

# THE DREAM SCENE

## NEWSLETTER

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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the March 2022 edition. Issue No.173



Well, it is almost spring, lovely blue skies but winds are still a bit chilly. C'mon over!

Data recently released confirmed that 31.1 million international tourists visited Spain during 2021, representing a significant jump of 64.4% from the 18.9 million who visited in 2020. The numbers, however, are still far **below (63%) the pre-pandemic levels** of 83.5 million international tourists. Hopefully this year it will improve, local businesses badly need it.

Spain has **scrapped the requirement** for children aged 12 and over travelling from the UK to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The move comes after hotel and tourist groups across the country demanded a change as British families turned elsewhere for half-term holiday breaks, and even further ahead in the year.

Fully vaccinated people in Spain who have already caught Covid-19 now have to wait **five months** to receive their booster shot, following the Spanish Health Ministry's decision to backtrack on its previous recommendation of a four-week wait.

The Spanish government has proposed **increasing the minimum salary** to €13,944 a

year, or €996 per month if paid in the traditional 14 instalments. The plan would add an extra €31 to minimum pay checks each month

PM Pedro Sánchez managed to pass a long-awaited **labour reform** aimed at ending rampant job insecurity with a majority of just one, but it has emerged that an opposition PP deputy accidentally voted for the legislation and in doing so tipped the balance in favour of the government.

Watch out for the processionary caterpillars who appear to be in abundance at the moment.

Keep a 1.5 metre gap between your **car and cyclists** otherwise a €200 fine and six points off your licence. Easier said than done!

Although energy prices are now rocketing in Spain, they will soon be joined locally by high water charges. The Valencian regional government have reduced the usual supply of water from the Ebro Segura pipeline to the Vega Baga area insisting that desalinated water boost the supply. This is much more expensive, growers and farmers are furious as it will triple their costs. **Thanks to Dave H, Milou & Dennis and John W for donations.**

Keep well and safe, Mick, Tid & DS Team.

### INTERPRETER

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LOCAL

### Angela's Cartoon



**This cold weather has ruined our sex life. He insists on a week's notice and a fire in the bedroom!**

I don't fit in. I'm like the only one in a nudist colony with a duffel coat.

Victoria Wood

The water reservoirs in the Alicante province are only **at 28% capacity**, the local La Pedrera being the worst. The lack of rain, for the first time in five years, will mean that there will be greater use of desalinated water, which would raise the price of water by 25% at least. It is hoped that the spring Levante storms will bring the badly needed rainfall to top up the reservoirs.

Although drug seizures are common in the Spanish Med' coastal areas, it is unusual to find them in the Orihuela Costa area. During Valentine's Day last month, police searched a dwelling in an unnamed urbanisation on the Costa and found **605 marijuana plants** together with a lighting, irrigation and ventilation system in the basement. A 36-year-old Lithuanian man was arrested and released the following day with charges.

The situation at Torrevieja Hospital shows little if any improvement. The Ciudadanos (Citizens) Party is recommending that a commission be set up to investigate why a hospital that was for many years one of the best in the country **is now one of the worst**.

A spokesman for C's said, "We cannot allow a hospital that was a reference in quality of care in the region and that provides services to some 150,000 people to end up in chaos due to a purely ideological and sectarian reversal of the tripartite and that has already been shown to be a real failure." Meanwhile, the municipalities of Torrevieja, Orihuela Costa, Guardamar del Segura, San Miguel de Salinas, Pilar de la Horadada, Rojales, Algorfa, Benijófar and San Fulgencio, plus the residents/tourist who visit these tourist municipalities, have had the worst health service for the last four months and are now being referred to other emergency hospitals for fundamental or specialist treatment. Earlier this year, patients were being sent to other hospitals for X-rays and scans as the relevant department did not work **past 3pm or at weekends!**

### Party! Party!

A woman went to a Valentine's Fancy Dress Ball dressed all in red - red stockings and suspender belt, red panties and red bra. 'How shall I announce you?' asked the doorman. 'I'm Dying Embers,' she replied, 'and if I don't get a poke soon, I'm going out.'

**Military** immunization teams arrived in Orihuela and Torrevieja on Feb' 1, supplementing the vaccination teams that are currently in place. The teams, each made up of three health professionals, began their tasks at the University Hospital of Torrevieja on Feb' 2.

A **19-million-euro** makeover of Torrevieja Port will start in March. The new project will



upgrade the town's fish market and create a new leisure centre with cinema, bowling alley and hotel. The project, photo, is expected to be completed in 2023.

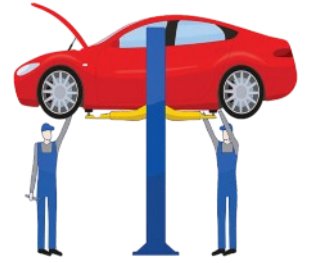
A man tricked a woman out of **€44,000** after arranging to meet her at the Finestrat Shopping Centre on the Costa Blanca. The fraudster, 20, borrowed the victim's phone to make a call. He noted down her personal details on her banking app, which he used three times later to make the illegal withdrawals.

The governing board of the City Council of Torrevieja has approved the text of the Municipal Ordinance of Citizen Coexistence in Public Spaces in which behaviours on public roads such as "organized" begging, defecating, urinating and spitting in the street are sanctioned. Fines for serious infringements reach **1,500 euros**. However, the ordinance is now being challenged in the courts.

The Orihuela Department of Street Cleaning and Urban Solid Waste has drawn up the Local Waste Management Plan, which offers a current overview and draws a roadmap to improve and modernize the service. For its implementation, the City Council plans to invest **20 million euros** over the next six years.



# DREAM HILLS AUTOS



Near Aldi's by Dream Hills II



## CELEBRATING OUR TWO YEAR ANNIVERSARY

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RAFFLE**

**GREAT PRIZES TO BE WON**

**Raising funds for local charities**

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*Taking the scare out of auto repair!*



Told my wife that I was opening a strip club. "Are you having me on?," she said.  
I said "I'll give you an audition, can't promise anything though."

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**STARTERS & DESSERTS**  
**JUST €2 EACH!**



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**ALL DAY - EVERY DAY HOUSE WINE €1.20 A GLASS!**



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**QUIZ DAY WED -**



**Starts at 3pm. Everyone's a Winner!**



**THURSDAY'S Fun Darts, Dominos & Cards!**

**Starts 3pm - EVERYONE'S WELCOME!**

**FRIDAY IS FISH & CHIP DAY!**

**ONLY €14 FOR 2**



**INCLUDING BOTTLE OF WINE**



**SATURDAY**

**STEAK MEAL DEAL**

**Steak for 2 with chips, peas or salad with bottle of wine, only €16!**

**With James Goulding Karaoke - starts at 6pm**

*Great food and great deals at CK1!*

**FOR BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES TELEPHONE 637 046 438.**

One of Mick's favourite mottoes

Employ your time in improving yourself by other men's writings so that you shall come easily by what others have laboured hard for. - Socrates.

**Corvera Airport** in Murcia has released its full list of summer destinations that you can fly to (and from), including Stansted, Gatwick, Manchester and Birmingham. There are also several sunnier climes as well as the Canary Islands, such as Casablanca and Menorca.

Spain's **Princess Cristina** and her husband Iñaki Urdangarín, photo, who was jailed in 2018



for fraud, announced they have separated after he was photographed holding hands with another woman. Princess Cristina, 56, and Urdangarín, a 54-year-old former international handball player and Olympic medallist with Spain, have been married for over 24 years and have four children. A Spanish court in 2017 found Urdangarín guilty of taking millions of euros between 2004 and 2006 from a non-profit foundation he headed in the island of Majorca. He served part of his five-year and 10-month sentence for embezzlement and tax evasion until judges in 2019 allowed him to swap it for community work.

EasyJet is warning Britons that the 'all-inclusive holiday' to the Balearic's island this year has some limitations. The customer who thinks he is getting unlimited alcohol included in his package is going to be sadly disappointed. On offer now in many destinations is three drinks with lunch and three drinks with dinner/supper, **NO LONGER UNLIMITED TRIPS TO THE BAR**, unless you pay extra. So think seriously about what you are booking up this year. You might find better deals elsewhere.

**Newly manufactured cars** in Spain and the rest of the European Union from this year will have to be fitted with an **EDR device**, more commonly known as a black box, that will register vital details in the event of an accident. Several 'driving assistants' will become mandatory as of 2022, and the European Parliament predicts that these systems could help prevent more than 25,000 deaths and 140,000 injuries from road traffic accidents over the next 18 years. The black boxes or EDR (Event Data Recorder) will be installed under the driver's seat and will use 15 parameters to record everything that happens before and after the unfortunate event of an accident.

To ensure data protection, the device will not record audio or video of the driver or passengers. The parameters that will be recorded are vehicle speed, braking, engine revolutions, front and side impact force, steering movements, accelerator position, operation of safety systems such as airbags, belts or certain assistants, the time of the accident, the route, whether it was day or night.

The music streaming giant Spotify, **will pay FC Barcelona €280 million** over three seasons in exchange for sponsorship on first-team kits and **for gaining naming rights of the Camp Nou**, a first for the historic but crisis-hit club. I would guess that **Nou** would appear somehow in the new name of the stadium.

*I'm doing pretty well considering.  
In the past, when anyone left the  
Royal family they had you beheaded.  
Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York*

I went up to a homeless man as I came out of a pub last night and said,  
"What would you say if I asked you to come back to my house  
for a few drinks and a 3 course meal in front of the fireplace?"

"I'd say yes," he replied.

"Exactly," I said, shaking my head and walking away,  
"What is wrong with women these days?"

## TRANSPARENCY AND YOUR MUNICIPALITY

20 years ago, corruption was rife in Spain, touching all levels, from municipal to central government. Of course it still exists today but hopefully not as bad or widespread as it used to be.

One of the steps introduced at municipal and local level to improve accountability was the introduction of an annual (?) **transparency report**.

On this, 162 indicators/achievements or standards were measured for each of the 491 of Spain's town halls.

These indicators ranged from information about the mayor and staff, to organisational accountability and municipal debt.

The highest rated town halls were Pozo Blanco in Cordoba and Fuengirola in the Costa del Sol, who both scored 150 out of the 162 indicators, giving each municipality an admirable 92% score. **Orihuela came in at 112 position**, with 90 out of the 162 indicators answered, giving a score of 55.56%. Torrevieja had a score of 46.91%, coming in at position 161, with only 76 of the 162 indicators.

However one of the **worst results** nationally was that of Rojales, which of course includes Ciudad Quesada, scoring with only seven out of the 162 requirements and placing it **in 480 position! So what's going on there?**

Of the 155 missing responses from Rojales were past career history of the mayor and his councillors; Income received by major public officials including the mayor; annual budgets, accounts, reports and audits, etc.

The nearby municipalities of Guardamar del Segura and Pilar de la Horadada also fared badly coming 402nd and 437<sup>th</sup> respectively.

You can check out your municipality at the following website and by clicking on the municipality, you can get all the details of what they don't want you to know about!

[://www.dyntra.org/en/indices/ayuntamientos-de-espana/ranking-general-ayuntamientos-espana/](http://www.dyntra.org/en/indices/ayuntamientos-de-espana/ranking-general-ayuntamientos-espana/)

## FOREIGN WORKERS IN SPAIN.

The number of registered foreign workers grew by more than 9% in 2021 in Spain, the country's Social Security Ministry reported on Wednesday, following an exodus of workers during 2020 caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

A total of 191,170 foreigners became social security contributors in Spain in 2021, more than quadrupling the loss of 45,000 foreign workers who left in 2020, in large part due to the coronavirus crisis.

The biggest rises were among foreign nationals who already make up the biggest population groups of *extranjeros* in Spain: Romanians (with a total of 331,739 registered workers in Spain), Moroccans (285,501), Italians (140,387), Chinese (107,143) and Venezuelans (106,264).

The only exception are Britons, who although number around 380,000 according to 2020 data from Ministry of Inclusion, are not necessarily social security affiliates through their jobs, but also through pensions or other schemes.

In December 2021, there were **65,711 UK nationals that were affiliated to Spain's social security system through work**.

The Spanish Ministry of Inclusion and Social Security recently announced that employers in all industries in Spain can now recruit third-country nationals in their countries of origin rather than having to find candidates in Spain when they're struggling to fill job positions. However, tens of thousands of **highly-qualified professionals** in regulated fields are having **to wait two years or longer** for the recognition of their qualifications (homologación) to be processed, thus preventing them from working and keeping them in limbo.

The louder he talked of his honour, the faster we counted our spoons.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



# THE BAR NEXT DOOR.

FIRST FLOOR  
VIA PARK III

(Sister bar to The Lime Bar)

*A DEDICATED SPORT'S BAR.*

*Mark, Darren & George welcome customers  
Old & new back to The Bar Next Door.*



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EVERY THURSDAY AT 3PM. MAXIMUM 16 PLAYERS.

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WITH  
GREAT  
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# LIME BAR

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**LIVE MUSIC FROM 4pm**



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I fail to understand why women love cats. Cats are independent, they don't listen, they don't come in when you call, they like to stay out all night, and when they're home they like to be left alone and sleep. In other words, every quality that women hate in a man, they love in a cat.

# Price List

Issued Feb 2022



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30 capsule pot	34.49 euros

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Health Tea Pot	12.50 euros

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Skin Repair Oil 50ml	39.00 euros
Vitamin Eye Oil 10ml	22.00 euros
TRU Box Set	149.00 euros
TRU Refresh/Restore	62.50 euros
TRU Calm	55.00 euros

## Natural Organic Products

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Room Diffuser 50ml	4.95 euros



## The Water Filter Co.

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## Socialists Reward Trade Unions!

El Mundo has revealed how Spain's two top unions received generous grants from the government. UGT received a subsidy of 4.7 million euros in 2021, 54.9% more than that received in 2020; while CCOO, a union friend of the third vice president because her father was the leader, was subsidized with 5.3 million euros, which represents an increase of 57.7% year-on-year compared to its 2020 endowment. The organizations of Pepe Álvarez and Unai Sordo took 72% of the maximum total amount of subsidies that the Ministry was allowed to grant in 2021, as approved in March in the BOE. In total, the maximum amount of subsidies of this type rose from the 8.8 million that had been granted the previous year to 13.88 million euros. The increase was 56%.

Clive, a bit of a 'smart Alec,' took a pot shot at his mate Henry in the pub. He rubbed Henry's bald head remarking loudly, 'By jove, your head feels as smooth as my wife's backside.' Henry slowly rubbed his hand over his head and replied, 'My goodness, so it does!'



JJ's

Café  Bar

VIA PARK V.

**Kitchen closed  
Winter Hours  
Now in Operation.**

**BAR OPEN**

**TUESDAY - SUNDAY**

**1pm - 10pm**



**WEDNESDAY FUN DARTS 7pm**

**FRIDAY QUIZ WITH SUE 6pm**

**Sunday Afternoon Quiz**

**& StandUp Bingo**

**with John - 2:30 start.**

**JILLY'S SLIMMING CLUB**

**THURSDAYS 4pm**

**New Members Welcome!**

**ALL SPORTS SHOWN**



FREE  
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Thank you to everyone for your continued support through  
challenging time, we value your support

JJ, Rob & Bobby

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TWEET!

TWEET!





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VIA PARK 3 (Next to the Lime Bar)  
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OPENING TIMES

MONDAY - SATURDAY

11am - 5pm



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# POOLView

## Snack Bar

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DE LEVANTE

VIA PARK V

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disabled facilities**

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Have you ever pondered on the similarity between a pelican and British Gas?

They can both stick their bills up their arses.

Stephen Fry





# JESSIE'S BAR

Come and join us on our sunny terrace for  
**•FULL ENGLISH BREAKFASTS •JACKET POTATOES**  
**•HOMEMADE LASAGNE, CURRY, CHILLI**  
**•TOASTIES & SANDWICHES**

Only  
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 Produce!

**CARD  
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 NOW ACCEPTED**

**FREE  
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**Thursdays 6pm  
 Quiz & Race Night  
 Fridays 8pm Karaoke.  
 Sundays 3pm**

**Our Dream Girl Marsy!**



**DOG  
 FRIENDLY**

**ALL LIVE SPORTS ON 3 TVS**

**MARCH 1st CURRYOKE SPECIAL!**

**KARAOKE + CURRY + DRINK €5!**



## DO COVID REINFECTIONS STRENGTHEN IMMUNITY?

Almost certainly yes. A single, prior infection gives similar protection against infection with omicron as two doses of vaccine, so it's reasonable to assume that reinfections will also boost immunity. But such immunity still won't be 100% protective. There's emerging evidence of people being reinfected multiple times. This, though, shouldn't be surprising, as we know the other human coronaviruses cause reinfections every few years. A key unsolved question in the current coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic is the duration of acquired immunity. Insights from infections with the four seasonal human coronaviruses might reveal common characteristics applicable to all human coronaviruses. A study monitored healthy individuals for more than 35 years and determined that reinfection with the same seasonal coronavirus occurred frequently at 12 months after infection. You can read the research here -

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-020-1083-1>



**“Keep your eyes open.  
 Two prisoners are missing!”**

If you don't like my opinion of you, you can always improve.

Ashleigh Brilliant

## 14 HOW PM SANCHEZ CLINGS ON!

The Economist Magazine's Economist Intelligence Unit, drops Spain's rating to "flawed democracy" in the Democracy Index 2021, citing political fight over renewal of the judicial council, parliamentary fragmentation, political corruption and Catalan separatism.

(The report is called The China Challenge and if you have the stomach for it, e-mail me and I will send you a copy in PDF.)

In an effort to remain in power, PM Sanchez, leader of the left-wing coalition, would do a deal with the devil and needed the support of several left-wing and separatist parties to remain in power and pass legislation.

Last summer, he **pardoned nine Catalan separatists** who were jailed for sedition, an illegal referendum and failed independence bid in 2017. An additional three were found guilty of disobedience but not jailed were pardoned.

Sanchez's government also decided not to pursue the return of more than **nine and a half million euros** from the separatists which was fraudulently obtained to promote the illegal referendum. The Catalan Generalitat and the Government tacitly agree not to try to recover this public money.

To obtain a pardon, one must show contrition, none of those pardoned did so. The pardons and decision of the 9.5 million ensured that the Catalan separatist parties would support the Sanchez government at least until the general election in 2023.

Similarly with the Basque Country, Sanchez allowed the convicted and jailed Basque terrorists to be moved to prisons **closer to, or in the Basque area**. Again this secured the vital support of the Basque independence parties for the 'Frankenstein' government until the next general election in 2023. It may not last!

## TAKE UP OF TIE CARDS

A year and a half since Spanish authorities started to issue non-EU TIE residency cards to Britons residing in Spain, 180,000 UK nationals have applied and received this document.

According to a report published on January 24th by the Specialised Committee on Citizens' Rights, the 180,000 figure means that less than half of Spain's British resident population have the new biometric card, as they estimate there could be as many as 430,000 UK nationals residing in Spain. Last summer, the UK Embassy in Madrid reported how "at the beginning of June (2021) more than 150,000 UK Nationals had applied for their Withdrawal Agreement TIE", which represented a jump of around 100,000 new cards over the previous five months.

The rate of Britons applying for this new residency document has slowed down over the past half a year, with **only 30,000 new TIE cards** issued from June to December 2021.



### First Day!

A Navel cadet enters flight academy during World War 2. He gets a perfect score on the written test on the first day and starts his flight training. He's so good he's doing loops within the first week. He graduates within a month with flying colours and is sent to the Pacific and stationed on an aircraft carrier. He shoots down five Japanese planes, becoming an ace on his first day.

Running low on fuel, he makes a perfect landing on the carrier. Seeing the captain standing on deck, he walks over to him, and asks cockily, "Well Captain, how'd I do on my first day?" The captain turns around and says, "Un ritre skrew up, Yankee Dog."



**Mike Heighway**  
Pension Services

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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  
and always without obligation.

**Visit our website: [www.mhpensions.co.uk](http://www.mhpensions.co.uk)**

Bruce is driving over the Sydney Harbor Bridge one day when he sees his girlfriend, Sheila about to throw herself off.

Bruce slams on the brakes and yells, "Sheila, what the hell d'ya think you're doing?"

Sheila turns around with a tear in her eye and says, "G'day Bruce. You got me pregnant and so now I'm gonna kill myself."

Bruce gets a lump in his throat when he hears this. He says "Damn Sheila.....Not only are you a great fuck, but you're a real sport too." .....and drives off.





*Barry & Sue  
Welcome you to*

# LAS OLAS

**RESTAURANT/BAR**

Av de Las Olas, Torrevieja  
**OPEN FROM 10am DAILY!**

**EXTENSIVE MENU**

**FEATURING**

**Breakfast Special 7 items**

**€2.99! (No sub's)**

**MIXED GRILL**

**STEAKS**

**SEA BASS & MUCH MORE!**

**MENU DEL DIA €7.50**

To find us, take the road from the  
Punta Prima roundabout  
towards the sea - Av de Las Olas -  
And we are about 150 metres on the left!

Come and look around  
the APAH Animal Rescue  
lovely charity shop  
on the lower ground floor  
in Via Park 5.

Lots of lovely bargains including new and  
nearly new clothes  
at very reasonable prices  
and much, much more....

**The Irish Bob  
sleigh team are  
refusing to race  
until the course  
has been gritted**

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WE HAVE THE SOLUTION!

**AFFORDABLE**

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MANY SATISFIED CLIENTS IN YOUR AREA.**

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for a free quotation.**

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**Bingo every Thurs**

**Eyes Down 3pm**

**Daily Food Special Mon - Fri 1-7pm**

**Every Weds 6-8pm Steak Night**

**Booking only**

**BBQ every second Sat' at 3pm**

**Booking Advisable**

**Fun Quiz Sundays 8.00pm**

Wi-Fi



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**ALICANTE AIRPORT**

**MONDAY to SUNDAY**

**(from 14th JUNE 2021)**

**This service offers round trips without  
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**Torrevieja to Airport :**

**7:00 9:00 11:00 13:00 16:00 18:00  
20:00**

**Airport to Torrevieja :**

**8:00 10:00 12:00 14:00 17:00 19:00  
21:00**



If you are resident in Spain and hold assets abroad, you will no doubt be familiar with Modelo 720.

Basically, if you are resident here in Spain and have an asset abroad **worth €50,000 or more**, you have to declare it on a 720 before the 31<sup>st</sup> of March. So, if you have a property abroad worth say €50,000 and an investment fund of say €55,000, you have to declare both. If however the property was worth less than €50,000, then you would only declare the investment fund. If you had several assets, each under €50,000 in value, they needed not to be reported.

The problem with the 720 - or indeed the Spanish tax authorities - is that if you did not make a return or made a mistake in filling the form, the penalties were draconian.

One of the most widely reported cases was that of a Spanish national who returned home to Spain from Switzerland and who had €330,000 euros in a Swiss account. He declared after the deadline and was fined €442,000.

Since the 720 was introduced in 2012, the Hacienda has collected €230 million in fines. But now the **European Court of Justice has stepped in** on January 27 and declared that the tax failed to comply with its obligations under the principle of free movement of capital. "This obligation may dissuade residents of that Member State (Spain) from investing in other Member States, prevent them from doing so or limit their possibilities of doing so," judges concluded, adding that the system put in place by Spain's Tax Agency meant they had more information on foreign assets than those in Spain itself. Judges also spoke out against the 150% fines as being "extremely repressive" and again "impairing" the free movement of capital. Spain 'respects' the ruling but will continue with the Form in some format. If you were fined in the past, you can now reclaim the fine, **only if you have lodged an appeal before the March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline!** Some lawyers believe that you can appeal after the deadline, but why wait!

**"Waggy Tails"**  
 In San Miguel de Salinas  
**DOG GROOMING PARLOUR**  
 FOR APPOINTMENTS  
 Phone Vicky:  
 672 326 979



**The Little Pirate**

A little boy is dressed as a pirate captain for Halloween. He knocks on the door of a house and a lady answers. She says, "Well, well, little boy, what are you supposed to be?"

He says, "I am a pirate captain."

She says, "Well, where are your buccaneers?"

He says, "Right here under my bucken hat."

**The Naughty Vicar!**

Early one Saturday evening the local vicar called round to see one of his parishioners only to find a party in full swing.

As he walked into the front room, he was astonished to find a circle of naked men and a group of blindfolded women moving amongst them, feeling their todgers.

The host explained that the women had to guess the name of the man by feeling his 'family jewels.'

The vicar blushed and replied, 'Oh dear, I really don't think I ought to be here.'

'Nonsense Vicar!' replied the host, 'your name has been mentioned twice already.'

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**20 g**

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ALICANTE >> LONDON € 1.16



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Mo-Fr 9:30-17:00

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Urb. Los Balcones  
Centro Comercial Filton  
Avenida Asunción 7



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POSTAL  
GROUP.COM**

I'm at the age when food has taken the place of sex in my life.  
In fact, I've just had a mirror put over my kitchen table.  
Rodney Dangerfield



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TIE's**

**CEE & Certificate of Habitation  
& much more.....**

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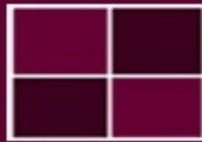
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**TEL:0034-640 621 558.**

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## Oy Vey!

Maurice and Hannah got married and were on their honeymoon. On their first night, they began getting undressed together for the first time, and as soon as Maurice removed his shoes and socks, Hanna quickly eyed how twisted and red looking his toes were.

"Whatever happened to your feet.?"

Hannah asked.

"I had a childhood disease called tolio," replied Maurice.

"Don't you mean polio?"

"No, tolio, it only affects the toes."

Maurice then took off his trousers to reveal badly deformed, lumpy knees.

"What happened to your knees?"

Hannah asked.

"Well, I also had kneasles," replied

Maurice. "Don't you mean measles?"

"No, kneasles, it only affects the knees," Maurice said.

Finally Maurice removed his pants and stood there in all his glory.

Hannah gasped and said, "Don't tell me, you also had smallcox!"



The cat which isn't let out of the bag  
often becomes  
a skeleton in the cupboard.  
Falconer Madan



# BAR DOMINO

LOS ALTOS

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK FROM 9.30AM  
KITCHEN OPEN DAILY 9:30am, Last Orders 8pm



**WOMEN'S SOCIAL PETANCA**

**EVERY THURSDAY 11am**

**ALL WELCOME**

**PETANCA PISTE AVAILABLE**

**EVERY DAY OR NIGHT**

**ASK AT BAR FOR DETAILS**

**BEST FACILITIES IN AREA!**



## DARTS LEAGUE

EVERY MONDAY 7.30pm START

If interested, please contact bar for details

NEW DART'S SET UP

AVAILABLE DAY OR NIGHT

3 BOARDS!



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JOHN SMITHS, STRONGBOW**

**ALL ON DRAUGHT!**

TEL 694 494 697

ENTERTAINMENT COMING SOON

FRIDAY, SATURDAY

AND SUNDAY NIGHTS

KEEP EYE ON FACEBOOK!



There are three types of men in the world. One type learns from books. One type learns from observations. And one type just has to urinate on the electric fence himself.

Carl Barney





# BAR DOMINO

LOS ALTOS

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK FROM 9.30AM

KITCHEN OPEN DAILY 9:30am, Last Orders 8pm

TRY OUR AMAZING **SCOTTISH BREAKFAST**

**HOMEMADE SQUARE SAUSAGE, LINK SAUSAGE, BACON, EGG, BLACK PUDDING,  
POTATO SCONE, TOMATO, BEANS, MUSHROOM & TOAST  
WITH OJ & TEA OR COFFEE ALL THIS - ONLY €5.50!!**

Full English Breakfast €4.50 Mon-Sat 9.30am-1.30pm

Sausage, Bacon, Egg, Hash Brown, Tomato, Beans, Mushroom, Toast,  
Includes tea or coffee & orange juice. ALSO VEGGIE & GLUTEN FREE!

(Sundays 10am - 11.30am)

Coffee, Tostada 9:30 - midday €2.00

Homemade Cake, coffee €2.50

facebook



**FISH & CHIPS €7.95!**

**MUSHY PEAS, BREAD & BUTTER**

**EVERY FRIDAY - 1.30PM TO 7.30PM**

Booking Advisable

**Unbeatable Sunday Lunch!**

*FROM €6.25 - STILL THE BEST!*

100 + PEOPLE EVERY WEEK CAN'T BE WRONG!

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL.**

**EVERY WEDNESDAY 4.30pm**

**SPEED QUIZZING WITH JUST OLLIE**

**EVERY SATURDAY**



**PETANCA COMPETITION - 11am START.**

RAIN OR SHINE - WE ARE OPEN!

To reach Bar Domino, take the road past Via Park III and Consum,  
right to the bottom of the Los Altos hill where you will find our spacious bar and grounds.

FACEBOOK - dominobar Tel: 694 494 697

**CODERE BETTING MACHINE!**

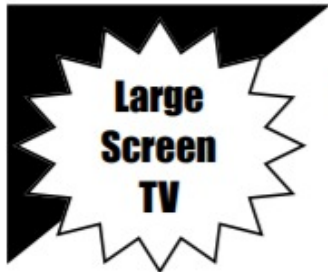
**LIVE RACING DAILY!**

WiFi

- Homer, I'd like to talk to you.

- But then I won't be watching TV. You can see the bind I'm in.

Marge and Homer Simpson



Come down & relax on our sunny terrace & enjoy a cool crisp beer, a glass of wine, or simply a frothy coffee.

New and improved snack menu.

**LIVE MUSIC ON THURSDAY AND SUNDAY AFTERNOONS**



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*[www.facebook.com/SunsetCafe](http://www.facebook.com/SunsetCafe)*



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for quotes**

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**634 365 874**



### FIRST ORAL ANTIVIRAL

The first oral antiviral to treat the coronavirus has arrived at hospitals in the province of Alicante.

The medicine, Paxlovid, has been developed by the company Pfizer, will **only be for hospital use** at the moment and is indicated for a very specific group of patients. It will serve to treat immunosuppressed people, generally older, who have many other diseases. Although the clinical trials of the drug Paxlovid were carried out when the delta variant was predominant, those responsible for Pfizer assure that this treatment is also valid to combat the omicron variant and will also be valid for future strains that appear. One hopes! To achieve the greatest effect, it is necessary that this medication be taken as soon as possible "less than five days since the symptoms began," says Félix Gutiérrez, head of Internal Medicine at the General Hospital of Elche. It is administered orally for five days.

I've been smoking for 30 years now and there's nothing wrong with my lung.

Freddie Starr

# U.K. Social Welfare Information - Advocacy Costa Blanca.

## Benefit Rates 2021/2022

Pension & Benefit Rates - 2021/2022

State Pension – (Full) £185.15.

Sickness Benefits (Attendance Allowance, DLA, PIP.) - High Rate - £92.40. Low Rate - £61.85



## Advocacy Costa Blanca

*Helping you receive the care and support you need.*

Changes to your health? Thinking about care and support at home?

**ACB provides expert social care, welfare guidance**

**and support.**



*Free home visits and advice from an award*

*winning UK registered LOCAL social worker.*

Attendance  
Allowance



*David, you are a highly valued professional who people have come to respect and rely on. Your personal integrity and knowledge are highly valued by myself and others who endeavour to support those who have none.*

*SC. Royal British Legion, Orihuela Costa Branch*

*David visited us in Catral as we couldnt find anyone to visit us so far inland. You certainly get what you pay for. B&P W. Catral*

*David helped me when moving my Husband to a care home in the UK. His knowledge of the UK care system is amazing.*

*The amount of time he gave to us was fantastic.*

*We couldn't have done it without him.*

*GD-Torrevieja*

*I contacted a group for help with welfare and care They gave me some forms and advice. I didn't have the time or energy & a friend recommended David. He visited and helped me with the application & is also helping with the Spanish care. Yes he charges but his knowledge and help makes it so worth it.*

*MT. San Miguel.*

David just helped me claim £47389 back from unpaid state pension.

All for free!!! IL- Catral.



**0034 602465565**



**advocacycostablanca@gmail.com**

Advocacy Costa Blanca is operated by David Minto, a UK registered Social Worker.

This includes UK benefit applications (Attendance Allowance/PIP) or support to return to the UK with care.

I am registered with the UK professional body for Social Work & every year must provide proof & evidence that my experience, knowledge and skills are up to date.

As a self-employed Social Worker in Spain I am required to provide Professional liability and indemnity insurance.

The registration requirements plus insurance means that I am always up to date with latest changes in UK social care & welfare law and my practice is fully indemnified.

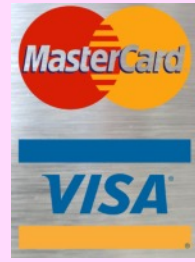
This means that if things do not go as expected or planned, you have professional and financial protection. Reassuring for you and costly for me.

**Can any other social care advisor offer you the same???**

**Get in touch if you need advice or guidance related to UK**

**and Spanish welfare support**





VIA PARK III,  
GROUND FLOOR  
LOS ALTOS  
966940386

**WE NOW ACCEPT CREDIT & DEBIT CARD PAYMENTS**



**OPENING HOURS**

**Bar Opening Hours**

**Monday - Sunday 10am - midnight**

**Kitchen Opening Hours**

**Mon - Sun 10am - 6pm**



**THURSDAY 6pm**

**THE HEIDI SHOW - GAMES NIGHT**

**FRIDAY 2pm**

**SHIRELLE MUSIC BINGO!**



Full English Breakfast, with Tea or Coffee and OJ  
Only €5.00 - available all day except Sunday pm.



**FISHY FRIDAY'S!**

**GOLDEN, BEER BATTERED COD, CHIPS**

**MUSHY PEAS & BREAD AND BUTTER**

**€6.00!! AVAILABLE 1pm - 5.45pm**

**SUNDAY LUNCHES**

**CHOOSE FROM CHICKEN, BEEF OR PORK  
WITH HOME-MADE YORKSHIRE PUDDINGS,  
STUFFING, ROAST AND MASHED POT'S,  
AND SEASONAL VEGETABLES.**

**JUST €6.00!**

**PUDDINGS/AFTERS/DESSERTS/SWEETS  
(WHICH ONE ARE YOU??) - HOT OR COLD  
ADD ONE AND PAY €8.00 IN TOTAL!**



**Wi-Fi**

Took my cat to the vet and explained she was very listless and not moving.  
The vet put a stethoscope to her chest and said "Say aaah." I said "she can't say 'aaah!'"  
And he said "I wasn't talking to the cat, I was talking to you. The cat's dead."

**THE SPECTACULAR NEW FOOTBRIDGE AT RELLEU RESERVOIR!**

This route is not for the faint hearted! The newly installed (since January 2022) footbridge of the "Relleu Dam" allows you to experience an unforgettable journey over the bed of the ravine. The 40 metre high wooden plank walkway has a route of 212 metres, with a daring glass floor viewpoint at the end!

Relleu and its 17th century reservoir, is one of the best kept treasures of the Costa Blanca. It is situated about a 45 minute drive inland from Benidorm, in the Marina Baixa region. A typical Spanish town nestled in the hills, Relleu is surrounded by nature in an environment of great beauty and value. The route begins at the Town Hall where you will find ample free parking and information to guide you through the walk.

Location: Ayuntamiento de Relleu, Plaza de la Constitució 1, 03578 Relleu

Opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday 10am-6pm

Ticket price: 2,50€ or 1,50€ for over 65's (to be purchased at the entrance)

More fascinating places to visit on the Costa

Blanca can be found on the website:  
[www.costablancascene.com](http://www.costablancascene.com)



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 URBANISATIONS  
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**CONTACT  
 SAM BANKS  
 ON 604257412  
 OR [avacruz105@icloud.com](mailto:avacruz105@icloud.com)**

A bloke was rushed to A&E with a Morphy Richards steam iron up his backside, "Good grief, " said the doctor, "I thought I'd seen it all, how on Earth did you manage that?" "Well, " said the bloke, "it happened just after my wife opened her birthday present. "





# DILLER'S IRISH BAR



(Formerly Bar Cortxo Pintxo)  
Ground Floor Via Park 5

**UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT  
OPEN 12 - 12 EVERY DAY!**

## **STEAK NIGHT**

**RETURNS**

**THURSDAYS FROM 6pm**



**KARAOKE**  
**SATURDAY 8pm**

COME AND JOIN THE FUN!



**CELEBRATE**



## **ST. PATRICK'S DAY**

**MARCH 17!**



**HAPPY HOUR EVERYDAY! 2 - 6pm!**

*There are no strangers at Diller's -  
only friends who haven't met!*





# JB's

Calle Laguna Vista, Lago Jardin 2.  
(Formerly known as Jilly's Bar)



## NOW OPEN!

*We would like to thank one and all  
For an amazing open-day here at JB's,  
and for your continue support.*

*Join Us for Fresh Tapas, Served Daily.  
Live Sports and Weekly Live Entertainment.*



*We are pleased to welcome back  
Ben Valentine Live 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2 - 5pm  
Come along and join us!*

### Updating your Digital Covid Certificate to include your booster.

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*. Unfortunately those will not be able to download their certificate.

### GAMBLING.

I've been writing a book for years called *Horses that owe me money*.

Sophie Tucker



# PIRATES

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Punta Prima, 03185

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Julio & Hector plus guest artists  
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## • permanent make-up

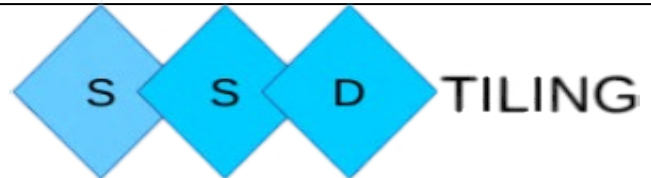
Jade's Lasting Beauty now offers microblading,  
micropigmentation, elegant eyeliner, lip liner,  
Full lip and the NEW Nano Pen!

## • piercings

Ears from 15€ - Face from 20€  
Body from 25€ - Ear stretching from 20€  
Greatest selection of piercing jewellery from 5€

### (More to this story than meets the eye!)

A British businessman, 42, has been arrested in Rojales accused of **attacking a man with a chainsaw**, slicing off part of the 20-year-old Spanish victim's nose requiring 15 stitches. According to police sources, the victim and another man were driving through an industrial estate in San Isidro on February 3 when they noticed a car approaching at speed from behind before overtaking and forcing them to stop. One of the two occupants of said car, the 42-year-old Briton, then allegedly jumped out of the vehicle and threatened to kill them both with a gun, before taking a chainsaw from the boot, starting it up and shoving it inside the passenger window. After a struggle, the victim sustained a serious face injury, losing part of his nose. Investigations led police to believe the attacker was the owner of the unit and other businesses that had been robbed on several occasions, and after making exhaustive efforts to locate the suspect, who has several addresses in San Isidro, the police finally located him at a friend's house in Rojales. According to police sources, the Briton cooperated immediately and handed over the chainsaw and a replica pistol.



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

It was Saturday night and three sisters were going out with their boyfriends.

'Bye mum,' said the first sister. 'I'm going out with Chas to listen to jazz.'

Moments later the second sister came to say goodbye. 'I going out with Lance to dance.'

Then the third sister walked in. 'Bye mum, I'm going out with Chuck.'

'Oh no!' exclaimed the mother quickly. 'You're not going anywhere.'

### TIE Cards & the Green Certificate.

During 2021, some British residents of Spain had been incorrectly stopped from boarding planes for Spain as they only had the green residency certificate instead of the TIE card. It started with airline staff not recognising the old green residency documents of a number of British passengers, denying them boarding or entry to Spain. Airport officials had either not seen this sheet of paper before – which isn't a photo ID but still an official residency document – or they assumed it should have been replaced with the new TIE card. Similar problems were being encountered in some banks and the Spanish DGT department. Spanish authorities have since created an official document, PDF, for UK nationals to take with them to the airport stating that the green certificates are still valid. You can find and print out the relative form from the link below -

[https://www.inclusion.gob.es/ficheros/brexit/nota\\_aclaratoria\\_green\\_certificate.pdf](https://www.inclusion.gob.es/ficheros/brexit/nota_aclaratoria_green_certificate.pdf)

This supporting notice is in both English and Spanish and should solve any problems you have with the green certificate, unless of course you come up against a real idiot and these are often impossible to deal with! Although the British Consulate are encouraging Brit residents to change to the TIE, the Spanish authorities have not given a 'closing date' or indication that they will be insisting on the change to TIE's soon. We will let you know when this happens.

### WOMAN'S POEM

Before I lay me down to sleep,  
I pray for a man, who's not a creep,  
One who's handsome, smart and strong.  
One who loves to listen long.  
One who thinks before he speaks.  
One who'll call, not wait for weeks.  
I pray he's gainfully employed,  
When I spend his cash, won't be annoyed.  
Pulls out my chair and opens my door,  
Massages my back and begs to do more.  
Oh! Send me a man, who'll make love to my mind.  
He knows what to answer to "how big is my  
behind?"  
I pray that this man will love me to no end.  
And he'll always be my very best friend.

### MAN'S POEM

I pray for a deaf-mute nymphomaniac with huge  
boobs who owns a liquor store and a golf course.  
I know this doesn't rhyme  
and I don't give a monkeys.



"Yes, this one feels about right!"

## LOCKSMITH

CERRAJEROS - SCHLOSSER  
SEGURIDAD UNION



607 493 118

Antonio  
LOCAL

(Cut out & keep.)



## DALJIT'S VIA PARK V MINI SUPERMARKET, SUN BAR & GRILL

We also do Breakfasts, Burgers,  
Doner Kebabs & Fish & Chips:  
Eat-in or Take-away!

Vast Range of Indian Spices



Greeting Cards,  
Frozen Foods  
Off Licence



Credit Cards Accepted  
OPEN FROM 11:00am UNTIL 9pm  
We are open 365 days a year!





# NICKY'S CAFE BAR

Camping Florantilles

TEL: 603 306 458

Open Daily 2pm - 10pm Sunday 1pm - 10pm.

Sunday lunches are back!!

Choice of Lamb, Beef, Pork, Chicken or Veggie

€7 Main, Dessert €3.00

Lamb €1 supplement

- Booking essential!



## National holidays across all of Spain in 2022

Saturday, January 1st (New Year's Day)

Thursday, January 6th (Epiphany)

Friday, April 15th (Good Friday)

Monday, August 15th (Assumption of the Virgin)

Wednesday, October 12th (National Day of Spain)

Tuesday, November 1st (All Saints' Day)

Tuesday, December 6th (Spanish Constitution Day)

Thursday, December 8th (Immaculate Conception Day)

Valencian Region Holidays: March 19th, April 14th, April 18th and June 24th.

## TOO MANY PARROTS!

Many of you may have seen a flock or pandemonium of parrots around our area. I have seen them more than once gathering on the high cables by the main road outside the local hospital.

However, they have become a nuisance in many cities, to the extent that in Madrid 2,025 Argentine and Kramer parrots have been culled since May 2021.

This represents just 15% of the estimated **13,553** in the area. 469 nests and 56 eggs were also destroyed.

Spain has the second largest population of Argentine parrot in the world with more than 20,000 birds spread across 140 municipalities, the majority of which are located in Barcelona, Madrid and Malaga.

The Kramers have 3,000 of their species living in the wild with 2,000 living in Seville. According to experts, including the World Wildlife Fund, if the situation is not adequately addressed, these numbers could double in the next two years. The non-native birds pose a huge threat to Spain's ecological system.



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Clubbers in London’s Tiger Tiger were mistakenly given **caustic soda instead of salt** when knocking back tequila slammers, sending four people to hospital with burns. Police attended the nightclub near Piccadilly Circus in central London during December after receiving reports that people had chemical-related injuries, believed to be caused by a staff error. Authorities then closed Tiger Tiger as a precaution. Imagine the litigation!

A handwoven wicker sculpture (photo) recently unveiled in Ashford, Kent, has upset local residents, who have complained that it “**looks like a dog poo**”. The Loop, created by artist Julia Clarke, was commissioned by Ashford Borough Council and is meant to “entice” visitors into a local park. But residents criticised the lack of consultation over the installation – and were unimpressed with the finished product. It looks like “something that belongs in a litter tray”, said one.



Angela Clarke, a 55-year-old from South Wales with a passion for plastic bags, has won the world record for the largest collection. She first got the bug for bags in 1976, when she decorated her home with Union Jack carrier bags to mark the Queen’s silver jubilee. She now has **more than 10,000**, including Asda bags from “when Asda first started”. While the collection is worth thousands of pounds, she has vowed never to part with them. “They are my babies,” she says.



**You just poured boiling oil over the window cleaner!**

A learner driver who travelled 500 miles to take a test in a remote part of Scotland known for its high pass rates has failed. Constance Kampfner says she decided to try the Isle of Mull after blowing it in London, and discovering that the test route there had only one roundabout. “I



don’t like to talk about people who fail their tests,” her instructor told her at the end of their time together. “Think of it as just not passing.”

Talk about *touchy*! A prominent Turkish journalist has been arrested and remanded in custody on charges of insulting President Erdogan. Sedef Kabas (photo) was arrested in a raid on her home in Istanbul at 2am in late January, for citing an “insulting” proverb during an interview on an opposition-linked TV channel, and on Twitter.

It translates as: “When the ox comes to the palace, he does not become a king. But the palace becomes a barn.” If convicted, she could be jailed for between one and four years. Around **10,000 people** were charged with insulting the president in 2020, according to official figures.



Tesla’s self-driving software **let cars roll through stop signs**. That’s definitely illegal, and now the company has had to recall nearly 54,000 vehicles.

Two men **brought a dead body**, ‘Weekend at Bernie’s-style,’ to an Irish post office to pick up the deceased’s pension cheque. The dead man, who appeared to be in his 60’s, was dragged into the post office in the town of Carlow propped up by two younger men. When questioned by staff, the two fled, leaving behind the older man, who was then found to be dead.

The person who stole my shoes while I was on the bouncy castle, needs to grow up !

## *Costs of Getting a Spanish Driving Licence If You Haven't Submitted Your Request on Time!*

According to a 2020 study by Compare the Market, Spain is the 9th most expensive country in the world to get a driving licence, only behind wealthy European nations such as Norway, Switzerland, Finland, Sweden or the UK.

Spain has around 9,000 driving schools, all of which are at freedom to set their own prices for many of their services. There also tends to be considerable cost differences between different regions and cities.

According to data published in 2021 by Spain's leading consumer watchdogs OCU and FACUA, the overall expenses of getting your driving licence in Spain are as follows:

### **Enrolment (Matrícula)**

This registration fee that learner drivers pay when they join a driving school costs an average of €200 in Spain, although some driving schools charge much more.

### **Theory classes (Clases teóricas)**

The average cost of theory classes for learner drivers is €203. For this you can attend in-person classes at the driving school and receive the theory book and similar learning materials, which only cost around €13.

The Spanish DGT traffic authority in 2022 authorised driving schools to offer these theory classes exclusively online if they prefer.

### **Physical examination (Examen psicotécnico)**

In this, have to do some hand-eye coordination tests, vision and hearing tests, see a doctor and get your blood pressure measured. These physical examinations are usually carried out at health centres called "centros de reconocimiento de conductores" and cost €30 to €35, although again prices may vary.

*No matter how great your triumphs or how tragic your defeats remember that approximately one billion Chinese people couldn't care less.*  
*Abraham Lazlo*

### **Practical lessons (Clases prácticas)**

Having lessons in the car with a driving instructor is what learner drivers in Spain usually end up spending the most on. On average it costs €25 per practical lesson, which usually lasts 45 minutes.

There is no minimum number of lessons learners have to do (foreign drivers must take at least five) before they can sit their practical driving test, but if you're starting from zero it could be as many as 35, which adds up to €750.

### **Examination fees (Tasas de tráfico)**

This is the money that you have to pay the DGT to sit your exam. It's a fee that's gone up slightly in 2022 and now costs €94.05.

You get two extra chances to pass between the theory and the practical exams, so if you pass your theory test the first time round you have two goes at passing your practical, but if you fail your first theory exam you only get one go at the practical.

### **Driving licence issuance (Expedición de los permisos de circulación)**

You'll have to pay an extra €99.77 to get your actual credit card-sized Spanish driving licence from the DGT once you pass your driving test.

### **Admin expenses (Gastos de tramitación)**

Some Spanish driving schools charge you for processing your file (whatever that really means), around €45 on average. It's an extra expense that not all *autoescuelas* charge, some include in the price of the registration.



That's a fail, huh?



## Spain's Catholic Church To Return 965 Properties

The Spanish Catholic Church admitted during January that **nearly 1,000 properties** that it registered to its name between 1998 and 2015 do not really belong to the institution. The admission was intended to bring to an end a long-running scandal but not everyone is satisfied with the result.

The list includes 38 cemeteries, 502 rural properties, 151 urban properties and 98 housing units. Half of the assets are located in the Spanish region of Castilla y León, while 101 are in Catalonia.

Spain's Franco-era Mortgage Law, which was **passed in 1946**, has allowed the Church to register thousands of properties in its name via a simple process that a number of law experts say is unconstitutional. In 1998, the conservative Popular Party (PP) government of José María **Aznar** **extended this privilege** to also include places of worship. Since then, thousands of properties of all types – cemeteries, smallholdings, chapels and cathedrals – have passed into its hands.

According to the current Spanish government, the Church registered irregularly a total of **34,961 properties** between 1998 and 2015. But of this figure, the Church has so far only recognized that 965 of these assets do not officially belong to it – just 2.8% of the total.

The agreement has also been strongly criticized by the organization *Recuperando*, which represents 24 groups that are calling for all the properties irregularly registered by the Church to be returned. Carmen López, from the Castilla y León branch of *Recuperando*, argues that the Church has many more properties irregularly registered in its name since the Mortgage Law dates back to 1946. “If we take into account all those years, there are **100,000 properties** registered this way, with only the certification of the bishop,” she said. “The scandal is enormous and it is still not resolved.

All registrations made with **just an ecclesiastical certificate**, as if the Church were an administration, are illegal. The clergy are not in a position of equals to deal with the state. In 1946 we were a Catholic state, but not anymore,” she added.

## Foreign Property Buyers 33

The rate of properties bought by foreigners in Spain is back to pre-pandemic levels, representing 12.6% of the total number of purchases in the fourth quarter of 2021.

These are figures not seen since the last quarter of 2019, the last ‘normal’ period before the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and ensuing lockdown and travel restrictions saw operations from overseas buyers drop considerably.

Britons are back to being the main foreign buyers in Spain (12.4%) followed by German nationals (10.9%), French (7.8%), Moroccans (5.7%), Belgians (5.5%) and Swedes (5.2%).

The regions with the biggest rise in foreign buyers are the ones that *extranjeros* traditionally prefer to buy homes in: the Balearics (39% foreign purchases), the Valencia region (24.3%) and the Canary Islands (25.9%).

### The Funeral Expenses

Sam died and left \$50,000 in his will for an elaborate funeral.

As the last mourners left, Sam's wife, Rose, turned to her oldest friend, Sadie, and said: "Well, I'm sure Sam would be pleased."

"I'm sure you're right" replied Sadie, who leaned in close and lowered her voice to a whisper: "tell me, how much did it really cost?"

"All of it" said Rose. "50,000."

"No!" Sadie exclaimed "I mean, it was very nice, but really.....\$50,000?"

Rose nodded. "The funeral was \$6500. I donated \$500 to the church for the priest services. The food and drinks for another \$500. And the rest went towards the memorial stone."

Sadie computed quickly: "\$42,500 for a memorial stone? Exactly how big is it?"

"Seven and a half carats."





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## Man Missing from Crash.

At 10pm on the evening of February 17, police were called to a cliff face at Punta Prima. A red Audi A1 car had crashed from the cliff to the seashore, the lights were still on and the engine running, but no sign of the driver or any occupants. The car was traced to a 50-year-old man from Murcia, married with two children, ages 17 and 19, and is reported to be a responsible person, an athlete and who has no known enemies. Divers also searched the water.

The man had still not been located at the time of writing, late on the 18<sup>th</sup>. There were no signs of skidding on the cliff edge or that he could have been injured. There is also no evidence that he could have been ejected upon impact.





# HELP VEGA BAJA NEWS

## AMBASSADOR

### The scoop of the day

The Elective Committee are delighted to announce that Mr. Andy Fox has joined the charity as Ambassador. After consideration who to approach for the role, the committee were unanimous in their decision to ask Andy to join the team.

As Ambassador Andy will help to raise awareness of the charity and how we can help people within the community of the Vega Baja area.

Andy has lived in the area for a considerable time and is well known not only for his business Villas Fox with wife Sorelle but also for the support he offers the community with information he places on various social media.

We are excited about this new venture that we will be on together and look forward to having Andy as part of our team.

Photo shows President Michele Masson and Treasurer Sue Birchenough presenting Andy Fox with his Ambassador and Honorary Member Certificate at the San Miguel Centre of the charity.



### DID YOU KNOW....

We can support you through your application for Attendance Allowance, provide information relating to Spanish Benefits that may be available to you, print your Covid Passports, register your S1's online and so much more!

Simply call our San Miguel Centre to make an appointment on 966 723 733



### HELP RESPITE PROJECT

The HELP Respite Project is now up and running and offers limited respite to carers in need of a break who do not have the financial resources to pay for a professional carer for their loved one. If you would like to find out more about this project, please call our San Miguel Centre on 966 723 733 and ask to speak with Richard Garland in the first instance.

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### HELP MEMBERSHIPS

Did you know that for just 10 euros each year you can become a member of HELP Vega Baja.

In return for this small membership fee, you will be entitled to a number of benefits which includes not only 150 euros of interpreting each year, but discounts at many local organisations including Quiron Salud Hospital, reduced price mammograms, C:R:A:C: 24 security, Central Clinico and Dental, Funeral plans, and much more. See [www.helpvegabaja.com](http://www.helpvegabaja.com) for more information. If you are already a member and forgot to renew, we currently have an offer giving you 6 months from your renewal date to renew without losing your qualifying period. Call Sue on 966 723 733 for more information

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LIVE WORLDWIDE RACING COVERAGE

A woman with a clipboard stopped me today outside Mercadona and said, "Can I ask where you get your electricity from at the moment?" I replied, "I'm pretty sure it comes into my house through some kind of wire."

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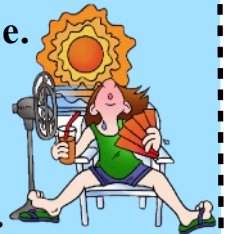


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## Lime Bar ~~Fishing~~ SUNBATHING Club

The last meeting was another quickie, just 13 minutes this time. Not a lot happened, except the Cat moaned at me because the text was too small in last month's DS report. I had 2 month's crap to fit in! However, maybe you need to go to Specsavers? Just for you and cos there is nothing to write about... I'll do it BIGGER>>>

The monthly match was held on Mercadona drain on a cold but sunny day. With only 11 anglers, BFC and 3 Rods "eventually" got the pegs sorted with plenty of room between swims. The idea being that we didn't want to pressure the fish. Ho! Ho! We had 4 blanks and the weights ranged from 0.15 to 1.8 kilos. Well done to the Cat, his 1<sup>st</sup> ever fish here, with a bleak of 0.15 kg.

BFC won again with a few small carp for 1.8 kg, Ball boy was 2<sup>nd</sup> with 1.4 kg, then 3 Rods with 1.3 kg. I had drawn the best peg and although I had line bites (showing fish were in the peg) I just couldn't get them feeding.

BFC is way out in front in the winter match league, he has had 3 x wins and 2 x 2<sup>nd</sup> places. The man to beat.

Come on sunshine, warm us up. Another couple of months and we will be whinging that it is too hot!

Is it just me or has been particularly cold this year? The fish certainly think so, even the professionals are having a few dry nets. Having said that, every now and again, someone gets lucky and the big fish feed as a waft of warm water goes past. This happened to 3 Rods last week at Bigastro. Every one was struggling for a bite, then along comes a "purple patch". He only caught 3 fish but they 8, 5 and 4 pounders, all on maggot!

Then yesterday, a local caught a whopper at El Bosquet, 7 kilos this time. Sweeney & I fished there the day before (in the best pegs) and only had 3 fish between us....

Oh well. The water will soon start to warm up, this will get the fish feeding when they build up their strength before spawning. The other half keeps saying, "I don't know why you bother."

A massive thank you to the Carp R Us men for clearing the blockage in the Eden 2 stretch of the Segura. The amount of plastic bottles, farmers fertilizer cans, builders' planks, baby's car seats... etc that had built up was disgusting. Not only did they clear the raft, but they have also cut out more pegs. Well done. See photos before and after.



Did you know?

In [Iceland](#), Beer Day ([Icelandic: Bjórdagurinn](#))<sup>[1]</sup> is celebrated every year on **March 1<sup>st</sup>**, honouring the elimination of the 74-year [prohibition of beer](#). Prohibition lasted from January 1, 1915 to March 1, 1989. They make up for it now!

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

Stay safe  
Fishy fingers!  
The Ghost





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### WHERE'S ME TEEFF?

A British holidaymaker who lost his false teeth after a drunken day out in Benidorm has been reunited with his dentures - **11 years later**.

Paul Bishop, 63, received a package from Spain in the post this month containing the teeth, which had been vomited into a bin outside a pub in 2011.

"It was a drunken day out with the lads," Mr Bishop, from Stalybridge, Greater Manchester, said. "I'd had enough lager so I got a pint of cider, but then the other lads were ready to go so I downed the last of my pint and thought 'Oh no, it's coming back up'."

After vomiting into the bin, he went to another bar, at which point one of his friends noticed he was missing his teeth. Despite attempts to find them, he had to spend the rest of the holiday without gnashers, even performing as

a toothless Elvis for his friend's 50th birthday. He spent £600 on a new set and didn't think of them again - until a little blue envelope, addressed to Senor Paul Bishop, arrived in the post and it emerged he had been tracked down through a DNA database.

Mr Bishop now intends to put the teeth on display in the Ridge Hill Lane Working Men's Club in Stalybridge, where he is general manager. He said: "Someone's definitely cleaned them up, they're in perfect condition.

"I didn't know I was even on a DNA database but I did a voluntary swab years ago so it must have been from that. "From there they have got in touch with the British embassy and found my address. "I've changed address three times since that holiday.

"I'm amazed they've taken the time to find me and post them back." (SkyNews)

*A woman's rule of thumb:  
 If it has tyres or testicles, you're going to have trouble with it.  
 Ella Gough*

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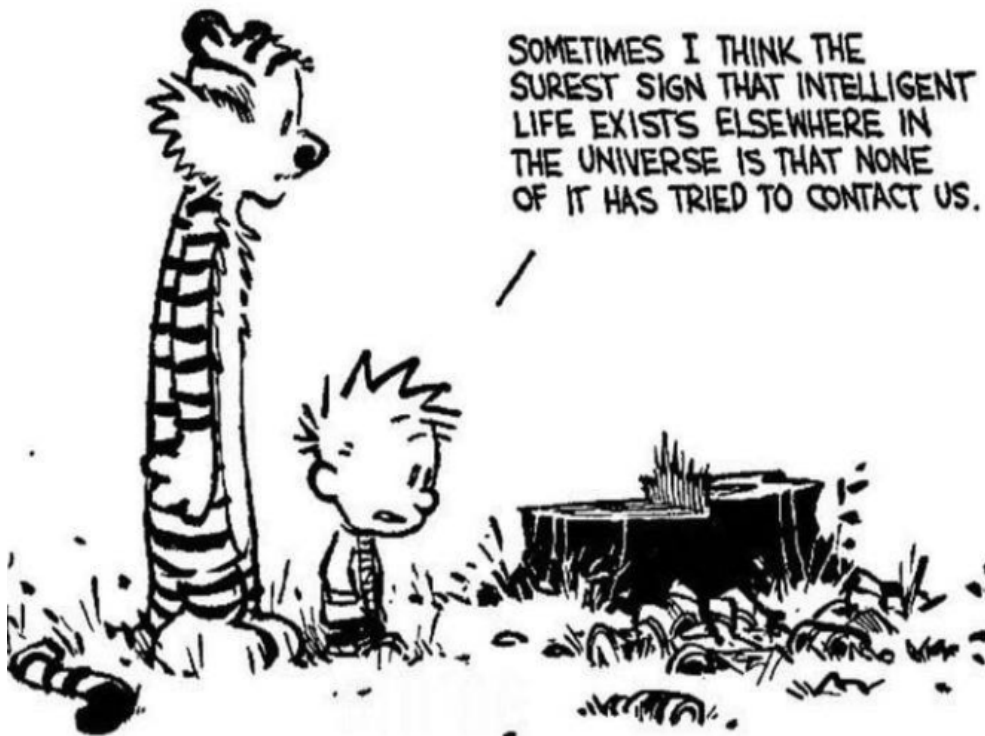
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