



# THE DREAM SCENE

## NEWSLETTER



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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the September 2022 edition. Issue No.179

The Spanish Government will demand more **energy saving measures** from the communities and have now presented their proposals to reduce energy consumption before the end of August, since in September they must send a plan to Brussels with more drastic measures. The employers criticize the norm and remember that they have been saving energy for a year anyway due to the rise in prices. Several regions plan to revolt against the new restrictions.

**Monkeypox** deaths in Brazil, India, and Spain, the first outside of Africa, have raised global concerns to new heights. Like covid, this is bad news for everyone—except pharmaceutical companies, who have already seen a boost from pandemic fears as rich countries like the UK and US buy up vaccines. Spain is planning to hand out smaller doses of the monkeypox vaccine as there are not enough supplies to go round. Over 6,100 monkeypox cases have been declared since May, making Spain the world's second-highest country for the infection, after the United States. So far two fatalities have been registered.

Spain may finally be coming to grips with the seventh wave of the **coronavirus** pandemic, and although summer is now in full swing and the country has been inundated with tourists, the health situation continues to improve. The average 14-day rate in Spain has now dropped to 336.05 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, a huge feat when you consider that this number was above 1,200 a month ago. Andalusia has consistently kept the lowest figure all throughout this wave and mid-August has dipped to just 207 cases with the region of Murcia at 443 and the province of Alicante with 390 cases. However, our province, Alicante, registered 28 deaths from the virus during one week in July 2022! In the entire first fortnight of July 2021, 27 deaths from Covid were recorded, so we are not 'out of the woods' yet!

The Valencian Generalitat is setting aside €20 million to assist municipalities in combating the possible damage of the **Gota Frias** (Cold Drop). Let's hope that the remedial works required are done quickly, not after the event.

Keep safe and well,

Mick, Tid and the Dream Scene Team.

### INTERPRETER

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LOANS



"This won't take long, will it?"

The first race starts in 20 minutes."

I took my granddad to one of those fish spas where tiny fish nibble off all the dead skin.

It was £100, but a lot cheaper than a funeral.

The **new garbage collection** and urban cleaning service in Torrevieja, which was awarded to Acciona, costs €25 million a year. Acciona now have a 15-year contract. Previously it was the responsibility of a single technician to monitor the works which due to the size and scope was far too much for one person.

To remedy this irregular situation which has been going on for decades, the City Council has put out to tender the award of the service quality inspection for almost 194,000 euros per year (VAT included). It will mean almost one million euros for a total period of five years. The new inspection contract will commence once the City Council has managed to award the new service to Acciona for 15 years (after more than three years of processing!). Acciona remove more than 60,000 tons of rubbish annually and have a staff total of 400 which peaks in the summer months.

What can only be described as a **'tacky' small funfair** was opened on public land since early July beside the Health Centre in Cabo Roig. Meanwhile, user complaints kept piling up. The Cabo Roig and Lomas Neighbourhood Assoc' pointed out that the "attractions are obsolete, old-fashioned, not anchored and deteriorated." In addition, they add that there are fences with rusty iron, loose cables in the path of pedestrians and deficiencies in the accesses. The 'attraction' (below) has now been closed down. It never had a licence.



- This place is like Guantanamo Bay.
  - Keep off, it's nothing like Spain.
- DCI Sam Tyler and DCI Gene Hunt,

*Life on Mars*



The desalination plant (above) in Torrevieja appears to be festooned with solar panels but the Ministry for the Ecological Transition (Miteco) has budgeted €943,000 over 25 months to design a plan for the construction of a **photovoltaic solar plant** that will provide energy to the desalination plant. The state company Acuamed, which operates the desalination plant, asks the engineering company to design a solar plant that would extend thousands of panels over 120 hectares-the equivalent of 120 soccer fields- with a maximum rated power of 60 MW. Unfortunately Torrevieja does not have the space available for such a project, so it involves using land from another municipality. The objective is to reduce the cost of desalinated water which is expensive. However, a study by academics in Alicante state that such a project would only reduce the cost of the desalinated water by just 10%.

On August 19, a **meeting was held** in the Ayuntamiento in Orihuela Costa to discuss infrastructure and maintenance on the coast. It transpires that it was not a meeting with a general discussion but attendees were invited to provide their contact details together with outlining what they saw as the main problem relating to their urbanisation **that the council could rectify**. The council would then address the problem identified **and report back at another meeting**. Many of the attendees were disappointed with the format but it did give those attending an opportunity to advise the local council of issues in the various urbanisations. I did however get to meet the new mayoress, Carolina Gracia (PSOE), who was charming.

# The Beauty Lounge

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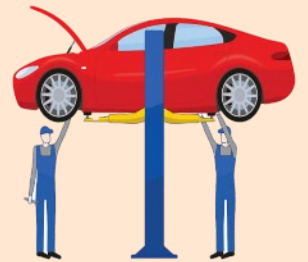
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I was snooping through my mum's things and I found a whip, a mask, and handcuffs.....  
I can't believe it...  
My mum's a super hero!

# WANT TO LEARN SPANISH?



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My dear old mum used to say "the way to a man's heart is through his stomach".....  
lovely woman, terrible cardiac surgeon

## Energy Saving Plan Criticized

Over half of the autonomous communities in the country are up in arms about President Sanchez's energy-saving plan, which is a nod to the EU's request that we begin cutting back on gas now in case of a Russian cut-off in the winter. This despite the fact that Spain gets most of its gas from North Africa.

Despite the world-wide bewilderment, the president went full steam ahead with his plan on August 10, insisting that public buildings must not lower their air-conditioning units below 27°C and that monuments and shop displays turn the lights out at 10pm.

In a bit of a dramatic u-turn, the government did ease the restrictions a little for businesses where staff have more physical jobs, like hairdressers and bars; on these premises, the air-conditioning must be set at 25°C.

Regional leaders aren't taking this lying down, however, as the often combative Madrid administration is talking about taking the government to the Constitutional Courts over the measures. The Region of Murcia has also jumped on this band wagon, although the powers that be insist that they are currently just studying the matter to decide if there is anything "unconstitutional" about the restrictions.

One of the main concerns is the cost implications for businesses across the Regions, who will have to install automatic doors by the end of September if they want to continue using their air-conditioning units. Another point which hasn't been addressed by the Spanish government is who will be responsible for patrolling premises to ensure they have their thermostats turned down to the agreed level, and more importantly, who is expected to pay for this. While saving energy in this time of climate crisis is certainly worthy, you'd have to say that the detractors have a point, particularly in the Murcia Region where 29 people have already died in the workplace this year.

## Copper Bandits & Pissed Mattresses

Two years ago a kilo of copper could be sold for 5.5 euros. Right now, despite having dropped in recent months, its price stands at 7.7 euros. Metal is a buoyant business, legal and illegal, with gangs dedicated to stealing it, especially when the material is expensive, in transformers and substations, solar farms, telephone lines and power lines.

Together with the episodes of non-profit vandalism, crime poses a serious problem for the operation of trains throughout Spain. According to data provided to this newspaper by the Railway Infrastructure Administrator (Adif), the theft of cables affected 808 trains last year. In the first quarter of 2022 alone, 258 rail journeys were delayed. The rate of robberies has intensified in recent times. The most notorious case took place recently. The theft in Tarragona of **600 metres** of optical fibre (which contains very little copper anyway) suspended traffic on the high-speed line between Madrid, Barcelona and Figueres for five hours.

Santa Pola has begun to recycle the **45,000 mattresses** that have accumulated for almost a **decade** in their ecopark. The Valencian Generalitat already announced during early August that one million euros was going to be used to transform old mattresses into other materials that can be returned to the market. Although, the actions have already begun, it is estimated, according to municipal sources, that the removal work may take eight months.



Today all the young girls are out all night sowing their wild oats -  
And in the morning you can find them praying for a crop failure.



# THE BAR NEXT DOOR.

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(Sister bar to The Lime Bar)

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This mate of mine, a builder in Liverpool, has a sign on his van saying

"No tools left in here overnight."

It still got broken into, but they left a note saying "Just checking."

## The EU, Morocco and €500 million

THE European Commission could give Morocco €500 million to keep migrants out of the EU for the period of 2021 to 2027, the EU body has said in a statement.

The two sides are set to reach an agreement that would be a 50% increase on the sum of €343 million for 2014 to 2020.

A high-ranking EU source told the El Pais newspaper that Morocco was a ‘very important’ partner of not only Spain and France, but the whole of the European community. “This quantity gives an idea of how ambitious Brussels is to address Spanish fears that the its southern neighbourhood would be neglected in the latest budget,” added the El Pais source. Morocco has land borders with the two Spanish towns of Ceuta and Melilla on the African continent. It also has to tackle migration organized by people smuggling cartels regularly from the North African country to Andalusian beaches across the Straits of Gibraltar and Canary Islands. The funds will pay for integration and protection projects for refugees living in Morocco, forced returns and police cooperation to fight against organized criminals in the area.

The European Commission is looking to sign similar deals with Algeria, the Gambia, Senegal and Mauritania.

## SQUATTERS IN POOLS! TAKING THE PISCINA!

Whereas house squatting is an increasing curse in Spain, in neighbouring France they have a problem with pool squatters!

Police are receiving about 10 to 15 calls a day nationwide reporting strangers taking a dip in someone else’s swimming pool, according to Guide-Piscine.fr, an website for pool owners. Meanwhile a council hotline in Toulouse says it has received more than 200 calls from locals about the issue in the last three months, up from 180 calls for the same period last year.

Pools in private residences — such as a shared pool for a block of flats — are particularly exposed because there is no French law that prevents outsiders from using them, according to lawyers. Those in individual homes have some form of legal protection, in theory, because it is an offence to enter “someone else’s dwelling with the help of manoeuvres, threats, unlawful acts or constraint”, carrying a maximum sentence of a year in prison. In practice, however, police are often reluctant to intervene and slow when they do. The intruders have generally gone by the time officers arrive, homeowners say.

There is also that issue that if homeowners use physical force to try and remove the squatters, they risk prosecution for assault and battery. Swimming pool squatting has been popular in France for years, but waned during the Covid-19 lockdowns when homeowners could keep an eye out for intruders.

The trend has returned with a vengeance this year, according to Le Figaro newspaper.

The heatwave is one reason, it said, although some observers suggest that the phenomenon may be part of a wider breakdown of law and order.

There are also more pools to squat. The French Federation of Swimming Pool Professionals says France has 3.2 million private pools, of which a record 244,000 were installed in 2021.

*The comic piano player Victor Borge ventured far away from his field of expertise when he bought a chicken ranch. When a friend asked if he knew anything about breeding chickens, Borge said, ‘No, but the chickens do.’*

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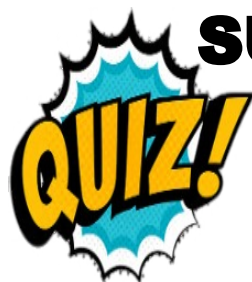
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TWEET!



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*I was walking down the road the other day and I saw this advert in the window that said,  
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opposite Mercadona in Los Balcones



DOG  
FRIENDLY

## The Microchip Race

THE Spanish government's plan to invest €12 billion euros is struggling to get off the ground thanks to a lack of chipmakers willing to take on the project.

Spain's new tech drive has received billions of euros of investment from the EU's Covid recovery fund in line with an EU target to produce a fifth of the world's microchips by 2030.

According to Bloomberg, firms courted by the Spanish government are instead opting for partnerships with business in Germany, which already has an established semiconductor ecosystem.

Manufacturers have shown interest in the government's chip drive which was announced two months ago, but it appears an unproven track record in the sector is deterring business from partnering up.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez told Bloomberg: "We are fully confident that these conversations will soon bear fruit in relevant announcements." The EU and US are locked in a race to increase chip production, with Western governments keen to reduce their dependence on an industry typically outsourced to Asian markets.

The US has just announced a \$52 billion investment into semiconductor manufacturing.



14

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Volunteering can change lives – the lives of the people receiving advice and support from a volunteer and the life of the person freely giving their time and effort to a charity such as HELP Vega Baja and the local community in general.

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HELP Vega Baja has grown as a charity and to meet the needs of the people we support, we are looking to increase our team of volunteers, throughout the charity.

We are particularly keen to hear from anyone interested in working within our charity sales area and front desk reception in San Miguel. Our welfare team would also like to hear from anyone who has experience supporting people – completing benefit applications, offering emotional support etc.

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We look forward to hearing from you!

[www.helpvegabaja.com](http://www.helpvegabaja.com)

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**Help us to continue helping others**

A mortician was working late one night. It was his job to examine the dead bodies before they were sent off to be buried or cremated. As he examined the body of Mr. Schwartz, who was about to be cremated, he made an amazing discovery: Schwartz had the longest penis he had ever seen! "I'm sorry Mr. Schwartz," said the mortician, "But I can't send you off to be cremated with a tremendously huge penis like this. It has to be saved for posterity." And with that the coroner used his tools to remove the dead man's schlong. The coroner stuffed his prize into a briefcase and took it home. The first person he showed was his wife. "I have something to show you that you won't believe," he said, and opened his briefcase. "OHHH MYYY GODDDDDDD!!!!!" she screamed, "Schwartz is DEAD?!?!?!!"

## BLUE BADGE

British Blue Badge (handicap) holders are being warned that their documents might not be recognised in European countries including France and Spain as a result of post-Brexit negotiations which remain unresolved.



As hundreds of thousands of travellers head to the continent for their holiday, popular destinations including France, Spain, Italy, Portugal and Greece are among 11 European nations which have yet to decide if a UK-issued Blue Badge, which enables people with disabilities or health conditions to park closer to their destination, is a document they are willing to recognise.

The AA, which has slammed the position as 'simply unacceptable', is warning travellers they risk parking fines, having their car clamped or even towed away, if they use a disabled parking space in a country, which since the UK left the EU, has failed to decide if it will continue to accept such documents.

It is worth clarifying that the 'Blue Badge' on the right, which you will have seen displayed on a number of vehicles locally, is not a recognised badge. It can be bought on amazon.co.uk! The badge on the top left hand corner is the correct authorised one for residents of the UK. It is very similar to the Spanish Badge.



## POLA PARK

Many of you will have noticed the amusement park ( photo) next to the N-332 at Santa Pola when you travel to and from Alicante-Elche Airport.

It is a rather sad and tired affair and calling it a leisure complex is a bit ambitious!

The current 25-year concession for the site has now expired and the the local council has launched a contest asking interested companies to present



a simple project to secure a further 25-year concession. Now the plot size is only 24,000 sq. metres so don't expect a theme park in line with Disney or Warner Bros.

Even Terra Mitica in Benidorm is dire and a terrible waste of space and money. Since it has been inaugurated in 2000, it has been beset with problems. Several years ago there was talk about a Paramount Park in Murcia - but that's all it was - talk!

### Would you Adam & Eve it?

After Adam was created, there he was, all alone, in the Garden of Eden. Of course it wasn't good for him to be all by himself, so the Lord came down to visit. 'Adam,' He said, 'I have a plan to make you much, much happier. I'm going to give you a companion, a help mate for you - someone who will fulfil your every need and desire. Someone who will be faithful, loving and obedient. Someone who will make you feel wonderful every day of your life.'

Adam was stunned. 'That sounds incredible!'

'Well it is,' replied the Lord. 'But it doesn't come for free. This is someone so special that it's going to cost you an arm and a leg.'

'That's a pretty high price to pay,' said Adam. 'What can I get for a rib?'

*Barry & Sue*  
*Welcome you to*  
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- Can you tell me the names of your  
 former spouses?

- What is this, a memory test?

Justice of the Peace and Elizabeth Taylor  
 (married 8 times to 7 husbands.)

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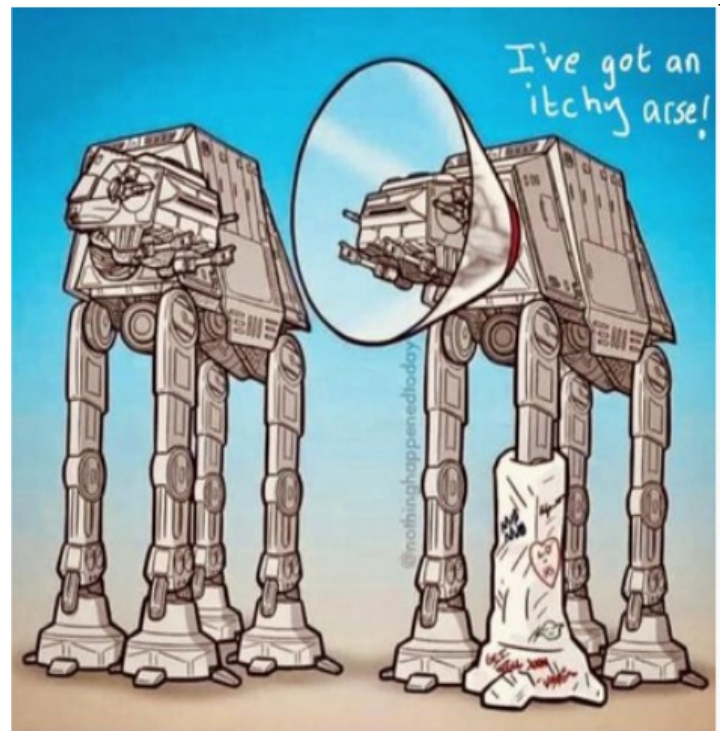
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**Airport to Torrevieja :**

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



## Bye, Bye, Barclays

Customers of Barclays Bank who are living in Spain and other EU countries have been receiving letters telling them that their UK accounts will be closed by the end of the year. A Barclays spokesperson said: "As a ring fenced bank, our Barclays UK products are designed for customers within the UK. We will no longer be offering services to personal current account or savings customers (excluding ISAs) within the European Economic Area. We are contacting impacted customers to give them advance notice of this decision and outline the next steps they need to take."

Customers are being given six months to make alternative arrangements. The changes affect all personal current accounts or savings accounts, but do not affect ISAs, loans or mortgages.



"Whoa, whoa, stop eating, Fred... I don't think that's tapioca pudding!"

## "Waggy Tails"

In San Miguel de Salinas

**DOG  
GROOMING  
PARLOUR**

**FOR APPOINTMENTS  
Phone Vicky:  
672 326 979**



## Keeping Your Electricity Price Down! <sup>17</sup>

The volatility of energy markets in recent months means that there are huge differences in the price of electricity depending on the time of day that you use it in Spain.

According to data from Red Eléctrica, the partly state-owned corporation which operates Spain's national grid, the differences in **the price of kilowatt hour (kWh) can be up to 20 cents more expensive** depending on when exactly you use it. From Monday to Friday, the cheapest time to use the washing machine is during the flat and off-peak slots. It may not be ideal, but by putting the washing machine on during the night, from 00:00 to 8:00 (off-peak), or in the morning, from 8:00 to 10:00 (flat), the kWh price can be significantly lower than during peak hour.

Similarly, another good time to use the washing machine, and perhaps the most convenient without being too costly, is after lunch from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m during another flat-rate session.

**Fortunately, weekends and holidays correspond uninterruptedly with the off-peak time slot** and there is, as a result, very little variation in prices depending on the time of day you use the machine, so you can wash your clothes at the weekend with worrying about racking up a huge bill.

The three energy periods, which you can also use to calculate usage for other electrical products, not just the washing machine:

Horas punta – **peak hours** (most expensive): 10-14:00h and 18-22:00h on weekdays.

Horas valle – **off-peak** (cheapest): 00-8:00h on weekdays; 24h on weekends and national holidays.

Horas llana - **flat rate** (intermediate tariff): From 8-10h, 14-18h and 22-24h on weekdays.

## Heading Off

Just before their first long deployment, two army buddies were talking about the stress of leaving their families.

A sergeant major, a veteran of many deployments, overheard the conversation and offered the following advice: "You must be sensitive to your wives' emotional needs," he said adding, "Never, ever, whistle while you pack." He then added, "But be suspicious if she helps you pack."

# HAWKINS

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*A few months ago my five-year-old son informed us that he was 'black toast intolerant.'*  
Michael Brunelle



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## **WANT TO BUY A BANK RESALE?**

So what happens to the properties that a bank will repossess? They will sell it of course.

The following website is very helpful in identifying the property available for sale by the banks.

<https://www.idealista.com/pisos-bancos>  
Once you enter the site you will see that it can also be viewed in English and a number of other languages.

Here you can search for properties by province, which also indicates the number of properties for bank sale in that province.

So when I tested the site it told me that there were **2,303 bank properties for sale in this province**. When you select the province, these are individually listed but with more than 2,000 one can use the filters to narrow the choice.

Clicking on a photo of the property will give you a number of images taken from inside and outside, sometimes with floor plans of the relevant property.

Also the map is very helpful as you can draw a boxed area in the map to indicate for you the properties available within the box you created.

In Torrevieja there are 21 apartments available, ranging from a studio for 49,600 euros to a spectacular apartment on the beachfront in Punta Prima that costs 583,000 euros.

In Orihuela the portal offers a total of 20 houses for between 76,500 and 174,900 euros, while in Benijófar there are 9 chalets in an urbanization, each for 178,500 euros.

In Benidorm there are 12 bank houses available that range between 90,400 and 304,500 euros.

As I wrote this article on August 10, the numbers may have varied a little by the time this gets to print.

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**AVAILABLE MON - SAT 1pm TILL 7pm**

**3 COURSE €10.95**

**FOR 10 OR MORE PEOPLE**

**MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE**

**TEL 694 494 697**

**KEEP EYE ON FACEBOOK!**

A friend of mine confused her Valium with her birth control pills.

She had fourteen children but didn't give a shit.

Joan Rivers



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ALL THIS - ONLY €6.00!!**

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FOR WINTER THURSDAY LEAGUE*

**KITCHEN OPEN 9.30AM TO 10PM!  
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RAIN OR SHINE - WE ARE OPEN!**

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I've just joined the Jehovah's Bystanders.  
It's like being a Jehovah's Witness but we don't like to get involved.

# La Cicada Bar & Bistro



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“There was a tunnel and a bright white light  
and a souvenir shop.  
I brought back T-shirts for the kids!”

## Injury Time

There could be fatalities, or even worse, injuries. Phil Neal  
Before fully qualified physiotherapists, we never had injuries. Ron Atkinson  
Steve McCahill has limped off with a badly cut forehead. Tom Ferrie

# 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

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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.

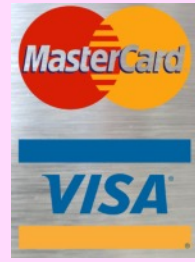
The registration requirements plus insurance means that I am always up to date with latest changes in UK social care & welfare law and my practice is fully indemnified.

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**



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I know someone who wrote a World War II movie set in Germany.  
The studio executives said, 'Could you make the Nazis nicer?'





# EL CAPTAN

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He picked her up at a nightclub and invited her back to his place. Nothing much was said on the way back so when they got there she remarked, 'You haven't much to say for yourself.'

'No. I do all my talking with this,' he said dropping his trousers.

The girl walked forward and squinted, 'Bloody hell, don't tell me that's all you've got to say?'



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I took my girlfriend to the cinema. At the end of the film, when the credits were running, she asked, 'Where's Panavision?' It says "Filmed in Panavision".'

Listener, BBC Radio 2



# JB's

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*JB's - Just Because - You Can!*

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## RAGS TO RICHES!

In a rags to riches story, a street beggar in Alicante has scooped more than 1.2 million euros having hit the lottery jackpot in Spain's Bonoloto. A well-known local in the La Florida neighbourhood of the Costa Blanca city, the unnamed woman regularly begged for money outside a local supermarket and bank.

"You have changed my life!", she cried on hearing she had scooped 1,271,491 euros, according to the tobacconist who sold her the winning ticket.

Mariángeles Torregrosa and Desirée Agorreta run the tobacconist in Avenida de Orihuela which has been in their family for six generations. They told Spanish press the lucky winner is "of gypsy ethnicity" and begged outside two premises opposite their shop.

"She came in on Thursday (August 4) and told us that we had solved her life problems. We have made someone happy who everyone in the

neighbourhood loves. The woman had debts and financial problems," said Mariángeles, adding that this is the biggest lottery prize they have ever seen.

"We have given out prizes of 36,000 euros, but never something so big. We always said we wanted to give a big prize, but you never expect it. We were at home and (the lottery board) called us at 10.40pm to tell us that we had sold the Bonoloto jackpot prize ticket, and I almost fell over from the excitement".

Delighted the unnamed woman had bagged such a huge cash prize, the tobacconist added: "She came every day at around 9am and worked until 2pm, begging between the supermarket and the bank and when she finished, she would come and buy a Bonoloto and Primitiva, but not Euromillón because it was too expensive."

Did you hear about the pregnant librarian? Her baby was born two weeks overdue and got a 64p fine.



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Greatest selection of piercing jewellery from 5€

## FINES FOR DOG OWNERS

The Alicante municipality of San Vicente del Raspeig has more than 15,000 pets registered. That's 15,275 dogs and surprisingly 778 cats. This represents about one dog for every two dwellings, a high number which has encouraged the local council to enforce the regulations regarding pet ownership for the safety of people and animals.

During 2021, 25 sanctions by the San Vicente del Raspeig City Council were imposed on dog owners for failing to comply with different aspects of the animal ownership regulations. Two resident of the municipality were each fined €2,704 for walking down the street a dog considered potentially dangerous, without a muzzle and also without having the corresponding license to keep these animals. The license includes many requirements, including taking out civil liability insurance for damage to third parties. Another dog owner has faced a fine, also considered serious, amounting to 2,700 euros because his pet ended up biting a person after escaping. Another dog owner was fined €2,404 for walking his unregistered dangerous dog although the dog did wear an approved muzzle.

If a dog has bitten somebody, the dog must be inspected by a vet. Failing to do so will result in a fine of between €600 and €300.

Fines of between €500 and €200 were issued to those who failed to pick up their dog's poo. Also if your dog has a pee on the pavement, you are required to dilute it with some liquid. If not a €200 fine!

The smaller fines are often paid before the particular case reaches the resolution phase.



For some years now, I have been reporting on the ERE Case in Andalucia. After several years, it has now finally come to a head with some of the convictions confirmed.

During late July, Spain's Supreme Court upheld convictions for 16 former top officials from the ruling Socialists in Andalusia over one of the biggest fraud cases in the country's modern history.

A Seville court in 2019 convicted 19 former top Socialist officials in Andalusia for diverting 680 million in public funds **meant to help the unemployed and companies in difficulties in the southern region.**

Among those convicted were **two former heads of the regional government of Andalusia**, Manuel Chaves and José Antonio Griñán, photo.



The Supreme Court has now upheld the convictions of 16 of the 19 former officials, including those of Griñán and Chaves, and acquitted three others.

It maintained Griñán's conviction for embezzlement and misappropriation of public

funds and his jail sentence of six years, as well as his ineligibility to hold public office for 15 years.

The court also confirmed Chaves's conviction of maladministration and his ineligibility to hold public office for nine years.

These limited bans on holding public office surprises me. Surely it should be lifetime bans! Andalusia, Spain's most populous region, had been for decades a stronghold of the Socialists. However, the Socialists lost control of the regional government in January 2019 after 36 years in office to a coalition led by the conservative Popular Party (PP).

The PP argues the case shows the Socialists resorted to cronyism, using taxpayers' money to reward supporters with jobs and benefits in a bid to maintain their grip on the region.

Sánchez came to power nationally in June 2018 thanks to a no-confidence vote sparked by another major corruption scandal (Brujal) involving members of the PP.

Polls now show the Socialists are trailing the PP, who in April appointed a moderate new leader, Alberto Núñez Feijóo, considered by some as "a safe pair of hands."

Some of the details in the ERE Case are jaw-dropping. The greed, the excesses and the frauds are many and astonishing. I plan to include a two-pager on some of the 'juicier details' in the October edition due to lack of space in this edition.

You will be shocked!

## The Witch!

A man was driving across the country when suddenly he saw a hitchhiker. He picked her up and while they were driving the two of them got talking.

"What do you do?" asked the man.

"I'm a witch," said the hitchhiker.

"One of those, spells, potions, and turn people into frogs kind of witches?"

"That's the one."

"Oh yeah? Can you show me?"

She started stroking his inner thigh. Just like that, the man turned into a hotel.

## LOCKSMITH

CERRAJEROS - SCHLOSSER  
SEGURIDAD UNION



607 493 118

Antonio  
LOCAL

(Cut out & keep.)




A guy was on a business trip to Houston and bought a really cool pair of snakeskin boots. He couldn't wait to show the new boots to his wife. Returning from his trip late that evening, his wife was in the bathroom getting ready for bed. He quickly stripped naked, except for his new boots and stood in the bedroom to wait for her. As the wife emerged from the bathroom, he asked, 'Well, honey, do you notice anything special?' She replied, 'Yeah, it's limp.' 'It's not limp!' he said, 'it's admiring my new snakeskin boots!' 'Well, next time buy a hat!'

### 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.**



*"Your anger management therapist is here early. Shall I tell him to fuck off?"*



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& NO JOB TOO BIG!**



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A vicar has been fined and placed on the sex offenders' register "for romping with a Henry Hoover", reports The Sun. John Jeffs, 74, was caught "thrusting" into the vacuum cleaner's nozzle, naked except for a pair of stockings, by a shocked churchgoer who walked into his office at the The Baptist Centre in Middleton Cheney in Northamptonshire. Jeffs saw the witness, but carried on, later telling police he did it because he felt "naughty". He was found guilty of indecent exposure at Northampton Magistrates' Court last week. (Sorry, no photos available!)

A Florida newspaper obituary described the deceased as an "abusive alcoholic" with "no redeeming qualities". The obit, published in The Florida Times-Union, was written by the son of former New York City police officer Lawrence Pfaff Sr. He called Pfaff "father to many, and a dad to none"; said that he had died after living "much longer than he deserved"; but noted that his passing was at least proof that "evil does eventually die." The Times-Union later said the obituary "did not adhere to our guidelines". But Pfaff Jr said that the obituary had brought him "much happiness".

A match-fixing investigation has been launched in Sierra Leone into how 187 goals were scored in two premiership play-off matches. In one, Kahunla Rangers beat Lumbebu United 95-0, while in another, Gulf FC crushed Koquima Lebanon 91-1. Scores at half-time stood at 2-0 and 7-1, meaning that the teams were level on points, and qualification would be decided on goal difference. Lumbebu's general manager insisted he was "not aware of any match manipulation".

Prosecutors in Taiwan have dropped charges against three people accused of kidnap, on the grounds that the incident was a "surprise marriage proposal" that went awry. Yang, 24, decided to propose to her girlfriend, Huang, in a memorable way, so she paid two men to burst into her flat and bundle her into a suitcase. Yang and the men then drove to a register office with Huang in the boot, where she, Yang, was going to propose. But when the car stopped, Huang

jumped out, shouting, "Help! I was kidnapped!"; a passing policeman arrested the men.

Since 1996, US-based company DW Home, has been selling all sorts of unusual scented candles, including mashed potatoes, turkey dinners, and mac and cheese.

However, one disgusted customer has been left less than impressed by the mac and cheese offering, claiming it left them "gagging in horror" and in need of marriage counselling. The customer claims they'd initially believed their husband had "soiled himself" after getting a whiff of the candle, which they say nearly caused them to "projectile vomit." A second person shuddered: "It smells like someone dumped the mac and cheese flavour powder packet into a bag, farted in it, sealed up the bag, and then you opened it 50 years later and smelled it. It's epic." However, there are others who can't get enough of this fragrance, which one happy customer praised as being an "astounding artisanal achievement". This particular scent, has an impressive 4.6-star rating on the official DW Home website.





Come down & relax on our sunny terrace. Enjoy a cool crisp beer, a glass of wine, or simply a frothy coffee with a bite to eat.



Premier League Matches now being shown on our 75" TV



*Calle Lago Bañolas, C.C.3,  
Los Altos*

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



## **Live Music & Entertainment**

**Thursdays: Simon Morton: 4pm — 7pm**

Sunshine FM's Famous and Favourite will be entertaining us with his fabulous show.



**Sundays: Wayne Stewart: 4pm — 7pm**

The excellent Guitarist and Singer of Irish, Country, Pop & more is with us every Sunday.

**Keep an eye on our FaceBook Page for updates**

A new Zealander was walking along the road with a sheep under each arm.  
He meets another New Zealander, who asks, 'You shearin', mate?'  
The first man replies, 'Naw, they're all mine.'



Okay, I'm assuming you already have an SIP card from one of the municipal health authorities in the region of Valencia. This will also probably mean that your mobile phone number is also known to them as this you would have provided in relation to the Covid EU passport scheme.

Go online, with whatever internet device you prefer, to [san.gva.es](http://san.gva.es)

This is the main Valencian Health Authority website but is available only in Valenciano and Castellano. However, if you have something similar to Google Translate, translating should be no problem, but navigating it may not be a problem to you anyway.

On the opening page click on **Portal del Pacient**. The next page will give you a list of 12 options. Choose **Cites mèdiques**.

The next screen will say **Les meues cites mèdiques** (Your medical appointments), with three options. If you want to arrange an appointment with your G.P. Click on the first choice **Cita en línia en Atenció**

**Primària**. The next screen will ask you to enter your SIP card number and your date of birth. Do this and press **Validar**.

The next screen will display your SIP number and name and will give you three options - for an appointment, choose the first **Demandar Cita**. The next screen, **SERVEIS DISPONIBLES**, will give you four options.

For an appointment with your GP, **choose the first**, (which will also list the name of your doctor) and press **Seleccionar servei**.

The next screen will again give your doctor's name, today's date. Fill in the date you want the appointment and then in the remaining two boxes put in the preferred time within a two-hour gap, i.e. 10:00 and 12:00 or say 18:00 and 20:00. Then press **Demandar Cita**.

(You will rarely get the date you want and you may have to adjust the two hour times for

various parts of the day, depending on the shifts that your particular doctor works that day.)

Eventually you will be offered a date and a number of optional times for the appointment. Select the preferred option and confirm it. You will also be able to print appointment details. If, after a number of unsuccessful attempts to get a cita, you will probably be getting the following message in Spanish - "An error has occurred. It is not possible to manage your appointment for the desired date. Please contact your Health Center. Press the "Continue" button to return to the previous step. If you continue the error for a long period of time, you can write an email to [cita\\_previa@gva.es](mailto:cita_previa@gva.es) or contact your health center by telephone."

However, if you want to check **your existing appointments** with either your GP and a **specialist**, the system is slightly different.

Go to the **Les meues cites mèdiques** stage of the process and choose the second option, **Consulta les teues cites pendents en Atenció Primària i Especialitzada**.

Once again you will be asked for your SIP number, your date of birth and the date your SIP card was issued. This is on the front of your card. You then have to type in the code they give you, IN CAPITALS, and press **Validar**.

They will respond saying they will send you an SMS message and quote part of your mobile number. If this is correct, press **Enviar SMS**. Now enter the code they sent to you, press **Consultar** and your various appointment details will be displayed.

Sure, it all sounds like a bit of a palaver, but once you do it a few times it is very simple. Or, you can always phone the *salud* for appointments but you will have little control over the timing of them.



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## TANKS? BUT NO THANKS!

After the Ukraine had repeatedly requested more offensive weapons from Spain, a member of NATO, Spain decided to send a dozen Leopard battle tanks, photo, to the beleaguered country. This was welcomed as to date, Spain was one of the NATO countries that has provided the least material to date. A number of members of the left-wing coalition do not want any military assistance given to the Ukrainians, but they are, thankfully, in a minority.



However, a commission made up of the Spanish military, Ukrainian advisors and others visited the storage site in Zaragoza only to be alarmed at the condition of the tanks. The Spanish Minister of Defence confirmed that the vehicles had not been used for many years and that they were in an 'unfortunate situation.' She has now ruled out transferring them to the Ukraine 'as they would be a danger to the troops manning them.' Spain is now exploring the possibility of sending M113 armoured personnel carriers in place of the tanks. Hopefully, they will still have the engines in them.

## A WOMAN'S POEM

He didn't like my casserole  
 And he didn't like my cake.  
 My biscuits were too hard...  
 Not like his mother used to make.  
 I didn't perk the coffee right  
 he didn't like the stew  
 I didn't mend his socks  
 The way his mother used to do...  
 I pondered for an answer I was looking for a  
 clue  
 Then I turned around and smacked him...  
 Like his Mother used to do.



FOR MANY YEARS FRED'S SECRET  
 SUNDAY AFTERNOON NAPS  
 WENT UNDETECTED

## LABOUR EXPLOITATION

The two managers of a company in Callosa del Segura (Alicante) dedicated to the collection and distribution of vegetables have been arrested on charges of exploiting 16 migrants, 9 of them in an irregular situation, forcing them to clean and peel onions from six from morning to ten at night without any rest.

The two arrested, a man and a woman, employed more than fifteen workers of foreign origin during long shifts of more than 16 hours a day who were paid at the rate of five cents per kilo of cleaned onions.

Another investigation into a separate business, a car wash in the city of Alicante, revealed that six of the employees - five of whom are of foreign origin (two of them illegal) - were forced to work from Monday to Sunday for 140 euros weekly. The three arrested businessmen, aged 32, 46 and 54, are accused of crimes against the rights of workers, favouring illegal immigration and labour trafficking.

Labour exploitation of foreigners, particularly Africans, appears to be still very common. I have often looked at the minibus loads of workers in the veg' mjipl fields/orchards and wondered, how many of these are paid a reasonable wage?

## The Lady's Story

A couple of weeks ago I popped into my local for a pint. As it was a quiet night I let Charley dog off her lead to potter around. After a while, I decided to go to the Ladies room. As I opened the outer door to go in I realised Charley was following me.

Putting on my best "cutesey" voice I said to her "are you coming in wiv me, den?"

Some bloke walked past and said "Nah, I'll leave it thanks".

-I just deleted all the German names off my phone. It's Hans free.

-My ex girlfriend laughed at my idea of making a car out of spaghetti...should have seen her face today as I drove pasta.

-Someone asked me if I was a good sleeper. I told them I'm so good that I can do it with my eyes closed.

-I was doing a crossword in the pub, and said to my Scottish mate Alex, "I'm stuck on one across: trapped on a desert island, eight letters, starting with M." He said, "Marooned."

I said, "Thank you. I'll have a large single malt please!"

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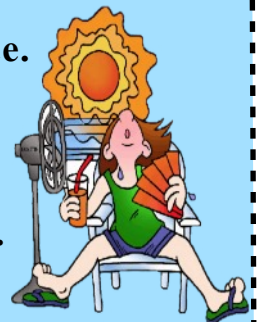


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## Lime Bar ~~Fishing~~ SUNBATHING Club

For various reasons, there were not many at the monthly meeting so it was another quick one. That gave the Cat chance to moan at me, for not reporting on his Summer knock out successes.

I told him that Mick (the editor) only lets me have 1 page!!

I have been side-lined again this month with family visiting, so Sweeney has reported on this month's match and the KO final between him & the Cat.

With few options for a suitable venue, the monthly match was held at El Bosquet again.

For various valid reasons, only 8 names went into the draw. With pegs 1 to 16 reserved all competitors had plenty of water in front of them. On the day, Ball Boy went AWOL so it only made 7 on the bank (points a plenty for the taking!). Perhaps it was the 08.00 start that caused Ball Boy's alarm not to work....

At the off, it took less than 1 minute for the Cat's corn hand grenade to connect to his 1<sup>st</sup> fish, and he never stopped thereafter. He finished with 32 fish (again) for 38.43 kilos which earned him 1<sup>st</sup> place. If he wins the last match of the summer season, he will have the maximum points of 80.

BFC drew peg 16 (again) but must have been using Ball Boy's alarm as he turned up late.

Unfortunately for him, his fish were having a lay in too, as he had a very slow start.

Fagash & Old Bill were drawn on pegs 1 & 3 and they caught steadily throughout the match.

Old Bill came 2<sup>nd</sup> with 14.8 kilos with Fagash in 3<sup>rd</sup> with 12.4 kilos.

Both Sweeney & 3 Rods suffered multiple lost fish and prolonged quiet spells (they must get rid of the rubber hooks). Yorkie Mick weighed in 5 fish for 7<sup>th</sup> spot, which ensured we had no blanks and earned him 14 points for the summer league.

This year's summer knockout final was between Sweeney & the Cat. They decided to fish El Bosquet as it has been giving such big catches. They agreed to start fishing at 08.00 but the Cat's alarm didn't work. Is it the long hot summer nights or the BBQ the night before that is a problem? The Cat was supposed to pick up 3 Rods enroute, as he was going to officiate.

Eventually, 3 Rods, knocked him up and they got on their way.

At the venue, the Cat won the toss and decided to fish peg 3 (of course) with Sweeney on peg 1. The match started at 08.30 with corn hand grenades being launched into the far bank, which soon saw the fish coming to the net. Sweeney had a slender lead for about 1 hour, but then the Cat started getting into the swing of things. He had a quiet spell of about 20 minutes but Sweeney's lasted 1.5 hours (lunch being a welcome highlight). The bigger fish were not playing today with Cat's big mirror being the best of the day, whilst Sweeney's albino carp made for a colourful catch. Cat loves the number 32! His total on the day was 32 fish (yet again) for 32.6 kilos..... we have seen these figures before... what is he up to?

Sweeney was runner up with 18 fish for 16.6 kilos.

Congratulations Cat. RODS RULE!

A good report Sweeney.

The next ~~meeting~~ bun fight is at The Lime Bar on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Stay safe

Fishy fingers!

The Ghost

If I hadn't misunderstood what the interviewer wanted when she asked to see my testimonials, I might have got that job!

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**LUIGI'S NEW SHOES.**

Luigi walks to work 20 blocks everyday and passes a shoe store twice every day. But each day he stops and looks in the window to admire the Armani leather shoes. He wants those shoes so much...it's all he can think about.

After about 2 months he saves the price of the shoes, \$300, and purchases them. Every Friday night the Italian community holds a dance in the church basement. Luigi seizes this opportunity to wear his new Armani leather shoes for the first time. He asks Sophia to dance, and as they dance he asks her, 'Sophia, do you wear red panties tonight?'

Startled, Sophia replies, 'Yes, Luigi, I do wear red panties tonight, but how do you know?' Luigi answers, 'I see the reflection in my new \$300 Armani leather shoes.'

Next time he asks Rosa to dance, and after a few minutes he asks, 'Rosa, do you wear white panties tonight?' Rosa answers, 'Yes, Luigi, I do, but how do you know that?'

He replies, 'I see the reflection in my new \$300 Armani leather shoes.'

Now as the evening is almost over and the last song is being played, Luigi asks Carmela to dance again. Midway through the dance his face turns red .....

He states, 'Carmela, be stilla my heart! Please, please tell me you wear no panties tonight. Please, please, tella me this true!'

Carmela smiles coyly and answers, 'Yes, Luigi, I wear no panties tonight.'

Luigi gasps, 'Thanka you, Lord Jesus! I thought I had a crack in my \$300 Armani leather shoes!'

- If you are not here on time, I'll have to get another secretary.  
 - Another secretary? Do you think there'll be enough work for both.  
 George Burns and Gracie Allen

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



So I kissed Lucy, and was very surprised to feel her tongue pop out. It was my first real snog and I loved it. You can imagine that I fell in love instantly. Sadly the next year Lucy developed distemper and had to be put down.

Hugh Laurie, *A bit of Fry and Laurie*

- I was thinking, later, you could kiss me on the veranda.
- Lips would be fine.

Rosita and Dusty Bottoms, *Three Amigos!*

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