

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER



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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the August, 2021 edition. Issue No.167

Greetings! Welcome from a very hot and humid Costa Blanca.

July has seen an increase in holiday makers and second home owners to the region, but so far nothing overwhelming. No doubt numbers **will peak during August.**

The arrival of second home owners, particularly from the UK, has increased slightly. Many were naturally worried about the condition of their second homes. Very few experienced any problems although there were a few who had horrific problems. The worst I have heard of was about a **rat infestation** near a series of new builds. The owners may have flushed their toilets after they turned the water off and the rats came in through the empty pipes and ate bedding, mattresses etc., turning the property into a virtual dump. Soul destroying!

The military boundaries which forced British property buyers since Jan' 1, 2021, to produce police reports from the UK has thankfully **now been removed.** This reduces the transaction time for purchasing property here significantly.

To date, Brexit **does not appear** to have greatly reduced the number of properties being bought by people from the UK, although one will get a better measurement of this during the autumn.

We are now experiencing some very hot weather with daily temperatures in the low to mid 30's. However, there are still idiots who are walking their dogs **during the hottest part of the day!** If you do, take your shoes and socks off while walking the dog and see how much you enjoy it!

Whether you live in Spain, the UK or wherever, it is now very difficult to plan trips and short stays due to the ever changing rules for travellers during the current Covid crisis. Unfortunately, this is likely to continue.

IVA (VAT) on your electricity bill has been reduced from 21% to **10%** until Jan' 1, 2022.

Thanks to Rich & Tina for the donation. The newsletter's annual subscription begins August again this year.

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

Angela's Cartoon
"BAR"



**He won't have a haircut!
Thinks he looks like a rock star!!**

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As soon as I get home I'm going to rip my wife's bra off. The elastic is killing me.

Roy 'Chubby' Brown

Every summer, the Ecologists in Action organization publish a report "**Black Flags**", where it classifies the 48 worst beaches for pollution or environmental management after analyzing almost 8,000 kilometers of Spanish coastline. This year, Cala Mosca has entered that shame report, the only coastal area in Orihuela that is not urbanized, but on which there is an urbanization project that will completely change its appearance. For this reason, the environmental organization has decided to give this distinction to the beach of **Cala Mosca**, justifying it by the environmental "mismanagement" of this unique space.



Orihuela Council awarded a **€674,000** contract to maintain El Palmeral in the Vega Baja, Alicante province, for the next two years. The main focus over the next two years, with half of the cost financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), is the way in which destructive pests are controlled. There will be an increase of periodic inspections to safeguard the future of the Palm Grove, the second largest in Europe boasting 9,000 trees, behind El Palmeral de Elche, 36 km away.

The Guardia Civil have arrested an **11-strong gang** in Torrevieja, 10 males and one woman. The gang, aged between 17 and 57 years, illegally occupied a number of properties. They would then sell drugs from these locations or pass the properties over to anyone who would pay between 500 and 1,000 euros. The 25-year-old gang leader would have already stripped the valuables from these properties and stored them in his parent's property, for sale at a later stage. Electricity and water would also be connected, illegally. Marijuana, hashish and

cocaine, together with more than €1,500 in cash has been seized in the properties. Nine of the gang have been jailed without bail. The 17-year-old minor has been placed in the custody of his mother. That'll teach him! Not!

Four occupants of a vehicle died early on a Friday evening after their vehicle was hit by an Intercity train at the level crossing of Novelda station in the Alicante province of the Valencia region. The accident occurred at around 5:15 pm during late June at the Camí de Castellà level



crossing. Although little is known about the circumstances of the crash, **the level crossing does have barriers**, but it appears that the vehicle had passed onto the crossing before the barriers came down and was on the track as the train came through. This photo illustrates the horrific outcome.

Telephone appointments with your doctor at the various Saluds can now take 28 days plus. This is now common throughout the region, with a **four to six weeks wait** quoted at the Cabo Roig Salud. The region is finding it impossible to attract qualified medical personnel, being one of the worst payers in Spain.



If you want to know who loves you more, lock your wife and your dog in the boot of the car. Wait a couple of hours and let them out, guess which one will be pleased to see you.

A **64-year-old British tourist** lost his life on July 9, when he jumped headfirst into the pool of the Benissa villa where he had gone to visit a friend. The police sources consulted indicated that the man jumped without taking into account that the pool was only one metre deep. He hit his head violently on the bottom. The accident occurred around 5.30 pm.

On the same day, a woman and a man, **both octogenarians**, were resuscitated after being treated with symptoms of drowning in two swimming pools in two urbanisations in Benidorm. Both were fortunately resuscitated on site and transferred to hospitals.

The Vega Baja region registered a new seismic movement, after the two that occurred on Friday, July 9 night in Los Montesinos and Benejúzar.

Torre Vieja dawned on Sunday **with an earthquake** of 1.6 degrees on the Richter scale, as reported by the National Geographic Institute.

This mild earthquake occurred at 07:17am on Sunday with the epicentre at 8,000 meters deep. It has been felt in the general population despite its limited strength. It is the third earth tremor in just over 24 hours that occurred in this area with measurable seismic activity. The small earthquake had been located in the pink lagoon of Torre Vieja, to the west of the Torre Vieja urban area. Then on Monday, July 12, another earthquake took place in the Med' at 10:31 pm, Monday 12th, off the Alicante coastline between Torre Vieja and Alicante and at a depth of 19,000 meters. This registered at 2.4.



Amazon has now opened a second logistics station in the province of Alicante. This contains a warehouse of 8,000 square metres and 600 parking spaces. The facility will have 60 employees who will be in charge of organizing what is known as **'last-mile delivery'**. That is, the sending of the packages to the customer's delivery address. This will include deliveries to the city of Alicante and the coastal areas of the Costa Blanca to the south including Torre Vieja, Orihuela Costa, Pilar de Horadada etc.. In addition to the workers of Amazon itself, the station will employ about 300 drivers from five local delivery companies. The large parking capacity indicates that there is room for further expansion of the facility.

The Benidorm National Police is investigating a complaint after learning that **one of the lifeguards** who now works for the rescue concession company was stroking his 'jewels' and jerking off while monitoring the Arenal-Bol beach, Calpe, while on his surveillance chair on the beach. It seems that the act has appeared on various social media platforms. The concession company is 'processing' the matter.

Police are hunting for two men who robbed a Lidl supermarket in the coastal town of San Javier on the morning of Thursday July 15 using the pistol taken from the supermarket's security guard to hold staff and shoppers at gunpoint while **they gathered food** in a shopping trolley. They then escaped in a high-end car parked outside the front door. No money was taken (!) and no one was injured in the robbery.

INTERPRETER

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ALL MEDICAL

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EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



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LOOK OUT FOR OUR
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**WITH SOME DELICIOUS NEW DISHES
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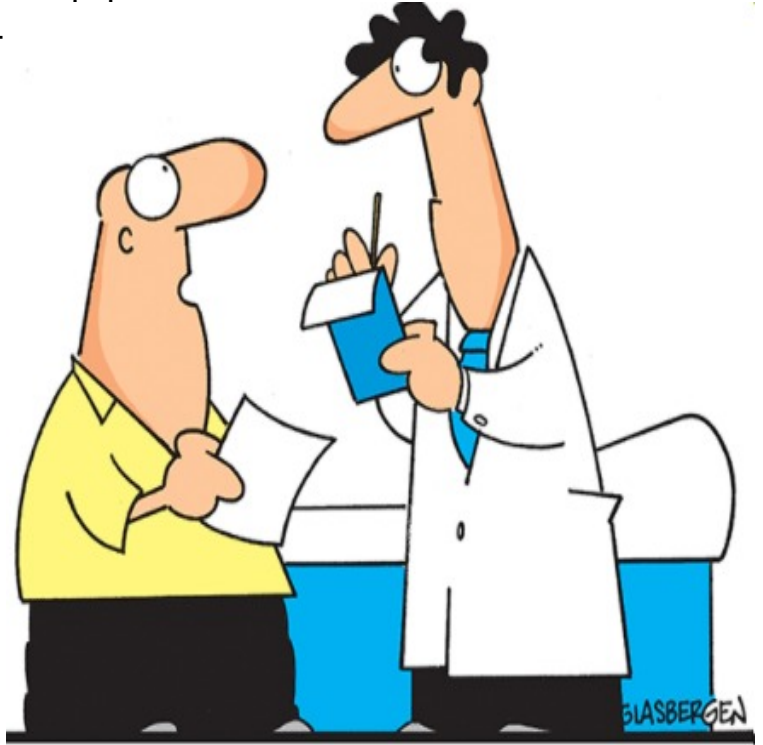
Q: What's the difference between a Boner and a Bonus?
A: There's a good chance your wife's gonna blow your bonus.

Hidraqua believes that it will cost **€194 million** to develop Orihuela's new Master Plan for Protection Against Floods and Sustainable Drainage following Storm Dana in September 2019. This would include a total of 76 kilometres of water collection areas distributed in 193 ravines, valleys which would minimize the impact of future episodes of torrential rains throughout the territory of Orihuela.

The **Imsero Holiday Program** which the government hopes to re-launch during October is looking seriously flawed. It seems that three-star hotels have been omitted from part of the tendering process. Hosbec, the hotel management association has filed an appeal with the Central Administrative Court for Contractual Resources against the specifications of the Imsero program. The prices of the program are, according to Hosbec, very far from the average rates for the sector's winter season, according to INE data: **64 euros** in the Valencian Community for a double room without breakfast, while the Imsero has valued at **46 euros** the maximum income for a double in full board with water and wine and a long list of services. The second reason is the exclusion of 3-star hotels from this tender, when these hotels are the ones that have historically supported the program. In the evaluation carried out, the hotel offer has an important weight and the 4-star category is valued with double points over the 3-star category without any kind of justification, having as an immediate effect that only the 4-star hotel establishments stars have a real chance to enter the program. The exclusion of three-star hotels also puts 6,000 jobs at risk.

Four tons of hashish have been intervened by agents of the National Police, in a joint operation with the Civil Guard, in the port of Alicante, in a macro-operation against a group of drug traffickers who, allegedly, used the Canary Islands as a new route of entry to the country and the Port as an entry point to the

peninsula. The investigation began when the agents became aware of the existence of a route to introduce narcotic substances to the peninsula, making a previous stop in the Canary Islands. With this novel technique, they tried to evade police action and easily distribute the drug throughout Europe. In total, almost four tons of hashish have been seized, two vans, a vehicle, a motorcycle, 5,280 euros in cash, various computer and documentation equipment.



“Right now I take a blue pill, a purple pill, an orange pill, a white pill, and a yellow pill. I need you to prescribe a green pill to complete my collection.”

Experts in Spain raise the threshold of **group immunity**, also known as herd, to more than 80% due to variants of Covid-19 such as Delta. Professionals recommend increasing the rate of vaccination to, above all, reach the young population as soon as possible, which is the most affected in this fifth wave.

Torrevecija will have a parking for **motor homes** south of La Mata beach. The ordinance leaves open the possibility of enabling other areas in the urban area for this same use. To guarantee rotation, the motor homes can never stay for more than 48 hours in a row in the same week.

A hedge between keeps friendship green.

English Proverb



VIA PARK III,
GROUND FLOOR
LOS ALTOS



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Monday - Saturday 10am - Midnight

Sunday 9am - Midnight

Kitchen open Monday - Saturday

10am - 6pm; 9am - 1pm Sundays

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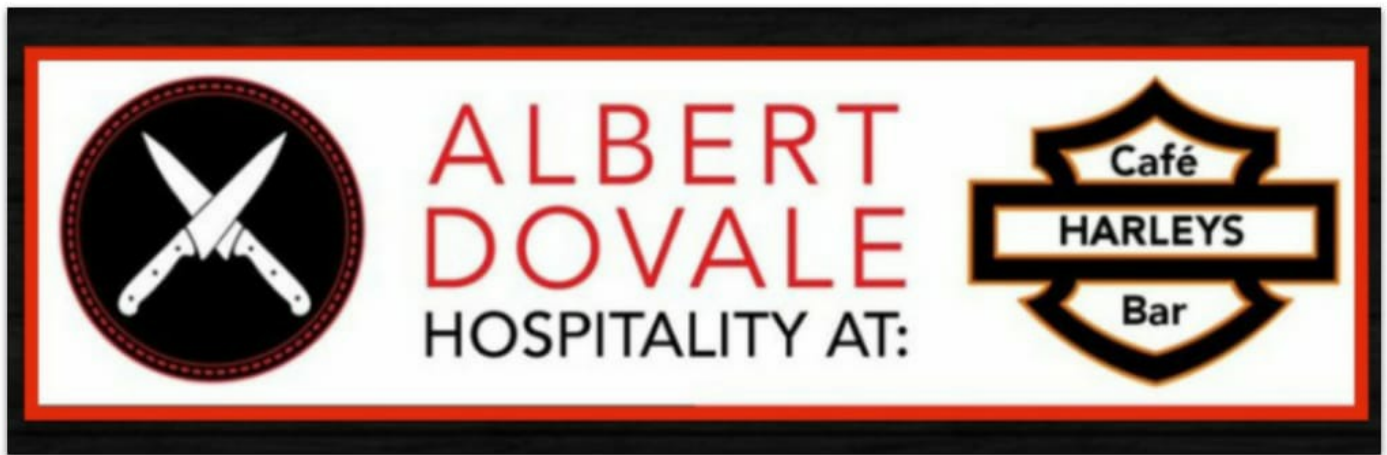


**SHOWING ALL LIVE SPORTS INCLUDING
TENNIS AND MOTOR RACING**

**POOL & DART TEAMS TO BE CONFIRMED
ENTERTAINMENT COMING SOON!!**

- What would have happened in 1963, had Khrushchev and nt Kennedy been assassinated?
- With history, one can never be certain, but I think I can safely say that Aristotle Onassis would not have married Mrs Khrushchev.

Gore Vidal



Aven. Angel Garcia Rogel, 1 Urb Los Balcones, 03186 Torrevieja (Next to Mercadona)

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A pub waiter in La Bisbal d'Empordà, Catalonia, claims to be the illegitimate first-born son of Juan Carlos I – and therefore the legitimate king of Spain. Albert Solà Jiménez, photo, is 12 years older than Felipe VI, who



replaced Juan Carlos when the latter abdicated in 2014 amid corruption scandals. Solà, who bears a strong resemblance to the former king (?), was adopted shortly after his birth but says he spent

his childhood in mysterious luxury and claims to have been visited by Juan Carlos' mother, Princess María. He now works in a bar where customers have nicknamed him “**the monarch.**”

In a report published on July 6, Caminando Fronteras (Walking Borders) found that **2,087 people**, including 341 women and 96 children, had **died or gone missing** while trying to reach Spain by sea between January and the end of June this year. Last year, 2,170 migrants and refugees lost their lives or vanished en route to the country. Caminado Fronteras said the figures over the first half of 2021 were the worst it had recorded in the 14 years it has been tracking and helping to rescue people leaving Africa for Spain. Once again, the Atlantic route to the Canary islands has proved by far the most fatal so far this year, with 1,922 fatalities in 57 shipwrecks. Next has come the route across the Alborán sea (93 deaths in nine wrecks), the strait of Gibraltar route (36 deaths in nine wrecks) and the Algerian route (26 deaths in four wrecks). The dead were citizens of 18 countries: Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania, Senegal, Guinea-Conakry, Guinea-Bissau, the Gambia, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Nigeria, DRC, Burkina Faso, Comoros, Syria, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Yemen, and Sri Lanka. According to Spain's interior ministry 6,952 migrants arrived in the Canaries between

January and June this year, compared with 2,706 over the same period in 2020. More than 23,000 migrants and refugees arrived in the archipelago over the whole of last year, up from 2,687 in 2019. The increase placed the islands' reception infrastructure under enormous pressure and led to deplorable conditions in makeshift camps.

Italy has now **banned cruise ships** from the Venice lagoon. Nothing to do with Covid as locals, environmentalists, and UNESCO had long pushed for the measure, which will help preserve the area's fragile ecosystem and architecture.

Two Italian criminals were detained by police after they robbed a German woman of her watch during a scuffle in Mallorca. The watch, a Patek Philippe, is valued at **€47,750!** After their arrest, they told the police where the watch was hidden. Because of this the prosecuting judge did not give them a jail sentence but **banished them** from any Spanish territory **for a period of five years.**

While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humour, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign...

"Energy efficient vehicle.

Runs on oats and grass.

Caution: Do not step in exhaust."



THE BAR NEXT DOOR.

FIRST FLOOR
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(Sister bar to The Lime Bar)

A DEDICATED SPORT'S BAR.

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COMPETITION**

HOSTED BY DEREK

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LADY'S POOL

SUNDAYS FROM 3.00 pm

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*My drinking
team has a
darts problem*



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All the same, sir, I should put some of the colonies in your wife's name.

Chief Rabbi to George VI, 1940



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Happy Hour Mon - Fri 12 'til 7 pm

Hangovers installed.....and serviced.



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OUR
SPECIALITY
COFFEES!

A wealthy lady was being driven by her chauffeur, when their car got a flat tyre. The chauffeur got out and began trying to remove the hubcap. After watching him struggle for several minutes, she leaned out of the window and asked, 'Would you like a screwdriver?'

'We might as well,' he said. 'I can't get this bloody wheel off!'



JJ's Café Bar

VIA PARK V.

Kitchen closed



BAR OPEN
TUESDAY - SUNDAY

1pm - 9pm

WEDNESDAY FUN DARTS

7pm - 10pm



FISH & CHIPS FRIDAY 1pm - 7pm

**Pre-order essential -
 Eat in or Takeaway**



JILLY'S SLIMMING CLUB

THURSDAYS 4pm

New Members Welcome!

ALL SPORTS SHOWN

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



**FREE
WI-FI**

JJ, Rob & Bobby

693 985 122



**TWEET!
TWEET!**





KATI'S BAKERY

VIA PARK 3 (Next to the Lime Bar)
NOW SERVING ICE-CREAM!

CHECK OUT OUR WIDE RANGE SNACKS,
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CORNISH PASTIES, SAUSAGE ROLLS,
PORK PIES,

PIES OF ALL FLAVOURS,
HOMEMADE COLESLAW,
SANDWICHES, TOASTIES,

HOT DOGS, SALADS,
CAKES & MUCH, MUCH MORE!

OPENING TIMES
MONDAY - SATURDAY

11am - 5pm



'Our painful 14-month wait for hire car refund from Goldcar'

Neil and Patricia Bridge, 81, have owned a property in La Manga since the 1980's and enjoy regular golfing trips to the area.

They usually hire a car from Goldcar, the budget firm owned by Europcar, because it doesn't require drivers aged 70 or over to pay a surcharge. When they were forced to cancel two holidays planned for April and June last year, though, they found Goldcar impossible to contact.

Neil emailed the company at least ten times, sent a letter to the head office in Alicante and phoned countless times. The Runaround!

The couple asked Goldcar for a refund in April 2020, when it became clear that they would not be able to travel. The company sent them an email with a voucher code for the full cost of the rental, €243.25 (£209), which Goldcar said would be valid for a year, but Neil wanted a cash refund.

Neil emailed Goldcar's customer services address and had a reply a week later saying he should have emailed a different address, which then directed him back to the first email, info@goldcar.es. When Neil got through to Goldcar on the phone, it told him to contact InterRent, also owned by Europcar, which told him it would not consider his complaint because he had hired from Goldcar.

Neil finally got his refund in June 2021.

In 2019 Goldcar was voted the worst company by the consumer group Which? after it assessed the performance of hundreds of businesses across different industries.

This article is abridged from The Times, 4/07/21. More than 60 comments to the article gave Goldcar a hammering, based on their performance throughout the Med'.

Two of note, I mention...

"I can't believe Goldcar is still in business.

Goldcar in Larnaca actually took (not blocked) €1,100 deposit from my credit card and, although signing off the car damage-free, simply did not return the deposit despite numerous calls to their head office in Spain.

Eventually I could recover it via the credit card company and I also informed the police in Larnaca so that tourists can be warned."

"I had a similar problem with Goldcar (on credit card). They charged me £800 for clutch damage, which almost all other hiring companies accept is just part of wear and tear. The credit company wouldn't refund as Goldcar's contract basically legitimises them to charge customers for anything, through some very creative language."

Never ask old people how they are if you have anything else to do that day.

Joe Restivo

ROCK IS BACK!

There is little doubt that Brexit depleted many of the British performers from this area. In many cases it was merciful, but the odd one or two good 'uns had to go back as well. Frankly, if I had to listen to yet another Neil Diamond or Rod Stewart wannabe, I would have punched any old lady!

I then heard from Jubbly that Charlie 'The Pirate' Farley was performing with a new band, Sly Saloon, their next gig being at El Rincon de Sam, on the beach, behind the closed Dialprix on the outskirts of Torry. So one scorching Wednesday in July, I popped down to El Rincon 'to test the musical waters'.

Wow! Just like the best of the pre-pandemic days - Classic Rock was back and it felt great! The band features Dillon on lead guitar, his father Daz on rhythm & vocals and Charlie on bass guitar, thumping it out, notably with the Free's *All Right Now!* I must admit it was strange to see Charlie now playing with just four strings! Maybe he found six confusing?

The band played the classic rock numbers we all know, Daz leading with a strong voice, Dillon with some excellent solos & riffs and Charlie entertaining us with his humour and solid bass playing. A couple of occasions during their sets, the band invited 'Johnny' from the audience to join the band with his harmonica/harp. It was superb!

The large crowd present loved the band and there were smiles everywhere - a wonderful tonic in these difficult times!



From the left, Dillon, then Daz, Johnny (guest performer) and Charlie 'The Pirate' on the right. (Worth mentioning that service from the bar was also excellent.)

The band is already getting regular bookings, the following being the most regular gigs to date - El Rincon de Sam Torre Vieja, every Wednesday 1.30 till 4.30.

Park Inn, Quesada. Every Thursday, 3 till 6.

Old Royal Bar Torre Vieja, every other Saturday commencing July 24th, 9 till late.

See them soon, it will lift you up!

I was taught three essentials for being a lady: no whiskey before six,
no diamonds before dinner and never go out with men in Jaguars.

Believe me, it has stood me in very good stead.

Catherine Money

Classified Ministry of Defence documents containing details about HMS Defender, photo, and the British military **found at a bus stop in** Kent. One set of documents discusses the likely Russian reaction



to the ship's passage through Ukrainian waters off the Crimea coast during June. Another, details plans for a possible UK military presence in Afghanistan after the US-led Nato operation there ends. The government said an investigation had been launched. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) said it is investigating "an incident in which sensitive defence papers were recovered by a member of the public". The MoD employee concerned reported the loss at the time, it said. The documents, almost 50 pages in all, were found in a soggy heap behind a bus stop in Kent, early on Tuesday morning, June 22.

An Italian pensioner who collected his granddaughter from nursery school and took her home realised after half an hour that he had **picked up someone else's child** instead. A disciplinary investigation is underway in Arezzo, Tuscany, after the man arrived at school, gave the child's first name and failed to recognise that the child he was given was not related to him and two years younger than his actual granddaughter. A teacher and caretaker have been suspended.

A woman is recovering in hospital in Dijon after being found swimming in a city centre fountain into which **she had poured over 47,000 euros** (£40,420) in banknotes. Onlookers said the swimmer, described as "emotionally fragile", was removed from the water by firefighters while police sealed off the fountain, in Place de la République, to prevent passers-by from attempting to take her money. Officers have since recovered 47,200 euros in denominations of 10, 20, 50 and 100 Euros.

A Swiss woman will continue to blare out loud music from her home every 15 minutes as

a protest against church bells after the congregation voted to carry on pealing. The 63-year-old, from the village of Luchsingen, has been waging war against the Reformed Church for over a year because its automatic bells sound four times an hour, 24 hours a day. She said: "Why do we need a time check every quarter of an hour? And why does it have to jingle for minutes at five in the morning? I can hardly stand it." The woman, named only as Sandra B, said she has had hate mail since beginning her protest, which sees her put a large speaker in her front window and turn the volume up to 11. Parish council president Daniel Sprüngli said, "She can do what she wants", adding that he lived too far away to hear her or the bells.

An actor, photo, in a **bare-bottomed monkey suit with a fake penis** was hired by a council, in a bizarre stunt aimed at getting children to read. The man appeared at a Summer Reading Challenge event run by Redbridge Council in east London, was to represent the theme "wild world heroes". But the stunt sparked outcry from parents and MPs, who queried whether a "Rainbow Dildo Butt Monkey" was



a suitable advocate for child literacy. The council blamed a third-party contractor for the mishap, adding: "This will never happen again."

A British paratrooper fell 15,000 feet out of the sky when his parachute failed to fully deploy during a jump in California – **and survived** with only minor injuries, after crashing through the roof of a house in Atascadero. The unnamed soldier landed in the kitchen, where he was found by neighbours. The homeowner's mother, Linda Sallady, said: "There's not that much damage in the house. It's amazing. He missed the counters, appliances, everything."



Mike Heighway
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ARE YOU WASTING MONEY IN YOUR PENSION SCHEME?

There are many pension schemes, especially QROPS, where the administration, advice costs etc are very overly charged. I have been able to reduce fees for pension plans by on average 55% and also able to provide a regular review of the pension value. This can amount to considerable savings over the years. In fact one new client that we reviewed recently now has a pension that will provide him with a further £150,000.

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?

Are you one of the many who have taken out an investment or pension and never see the adviser again? You need regular updates of what is happening within the industry that could save you a considerable amount.

Contact me on 634305881 to see if I can help.

Contact us now for a free assessment, initial discussions are free
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TV!

It's not easy to juggle a pregnant wife and a troubled child,
but somehow I managed to squeeze in eight hours of TV a day. Homer Simpson
The American people love the Home Shopping Network because it's commercial-free.

Will Durst

You don't own a TV? What's all your furniture pointed at?

Joey Tribbiani, *Friends*.

SPAIN'S STRICT LOCKDOWN UNCONSTITUTIONAL!

Spain's top court has ruled that last year's strict coronavirus lockdown was unconstitutional. Spain's Constitutional Court said in a statement that it had voted, by a slim majority of six to five, to find that the state of emergency was not enough to give the restrictions constitutional backing. This is because the rules were equivalent to a suppression of fundamental rights, it said. In order to legally limit people's freedoms to the extent they did last year, the court said, the government would have had to declare a state of exception rather than a state of emergency. Spain has **three levels of emergency**: state of emergency, state of exception, and the highest level, state of siege.

The government declared a **state of emergency on 14 March 2020** to curb the first wave of Covid-19 infections.

Under the emergency rules almost all people in the country were ordered to stay at home, and were only permitted to leave for essential reasons. All but essential businesses were closed.

The laws were in place until June 2020, though some restrictions were reinstated later in the year when the country faced a second wave.

The ruling leaves the door open for people who were fined for breaking the rules **to reclaim the money** they paid. But the court said it would not accept lawsuits from people and businesses who want to sue the government because they lost money due to the lockdown.

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20:00**

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21:00**

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

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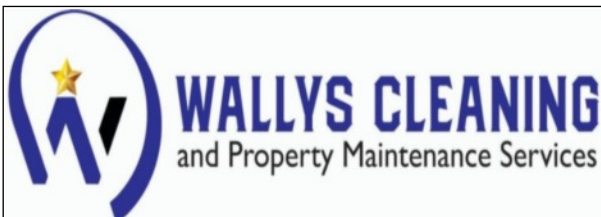
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POWERWASHING CALL- 658367607.<https://wallyscleaning.com>Email@ info@wallyscleaning.com**Oy Vey!**

Howard came home from work one evening and there was his wife Miriam in the kitchen crying out loud. 'What's the matter, darling?' he asked her. 'I just don't know what to do,' said Miriam. 'Because we were eating in for a change, I cooked us a special dinner - but the dog has just eaten it.' 'Don't worry,' said Howard, I'll get us another dog.'

**PETER'S PORK PIES**

Peter is a retired gent who lives locally and who makes the most wonderful pork pies to order. Now these are vastly superior to those you would buy in a supermarket or shop. When last did you find jelly in a bought pork pie?

Peter's pies are made to his mum's Melton Mowbray recipe and you will not eat finer. His large rectangular pie, 10 inch with 500 grams of pork costs just €10. His round tall (4 inch) pie contains 330 grams of pork and costs €6.50. The pastry in both is to die for. Ideal with a salad or on their own! Peter can also add hardboiled eggs to the pies for an additional €1.

Payment is on pick-up, and you can contact Peter on 966 798 517. You will not be disappointed.

Mick



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Which test should you use?

- There are two types of Covid test in common use:

1 Polymerase chain reaction, or PCR swabs (nose and throat) detect viral genetic material. They can pick up low levels of the virus and are very accurate at confirming and excluding, infection.

2 Rapid antigen tests (lateral flow tests, such as Innova) look for protein from the surface of the coronavirus. They are good at detecting high concentrations (when a person is likely to be most infectious) but miss many people with lower levels (they have a false negative rate of 25 per cent or more).

- A PCR swab is generally done in a specialist testing centre or hospital, and the result takes hours or days to come back. The rapid antigen lateral flow can be done anywhere by anyone and gives a result in minutes.

- If you have symptoms you MUST have a PCR test to exclude Covid. Do NOT use a lateral flow test to rule it out — they are not accurate enough.

- If you have a positive lateral flow test, self-isolate until you have the result of a PCR test. False positives with lateral flow tests are much less common than false negatives, but do happen.

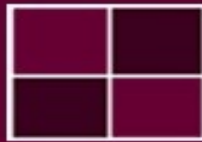
Wise!

In darkest Arabia, a sheik needed to make a journey across the desert. He didn't have a horse to hand so he decided to expropriate one from a nearby group of Nomads.

Two suitable horses were found, but neither of the owners wanted to give theirs up and each said his horse was useless.

"Right," said the sheik, "you will race your horses and I will have the winner." "All they'll do is hold their horses back," pointed out one of the sheik's entourage. "No they won't," replied the sheik. "Get each man to ride the other one's horse."

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WiFi

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

I got a new job with the Samaritans last week.

I tried to phone in sick this morning, but they kept talking me out of it.

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Mrs C.

One day, the Churchill couple walked through a posh London neighbourhood. Many people greeted and exchanged words with the Prime Minister.

A street sweeper, on the other hand, greeted Ms. Churchill in particular, and the two remained aside for a while, engaging in familiar conversation. Churchill then asked his wife what she had to discuss with a street sweeper for so long.

"Ah... he was in love with me a long time ago," she said.

Churchill smiled and said, "You see, if you had married him, you would be the wife of a street sweeper today.

Mrs. Churchill looked at her husband in amazement and said the legendary words: "But no, Darling, if I had married him, he would be Prime Minister today."

I was in a field hospital in Basra. We went to speak to a squaddie who'd been blown up the day before, so I remarked: 'The only thing worse than being blown up on a Sunday is to be visited by politicians on a Monday,' to which he replied: 'Actually, it's on a par, sir.'

(William Haque in Iraq with David Cameron, 2006)

At Victoria Station the RTO gave me a travel warrant, a white feather and a picture of Hitler marked 'This is your enemy'.

I searched every compartment but he wasn't on the train.

(Spike Milligan, Adolf Hitler, My Part in His Downfall)

When you get into trouble 5,000 miles away from home,
you've got to have been looking for it.

Will Rogers

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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**Thinking about care and support at home?
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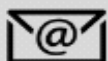
Attendance Allowance



*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.

A Covid test nurse asked me if I've had a sudden loss of taste.

I told her, "No, I've dressed like this for quite a while."



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Moshe.

There are three signs on the wall in Moshe's Furniture Warehouse.

'There are two very good reasons, why we won't cash your cheque.

Either we don't know you, or we DO know you.'

'We have an agreement with the local banks.

They don't sell furniture and we don't cash cheques.'

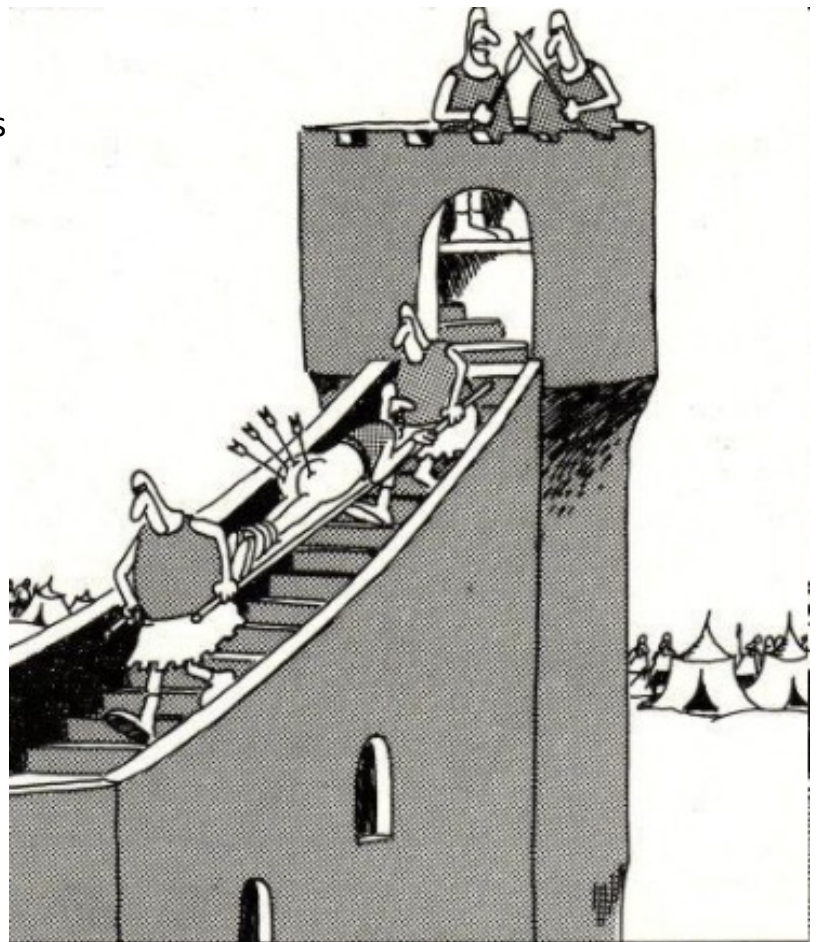
'We don't blame our competitors for charging less for their furniture.

After all, they should know what their stuff is worth.'

Moshe walks into a post office to send a package to his wife.

The postmaster says, 'This package is too heavy, you'll need another stamp.'

Moshe replies, 'And that should make it lighter?'



"So then I says to Borg, 'You know, as long as we're under seige, one of us oughta moon these Saxon dogs.'"

Cost of Living in Spain 5% below EU Average

The latest data from the EU statistics office Eurostat gives us an idea of the comparative cost of living in different European countries, with Spain just below the average overall, but one of the most expensive for telecomms.

Eurostat compares price levels for consumer goods and services using purchasing power parity to adjust for currency differences to get a comparable cost of living index for each European country in the survey.

Looking at overall price levels, the survey finds that "The highest price level among EU Member States was observed in **Denmark, 41% above the EU average**, while in **Romania the price level was 45% below the EU average.**"

Spain was 4.5% below the EU average in overall price terms, but 12.7% below for alcohol and tobacco, 4.8% for food, and 10.1% for clothing. If you like a drink and a ciggy in the sun, Spain is the place to be. Booze and fags cost 70% more in the UK, and 130% more in Norway.

Energy prices including electricity and gas are **4% above average in Spain** (and almost 10% below average in the UK), whilst communications goods and services like broadband are 21.5% above average in Spain, making it the most expensive Mediterranean country for telecomms with the exception of Greece, which is a crazy 73% above average. (Electricity in Spain on July 21, was rated the

most expensive in Europe exceeding 106 euros per megawatt hour. The government blamed 'International Factors.')

For Mediterranean living on a budget, Turkey is the cheapest country in Europe to live with an overall price level index of just 38% of the EU average, but you might not be very safe there. Croatia at 69% is better run, and part of the EU, whilst Greece at 86% is always attractive, despite its economic problems. Malta (88%), Portugal (89%) and Cyprus (90%) are all cheaper than Spain, but not by much. **France is 14% more expensive than average, and 20% more expensive than Spain.**

However, the survey does not take into account average salaries, and GDP per capita, which are also relevant when looking at the cost of living. Higher living costs are cushioned by higher salaries. Switzerland might be the most expensive country in Europe, but the salaries are also the highest too. What matters is how much you can afford with your income.

(Understandably, this survey does not take national personal taxation into account, which can affect standards of living. Income tax is certainly higher in Spain than in the UK. Tid and I pay around €3,500 more p.a. in Spain than we would in the UK.)

Source: Spanish Property Insight and https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Comparative_price_levels_of_consumer_goods_and_services

Sean's Tackle!

Sean Connery was interviewed by Michael Parkinson, and bragged that despite his 72 years of age, he could still have sex three times a night. Lulu, who was also a guest, looked intrigued.

After the show, Lulu said, "Sean, if Ah'm no bein too forward, Ah'd love tae hae sex wi an aulder man. Let's go back tae mah place."

So they go back to her place and have great sex. Afterwards, Sean says, "If you think that was good, let me shleep for half an hour, and we can have even better shex. But while I'm shleeping, hold my baws in your left hand and my wullie in your right and."

Lulu looks a bit perplexed, but says, "Okay." He sleeps for half an hour, awakens, and they have even better sex. Then Sean says, "Lulu, that was wonderful. But if you let me shleep for an hour, we can have the besht shex yet. But again, hold my baws in your left hand, and my wullie in your right hand."

Lulu is now used to the routine and complies. The results are mind blowing. Once it's all over, and the cigarettes are lit, Lulu asks "Sean, tell me, dis mah haudin yer baws in mah left hand and yer wullie in mah right stimulate ye while ye're sleepin?"

Sean replies, "No, but the lasht time I shlept with a Glashwegian, she shtole my wallet."



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

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We are delighted to announce the return of our Charity Ball at San Miguel Castle on 17th September 2021. The poster has all the details and tickets can be purchased at our head office and furniture shop in Cabo Roig telephone number 965 328 794

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Web: www.helpathomecb.com

The joy of Desert Island Discs is hearing the great and the good of society pretending to love Beethoven's 'Ode To Joy' and Debussy's Second Symphony when we all know, the minute they're through the front door, they're dancing in their pants to 'It's Raining Men' by the weather Girls.

Stephen Fry, Radio 4.



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Sorry I haven't been in touch, a friend was rushed to hospital
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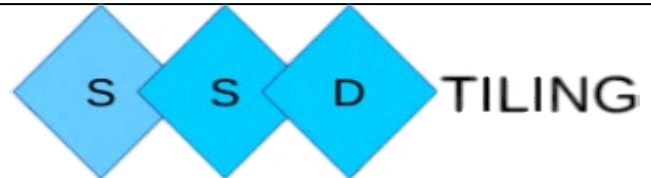
Brexit Keeps on Giving!

After two disastrous seasons due to Covid restrictions, French ski businesses are now recruiting for the winter ahead but are facing a different problem - post-Brexit restrictions that make hiring British seasonal workers extremely difficult. Previously around 25,000 Brits have headed to France every year to do seasonal work and they formed a major part of the workforce in French ski resorts.

But since the UK left the EU the paperwork required to hire Brits has made this much more complicated for those needing to recruit seasonal staff and left winter sports businesses in France – many of which are owned or run by Brits who live here – facing a big problem.

Diane Palumbo, who runs the Skiworld holiday firm based in France, said: “We are now running really late. If this was a normal ski season, we’d start recruiting before the end of the previous season – we take the pick of the staff who have performed the best, offer them jobs for the following season, and then we start recruitment from May and June.

The problem now is there are no guarantees for work permits. Applications can be turned down. You can apply for a work permit. You can apply for a long-stay visa. There is no guarantee they’ll be accepted.” Businesses too have obligations, if they want to hire a non-EU citizen they must first advertise the job to establish that no French or EU citizen wants or is able to do it, and then complete paperwork for work permits.



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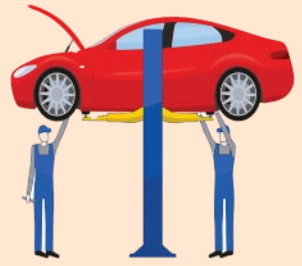
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I am looking for my keys.

Ray Barone

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The Route of the Faces of Buendía

These striking sights are just two of 18 vast sculptures seen along La Ruta de las Caras – the Route of the Faces – a hiking trail that runs near the Buendia reservoir in Cuenca, central Spain.

The monoliths are carved from sandstone and are the creation of Jorge Maldonado and Eugenio Reguillo, who said they were inspired by pre-Columbian cultures.

The pair began the project in 1992 and that year they completed the first two faces: 'La Monja' (The Nun) and 'Beethoven'.

In 2007 they finished 'Maitreya' and 'Arjuna' – figures from Buddhist and Hindu traditions – the newest sculptures on the route.

The structures, which range in size from 1ft to 12ft, are each said to have a mystical or religious significance. They can all be seen within an hour's hike.

You can take a 'Minion Tour' here -

<https://www.miniontour.es/la-ruta-de-las-caras-de-buendia/>



Spain has managed to hit the fourth target that was set out by the Spanish government for the national Covid-19 vaccination strategy: end the fourth week of July with 25 million people fully vaccinated against the disease. The Health Ministry confirmed on Thursday that 52.8% of the population – **25,060,958 people** – now have the full protection offered by the vaccines being used in Spain. In the midst of a fifth wave of the pandemic, with cases on the rise and the cumulative incidence above 659 cases per 100,000 inhabitants – Spain is now moving on to vaccinate the younger sections of the population, as well as seeking citizens to vaccinate in more vulnerable groups who have slipped through the net.

The Spanish government has met three of the four objectives it set out until now. The only target missed was to reach 15 million people completely vaccinated by June 20 – that date arrived with 560,000 people below that figure. That small delay, however, was soon overcome and the rhythm of the campaign stepped up once more.

The regions – which are in charge of their healthcare systems, their vaccination programs and their coronavirus restrictions – are injecting between **500,000 and 700,000 doses a day**, and unlike other large European countries – such as France, Germany or Italy, where the programs are losing speed – Spain is still progressing at a stable or rising pace.

José Martínez Olmos, a professor from the Andalusian Public Health School, attributes this to there being little hesitancy to the vaccine in Spain. “We are administering the vaccines that arrive given that we have an accessible, universal system, and there is a major willingness among the population to get vaccinated. But that said, we still need to

vaccinate the younger population, and although that will undoubtedly move at the same speed, we cannot take it for granted: we have to insist on the benefits of the vaccine.”

Spain is enjoying a summer with the vast majority of its most vulnerable population already protected against the virus. The Spanish strategy prioritized doses for seniors and those with greater risk of suffering serious cases of Covid-19 or dying. Seven months after the first shots were administered, the coverage is nearly complete in the over-70s. Of the 60-69 group, 84.4% are fully protected, while the number rises to 86.5% for the 50- to 59-year-olds.

Still to be immunized are the younger age groups, which are currently seeing the virus spread fast among them. A combination of the lack of vaccine coverage and the fact that these groups are **more socially active** has seen the incidence among the 20-29 group shoot up to 1,863.7 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, and to 1,586.66 for adolescents.

Meanwhile, more than two-thirds of those aged 40-49 are fully protected, while 60% of the 30-39 group has received their first dose. A number of regions in Spain have already opened up the campaign to the 20-29 group and adolescents.

The final objective announced by the government is to end the month of August with **70% of the Spanish population** fully vaccinated. This percentage was originally considered by experts and the authorities to be the level needed in order to achieve herd immunity – i.e. sufficient coverage among citizens to impede the circulation of the virus. Epidemiologists, however, now believe that 70% will likely be insufficient to stop the pandemic.

(Abridged from El Pais)

Ouch!

At a wedding in Glasgow I whispered to the guy next to me “Isn’t the bride a right ugly dog!”

“Do you mind, that’s my daughter you are talking about!”

“I’m sorry, I didn’t know you were her father.”

“I’m not! I’m her mother!”

The EU Digital Covid Certificate

Spain is now issuing 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.

EU Covid 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.

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 jab may depend on your age, but I know of many non-residents who have now got their jabs.



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

One night a blonde teenage girl brought her new boyfriend home to meet her parents, and they were appalled by his appearance: leather jacket, motorcycle boots, tattoos, and pierced nose. Later, the parents pulled their daughter aside and confessed their concern. "Dear," said the mother diplomatically, "he just doesn't seem very nice." "Mum," replied the daughter, "if he wasn't nice, why would he be doing 5,000 hours of community service?"

Help Vega Baja needs help!



After supporting people for over 40 years within the Vega Baja community, HELP Vega Baja (registered charity) are putting out a request for some help for themselves!

The charity contacted us to say that they have a project that they need help with. President, Michele Masson said “one of the areas we



support people is by providing information and advice when they are experiencing difficult times.

This can involve some very emotional conversations which are not appropriate to be held in an open office. Although we frequently make ourselves available outside normal opening times at our San Miguel Centre, we have seen a definite increase in the number of occasions when visitors need to speak with us in private – perhaps to simply listen to them or to offer emotional support.

We would very much like to have a private facility to offer. A small area has been identified in our centre at San Miguel which would be ideal to alter to meet these needs. Sadly, Covid restrictions meant that our fundraising events have been put on hold. We are therefore putting out a plea for a builder or handyman who would be prepared to offer their time and expertise to work on this project with us. We would put aside funds for materials required. We appreciate that this is a “big ask”, but this project would honestly not only help the charity but would most importantly, be a tremendous support for people within the community”

If you think you can help for this great cause, please call Richard Garland (Charity Secretary) on 966 723 733 or email office@helpvegabaja.com

How to stop snoring!

A couple have a dog that snores. Annoyed because she can't sleep, the wife goes to the vet to see if he can help. The vet tells the woman to tie a ribbon around the dog's testicles and he will stop snoring. "Yeah, right," she says, not believing a word!

That night, a few minutes after going to bed, the dog begins to snore as usual. The wife tosses and turns, unable to sleep. Muttering to herself, she goes to the closet and grabs a piece of ribbon and ties it carefully around the dog's testicles. Sure enough, the dog stops snoring. The woman is amazed!

The next night, her husband returns home drunk from being out with his buddies. He climbs into bed, falls asleep, and begins snoring loudly. The woman thinks maybe the ribbon will work on him. So she grabs a piece of ribbon, and carefully ties it around her husband's testicles.

Amazingly, it also works on him! The woman sleeps soundly.

The next morning, the husband wakes up hung over. He stumbles into the bathroom. As he stands in front of the toilet, he glances in the mirror and sees a blue ribbon attached to his privates. He is very confused, and as he walks back into the bedroom, he sees a red ribbon attached to his dog's testicles. He shakes his head and looks at the dog and says, "Boy, I don't remember where we were or what we did, but, by God, we got first and second place."

ELECKTRICKERY!

Last month, we had a look at the new electricity charges which were introduced on June 1. This is a short reminder.

The new electricity bill

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

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!

Since then, the central government has announced that it will try and make the transition a little easier by reducing the IVA (VAT) on part of the bill.



Currently if you have contracted a power less than or equal to 10 kW, and therefore you will benefit from a VAT reduction from 21% to 10% on the power and energy invoiced, and on the rental of measurement equipment. This VAT reduction affects, in accordance with the provisions of the regulations, contracts with powers less than or equal to 10 kW and until December 31, 2021, while the average reference price in the market exceeds € 45 / MWh.



"Lucky for us there's an electrical outlet right here!"

A Snip at €20!

A little old lady was walking down the street dragging two large plastic garbage bags behind her. One of the bags was ripped and every once in awhile a €20 bill fell out onto the sidewalk. Noticing this, a Guardia stopped her, and said, "Senora, there are €20 bills falling out of that bag."

"Oh, really? Darn it!" said the little old lady. "I'd better go back and see if I can find them. Thanks for telling me, Officer."

"Well, now, not so fast," said the cop. "Where did you get all that money? You didn't steal it, did you?"

"Oh, no, no", said the old lady. "You see, my back yard is right next to a golf course. A lot of golfers come and pee through a knot hole in my fence, right into my flower garden. It used to really tick me off. Kills the flowers, you know. Then I thought, 'why not make the best of it?' So, now, I stand behind the fence by the knot hole, real quiet, with my hedge clippers. Every time some guy sticks his thing through my fence, I surprise him, grab hold of it and say, 'O.K., buddy! Give me €20 or off it comes!'

"Well, that seems only fair," said the cop, laughing. "OK. Good luck! Oh, by the way, what's in the other bag?"

"Not everybody pays"

It might be a good idea if the various countries of the world would occasionally swap history books, just to see what other people are doing with the same set of facts.

Bill Vaughan

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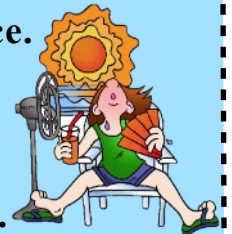


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Lime Bar Fishing SUNBATHING Club

Just John chaired the monthly meeting to help Anti-Social (our chairman). Anti Social is still on the sick list but he made it up to the Lime Bar. Good to see you up and about again mate. It was another quick one where we sorted out the monthly match and announced the finalists for the summer KO.

El Bosquet was chosen for the monthly match with the draw again being carried out by the match committee on the night before. This time we fished pegs 26 through to 39, with both end pegs being the 2 x favoured spots. As BFC had let Fagash beat him in an earlier round of the KO, Fagash responded by drawing BFC's name out of the hat to take peg 26 (several matches have been won from here). On the day we had a few anglers that could not make it, but we still ended up with 14 on the bank. Conditions were good, but yet again it was a struggle to get the fish feeding then to keep them in your swim (for those that could find them!). The Cheshire Cat has fished brilliantly on El Bosquet recently, and he came prepared with 6 tins of sweet corn to thrash us all again, but this time even he struggled. A few were straight into fish in the 1st 10 minutes but that didn't last long before the fish moved on. BFC & Seadog stuck to their tried and tested method feeder tactics and the rest of us tried all sorts. I like to use paste but all that got me was 2 x tiny mullet, so I tried corn, pellet, bread flake, bread punch, on the hook, hair rigged, method feeder, float etc. I couldn't get a proper bite until lunch time when Sweeney (bored because he wasn't catching either) came bimbly down the track whistling to see how every one else was failing. As he was behind me, I hooked into my 1st carp. For the next 1.5 hours I had fish regularly until the end of the match. Thank you Sweeney, the fish must enjoy your whistling!!!! It turned out that the carp wanted a tiny bit of bread punch on a size 16 hook, moving, just off the bottom. They wouldn't touch it if it was stationary. Fussy buggers. As we thought, BFC won the match in the favoured peg 26, he was catching all day from the start and had about 30 small carp for 16.86 kilos, I was 2nd from peg 34 with 10.9 kilos of good carp and mullet (in the last 90 minutes), 3rd was Seadog in peg 29 with 8.31 kilos.

I'm surprised that BFC didn't catch more biggies, as during the match, the owners tipped a small barrel full of large carp and barbel into the canal right next to his peg. Maybe they followed Sweeney's whistling down to my peg.

At the weigh in, Fagin got a shock. Handing his fish from the net to the weigh bag, the last one was rotten! It turns out that the week before, when 3 Rods beat him in the KO semi final (by a whisker), he had missed his last fish in the corner of the net which would have won him the KO. An observation lesson learnt and fishy fingers to boot!

On the Rio Segura we regularly catch terrapins and blue crabs but recently a new critter has been showing up.

Apparently, it is a "spiny soft-shelled turtle" see photo. Another pet thrown away? It weighs about 5 to 6 lbs and using its big paddles, when hooked, it swims about hugging the bottom. Both 3 rods and I thought we had hooked into a big ponderous carp, but were gob smacked when it surfaced! Be careful handling them, they snap and according to the web, their heads and long neck can reach halfway down their body.....

The next ~~meeting~~ bun fight is at **17.00** in The Lime Bar on Tuesday 3rd August.



Stay safe
Fishy fingers!
The Ghost

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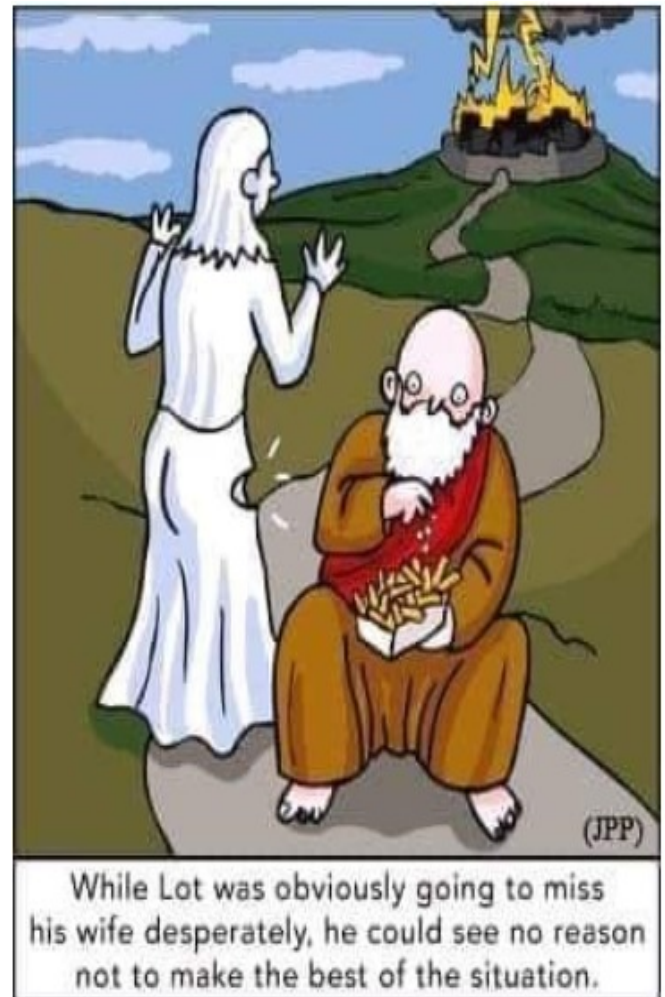
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The editor, Mick, can be contacted at mick.dreamscene@gmail.com or at 586 Dream Hills. (Or in some Bar!)

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Paddy was driving home, absolutely hammered. Suddenly, he had to swerve a tree, then another, then another. Eventually, a Garda pulled him over and asked why he was driving like a lunatic. Paddy explained about all the trees in the middle of the road. The Garda replied, 'For feck's sake Paddy, that's your air freshener!'

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