



THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER

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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the April 2023 edition. Issue No.185

So far, March has been a beautiful month with **clear blue skies** almost daily, with high temperatures in the mid-20's in the shade. One day the high locally was 31° in the shade. One now wonders if we will skip Spring this year and are now heading straight into Summer!

355 complaints for **medical negligence** were registered in 2022 in the province of Alicante, according to data from El Defensor del Paciente. They have decreased by 5.83% compared to 2021, which was 377. During the past year there were 963 cases (Valencia 568 and Castellón 40) in the remainder of the region, 4.5% less than in 2021. Throughout 2022 there were **55 deaths in the Valencian Community** due to alleged medical negligence, eight more than the previous year.

The EU **has postponed** the start date of its **€7 ETIAS border entry system** for British, American and other non-EU tourists once again, this time until late this year or 2024.

Governments across Europe feared the new checks will cause long delays at borders - particularly at the UK-France border, where the boss of the port of Dover predicted "tailbacks throughout Kent".

Consumer prices in Spain rose for a second consecutive month, by 6.1% on an annual basis in February, up from 5.9% in January, according to preliminary data from the National Statistics Office (INE). The increase is due to higher electricity costs and price increases for food and non-alcoholic beverages. Food prices alone are believed to be up by 16%+.

Despite Brexit making it considerably harder for many UK nationals to move to España as

non-EU nationals, **Spain's British population continues to grow.** That's according to new data from Spain's National Statistics Institute (INE), which shows that the number of Brit's residing in Spain has actually **increased by 11,047** over the past year. At the start of 2023, there were 293,171 UK nationals who were residents in Spain, according to *padrón* census records from town halls across the country.

After 10 long months, the wait is over for UK driving licence holders residing in Spain as you are now able to **exchange your permit** for a Spanish one. See more on page 18.

Spain has been allowing the **Golden Visa** program to operate since 2013. This grants residency to non-EU if you purchase a property for more than €500,000 or invest more in a business. However, both Portugal and Ireland have now closed down their Golden Visas as they believe they contribute to higher property prices and money laundering.

Have a great month.

Mick, Tid and The Dream Scene Team



In Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, being gay means 'owns a coat.'

Jimmy Carr

NEW WORKS

Zenia Boulevard, the largest shopping centre in Alicante province, has commenced an improvement project costing €18 million. Over the next few months, the facades, pavement, and all public areas including children's leisure areas, will be revamped. The work will be carried out at night to minimise disruption with shops and restaurants maintaining their normal opening hours. The facility, which opened in September 2012, welcomed 14 million visitors last year, and is owned by American firm CBRE Investment Management.

Denia is to get a 2,500 seater sports pavilion costing €11.4 million which will be built next to the municipal athletics track. The pavilion would be capable of hosting sporting and non-sporting events, and will be home to a multi-sport central court.

Torreveija City Council has approved and detailed its Annual Contracting Plan for contractual activity during the 2023 budget year. The public document contemplates more than 160 contracting procedures that exceed 88 million euros. There are at least 17 major projects planned, which include the remodeling of the Eras de la Sal space with work to the Museo del Mar - €24 million; redevelopment works of the Casagrande Industrial Estate - €8 million; works to the port of Torreveija and adjacent areas €11 million and construction works for the swimming pool next to the Palacio de los Deportes. You can find more details here -

<https://www.informacion.es/vega-baja/2023/03/04/torreveija-eleva-presupuesto-remodelacion-sal-84055103.html>

Unfortunately if you live in the Orihuela Costa area, you will, once again, receive 'Sweet Fanny Adams' from the Orihuela municipal council. Even the Emergency Centre at La Zenia is still not properly manned. Who knows? Maybe the council will fill in some of the many potholes. Municipal elections will be held during May. Let them know how you feel about being neglected! See Page 27 re beach bar cock-ups.

The house was full of dry rot. The only reason the building still stood was that the woodworm obligingly held hands.

Daphne Du Maurier

Ukrainians robbing Ukrainians!

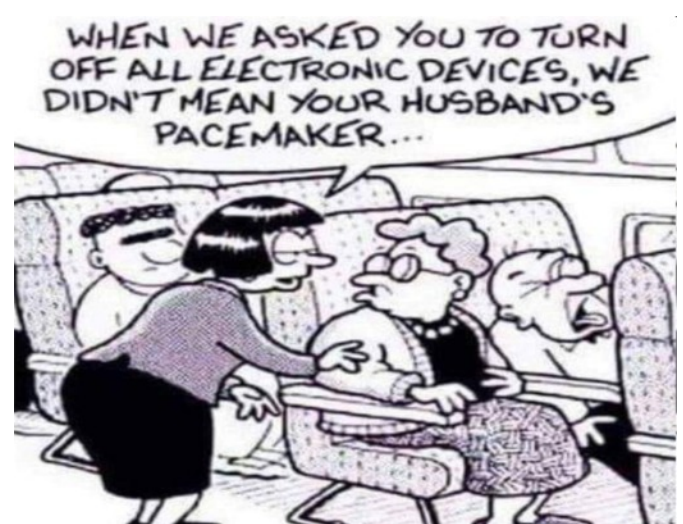
Seven Ukrainians have been jailed after items worth over €1.2 million were stolen from refugees in Alicante province and the Murcia region. The Torreveija-based gang also had assistance from a Russian couple and their son who provided them with vehicles for their robberies.

The group have been charged with seven burglaries in Catral, Guardamar, the Orihuela Costa, Pilar de la Horadada, Torreveija, and San Pedro del Pinatar. All but one of the robberies occurred in Ukrainian households. It would appear that further robberies took place as the police have recovered significant amounts of cash, jewellery, watches, a firearm, phones, laptops, tablets, and two stamp collections valued at over €1.2 million. One of the recovered stamps has a value of €140,000!

Several bank accounts totalling €240,000 have also been frozen. The victims were mainly Ukrainian women who fled their homeland with their children after last year's Russian invasion and already had second homes in the area.

The criminals carefully studied the daily routine of potential victims and followed them when they went shopping. At an opportune moment, a GPS tracker was placed underneath their car which allowed them to know when the owner left and it was safe to rob their property. The Guardia Civil have produced a good video on the raid and you can see it here -

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1631610369285275648>



The Beauty Lounge

Unisex Hair & Beauty



The Beauty Lounge - Via Park 111

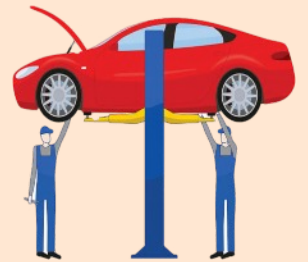
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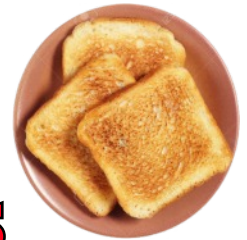
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Illegal home prior to August 20, 2014

Close to 200,000 illegal rural homes built on green-belt land in the Valencian region, many of them owned by foreigners, can now be legalised and turned into valuable assets thanks to a new initiative by the Generalitat de Valencia – the Valencian regional government.

It's a massive problem for the region. Hundreds of thousands of illegal homes are not incorporated into the municipal network of services that manage things like waste and pollution, and don't contribute to municipal budgets. They can't use municipal services, can't register to live in, can't improve or maintain legally without a building licence, and can't sell.

The solution involves owners requesting Territorial Impact Licences (Licencias de Minimización de Impacto Territorial, or MIT for short) from the Valencian Agency for Territorial Protection, known as the Agencia Valenciana de Protecció del Territori in Valenciano. There is more information here in English -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZ-hk29pR10>

Attempt to Exclude Foreign Buyers Quashed.

The Spanish government in Madrid has made clear it will not support Balearic attempts to exclude foreign buyers from the local housing market, which would need approval from the EU.

The Balearic regional government has been making noises about excluding non-resident buyers from the local housing market, blaming them for driving up housing costs on the archipelago.

Excluding buyers from other EU countries would require some sort of legal formula sanctioned by the EU, and support from Madrid to get it done, assuming it's even possible. Now the central government in Madrid has made clear that will not be forthcoming.

Interestingly, before Denmark became a member of the EU, it introduced some legislation limiting foreign buyers. Because it did this prior to joining the EU, it was allowed to continue with it.

However, as Mark Stuklin writes, "The idea of excluding foreign buyers from the Balearic housing market never had any chance of success, and the Balearic government is just showboating for electoral reasons, so the lack of interest from the Spanish government doesn't really change anything.

But, it does underline how populist politicians in the Balearics are much happier tilting at windmills than doing anything to actually fix the housing problem, like building more affordable homes."

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

OLD 'BANGERS' IN SPAIN

Spain is one of the countries in Europe with the oldest fleet of vehicles, surpassed only by Greece, the Czech Republic and Croatia.

47.2% of cars in Spain are more than 15 years old. With commercial vehicles or trucks, the average age is 14 and 14.7 years, respectively. Madrid and Catalonia are, according to the Ideauto report, the autonomous communities with the youngest vehicles, with an average age of 11.4 and 13.4, respectively.

The main problem is not that fewer new cars are sold, but that the older ones are not scrapped. The result of this is that 47.2% of the cars circulating in Spain are over 15 years old and 23% are over two decades old.

And, if we look at the data for commercial vehicles, we will find 48.9% older than those 15 years, and in trucks the figure rises to 50.2%.

Diesel is still the king of the rolling stock. In passenger cars, according to Ideauto data as of February 2023, it represents 55.7% of the stock, compared to 94% in commercial vehicles, 98.9% in trucks and 89.4% in buses.

Fully electric vehicles, by comparison, are only 0.7% buses, 0% trucks, 0.4% in commercials and another 0.4% in passenger cars.

So the above figures raise a number of questions relating to the future and vehicles in Spain.

The take-up of electric cars here is still very low.

Electric vehicles are still very expensive. I cannot see how many Spaniards or others here will be able to afford electric vehicles.

Also, the proposed ZBE restrictions-environmental zones - will exclude older lorries and vans from delivering in cities.

THE €200 GRANT - UPDATE.

You will recall this grant was awarded to households by the Spanish government to help households who had an income of less than €27,000 during the cost-of-living crisis. Applicants could request the benefit until March 31.

Although there have already been 1.8 million requests for the grant, not a single payment has been awarded as of March 18!

Also, if the claimant/claimants pay income tax, they will have to include the payment in their tax return next year and the Tax Agency will keep/charge €60!

Earthquake!

Locally, there were three earthquakes on Thursday, March 23. The strongest was a 3.1 at 11.48pm and was felt in Torre Vieja, Guardamar del Segura, Orihuela Costa, Los Montesinos, San Fulgencio and Rojales. The epicenter of the strongest quake has been located ten kilometers deep, in the sea, in front of the beach of La Mata, according to the National Geographic Institute.



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I'm sorry I cant get into the spirit of things today. My son has just finished 7 years of medical training and in the first week is likely to get struck off and possibly jailed for sleeping with one of his patients. He was set to be a great vet too.

GIVE IT A REST!

To ensure vaccines work properly, get a good night's sleep

Vaccines get all the glory, but it is really the immune system that does the heavy lifting. Indeed, those with weak immune systems often benefit little from vaccines. Aware of this, researchers have long thought that people deprived of sleep also ought to benefit less from vaccines, as sleeping less is thought to reduce immune function. A new analysis reveals that this is clearly the case—though only in men.

The immune system is metabolically expensive for the body to operate. When resources run low, it cannot function as well as it might when well supported. This is why people who are profoundly cold for long periods of time tend to fall ill—their bodies are burning calories to stay warm that might otherwise have been used to fuel their defence. The immune system is similarly hamstrung by a lack of sleep since a number of its key components, such as the white blood cells that produce anti-bodies, are predominantly made by the body when a person is slumbering. Yet it has remained unclear whether poor sleep at a time of vaccination leads to reduced immune benefits. Vaccines work by presenting the immune system with the foreign material of a pathogen. The system reacts by making antibodies, though these do not last for ever—they circulate in great numbers shortly after a real or vaccine-induced invasion but their population wanes over time. Eventually, another shot of vaccine is needed to boost the antibody count.

For their study, Karine Spiegel at the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research and Eve Van Cauter at the University of Chicago speculated - that insufficient sleep might damage the ability of the immune system to react to vaccines and thus result in fewer circulating antibodies. They pooled the results of seven studies in which a total of 603 participants between the ages of 18 and 60 had had their antibody response to vaccines

monitored and who had also been asked how many hours of sleep they were getting each night.

Dr Spiegel found that men showed a strong relationship between insufficient sleep (defined as fewer than six hours of kip a day) and antibody response. The magnitude of the effect, when sleep duration was recorded objectively by a lab rather than self reported by a patient, was similar to the amount of antibody waning seen in an average person two months after being given the Pfizer-BioNTech covid19 jab. The vaccines given to sleep deprived men, therefore, still provided protection but the effect was less potent from the start and lasted for less time, on average.

The results were published mid-March in *Current Biology*. Dr Spiegel says that encouraging patients to get plenty of sleep before and after a vaccination appointment is an ideal way for a medical system to maximise its vaccine stock and ensure that the benefits granted are as large as possible.

As for why the results in women were not significant, Dr Spiegel and her colleagues theorise that sleep affects female response to vaccines too but that hormone interference, driven by varying stages of the menstrual cycle, contraception and hormone replacement therapies, is probably altering immune response in profound and unknown ways that throw off the results. It is a subject area that urgently needs more attention, argue the researchers.

Vaccines are an important tool in the world's armoury against disease and there is no getting around the fact that developing and administering them is a difficult and expensive process. But patients could at least be encouraged to give their immune system a rest before getting jabbed. It costs nothing, and could pay considerable dividends.

(*The Economist*, March 18, 2023)

*I am absolutely certain there is no life on Mars.
It's not listed on my teenage daughter's phone bills.*



Helen's Bar



(Formerly JJ's Cafe/Bar)

VIA PARK V

OPENING HOURS

TUESDAY - SATURDAY 2pm - 10pm

SUNDAY 2pm - 7pm



TUESDAYS MUSIC BINGO

WITH HEIDI 6pm

WEDNESDAY FUN DARTS 7pm



THURSDAY STEAK NIGHT 6pm



Pre booking essential

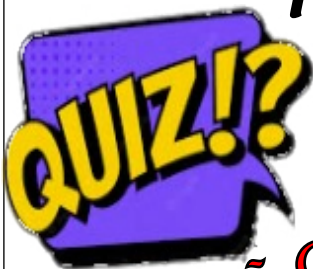
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FROM 6.00pm

SUNDAY



- QUIZ & STANDUP BINGO

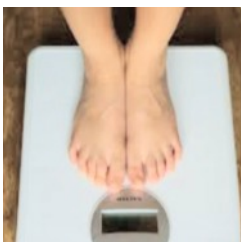
with John - 3pm start.



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Basil Fawltly

SLUSH **POOLView** 
Snack Bar

VIA PARK V

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14:00 START

All races shown accross 3 screens

BBQ On the Terrace 14:00-16:00

Proceeds will be donated
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Regional Association for the
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Vegan: The chicken you're eating had a family.

Me: That's why I ordered the family bucket, no-one gets left behind.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Following a request from a local residential home, we are looking for volunteers to visit English speaking residents in various homes and possibly the local hospital.

Visiting care home residents serves a variety of functions and has recognised benefits to residents in terms of health and wellbeing.

To find out more about how you can become involved, please call Michele on 966 723 733 or email president@helpvegabaja.com

The Raffle

Eunice came home with a brand-new mink coat.

'Where did you get that?' asked her husband, Bernie.

'I won it in a raffle,' she replied. The following night, Eunice walked in with a beautiful diamond bracelet.

'Where did that come from?' asked Bernie. 'I won it in a raffle,' said Eunice. 'I'm going to another raffle party tonight, and I'm in a hurry. Would you mind drawing my bath?' Bernie did as asked, but when Eunice came in to take her bath, she found that there was only half an inch of water in the tub.

'Bernie,' she asked, 'Why didn't you fill the tub?'

'Well, darling,' he answered, 'I didn't want you to get your raffle ticket wet!'



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14:00 16:00 18:00 20:00

Airport to Torrevieja :

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.**

Dr. Smith

A flat-chested young lady went to Dr. Smith about enlarging her tiny breasts.

Dr. Smith advised her, "Every day after your shower rub your chest and say, "Scooby doobie doobies, I want bigger boobies"

She did this faithfully for several months and it worked! She grew terrific D-cup boobs.

One morning she was running late, got on the bus and in a panic realised she had forgotten her morning ritual.

Frightened she might lose her lovely boobs if she didn't recite the little rhyme, she stood right there in the middle aisle of the bus closed her eyes and said, "Scooby doobie doobies, I want bigger boobies".

A guy sitting nearby looked at her and said, "By any chance, are you a patient of Dr. Smith's?"

"Why, yes I am... How did you know?" she replied.

He leaned closer, winked and whispered, "Hickory dickory dock".



WALKING FOOTBALL



Love Football ? Too Old ?

**If you are over 50 come and try
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**at the CDM, El Centro Deportivo Municipal,
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**Mondays at 3.45pm for a warm up
KO 4.15pm only 3€ a game**

Playa Flamenca Walking Wanderers

Sponsored by CK1 Bar Via Park 3



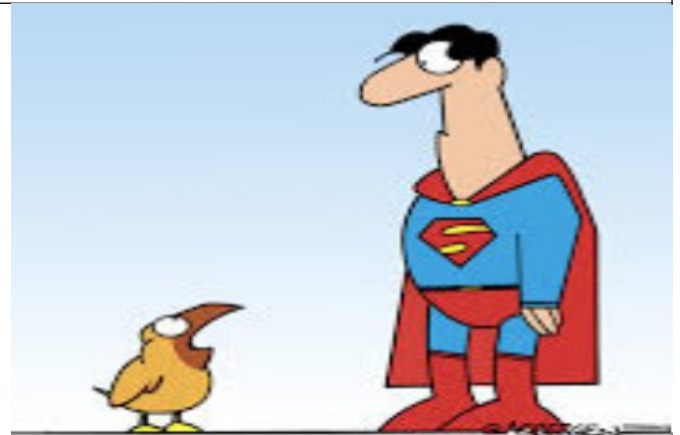
Balearic Bluster?

For a while now the regional government of the Balearics has been making noises about banning “non-residents”, by which they really mean foreigners, from buying property in Mallorca, Menorca, Ibiza and Formentera, blaming them for rising housing costs in the region. The vast majority of foreign investors in the Balearics are EU citizens led by the Germans.

One of the problems with the idea is that it needs to be approved by Brussels as it goes against the fundamental principles of the EU. Balearic politicians promoting the idea have called for a ‘Balearic exception’ to EU founding principles, which one assumes would need wholehearted support in Brussels and Madrid to have any chance of success.

Madrid recently dismissed the idea as illegal under EU law, and it comes as no surprise that Brussels has also pointed this out, which is another way of saying that the idea is a non-starter.

The far-left Podemos Party in the regional government, is strongly in favour of excluding foreigners from the housing market, argue the ‘public interest’ justification works in this case.



Big deal, you can fly. Can you lay an egg?

LOCKSMITH

CERRAJEROS - SCHLOSSER
SEGURIDAD UNION



607 493 118

**Antonio
LOCAL**



PROPERTY LAW CHANGES

After months of negotiations, Spain's housing law or Ley de Vivienda is likely to be approved sometime within the next few months, bringing about several changes to help vulnerable people, such as the young or those with low incomes to access housing.

The law includes several points such as freezing rental prices in certain areas and prohibiting the free sale of Officially Protected Housing.

One point that has caught the attention of foreign property owners is the increase in Property Tax (IBI) for homes that remain empty. Local councils will have the power to implement a surcharge of up to 150% on the Property Tax (IBI) quota under the new legislation.

However, the surcharge will only be levied on homes that have been empty for more than two years without good reason, as well as for property owners with a minimum of four homes in the same municipality.

The amount you could pay will depend on each different ayuntamiento or town hall.

In the city of Valencia, owners would go from paying €290 on average to €435.

From early 2023, the Valencian government has introduced an extra tax on empty homes for landlords that own more than 10 properties.

This will affect properties that are not up for sale or rent and have been empty for six months or more. In this case, they will have to pay monthly fines.

UK SPANISH CAR LICENCE EXCHANGE

To the relief of many, the Spanish cabinet finally approved a deal on licence exchange with the United Kingdom on March 16.

The many victims of this situation have now been able to legally take to Spain's roads once more for six months and now have a six-month period to exchange their UK licences for Spanish ones.

It is important to note that Spain will not swap a UK licence that has been obtained after you were granted Spanish residency, nor if the licence was obtained after the agreement was approved by the Spanish Cabinet on March 14. If your UK licence expired after you became a resident, however, it still can be exchanged. The British Embassy in Spain has reminded UK residents in Spain that "If you don't exchange within the six-month window, you won't be able to drive in Spain anymore using your UK licence, but you will still be able to exchange your licence after that time without taking the Spanish test."

Although the licence exchange does not involve a driving or theory test, all applicants have to undergo a medical test. This test, the '*psicotécnico*,' is a medical exam in Spain that tests both your physical and mental abilities to assess whether you can safely carry out certain tasks, such as driving a car. Everyone in Spain needs to get one of these when they renew or get a new licence. Remember that you must take this test (which is valid for three months) before you make your appointment to exchange your licence.

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SkyShowtime

From February 28th, the new SkyShowtime streaming service was available in Spain, after already being launched in more than twenty countries. The starting price is €5.99 per month, although, for a limited time up until April 25, 2023 new customers may receive a 50% discount. It offers all its users the possibility of creating up to five profiles and downloading unlimited content from three simultaneous devices. It also allows for the use of shared accounts.

<https://www.justwatch.com/>

Bob Dylan Concerts

Singer-songwriter Bob Dylan will perform 12 concerts in eight Spanish cities over the course of June 2023.

Dylan will tour Spain over the course of June as part of his Rough and Rowdy Ways world tour, music promoters Riff Music and Get In have announced.

His performances in Spain will be as follows, with two concerts planned in some cities:

Madrid, June 7th and 8th (Noches del Botánico)

Seville, June 10th and 11th (Fibes)

Granada, June 13th (Teatro del Generalife)

Alicante, June 15th (Plaza de Toros)

Huesca, June 17th (Plaza de Toros)

San Sebastián, June 19th and 20th (Auditorio Kursaal)

Logroño, June 21st (Palacio Deportes de La Rioja)

Barcelona, June 23rd and 24th (Gran Teatre Liceu)

Tickets for all concerts will go on sale on March 15th at 10am on riffmusic.es website.

As the tour is being used to promote his new album, it is unlikely that he will play many of his older and indeed better songs.

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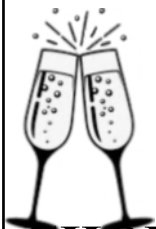
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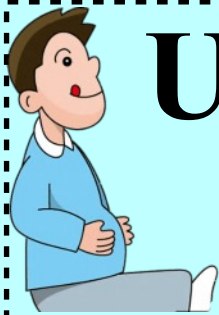
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ELECTRICITY

According to forecasts from Spain's national grid, 2023 could be the first time that 50% of electricity generation in the country comes from renewable sources, something that is not only more environmentally friendly but cheaper for consumers.



WENDY GETS PRIVACY BY CREATING HER OWN BOOK COVERS

A Woman Sends a Text to Her Husband -
"Honey, don't forget to buy BREAD when you
come home from work and your girlfriend
Valerie greets you."

Husband: "Who is Valerie?"

Wife: "Nobody, I just wanted you to answer,
to have confirmation that you saw my text."

Husband: "But I'm with Valerie right now, I
thought you saw me?"

Wife: "What.....? Where are you?"

Husband: "Near the bakery."

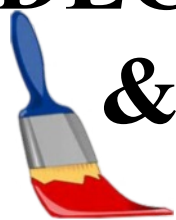
Wife: "Wait, I'm coming right now!"

After 5 minutes, his wife sends a message:

Wife: "I'm at the bakery, where are you?"

Husband: "I'm at work. Now that you're at
the bakery, buy the bread."

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

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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-Torre vieja*

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

David just helped me claim £47389 back from unpaid state pension. All for free!!! IL- Catral.



0034602465565



advocacycostablanca@gmail.com

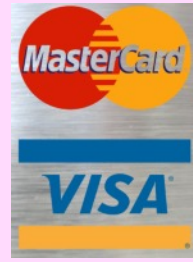
Advocacy Costa Blanca is operated by David Minto, a UK registered Social Worker. Get in touch if you need advice or guidance related to UK and Spanish welfare support.

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.

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.

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A woman was cleaning her son's bedroom and found a pile of BDSM magazines. She don't know what to do, so waited until her husband got home from work to ask for his advice on what she should do. "Fucked if I know," said the husband, "but whatever you do, don't smack him"



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The Drama!

A woman, cranky because her husband was late coming home again, decided to leave a note, saying, "I've had enough and have left you...don't bother coming after me"

Then she hid under the bed to see his reaction.

After a short while the husband comes home and she could hear him in the kitchen before he comes into the bedroom.

She could see him walk towards the dresser and pick up the note... After a few minutes he wrote something on it before picking up the phone and calling someone...

"She's finally gone...yeah I know, about bloody time, I'm coming to see you, put on that sexy French nightie. I love you...can't wait to see you...we'll do all the naughty things you like."

He hung up, grabbed his keys and left. She heard the car drive off as she came out from under the bed.

Seething with rage and with tears in her eyes she grabbed the note to see what he wrote...

"I can see your feet. We're outta bread: be back in five minutes."

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No Beach Bars for Easter on Orihuela Costa!

If you live in the Orihuela Costa, one thing you can always rely on is that the municipal 'burgers' will always let you down! This time it is the beach bars and associated services. During January, the Department of Beaches planned that the beach bars, *chiringuitos*, would be open for the Easter. The tender for the project would be issued in January. The offers would be reviewed in February and the contract awarded to the successful bidder in March.

Although the contract is a demanding one, including beach bars, walkways and toilets, it also includes includes sunbeds, umbrellas and the offer of water sports.

Then process has been further complicated in

Paddy and Murphy fancy a pint but only have a euro between them. Paddy goes off and buys a sausage. Murphy says 'Are you mad? Now we're skint!' 'Come on' says Paddy, 'follow Me.'

They go into the pub order two pints and drink them before they pay. Paddy shoves the sausage through the zipper of his jeans and tells Murphy to get down on his knees and suck it.

The barman goes berserk and throws them out.

10 pubs and 10 pints later Murphy says, 'I can't do this anymore, my knees are sore and I'm pissed.'

'How do you think I feel?' says Paddy, 'I can't even remember which pub I lost the sausage in!'

that the previous contractor, Chiringuitos del Sol, want some form of recompense for the economic damage caused by Storms Gloria & DANA of 2019, the pandemic and inflation. The bottom line here is that there will be no beach services during Easter, except for life-saving. And, unless the process receives some impetus and the new contract is issued soon, the delay will affect the summer season as well. In the meantime, the council will have portable toilets installed in the beaches for the Easter periods but will not install foot washers or walkways until the summer, as they feel that any heavy rainfall before then will probably wash them away.

A likely story!

A woman had a problem with her wardrobe door in the bedroom. Every time a bus would pass outside the house, the wardrobe door would fall off. She called a repairman to come and fix the problem. The repairman comes and sees that, indeed, the door did fall off every time a bus passed the house.

"Okay," says the repairman, "I'm going to step inside the wardrobe, you close the door behind me, 'til I see if I can detect what the problem is." The wife closes the door behind him.

At this point the husband suddenly arrives home, and hears his wife in the bedroom talking to somebody. He rushes upstairs opens the wardrobe door, sees the repairman and shouts "What the hell are you doing in there?"

The repairman meekly replies, "Believe it or not, I'm waiting for a bus!"




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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An Alicante mother has been arrested after her 17-month-old son ate **cannabis-laced corn snacks** that imitated the Cheetos brand. The boy suffered from vomiting and lost consciousness after consuming tetrahydrocannabinol(THC) which is the main psychoactive component of cannabis. The drug was in a bag marked THCheetos, photo, which are banned in Spain and was probably bought online.



The youngster spent two days at Alicante General Hospital where doctors discovered he had ingested THC.

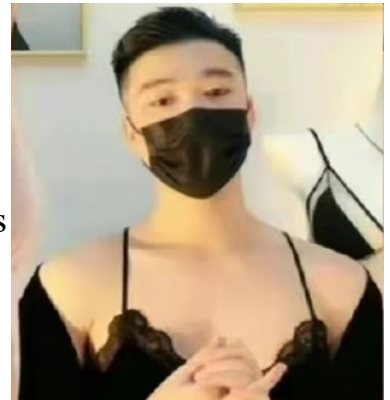
Medics enacted the protocol in such cases and informed the Policia Nacional. The boy's mother told police that she bought the cannabis snacks in a shop by mistake, believing they were normal Cheetos. Officers checked out the business and spoke to the owner, as well as inspecting all the food products. No such product was on sale and they reviewed security footage which showed the woman never even entered the store. Once it was proved that she had lied, the mother was arrested

A 60-year-old pilot for one of Spain's traffic helicopters, which are used to detect problems on the road, has been arrested after crashing his aircraft on Sunday and **subsequently testing positive for cocaine** and methamphetamine. The Pegasus helicopter from the DGT traffic



authority suffered the accident in the Madrid region as the pilot tried to make an emergency landing. While the pilot was unhurt, the camera operator onboard suffered mild injuries due to the accident.

China deploys one of the world's most stringent censorship regimes, with a track record of blocking out not just politically sensitive information but images of women's bodies deemed marginally racy. So this raised a problem with businesses that wanted to advertise their lingerie products online - a multi-billion\$ market.



Several businesses specializing in selling



lingerie through livestreaming have had their sessions cut short after they featured a female model and their brush with internet censorship came to light in January. The solution - **get men to wear the lingerie!** See photos.

Now, am I wrong in thinking that this might appeal greatly to a certain sector of the population? On Douyin,

the Chinese domestic version of TikTok, other female models have circumvented the censorship by showcasing the latest style of lingerie on themselves on top of a t-shirt they are already wearing. Others displayed the items on mannequins.

Alicante city council has waived a **€211 charge levied on a young 27-year-old woman** who was saved by a fire crew after attempting to take her own life. The woman took to social media to declare she had received an invoice from Alicante's finance department claiming €211 for 'rescue of person,' after a friend of her's called emergency services. The bill breakdown covered the costs of a corporal, eight firefighters, two pumps and two ladder cars. This was her third attempt at suicide.



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Sundays: Wayne Stewart: 2pm — 5pm

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Spain's Irish community number 19,491 according to the latest figures from Spain's National Statistics Institute (INE), which makes them the third largest English-speaking group in Spain behind Brits (more than 400,000) and Americans (41,950). The number of Irish nationals who reside in Spain has increased by 2,822 compared to 2022's stats, continuing with the upward trend seen over the past five years. Spain's Irish community favours coastal locations generally but also the country's two biggest cities - Madrid and Barcelona. Of Spain's 50 provinces, Málaga is home to the biggest Irish community with 3,494 Irish nationals. Next is Alicante province where 2,916 reside. Barcelona, with 2,472 Irish nationals, and Madrid with 2,021, are the third and fourth provinces with the biggest Irish representation in Spain. They also like Spain's islands. A total of 885 live in the Balearic Islands, while the Canaries host 2,465. A total of 2.08 million Irish tourists visited Spain in 2022 (including repeat visits), spending on average €1,240 on their vacations.

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RACING
COVERAGE**

I said to the doctor, "I'm worried as whenever I go to visit my mother she gets my name wrong." He looked up at me sympathetically and asked, "Is it Alzheimer's?" I looked back at him in disgust and replied, "No, It's Ron".

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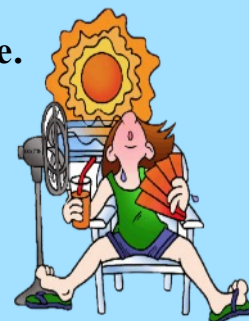


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Lime Bar Fishing SUNBATHING Club

Not a lot happened at the monthly meeting, but it was nice and warm so the Cat didn't get cold this time.

Our monthly match was held on pegs 1 to 16 at El Bosquet again, this time with 9 anglers on the bank. This was the last of the winter league which would confirm the 6 x anglers for final. With an unusually warm March we were hoping that this would stimulate the carp into feeding. The forecast was for high teens but windy. The forecasters got it right, except that for windy they should have said gales. I have never fished in wind that strong as it was gusting to over 50 kph, blowing straight down the canal. Fishing the long pole was impossible except for short spells when the wind dropped, before returning with a vengeance. Several of us persevered with the short pole but occasionally it was that strong, we had to revert to the rod and method feeder. Fagash who drew the popular peg 16 suffered the worst. His peg was at the cross section of canals and the wind was funnelled by the reeds and canals straight into him. The wind would come from one direction then from another, and he had waves breaking onto the peg making for an uncomfortable day. 3 Rods was cussing when he drew peg 7 as the wind was blowing straight down into his corner. 2 minutes after the start he was all smiles as he hooked into a carp on his 1st cast, but he was soon cussing again when it came off. He then struggled for bites and ended up being the only blank. With the carp being hard to find, it was embarrassing for both Sweeny and Big Fish Chris as they dropped lively mullet when trying to put them into their keepnets. Old Bill and Sweeney were fishing the favourite pegs of 15 and 12, both catching several small fish to come 1st and 2nd with 10.8 and 9.6 kilos respectively. Yorkie Mick came 3rd with 4.7 kilos and missed the winter final by just 1 point.

I fished the short pole most of the day and was getting liners and indications from mullet but couldn't get them to take my paste. With about 20 minutes to go, I started to pack away my pole tackle so lobbed a method feeder down the middle. 5 minutes before the end, as I was finishing my last apple, I nearly lost my rod. The rod was ripped off my rest with me diving after it. Fish on! It took a few minutes before I saw it, but it was a good carp, please don't come off. I eventually landed my only fish which weighed 3.4 kilos. It didn't win the match but this put me at the top of the biggest carp list..... for the time being!

The 6 x finalists were Cat, Sweeney, BFC, Old Bill, Fagash & 3 Rods.

The finalists arrived at El Bosquet on a perfect morning with no breeze. Although the mosquitos were out and about, Fagash, 3 Rods and BFC struggled to find the fish. BFC was especially disappointed as he had invested in some new "expensive" ground bait which was going to do the business. It looked and smelt like crushed Digestive biscuits. Sweeney is becoming quite adept at "losing" fish, yet again he missed the keepnet when transferring his 1st fish, then later on, after carefully unhooking a big mullet in his landing net, as he went to tip it into his keepnet, it had one flick and it leapt straight back into the canal! Will he ever learn? He did redeem himself though, on his last cast he landed a 3.69 kilos carp which puts him top of the biggest carp board. My name didn't last long....

The Cat (as usual) & Old Bill caught reasonably regularly throughout the match. Late on Old Bill hooked a massive carp (it looked to be well over 5 kilos), after a long hard fight the fish was on the surface and coming in gently until it saw the net and took an instant dislike, it spat the hook out and swam off.... Old Bill's anguished cry of "B*"\$#~@D" was heard in Elche.

Sweeney came 3rd with 6.6 kilos, while Cat & Old Bill battled for the top spot. Old Bill winning with 14.6 kilos to Cat's 14.3. Well done Old Bill, another new name on the cup.

The next meeting bun fight is at The Lime Bar on Tuesday 4th April.

Stay safe
Fishy fingers!
The Ghost

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TORREVIEJA HOSPITAL -UPDATE

According to the local health authority, there has been significant improvements in the waiting times for surgical procedures in the Torrevieja Hospital. They assure that the average surgical delay in now less than 52 days.

By specialties, it is worth noting that the best timings are in general and digestive surgery with an average delay of 18 days; gynaecology, with an average delay of 23 days or orthopaedic surgery and traumatology with only 35 days of waiting time.

The surgical delay, that is, the average time that patients wait to be operated on, is less than a week in urgent oncological processes in services such as general and digestive surgery. From the moment a patient is included in the tumour committee, for example, he/she is assessed, programmed and operated on in just seven days or a week.

The Ministry's information does not offer data on the total number of patients waiting or its breakdown by specialty nor the waiting time in A&E.

Ye-e-e-h-a-a-a-a

A woman from New York was driving through a remote part of Arizona when her car broke down. A Native American on horseback came along and offered her a ride to a nearby town. She climbed up behind him on the horse and they rode off.

The ride was uneventful, except that every few minutes the Indian would let out a 'Ye-e-e-h-a-a-a-a' so loud that it echoed from the surrounding hills.

When they arrived in town, he let her off at the local service station, yelled one final 'Ye-e-e-h-a-a-a-a!' and rode off.

'What did you do to get that Indian so excited?' asked the service-station attendant.

'Nothing,' the woman answered. 'I merely sat behind him on the horse, put my arms around his waist, and held onto the saddle horn so I wouldn't fall off.'

'Lady,' the attendant said, 'Indians don't use saddles.'

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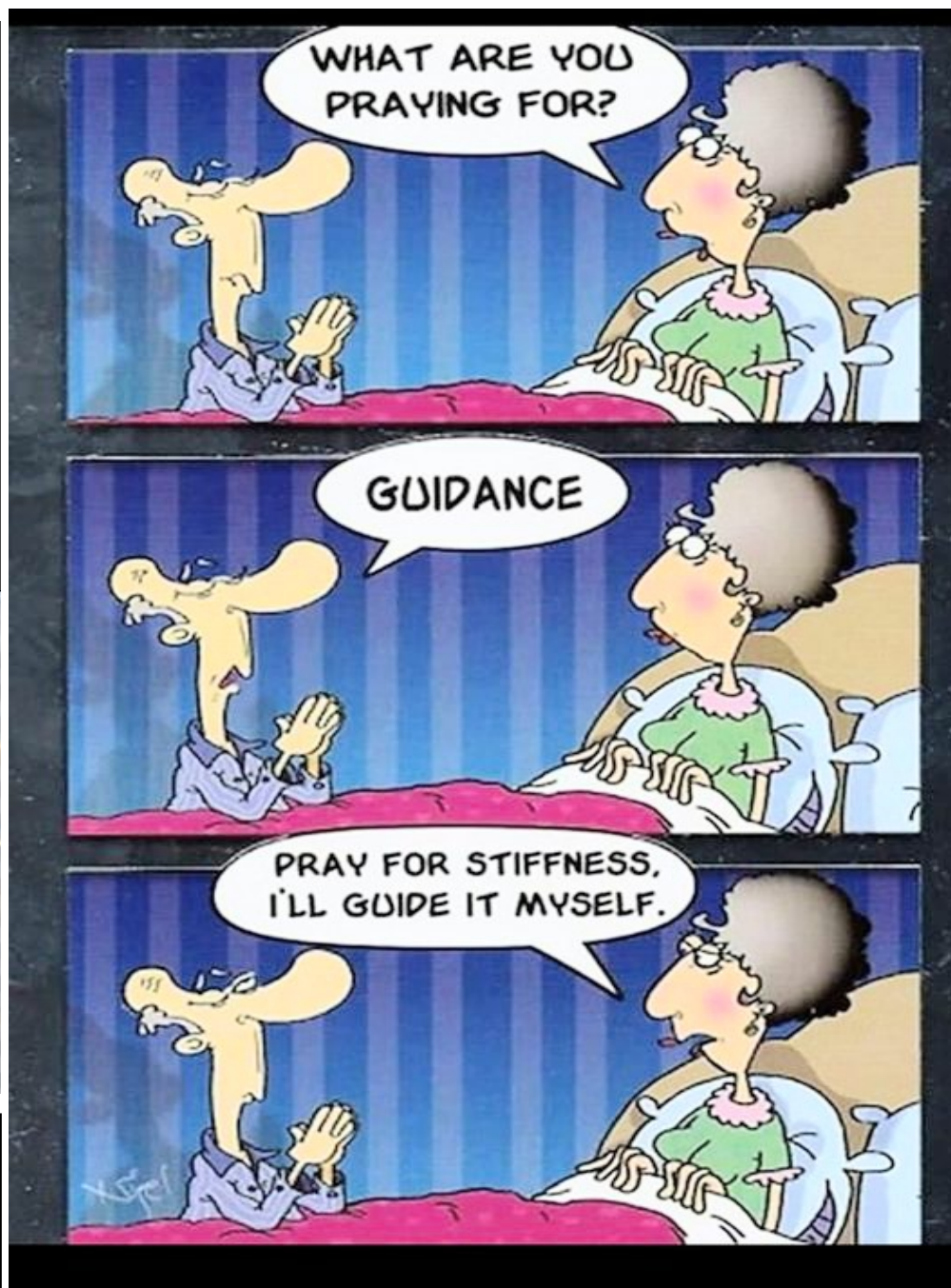
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The editor, Mick, can be contacted at mick.dreamscene@gmail.com (Or in some Bar!)



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