



THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER



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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the May 2024 edition. Issue No.197

Writing this in mid-April, we continue to be blessed with blue skies and warm temperatures with highs in the upper 20's.

Spain has once again beat its own record with more than 84 million international visitors in 2023, spending a whopping €108 billion.

Orange and MasMovil completed the legal process to become a joint company. The two operators will have a combined base of over 30 million mobile phone customers and will be the leading telecoms firm in the country- based on client numbers. It also has over seven million broadband subscribers(fibre and ADSL) and another two million who access television services. The government formally approved the union, valued at around €16.8 billion.

Europe's top human-rights court said the Swiss government had **violated its citizens' rights by failing to meet its climate targets.** Experts said it was the first instance in which an international court had used human rights law to determine that governments were legally obligated to meet their climate goals. A group of women, all 64 or older, argued that their health was at risk during heat waves related to global warming, and that by not doing enough to mitigate warming, Switzerland's government had violated their rights. **This is a landmark ruling, and it could trigger a wave of similar lawsuits in European countries.**

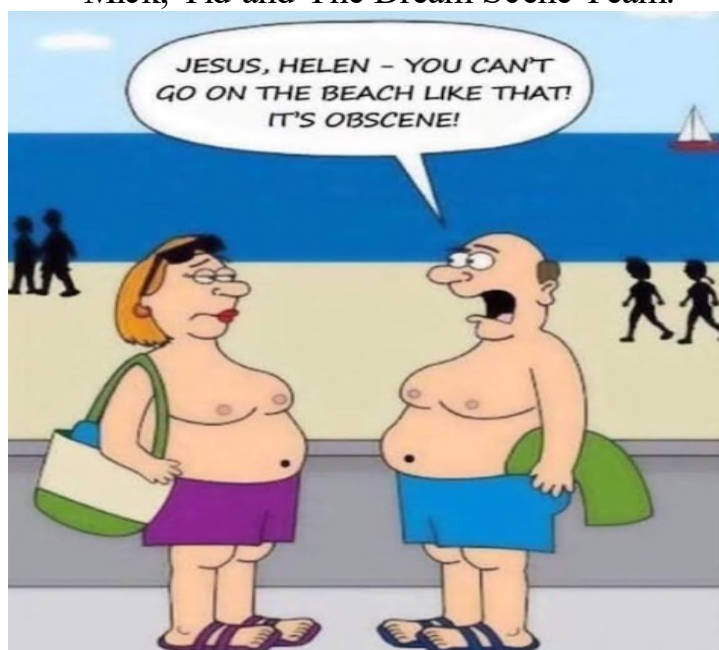
Benidorm will have a **desalination plant** that will produce 4 hm³ per year to guarantee supply to tourism. (Hotels etc.)

Unemployment in Spain decreased notably to hit its lowest figure for the month of March since 2008, data from the country's Labour Ministry revealed. The number of unemployed fell by 33,405 from a month ago to 2.73 million.

The Spanish Congress is to consider legislation that could grant **residency and work permits to nearly half a million foreigners** (undocumented immigrants) living in Spain without proper documentation. MPs voted 310-33 to accept the proposal for **consideration.** The proposal was brought to the parliament in Madrid by citizen initiative after it obtained more than 700,000 signatures. Between 390,000 to 470,000 foreigners live irregularly in Spain according to those who started the initiative. It should be noted that **during 2004**, the socialist government of PM Zapatero **granted amnesty to 700,000** undocumented immigrants. Some of the European ministers reprimanded the Spanish authorities for the aforementioned massive regularisation of undocumented immigrants which was regarded as too loose and opposed to the policies of other State members. There were some reports that later, Zapatero regretted going ahead with the amnesty.

Have a great month!

Mick, Tid and The Dream Scene Team.



Never date a tennis player. Love means nothing to them.



The municipal council in Orihuela has now given the green light to the budget for 2024. (It still has to go on public display for 15 days.)

Incredibly, this is the first budget to be approved **since 2018!** See photo of the extraordinary session above. The budget was passed by the PP and Vox parties (hands raised) while the other parties, on the right of the photo, kept their hands in their pockets.

Also good news, for the first time Orihuela Costa, which has been neglected for decades, will be allocated a budget for the investment in the coast, which will get **three out of every ten euros** available for investment. This is the breakdown of €49 million investment: 21 million will go to the town centre and districts (51%); **12.6 million for the coast (31%)** and 7.4 million for services throughout the municipality (18 %). The largest investments in the entire municipality are the **drinking water tank in Orihuela Costa** (2.8 million), together with a **new walkway** over the AP-7 (1.3million). Also planned is the acquisition and installation of **three new elevators** for access to three beaches to facilitate accessibility for people with reduced mobility (€250,000), which could be for Punta Prima, La Caleta and Barranco Rubio, as well as public toilet modules on promenades and areas permanently attached to the beaches (€440,000). Also included is the second phase of the construction of the Orihuela Costa **Security and Emergency Centre** for 1.1 million, despite the fact that the first phase has not yet fully taken off and currently the 4,700 square meter building operates *a medio gas* (at half gas)!

Some Quickies on Torry!

The Local Police of Torrevieja carry out two checks a day with fines to stop the **lack of control of the scooter**. Under 16's prohibited from using them as is riding with headphones and riding on sidewalks and pedestrian areas. Scooters are involved in around 100 accidents every year in the city.

Acciona, S.A. the Spanish multinational conglomerate, **has appealed against the award** to Ferrovial-Sacyr of the work to expand the Torrevieja desalination plant.

Acciona, is the company that won the tender for the construction of the plant in 2006 and has operated it since 2014. Acciona bid €60.7 million (VAT excluded), while the **winning bid** from the joint venture formed by Ferrovial-Cadagua and Sacyr was almost €90 million euros (VAT included). The state company considered Acciona's 37% reduction in the tender price abnormal and unjustified! (Well, you would wonder what is going on there?)

Due to the traffic congestion in Torrevieja, which deteriorates further between June and September, together with the reduction of 500 parking spaces due to the large building works now in progress, the city council has finally reacted and put out to tender the drafting of the project for the adaptation of six municipally owned land areas to serve as **park-and-ride parking** around the urban area. There are **six plots of land** that total 153,000 square meters and whose estimated capacity would be 3,500 vehicles.

More on this in the next issue.

My mate Paddy got stopped by the Fuzz when he was towing a horsebox on the motorway. The police officer asks "Where are you going?"

"I'm taking these horses to the Grand National races" replies Paddy.

"But it's empty!" said the policeman.

"I know" says Paddy. "I'm taking the non-runners first!"

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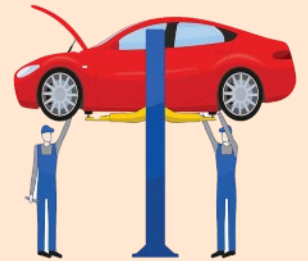
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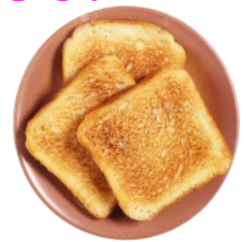
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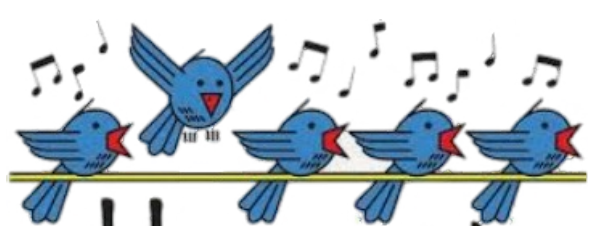
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More Rumbles from the Catalans.

The Spanish government has been quick to reject a new proposal for a Catalan independence referendum put forward by the current Catalan president, Pere Aragonès of the Esquerra Republicana (ERC) party. The central government stated that they 'absolutely rejected' it and that the proposal simply amounted to political posturing ahead of the **Catalan elections in May.**

His proposal was that it would take place in **Catalonia only**, with the following question put to the electorate – and which could only be answered with a Yes or No: 'Do you want Catalonia to become an independent state?' Article 92 of the Spanish constitution, allows 'political decisions of particular importance' to be put to a referendum. This would have to be called by King Felipe VI at the suggestion of the head of the Spanish government after approval by parliament. However, interest in an independent Catalonia is waning in that region and a national referendum would surely reject the proposal of independence.

Telefónica

The Spanish government has acquired a 3% stake in telecoms giant Telefónica following concerns over a Saudi firm taking a piece of a company that Madrid considers strategically important. In September, Saudi Telecom (STC) said it had paid €2.1 billion for a 9.9% share in Telefonica. Spanish state-owned holding company SEPI said in a filing with the stock market regulator that the move was 'in line with a cabinet decision in December' to acquire up to 10% of Telefónica's share capital. It is the first time that the Spanish government has taken a stake in Telefonica since it was fully privatised in 1997.

The Spanish government said the move to acquire a stake in Telefónica was in line with its European neighbours. The return of the state as one of Telefónica's shareholders comes as the company is in the process of cutting 3,400 jobs by 2026 in Spain, about one fifth of a total workforce of 16,500, as it tries to boost its profitability. The company currently has a global workforce of over 100,000 people.



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10:30am - 12:30pm

Problematic Urbanisations in the Costa del Sol.

When you buy a property in Spain, you automatically become a member of a legally constituted Community of Property Owners. Only those who buy an individual house in a town street or a farmhouse on rural land will not have to deal with *Comunidad de Propietarios*.

A well run community can add thousands of euros of value to an otherwise unremarkable property, as a poorly run community can cut thousands off the value of a very nice apartment with the bad management of such a community being apparent. Fortunately, most of us live in urb's where costs and operations are fully transparent.

However, it would appear that some of the urbanisations on the Costa del Sol are not as transparent as they should be.

One particular urbanisation, Torre Bermeja* in Estepona, Málaga, has a Brit, Stephen Hills, as president for 20+ years and is receiving considerable attention. Problem is Stephen, photo, has been paying himself out of community funds, €86,724 for 2023 alone. This is more than the president of Andalucía receives. Amounts of €17,250 and €45,000 were also paid to administrators last year. And Stephen does not have to pay his annual

urbanisation fees of around €9,000! BTW, this urbanisation has **only 109 apartments!**

When this story broke, the Olive Press came up with several other 'difficult' urb's. Another in Estepona, Málaga again, Benemara Dos Hermanas, has hit the local headlines. Here, community fees reportedly increased by 22% over the past two years. One Brit told the Olive Press: "Our fees are continuously increasing and we get no further services for it... it seems there is a black hole where money is being buried."

*I never comment on referees and I 'm not going to break the habit of a lifetime for that prat.
Ron Atkinson*

Meanwhile in Marbella, the president of the Cabopino community, Gianni Fieno, and its administrator Michelle van Gaalen, are being investigated **for falsifying documents and cooking the books**. Residents there said that the pair have 'kidnapped the community' and run it like a 'cabal'. The pair, both expats, are accused of "surrounding themselves with friends" and gaining the votes of owners – some of whom they allegedly **let off their community fees** as a reward for giving them their proxy votes at general meetings.

Elsewhere, homeowners in Lomas de los Monteros, Marbella, have denounced the president of the community and the administrator for **allegedly transferring €30,000 euros to their personal accounts**. It came after community fees soared to €6,000 per year but residents were **not allowed to see accounts nor how the money was being spent** – raising alarms. A court decided it was a civil matter, however, and not a criminal one, with the complainants left feeling "helpless", according to reports in Spanish press.

*You can view an aerial photo of this urb' here together with some details of their annual accounts -

<https://www.xataka.com/magnet/juan-cuesta-torre-bermeja-presidente-comunidad-vecinos-que-se-puso-86-700-euros-sueldo>

Although it is classed as a 'luxury apartment complex', it looks very cluttered and reminds me of the village in 'The Prisoner' a 1967 TV series.

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I was dismayed this afternoon when my wife told me my 6-year-old son wasn't actually mine. She then said I needed to pay more attention at school pick-up.

10 Stressed Property Markets

Spain's Housing Minister has called on the 17 regional governments to implement restrictions on short-term holiday lets in areas where rents for locals have spiked, as the national government continues to look for ways to address the country's housing crisis.

"**Stressed property markets**" (zonas tensionadas), as described by the Spanish government, are those where residents spend more than a third of their monthly earnings on housing.

So far, Catalonia is the only region to declare its property and rental market "stressed", giving them greater control over how much landlords can charge for rent. Varying legislation **restricting Airbnb-style rentals** has already been introduced in recent years in numerous cities such as Valencia, Palma, Seville, Tarifa, Madrid, Barcelona, and San Sebastián, with varying degrees of success.

Asturias and the Canary Islands are two of the autonomous communities which are currently **preparing to roll out restrictions** on a regional level.

However, Spain currently lags behind the rest of EU when it comes to state-controlled social housing making up just 2.5% of the total, while in countries such as the Netherlands (30%), Austria (24%) and Denmark (20.9%) it is ten times that or more.

In fact, even with the Socialist government's **promise of providing 184,000 affordable housing units for rent**, the number of **legally registered holiday lets** in Spain is far higher than that - 340,000.



When I worked in a chocolate factory a man fell into a large vat of bubbly chocolate .
My mate Bill was going to jump in to try and save him

But I said: "Billy.. don't be an Aero!"



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LOCAL

It's normally well into the high season before we're bombarded with horror stories of boozed-up tourists wreaking havoc on the Spanish costas, but it seems summer has come early this year.

The first shocking saga comes to us from **the Canary Islands**, where a young British woman, allegedly under the influence of drugs and alcohol, lost control of her car and mounted a footpath, mowing down a group of pedestrians. Tragically, the accident resulted in the death of a four-month-old baby girl from the UK. The collision also injured six others, including the infant's parents, a mother and daughter and grandparents from Sweden. The 23-year-old motorist has since been named as Olivia Brown, and expat who has been living and working in the Lanzarote tourist resort of Playa Blanca for several years.

At the scene, the driver claimed there was a problem with her steering, but several eyewitnesses reported that she was driving erratically and much too fast. Police also confirmed **later that she tested positive for alcohol and narcotics**. Ms Brown appeared in court last week to answer charges but her hearing was postponed after she had a panic attack and a doctor ruled her unfit to make a statement. She has been released on bail but will have to check in regularly with the court and she has been banned from leaving the island. Hopefully, they took her passport away.

Moving to the **Costa Blanca** now and a 38-year-old woman and a 73-year-old man, both originally from the UK, have been arrested for **manslaughter caused by omission** in the **Alicante town of Rojales**. The pair allegedly failed to seek medical help for three days after the woman's 76-year-old mother suffered a serious fall and later died. The suspects reportedly spent the 72 hours after the accident drinking and smoking while the elderly victim slowly succumbed to her injuries. However, the suspects claim that

they did raise the alarm in the early hours of Tuesday morning, March 12, **once they realised that the victim had passed away**. It's understood that the victim's daughter and the male suspect, believed to have been a friend of the pensioner, have been released on bail pending a full investigation. **(It is very difficult to get to jail in Spain!)**

I think it would be fair to say that the Brits get a pretty bad rap for their shenanigans when on holiday, particularly where drink is involved, but plenty of holidaymakers from other countries make waves too.

Staying in the Costa Blanca, the recent trial of **five French tourists** accused of the attempted gang rape and sexual assault of two Norwegian holidaymakers **back in 2019** has sent shockwaves through Benidorm.

Although all of the men pleaded guilty in court not long ago, they reached a last-minute deal with prosecutors that means none of them will spend a single day behind bars. The five defendants were arrested by the Guardia Civil at the time and were subsequently charged with sexual abuse and assault. They have now been sentenced to prison terms ranging from six months to two years, **suspended pending good behaviour!** The court has also ordered them to pay compensation to the victims, totalling 38,000 euros. I doubt the victims will ever see any of that.

(Abridged from The Olive Press)





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Cancer is the leading cause of death worldwide. **One in two people will develop some form of cancer in their lifetime** – so the condition will affect almost every family. However, many cancers can be cured if the condition is detected early and treated effectively.

What is cancer?

Our bodies are made up of more than 100 billion cells, and cancer typically starts with changes in a small group of cells – or even a single one.

We have different cell types depending upon where in the body they are and the function that the cell has. The size, amount and function of each of these cells is normally tightly regulated by genes – groups of codes held within our DNA – that instruct cells how to grow and divide.

However, changes (mutations) to DNA can alter the way cells grow and multiply – often forming a lump, or solid tumour. Cancers can also develop in blood cells, such as white blood cell cancer which is known as leukaemia. This type of cancer does not form solid tumours; instead, the cancer builds up in the blood or sometimes the marrow in the core of bones, where blood cells are produced.

In all, there are more than 200 types of cancer, but all start with mutations in the DNA contained within each and every cell.

What exactly are mutations?

Think of your DNA as a big recipe book, and your genes as individual recipes for making different dishes. Mutations are smudges or missing words from this recipe that can result in key ingredients not being added into the mix.

Regardless of the type of cancer or the cells from which it develops, mutations in our genes can result in a cell no longer understanding its instructions..

These mutations can happen by chance when dividing, but can also be the result of lifestyle choices such as smoking, drinking, and inactivity.

Research has found that in order for a normal cell to turn into a cancerous cell, anywhere from one to ten different mutations are normally required.

How is cancer treated?

Treatment options for cancer depend on a variety of factors, including where your cancer is, how large it is, and whether it has spread to other parts of the body.

The main treatments for cancer include surgery, chemotherapy, and radiotherapy. **Chemotherapy** uses drugs to target and kill cells that are rapidly dividing in our bodies. This approach is effective at targeting fast-growing cells in various cancers – but also has negative side effects.

It also targets healthy cells that rapidly divide, such as hair and the cells lining our digestive system. This can lead to commonly reported side-effects such as hair loss, nausea and diarrhoea.

Chemotherapy can be used both preventatively and therapeutically. Preventative chemotherapy, also known as adjuvant chemotherapy, is given after surgery or other primary treatments to eliminate any remaining cancer cells in the body. It aims to reduce the risk of the cancer returning (known as recurrence).

Therapeutic chemotherapy is used as a treatment option for cancer that has spread or is well established, such as advanced-stage cancers.

Part 2 is on Page17.

Barry & Sue
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A scruffy looking man in a kilt walks into a pub in London, orders a pint & very, very carefully puts down the plastic bag he is carrying.

The barman asks, "What's in that bag?"

The scruff answers, "6 pounds of Semtex"

"Thank f*ck for that," says the barman, "I thought it might be bagpipes."

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Cancer Part 2 - a Primer

Surgery involves the physical removal of cancerous tissues as well as nearby lymph nodes – small glands which act as filters in your body that cancers can spread through – to eliminate the tumour. Surgery is often used to remove localised cancers that haven't spread throughout the body.

Radiotherapy uses high-energy radiation beams that are able to target specific areas where tumour cells are located to destroy or shrink the tumour. Radiotherapy can be applied externally or internally.

Chemotherapy, surgery, and radiotherapy are often combined in cancer treatment to improve outcomes for patients.

Thanks to developments in cancer research over the last 50 years, survival rates have improved greatly – although the rate of improvement has slowed recently.

Cancer survival depends on various factors such as age – people under 40 have a greater chance of survival – overall health and fitness, as well as family history.

What you should do

Particular changes in your body or warning symptoms could indicate the presence of cancer. These include, but are not limited to:

- Unexplained weight loss;
 - Fatigue that doesn't improve with rest;
 - Changes in bowel or bladder habits;
 - Persistent cough or coughing up blood;
 - Difficulty swallowing;
 - Persistent pain;
 - Noticing lumps, such as in a breast or testicle.
- The symptoms may not necessarily be the result of cancer. But it is important to get checked by a doctor if you notice anything out of the ordinary or have had persistent symptoms that don't ease. Early detection and treatment can significantly improve outcomes for many types of cancer.

Gavin Metcalf

Cancer Biologist and Lecturer in
Biomedical Science, Anglia Ruskin University



Via Park 5 - Orihuela Costa



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Spain's Golden Visa Scheme to be Scrapped.

Spain plans to scrap so-called 'golden visas' that allow wealthy people from outside the European Union to obtain residency permits on investing more than €500,000 in property. Socialist (PSOE) Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said his minority coalition government would study the reform in the weekly cabinet meeting.

Portugal, Ireland, Greece and the Netherlands have already scrapped their 'golden visa' Spain has granted 14,576 golden visas since 2013.

According to Foreign Ministry figures, the Chinese benefited most, with a total of 2,712 visas issued since 2019. Of these, 99.33% were via property purchases. Russians were the second most common recipients of golden visa, with a total of 1,159 visas, 94.65% of which were via property acquisitions. A handful got residency by investing substantial amounts in new businesses.

The list continued with Iranians next (203 visas and 99.01% for the purchase of homes), Americans (179 visas/94.97% through property) people from the UK (177 visas/ 93.78% through property), Egypt (143 visas), Ukraine (143 visas), the Philippines (122 visas), Mexico (114 visas), Venezuela (98 visas) and Saudi Arabia (89 visas).

One left-wing politician called the visas a disgrace "it cannot be that someone is given a residence permit for the fact of being rich; this is creating first and second-class citizens."

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International Brigades

The Democratic Memory Law (*Ley 20/2022, de 19 de septiembre, de Memoria Democrática*) **allows descendants and volunteers** of the International Brigades who participated in the Spanish Civil War to obtain Spanish citizenship in recognition of their efforts towards Spain's democracy. There is no need to give up the existing nationality or pass a Spanish language test. The only downside is that the applications for Spanish nationality under this law can be submitted only until October 2025. The International Brigades, composed of volunteers from over 50 nations, played a significant role in the Spanish Civil War. They mostly consisted of non-professional soldiers such as workers, students, labourers and artists, including veterans of the First World War. Though the exact count of volunteers remains uncertain, estimates suggest over 35,000, with around 10,000 perishing in Spain.



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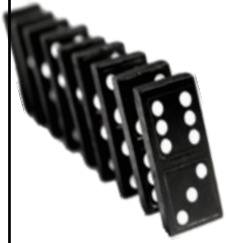
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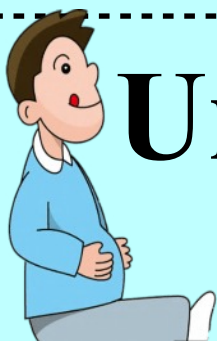


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He forgot to tell me to put the potato in the front.

UPDATED - TORREVIEJA / ALICANTE AIRPORT BUS SCHEDULE

DEPARTS TORREVIEJA	DEPARTS ALICANTE A'PORT
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09:00	09:30
10:00	10:00
10:30	10:30
11:00	11:00
12:00	11:30
13:00	12:00
14:00	13:00
15:00	14:00
16:00	15:00
17:00	16:00
18:00	17:00
20:00	18:00

Ticket price: €7

Children under 4 years old free (ID required)

Pensioners: 30% discount. Requires accreditation by presenting a Social Security card. This discount only applies to pensioners residing in the Valencian community.

To prove that you are a pensioner, you must be over 65 years old and present your NIE, DNI or residence card, where you must confirm that you are a resident of the Valencian community.

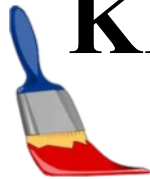
Accessible for the disabled: YES

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Gina at 722 787 647

Channel 4 are making a new soap opera set in the Costa del Sol.
Shooting has already started.....And knifing.

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

Benefit Rates 2024/2025

Sickness Benefits (Attendance Allowance, DLA, PIP.) - High Rate - £108.55.

Low Rate - £72.65



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

SC. Royal British Legion, Orihuela Costa Branch

David visited us in Catral. We couldnt find anyone to visit us so far inland. You certainly get what you pay for.

No such thing as a free lunch as they say. B&P W. Catral

David helped me when moving my Husband to a care home in the UK. His knowledge of the UK care system is amazing.

The amount of time he gave to us was fantastic.

We couldn't have done it without him.

GD-Torre Vieja

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

MT. San Miguel.

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



0034602465565



advocacycostablanca@gmail.com

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

This includes UK benefit applications (Attendance Allowance/PIP) or support to return to the UK with care.

I am registered with the UK professional body for Social Work & every year must provide proof & evidence that my experience, knowledge and skills are up to date.

As a self-employed (Autonimo) social worker in Spain I am also required to provide professional liability and indemnity insurance.

The registration requirements plus insurance means that I am always up to date with latest changes in UK social care & welfare law and my practice is fully indemnified.

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A Scam from the UK

Another scam doing the rounds. A delivery company calls and asks if you are going to be in as they have a parcel for you. Within the hour a driver appears with a basket of flowers and a bottle of wine, no idea who it's from but there is going to be a card to follow. He asks for £3.40 so he can prove the delivery has been made to an adult as there is alcohol in it. He can't take cash as the transaction has to be prove able so he produces a hand held card reader. You put your card in and type the PIN and get a receipt from the machine for £3.40. A couple of days later your account has been cleaned out. Clever and affective. Unless you know who it is from beware of unexpected deliveries. Pass it around folks the more who know the harder it is for the scum.

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It is the test of a good religion whether you can joke about it.

G.K. Chesterton

A train that stops at the Alicante-Elche Miguel Hernández airport has been in the works for years now without ever materialising, but now this useful service for air passengers flying in and out of the Costa Blanca has just taken one step closer to becoming a reality.

The state-owned railway infrastructure administrator, Adif, and the airports management company, Aena, have just agreed on several important specifications for the arrival of the train line at Alicante airport.

It was back in 2005 when a site was set aside for the planned train station, a location that was earmarked even through the expansion and renovation work that took place in 2011.

Specifically, the train station will be underground, just to the east of the vehicle parking building.

Recent technical coordination has been carried out to further the project as part of the railway branch from the current Cercanías C-1 line between Alicante city and Elche, a project that is expected to begin in 2026 and end in 2030.

Speaking at the recent inauguration ceremony of the new easyJet airline base at Alicante airport

Government delegate in the Valencian Community, Pilar Bernabé, assured that the train link has been included in **the trans-European transport network by the European Union,** which would guarantee that it can be paid for by Next Generation funds.

Pat and Mike are chatting in the pub,

"I was goin to ask you, Mike, do you have any nicknames for de members of your family?"

"Only one," says Mike.

"Which one is dat?" asks Pat. "Me grandfather," says Mike.

"And what is his nickname?" "We call him Spider Man," says Mike.

"And why's dat?" asks Pat, "Is he still very athletic for his age?"

"No," says Mike, "it's cos he can't get out of the bath on his own!"



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(These tips are to assist those of us who have very little knowledge of modern technology.)

Now what is **IPTV**? Well it stands for Internet Protocol Television and can be accessed using the Internet and another device like a Smart TV, Android Box, Fire Stick and even on your mobiles and tablets. With IPTV you will get an app from a provider, plug it in to the Internet (or via WiFi) and the app will allow you to watch their content.

Buffering using IPTV, now these are THE REAL reasons. There are several stages to finally watch IPTV, from the company providing the source (channels, Videos etc) to your supplier, sharing the content via your app and Internet. Now, its no good saying I have 600mb Internet as you don't, in fact during busy periods like the evenings, some residents in your urbanisation can end up with about 30mb and

this will cause buffering but you are also relying on the content supplied at the beginning and your supplier having enough equipment. On social media you will see comments like Anti Buffer technology and No Buffering, this is all nonsense.

Lots of IPTV providers are being shut down with several raids in the UK and Ireland. Although they won't go after the end user, you will just lose your service so remember it's not perfect and could go off. Most of those who sell IPTV in Spain are resellers. They may pretend they run the service but they don't. They just buy credits to their service provider and add you on using those credits. Don't pay more than €60 a year and if it goes off.....nothing you can do about it.

Did you hear about the guy in Quesada who drank some Tipp-Ex instead of his liquid Viagra?
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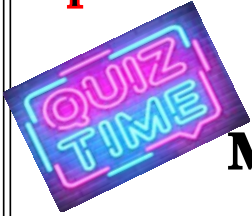


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- Emotional Support
- Support for those caring for someone diagnosed with dementia and Alzheimer.

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Broadband Getting 'the Chop' in Spain!

On Friday April 19th Spain began its total migration from ADSL to fibre optic, a measure which will leave 440,000 households in 7,440 municipalities across the country without internet. Spain is bidding farewell to broadband internet as it officially and completely moves over to fibre optic internet. According to Spain's National Markets and Competition Commission (CNMC), there are still 440,000 ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line) connections in use in Spain.

The gradual closure of Spain's 8,526 copper exchanges, the material that allows ADSL connections in Spain, means that those who haven't made the changeover already will be left without internet access soon.

Telefónica, which owns Movistar, began cutting off its ADSL services on April 19th, Vodafone will do so in June and Orange is in the process of notifying its broadband customers.

*Alcohol doesn't make you fat,
It makes you LEAN
.....against tables, the walls,
the floor and other people!*

All-seeing, Polly!

Lady goes into a pet shop and sees a beautiful parrot in a cage. "What a beautiful bird," she exclaims, "How much is it?"

"Twenty pounds" replies the shopkeeper, "but I have to warn you, he's got a bit of previous, hence the price. Grew up in a brothel so he's seen a few things and his language can be a little fruity sometimes."

Ignoring the warning, the lady pays £20 and takes the bird home.

Once there she puts the bird in the living room, takes the cover off, and the bird has a good look around. "New place," says the parrot. "Nice wallpaper, new furniture. Very nice".

Later that afternoon the lady's daughters come home. The bird looks them up and down, "New place, new girls. Nice. Very nice".

That evening the lady's husband returns from work. "Hello Keith" says the bird.



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Police in Italy have fined a 104-year-old woman who was caught driving **an uninsured car at 1 a.m.** with an expired driving licence. Giuseppina Molinari vowed to continue to drive. "I will buy myself a Vespa," she said. In the meantime, she plans to visit friends by bicycle instead. The local mayor said she "deserves a medal rather than a fine." Italy is home to 20,456 centenarians, up from 14,456 in 2019. See! Pasta and Pizza is good for you!

Two Ohio women allegedly put their newly deceased housemate's **corpse in his car**, propped him up, and drove to a nearby bank's drive-through window to take money from his account. The women had previously drawn money from the branch with the then-alive man giving his approval, said Ashtabula Police Chief Robert Stell. The women, who dropped his body off at a nearby hospital after withdrawing about \$900, were charged with theft and abuse of a corpse. "It's a first for all of us," Stell said.

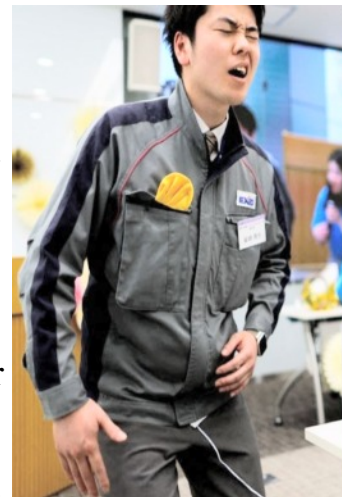
A tiny Italian island is facing an "unmanageable" level of chaos after becoming overrun by wild goats. Alicudi's goat population has swelled to about 600, six times that of the human population living on the island year-round. Mayor Riccardo Gullo has come up with an innovative **"adopt a goat"** initiative to tackle the problem and is asking people from other islands and the mainland to take some of the animals off their hands.

A dog that went missing in California nine months ago has been found 2,300 miles away. Mishka, a three-year-old terrier cross, vanished in July from its owner Mehrad Houman's



workplace in San Diego. He and his wife Liz pleaded for information about their "sweet girl" on social media, but got nowhere. Last week, however, authorities in Detroit found Mishka wandering the streets, and took it to a vet, where its chip was scanned. "I've been missing my kid," Houman (photo) said.

Male workers at a Japanese telecoms company, Exeo, have been given the opportunity to experience **period pain**. The pain was generated using a "perionoid" device that sends electrical signals via pads placed in the lower abdominal region, to induce menstrual-style cramping sensations. "It hurts. Oh my goodness!" said Masaya Shibasaki, 26, as he winced in pain. Exeo's PR officer said he hoped employees would "go back to their workplace... and spread their understanding".



Count Binface (photo) has unveiled his manifesto for the **London mayoral election**. In his list of 24 policies, the spoof candidate pledged to force Thames Water bosses to "take a dip in the Thames" to "see how they like it"; to ban shops from selling croissants for more than £1.10; to turn the Millennium Dome into a nature reserve; and to force those using speaker phones on public transport to "watch a box set of The One Show". Binface is also pledging to turn shops that play Christmas music before December into public libraries, and to "build at least one affordable house". (He would get my vote!)

Royal Navy recruits will no longer need to be able to prove they can swim in order to join up. In a move described by a source as a "sign of true desperation to increase recruitment numbers", anyone seeking to join the aquatic wing of the British military won't have to pass a 30-minute swim test. Asked how the change had gone down internally, the source said there was "outrage, unadulterated, utter outrage" over the "race to the bottom – literally the bottom".





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*I asked my wife if the cup was half full or half empty?
She told me: "For the last time, stop wearing my bras!"*

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RACING
COVERAGE**

The inventor Arthur Davidson, of the Harley Davidson Motorcycle Corporation, died and went to heaven. At the gates, St. Peter told Arthur, "Since you've been such a good man and your motorcycles have changed the world, your reward is, you can hang out with anyone you want in Heaven." Arthur thought about it for a minute and then said, "I want to hang out with God."

St. Peter took Arthur to the Throne Room, and introduced him to God.

Arthur then asked God, "Hey, aren't you the inventor of women?" God said, "Ah, yes."

"Well," said Arthur, "professional to professional, you have some major design flaws in your invention."

God was somewhat taken back, and when He asked what the flaws might be, Arthur Davidson produced a list for Him to read.

- 1 There's too much inconsistency in the front-end protrusions.
- 2 It chatters constantly at high speeds.
- 3 Most of the rear ends are too soft and wobble too much.
- 4 The intake is placed way too close to the exhaust and finally,
- 5 The maintenance costs are outrageous.

"Hmmm, you may have some good points there and it may be true that My invention is flawed..." God said to Arthur.

"But the last time that I checked, more men are riding My invention than yours."



AQUAQUEST

PLUMBING

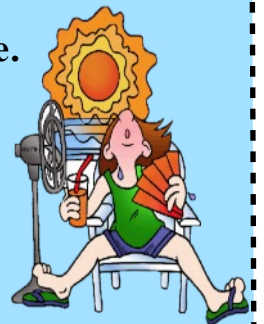


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Lime Bar Fishing SUNBATHING Club

Sweeney loaned me a book to while away the time waiting for a bite! This passage is quite apt. "Wealthy fishermen with the very best tackle money can buy don't inevitably catch the most fish, nor even the biggest individual specimens. Skill is a great deal more than half the battle and luck is always lurking ready to upset the arrogant claims of the so-called expert. This is part of the great appeal of fishing."

It does help though, if you have a fat wallet & a lady that doesn't whinge "too much".

Our chairman rattled through another monthly meeting where we drew for the summer knock out and decided we would fish Bigastro the following Friday for the monthly match.

We should have had 9 on the bank but we ended up with just 6. The others knew what to expect from the match day demon!

We arrived to perfect conditions, no wind, cloudless sky, sun just rising on the horizon, dew highlighting the cobwebs and steam rising from the river.

It looked like something from Mr Crabtree's adventures! See photo.



As we set up our tackle, Sweeney sheepishly walked down the bank asking if anyone had a spare keepnet (the plonker had forgotten his). No one had a spare net, so he decided that if he caught, he would walk to the next angler (me) and weigh / record them individually. Luckily, he didn't have to wear his legs out.

With the very mild weather we have had recently, we all expected the fish to start feeding up for spawning. How wrong we were. Yet again the fishing was very patchy and bites were hard to find. The fish were there but they couldn't be induced to feed.

I thought my luck was in as my float wobbled away after about 10 minutes. Alas, it turned out to be one of

the biggest terrapins in the river. See photo.

3 Rods forgot about the match and had to leave early as he had a vet's appointment. The Cat hooked into his only fish just before the final whistle but the fish spat his hook out at the net. It was massive! So, he said.

6 sunbathers fished, 2 blanked and the others could only catch 15 fish between them. I won with 5.5 kilos, 2nd was 3 rods with 3.7 kilos and 3rd was Old Bill with 1 carp of 2.63 kilos.

3 Rods fished the same spot a few days later and he had 4 carp for over 16 pounds. Why? Because it is called fishing and not catching.

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

Stay safe.

Fishy fingers,
The Ghost

A Close Call!

I had a near death experience that has changed me forever. The other day I went horseback riding. Everything was going fine until the horse starts bouncing out of control. I tried with all my might to hang on, but was thrown off. Just when things could not possibly get worse, my foot gets caught in the stirrup. When this happened, I fell head first to the ground. My head continued to bounce harder as the horse did not stop or even slow down! Just as I was giving up hope and losing consciousness, a store manager at Zenia Boulevard came and unplugged it.



This year marks the 12th World Happiness Report commissioned by the United Nations and as always, it's based on surveys conducted over the past three years, in which tens of thousands of individuals rated their lives on a scale of 1 to 10. The average score for each country is calculated based on these responses.

For the seventh year in a row, **Finland topped the list** with a score of 7.74, followed closely by Denmark, which scored 7.58. Iceland came in third, while Sweden, Israel, the Netherlands, Norway, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Australia completed the top ten. (I wonder what Israel's score is now.)

Overall, eight of the ten happiest countries were located in Europe, indicating a strong correlation between socioeconomic factors and general well-being.

"Finnish society is permeated by a sense of trust, freedom and high level of autonomy," according to Jennifer De Paola, a happiness researcher at the University of Helsinki. Finns have a "more attainable understanding of what a successful life is", said De Paola, compared with places **where success is measured more by wealth.**

An experiment by Reader's Digest in 2022 tested global honesty by dropping 12 wallets in 16 cities around the world. Helsinki came out top, **with 11 of the 12 wallets being returned to the owner.**

While the UK dropped one point in the 2024 rankings, it's still in 20th place in the global league of more than 140 countries and well ahead of Spain, which came in at number 36. (Maybe the locals are not too happy! Most of the expat's certainly are!) Ireland came in at No.17.

On the other end of the spectrum, war-torn Afghanistan and Lebanon were ranked as the two unhappiest countries, with scores of 1.72 and 2.70, respectively.

One notable trend revealed by the report is the decline in happiness among millennials, who were born between 1980 and 2000. Each year, their happiness scores dropped, whereas baby boomers, born before 1965, reported increasing levels of life satisfaction as they aged. Experts describe this phenomenon as a concerning pattern of younger people in Western Europe and North America experiencing a 'mid-life crisis'.

"There is a Finnish proverb that seems relevant here," said Danny Dorling, a University of Oxford professor, in *The Conversation: onnellisuus on se paikka puuttuvaisuuden ja yltäkyläisyyden välillä* – "happiness is a place between too little and too much".

To read the full report click on the following - <https://happiness-report.s3.amazonaws.com/2024/WHR+24.pdf>

Samsung is making executives work 6 days a week to 'inject a sense of crisis'

While countries around the world are testing out shortened workweeks, Samsung executives in South Korea are working overtime. There is a growing global movement to change the standard workweek — by making it shorter, not longer. Last year, after 61 U.K. companies trialed a four-day workweek, 92% of the organizations said they would continue with the practice; the trial's report found that apart from physical and mental health benefits to workers, company revenues rose and absenteeism fell. Nations like Iceland, Belgium, and the United Arab Emirates, governments are piloting and implementing four-day schedules. In the United States, a bill proposing a national four-day workweek landed in the Senate last month.



It was a slow night at the local, so when a stranger showed up and ordered a pint, the proprietor took the opportunity to chat with him. The guy said he was a marketing expert. After some talk about the weather and sports, the guy asked, "Say, this is pretty good beer. How much to you sell in a week?"

The proprietor said, "Oh, usually around three kegs a week unless there is a special event going on."

"Well," said the guy, "What if I could tell you how to sell five kegs a week on a regular basis? Would that be worth another pint?"

"Sure," said the proprietor, wanting to take advantage of some free expert advice. So he poured another pint, set it down in front of the guy and said, "So what do I have to do?"

The guy took a sip and said, "FILL THE BLOODY GLASSES TO THE TOP!"

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