



THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER



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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the March 2023 edition. Issue No.184

The Dream Scene has now been **going for 16 years** since the first issue - six pages during March 2007. During that period we have had a recession, Covid, and are now dealing with our fifth printer. Recent years have seen a 40-page issue, which I have now reduced to 36 pages. This allows me to increase the distribution for the same charge from the printers, as the recent issues zoomed out everywhere. However, I will have to address the advert charges during the summer as they are still the same as they were at day 1!

Migrant Groups: Of the roughly 5.5 million foreigners in Spain, the number that are EU citizens are around 1.6 million. Of these EU citizens in Spain, the Romanians are the biggest group, with 623,097, followed by the Italians (273,889) and Germans (115,099). Of the non-European foreigners resident in Spain, Moroccans (883,243), Colombians (314,679) and British (293,171) are the biggest groups.

Permanent disability requests in the province of Alicante, increased by 30% during 2022. However, Social Security rejected 70% of the applications.

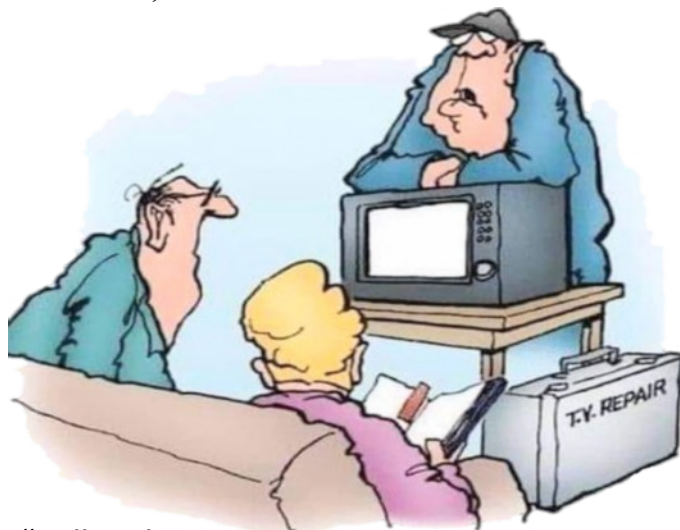
Energy: The Spanish government say that it will be asking the EU to extend a cap on electricity prices until the end of 2024, while waiting an overhaul of the bloc's power market rules. Known as the 'Iberian exception', the cap resulted from a deal with the EU that allowed Spain and Portugal to decouple the price of electricity from that of gas, enabling both governments to slash costs for consumers.

Politics: The next 10 months of politics in Spain are going to be very fascinating. A lot of political power is up for grabs for the first time since the pandemic: 8,000 town councils, 12 out of 19 regional administrations, 350 MP's, 265 Senate seats and the national government through to 2027. Our municipal and regional elections are during May.

Show me the money!: The contribution of the people of Alicante to the public coffers has reached 4,328 million euros in the first eleven months of 2022, a figure that represents an increase of 21% (759 million €) year-on-year, six points above the increase in revenue from the Treasury in the whole of the country. This is stated in the latest report prepared by the Tax Agency, which also shows that the largest volume of collection corresponds to income from Personal Income Tax (IRPF), with 1,738 million euros and growth of 25% compared to last year.

Have a great month.

Mick, Tid and The Dream Scene Team



"Folks, the main reason you are not getting a good picture is because you bought yourself a microwave oven."

*I've been accused of making love to a woman when she was asleep.
In my defence, she was awake when I started.*

Regular readers of this page will be aware that I have been ‘sounding-off’ for a number of years about the poor condition of the lagoon in Mar Menor and the half-hearted attempts to rectify it. But during mid-February this year, it was revealed that since 2017 significant European funds were available to Murcia to finance the environmental projects such as the Mar Menor rectification, had to be executed and paid before the end of 2023. However, it has now become known that this funding, more than €100 million, had been diverted by the central government to cover health spending caused by the pandemic and the purchase of vaccines against Covid.

The regional president, Fernando López Miras, dismissed this diversion of funds for the recovery of the Mar Menor as an act of "irresponsibility" by the central government. "In other words, while the Government of the Region of Murcia complies and last year invested more than 68 million euros" in the salt lagoon, "we are seeing how the Government of Spain is going to **lose more than 54 million** of euros of European funds to protect the Mar Menor for their inaction", he insisted. Faced with this situation, López Miras has considered that "someone from the central government will have to come forward, give explanations and say why they are going to lose almost 55 million euros because they have not executed them." The photo below shows the lagoon....when it used to be blue!



I was walking through the harbour area of Torrevieja last week when I came across a seafood stall which had a sign stating ‘LOBSTER TAILS ONLY €5!’ So I jumped at it and gave the chap €5 and he said “Once upon a time.....”

The Civil Guard has arrested a criminal, photo, after he committed 23 robberies inside homes located in nearby Rojas, Formentera del Segura and Benijófar, half of them with residents inside.



The 32-year-old Spanish man, who is a drug addict, has already got **50 previous police records**.

The recent 23 robberies were carried out during a three week period during Jan’ and Feb’. Police stated that this chap was a very good climber and was adept at forcing doors and windows.

The health department of Torrevieja, serves a protected population of 204,000 people on the coastline and inland towns in Torrevieja, Orihuela Costa, Pilar de la Horadada, Rojas, Guardamar del Segura, Formentera del Segura, San Miguel de Salinas, Benijófar, San Fulgencio and Los Montesinos.

The Torrevieja health department has incorporated 122 new professionals into the health centres in the area since it took over its direct management in October 2021, the Ministry of Health assured on Feb’ 15 - 46 physicians specializing in family and community medicine, 3 paediatricians, 57 professionals dependent on the nursing department and 16 new orderlies.

Health now state that the **average** waiting time for an appointment at the local *saluds* is 4.85 days. And, if you believe that.....

The image below shows you the number of SIP cards issued locally. **Don’t forget that Orihuela Costa is included in the Torry figure.**

	TARJETAS SIP ⁹
TORREVIEJA	204.074
ORIHUELA	172.994
ELDA	190.189

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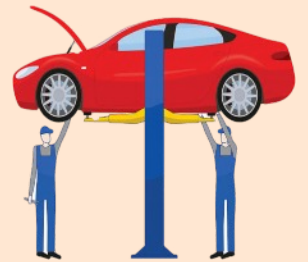
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CHECKING THE POOP!

Brave scientists have been rooting around in aircraft toilets with your future safety in mind. A team of wastewater epidemiologists from Bangor University has been examining what comes out of travellers when they answer the call of nature at 10,000 feet, in the hope of better understanding how COVID spreads around the world.

When we're infected with a virus, we excrete small traces of it along the way. So the contents of a loo reveals a lot about the people who used it.

And indeed, an assessment of loos touching down at three British airports in March 2022, found them to be simply bursting with coronavirus pathogens. They sought to detect SARS-CoV-2 in sewage taken at the arrival terminals of three international airports in the UK (Heathrow, Bristol and Edinburgh), and from about 30 planes arriving into these airports. That suggests many travellers were bringing the disease into the country without knowing it, which is valuable information for anyone trying to map how pandemics unfold.

YET MORE CONCRETE!

Work could start as soon as April on constructing a big urbanisation of 7,490 properties on the largest piece of urban developable land in Alicante Province.

The land at La Hoya in Torrevieja covers an area of nearly two million square metres.

La Hoya is bordered by the CV-905, the La Siesta urbanisations, La Mata natural park, the Quiron hospital, and Torrevieja's International Auditorium.

Torrevieja council has approved amended construction plans to be submitted to public consultation from the three developers for the €53 million project. Groups or individuals can forward comments or objections, but onsite work is expected to begin within two months.

Once the consultation process is over, developers Elche Corpic, Eurovillas, and Torrevieja's TM Group will then be awarded a licence which will include the supply of basic services like electricity and water to the area.

The developers will also have to build a pond close to the CV-905 which can store 40,000 cubic metres of storm water linked to water collectors to prevent any flooding.

The link road between the CV-905 and the N332 will also be substantially upgraded.

Despite building approval being granted by the Valencian government in 2009, nothing happened because of the recession and a series of legal challenges plus an environmental impact study concerning the adjoining natural park.

The giant urbanisation will see a mixture of holiday homes, along with properties aimed at first time domestic buyers and an element of subsidised housing.

DREAM HILLS BOOK SWAP

LA CASITA,

DREAM HILLS

Bring a book, swop a book!

Bring several, swop several!

1,000'S AVAILABLE!

OPEN THURSDAYS

10:30am - 12:30pm

ANOTHER F***-UP!

After months of political pressure, the Spanish governing Socialist Party (PSOE) has announced that it will present changes to the new 'only yes means yes' law.

The legislation, which came into force in October 2022, was aimed at putting the focus on consent in sexual assault cases, but has had the unintended consequence of **reducing the sentences of some 400 convicted sex offenders** and even seeing **early release for 30 or so**.

The law was drafted by the brainless Equality Ministry, which is in the hands of the junior partner in the coalition government, far left Unidas Podemos.

Initially, PM Sánchez defended the legislation when the trickle of sentence reductions and early releases began, but now he says it had 'become clear that several months after it came into force, the law has had some undesired effects in its application' - i.e. They never thought it out!

The PSOE has stated that it wants to keep consent at the heart of the legislation but to fix the part that has led to lighter jail terms for sex offenders. 'No one,' said Sánchez about the drafting of the law, 'had as their objective for any offender to have their sentence reduced.'

Under the new law, consent must be granted and cannot be assumed to have been given either by default or with silence. The legislation also removes the distinction between sexual abuse and sexual assault - i.e. rape - by making consent the deciding factor. Problems arose due to the change in definition of offences, and their associated minimum and maximum prison sentences in the case of a conviction.

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LOCAL

YET ANOTHER DUMB MOVE!

The Bishporic of Bilbao will organize meetings between religious paedophiles and their victims.

This type of confrontation was tested with 'repentant' ETA terrorist members, and they tend to serve the aggressors more than the attacked.

Many see this as an attempt to 'whitewash' the clergy and I'm not sure little Tommy would care to meet Fr. Pedro, who molested him in the 90's.

THE RAIN IN SPAIN FALLS MAINLY ON THE... PIGS?

Spain dominates pork production in Europe. Taking off in the 1980's, the industry is mostly concentrated in Catalonia, Aragon, and Castile and Leon, and has transformed the regions.

The country's also third in the world for pork production (behind China and the US), and global demand has only been increasing: in 2021, pig slaughtering was up 40% for Spain from a decade earlier.

But not all Spaniards are thrilled about the increase in pork production. Not surprisingly, the investment in this industry would lead to residents reporting new, unpleasant smells, a constant stream of trucks damaging the roads, and the drinking water supply affected by the presence of nitrates linked to the spread of manure.

One of the main causes of the environmental damage to the water in the Mar Menor lagoon is down to the abundance of pig farms in the area.

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You're a witless heartless lump of shit.
Stephen Fry. *A bit of Fry and Laurie*

EES & ETIAS - WHAT ARE THEY?

If you live in a non-EU country, 2023 will see two new entry requirements if you wish to visit an EU country.

1. EES (Entry-Exit System)

What. This is essentially a security upgrade, replacing the current system that relies on border guards with stamps with an electronic swipe in/swipe out system that will register more details such as immigration status. It should also make it easier to spot security risks at the border.

Many airports already have biometric passport scanners but they're only checking that your passport is valid and the photo matches your face.

Who. EES is for non-EU nationals who are entering the EU as a visitor (rather than residents). The system scans your passport and will tell you how long you can stay for (based on the 90-allowance or the visa linked to the passport).

When. Although this system was due to be operational in May 2023, it has now been delayed until 'later in the year' due to serious concerns that border infrastructure in the UK at cross-Channel crossing points will not be able to handle the expanded checks. Austria and Germany have also expressed their concerns at the expected delays in their countries.

Where. This system is for the EU and Schengen area's external borders, so doesn't apply if you are travelling between France and Germany for example, but would apply if you enter any EU or Schengen zone country from a non-EU country i.e. crossing from the UK to France via Channel Tunnel or say flying to Spain or another EU country from a non-EU airport.

How. When non-EU travellers first enter the Schengen/EU area, the system will register their name, biometric data, and the date and place of entry and exit. Facial scans and fingerprint data will be taken and retained for three years after initial registration. Now, if you are travelling

with family by car, this will of course result in very long queues and delays at ports. It is expected to at least double the normal waiting times in busy airports.

What if I am a British citizen

but have residencia (TIE card) in Spain?

The European Commission has clarified that non-EU citizens who are resident in an EU country **should not use eGates or automatic scanners, but should instead head to the queue with an in-person passport official** where they can show both their passport and residency document.

So, if you are a British resident in Spain and make a mistake **by putting your passport in the automatic scanner** and stay more than six months in Spain, you could face the inconvenience of a few extra questions next time you travel.

2. ETIAS – European Travel Information and Authorisation System

This is only relevant to **non-EU citizens who do not live permanently in an EU country** or have a visa for an EU country. It covers tourists, second-home owners, those on family visits or doing short-term work.

This system was originally scheduled to start in 2022 but was postponed until November 2023....and that's a definite maybe!

When the ETIAS starts travellers will have to fill out an online application before they travel.

They are advised to apply 72 hours in advance in case of delays.

Once issued, the authorisation (basically an online visa) lasts for three years, so frequent travellers do not need to complete a new application every time but it must be renewed every three years.

Each application costs €7 per person, but is free for under 18's and over 70's.

More on the EES and ETIAS in future issues.

Depend on the rabbit's foot if you will, but remember it didn't work for the rabbit.

R.E. Shay



Helen's Bar



(Formerly JJ's Cafe/Bar)

VIA PARK V

OPENING HOURS

TUESDAY - SATURDAY 4pm - 10pm

SUNDAY 2pm - 7pm



TUESDAYS MUSIC BINGO

WITH HEIDI 6pm

WEDNESDAY FUN DARTS 7pm



THURSDAY STEAK NIGHT 6pm



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Steak Nights on Saturday

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FROM 6.00pm

SUNDAY



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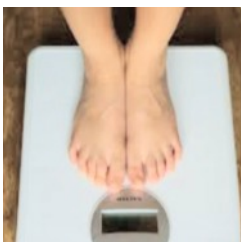
with John - 3pm start.



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"And what name have you given this little boy?" asked the priest.

"It's a girl," said the father out of the side of his mouth. ""You've got hold of my thumb!"



POOLView

Snack Bar



VIA PARK V

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Man walks into the chemist and picks up a packet of condoms.

Takes them to the counter. Sales assistant asks Do you want a bag with them?

He replies, No thanks, she's not that ugly.

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY?

HELP Vega Baja suggests things to consider.....

Are you prepared if there is a family emergency? It's hard to think about emergency situations and how you will respond but as we all know, life is unpredictable and it's better to be safe and prepared just in case. Whether it is a death, break-in or other type of emergency, there are things that we can all do to ease the stress that such situations can cause.

It is important for every home to have an emergency list with essential names and numbers – just in case. There is no need to get overwhelmed when **creating an emergency list**. It doesn't need to be complicated. The main thing is to take that first step to make your list and share it with those you absolutely trust. A list should also be placed in your home in a safe place, and you should again tell only those you trust where the list can be found.



An emergency list is a physical list of “emergency information”. However, it could also be stored digitally. It can be small and refer to your healthcare wishes (in this case it is important to check with your doctor to see if there are any official documents required to accompany your healthcare request). It could also be more complex and in-depth, including information for each member of the family.

An emergency list is not simply the number of your doctor. It is a place to put all the important information you store perhaps in your head, things you do automatically without having to think about it! Passwords, codes, online payments etc.

Here are some of the items that you may wish to include:

Doctor, SIP card, Health Insurance, special conditions and medications, personal ID (TIE,NIE,SIP card and passport numbers), Local contact of someone who you trust and can be called upon quickly to help, Funeral policy contacts, next of kin, work contacts, utility companies, Pet veterinarian, banking, power of attorney, deeds of property/rental agreement/will, home/car insurance, UK state pension, private pensions etc...

For all these matters, contact details, policy numbers and passwords are needed.

Obviously, it is **VERY** important that only those whom you trust should be provided with this information.

At HELP Vega Baja we hear frequently of cases where someone has absolutely no idea where to start because their partner “did everything” and it takes considerable time and stress to work their way through what can be years of paperwork.

Particularly at times of loss, please help loved ones by ensuring they know at least the basics to take away some of the stress that inevitably occurs in an emergency. HELP Vega Baja have many information sheets on their website www.helpvegabaja.com including one with a suggested Emergency Sheet.

**Michele Masson, President. HELP Vega Baja,
(Registered charity: CV-O4-047761-A)**

The hard part about being a bartender is figuring out who is drunk and who is just stupid.

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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.**

A frosty early morning in the province of Alicante with -11 degrees in Banyeres.
Image of the river Vinalopó in Banyeres captured by the geographer Juan Beneyto
early in a morning of Jan' 23.



**THESE ARE ACTUAL COMPLAINTS RECEIVED
BY "THOMAS COOK VACATIONS" FROM
DISSATISFIED CUSTOMERS:**

1. "They should not allow topless sunbathing on the beach. It was very distracting for my husband who just wanted to relax."
2. "On my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food."
3. "We went on holiday to Spain and had a problem with the taxi drivers as they were all Spanish."
4. "We booked an excursion to a water park but no-one told us we had to bring our own swimsuits and towels. We assumed it would be included in the price."
5. "The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room."
6. "We found the sand was not like the sand in the brochure. Your brochure shows the sand as white but it was more yellow."
7. "It's lazy of the local shopkeepers in Puerto Vallarta to close in the afternoons. I often needed to buy things during 'siesta' time -- this should be banned."
8. "No-one told us there would be fish in the water. The children were scared."
9. "Although the brochure said that there was a fully equipped kitchen, there was no egg-slicer in the drawers."
10. "I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local convenience store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams or ginger nuts."
11. "The roads were uneven and bumpy, so we could not read the local guide book during the bus ride to the resort. Because of this, we were unaware of many things that would have made our holiday more fun."
12. "It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home. This seems unfair."
13. "I compared the size of our one-bedroom suite to our friends' three-bedroom and ours was significantly smaller."

14. "The brochure stated: 'No hairdressers at the resort.' We're trainee hairdressers and we think they knew and made us wait longer for service."

15. "When we were in Spain, there were too many Spanish people there. The receptionist spoke Spanish, the food was Spanish. No one told us that there would be so many foreigners."

16. "We had to line up outside to catch the boat and there was no air-conditioning."

17. "It is your duty as a tour operator to advise us of noisy or unruly guests before we travel."

18. "I was bitten by a mosquito. The brochure did not mention mosquitoes."

19. "My fiancée and I requested twin-beds when we booked, but instead we were placed in a room with a king bed. We now hold you responsible and want to be re-reimbursed for the fact that I became pregnant. This would not have happened if you had put us in the room that we booked."



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Antonio
LOCAL



Glovo Hammered!

Home delivery firm Glovo has been fined €56.7 million for breaking employment laws in Spain. The Labour Inspectorate said the penalties were for taking on bogus self-employed staff and people without a contract in the Madrid area.



Glovo said it would appeal the fine and said the inspected period was before new labour laws-

the so-called 'Rider Law' - were passed in 2021, which forced it to grant riders formal employment contracts.

The firm has now been fined €205.3 million in recent years. In total, Glovo has been punished for acting improperly with 37,348 false self-employed or foreign workers employed by them without work permits.

The latest sanction refers to irregularities that the Labour Ministry say began in 2019 and affected around 8,000 people.

A Glovo statement said that 'the employed foreign workers did not have a work permit, but were registered as self-employed.' The home delivery sector has the largest number of bogus self-employed staff in Spain, with over half of the 80,468 people inspected by the Labour Ministry since 2019 found to be working illegally.

NEW PENSION FUND TAX

From January 1st 2023, all workers in Spain, whether salaried or self-employed, must pay a new tax through their social security contribution to help fill up Spain's pension fund – a move that will affect over 20 million workers.

The Intergenerational Equity Mechanism (MEI), as it's known, will be a small social security contribution intended to help balance pension financing between generations. It is hoped that the MEI will bring in around €22 billion by 2032, when it is anticipated the new tax will be lifted.

In simple terms, if you work in Spain and thus contribute to social security, the new tax will represent 0.6% of your monthly salary, however, of this 0.6 % your employer will pay 0.5% and you will only pay the other 0.1%.



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How new mothers in Spain can get an extra €100 a month

In order to help new mothers meet those extra costs, the Spanish government has announced a new €100 benefit as part of its 2023 national budget.

The aid package will be for all mothers with children between 0 and 3 years of age.

Benefits already exist for working mothers, which are either paid out each month or included as a deduction on their personal income tax return, but now it has been extended to all new mothers, whether they are working or not.

The only requirement, in addition to having a child under three years of age, is **that you have to be registered with Spain's social security system** (has made contributions for a minimum of 30 days), a mutual society or already receive financial aid such as unemployment benefits.

Therefore, foreign mothers who are legally resident in Spain and paying their social security fees can also access the benefit.

Families will be given a €100 cheque per month, which adds up to a total of €1,209 per year. The measure came into force from January 1st 2023.

There are three ways to apply for the aid, either in person, by phone or online.

In person: You will need to fill out modelo (form) 140 and make an appointment to take it to your local tax office.

By phone: You can call 901 200 347 to reach the Tax Agency telephone service centre. You will need information handy such as your NIF/NIE, your social security information and your bank details.

Online: If you have a digital certificate, you can log on to the Agencia Tributaria website and submit your request over the internet.



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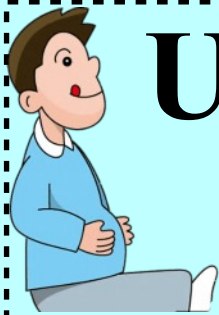
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My wife said that if I don't get off my computer and help with the dishes, she'll slam my head on the keyboard. But I think she's jokingsg72sjxjgcajxsn8albxu081wuhxb!



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hillside and, when the battle is
over, come down to count the
dead and bayonet the wounded.*

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Sozzled Stewardess

A British Airways flight from the Canary Islands to the UK took off without a hitch during Feb' but ran into problems almost as soon as it was in the air when the pilot realised that one of his flight attendants was steaming drunk!

Seeing that she "was in no fit state to work and engage with passengers," an inside source revealed that the pilot radioed ahead to Gatwick Airport while the plane was still 30,000 feet in the air and Sussex police were waiting on the tarmac when then flight touched down. Officers immediately breathalysed the flight attendant and found that she was well over the allowed alcohol limit. She was arrested but has since been released on bail pending further investigation.

The unfortunate passengers, stuck on the plane on the runway while police dealt with the intoxicated air hostess, were eventually allowed off after nearly an hour.

(I suppose it makes a change from the piss-heads going to Benidorm. Spain is now exporting them!)

*Joan Collins is a commodity
who would sell her own
bowel movements.
Anthony Newly (ex-husband)*

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

Benefit Rates 2023/2024

Sickness Benefits (Attendance Allowance, DLA, PIP.) - High Rate - £101.75.
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*David, you are a highly valued professional who people have come to respect and rely on. Your personal integrity and knowledge are highly valued by myself and others who endeavour to support those who have none.
SC. Royal British Legion, Orihuela Costa Branch*

*David visited us in Catral. We couldnt find anyone to visit us so far inland. You certainly get what you pay for.
No such thing as a free lunch as they say. 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.



0034602465565



advocacycostablanca@gmail.com

Advocacy Costa Blanca is operated by David Minto, a UK registered Social Worker. Get in touch if you need advice or guidance related to UK and Spanish welfare support.

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 (Autonimo) social worker in Spain I am also required to provide professional liability and indemnity insurance.

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A woman visits her husband in prison. Before leaving, she tells a correction officer:
 "You shouldn't make my husband work like that. He's exhausted!"
 The officer laughs and says, "Are you kidding? He just eats and sleeps and stays in his cell!"
 The wife replies: "He just told me he's been digging a tunnel for months!"

The €200 Grant

From Feb' 15, vulnerable families in Spain can apply for a one-off €200 cheque introduced by the government in a bid to help them with the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

According to information published today on the Spanish Tax Agency (Agencia Tributaria) website, households with income of less than €27,000 can request the benefit until March 31. To be eligible, applicants must also have assets worth less than €75,000 (dwelling not included) as at December 31 of last year, and be residents in Spain.

They must also have had a job in 2022, been self-employed, or have received some form of benefit such as unemployment.

Anyone who received the government's new guaranteed minimum income benefit last year is not eligible, nor are pensioners.

According to news agency EFE, the government – a coalition of the Socialist Party and leftist Unidas Podemos – has allocated €1.2 billion for these cheques, which are expected to help 4.2 million households.

Once applications have been accepted, the Tax Agency will pay out the funds via a bank transfer. The application can be made on the Tax Agency website in English here,

https://sede.agenciatributaria.gob.es/Sede/en_gb/procedimientoini/GC51.shtml

but applicants will need to use either the Cl@ve identification system, an electronic certificate or electronic DNI identity card. These three systems require previous registration.



YOU IDIOT, YOU'RE HOWLING AT
THE CHINESE SPY BALLOON.

Spanish Terms of Endearment

Little fat one

Gordi is short for gordito or gordita, which literally mean 'little fat one'. In English this might be taken as an insult, but in Spanish it has nothing to do with your weight and is used purely out of affection.

My half an orange

Spaniards use media naranja in the same way that you would call someone your other half in English

My soul

Alma mia can be used as a term of endearment for family members as well as lovers, and is not as intense as it sounds in English.

Little pigeon

Pichoncito/a is a shortening of the word pichón, meaning 'pigeon'. It may not sound appealing to be compared to these 'flying pests' in English, but in Spanish it's a sickly-sweet nickname which comes originally from South America.

My life

If someone calls you mi vida it means that you are very important to them, although it's much more common in Spanish than it would be to call someone 'my everything' in English.

Heart

Spaniards will often refer to a loved-one as corazón, or 'heart'.

Affection

Carino is one of the most common terms of endearment in Spanish, and can be used to apply to everyone. It literally translates as 'affection', but is used in the same way that 'darling' or 'love' would be in English. Between lovers it is often shortened to just "cari".

My sky

Mi cielo or simply cielo can be translated as 'my sky'. Cielo also means 'heaven', so if you call someone your pedacito de cielo, you're calling them your 'little piece of heaven'.

Bug

Believe it or not, calling someone a bicho or bichito ('bug' or 'little bug') is purely affectionate in Spanish.

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THALIDOMIDE

Thalidomide, the drug taken by pregnant women for nausea that was withdrawn from the market in Spain in 1962 as its use was associated with the birth of thousands of children with severe congenital malformations, will be marketed again in Spain sixty years later for cancer patients. The only authorized indication is **the treatment of patients affected by untreated multiple myeloma as a medication exclusively dispensed in hospitals and under strict control**, according to the alert published by the Spanish Agency for Medicines and Health Products. It will also be indicated **for patients 65 years of age or older or unfit to receive high-dose chemotherapy.**

The decision to market this drug again in Spain is due to the success of trials with thalidomide and some of its derivatives in patients suffering from certain types of cancer, specifically multiple myeloma, in which its efficacy has been proven, especially in cases where conventional chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatments have not been successful or are not feasible.

You can read the full article here in Spanish -

<https://www.informacion.es/alicante/2023/01/21/talidomida-dispensara-hospitales-60-anos-81335794.html>

Letters to the Editor.

Dear Editor,

I want to know how a man can hit a rabbit at 250 yards but keeps missing the toilet?

Pissed-off Patsy

Dear Patsy,

Whereas I feel your confusion, Patsy, maybe the question should be "What's the difference between a precision built rifle and a short barrelled blunderbuss?"

Mick, Editor.



GET OUT!

More than a million non-EU citizens were ordered to leave EU countries between 2020 and September 2022, the latest statistics show. Of these, some 2,250 were British citizens.

The data reveal major differences in the approach taken by EU member states.

While France was responsible for the highest proportion of leave orders to non-EU citizens in 2021 (37%), it is Sweden and the Netherlands that have taken the toughest stance towards Brit's.

Sweden was responsible for 1,050 leave orders to British citizens between 2020 and September 2022, with 590 between July and September 2021 alone. In those three months Sweden also imposed 110 young Britons below the age of 18 to leave.

The Netherlands follows with 615 order to leave to UK nationals since Brexit.

Norway and Switzerland, which are not part of the EU and have separate Brexit agreements with the UK, issued 455 and 125 departure orders respectively, according to Eurostat data.

Malta followed with 115; France 95; Belgium 65, Latvia 55; Denmark 40; Finland and Poland 30; Germany (up to June 2022) 25; Croatia, Greece, Lithuania and Romania 20; Austria, Cyprus, Estonia and Hungary 10; Bulgaria and the Czech Republic 5. Spain, Italy and all other countries reported zero expulsions.

National holidays in Spain in 2023

Friday, 7th of April – Viernes Santo (Holy Friday)

Monday, 1st of May – Día del Trabajo (Labour Day)

Tuesday, 15th of August – Asunción de la virgen (Assumption of the Virgin)

Thursday, 12th of October – Día de la Hispanidad (Spain's National day)

Wednesday, 1st of November – Todos los Santos (All Saints' Day)

Wednesday, 6th of December – Día de la Constitución (Constitution Day)

Friday, 8th of December – Inmaculada Concepción (Feast of the Immaculate Conception)

Monday, 25th of December – Navidad

Valencia Regional Holidays

Valencia: 6th January (Three Kings Day)

10th April (Easter Monday)

24th June (Feast of St. John) 9th October (Valencia Day)



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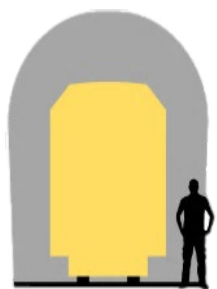
Spain's largest sex toy distributor, The DreamLove Factory, was robbed on Feb' 1 this year. The well-organised gang managed to get €25,000 in cash from the safe, but were undoubtedly very surprised to also find a number of **diamond-studded (ouch!) gold-plated vibrators** as well., each valued at €15,000! The total haul was worth around 80,000 euros.

Stealing sex toys isn't nearly as uncommon as it might seem. Back in 2019, a gang of burglars made off with more than a million pounds (?) worth of erotica from the back of a lorry in Northamptonshire. The delivery driver had pulled over into a lay-by for a rest and the thieves looted the vehicle while he slept.

A 51-year-old man has been charged with **attempted murder** after poisoning a co-worker at an Elche metal factory. He poured ammonia and solvent into a water bottle that had his colleague's name on it. The perpetrator was quickly identified after the Policia Nacional learned he argued over work matters with the victim and threatened to kill him. The metal factory manager and staff said the worker began to feel unwell after sipping the concocted potion. They added that a strong chemical odour- similar to a solvent- wafted out of the bottle. The victim was rushed to the IMED Hospital in Elche and discharged several days later.

During 2020, it was agreed by the Spanish Ministry of Transport and Renfe, that **31 new trains be purchased for 258 million euros.**

However, during 2021, both parties were aware that the newly designed trains would not fit in the 200 tunnels, particularly in the regions of Cantabria and Asturias. It seems that the trains



would be larger than the tunnel entrances! See image. Almost two years after the agreement, nothing has been done. They have now decided to try and make the new trains a little smaller. Although the new

trains were originally expected to be on the tracks later this year, it will now be 2026 or later before they will be in service. A couple of minor officials have been sacked but the responsible politicians and executives remain untouched in this 258 million euro contract fiasco.

A woman who was prevented from boarding a flight in Florida after airport staff found **a boa constrictor in her carry-on luggage** insisted that it was an "emotional support pet". When the four-foot snake showed up in an X-ray scan, the woman reportedly said that its name was Bartholomew, and that she could not travel without it. The airport later posted a photo of the X-ray on social media, and encouraged passengers to check rules before flying. One comment on social media said, "They should have confiscated it and turned it into a handbag."

It's probably correct that Jamie Gavigan, 26, of Clondalkin, Dublin, is not the sharpest knife in the drawer. Jamie, a member of an organised crime gang in Dublin, was sent by the gang to collect an €8,500 drug debt from someone in north Cork. So Jamie pops into his car and drives several hours down to Fermoy in Cork.

Here he demanded the money from the house owners - who wisely wouldn't open the door. Jamie then shouted through the letter box "I will be back and I will burn you out of your house." Problem was **Jamie called at the wrong house** and the owner took photos of the departing Jamie and his car. Jamie has 27 previous convictions, including possession of a firearm and ammunition, possession of a phone in prison, fraud, drugs offences and possession of a knife. Jamie is now back in the *chokey!*

Two drunks were having an argument as to who made the best home-brewed beer. They eventually decided to send samples for chemical analysis. A week later the reply came. It said "After exhaustive tests of both samples, we are unanimous in our conclusions. Neither of these horses should ever race again."



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DROWNING'S IN SPAIN DURING 2022

393 bathers died from unintentional drowning (not suicides I assume) in Spain last year according to the Royal Spanish Federation of Rescue and Lifeguards. It's a significant rise on 2021 figures which recorded less than 300 drowning's in the lowest total since the Royal Federation started collating figures in 2015.

The highest number of deaths were in the Valencian Community with 67, followed by 63 in the Canary Islands, and 56 in Andalusia. Older bathers were the most vulnerable with 58 deaths in the 65 to 74-year age group, followed by 55 deaths among those aged 75 years and older. The third highest category involved people aged 55 and 64 years, with 51 fatalities. The most dangerous time slot was noon to 2.00pm which accounted for 60 deaths.

Beaches saw the greatest number of drowning deaths with 217; rivers with 54; and swimming pools on 52. Unfortunately the latter figure includes at least one unsupervised very young child drowning each year in a pool.

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she was a Libra on the cusp of Scorpio.
He replied he was Taurus with penis rising.



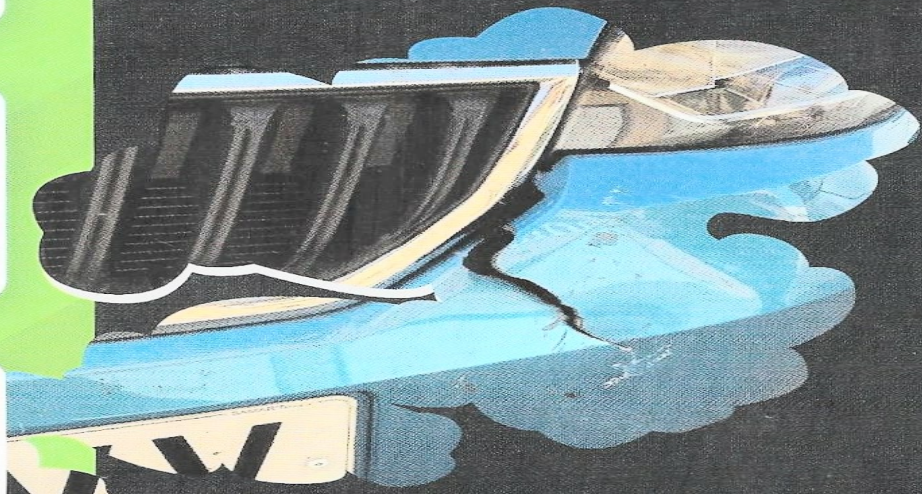
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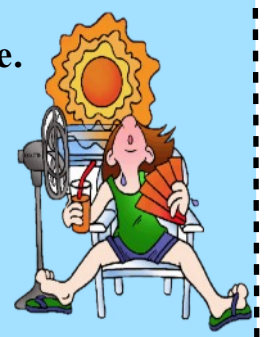
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Lime Bar Fishing SUNBATHING Club

Hello all, I hope you are keeping warm! As there were a few noisy people in the Lime Bar, we held our monthly meeting on the terrace. Unfortunately, our Chairman (the Cat) turned up wearing shorts (he's hard as nails really but he still whinged about going indoors). Anyway, this led to a rapid meeting.

Our monthly match was held on pegs 1 to 16 at El Bosquet. The cold weather this year, has really put the carp down, and on several pegs, you can only target the mullet. Sometimes if you can find some deeper water you "might" get lucky. Those who drew the shallower pegs (1 to 6) knew they were in for a long cold day. When we arrived, the temperature was a balmy 6° with no wind. The water temp was surprisingly quite warm too (after the recent cold rains).

However, after about 2 hours, the air temperature suddenly dropped, and it turned bitter cold.



I don't know how they manage it, but Sweeney, Cat & 3 Rods were next to each other again on the better deeper canal (pegs 8 & 16). This canal is quite wide, so 3 Rods decided to fish a feeder rod rather than his pole. The Cat and 3 Rods were both into fish within minutes of the start, unfortunately, 3 Rods lost his at the net. Next peg to 3 Rods was our resident professional Shropshire Lad, who decided to fish using his pole in the middle of the canal. While everyone else was struggling, he was fishing a tiny bit of bread punch on a size 16 hook, and was catching consistently all day. After not getting another bite since losing his fish, 3 Rods got his pole out and

copied the master's tactics.

4 of us on the shallower pegs struggled all day. Just John never had a bite and went home early. Big fish Chris, after retrieving his rig from a snag on the far bank, recovered a micro hook. He attached this size 22 hook to his feeder with a single maggot, he caught the only carp on this section!

Sweeney hates being drawn next to the Cat, it makes him feel inadequate! This was the case today. While the Cat was catching carp, Sweeney using identical tackle, bait and tactics could not buy a bite. Come lunch time he warned the Cat that he was going to start whistling.....

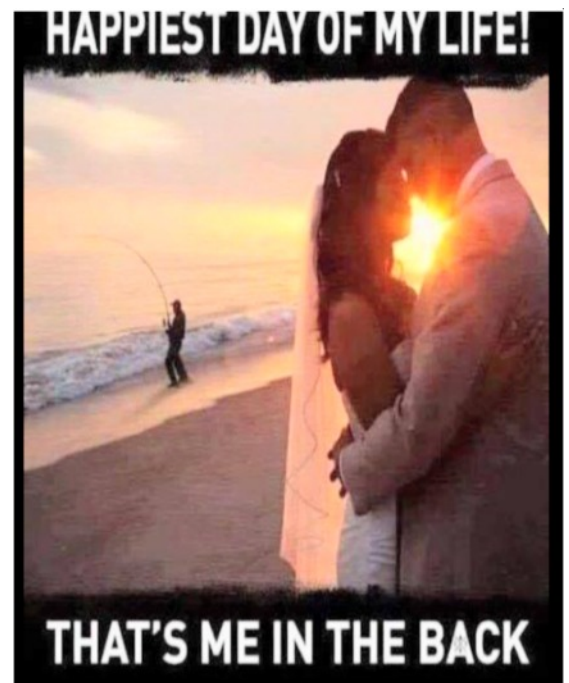
Winner on the day with 1 carp and more than 30 mullet was the Shropshire Lad with a creditable 15 kilos, 2 pegs away the Cat was 2nd with 1 mullet and 9 carp for 7.4 kilos, and 3rd was Ghost who had a lucky 30 mins with 8 mullet from peg 1 for 4.3 kilos.

Although the weather this winter seems to be colder than previous years, there are still some big fish being caught. I have been lucky and had a 10.9 and a 10.4 pounder. See photo.

Roll on summer.

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

Stay safe
Fishy fingers!



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CARNAVAL DE TORREVIEJA 2023

The photos below are from one parade in this year's Carnival. They really have to be seen in colour and you can see 121 of them here in glorious colour - <https://www.informacion.es/fotos/vega-baja/2023/02/12/carnaval-torrevieja-2023-82889438.html#foto=1>
 There seem to be no men in the parade. Maybe it was too cold.



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An old man asked his wife, "Martha, we've soon been married for 50 years, and there's something I have to know. In all of these 50 years, have you ever been unfaithful to me?"

Martha replied, "Well Henry, I have to be honest with you... Yes, I've been unfaithful to you three times during these 50 years, but always for a good reason."

Henry was obviously hurt by his wife's confession, but said, "I never suspected. Can you tell me what you mean by 'good reasons'?"

Martha said, "The first time was shortly after we were married, and we were about to lose our little house because we couldn't pay the mortgage. Do you remember that one evening when I went to see the banker, and the next day he notified you that the loan would be extended?"

Henry recalled the visit to the banker and said, "I can forgive you for that... You saved our home after all. But what about the second time?"

Martha asked, "Do you remember when you were so sick, but we didn't have the money to pay for the heart surgery you needed? Well, I went to see your doctor one night and, if you recall, he performed the surgery at no charge."

"I recall that," said Henry. "And you did it to save my life, so of course I can forgive you for that. Now tell me about the third time."

"Alright," Martha said. "Do you remember when you ran for president of your golf club, and you needed 73 more votes?"



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