



THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER



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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the October 2023 edition. Issue No.191

Well, in less than a handful of days, we have noticed some **cooling in the weather** with much lower humidity readings.

Spain's inflation rate is **now 2.4%** compared to 2.1% last month. It was 10.5% this time last year. More on prices inside, page 26.

Following the indecisive general election this summer, as neither of the large political parties have sufficient seats to form a government, the socialists are now trying to appease the separatist parties of both the Catalans and the Basques, particular the former to get their support in forming a government. This is **causing ructions** as the Catalan separatists are demanding wholesale pardons and a referendum on independence. Several former socialist prime ministers have condemned the proposals, but PM Sanchez is blinkered - power at any price! In a further attempt to please the separatists, the use of Catalan, Basque and Galician languages is now permitted in the national parliament in Madrid.

Saudi Telecom have just bought nearly **10% of Telefónica for €2.1 billion**, instantly becoming the largest shareholder. Belatedly, the government is now going to get involved under a defence industries clause related to foreign investors.

One of the most talked about parts of Spain's new animal welfare legislation is that **dog owners**, current and future ones, will now be required to complete a compulsory course, albeit online. See page 26.

Tommy's is a baby loss charity and deals with miscarriage, stillbirth, molar pregnancy, ectopic pregnancy, premature birth and anything concerned with baby loss. 1 in 4 pregnancies end in miscarriage. You will see

about their local fundraiser on page 17.

It's been **six months** since the UK and Spain finally reached their agreement to allow any British residents in Spain who hadn't previously done so to swap their UK driving licences for Spanish ones. If you managed to change your licence okay with no problems, congratulations. If you're not a resident in Spain, you're okay with your British licence still. **If you only became a resident less than 6 months ago**, you've got until 6 months from the date of your residency to make the swap. And if you just forgot to do it but still want to drive, you'll now have to sit a Spanish driving test.

The Local Development Agency (a public body dependent on the Alicante City Council) programs a series of courses with the aim of **promoting entrepreneurship** for the general public, the program offers sessions on business creation, getting clients with social networks, financing or how to prepare a viability plan for your project. Although their objectives are the same in the 'School of Female Talent' the courses offered are - Feng shui, mental well-being, the importance of image, emotional intelligence ... and wait for it....**Tarot Cards!** The course has now been cancelled. Many thanks to George R for kind donation. Annual sub's were due in August. Will send out PayPal requests soon.



"All the girls are off sick."

The missus just found out I replaced our bed with a trampoline. She hit the roof!

The president of the Valencia Generalitat, Carlos Mazón, has announced the drafting of a **new regional housing law** - to "stand up" to the one approved by the Government of Pedro Sánchez, which will include "measures to protect owners and fight against squatting," in addition to the promotion of the social function of housing. He committed to build at least 10,000 officially protected homes in the autonomy in the coming years, of which 4,000 would be located in Alicante. The 99% reduction in the Inheritance and Donation/Gift Tax is already in place. He also wants to coordinate the judicial appeals against the reduction of the Tagus water transfer ordered by the socialist government. In addition, the next creation of a Water Table for the Valencian Community has been advanced.

Also being discussed is the need for the second runway at Alicante airport and the question of making a direct air connection with the "United States" is being addressed.

A 44-year-old Peruvian man lost his life in a traffic accident that occurred in the early hours of Saturday morning (Sept'3) on the **N-332 ring road** in Torrevieja. The head-on collision occurred around four in the morning near the Park of Nations. The second car, a rental, was driven by an Irish man, who fled the scene of the accident. He was arrested a day or so later and released on bail.

Alicante has lost a subsidy of **535,000 euros** from the Provincial Council by submitting the application after the deadline - May 15, 2023. Alicante is the only one of the 73 applicant municipalities excluded from the process for not meeting the deadline. Alicante did not register its application until two weeks after the deadline. For his part, councillor and provincial deputy Raúl Ruiz stated that Alicante "cannot afford to lose that subsidy when it has half of its sports centres closed due to lack of maintenance, public parks that are increasingly abandoned and many clinics in a truly dilapidated state." Alicante City Council's problems with subsidies from other administrations are not new. In fact, in recent months there has been a succession of refunds of aid granted mainly by the Generalitat.

The last blunder that was known, related to providing housing solutions aimed at vulnerable groups, which was 246,000 euros lost! So it is not just Orihuela who are cocking things up!

The Commercial Court of Seville has sentenced an airline, whose name has not been released, to compensate a passenger, a resident of the Andalusian capital, in the amount of **30,792.93 euros**, after suffering a fall (three years ago) while getting off of the plane on a Seville-Alicante flight, suffering several subsequent physical problems, including two operations on a leg, according to the Efe agency. The sentence cites that the plane's staircase in Alicante "was especially narrow and steep," and for reasons beyond the woman's control she suffered a spectacular fall, rolling from the second step at the top to the end of the staircase, suffering serious injuries.

The Alicante Provincial Council has once again asked the Supreme Court for a precautionary stoppage of the cut in the Tajo-Segura **water transfer**, insisting on the economic damage that the reduction in flows could cause for the province of Alicante - a loss of more than 84 million euros and the disappearance of more than 2,400 jobs. The Supreme Court has already rejected the request that was provisionally raised by both the Generalitat Valenciana, the Provincial Council and the irrigators. The president of the Provincial Council Toni Pérez himself has admitted that it will be difficult for the appeal to succeed but has assured that they would exhaust all possible avenues to defend the interests of the province.

A 76-year-old British woman was found **stabbed to death** in her home at Zenia Golf urbanisation, Orihuela Costa. Her 82-year-old Norwegian partner has been arrested on suspicion of murder. "We can confirm that today at 7.40am we were alerted to a possible domestic violence incident at a property in Orihuela Costa which resulted in the death of the victim" a spokesperson for the Guardia Civil confirmed on Friday, September 15.

The Beauty Lounge

Unisex Hair & Beauty



The Beauty Lounge - Via Park 111

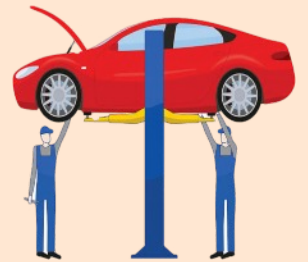
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SATURDAY

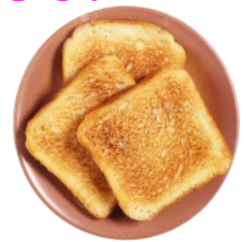
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The next day we named the dog Curiosity.

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VIA PARK III

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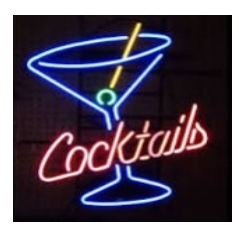


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- SEX ON THE BEACH**
- BLACK RUSSIAN**
- CKI SPECIAL**
- GREEN LAGOON**
- BLUE LAGOON**
- SCREWDRIVER**
- ALL ONLY €6!**



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The IBI

Spain's property tax, the IBI or Impuesto sobre Bienes Inmuebles, is now due.

As a municipal tax, it is usually levied by the local town hall rather than the state, so IBI rates can vary from one municipality to the next.

The annual payment period is the period of time established by the regulations for the payment of taxes and fees. After this deadline, surcharges and other charges are applied.

This year's payment period is from 25 July to 10 October 2023.

The IBI rate in Orihuela Costa is much lower than that of Torrevieja, mainly because we have f*ck-all services here!

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 NEW EMERGENCY LIGHT

The DGT has already warned drivers that starting in January 2026, all vehicles must have the V-16 emergency light. Until then you can use the triangles, but after this date, this will be the only signalling method allowed.

Some drivers have already begun to acquire these devices, whose main objective is to guarantee the safety of drivers since they do not force you to leave the vehicle in the event of an accident or breakdown.



Several people have been killed placing the triangles.

If you're wondering where you can get one, several are available online. The supermarket chain, Lidl, has put on sale the 'Gloria Emergency Light with Magnet', which has a luminosity that becomes ultra bright at night, visible up to 1,000 meters in clear visibility.

This emergency light for cars from Lidl can also be used in danger areas in the private sector, as well as on sports boats, sailing boats, hiking, paragliding, skydiving, mountaineering and much more. Best of all, it is available at a discount. You can buy it there for only 9.99 euros.

OUCH!

A waiter approached our table and asked us if we enjoyed our meal.

'It was absolutely delicious, I ate every last bit!' said my wife.

'And, sir?' said the waiter. 'How did you find the pork belly?'

'Oh, about six years ago, we met on holiday.'

Home Remedy?

The wife's been moaning at me for a while as I've piled on the pounds and developed a spare tyre, so I went along to the doctor and asked if there was anything I can do.

He said, 'It's simple. Don't panic. Just do something a couple of times a week that gets you slightly out of breath.'

So I started smoking again.

SURGE PRICING IN BRIT PUBS

A pint of beer may cost more during peak hours at some pubs owned by Britain's largest pub company, which has in recent weeks adopted surge pricing.

About 800 of the 4,000 pubs owned by the company, Stonegate Group, are either using "dynamic pricing," in which prices rise at times of increased demand, or may use it in the future to help cope with higher costs for staffing and licensing requirements, Maureen Heffernan, a spokeswoman for Stonegate said.

Stonegate owns the popular pub chains Slug & Lettuce and Craft Union. Ms. Heffernan said that the timing of surge pricing, in which a pint of beer would cost about 20 pence more, would vary by pub, but that generally prices would be higher on weekends and evenings.

In July, the average price for a pint of draft lager was £4.31 up from £4 a year earlier, according to Britain's Office for National Statistics. Customers have become accustomed to surge pricing across various industries, including retail and travel. But some Britons said applying it to pubs went too far.

Ms. Heffernan, the Stonegate spokeswoman, said the company had previously raised prices during England's soccer matches at the World Cup. Under the new pricing strategy, reported earlier by The Telegraph, prices will also go down at quieter times. (Oh, yea!) British pubs have struggled with high inflation in recent years, with many having had to shut their doors. Stonegate reported a loss of £23 million in the six months ending in April, citing Britain's cost-of-living crisis. (If you are a publican in Spain, don't get any ideas!)

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LOCAL

The Good Lawyer.

A lawyer arrived home late, after a very tough day trying to get a stay of execution for a client who was due to be hanged for murder at midnight. His last minute plea for clemency to the governor had failed and he was feeling worn out and depressed.

As soon as he walked through the door at home, his wife started on him about, 'What time of night to be getting home is this? Where have you been? Dinner is cold and I'm not reheating it'.

And on and on and on.

Too shattered to play his usual role in this familiar ritual, he went and poured himself a shot of whiskey and headed off for a long hot soak in the bathtub, pursued by the predictable sarcastic remarks as he dragged himself up the stairs.

While he was in the bath, the phone rang. The wife answered and was told that her husband's client, James Wright, had been granted a stay of execution after all.

Wright would not be hanged tonight.

Finally realizing what a terrible day he must have had, she decided to go upstairs and give him the good news. As she opened the bathroom door, she was greeted by the sight of her husband, bent over naked, drying his legs and feet. 'They're not hanging Wright tonight,' she said.

To which he whirled around and shouted, 'FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, WOMAN, DON'T YOU EVER STOP?'

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*Mark, Darren & George welcome customers
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EVERY THURSDAY AT 3PM.
MAXIMUM 16 PLAYERS.



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What do you call an Amish guy with his hand up a horse's arse?
A mechanic.

Predicting the Future

"Who in their right mind would ever need more than 640k of ram!?"

-- Bill Gates, 1981

"Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons."

-- Popular Mechanics, forecasting the relentless march of science, 1949

"I think there is a world market for maybe five computers."

-- Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943

"I have travelled the length and breadth of this country and talked with the best people, and I can assure you that data processing is a fad that won't last out the year."

-- The editor in charge of business books for Prentice Hall, 1957

"But what ... is it good for?"

-- Engineer at the Advanced Computing Systems Division of IBM, 1968, commenting on the microchip.

"There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home."

-- Ken Olson, president, chairman and founder of Digital Equipment Corp., 1977

"This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us."

--Western Union internal memo, 1876.

"The wireless music box has no imaginable commercial value. Who would pay for a message sent to nobody in particular?"

-- David Sarnoff's associates in response to his urgings for investment in the radio in the 1920s.

"The concept is interesting and well-formed, but in order to earn better than a 'C,' the idea must be feasible."

-- A Yale University management professor in response to Fred Smith's paper proposing reliable overnight delivery service. (Smith went on to found Federal Express Corp.)

The Princess & the Frog.

A princess is walking along a pond in the royal garden, when she looks down and sees a really ugly frog. Picking the frog up, she comments on the creature's rather hideous appearance.

Princess: 'My, but you are really an ugly frog!'

Frog: 'I now, I know, I got a really bad spell on me.'

Princess: 'Well, I've seen frogs with spells, but none as ugly as you.'

Frog: Look, leave me alone, my dear. I told you, it's a really bad spell.'

Princess: 'Well, even so, if I kiss you, will you turn into a prince?'

Frog: 'I don't know, dear. A spell this bad will probably take a blowjob.'

'You worked in an office once, didn't you, Jill?' A feminist asked earnestly. Did men harass you?'

'Yes,' I replied, but not nearly enough.' Jilly Cooper

Police Bust Murcia and Alicante Crime Ring That Falsified Ids for Foreigners

Spanish police have dismantled a criminal network that falsified ID cards of foreign nationals as a way of defrauding the Social Security system. A total of 17 people have been arrested, including 10 foreign citizens who were working in Spain with stolen identities knowingly provided by their owners. Police became aware of the existence of a network that, through false documentation, provided foreign citizens with their personal data in order to be able to get a job, despite not being properly registered in Spain. As compensation for knowingly and willingly selling their personal data, the true owners of the identities on the cards received at least a part of those workers' salaries and also benefited from the Social Security contributions paid in their names to be able to claim future unemployment benefits and pensions.



Helen's Bar



(Formerly JJ's Cafe/Bar)

VIA PARK V

OPENING HOURS

TUESDAY - SATURDAY 1pm - 10pm

SUNDAY 2pm - 7pm

WEDNESDAY FUN DARTS 7pm

WITH ASHLEY



THURSDAY STEAK NIGHT 6pm

Pre booking essential

FRIDAY - QUIZ WITH SUE

FROM 6.00pm



SATURDAY

- CHICKEN CURRY NIGHT

FROM 6pm. WITH FRIES OR RICE & SALAD

BOOKING ESSENTIAL!

SUNDAY

- QUIZ & STANDUP BINGO

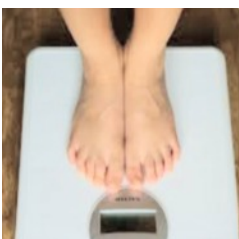
with John - 3pm start.



JILLY'S SLIMMING CLUB

THURSDAYS 4pm

New Members Welcome!



I've reached an age where my train of thought often leaves the station without me.



KATI'S BAKERY

VIA PARK 3 (Next to the Lime Bar)

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PIES, SCOTCH EGGS etc.

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It is a pity, as my husband says, that more politicians are not bastards by birth instead of vocation.

Katherine Whitehorn

SLUSH  **POOLView** 
Snack Bar

VIA PARK V

Sunny South facing terrace

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- PIES • PASTIES • BURGERS • HOT DOGS
- GREAT VALUE MEAL DEALS FROM 5€**

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(Pre book essential)

Sunday Roast served 2-7

(Pre book essential)

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It was our son that kept our marriage together. Neither of us wanted custody of him.

Roy Chubby Brown



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Doing Smith a favour?

Smith says to his friend Pat, "Listen Pat. I'm sleeping with the Pastor's wife.

Can you hold him in Church for an hour, after the Church Services finishes, for me?"

Pat doesn't like it, but being Smith's longtime friend, he agrees.

So after Service, Pat starts talking to the Pastor, asking him all sorts of stupid questions, just to keep him occupied.

Finally the Pastor gets annoyed and asks Pat, "What are you really up to?"

Pat, feeling real guilty, finally confesses to the Pastor. "My friend Smith is sleeping with your wife right now, and he's asked me, to keep you occupied for an hour."

The Pastor smiles, puts a comforting hand on Pat's shoulder and says, "My Son. You better hurry on home now cos my wife died nearly two years ago."

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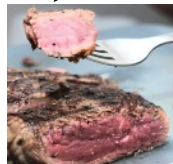
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STEAKS

SEA BASS



& MUCH MORE!

MENU DEL DIA €8.50

More than 200,000 Brits in Spain Haven't Exchanged Residency Documents

A new study by Spain's immigration observatory has revealed just how many Brits are yet to exchange their residency documents following Brexit.

The figures from July 2020 to June 2023 show that 159,604 UK nationals successfully exchanged their old residency documents for a TIE, the card that enshrines their residency rights as part of the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement.

This means over half of the total number of Britons in Spain - 211,274 people to be exact - have not exchanged their old EU residency certificate for the TIE.

According to immigration observatory data, as of December 31st 2022 there were 412,040 Britons living in Spain.

That is 4,412 more than the previous year and represents a 1% rise. It also includes new UK arrivals who don't enjoy Withdrawal Agreement (WA) rights and apply like any other non-EU candidate.

Though UK nationals legally residing in Spain before the Brexit deadline are within their rights to keep their old EU green residency certificate (Certificado de Registro de Ciudadano de la Unión), both the UK and Spanish governments have for some time strongly recommended that they exchange it for the non-EU foreigner identity card, known as the TIE (Tarjeta de Identidad de Extranjero).

The data shows that after an initial surge in exchanges in the second half of 2020 when the WA TIE first became available to UK nationals, the number of Brits turning in their old residency certificates to get TIE cards has slowed down significantly since then.

Is it necessary to exchange my documents? Technically speaking it isn't as the exchange remains optional. But the TIE has a photo on it and can make many bureaucratic processes in Spain much simpler, as well as **alleviating any potential travel friction on borders** when travelling to and from Spain. The TIE does have to be renewed, however, whereas the green certificate doesn't have an expiry date.

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TOMMY'S CHARITY DAY

CK1 BAR

VIA PARK 3, LOS ALTOS, OCTOBER 11

Tommy's charity day!

Wednesday 11th
October 2pm
onwards at CK1

Entertainment
from Chloe Leigh,
Rebecca Holt,
Stevie Spit, Andy
Copp, Diane Diaz,
Lee David, Stevie
Marsh

Raffle tickets
available from the
bar. 2€ a strip or 3
strips for 5€

Fun games, music, the
big raffle draw!
Prizes include CASH!
Lots of meal
vouchers, 100euro
permanent beauty
voucher, CBD
products, alcohol, and
so so much more!!!



Tommy's helps families that are going through
miscarriage or baby loss to get the mental and
physical help and support that they need as well
as conducting vital research

Tommy's raffle prizes

- *100€ Jades lasting beauty voucher
- *6 months pool maintenance worth 400€
- *CBD bodycare bundle
- *20€ KaKa clothing voucher
- *Saturday night steak for 2 and bottle
of wine at CK1
- *50 euros CASH
- *2x vouchers for Katis Bakery
- *2x vouchers for kaceys bar
- *Friday night fish and chips and bottle
of wine for 2
- *Nails voucher
- *Wax melts from Ks perfect scents
- *Car aircon regas
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- *Roast dinner for 2 CK1
- *Chocolate bouquets
- *Afternoon tea for 2 at Cwtch
- *Wine hampers
- *Lots of alcohol
- *Jewellery and accessories
- *Voucher for Pool View Bar
- *Mesotherapy or microneedling facial

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Mabel felt that it was only
polite to let the nice young
man finish before telling him
he was at the wrong house.

SPAIN'S NEGATIVE NATURAL GROWTH IN POPULATION

Spain's population swelled by an impressive half a million people in the last year – a boom that was driven almost entirely by foreigners. According to the latest Continuous Population Survey (ECP), the country's population surged by 537,611 individuals between July 2022 and July 2023. **But Spanish nationals accounted for a paltry 3% (13,524) of the growth.**

The foreign-born population in Spain has now reached 6.34 million, making up 13% of the country's 47.8 million inhabitants. But Spanish citizens still dominate, totalling over 42 million people, representing 86.9 % of Spain's Population. Over the past year, the foreign national population experienced growth in all provinces and autonomous cities in Spain. Particularly significant increases were seen in the northern (and more temperate) regions of A Coruña (16.7%), Lugo (15.44%), and Asturias (15.11%).

The ECP survey reveals that the foreign-born population was the driving force behind population growth in 24 of the 32 provinces, where the Spanish-born population saw a decline.

Foreign nationals played a particularly prominent role in demographic growth, especially in provinces like Valencia, where they accounted for 98.1% of the total increase,

Barcelona at 96.84%, Seville with 96.48%, and Lleida at 96%.

As of July 2023, the provinces with the highest percentage of foreign nationals in their population included Alicante (22.9%), Almeria (22.4%), and Girona (21.8%).

Conversely, the provinces with the lowest percentage of foreign nationals in their population were Jaén (3.4%), Córdoba (3.5%), and Badajoz (3.8%).

Additionally, INE data highlights that Spain has been grappling **with negative natural growth, with deaths surpassing births since 2017.**

The monthly number of births for the first half of 2023 reached its lowest point in the past eight years, totalling 155,629 births, marking a 2.5% decrease compared to the previous year. Moreover, Spain's population became the sixth oldest in the European Union in 2022, with an average age of 45.1 years. Over the last decade, Spain has witnessed a significant ageing process, with the average age rising by 4.3 years, second only to Portugal within the European Union, as stated by the European Office for Statistics, Eurostat.

However, population projections from INE still indicate that Spain is anticipated to experience a net population increase of approximately 5.6 million by 2036 – due to migration, of course.

*I'd only marry again if I found a man who had 15 million dollars,
would sign over half of it to me before marriage,
and guarantee he'd be dead within a year.*

Bette Davis



"Tech support says the problem is located somewhere between the keyboard and my chair."

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KISSING ON THE CHEEKS

Kissing on the cheeks isn't all that common around the world, meaning that foreigners in Spain sometimes get this traditional greeting wrong, which can lead to some awkward situations.

Most of the time, when a man and woman, or a woman and another woman, meet or are introduced to each other in a social setting, they give each other two kisses on the cheeks.

If it's two men then they tend to shake hands or hug depending on how close they are. Spanish men don't kiss male friends as much as they do in Italy or France, although it's more common among fathers and sons.

It's one kiss on each cheek, starting on the left side (as in your head goes to the left and your right cheek presses against theirs). This can be particularly confusing for kiss-giving nationals like the French who start on the right.

It doesn't necessarily have to involve lip-cheek contact either, often it's rather cheek to cheek, lightly brushing against each other.

Don't worry, you are unlikely to be accused of sexual abuse for giving an acquaintance or friend two kisses as a greeting, nor are they ever likely to pull back (hacer la cobra, 'do the cobra' as this is colloquially known) given that greeting someone with two kisses is a tradition in Spain dating back to the Romans.

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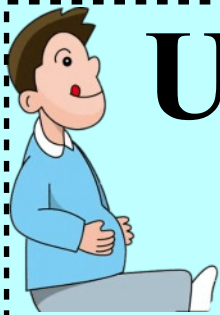
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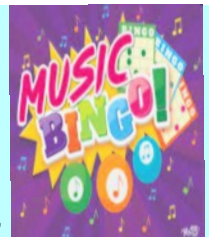
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NEW GOLF COURSES

DELAYED

Twenty future golf courses await authorisation from the Segura Hydrographic Confederation (CHS), an essential procedure so that they can obtain the corresponding irrigation water concessions with resources from water treatment plants and, to a lesser extent, wells.

These projects, distributed in the Region of Murcia, Alicante and Almeria, would almost double the current number of golf courses, which stands at 27 facilities which together consume 11.2 cubic hectometres of water per year. The CHS, however, does not plan to grant new authorizations in the medium term, **so the new courses will have to wait until at least 2039.**

Whether all or any of these courses will ever come to fruition is debatable, particularly as half the courses are in the Mar Menor watershed, an area around the salt water lagoon with strict irrigation regulations after the environmental disaster in recent years. Others have already fallen victim to legal decisions or to the collapse in the Spanish property market as long ago as 2007.

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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. 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.

Can any other social care advisor offer you the same???

METAL DETECTING & BEACHES

The ADAPT metal detecting club is operating in South Alicante/Murcia, Spain

We have 32 English-speaking members spaced over Alicante and north Murcia, Six of the members are UK-based and take every opportunity to join us when they come on holiday here in Spain several times a year.

As our metal detecting club has been pushed into beach and surf detecting due to the Spanish detecting laws on dry land, we are still thriving after 13 years. We go out to the beaches along the coast 3 days a week all year long enjoying the fresh warm air and fantastic sunrises. But importantly, we have to get up early and travel up to 40 minutes to get to a beach venue.

With the Mediterranean, we only have about 2 metres of tidal activities. But the clear warm seas compensate for this.

Due to our restrictions in metal detecting on any land, we have moved our club efforts to help some environmental issues regarding the metal pollution invisible to the human eye on the beaches and in the sea. This isn't as bad as you think as we are at least helping to downsize the polluted environment in a small way.

The amount of metal rubbish found on the beaches and shallow surf is phenomenal.



We also collect the discarded fishing lead weights and give them to a charity "The Hippocampus Group Save the Mar Menor" involved with helping the

most wonderful sea creatures, the sea horses which are almost extinct due to the toxicity of the Mar Menor, Murcia.

Our club also likes the camaraderie between our diverse members male and female. when we've finished our club beach meetings, we all

go and have a much-deserved coffee somewhere, and then we go home to our day-to-day family life.

Last year in August 2022 CH5 contacted me because they were interested in what we were doing different from most detecting clubs.

After several interviews, they came over to film us over 2 days. You can see their film on our activity on My5 series 9 episode 23. It was fun. We also got the film converted to YouTube without the adverts for a wider audience: See the link below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmK03nclXfg>

CH5 kept in touch with me and this year 2023 in June they came to film us again and we ended up on La Zenia Beach just cleaning up the discarded metal that's just beneath the sand invisible to the naked eye. They are planning to broadcast this film sometime in January 2024. Since then we have had interest from the No. 1 UK metal detecting magazine "The Searcher" and they published a piece I wrote for them in the October 2023 edition of their magazine.

This year we altered our approach to helping charitable causes. We now sponsor the Adapt Theatre Group (ATG), in essence, we sponsor the cost of putting on their yearly pantomime, they then produce a pantomime culminating in three sell-out shows in the San Pedro local theatre, all the proceeds are then given to various charities, thereby increasing the the money we donate by around 500%.



We are still looking for new members to join our club and I even offer free training for about one hour at La Zenia Beach to see if you would like it.

<https://adapttheatregroup.wordpress.com/adapt-metal-detecting-group/>

Roderick Toms (photo)

ADAPT Metal Detecting Team Leader

r.toms@btinternet.com

Another Looooong Story!

A golfer was involved in a terrible car crash and was rushed to the hospital. Just before he was put under, the surgeon popped in to see him. "I have some good news and some bad news," says the surgeon. "The bad news is that I have to remove your right arm!"

"Oh God no!" cries the man. "My golfing is over! Please Doc, what's the good news?"

"The good news is, I have another one to replace it with, but it's a woman's arm. I'll need your permission before I go ahead with the transplant."

"Go for it doc" says the man. "As long as I can play golf again."

The operation went well and a year later the man was out on the golf course when he bumped into the surgeon.

"Hi, how's the new arm?" asks the surgeon.

"Just great," says the businessman. "I'm playing the best golf of my life. My new arm has a much finer touch and my putting has really improved. "That's great," said the surgeon.

"Not only that," continued the golfer, "my handwriting has improved, I've learned how to sew my own clothes and I've even taken up painting landscapes in watercolours."

"Unbelievable!" said the surgeon, "I'm so glad to hear the transplant was such a great success. Are you having any side effects?"

"Well, just one problem," said the golfer. "Every time I get a hard on, I get a f*cking headache."



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There was a display of wedding gifts some days before a wedding. Among the many lovely gifts was a large envelope from the groom's father, on which was written, 'Cheque for five thousand pounds.'

'Who is that strange man pointing at your father's cheque and laughing?' the bride asked.

The groom answered, 'That's my father's bank manager!'

Spain's New Ley De Bienestar Animal or Animal Welfare Law

In the September edition of the newsletter, details of the new requirement for dog owners to take out civil liability insurance was outlined. The new law will officially enter into force on September 29th 2023, six months after its publication in the Official State Gazette (BOE). The law is an incredibly wide-ranging piece of legislation but one particularly eye-catching part is that **it will be mandatory for dog owners to take a short training course.**

According to Article 30 of the bill: "people who opt to be dog owners must accredit the completion of a training course for dog ownership, which shall be valid indefinitely." The course will be free, can be completed online, and compulsory both for those who are going to adopt a dog and for those who are already owners. It can be completed in person or online, and its objective is to acquire basic knowledge "in the handling, care and keeping of animals".

Though the exact details of the course are yet to be announced, Spain's General director of Animal Rights, Sergio García Torres said last year that: "We are talking about a short training course. It's very similar to courses that food handlers take to work in restaurants. It's a free course that is done online and is relatively easy." As part of the course, you will also have to take out civil liability insurance, in order to protect third parties, and must agree that you will not leave your dog home alone for more than 24 hours or locked up on a balcony, terrace or patio.

At the moment, the specific content of the course is unclear but will, according to the law, "be determined by regulation". However, Spain's Royal Canine Society has announced that it will include at least three parts: one on care and veterinary care, another on animal welfare and another on animal legislation. Once completed, the accreditation will be valid indefinitely. Both current dog owners and future owners will have two years from the date of entry into force of the law - i.e. it must be completed within the time window of 29th September 2023 to 29th September 2025. **If you fail to take the course, you will face a fine of between €500 and €10,000.**

INFLATION...OR GREEDFLATION?

Many of us will call it 'greedflation' or 'excuseflation' but the Bank of Spain has found that in the past two inflation-hit years certain businesses and companies increased their prices by much more than their costs had risen. According to the Bank's report, Spain's energy companies that benefited the most from price increases. In the refining sector, for example, costs rose by 50% but prices grew by 67% on average.

Electricity and gas companies were major offenders. Although their production costs were 56% higher, prices for consumers increased by 90% in some cases. Of the phone companies, Vodafone, Movistar and Orange were the worst offenders. Vodafone has put up its mobile-only tariffs by €2.50 per month and its package tariffs by €5.50 per month. Movistar has put its prices up by 6.8% on average, and Orange has increased its rates for fibre, mobile and TV tariffs by €2 per month and €5 per month depending on the package deal. But let's not forget the biggest supermarkets. According to figures from Organización de Consumidores y Usuarios (OCU), Spain's main consumer watchdog, two Spanish supermarkets have put up prices the most: DIA and Mercadona, where the average rises are between 10% and 15%.

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A Barcelona library specialising in Latin American literature has been named the best new public library in the world by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions at its congress in Rotterdam.

The library, named after the Nobel-winning Colombian novelist Gabriel García Márquez, opened last year in the working-class neighbourhood of Sant Martí de Provençals.

In awarding the prize, the jury praised both its architecture and its innovative approach to encouraging local people to use the resource, the interaction between staff and the local community, the flexibility of the spaces and services, the commitment to learning and the sustainability of the building.

“We’ve received the prize precisely because we opted for a model that makes the library an extension of the home, with armchairs and spaces that invite people to feel at home,” said Neus Castellano, the library’s director.

“This had led to small children and elderly people in particular spending hours in the library, and they don’t come just to take out books and they spend much longer here. The neighbourhood, which is densely populated and has a lot of students, really needed this library.” It has a capacity of 800 but some days has hosted as many as 1,300 people.

Later this year the library will open a “room of the senses” designed for children with special needs and learning difficulties.



SPANISH HOME SALES

Spanish home sales declined by 18% in July compared to last year, according to the latest data from the notaries. Compared to last year's boom the downward adjustment is picking up steam.

There were 57,255 Spanish home sales witnessed by notaries during July, down 18% nationally with much bigger declines on the Spanish islands.

Sales are down compared to last year's post-pandemic boom, but still higher than in 2019. So far it looks like the market is enjoying a soft-landing after last year's boom in sales, at the national level at least. Compared to a national decline of 18%, sales declined by 37% in the Canaries, and 31% in the Balearics, the two regions where foreign buyers have the biggest market share. In other regions of interest to foreign investors sales declined 22% in Andalusia, 18% in Catalonia and the Valencian region, 17% in Madrid, and 13% in Murcia.

British buyers no longer dominate the foreign market for property in Spain like they once did, and their share of the foreign market has been declining since 2015. However, they remain the main foreign property purchasers - just!

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 driest, hottest National Park in the US is closed because it's too wet! Death Valley is **overrun with water** from Hurricane Hilary.

The National Police have arrested two people in Guadalajara, Spain, one of them for a robbery with violence that occurred on the street and another, the witness to that crime! The patrols that arrived at the scene arrested the perpetrator of the robbery and assisted the victim, who had to be taken to the health centre to be treated for the injuries he had suffered. A witness to the events who intervened to prevent the attack from continuing was also taken to the health centre, as she was in a high state of nervousness. It is precisely at the health centre when the second crime occurred, as **the witness stole the emergency doctor's mobile phone** while she was in an adjoining room assisting the victim of the first robbery. The fact that the witness had left the health centre before being assisted aroused the suspicions of the police, who located her and, after confirming their suspicions and recovering the victim's phone, proceeded to arrest her.

Bags of **cow dung are thrown** at the Thai



architect Duangrit Bunnag at the Mirror gallery in Bangkok, Thailand, in response to developments in Thai politics. Photo. Duangrit invited the public to watch him keep his promise

after he tweeted: 'If the Pheu Thai party joins hands with the Palang Pracharath party, I will allow people to throw shit at my head.'

A federal judge in Miami allowed a class-action lawsuit to proceed against **Burger King** from customers who claim that it's Whopper

is smaller than the one depicted on store menus. The judge ruled that a jury should decide "what reasonable people think" in this meaty matter (if the case is not settled).

Lawyers say the miss-advertised smaller burgers have left their clients "financially damaged" and are seeking millions in compensation. The fast-food chain says the plaintiffs' claims are "false."

(Whereas I am a fan of Burger King, I have to say that the photos/adverts of the burgers at McDonalds look nothing like what you actually get!)

One of the biggest ever law suits against a company reached a settlement when 3M agreed to pay \$6 billion to 250,000 former US servicemen over **faulty earplugs**. The earplugs, made by a firm that 3M bought in 2008, were distributed during the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, but the servicemen claim that the noise mufflers failed to prevent a loss of hearing. The agreement is not an admission of liability by 3M. A further 50,000 claims were dismissed by a judge.

*Two girls from Prestwick claimed in a Scottish court they had been approached by a man who offered them money if they would **'jump on him, kick him, and walk on him.'** When asked by the Procurator-Fiscal if they could see the man in court, one of the girls pointed to the court shorthand writer. She was asked to think again.

*It was some time before honeymoon couple Mr and Mrs Arthur Millbank noticed that the mattress on which they were making love had caught fire.

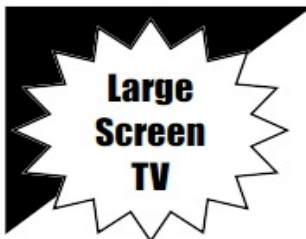
Then Mr Millbank leapt up, humped the smouldering mattress downstairs and left it, presumably outside, in a corner.

The couple were just picking up where they left off on the base of the bed, when firemen, called in by the neighbours whose fence was now on fire, burst into the room.

*Both entries from the 1984 edition of The Book of Erotic Failures.

Listening to the 5th symphony of Ralph Vaughan Williams is like staring at a cow for forty-five minutes.

Aaron Copeland



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See posters at the Bar or ask for details.

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What is the most common proposal of marriage in London?

Darling, I love you dearly. Will you marry me?

What is the most common proposal of marriage in Liverpool?

You're what?



Funeral Plans



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The Side Effects!

Two men of a certain age, old Bill and old Dave, would often meet at the local town park where they would sit on a bench and feed the pigeons. They became friends. One day when they met, Old Bill was very happy and excited and asked Dave "Have you ever tried Viagra?"

Dave: "No."

Bill: "It's amazing. I just started taking Viagra and I haven't felt this good in some time. I feel like I am 20 years old again."

Dave: "I'll try it."

Several weeks later, they met at the park again.

Dave: "I tried that Viagra stuff and you are right. But you didn't tell me about the side effects".

Bill: "Side effects? What side effects?"

Dave: "Almost as soon as I started taking the Viagra, my wife's headaches came back".

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I remember my brother once saying, 'I'd like to marry Elizabeth Taylor'
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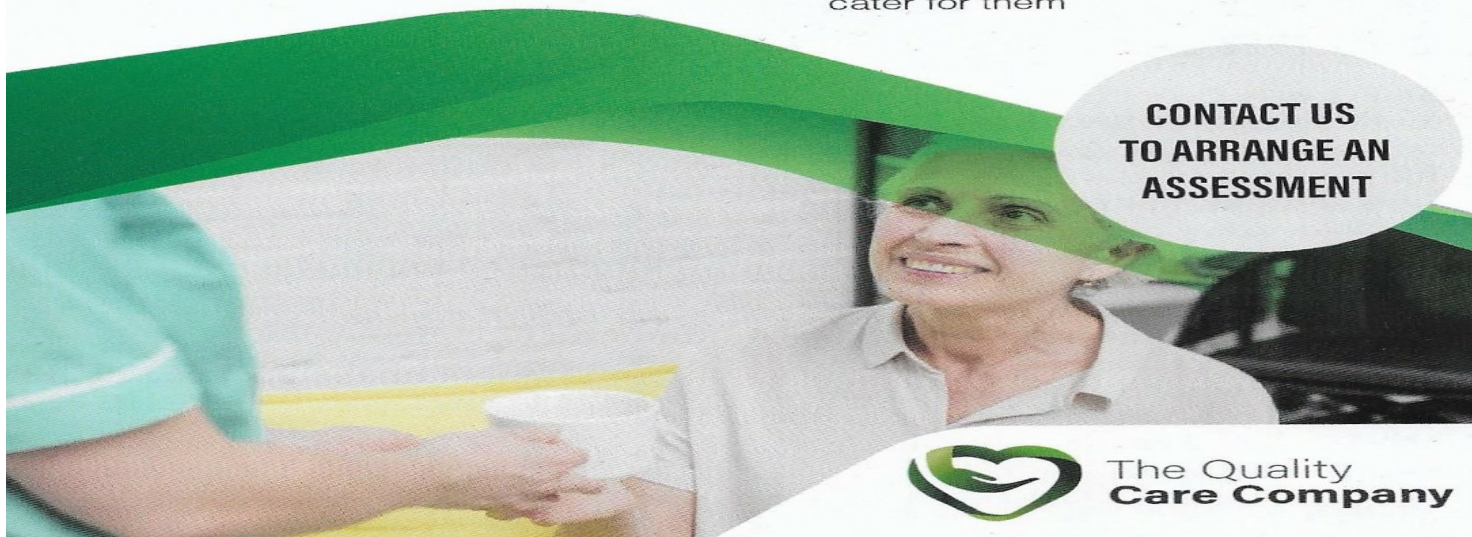
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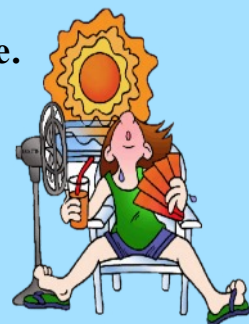


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Lime Bar Fishing SUNBATHING Club

Hello all, well it has started to cool down a little but now we can expect to start dodging the rain showers. Oh, the pressures of living in Spain!

As the club had not fished a match at Bigastro for several months, Sweeney and I decided we had better check out the pegs. The far bank had reeds hanging down into the water so we decided over the next couple of trips to fish the far bank and in the process, tidy up some of the overhanging snags. Most of the far bank pegs drop straight down to 2 or 3 feet in slackish water, but 1 meter out you are into the strong main current. If you can get in close in to the far bank, it helps the presentation so "should" encourage the fish to feed.

We fished Bigastro 4 times leading up to the match and every time, we had a good day with several large (5 to 8 lbs) carp in the net. By now, you know where this is leading! Yes, the Bigastro match demon struck again.

On match day we had 8 anglers on the bank with perfect conditions. River a good height and colour, patchy cloud and a gentle cooling breeze. 4 had already qualified for the summer final and 3 Rods, Old Bill and I were vying for the last 2 places with just 2 points between us.

Within the 1st 20 minutes, BFC and Old Bill were into fish, the latter which would have won the match on it's own @ 3.24 kilos! We all thought we were in for another good day. NOPE! From



there everyone struggled. Discounting bleak we caught 10 fish between us. It was another shocker. Old Bill had 1 more carp to finish with 4.1 kg, this got him 20 points, into the final and puts a new name onto the Memorial Shield which he also wins. 2nd was 3 Rods with 2 x carp, 1 x barbel and a few bleak for 3.07 kg (no you don't get a 2nd place trophy for the shield). Coming in 3rd yet again was Sweeney with 2.4 kg of 2 x carp and a net full of bleak. While everyone else was

catching, I sat admiring our handy work on the far bank (see photo). After clearing this peg the week before, I had a good day with about 7 kilos of carp. I employed the same bait & tactics in the match and didn't get a bite.

3 Rods & I were gluttons for punishment. We also decided to fish our Knockout Final the following Tuesday at Bigastro. Conditions were perfect again & identical to last Friday's match. We tossed up and fished pegs 1 & 3.

I was 1st to put a carp into the net but then it was nip & tuck as we both caught intermittently. We both lost carp (but 3 Rods' were bigger!) and had a few terrapins. Although there were some quiet spells, we matched each other fish for fish. Just before the final whistle, I did a 3 Rods, and caught a 1-pound blackie for the road (he always catches on his last cast!!), and without that the weights would have been very close. The final result was: Peg 1 (Ghost) – 7.84 kg v Peg 3 (3 Rods) – 7.25 kg.

What was different from last Friday? We have no idea but that's fishing.

The next meeting bun fight is the AGM at The Lime Bar on Tuesday 3rd October.

Stay safe.

Fishy fingers!

The Ghost



FLOODED WITH BOOZE!

We're in the middle of hurricane season, which means we're used to seeing flooded streets in the news. A small town in Portugal is reporting something similar, but this disaster is entirely man-made.

Levira Distillery, a winemaker in São Lourenço do Bairro, Portugal, accidentally painted the town red after two tanks of wine burst on Sunday. Almost 600,000 gallons of wine flowed through the streets—to put it in context, that's enough wine to fill an Olympic swimming pool.



The spill rendered the streets unusable to the town's 2,500 residents. Local authorities quickly sprang into action to divert the wine and prevent it

from contaminating the nearby Certima River. Volunteer firefighters successfully drained the liquid and transported it to a wastewater treatment plant.

No residents were injured as a result of the spill, but the municipality of Anadia reports damage to the roads and at least one residential basement close to the winery. People on social media, however, argue that the worst part about the spill is all the wasted wine.

One user wrote, "This would have lasted a whole 10 years such a waste." Another lamented, "Good wine down the drain." Levira Distillery took to social media to publicly apologize for the incident.

"Although the incident did not cause any injuries, we want to express our sincere concern for the damage caused in general," the post reads.

The winemakers have also assumed the financial cost for cleanups and repairs, even deploying some of their staff to assist local authorities.

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12:00	13:00
13:00	14:00
14:00	15:00
15:00	16:00
16:00	17:00
17:00	18:00
18:00	19:00
20:00	21:00
21:00	22:00

*Departures & Arrivals from both locations.

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Pensioners: 30% discount. Accreditation is required by presenting a Social Security card.

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Accessible for the disabled: YES

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Departure and arrival (at Alicante airport):

Upper floor (departures)

(Departure times vary slightly from summer to winter.)

<https://torrevieja.com/horario-autobus-de-torrevieja-al-aeropuerto-de-alicante/>

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*I was dating this girl for two years,
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Mike Binder



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