

Oct 2010 issue 30

THE



OLIVE PRESS

CATALUNYA &  
COSTA AZAHAR



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a little serious a little humorous



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**FIRA DEL BANDOLER I FESTA DEL REMEI D'ALCOVER**  
 Propera edició: 09/10/2010 - 10/10/2010 Alcover has an important link with banditry since the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries when it was in the heart of bandit activities. This activity in Alcover had two opposing sides: the gizzard and the vultures. The rise of banditry coincides with a time of economic revival of the village, which translates into an architectural and urban transformation, cultural, economic and, among other things, the party and traditional culture. For further information: [www.alcover.cat](http://www.alcover.cat)

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<http://sitgesfilmfestival.com/eng/festival/editorial>

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**October 12 - Spain's National Day (Fiesta Nacional de España, national - also called Día de la Hispanidad)**  
 With the advent of democracy in Spain, 12 October, a date that commemorates the discovery of America by Cristobal Colon in 1492, became the National Day of Spain. 12 October 1492 marks the emergence of a large Spanish speaking community of more than 350 million people who share language, values, and traditions.

Press release

8 September 2010

THE BRITISH CONSULATE, THE PENSION, BENEFIT AND HEALTHCARE TEAM AND AGE CONCERN ESPAÑA TO VISIT EL PERELLÓ AND ROSES

The British Consulate will be holding two open events in Catalunya to offer British residents advice and information on key issues, such as:

- Applying for EHICs
- Working in Spain and how this affects your pension
- Registering with the Consulate

The Casework Manager for Age Concern España will also explain how you can make a difference by becoming a volunteer caseworker or 'befriender'.

The Pension, Benefit and Healthcare Team will provide information on entitlements in Spain and the services that their team can offer. As well as an open question and answer session, you will be able to book a one-to-one appointment with a member of staff.

Event details:

Tuesday 26th Oct 2010 11.30am (Doors open at 10.45am) Cine Auditori Victoria Carrer Nava, 49 El Perelló Tarragona	Wednesday 27th Oct 2010 11.30am (Doors open at 10.45am) Teatre Municipal Carrer Tarragona 81 Roses Girona
--	--

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## MEET BOB THE EDITOR

WELCOME TO THE OCTOBER ISSUE

COVERING CATALUNYA.

IN THE 19TH CENTURY, THE MONTH OF OCTOBER WAS DEDICATED TO THE DEVOTION OF THE ROSARY IN ROMAN CATHOLIC COUNTRIES. SLAVS CALL IT "YELLOW MONTH", FROM THE FADING OF THE LEAF; TO THE ANGLO-SAXONS IT WAS KNOWN AS WINTERFYLLETH, BECAUSE AT THIS FULL MOON (FYLLETH) WINTER WAS SUPPOSED TO BEGIN.

ERIC WHITACRE COMPOSED A PIECE BASED ON THIS MONTH, ENTITLED OCTOBER:

~~~~~

*With the intention of evoking a serene and peaceful musical representation. It is based on his favorite month and the feelings in this month brings to his mind.*

*Whitacre stated,*

*"Something about the crisp autumn air and the subtle changes in light always make me a little sentimental, and as I started to sketch I felt the same quiet beauty in the writing. The simple, pastoral melodies and the subsequent harmonies are inspired by the great English Romantics, as I felt this style was also perfectly suited to capture the natural and pastoral soul of the season. I'm happy with the end result, especially because I feel there just isn't enough lush, beautiful music written for winds."*

~~~~~

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## COVER PICTURE:

Pumpkins are commonly carved into decorative lanterns called jack-o'-lanterns for the Halloween season in North America, although the custom has now spread into Europe.

4 email: info@theolivepress.eu ☺ Tel: 977 059 364



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***I'm sure all this wasn't in the house before!!***

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**M**OBILE PHONE USER ALERT. Of interest to all mobile users. The latest mobile Telephone fraud is already on the street. | Regió Policial Metropolitana Barcelona | 2 Sept 2010 | This is a fraud that can seriously harm our pocket.

The fact has been confirmed by the mobile phone companies themselves. The tips below will prevent us from being the victims of this fraudulent activity:

1 - If you receive a call on your mobile phone and the display shows: INVIABLE!! with TWO exclamations (!!!): Do NOT answer the phone, or try to WAIVE THE CALL. Let it ring until it stops, and then delete the missed call directly. Otherwise with this method, they can access the code for your SIM card (the soul of your phone) and could cancel it or create a new one.

2 %...- If you receive a message on your mobile telling you that you have a transaction and you have to call 1749. Immediately delete it.

If you call, your SIM card will be cloned, and from that moment they could call from your number, of course at your expense.

FRAUDSTERS DO THIS FROM JAIL, TO OBTAIN CREDIT FOR THEIR MOBILE PHONES .

Such fraud is occurring on a large scale, so I beg you to pass this information to anyone you know and that is a mobile phone user.

PLEASE TELL ALL YOUR FRIENDS AND REMEMBER..... IF WE DO, we will all benefit

Jose Mª Tardon, Regió Policial Metropolitana Barcelona  
Negociat de Coordinació i Logística  
Telef 933002296 (Extensió 49104)

**S**panish researches say swimming in a chlorine pool can cause genetic mutations. Spanish researchers have concluded that swimming in a covered swimming pool where chlorine has been used as a disinfectant can lead to mutations in a person's DNA. The study was carried out by



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the High Council of Scientific Investigation, CSIC, the Centre for Environmental Epidemiology, CREAL, and the Hospital del Mar Research Institute, IMIM, along with the Barcelona autonomous university, UAB, and the Clínic Hospital in the city. They set 49 adults swimming in the water for 40 minutes and discovered that reactions were produced in lung permeability by the disinfectants in the water reacting with the organic matter of the swimmer. The conclusion came following analysis of blood, urine and breath samples from the volunteers. The researchers also concluded that the action of the chlorine on the skin could cause DNA mutations. However they also explicitly underline that swimming is beneficial for health, saying that such benefits would be increased by reduction in the use of chemical products for disinfection. Details of the study have been published in the Environmental Health Perspectives magazine.

**S**panish copyright society winning cases in Court. A bar in Calella, Barcelona, has been ordered by the Provincial Court to pay 1,443€ for the music heard on the television in the corner as charged by the SGAE, Spanish performing rights and copyright society. The court confirmed an earlier sentence in the mercantile court in Barcelona following the action placed against the owner of the Tío Pepe bar by the SGAE in 2007. He also will have to pay 87 € a month for using music as part of the atmosphere of his establishment which is a bar by both day and night.

**HALLOWEEN**

"What do you call a ghost of a chicken?"

"a poultrygeist..."

**STUFFED OLIVES**

It's not thought that the ruling will have any effect on the thousands of bar owners across the country who have the television on in the corner. Meanwhile the same Barcelona court has ordered a restaurant normally used for wedding receptions in Cabrera de Mar in Barcelona to pay the SGAE 16,099 € for the music rights derived from the music at the weddings held between the years 2002 and 2008.

**B**lood donors treated like gourmets in Cataluña. Cataluña has come up with a new way to get more people to donate blood in the region. They have launched a new campaign called 'Tengo sangre de sibarita' – 'I have the blood of a gourmet'. No, they are not jumping on the current fashionable Vampire craze, but instead people who give blood at the Sant Pau, Clínic or Vall d'Hebron Hospitals in Barcelona will be offered a tasty menu created by the prestigious chefs, Fermi Puig, Ada Parellada, and Favián Martín. Ferran Adrià is also expected to join the initiative in October. The health authorities are

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**T**urnstiles to get to the classroom in Catalan schools. The system controls the attendance of the students who pass through the turnstiles with a card to reach the classroom. When the system detects that a pupil is absent it sends an SMS text message to the parents. The regional education authority says it is not just a system for control, it is also for safety, but added that it was up to each institute to decide what they spend their money on. The system costs some 12,000 €.

**R**ESIDENCIA APPLICATIONS IN TORTOSA. The system appears to have changed for the better when you wish to renew your residencia. They have at last introduced an appointment system. You have to phone up and make the appointment between 9.00 and 14.00 on 977 448 259 although they only speak Catalan or Spanish so you may have to get someone to do this for you. Plus you can make a joint appointment for a couple unlike previously where you had to take a ticket each. When you arrive you go to the desk and they tick your name off and then you wait until you are called. A couple of our readers recently tried the old system in August with the ticket system and eventually gave up waiting. Went back in September were told about the new system and got their bank manager to phone up and make the appointment on their behalf. Arriving earlier than the appointment and surprised to find the extranjeros section nearly empty although the Spanish side was full. They were called in before their actual due time of 11am and were finished including going to the bank to pay the fee by 11.45am. Their verdict is that it is now a great system.



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**ROBBERY IN A TRAIN**  
-BCN TO TORTOSA.

I was robbed of my wallet last week outside or inside a train going from Sants station to Tortosa. The robbery could have taken place when I was trying (I am 65 – knee and back problems etc) to lift our luggage (with wheels) up, onto the train. When I was engaged in this struggle a woman beside me asked me if the train was going to Sant Vicens. Her associate could have taken the wallet then, I suppose. The other occasion was when I was struggling (again) to put the luggage above our seats. Who knows?

I had my wallet in the front pocket of my trousers – closed with velco. Anyway after the discovery that my wallet had disappeared – after Tarragona, I was walking to the toilet when I crossed the train driver – he asked me if I had lost something – etc etc. The story is that the train driver from bcn got off at Tarragona and gave the new driver 2 wallets that had been found (1 of them being mine). The new driver told me that it was strange that 2 wallets had been found – implying that something organized was behind the affair. That is why I am writing this for the Olive Press – send in your experiences and any advice you can give based on your experience of trains Sants to Tortosa. I was speaking with an English friend about this affair and he said that it is easier for thieves to go for bags rather than front pockets. Do you agree? Looking forward to your comments in Olive Press! Regards Bronson

## ALCOHOLEMIA - ALCOHOLISM by David Piqué

Sadly, alcoholism is one of the main causes of traffic accidents in Spain and alcohol level controls constitute one of the biggest worries for drivers.

The measurement of alcohol depends on the concentration of alcohol in the blood or in exhaled air, that is, the quantity of grams or milligrams that exist in a litre of blood or air respectively. The maximum amount of alcohol permitted according to the administrative rules of the traffic department for standard drivers is 0,25 mg/ litre. The maximum concentration in blood is reached between 30 and 90 minutes after having drunk alcohol.

If the minimum amount permitted is 0,25mg/l, obviously exceeding this amount implies a corresponding disciplinary measure, the problem becomes worse when the limit of 0,60 mg/l is exceeded as driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs is punishable under the Penal Code by the mere fact that the amount of alcohol in exhaled air exceeds 0,60 milligrams per litre (equivalent to 1,2 grams per litre in blood) whether an accident has occurred or not. Let us not forget that as this crime is punishable under the Penal Code the driver is subject to a 'proper' trial and is obliged to be defended by a lawyer.

In these cases, the driver is punished (if he is convicted at the corresponding court trial) with a prison sentence of 3 to 6 months or a fine of 6 to 12 months and community service from 31 to 90 days as well as a driving ban from 1 to 4 years. This crime can be added to other offences if the driver is implicated in a traffic accident, such as injuries, manslaughter, etc., as well as resulting in public liability.

It is important to remember that this matter is processed by way of a fast track trial, and if the driver declares himself guilty before the examining magistrate's court, he could benefit from a significant advantage: a reduction of a third of the sentence. For that, it is habitual in flagrant and clear-cut cases, prior to the public prosecutor's consent, that the driver

be penalised with a reduced sentence, that is, a driving ban of 8 months plus a monetary fine.

Administrative measures: On the other hand, driving under the influence of alcohol can be penalised as a very serious administrative offence by the municipal police, Mossos d'Esquadra and other traffic authorities with a fine of up to 601.01€ and driving licence suspension for a period of 3 to 6 months.

The offence of driving under the influence of alcohol cannot be penalised by criminal proceedings and by administrative measures at the same time, so it will be dealt with firstly by the criminal court and if the judge, after the corresponding trial, gives a verdict of not guilty, it is possible that the traffic authorities begin proceedings to penalise the offence by administrative measures.

In short my dear readers, the most sensible thing is not to drink if you are going to drive as the consequences can be fatal.

by David Piqué  
any legal questions can be sent to  
davidpique@advocatsreus.org or  
The Olive Press direct

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PEOPLE will be expected to work for a minimum of five years as a zombie under new government plans to raise the retirement age.

Funerals will include a compulsory back to work assessment and any corpse refusing to attend job interviews will have their supply of brains cut off.

Work and pensions secretary, Iain Duncan Smith, said: "From the fast food sector to Britain's burgeoning call centre industry, there is a great untapped market for the shuffling undead."

"ASDA have already shown that it is possible to staff large premises with nothing but the denizens of the underworld."

"With these new measures we hope to finally remove the warming promise of death's embrace that used to give so many a vague glimmer of hope."

Exemptions will be made for those who died in explosions, plane crashes or catastrophic chainsaw failures but their body parts will have to be examined by a benefits officer to assess whether a retraining course could secure them a job at an IT helpdesk.

Nikki Hollis, who died eight months ago after trapping her head in an industrial steam press and is currently employed as a surly, useless bitch in B&Q, feels the zombie work scheme has given her a whole new outlook.

She said: "I dont know where the shelf brackets are, ask someone else. Oh and by the way, BRAAAAAAIIIIINS!"



Criminals across the UK have greeted the news of radical cutbacks in Britain's police service with a resounding thumbs up.

"That'll do for me," Freddie 'Fatfingers' Kosilikit of the Russian Mafia told us. "They're a pain in the arse, the Dibble. It's about time somebody cut back on them. They're an obstruction to good business practices. Now we may be able to get back to earning some decent wonga without unnecessary interference."

Leading Con-Dem politicians have lauded the cutbacks as a necessary step in the continuing battle of good against evil. One leading player said that anti-social behaviour and violent crime were nothing more than figments of a paranoid public's collective imagination.

As were serial killers and terrorists.

Speaking from his country pile in Gloucestershire, he said that he had not, at any point witnessed such carrying on.

The government proposed yesterday that all citizens should be issued with warrant cards, pointy helmets, whistles and truncheons so that they could sort out their own problems without interference from the law.

And riot shields in run down inner city neighbourhoods.

Sir Robert Peel was reportedly turning in his grave.

More as we get it.

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**CAPRICORN** Dec. 22 - Jan. 20 -Your social life is full of positive energy this month. You are encouraged to get involved in all kinds of social activities for playtime and for business related purposes. You are coming across as smart, passionate, and charming. Groups want to do business with you and friends, family, neighbours, and teammates want to just hang out with you.



**AQUARIUS** Jan. 21 - Feb. 19 -You are still struggling with legal, travel, cultural, political, religious, academic, or "global awareness" challenges and learning experiences. However, your career and your finances are now starting to help the rebuilding your life.



**PISCES** Feb. 20 - Mar. 20 -Your finances are improving as long as you are extremely careful and cautious when considering financial activities involving friends, teams, clubs, committees, professional associations, and/or the Internet. Outside of financial activities, your social life is booming with all kinds of positive energies.



**ARIES** Mar. 21 - Apr. 20 -Your love life, career, and finances are doing well this month. Your social life and your love life are clashing, but it is a temporary issue. You will need to be especially cautious when conducting financial transactions online and when friends or colleagues start pitching "get rich quick" ideas. Trust your gut, it really is too good to be true.



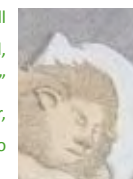
**TAURUS** Apr. 21 - May 21 -You have some positive developments in your career this month, but the real focus in on your partnerships. You and a romantic, social, or business partner are able to enjoy cultural, political, religious, networking, academic, media, social, and/or travel related activities together.



**GEMINI** May 22 - Jun. 22 -Your career and your finances are really benefiting from this month's planetary activity. You should definitely see an improvement in this area of your life. You also have some lovely opportunities to fall in love, play, learn, explore, socialize, and broaden your horizons. Despite the wonderful focus on your career, this is not one of those boring times when you do not get to goof off and enjoy yourself.



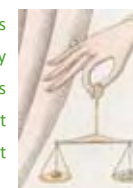
**CANCER** Jun. 23 - Jul. 22 -Your love life, home life, career, and finances all get boosts of positive energy this month. And you end the month with planets encouraging you to have fun, make love, enjoy hobbies, spend time with loved ones, and/or to turn a favourite pastime into a career. Friends will help to channel more happiness, luxury, and/or fun in your life.



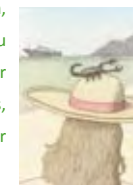
**LEO** Jul. 23 - Aug. 23 -Your home, career, and love life are all benefiting from some lovely energy this month. Those of you working from home or working in home-focused industries (like real estate, hospice care, landscaping, interior decorating, etc) could find this is an incredibly profitable month for you.



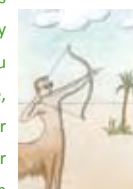
**VIRGO** Aug. 24 - Sep. 23 -Your love life, career, and community relationships are finally starting to show some positive signs of recovery. You also have quite a few opportunities to have fun, splurge, and to bond with loved ones. Those of you working in "happiness" industries could find that business is definitely picking up.



**LIBRA** Sept. 24 - Oct. 23 -You have a handful of planets passing through an area where they can help you with financial goals and building self-worth. They channel this positive financial energy into your professional and residential matters. You do need to be careful about not spending too much money on playtime activities, but otherwise, things are looking up!



**SCORPIO** Oct. 24 - Nov. 22  
 Oh, it is a good time to be a Scorpio! Your love life, home life, professional life, and finances are all bursting with positive energy. Sure, there are still some dysfunctional people in your life that are a bit annoying, but overall you are doing great.



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov. 23-Dec. 21 -Good news! Your home life is finally going to start getting better, no more battles between your career and your domestic bliss. In addition, your finances, self-worth, and overall happiness are getting some wonderful boosts of positive energy. You should find the last half of the month is great for financial goals, budgeting, and achieving a sense of security.





- The repeated acts of cruelty against animals are often a sign of an anti-social disorder.
- Child perpetrators are more likely to commit crimes in the future.
- Experts stress that this phenomenon should not be overlooked.

## IT'S NOT JUST A PIT BULL ISSUE



There is a direct correlation between those who abuse animals and those who abuse people.



In spite of the terrible brutality reflected by the acts of cruelty against animals, they do not occupy the front pages of any newspaper or appear too shocking to the public, however, they have an ultimate meaning that should interest us as a society. Those who abuse animals, experts say, are up to five times more likely to commit violent crimes against persons.

A British teenager who gets to his brother's hamster in the microwave, a group of boys who crucified a cat in Valencia and another who brutally murdered a donkey in Extremadura , three Mexicans who tortured a dog and displaying videos on the Web... Animals skinned, burned, impaled, mutilated, beaten ...etc.

It is common to read or hear phrases like "childish behaviour" when dealing with these events. It is true that sometimes, in a game, especially in groups, some commit minor acts that are regrettable but, according to psychiatrists and criminologists, regarding other such acts "this is a warning sign " and people do not listen, "this is not a harmless outlet in a healthy individual", in the words of Allen Brantley, supervisor and FBI Special Agent, one of the world's leading experts in the field.

"Play that kills animals that we do not feel compassion for, such as mussels, is quite normal, but some children do so repeatedly, deriving pleasure, and that's a problem",

## Police: Man killed girlfriend's cat, shot at kids

explains Francisco Montañés, Chief of Psychiatry at the Alcorcón Hospital Foundation, to ELMUNDO.es

### Anti-Social Behaviour.

In countries like the U.S., interest in such acts is increasing. Not only because of increased awareness towards animals but by the ever-increasing evidence of the relationship between acts of animal cruelty and other crimes ranging from drug use to the serial murders.

In the 80s, Alan Felthous, an expert in forensic psychiatry, conducted several studies consistently showing that behind the attacks on people was, in many cases, a history of animal abuse. Their work was carried out with men, especially violent inmates in U.S. prisons and served to confirm their study.

After that, others have analyzed this issue. In 2002, the magazine Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law made public a study in which the repeated acts of cruelty to animals in childhood were linked with the development of an Antisocial Personality Disorder, the presence of antisocial traits and substance abuse.

" Approximately half of the anti-social individuals engage sadistic behaviour and if they do before they are 10 years old the prognosis is worse," affirms Francisco Montañés. That the child moves from one isolated act of violence against an animal to commit other crimes, "is an escalation", this expert added. "If you repeat the act and do so against an increasing size of animal, if you derive pleasure from this .. The possibilities are greater of this behaviour being transferred to abuse against people."

Frank Ascione, from the Department of Psychology at the University of Utah ( USA) and a recognized expert, wrote in the Bulletin of Juvenile Justice in 2001: "The abuse of animals and interpersonal violence share common



characteristics : both types of victims are living creatures, have the ability to experience pain and could die from injuries inflicted ."

### An opportunity to intervene.

The awareness and sensitivity in Spain to this problem is low. "We are near the end of queue", says Núria Querol i Viñas, a family physician from the University Hospital Mutua de Terrassa, who is also a criminologist and expert on these issues. "The mistreatment of animals is shocking and only rarely does anyone do anything", she adds.

However, stressed Querol, who is also member of the American Society of Criminology, "when there are cases detected of children who abuse animals you must be careful because this child may have a conduct disorder. What you can not overlook is an opportunity to intervene."

At this point she agrees with Dr. Montañés, which affects the need to "go to a psychiatrist in cases of cruelty to animals because at first these people can be worked with and treated easily. Lack of impulse control, empathy, anger management are symptomatic of things that can be treated if caught early", adds Querol.

One of the objectives of this expert is to establish in Spain, as already exist in other countries, intervention programs to work with these people because "it is very important to change the values and it cannot be accomplished in a systematic way", she concludes.

Dr Ronald Rosenfeld. D.V.M.





SHARPIE

"moral and cultural progress of a country is measured from its treatment of animals" (Mahatma Gandhi)

**URGENT ADOPTION REQUIRED CALL ARCA TODAY. A.R.C.A. (Association for Refuge and Taking care of the Animals) it is a non-profit association**

operating since the summer of year 2001.

At this moment they have 300 abandoned dogs. They are in Tortosa in the province of Tarragona (Spain). All the material aid comes from the much appreciated donations but with each new arrival more donations are needed.

If you want to donate to Arca if only by 5€ each month, minimum, please send an e-mail with your personal data and account number or call or write. Or just become a volunteer to help with the dogs. email: [protectora.arca@wanadoo.es](mailto:protectora.arca@wanadoo.es) ARCA : Post office 496, Tortosa, (Tarragona) or contact: Cinta 625 915 605

Carmen 655 040 359 Mave

(English) 678 975 816



Fluffy, cute puppy (like a little wolf) about 3 months old recently found loves other pets and a very loving dog. Has a floppy ear which adds to his charm will make a super devoted pet and addition to any family.





**A.M.P.A.R.E.**  
**PROTECTORA D'ANIMALS**  
**DE LA RIBERA D'EBRE**  
**Based in MORA LA NOVA**

CONTACT: Susan: 689 468 752 English  
Isabel: 977 404 720 / 657 905 465 Spanish/ Catalan  
[www.naturahumana.com/ampare](http://www.naturahumana.com/ampare)

A. M. P. A. R. E. The society for the protection of animals Ebro region. Based in Mora La Nova. We desperately need to re-home dogs to make room for more! We have over 200 dogs for adoption. Susan 689 468752 English Isabel 977 404720 Spanish/ Catalan Donations always appreciated.



I have adopted an abandoned dog. Have you?

Albergo d'Animali  
www.albergoanimali.com

657 18 14 37  
619 84 87 78

[www.albergoanimali.com](http://www.albergoanimali.com)

"Hello, I Am Encarna From The Animal Refuge Terres Ebre, Please Help Me!!! I have 20 puppies and 70 dogs, 40 cats please I need food for dogs and cats....."



Association for the refuge and Care of Animals

**Arca**

Hundreds of lovely dogs need homes  
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Call Arca Today to Provide A Home To 1 Of 300 Dogs Needing A Loving Home Or If You Can Volunteer Any Assistance With The Dogs





### Daddy, how was I born?

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

The father answers, 'Well, son, I guess one day you will need to find out anyway! Your Mum and I first got together in a chat room on Yahoo. Then I set up a date via e-mail with your Mum and we met at a cyber-cafe. We sneaked into a secluded room, and googled each other. There your mother agreed to a download from my hard drive. As soon as I was ready to upload, we discovered that neither one of us had used a firewall, and since it was too late to hit the delete button, nine months later a little Pop-Up appeared that said:



'You got Male!'



"No, you weren't downloaded. You were born."

NOW YOU KNOW WHY PENSIONERS ARE UP IN ARMS HUNG PARLIAMENT - HANGING'S TOO GOOD FOR THEM

This is interesting!

Let me see if I understand all this .....

IF YOU CROSS THE NORTH KOREAN BORDER ILLEGALLY YOU GET 12 YEARS HARD LABOUR.

IF YOU CROSS THE IRANIAN BORDER ILLEGALLY YOU ARE DETAINED INDEFINITELY.

IF YOU CROSS THE AFGHAN BORDER ILLEGALLY, YOU GET SHOT. IF YOU CROSS THE SAUDI ARABIAN BORDER ILLEGALLY YOU WILL BE JAILED.

IF YOU CROSS THE CHINESE BORDER ILLEGALLY YOU MAY NEVER BE HEARD FROM AGAIN.

IF YOU CROSS THE VENEZUELAN BORDER ILLEGALLY YOU WILL BE BRANDED A SPY AND YOUR FATE WILL BE SEALED.

IF YOU CROSS THE CUBAN BORDER ILLEGALLY YOU WILL BE THROWN INTO POLITICAL PRISON TO ROT.

IF YOU CROSS THE BRITISH BORDER ILLEGALLY YOU GET A JOB, A DRIVERS LICENSE, PENSION CARD, WELFARE, CREDIT CARDS, SUBSIDISED RENT OR A LOAN TO BUY A HOUSE, FREE EDUCATION AND FREE HEALTH CARE.

Are you aware of the following?

The British Government provides the following financial assistance: -

#### BENEFIT

Weekly allowance  
Weekly Spouse allowance  
Additional weekly hardship allowance

#### BRITISH AGED PENSIONER

£100  
£25  
£0.00

#### ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS / REFUGEES LIVING IN BRITAIN

£250  
£225  
£100

#### TOTAL YEARLY BENEFIT

£6,000

£29,900



## SIDE BY SIDE - BRITANNIA!



## BUDGET CUTBACKS

From now on, just yell "Pew, pew, pew!"  
at the shooting range.



## Britain's Day Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> 1918

### MASS MEETING

With over a hundred days in the driving seat the Coalition has now made its direction painfully clear. The amount of debts racked up under the previous regime was obviously unsustainable in the longer term. It now seems we have waved 'goodbye' to one partnership who loved to hate each other, only to be landed with another. Now we have an even more unlikely double act in the driving seat and I'm not sure who is reading the map.

Their priority is wielding the axe at everything in sight. Daily we are hearing of cutting back the funding to all our public services. The police could be losing 40,000 officers nationwide. One can only hope that the criminal fraternity will be making similar cutbacks in their activities. The Post Office is to be flogged off to the highest bidder. Private enterprise, whilst it may have its advantages, does not have a very good track record in the public sector. Our own local government department has long given up the responsibility of emptying bins, cleaning the streets and maintaining council property. When someone offers to do a job at a rate 30% cheaper than anyone else you would probably be suspicious. Within months of taking on the job Connaught, apparently in debt to the tune of £220 million, went into receivership leaving workers and tenants wondering what was going to happen next. Not so much of a bargain was it?

Never fear, we are told, 'front line services' will not be



affected. I would be the first in line to concede that there is probably a lot of dead wood in all public services, but even taking that into consideration what exactly will we be left with by way of a useful provision if one in four public workers is on the dole? Strangely it would appear that money is still available to prop up unwinable wars, or to give hand-outs to countries with records of corruption who can barely sustain themselves even when not faced with catastrophic crises. Sad those these disasters it often seems to

me that they strike in places where the world is totally out of balance with what nature can provide. The planet is patently overpopulated and the persistent rape of what it has to offer has decimated the environment and wildlife putting us all in danger from global warming. Is it any wonder that nature finds a way of fight back? Somehow we can find a few million to protect an elderly German visitor who heads up an organisation seemingly hell bent on promoting further unrestricted increases to the world's population in already poor communities. And we shouldn't forget the billions of Pounds of our money going into a pointless sporting event which is going to make a favoured few much richer and the poorer end of the community wondering why a project that might put a roof over the heads of young families has been replaced by a useless thing like a Velodrome, whatever that is. Somebody at the top needs to get their priorities in order or else we are on the road to a bigger disaster.

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Mike he will be pleased to hear from you. email:  
[mikestevens09@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mikestevens09@hotmail.co.uk)



## Sail In The Beautiful Alfacs Bay Delta del Ebro Natural Park San Carles de la Ràpita

## Sailing Trips & Charters



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Escape from the crowds and enjoy a memorable day afloat Butterfly, a classic yacht in the Delta del Ebro. Relax with an ice cold drink, spread out on the huge deck cushions and experience the tranquillity of sailing around the beautiful Alfaques Bay.



You will sail along the 8 beaches of San Carles de la Ràpita and across the bay through the largest mussel farms in the Mediterranean searching for a quiet spot to drop anchor for bathing off the beaches of the Ebro Delta Natural Park.

You can visit interesting spots such as the Salinas de la Trinidad, the San Joan Tower, the "Banya" Point, and the small fishing harbour of Les Cases d'Alcanar where you will find excellent restaurants.

You can find plenty of time to enjoy the tranquillity of the bay and above all the gentle billowing of the sails.

Watching of migratory birds like flamingos, is a main attraction in the Delta del Ebro National Park and possible on board Butterfly.

Captain Lucas will be happy to teach you how to sail or initiate you into trolling for fish.

**Half day and full day tours with delicious snacks from the region included, with the possibility of tasting local sea food.**

**Sunset cruises and full moon cruises are especially romantic.**

**Ideal for celebrations. THE PERFECT GIFT**

**Prices starting at 40€ per person (25€ kids under 14)**

**Maximum 12 persons, min. 2 persons**

**Captain Lucas welcomes any special requests.**





2,000 years ago, the Celts lived in what is now Ireland, Scotland, the United Kingdom and France. Their new year began on November 1, which for them marked the end of summer and the onset of winter. They believed that the barrier between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred on the night of October 31 as their calendar changed. Spirits of the dead were believed to roam the earth, causing havoc. The Celts also believed that the presence of these spirits enabled the Druids, their priestly class, to predict the future.

October 31 was called Samhain (pronounced sowen) meaning "summer's end," after the god of the same name, whom the Celts believed imprisoned the sun god for the winter. To commemorate the day, the Druids built bonfires and the people dressed in costumes made of animal heads and skins.

The Romans had conquered the Celts by 43 CE. They ruled for 400 years and combined two of their own holidays with Samhain. One was Feralia, a holiday commemorating the dead. The other was the holiday honouring Pomona, the goddess of fruit and trees. (Pomona's symbol was an apple and this is part of the origin of the custom to "bob for apples" on Halloween.)

By the 800s, Christianity had spread into the Celtic lands. The Church was having some trouble getting people to stop celebrating their old pagan holidays, so they decided to assign Christian holidays to coincide with them. November 1 was designated "All Saints Day," honouring martyrs and saints.



October 31 was the eve of All Saints Day, "All Hallows Eve" (from which came the name Halloween). In 1000 CE, November 2 was designated All Souls Day, honouring the dead. Collectively, the three day festival from October 31 through November 2 was called "Hallowmas."

All Souls Day in England featured parades. During these festivities, the poor would beg for "soul cakes," which they received in exchange for promises to pray for the donor's dead relatives. The Church encouraged the practice of soliciting soul cakes to replace the practice of leaving food out to appease wandering spirits. This, of course, is the source of the modern "Trick or Treat."

Dressing in costume comes from the Celtic tradition of dressing up in animal skins (as described above) and from a European custom. People were afraid that they would encounter ghosts if they went out on Halloween. They dressed up and wore masks to disguise themselves so that the spirits would mistake them for other ghosts.

Halloween traditions were popularized in America in the latter half of the 19th century by Irish immigrants fleeing the great potato famine of 1846. By the middle of the 20th century, "trick or treating" had become associated with vandalism. Harmless mischief perpetrated on those who refused gifts of food or money had grown into acts of property defacement and felonious assault. It continues to be that way in many places today.

It's ironic that many Fundamentalist Christian groups object to Halloween because of its pagan origins. The same superimposition of Christian holidays over existing pagan holidays was accomplished with Lupercalia (St. Valentine's Day), Eostre (Easter) and Yule (Christmas).

So what is the origin of Halloween? It's a combination of Celtic, Roman and Christian holidays. ... No matter how you look at it, Halloween is not a secular holiday.







# Carpe Diem

**HALLOWEEN 2010!!!**

Come to the great experience of Halloween at Carpe Diem, decorations up from the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**HALLOWEEN DINNER & DANCE NIGHTS**

**28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> October**

**LIVE MUSIC** with the group

**"The four Legends"**

Menu 27,50 € + Guests who come in costumes get a free bottle of wine on each table

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**HALLOWEEN NIGHTS**

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\*NOTE WE ARE ONLY OPEN SUNDAY EVENING NOT LUNCH TIME ON THE 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER

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## TREAT YOUR TASTE BUDS.

### Tortelli di Zucca Emiliani



#### Pumpkin Emiliani (Tortelli di Zucca Emiliani)

Ingredients:

- 245g ricotta cheese
- 120g pumpkin puree
- 250g all-purpose flour
- Salt
- Ground nutmeg
- 65g tomato paste
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 eggs
- 2 tablespoon water

Preparation:

Mix the cheese, pumpkin, half teaspoon of salt and the nutmeg in a bowl. Set filling aside. Mix the flour and half teaspoon of salt in a large bowl, make a well in the centre of the flour. Beat the tomato paste, oil, and eggs until well blended, and pour into the well. Stir with a fork, gradually bring the flour mixture to the centre of the bowl until the dough makes a ball. If the dough is too dry, mix in up to 2 tablespoons water. Knead lightly on a floured cloth-covered surface, adding flour if dough is sticky until smooth and elastic, about 5 minutes. Cover, and rest for further 5 minutes. Divide the dough into 4 equal parts. Roll the dough, one part at a time, into a rectangle about 12 x 10 inches. Keep the rest of the dough covered while working. Drop 2 level teaspoons of filling onto half of the rectangle, about 1 1/2 inches apart in 2 rows of 4 mounds each. Moisten the edges of the dough, and the dough between the rows of pumpkin mixture with water. Fold the other half of the dough up over the pumpkin mixture, pressing the dough down around

## ITALIAN PUMPKIN DISHES

the pumpkin. Cut between the rows of filling to make tortelli. Press the edges together with a fork, or cut with a pastry wheel. Seal edges well. Repeat with the remaining dough and pumpkin filling. Place tortelli on towel. Let stand, turning once, until dry for about 30 minutes. Cook tortelli in plenty of boiling salted water until tender, drain carefully. Dress with a traditional sage and butter sauce. To make the sage butter, melt the butter in a frying pan over low heat. When it's hot and sizzling, add the sage and turn off the heat. Pour gently over the tortelli and serve hot.



#### Pumpkin and Parmigiano Croquettes

Ingredients:

- 300g pumpkin
  - 3 eggs
  - 1 crumbled amaretto cookie
  - Parmesan (or any grated pasta cheese)
  - Ground nutmeg
  - Yeast powder
  - Salt and frying oil
- Preparation:

Steam the pumpkin until well cooked and mash it until it becomes a thick puree consistency. Add 1 egg and 2 yolks (but keep remaining whites), amaretto cookie, a pinch of nutmeg, 2 tablespoons of grated cheese, 1 teaspoon of yeast, the remaining whipped eggwhites and a pinch of salt. Stir well. Shape the mixture into croquettes or patties. In a non-stick pan, fry the croquettes turning them once until they are lightly brown on both sides (about 2 minutes per side). Serve hot with garnish.



#### Pumpkin Risotto

Ingredients:

- 15 g butter
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 onion
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 1/2 cups arborio rice
- 250g diced pumpkin
- 3 - 4 cups hot stock (chicken or vegetable)
- 1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese
- Salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley

Preparation:

Heat butter and oil together in a large saucepan and gently cook the onion and garlic. Add the rice and cook, stirring until the rice is coated in the oil mix. Cook this for about 1 minute then stir in the pumpkin. Pour over 1 cup of the hot stock, cook, stirring often until the liquid is almost completely absorbed. You don't want the liquid to be boiling, just a gentle simmer. Continue stirring and adding stock one cup at a time until the stock is absorbed and the rice is tender. If you wish, you can replace some of the stock with white wine. This takes about 20 minutes. Stir in the parmesan cheese, seasoning and parsley. Serve immediately.

#### Savoury Pumpkin Torta

Ingredients:

- 1 puff pastry spread out (about 300 g)
- 450g pumpkin
- 250g ricotta cheese
- 2 eggs
- 50g grated Parmesan cheese

### Savoury Pumpkin Torta



Ground nutmeg  
Salt

Preparation:

Chop the pumpkin into small pieces and cook in the oven for 30 mins at 180°. Lay the pastry on a baking tray and prick it with fork. Mash the pumpkin in a food processor, add the Parmesan, ricotta, eggs, salt and nutmeg. Mix well and then transfer the puree onto the puff pastry. Bake the pastry for about 40 minutes at 180°. If you want a stronger colour, brush the surface with beaten egg or egg yolk. Serve the pastry warm or hot.

**Buon appetito!**

By Sabrina your local,  
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## A-Z OF HANDY SPANISH PROPERTY TERMS, PART I

Hello! The excesses of summer are over and the Mediterranean rainstorms have already started in spectacular fashion. As anyone recently in l'Ametlla

de Mar will tell you, Catalonia doesn't do weather by halves! Hopefully we'll have a good run of those deliciously mild and mellow autumn days—for me one of the great pleasures of living here.

But of course, life here is not all *flors i violes*, as the Catalans say, and a major ongoing challenge is finding your way round the maze of confusing and sometimes inconsistent bureaucracy and regulations, particularly where property and planning issues are concerned.

Even with a good command of the language the terminology can be confusing. So here are a few of the more common Spanish terms you'll encounter if you are selling or buying a property in Catalonia.

### Arras deposit contract

Contract often used to secure the sale-purchase of a



you relax . . .

whilst we get you the best exchange rates

Regular overseas business transactions?  
Investing overseas?  
Buying property abroad?  
Regular overseas payments?

Use our currency trading experience to beat your bank on overseas transactions.

- 0% Commission
- Excellent exchange rates
- Free fast transfers over £5000
- Free account opening facility
- Dedicated personal service
- Free market updates
- Regular overseas payment from £250

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**AIPP**



property by paying a deposit or 'arras', which usually becomes part of the purchase price.

Perhaps the most common is the *Arras Penitenciales* contract: if the buyer pulls out he or she loses the deposit paid, while if the seller pulls out, he or she returns double the deposit. This gives both buyer and seller a way out of the contract, albeit an expensive one.

In contrast the *Arras Confirmatorias* and *Arras Penales* contracts do not, and are used in slightly different ways to bind buyer and seller to the sale-purchase agreement.

### BASE

Government agency that collects local taxes for many towns and villages (some do their own) in Tarragona province, see its English info page at [www.base.cat](http://www.base.cat).

Taxes collected include the annual vehicle tax and 'IBI', the municipal rates paid on property. For the latter it works closely with the Catastro.

### Catastro

A part of Hacienda, the Spanish treasury, the Catastro records and describes rural and residential properties for tax purposes. Important: while it can provide proof that a building exists, it does not guarantee that it was built legally!

### Cédula de habitabilidad

Habitation/occupation certificate that verifies that a property is fit for habitation. In Catalonia, issued by the local *Habitatge* department of the Generalitat, and essential for buying, selling and mortgaging any property registered as a dwelling.

Now very hard to obtain for rural houses, as many of you know...

### Derrama

In co-owner community charges, a one-off surcharge, typically for items like shared pool maintenance or lift repairs. Not a word you want to hear often.

### Escritura de compraventa

Public deed of sale-purchase, signed and authorized by a Spanish Notary Public. Once signed, the details of the property are registered at the land registry—the Registro de la Propiedad.

### Euribor

Interest rate at which prime banks in the Eurozone lend



each other money on a one-year deposit and the official reference index on which most Spanish mortgages are based. 'Euribor+1' is the Euribor index plus one per cent.

### Finca

In its strictest sense, any property, whether it has land or not. Often used to mean a *finca rústica* —a rural property or estate— and refers to the whole property, regardless of whether it has a house.

### Gravamen, carga

An encumbrance or charge on a property, for example a mortgage. Libre de cargas = free of charges.

### Gastos

Costs or expenses. *Gastos de compraventa* are the costs paid by the buyer: ITP or IVA tax, notary fees and Land registry charges. The municipal *plusvalía* tax on residential property is paid by the seller.

### Hipoteca, préstamo

Mortgage, loan.

### Herencia, heredero, heredera

Inheritance, heir, heiress.

### Impuesto sobre Bienes Inmuebles (IBI)

Municipal property tax, collected every year or six months, based on a value assigned by the Catastro.

### Impuesto de Transmisiones Patrimoniales (ITP)

Transfer tax paid when a resale property is sold, currently 8% in Catalonia. IVA (Impuesto sobre el Valor Añadido) is paid when a new-build property is sold.

### Inmueble

'Non-movable asset', such as land, buildings and all types of properties.

### Junta de propietarios

Board of proprietors, co-owners' association. Apartment blocks and residential complexes with shared areas have to establish a board of proprietors; co-owners usually take turns to be president on a yearly rotation basis. Larger blocks and complexes are run by a specialist *administrador de fincas*.

### Legalizar

Literally, to legalize, but often used to mean that a building has been declared at the Land Registry and Catastro. A true *legalización* of a house involves submitting full architect's plans to obtain a retrospective building licence. Few rural properties have been legalized in this way.

### Licencia de primera ocupación

First-occupation certificate of a new building, issued by the local council.

### Licencia municipal de obras

Municipal building licence, should be duly signed and stamped by the local council.

### Local, local comercial, local negocio

Commercial premises, business premises.

*I'll be covering M-Z at a later date. As always, I love to hear your comments and feedback or comments, and please feel free to contact me if you want to sell or find a property or if I can help you in any way!*

*Jeff Greensmith runs [www.fincasdirect.com](http://www.fincasdirect.com) and is a registered estate agent and experienced Spanish/Catalan translator and interpreter. He has lived in Catalonia since 1986.*

*The points contained in this article do not constitute legal advice on the part of Fincas Direct or The Olive Press. Please seek independent advice if in any doubt.*



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## HEALTH SELF-HELP TOOLKIT: TUI-NA BODYWORK

Tui-na bodywork is a hands-on treatment that uses Chinese understanding from Taoism and martial arts systems about the body's energy channels to powerfully bring it to balance. It started to be practised in China around 1600 AD, when it was found particularly useful for treating infants and the elderly. Tui-na can

be helpful in treating a broad range of acute and chronic musculoskeletal/joint problems, as well as many non-musculoskeletal problems such as chronic stress-related disorders of the digestive, respiratory, reproductive & mental/emotional systems.

The client, wearing loose clothing and no shoes, lies on a table or sits in a chair and the body's ability to heal itself naturally is reactivated through a process of massage and manipulation techniques such as kneading, pressure on the acupressure points, brushing and rolling body areas. The major focus of application is upon specific



pain sites, acupressure points, energy meridians, and muscles and joints. Sometimes we use auxiliary techniques such as moxa, where a nourishing herb (mugwort) in the form of a stick is burned and which, when held above the body, warms, relaxes and invigorates the painful area; or cupping, where suction is created

in glass cups placed on the body, stimulating the flow of energy and highly useful for pain relief.

The Chinese view most chronic pain in the body as an expression of the stagnation of energy in the area, so all these techniques are different methods to help the flow re-establish itself in a gentle but powerful way, and so reduce to pain. As an intervention system, Tuina tends to be more task focused than other forms of massage.

Sessions last from 30 minutes to 1 hour, and depending on the specific problems of the patient, they may return for additional treatments. The client usually feels relaxed but energized by the treatment.

Taru Burstall, licensed Tuina therapist & acupuncturist. Please phone 629 301 509 if you have any queries..



Welcome to Olives & Popcorn, your monthly guide to great Spanish based films that in my opinion should not be ignored. Any comments are welcome. Also if you want to know more about a particular film and how to get a copy again get in touch via my email below. This month I would like to bring to your attention another surreal Spanish adventure in the field of science fiction...Proxima (2007). Tony (Oriol Aubets), who is PROXIMA's main character, runs a small science fiction video store bordering on bankruptcy; his relationship with Natalia (Karen Owens) is getting worse as time goes by, because their interests have diverged. One day, Tony goes to a science fiction convention where a well-known writer Félix Cadecq's (Manuel Solàs) comes to give a chat on his latest work. When he starts his speech, the writer makes a surprising declaration: it's worthless to keep writing science fiction novels, because he has found a new portal; a real and simple way to reach the stars. "Listen to my new CD-book and try it yourself", he proclaims. This announcement is not well received

among his estranged fans; but Tony, touched by curiosity, buys Cadecq's CD in order to test what he said. From that moment on, Tony's life will never be the same. He feels bizarre sensations, he gets to know surprising people who assure him they know the way to escape from the alien fleet coming to Earth. Finally, Tony starts a trip heading to the star Proxima Centauri, but what he finds there is not exactly what he had expected.

PROXIMA's plot starts through the vision of a science fiction lover, by whom we're introduced into classic science fiction topics: the possibility of crossing the spacetime line, the contact with an alien civilisation (and the impact that this would cause), the presence of a discouraging future to escape from, the trip to an unknown world, the relationship between dream and reality, brainwashing, etc. In addition to all this, we can find a new perspective, which stains with a harsh realism Tony's experiences on the satellite orbiting Proxima, as close to a western as a sidereal trip.

The film also includes several references addressed to the experts in this sort of genre. An example of this kind of wink is the scene where Félix Cadecq makes his announcement that he is quitting literature and that he has found a new portal, reminiscent of a real anecdote carried out by Philip K. Dick at a French science fiction congress in 1977. (Among Dick's works were The Man in the High Castle, The Golden Man, The Minority Report and Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, the last of them the source of the plot of Blade Runner.)

But there are also references to such great science fiction directors as Georges Méliès and Segundo de Chomón, whose films Tony especially admires. We cannot either forget the risen controversy between the Star Wars and Star Trek's fans, who discuss about Sci-Fi real bases.

PROXIMA' has an enormous cast. More than two hundred extras participated in its shooting, as we can see in the Planet scenes and those that take place in the science fiction convention. Jason.M.Berry 19/09/2010 Contact e-mail:gatchajay@hotmail.com



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© WILD AND NATURAL GARDENS.  
By Clodagh and Dick Handscombe who have  
enjoyed gardening in Spain for 25 years

Giving advice earlier this evening to a couple fortunate enough to have inherited 5000 square metres of largely unspoilt natural land surrounding their half built house stimulates us to consider such gardening opportunities in this months column. Faced with such a site many developers and home buyers would unfortunately immediately employ so called landscape gardeners to bulldoze the fallen walls, young self seed

trees and large areas of herbs in order to layout a garden more fit for midland England than inland Cataluña with a large lawn and pristine flower beds etc. Fortunately an increasing number of home buyers are seeing the benefit of retaining the best of the natural features and native plants and filling in and planting or sowing native plants in the other areas.

Although few and far apart there are fortunately some excellent companies in Spain that can help you in this respect. The best we have come across are [www.cultidelta.com](http://www.cultidelta.com) near Ebrodelta and [Olivier.fillipi@wanadoo.fr](mailto:Olivier.fillipi@wanadoo.fr) for plants and [www.semillasilvestres.com](http://www.semillasilvestres.com) based in Cordoba for seeds of Spanish wild trees, shrubs and plants.

In the garden we visited today the owners wanted a low maintenance low cost garden with minimum plant losses during the hot summer months or cold winter months with hard frosts for a few weeks each year and every few years a heavy fall of snow.

Our immediate advice was;

- \* Go natural.
- \* Save all that you can.
- \* Keep the largest healthy trees and thin out the best of the young self seeded trees and shrubs.
- \* Rebuild the fallen parts of dry stone walls, clear grass from the holes and plant up the holes with native drought and frost resisting plants.
- \* Fill in the holes between rocks in a rocky outcrop with a gritty nutrient rich compost and plant up more herbs.
- \* Create internal vistas with sitting areas in various strategic

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locations.

\* Where nature had been inevitably spoilt by building activities a large natural rock terrace incorporating an interestingly shaped swimming pool and an underground water tank to collect both water from the terrace and the roof of the house during heavy rains.

\* Lay out a winding path around the garden visiting each interesting feature using local natural stone chippings over solid black plastic sheeting in open areas and bark chippings under trees.

\* Incorporate some fruit trees into the layout for the blossom, colour, shape and crops - olives, cherries, pomegranate, walnuts, almonds and apples and pears were the owners first choices and made sense in the microclimate of their garden.

\* Develop a hard wearing grassy area by strimming existing wild grasses and levelling by adding a layer of raked lawn compost during the winter months.

\* With only shallow soil in the non natural areas build a couple of raised beds filled with a rich compost to start growing vegetables as quickly as possible. So many people miss out on the benefit of ecological home grown vegetables for years by delaying this activity for a few years until the garden is finished .

Hopefully these thoughts make sense to those Olive Press readers needing to do something about still wild areas of their gardens.

Our books 'Your Garden in Spain - Planning, planting and maintenance', 'Growing Healthy Fruit in Spain' and ' Growing Healthy Fruit in Spain' will also be useful to you. If you do not have a good bookshop nearby buy by email from the publishers on [www.santanabooks.com](http://www.santanabooks.com) or 952-485838.

© Clodagh and Dick Handscombe October 2010.  
[www.gardeningspain.com](http://www.gardeningspain.com)

## PC TIPS: INTERNET ACCESS

After being asked many times about internet access in rural areas this month I thought it best to list details of all of the broadband providers available and their pitfalls etc...

If you live south of Mora La Nova I would highly recommend a service Called Eureka, they can provide telephone and broadband up to 3mb prices starting from 19.50 per month plus installation of around 60 euros. To enquire about this service you can either visit <http://www.eureka.net/> or call them on 900 850 858

If you live anywhere apart from Riba Roja d'Ebre you should be able to get a service from Iberbanda, which also includes a telephone and broadband speeds from 1mb to 3mb, they charge 29.99 per month for a 1mb link and a telephone (brand new customers only!) plus installation often free with special offers .... more info available at <http://www.iberbanda.es/>

Ok so that's most people covered unless you have chosen to live in a radio dead zone! (Which many people have, including me! Although we did get Iberbanda) If so then your only hope is to get internet either by satellite which is more expensive or via a broadband dongle, if a pay as you go, or contract dongle is the way that you have chosen to go. Please try different mobile phones in your house before buying one! Get friends around and see if they get a 3g signal in your house before

buying one.... i.e. if your Vodafone phone doesn't work at home do not buy a Vodafone dongle and make sure that a 3g signal at least is available.. the same with movistar, orange, BTinspain, yoigo etc....So if all else has failed and your only option is satellite, (sorry for those in Riba Roja d'Ebre unless you're in town itself where telefonica are installing a new fiber optic network with speeds of up



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to 10mb or more in the future, then your only hope is a dongle with a good signal, (I think movistar in Riba is one of the only one that works correctly) Or a Satellite link..

The pros and cons of a Satellite connection....

So if you have no choice but Satellite then you tend to have to pay per gb of usage with 1gb included per month, also the equipment for installation is more expensive than any of the other services mentioned, However that said with satellite you do tend to get a very robust and fast system, which will work anywhere! Including a telephone, although I would recommend a broadband internet telephone connection via

Satellite and a voice over ip telephone via the internet such as Skype, Gizmo, or draytel.... For more info on a satellite link please visit <http://www.europe-satellite.com/> If you are lucky enough to have land line services then I would recommend that you give telefonica a try for those of you with a distinct lack of catalan or Spanglish visit [www.telefonicaingenenglish.com](http://www.telefonicaingenenglish.com) or otherwise [www.telefonica.com](http://www.telefonica.com) The other option available Is BT in Spain for those of you feeling patriotic.... info is available at [www.btelecominspain.com](http://www.btelecominspain.com) they can also provide most of the services listed above, and you can speak to them in English, which is always useful when it stops working!

One other way of a basic slow dial up connection is with telefonica via a radio link. Which is better than nothing!

For help or advice call Paul on 600 224 428  
or email: [Paul@ebrovalleycomputers.eu](mailto:Paul@ebrovalleycomputers.eu)  
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## HAMPSTEAD GANJA DEALERS DESOLATE AS GEORGE MICHAEL GOES TO JAIL

London - (High Times): The North London weed dealing economy is facing penury as top Hampstead toker George Michael heads for HMP Wormwood Scrubs tonight.

The singer got eight weeks for pranging his motor in Hampstead High Street in a combustible tragedy blamed by some on a bit of dodgy skunk.

Local Green Party herbalist Skanky Dave sobbed as Michael, 69, was lead away in shackles to start a 28 day detox.

"Mah best customa! How will I feed the babes back home now?" Skanky cried as the cuffs were slapped on Michael's wrists.

The singer will serve four weeks in the Scrubs' dopers wing followed by a month on licence.

A SatNav-enabled ankle bracelet and remote-controlled cannabis detector will be fitted during the parole stage and may be reinstated at any given moment if he breaks a five year driving ban imposed today.

Highbury Corner Magistrates Court heard how Michael wrote off his 'ninth or tenth' SUV while driving under the influence.

Judge Perkins also fined Michael £1,250 - "about the same as a day's recreational skunk use" - and banned him from charging up prison inmates' rechargeable cannabis patches (similar to nicotine patches used by wannabe cigarette quitters) by letting them be placed on his arm.



And it's bong hits 4 George Michael at the start of his jail sentence today

## HIDDEN ACCOUNTS FIND UK DEFICIT

Auditors representing Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom and its Colonies (PLC) have released a statement overnight saying that they believe that they have found a substantial part of the UK economy deficit after forcing a number of online companies to reveal transactions.

The statement from Royal Auditors Ltd shows that a number of large transactions were found, including 1 for £2.5million by a Mr Nodrog Pink to WorldLeaderPoker.web which were opened by somebody using the email address nodrog@number10.gov.

Over the course of 12 months, some £3billion pounds was deposited and wagered in online poker games against players with names such as "CavemanAfghan", "RedSqMis!", and "ObamDaPres" with much of it being lost in the first half of 2010 until it abruptly stopped in the early hours on 07 May 2010. The biggest win that was found was by a North Korean player who took a pot of some £4.5billion on a hand of a game called Nuke Stike Poker which from what we can tell involves lots of posing, and verbal betting with no action going on until someone claims to have pressed "The Red Button".

When challenged the Government Press Office, commented that "anyone can have a Number10.gov e-mail address if they ask, so we can not prove that this came from inside Downing Street. When we asked the Chancellors office who had access to the UK Governments bank accounts, widely suspected of being in a Post Office Basic Bank Account (due to Experian giving the government a "Poor" credit rating), the Press Office commented: "Only the Chancellor and the Prime Minister can make online payments from the Government bank account."

So that narrows it down to two then.



£1 billion pound was lost by Nodrog Pink on an online craps game by getting on all but the winning combination

## BOXING A METAPHOR FOR COCAINE, SAYS HATTON LOUDLY



RICKY Hatton has insisted that the whole sport of boxing is geared toward cocaine use, right down to its ruinous affects on nasal septums.

The boxer conducted a three-hour press conference, during which he sweated profusely and repeated himself several times, explaining the theory he had developed over the last three sleepless days.

Hatton said: "You can only focus for three minutes at a time, you need a gumshield to stop your teeth being ground into powder and you spend most of your life telling anyone who'll listen how great you are.

"The whole thing couldn't be more gakcentric if it were conducted in a roller disco with the referee dressed as Tony Montana."

Hatton's admission has led to suggestions that boxing could be improved beyond measure if both competitors were snorting cocaine between rounds.

Tom Logan, who watched 10 minutes of a Mike Tyson fight in the early 1990s before switching over to a repeat of Duty Free said: "Just the word boxing fills me with tedious dread.

"Snooker is more entertaining. Potted plants are more entertaining. It makes a Radio Four programme featuring Melvyn Bragg and Alan Yentob in conversation about the British novel seem like a jet-powered roller-coaster of pure, naked thrill.

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"But the idea of two angry, lolloping monkeys coked to the tits and let loose on each other does sound totally mental and I think it should definitely happen."

Meanwhile the News of The World's is to continue its campaign to discredit every British sportsman that has ever lived with the revelation that Sir Stanley Matthews spent every Tuesday night in bed with a duck.

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## How to Solve Sudoku Puzzles

Sudoku doesn't require any special math skills or calculations. It is a simple and fun game of logic -- all that's needed is brains and concentration.

1. Fill the grid so that the numbers 1 through 9 appear in each row.
2. Fill the grid so that the numbers 1 through 9 appear in each column.
3. Fill the grid so that the numbers 1 through 9 appear in each 3x3 box.
4. A complete Sudoku puzzle contains the numbers 1 through 9 in every row, column, and 3x3 box.

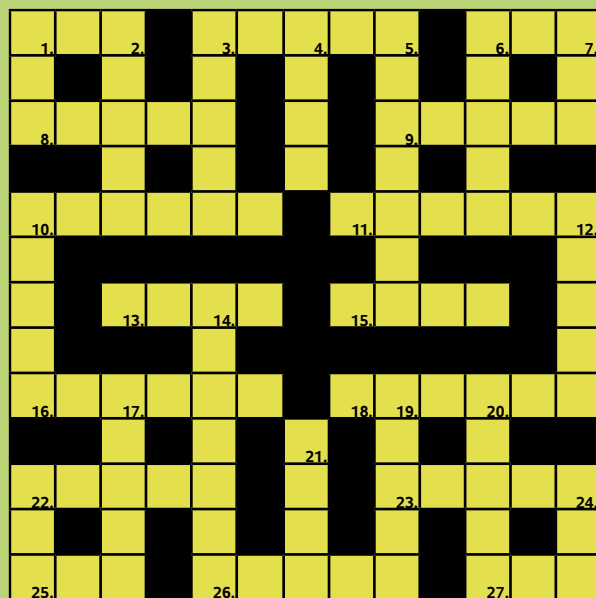
This month, one with difficult classification as evil.

8	6	1	9		3			
	4							
		2		7				
9	8		3					
		4	8		1	7		
					4		3	5
				8		6		
							8	
		2		6	3	4	9	

ACROSS

1. thirst
3. Autumn
6. to hear
8. roll
9. converja (E)
10. zanajoria (E)
11. trampas (E)
13. turkey
15. dolor (E)
16. manzanas (E)
18. to avoid
22. mouse
23. pig
25. such
26. cider
27. visperas (E)

## SPANGLISH?-ANSWERS NEXT MONTH



- ACROSS: 10. lista    ANSWERS TO THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF SPANGLISH 7. orange    17. suave  
 1. verano    11. elije    16. adios    21. paila    DOWN: 3. nueve    9. attendant    18. capri  
 4. helado    12. sting    18. carpa    23. romper    1. volver    5. ellos    14. bailar    20. arm  
 8. lease    13. marineros    19. llama    24. fiesta    2. ria    6. ass    15. pajara    22. its

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**norman@normanjay.net . Stay Tuned Folks.....**  
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*Soul singers from the US Benny Troy & Bobby Hutton and Sandy*  
*Shaw to name a few. www.facebook.com/normanjay2011*  
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**every Wednesday**

DOWN

1. south
  2. pair
  3. ozone
  4. ear
  5. organico (E)
  6. to choose
  7. rojo (E)
  10. blame
  12. to reap
  14. Friday
  17. pétalo (E)
  19. empty
  20. late
  21. semilla (E)
  22. putrir (E)
  24. uno (E)
- by Sarah**  
**(E=translate to**  
**english otherwise to**  
**spanish)**

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## WHAT'S ON IESG INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH

**SPEAKING GROUP** Meetings are held at

6.30 pm on the second Thursday of each month (except for August) at: Edificio Bahía Blanca, C/Paisos Catalans, 74, L'Ametlla de Mar. More information? Either tel: 977 267 418 or e-mail: [enetlametlla@yahoo.com](mailto:enetlametlla@yahoo.com) **BADMINTON CLUB** - "New BADMINTON season starting this month. Intermediates meet on Tuesdays from 11.30 to 1pm and Improvers have a new day - Friday 11.30 to 1pm. Sessions are held in the Sports Hall at the back of El Perelló village beside the football ground". We will be holding a **SPECIAL** day on Friday 1st October where the first session will be free to new players, subsequent sessions 3 euros. All equipment is provided, including shuttles and rackets". Just turn up at 11.30am or phone Marian or Mark if you would like more details: 667 334 825 or 671 127 629

## ARCA NEWS: URGENT DONATIONS NEEDED FOR STERILISATION BY THE VETS FROM HOLLAND!

We are happy to inform you that our buffet on the 4th of September was a great success.

We especially should like to thank the following firms:

El Bar Mercat Camarles, Garden centre EL Mola el Perelló, Bar/Restaurant Estacion L'Ampolla, Hairdresser Manollo Camarles, Olive mill Tomas L'Ampolla & Mr Swing for singing the whole evening and giving a wonderful performance. & of



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• **Cof E CHURCH SERVICES** | The services are on the 2nd Sunday St Christopher's Anglican Church in L'Ampolla at 12:30 and the 4th Wednesday in the Catholic Church in el Perelló at 11:30, all welcome. Followed by Menu del dia lunch (optional) Enquiries: 977 593 219. Our congregation comes from Tortosa to L'Ametlla and beyond. - Drop-in at the Catholic hall - all welcome for a cup of tea, cakes and books, jams, olive oil, eggs etc to buy. There will be a short Bible study afterwards. The Anglican Congregation of St Christopher's, Costa Azahar -5, Plaza Primero De Mayo, Vinaros-Services 10am. every Sunday. Also other activities i.e. Thursdays, a "Drop. In" morning from 11.a.m.- 1.00 p.m. to meet for a coffee & a chat. Following the very successful Lent course on Wednesday mornings, we are continuing with informal meetings at the same time, 11:00am on Wednesdays in the L'Ampolla parish rooms. These overlook the fishing port and the entrance is among the market stalls. Paul Needle can be contacted on 964 761 641 or mobile 662 482 944 or e-mail [paulneedle@aol.com](mailto:paulneedle@aol.com) for pastoral needs. **LINE DANCING** | we will be meeting in the Escola de Musica (Music School) in El Perelló as usual 3-5 pm Thursday. The fees will be only 1€ per person per week. little bit of exercise for the legs and the jaws! All welcome

course all the lovely ladies who prepared so much wonderful food. Altogether we had a lovely evening which brought us some much needed money. **Everybody thank you.**

**WE RAISED 1300EUROS for ARCA which we really need because in October the vets are coming over from Holland to sterilise 80 dogs which is of course fantastic. They only want us to pay for the medication which is only 30€ per dog as you know this is incredibly cheap. But 80 dogs means we need 2400€. We are still 1100€ short. So please if you can send us a donation just call Maeve and she will give you all the information. -PLEASE HELP US.**

**Please call Mave 678 975 816**

Because of the success of this buffet we are now arranging a Xmas market and Buffet-Dance the end of November. **THIS TIME WITH LIVE MUSIC.** For this special event we are looking for ladies who would help us by baking special cakes or making special starters. **ANYTHING IS WELCOME.** The only thing we ask you is to let us know what you would like to make so that we can have a complete and wonderful buffet Thank you in advance. More info next month.



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**1000 litre WATER CUBES** | (IBC/Cubos) for sale **60€ delivered.** Call: **677 661 360**

**HP Pavilion TX1000 LAPTOP** | WiFi Bluetooth Touch Screen Finger Print Reader 12.1 inch screen, DVD entertainment with swivel screen only 299 euros in English. Tel 977 059 364

**STAINLESS STEEL COOKER** (splash guard) **BACK** | to fit range type €30. Call 977 059 364

**SKI BOOTS LADIES** | Tecnica size 38 good condition 25€ & **SKIS SALAMON XFREE9** | 180CM with bindings 50€. Tel: 977 059 364

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**BUTSIR GAS FRIDGE/FREEZER** | 200 euros. Built in **ELECTRIC FREEZER** 50 euros. Call 977 265 165

**NEW LONCIN 6.5 HP PETROL ENGINE** | will fit most 3.5 Kva generators, 250€. Tel: 616 154 269

**FRIDGE FREEZER** | whirlpool. very good condition. 90 euros. Can deliver, call 618 241 120

**TOMTOM GO 710** | bought in uk 4 years ago, has had very little use, cost £409, sale for 80 euros... Come complete with box and accessories 663 623 073

**NEW TREND ROUTER TABLE** | cost £220 and router - bargain 120 euros. **NEW REXON MORTICE DRILL** | cost £200 - bargain 130 euros. **NEW DEWALT PLANER** | with dusthood & vacumm adapter, cost £400 - bargain 200 euros. Telephone Marilyn on 665 339 222

**RED SOFA** | part sofa bed, call 603 145 141

**ROUND GLASS DINNING TABLE** | with four chairs call 603145141

**WATER DEPOSITS** | 1000ltr 50 euros, 10euros extra for delivery call 603 145 141

**2 DOUBLE BEDS** | with head boards and matching side cabinets call 603 145 141. **2 SINGLE BEDS** | head board and wardrobes new call 603 145 141

**COOKER TEKE** | almost new bargain cost 400euros, sell 150 euros call 603 145 141. **BOOK CASE** | almost new cream colour 75euros call 603 145 141.

**2X SKY DIGIBOXES** | Amstrad 25euros, Pace 20 euros. **2X GAS BOTTLES** 30€ each. Call Tortosa 654 994 274

**American style stainless steel Leisure fridge freezer** | frost free. A rated. 20.2 cu.ft. storage. built in ice dispenser. good condition. 495.00 euros call Barry on 977267941 El Perelló

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**9 year old Lister-Petter 12.7 KW/ 9.5 KVA Stamford generator** | Good runner, generator needs attention on voltage build up speed. 1500 euros. Call 977 265 165 mob 628 234 592

**Dry Horse Manure for sale** | **3 euros per sack for use as solid winter fuel** , ( Burns in a similar way to coal, Google it ) or fresh as fertiliser for your crops. Trailer loads sold for a reduced rate call Paul on **600 224 428**

## ANIMALS

**3 AFRICAN PYGMY GOATS** | mother and 2 kids both female 3 months old 50 euros each or all 3 120euros. tel 699421274

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR A LOVING HOME FOR TIA** | who is a 3 year old boxer bitch, her owners have moved back to the UK and unfortunately we can not keep her due to having 5 dogs of our own. She would ideally suit a family with children and some land to run around on. For more information tel: 628 779 422

## WANTED

**WANTED WINDOWS** 0.5m approx wide X 2 | **WHITE** aluminium not plastic CALL 660 823 423 or 977 059 420

**WANTED CAST IRON ESTUFA** | Looking for a reasonable looking stove with front glass doors at a reasonable price. Please call 648 735 717

**WANTED** | 2 large dog kennels and a washing machine. Will come and collect, please call Nikki on 669 526 921

**WANTED** | solar panels 8 call 603145141

**WANTED** | 2 swimming pools pump and filters 603145141

**WANTED, your unwanted birds budgies parrots etc.** | will be given a good home. Can collect phone 686 299 730

**WANTED** | 6 berth Caravan/ Mobile Home in good condition, Call 627 031 200

**WANTED** | Small campervan with toilet. No dealers. Tel : 977 810 771

**WANTED VOLUNTEERS** | help needed to look after the abandon dogs at **ARCA near Tortosa.** Please call **Mave 678 975 816** if you can offer any assistance. Plus anyone interested in organising some fund raising for the dogs would be must appreciated. **PLEASE HELP**

## VEHICLES / MOBILE HOMES/BOATS

**SMALL SPEED BOAT & TRAILER** | 40HP Yahama inc. skis. 1000€ Tel: 616 135 036

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**TRACTOR SPRAYER** | brand new, never used 250 litres, 6 metre booms. Cost €1500 will sell for €1000 O.N.O. Tel: 664 146 940

**VAUXHALL ZAFIRA** | 7 seater full service history 2005, 5000 euros call 603145141

**SKIFF BOAT AND TRAILER** | Spanish plates all registered with fish finder, perfect for cat fishing price 7000euros call 603145141

## RENTALS, PROPERTY FOR SALE

**BUNGALOW IN MORA DE EBRO** | 90,000€ or near offers buy /rent. No stairs. Terrace, garage, in Mora. Rooms at back, separate entrance, shower, toilet. Could rent cheaper. Tel 977 402020 www. mollyfarr.co.uk for photographs

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**PLEASE FOSTER**

*In the next Olive Press edition I would like you to ask if there is anyone out there to foster puppies for us just until they are old enough to have their vaccinations, this week we have had 7 puppies die, it is heart breaking, we do have some lovely people who do foster for us but this time of the year they have visitors, or are off on their boats, one has broken her foot and is on crutches, we are not doing too well at the moment, and we have more pups in than we have ever had and no one adopting. Once again thanks so much for all you are doing to help us its nice to know there is some kind people out there and we are not struggling alone.*

MAVE.

email: protectora.arca@wanadoo.es. ARCA :

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Calling all dog lovers

**ARCA the dog refuge wish to give sincere thanks to everyone for supporting them. Please keep it up it is truly appreciated....**

ALSO ANY OLD BLANKETS, TOWELS OR SHEETS FOR BEDDING ARE NEEDED. Call Mave 678 975 816.

Calenders and t-shirts are also for sale to raise funds for the dogs-  
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**M0060 – Jesus / Tortosa**

Lovely Casa de Camp kitchen, lounge, 2 beds, 2 baths, Water & Solar system Gated entrance. 10mins drive to town. 3000m<sup>2</sup> parcela  
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**M1153 – Calafat-Ametlla de Mar linked villa** Beautifully renovated single storey house: 2 double & 2 single bedrooms, Bathroom, open plan kitchen & living area & utility room. Small enclosed gardens. Fully furnished! 2 mins walk from beaches & Marina  
**Price: reduced to 150.000€**

**M1014 – Bitem- Village house** 110m<sup>2</sup>. Reformed, 3 bed, en-suite sh.rm, full bathroom + sep. w.c. Roof terrace, kitchen with outside sm.covered area. Lounge, fully furnished.  
**Price: 120.000 euros & with Cedula de Habitabilitat**

**M1190 – L'Ampolla with Sea Views! With "Cedula d'Habitabilitat"** SUPERB VILLA sale of 180m<sup>2</sup>, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, dining room, terrace, garden, water, electricity. Heating, fenced area 8000m<sup>2</sup>, double garage, pool,  
**Price: 285.000€**

**M1062 – L'Ampolla** 90m<sup>2</sup> Country House 3 beds, 2 baths, Sea Views! 5.600m<sup>2</sup> parcela. with "Cedula de Habitabilitat"  
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**M1188 – Les Tres Cales -L'Ametlla de Mar**

3 bed Villa for sale. Corner plot 772 m<sup>2</sup> Bathroom Lounge, Kitchen Air Cond, Swimming pool  
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**M1095 – El Perelló with "Cedula de Habitabilitat"**

120m<sup>2</sup> House in 14.200m<sup>2</sup> of land, 2 bedrooms 2 bathrooms, large lounge with wood burner & patio doors leading to sun terrace. Outbuildings. Water & Automatic power system.  
**Price 180.000€**

**M1193 – Bitem**

100m<sup>2</sup> property in plot of 3000m<sup>2</sup>, 2 bedrooms, baño, kitchen & lounge Fenced garden. River Ebre is just a short walk away! (Internal finishing required) Mains electricity. Water & irrigation water. 5min walk to the village of Bitem. Also included in the sale is a 4 berth caravan.  
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**M1138 – Tortosa - 5 mins**

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