



# THE DREAM SCENE

## NEWSLETTER



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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the Decemberr 2022 edition. Issue No.182

Still beautiful blue skies here with temperatures around 20°+ in the shade but quite cooler in the evenings.

Lots of Xmas decorations now going up already in this urbanisation (Dream Hills). They were **very impressive last year.**

Spain has the second **highest youth unemployment** rate in Europe, at 26.6%, just behind Greece at 28.6%, with both countries double the European average of 13.8%. It rose back to 40% during the pandemic.

This figure has fallen a lot from a gigantic 57% during the financial crisis and the eurozone 10-15 years ago.

The Bank of Spain announced during mid-August that Spain's national debt, according to what Europe calls the "excessive deficit procedure" method, was now **€1.475 trillion**, rising at an annual rate of 3.6%. GDP last year was about €1.2 trillion. So the debt is larger and growing faster than the total capacity of the economy. However, not one of the political parties have a recommendation or even a serious plan of how to reduce the debt. No one

cares, just borrow more!

From Jan' 1, local authorities will be able to **increase the Plusvalia tax** on the sale of properties by up to 50%! With elections due next year, now would be a good time to pester local politicians to find out how much they plan to increase such a ridiculous tax next year.

Of all the residential properties purchased by foreigners in Spain during the first half of this year, 40% were in the province of Alicante! There are now more than 407,000 UK nationals who are currently registered in Spain in 2022, a number which has **increased by at least 30,000 since 2021.** (How many are still under the radar is unknown).

Many thanks to Erik M for donation.

**Remember, no Dream Scene for January.**

Back to normal for February.

*Have a wonderful Christmas  
and a significantly  
better year in 2023!*

*Mick, Tid and*

*The Dream Scene Team*

### INTERPRETER

LEGAL SERVICE, POLICE,

ALL MEDICAL

APPOINTMENTS

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LOCAL



What is the perfect man?

One who makes love for hours and then turns into an Indian takeaway.

An **82-year-old British woman**, with severe mobility problems and a 'hoarding condition' known as Diogenes Syndrome has been found dead in her Torrevieja home. Neighbours reported a strong smell coming from the property in the Avenida Alfred Noble area of the town and called the police.

A patrol visited the octogenarian's home on Friday October 21 and discovered her body surrounded by tons of belongings and rubbish accumulated over a lengthy period of time. Police believe the deceased, named only as Josephine, may have been laying dead for about a fortnight. Earlier in the summer, residents living in the area had complained about her regularly sleeping under an umbrella on her street-facing patio and Torrevieja Cruz Roja and social services made regular welfare checks due to her limited mobility. For the last seven years, the area's property owners' association – which is trying to track down any of Josephine's family members in the UK – had sent at least a dozen letters to the council urging them to offer the elderly woman day-to-day assistance.

The council said the 82-year-old had received assistance in terms of help with stays in a residence, but that people with no nearby family **often turn down official help** and no legal action could be taken.

Police have picked-up **four Algerian teenagers** walking around Cabo Roig's Aguardamarina urbanisation after landing by boat 40 minutes earlier on the Orihuela Costa. 33 people have arrived in Alicante Province within 24 hours during early November after making the perilous sea crossing from North Africa. The teenagers- aged between 15 and 17- detained in Cabo Roig could only speak Arabic. By using a phone translation app, they told officials that six others, including minors, had travelled on their boat.

*What irritates me most about my family is that they don't drink alcohol and I do.*

*The good thing is that I view them all as potential liver-donors.*

Anon

## YOUR VOTE

You will quite often hear people complaining about the general services or lack of them in their municipality. However, **very few of these complainers vote in the local elections** and seem to accept the incompetents who represent them.

Municipal elections will be held throughout Spain on May 28, 2023.

### To vote you need to:

Be an adult, 18 years or older on polling day.  
Be a resident of Spain with a current registered address in the municipality. Spanish citizens and EU residents in Spain can vote.

British nationals resident in Spain **can also vote** (countries with agreements) providing they have been registered as resident for three years before they enrol in the Electoral Census, but they must declare their intention to vote at the town hall between 1 December 2022 and 15 January 2023. ( They will have to re-register this declaration before every subsequent election.)

If you are an EU national and resident, you have until 30 January 2023 to register in the Electoral Census. However, as an EU national, if you have voted in the local elections previously, there is no need to re-register as your name will still be on the census.

Your local council will be sending local residents advance notification shortly.



# The Beauty Lounge

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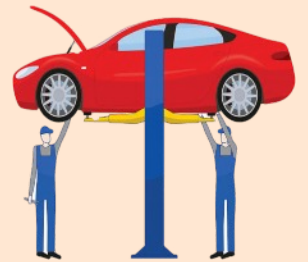
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**VIA PARK III**



# **BIG XMAS DRAW**

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

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Last night, this bloke in the pub sold me a rare, antique map of the Sahara Desert for only £20! This morning when I sobered up I realised that it was a sheet of sandpaper!

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A drugs gang that cultivated and **exported marijuana across Europe** from plantations in Alicante Province has been arrested by the Guardia Civil. One of the ring-leaders was a **British man, 30, from the Orihuela Costa**. The Guardia discovered that the Brit, along with others, ran five marijuana farms in the area. His underage son was stopped at a **police check in San Miguel de Salinas** on September 1 while he was making drug deliveries on his electric scooter. Nine homes were raided on September 28 in Torrevieja, San Miguel de Salinas, Crevillente, Agost, and on the Orihuela Costa, plus properties in the Cartagena and Balsicas area of Murcia. Nine men, including the British man and his son, were detained along with two women.

Amazon Web Services (AWS), an **Amazon.com company, plans to invest €2.5 billion in Spain** over the next 10 years, which will create over 1,300 jobs, the US e-commerce giant announced on Wednesday. The investment will be used to set up and operate a cloud computing hub in Spain, its eighth in Europe, the company said in a statement.

## Whatever happened to the EU plan to ditch the changing of the clocks?

The European Parliament in 2019 supported the proposal by a large majority suggesting time changes should be scrapped in 2021. But EU governments could not come to an agreement. Should summertime or wintertime become the norm?

Brexit and the pandemic also got in the way. **With the UK leaving the bloc and unlikely to follow new EU rules, abolishing time changes would have left the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland in different time zones for half of the year.**

The last time the matter was discussed at the EU Council was in December 2019. The proposal is now very much on the ‘back-burner.’ The country holding the presidency decides which proposals are put on the Council agenda. This proposal is not part of the current Czech presidency’s work programme”. Nor is it known whether the country holding the EU Presidency for the next semester, Sweden, will include it in its work programme either.

The Spanish government has agreed on **some mortgage relief measures** for some home owners with Spanish banks. The Economy Ministry claims a million families will benefit from being able to delay some interest payments over a five-year period if their low income and the percentage of the income they put towards mortgage payments qualify. The government says the measures will be in place by the new year to offset the risk of a rise in the Euribor reference rate.



## HAVING YOUR NAILS DONE?

Quite a normal thing. Unless of course you are in Madrid!

You might, in some salons, notice a number of men walking behind you to the back of the salon. You might even spot one of your neighbours!

The problem is, many nail salons in the city are now also housing brothels. Whereas ladies in the salons have their nails, eyebrows etc., prettied up, for the men it is a totally different experience.

Some will have a lady outside the beauty parlour chasing up business but only addressing males - "Massage? The price is €20 for half an hour, plus an additional €20 for a "happy ending."

Many of these parlours/salons are open seven days a week, 10am to 10pm.

The anti-human trafficking association Apramp believe that the women in the brothel sections may be the victims of organised crime, but to

make arrests for trafficking, law enforcement needs proof that the women are being forced into prostitution.

There are precedents of police raids against these front businesses. In 2009, 14 Chinese hair salons were shut down in Barcelona. Another 40 were closed in 2013. In Madrid, the police arrested two people in 2016 for forcing women recruited in Colombia into prostitution in apartments and hair salons.

Two premises on Leganitos Street, at numbers 5 and 18, were reported in late December 2021 "for engaging in activities not authorized by their license," following a joint operation by city authorities and the National Police.

However, both premises have remained open and continue to carry out their clandestine activities. A spokeswoman for the National Police Headquarters in Madrid said that there are currently no open investigations into beauty parlours offering sex.



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Three elderly ladies swim in the indoor pool. After two hours, the first one gets out and the lifeguard praises her: "Great!" She says: "Yes, I'm 70 years old and I was Irish champion in long-distance swimming" -

After three hours the second comes out and proudly says to the lifeguard: "I'm 80 years old and was European champion in long-distance swimming!"

After 4 hours, the third one gets out and says: "I'm 90 years old..." - "Yes, I know" says the lifeguard "and you were world champion in long-distance swimming!". She replies:

"No, I was a prostitute in Venice and made house calls."



# THE BAR NEXT DOOR.

FIRST FLOOR  
VIA PARK III

(Sister bar to The Lime Bar)

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CUP  
2022

# LIME BAR



VIA PARK III

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*Being a good politician is like being a good prostitute:  
you have to be able to make everyone think you care about making  
them happy, while they pay you to screw them.*

## ARE YOU A MOSQUITO MAGNET?

A new study finds that some people really are “mosquito magnets” and it probably **has to do with the way they smell.**

The researchers found that people who are most attractive to mosquitoes produce a lot of certain chemicals on their skin that are tied to smell. And bad news for mosquito magnets: The bloodsuckers stay loyal to their favourites over time.

“If you have high levels of this stuff on your skin, you’re going to be the one at the picnic getting all the bites,” said study author Leslie Vosshall, a neurobiologist at Rockefeller University in New York.

There’s a lot of folklore about who gets bitten more but many claims aren’t backed up with strong evidence, said Vosshall.

To put mosquito magnetism to the test, the researchers designed an experiment pitting people’s scents against each other, explained study author Maria Elena De Obaldia. Their findings were published in the journal *Cell*.

They asked 64 volunteers from the university and nearby **to wear nylon stockings around their forearms to pick up their skin smells.**

The stockings were put in separate traps at the end of a long tube, then dozens of mosquitos were released.

“They would basically swarm to the most attractive subjects,” De Obaldia said. “It became very obvious right away.”

Scientists held a round-robin tournament and ended up with a striking gap: The biggest mosquito magnet was around **100 times more attractive** to the mosquitoes than the last place finisher.

The experiment used the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito that spreads diseases like yellow fever, Zika and dengue. Vosshall said she’d expect similar results from other kinds, but would need more research to confirm.

By testing the same people over multiple years, the study showed that these big differences stick around, said Matt DeGennaro, a neurogeneticist at Florida International University who was not involved with the research.

“Mosquito magnets seem to remain mosquito magnets,” DeGennaro said.

Out of the favourites, the researchers found a common factor: **Mosquito magnets had high levels of certain acids on their skin.** These “greasy molecules” are part of the skin’s natural moisturizing layer, and people produce them in different amounts, Vosshall said. The healthy bacteria that live on the skin eat up these acids and produce part of our skin’s odour profile, she said.

You can’t get rid of these acids without damaging your skin health too, said Vosshall, who is paid by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and serves as its chief scientific officer. The institute also supports The Associated Press’ Health and Science Department.

But the research could help find new methods to repel mosquitoes, said Jeff Riffell, a neurobiologist at the University of Washington who was not involved with the study. There may be ways to tinker with skin bacteria and change humans’ tantalizing smells, he said.

Still, figuring out ways to fight off mosquitoes isn’t easy, Riffell said, since the critters have evolved to be “lean, mean biting machines.”

The study proved this point: Researchers also did the experiment with mosquitoes whose genes were edited to damage their sense of smell. **The bugs still flocked to the same mosquito magnets.**

“Mosquitoes are resilient,” Vosshall said. “They have many backup plans to be able to find us and bite us.”

I met this lass in the pub the other night. She told me she cooked meals for the homeless, drug addicts, people with addictions to gambling and alcohol, that sort of thing.

I asked her, ‘Charity work?’

She said, ‘No. Wetherspoons.’



# Helen's Bar



(Formerly JJ's Cafe/Bar)

VIA PARK V

OPENING HOURS

TUESDAY - SATURDAY 1pm - 10pm

SUNDAY 1pm - 7pm

TUESDAY'S 6 - 8ish

Stand UP Bingo & Play Your CRDS rIGHT



**WEDNESDAY  
FUN DARTS 7pm**



**FRIDAY**

**QUIZ WITH SUE 6.00pm**



**SUNDAY AFTERNOON**

**QUIZ & STANDUP BINGO**

**with John - 3pm start.**

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**THURSDAYS 4pm**

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P.J. O'Rourke



# POOLView

## Snack Bar



VIA PARK V

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William Feather

# HELP VEGA BAJA



How can our Welfare Team support you!

Some of the ways we can support you include:



## EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

We offer emotional support with trained and experienced listeners and a professional counsellor. All completely confidential. For more information or to speak with one of the team, please call Sue Birchenough, Welfare Co-ordinator on 966 723 733 to arrange a mutually convenient appointment. *Please don't struggle alone – we are here to support you*

## ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE

Attendance Allowance applications can be quite daunting to complete. We have experienced volunteers who have supported 100's of people through the process over many years both here and the UK. We can also give advice on other benefits that may be available.

## HELP RESPITE PROJECT

HELP Respite Project: Carers often say there are many rewards to caring including the satisfaction of knowing you have helped a loved one. However, caring can sometimes come to the detriment of the carer's own needs. When we meet carers, many are totally exhausted. The HELP Respite Project offers limited respite care for those people who do not have the financial resources themselves. This is an important project for the charity and one that any funds raised will be directed towards.

## ADVICE AND INFORMATION

Advice & Information: HELP Vega Baja works closely with other organisations such as social services, British Consulate, and town halls throughout the Vega Baja area. We offer advice and information on all aspects of living in Spain. Covid and UK passports, registration of S1's, TIEs are just some of the areas that we assist

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

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*Happy New Year*

*to all our customers*



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**8:00 10:00 11:00 12:00 13:00 14:00**

**17:00 19:00 21:00**

**There may be adjustments  
for the winter period.**



**I see you've fixed the drip!**

When I was a boy, my dad gave me money to go downtown and pay the electric bill. Instead, I spent all the money and I bought raffle tickets for a chance to win a truck. I told my dad when I got home and he beat my ass. But the next morning in the driveway sat a new truck. We all held each other and cried ..... especially me because it was the truck from the electric company, there to turn the lights off.

Dad beat my ass again!





## RESIDENCY IN SPAIN & PORTUGAL

Spain's non-lucrative visa, also known as the **NLV**, is an authorisation that allows non-EU foreigners to stay in Spain for a period of more than 90 days without working or carrying out professional activities in Spain, such as retirees, by demonstrating that they have sufficient financial means.

Portugal's **D7** visa provides residency status in Portugal to non-EU citizens, including retirees, who receive regular passive income.

**NLV:** For Spain's NLV, in 2022 you must prove that you have a passive income of €27,792 per year. This number usually rises yearly as it must be 400% of the IPREM, (an index relating to minimum wage) so if you're planning on applying in 2023, you'll have to budget **a little more**.

**D7:** For Portugal's D7 visa, you only have to prove that you have 100% of the minimum wage which is currently €7,620 per year. Portugal wins hands down in this case as you'll have to have at least €20,000 more per year if you want to move to Spain.

### Including Family Members?

**NLV:** Yes, the Spanish NLV allows you to bring dependent family members such as a spouse and children, however, you will need an extra €6,948 per year for each family member included.

**D7:** Portugal's D7 also allows you to bring family members, but again it's a lot more affordable than Spain's NLV. You can bring your spouse or your dependent parents for an extra €3,810 per year and your children for an extra €2,292 per year.

### Can it be renewed?

**NLV:** The NLV visa is a one-year visa, but it can be renewed for a further two years and then another two years after that. After five years of residency, you are eligible to apply for long-term residency and won't have to keep renewing your NLV.

**D7:** The D7 is initially valid for two years, unlike the NLV. Afterward, you'll be able to renew it for an additional three years.

## The 90-Day rule

I am regularly asked if there is some way of 'dodging' the 90-day rule of staying in Spain for non EU visitors. I've yet to hear of a sensible or proven one! Next year will bring a number of changes and indeed many delays at passport control at EU borders for non EU travellers. Electronic passport recognition will be upgraded and there will be fingerprinting and facial recognition introduced for non EU travellers together with a charge for a visitors visa. Much more on this in the Feb' newsletter. Although Spain appears to date to be lenient on the 90-day issue, this will not last once the new border technology and procedures are updated.

“Waggy Tails”

In San Miguel de Salinas

DOG  
GROOMING  
PARLOUR





FOR APPOINTMENTS  
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*(The previous shop known as "Timeless Fashions")*

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selling Hand Made, Organic & Vegan Products*

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*Bibliotheque*

*Princess Jasmine*

*Christmas Day*

*Snow Queen*

*Ginger Bread*

*Orange & Cranberry*

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**Germany supports,  
But Spain rejects.**



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Germany's centre-left coalition government has set out plans for what the health minister described as "the most liberal legalisation of cannabis in Europe". Karl Lauterbach said the existing ban has not stemmed consumption, and that it would be better to create a regulated market for the drug.

Under his proposed reform, it would be legal for adults to possess 20 to 30 grams of the drug for recreational use, and to grow up to three cannabis plants at home per person. The drug would also be available to buy in licensed shops, but advertising it would be prohibited.

If enacted, it would make Germany only the second EU country to legalise the recreational use of cannabis, after Malta. (Although the sale of small quantities of the drug in coffee shops occurs in the Netherlands, the drug is still illegal.)

Berlin says it will submit its plan to the European Commission, to check that it complies with EU law.

A recent attempt to introduce legislation regarding the liberal legalisation of the drug in Spain was thrown out. This really surprises me as the country is awash with the substance anyway and the various tax hungry governments, which Spain endures, are ignoring the significant revenues which could be generated by its introduction.

A man is on a street corner in Moscow yelling "The president is an idiot!" Police surround him and handcuff him. They say, "It is illegal to insult President Putin"

He says "You don't understand! I mean the Ukrainian president, Zelensky. He is the one I was insulting!"

The police captain says, "You can't fool us. Everyone knows who the idiot is."

# BAR DOMINO

LOS ALTOS

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH MENU



### Starters

Liver Pate & Oatcakes served  
with a crisp salad

Homemade Soup  
served with a hot crusty roll

Prawn Cocktail (+1€)  
served on a bed of salad

Stuffed Garlic & Cheese

Breaded Mushrooms  
served with a crisp salad



### Main Course

Roast Turkey Breast

Honey Glazed Gammon

Roast Beef

served with roast potatoes, broccoli, carrot &  
swede, mashed potatoes, brussel sprouts,  
roasted parsnips, homemade stuffing balls,  
pigs 'n' blankets & gravy



### Vegetarian Main

Homemade Meatless Loaf  
served with roast potatoes, broccoli, carrot &  
swede, mashed potatoes, brussel sprouts,  
roasted parsnips, homemade vegetarian  
stuffing, vegetarian sausage wrapped in quorn  
bacon & gravy

As of Friday 9th of December through to  
Christmas Eve from 1:30pm until 6:00pm

Bookings are being taken now

(10€ deposit per person)

Other dates available on request

### Dessert

Bailey's Cheesecake

served with cream

Christmas Pudding

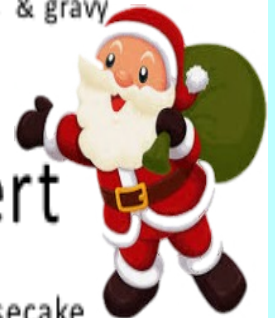
topped with homemade brandy sauce

Viennetta & Strawberries

served with cream

Two Course ~ 12.95€

Three Course - 15.95€



**TEL 694 494 697**  
**TAKING BOOKINGS FOR**  
**NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY!**



My wife left me because (she said) . . . I was obsessed with football.  
I wouldn't mind, but we'd been together for nearly 6 seasons!



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The difference between Republicans and Democrats  
is the difference between syphilis and gonorrhoea.

Rita Mae Brown

22 **New measures to help low to mid-income families with their variable rate mortgages.**

The agreement will help families who earn less than €25,200 per year. They will be able to benefit from an improvement to the Code of Good Practices, which the banks agreed with the former right-wing Rajoy government in 2012. The code is currently limited to those with a maximum income of €24,318, but the new agreement aims to increase this for those earning less than €29,000, who will be able to apply for similar but shorter relief. Most people in Spain earn less than €21,000 a year.

**Main Changes** •Be allowed to pay only the interest on their loan for five years.

•Will have the maximum interest on their loan limited.

•And will have the period in which to pay back the loan extended to 40 years.

If after these three measures are applied, families are still having to pay 50% of their household income to mortgage repayments, then they will be allowed to request a reduction

from their bank. Keep in mind though, the bank can refuse this request.

Finally, if this is not enough or the bank refuses, families will receive a loan in order to help pay their mortgage bills to the bank. Previously, families could only benefit from the Code of Good Practices if there had been a significant alteration in their financial situation in the past four years.

This meant that many people were not eligible because the problem had come from the increase in mortgage rates, rather than a change in their own financial situation.

The new measures will also reduce the maximum interest rate that households who benefit from the code will have to pay. Specifically, the maximum will be reduced from 0.25% plus the Euribor to -0.1% plus the Euribor.

Conditions for new homes will also be included but these will be less favourable. The time in which they have to repay the interest will be reduced to two years instead of five and they can extend the repayment period to a maximum of seven years.

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## *LETTERS TO THE EDITOR*

*Dear Mick,*

*Did you know that if you rest one of your testicles on top of an empty beer bottle and hold a flame at the base, eventually the testicle will be sucked inside.*

*If you know this, please can you let me know how to reverse it?*

*It's quite urgent!*

*Joe .....*

# 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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**and support.**



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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.

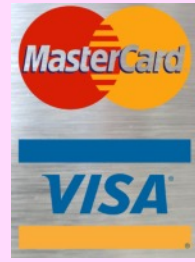
The registration requirements plus insurance means that I am always up to date with latest changes in UK social care & welfare law and my practice is fully indemnified.

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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- SOLD OUT!!**







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*Eyes Down 3pm*

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A little girl with a lisp walks into a pet shop and says to the shop owner.

"I want a fwuffy bunny wabbit".

The shop owner paternalistically replies "Would you wike a bwown fwuffy wabbit or a bwack fwuffy wabbit". The little girl replies "I don't think my pyfon gives a fwuck".



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# JB's



Calle Laguna Vista, Lago Jardin 2.  
*JB's - Just Because!*

Kim and Victoria invite you to join them for the festive season.

**POSH AFFAIR Mon Dec 19 7pm**

Carols, mulled wine, mince pies €5 per person in aid of ECCH  
Cheese platters €6. Booking essential.

**PARTY TIME AT JB's**

Join us for our Christmas Party, Wednesday Dec' 21, 7pm - late!

**CHRISTMAS DAY 11am - 2pm**

To welcome one and all for a pre-lunch drink.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**

**Black/White Masquerade Party**

**Cava, Canapés, Cocktails, (International Entertainment)**

**€15 per person. Booking essential.**

**Kim & Victoria would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas  
And a Happy New Year**

## **Deal on UK licences in Spain agreed but.....**

UK Ambassador to Spain Hugh Elliott on Friday November 18th took to the embassy's social media channels to announce some promising news that will give hope at the very least to the thousands of UK licence holders who haven't been able to exchange their British driving licence for a Spanish one. "I can tell you today that we have now made a very significant step forward," Elliott began. "You will recall that we have been in discussions with the Spanish for some weeks (months!) over two outstanding, complex issues and I'm pleased to tell you that we have now reached an agreement on those two points."

"So we will now take forward the remaining steps including legal checks, securing ministerial approval on both sides, which for Spain is by the Consejo de Ministros (the Spanish Cabinet), and the necessary treaty

processes and formal exchanges," Elliott added.

Some Spanish laws have to receive approval from the Spanish Parliament and the Senate before they can come into force, extra legislative steps that can add months to the process.

"At that point (**when the law comes into force**) you will then have six months to exchange your UK licence for a Spanish one and during that time you will be able to drive using your existing valid UK licence." Spain and Italy remain the only EU countries that have not implemented laws which allow for the exchange of UK licences for Spanish or Italian ones by residents.

British tourists in Spain are not affected by the UK driving licence debacle.

Let me tell you something that thing that we Israelis have against Moses.

He took us 40 years through the desert in order to bring us to the one spot in the Middle East that has no oil. Golda Meir



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Greatest selection of piercing jewellery from 5€

## Pilar and Distance from Hospitals

Pilar de la Horadada is part of the Valencian Generalitat. However if residents of this municipality wish to visit a hospital, they have to travel 22 km to the University Hospital of Torrevieja. This journey in a private car can take 30 minutes outside of the summer season when, due to the multitude of roundabout and traffic jams, it can be considerably longer. A toll road can also be used as an alternative for part of the journey.

The City Council of Pilar de la Horadada is now working to achieve an agreement that allows its neighbours to receive assistance in the Murcian health system through an agreement between the autonomous administration of the Region of Murcia and the Generalitat Valenciana. This would mean that the Region of Murcia would have to assume more than 20,000 additional health cards.

A likely cost could be around €800 per additional SIP card per annum. Bordering with Murcian municipalities such as San Pedro del Pinatar or San Javier, the residents of Pilar de la Horadada would like to use the Mar Menor Los Arcos Regional Hospital which is only seven kilometers away, a distance that can be covered with journeys of ten minutes by car.

Some residential neighbourhoods on its

coast, such as El Mojón, even share streets straddling the two autonomous communities.

In carrying out this initiative, there has been no reference to the poor quality of service at Torrevieja Hospital, although the Partido Popular have blamed the change of management there being the real reason.

The most obvious thing is that Pilar de la Horadada asks that its neighbours can count on the emergency service of the nearer Murcian Hospital, but also access, for example, to certain tests that its only health centre, expanded in 2019 with municipal funds, lacks.

Pilar de la Horadada is one of the few municipalities in the region that makes a significant annual investment in deploying a medicalized ambulance service, precisely because the SAMU points are concentrated in Torrevieja.



I used to be constantly chased by women ..  
then I stopped stealing handbags.

### The €27,000 Snack!

A wife going through a divorce with her husband put a knock-out drug in a croquette so that she could steal €27,000 from his bank account. The woman, 47, met with her partner at a Zaragoza bar to discuss their impending separation, with proceedings having started a month earlier. The husband left their table to buy a drink and she got hold of a croquette that he had ordered and put some benzodiazepine into it. The drug had desired effect as after eating the croquette, he began to feel unwell, and the couple left the premises for his new home.

The victim told Aragon police that he remembered nothing from the time he left the bar until the following morning. He discovered that €27,000 had been transferred from his bank account to various accounts in his wife's name.

Security cameras at the Zaragoza bar showed the woman manipulating his croquette to drug him. She was arrested on November 11 by the Policia Nacional.

### Dodgy Estate Agent

Five people have been arrested from stealing from at least six rental homes in the Benidorm area with keys provided by a real estate agent. The Russian woman who ran the Benidorm agency briefed the robbers on her clients and even allowed them to use her company car with her firm's logo on it when collecting their loot!

She was detained by the Guardia Civil along with a British woman, 42, who was a girlfriend of one of the thieves and was in charge of selling the stolen items.

Three men in their early fifties of Algerian, Moldovan, and Romanian nationalities, have been jailed following court appearances. So the gang comprised five different nationalities, a United Nations of Thievery!

Six homes in Finestrat and Villajoyosa were robbed - mostly let out to wealthy European clients. The Guardia Civil recovered €30,000 in cash along with currencies from several countries in addition to a large amount of jewellery and other items.



**“Look, if it was electric, could I do this?”**

The maid asked for a raise. The woman asked her why.

Maid: "For three reasons. Number 1, I iron clothes better than you."

Woman: "Who said that?"

Maid: "Your husband said that."

Woman: "Ohhh! Okay, fine."

Maid: "Secondly, I cook better than you."

Woman: "Who said that?"

Maid: "Your husband."

Woman: "Okay, fine."

Maid: "And the third reason is that I am better at sex than you"

Woman: "Did my husband say that too?"

Maid: "No, the mailman did."

I have nothing against poetry. If it were not for poetry, Postman Pat would have a black-and-white dog.

Alan Coren

**DUCK!**

Spain's air navigation authority briefly closed down a swathe of the country's airspace ON November 4, in response to a warning from the EU Space Surveillance and Tracking network that debris from a Chinese rocket could hit parts of Spain. Hundreds of flights were delayed owing to the restrictions over Catalonia and the Balearic Islands. The scare was triggered by China's Long March 5B (CZ-5B) rocket breaking up as it reentered Earth's atmosphere. It had been delivering the final module of China's Tiangong space station. The hefty piece of junk, weighing about 20 tonnes and roughly the size of a ten-storey building, is one of the largest in recent years to reenter the Earth's atmosphere. Most of the debris burned up on reentry, but some landed in the Pacific, 1,000km off Mexico's coast.

Mary: "I'm going to the shop. Do you want anything?"

Pat: "I want a sense of meaning and purpose in my life. I want to connect with my inner self."

Mary: "Be specific. Jameson or Guinness?"

**National holidays left in Spain in 2022**

**Tuesday, December 6th (Spanish Constitution Day)**

**Thursday, December 8th (Immaculate Conception Day)**

**As Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year, the 26<sup>th</sup>, next day, will be a national holiday.**

**LOCKSMITH**

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LOCAL**

(Cut out & keep.)



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Villagers in Potto, North Yorkshire, have each been hit with a £150 bill from their parish council, thanks to a prolific serial complainer. Gerry Woodhouse is thought to have made **366 complaints** to the council, submitting 1,500 documents in support. The volume of gripes led to the council being audited at a cost of £37,000, requiring additional contributions from residents. “We have a guy who is holding the parish to ransom,” lamented council chairman Andrew Wilde. Woodhouse has not admitted to making the objections, but in 2019 a tribunal found that he was an “obsessive and vexatious” complainer.

Students at a college in the Philippines were asked to design headgear (photo) that would



prevent them **peeking at others' papers** during exams last month. The resulting “anti-cheating hats” – made from cardboard, egg boxes and anything else that the students could find – have delighted social media users. Professor Mary Joy Mandane-Ortiz said she had been looking for a “fun way” to promote “integrity” in exams. The tactic paid off, she said: her students did better this year, and nobody was caught cheating.

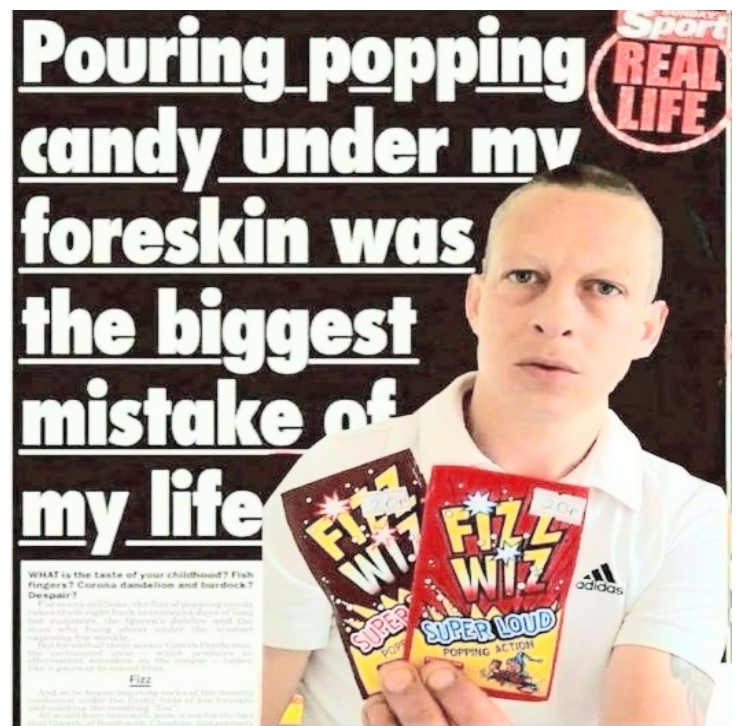
A 23-year-old from North Yorkshire has become the first woman **to swim the length of Great Britain**. Jasmine Harrison, photo, set off from Land's End in July and swam into John O'Groats harbour last month, having

encountered a shark, a whale, dolphins and thousands of jellyfish on her 900-mile trip. She survived on chocolate, tinned meat and sandwiches, slept on a boat with a support crew, and said she was now looking forward to



spending time with her dog Bonnie.

Then, on the other spectrum of achievement we have.....well, the following idiot requires no explanation!



A 22-year-old man from the Alicante town of Novelda was travelling in a car with a friend during the early hours of October 23, when they thought they were approaching a police check-point. The 22-year-old, who has an extensive criminal record, was carrying a pistol at the time and decided to hide the pistol in his boxing shorts. **He then shot himself in the penis!** They managed to elude the police for an hour before going to a hospital. Suffering considerable pain and bleeding, surgeons at Elda Hospital spent four hours trying to repair his ‘todger.’ Although both men were arrested, the pistol has not been found and the guy who shot himself is still walking around, probably with a limp!



# Sunset Cafe

Cafe and Lounge Bar



Large  
Screen  
TV

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.



Winter Opening Times:  
Mon-Sat 9am - 6pm  
Sun 11am - 6pm

Winter Menu  
Now Available

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Los Altos*

[www.facebook.com/sunsetcafebarandlounge](http://www.facebook.com/sunsetcafebarandlounge)



## Live Music & Entertainment

### *Regular Tuesday Entertainment*

*See posters at the Bar*

**Thursdays: Simon Morton: 2pm — 5pm**

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**Sundays: Wayne Stewart: 2pm — 5pm**

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Keep an eye on our FaceBook Page for updates



The desalination plant in Torrevieja was the largest in the world when it was first built and is now the largest des-sal' plant in Europe.

Although many of us will regularly pass this large plant, few really know what goes on there. So, let's take a quick look!

Sea water is channelled from the Med'\* through several filtering tanks and hundreds of metres of pipes. The water then passes through 3,040 seven meters long tubes no more than 30 centimetres wide, arranged one on top of the other on a metal rack. See photo. The sea water is then subject to a process called 'osmosis.' Inside these tubes there is a roll of



fabric, which similar to toilet or kitchen paper, "is like a textile with a pore so small that when the molecule passes it disarms it. The salt molecule is larger than the water molecule, the water passes through but the salt stays" says David Soriano, director of the desalination plant in Torrevieja.

The desalination plant is managed by the state company Acuamed, dependent on the Ministry for the Ecological Transition. It cost 226 million euros, partly financed by the EU. It was inaugurated in 2014 with 40 cubic hectometres (hm<sup>3</sup>) of production per year and as of 2019 it doubled its capacity to the current 80 hm<sup>3</sup>. 90%, David Soriano calculates, is used for irrigation and the rest for human supply.

But, as with everything in Spain, water is a political issue. The desalination plant was put in

by the then socialist government, whereas the Vega Baja irrigators and PP opposition party wanted to continue to rely on the Tago-Segura water transfer, which the national government are now reducing significantly. Indeed, the then mayor of Torrevieja withheld the plant's access to the seawater for two years at least.

**Desalinated water is five times more expensive than the water supply from the Tago-Segura.**

There are also environmental costs. To produce a cubic metre of desalinated water in Torrevieja, 3.8 kW of electricity are needed, while the transfer water consumes 1 kW per cubic metre. The desalination plant consumes 51,000 kW/hour. As a reference, a large oven uses 1kw/hour.

Plans to introduce a huge solar panel installation (equivalent in size to the two lagoons in Torrevieja) elsewhere, to provide cheaper electricity to the plant are being treated as nonsense as this huge investment would only reduce the cost of desalinated water to the public and irrigators by between 10 to 15%. Also, it must be taken into account that photovoltaic only works for eight hours in the best of cases.

Two gay men were walking together through a zoo when they come across a gorilla and notice that the male gorilla has a massive erection. The two men are fascinated by this.

One of the men just can't bear it any longer so he reaches into the cage to touch it. The gorilla grabs him, drags him into the cage and has his way with him for six hours, non-stop, while the zoo attendants helplessly stand by.

When he's done, the gorilla throws the man out of the cage. An ambulance is called and the man is taken away to the hospital.

A few days later, his friend visits him in the hospital and asks, "Are you hurt?"

Am I hurt?" he shouts, "Wouldn't you be?"

He hasn't called, he hasn't written.....

Really naive when I was a virgin and my girlfriend said we should try missionary.

I wound up in Africa for six months.



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(GOING STRAIGHT TO HELL WITH THIS ONE.)

Mary had given birth, she was tired after the delivery, both she and the baby were sleeping peacefully. There was a quiet knock on the stable door.

Joseph answered and there stood three kings. "May we come in to see the baby?" they asked.

Joseph replied, "Yes, but please be quiet, they are asleep"

The kings crept into the dimly lit stable. One of the kings, unwittingly, stood on a rake which shot up and hit him in the face.

"JESUS CHRIST" he shouted in shock and pain, waking Mary and the baby.

"What a nice name" said Joseph, "We were going to call him Norman."

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I once got a puncture in a place called Hindley Green, on the outskirts of Wigan.  
I pulled into a garage and said, 'Have you got an airline?'  
He said, 'Fuck off, we've not even got a bus station.' (Dave Spikey)



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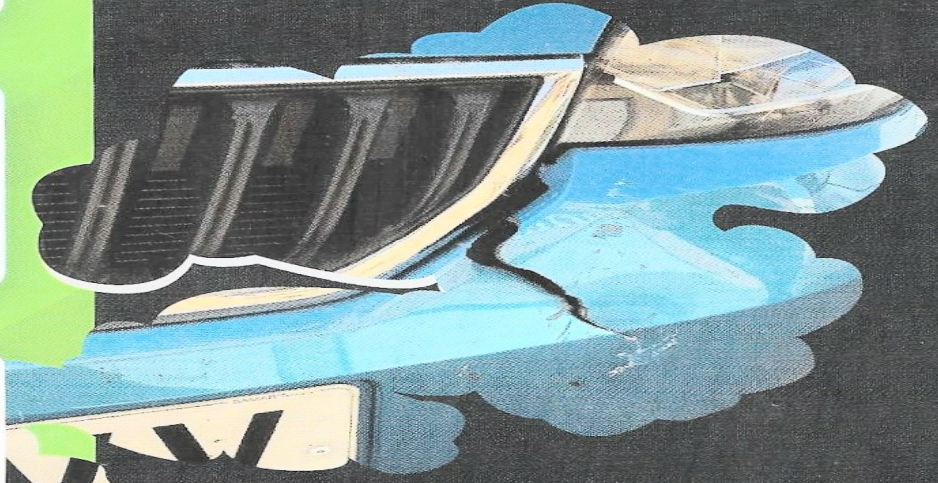
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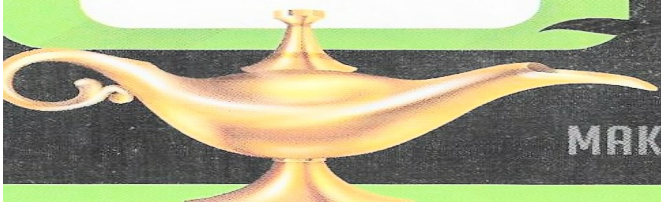
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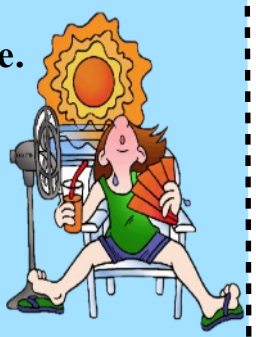


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## Lime Bar Fishing SUNBATHING Club

The Old Fart's match was held after the last report went to print. This match is held every year and going into this one, the match score stood at 4.5 to 3.5 in the Old Farts favour.

We had 12 anglers on the bank at El Bosquet with the Old Farts in odd numbered pegs (1,3,5,11,13 & 15). The Whipper Snappers were on the even pegs in between. To win 1 point for your team, you just beat the man next to you. The age of all competitors were checked and we split into the 2 teams. One of our 73 year olds was on the cusp and made him a Whipper Snapper! He was over the moon, but he didn't jump about as he has a bad back! I think the club needs some new blood.....

The match kicked off as expected, with the low numbered pegs struggling for bites and the high numbers catching small carp from the far bank at the off. We had no blanks but the Whipper Snappers whopped the Old Farts 5 -1. The Oldies were glad to see our professional back, the Shropshire Lad thrashed his opponent by 12 kilos from a difficult peg. Another Old Fart (Antique Man) was seen wailing on the bank, beating at the waters edge. He had caught a large carp, but transferring it to his keep net, it wriggled out of his hands and flopped back into the canal. He dived after it, trying to grab it and nearly joined the fish in the canal. The reason he was beating the bank was this was his 2<sup>nd</sup> lost biggy of the day, and these fish may well have beaten his younger (73 year old) opponent. 3 Rods won't invite George back next year, his visitor who added a point for the youngsters (good man!). As normal after the match we returned to the Lime Bar for a couple of beers, but only 3 Rods turned up from the Old Farts team, so he had the pleasure of presenting the quaich to BFC (see photo). The rest were licking



their wounds.

Our monthly match was held on the same pegs a couple of weeks later. As we knew how to fish the pegs and Carp R Us had a tremendous day the day before, we were looking forward to a bumper day. For most of us it was not to be.

Again, we had no blanks but the fishing was not as prolific as normal. The Cat had drawn his favourite peg but he had The Shropshire Lad next to him so this would test him. The Cat launched his red hand grenade feeder and started catching straight away. The Lad (a pole professional) persevered with the pole but was struggling for

bites. Keeping an eye on the Cat, he decided to copy his tactics and then started to catch. Both Sweeney & BFC were in the middle of the pack until the last 30 minutes when both of them landed over 5 kilos of carp, much to the annoyance of 3 Rods who "was" doing well. The Cat from his favourite peg, won with 30 fish for 25.8 kilos, the Lad was 2<sup>nd</sup> with 20 fish for 13.3 kilos (if he changed from the pole earlier it would have been different) and 3<sup>rd</sup> was Sweeney with 7 carp for 12.9 kilos.

The presentation night report will be in next month's waffle. Enjoy Christmas!

The next meeting - bun fight - is at The Lime Bar on Tuesday 6th December.

Stay safe

Fishy fingers!

The Ghost

Ella Fitzgerald could sing the California telephone directory with a broken jaw and make it sound good.

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### A Texas Baby

We had a Texan drinking at St. Louis Dixie Bar, when he gets a call on his cell phone. He hangs up, grinning from ear to ear, and orders a round of drinks for everybody in the bar because, he announces, his wife has just produced a typical Texas baby boy weighing 25 pounds.

Nobody at the St. Louis Dixie Bar can believe that any new baby can weigh in at 25 pounds, but the Texan just shrugs, "That's about average down home, folks." Like I said, "My boy's a typical Texas baby boy."

Congratulations showered him from all around, and many exclamations of: "WOW"! were heard. One woman actually fainted due to sympathy pains.

Two weeks later, he returns to the same bar. The bartender says, Say, you're the father of that typical Texas baby that weighed 25 pounds at birth. Everybody's been makin' bets about how big he'd be in two weeks. We were gonna call you.

So...how much does he weigh now?"

The proud father answers, "Seventeen pounds."

The bartender is puzzled and concerned. "What happened?"

He already weighed 25 pounds the day he was born."

The Texas father takes a slow swig from his long-neck Lone Star beer, wipes his lips on his shirt sleeve, leans into the bartender and proudly says... "Had him circumcised."

### MEDICAL CORNER

**Self diagnosis tip from our (recently struck-off) medical correspondent**



- Go up to a tree and take a leak:
- \* If pee attracts ants, you've got diabetes.
  - \* If it dries fast, your sodium is high.
  - \* If it smells like meat, your cholesterol is high.
  - \* If you forgot to unzip, it's Alzheimer's.
  - \* If you missed the tree, Parkinson's.
  - \* If you peed on your shoes, enlarged prostate.
  - \* If you can't smell it, COVID 19.
  - \* If it stings, you've got the clap.

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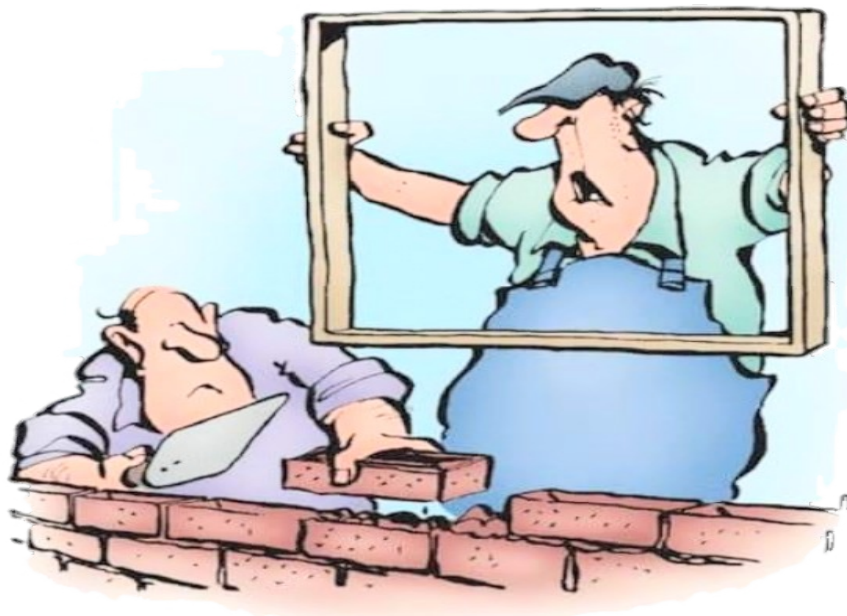
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The editor, Mick, can be contacted at [mick.dreamscene@gmail.com](mailto:mick.dreamscene@gmail.com) (Or in some Bar!)

One day a five year old little girl excitedly approached her mother, and announced that she had learned how you get a baby. The mother was amused and said, "Oh really sweetie, why don't you tell me all about it?"

The little girl then explained, "Well, the mommy and daddy take off all of their clothes, and the daddy's wiener stands way up high, and the mommy kneels on the floor and puts the daddy's wiener in her mouth, and then the daddy's wiener sort of explodes and makes sticky juice into the mommy's mouth, and then the mommy swallows the sticky juice, and that's how you get a baby."

The mother looked lovingly at her daughter, leaned over to meet her eye to eye and said, "Oh honey, that's sweet, but that's not how you get a baby. That's how you get jewelry."



**"Can't you work faster? My arms  
are killing me."**



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