



# THE DREAM SCENE

## NEWSLETTER

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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the May 2023 edition. Issue No.186



Welcome to the May issue. Well, if the current warm temperatures are to be believed, it looks like our summer here has started already.

The meteorologists believe that this April could be **the hottest April month on record**, beautiful blue skies during the day but cooler breezes in the evenings. The lack of rainfall this year is sounding alarm bells in the agricultural sector with the drought causing great concern.

This has not been helped by the decision of central government's decision to significantly reduce the volume of water usually diverted from the Tagus to the province. Once again, because of **the drought**, the stage is being set once again, for a repeat of the dangerous and damaging forest fires that bedevil Spain. Last year was already the most destructive on record in terms of the amount of land burnt up by forest fires and there are fears that 2023 could be even worse.

While compiling this issue, I became conscious that I was covering several recent frauds and scams.....so this is now **the Scam Issue!**

**Municipal and regional elections** will be held in the Valencian Community and most of Spain on May 28. Regarding Torrevieja, Mayor Dolon, Partido Popular (PP), is tipped to romp home considering the continuing investment in improving the town's services and the lot of its citizens.

However, in the municipality of Orihuela it is a very different story. Although a cash cow for the city of Orihuela, for decades the coastal area has been neglected for basic services and amenities. CLARO, a political party formed in the coastal area several years ago, worked to improve services in the coastal area and was

supported by many British voters. Much more recently a new political party, Partido Independencia Orihuela Costa, (PIOC) has emerged advocating amongst other things, independence for Orihuela Costa. CLARO, who will support the right-of-centre Partido Popular in the municipal election, believe that this independence will never be achieved. Regarding the voting within the municipality, it is fair to say that BREXIT has decimated the British vote. **Of the more than 9,000 Brits on the padron in Orihuela Costa, only 170 have bothered to registered to vote!** One figure that really surprised me was that only 309 Germans signed on the *padron in the O.C.!*

**Waiting lists** for a non-emergency public hospital operation in Spain reached 793,521 last December 31- the highest figure on record. The Ministry of Health said that's an increase of 86,781 compared to the end of 2021 and 51,003 more than in June 2022.

Have a great month.

Mick, Tid and The Dream Scene Team



**"I don't want to worry you, but the guy who delivered the pizza was your financial planner."**

*"Nothing makes a smoker happier than to see an old person smoking."*

*Bill Hicks*

It is fair to say that the current ruling council in Orihuela are making an absolute shambles of the services, particularly to the coastal area. Last month we reported that the contract for the *chiringuitos* - **beach bars** - **had not been renewed**. This contract also covers the beach chairs, umbrellas, toilets etc. **None of these services** were available during the Easter period and it is unlikely that they will be available to the public for either part or all of the summer.

It then emerged that the council forgot to renew the insurance for the (basura) rubbish-collection lorries for several months! The trade unions correctly froze the service for a couple of days until the insurances were paid.

Although the ruling council is a coalition of the PSOE (socialists) and Ciudadanos (Citizens, liberal), the PSOE mayoress, Carolina Gracia, has sacked the Ciudadanos councillor for Infrastructures, Works & Maintenance, Ángel Noguera, Ciudadanos, for an alleged ongoing crime of prevarication. It is alleged that Ángel,



photo, withheld the payment of invoices to contractors which included the maintenance, conservation and repair service of roads and public spaces in Orihuela Costa despite having

the report of agreement for its payment by the supervising officials. It seemed Ángel 'requested' the person in charge of the company to **carry out additional works not specified in the contract** in exchange to "expedite" the signing of invoices that already had the approval of the council technicians. So now you can understand why there are so many potholes! A criminal investigation has been launched. Also, it now seems that another Ciudadanos councillor, Luisa Boné, has also been given the 'bum's rush'.

I bought myself a push bike to try and keep fit.

It wasn't for me though. Every time I got a bit of speed up, my cigarette would get blown out.

The National Police has dismantled a **document forgery scheme in a Torrevieja agency** designed to obtain temporary protection for Ukrainian citizens displaced by the war. In the police operation, three people have been arrested as responsible for the plot and another 16 interrogated who used false documentation to request their status as Ukrainian refugees.

Many of them are originally from Russia, Belarus, Georgia and Moldova and used this route to take advantage of the protection for Ukrainian citizens in order not to have to go to participate in the war waged by their country, according to police sources. Potential clients of this document forgery scheme were also identified, who were charged between 3,000 and 5,000 euros for the documents, such as permanent residence cards and marriage certificates together with birth or death certificates. According to the Police, the investigation began after the detection of forged documents presented by two citizens of Russian origin, who posed as residents of Ukraine.

. On Tuesday April 18, the governing board of the Orihuela City Council approved the modification of the urbanization project called **Alameda del Mar (Calla Mosca)**, which will be built on the Orihuela coast. Up to 2,200 more tourist homes on a coastline that already has thousands of homes along its 15 kilometres coastline.

Although several thousand more new homes are to be built in Orihuela Costa, **little thought has been given to the provision of water, power and other services to these new properties**, with the main roads becoming more chaotic.

Torrevieja appears to be going from strength to strength and is now putting out a tender for 5.5 million euros relating to the works of the La Mata sports centre.



# The Beauty Lounge

## Unisex Hair & Beauty



The Beauty Lounge - Via Park 111

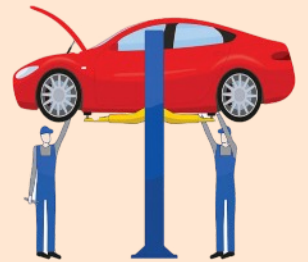
**966 393 605**

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Orihuela Costa.



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Hour  
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VIA PARK III  
**SATURDAY**

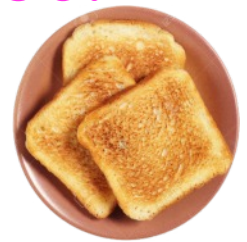
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## Little Johnny - yet again!

A group of four-year-olds were trying very hard to become accustomed to school. The biggest hurdle they faced was that the teacher insisted on NO baby talk!

"You need to use 'Big People' words," she was always reminding them. "John what did you do over the weekend?"

"I went to visit my Nana."

"No, you went to visit your GRANDMOTHER. Use 'Big People' words!" She then asked Mitchell what he had done.

"I took a ride on a choo-choo."

"No, you took a ride on a TRAIN. You must remember to use 'Big People' words," she said. She then asked little Johnny what he had done.

"I read a book," he replied.

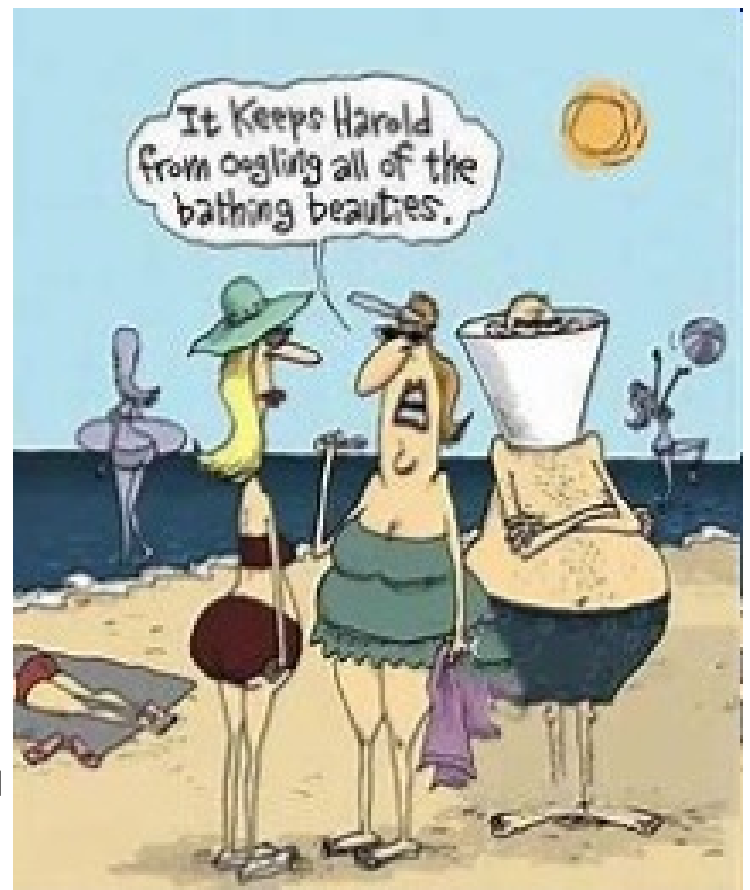
"That's WONDERFUL!" the teacher said. "What book did you read?"

Johnny thought very hard about it, then puffed out his chest with great pride and said, "Winnie the Shit."

## A Motorhome Park in Torry?

Proposals for a dedicated parking area for campervans and motorhomes in Torrevieja were revealed, aimed at allowing better coexistence between residents and vehicle owners.

Apparently, the situation in the car park at La Mata beach and the cemetery has got completely out of hand and campers have been parked there for not just weeks, but for months. And because there is no sewage facilities, the contents of camper toilets are being dumped anywhere. The project envisages a permanent campsite equipped with multilingual signage, payment facilities, electricity, fresh water a chemical toilet and, if necessary, barriers.



## 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**

The owner of Nikki Reina, a cosmetic surgery in Malaga, along with a former director and two ‘surgeons’ stand accused of a litany of crimes including performing surgery without a licence. The business owner and a number of employees have been arrested after 13 women claimed to have suffered injuries – sometimes irreversible – after undergoing procedures at the clinic.



Stephanie, photo, the first victim, claimed that not only did the surgery team fit her with different prosthetic breasts to what they had agreed, but that they even carried out a different procedure. When she noticed that her breasts had turned green, they told her that the colouring was ‘completely normal’ and

that she should just apply honey! Eventually Stephanie went to hospital in Marbella where they told her that her breasts were infected. Because the public health system in Spain would not cover the treatment Stephanie needed from the botched surgery, she was forced to keep returning to Nikki Reina. During another breast inspection at Nikki Reina, Stephanie alleged that the head surgeon cut off a piece of her nipple with a scissors without anaesthetic! The clinic offered a simple procedure as a stopgap solution, to which Stephanie consented. But during the operation, she alleges they gave her general anaesthetic against her will, and then tried to reconstruct her breast. She woke up screaming and the next day was told that her surgeon had already returned to Colombia.

Following Stephanie’s complaint, a number of other victims who had undergone treatments such as abdominoplasty, liposuction or breast augmentation came forward. A common procedure was the ‘complete combo’, which involved a buttock lift, liposuction, and breast augmentation.

According to the General Council of Official Medical Colleges, at least three of the ‘physicians’ who performed surgeries in the clinic are not registered with them.

Unbelievably, a Spanish-registered surgeon was signing off on each surgery performed by an unlicensed surgeon despite the fact that they were not even present during the operation!

Equally unbelievably, the clinic remained open despite the police charging the owner and a number of employees with injury, fraud, document forgery, usurpation of functions, membership in a criminal group, and violation of consumer rights.



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FIRST FLOOR  
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(Sister bar to The Lime Bar)

*A DEDICATED SPORT'S BAR.*

*Mark, Darren & George welcome customers  
old & new to The Bar Next Door*



## POOL KNOCKOUT COMPETITION

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# LIME BAR



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&  
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LAGER



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**EVERY THURSDAY**

**LIVE MUSIC FROM 4pm**



**FUN QUIZ**

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EVERY  
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*Hangovers installed.....and serviced.*

The only thing I'd order on a plane  
Scotch on the rocks - they can't fuck that up.  
Anthony Bourdain

## STEALING FROM DECEASED EXPATS

An organised Alicante gang have stolen the inheritance of at least 22 deceased expats. Twenty-two victims have been identified so far, most of whom were foreigners and died during the Covid pandemic. Eight people have been arrested and three others have been investigated for the crimes of belonging to a criminal organisation, theft, fraud, false documentation, misappropriation, money laundering, usurpation of marital status and illegal possession of weapons in the province of Alicante.

To date, of the 22 victims, two are Spanish, five are French, one is Belgian, four are Swiss, one is British, eight are German and one is Finnish. Most of them have no known heirs, and there may even be more victims who have not yet been identified.

The operation began in May 2021 when police officers discovered that someone had removed the police seals from a house located in Benissa, a town in the north of Alicante, and they came in and stole various objects, including an expensive motorcycle.

It didn't take police too long to track down and arrest the two people responsible, who worked in a mortuary located in the Marina Alta area of Alicante. In addition to stealing jewellery which was unclaimed by relatives, they passed on information to others of how to steal from the homes of the deceased and obtain their bank details. After they were sure that there was no heir to come forward and claim any inheritance, the gang kicked into gear: a brother and sister living in Bilbao, a 63-year-old woman with a law degree and a 54-year-old man, an insurance broker. The woman was the manager of 12 companies, among them two real estate agencies, and the man was the owner of an insurance brokerage.

The real estate agencies, located in Denia and the Basque Country, were used to rent and sell the properties of the deceased. To evade taxes, the siblings used a construction and renovation company, an insurance processing office, a mechanical workshop in Bilbao, two hotels in the provinces of Murcia and Valencia, a

restaurant in Denia and two offshore companies in Ireland and Malta to launder the money through. They even took control of a cultural association in Bilbao to simulate donations and non-payments during the lifetime of the deceased.

Another member of the gang was a former worker of a town hall in the Marina Alta area, who, through his knowledge, advised and carried out cadastral modifications to irregularly register the properties in the Land Registry. Another detainee is a worker of a nursing home in the same region, who obtained the documentation and bank details of his victims, transferring more than 112,000 euros from two nonagenarian residents of German and Swiss origin to the bank accounts of the criminal group.

The group increased its criminal activity due to the increase in the number of elderly people who died during the Covid-19 pandemic, taking advantage of the difficulties of the families to take care of their bodies and the lack of known heirs in other cases.

Police estimate that in total they managed to take control of 20 properties at least, four of them in Paris, France, with a total value of more than 3 million euros.





# 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**



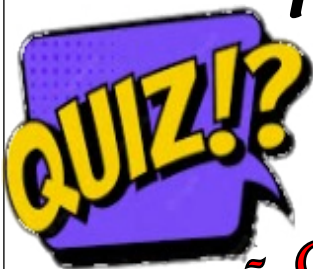
**FRIDAY QUIZ WITH SUE**

**FROM 6.00pm**

**SUNDAY**

**- QUIZ & STANDUP BINGO**

**with John - 3pm start.**



**JILLY'S SLIMMING CLUB**

**THURSDAYS 4pm**

**New Members Welcome!**



LOTS OF NEW FUN ACTIVITIES BEING PLANNED INCLUDING MUSIC BINGO, SHUFFLEBOARD, THEME EVENINGS AND FONDUE!! INCLUDING KARAOKE SATURDAYS!





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VIA PARK 3 (Next to the Lime Bar)



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PIES OF ALL FLAVOURS,



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Rock - Funk - Soul - Latin Rock

**RELOAD**  
Rock - Funk - Soul - Latin Rock

SLUSH  **POOLView**   
Snack Bar

VIA PARK V

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  - PIES • PASTIES • BURGERS • HOT DOGS
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FULL MENU AVAILABLE TO TAKEAWAY



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(Pre book essential)

**Sunday Roast served 2-7**

(Pre book essential)

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disabled facilities

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A young man is fired from his job after asking customers if they wanted "smoking or nonsmoking." He was fired because the correct terminology in the funeral home business is "cremation or burial."



## Are you caring for a loved one? Do you wish you had someone to "chat" with?

One of the focuses this year for HELP Vega Baja registered charity is support for carers. Details of a support group will be announced later in the year. Another focus is to raise the profile of a Facebook page that was set up some time ago.

### HELP Carers Connect

**HELP Carers Connect** is aimed at carers looking for information that can help them in their caring role and provide them with the opportunity to "chat" to others in similar situations. Knowing that you are not alone can make a huge difference to the life of a carer who frequently has little time to even think about them self.

We are delighted that one of our volunteers who has a great deal of experience in caring has agreed to take on a moderating role on the page.

### Why not look and send through a join request!

If you would like to find out more how HELP Vega Baja can support carers, please contact us on 966 723 733 or email [office@helpvegabaja.com](mailto:office@helpvegabaja.com)

### IMPORTANT

Please note that **HELP Carers Connect** is not intended to be support for professional carers and request to join will not be accepted. However, if you are working as a professional carer and you are fully legal and registered in Spain, HELP Vega Baja would like to hear from you.

### The Sex Change.

A group of guys and one girl are sitting together at a ball game. During the game the guys notice that the girl knows just as much about the game as they do, and they're really impressed. After the game they ask her "how is it that you know so much about baseball?"

She says, "Well, I used to be a guy and got a sex change." The guys are amazed, but very curious about the process. "What was the most painful part of the process? Was it when they cut off your penis?" "That was very painful, but was not the most painful part."

"Was it when they cut off your balls?"

"That was very painful, but was not the most painful part."

"What was the most painful part?"

"The part that hurt the most was when they... cut my salary in half!"



*"You'll be in charge of the music down here."*



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- Av de Las Olas -

And we are about

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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.

## Ex-wife to be paid €204k for 25 years of housework

A judge in Vélez-Málaga (Andalusia) has ordered a man to pay his ex-wife over €200,000 for 25 years of unpaid domestic work, based on the minimum wage throughout their marriage, court documents stated during early March. The ex-husband was ordered to pay her €204,624.86, 'calculating the figure based on the annual minimum wage' throughout their marriage, said the ruling. The couple had two daughters, with their marriage governed by a separation of property regime, which specified that whatever each party earned was theirs alone, which in this case would have left the wife with no access to any of the

wealth acquired through years of partnership. Since marrying, the wife had dedicated herself 'to essentially working in the home, which meant looking after the home and the family and all that involves', the ruling said. Also, he let her work at the gyms he owned, where she handled 'public relations and acted as a monitor. The ex-husband was also ordered to pay her a monthly childcare allowance for the daughters, one of whom is a minor while the other is over 18. This case is not the first of its kind as a Chinese woman received similar compensation for care work back in 2021.



# WALKING FOOTBALL



**Love Football ? Too Old ?**

**If you are over 50 come and try  
Walking Football**

**at the CDM, El Centro Deportivo Municipal,  
C.Niágara, 23, Orihuela Costa**

**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**



## Stick with it, Fred!

Fred and Mary got married, but couldn't afford a honeymoon, so they go back to Fred's parent's home for their first night together.

In the morning, Johnny, Fred's little brother, gets up and has his breakfast. As he is going out of the door to go to school, he asks his Mom if Fred and Mary are up yet. She replies, "No".

Johnny asks, "Do you know what I think?"

His mom replies, "I don't want to hear what you think! Just go to school."

Johnny comes home for lunch and asks his mom, "Are Fred and Mary up yet?" She replies, "No." Johnny says, "Do you know what I think?" His mom replies, "Never mind what you think! Eat your lunch and go back to school."

After school, Johnny comes home and asks again, "Are Fred and Mary up yet?" His mom says "No."

He asks, "Do you know what I think?"

His Mom replies, "Ok, do tell me what you think?"

He says: "Last night Fred came to my room for the Vaseline and I think I gave him my airplane glue."

You know You're Old When

An  
"All Nighter"  
Means Not  
Getting Up  
To Use  
The  
Bathroom

## LOCKSMITH

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LOCAL**





## THE WORST!

Spain's third largest lender, Caixabank, has been voted Worst Company of the Year 2022 by disgruntled users after bagging 39% of votes in the 13th annual 'award' organised by FACUA Consumers in Action.

The multinational financial services company was joined in the undesirable line-up by Spanish giants Vodafone and energy supplier Endesa.

This is the first year that the bank has been nominated for this award, which was first launched in 2010 to highlight "serious abuses" that occurring the consumer market and to promote more responsible practices among companies and service providers.

To date, the company that has received the 'name and shame' award the most times is telecommunications provider owned by Telefónica, Movistar, the country's largest provider of landline, broadband, mobile services, and pay television has been named worst company no less than five times.

Voting took place between March 15 and 30. The Worst (and most sexist) Advertisement of 2022 went to the Galician Government for a campaign against gender violence in which the focus was "once again" on the victims, blaming them for the way they dress or the hours they go out on the street, according to the public.

In the case of CaixaBank, the main complaints related to the refusal to return money

'defrauded' when charging mortgage arrangement fees, together with usurious interest on loans, the charging of 'abusive' fees and the refusal to return amounts stolen in cases of phishing or smishing.

Along with the Worst Company award, users also voted for what they consider to be the Worst Business Abuse of the Year. The winner was the "constant and indiscriminate increase" in food prices, with 58% of the votes, at a time when households are feeling the pinch of high inflation and an economic crisis.

Previous Worst Company 'winners' and nominees include:

2021: Endesa, followed by Vodafone and Banco Santander.

2020: Endesa, Vodafone, Banco Santander and Vueling.

2019: Endesa, Vodafone, BBVA and Vueling.



*'We gather you arrived in the UK from Dunkirk in a small boat in 1940...'*

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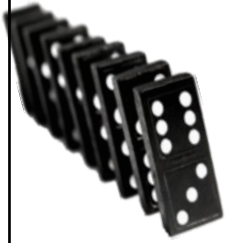
**Tel: 0034 966 772 553**

## Low Emission Zones

A motorist was fined nearly £11,000 for driving his French rental car in London's ultra-low emission zone on a three-day trip to the UK, despite the fact the vehicle met the environmental standards to enter the Ulez for nothing. Christian Ducarre received four penalty charge notices (PCNs) after falling foul of a little-known requirement under which foreign vehicles must be registered with Transport for London (TfL) or else be deemed non-compliant by default. He is one of many EU drivers who have been sent PCNs, some of them totalling thousands of pounds, even though their vehicles comply with EU emissions standards. In Ducarre's case, his fines were higher because his hire car was also mistakenly classed as a heavy diesel vehicle and penalised under the separate low emissions zone (Lez) that covers lorries, vans, buses, coaches and minibuses travelling in most of Greater London. Lez fines are between £500 and £2,000 a day, depending on the vehicle's weight, and rise if not paid within 28 days.

The requirement to register vehicles also applies to British motorists planning to drive into any of the 200 European cities that operate similar low emissions schemes. The cost and process of registration varies between countries, some of which require all drivers to buy a coloured sticker showing their vehicle's emissions standard. Fines for failure to follow the rules range from £38 in Madrid to £1,853 in Vienna.

In Spain, Ulez is known as ZBE (Low Emission Zone) and is currently active in Madrid and Barcelona. Unauthorized access carries a penalty of 200 euros, which remains at 100 euros if the prompt payment procedure is applied within a period of 20 days after receiving the notification. No sanction imposed will cause any loss of points on the driver's license.



# BAR DOMINO



LOS ALTOS

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK FROM 9.30AM

**KITCHEN OPEN MON - SAT 9:30am - 9:30pm**

**SUNDAY 10:30am - 6:30pm**

## ALL LIVE SPORTS SHOWN



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STRONGBOW, HEINEKEN SILVER  
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**Emirates  
FA CUP**

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**ALL RACING SHOWN**

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**PETANCA COMPETITION**

**ALL WELCOME**



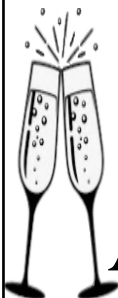
**Wednesday 3rd May 5:30pm**

**Live Music Simon Jackson**

**Other entertainment to be confirmed**

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**AVAILABLE FOR FUNCTIONS!**



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**SUNDAY 10:30am - 6:30pm**

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**HOMEMADE SQUARE SAUSAGE, LINK SAUSAGE, BACON, EGG,  
BLACK PUDDING, POTATO SCONE, TOMATO,  
BEANS, MUSHROOM & TOAST**

**ALL THIS - ONLY €6.00!!**

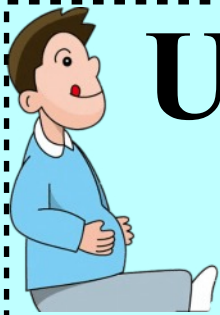
Full English Breakfast €5.00 Mon-Sat 9.30am-1.00pm

Sausage, Bacon, Egg, Hash Brown, Tomato,

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WiFi

After a quarrel, a wife said to her husband, "You know, I was a fool when I married you."  
The husband replied, "Yes, dear, but I was in love and didn't notice."



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Greatest selection of piercing jewellery from 5€

I recently spent €25,500 on this registered Black Angus bull. I put him out with the herd but he just ate grass and wouldn't even look at a cow. I was beginning to think I had paid more for that bull than he was worth. Anyway.....I had the Vet come and take a look at him. He said the bull was very healthy, but possibly just a little young, so he gave me some pills to feed him once per day. The bull started to service the cows within two days..... all my cows! He even broke through the fence and bred with all of my neighbour's cows! Even the horses were scared! He's like a machine!

I don't know what was in the pills the Vet gave him .....but they kind of taste like peppermint.

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## NUMBERS IN ALICANTE STILL GROWING.

Alicante Province's population has risen by 19,832 in over a year according to figures from the National Statistics Institute(INE).

The total- based on municipal padron registrations- is now 1,901,594.

Last July, the INE estimated there were around 21,000 residents who were not registered.

It's the largest population figure in a decade and the INE attributes the rise to domestic and foreign migration.

Alicante and Elche have both recorded record-highs of 338,577 and 235,580 inhabitants respectively.

The third biggest municipality is Torrevieja followed by Orihuela, Benidorm and San Vicente del Raspeig.

Alcoy and Elda are the only cities with over 50,000 people to have recorded population falls.



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

### Benefit Rates 2023/2024

Sickness Benefits (Attendance Allowance, DLA, PIP.) - High Rate - £101.75.

Low Rate - £68.10



# Advocacy Costa Blanca

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**and support.**



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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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"Burt Reynolds once asked me out. I was in his room."

Phyllis Diller



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**STEAK NIGHT EVERY WED'**



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Strange that; I had a similar discussion with my wife. She said that if I wanted bigger tits I just needed to put more food out for the birds.  
So I did. Six months later, the wife's still an A Cup.  
The vet told me that our cat need to loose some weight though.

## CYBER SCAM

Six people have been arrested in the Benidorm and Aspe areas of Alicante province for being part of a cyber scam that netted €1.1 million. The Spaniards- aged between 24 and 32- were part of a group that specialised in computer fraud.

The Policia Nacional were called in after an Elche bank manager complained that his branch computer systems had been hacked to obtain a personal loan worth €950,000.

External computer servers were used to make the breach with police discovering a well-structured criminal gang that scammed at least 51 victims and controlled over 60 bank accounts. Prominent online buying and selling sites were scammed to obtain bank passwords to clear out bank accounts.

Gang members even phoned or messaged targets pretending to be bank call centre staff to obtain PIN numbers and passwords.

A network of Spanish and foreign bank accounts were opened with cash laundered into cryptocurrencies. The security used by the gang was such that the mastermind remained anonymous to people below him in the chain and only communicated with group members on line, which included 'mules' who received and laundered the stolen money to get a percentage cut of the profits.

Police searched several homes of those arrested and took away a large amount of computer material, credit cards and cryptocurrencies, as well as fake documentation.

## BOGUS MARRIAGES

National Police have arrested 145 people who were involved in marriages of convenience and false documents in Seville. The perpetrators are charged with arranging marriages between foreigners and nationals for remuneration and creating fraudulent employment contracts which amount to some one million euros.

Operation Bisen, which began in 2021, was carried out in two phases.

Firstly is the arrests of a criminal group who are accused of crimes against the rights of foreign citizens, illegal migration, falsification of domestic partners and fraudulent documents within labour contracts. Of those arrested, five women were paid to marry foreign men in order for them to obtain residency permits in Spain.

In phase two, police identified a bogus company which had the capacity to provide 180 phony employment contracts allowing people to seek government benefits, access bank loans and receive state funded medical care. The fake company administrator was arrested alongside 134 others who were alleged workers.

So far, a total €924,000 of public money that was defrauded has already been returned to the relevant authorities.

*In Liverpool, the difference  
between a funeral and a  
wedding is one less drunk.*

*Paul O'Grady*

## FANCY A RAIL TRIP TO MADRID?

State owned rail company, Renfe, has started its high speed, low cost train service, which now runs twice a day between Alicante and Madrid, stopping in Albacete, Cuenca and Villena, and is offering tickets for just 7 euros.

Not to be outdone, private competitor Ouigo will begin its own high-speed trains on that route on April 27 with their own ticket prices starting at 9 euros, a price they have promised will not increase further down the line.

As well as Renfe and Ouigo, a third rail company, Iryo, will also start operating high-speed trains between Alicante and Madrid from June 2, meaning passengers have not only many more options but that the increased competition will hopefully drive prices down and keep them down in the long term. A golden opportunity for you to see more of Spain.



# JB's

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*JB's - Just Because!*

**FUN QUIZ SUNDAY NIGHTS 6pm**

**NOW SERVING OUR POPULAR**

**HOT DISH OF THE DAY**

**ALONG WITH ASSORTED SNACKS**

**JB's INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM TO CELEBRATE**

**THE KING'S CORONATION**

**SAT MAY 6 FROM 2pm BARBEQUE, GAMES AND FUN**

**€10 PER PERSON - BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

**CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE**

**FOR MANY MORE UP AND COMING EVENTS**

**AMSTEL  
 FOSTERS  
 JOHN SMITH'S  
 STRONGBOW  
 ON DRAFT!**



## Tinder Swindlers!

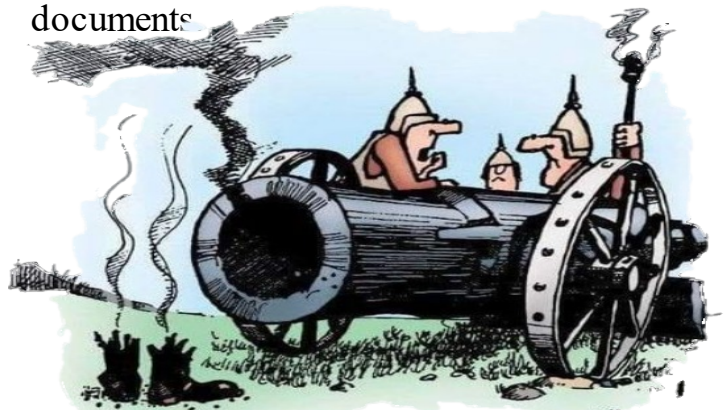
A group of con artists have taken the concept of the 'Tinder Swindler' to a new level after a nationwide 'catfishing' scam earned them hundreds of thousands of euros. A huge and complex police operation finally smashed the network and arrested 18 people after over 90 lovelorn members of the public filed complaints. They claimed to have been swindled by someone purporting to be an airline pilot or wealthy person after matching with them on dating apps.

The scammers would invest considerable time and effort earning the victim's trust and tricking them into falling in love.

They would then entice them with the promise of a gift as a token of their feelings, but with one catch: it was stuck with customs or some transport company and needed a payment to be released. The victims would then be pressured into transferring cash to the swindler in order to release the gift. Threats and

emotional manipulation were even employed to twist the arms of those who thought they were dealing with someone who loved them.

The first complaint was filed in Madrid, and investigators managed to determine that the scammed funds were transferred to a bank account in Malaga. The operation known as Malmos began at the beginning of the year and proved to be a challenge for police as the victims were spread out over the country. Officers raided 13 locations in Malaga and seized €36,000 as well as phones, laptops and documents.



**No! No! No! Two is load, Three is fire!**

## HOLIDAY RENTAL SCAMS

Many unfortunate tourists are still being caught-out by the holiday rental scams in Spain.

This time around, the Guardia Civil arrested 29 people and is investigating another 13.

Dubbed operation 'Rent Scam', the investigation was launched last September after officers noticed a huge increase in the number of complaints related to fake rentals.

So far, 30 men and 12 women have been collared during coordinated raids in the provinces of Madrid, Toledo, Ciudad Real, Pontevedra, A Coruña, Valencia, Alicante, Castellón, Ibiza, Bilbao, Santander, Huelva, Cádiz, Málaga, Granada, Murcia, Barcelona and Tarragona.

In a swindle that has now become all too familiar, the fraudsters reportedly took photos of random properties and advertised them for rent on well-known online forums at much cheaper prices than the going rate. They would then demand payment up front, before the would-be holidaymakers ever set foot in Spain.

The mastermind behind this nationwide operation is a career criminal who is currently serving time behind bars for computer fraud crimes and is believed to have managed the scam from prison.

More than 75 bank accounts used by the gang have been blocked.

### 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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The Florida Department of Education **can't spell**. A new list of approved books for public schools has recommendations for “ninth” and “twelfth” graders

Jumilla is one of Murcia's three main wine-producing towns, along with Bullas and Yecla, which means they have loads of enormous vats there to store the stuff. Well, there was much excitement recently as one of these wine vats – the size of a house – was caught on camera



**exploding dramatically** and flooding the whole of Jumilla's Avenida de Murcia with red wine. The vat belonged to well-known red wine brand Don Simón, famous for its cheap plonk.

The company is based in Jumilla but their wine is

sold all over Spain and abroad. Stunned onlookers watched and filmed the event as the enormous wine vat spewed its contents like a boozy volcano. Alas, there was no chance to dance in the fountain or grab a glass and fill up as the workers managed to have the mishap cleaned up in no time. You can watch the video here -

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1639094292273561601>

A drunken skier died when he broke a plastic ski lift window while messing about with a friend, fell through it and landed 130ft below, French prosecutors said. The unnamed man, aged 29, and his 23-year-old friend were both drunk at the time of the accident on April 1, in the Deux-Alpes resort in the French Alps, according to the state prosecution office in Grenoble. The pair were filming themselves as they engaged in raucous behaviour in the Jandri Express telecabin, which takes skiers to the

highest part of the resort at 10,000ft. The man, who was 6ft 2in and weighed 15st 7lb, hurled himself at the plexiglass window, which broke. The skier, from Annonay in southern France, fell on to the Bellecombe slope, and **was impaled on a piste marker**. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Over 40 people were affected by **food poisoning** in Spain after being invited to a lunch hosted by the producers of the Spanish edition of the hit TV show, Masterchef. Symptoms included vomiting and diarrhoea. Reports first surfaced on Twitter with a woman reporting she was one of many people who had fallen sick after tasting food served outside an aquarium in Valencia for staff as part of the programme. A range of items, including seafood, were prepared for about 120 people on January 19. The woman claimed in her post that ‘out of 70 people, more than half’ ended up with food poisoning. However, health officials were unable to find the source of the infection because of the time that had passed since the event meaning there was no food left to test.

A judge in Spain's Basque Country has sided with a restaurant after it **charged three diners €510 for failing to turn up** to their dinner reservation. The ruling on the case was welcomed by those within the restaurant sector, obviously!

**Two people died and 12 were injured** in a fire apparently started when a **waiter flambéed a pizza** at a Madrid restaurant and accidentally set decorations ablaze. One of the dead was a restaurant employee and the other a customer, said the city's mayor, José Luis Martínez-Almeida. He said one person was in a critical condition in hospital and five others were seriously hurt. Speaking outside the restaurant in the west of the city, the mayor said the fire appeared to have been sparked when a waiter flambéed a pizza and the flames caught plastic flowers decorating the ceiling and columns of the establishment, which contained about 30 diners and staff members at the time.

INDIFFERENCE..... a woman's feeling towards a man, which is interpreted by the man to be "playing hard to get".





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



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Los Altos*

*Mon - Sat 8am - 8pm*

*Sun 10am - 8pm*

*Tel/WhatsApp: 711025788*

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AVAILABLE**



**Our New Kitchen is OPEN!**

**Full Breakfast and a great selection of meals available every day.**

**Friday fish specials & Sunday Roast coming soon.**

**See our Facebook page for the full menu or just come on down!**

**Live Music & Entertainment**

***Tuesday: Various Artists - 3pm - 6pm***

***Thursday: Simon Morton 3pm - 6pm***

***Fridays: Various Artists - Coming SOON!***

***Sundays: Wayne Stewart - 4pm - 7pm***

**See posters at the Bar for details**

**Keep an eye on our Facebook page for our new menu.**

DATING..... the process of spending enormous amounts of money, time and energy to get better acquainted with a person whom you don't especially like in the present and will learn to like a lot less in the future.



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Gina at 722 787 647

A young man walks into a record store and asks the clerk, "Do you have anything by The Doors?"

"Sure," replies the clerk, "a mop, bucket and a fire extinguisher."



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**FULL SIZE SNOOKER  
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The Best Stocked Bar in  
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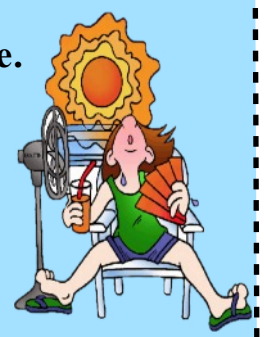


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## Lime Bar Fishing SUNBATHING Club

.I was away for the monthly meeting, so Sweeney ,the roving reporter stood in and took the minutes. Cheers mate. He did such a good job I think I will put my feet up.

At the meeting, Eden 3 was voted as the monthly match venue. Until recently, Eden 3 had been fishing well and if we didn't use it, we would lose it to the reeds. I was still away, so only 10 anglers drew on the bank and when the Cat had first dip and drew the favourite peg 1, the rest of them automatically thought they were competing for 2nd place.

NOT TO BE.

It turned out to be a disastrous day, possibly the 2nd worst ever! (I'm glad I missed it).

It was a beautiful day for sunbathing and watching wildlife as everybody struggled to get a bite. Sweeney managed to catch the only carp to win with a monstrous 0.83 kilos! Big Fish Chris managed a baby mullet of 0.16 kilos for 2nd and 3 Rods (in desperation) went bleak snatching and managed 3 rd place (a magnificent 18 points), with 5 miniscule bleak and a sun fish the size of a 2 euro coin. Old Seadog had a match winner on for a while until it found an underwater obstruction to win it's freedom, and Antique Man's rod bending bite (on half a sausage) had all the hallmarks of a big blue crab!

Needless to say, most members had already packed their tackle away before the final hooter. The Cat persevered though and battled on to the bitter end, but to no avail. He was fishless too!

The draw for the summer knockout was carried out at the monthly meeting. The Cat &

BFC fished their match at El Bosquet on the old back canal (pegs 17 & 20 respectively).

The Cat goes through to the next round with an impressive 20.5 kg (15 fish) to 6 kg (4 fish). The Cat had 1 carp of 5.5 kilos which not only helped win the KO, but also takes top of the biggest carp list. See attached phot. Unlucky Sweeney, your fish didn't last long either!

The next meeting bun fight is at The Lime Bar on Tuesday 2 nd May.

Stay safe

Fishy fingers!

The Ghost



### See the Signs!

A man spent a weekend gambling in Las Vegas casinos, and he won \$100,000. He didn't want anyone to know about it, so when he came back home, he immediately went out to the backyard of his house, dug a hole and buried the money in it. The next morning he found only an empty hole.

He saw footsteps leading from the hole to the house next door, which was owned by a deaf-mute.

On the same street lived a professor who understood sign language and was a friend of the deaf man. Grabbing his gun, the angry gambler went to see the professor and dragged him to the deaf man's house. He screamed at the professor: "You tell this guy that if he doesn't give me back my money I'll kill him!"

The professor passed the message to his friend, and his friend replied in sign language: "I hid it underneath my cherry tree."

The professor turned to the man with the gun and said: "He's not going to tell you. He said he'd rather die first."

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### MORE HELP FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES

In order to help low income families meet these skyrocketing costs, the government of the Valencia region has announced that it will give a €90 voucher to the most vulnerable families to help them pay for groceries. It's called the *Bono Cesta de la Compra* (Shopping Basket Voucher) in Spanish.

This aid is only available to residents in the region of Valencia whose household income does not exceed €21,000 per year. It is compatible with other aid packages such as the Minimum Vital Income and the €200 cost of living subsidy from the Spanish government. Pensioners, however, have not been included and are therefore not eligible. The food voucher can be applied for from April 18th via the specialised website the Valencian government has set up for it, which can be accessed here -

<https://bonocesta.gva.es/>

A young girl started work in the village chemist shop. She was very shy about having to sell condoms to the public. The owner was going on holiday for a couple of days and asked if she would be willing to run the shop on her own. She had to confide in him her worries about selling the contraceptives.

"Look," he said. "My regular customers don't ask for condoms, they'll ask for a 310 [small] a 320 [medium] or a 330 [large]. The word condom won't even be used."

The first day was fine but on the second day a black guy came in to the shop, put out his hand and said "350".

The girl panicked. She phoned the owner on his mobile and told him of her predicament. "Go back in and check if he has a yellow bucket hanging between his legs" her boss told her.

She peeped through the door and saw the yellow bucket hanging between his legs. "Yes!" she said "He's got one hanging there!"

The boss said "Go back in and give him £3.50, he's the window cleaner!"



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*It is best not to stir them.*

*P.G Wodehouse*



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