

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER



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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the July, 2021 edition. Issue No.166

There are now many more holiday-makers and second-home owners arriving locally. The influx from other EU countries is also noticeable although we should take some comfort in the knowledge that the EU Covid Passport has now been successfully launched. Spain has already issued more than one million digital **Covid passports**. The European Union significantly ramped up its vaccination program in May, with daily doses administered peaking at around 4 million during June — well above the daily amount currently being administered by the United States.

Looking at our region, Valencia, as at June 21, 52.1% have received a **first dose** of a vaccine while 31.1% have received both doses.

Health lags behind in vaccination of the 40-49 age group. The Ministry has only immunized 44% of the population in this age group, while the national average stands at almost 59%.

The **Russian Sputnik Light** vaccine has just now been approved by Spain and 2.5 million doses being available by the end of June. No idea who will get it....or wants it!

The local uptake of the **TIE** residency card has hit a major hurdle. The ability to organize and collect the card locally in either Torrevieja or Elche has now been withdrawn, applicants having to now travel to Alicante. When a Torrevieja official was asked 'Why?', they answered that they totally underestimated the number of foreigners who would be applying and that they would have to pay the police overtime for the fingerprinting etc., while contracted staff in Alicante didn't have enough to do! The mind boggles! As usual, Orihuela are doing nothing! As always it has been a case of 'Thank you for your money, but if you have a problem – bugger off!'

One local Vega Baja charity has jumped into the ring by walking British TIE applicants through the process - **for free!**

The EU has donated a million and a half kilos of food to the province of Alicante to help feed the **89,000 people who are in need**.

Many thanks to Dave & Justine, Ellen & David, for their kind donations.

Keep well and safe,

Mick, Tid & the Dream Scene Team

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“If you can finish the entire 60-ounce steak, we’ll put your name on a special plaque next to the defibrillator.”

The Pope was due to give a broadcast on contraception today but pulled out at the last minute.



Late May saw a **partial collapse** to the promenade wall at Punta Prima. It is believed that the damage was caused by the recent heavy rainfall, no doubt complimented by shoddy workmanship. Fortunately, no one was hurt but it has highlighted a certain tardiness of the various local authorities when it comes to repairs.

The photo below shows **damage at the promenade** of La Caleta beach, in Cabo Roig.



This sinkhole happened in September 2019 and has still not been repaired or made safe. The current positioning of the acrows is scarcely reassuring! There has also been a landslide at the cliff by Aquamarina beach.

Meanwhile, the various authorities are blaming each other for the delays in repairs - the Orihuela City Council, the Generalitat, the Provincial Coastal Service of the Ministry for the Ecological Transition, the Department of Infrastructures and the company responsible for the the maintenance and repair of roads and public spaces, the latter arguing that it is not 'in their competence.'

A 60-year-old **woman drowned** in an unnamed Orihuela Costa urbanisation pool on

Sunday, June 6, at around 9:30 p.m. A 62-year-old **man drowned** off the beach at La Mata, Torrevieja, at around 8.30pm on June 24.

An 81-year-old woman, Lucia, in Torrevieja was **murdered by her 40-year-old son** with a baseball bat during early March 2020. He then tried to disguise it as an accident by dropping a large wardrobe on top of her. At the time he had a restraining order saying that he shouldn't be within 300 metres of her. He previously had two more convictions for violating his mother's other restraining orders. The prosecutor has asked for permanent prison for the jerk and requested that the defendant compensate Lucia's two brothers with 10,000 euros. The latter will never happen!

More than 100 of this type of **clothing collection bins** have been removed from the streets of the province of Alicante as they have not been licensed and are in unfair competition with the Project Lázaro, the only entity that has municipal permission to collect used clothing.



Surprisingly, the **cruise season** has already returned to local waters with the German ship 'Mein Schiff 2' (photo) docking



in Alicante after arriving from Palma de Mallorca with 868 tourists on board, mostly of German nationality. After lifting

restrictions due to the covid, the forecast is that until the end of the year about thirty cruise ships will stop in Alicante with an average capacity of 2,000 passengers per ship.

The mayor of Orihuela, **Emilio Bascuñana**, holds that the Administration is responsible for not finding a trace of the work that he allegedly carried out for years as a Health advisor and for which he collected more than 200,000 euros from the public coffers, according to the complaint lodged. Bascunana claims the advice he gave was 'verbal' during the period 2007 to 2011. Of course it was, Emilio!

A gang of thieves have broken into and **robbed three** optician branches of the Óptica Óptima group in Rojales, San Fulgencio and Santa Pola since last February and has seized glasses worth close to 100,000 euros.



Optica Optima have 20 points of sale in Alicante and Murcia. The Rojales and San Fulgencio outlets were both robbed within two days of each other in the early hours of the morning. The thieves seized the most valuable glasses and cash from the tills.

Torre Vieja will stage its first **Crazy Urban Festival** this summer with a packed program of live music with performances by urban musicians and DJ's from across Spain, sporting, leisure and gastronomy events along with street art and more. The Crazy Urban Festival will run from July 31 to August 14. As anti-Covid measures are relaxed across the Valencia region, the aim of the festival is to offer "residents and tourists a summer of indoor and outdoor activities to once again enjoy the experience of live music and controlled leisure activities".

Rock singer **Bonnie Tyler** is touring and will stop-off in in Torre Vieja, in the Parque Antonio Soria on Avenida Delfina Viudes in Torre Vieja, on July 17. Another concert is planned for Murcia on August 28, performing at the Los Alcázares polideportivo municipal. Tickets are available online through the ticket sales platform www.giglon.com, at www.produccionesinternacionales.com and in person at La Zona Terrazza in Los Narejos (Los Alcázares for the Murcia date).

The coast of Torre Vieja, to the east of the town, has registered an **earthquake of 1.9** magnitude on the Richter scale on Friday, June 4, as reported by the National Geographic Institute. The earthquake occurred at 9:33 am east of the Torre Vieja coast, at a depth of 15,000 metres.

I asked the barmaid for a quickie.

*The man next to me said,
'It's pronounced quiche.'*

Luigi Amaduzzi, Italian Ambassador

The antivirus software entrepreneur **John McAfee** has been found dead in his jail cell near Barcelona in Spain from an apparent suicide, hours after the country's highest court approved his extradition to the United States, where he was wanted on tax-related criminal charges that carry a prison sentence of up to 30 years. Tennessee prosecutors had charged McAfee with evading taxes after failing to report income made from promoting cryptocurrencies while he did consultancy work, as well as income from speaking engagements and selling the rights to his life story for a documentary.

Many Brit's **have not exchanged their British driving licences or registered** their intention to exchange for a Spanish one before December 31, 2020. This will mean that they will now be limited to driving in Spain for just six months, even if they are resident here. To obtain the Spanish one, they will now have to pass the Spanish driving test - both theory and practical.

But matters have become a **little easier now in France**. The British embassy in Paris announced on June 24 that an agreement had been reached between the two governments under which France would recognise UK driving licences issued before 1 January 2021 for as long as they were valid. British licences that have expired or are about to expire will be eligible for exchange under a new system expected to go live within the next few weeks, with an official "certificate of exchange" serving as a French licence until the new one arrives.

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Two women called at my door and asked what bread I ate, when I said 'white' they gave me a lecture on the benefits of brown bread for 30 minutes.. I think they were those J Hovis Witnesses."

EU Recovery Grants: Spain's plan for recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic and transformation into a greener and more digitalised economy got European Commission approval on June 16, the second such green light in the 27-nation EU after Portugal. As one of the main beneficiaries of a 750 billion euro (\$908 billion) European Union recovery scheme, Spain will get 69.5 billion euros in grants until 2026 to help revive its tourism-dependent economy, which has been hit hard by the crisis. Spain will get the first 9 billion euros in pre-financing once EU finance ministers sign off on the plan in July. "This is a historic day for Spain... it means a new understanding of Europe," Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez told reporters, standing next to Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who called the plan "ambitious and far-sighted". "The plan was designed here in Spain and will promote growth here in Spain," she said.

A 10 billion euro tranche should be released by December once Spain meets milestones such as progress on reforms, followed by a further 12 billion euros in June 2022.

Partly boosted by the plan, which has suffered delays, the government in Madrid expects Spanish growth to reach 6.5% this year, after a record 10.8% slump last year.

Envisaging a total of 110 large investment projects, the plan also involves important reforms, notably of the pension system and labour market.

Spain's plan devotes 40% of its total to fight climate change, including the promotion of urban and long-distance sustainable transport, better energy efficiency of buildings, decarbonisation of industry and new technologies for green hydrogen and renewables.

*Happiness? A good cigar, a good meal
and a good woman.....
or a bad woman; it depends on how
much happiness you can handle.
George Burns*

Europe's second-largest car producer hopes to use part of the money to start making electric car batteries in partnership with private investors and boost electric vehicle output. Another 28% of the funding is earmarked for digitalising public administration, industry and business and investments in digital equipment for education and training. (Reuters.)

Banks: In the latest survey carried out by the Union of Consumers of the Valencian Community, half of consumers have thought about changing their bank within the last six months. The increase in bank commissions and the decrease in service due to the closure of hundreds of branches nationally, reduced opening hours and difficulty with access to appointments now more difficult due to Covid-19, being the main causes of dissatisfaction.

54.2% were most unhappy about the opening hours with only 16.8% reporting that the bank service had improved.

93.9% of people surveyed reported they used internet banking whenever possible and 32.8% of consumers state that it has been more than a year since they had visited their bank, with 30.5% declaring that it has been less than a month since they visited their bank.

54.2% of the people surveyed declare that they are a customer of one bank, compared to 45.8% who have an account or bank products in two, three or even four banks.



"And now, sadly for both of us,
I have to invade your personal
space."



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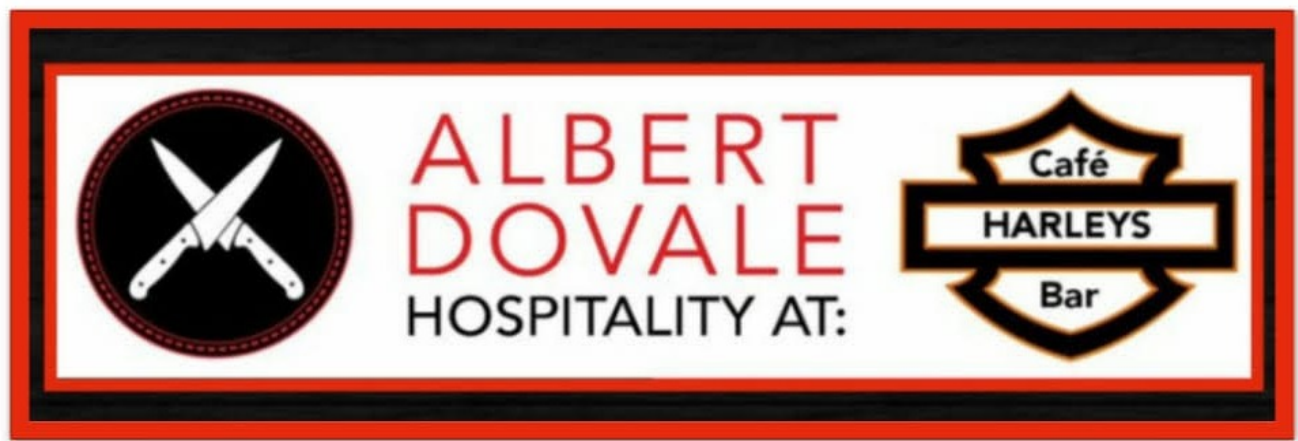
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I got talking to a chap at the Post Office the other day. When I asked him what he did for a living, he told me he prepared meals for the homeless, druggies, drunkards, and general low-life's.

I said "That's really good of you who is that for - the Salvation Army?"

He said "No, I work as a chef at Wetherspoons".



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Foreign Buyers of Property In Spain Quarter 1, 2021

Figures relating to foreign demand for property in Spain during quarter 1 of 2021 are finally available. There were 12,561 Spanish home sales involving a foreign buyer in the first quarter, down 17.8% compared to Q1 2020, according to the latest data from the Association of Spanish Land Registrars. That's about 3,000 fewer home sales, and something like €450m of lost foreign investment.

However, purchases by Spaniards recovered nicely, Spaniards purchasing 116,667 of the homes in the first quarter, up 4.1% on Q1 last year.

The key European second-home markets of Germany, France, the UK, and Holland, were all down around 20% on quarter 1, 2020, whilst Sweden and Belgium proved more resilient with declines of 11% and 5%.

The British remain the biggest foreign group of buyers with 1,521 purchases during Q1, 2021, but this figure is declining due to Covid restrictions, Brexit and of course higher Spanish taxation. It is fair to say that the trends relating to British buyers might be more relevant and easier to analyse over a longer period.

In recent years, foreign demand peaked in Q2 2018 with 17,338 sales, and then went into gradual decline before plunging with Covid in Q2 2020.

Sales figures for foreign buyers during Quarter 1 are as follows for the main buyers: UK 1,521; France 1,031; Germany 894; Belgium 810; Italy 608; Sweden 600; Holland 381, while both Russia and China had big falls to 284 and 255 respectively.



Rare Blood Clots from Certain Vaccines Explained.

German scientists believe that they have discovered the cause of the rare blood clots appearing in some people who received the Oxford-AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson coronavirus vaccines, according to a non-peer-reviewed study posted online.

The extremely rare but potentially deadly blood clot disorders in immunized individuals prompted several European nations and the United States to pause or scrap the use of the two coronavirus vaccines earlier this year. The pauses have been lifted.

The scientists say that lab research shows that coronavirus vaccines that use adenovirus vectors — or common cold viruses to transfer the vaccine's components — also transmit some of the material into the nucleus of the cell, a suboptimal place for the virus to make proteins.

The substandard proteins, some of which appear to split apart inside the body, can then provoke rare blood clots events in a small number of vaccinated individuals, according to the researchers.

Russia's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine also uses an adenovirus vector.

The preprint paper, funded by the Corona Task Force at the Goethe-University Frankfurt, says that coronavirus vaccines using mRNA technology, including Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, send the vaccine material to the cellular fluid rather than the nucleus cells, avoiding the conditions that trigger the blood disorders.

“All mRNA-based vaccines should represent safe products,” the paper said.

One of its authors, Rolf Marschalek, told the Financial Times newspaper that the vaccines can be tweaked to address the problem.

Johnson & Johnson “is trying to optimize its vaccine now,” Marschalek said. “With the data we have in our hands, we can tell the companies how to mutate these sequences, coding for the spike protein in a way that prevents unintended splice reactions.”

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After making love, I said to my girl: "Was it good for you too?"

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Gary Shandling



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11am - 5pm



A tragic, tragic

The authorities say that a body found inside a bag attached to an anchor on the sea bed three miles off the coast of Güímar in Tenerife is that of six-year-old Olivia, the older of two sisters who have been missing since 27 April.

Olivia and Anna Gimeno, photo, were reported missing after their father, Tomás, failed to take the two girls, aged six and one, home at the agreed time after spending the afternoon with



them. Their mother, Beatriz Zimmerman, called the police some hours later after reportedly receiving a phone call from her former partner stating that she would never see him or their daughters again.

The hunt, now in its 60th+ day, began focusing on the sea almost immediately as cameras at Marina de Santa Cruz harbour had recorded Tomás carrying sports bags and luggage from his car to the boat that evening. He set sail shortly before 10 pm and returned to port at 11.30 pm, according to the recordings. Tomás then drove to a nearby petrol station and bought a phone charger, which he used to charge up his mobile at the watchman's booth in the marina before making the call to his ex.

The boat set sail again at half-past midnight and was

found abandoned and drifting off the coast of Puertito de Güímar the next day with its anchor missing.

The missing anchor was the clue that led police to suspect from the start, after declaring the case a 'high-risk' one, that the girls had been killed and their bodies disposed of at sea. The appearance of one of the girls' car seats floating in the water and signs of blood on the abandoned boat in the following days made them even more certain that they were on the right track, while the girls' mother and her family continued to hope that their father had taken them abroad and was in hiding.

A specialized oceanographic vessel, the *Ángeles Albariño*, equipped with sonars and an underwater search robot, was sent from Vigo to join the hunt, and on Monday (7 June) it found an oxygen tank and a quilt that belonged to Gimeno on the sea bed a thousand metres below the surface. It continued to comb the area, and on Thursday it located the anchor and two sports bags, one of which contained a body. The authorities said in the evening after the body had been brought to shore and taken to the Forensic Anatomical Institute in La Laguna that it 'almost certainly' belonged to Olivia, the older of the two sisters.

The second bag found was empty, and will be carefully examined for clues as searches continue for Anna and Tomás.

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Some friends of an old gent in Los Altos decided to get him something special for his birthday so they bought him a hooker. She went to his villa and knocked on the door. Upon opening it she said "Hi, I am your birthday present." He responded, "What am I supposed to do with you?" "I am yours for super sex", she answers. He replies: "Well I am 90 years old so I think I will take the soup."

A block of cheese proved to be the undoing of a man involved in a massive drugs conspiracy. Carl Stewart, 39, of Gem Street, Vauxhall, Liverpool, used the EncroChat encryption service in a bid to evade detection, adopting the handle "Toffeeforce" to cover his tracks as he



supplied large amounts of class A and B drugs. But after the encryption device was busted by law enforcement agencies, Stewart was identified after sharing an image of a block of Stilton cheese in the palm of his hand, from which his fingerprints were analysed, photo.

He pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply cocaine, conspiracy to supply heroin, conspiracy to supply MDMA, conspiracy to supply ketamine and transferring criminal property. He has now been jailed for 13 years and six months.....all because he loves Stilton! He'll get none in the pokey!

A woman in California accidentally left her lottery ticket in her jeans and then put them in the washing machine. The ticket was destroyed but the number won \$26 million in the lottery. Although there is video footage of the purchase, California Lottery officials say it is not enough to verify the woman's claim. Officials need a picture of the front and back of the ticket in order to allow a person to win without the physical ticket. \$19.7 million will go to California public schools if the woman's claim can't be verified. The winner of the lottery would have received \$26 million in annual instalments or \$19.7 million in cash. A \$130,000 bonus will also be given to the store that sold the ticket.

The Argentinian news channel Canal 26 reported that William Shakespeare, "one of the most important writers in the English language", had died last week, months after receiving the Covid vaccine. Newsreader Noelia Novillo confused the Bard, who died in 1616, with William "Bill" Shakespeare, an 81-year-old from Warwickshire who was the world's

second person to get the Pfizer vaccine, and had died of a stroke. "We've got news that has stunned all of us, given the greatness of this man," said Novillo, hailing him as the "master". She later said she had "expressed myself badly". Photo of all three below. See if you can identify them but do not attempt this if you are blond.



A £5.5 billion programme to deliver 589 light tanks to the British army appears to be "unachievable", a leaked government report discloses. The project is facing "major issues" that limit the amount of time the crew can spend in the vehicle, the paper says. As it stands, the crew (units of the Household Cavalry) testing the vehicle is operating under "stringent limitations of use", which means that soldiers' time inside is limited to 90 minutes and the tanks cannot exceed 20mph. Troops have suffered hearing damage and become ill after testing. Design flaws in the tanks, made by General Dynamics in Merthyr Tydfil, south Wales, means that excessive vibration has prevented the cannon being fired on the move.

The army chose the light tank in 2010. A contract signed four years later required the first vehicles to be delivered in 2017 but the programme hit delays.



The vehicles, photo, have cost £3.2 billion so far despite only 14 being delivered — all without a turret and of odd sizes. Supposed to be a light tank, the vehicle's weight had ballooned to 42 tonnes after many redesigns. It was now heavier than any tank during the Second World War.



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BREXIT AND YOUR PENSION

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

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I went to see my doctor this morning.

"How can I help you?" she asked.

"I found a lump while I was in the bath," I replied, pointing downwards.

"Oh right," she said, "Take your trousers down for me."

After having a good old feel of my 'jewels' for a few minutes, she said, "I can't feel a lump."

"I said, "It's on my toe."

The Club!

Yesterday my daughter e-mailed me again, asking why I didn't do something useful with my time.

"Like sitting around the pool and drinking wine & beer is not a good thing?" I asked.

Talking about my "doing-something-useful" seems to be her favourite topic of conversation. She was "only thinking of me", she said and suggested that I go down to the Senior Centre and hang out with the guys.

I did this and when I got home last night, I decided to play a prank on her.

I e-mailed her and told her that I had joined a Parachute Club.

She replied, "Are you nuts? You are 78 years old and now you're going to start jumping out of airplanes?"

I told her that I even got a Membership Card and e-mailed a copy to her.

She immediately telephoned me and yelled, "Good grief, Dad, where are your glasses?! This is a Membership to a Prostitute Club, not a Parachute Club."

"Oh man, I'm in trouble again," I said, "I really don't know what to do. I signed up for five jumps a week!!"

The line went quiet and her friend picked up the phone and said that my daughter had fainted. Life as an 'Old'un' is not getting any easier, but sometimes it can be fun.

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The Scottish verdict 'not proven' means, 'guilty but don't do it again'.

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IMERSO: Hoteliers assure that the Imerso assisted holidays for old folk will not be until October at least as the Government has stopped it for the present.

Although the government announced in February of its intention to restart it in September, but the statement has not yet been published in the BOE and the process needs at least six months of processing - the hotel sector accuses the Executive of PM Pedro Sánchez of "irresponsible passivity."

VALENCIANA COMMUNITY TRAVEL BONUS PROGRAM:

Twelve autonomous communities in Spain are offering their residents - and in some cases people from other parts of Spain- holiday vouchers worth hundreds of euros as an incentive for them to spend their holidays **in their part of the country.**

The Valencian government pays for 70% of tourism costs for registered residents (padrón in Alicante, Valencia or Castellón provinces) if they have a staycation in the region. It covers accommodation costs and other hotel services but not alcohol or pay-per-view TV.

The next available holiday bonus period in the eastern region runs from September 15th to December 31st 2021, and budding holidaymakers have to register between September 15th and November 1st to gain access to this offer.

The details and registration form can be found here - https://www.gva.es/es/inicio/procedimientos?id_proc=21266

It is a very informative website with detailed instructions which is easily translated by Google Translate.

It is not restricted to older people and is open to all 'of age.' You just need your *padron*.



AS CEO, LES WAS FORCED TO RE-THINK HIS COMPANY'S WHOLE "GOING PAPERLESS" MOVEMENT.

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We speak your language!

Your Immune System

Since the start of the pandemic, there's been plenty of talk about how we can make sure our immune system is working at its best – which has led people to try everything from taking vitamin supplements and exercising regularly to buying viral “cures” peddled online. But it turns out that one of the most significant factors in how well our immune system works is what time of day it is.

This is because our immune system is controlled by our body clock, which determines where our immune cells are in our body at different times of the day. These cells migrate around the body throughout the day, moving to our lymph nodes as we sleep to learn about what pathogens we encountered while we were awake. This field of research is still emerging but it does look like time of day can have a big impact on many aspects of immune function — from how effective our medications will be, to the severity of an infection and even how well vaccines work.

The following link will surprise you.
<https://theconversation.com/how-well-your-immune-system-works-can-depend-on-the-time-of-day-161930>

A 2016 randomised trial of over 250 adults aged 65 and older showed having the influenza vaccine in the morning (between 9am and 11am) resulted in a greater antibody response compared to those vaccinated in the afternoon (between 3pm and 5pm).

More recently, people in their mid-twenties who were immunised with the BCG (tuberculosis) vaccine between 8am and 9am had an enhanced immune response compared to those vaccinated between noon and 1pm. So for certain vaccines, there's evidence that early morning vaccination may provide a more robust response.

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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.**

A soldier requested a two-day leave, as he was to become a father in the near future.

When he returned to the base, a sergeant asked, 'Was it a boy or girl?'

'I don't know yet,' the soldier said. 'I'll let you know in about nine months.'

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Swallowed by a Dinosaur!

Police in Catalonia are investigating the death of a man who is thought to have **become trapped inside a large dinosaur statue** while trying to retrieve his mobile phone.

Officers were called to the statue in Santa Coloma de Gramenet, a satellite town of Barcelona, after a man and his son noticed something inside the papier-mache stegosaurus on a Saturday afternoon. A spokeswoman for the regional police force, the Mossos d'Esquadra, said the death of the 39-year-old man was not being treated as suspicious. "A father and son noticed that there was something inside and raised the alarm," she said.

"We found the body of a man inside the leg of this dinosaur statue. It's an accidental death; there was no violence. This person got inside the statue's leg and got trapped. It looks as though he was trying to retrieve a mobile phone, which he'd dropped. It looks like he entered the statue head first and couldn't get out. The spokeswoman said officers had called in firefighters to help cut into the statue so the body of the man could be removed. We're still waiting for the autopsy results, so we don't know how long he was in there, but it seems he was there for a couple of days," she added. According to local media, the dead man had been reported missing by his family a few hours before his body was discovered.



George got an email from his neighbour - "George, I have a confession, for several months now I have been using your wife. I do feel very guilty, but yours is so much better than mine.

But I am going to stop doing it now, and hope you will forgive me."

George was a bit taken aback, and started to consider his options.

Then he got another email - "Bloody spell checker, should have said wifi."

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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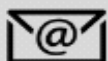
Attendance
Allowance



*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

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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NEW ELECTRICITY CHARGES

Among much ballyhoo and kerfuffle, a change in electricity rates went into effect on June 1 in Spain, one that could see consumers save on their bills, according to the competition watchdog CNMC.

However, consumer organizations have denounced that the measures could hit the most vulnerable households with extra costs. And depending on what kind of contract the consumer had with the various companies until now, the monthly bill could actually increase by as much as 27%, according to these groups.

The new electricity bill

From June 1, the price of power will vary according to the time of day.

Off Peak Lowest Price: Monday - Friday
12am - 8am. All weekend and National holiday
hours also off peak! 22 cents per unit.

Medium Rate Intermediate Price: 8am -
10am; 2pm - 6pm & 10pm - 12am. 28 cents
per unit.

Peak Time Highest Price: 10am - 2pm, 6pm -
10pm. 47 cents per unit. This is 40% higher

than the previous peak rate!

But according to the Organization of Consumers and Users (OCU), the distribution of charges is likely to excessively penalize the smaller consumer and benefit the larger ones. According to the OCU, while the price rise due to the new system could be expected to come in at 8.5% for some households, it could be as high as 27.3% for others depending on the supplier. "Despite the fact that the changes only affect the regulated components of the bill, the majority of sellers that have communicated their rates for new customers are applying much higher hikes than expected, and existing customers still don't know the surprises that their company has in store for them," said the OCU. The organization points out that rises above the regulated hikes cannot be applied if there has been no prior warning.

So, check your bills.....if you get one and complain about any surprising bill increases! If you live in a block of flats and everyone decides to use their washing machines at weekends, the noise will be.....!

PARDONS!

The Spanish Prime Minister has pardoned nine former Catalan independence leaders convicted over their part in the illegal referendum and diversion of public funds almost four years ago.

A recent national poll for El Mundo found that 61% did not agree with the pardons, while 29.5% backed them. Announcing the partial, and bitterly controversial, pardons on Tuesday, June 22, PM Pedro Sánchez said the decision had been taken in the interests of national unity and social cohesion.

Spain's supreme court issued a non-binding report opposing the pardons last month, saying the jail sentences for sedition & embezzlement of between nine and 13 years handed to nine of the 12 independence leaders were appropriate and noting those convicted had not shown **“the slightest evidence or faintest hint of contrition”**.

The prime minister's decision did not go down well with his political rivals, who accuse him of hypocrisy and of selling out to the pro-independence Catalan Republican Left (ERC) party **on whom his minority government depends** for support in parliament.

“During the [election] debate in 2019, I asked Sánchez several times whether he was going to pardon the prisoners and strike a deal with them,” Pablo Casado, the leader of the conservative People's party (PP), wrote on Twitter. “He denied it and promised to make holding illegal referendums a crime ... He lied to Spaniards and he will have to answer at the ballot box.” The PP and other opposition parties have already said they plan to appeal against the pardons.

Vox, a far-right party, was the so-called ‘popular prosecutor’ in the original trial of the Catalan independence leaders, a mechanism in Spain which allows **any citizen or**

organisation to be an accuser in court alongside public prosecutors. After the original trial, the far-right group expressed disappointment with the verdict, claiming the sentences were not harsh enough. Vox had asked that the Catalan leaders be jailed for rebellion rather than the lesser crime of sedition – and had called for 74 years in jail for Oriol Junqueras. He finally received a sentence of 13 years.

According to the Official State Gazette, since 1996 a total of 10,652 ‘pardons’ granted in Spain. These are just two examples.

The former Minister of the Interior of the PSOE, José Barrionuevo, and the former Secretary of State for Security, Rafael Vera, were pardoned in December 1998. Barrionuevo, Vera and eight other charges were convicted of the kidnapping of the Spanish-French citizen

Segundo Marey, whom they confused with a leader of the terrorist group ETA, in which it was the first action claimed by the GAL*. Barrionuevo and Vera were sentenced to 10 years in prison and 12 years of disqualification but the PP Government of José María Aznar facilitated their release from prison and they served only three months behind bars.

Former General Alfonso Armada was one of the main participants in the coup d'état of 23-F, 1981. In 1983 the Supreme Court sentenced him to 30 years in prison for military rebellion, but five years later, in 1988, the Socialist Government of Felipe González pardoned him. He suffered a cerebral embolism and heart disease and was released.

(GAL* were death squads established illegally by officials of the Spanish government to fight ETA, the principal Basque separatist militant group.)

A fag and a natter.

Two old ladies were sitting outside their nursing home having a smoke, when it started to rain. One of the ladies pulled out a condom, cut off the end, put it over her cigarette, and continued smoking. Lady 1: "Genius. What's that?" Lady 2: "A condom." Lady 1: "Where'd you get it?" Lady 2: "You can get them at any pharmacy."

The next day, the first lady hobbled into the local pharmacy and announced to the pharmacist that she wanted to buy a package of condoms.

The guy looked at her kind of strangely (she was, after all, in her 80s), but politely asked what size and brand she preferred.

"Doesn't matter," she replied, "as long as it fits a Camel."



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“What’s your IQ” St Peter asked the first man. “210.” “Maybe we can discuss the Theory of Relativity some time. Turning to the second man, “What’s your IQ?” “170.” “Maybe we can discuss quantum mechanics some time.” St Peter turned to the third man. “What’s your IQ?” “40.” “Wow,” says St Peter. “So how is Manchester United doing these days?”



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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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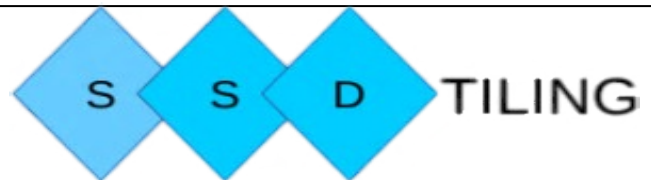
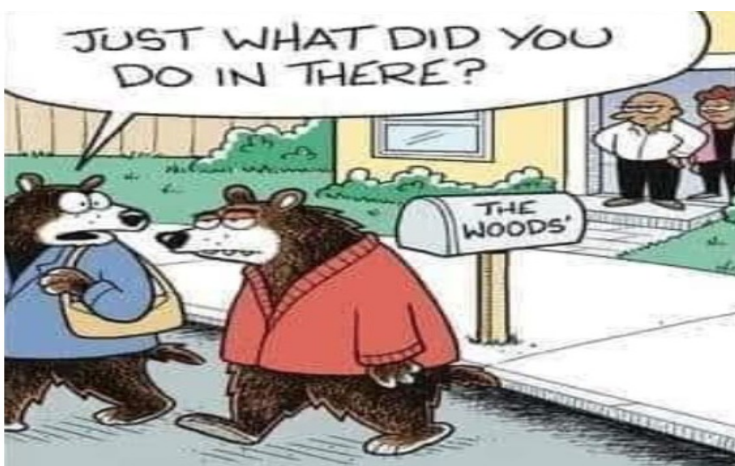
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German Sniper!

A pensioner says he is surprised to have been arrested after he saw a man urinating in the park opposite his flat and was so angry he shot him from out of his sixth-floor window.

The former gardener, named only as Kurt R, said he reached for his air rifle after becoming enraged at drunk and screaming men who sit on the park bench near his window in Sömmerda, Germany. He complained: "The police handcuffed me and knocked my cigarette out of my mouth. Now I have to go before a judge. I've worked all my life, even though I lost my left leg when I was four years old, when I went to the cemetery with my grandma, played around with a tombstone and it fell on my leg." He said of the park drinkers: "The whole block is complaining. But the police are no longer doing anything about it. So when one of the drunkards started peeing on the path the children take to school, I got my rifle, set my sights on him and shot him."



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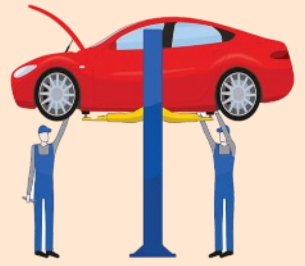
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There are three kinds of men. The ones that learn by reading. The few who learn by observation. The rest of them have to piss on the electric fence for themselves.

Will Rogers

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Secret Squirrel?

A rescued squirrel that acted as a security guard in a Turkish jewellers has been laid off after trying to bite its staff. Shop owner Mehmet Yuksel found the animal injured while walking through a forest in the south-eastern town of Diyarbakir and nursed it back to health while at work. Then he noticed how the squirrel, which he has christened Memocan, attacked a customer who was trying to take banknotes from his till and, later, when another tried to take gold chains from a display case. "At first, I thought this was a coincidence, but then I realized that it was not the case," Yuksel said.

Unfortunately, Memocan has since been stood down after becoming so protective of the cash register that several employees have been left with bloody fingers. However, Yuksel said the squirrel was "still calm" and will let itself be stroked by non-larcenous customers.

LOCKSMITH

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

UK travellers have been able to visit Spain since **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.msrebs.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.

Spain has started to issue the EU Digital Covid Certificate to all citizens in Spain who apply for it, becoming one of the first European countries capable of issuing and recognising the certificate. It is 20 days earlier than when it becomes mandatory – set for 1 July. (I printed mine n June 13.)

EU Certificates can be issued and used in all EU Member States to facilitate free movement during the Covid-19 pandemic. All EU citizens and their family members, as well as non-EU nationals legally staying or residing in the Member States and who have the right to travel to other Member States, would be eligible to receive such certificates free of charge.

The certificates will verify three situations - vaccination, recovery and negative results of a diagnostic test.

The key features of the certificate are:

- Digital and/or paper format
- with QR code
- free of charge
- in national language and English
- safe and secure
- valid in all EU countries

(You will need your SIP card details to hand.)

You can download your certificate from here- <http://coronavirus.san.gva.es/es/certificado-digital-ue>

While going through the download process, a verification code will be sent to the mobile phone you have already registered with the *Salud*. Many have changed their phone number and have not advised the *Salud*.

Without this certificate, it will still be possible to travel within the EU in compliance with the health requirements, but the process of entering the country will be slower and additional measures, such as testing and quarantine, may be put in place. It will not be a pre-condition to free movement, which is a fundamental right in the EU.

The European Commission has built a gateway through which all certificate signatures can be verified across the EU. The personal data of the certificate holder does not pass through the gateway, as this is not necessary to verify the digital signature. The European Commission also helped Member States to develop national software and apps to issue, store and verify certificates and supported them in the necessary tests to on-board the gateway.



On the train.

Last time I went Intercity there was a couple across the aisle having sex. Of course this being a British train, nobody said anything. When they's finished, they both lit up a cigarette and this woman stood up and said, "Excuse me, I think you'll find this is a non-smoking compartment."

On a train, why do I always end up sitting next to the woman who's eating the individual fruit pie by sucking the filling out through the hole in the middle?

Victoria Wood

I hate housework. You make the beds, you do the dishes
- and six months later you have to start all over again.

Joan Rivers

A Certificate, not a Covid Passport!

Whereas an EU vaccination passport has now been 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 jobs.

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

**How to get your Covid Passport
See Page 31**

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/>

Living here but no job?

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 job will depend on your age, over 40's/50's at the moment getting theirs.

*People with no vices
usually have some pretty
annoying virtues.
Liz Taylor*



"It was my late grandmother's.
She would've wanted you to have it."



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

f Rocamer Funeral Service

A tramp goes into the ironmongers, walks up to the counter and says "Gissa bottle o' meths."
"Be off with you, you'll drink it!"
"Shan't," says the tramp, "Go on please." "I told you, you can't have it 'cos you'll drink it!"
"Promise I won't," says the tramp.
"OK, OK - here you go, 85p," says the ironmonger.
"Any chance of one from the fridge?"

HELP Vega Baja expands its help to the community.....



This week HELP Vega Baja introduced their new Welfare Team.

Following a request for volunteers, a team of 6 new volunteers were appointed. President of the charity, Michele Masson said “the new Welfare Team provides a far greater opportunity to support people who are struggling with welfare related needs. Not only do we now have people who have experience with benefit applications such as attendance allowance, we have a team that has vast experience in other areas. For example, we have a qualified OT with experience working alongside patients with dementia and alzheimers. Sonia can be called upon to offer general advice and make recommendations for example on mobility aids, adaptations in the home etc.

Similarly, the team will be able to call upon others in the team plus of course the practical support that HELP Vega Baja is renowned for.

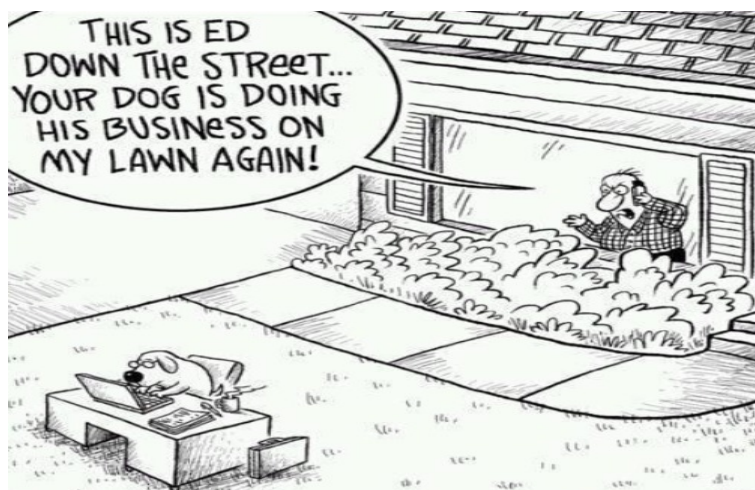
With experienced listeners on-board we are also able to offer emotional support. Several members of the team have experience volunteering with UK Samaritans, and counselling. We are also very aware of the support needed for carers and we have several projects in mind which we believe will support this group of people, many of whom struggle daily. We would like to remind people that all our services are offered completely FREE.

Following the success setting up the Welfare Team the charity is now looking to recruit a fundraising team. Working together it is hoped that fundraising can start once again. “We very much appreciate the support we receive in our charity shop and at the various market stalls we attend but we need to raise funds with events, raffles and other fundraising opportunities. If anyone is interested in becoming part of this new team, please do get in touch,” said Michele.



Based at their San Miguel Centre, the Welfare Team coordinated by a member of the Elective Committee, are ready to meet people and can be contacted by calling 966 723 733, WhatsApp on 634 313 325, email office@helpvegabaja.com or simply by sending a message via the charity Facebook page.

For more information about Help Vega Baja and volunteering with the charity, visit their website at www.helpvegabaja.com or get in touch using the contact details above.



Two North Koreans were standing for hours in a queue for bread. Eventually one said: ‘I’ve had enough of these queues. I’m going to shoot Kim Jong-Un.’

Three hours later he returned and silently went back to his place in the queue.

‘Well?’ asked his friend.

‘Not a chance. The queue was twice as long as this one!’

WHAT IS BIZUM?

Bizum is a Spanish mobile service that allows users to send an amount of money that usually ranges between 50 cents and €500 per operation, just by knowing the recipient's phone number,

It's a free app service which was launched by Spain's main banks in 2016 as a way of competing with other mobile payment services such as Apple Pay, Google Pay, Samsung Pay, Paypal and others.

One of Bizum's main advantages is that the sender doesn't have to type out the long IBAN and other account details that come with regular money transfers.

There's also the fact that the recipient receives the money immediately for free, whereas other immediate banking transfers often come with a price tag.

It's also possible to request money from another person through Bizum.



Nowadays if you meet up with Spanish friends and it comes to splitting the bill, you'll likely hear from at least one person, ¿Tienes Bizum? (Do you have Bizum?).

Others use it for regular payments, even to pay their rent or services such as Netflix and Spotify. It's fast, easy, free and according to a 2020 study by Caixabank Research, Bizum proved particularly useful during Spain's Covid-19 lockdowns when going out to withdraw money from an ATM wasn't always an option. Bizum is particularly popular among Spaniards aged 25 to 44, who make up 48% of users.

Many businesses and shops in Spain are now also allowing customers to pay through Bizum, so if you forget your wallet with your cards and cash in it, there's the possibility of paying immediately through your mobile.

All in all, Bizum is the go-to mobile payment service in Spain with more than 12 million users, so if you're based in Spain it may come in handy for you to have it activated too.

Bizum does not work as an independent application, so to register you must do so through your mobile banking app. It may be possible through the mobile banking app you have already or through a separate app your bank offers for quick mobile payments.

When you access Bizum, you'll have to sign-in to your banking app with your usual details and once in, you'll have to choose which account you want to link the Bizum service to (you can only have one associated account, although this can be changed).

Next up you'll need to select the person you're sending money to from your mobile's contact list or manually enter their phone number, type the amount to send and finally confirm the transaction by means of a code you'll get via SMS.

If the recipient has Bizum, the money appears in their account in just five seconds. If not, they will be prompted to sign up as it is necessary for the receiver of the money to have Bizum.

Bizum will let the sender know before the transaction occurs whether the recipient has Bizum.

If you want to request money instead of sending it, you also have to add the contact, the amount and the payment description. You then confirm the request and validate the operation with the code that you'll get via SMS.

From June 15th 2021, the number of Bizum payments that you can receive has been reduced to 60 per month. Only 0.07 percent of users received more than 60 bizums per month. The new rule only affects payments between individuals – companies will not be affected.

Currently, more than twenty banks in Spain include Bizum payments as an option among their services and it has almost tripled its users in just two years, going from six million in 2019 to 15 million this year. By the end of 2021, Bizum hopes to have reached 20 million users and have 18,000 online businesses that accept it.

America!

The men the American people admire most extravagantly are the most daring liars;
the men they detest most violently are those who try to tell them the truth. H.L. Mencken
We live in a country where John Lennon takes eight bullets. Yoko Ono is walking right beside him
and not one hits her. Explain that to me. Denis Leary

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LIVE WORLDWIDE RACING COVERAGE

'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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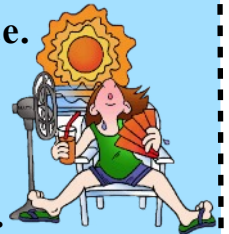


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Lime Bar ~~Fishing~~ SUNBATHING Club

What is going on with the weather this year! More sandy rain and thunderstorms! On the 23rd May in hammered down for 12 hours, it was like being back in the UK. As a result of that downpour, the Rio Segura breached its banks again turning the banks into a quagmire. A week later when we could get to the bank, the river was the lowest I have seen it, at least 4 feet below the bank! The weather seems to be confusing the fish too. 1 day they will be feeding like mad, the next you couldn't buy a bite.

In May, the KO results were as follows. 3 Rods beat Fagin by just 0.2kg (both landing 10 kilos), Appy Bear beat Ball Boy by 2 kg, Seadog beat Ghost by 2.5 kg and the grinning Cheshire Cat whopped Sweeney by 10 kg. They fished El Bosquet and the Cat executed a master class of method feeder tactics.

As Anti-Social (our chairman) is still on the sick list, Just John stood in for him again at the monthly meeting. It was another quick one with no arguments, where we sorted out the monthly match and the draw for the KO semi-finals which are: Appy Bear v 3 Rods and Seadog v Cheshire Cat.

El Bosquet was chosen for the monthly match with the draw again being carried out by the match committee on the night before. We fished pegs 1a through to 16, 1a to 7 are on the narrow canal and 8 to 16 are on the new extra wide canal. Fishing the wide canal's far bank with a pole is difficult and 3 Rods was cussing when he drew peg 14.... and just to rub salt in the wound, I drew peg 4 on the narrow canal. One of the professionals caught 60 kilos from peg 6 just 2 days before we were there, so I was really happy.

We had 17 anglers on the bank including Beat me Phil, this was the 1st time he had been out for ages so it was great to have him back. As per usual on our match days, the pegs you expect to do well didn't.

The guys drawn on the wide canal were catching carp right from the start, while the guys on the narrow canal were struggling for bites with just a few small mullet being caught. The Demon Nigel was in peg 3 (next to me), and didn't get a bite until he started eating his sandwiches at lunchtime (typical). As neither of us could get a bite in the margins, we started fishing down the middle, we then both caught fish for about 1 hour before they moved on and that was it. The weather was kind to us and we had no blanks, so well done all. Antique man only caught 1 fish but it did weigh 2.86 kilos.

Our thoughts go to Sweeney who was pegged in between Fagin and the Cheshire Cat, he struggled all day but the other 2 were catching all day from the start. You could hear their cheers of "encouragement" across the complex when he finally landed a fish.

The rod and reel men thrashed the pole men again with the Cat giving another demonstration of how to fish the method feeder. He won with a splendid 20.2 kilos, 2nd was BFC with 9.5 kilos and 3rd was 3 Rods with 9 kilos. Yet again 3 Rods beat Fagin by a whisker, 0.05 kg this time, which is equivalent to a big bleak! Your turn next month Fagin.

The KO semi-final results are in. 3 Rods & Appy Bear used the monthly match to fish their knockout.

Unfortunately, Appy wasn't, as he was drawn on the "favoured" narrow canal that did not fish well at all. He only caught 1 small carp to 3 Rod's 9 kilos.

The Cat and Seadog's semi was fished at the end of June, also at El Bosquet. See below.

We both picked our favourite pegs and fished facing each other. A great fishing day was had with both of us ahead during the match. We both lost loads of fish and caught a few. The result is as follows;

Seadog (peg 26) had 25 fish using a pellet feeder for 14.5 kilos.

Cheshire Cat (peg 16) had 23 fish using a sweetcorn feeder for 18.5 kilos.

Again, a great match where we both caught lots of fish.

Therefore, the KO final will be between 3 Rods and the Cheshire Cat. Well done to both of you and good luck.

The next ~~meeting~~ bun fight is at **17.00** in The Lime Bar on Tuesday 6th July.

Stay safe
Fishy fingers!
The Ghost

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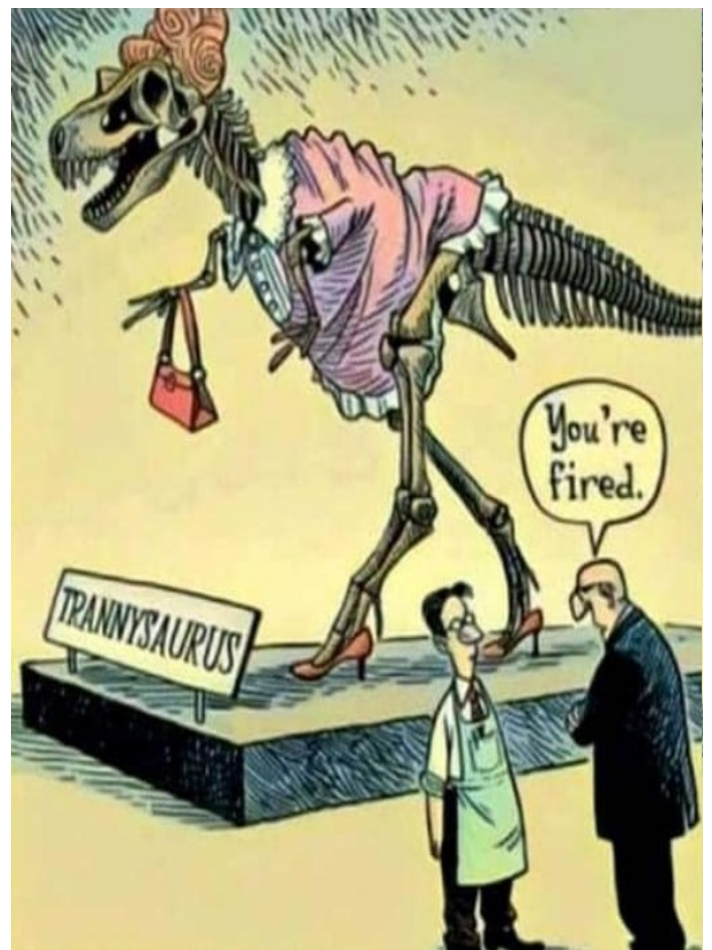
The EU Grant.

Back at the beginning of this century, a small town in Spain was twinned with a similar one in Greece and the mayor of the Greek town was invited to visit his Spanish counterpart. He did, and when he saw the lavish home of the Spanish mayor, he wondered aloud how his host could afford such a place.

“See that bridge over there?” the Spanish mayor asked. “Well, the EU gave us a grant to construct a two-lane bridge, but by building a single lane one with traffic lights at each end, I was then able to buy this place,” he said, winking at his Greek peer.

The following year, the Spaniard visited the Greek town. He was astonished at the mayor’s mansion: marble floors, a Kallista Archeo copper bathtub, gold taps, Aresline Xten chairs, plasma screens, Sartori silk rugs, a Northland refrigerator, diamond doorknobs... it was simply incredible.

When he asked him how he’d made the money to build and furnish such an amazing house, the Greek mayor said: “See that bridge over there?” The Spaniard replied: “No!?”



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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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Tilly about to liven up an otherwise
boring afternoon at the old folks home

WIMIN!

There is no bigger fan of the opposite sex than me, and I have
the bills to prove it. (Alan J Lerner)

Women, can't live with them, can't get them to dress up in a
skimpy Nazi costume and beat you with a warm squash.

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