speed limit of 30km/h.

On single one-way lanes and double lane roads with two-way traffic where the pavement and the road are at the same level, the speed limit will be reduced even further, down to 20km/h.

Roads with two lanes or more of traffic in each direction (minimum four total) will keep the speed limit of 50km/h (except for vehicles carrying dangerous goods, for which the limit is 40km/h).

Spain's Interior Minister Fernando Grande Marlaska stressed back in November that these new speed limits won't apply to main roads in Spain's big cities.

Vehicles will also no longer be able to surpass the speed limit at all when overtaking on secondary roads in Spain, whereas before it was allowed by up to 20km/h when overtaking.

So, what roads will the new speed limits apply to? It will apply *to vías urbanas*, which can be translated as urban roads in English, but really the terminology refers to "any roads that make up the internal communications network of a settlement, as long as they are not through roads (*travesías*) or are part of an arterial network", according to Spain's Directorate General of Traffic (DGT). In essence, regardless of whether it's a road inside a village in the countryside or a road inside a big city where the limit is currently 50km/h, the new speed limits apply.

Fines will range from €100 to €600 and the loss of up to six points of the driver's license, depending on how fast they were going.

**Groan Joke or One for the Kids.**

A couple go for a meal at a Chinese restaurant and order the "Chicken Surprise". The waiter brings the meal, served in a lidded cast iron pot. Just as the wife is about to serve herself, the lid of the pot rises slightly and she briefly sees two beady little eyes looking around before the lid slams back down. "Good grief, did you see that?" she asks her husband.

He hasn't, so she asks him to look in the pot. He reaches for it and again the lid rises, and he sees two little eyes looking around before it slams down. Rather perturbed, he calls the waiter over, explains what is happening, and demands an explanation.

"Please sir," says the waiter, "what you order?" The husband replies, "Chicken Surprise."

"Ah... so sorry," says the waiter, "I bring you Peeking Duck."



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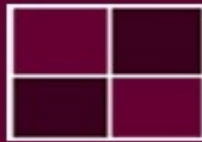
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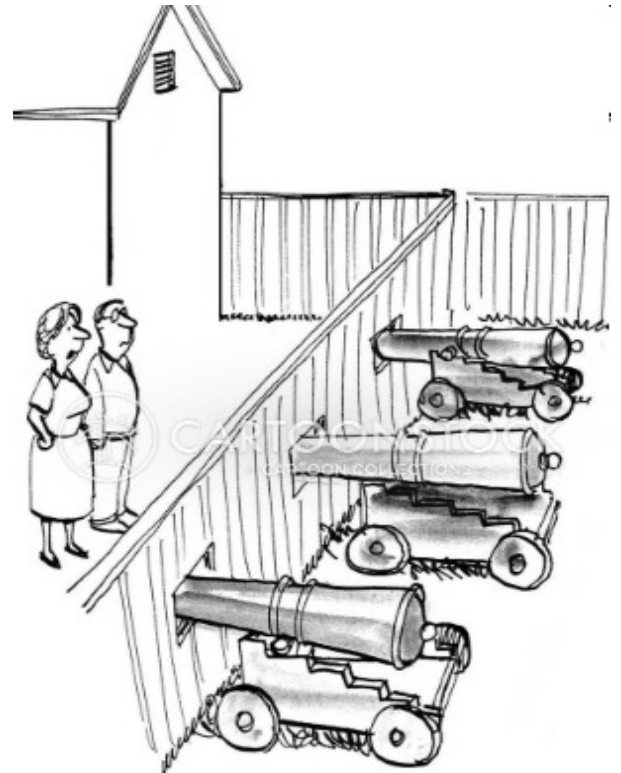
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## ILLEGAL HOUSING

In the Valencian Community there are 350,000 illegal properties. The Generalitat will now open the door to legalize 75,402 houses built on rural land in the province of Alicante.

The Generalitat plans that, in the absence of closing its location in Elche, the new Valencian Agency for the Protection of the Territory will begin to function at the end of this year. With this instrument, the Consell plans to legalize the 75,402 homes built on undeveloped (rural) land in the province, many of them scattered throughout the regions. Elche is the municipality where there are more "illegal" houses with 13,228. They are followed by Orihuela, with 7,492; Crevillent, with 3,501; Alicante, with 3,028 and Torrevieja, with just 147, according to the data supplied by the Department of Territorial Policy. The new Agency will have 35 officials, and the objective is for it to be operational by the end of this year to legalize 350,000 homes throughout the Community. (And good luck with that!)



**“Did we do something  
to upset the neighbors?”**



# BAR DOMINO



LOS ALTOS.



**Domino Bar are back serving  
from 9:30am through to 17:45pm!!**

**Last orders for drinks are at 17:15pm &  
carry outs available until 17:45pm !!**

**Food served Monday to Saturday from 9:30am to 16:30pm &  
everybody's favourite Sunday lunches are available  
from 12:30pm to 16:30pm !!**

**Petanque is back !! Competitions we be restarting soon  
for club members \*more information to follow\***

- We ask for any social groups to please let us know beforehand how many people will be joining each week. This is due to the limitation on seating (4 people per table)
- We remind you once again that masks (covering both mouth & nose) **MUST** be worn at all times unless seated at your table !!

**Petanque Regulations ~**

- Singles & doubles games only !!
- Anybody wishing to use our patanque pistes must book in advance, this is due to the limitation on people allowed per piste !!
- We remind you once again that masks (covering both mouth & nose) **MUST** be worn at all times !!

**PETANCA COMPETITIONS EVERY SAT'  
STARTING APRIL 17** (Depending on Covid rules)

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We ask that everyone follow the regulations & sanitary guidelines put in place by the government.

As always Domino Bar want to thank everyone for all of your support.

**STAY SAFE!**

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All of the updated news & changes in regulations from the government were found  
on the N332, Ayuntamiento de Torre Vieja & Generalitat Valenciana facebook pages.

I don't know what feminists are going on about when they say television never shows any  
positive, dynamic female role models. I mean, what was Lassie all about? (Incoming!)

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### Unique Basque genetics due to 'continuous inbreeding', study finds

People of the Basque region have long been proud of their distinctive culture and heritage that they believe sets them apart from their compatriots.

Now the genetic singularity of the Basques, who live in northern Spain and southern France, has been confirmed.

A study by scientists from France and Spain involving 1,970 people in 18 locations of the area, which straddles the western Pyrenees, found that the Basque gene has barely mixed with other cultures for 2,500 years.

Scientists also looked at the DNA of 190 people whose grandparents were born in the region. "Our results show a clear genetic distinctiveness of the Basques within the European landscape in all the analyses performed, with evidence of continuous inbreeding," the scientists wrote in the journal *Current Biology*.

It "suggests a pattern of genetic isolation in Basques in their recent history".

Scientists and anthropologists have long been

puzzled by the Basques' singular cultural and biological traits. The latest study ties in with a report by Harvard University in 2019 that traced the origins of the Basques to 2,000-2,500 years ago.

The Basque language, Euskara, is unrelated to any other existing language and is the only surviving pre-Indo-European language in western Europe. The scientists believe that the singularity of the Basques' language may have created "a cultural barrier" that contributed to their virtual isolation.

But they also found that the five dialects of Euskara spoken in the region also prevented mixing. A standardised form of the language, known as Euskara Batua, was not created until 1968.

Basques' unique genetic composition has also led scientists to discover variants of illnesses that occur only among their people. Dardarin, a variant of Parkinson's disease, is named after the Euskari word for "trembling".

(The Times 29/03/21)

## **BREXIT Update:**

**Withdrawal agreement has confirmed that applications for Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance and Personal Independence Payment can be submitted throughout 2021.**

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: £60 or £89.60 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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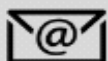
Attendance  
Allowance



*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@gmail.com](mailto:advocacycostablanca@gmail.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 welfare services on return to the UK.

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



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

## SQUATTING - A RECENT CASE STUDY.

Back in March 2020, the Spanish government introduced an emergency eviction ban to protect tenants from eviction during the crisis.

This was later extended to May 9 this year, when the national 'State of Alarm' is due to expire. This has now been extended for a further three months.

Although the eviction ban is not there to protect the squatters, they are protected anyway by the existing absurd legislation.

An absent British owner of a ground floor property in Sitges, Barcelona, found out that his apartment had been occupied by squatters.

The property, worth more than half a million euros, is in an expensive area where the asking prices are around €4,600 per sq. metre.

As the squatters were well ensconced in the property for a week before the owner was advised, the police made it clear they will not do anything without a court order, and told the owner not to disturb the squatters. They also told the owner not to change the locks as, if he did, they would have to give the squatters a

key. Once squatters get installed in Spain, which only takes 24/48 hours, you have no satisfactory options.

When confronted by the owner, the squatters demanded €5,000 to leave! Going down the legal road to evict them could take a year. The then owner decided to hire a squatter-eviction company to try and speed up the eviction. The squatters started off by asking for €5,000.

After some heated discussions - the squatters even called the police on one occasion - they settled with the anti-okupa company for a payment of €2,000. When they left they had stolen all the owners designer clothes and other possessions. The company got paid €3,500 for their work.

The squatter extortion business model will work until the government changes the law in Spain. There is no chance of that happening anytime soon, because the national government in Madrid relies on hard-left parties who support squatters, not owners, many of whom are anti-property.



As I write, unusually happy voices can be heard outside as some restriction have been lifted due to the Corona Virus Pandemic, and though spasmodic we live with seemingly never ending restrictions on our freedom. The sun came out too today as well as the people with the temperature at Kew Gardens reaching 24 degrees. From, 29th March, 2021 mix with 6 people outside your home which brings me on to Christmas 2019 and mixing. A lifetime ago. Much as we love visiting the Costa Blanca, my husband decided we would spend Christmas on the Costa de Sol in a lovely art deco style hotel in Torremolinos, a place I was pleasantly surprised by. The hotel was obviously a favourite with the Spanish too as apart from one couple from Belgium we were the only other non-Spanish guests. We once spent Christmas in Lanzarote too and that hotel was full of Germans. We know how to pick them and my husband reckons its good as he doesn't have to talk to anyone! We had a lovely Christmas and New Year break on the Costa del Sol but shortly after coming back my husband, who is very high risk for the virus, was extremely ill with a very bad chest. I had a permanent cough for 3 weeks and he kept saying go to the doctor but I said it will go. It did. Lots of steroids dished out to husband at home, and thankfully he recovered from what seemed almost like pneumonia.

I do know that Madrid was the epicentre of the virus in Spain and the people over the holiday on the Costa del Sol were mostly escaping the cities of Madrid or Barcelona. Difficult to say if it was around then in December/January 2020. I believe the incubation period can be as much as 14 days.

Spain eventually shut down on the 14th March some nine days before us. On the 11th of March was THAT football match Liverpool v Atletico Madrid, an event many say should never have happened. Nor should the Cheltenham race festival but unfortunately they did.

Speculation suggests that the virus was around way back in November, 2019 and more than likely hushed up. Conspiracy theories abound, who knows and I guess we never will.

Arguments still rage about laboratory leaks, bat shit and it spreading from experiments with bats and spreading to another animal. WHO seem to playing hokey-cokey about laboratory leaks at first discounting them and now having a rethink. Happily we have both now had the first jab with the Pfizer vaccine and await the summons for the second. Fortunately for us, the UK got a move on and it was tax payers money that paid for the Astra Zeneca research. The EU's response re the funding of the Pfizer vaccine is awaited. It has been alleged that the EU were reluctant to commit to spending money and hesitated placing orders and even though the UK's orders were placed some months before the EU's, accuse us of jumping the queue! I wish everyone in Spain success in receiving their vaccine soon.

As an aside, to Spain, the EU and our experience of the Costa del Sol, a quiz team friend was in Thailand in early February 2020 on holiday and that country was testing with thermometers then.

In April he got the virus and so did his care worker, Thai girlfriend. Three others in the local pub team all sitting closely together before the March 2019 didn't, one of which was me. We are all getting on a bit so vulnerable but oddly the one that got it was the youngest at 58.

My next door neighbour, a professor also caught it very early 2020. I should imagine from the North London hospital where a consultant, an anaesthetist and two other colleagues sadly died. The illness left him a stone and a half lighter. Another neighbour, a teacher, caught it, no doubt from school.

Over here it seems to be under some sort of control for the time being. We await with our tongues hanging out until 12th of April for a glass of beer in a pub or rather outside a pub, as you can only be served in an outside garden. Booking is required. The main date for us is the 17th of May but we are not holding our breath as until then if one dares to go near an aeroplane you might be looking at a £5,000 fine.

Eventually it will be lovely to see the Mediterranean again and two or more, very large glasses of Cerveza lined up and ready to go in the Spanish sunshine. Unfortunately it is not looking as if the Spanish beaches will be filled with visitors from the UK any time soon.



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

Shlomo was having a good time in Tel Aviv and was invited to a party.

Unfortunately, during the evening, he lost his wallet.

So Shlomo, not being the shy kind, stood on a chair and shouted, 'Excuse me ladies and gentlemen, I've just lost my wallet with over €500 in cash in it. To the person that finds my wallet, I will give £50.'

A voice from the back of the hall shouted, 'I will give £75.'



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This fourth-form philosophising meander across the fretboards of the consciousness,  
attempting to be Orwell, ending up being awful.

*Melody Maker on Pink Floyd's The Wall*

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- I got brown  
sandwiches and green  
sandwiches.  
- What's the green?  
- It's either very new  
cheese or very old  
meat.

Oscar & Felix  
The Odd Couple

## Getting the tinnies in!

Three Aussie blokes working up on an outback  
mobile phone tower: Mongrel, Coot and Bluey.

As they start their descent, Coot slips, falls off the  
tower and is killed instantly.

As the ambulance takes the body away, Bluey says,  
'Well, bugger me, someone's gotta go and tell  
Coot's wife.

Mongrel says, 'OK, I'm pretty good at that sensitive  
stuff, I'll do it.'

Two hours later, he comes back carrying a case of  
beer.

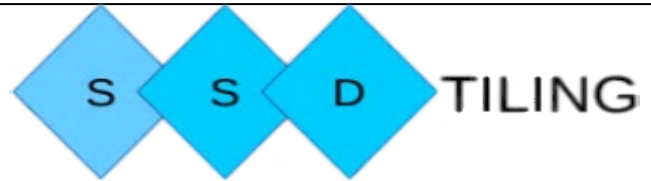
Bluey says, 'Where'd you get the grog, Mongrel?'  
'Coot's wife gave it to me,' Mongrel replies.

'That's unbelievable, you told the Missus her  
husband was dead and she gave you a case of  
beer?'

'Well, not exactly', Mongrel says.

'When she answered the door, I said to her, "you  
must be Coot's widow."

She said, 'You must be mistaken. I'm not a widow.'  
Then I said, 'I'll betcha a case of beer you are.'



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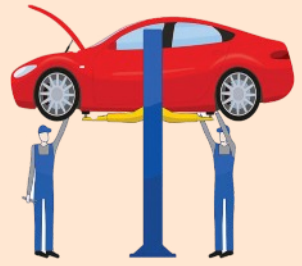
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*My auntie was a bit of a social climber - although much on the lower slopes.  
I was once on a tram with her going past the gas works in Wellington Road and  
she said, 'Alan, this is the biggest gas works in England. And I know the manager.'*

*Alan Bennett*

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## The Sausage!

Paddy and Murphy fancy a pint but only have a euro between them. Paddy goes off and buys a sausage. Murphy says, 'Are you mad? Now we're skint!'

'Come on' says Paddy 'follow me.'

They go into the pub order two pints and drink them before they pay. Paddy shoves the sausage through the front zipper of his jeans and tells Murphy to get down on his knee's and suck it. The Barman goes berserk and throws them out.

10 pubs and 10 pints later Murphy says.....'I cant do this any more, my knees are sore and I'm pissed.'

'How do you think I feel?', says Paddy, 'I can't even remember which pub I lost the sausage in!'

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### Brits married to EU citizens are not bound by 90/180 day rule!

If you are British and have an EU spouse, you are not bound by the 90/180 day rule as long as you accompany your partner while in Spain. A chap called John who has an Irish wife, wrote to the Europe Direct Contact Centre asking about the rights Brits married to EU citizens have when travelling to and living in Spain and other EU member states. The following is part of the reply he received: 'Dear John, Thank you for contacting the Europe Direct Contact Centre.

A citizen of the UK does in principle not require a visa to travel for a short stay of no more than 90 days within any 180-day period in the Schengen area.

The fact that you reside with your Irish wife in the UK is, on its own, not sufficient to waive the limits of the 90/180-days rule if you intend to travel **on your own** to a Schengen Member State.

However, **if your wife is travelling with you to a Schengen country, or joins you in a Schengen country, the 90/180 days limitation does not apply.** Accordingly, any stays in the Schengen area **together with her will not be taken into account when you travel again on your own.** Please be aware, however, that in this case you might need to have documentation to show on when you were travelling with her and when you were not.....'



**EUROPE DIRECT  
CONTACT CENTRE**

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[https://europa.eu/european-union/contact\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en)

(Now, I wonder if the relevant authorities in the Spanish airports are aware of this?  
Probably not! Mick)



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Mrs Hinds explained to the judge that although she did strike Mrs Card first she asked her to remove her glasses before doing so.

The East Anglian Times

## A Certificate, not a Covid Passport, yet!

Whereas an EU vaccination passport has yet to be launched, the region's health department has launched a 'certificate' that can be downloaded by people who have received the coronavirus vaccine. People who have already been immunized will be able to have information about the type of vaccine that has been administered, the dose and the batch to which it belongs.

The link is available on this website

<http://coronavirus.san.gva.es/ca/web/vacunacion/inicio>

Where a vaccination certificate can be downloaded. **This is not a vaccination passport**, it is purely informative. In order to obtain it, the program asks the interested party for their contact information: SIP number, date of birth and the date of issuance of the card (if they have this information, it is usually on the SIP card).

The user will then receive a security code on their mobile phone that they will have to enter on the web in order to access the information.

The new EU Vaccination/Covid Green passport is due to appear in June, this year.

*- This is your third brandy and it's only nine o'clock in the morning.*

*- It's Norma, she's left me.*

*- That was 35 years ago.*

*- I still miss her.*

*Jack Benny and George Burns*

### Applying Online for a Padron Appointment In Orihuela.

Many of us who have been over here for some years will only be too aware of the many, many hours of seemingly endless queues while waiting to register for Padron, Residencia, SUMA - in fact most things. The bureaucracy in Spain teaches us all patience.

Fortunately the local council have come up with a very welcome efficiency, where one can now register online for an appointment.

On this website you can choose day, date and time for your appointment, subject of course to availability.

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

When you first try to access the site, you may get a warning saying that this particular website does not have a security certificate. I just ignored it.

Aside from the appointments facility, the website also contains information relating to participation, transparency etc. <https://orihuela.governalia.es/en/>

### Bob's trip to the Salud.

'Of course I won't laugh,' said the nurse. 'I'm a professional. In over twenty years I've never laughed at a patient.'

'Okay then,' said Bob, and he proceeded to drop his trousers, revealing the smallest 'Pride&Joy' the nurse had ever seen – with a length and width almost identical to an AAA battery.

Unable to control herself, the nurse tried hard to stop a giggle, but it just came out. Feeling very badly that she laughed at the man's appendage, she composed herself as well as she could and said, 'I'm so sorry, I don't know what came over me. On my honour as a nurse and a lady, I promise that won't happen again. Now, tell me, what seems to be the problem?' 'It's swollen,' Bob replied. (The nurse had to run out of the room!)





# Funeral Plans Plus



Unless you speak the language, arranging a funeral in a foreign country can be both very stressful and expensive. To avoid leaving your loved ones with the immense problems and financial hardship on the fateful day, GRUPO ROCAMER welcome you to an all-inclusive funeral plan payable by very affordable monthly contributions

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**Call Keith on 650 461 816 or email [keith.rocamer@live.co.uk](mailto:keith.rocamer@live.co.uk)**

**f Rocamer Funeral Service**

A good piece of chocolate has about 200 calories. As I enjoy 2 servings per night, and a few more on weekends, I consume about 3,500 calories of chocolate in a week, which equals one pound of weight per week. Therefore, in the last 3-1/2 years, I have had chocolate caloric intake of about 180 pounds, and I only weigh 165 pounds.

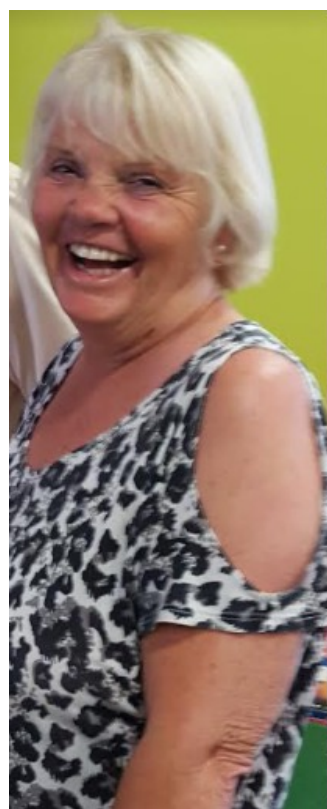
So... without chocolate, I would have wasted away to nothing about 3 months ago!

I owe my life to chocolate!

A charity such as **HELP Vega Baja** exists purely because of the dedication of its volunteers and supporters. One such volunteer is our dear friend Ann Townsend.



Ann, photo, joined the charity in 2009 and has played a major part in raising much needed funds at Campoamor Market every Thursday. Come rain, wind or sun Ann was there. She became an extremely



popular person with other stall holders and of course customers. The income Ann's hard work provided has been tremendous over the years and enabled the charity to support many people within the community who were struggling in one way or another.

With an unforgettable laugh and sense of humour people went along each week to support Ann and even donated many items of clothing for her to sell to raise funds. Sadly, then came Covid! Despite all

the clothes that we sold being sanitized not only before they reached the market but also on the day they were sold, the local council decided they did not want "second hand" items being sold, and Ann was told to leave! Believe me, Ann fought her corner as did the charity, but we

have now accepted that we cannot have a stall at Campoamor and with the support of our Treasurer and other volunteers, we are now attending various other markets, stalls and car boots around the area to continue our fund raising.

We are delighted to say that we may have lost the stall, but we have certainly not lost Ann!

When restrictions permit, Ann will be back co-ordinating the Friendship Centre at La Zenia.

For more information of the various venues we will be attending (these are of course in addition to our charity shop in San Miguel which is open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 am to 1.30 pm), please send follow or message our Facebook page or visit

[www.helpvegabaja.com](http://www.helpvegabaja.com)

where we will shortly be publishing not only our selling venues but also awareness sessions. We would like to hear from any bar/café who would like our "tour bus" to come along with a stand to raise awareness of how we can support people, answer questions and offer our memberships at just 10 euros per annum. NB All services offered by the charity are completely free including assistance with applications for Attendance Allowance. However, HELP Vega Baja members receive additional benefits including free 150 euros of interpreting service, annual blood analysis at Quiron Hospital and discounts on many other items – full details on our website.

*When it comes to plastic surgery and sushi, never be attracted by a bargain.*

*Graham Norton*

### **Hammer-Time!**

The judge says to a double-homicide defendant, "You're charged with beating your wife to death with a hammer." A voice at the back of the courtroom yells out, "You bastard."

The judge says, "You're also charged with beating your mother-in-law to death with a hammer." The voice in the back of the courtroom yells out, "You God-damned bastard."

The judge stops, and says to the guy in the back of the courtroom, "Sir, I can understand your anger and frustration at this crime. But no more outbursts from you, or I'll charge you with contempt. Is there a problem?"

The guy in the back of the court stands up and says, "For fifteen years, I've lived next door to that bastard, and every time I asked to borrow a hammer, he said he didn't have one!"

# SAMARITANS IN SPAIN



## SERVE THE COMMUNITY WITH US

We are looking to recruit new members to the Board of Trustees – all positions are voluntary and unpaid.

We are a charity dedicated to the emotional well-being of all English speaking residents of Spain. Our vision is for a society in which fewer people die by suicide, people are able to explore their feelings, and people are able to acknowledge and respect the feelings of others. We do this by enabling people of any age who are experiencing feelings of distress or despair, including those who may be at risk of suicide, to receive confidential emotional support. This support is provided by appropriately trained Samaritans via freephone and email between 10am and 10pm, 365 days a year. We offer this support in order to improve emotional health and to reduce the incidence of suicide.

Whether you are already an experienced Trustee or wanting to make that first step to Board level, we would love to hear from you.

### **The skills we are looking for:**

- Ability to work effectively as a member of the team
- Ability to exercise good independent judgement
- Strategic vision
- Ability to think creatively
- Adherence to principles of public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership

### **Specific to the Trustee role responsible for Income Generation**

- Experience of fundraising and/or event management
- Willingness to network within the local community in order to secure new funding
- Ability to work to financial targets

### **Specific to the Trustee role responsible for Listener Service Delivery**

- Experience of overseeing large teams
- Highly developed interpersonal and leadership skills
- Experience in end-to-end customer management

### **As a Trustee, you can expect:**

- Opportunities to make strategic decisions and develop new skills
- Influence to shape innovative projects
- Debate and discussion with like-minded senior professionals
- The opportunity to make a real difference to the English speaking ex-pat community

We are looking for individuals who are willing and able to devote the necessary time and effort – which could be 2 x half days per week, plus Board/Zoom meetings and ad hoc events when possible.

### **Interested?**

Contact Secretary Jan Knight: [secretary.spainsams@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.spainsams@gmail.com) for an application form

Closing date for submission of completed applications: **Friday 14 May 2021**

Interviews to be held at **end May**.

Applicants may be fluent English speakers of any nationality, and must be legally resident in Spain. References will be required for background checks due to the sensitive nature of the service provided by Samaritans in Spain.

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- David Letterman and Dolly Parton

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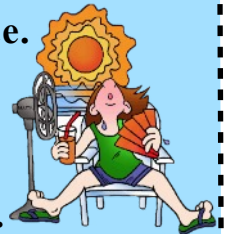


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## Lime Bar Fishing SUNBATHING Club

Well, it is nice to be making a move back to a new "normal". We held our April meeting on tables of 4 outside and starting at 16.00 so we could get out of the bar by 18.00. This was "just in case" there were any arguments, due to members not being allowed to vent their thoughts over the last 3 months! We had a full turnout, except for Anti Social (sick) and The Shropshire Lad (in UK).

Before starting the business, we raised a toast to our passed friends Bob & Sheila. The meeting covered a lot of info with good humour and banter, including the monthly match, winter final and the summer KO draw. It was good to catch up with the grumpy sods over a cold beer.

April was definitely the month for showers, especially on Fridays! At the meeting it was discussed whether to postpone the monthly match as it was forecast for heavy rain. There were multiple calls of "Are you men or mice!" The deciding comment was made by the Cheshire Cat, "I can guarantee it will rain on Wednesday but be dry on Friday. Mark my words!". So, decision made, off we went to El Bosquet with the windscreen wipers on double speed and the Cat's ears burning like hell. I feel sorry for Yorkshire Mick who had a puncture en route, he must have got soaked. As we turned into the El Bosquet complex, it was cold with just a light breeze, but we were amazed as the rain had not reached here yet and the ground was fairly dry. It was a quick dash to get the umbrellas up and get the mossie repellent sprayed (the buggers were everywhere). The rain didn't fall very hard during the day and by lunch time the umbrellas were coming down.

The fishing was very peggy again, whether the rain or cold had put the carp off, I don't know, but unless you could find where there were shoaled, you were just plagued with annoying mullet nibbles with the occasional carp cruising by.

Pegs 24, 26 and 40 usually fish really well here so we were all shocked when Fagash (peg 31) agreed to fish BFC (peg 40) for their KO round, perhaps he had a feeling in his old bones. 3 Rods who was fishing peg 24 was chuntering all day as he kept losing fish while he could see Old Seadog in the next peg landing his!

On the day, the top 5 weights all went to rod and reel men. Who said pole anglers have an advantage?

Old Seadog won again with 15.5 kilos from the favoured peg 26 (in these conditions a brilliant result), 2nd came Ball Boy with 8 kilos from peg 39 (this included a 2.85 kilo and a 3.9 kilo carp that came cruising out of BFC's peg 40) and 3rd was the Cheshire Cat with 4.2 kilos from peg 30 (no wonder he wanted to fish today!). With amazing good luck 4th place went to Fagash (who was fishing his knockout round against BFC) with 3.25 kilos. A double whammy! Don't forget that Fagin paid our fishing fees and you owe him at the next meeting. Cat, it did not rain on Wednesday and it pissed it down on Friday. Get a new weather app on your mobile!

The Antique man (Tom Thumb) has shied away from the vicious crabs in the Eden Canal. He now fishes at the Pond near La Mata, and he now sticks his thumb where the crabs can't reach it! See photo.

The winter final was held after a day and night of UK rain! Not heavy but continuous. We knew that the lower Segura may flood, so as a back up option we had the Eden canal just round the corner. On the day, Beat Me Phil could not make it so the remaining 5 arrived early to inspect the Segura. As feared, the field was a pond, the pegs were accessible but the water level was very close to breaching the bank, so we decided to fish the Eden. The Eden's water level was high, the water colour and flow looked good, but during the day the water level raised another 3-4 inches.

Where I had my box to start with, ended up in a couple of inches of water. Whether it was the cold overnight rain or just another one of those match days, the fishing was terrible. It wasn't for lack of trying, we tried different baits, methods, hook lengths, hook sizes etc. After all this effort, 2 of us did not have a bite all day, 2 of us caught 1 fish each and BFC caught 4 tiddlers.

Well done BFC who won with 2 kilos closely followed by Old Seadog with 1 carp of 1.7 kilos. 3 Rods was 3rd with 1 mullet of 0.9 kilos, while Old Bill and Ghost (me) went home with our tails between our legs..... at least we didn't have to dry our nets!

The next meeting bun fight is at 16.00 in The Lime Bar on Tuesday 4th May.

Stay safe  
Fishy fingers!



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### River Monsters!

The wels catfish (*Silurus glanis*) can grow to lengths of up to 3 metres and weigh well over 100 kilos, and is known to eat ducks and doves to supplement its usual diet of worms, gastropods, insects, crustaceans, and fish. It can also be cannibalistic and specimens have been observed lunging out of the water to feed on pigeons on land (a technique known as “beaching”), but while it is nicknamed the “European man eater” by some, no human deaths have been definitively attributed to the species. This photo shows one of the catfish which was caught in the Guadalquivir river near Sevilla. This fish, not indigenous to Spain, was illegally introduced to some areas to promote angling tourism. Some of these catfish have now escaped to other areas. Naturalist Jeremy Wade in an episode of his television series “River Monsters” travelled to an area in Spain, where a group of wels catfish were introduced years ago into the River Ebro and have since taken over the ecosystem, possibly due to the “catch and release” policy of sporting anglers. In the River Guadalquivir area, the fear is that this breed may extend its territory further downstream, threatening both the important bio-diversity of the area - including plants and wading birds as well as other fish species - and the commercial fishing and fish-farming activities which are permitted there.



You can't see as well as these fucking flowers - and they're fucking plastic!  
*John McEnroe to a line judge*

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leaves no trace on your phone bill.)

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

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**O'Reilly's Toast!**

John O'Reilly hoisted his beer and said, "Here's to spending the rest of me Life, between the legs of me wife!"

That won him the top prize at the pub for the best toast of the night!

He went home and told his wife, Mary, "I won the prize for the 'best toast of the night.'"

She said, "Aye, did ye now. And what was your toast?"

John said, "Here's to spending the rest of me life, sitting in church beside me wife."

"Oh, that is very nice indeed, John!" Mary said.

The next day, Mary ran into one of John's drinking buddies on the street corner. The man chuckled leeringly and said, "John won the prize the other night at the pub with a toast about you, Mary."

She said, "Aye, he told me, and I was a bit surprised myself.

You know, he's only been in there twice in the last four years. Once I had to pull him by the ears to make him come, and the other time he fell asleep".

*I'm overdrawn at the bank. I won't say how much,  
but if you saw it written down,  
you'd think it was a sex chatline number.*

*Julie Burchill*

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