



THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER

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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the July 2023 edition. Issue No.188



Following disastrous results for the socialists in the recent municipal and regional elections in Spain, PM Sanchez is calling an **early general election** for Sunday, July 23.

Polls show that the conservative PP - Partido Popular - will be the most voted party but it is likely that they will have to form a coalition with the far-right VOX party, although there are eager not to admit that now. VOX are viewed by many as 'loopy' or even fascist.

Our region, Valencia, now has a right-wing government, defeating the left-wing coalition. Here, the PP were the most voted for party but have already come to an agreement with VOX to rule. I do hope that they will dismiss the management team in Torrevieja Hospital. I have included some detail of the recent local election in Orihuela in this issue. Whether you dislike or despise politicians, even local ones can improve or screw up your situation here in Spain or indeed anywhere.

The Spanish government will keep the **VAT reduction** on basic food products beyond June 30th, when it is due to expire. The VAT on products such as bread, milk, cheese, eggs, fruits, vegetables, and cereals has been reduced from four to 0%; and from 10 to five% on oil and pasta. Other measures against rising inflation that the government have in place include the automatic extension of rental contracts and the reduction on municipal and regional public transport. "We will maintain the VAT reduction on food until more appropriate price levels are reached" reported the Minister for Economic Affairs. Hopefully, the new political regime will continue with the reductions after the general election in July. Locally, beef

and fish prices have rocketed.

The Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) has ruled against restrictions imposed by Barcelona City Council on ride-hailing companies like Uber and Cabify. Spain's second-largest city has in recent years granted just one licence for vehicles with drivers (VTCs) for every **30 licences awarded to traditional taxis**.

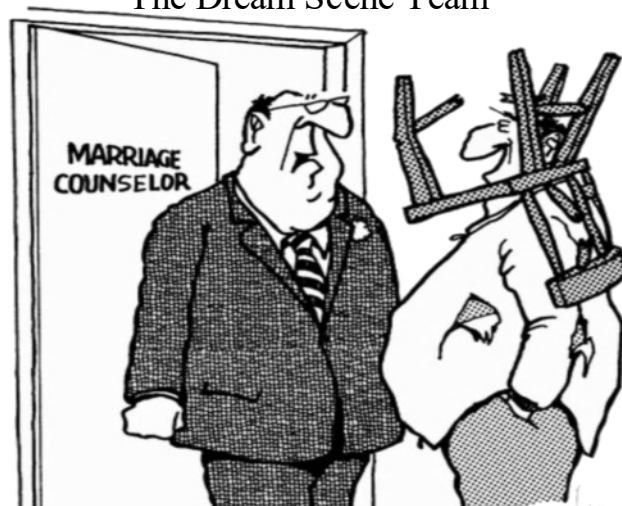
There has been an increase in the number of hugger-muggers locally, where necklaces and bracelets have been snatched by women appearing to be friendly/amorous, older men and women being the preferred target.

Linea Directa (Direct Line) are now offering Squatter Insurance.

On June 13, a two-metre Blue Shark was noticed close to the shallows at the local Aquamarina beach. Later the shark died and was washed ashore at Cabo Roig. This type of shark are not normally dangerous to humans preferring squid and small fish.

Thanks to Sue R for kind donation.

Have a great month. Mick, Tid and
The Dream Scene Team



**"Sorry to keep you both waiting out here.
Where's your wife?"**

*I always carry a picture of my wife and kids in my wallet.
I do it to remind myself why there is no money in there.*

During late May, municipal and regional elections were held in much of Spain. Locally, the conservative **PP (Partido Popular) won an overall majority** in the municipality of Torrevieja and remain in power with an increased majority.

However, matters in the municipality of Orihuela are less clear. Here the PP won 10 council seats, up one from the 2019 election. Next the socialist PSOE won six seats, same as 2019.

Next was the far-right Vox party who won four seats, an increase of two seats from 2019.

Next came the liberal C's who took 3 seats, down two from 2019.

Then a mixture of far-left wing and communist under the umbrella of Compromis, took three seats.

PIOC, who is campaigning for an Independent Orihuela Costa, did not achieve any seats despite gaining 1,382 votes. **(I will look at this in more detail on page 10.)**

To govern, a party would need 13 seats. The PP could govern with support of either Vox or C's.

They have chosen to rule with Vox.

As part of their "governance agreement" PP and Vox have described it as "a significant step towards stability and municipal development."

Vox will assume the departments of Culture, Tourism, Family, Youth, Statistics, Citizen Participation and Orihuela Costa. **The latter, Orihuela Costa, is newly created, which will be endowed with its own budget and will include the areas of Beaches and**

International Residents, as the new mayor, Vegara, promised in the electoral campaign, who recognized that the coastline "is abandoned", in response to the demands of neighbourhood associations. Mayor Pepe Vegara, is currently being investigated for a double crime against the Public Treasury, where the prosecutor is looking for a jail sentence of seven years. More on this on page 6.

In Orihuela Costa, a **new energy efficient Mercadona store** was opened in La Zenia. The supermarket, opposite Zenia Boulevard Commercial Centre, is based on a new environmentally friendly model and features a number of new sections, including a 'Ready to Eat' zone where you can enjoy ready-to-eat dishes. There's a rest area with tables and chairs, ergonomic and lightweight shopping trolleys, and wider shopping aisles, along with a large car park. Measures have also been taken to reduce energy consumption by up to 40% through improved insulation, an automated LED lighting system and the installation of 533 solar panels.

Three British men and a Romanian woman have been arrested in Orihuela Costa and San Miguel de Salinas for trafficking cannabis from the Vega Baja region of Alicante province to Ireland in posted packages. **"Honestly, we thought it was Spanish shamrock!"** Four suitcases containing 54 kilos of the drug were found in the ringleader's car. The operation culminated on May 18 and 22 with two house searches in San Miguel de Salinas and Orihuela Costa and the arrest of all the gang members, aged between 23 and 33.

Speed radars are back up and running on the kilometre 46.8 (the big hill!) of the N-332 road in Campoamor. The cameras have been re-calibrated on the stretch of the highway in the Vega Baja part of the stretch has a 70k limit and an unmarked stretch with a 100k limit! In fact there are three different speed limits on that short stretch of the N-332.

You will no doubt have heard about the Blue Flag awards for the best beaches. However, **Black Flags** are also given to beaches with high levels of pollution and poor management. Locally, **Cala Mosca** is the only beach to receive this dubious award. The only other beach in Alicante to receive the Black Flag is El Arenal de Xàbia further up the Alicante coastline.

Ten of the World's Greatest Rarities:

No. 4: A British tennis player with a can of silver polish.

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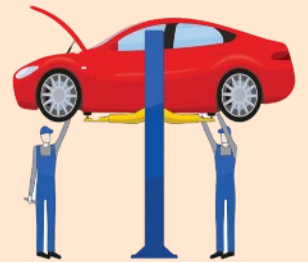
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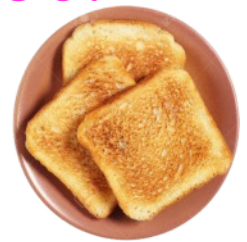
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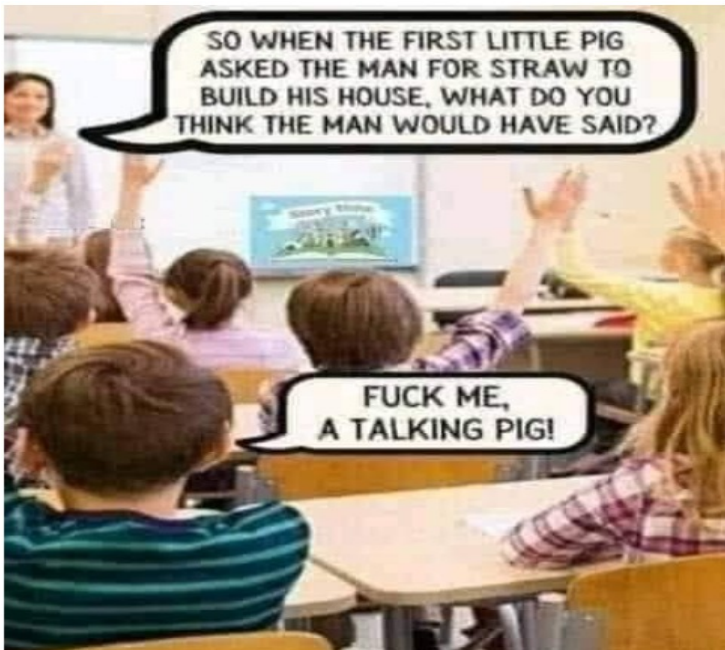


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BUILD HIS HOUSE, WHAT DO YOU
THINK THE MAN WOULD HAVE SAID?

FUCK ME,
A TALKING PIG!

DREAM HILLS BOOK SWAP

LA CASITA,

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Bring several, swop several!

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OPEN THURSDAYS

10:30am - 12:30pm

NEW ORIHUELA MAYOR IN TROUBLE!

The prosecutor, in his indictment, requests seven years in prison for Mayor Vegara (and three others) for alleged tax offence and false commercial documentation. He accuses them of concocting an operation, in 2005, which would have consisted of a contract by which 100,000 telephone books were acquired to give them away to clients of his company, Estación ITV, at a price of 17 euros each when the market price was 1.31 euro.

With this additional cost, the company sought to falsify the profit data, thus reducing corporate tax, in addition to deducting a fictitious VAT amount for the expense of these 100,000 items.

The prosecutor considers that with this operation, the Tax Agency was allegedly defrauded of large amounts of revenue. The prosecutor now requests that Vegara and the other three defendants be sentenced to pay a significant amount to compensate the public coffers.

What is it about the PP mayors in Orihuela?

When Tid and I first arrived in Spain, the then PP mayor, Jose Manuel Medina, was in court to justify, **amongst other things**, his unusually large and expensive personal car fleet.

Then PP Mayoress Monica Lorente and a gaggle of her staff were investigated for a number of crimes but the judge would not allow a number of police and other phone call recordings to be used as evidence by the prosecutors.

Later, the Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office has requested three years in prison for an alleged crime of embezzlement by the former PP Mayor Emilio Bascuñana having received remuneration without having been accredited that he carried out any measurable work for the Territorial Directorate of the Ministry of Health in Alicante between November 2007 and January 2012!

This was just before he became mayor.

But let's not forget the former PP mayor of Torrevieja, Pedro Hernandez Mateo, who was the city's mayor between 1988 and 2011. He was convicted in 2012 of perverting the course of justice and forging documents in the awarding of a refuse collection contract in 2004. He served three years in prison.

CAREFUL IN THE SUN!

Melanoma is a very common type of skin cancer that can quickly spread to other parts of the body.

Diagnosed cases have skyrocketed in the West in recent decades and in Spain, the Society of Medical Oncology (SEOM) expects to diagnose a scary 8,000 new tumours this year. If this grim prediction comes to light, it would mean a 30% increase in melanomas since 2020. The good news is that, while the incidence of skin cancer has increased, so has the five-year post melanoma survival rate. Today, once it's diagnosed early, around 90% of patients make a full recovery.

The first and most obvious tip from the experts is to avoid prolonged exposure to the sun, especially between 12pm and 4pm. The SEOM scientists also recommend a high SPF sun block, especially in the summer, although sunscreen should really be worn all year round. People with fairer skin and children should be all the more careful and anyone with moles on their body should monitor them regularly for any changes in size or colour. Surprisingly though, only around 20% of melanomas arise from an existing mole, with most appearing on 'normal' skin.

The ABCDE rule of melanomas

Knowing how to examine your own body at home and tell the difference between a regular mole and one that could be more sinister is relatively simple. To carry out a self-check, follow the ABCDE rule and seek medical attention if you notice any of the following:

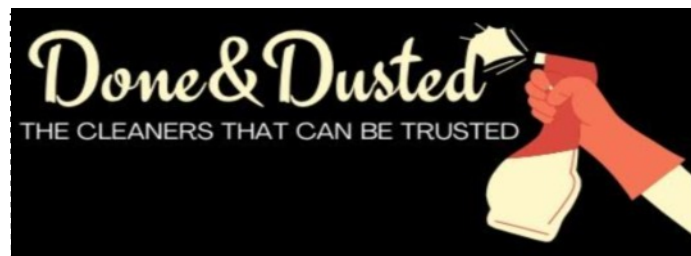
Asymmetry: refers to a mole that is not symmetrical or oval in shape.

Border: melanomas often have jagged or irregular edges, whereas non-cancerous moles usually have smooth and well-defined borders.

Colour: regular moles are normally all the one colour, but melanoma lesions can have several different hues.

Diameter: if the mole is more than 6mm in diameter (roughly the size of a pencil top), you should get it checked out.

Evolution: unlike most benign moles, melanomas will likely change shape, colour or size overtime.



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10 ORIHUELA COSTA AND THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION MAY 2023

Take a look at the top graphic to the right of the next column. This shows the municipality of Orihuela, an incredibly odd shape! In this particular article I will analyse the voting results in the recent local election for the area of Orihuela Costa alone, which is bordered by the Med' and Torrevieja to the north and San Pedro del Pinatar to the south. This will also include the thin pan-handle bit, which is bordered by San Miguel.

There were two big changes to the usual set-up of political parties. One was the debut of PIOC, Partido Independencia Orihuela Costa, into the contest, the other being a 'collective' of far-left parties, not affiliated to the main socialist party, the PSOE. One of the names they called themselves was *Compromis*.

In our large Costa area (the bottom part of the graphic), the total votes cast were as follows:

The PP 908 votes

PSOE 420 votes

C's 175 votes

VOX 388 votes

PIOC 1,336 votes

Compromis/Cambiamos 240 votes.

These figures show the strong presence of the PIOC in Orihuela Costa (O.C.), significantly outvoting any of the other parties and getting more votes than the PP and the PSOE combined. The PIOC very narrowly missed getting a seat on the council by a couple of dozen votes.

The O.C. is in the District 5 for voting and this is subdivided into three sections/areas- 2,3 &4, as you will see from the graphic opposite.

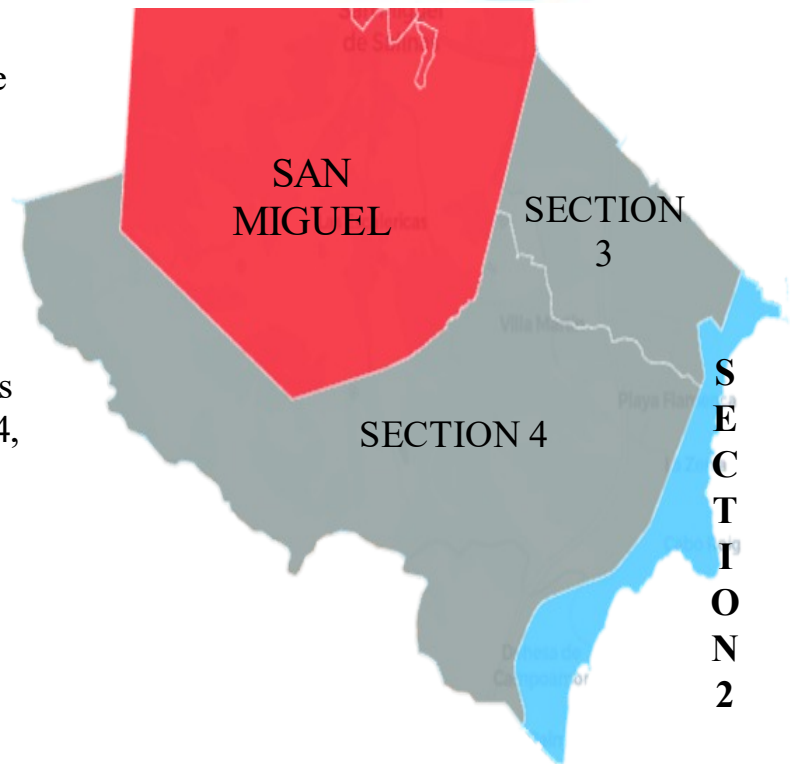
The voting by section went as follows-

Section 2: PP 240 votes; PSOE 71; C's 50; VOX 121 and PIOC 104.

Section 3: PP 325; PSOE 168; C's 54; VOX 112 and PIOC 629.

Section 4: PP 343; PSOE 181; C's 71; VOX 155 and PIOC 603.

Two things strike me as unusual about the above statistics. Firstly, the voting for the PIOC in Section 2 seems to be well out of kilter with the other sections, with VOX getting more votes there than PIOC? This seems very odd!



Secondly, VOX have now got municipal control of the whole Orihuela Costa area, including budgets, beaches, foreign residents etc., having only secured 388 votes in the whole O.C. area. Again, how very odd! The O.C. doesn't matter to the PP as long as they can collect our dosh!



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VIA PARK V

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FAIR COMMENT!

A large number of Britons were ordered to leave Sweden following Brexit and scores were subsequently deported for failing to meet a Brexit residency deadline.

"Some people just didn't care to take the measures that they had to do." These were the words of the outgoing boss of Sweden's migration agency who accused some Brits in Sweden of not taking enough care to ensure they acted to ensure they could stay in the country after Brexit.

"I think it's just a massive case of underestimation for some people who just assumed 'I don't have to do anything, said agency boss Mikael Ribbenvik. "I don't want to sound like a total evil person here, but I don't know. If I lived in another country and something changed, I'd check it. If you go 'well, I thought there was no problem and nobody told me', you're a bit oblivious!"

Phew! Close Shave!

I phoned the radio station today. The presenter answered and said, "Well done on being our first caller. All you need to do is answer the following question correctly, to win our grand prize!"

"That's fantastic!" I shouted in delight. The presenter said, "Its a maths question." "Well, I've got a degree in maths," I proudly replied, "and teach it at my local school."

"Ok then, to win our grand prize of 2 front row seats to a Justin Beiber concert and to meet him back stage, what is 2+2?"

"7" I replied.

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17:00 19:00 21:00

There may be adjustments
for the winter period.

SPAM CALLS TO REDUCE!

Getting spam calls from companies trying to sell you new products or getting you to change providers seems to be commonplace in Spain, but this could all be about to change with a new tele-communications law coming into force on June 30th. Article 66.1b of the latest reform of the General Telecommunications Law states that in order to protect the legitimate interests of consumers and users, operators are prohibited from making unsolicited telephone calls for the purpose or effect of promoting or selling goods and services. While you still may receive these types of calls from companies you've signed up for or for products you've agreed to hear about, the good news is the number of spam calls you receive is set to decrease.



WALKING FOOTBALL



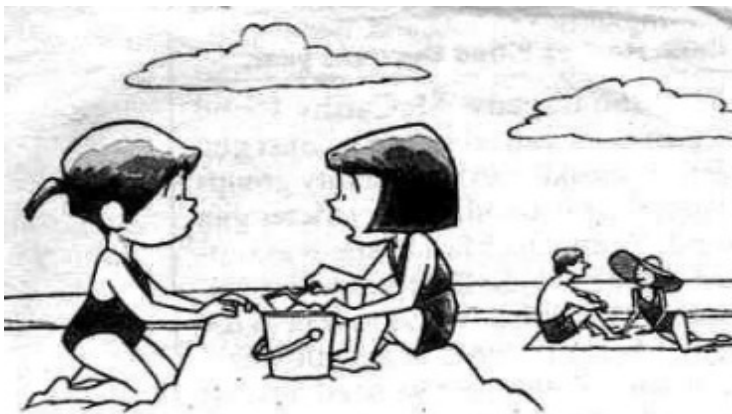
**Love Football ?
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*Playa Flamenca
Walking Wanderers
Sponsored by
CK1 Bar Via Park 3*

An overweight man was waiting in line at a bank. There were two teenage boys in line behind him. They were giggling and making fun of how fat the man was. After five minutes of this the man turned to the boys and asked them politely to stop, as he couldn't help his weight problem. With this the boys asked: "Oh, and why are you so fat Mister?" The man turned around and replied: "Well, every time I screwed your mother, she gave me a bar of Cadbury's."



**"I'm never having kids.
I hear they take nine months to download."**

A man is alone in an airport lounge. A beautiful woman walks in and sits down at the table next to him. He decides, that because she's wearing a uniform, she's probably an off-duty stewardess. Because her jacket is folded neatly beside her, he can't see any logos so he decides to have a go at picking her up by identifying the airline she flies for, thereby impressing her greatly. He leans across to her and says the British Airways motto: "To Fly. To Serve". The woman looks at him blankly. He sits back and thinks up another line. He leans forward again and delivers the Air France motto: "Winning the hearts of the world".

Again, she just stares at him with a slightly puzzled look on her face. Undeterred, he tries a third time, this time saying the Malaysian Airlines motto: "Going beyond expectations".

The woman looks at him sternly and says: "What the fuck do you want?" "Ah ha!" he says, "Ryanair".

KEEP THE NOISE DOWN!

Some Spanish holiday hotspots are taking a tougher line against rowdy tourists this year and the picturesque and popular Andalusian capital has come up with a novel way to ensure peace and quiet: noise meters that measure decibel levels in rental properties.

The local government in Seville has ruled that Airbnbs and other short-term rental apartments and villas will have to install these devices that will alert the owners if their tenants are being too loud. If the meter registers noise above the acceptable levels and the landlords or custodians fail to act, they will face hefty fines.

The radical move comes after months of complaints from locals, who have bemoaned the fact that many areas of the city are taken over by partying tourists particularly in the summer months.

SQUATTING - A RECENT CASE.

A British man had to be hospitalised in the Costa del Sol municipality of Manilva after being viciously beaten by squatters who had illegally holed up in his Malaga property, photo.

52-year-old Michael from Liverpool quickly booked a flight to Spain when neighbours called the UK to inform him people had moved into his holiday home. According to reports,

the Brit was smashed over the head multiple times with glass bottles when he asked the squatters, known as *okupas*, to vacate his



property.

When the Guardia Civil arrived at the scene, they allegedly told Michael "to file a complaint" with the Local Police once he was released from hospital!

A recent modification of the Housing Law appears to have made matters worse since *okupas* deemed 'vulnerable' or those whose habitual residence is the occupied property are even more difficult to evict .

Michael touched down in Malaga early on Tuesday May 30 and wasted no time in making the 100-kilometre journey to his Manilva home. After neighbours filled him in on what had been happening, he went to confront the squatters, who violently attacked him. The injured homeowner was taken to the Costa del Sol hospital in Marbella, having suffered two fractures to a finger, numerous cuts and slashes all over his body and extensive wounds on the left side of his head. In a complaint filed a couple of days later, Michael explained that, when he realised the locks to his apartment had been changed, he rang the doorbell several times but no one

answered. He then decided to climb through an open window, assuming that nobody was home. To Michael's surprise, three men were in the room and immediately launched an attack. The victim added that he only defended himself by pushing his assailants away and that at no time did he use an object or weapon.

Incredibly, the police advised Michael to book into a hotel rather than returning to his property, since the squatters, believed to be Moroccan, could actually file a complaint against him for entering the property without being invited - which they did! (This would later prove to be their downfall since the police were well aware of the brutal attack on Michael.) Michael then returned to the UK and enlisted the help of a lawyer, but held little hope that the illegal tenants would be ejected by the authorities. "I know what is going to happen, they are not going to do anything," Michael said. "I don't know if I'm going to return to Manilva."

However, the three men were taken in for questioning on Thursday June 8 and subsequently held on suspicion of drug trafficking, electricity fraud and possession of stolen furniture. There was no mention of the assault. Michael could now reoccupy his holiday home. The overall case, however, is still ongoing and the judge has called on both parties to give a full account of what happened on the day of the attack.

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NEW ANIMAL LAW

On June 30 this year, the new Animal Welfare Law (also called the Belarra Law), establishes a series of obligations for pet owners in general, and obligations for owners who live in communities of owners in particular. For people who have a pet and live in a community of owners in Spain, three obligations in particular stand out:

1. Take responsibility for any damage, harm or nuisance caused by the animal, **including excessive barking by dogs.**
2. Prevent animals from depositing their excrement and urine in places where other people usually pass by, such as the facades of buildings, doors or entrances to shops or businesses. And, if this does happen, they have the responsibility to clean and remove the mess with biodegradable products.
3. Not to keep an animal tied up or wandering around the common areas without the owner being aware of the care and behaviour of the animal. Likewise, it is forbidden to keep dogs and cats on terraces, balconies & roof terraces. In short, the usual place to keep the pet is **inside the house.**

The consequences of not complying with these obligations can result in either minor or serious infringements, which can lead to fines of between 500 and 10,000 euros; or between 10,000 and 50,000 euros, respectively.

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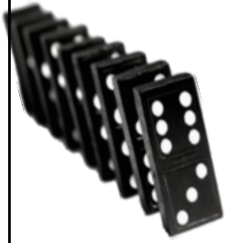
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MELISSA FANNING JULY 5

BEE RUMBLE JULY 12

RAIN O'CONNER JULY 19

SIMON JACKSON JULY 26

CHRIS PACKETT AUGUST 2

KARAOKE EVERY FRIDAY 8:30pm

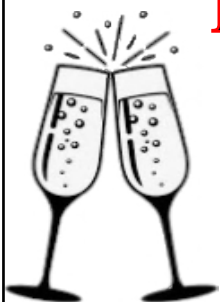
ASCOT LADIES DAY Thurs June 22. BBQ
LIVE AID DAY Thurs July 13.

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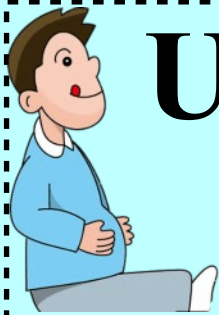
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My sister told me she is going out for a
drink later with that Bear Grylls bloke.

I replied, 'Are you taking the piss?'

She said, 'Nah, I'll probably just stick to
white wine.'

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WORDS OF WISDOM

Author Kurt Vonnegut (Slaughterhouse Five)
wrote this obituary/poem for
The New Yorker in May of 2005 .

True story, Word of Honour:
Joseph Heller, an important and funny writer
now dead, and I were at a party given by a
billionaire on Shelter Island.

I said, "Joe, how does it make you feel
to know that our host only yesterday may
have made more money than your novel
'Catch-22' has earned in its entire history?"
And Joe said, "I've got something he can
never have."

And I asked, "What on earth could that be,
Joe?"

And Joe said, "The knowledge that I've got
enough."

Not bad! Rest in peace!"

Kurt Vonnegut

Often we have no time for our friends
but all the time in the world
for our enemies.

Leon Uris

Don't sweat the petty things
And don't pet the sweaty things.

George Carlin

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

Benefit Rates 2023/2024

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

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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.

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YOUR NEW COUNCILLORS IN ORIHUELA

Pepe Vegara (PP) : Economic Regime (Treasury), Communication and Protocol.

María Agustina Rodríguez (PP) : Social Welfare, Equality and Human Resources.

Víctor Valverde (PP): Infrastructures and Maintenance, Rural Development, Employment and Emergencies.

Matías Ruiz (PP): Urbanism and Housing, Heritage (including Historical Heritage), Industry and Large Projects.

Rocío Ortuño (PP): Festivities, Modernization, Collection of Urban Solid Waste and Street Cleaning.

Mónica Pastor (PP): Hiring, Internal Regime, Citizen Security and Mobile fleet.

Vicente Pina (PP): Education and Commerce.

Víctor Manuel Sigüenza (PP): Sport and Transport.

Noelia Grao (PP): Agriculture, Environment and Markets.

Irene Celdrán (PP): Consumption, Transparency and Health.

Manuel Mestre (Vox): Coast (Beaches, International Residents, Maintenance and Coordination Services). See page 29.

Gonzalo Montoya (Vox): Culture and Tourism.

Ana Isabel Garcia (Vox): Citizen Participation and Youth.

María Carmen Portugal (Vox): Family and Statistics.



“I’m home...What a terrible day...I took your ladyshaver to work instead of my taser!”

BRIT’S STILL THE MAIN FOREIGN PROPERTY BUYERS IN SPAIN.

Based on quarter 1, 2023, figures from the Spanish land registrars’ association show that British buyers were once again the biggest group in the first quarter of this year, though less numerous than the same time last year.

2,216 Spanish home sales in the first quarter involved a buyer from the UK, down 15% on the same time last year.

British demand staged a decent recovery after the Covid-19 disaster before starting to cool off in the second half of 2022, and declining in the first quarter of 2023.

British demand was almost the same as 2019, slightly lower than 2018, and significantly lower than 2016 just before the Brexit referendum. So demand has recovered from the Coronavirus, but not from Brexit.

Despite an annualised decline of 15%, the British were still the largest group of buyers by foreign nationality (9.6% of the overall foreign market), above the Germans (7.6%) and the French (7.3%).

OTHER PROPERTY NEWS

The Bank of Spain says that house prices will continue to show "resistance to decline" despite the increase in borrowing costs and fall in property transactions. Insufficient permits for new construction, high construction-material costs, and the favourable financial situation of different market players are just some of the factors contributing to a stable prices amidst the housing supply-demand imbalance.

Rental contracts due for annual revision in June will be limited by the Housing Law to an increase of 2% over the next year. This cap will result in an average rent increase of around 180 euros per year, with the highest increases in Barcelona, San Sebastian, and Madrid. Consumer price inflation fell to 3.2% in May, down from a high of 10.8% last July. Without a rental price cap restricting annual revisions to 2% in place of inflation, the average rent would have risen by 288 euros in June.



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A few years back I was sat with a mate in the bar in Aberdeen airport when I spotted Red Adair the well known troubleshooter and problem solver in the oil industry . I said to my mate "Look, there's Red Adair!" He said "No it's not. Looks nothing like him". Well, I wouldn't let it drop so eventually he goes over and says "Excuse me sir, are you Red Adair?" Mr Adair says "Why yes young man, I'm Red Adair". My mate then says "Nice to meet you Mr Adair. Tell me, are you still knocking off Ginger Rogers?"

THE VIEW FROM ABROAD.

The municipal and regional elections which took place in late May were disastrous for the parties of the Spanish left. Although a general election was expected by many to be held before Christmas, the socialist PM Pedro Sanchez decided to call the general election quickly for July 23 in a damage limitation exercise.

In the international media there were some interesting opinions.

The Guardian wrote in an editorial that "the elections this summer in Spain have important ramifications for Europe as a whole. An overwhelming majority of Spaniards do not want to see (far-right) Vox anywhere near power. But recent elections in Italy, Sweden, and Finland indicate that authoritarian nationalists, who seek to foment anti-immigrant sentiment, wage culture wars, and roll back the rights of women and minorities, are becoming a feature, not a glitch. in Western European politics.

The Wall Street Journal believes that "Sunday's results also reflect a strong backlash against the Sánchez government's woke cultural policy" and that property rights are at risk after it "attempted to limit rent increases by adopting a permissive attitude towards the squatters and defaulters". "If last weekend's vote indicates anything," the WSJ concludes, "it's that voters are more concerned about the extremism of the Spanish left in power, and rightly so."

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WHERE DO THE BRIT'S LIVE?

According to the latest figures from Spain's Ministry of Migrations, there are a total of 409,763 Brit's living in Spain. This is over 115,000 more than the figure stated by Spain's official stat's body INE, who gauge the number by those with TIE cards, which, of course, not all Brit's have.

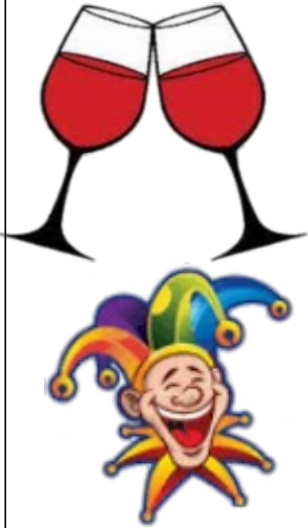
The sociological profile of British residents in Spain may be unsurprising to many. The average age is 54 years old, considerably higher than other non-Europeans migrant groups, most notably Pakistanis and Moroccans, both groups with median ages of 33 years.

Meanwhile, the latest data from the padrón register also shows where the majority of Brits live on a provincial level. And unsurprisingly the provinces housing the Costa Blanca and the Costa del Sol are the most popular. Of Spain's 50 provinces, Alicante in the Valencia region comes top once again with 76,739 Brits. This coastal province is of course home to popular spots among Brit's such as Benidorm, Torrevieja and Jávea, where those from Blighty represent anywhere between 10 and 30% of the total population and sometimes even run in municipal elections.

The Spanish province with the second biggest British population in 2023 is Málaga province with 56,019.

Spain has long been a popular retirement destination for Britons, and remains so despite the bureaucratic complications of Brexit. In fact, even after Brexit, 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 Brits residing in Spain has actually increased by 11,047 over the past year.

*Unspeakable, untalented
and vulgar young entertainer.
Bing Crosby on Elvis Presley*



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Medium rare – Pocho hecho, pero más

Medium – Hecho or al punto

Medium well done – Un poco más que hecho

Well done – Muy hecho or bien hecha

Cuts of beef:

Tenderloin – Solomillo

T-bone – Chuletón

Ribs – Costillar

Flank or skirt steak – Falda

Thin skirt steak – Entraña

Thick flank – Babilla

Rib eye – Entrecot or filete de costilla

Prime rib – Lomo alto

Sirloin – Lomo bajo

Rump – Cadera

Round steak – Redondo

Brisket – Pecho

Cheek – Carrillada

Oxtail – Rabo

A little boy goes to his father and asks,
“Daddy, how was I born?”

The father answers, “Well, son, I guess one
day you will need to find out anyway!

Your mom and I first got together in a chat
room on Google.

Then I set up a date via e-mail with your mom
and we met at a cyber-cafe. We sneaked into
a secluded room, and googled each other.

There your mother agreed to a download
from my hard drive.

As soon as I was ready to upload, we
discovered that neither one of us had used a
firewall, and since it was too late to hit the
delete button, nine months later a little Pop-
Up appeared that said: 'You've got male!'"

*One of the worst things that can
happen in life is to win a bet
on a horse at an early age.*

Danny McGoorty

LARGE SQUATTER EVOICTION

During early June, a large police force together with riot police and backed up by 20 police vans, evicted 62 squatter families from a block development in Madrid. Those evicted, who were mainly of Moroccan origin, included 180 children and adults with disabilities.

The company that originally owned the building went bankrupt in 2009 and left an empty building. However it was soon occupied by squatters. It has taken the current owners more than 13 years to get the people out.

Although several hundred police were involved in the operation, there were only two arrests.

One of them is a 54-year-old woman who had been hiding in the building for a long time, since she was due to go to prison for drug trafficking. At the time of the arrest, she was carrying 200 grams of cocaine hidden in her crotch. The other captured is a 47-year-old man who had an arrest warrant for violation of a restraining order for ill-treatment.

The squatters (and their lawyers) were notified of the eviction on May 29.

Drug growing and dealing were common in the block. The electricity company itself cut off the supply a long time ago due to exorbitant consumption linked to the illegal cultivation of marijuana. The tenants, however, went back to hook up clandestinely.

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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From the archives, the following one needs no explaining.....



A 50-year-old Lithuanian man was arrested 14 times in two months for not paying restaurant bills in Alicante. He had already served a 22-day prison sentence early in the year as he didn't pay a €900 fine for not paying for a steak meal during February. The fraudster, named as Aidas J, visited a restaurant in the city and racked up a €37 charge and used his old trick of pretending to be dizzy and unconscious so that an ambulance could take him to a medical centre. Paramedics recognised him from previous incidents and the Policia Nacional were called with officers arriving to see him lying on the ground. He miraculously regained consciousness and steadfastly refused to pay what was owed, so he was carted off for yet another court appearance and bail release. His frauds now total over €800 for unpaid food and drink and he was also previously arrested for stealing a €484 coat from a cafeteria.

The no-nonsense baggage rules of Ryanair are making the headlines once again, this time for trying to charge two tourists 45 euros each to carry pastries on their flight from the Balearic Islands. The holidaymakers had purchased a couple of *ensaimadas*, traditional Mallorcan pastries, before arriving at Palma Airport, but they soon lost their appetites when the airline demanded a payment for the 'extra carry-on'. Ryanair claimed the travellers were exceeding their hand luggage limit by taking the desserts on board and after a lengthy row the passengers dumped the cakes rather than

forking out for the fee.

Then there was the municipal election of Andrés Vallés and Germán Daniel Lanás, photo, in the small Navarra town of Murillo el Fruto, members of the little-known Partido



Cannábico-Luz Verde, which advocates the legalisation of marijuana. This is the first time ever in Europe pro-drugs

councillors have been voted into the local government. In a tongue-in-cheek speech after their success, the councilmen, who are frequently seen smoking joints in public, thanked the voters for "watering the seed of the legalisation of democratic cannabis" that had been "courageously planted" by their party.

Two teenage students from Palma's Madre Alberta college have been arrested by the Policia Nacional for hacking into the centre's computer network to obtain Baccalaureate exam questions. Two boys- both aged 17- are also said to have passed on the questions to their classmates. Their grades ended up being very high leading the teacher to become suspicious, but the boys denied doing anything wrong, as they continued to access other accounts. College heads reported the hacking in April and Policia Nacional cyber crime experts found two school IP addresses being accessed at the homes of the two student friends.

For foreign citizens living in the Orihuela area, it is possible to contact the new Councillor for International Residents and the department he oversees in Orihuela Costa via the email address inmigracion@orihuela.es or by phoning +34 96 530 66 45.



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Fridays: Various Artists - Coming SOON!

Sundays: Wayne Stewart - 4pm - 7pm

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Kanye West compares himself to Michelangelo, Picasso, Walt Disney and Steve Jobs.
Apparently none of them could sing either.



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ABUSE!

The number of domestic violence victims has risen in Spain for the eighth year in a row, according to the latest data from the National Statistics Institute (INE).

There were a total of 32,644 cases recorded in 2022, a rise of 8.3% on the previous year. The cases include any acts of physical or psychological violence, including threatening behaviour by a man to a partner or former partner.

The figures have risen every year since 2014, apart from in 2020 due to the effect of the coronavirus pandemic.

According to the INE data reported by news agencies, 1,376 minors in Spain also suffered some kind of abuse in 2022.

So far this year, 2023, 20 women have been killed at the hands of their partners or former partners.

Since official statistics began in 2003, 1,204 women have been murdered in domestic violence cases.

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Our carers can undertake light housekeeping, laundry and any duties identified during your assessment, they will also help with administration, care of pets and more.

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We believe good food is one of the most important pleasures for many of our clients, our carers are aware of the need to prepare healthy well balanced meals.

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HEALTH AND SAFETY

All clients need in relation to health and safety are individually addressed on their plan of care, this is undertaken at the point of assessment.

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We seek to ensure our clients continue to enjoy a stimulating and fulfilling lifestyle, we will work with you to understand enthusiasm and interest, cater for them

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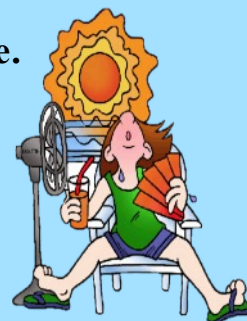


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Lime Bar Fishing SUNBATHING Club

At the end of May, 3 Rods, Dodger & Michael set off on a 5.5 hour trip to the Rio Ebro near Caspe, in search of catfish and big carp. Below is 3 Rods' report.

Monday morning and an early breakfast, then our guide (Steve) drives us to his permanent camp that he has set up on the river bank. 4 x cat rods and 2 x carp rods are already set up and ready to go, thanks to his accomplice (Lee) who actually lives in a camper van at the waters edge. The bait from all 6 x rods were duly delivered to the "hot" spots by boat. We then decided by coin toss, who would take the 1 st rod to have a run. Me 1 st (of course), then Michael, followed by Dodger. We didn't have long to wait and the 1st alarm was on a carp rod which resulted in a carp that tipped the scales at 25lb. Not bad as a warmer into the butts!

Next up was Michael, and what a fish. It was a cat that nearly pulled him in, and when he finally got it on the bank, it weighed in at 109lb. See photo. As this was a PB for Michael, he was treated to the traditional soaking with several buckets of water. We carried on taking turns as the rods bent over and had another cat of over 50 lbs. Steve (our guide) said "we don't weigh small cats!". This was followed by another 21lb carp and a 20+lb cat. What a 1 st day! We packed up and went back to our accommodation where Bev (Steve's partner) had made the evening meal.

Tuesday morning, we set off at 08.00 on a lovely sunny day with no sign of the forecast thunderstorms. By the time we arrived, Lee had set the camp up, dropped off the bait and set the alarms. It was Michael's turn 1st and he didn't have long to wait before he landed a 31.5 pound carp. Steve said we don't count the halves! We all replied, "We do where we come from!"

The carp continued with fish of 25lb, 22lb, 30lb, 29lb, 28lb, 22lb, 21lb and 15lb. The day was finished off with another cat of about 65lb. Again, Steve said we don't weigh tiddlers!

It was now time to pack up. A great days fishing to end on. A big thank you to Steve who runs "Catfishing Caspe", Bev and Lee for making it a very memorable couple of days fishing.

Michael states that 3 Rods hasn't mentioned in his report the 2lb carp fry that he caught?

I was away for the monthly match so Sweeney wrote the following match report.

With only 6 anglers participating, it was decided to fish El Bosquet again (pegs 8 – 16). It was a lovely morning, dry underfoot, but with a million mozzies which disappeared with the 1st rays of the sun. BFC on peg 15 landed his 1st fish within 3 minutes, closely followed by the Cat on peg 13 with me in between remaining "untroubled"! While I watched on, Yorkie and 3 Rods were also into fish. Antique man was hooking fish on his special sausage, but he contrived to lose them.

At lunch time the scores were, BFC-8, Cat-10, Sweeney-1, Yorkie-5, Antique Man-1 and 3 Rods-7. Most if not all the fish were coming from the far bank. Antique Man & Sweeney started fishing the near bank and had better luck (Sweeney landed a 5.03kg carp).

BFC won with 18kg, Yorkie was 2nd with 16kg, Sweeny was 3rd with 14.95kg.

The next meeting bun fight is at The Lime Bar on Tuesday 4th July (Independence Day).



Stay safe
Fishy fingers!
The Ghost

HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR SPANISH INCOME TAX RETURN?

You need to present a tax return in Spain if:

You are employed and have an annual income over €22,000 from a single employer.

You have earned over €15,000 from multiple employers, as long as the amount from the second or third employer exceeds €1,500 per year.

You are self-employed or have your own business.

Your income from yearly dividends, interest and capital gains exceeds €1,600.

You receive rental income over €1,000 per year.

It is the first year that you are filing a tax return in Spain.

The Spanish tax year runs from January 1st to December 31st, meaning that during the tax campaign this year, you will present your taxes from January 1st to December 31st 2022.

April 11th, – is the date when the income tax campaign began. From this date, you can present your taxes for 2022 online. According to Spain's tax agency the Agencia Tributaria, nine out of every 10 declarations are done online.

From June 1st until June 30th, you can present your personal income tax in person at the various Agencia Tributaria offices around the country. Remember that you will need to book a cita previa (appointment) in advance. Appointments can be booked from May 25th until June 29th.

June 27th is the deadline by which you must submit your tax return if you want to pay via direct debit or if you are owed any money back and what to be paid directly into your bank account.

June 30th marks the end of the tax campaign for earnings in 2022. However you decide to present your taxes, you need to make sure you do it by this date.

Late payment can result in penalties between 5% to 20% of the tax involved, plus interest.

Earl & Loop-de-Loop

Earl was an airplane pilot with many years of experience.

Now Earl always had a dream - to try to do a loop-de-loop with a Boeing 747.

So, on his last flight before his retirement, he told the passengers, "Hello, this is your captain Earl speaking. For many years, I wanted to try to do a loop-de-loop with a plane, and today is my last flight before retirement, so I wanted to ask you if I could try it now."

Many of the passengers knew Earl as a charming and very skilled pilot, so everyone decides to let Earl try his loop-de-loop.

"Do a loop, Earl! Do a loop, Earl!" they shouted.

Earl nails a perfect loop-de-loop.

Everyone starts clapping and chanting, "Bravo Earl! Bravo Earl!"

And as the clapping faded, a voice yelled out from the toilet, "Fuck you, Earl!"



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My friend said that his mate was so depressed, he owed £500 and had no way of paying it back. He drove to Beachy Head and sat at the edge of the cliff for two hours with his head just resting on the steering wheel. "Then!" he said "everyone had a whip round and raised the £500!" I asked: "Who had the whip round?" He said: "Everybody on the bus!"



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