



THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER



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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the June 2022 edition. Issue No.176

Spain has more **Blue Flag beaches** than any other country in the world this year, 621 Blue Flags in all. The region of Valencia takes the top spot for Blue Flag beaches with a whopping 139. Over half of these are in the Alicante province.

Benidorm's Poniente beach has been stripped of its 'Blue Flag' for 2022 following a test carried out in mid-June last year. Benidorm's Beaches councillor, Monica Gomez, said: "Our municipal laboratories confirmed that there was an isolated rogue sample in one of two areas of the Poniente area analysed by the FEE." "The localised nature of the result did not confirm the quality and excellence of the water, along with the sand on the beach," added Gomez. The nearby Cala de Finestrat was also stripped of its 'Blue Flag.'

Fortunately both Torrevieja and Orihuela Costa **have retained all** their blue flags this year.

The Spanish driving authorities (DGT) have revealed some unwelcome news, as they are considering **reducing the validity period** of Spanish driving licences for people over

the age of 65. Currently, driving licences in Spain have to be renewed every five years and this period is shortened to two years when a person reaches the age of 70. This could all be about to change however, as the DGT is examining the possibility of forcing older people to renew their licence **within a shorter time span**, in addition to reviewing the medical tests that they have to undergo.

Although the Valencia Region has the third largest population in Spain, it is one that invests the least in **disability assistance** and benefits. While the Generalitat's own regulations establish a maximum time of three months to resolve the assessments, in Alicante it is taking between 15 and 18 months. This is down to a lack of doctors and sheer bureaucracy. The assessment is an essential procedure to access social benefits, employment or housing aid and to get the parking card. A mother of a 19-month-old girl who suffers from kidney disease has been waiting for an assessment for a year.

Keep well & safe,

Mick, Tid and the Dream Scene Team.

INTERPRETER

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LOCAL



**"It's from the hospital where you were born.
You're being recalled for manufacturing defects."**

A father is a man who has photos in his wallet where his money used to be.

Why are cars in this area magnetically attracted to water? You will recall a story we carried a short while ago about a car that went over a cliff



in Torrevieja, but the driver was missing! Photo.

It now transpires

that a 50-year-old Murcia accountant tried to fake his own death. It seems he is in a little financial difficulty and €600,000 in his bank accounts went missing....

In the second incident, photo, an 80-year-old man accidentally drove his car into a drainage

ditch in San Fulgenio.



A neighbour alerted the police and

the local police jumped in the water to rescue the man, who was now wedged in a window, trying to keep his head above the water.

Although exhausted and probably suffering from hypothermia, the 80-year-old decided not to go to hospital.

A drugs gang who ran a cocaine **home delivery service** has been smashed by the Guardia Civil in Torrevieja. The main sales point of the operation was a Torrevieja bar where drugs were kept in tupperware placed in a kitchen microwave. Other supplies were kept at homes belonging to gang members. A fleet of vehicles, including a taxi, were followed as the gang went to client homes with personal deliveries of cocaine packets. A search of the bar kitchen revealed 68 pre-packed pouches of cocaine in tupperware concealed in the microwave. Seven people have been arrested by the Guardia Civil over the plot.

Torrevieja is to spend €16 million in acquiring **32 new buses**. Some opposition parties have objected to this saying that the municipality should take over the service itself rather than put it out to a commercial firm.

Torrevieja is planning to build **three new** transport interchanges to replace the existing site by the old salt museum. The main hub is planned further along the port-side, close to the market at Plaza Capdeponet.

The second is to be located by Habaneras Shopping Centre, and the third will be at the University Hospital of Torrevieja. The extra cost of the improvements, believed to be some 4 million euros, probably means the **scrapping of the free bus service** allowed to so many local residents

Up to **130,496 vehicles** are currently in Alicante without being in possession of compulsory vehicle insurance. In the Valencian Community, there are currently 311,000 uninsured vehicles. Nationally, it is believed that there are 2,957,530 vehicles without insurance in Spain - according to the Spanish, Zombie cars!

During early May, a 67-year-old woman died in Teulada Moraira due to **anaphylactic shock** suffered after being stung by a wasp in a restaurant, according to the Emergency Information and Coordination Centre (CICU). A medical team has performed advanced cardiopulmonary resuscitation manoeuvres and other recovery techniques, but has not been able to revive the woman.



How many divorced men does it take to change a light bulb?

No one knows. They never get to keep the house.

The Beauty Lounge

Unisex Hair & Beauty



The Beauty Lounge - Via Park 111

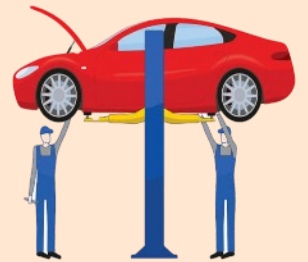
966 393 605

**GIFT
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FRIDAY IS FISH & CHIP DAY!

ONLY €15 FOR 2

INCLUDING

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With James Goulding Karaoke - starts at 7pm

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**FOR BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES
TELEPHONE 711 037 378.**

A woman sitting opposite me on the bus said ,
"Every time you smile at me I want to take you back to my place."
Me, "Are you single?" Her, "No, I'm a dentist "

PROBE DROPPED INTO SAUDI HIGH SPEED RAIL CONTRACT

Spanish prosecutors have shelved an investigation into whether Spanish firms paid kickbacks to secure a contract for Saudi Arabia's high-speed rail link citing 'insufficient evidence'.

Anti-corruption prosecutors were investigating the 2011 contract worth some €6.8 billion to a consortium of Spanish firms to build a high-speed rail link between Mecca and Medina. But in a ruling from Spain's Prosecutor's Office made public on Thursday, they admitted 'it had not been possible to determine the possible commission of the criminal offence'. The ruling dated May 4 added that information was 'clearly insufficient', and was 'in part Contradictory.'

The probe was opened after allegations were made by the ex-mistress (Corinna zu Sayn-Wittgenstein, photo) of the former King of Spain, Juan Carlos who claimed to have overheard discussions about kickbacks.

A separate probe into allegations that King Juan Carlos pocketed €65 million from the Saudi King for

brokering the deal was dropped in March.

They said they could find no link between the gift to the 84-year-old former monarch paid into a Swiss-based foundation that he was involved with and the contract award.

However, Corinna zu Sayn-Wittgenstein, 56, still has legal proceedings against her former lover in the London courts over allegations that he harassed her and sent spies to follow her. She also claims he falsely accused her of stealing around €100 million which she claimed was a gift and that she is worth it!



SPAIN TOPS ANXIETY MEDICINE USE IN GLOBAL RANKING

Spain consumes more medication to treat anxiety than any other country in the world. The greatest amount of benzodiazepines, a drug used to help anxiety and insomnia, are taken in Spain than in any other country.

In 2021 an average of 110 people in every 1000 were taking at least one dose of benzodiazepines per day in Spain, according to the latest report from the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), a United Nations agency monitoring the consumption of legal drugs. Over the last ten years the number of people taking psychotropic drugs in Spain increased from an average of 82.50 daily doses per thousand people to 93.04. A significant part of this decade-long increase was made over the course of the Covid-19 pandemic. Data from the Ministry of Health shows that more than a third of Spaniards suffer from mental health issues.

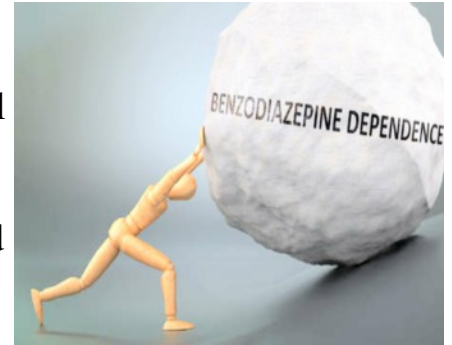
The Organisation of Consumers and Users (OCU) said that the high

numbers of Spaniards taking medications to help their mental health is down to: "the lack of an adequate response by public health to mental health problems."

The OCU criticised the way mental health is dealt with in Spain: "General practitioners have very little time to attend to patients, and the tools or specialisation in psychotherapy are not always available to deal with them.

And so, prescriptions are thrown around. An effective short-term solution, which is not exempt of risks, and that does not solve the problem in the long run."

The number of psychologists available per 100,000 people in Spain is just a third of the European average.



*I bought my wife a sex manual but half the pages were missing.
We went straight from foreplay to post-natal depression.
Bob Monkhouse*

& UNVACCINATED TRAVELLERS

Spain's Health Minister has said passengers on flights to and from Spain will have to continue wearing **face masks** inside planes (and other means of public transport), despite the EU's recommendation that the rule be lifted on May 16th.

The ban will now last until midnight on June 15, unless of course it is extended again. Third country travellers to Spain who can either show proof of being fully vaccinated, or of having recovered from prior COVID-19 infection in the last 6 months, or who are aged under 12 years old, do not need to complete Spain's Travel Health Control form.

Spanish Tourism Minister Reyes Maroto on Thursday May 19th confirmed that **it won't be long before unvaccinated non-EU/Schengen nationals will be allowed to travel to Spain for non-essential reasons such as tourism, visiting friends or family or spending time in a second home in Spain. "It's a matter of days before we eliminate a restriction** that could be discouraging tourists from outside the European Union from visiting us," Reyes told Spanish radio station Onda Cero. "And that is that we are going to stop requiring the vaccination certificate **and allow them to enter with a negative test"**.

Maroto then stated that this would have to be a PDIA test, which in Spain refers to both PCR and antigen tests. If it's a negative PCR or similar test (NAAT-type test) it must have been issued less than 72 hours prior to arrival in Spain, or if it's a negative antigen test, less than 24 hours before arriving in Spain. The surprise announcement comes just days after Spanish health authorities decided to **extend the ban on non-essential travel for unvaccinated non-EU holidaymakers until June 15th.**

Spain's current Covid-19 travel restrictions only allow in third-country tourists such as Britons, Americans or Indians who have been fully vaccinated (including a booster shot if initial vaccination was more than nine months before travel) and those who have recovered from Covid-19 in the past six months.

SHOW ME THE MONEY!

So you are coming to Spain on holidays, paid for plane tickets, accommodation, insurance and possibly car hire, but you should also make sure that you have plenty of dosh left over. During May, UK tourists were reminded that they need to be able to prove they have enough money to cover their trip, and Spain and France have some of the toughest requirements of the 26 Schengen countries. Essentially, travellers arriving in Spain **from third countries** must have funds **to cover 100 euros per day for the duration of their trip**, which is equivalent to 10% of the Spanish monthly minimum wage. Now, this is nothing new. In fact, it's a regulation that has been around the EU for years. Naturally, border guards can't check the financial standing of every single traveller, and most people will go through their lives never having been checked, but the Spanish do reserve the right to check, as some 135,000 third-country nationals can attest after they were refused entry back in 2020 for not meeting the correct requirements.

HOW MUCH!

A coffee bar in Florence has been fined €1,000 after a customer got steamed up over the price of a humble cup of espresso.

The customer called police after being charged **€2 for his coffee** – a decaffeinated one, at that – at Ditta Artigianale in the centre of the Tuscan city. The man complained that the price was not displayed on a menu behind the counter. It was this error that landed the bar with a hefty fine. In Italy, the average cost of an espresso was €1 but now the price of an espresso could rise to an average €1.50 this year.

But if you think €2 is too much for an espresso, then avoid LaGuardia Airport in New York. Here they were charging customers **\$23 for a small beer and \$27.85** for a larger one! All prices at concessions will now be routinely monitored to ensure they are aligned with the regional marketplace.



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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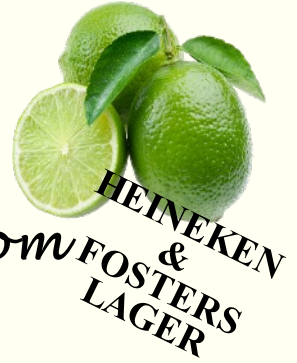
YOU CAN TUNE-IN ONLINE TO OUR SISTER STUDIO IN BENIDORM
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LIME BAR



VIA PARK III

A warm welcome awaits you from Sue & Peter, Carly & Mark.

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Bring A Plate Of Food.

Live Music All Day, Tombola, Meat Raffle & Lots More!



MUSIC BINGO MONDAYS AT 3pm

& MUSIC FROM 5PM - 7PM

EVERY THURSDAY

LIVE MUSIC FROM 4pm

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WITH OUR FAMOUS MEAT RAFFLE!

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ESTRELLA BOTTLES - ALL DAY - EVERY DAY €1

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South Facing With The Best Views.

Happy Hour Mon - Fri 12 'til 7 pm

Hangovers installed.....and serviced.



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The Nigerian football team apologizes for their poor performance in yesterday's match. They will be issuing refunds for anyone who purchased tickets. Just send in your bank details and pin number.

Price List

Issued April 2022



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300mg/30%	45 euros
400mg/40%	58 euros
500mg/50%	70 euros

Pet Products - 10ml

Pet Calm	22.50 euros
EarlyYears Pet CBD	15.00 euros
Junior Pet CBD	24.00 euros
Senior Pet CBD	33.00 euros

CBD Vitamins

10 capsule trial pot	12.00 euros
30 capsule pot	34.49 euros

CBD Pain Cream

High Strength 25ml	40.00 euros
High Strength 50ml	70.00 euros

CBD Tea

Morning/Evening Pot	10.00 euros
Health Tea Pot	12.50 euros

Beauty Products

Lip Balm	3.50 euros
Skin Repair Oil 10ml	13.00 euros
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

Aloe Vera Gel 250ml	7.50 euros
Essential Oils 10ml	4.95 euros
Hand Soap 500ml	2.99 euros
Organic Bath Bomb	1.20 euros
Room Diffuser 50ml	4.95 euros

You sound like someone who should be singing on a cruise ship.
Halfway through your song, I wished the ship was sinking.

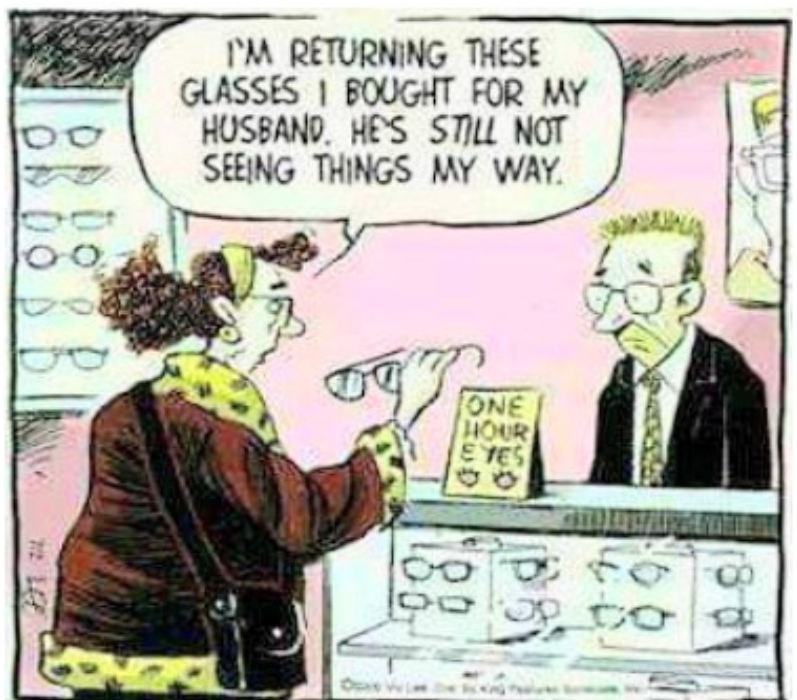
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Filter System
Fully fitted
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He'll only want you to polish it.



JJ's

Café  Bar

VIA PARK V.

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Winter Hours
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1pm - 10pm

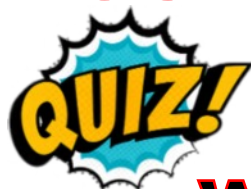


WEDNESDAY FUN DARTS 7pm

FRIDAY QUIZ WITH SUE 6.30pm



SUNDAY AFTERNOON QUIZ



& STANDUP BINGO

with John - 3pm start.



JILLY'S SLIMMING CLUB



THURSDAYS 4pm

New Members Welcome!

ALL SPORTS SHOWN

FREE WI-FI Thank you to everyone for your continued support throughout this challenging time, we value your support

JJ, Rob & Bobby

693 985 122



tripadvisor



TWEET!

TWEET!



KATI'S BAKERY

VIA PARK 3 (Next to the Lime Bar)

NOW SERVING ICE-CREAM!

CHECK OUT OUR WIDE RANGE SNACKS,
PIES, SCOTCH EGGS etc.

CORNISH PASTIES, SAUSAGE ROLLS,
HOMEMADE QUICHE, PORK PIES,

PIES OF ALL FLAVOURS,
HOMEMADE COLESLAW,

SANDWICHES, TOASTIES,
HOT DOGS, SALADS,

CAKES & MUCH, MUCH MORE!

OPENING TIMES

MONDAY - SATURDAY

11am - 5pm



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Snack Bar



VIA PARK V

Sunny South facing terrace

•FULL ENGLISH BREAKFAST•PANINIS

•PIES•PASTIES•BURGERS•HOT DOGS

GREAT VALUE MEAL DEALS FROM 5€

FULL MENU AVAILABLE TO TAKEAWAY



ESTRELLA 2€ PINT

Bottles From 1.30€

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POOL TABLE ONLY 50c PER GAME

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disabled facilities**

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JESSIE'S BAR

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British
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 •HOMEMADE LASAGNE, CURRY, CHILLI
 •TOASTIES & SANDWICHES

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Thursdays 6pm
 Quiz & Race Night
 Fridays 8pm Karaoke.



Sat' July 4 at 4pm Jubilee Street Party
With EVIL TROUSERS MONKEYS BAND!

ALL LIVE SPORTS ON 3 TVS

FREE
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*You can find our south-facing bar
 opposite Mercadona in Los Balcones*



MARY'S BIG NIGHT!

Mary had just got married, but previously she had led a very, very sheltered life. On her wedding night, while staying at her mother's house, she was very nervous.

Her mother reassured her; 'Don't worry, Mary, Mick is a good man. Go upstairs and he'll take care of you. Meanwhile, I'll be making dinner.'

So, up she went. When she got upstairs, Mick took off his shirt and exposed his hairy chest. Mary ran downstairs to her mother and says, 'Mummy, Mummy, Micks got a big hairy chest.' 'Don't worry, Mary,' says the mother, 'all good men have hairy chests. Go upstairs. He'll take good care of you.'

So, up she went again. When she got up in the bedroom, Mick took off his pants exposing his hairy legs. Again, Mary ran downstairs to her mother. 'Mummy, mummy, Mick took off his pants and he's got hairy legs!'

'Don't worry! All good men have hairy legs. Mick's a good man. Go upstairs and he'll take good care of you..'

So, up she went again. When she got there, Mick took off his socks, but on his left foot, he was missing three toes!

When Mary saw this, she ran downstairs. 'Mummy, mummy, Mick's got a foot and a half!' Her Mummy said, 'You stay here and stir the gravy and I will go up!'

I looked out of my window in horror yesterday as a crowd of people gathered around a crashed motorcyclist. I rushed outside yelling "let me through...let me through."

A man at the front said, "Thank God for that. Are you a doctor?"

I said "NO!...That's my fucking Pizza!!!"

HELP VEGA BAJA

HELP Vega Baja can never be accused of resting on their laurels! Despite a notable increase in the number of people turning to them for both practical and emotional support, the committee have been working behind the scenes to update their popular membership scheme and other services.

From June 1st people who wish to become members of the charity will now have the option to go for a **“Premium Membership”**.

For just 20 euros a year, the new premium scheme will provide all the benefits on offer from the standard membership without any qualifying period and with an increase “free” interpreting service of 250 euros a year. The option for new members to continue with the **standard membership remains unchanged** and is still

excellent value when considering that after 3 months qualifying period, members can take up the free interpreting service of 150 euros each year. This is in addition of course to all the other benefits which is growing as the team negotiate with local businesses and organisations (see more details at www.helpvegabaja.com)

To find out more about any aspect of the charity visit their Facebook page, website (www.helpvegabaja.com), speak with a committee member on 966 723 733 or simply email the team at office@helpvegabaja.com.

HELP Vega Baja – supporting people throughout the Vega Baja area for over 43 years!

The King’s Treasure!

The King of Spain has revealed his net worth – and it turns out to be a ‘modest’ €2,573,392.80. He currently has €2,267,942 in his bank accounts and €305,450 worth of paintings, and jewelry.

While that may seem a lot to most people, it is dwarfed by the €2 billion his father – the former King Juan Carlos – is estimated to be worth. King Felipe has been striving to regain the trust of the Spanish people after the financial scandals that eventually forced his father Juan Carlos to abdicate.

The former king is embroiled in scandals alleging dubious financial dealings which include tax fraud, off-shore accounts and kickbacks from Saudi Arabia linked to a high speed rail project in Saudi in 2011. The former king has also requested that his alleged former mistress, Corinna zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Sayn, return the €100 million he had previously ‘gifted’ her. She refuses! See page 6.

The richest royal in the world, according to Wikipedia is the King of Thailand. Vajiralongkor’s €43 billion fortune is on a different scale altogether.



“First you buy me a new coat and now a trip to Lion Safari Park. What’s got into you lately?”

UK driving licences are now not valid for driving a car in Spain if you've been a resident for more than six months.

It should be stressed that this doesn't apply to non-residents and people only coming to Spain on holiday. They can still drive a hire car, for example, using their British licence.

But for people who live in Spain, the idea is that six months is long enough for them to learn to pass their Spanish driving test. This of course can depend on how long you've been driving, your level of Spanish language and the funds you have available for tests etc.

There are theory classes to do, registration fees to be paid left and right, practical classes to get used to the Spanish way of driving (which it should go without saying has some differences from the way we drive in the UK) and even then you only get three chances to pass your theory test (which can be done in English) and practical test (must be conducted in Spanish) before you have to pay to do it all again.

It has been argued that the system is basically geared to make sure people don't pass first time, largely with the aim of squeezing more money out of learner drivers. In fact, it's been estimated that it can cost anywhere between 400 and 1,500 euros to get a Spanish driving licence!

So what now?

The UK government has still not given up on negotiations, they say, and messages from the British Embassy in Madrid have stressed that they are trying to wrangle another grace period, (there have been several) to allow Brits to keep driving – for now. They have also offered an interesting bit of information as to why there has been such a delay in making this deal to allow Brits in Spain to keep their home licences after Brexit, when other European countries have reached an agreement relatively quickly and easily.

Basically, they say, it comes down to the fact that the Spanish government is asking for data on vehicle ownership that the DVLA in the UK is either unwilling or unable to supply, either

because of data protection laws or because they simply don't have it. Maybe if this issue can be resolved, there is still hope for Britons not to have to re-sit their driving exams and to be able to keep their UK licences.

Another solution?

Okay, so what are your options if the licence situation doesn't improve? If you don't want to do the tests, don't want to take the chance of driving without a Spanish licence and don't want to revert to public transport, what then? It is worth taking a look at the microcar - '*coche sin carnet.*' These are small two seater cars, ideal as a runabout for shopping etc., but cannot go faster than 45kph and are not allowed on the motorways.



However, the licence for these is a much simpler affair, requiring

only an *AM Permit*, the same as for scooters or three-wheelers! The test is simple requiring one to just drive a zig-zag and circle. There are a few brands available in Spain, including the Aixam, the Ligier, the Chatenet and the Microcar. There is also the Citroën Ami, an all electric car. To drive this you need to be sixteen years or older.

If you do decide to 'go down this road' please check it out thoroughly.

Don't blame me if your new microcar is powered by an electric toothbrush!



Barry & Sue
Welcome you to

LAS OLAS

RESTAURANT/BAR

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

EXTENSIVE MENU
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Breakfast Special 7 items

€2.99! (No sub's)

MIXED GRILL

STEAKS

SEA BASS & MUCH MORE!

MENU DEL DIA €7.50

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

SAT

EVENINGS

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**

I actually learned about sex watching the
 neighbourhood dogs...I think the most important
 thing I learned was: never let go of the girl's leg
 no matter how hard she tries to shake you off.

Steve Martin

FEELING **HOT** OR **COLD**?
 WE HAVE THE SOLUTION!

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THE MOBILE PHONE SPYWARE SCANDAL

The Spanish government has sacked the country's spy chief, Paz Esteban, as it tries to contain the fallout from a cyber-espionage scandal that has engulfed the ruling coalition and raised further questions about the use of controversial Pegasus spyware in Spain and elsewhere.

Two years ago, a joint investigation by the Guardian and El País revealed that senior pro-independence Catalan politicians were warned their mobile phones had been targeted using the spyware.

During recent weeks, cyber security experts at Citizen Lab at the University of Toronto said at least 63 people connected with the Catalan independence movement had been targeted or infected with Pegasus spyware between 2017 and 2020.

You may recall the illegal referendum organised by the independence movement during 2017, the subsequent jailing of the organisers followed by their early release from jail so Sanchez could hold his coalition together with the support of the Catalans.

It has also emerged that the mobile phones of the prime minister, Pedro Sánchez, the defence minister, Margarita Robles, and the interior minister, Fernando Grande-Marlaska, were subjected to "external" targeting using Pegasus last year. The Spanish government has not commented on which foreign country, if any, may have been responsible.

During early May, Sánchez's Spanish Socialist Workers' party (PSOE) joined the three parties on the Spanish right in vetoing a parliamentary inquiry into the Pegasus scandal. What a surprise!



NEW LOCAL TENNIS STAR!

Murcia Region now has its own new rising star in sports, after local boy Carlos Alcaraz won the Madrid Tennis Open, after beating Rafael Nadal in the quarterfinals, Novak Djokovic in the semifinals and German world number 3, Alexander Zverev in the final! Originally from Murcia city, the 19-year-old Alcaraz, photo, has now becomes the first player since Nalbandian in 2007 to beat three of the world's top four



players at a Masters 1000, and he has now equalled Nadal in winning both the major tennis tournaments held in Spain, the Barcelona Open Banc Sabadell-Trofeo Conde de Godó and the Mutua Madrid Open, in the same year. Alcaraz will be playing at the Roland Garros tournament in Paris, where all eyes will be on the young upstart to see just how bright his promising star will shine.

One to look out for at Wimbledon this year and probably several others as well!

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COVID CERT FRAUD!

THE Policia Nacional have arrested a hospital worker for masterminding a Covid-19 vaccination certificate fraud. The Prensa Iberica newspaper group has discovered that the man worked as a nursing assistant at the La Paz General Hospital in Madrid. He's accused of making over €200,000 for accessing the National Vaccination database to get hundreds of people registered for receiving Covid-19 vaccines despite not getting them because of their 'anti-vax' stance.

Prensa Iberica says police also arrested a La Paz nurse and two other people who acted as contacts for 'customers' who paid to get a record of immunisation against the coronavirus.

Two health companies suffered the theft of computer and database passwords.

The nursing assistant invested a significant amount of money obtained by the fraud into cryptocurrencies.

Police accessed several security videos showing the man accessing computers to add names to the vaccination database.

Customers were charged two rates, either €1,000 or €250, depending on their status and income.

The high end list included an airline pilot, a businessman and showbusiness figures, who were opposed to Covid-19

vaccinations, but needed a certificate to continue travelling and working.

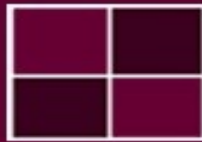
The lower tariff featured criminals including drug dealers and shoplifters.

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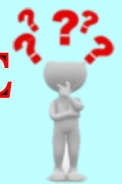
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WiFi

Fu, Bu and Chu immigrated to the USA from China. They decided to become American citizens, and "Americanize" their names. Bu, called himself "Buck."

Chu called himself "Chuck." Fu decided to return to China.

AIRPORT DELAYS AT PASSPORT CONTROL

One of the consequences of Brexit that British travellers have become most aware of since 2021 is how upon arrival in Spain or another EU/Schengen Area country from the UK, they now have to stand in the queue for third-country nationals.

This can hardly be considered the worst Brexit setback, but it has meant plenty of waiting around at passport control for British nationals (EU residents and tourists alike), in some cases resulting in flights being missed!

Portugal has recently made headlines by becoming the **first EU nation to fast-track British travellers despite their new third-country status, opening e-gates to them at airports in Faro, Lisbon, Porto and Madeira where they can scan their passports more swiftly.** Visitors from Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Japan are also reported to be able to enjoy this travel perk in Portugal.

By contrast, doubts about entry rules for UK tourists arriving in Spain post-Brexit have been revived by what's been happening in Gibraltar during April.

Border officials have reportedly tightened checks on some Brits entering Spain via The Rock to require proof of accommodation and enough money to pay for their stay. There is no talk yet of Britons being able to use e-gates at Spanish airports, which suggests that Spain will not be willing to contravene EU/Schengen rules, at the very least until the new entry-exit EES system that will replace passport stamping with scanning is implemented (among other changes), perhaps in late 2022.

A couple in their nineties are both having problems remembering things. During a checkup, the doctor tells them that they're physically okay, but they might want to start writing things down to help them remember.

Later that night, while watching TV, the old man gets up from his chair. 'Want anything while I'm in the kitchen?' he asks.

'Will you get me a bowl of ice cream?'

'Sure.' 'Don't you think you should write it down so you can remember it?' she asks.

'No, I can remember it.'

'Well, I'd like some strawberries on top, too. Maybe you should write it down, so's not to forget it?'

He says, 'I can remember that. You want a bowl of ice cream with strawberries.'

'I'd also like whipped cream. I'm certain you'll forget that, write it down.' she says.

Irritated, he says, 'I don't need to write it down, I can remember it! Ice cream with strawberries and whipped cream - I got it, for goodness sake!'

Then he toddles into the kitchen. After about 20 minutes, the old man returns from the kitchen and hands his wife a plate of bacon and eggs. She stares at the plate for a moment.

'Where's my toast?'

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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-Torre vieja

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.



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advocacycostablanca@gmail.com

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

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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.

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Wi-Fi

When a man says he will do anything for a woman
he means fight bad guys and kill dragons, not vacuum or wash dishes!

The Looooooong Story!

A farmer stopped by the local mechanic shop to have his truck fixed. They couldn't do it while he waited, so he said he didn't live far and would just walk home.

On the way home he stopped at the hardware store and bought a bucket and a gallon of paint. He then stopped by the feed store and picked up a couple of chickens and a goose. However, struggling outside the store he now had a problem - how to carry all his purchases home.

While he was scratching his head he was approached by a little old lady who told him she was lost. She asked, 'Can you tell me how to get to 1603 Mockingbird Lane?'

The farmer said, 'Well, as a matter of fact, my farm is very close to that house. I would walk you there, but I can't carry this lot.'

The old lady suggested, 'Why don't you put the can of paint in the bucket, carry the bucket in one hand, put a chicken under each arm and carry the goose in your other hand?'

'Why thank you very much,' he said and proceeded to walk the old girl home.

On the way he says 'Let's take my short cut and go down this alley. We'll be there in no time.'

The little old lady looked him over cautiously then said, 'I am a lonely widow without a husband to defend me. How do I know that when we get in the alley you won't hold me up against the wall, pull up my skirt, and have your way with me?'

The farmer said, 'Holy smokes lady! I'm carrying a bucket, a gallon of paint, two chickens, and a goose. How in the world could I possibly hold you up against the wall and do that?'

The old lady replied, 'Set the goose down, cover him with the bucket, put the paint on top of the bucket, and I'll hold the chickens.'



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Two men are playing golf when one realizes he's left his jacket at the last tee.

He goes back to get it, stops halfway and turns back. "What's up?" asks his mate.

"Well, you see those two women at the tee. One's my wife, and she's playing with my mistress."

His mate laughs and says, "No worries, I'll go get it for you."

He stops halfway, comes back, looks at his mate and says "Small world!"



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Paddy gets a job in a quarry and goes off to the bog for a piss.

Mistaking the explosives store for the toilets in he goes with a fag in his mouth.

There's huge bang and Paddy goes flying out through the roof and lands about 50 yards away.

One of his workmates rushes over and says 'Feckin hell Paddy where's your left leg?'

'Never mind me leg' replies Paddy, 'Where's me right hand? it's holding me cock!'



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MONKEYPOX!

By mid May, seven monkeypox cases have now been detected in the UK. On May 18 five cases of monkeypox were reported in Portugal, with investigations into 20 further suspected cases. On the same day, the Spanish health authorities reported eight suspected cases in men who have sex with men.

Monkeypox, as the name suggests, was first found in laboratory monkeys in the late 1950s. However, scientists aren't sure if monkeys are the main animal reservoirs (carriers of the virus), so the name may be a bit of a misnomer. The latest thinking is that the main reservoir is probably smaller animals, such as rodents. There is no evidence that it is a sexually transmitted infection in the manner of HIV or chlamydia. It's more that, in the UK outbreak, the close contact during sexual or intimate activity may have been a key factor during transmission.

Unlike COVID, monkeypox does not spread

easily from human to human. It typically requires interaction with animals that carry the virus, or being in very close contact with infected people, or having contact with "fomites" (such as contaminated clothes, towels or furniture). Also unlike COVID, monkeypox is not known to spread asymptotically.

Monkeypox belongs to the same family of viruses as smallpox, but is less transmissible. People who catch it typically develop a fever and a distinctive rash and blisters. The disease is usually self-limiting, with symptoms disappearing after a few weeks. However, monkeypox can cause severe illness with severe disease and death more likely among children.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention highlights how the smallpox vaccine, cidofovir (an anti-viral drug), and vaccinia immune globulin can be used to control a monkeypox outbreak.



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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.

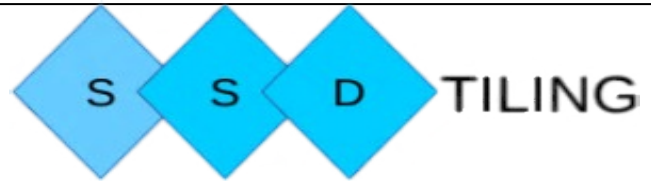
Fortunately the local council have come up with a very welcome efficiency, where one can now register online for an appointment. On this website you can choose day, date and time for your appointment, subject of course to availability. The web address is located below and is, helpfully, also available 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/>

HOWEVER! When I went to book an appointment online during early Sept' 2021, the earliest I would get was October 1! I called in to the Ayuntamiento in Orihuela Costa the following day and collected my new padron just three days later!

I am getting a few problems as I get older.....I went back to see my doctor yesterday. I said, "I applied the hemorrhoid cream that you gave me this morning and I got a very nasty, angry reaction."

"Where exactly did you apply it?" he asked.

So I told him..... "On the bus."



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NEW GOVERNMENT REFORMS

Spain's Prime Minister, Pedro Sanchez, won a nail-biting vote in Congress on April 28 to secure a massive spending package of €16 billion to boost the economy. The measure got through by two votes, thanks to the Basque nationalist EH Bildu party who only declared their support at the last minute. Sanchez scrapped a trip to Moldova and Poland to try to steer the bill through after the Catalan ERC party refused to vote for it because of the scandal concerning alleged government wiretapping of separatist leaders. The ERC refused to be placated by government denials and an offer for a formal investigation.

The bill announced in March includes **lower electricity bills for millions of less well-off families, fuel subsidies, and caps on housing rent.**

In February, wide-ranging labour reforms were only passed by one vote, after a Partido Popular opposition deputy mistakenly voted for the government motion!

Buoyed by a surge in investment and new projects, **wind power has become Spain's main source of electricity generation** just as Europe seeks to curb its energy imports from Russia.

Spain and Portugal reached an agreement with the European Commission to slash electricity prices on the Iberian Peninsula, under an exemption allowing them to separate it from the price of gas.

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Antonio
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(Cut out & keep.)



PAID 'MENSTRUAL LEAVE.'

Spain's cabinet has approved a bill which grants paid medical leave for women who suffer from severe period pain, in what would be a first in Europe.

The bill entitles workers experiencing period pain to as much time off as they need, with the state social security system – not employers – picking up the tab for the sick leave.

As with paid leave for other health reasons, a doctor must approve the temporary medical incapacity.

The proposed legislation must still be approved by parliament, with a vote not expected for months.

It was not clear whether Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez's minority coalition government, which has made women's rights a priority, has enough support in the assembly to pass it.

The proposal has split the coalition and even divided unions, with some saying it could stigmatise women in the workplace and favour the recruitment of men.

Menstrual leave is currently offered only in a small number of countries across the globe, among them South Korea and Indonesia – and none in Europe. The Spanish legislation is part of a much wider reproductive health reform which will include changes to the country's abortion laws.

Barter!

A squaddie bought two cases of beer on sale at Tesco's placed them on the front seat of his car and headed back home.

He stopped at a service station to get fuel, and a drop-dead gorgeous blonde was filling up her car at the next pump.

Although it was very cold she was wearing a very short skirt and a light jacket which was wide open.

She glanced at the beer, bent over and knocked on his passenger window.

With her bra-less breasts almost falling out of her skimpy top she said, in a sexy voice, "I'm a big believer in bartering so would you be interested in trading sex for beer?"

The squaddie thought for a few seconds and asked, "What kind of beer have you got?"



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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.

A chap goes into the Post Office sorting depot to apply for a job. The interviewer asks him, "Are you allergic to anything?"

He replies, "Yes, caffeine. I can't drink coffee."

"Ok, have you ever been in military service?"

"Yes," he says, "I was in Afghanistan for one tour."

The interviewer says, "That will give you 5 extra points toward employment." Then he asks, "Are you disabled in any way?"

The guy says, "Yes. A bomb exploded near me, and I lost both my testicles."

The interviewer grimaces and then says, "Okay. You've got enough points for me to hire you right now. Our normal hours are from 8:00 am to 4:00 PM. You can start tomorrow at 10:00 am, and you might as well plan on starting at 10:00 am every day."

The guy is puzzled and asks, "If the work hours are from 8:00 am to 4:00 PM, why don't you want me here until 10?"

"This is a government job," the interviewer says. "For the first two hours, we just stand around drinking coffee and scratching our balls. No point in you coming in for that."



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A ten-week-old puppy from Blackpool dug up £6,000 worth of gold sovereigns (15) on its first walk. Ollie, photo, is a LagottoRomagnolo, a breed known for digging up truffles. Ollie's owners decided to see if the pup could sniff out

some truffles on his first walk around the local fields.

Big Man Stevo, a Kenyan YouTube star, plans to take advantage of the country's polygamy laws by marrying three women: identical triplets Cate, Eve and Mary, photo.

The sisters insist the four-way relationship is jealousy-free, because they're with Stevo on the condition that he loves



them all equally. "Satisfying three ladies" isn't a "big deal", Stevo says, but it does require timetabling. "Every Monday Mary, Tuesday Cate and Eve Wednesday. Then on the weekend we meet all of us and have a good time." Well, what could go wrong with that!

A woman had to be rescued by firefighters at a beauty spot in Washington State, US, last month, after falling into a public toilet. The woman dropped her phone into the vault – a container buried in the ground that stores the excrement. In order to get it back, she took apart the toilet and lowered herself down, using a dog lead, then tried to grab the phone, but, "In she went," explained Tim Manly, the head of the local fire department. Luckily, she found her phone and was able to call the fire service! She was uninjured, and refused medical assistance, explaining that she "only wanted to leave".

A parent wearing an Easter bunny costume caused "chaos" in Texas during Easter by accidentally handing out plastic Easter eggs containing condoms to children being collected

from a primary school. It was apparently the result of a mix-up: the parent, a pharmacist who'd been overseeing a safe-sex workshop, had accidentally included the condoms with the chocolate eggs they brought to their child's school in Austin. When the error was revealed, the parent was asked to leave, but seems to have continued giving out the "eggs" on a pavement nearby. (Buy me and stop one!)

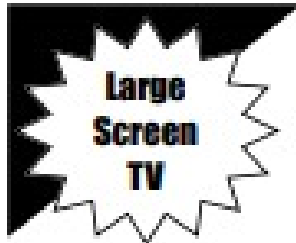
When a French pensioner noticed a blue jacket hanging on a wall in Paris's Picasso Museum, she assumed it had been abandoned.

The 72-year-old duly took it home, tried it on, and – finding it was a bit long – asked her tailor to alter it. A few days later, she returned to



the exhibition, and was promptly arrested. It turned out the garment was actually a contemporary work by the Spanish artist Oriol Vilanova, and a "little old lady" had been identified on CCTV as its thief. When she explained her mistake, she was let off with a warning, and the work of art was restored to its peg, photo.

The Alicante Police have charged a man for simulating a crime. In this case it seems that a 60-year-old man stabbed himself to pretend that he had been the victim of a robbery His badly wounded body (knife wound too close to his heart) was located in the elevator of his building by a neighbour of an urbanization in Playa de San Juan, who alerted the health services. Initially, the victim had told the investigators that he had been robbed by a man dressed in black and with North African features. But the investigators found inconsistencies in his account and kept asking until finally the man confessed that he had stabbed himself to pretend that he had been the victim of a robbery as he spent all his money and was afraid to tell his wife. As this occurred around 5:30am, he was obviously returning from either a brothel or a church - if you could find one open at that time.



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More pain and suffering is to be inflicted on the people of The Ukraine as it was announced today that a release of a charity single by Bono is imminent.

1. A lowest price guarantee means you will end up paying too much

Retailers make these kinds of price pledges all the time: if you find this item cheaper somewhere else, we will match the price. I see it everywhere from grocery stores to furniture shops to pharmacies. Yet while such a guarantee seems at first sight to benefit consumers, decades of evidence – from tyre retailers to grocery stores – shows that they are mostly a subtle way for retailers to collude on maintaining high prices.

When a retailer offers a low price, it mainly does it to attract consumers by being cheaper than its competitors. But by committing to a price match, each time your competitor offers a discount to your price, your customers know they can come to you and benefit from the same price. The competitor therefore has nothing to gain from offering a discount and prices remain high. Interestingly, it's illegal for competitors to collude with one another to fix prices – yet price-matching effectively does exactly that, and it's legal everywhere.

2. Cost of living concerns are never a valid reason to avoid taxing pollution

Gas and fuel prices have soared following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Motorists are having to pay much more to fill their tanks, while many households are struggling with their power bills.

To fight this crisis, European countries such as France have been offering fuel rebates to consumers. This helps people, but it is also great news for energy suppliers. In many cases the supplier is Russia, so it feeds directly into Vladimir Putin's military budget and does nothing to help carbon emissions.

Most economists would instead place new tariffs on Russian oil to price in the cost of financing the war and induce businesses and consumers to switch to other energy sources whenever possible. The revenues raised by the tariffs can then be used to help people directly, be it by lowering other taxes or by financing social security.

In the UK, they are doing the exact opposite to this. Consumers are having to pay more national insurance while fuel duties are being cut.

3. Politicians are often more credible when they delegate

To convince people to trust you to do something, one solution is to take out of your hands the possibility of changing your mind later. This is why central banks are independent of governments: so that investors believe they are not playing with interest rates for electoral gains.

In most matters, however, governments are reluctant to delegate decision-making to independent institutions. In France, for instance, several governments spent billions of euros between 2009 and 2017 on the infrastructure needed to implement a tax on trucking, only to back down entirely in the run-up to the presidential election. Had the implementation of the tax been delegated to an independent agency, the fiasco would never have happened.

In another example, the UK recently launched the shared prosperity fund to replace EU-allocated funds to its poorest regions. The new system is much more centralised than before and it is hard to know how much previous funding will be matched. Centralised regional development funds can also be prone to favouritism and political patronage, which in the UK would reduce the credibility of the government in its plans to “level up” the country.

Extract from <https://theconversation.com/five-things-that-economists-know-but-sound-wrong-to-most-other-people-182698>?

Housing subsidies given to tenants often benefit landlords & Investors consistently beating the market are probably doing something illegal, are not covered here because of lack of space but can be read in the link.

Renaud Foucart

Senior Lecturer in Economics, Lancaster University Management School, Lancaster University

If one tried to hybridize a fuchsia and a yew, would you have a fuchyew?



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Well, fancy that!

A tourist in Hawaii is amazed at how healthy and invigorated he feels after just a few days into visiting the islands.

He strikes up a conversation with one of the locals while they are wading out into the crystal clear, warm surf on yet another perfect island day. "I just can't get over how beautiful this place is," the tourist says excitedly, "I feel great! I haven't felt this young and healthy in years! Island life is fantastic!"

The local says, "I know what you mean!"

Take me for instance. When I came here, I was totally bald, didn't have any teeth and I couldn't even walk ... and look at me now!"

The tourist looks at him and says, "Wow, that's amazing! How long have you been here?"

The local replies, "Oh, I was born here."

PINEBERRIES?

We all know that strawberries are lush here at the moment, but if you have visited any delicatessen you may have noticed some very pale strawberries alongside the normal red ones. These are not unripe strawberries but pineberries! The new berry is a variant of strawberry that tastes juicier than the



normal strawberry and has a pineapple aftertaste. It has suddenly become more widespread after growers in Huelva in southwestern Spain tapped into

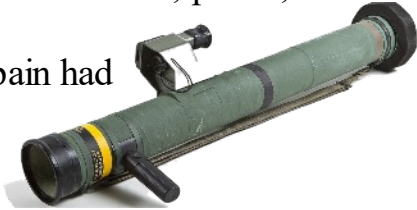
the gourmet market. Costing around €12 a kilo, the pineberries are far more expensive than the usual strawberry because they produce less fruit per plant and more labour intensive to pick. The skin is more sensitive than a traditional strawberry and they bruise easily.

ROCKET LAUNCHER FOUND IN KITCHEN

53-year-old Fuensanta, a well-known drug addict in the Zaragoza neighbourhood of El Gancho, was found to have died from a heroin overdose during early May. Just six months previously, her sentimental partner also died following an overdose.

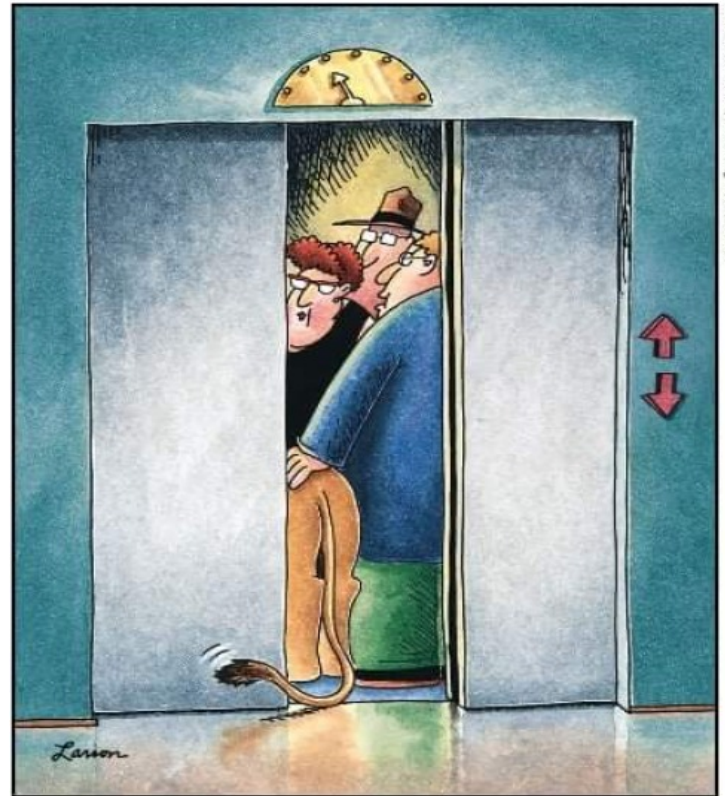
When police searched the property, they found a significant amount of heroin but were shocked to find a modern bazooka and projectile by the kitchen door.

It was a C90 missile launcher, photo, the same type that the Government of Spain had sent to Ukraine to defend itself against Russia.



The C-90 is the lightest 90-millimetre calibre system in the world at 5.3 kilograms and the only one with remote firing capability. It has minimal recoil and great precision, capable of hitting a point target at 350 meters and an area target at 700 meters, depending on the type of ammunition. How this weapon of war, which was manufactured by the Zaragoza company

Isntalaza, came to be at Fuensanta's house will be difficult to determine, although everything points to some type of barter in the usual trading among drug addicts and dealers.



“Don’t be alarmed, folks. He’s completely harmless unless something startles him.”

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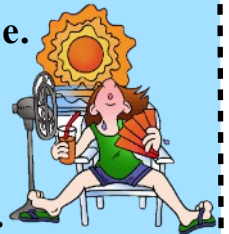
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Lime Bar Fishing SUNBATHING Club

I have to report some sad news. Fagin / Davy has gone to the golden peg above after a very quick battle with the big C. Fair play to him, although he had been feeling "rough" for a few weeks, he was still fishing. He was admitted into hospital for observation and 2 weeks later we were with his family celebrating his life in the Lime Bar! Why is it all the good ones go early?



Fagin was one of the founder members and the 1st chairman of our club and has been the treasurer as long as I have known him. At our meetings he was always ready for an "animated debate" and quite often instigated them. He would throw in a comment to kick it off, then sit back and enjoy... the bugger! He was a rod and reel man who hated pole men and their delicate tactics, and thought it was great

whenever the rod & reel men won a match (which they still do regularly).

Whenever we had a bank clearing day, Fagin was always there with his paella pan doing us a fry up. He is now with his long-time commis chef Grumpy Bob. Keep that black pudding warm lads.

He was a "casual" angler, sometimes wearing just shreddies and his Aussie bush hat (complete with corks) so he could get that good all over tan. On colder days, as can be seen in the photo, he passed the time between bites with a crossword puzzle and listening to his tranny. The tall rod rest behind is a support for his antenna!

Rest in peace mate.



Will this rain stop? As I write this in the middle of May, Eden 2 is still under water. I don't know if it is the rain, washing chemicals off the fields into the river, but for the last month loads of dead fish have been floating past us. Normally by this time of year there are loads of fry swimming in the margins and the fish really start feeding after spawning. Neither has happened yet!

I was away for the bun fight as I had to go and say hello to my relations in UK, so the Sweeney took notes of the meeting but nothing major happened.

The monthly match was delayed again due to the rain. This was good for both the Cat and me as we were both back from our hols. Unfortunately, it was on the Rio Segura at Bigastro where all the dead fish have been seen. The old Bill had 1 bite all day but it was from a 3-kilo carp which won him the match. Both 3 Rods and I ended up bleak snatching but even they were hard to find. 3 Rods managed to snag a carp in the last couple of minutes to come 2nd and I was the only other person to catch. Whatever is killing the fish has ruined a good river, even the other clubs are having similar results!

The next meeting bun fight is at The Lime Bar on Tuesday 7th June.

Stay safe
Fishy fingers!
The Ghost

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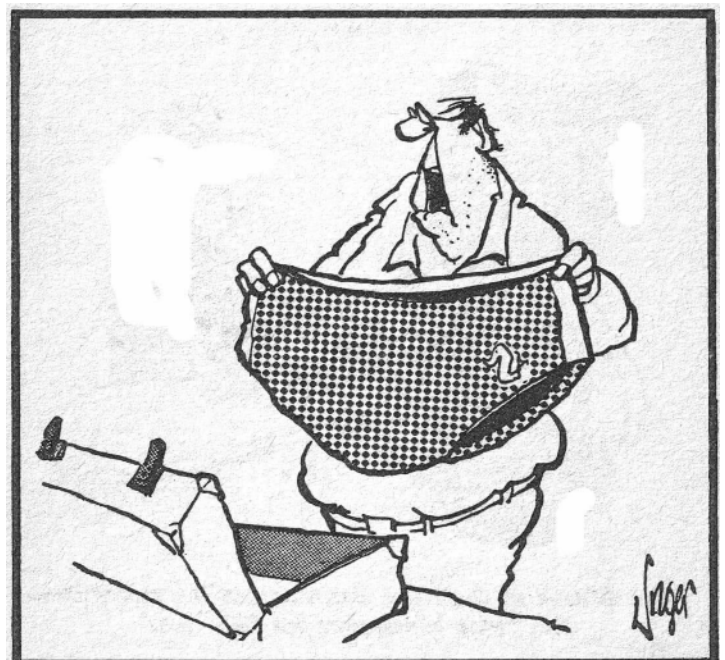
GENERALITAT VALENCIANA

RUGGER & SOCCER

Spain has been thrown out of the 2023 Rugby World Cup in France after fielding an ineligible player in two qualifying matches. The decision was made by an independent judicial committee. The committee found that Gavin Van den Berg, who is of South African origin, had falsified his date of entry into Spain in order to comply with eligibility requirements. It is the second time Spain have been denied a place at the Rugby World Cup for fielding ineligible players. The committee imposed a £25,000 fine over Van den Berg and said that a suspended penalty of £50,000 over 2019 qualification irregularities would also kick in.

FC Barcelona will play the 2023-24 season away from Camp Nou whilst Europe’s biggest football stadium undergoes a huge overhaul, the club announced. The club said Barcelona will play its games at the municipally owned Lluís Companys Stadium. The stadium, which has a capacity of about 60,000 spectators, hosted the opening and closing ceremonies of the 1992 Olympics. The club wants to increase Camp

Nou’s capacity to 110,000 whilst also refurbishing its surrounding area, which includes a pavilion for the club’s other sports, the museum and stores. It has budgeted 1.5 billion euros for the work and is referred to as the Espai Barça project.



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

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