



# THE DREAM SCENE

## NEWSLETTER



*Helping to keep expat's informed.....and smiling.*  
Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the June, 2021 edition. Issue No.165

Sunday, May 16, Alicante registered the **second hottest day in 120 years** in a month of May with 35.8 degrees. Local farmers have been feeding their chickens crushed ice so they won't lay hard-boiled eggs! After several days of beautiful blue skies, it has now rained for most of today, May 23.

After months of supply shortages (AstraZenica) and embarrassing blunders, Europe's vaccination campaign is finally **catching up**. The E.U. is now administering roughly the same number of daily per capita doses as the United States, trending up while America trends down. The bloc owes its turnaround largely to a deepened reliance on Pfizer-BioNTech. The E.U. is about seven weeks behind the United States on doses, adjusted for population size.

To date, more than 13.5 million people of Spain's 47 million population have received a shot, and almost 6 million have had both doses of vaccine and this is expanding rapidly.

Currently, it's not certain how long COVID-19 vaccine protection lasts, though studies suggest at least six months. However, vaccine protection varies by individual and naturally

wanes over time. For some people, this waning happens more rapidly, for reasons such as old age, the effect of some chronic illness, or taking treatments that may suppress the immune system. Consequently, a **booster dose** is likely to be needed for people in these high-risk groups to make sure good immune protection is maintained.

The Association of Spanish Land Registrars will publish the numbers of purchases by foreigners during Q1 in the next month or two. We should then be able to see **the impact of real Brexit** on British buyers, although a six month study would be more accurate. Estate agents are getting more enquiries now from Belgium and other EU countries.

During March 2019, the region of Valencia welcomed 648,000 foreign visitors. During March 2021, **the figure was 47,000**.

June 24 is a **Red Day** in Valencia, the Feast of San Juan.

Thank you to Mike & Diane L, for their kind donation.

Keep well and safe,  
Mick, Tid & the Dream Scene Team

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Angela's Cartoon



"Oh, good! I'll book mother a flight!"

My mate Danny is such an unlucky man.

One day he approached a prostitute at the roundabout and she told him she had a headache!

Orihuela has once again secured 11 Blue Flags for its beaches - the fourth year in a row. This is best in Valencia and the second best in Spain.

The Blue Flag is a distinction that recognizes meeting the highest quality requirements of the bathing waters and sand at the coast, in addition to offering an adequate public information system and a good rescue and first aid service.



The **Blue Flag beaches** locally are Punta Prima, Cala Bosque, La Caleta, Cala Capitán, Aguamarina,

Campoamor, Barranco Rubio, Cala Estaca, Cala Mosca, Cala Cerrada and Mil Palmeras . The Campoamor marina has also obtained recognition.

For the fifth year in a row, there will be no Blue Flags on the beaches at Mar Menor. This is due to the deterioration in the marine environment over the last five years and the failure of the local and regional governments to address the situation over several years.

Cabo Peñas (known as Cala Mosca II), in Alameda del Mar, is now officially **the first dog beach in the municipality**. Dogs and their owners are now authorised to access and stay in the area, without time limits and throughout the year.

**Three low intensity earthquakes** were experienced in the province of Alicante during a four day period in May. These ranged between 1.7 and 1.9 degrees on the Richter scale beneath Torrevieja, Los Montesinos and in Vinalopó Mitjá, in Hondón de las Nieves.

The former PP Councillor for Contracting in the City of Orihuela, **David Costa**, has accepted a sentence of six months in prison for a crime of fraud relating to a contract for the Sports City in Orihuela, which began in 2010. He will not serve

any jail time even though the Prosecutor was asking for three years. Together with the promoter, who was paid €94,000 to draft the



project contract, they will have to pay a fine of €12,000. It seems that the contract was drawn-up despite the said land not being suitable for buildings.

Costa, photo, was the **right-hand man to the then PP mayor, Monica Lorente**. Lorente and 34

other defendants in the separate part of the Brugal case were being tried in relation to various allegations regarding the awarding of the city's rubbish contracts. The cases were dropped when the judge ruled that the wire-taps and recordings being introduced by the prosecution would not be allowed as they infringed the rights of the accused!

A 24-year-old out walking with his wife in Elche were accosted by a 28-year-old neighbour who was drunk. A scuffle ensued but the older chap **bit the younger man on the penis** and would not let go! Even though the younger man punched the assailant ten times in the head, he still continued with the bite! The young guy's wife also tried to free him but got elbowed in the face. It was not until a number of others nearby joined in the affray that the 'biter' let go, biting the younger man once again, this time on the arm, before he ran off. Police took the 'injured' to the local hospital where he received three stitches on his 'pride&joy.' (Sorry, no photos!)

Okay, I dare say that events like this may be common in some areas. But this particular one took place at 1:30am during curfew. You would wonder why would people be out at this time of the morning anyway and where would they get alcohol as well!

This angry guy walked into a crowded bar locally, waving a pistol about and yelled out "I have a 45 caliber Colt 1911 with a seven round magazine plus one in the chamber and I want to know who's been sleeping with my wife."

A voice from the back of the bar called out "You will need more ammo!"

The **Torre Vieja desalination plant** currently has a maximum production capacity of 80 hectometres per year, of which 40 are for irrigation use and the other 40 for urban supply use. An expansion project is being drawn up that will allow it to reach 120 hectometres per year.

However it is now being proposed to grant most of the water from the plant to Campo de Cartagena. If so, this would deny the supply to a number of areas in the Vega Baja region.

The Department of Sports in the municipality of Orihuela has announced that **three new skate parks** are to be built to meet the high demand for this type of activity. The skate park in the Orihuela Costa will be located in the Municipal Sports Centre, which has now reopened after a long closure. One of the two new skate parks in Orihuela will cost around €55,000, not sure what the local one will cost.

Many more **new mass vaccination points** opened on Monday, May 24 in 40 municipalities within our province. Health plans to vaccinate more than 400 people every three minutes throughout the Valencian Community.

Spain's 2 million people already vaccinated with AstraZeneca will get **Pfizer** as their second dose. The Ministry of Health has finally ruled on how to finish vaccinating people under 60 who have already received the first dose of AstraZeneca. As the Public Health Commission proposed during May, these people will now receive the Pfizer vaccine for their second dose. In the province of Alicante, this decision affects 76,000 people, the vast majority being teachers, members of the security forces, second-line health personnel and other professionals, such as dentists and pharmacists. However, 61,400 of those over 60 who have already received the first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine in this province will receive their second jab of AstraZeneca by the end of June.

As one would expect, the pandemic has also reduced the **number of marriages** regionally and nationally last year. In 2019, the province celebrated about 5,000 marriages compared to the 1,389 that took place in 2020, according to data from the National Institute of Statistics.

The number of marriages in the Alicante Province still remains very low this year with couples waiting until the pandemic situation is under greater control.

The name of Costa Blanca's airport has got even longer with the Alicante-Elche facility now adding the name of Orihuela poet Miguel Hernandez to its title. The proper title is now the **Alicante-Elche Miguel Hernández Airport**. Miguel Hernández, photo, was born in Orihuela during October 1910. During the Spanish Civil War, Hernández enlisted in the Republican side, joined the Communist Party and became a military political commissioner. Even in his 20's he was seen as an important poet and playwright in the Spanish literary scene. He died of TB at the age of 31 in an Alicante prison in March 1942.



Two brothers, one 47 and the other 40, had an argument in the Francisco neighbourhood in nearby Villena. Unfortunately both used knives on each other, **one fatally**. This occurred around 8am on the morning of May 19. Knife injuries in Spain are not uncommon.

A 51-year-old man died while assembling one of the **new fairground rides**, the Star Dancer, in Torre Vieja Harbour. He was mortally injured when part of the ride hit him on the head. After seeing some of the fairground rides in Santa Pola and locally, there are very few I would allow our grandchildren on: they are not Disney!

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# R

**SUNDAY**

**ROAST**

**DINNER**

**12 -4pm**



**EVERY FRIDAY**

**FUN MUSIC BINGO AT 2.30pm**



Now that lockdown is over, my mate Charlie took his girlfriend, Hattie, to the movies.

While they were canoodling in the back row, his wig fell off.

As he felt around in the dark trying to find it, his hand accidentally went up Hattie's dress.

'Ooooh...' she moaned...'Go on, go on, that's it.'

'No, it can't be,' he said. 'I part mine on the right.'

Hundreds of British drivers in Spain currently face a veritable catch-22 scenario involving their residencies and their driving licences, citizens rights group Brexpats in Spain has revealed. As things stand, UK nationals who are Spanish residents will be allowed to drive in Spain with a valid UK driving licence until June 30th 2021. They had until December 31st 2020 to register their intent to exchange their licence for a Spanish one and Spanish authorities offered them a grace period of 6 months until June 30th 2021 in which to carry out the licence exchange. Unfortunately, there are still plenty of Britons who applied for residency in Spain under the Withdrawal Agreement and are waiting for confirmation that it's been approved, meaning they risk missing this new deadline and having to sit their driving test – theory and practical – again in Spain. “In some places there are huge waiting lists for the carta de resolución (results letter for approval of residency) which obviously you can't exchange your British driving licence without,” Anne Hernandez, head of Brexpats in Spain said. “In places with a higher concentration of Brits such as Málaga and Alicante there are long waits for residency. Lots of Brits are worried they're not going to get that processed before June 30th,” Hernandez added, stressing that the carta de resolución rather than the actual TIE residency card will be enough for UK drivers to be able to register their details for a licence exchange with Spain's DGT traffic authority. The rules for British drivers in Spain are now the same as for most other non-EU/EEA nations, who can drive in Spain with their original licences for a period of six months after obtaining residency. Yet another Brexit Bonus!

There are just a few weeks left to exchange any remaining pesetas into euros, as the countdown to the end of life for the Spanish

currency looms on 30 June. Those still in possession of the original Spanish currency have been urged to exchange it into euros over the next couple of months before the deadline, which was extended by six months from its original date of 31 December 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. On 1 March 2002 the peseta ceased to have legal tender status, with 166.386 pesetas converting to 1 euro at that time. This is the rate that will be used to calculate the value for any pesetas brought in for exchange before the June deadline. It is estimated that there is still approximately 1.6 billion euros worth of pesetas in circulation.

The Bank of Spain is allowing any remaining pesetas to be exchanged for euros at its 15 branches throughout the country, or at its Madrid headquarters.

Spain has conceded to pressure from the EU to introduce more tolls on its roads. The Spanish government had already drafted a project to present in Brussels in which it describes how it will introduce a toll system across its network of motorways and high-capacity roads to cover their huge maintenance costs. They've since hinted at the fact that the introduction of tolls – peajes – across the entire network could take place in 2024. As things stand, Spain is one of the countries in Europe where drivers pay the least for the use of its high-capacity road network, spending 76% less on tolls than the average for EU countries.



“Yes, I think I have good people skills.  
What kind of idiot question is that?”

Men tend to choose higher paying careers, like doctor, lawyer, engineer, and CEO. Women, however, tend to choose lower paying careers, like female doctor, female lawyer, female engineer, and female CEO.

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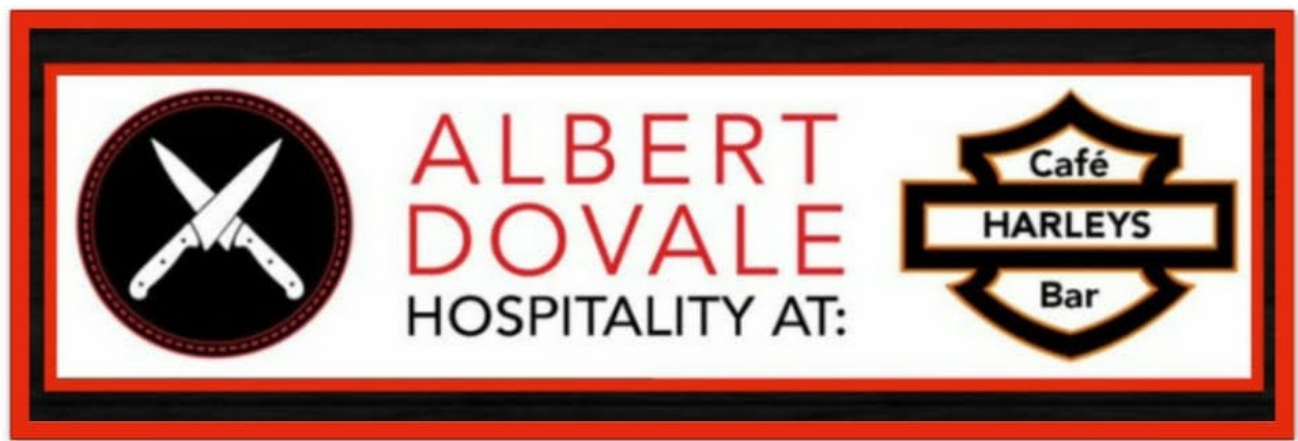
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## The Migrant Invasion of Ceuta.

On Tuesday, May 18, a virtual army of up to **9,000 migrants** swept across the border and jetties from Morocco into the Spanish North African city/ enclave of Ceuta. The Moroccan Border Police did nothing, under instructions from their government, to stop the rush across



the border or access from the sea for over a period of about 36 hours. The Spanish PM

had to cancel his proposed visit to France and flew immediately to Ceuta.

This is not the first time that the Moroccans have used migrants from its country to get Spain's attention. When it does not like something that Spain does, it stops controlling its coasts to favour the arrival of immigrants.

### **But what really caused the recent deterioration in Spanish/Moroccan relations?**

Not that one should be surprised but on December 20, 2020, **Donald Trump** decided to recognize Morocco's sovereignty over Western Sahara, against all resolutions of International Law. Relations between Spain and the Alawite kingdom deteriorated just at that moment when the Spanish Government remained in its traditional position of respect for a solution agreed under the auspices of the United Nations.

Western Sahara was previously occupied by Spain until 1975 when Morocco annexed the colony. The move triggered a war that year between the Moroccan government and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Río de Oro (Polisario Front), which seeks self-determination for the Sahrawi people in the territory. In 1991, the Polisario

Front and the Moroccan government agreed to a truce.

But the Moroccans were infuriated when they became aware that the **head of the Saharawi Front Polisario**, Brahim Ghali, 71, had been secretly admitted to a hospital in Spain in a very serious condition under a false identity during April. He was registered under the false name of Mohamed Benbatouch and an Algerian identity to avoid problems with Spanish justice, which accuses him of human rights violations. Spanish Foreign Minister Arancha González Layahas assured that Gali was admitted "for strictly humanitarian reasons", as Spain is "a country responsible for its humanitarian obligations".

Morocco then resumed control of the border with the North African city after receiving public and private calls from the EU and foreign ministries across Europe. On the day of the migrant invasion, the Spanish Council of Ministers approved aid of **30 million euros** to the Moroccan Ministry of the Interior to contribute to its work in the fight against irregular immigration and the trafficking of immigrants.

As of May 23, most of the migrants, about **6,000, now returned to Morocco**. Some were deported by Spanish authorities, and others decided to leave voluntarily, after discovering there was no work, accommodation or opportunities for them there. A big problem relates to the 740 minors who have been registered. But they are not subject to the same deportation agreements as adults, and will therefore be taken into state care. But there are many more youngsters, over 2,000, on the streets who have yet to be registered.

(The growing migratory pressure on the western Mediterranean route, resulted in the arrival of 41,752 people last year.)

### **Robin's Wish.**

Deep in the heart of Sherwood Forest, Robin Hood was lying in bed in his cottage, only a few hours from death. 'Little John,' he croaked 'give me my bow and arrow and open the window. I will fire the arrow and wherever it lands, please bury me there.'

And indeed, a few hours later, Robin died and having promised to carry out his final wish, Little John and the rest of the Merry Men buried Robin on top of the wardrobe.

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Kids today don't know how well off they are. I was orphaned at a young age and raised by a pack of hyenas. No toys, no posh house, facing starvation and scavenging for food, but boy, did we have some laughs.



# LIME BAR

VIA PARK III

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Well, I've just been blocked by my French neighbour. We were discussing the history of sport and he asked me who won the first Tour de France. It seems it wasn't the 5<sup>th</sup> Panzer Division.



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VIA PARK V.



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## The Thieving Waiter!

A 36-year-old waiter has been arrested for stealing almost 840,000 euros over five years from a restaurant in Dénia, in the province of Alicante, where he had been employed for around nine years.

The waiter, of Spanish nationality, had been in charge of the finances in the restaurant since 2016 due to his close relationship with the owners and the fact that said owners were periodically absent due to health reasons. By taking advantage of the trust placed in him, the man created a system to steal part of the daily profits without being detected, in which he manipulated the receipts for each service provided and then deleted all trace of his wrongdoing.

According to police reports, the waiter had bought a property worth 180,000 euros and had carried out several costly renovations, as well as buying many luxury items such as designer clothing and high end electronics.

It was also revealed that the ex-waiter had taken several expensive trips abroad to many international destinations, such as Las Vegas, Los Angeles, United Emirates, Paris, Argentina

and México.

His crimes were revealed when the restaurant started using a new electronic system at the beginning of the year and the owners noticed that around 100,000 euros had gone missing in the the months since the system was implemented. The business owners then contacted the Policía Nacional. The police investigation soon revealed the culprit and, after he was found out, the waiter confessed and returned the 100,000 euros that he had stolen since 2020.

In addition, other employees from the restaurant have stated that, since the criminal was caught, their tip money had increased disproportionately. Some bastard!



I suggest you order the chef's special.  
It may help him regain his confidence.

## 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-wide 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.



On Sunday, April 25, a 59-year-old man died after swallowing a bee while riding a bicycle in the Valencian town of Polinyà del Xúquer. The poor guy choked. I guess he was probably not wearing a mask at the time.

In order to prevent their partners from cheating on them, some Chinese wives have reportedly been secretly feeding their husbands medicine that causes male impotence. An article exposing some Chinese wives' actions—secretly feeding their husbands diethylstilbestrol, a synthetic estrogen which can prevent men from achieving an erection—has been widely circulating on social media recently. According to the article on WeChat, some women bought the medicine through online shops and secretly mixed it into their husbands' meals and drinks. Some unfaithful husbands apparently did stop cheating on their wives after they consumed the medicine.

A German police bomb squad called to investigate a suspected hand grenade in a Bavarian forest determined that the object actually was a rubber sex toy, photo, authorities reported. A jogger reported finding a bag containing the device during April in a forest outside the city of Passau, near Germany's borders with Austria and the Czech Republic. It is marketed as Big Bang!



It seems that three adult leopards escaped from a safari park in eastern China. However the staff in the park did not inform the authorities for several weeks as they did not want to report the incident over worries that it would affect the flow of tourists into the zoo during China's May Day public holidays in the first week of May. Two of the animals have since been recovered.

Australian Angie Yen has been speaking with a new Irish accent for two weeks in what's suspected to be a case of foreign accent syndrome. Yen, aged 27, is originally from Taiwan but has lived in Brisbane, Australia, since she was eight years old, and normally speaks with an Australian accent. But two weeks ago, Yen woke up sounding Irish,

despite having never even been to Ireland. Yen first started speaking with an Irish accent 10 days after she had surgery to remove her tonsils. She went to the hospital the same day but as she wasn't showing any other signs of illness, Yen was sent home and told to rest. In her own words, Angie does not think her old Aussie accent will return, "At this stage, I don't think it's going to get better, because this morning I woke up with an Aussie accent and I was so happy. I called one of my best friends and told her that I have my accent back but during that phone call in the space of about five to 10 minutes, my accent was deteriorating and it was changing from an Aussie accent to an Irish one." Foreign accent syndrome most commonly occurs following a head injury, stroke, or some other type of damage to the brain, according to Healthline. The condition is extremely rare, with only around 100 people diagnosed with foreign accent syndrome since the first known case came to light in 1907. Cheer us, Ang, if it was a Scottish accent no one could understand you!

Erotic novels have been found in a box library in the west Yorkshire village of Cornholme, where locals place books for others to share. One furious resident pinned a note to the box, saying: "Whoever is placing the copys of pornographic literature in here, stop! Cornholme is a God fearing Christian village." The author then took a swipe at nearby Hebden Bridge, known for its liberal ethos: "If this filth is to your liking may we suggest that you move to the cesspit that is Hebden Bridge."

A Manchester woman's Uber driver drove her into a canal – and still charged her £29.31 for the journey. Emma Lavelle tried to tell the driver to stop as he followed his satnav into the water, but to no avail. "He was sort of going around 5mph, then all of a sudden the front of the car went into the canal," she said. "I thought, 'How has he not seen the canal in front of him?'" Both escaped unhurt; Lavelle later got a refund.



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

### **BREXIT AND YOUR PENSION**

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

Contact me on 634305881 to discuss your options.

### **NEED A FINANCIAL ADVISER?**

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A new vicar is talking to each member of the congregation to know them better.

Talking to Mr. Smith, he asks politely, "Are you married?"

"No," replies Mr. Smith, "I've two sisters at home, who look after all my needs... I am happy with that arrangement."

The Vicar: "That's all well and good, but all the sisters in the world cannot fill the role of a wife."

Mr. Smith: "I said 'two sisters'.... I didn't say they were MY sisters."

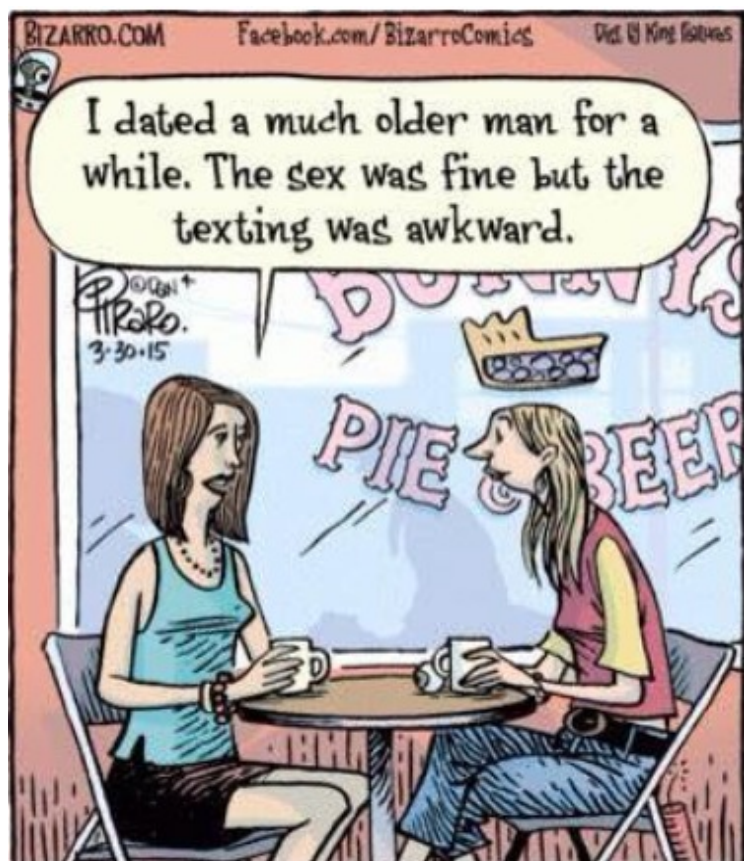


## Brit's in Spain.

In Spain, in the last year alone, 22,000 Brit's have registered for the first time, despite the issues caused by COVID. Since the 2016 referendum, there have been 90,000 new registrations by British residents.

It will be interesting to see what the figures for the first six months of 2021 are.

The British Embassy is working with the Spanish authorities to provide more information in English. They were keen to provide reassurance that Spain will not deport any British citizens that have made Spain their home. However, they did point out that any non-residents overstaying their allowed 90 days should now be making arrangements to apply for residency or to leave Spain. The Embassy Facebook page – Brits in Spain – now has 70,000 followers and has hosted 10 live events, giving advice and answering questions, over the past year.



Two old men reminiscing about old times.

'Do you know Sid, when I was just a lad I never made love to my wife before we got married, did you?

'I can't remember, Alf. What was her maiden name?'

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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 latest Torrevieja/Airport ones. I would expect that these schedules would improve over the summer period.*

**Torrevieja - airport**

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

**Airport - Torrevieja**

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

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After the funeral of Henry 'The Burglar' Vincent, I decided to look at some of the floral tributes from his colleagues. He had some really big bunches of flowers and they all had really heartwarming personal messages like, 'Happy Birthday Mum', 'Good luck in your new job', 'Congratulations, it's a bouncing baby boy' And my favourite, which was a big array of flowers that spelled out the word, 'GRANDMA'.

## "Waggy Tails"

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## AUTOPSY DELAYS!

For more than three years forensic specialists from the province of Alicante have been performing autopsies every day of the week except Sundays. Since 2016 the Valencia Generalitat began paying for a single coroner to work on Saturdays, even if more than one doctor attended, only one was paid.

However, since January 1, the Ministry of Justice has implemented the Cronos programme controlling the working day of the staff of the Institute of Legal Medicine of Alicante (includes coroners).

No, it does not allow autopsies to be conducted on Saturdays, Sundays and on holidays! Forensic doctors cannot now perform autopsies on these days as they feel they will be unprotected by the law.

The new system allows them to work from



Monday to Friday, as long as it is not a festival, between 8 to 15 hours. But when the autopsies are over, they still have to complete their reports etc. Since the closure during weekends, bodies have been piling up with around 12 cadavers awaiting the doctors on a Monday morning. With only two autopsy tables, photo, and 60 to 90 minutes to perform each, it is impossible to study twelve corpses in a single day, resulting in over-workload and delay that will negatively affect the relatives of the deceased. Autopsies include people killed in crimes, road accidents and suicides, among others.

If a person dies on a Friday morning in a traffic accident, the autopsy may not be performed until at least the Monday, provided the workload allows. Despite advising the Ministry of Justice of the problem in December and February, the Institute of Legal Medicine have not received a reply.

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LOS ALTOS.



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LOS ALTOS.

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

I popped down to my local corner store this morning for a loaf of bread and the woman  
said we don't have bread we only have muffins, I asked her what the difference was  
and she replied, there are 2 F's in Muffins and no F in Bread.

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### **Flamingos miss confinement and avoid Torre Vieja to breed.**

Between February and March 2020, around 300 flamingos decided to mate and breed in the Torre Vieja salt flats for the first time in history, photo. Although the lack of a human presence during March and April 2020 was a contributory factor, a unique combination of other events also helped. The decrease in the salinity of the waters, which caused the hatching of the brine shrimp transported by the La Mata saline canal to a lagoon whose usual hypersalinity does not normally allow its survival, to the increase in the water level that generated islets in the central mound that crosses the lagoon, isolating the nests from possible predators.

But above all that during those months, the salt mining had to stop, not because of the pandemic, but because of the height reached by the waters after the heavy rains at the time. With two meters deep when it is usually barely more than one and a half meters, the salt extraction could not continue.

Also during the confinement there were no visitors, no mud baths on the banks, no walkers and no amateur photographers. Lack of traffic from the CV-905 also helped as did the absence of light aircraft.

However this year, the flamingos have decided to breed elsewhere, probably in the Fuente de Piedra lagoon in Malaga, or the much closer Pétrola lagoon in Albacete.

- I have writer's block. It's the worst feeling in the world.

- Try ten days without a bowel movement sometime.

Blanche and Sophia , The Golden Girls



## **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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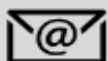
Attendance Allowance



*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**

## Scientists identify gut bacteria linked to neurodegenerative conditions

Researchers have identified gut bacteria species that appear to play a role in the development of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and motor neurone disease.

Previous research has shown a link between the conditions and changes in the gut microbiome, but among the thousands of species that live there, it wasn't easy to identify which ones have an effect. Now, a team based at the University of Florida, USA, have not only identified the harmful bacteria, but have also shown that certain other bacteria species can produce compounds that counteract the effect.

"We also showed that some other bacteria produce compounds that counteract these 'bad' bacteria. Recent studies have shown that patients with Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease are deficient in these 'good' bacteria, so our findings may help explain that connection and open up an area of future study," said Dr Daniel Czyz, assistant professor at the University of Florida.

The team hope to carry out further experiments in higher organisms, and then eventually in humans.

### What is dementia?

Some 850,000 people are estimated to be living with dementia in the UK, and that's expected to rise to two million by 2050.

Dementia describes the symptoms that someone experiences as a result of a brain disease. Such symptoms can include memory loss, mood and behavioural changes, and difficulties with thinking, problem-solving and language. More than 100 diseases can cause dementia, each with slightly different symptoms.

The most common cause of dementia is Alzheimer's.

Abridged from

<https://www.sciencefocus.com/news/scientists-identify-gut-bacteria-linked-to-neurodegenerative-conditions/>



The Guardia Civil have arrested an Algerian couple in Agost, Alicante, a 50-year-old man and a 44-year-old woman, for human trafficking



offences for the purposes of labour exploitation, illegal detention and against workers' rights. The couple enticed a woman from Algeria promising a cleaning

job with salary and accommodation. The woman was kept in a garage without ventilation **for more than 12 months**. The police called the conditions inhumane - see photos - and the poor woman was malnourished and lost more than 20 kilos in a year. She was made to



work seven days a week and was only paid €100 a month for the first four months. She managed to contact her son in Algeria via the internet, who managed to get a contact in Spain to inform the police. The woman is now recovering in a foster home. The couple were released with charges!

In Alicante, the National Police have arrested a Romanian couple of 48 and 51 years, who were engaged in capturing people with physical disabilities and forcing them to beg under threats, according to the Provincial Police Station. The couple, who have been accused of a crime of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of exploitation for begging, have resided in Spain since 2007 and have made a living by exploiting compatriots with **physical or mental disabilities**. The victims practiced begging "in conditions of authentic slavery in different parts of the Spanish geography," according to the Police. They were forced to beg fourteen hours a day, seven days a week. All the money collected was taken from them and also threatened not to be given any food and struck them if they did not collect enough money. They also threatened that they would sell them to another organisation for €2,000!

I have often wondered how the droves of fruit and veg' pickers are paid and treated. I dare say that most are not even on minimum wage. I am aware that some working migrants actually live inside the massive plasticulture sites in Andalucia, which must be akin to living in a furnace!

But it is in the area of prostitution that slavery is widespread and abuse is common place. Most of the 'working girls' are from South America, easy targets for the pimps who hold their passports. Quite some time ago I became aware of a case, Carioca, unfortunately, just one of many in Spain.

This first photo is of Armando Lorenzo, the head of the Civil Guard Women's and Minors Team in Lugo, Galicia.

Despite his occupation, Lorenzo controlled **12** prostitution **clubs** in the area.

After being prostituted in a number of local puticlubs, a group of South American woman sought refuge in a Caritas' protective residence. After a few days, Lorenzo arrived at the residence, piled the women into his police car and took them to one of his own brothels. Lorenzo usually targeted destitute females using flattery, rape and threats of deportation to get the women to work in his clubs.

Lorenzo's businessman and main partner at the Queens and La Colina clubs, José Manuel Adam,



photo, is a violent and sadistic creep. He once smashed a bottle over the head of a brothel customer who complained after paying €40 for a single drink.

Illegal abortions and suspected murders are also linked to the clubs. Shamefully, many senior Guardia Civil were well aware of

the clubs, some being clients.

Judge Pilar de Lara, has pushed the case forward despite death threats and pressure from 'above'.

70 crimes are now being investigated with more than 200 witnesses and around 80 defendants. The investigation is now two years old!

**Please start taking this Indian Covid Variant seriously. My neighbour caught it and has been in a korma for a week and he's only just buried his naan. She had a dodgy tikka.**



### **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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Moses arrives at the Red Sea with the Israelites, the Pharaoh and his army in hot pursuit. He calls his public relations officer, Morrie, over in a rage. 'Where are the boats?' 'Boats? Who said anything about boats?' 'I must have boats to cross the water! What do you want me to do, part the sea and walk through it?' 'Hey, Moses, if you do that,' says Morrie, 'I'll get you two whole pages in the Old Testament!'



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*My new girlfriend and I were travelling to meet my parents, when she got a flat tyre. So I called my parents and said, "Mum, sorry, we are going to be late as my girlfriend has got a puncture."*

*"Oh, dear," she sighed, "I thought you had a real one this time!"*



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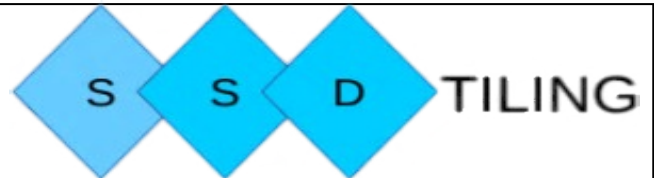
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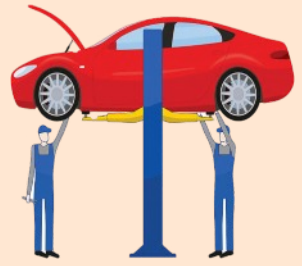
Call Shane on 693 490 530  
EMAIL: [iowthehat@gmail.com](mailto:iowthehat@gmail.com)

'Ladies and gentlemen, we are here today to bid farewell to our departed neighbour, old Bob Flowers. Is there anyone in the congregation who would like to say a few nice words about him?' asked the vicar. But there was silence! 'Come on now, don't be shy, someone must remember something good about him.' Still no response.

'Please, someone say something,' pleaded the harassed vicar.

All of a sudden, a voice was heard at the back of the church. 'His brother was worse.'

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### UK visitors will NOT now need to show PCR test but will require a health form completed.

UK travellers will be able to visit Spain from **May 24th** without having to present a negative PCR test, but they will need to fill in a health form.

From 00:00 of May 24th, travellers from the United Kingdom will be allowed to freely enter Spain for non-essential purposes, such as tourism, and stay in Spain without a visa for a maximum period of 90 days within 6 months.

From May 24th, travellers from the United Kingdom will NOT need to present a negative COVID-19 test certificate (PCR), as long as they have remained in the UK in the last 14 days.

Should you have **visited other countries** during this period, a PCR might still be required when you arrive in Spain. Please, check rules concerning third countries at this link -

<https://www.mscbs.gob.es/en/profesionales/saludPublica/ccayes/alertasActual/nCov/spth.htm>

It is mandatory for all residents in the United Kingdom travelling to Spain (including children of all ages) to fill in a **Health Control Form (FCS)**. You can download the form here -

<https://www.spth.gob.es/>

Please, be aware that the visa framework established as a consequence of Brexit, remains in force and therefore British citizens will still need a visa for purposes other than tourism, such as carrying out professional activities in Spain.

Spanish authorities have attributed the lifting of previous restrictions to the UK's advanced vaccination campaign and the importance of British visitors for the country's tourism industry.

Spain is set to allow all other citizens from non-EU nations to visit Spain from June 7th, as long as they've been vaccinated.

# Hollys Lounge

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A man comes home and finds his wife in bed with another man so he shot him dead.  
The wife says, 'Carry on like that and you will have no friends left.'

## 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 form in order to access and print out the information on their jabs.

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

### 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/>

**If you are currently living in Spain but not a resident and you want to get a Covid-19 vaccination here, you should first register for the Padron. If you take this Padron to your local Salud (health centre) they will issue you with a temporary SIP (health) card.**

**The rapidity with which you will get your jab will depend on your age, over 50's at the moment getting theirs quite quickly.**

I got chatting with a girl in a bar, "Can I buy you a drink?" I asked. "Have you not got a girlfriend?" she replied, "Guys like you always have girlfriends. "No, sadly we broke up just over a month ago," I assured her.

"Oh, I'm sorry to hear that," she said, "Go on then, I'll have a glass of white wine, please."

A few drinks later after a kiss and a cuddle we headed off back to her place and made passionate love. While I was putting my clothes back on she said, "So, you're good looking, a nice guy and amazing in bed, can I ask why on earth you split with your girlfriend?"

I said, "My wife found out."

And then he said to me...wait for it...would you like a glass of alcohol-free wine?







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The judge turned to the woman and asked, 'I see you're divorcing your husband on the grounds that he is a slob and uncouth. Can you give me any examples of this?'

'Yes, your honour. Whenever we go out he always drinks tea with his pinkie sticking out.'

'But there's nothing wrong with that,' said the judge. 'It's considered good manners in some circles to drink tea with the little finger sticking out.'

'But I wasn't talking about fingers,' she replied accusingly.

“Nothing stays the same” is a saying that you hear often, and it is certainly the case in Charity World with HELP Vega Baja being no exception.



Brexit and corona virus restrictions both played a part, but the determination of the team has ensured that no requests for support have gone unattended and families and individuals have continued to be supported.

With several services being temporary closed until restrictions are lifted such as friendship centres, the team have been busy reviewing services and this week have been meeting up with people who are keen to join the charity as volunteers.

Michele Masson, President, said “when our welfare officer recently retired from her role, we took the opportunity to review the service we offered and decided to recruit a team of welfare assistants rather than one welfare officer. This has proved to be extremely successful. Five people have already committed to the team, each coming with a wealth of experience in different areas of care. With this knowledge we will be able to expand what we are able to offer from the welfare service. Support with the completion of attendance allowance and other benefit applications, mobility advice, counselling, befriending and so much more are all on the agenda. The team will be coordinated by a member of the elective committee and we

I never married because there  
was no need.

I have three pets at home  
which answers the same  
purpose as a husband.

I have a dog that growls every  
morning,  
a parrot that swears all  
afternoon, and a cat that comes  
home late at night.

Marie Corelli

are excited about the future and the improved service we will now be able to offer. One thing that will not change is that all our services will remain completely free whether you are a member of the charity or not.”

From their San Miguel Centre, the charity is also very keen to hear from anyone who is interested in becoming part of a Fundraising team. This is an extremely important part of the charity as funds are then channelled through to support families who are struggling. Due to Covid the charity took the decision not to hold any events over the past year but as the restrictions are lifted the charity is keen to start organising ways of bringing in much needed funds. “We need volunteers to work together to arrange events – quiz evenings, raffles, fairs, awareness events etc. We need someone who is happy to approach businesses and individuals to support the charity events. As with welfare, we hope to be able to build a team of enthusiastic volunteers who with the support of the elective committee will move this project forward”.

If you would like to find out more about the work HELP Vega Baja does within the community and how they support people or you would like to find out how you can be part of this enthusiastic group of volunteers, call Richard Garland on 966 723 733 or email [office@helpvegabaja.com](mailto:office@helpvegabaja.com)

HELP Vega Baja – helping people within the community for over 40 years!



### What happened during the Bubonic Plague in England.

Alcohol deaths in England and Wales in 2020 were the highest for 20 years. The Office for National Statistics recorded 7,423 deaths from alcohol misuse, a 19.6% increase compared with 2019. Although this is likely to have many complex causes, data from Public Health England suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic and its resulting lockdowns are at least partly responsible for the increase.

The Intoxicating Spaces project has been exploring how pandemics also influenced the use of intoxicants, including patterns of alcohol consumption, in the past. As part of this work, they have looked at how the successive bubonic plague outbreaks that gripped England, especially London, in the 17th century (1603, 1625, 1636 and 1665) wrought similar changes in people's drinking habits.

A 1665 London plague order, for example, identified "tippling in taverns, alehouses, coffee-houses, and cellars" as "the greatest occasion of dispersing the plague", and imposed a 9pm curfew.

The extent to which these regulations altered 17th-century people's relationship with alcohol is difficult to determine based on surviving information. However, anecdotal evidence suggests there might have been a comparable shift towards drinking at home.

In his classic 1722 meditation on the 1665 London outbreak *Due Preparations for the Plague*, Daniel Defoe told the story of a London grocer who voluntarily quarantined himself and his family in their home for the duration of the pandemic. Among the provisions he assembled were 12 hogsheads of beer (One hogshead is equal to 54 imperial gallons!); casks and rundlets containing four varieties of wine (canary, malmsey, sack and tent; 16 gallons of brandy; and "many sorts of distill'd waters" (spirits). According to Defoe, this impressive stockpile was not gratuitous but "necessary supplies". This is because, surprisingly from the perspective of today's public health messaging, in this period alcohol was thought to have had medicinal value and its moderate consumption during plague outbreaks was actively encouraged.

Contemporary doctors and medical writers believed alcohol worked as a plague

preventatives, in two main ways.

First, the consumption of beers, wines and spirits was believed to strengthen the body's key defensive organs of the brain, heart and liver.

They were especially beneficial when taken first thing in the morning, with many commentators recommending fortifying liquid plague breakfasts.

In his 1665 plague treatise, *Medela Pestilentiae*, minister and medical writer Richard Kephale claimed that it's good "to drink a pint of maligo [Malaga wine or port] in the morning against the infection". (He was also effusive on "the

inexpressible virtues of tobacco".)

Many recipes for the popular "preventati

ve" and

"cure" plague water invariably

contain wine and spirits, as

well as pharmaceutic

al herbs. Second, and perhaps more significantly, moderate drinking was believed to ward off those fearful mental states that induced melancholy (early modern terminology for depression), which was thought to make people more vulnerable to contracting the plague.

Excessive drinking to the point of drunkenness was still cautioned against, and "living with temperance upon a good generous diet" (in the words of one author) remained the baseline for most plague medicine.

In *A Journal of the Plague Year* – Defoe's other, more celebrated novel about the 1665 London outbreak – he tells the story of a physician who kept his "spirits always high and hot with cordials and wine". But "could not leave them off when the infection was quite gone, and so became a sot for all his life after".

(Abridged from

<https://theconversation.com/how-the-bubonic-plague-changed-drinking-habit>)



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*'Mabel, that milkman will have to go,' said the enraged husband.  
'He's so cheeky, he reckons he's slept with every woman on this street, except one.'  
'Oh, I know who that'll be,' replied his wife, 'it'll be that snooty bitch at No. 32.'*

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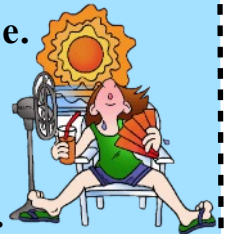
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## Lime Bar ~~Fishing~~ SUNBATHING Club

**Last month I waffled on too long and Mick had to shrink the text for it to fit. Sorry, I hope this month it is more legible for you old farts.**

There were a few missing from the last meeting including anti-social Baz (Chair) and me (Sec).

Thank you Just John and Sweeney for standing in and running an uneventful meeting. Towards the end, Just John was keen to get back to his beer, so he allowed about 5 seconds for Any Other Business. That's the way to do it!

Bigastro was chosen for the monthly match with the draw being carried out by the match committee on Thursday night. This stops the gathering of anglers on the bank, keeping us within the covid regulations.

Due to the recent rain, we knew that the undergrowth had shot up and started to close the tracks, so several of us turned up early with cutters to make sure that the all 14 pegs were clear and accessible. That Friday, the forecast was for 30°C and full sun so there was a healthy dollop of sun cream applied before the start. Conditions were perfect with a light breeze, the water had a good depth, colour and flow, and the carp were spawning in the reeds on the far bank. We were set for a cracking day.

Unfortunately, it was another one of those days at Bigastro when the fish refuse to turn up. They must be there but they would not feed. Most years, even when they are spawning, you still catch the fish that have already spawned or building up strength for another go! It was not for lack of trying, and between the 14 anglers we must have tried most baits and tactics in the book trying to entice a bite. To begin with I did not use ground bait as this sometimes puts the fish off, but after an hour without a bite I started feeding. I tried swim feeder, method feeder, trotting a float, laying on the bottom, big baits, paste, tiny hair rigged pellets, I struggled all day without a bite. With 30 minutes to go I was getting desperate and just wanted to get a bite, so in desperation I put 1 single pinkie on a size 18 hook. 1<sup>st</sup> drop in, I caught a tiny bleak and that was it. I couldn't even get the bleak going..... 6 hours for 1 bite and 0.06 kilo! With 14 anglers and 9 dry nets, we certainly lived up the "sunbathers" nickname!



The science of fishing is supposed to be simple.

The winner was Just John, drawn on peg 1 he caught 2 carp for 1.5 kilos, 2<sup>nd</sup> was 3 rods with 3 x bleak for 0.18 kilos, 3<sup>rd</sup> was Ball Boy with a miniscule barbel of 0.09 kilos just pipping Sweeney and me who had 1 bleak each. What a day, 8 x small fish between us all!

The summer knockout competition 1<sup>st</sup> round has been fished with Appy Bear, Ball Boy, Seadog, Ghost, Cheshire Cat, Sweeney, Fagin & 3 Rods getting through to the next round. I haven't had any results from round 2 yet, maybe they are all leaving it as long as possible to let the fish start feeding properly again. I am!

The next ~~meeting~~ bun fight is at **17.00** in The Lime Bar on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Stay safe  
Fishy fingers!  
The Ghost

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**PRICE MATCH GUARANTEE**



**Costa del Sol V the Costa Blanca - some agent’s opinions.**

Spanish Property Insight surveyed a number of industry insiders on why the Costa del Sol has recovered quicker than the Costa Blanca during early 2021 despite both regions suffering similar declines during 2020. One explained that the “Costa del Sol is less dependent on British clients than the Costa Blanca, and is also better connected in terms of flights to the rest of Europe. The upper-middle segment has suffered the least during this pandemic, and the Costa del Sol has a greater number of high-end properties for high-end clients.”

One insider who works both coasts said, “the Costa Blanca has been quiet in terms of transaction, though enquiries have held up, but on the Costa del Sol we have had far more viewing appointments, and the conversion rate has been double the normal rate, particularly the high end, the higher the better. Anything over a million, and particularly anything over three million, is selling very quickly. I’ve never seen anything like it in the last 20 years.” Another stated that “the Costa del Sol has residential tourism; people who come and go the whole year, as opposed to holiday tourism which I find more common on Costa Blanca.”

Another felt that the buyers on the Costa del Sol in their experience are now mainly Swedish, Finish, Dutch & Belgian buying because they get no interest on their money in the bank. Yet another insider believes that it’s only the top quartile in terms of property prices that have had significant interest and movement in the Costa del Sol. Big Villas are selling but the bottom half, 2 bed 2 bath apartments much less so and remained very stagnant in sales turnover and price movement.

Okay, I am fully aware that agents, like car salesmen, can and will, always ‘talk-up’ their area, but I was surprised that none of those interviewed mentioned the effect Brexit is having on the British buyers during the last quarter. This should become evident soon when the stat’s on foreign buyers are revealed, Brit’s previously being the largest sector of the foreign buyers in Spain.

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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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A husband and wife went to Manchester for the day. He had a meeting in the morning and she went off to do some shopping. Now the meeting finished much earlier than expected so the man went off into the centre of town and landed up in the 'better part' of the red light district. As he was passing one of the 'ladies' flats, a beautiful hooker came out and before he knew what he was doing, he asked her how much she charged a session. The hooker looked at him disdainfully in his Liverpool shirt and told him it would be £200.

'Bloody hell, that's daylight robbery,' he exclaimed, 'I've only got £30,' and feeling very disappointed he left to meet his wife for lunch.

Just as the meal was over, the same hooker and a client entered the restaurant and on seeing the man and his wife she whispered to him as she passed.

'I hope that's taught you a lesson, that's what you get for £30!'



*Herd Mentality.*

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