



THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER



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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the November 2023 edition. Issue No.192

Although September and early October have been unusually warm, the weather has now settled to what we would call normal, with peak temperatures in the **mid-high 20's**. Parts of the country are now experiencing red alerts due to excess flooding. These are mainly in the regions of Andalucia, Madrid and Galicia. We have had very little rain here.....so far!

Inflation is going back up in Spain. Having dipped as low as 1.9% just before the summer, it has now almost doubled to **3.5%**. Rises in olive oil in the supermarket and petrol at the pump have been noticeable again recently.

A new CIS survey for October showed the two main political parties, PSOE and the PP, tied on 32% each of the vote, followed by Sumar (far-left) on 12% and Vox (far-right) on 10% and then all of the smaller regionalist parties on less than 2% each. PM Sánchez has until November 17 to form a government and is currently trying to get the support of the separatist parties **by promising amnesties**. If there is no agreement, there will be another general election early next year.

According to a poll cited by Reuters, almost 70 % of respondents polled recently said they were **against an amnesty**. Interestingly, this is not a binary left-right issue: 59% of PSOE voters would vote the same.

Spain's far-right party Vox has formally proposed that people "of Islamic cultures" be prevented from gaining Spanish citizenship or residency following the terror attacks in Belgium, France and Hamas's incursion into Israel. This is unlikely to happen.

Spain has won the bid to host the **2030 Football World Cup**, alongside Portugal and Morocco. However, Morocco wants the final

to be held in Casablanca while Spain insists that it must be held in Madrid. Some of the qualifying games will be taking place in South America.

Spain – where **Iberian wolves** had dwindled to just 200-500 individuals by the 1970s – now has the highest concentration on the continent. Since 2021, a law has prohibited its hunting. However, there is pressure on the government to now introduce some form of culling to reduce their numbers due to the number of dead or injured livestock.

Quickies: A woman is murdered every four days in Spain.

The Torrevieja Hospital diagnoses 200 women a year with breast cancer.

Of the 149 low emissions zones in Spain, only 14 are working despite the €1.5 billion of European funding received for the project.

Thank you to all those who renewed their annual subscription, and also those who donated a little extra - Clive M, Andy Ma, Andy Me, Gary & Sarah G, Sallianne B, Arnold A, Jane and Gary R, Mick & Beth H and John W.

Hoping you all have a wonderful month.

Mick, Tid and The Dream Scene Team



"Is the lady coming back, sir?"

*When my mother-in-law was born, they fired 21 guns.
The only trouble was, they all missed. (Les Dawson)*

If you were a beach-goer in Orihuela Costa this summer, you will no doubt have been disappointed that there were no beach bars nor beach umbrellas or sun-beds to hire. This was solely due to the ineptitude of the local municipal council. A small number of portable toilets were eventually supplied to the 11 Orihuela Costa beaches. However, the long-awaited temporary **beach toilets were all removed** on September 15, despite the continued influx of tourists. With the beautiful weather we usually have during September and the unusually warm early October, people were still flocking to the beaches of Torrevieja and Orihuela Costa. The local councillors are just not up to the job. It is no wonder that more of the residents in Orihuela Costa voted for the Partido Independencia Orihuela Costa than for the two main Spanish political parties.

The local government of Orihuela, led by the PP and Vox parties, rejects the planned **expansion** and renovation of the Orihuela Costa health centre proposed by the socialists, which was awaiting the approval of the project design after the transfer of an adjacent parking plot. This would severely exacerbate existing parking problems in the area. Instead, they are advocating for the construction of a **second health centre**, which they claim would better address the current healthcare needs of the Orihuela coastline. This was previously promised by the former management group of Ribera Salud who would have built it on an available site near Punta Marina if their management contract in Torrevieja Hospital and area was renewed. It wasn't!

The National Markets and Competition Commission (CNMC) has been in touch with Orihuela City Council to begin the process of **scrapping communal mailboxes** in the urbanisations of Dehesa de Campoamor, after several years of complaints. If this does happen, which I doubt, all villa and apartment owners will have to buy and place individual post boxes.

On January 21, 2021, a 65-year-old woman was admitted to Torrevieja Hospital after sustaining a shoulder fracture. She underwent surgery five days later, during which an artery unexpectedly started to bleed. Although initially misidentified as a vein, the surgical team decided to address the source of the bleeding. Unfortunately, this led to the development of arterial ischemia, which progressed into a dangerous thrombosis. Shockingly, the necessary treatment for this condition was delayed for 48 hours, resulting in the unfortunate and unavoidable **amputation of her left arm**. In response to this medical incident, the patient filed a claim for damages against the Valencian Health Department. After negotiations with Ribera Salud, the management entity for Torrevieja Hospital at the time, and their insurance provider, Berkshire Hathaway European Insurance, a settlement of €450,000 was reached.

Valencia Health has launched a novel **combined flu and Covid** vaccination initiative. The vaccination program gives priority to the following groups: residents in elderly care centres and individuals with functional diversity, those aged 80 and above, healthcare workers, people aged 60 to 79, and other high-risk populations. Appointments for vaccination can be scheduled via the GVA Salut app or the department's website. Notably, in Murcia, even smokers are included in the priority groups for flu vaccination.

Congratulations to Minnie and all involved in the fundraising and contributing to **Tommy's Charity Day at CK1's** on Oct' 11. A record €4,000 was raised.

Daljit has now opened a bar next to his mini-supermarket in Via Park V.

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Jeff Marder

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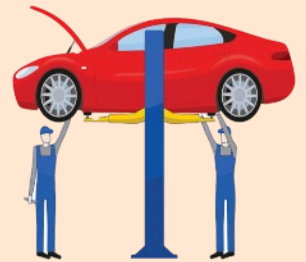
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I used to play spin the bottle when I was a kid.

A girl would spin the bottle, and if the bottle pointed to you when it stopped,
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By the time I was 15, I owned my own house.

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The Taxman Cometh!

Colombian singing superstar Shakira evaded another €6 million from the Spanish taxman in the year 2018, as well as already having defrauded some €14.5 million in her early years in Spain. That's according to the Spanish public prosecutor, which has just released information about this second accusation against her.

Much of the Hacienda's claims relate to whether Shakira lived in Spain during certain periods or not.

Professional footballers are often in the sights of the Hacienda, as Lionel Messi found out to his cost!

DREAM HILLS BOOK SWAP LA CASITA, DREAM HILLS

Bring a book, swop a book!
Bring several, swop several!

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10:30am - 12:30pm

FOREIGN DEMAND FOR HOMES STILL STRONG.

Foreign demand for homes in Spain still near record highs in the first half of 2023.

67,983 Spanish home sales in the first half of the year involved a foreign buyer, down 7% on the same period last year, reveal the latest figures from Spanish notaries.

By nationality, the British were once again the biggest nationality purchasing 6,498 Spanish homes in the first half, down 17% on last year, followed in the usual order by the Germans with 5,519 (down 27%) and the French with 4,926 (down 13%). All key markets declined with the exception of Russia (+50%) and the USA (+14%). Swedish buyers declined the most, down 41%.

By region, foreign buyers declined the most in the Balearics (-32%) followed by Andalusia (-15%) and the Canaries (-13%). Sales increased in Murcia (6%) and the Valencian region (1%).

Despite declines compared to last year's extraordinary boom in the wake of the pandemic, the figures from the notaries show that foreign demand for property in Spain remained strong in the first half with the notable exception of the Balearics, where local factors like high taxes, high prices, a shortage of homes for sale, and hostile messaging from local politicians aimed at foreign investors have driven buyers away.

More on Spanish property on Page 17.

After a long night of making love, the guy notices a photo of another man, on the woman's nightstand by the bed. He begins to worry. "Is this your husband?" he nervously asks.

"No, silly," she replies, snuggling up to him.

"Your boyfriend, then?" he continues.

"No, not at all," she says, nibbling away at his ear. "Is it your dad or your brother?" he inquires, hoping to be reassured. "No, no, no! You are so hot when you're jealous!" she answers.

"Well, who in the hell is he, then?" he demands. She whispers in his ear:

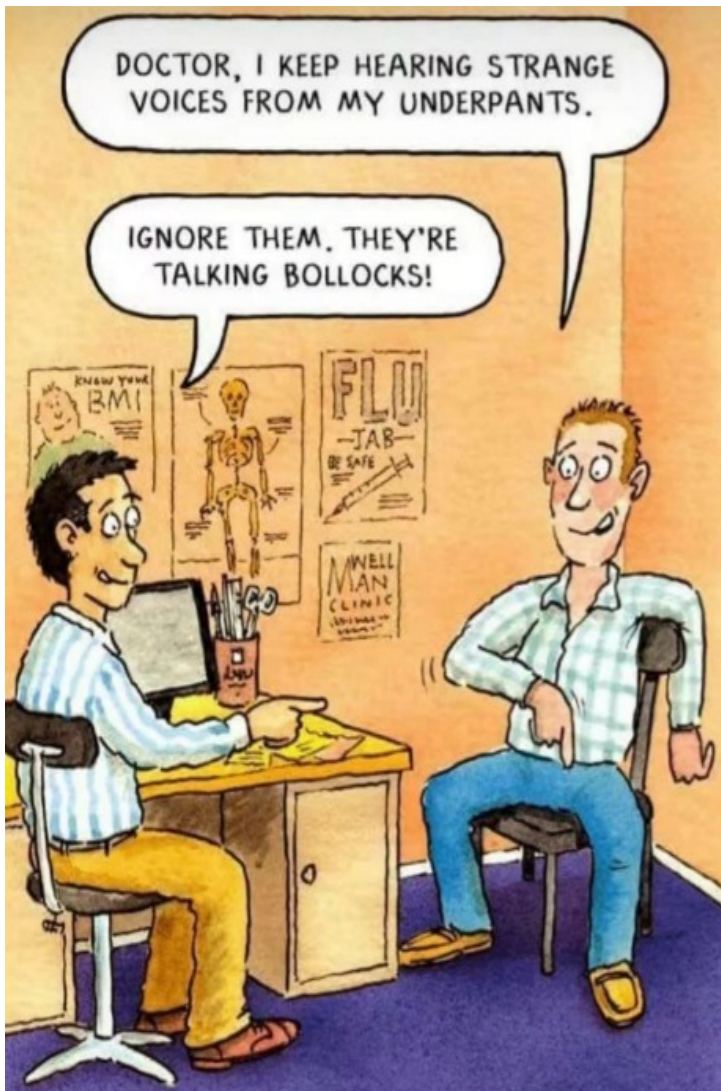
"That's me before the surgery."

POLITICAL CORRUPTION IN SPAIN

During the 20-year period, 2000-2020, 3,743 cases of corruption in political circles were uncovered. These mainly located in three regions, Andalucia, Valencia and Galicia.

So, which of the political parties were the main culprits? The Partido Popular (PP) accounts for 40.5% of the proceedings, while the Partido Socialista Obrero Español (PSOE) accounts for 38.3%. Both together account for 75.8% of the discovered political corruption in Spain during that period. No doubt the ERE case (Expediente de Regulación de Empleo) in Andalucia has been the largest case where the PSOE 'side-tracked' a couple of hundred million euros in aid.

However, it was the PP who were the corruption champs in Valencia. But there are still many cases where the court cases from that period have not been completed yet. The leaden-footed judiciary appear to be much slower in concluding political corruption cases than others. I wonder why?



Last Request

Mary Clancy goes up to Father O'Grady after his Sunday morning mass and she is in tears. He says, 'So what's bothering you, Mary, my dear child?'

She says, 'Oh, Father. I've got terrible news. My husband passed away last night.'

The priest says, 'Oh, Mary, that's terrible. Tell me, Mary, did he have any last requests?'

She says, 'That he did, Father.'

The priest says, 'What did he ask you, Mary?'

She says, 'He said, "Please, Mary, put down that feckin' gun....."'

Nudie in Los Altos

Jackie wants an all-over suntan but is not quite sure how to go ahead about it, so she says to Keith her husband, 'Do you think I should go sunbathing in the nude on the patio?'

'Yeah, why not?' says Keith. 'Go for it.'

'But what if the neighbours see me naked, what will they think?'

'That I married you for your money.'

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My main ambition as a gardener is to water by orange trees with gin. Then all I have to do is squeeze the juice into a glass. W.C. Fields

PM Sanchez Likely to Offer Amnesty Deal with Separatists so He Can Remain in Power

Spanish PM Sánchez has sought to blame the conservative PP for the 2017 Catalan crisis and argues that a 2021 royal pardon for nine jailed leaders, along with changes to the criminal code that deleted and watered down offences for which they were found guilty, have drawn the poison from the conflict.

Isabel Díaz Ayuso, the PP leader in the Madrid region, said: “Nobody can change the destiny of a nation by seven votes. What they are attempting is absolutely unconstitutional. They may twist the laws, but here serious crimes have been committed against the unity of Spain.” Santiago Abascal, the leader of the hard-right Vox party, said: “We are talking about a politician who wants to amnesty another politician in exchange for their votes to remain in power. There is no greater image of corruption possible.”

The amnesty could potentially cover more than 1,400 people involved in the independence drive that came to a head in 2017, according to the pro-separatist Catalan group Omnium. These are a mix of people in jail and those still facing charges.

That would be the largest in Spain since the 1977 blanket amnesty for crimes committed during the Franco dictatorship, and the first amnesty law approved in the European Union since 1991, according to the CSIC research council in Spain.

Last month a national opinion poll found that 70% respondents — 59% of them Socialist supporters — were against the idea of an amnesty. (Abridged from The Times)

FANCY A TRIP TO MADRID?

LOW-COST high speed train operator Ouigo is to add an additional service between Alicante and Madrid from December 10.

It means there will be three-round trips as opposed to two, due to what Ouigo says is ‘high demand’ after six months of operating the route.

The French-owned company will run daily departures from Alicante at 8.00am, 2.00pm and 6.00pm and return journeys from Madrid at 10.15am, 2.15pm, and 6.15pm.

Ticket prices start at €9 for a one-way trip with a flat rate of €5 for children aged between 3 and 13 years.

Competition with rivals Iryo and Renfe-run Avlo since April has seen the average ticket cost on the Alicante-Madrid line fall to an average of between €22 and €32.

Snoopy Sheila

Sheila, an elderly lady travelling to London by train, is sitting next to a very distinguished young man reading the Financial Times...

“Excuse me,” she says, “can I ask you something personal? Are you Jewish?”

“No, I’m not,” replies the man.

A few minutes later, Sheila asks him, “Please, are you sure you’re not Jewish?”

The man replies, “No, I’ve told you I’m not,” and continues to read his paper...

A few minutes later, “Excuse me, are you absolutely sure you’re not Jewish?”

At that, the man gets quite frustrated and replies, “All right, yes, if you must know. I am Jewish.

Now will you leave me alone?”

Sheila looks at him and says, “Funny, you don’t look Jewish.”

The Surprise Visit...

Melvyn was a very likeable person and his quick wittedness had served him well in business, he was now a financial director in the City....

One day his wife Rebecca was shopping close by his office and decided to pay him a surprise visit. But when she got there and opened his door, she was shocked to find him sitting at his desk with his secretary in his lap....

Melvyn looked up at her and without hesitating dictated, “And in conclusion, gentlemen, whether we have budget cuts or not, there is absolutely no way I can continue to run my office effectively with just one desk and chair”....



Helen's Bar



VIA PARK V
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SUNDAY 2pm - 7pm

WEDNESDAY FUN DARTS 7pm

WITH ASHLEY



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FRIDAY - QUIZ WITH SUE

FROM 6.00pm



SATURDAY

- MIXED GRILL NIGHT

FROM 6pm. WITH FRIES, SALAD

BOOKING ESSENTIAL!

SUNDAY

- QUIZ & STANDUP BINGO

with John - 3pm start.



JILLY'S SLIMMING CLUB

THURSDAYS 4pm

New Members Welcome!

A Glasgow woman reported her husband's disappearance to the police. The officer taking the details asked if there was any message they could pass on if they found him.

'Aye,' said the woman, 'tell him ma mither didnae come efter aw!'



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Gary Trudeau

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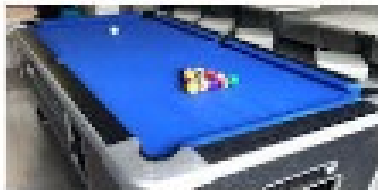
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DE LEVANTE

VIA PARK V

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We contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle.

Winston Churchill

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Are you caring for a loved one?

HELP Vega Baja is offering a support group for non-professional carers. If you would like to find out more, please contact our welfare team on 966 723 733 or email office@helpvegabaja.com



A support group is a safe place where you can talk about your emotions and circumstances with others who know how you feel and won't judge or criticize you. We will have experienced volunteers on hand offering both practical and emotional support.

Learn coping strategies as you go through challenging circumstances. Whether you just want to come along for a cup of coffee and cake to have a break from your daily routine or you want to discuss specific support you need, our team will be there to help

Tough day at the office!

After a tiring day, a commuter settled down in his seat and closed his eyes. As the train rolled out of the station, a woman sitting next to him pulled out her mobile phone. She started talking in a loud voice: "Hi sweetheart. It's Sue, I'm on the train. Yes I know its the six thirty and not the four thirty, but I had a long meeting. No, honey, not with that Kevin from the accounting office. It was with the boss. No sweetheart, you're the only one in my life. Yes, I'm sure, cross my heart, you are the only one in my life!" Fifteen minutes later, she was still talking loudly. When the man sitting next to her had enough, he leaned over and said into the phone, "Sue, hang up the phone and come back to bed!" Sue doesn't use her mobile phone in public any more.

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WELL, I NEVER!

Spain's national post service, El Correos, has won two awards at the 'World Post & Parcel Awards 2023'. It took to the stage to collect the prizes in the Correos Market app, and in the Postal Evolution category for the Correos Frio service.

The public company said in a statement that these awards are considered the 'Oscars of the postal and logistics sector.' "They recognise excellence, leadership and the most outstanding proposals in the sector," it added. The winners were announced at the 'World Mail & Express Conference (WMX Europe)' held in Tallinn, Estonia.

Correos Market is an electronic commerce platform which has almost 2,000 vendors offering thousands of Spanish products in food, drinks, crafts, fashion, home and health, beauty and technology. The customer experience offered by this app swayed the jury to award it the prize for Best Technological Solution. Correos Frio was victorious in the Postal Evolution category, for being an 'innovative' solution to the issue of transporting chilled foods and other goods such as pharmaceutical products. It is controlled in real time and reportedly guarantees their quality and arrival in perfect condition.

(We have friends in Dream Hills who had a card and present sent to them from the UK on December 1, 2020. They received it on May 2nd, 2022!)

A blonde stormed up to the front desk of the library and said, "I have a complaint!"

"Yes, Ma'am?" said the librarian looking up at her. "I borrowed a book last week and it was horrible!"

Puzzled by her complaint the librarian asked "What was wrong with it?"

"It had way too many characters and there was no plot whatsoever!" said the blonde. The librarian nodded and said, "Ahhh. So you must be the person who took our phone book."

SPAIN'S PROPERTY MARKET

Spain's property market is defying the downward trend seen in the UK, Germany, and several other European countries as property prices across much of Europe are falling. The price of housing in the UK for example has fallen at its highest rate in 14 years. In Germany, housing prices have recorded their biggest year-on-year drop since 2000. The Austrian housing market is also experiencing a major downturn, property prices in Denmark are down by 7.6% as well, and in Sweden they've decreased by 6.8%. While housing prices are falling in many parts of Europe, Spain has experienced a 3.7% increase in property prices during the second quarter of 2023. This growth follows more than 6% increases in the first half of the year and nine consecutive quarters with more than 3% growth. This upward trajectory is remarkable, given that it coexists with declining overall property sales.

Foreign buyers, including those from the United States (which are up by 37%), have contributed to this demand, particularly in traditional tourist areas along the Mediterranean coast, the Balearic Islands, and the Canary Islands.

The price increases, combined with rising mortgage interest rates, has had a direct impact on the signing of mortgages in Spain (down 18.8%) and the sale of homes (down 10.5%), which have both been falling for six months, according to data from Spain's National Institute of Statistics (INE).

However, these falls are weaker than in other countries and the number of people buying property in Spain with cash has risen. The main driver behind Spain's rising property prices is the scarcity of housing supply. Although increased interest rates have made it more challenging for some to access the market, the demand continues to outpace the slow growth in supply.

Additionally, the thriving Spanish tourism industry has led homeowners to offer their properties as tourist rentals, further reducing the availability of long-term housing. Unlike some European capitals that experienced property bubbles following the financial crisis, Spain's property market remained relatively stable during the pandemic. Its strong economic performance and forecasts for continued growth in 2023 have reinforced the property market. The European Central Bank estimates that Spain's property market is overvalued by 10.3%, lower than the Eurozone average of 12.8%, and significantly less than the overvaluation in the Netherlands and Germany.

In summary, Spain's property market stands out in Europe due to its consistent price increases, primarily driven by a scarcity of housing supply and an influx of foreign buyers. The country's strong economic performance and less inflated market during the pandemic have contributed to this unique trend.

Third Opinion.

Three surgeons were having drinks together at a pub and the discussion wandered into what kind of people they liked to operate on.

One says that he likes to operate on mechanical engineers. When he opens one up, all the parts are neatly laid out and wherever parts need to fit together, there is a nice interlock mechanism.

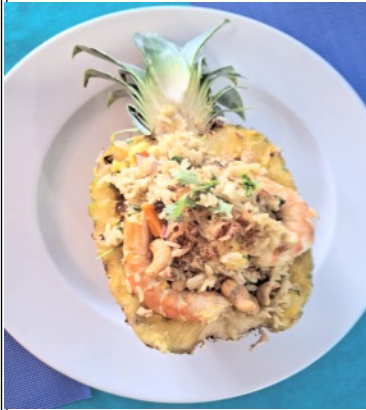
The second says that he likes to operate on electronics engineers. When he cuts one open, not only are the parts all laid out neatly, just like with mechanical engineers, but they are all colour coded on top of that.

The third surgeon says that he likes to operate on politicians. When he opens one up, there are only two parts, the mouth and the asshole, and they are interchangeable.



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Come Fly with Me! Well, Maybe!

Passengers aboard a Ryanair jet headed to Hamburg, Germany from Spain's Palma had a hair-raising couple of hours on Saturday October 7 when the plane was forced to make an emergency landing due to an in-flight engine failure.

Flight FR7185 departed Spain at 4.40pm carrying 201 passengers but hadn't even reached cruising altitude when the pilot stopped its climb. He was then forced into a series of holding patterns and circled the airport for almost an hour and a half to burn enough fuel to land safely. Thankfully, the Boeing 737 MAX touched back down safely in Palma de Mallorca at 6.02pm, to the undoubted relief of the anxious passengers.

The cause of the engine failure hasn't been revealed, but the aircraft is almost brand new – Ryanair only took delivery of the jet in June this year. The Palma-Hamburg flight was later cancelled.

At the end of August, a Jet2 flight from Glasgow to Mallorca had to request an emergency landing when it came desperately close to running out of fuel. Storms raging across the Spanish islands forced the plane into a holding pattern for almost an hour. As the jet had already begun eating into its emergency reserves, the pilot was given priority landing and the plane touched down in Mallorca three hours and 26 minutes after takeoff. Phew!

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Spain Is the Egg Donation Capital of Europe

Spain performs more than half of all egg donation treatments across Europe. The country is the largest provider of donor eggs across the continent. And every year, thousands of international fertility patients travel to Spain to access treatments.

Spain is a popular choice for private fertility treatments because any woman or man regardless of their civil status, sexual orientation or age can access them. Indeed, many come to Spain because of restrictions and bans in their home countries, particularly related to egg donation. Spain also tends to have very short waiting lists.

At the same time, egg banks in Spain have proliferated in recent years, shipping donor eggs around the world, as part of this multi-million-pound industry.

Close to 15,000 women undergo egg extraction cycles every year in Spain. Many are financially motivated – donors in Spain receive one of the highest rates of financial compensation across Europe (around €1,100 (£945) for a successful cycle).

Egg donors are not usually aware of how many times, where and when their eggs will end up being used. For more info - <https://theconversation.com/spain-is-the-egg-donation-capital-of-europe-heres-what-its-like-to-be-a-donor-205780>

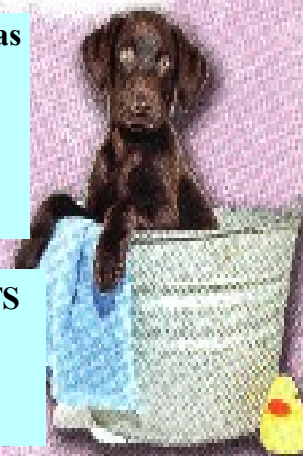
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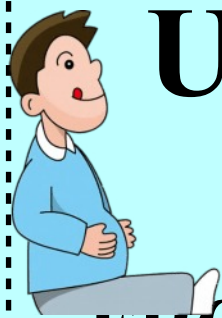
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On average, an American man under 75 will have sex two to three times a week, whereas a Japanese man the same age will have sex only one or two times a year. This is very upsetting news to most of my friends, as they had no idea they were Japanese!



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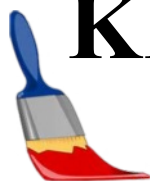
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*A recent study found that women who carry a little extra weight
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U.K. Social Welfare Information - Advocacy Costa Blanca.

Benefit Rates 2023/2024

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Low Rate - £68.10



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David, you are a highly valued professional who people have come to respect and rely on. Your personal integrity and knowledge are highly valued by myself and others who endeavour to support those who have none.
SC. Royal British Legion, Orihuela Costa Branch

David visited us in Catral. We couldn't 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???

A tragic fire occurred in the city of Murcia, resulting in the loss of at least 13 lives during the early hours of a Sunday morning. Additionally, two individuals remain unaccounted for, and efforts to clean up the affected areas and locate these missing persons are ongoing.

The incident, photo, took place on Sunday, October 1, and it remains under investigation to determine the precise sequence of events leading to the nightclub fires at Teatre and Fonda Milagros in Murcia. These fires claimed the lives of 13 individuals. The fire started between 5:50 am and 6 am, with an estimated 150 people inside the establishments at the time. Handheld party sparklers may have been a contributory element to the conflagration.

Both Teatre and Fonda Milagros nightclubs were originally part of a single property. The intensity of the fire was so severe that only three of the victims could be identified using their fingerprints. The remaining victims will require DNA analysis for identification. Recent information indicates that two out of the three nightclubs involved in the fire, La Fonda and Teatre, did not possess the necessary permits to operate, according to Murcia City Hall. These permits were revoked at the beginning of 2022, but the closure order was not adequately enforced. This situation raises questions about the city's oversight of such



establishments and the potential dangers they may pose to residents and their children. Remarkably, two of the destroyed nightclubs, Teatre and Flamingoville (located in San Pedro, Murcia), operated without the required licenses. Teatre, despite being ordered to close the previous year, managed to pass a municipal health and safety inspection in March of the this year. Surprisingly, the inspector responsible for closing Teatre nightclub did not visit the premises in person but communicated via phone and email. The nightclub offered excuses related to pending paperwork, leading the inspector to believe that the matter was resolved without closing the

establishment.

Local television caught up with the owner of Teatre nightclub, Juan Inglés Rojo, who displayed a dismissive and unapologetic attitude, failing to offer condolences to the grieving families.

In response to these events, Murcia City Hall and local police have begun to take action, closing bars and nightclubs operating without proper licenses. The exact number of such establishments has not been confirmed by City Hall. This situation highlights the need for improved oversight and enforcement of regulations to prevent similar incidents in the future. No doubt other municipalities are now taking a nervous look at establishments without the proper approvals.

A Mormon was seated next to a Kerryman on a flight from Shannon to the US.

After the plane was airborne, drink orders were taken.

The Kerryman asked for a whiskey, which was promptly brought and placed before him.

The flight attendant then asked the Mormon if he would like a drink.

He replied in disgust, "I'd rather be savagely raped by a dozen whores than let liquor touch my lips."

The Kerryman then handed his drink back to the attendant and said, "Me, too, I didn't know we had a choice."

SPANISH PENSION INFO

On October 1st 2023, the Spanish government will implement new conditions which will affect the social security benefits and pensions of part-time employees in the country.

Royal Decree 2/2023, set to come into force about now, will affect the social security contributions of 2 million people in Spain who have *trabajo a tiempo parcial* (part-time work), the vast majority of whom are women.

From October 1st, a part-time workday will equate to the same amount as a full-time workday, in terms of the total number of days/months/years Spaniards have to work before being able to claim a pension or access certain welfare benefits such as temporary incapacity or care of a family member.

Currently, workers in Spain have to work 13,595 days to access a full pension when they retire at 65 years of age, 36 of *trabajo cotizado* (contributed work). This will increase to 37 years by 2027. To get the minimum pension after 15 years of work, the minimum number of days worked is 5,745.

Previously, part-time work would not count as a full day but rather a fraction based on the hours worked. Under the new legislation, **one day of part-time work counts the same as one day of full-time work**. According to the Spanish social security's website, it doesn't matter how many hours are worked on a part-time basis on any given day for it to count as one day of work.

The change doesn't necessarily mean that part-time workers will get the same pension as full-time employees (as this is also determined by gross salary), but it does influence how easily and quickly they can reach 100% of the regulatory contributory base to access a full pension.

The average retirement pension in Spain is €1,367 paid 14 times a year. The 8.5% increase means that state pensioners in Spain will receive almost €1,500 more per year.

For non-contributory pensions and those on minimum vital income, the increase is will be 15%.



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SOME SPANISH SUPERSTITIONS

It is Tuesday the 13th that is considered unlucky in Spain, and not Friday the 13th as in Anglo-Saxon countries. That's because Tuesday is said to be dominated by Ares, the Greek god of war — known as Mars in Ancient Rome — who gives his name to *martes*, Tuesday in Spanish.

There is even an old proverb that explains the superstition: "On Tuesday, don't get married, embark on a journey, or move away (*En martes, ni te cases, ni te embarques, ni de tu casa te apartes*)"

WHERE DID YOU PUT THAT HAT?

In Spain, putting a hat on a bed will bring bad luck. This could stem from the time when people believed that evil spirits lived in your hair, so, they could easily be transferred from hair to hat to bed, resulting in evil spirits getting you in the night. Might be best to keep that hat on the hat stand, just in case.

NO SHARP GIFTS

Don't buy family or friends knives or scissors as a gift. Tradition says that this means that the relationship will be broken. So think again about that set of knives you bought as a wedding present!

BREAK A LEG

What is it with wishing harm on people as a sign of good luck? The theatre has always been rife with superstitions and while in many countries "break a leg" is the standard way to wish good luck, in Spain you've got to wish that person "mucha mierda" or "loads of shit".

CACTUS!

Ever wondered why there are so many cactuses on window sills in Spain? That's because it is widely believed in Spain that a cactus can ward away evil. But then again it may be just because they are low maintenance!

SEVEN LIVES

While most countries have a superstition about cats having multiple lives because of their suppleness and savvy at getting out of difficult situations, poor Iberian kitty's have two fewer lives than their English counterparts, or just seven.

DON'T BUY YELLOW CLOTHES AS A GIFT

This comes from the idea that yellow represents sulphur and the Devil. The colour yellow is also said to bring bad luck in certain situations, so don't wear yellow on the day of an exam, a job interview or when you are starring in a play.

SWEPT OFF YOUR FEET

If you accidentally brush the feet of a single woman while sweeping, it means she'll never get married. The superstition is related to witches.

LUCKY NEW YEAR!

Spaniards traditionally eat 12 grapes on the 12 strokes of midnight on New Year's Eve. (and try and avoid choking!) For even more luck and prosperity for the year ahead, wearing red underwear on the last night of the year will also help.

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Orihuela Attempts to Tackle Prostitution

In a bid to stamp out sexual exploitation and people trafficking, Orihuela is tackling prostitution at the source by passing a law that will dole out huge fines to customers.

Last year, Alicante introduced a similar ordinance which prohibits street begging and prostitution with fines of 3,000 and 1,500 euros respectively.

The regulations recognise three levels of offence with regard to prostitution: minor, serious and very serious.

Minor infractions include distributing any kind of advertising material that promotes or encourages the market of prostitution or sexual tourism in public places.

A **serious offence** consists of directly or indirectly requesting, negotiating or accepting paid sexual services; any activity of a sexual nature carried out in a public space in exchange for payment; collaborating with those seeking sexual services by monitoring or alerting about the presence of police.

Finally, **very serious infractions** are considered those classified as serious when they are carried out in: spaces located less than two hundred metres away from teaching or educational centres or other places with an influx of children; places located less than two hundred meters from spaces intended for the celebration of any public event of a cultural, festive, recreational and/or sporting nature; areas that put sex workers at greater risk due to their isolation, lack of lighting or proximity to roads.

A comprehensive municipal action plan to work with women in prostitution will be delivered alongside the new legislation aimed at helping them to integrate socially, economically and professionally into society. (And that's a definite maybe from a bunch of municipal under-achievers who can't fill the potholes or organise the re-introduction of beach bars!)

A Nottingham woman (pictured here) has lost her case at Nottingham magistrates court today, after she tried to sue "NUH Queens Medical Centre" after her husband went in for an operation which left him unable to have sex with her afterwards.

Mrs Minger of Bulwell aged 67 said to reporters outside court this afternoon "Me and me 'usband Fred 'ave 'ad bangin' sex till 'e went ta 'ospital and 'ad 'is operation, now 'e's not interested 'n me and it's all down to them twats" !

The surgeon who performed the operation and attended court to give evidence said "all we did was removed Fred's Cataracts" !



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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A black bear and one of her cubs made an unusual daytime appearance at a gas station on a military base in Anchorage. They were initially drawn by the enticing aroma of freshly fried doughnuts from a Krispy Kreme delivery



van parked at the station. The driver had left the van's back open while he made a delivery inside. Seizing the opportunity, the bear and her cub entered the van to feast on the doughnuts. The gas station manager noticed

the bears and tried to scare them away by banging on the van. She also alerted the delivery driver, who called his boss for assistance. The bears remained unfazed and continued to indulge in the doughnuts, consuming around **136 doughnuts** over a span of about 20 minutes. Amused onlookers, including customers and the gas station employees, documented the unusual encounter by taking photos and videos. The delivery driver even had a close encounter with the bears, prompting a quick retreat when they growled at him.

A football match in Mexico's second division between Alebrijes Oaxaca and Dorados had to be stopped after a dog ran on to the pitch and **stole the ball**. Alebrijes were winning the game 4-0 when the dog entered the field in the final minutes and ran off with the ball. The match was eventually finished, with Alebrijes posting on social media to confirm the safety of the dog, calling them 'our new best friend.' The dog has since been signed-up to Man U, fee unknown.

Just 10 months prior to the commencement of the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, the French capital is grappling with a **bedbug**

infestation. These minuscule pests were initially reported in hotels and vacation rental apartments throughout the city during the summer. Subsequently, sightings extended to movie theatres, and in recent days, there have even been accounts of bedbugs being spotted on seats within both the national high-speed trains and the Paris Metro system. One Metro train operator was disheartened to discover some of these unwelcome guests in the driver's cabin. After the alert was raised during the Mediterranean crossing, bedbugs were found on a passenger ferry that had arrived in Tangiers from Marseille in southern France. In recent weeks, Paris-based companies specializing in insect infestation treatment have reported being overwhelmed. Parisians are spending an average of approximately \$500 to have their homes treated if they encounter these tiny bugs.

Meanwhile, a Belgian investigation is underway concerning Alibaba, the massive Chinese online marketing company, with the focal point being a logistics hub in Liège. Belgian security services suspect this hub of engaging in "**espionage** and/or interference activities," an allegation that Alibaba vehemently denies.

Not sure what is going on in Glasgow Museum? A life-sized statue worth about three million pounds, known as Les Bourgeois de Calais (photo) has disappeared from their care.

This seems bad enough but there are also **1,750 other items** which have disappeared as well!



Coincidentally, during August, George Osborne, the chairman of the British Museum in London, said that about 2,000 objects had been 'taken' from its storerooms! These predominantly were Greek and Roman gems & jewellery.

I bought some coconut shampoo today.

I got halfway home before I thought, 'I don't even have a coconut!'



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I always give homeless people money, and my friends shout at me,
'He's only going to buy more alcohol and cigarettes.'
And I'm thinking, 'Oh, like I wasn't.'

TOUGH GUY!

Three guys were sitting in a biker bar. A man came in, already drunk, sat down at the bar, and ordered a drink. The man looked around and saw the three men sitting at a corner table.

He got up, staggered to the table, leaned over, looked the biggest one in the face, and said, "I went by your grandma's house and I saw her in the hallway, buck naked. Man, she is fine!"

The biker looked at him and didn't say a word. His buddies were confused, because he was a badass, and would fight at the drop of a hat.

The drunk leaned on the table again and said, "I got it on with your grandma and she is good, the best I ever had!"

The biker still said nothing. His buddies were starting to get mad.

The drunk leaned on the table again and said, "I'll tell you something else boy, your grandma liked it!"

The biker stood up, took the drunk by the shoulder, and said, "Damn it, Grandpa, you're drunk! Go home!"

Incredulous Sevillianos are a little annoyed as Britain's *Daily Mail that warns Brits off their historic sun-soaked Sevilla city advising them to steer clear 'thanks to its popularity with boozed-up Brits'. According to their 'popular culture expert' Nick Ede, the Andalucian capital is 'very touristy, it is a little bit tacky, and it is certainly not off the beaten path'.

Locals were quick to point out the irony in a British newspaper advising Brits to avoid their city due to drunken Brits.

LO QUE DICEN QUE SON



LO QUE NOS LLEGA

Top translation: What they say they are.

Bottom translation: What we get.

(*For the record, the editor would like to point out that he has always compared the Mail to a garbage can of bias, innuendo & inaccuracies.)



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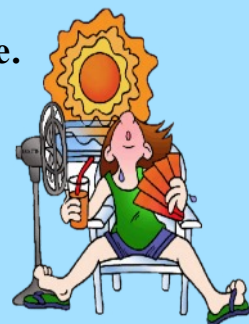


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Lime Bar Fishing SUNBATHING Club

As last month's report went to the printers, we fished the Summer final at El Bosquet on pegs 8 to 16. The finalists were, BFC, the Cat, Sweeney, Old Bill, Yorkie Mick & 3 Rods. The following report is from

Sweeney. BFC netted his 1 st fish within 2 minutes of the start; within 10 minutes, the Cat had 3 in the net, and this set the tone for the day. Stuck between these 2 anglers was 3 Rods, and all he could do was look on in anguish without a bite. Sweeney usually has this honour, so at least you gave him a break! By mid-morning, Old Bill had lost his 1 st 3 fish, but then the catches started improving for everyone. Except for Yorkie Mick who caught his one and only fish after about 4.5 hours, and called it a day shortly afterwards. Sweeney adopted his tried and tested method of fishing the near bank for few biggies, rather than the "tiddlers" from the far bank. He landed a couple of good fish, but these were eclipsed by BFC, who adding insult to injury, landed a carp of 5.27 kilos to his already impressive tally. The red hand grenades were obviously the order of the day, providing you were in the right peg and fishing at distance. The near bank did not live up to expectations! (Is that sour grapes Sweeney?) The winner was BFC with 31 fish for 35.05 kilos, 2 nd was the Cat with 26 fish for 23.54 kilos and 3 rd yet again (no trophy) was Sweeney with 10 fish for 14.94 kilos. The October match is the 1 st of the Winter league and is also fished with rod & reel only restriction, for the Rod & Reel trophy. As Bigastro was so poor last month, we decided to Fish El Bosquet again, but using pegs 26 to 40. This stretch is known to be very difficult unless you are in the favoured end pegs 26, 27, 28, 39 & 40. All the other pegs you normally have to chase mullet as the carp are reluctant to feed.

It was a beautiful autumn day with a light breeze and hardly any cloud. We had 9 on the bank facing due East, straight into the rising sun. As expected, all the middle pegs struggled, even if they were hunting for mullet. I was in peg 29 and only had 2 bites all day for 2 fish, at least I didn't lose them! What was a surprise though, was that pegs 39 & 40 would not produce fish either. Of the 9 fishing, we had 3 x blanks, 1 with 1 fish, 2 with 2 fish, which left pegs 26 to 28 to clean up.

Fagash was on 26, 3 Rods was 27 & BFC was on 28. BFC started by hurling a kilo of ground bait into the far bank, those around him thought he would kill his peg but he didn't. He used bread on method feeder and started catching small mullet straight away, which continued all day. By the end of the match, he must have thrown about 5 kilos of ground bait in to keep the fish in his peg! Fagash started by casting into the corner that holds the carp, but as he couldn't get a bite, he started casting around his peg, again to no avail. 3 Rods was catching but not regularly. After 3 hours Fagash was getting fed up and went for a bumble. He had a chat with 3 Rods who gave him a bit of his smelly sausage. When back at his peg, he cast back into the carp holding corner and wallop. The rod tip went round and he had the first of several big carp.

At the weigh in, 3 Rods had 5 carp and 4 mullet for 6.1 kilos, BFC was 2 nd with 20 small mullet for 9.1 kilos, but the winner was Fagash who finally started catching late but ended with 9 carp for 11.9 kilos.

Well done Fagash, 20 points for the league and the Rod & Reel trophy for the first time.

At the end of September, 5 of us were having a pleasure day at El Bosquet. I was trying paste close into the near bank. It took ages for the carp to start feeding but when they did the bigger lumps showed up. Everybody else was packed up but I tried one more drop in for the road. I hooked into a long, lean carp which took about 7 minutes to land as I was on 6 lb line and 14 elastic. It tipped the scales at 5.51 kilos which is my PB. Sweeney (David Bailey) volunteered to take a photo but I got 3 Rods to take it this time!

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

Stay safe. Fishy fingers!, The Ghost



PORTUGAL NO LONGER SO GENEROUS TO NEW EXPAT RESIDENTS

Tax breaks for foreign residents in Portugal are “no longer justified”, the prime minister, Antonio Costa, has declared, promising to close the scheme for new applicants in 2024 after it stoked housing prices in one of western Europe’s poorest nations.

Launched in 2009, the scheme allows people who become residents by spending more than 183 days a year in the country to benefit from a special 20% tax rate on Portuguese-sourced income derived from “high value-added activities”, such as doctors and university teachers.

It was introduced to attract investors and professionals as Portugal suffered from the financial crisis.

Other benefits of the scheme – known as Non-Habitual Resident – include tax exemptions on almost all foreign income if taxed in the country of origin and a 10% flat tax rate on pensions from a foreign source. Portuguese citizens who lived abroad for five years or more could also apply. Individuals who already benefit from these tax breaks will continue to do so, which is very generous.

The announcement came two days after thousands of people took to the streets of Lisbon and other cities across Portugal to protest against soaring rents and house prices stoked by growing gentrification and record tourism.

Government data show more than 50% of workers earned less than €1,000 (£866) a month last year, and a 65% increase in Lisbon rents since the start of the tourism boom in 2015 has made flats unaffordable for many.

House sale prices have jumped 137% in that period, according to housing data specialists Confidencial Imobiliário.

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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.

Ticket price: €7

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Accessible for the disabled: YES

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Ticket sales in Torrevieja: Torrevieja bus station (Calle de Mar, 50) and on the same bus at the airport.

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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The commandant at Preston thanked me for organising the military hospital show. I said, 'We don't want thanking- after all all these lads did for us at Dunkirk.' 'Oh, none of them have been further than under the pier at Blackpool,' he replied. 'This is a V.D. Hospital.' (Arthur Askey)



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