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ISSUE No. 1646 19 - 25 January 2017 COSTA DE ALMERÍA » YOUR PAPER, YOUR VOICE, YOUR OPINION WWW.EUROWEEKLYNEWS.COM

MOJACAR is one of 12 places in Almeria where property owners who built sneaky pools or extensions could face hefty bills and fines this year. Images taken from satellites, helicopters and even drones are compared with property registers to see whether owners



COMMUNITY SUPPORT: Is being called for to report suspected acts of domestic violence.

# Woman beheaded

# Killer had history of attacks on women

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By Simon Firth

The man who beheaded his former partner at her Almeria home had a history of domestic violence, it has emerged.

The 31-year-old killer was "covered from head to toe in blood," according to reports as police entered the property.

Guardia Civil officers found the body of the woman after neighbours reported screams coming from the property in Huércal de Almeria early on Sunday morning.

The man, named as Francisco SG, is said to have been trying to escape from the area when he was arrested.

The revulsion felt by many at the attack was signified by a silence held at the town hall in

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memory of the woman, named only as Antonia GA.

The town hall also declared 24 hours of official mourning following her death which they described as the first victim of domestic violence in Andalucia in 2017

The central government delegate for Andalucia, Antonio Sanz, is now calling for "the whole community and not just the victim" to take responsibility for such behaviour and report

suspected acts of domestic violence.

It is understood the killer had a brief relationship with his victim which ended in December last year.

Although no reason has been given, he had spent the night in Torrecardenas Hospital on Sunday morning before absconding and making his way to the woman's home where he carried out the attack.

So far at least four women

have come forward to report incidents of violence carried out by Francisco SG. He also has convictions for robbery.

Mayor Ismael Torres said the circumstances of the woman's death had left "a lot of anger and a lot of pain.'

Francisca Serrano, from the Andalucian Institute of Women. said a young woman's life had been taken "because a man thought it was his property and ended it."

## have failed to declare any swimming pools, garages, extensions or other additions to avoid paying higher taxes. Brutal assault and a horse nearly blinded in a 'barbaric' attack which is being blamed on hunters in a national

park near Granada.

One dog was shot between the eyes, another was shot through the side of the face and one through the roof of the mouth.

# Tourist trap

No escape

REPRESENTATIVES from almost every Spanish region, city and many towns, are in Madrid for this year's International Tourism Fair (Fitur). Almeria's most famous recent son, David Bisbal, is helping to launch the province's Fitur offering, making a personal appearance on Thursday.

# Radioactive remains

ECOLOGISTAS EN ACCION is going to sue the Nuclear Safety Board (CSN) for "allowing an illegal nuclear cemetery in Palomares," and there is still no news on the clear-up. Fifty-one years after the accident which saw two American planes collide above Almeria, dropping nuclear bombs onto Palomares from above, thousands of cubic metres of earth remain contaminated, the group complained. >> See page 12

# Parents' protest

PARENTS of pupils of Albox's Francisco Fenoy school, which is due to close down at the end of this academic year, are gathering support and have pledged to fight for its survival. In just hours, the parents' association collected more than 1,000 signatures in support of their cause on change.org.









Wondering how to save on your overseas money transfers?

The secret is revealed on page 33

# **LOCAL NEWS**

# French connection

A FRENCH man has been arrested trying to board a Melilla-Almeria ferry with 27 kilos of hashish hidden in his car. The Guardia Civil's anti-drugs service at Melilla port reported that

sniffer dogs had marked the French-plated Renault Megane Scenic driven by the arrestee during preboarding checks, with 89 packets subsequently found in a false compartment.

# Testing the water

THE number of households illegally connecting to the water supply in Almeria Province in order to obtain free water has increased according to Aqualia, who manage the municipal water supply. The company found that there were 152 cases of fraud in 2016, and household inspections will now be intensified in order to try to control the problem.

# Deadly dust-up

A MAN accused of killing an acquaintance during a fight in Pechina is on trial at a provincial court this week. The victim, owner of a popular cafeteria in Almeria City's El Zapillo district, died at the defendant's home, and prosecutors believe that he was hit 18 times with a large metal lock before his



SATELLITE IMAGES: Will be compared with property registers to determine extensions or additions to properties.

# Big brother is coming

By Eleanor Hawkins

MOJACAR is one of 12 places in Almeria where property owners who built sneaky pools or extensions could face hefty bills and fines this year.

The Ministry of the Treasury, aka the taxman, and the property registry have announced that the town, along with Albanchez, Enix, Feliz, Gador, Huercal de Almeria, Lucainena de las Torres, Lucar, Pulpi, Somontin, Vicar and Zurgena, will

be examined this year.

Images taken from satellites, helicopters and even drones are compared with property registers to see whether owners have failed to declare any swimming pools, garages, extensions or other additions to avoid paying higher taxes.

If this is found to be the case, the local town hall is informed and will notify property owners. A one-off fee of €60 per property is charged to update the register and owners are required to pay the

difference in property taxes for up to four years, plus interest.

The inspection scheme has been running since 2013 and will this year examine 1,272 municipalities across Spain. Many have criticised the scheme, including socialist party PSOE's Economy spokesman Pedro Saura, who complained that the €60 fee to regularise extensions is the same for a Marbella mansion as for a tiny farm in the sticks.

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## FEATURED NEWS

# The big pensions 'freeze'



STATE PENSION: Today, this is nearly twice what it was in 1998.

UK pensioners living in the EU must not accept 'frozen pensions,' says Nigel Nelson, chairman of the nonprofit International Consortium of British Pensioners (ICBP) - www.pen sionjustice.org.

Today there are nearly half a million UK pensioners living in the EU, as the

If you add in the other countries making up the European Economic Area (Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein) and Switzerland, this total increases to nearly 490,000. This article is about three types of UK State Pension erosion:

- Erosion caused by the UK leaving the EU (Brexit)
- Decline in the value of the Euro
- Impact of inflation in the EU.

#### Erosion caused by the UK leaving the EU

The UK government uprates the UK State Pension annually based on the 'triple lock' policy (raising it by whichever is the higher: inflation, average earnings or 2.5 per cent), but it is only in countries where they are 'legally obliged' to do this and this has been the case for over 70 years.

Today, this means that pensioners living in the UK, the EU and a number of disparate countries around the world receive the annual increase. So, if you live in the US, you will receive the annual increase

However, if you live just across the border in Canada, then you don't re-

### NUMBER OF UK PENSIONERS LIVING IN THE EU

Country	Country Total	Country	Country Total
Ireland	135,040	Poland	2,700
Spain	108,010	Finland	1,550
France	65,470	Bulgaria	1,100
Germany	42,680	Hungary	870
Italy	37,410	The Czech Republic	640
Cyprus	18,840	Luxembourg	590
Netherlands	12,900	Republic of Croatia	590
Portugal	10,460	Republic of Lithuania	450
Malta	6,390	The Slovak Republic	330
Greece	5,910	Republic of Slovenia	300
Sweden	5,590	Republic of Latvia	240
Belgium	5,430	Romania	160
Austria	5,400	Republic of Estonia	90
Denmark	3,370		
TOTAL:			472,510

#### UK PENSIONERS: Almost half a million live in the EU.

ceive an increase. Live in the Philippines and you receive the annual increase; live in Commonwealth countries like Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa and vou

In fact, there are over half a million UK pensioners living in over 120 countries who do not receive the annual increase - this is known as the

UK 'frozen' pension policy.

When the UK leaves the EU, the 'do nothing' option (ie there will be no specific provision made within the exit negotiations) means that the UK will no longer be 'legally obliged' to pay the annual UK State Pension increase to pensioners living in the EU.

Over a period of 20 years The Telegraph has estimated that this could leave pensioners £50,000 poorer.

For a frozen pensioner who retired between April 1998 and March 1999 on a 'full' UK State Pension (i.e with the maximum number of contribution years), they are £25,000 poorer compared to their peers living in the

Today, the UK state pension is nearly twice what it was in 1998 so the figure reported in The Telegraph would seem to be accurate

The ICBP has been working for years to try to persuade the UK government to end this discriminatory practice of pension 'freezing.' We are very concerned that the UK government will see the annual increase to the State Pension for pensioners living in the EU as an opportunity to save money as part of the Brexit negotiations.

The cost to annually increase UK state pensions in the EU will be £46.6 million. If you are concerned that your UK State Pension will become 'frozen,' then go to www.pen sionjustice.org/petitions and sign their petition and make your voice

#### Decline in the exchange rate -**GBP** to EUR

All UK State Pensions are payable in GBP and the pensioners are liable for the variations in exchange rates.

Most pensioners are spenders and not savers, so they cannot afford to wait for a better exchange rate - they take the exchange rate available on

the day that the UK state pension payment is made.

In fact, the pension can be paid in the currency of the country where the pensioner is living.

#### Impact of inflation in the EU

For those UK pensioners who will be on a fixed, 'frozen' pension, not only will they be receiving fewer Euros, but they will have less spending power each year because of inflation. Whilst inflation today is lower than it was in the 1990s, it is still running at nearly 2

Whilst two of the factors above are beyond our control - exchange rates and inflation - 'frozen' pensions are something that we can try to influ-

You can help... it is incumbent upon every UK state pensioner to make sure that their voice is heard by:

- Writing to the MP who represents the town or city that you last lived in
  - Writing to your MEP
- Signing any petitions that are raised - ours is at www.pensionjus tice.org/petitions
- Donate to lobby groups like ours to help fight the battle in the UK Parliament - www.pensionjustice.org/donate
- Joining social media groups like 'Protect European Pensions' (Facebook) - https://www.facebook.com/ groups/ProtectEuropeanPensions/.

With your help we can make a difference!!

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# Barbaric attack against animals

By Simon Firth and Matt Ford

FIVE dogs were shot and killed and a horse nearly blinded in a 'barbaric' attack which is being blamed on hunters in a natural park near Granada.

The plight of Illona Mitchell's animals has led rescue centres and animal charities from around the world to offer

Enough money has now been raised after pictures of the animals were shared on the internet, to raise money for a reward to find the attackers.

Ms Mitchell, who moved to Caniles from Chester in 2004. owns more than 170 hectares of land in the Sierra de Baza natural park.

After she removed her land from the Hunting Zone in the park, she says she was subjected to verbal abuse in the street. threats and intimidation from hunters angered by her deci-

After reporting these offences Ms Mitchell says Guardia Civil officers mounted patrols on her land, at one stage



even scouting round her land at

But the attackers then struck on the night of the Three Kings' celebrations knowing

that officers would be busy and that the following day would be

When Ms Mitchell drove up to her land on January 7 she found dead and dying animals in their kennels and her rescue horse, Rocco, so badly beaten it may lose an eye.

Three of the dogs lay dead, two died later at a vet's and the horse has been left traumatised.

Ms Mitchell believes at least two people took part in the attack, one holding the animal while the other fired the shots at almost point blank range.

One dog was shot between the eyes, another shot through the side of the face and one through the roof of the mouth

In an attempt to raise the alarm she was forced to bang on the door at the home of a police officer who alerted members of SEPRONA to the crime.

"When they arrived they couldn't believe what they were looking at. It was a vile and barbaric attack," she says.

Ms Mitchell's friends have rallied, putting her plight on the internet and even starting a crowdfunding page to help raise funds for her vet's bills and put up a reward to find those behind the attacks.

https://www.justgiving.com/c rowdfunding/Illona-Mitchell.



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# Jail for guilty schoolteacher

By Eleanor Hawkins

A LEVANTE teacher has admitted to taking photos of underage pupils in the nude and accepted a 5.5year jail sentence.

Although the Public Prosecutor's office initially requested sentences totalling 32 years and three months in jail, this was modified as the charges of elaboration of child pornography were removed. This, court sources explained, was in keeping with the revised Penal Code, which determines that to be pornographic, images of minors must have a sexual nature rather

The man will have to attend sexual education classes and pay a total of €28,000 in damages to four of the children involved.

than simply depict them

Eventually the defendant, who admitted to having taken advantage of his pupils' trust to persuade them to strip off and allow him to photograph them, sometimes in exchange for money, was found guilty of continued abuse and offences against moral in-

The prosecution maintained its request for a restraining order to ban the defendant from going within 200 metres of his victims or contacting them and surveillance measures which forbid him from living in the town where the incidents took place for 10

He will also have to attend sexual education classes and pay a total of €28,000 in damages to four of the children in-

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# World tourism focuses on Madrid

By Simon Firth

REPRESENTATIVES from almost every Spanish region, city and many towns, are in Madrid for this year's International Tourism Fair (Fitur).

On until January 22 at the Feria de Madrid, this year sees a special emphasis on sustainable tourism.

Almeria's most famous recent son, David Bisbal, is helping to launch the province's Fitur offering making a personal appearance on Thursday.

Also showcasing Almeria's talents is the latest film from actor Adolfo Mar-

Its stand is among the eight offerings from the provinces of Andalucia.

This is the market place to be seen in and where all those working in tourism can meet up with like-minded professionals in the trade

Members of the public are welcome to attend the annual event, now in its 37th year, but they are restricted to Saturday and Sunday.

A fair of this size not only brings together all those working in the industry, but also acts as a showcase for new services, new technologies and the latest trends.

For Madrid alone, the fair represents potential revenue of more than €200



million, according to the organisers,

They also point the presence of more than 9,000 exhibiting companies as evidence of the strength of the sector.

To emphasise the importance of Fitur, more than 20 ministers for tourism from

all over Africa are there debating the opportunities the sector can bring to the continent.

Tourism in the Middle East will also come under the spotlight in the hope of fostering and sustaining growth in this

# **OUR VIEW**

# Help always needed

see various councils around Spain took it upon themselves to try to make sure no children in their area went without any presents over the holiday period.

In Fuengirola alone, the council spent just over €11,000 to give 385 children a toy and also assisted in buying food for a large number of families. Madrid issued a directive that if any child had not received a gift by January 6 then the council should be informed.

Add to this the generous individuals and groups who operated food banks and donated gifts to underprivileged children and there's no doubt their combined work was greatly appreciated.

Hopefully this generosity will not finish now the festive season has passed as it continues to be important for individuals to do their bit to help those worse off.

Everyone has different preferences. If you can support your local animal charity by giving time or financial support that's great.

Despite tremendous steps forward in medical discoveries, there is still need for cancer care and a whole range of diverse children's illnesses. Add to this the need for family respite and age care as well as long established charities like the Red Cross, Lions and Royal British Legion and the choice is incredibly wide.

At Euro Weekly News we try to publicise charity fundraising. Anyone looking to raise awareness is welcome to contact us and where possible we will promote their activities.

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# Four main decisions regarding Brexit



### **BREXIT PAGE**

By John Smith

THERESA MAY the British Prime Minister made her much leaked speech on her plans for Brexit at a press conference on January 17 with much of the content appearing to be in accord with the recent recommendations of the Commons Brexit committee.

There was nothing particularly unexpected in the speech which lasted some 40 minutes but there was confirmation of a number of definite decisions made by the government which will affect the tone and result of proposed negotiations.

The four main points of her speech, and therefore her position as Article 50 is implemented, are

- Britain will not remain members of the single market:
- Parliament will be allowed to vote on a final Brexit deal:
- Britain will leave the customs union but will be looking for a special deal:
- She will argue that there could be an extended



I MRS MAY: May have already 'bagged a deal' with Bill English, New Zealand PM.

transitional period that may need negotiation.

One piece of immediate positive news is that the pound strengthened against the euro during the speech.

In a clear warning to the leaders of the 27 states with whom she will have to negotiate, she stated that if they tried to make this a punitive deal then she would rather leave EU without a trade deal than accept a bad deal which could mean the UK

could consider adopting a revised economic model. The inference therefore was such a model may result in significant corporate tax reductions to encourage international business back to the UK.

In her speech, she made it clear that the British public made the referendum decision with their "eyes open" and it is her job to implement their wish for a "brighter future" by creating a Global Britain with the UK remaining a "good friend and

neighbour" to the EU but "reaching out" beyond its borders to other continents.

The British government doesn't want to see the EU split or unravel but recognises that the UK has been an awkward partner for the Union. Mrs May said "We seek a new and equal partnership between an independent, self-governing, Global Britain and our friends and allies in the EU."

She wants to give "as much certainty as possible" which is why the government will adopt EU law in the great repeal bill. Parliament will then decide what laws it wants to change.

The overall theme of her speech was there will be no half measures and Britain although hoping to retain a good relationship with the EU whilst continuing to exchange information on matters of security, needs to be separated.

One area that is important covers the border between Northern Ireland and Eire and she hopes and expects to be able to come to an agreement which will allow continued freedom of movement across that border.

The devolved assemblies will not be ignored and they will continue to have control over many aspects of their own destinies with some returned powers resting with Westminster and others being transferred to the assemblies.

Stating she is not there just to supply media headlines, the feeling generally is she has released as much information as she intends and will now 'keep her powder dry' until the formal negotia-

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# Driver to stay in custody

By Eleanor Hawkins

THE driver of a car which caused an accident leading to a mother's death in Almeria City has been remanded in custody as investigations con-

A judge determined that the suspect, a 23-yearold Romanian man named as FB, should be held without bail for the time being and will face charges of manslaughter, reckless driving and leaving the scene of an accident.

Nabil El Meknassi, the suspect's lawyer, reported that his client was "extremely upset, not about his own situation but that a person had died.

"He told the judge what had happened, he hadn't been drinking since the night before and was fully alert. He drove through an orange light thinking that as it was early morning there wouldn't be anything coming," the lawyer stated.

The driver, the lawyer said, hadn't fled but gone home to rest and recover from the crash, unaware that anyone had died, and intended to turn himself in to the police later that day. He wasn't going any faster than 80 kmph, only jumped one light and was testing out a car which a relative had bought, the lawyer claimed his client had stat-

The Local Police, however, believe events were slightly different as witnesses stated the car jumped a series of red lights and was doing at least 100 kmph, as reported by Euro Weekly News (edition 1645).

The suspect's lawyer also said that the 36-yearold Mallorcan woman who died in the crash, who was not driving as initially thought but was in fact travelling in the middle of the back seat, was not wearing a seatbelt, so his client could not be held solely responsible for the death.

# Stabbed by neighb

THE National Police have arrested a 39-year-old Moroccan man for allegedly stabbing his neighbour in Almeria City.

Patrols were sent out after the stabbing was reported at a block of flats in El Puche district, and officers found a 60year-old woman in a ground

wounds. The victim, who was still conscious, told officers the man from upstairs had stabbed her.

Officers found the knife believed to have been used and set up surveillance in an attempt to track down the suspect, who handed himself in later and confessed to the

The victim was admitted to intensive care at Torrecardenas Hospital in a serious condition with two stab wounds to the abdomen and the suspect faces charges of attempted manslaughter.





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### NEWS EXTRA

### Free rides

NEARLY 2,800 over 65s hold transport passes which allow them to ride municipal buses for free, El Ejido Council has reported. Three hundred new cards were issued in 2016 alone.

### At the fair

THE provincial council is promoting Almeria at the Irish Holiday World travel fair at Belfast's Titanic **Exhibition Centre this** weekend (January 20-22).

# **Migrants** found

A LIFEBOAT collected 44 migrants from a dinghy 27 nautical miles from the coast of Almeria on Sunday morning (January 15). Helimer 219 search and rescue helicopter spotted the craft adrift at sea after a tip-off from Morocco.



NEW FLIGHTS: Will run every week from Almeria to the UK.

# Getting connected

#### By Eleanor Hawkins

JET2.COM airline will be running seven new flights per week from Almeria to the UK between March and October. the Tourism department has announced.

Alfredo Valdivia, delegate for Culture. Tourism and Sports at the Junta de Andalucia regional government, recently visited Mojacar for a meeting with local authorities.

Mojacar mayor Rosa Maria Cano, Vera mayor Felix Lopez, Garrucha deputy mayor Rocio Galindo and about 40 local business people attended the

meeting, where matters of interest regarding tourism were discussed.

The Junta will be spending about €140,000 on promoting the area."

The airline will be flying twice per week to Manchester and Leeds and once per week to Edinburgh, Newcastle and East Midlands airport, the delegate explained.

Valdivia also informed the group that the Junta will be spending about €140,000 on promoting the area at the ITB travel fair in Berlin, one of the most important in the world.

The delegate also reported on the Horizonte 2020 General Sustainable Tourism Plan for Andalucia, a document which defines strategies to boost growth and employment created by the sector.

The project includes eight different lines of action and 30 separate activities with a budget of €420 million for the five-year period.

# Burglary leads to arrest of rental tenants

AN Almeria couple has been arrested for allegedly running a marihuana farm in a rented home.

The National Police began investigating after a neighbour called to report that the home on Calle Vereda del Mero was being burgled. A patrol was sent to the scene and, much to officers' surprise, the property was found to contain 262 marihuana plants, a sophisticated air heating and humidity regulating system and a hunting rifle reported stolen from Gergal.

> The owner of the property was living abroad and had no idea that drugs were being grown there."

Investigators discovered that the owner of the property was living abroad and had no idea that drugs were being grown there. He told officers that he had rented the home to a couple, who were eventually tracked down at their real home in the El Alquian district of the city and arrested for an alleged crime against public health.

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As we move into 2017, this is the perfect time to review your financial planning to see if you need to make any changes. To protect your financial security through retirement, and achieve your wishes for your family and heirs, you need a strategic tax and wealth management plan covering your savings and investments, tax planning, pensions and estate planning.

You need to consider any recent global and local developments that may affect your finances in the coming year, as well as have a long-term strategy. Any changes in your personal circumstances also warrant a review.

Once you have assessed your situation and financial planning, you will be able to discuss any necessary adjustments with your financial adviser.

#### Savings and investments

2016 was certainly an interesting year, with Brexit, the US elections and Italian referendum. Diversification is more important than ever, and you need a long-term strategic asset allocation plan specifically designed around your circumstances, needs and risk

# Is Your Tax And Wealth Management In Shape For 2017?



By Gerald Turner, Partner, Blevins Franks

profile.

Diversification gives your portfolio the chance to produce positive returns over time without being vulnerable to any single area under-performing.

There are various levels you should have in your portfolio: different asset classes; across geographical areas, sectors, company size etc; owning equities and bonds issued by a range of companies;

utilising a multi-manager approach where you diversify across managers and styles, and currencies.

The starting point is to obtain a clear and objective assessment of your appetite for risk, to make sure your portfolio is suitable for you.

#### Tax planning

Make sure your investments and wealth are placed in the most suitable arrangement to limit your tax liabilities. Take advice from someone who is well-versed in the nuances of Spanish taxation, otherwise you could see your investment returns slashed by taxes that could have been avoided or mitigated. It is important that your tax planning is up-to-date and designed to take advantage of tax planning opportunities in Spain.

Another incentive to review your tax affairs is the global automatic exchange of information regime under the Common Reporting

Standard which is now in force. The Spanish tax authority will receive information on every resident of Spain, without having to ask for it. Cross-border tax planning can be complex, so you need to ensure you are declaring income and paying tax in the right country.

#### Estate planning

The first step is to establish your goals. Who would you like to benefit from your estate? Are you happy for them to have control over the money? When should they receive the funds? How much tax will they pay?

You then need to obtain specialist advice to ensure that your estate plan is set up to achieve your wishes for your heirs.

Under the 2015 EU succession regulation Brussels IV, you can choose whether Spanish or UK succession law will apply to your estate. The default position is for

Spanish succession law to apply to foreign nationals living here, unless they have a will stating otherwise.

Brussels IV does not allow you to opt out of Spanish succession tax, which can be costly in certain circumstances. This is due if the asset being inherited is located in Spain or the recipient is resident in Spain. Tax is paid by each recipient, with varying rates. UK inheritance tax may also still apply for UK nationals.

Whether it is investments, tax or pension planning, seek advice to ensure you do what works best for your personal situation. Use an adviser who can guide you on all these aspects and provide holistic solutions so you can have peace of mind that your financial affairs are in order.

To keep in touch with the latest developments in the offshore world, check out the latest news on our website www.blevinsfranks.com.

"Do I need to review my financial planning for 2017?"

Talk to the people who know.

2016 was a year of change. It marked the start of the new global automatic exchange of information regime and we then had Brexit and the US elections. Investment diversification is more important than ever, and your tax and estate planning must be up-to-date to protect yourself and your heirs. Contact us to review your wealth management for 2017 and beyond.



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# Missing man found

Ballesteros Manzano, a 63-year-old man, who went missing on January 7. The man had disappeared while travelling by train from Almeria to Sevilla and apparently became disorientated when having to change stations.

He had been last sighted on January 7 at 8.45pm when he disembarked a train at San Bernardo station, instead of at Dos Hermanas, as he had intended. This led police to believe that he might have become confused and lost

Mr Ballesteros Manzano was found in good health in Sevilla on Monday and the National Police have since announced on Twitter that he is now "safe and sound."



# No news about nuclear clear-up

By Eleanor Hawkins

ECOLOGISTAS EN ACCION is going to sue the Nuclear Safety Board (CSN) for "allowing an illegal nuclear cemetery in Palomares," and there is still no news on the clear-up.

Fifty-one years after the accident which saw two American planes collide above Almeria. dropping nuclear bombs onto Palomares from above, thousands of cubic metres of earth remain contaminated, the ecologist group has complained.

In its opinion, this means the whole area is comparable to an illegal nuclear facility yet it is not even registered as a contaminated area.

In May 2010, the CSN and Ciemat investigation centre issued a report, which was approved by the European Union, stating that 50,000m3 of contaminated earth needed to be dealt with and reduced to 8,000m3.

In contrast, following discussions between Spain and the US, the CSN stated in 2015 that the 50.000m3 would be reduced to 28.000m3. This, Ecologistas en Accion insists, is far from enough.

The ecologist group has therefore urged the CSN to do what it promised to do and warned "if the CSN does not act we will ask the courts to force it to provisionally store the contaminated earth while the US finds a permanent home for it."

The Nuclear Energy Board, Ciemat, CSN and governments were perfectly aware that the Americans did little more than a cosmetic clear-up in Palomares, Ecologistas en Accion claims. Of the nine kilos of plutonium which the two MK-28 bombs contained, just 270 grams were transported to Savannah River, the group has stressed.

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# Prostitution ring bust

By Eleanor Hawkins

THE National Police has broken up an organisation which controlled six adult

clubs in Sevilla, Malaga, Almeria and Murcia which were sexually exploiting various women, including a 15-year-old girl.

linea directa

The police force reported having made 17 arrests including the owners and managers of the clubs, believed to have forced the women to sell drugs to their punters and charge extra services and drinks to their credit cards.

The group plunged earnings back into the operation, laundering the money through a business network and buying and opening up new clubs.

Altogether eight people were arrested in Malaga, four in Almeria, three in Sevilla, one in Murcia and another in Ciudad Real. Officers searched two of the clubs, one in Dos Hermanas (Sevilla) which was closed to the public and another in Malaga, believed to be the group's headquarters and offices.

More than €6,000 in cash was confiscated along with documents relating to the



ADULT CLUBS: Were sexually exploiting women.

six clubs, bank statements and property deeds, computer systems, mobile phones and memory sticks, which are currently being analysed by computer experts.

Investigations began in March 2016 following reports lodged by various women who told police officers they had been sexually exploited at clubs in Sevilla, Malaga, Almeria and Mur-

The group consists of mostly Spanish citizens who allegedly enticed women to work at their clubs then threatened them and forced them to work and live in humiliating conditions.

### **NEWS EXTRA**

# **Stabbing** reported

A WOMAN, 57, was taken to Torrecardenas hospital for treatment after allegedly being stabbed on a street in El Puche. A local resident alerted emergency services.

## Fewer rides

THE number of people who travel from Almeria to the rest of Andalucia using Renfe's medium distance rail services has dropped by almost 30 per cent since works have been causing disruptions

# Children injured

THREE children, a threeyear-old girl and two boys aged nine and 11 and a 31vear-old woman were injured when two cars collided on Calle Acacias in La Moionera.



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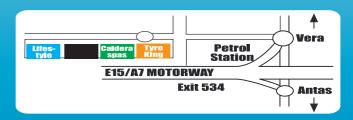
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Copper thieves have little

respect for religion.

# Persistent thieves

By Eleanor Hawkins

COPPER thieves in Almeria City are proving to be particularly persistent and to have little respect for religion, targeting the lighting at the Sagrado Corazon de Jesus monument in San Cristobal on various occasions.

Back in November, after electrical cables had been stolen from the monument a number of times, the council decided to make the lighting system thief-proof by placing the wires under concrete slabs.

However, this has proved insufficient and, much to the surprise of the authorities and local residents, the monument was once again plunged into darkness one recent night as the wires went missing yet again.

This time, the council has announced after studying different solutions, the cables will be buried under cement in an attempt to put a halt to the thefts. "The only way to get at them would be to smash through the cement," Municipal Services councillor Juan Jose Alonso reported.

The city council has also had to adopt similarly drastic measures with regards to other items such as manhole covers. Soldering the covers into place has proved to be quite a good deterrent.

Yet the council still estimates the cost to the municipal coffers of building materials and other items stolen at €13,500.

# Joining forces for water

AGRICULTURAL groups and universities from Almeria. Alicante and Murcia have joined forces to highlight and attempt to solve the problem of a deficit of water resources in eastern Spain.

The group intends to raise awareness of the problems suffered in the Levante due to droughts and to seek and demand solutions.

Members wish to remove emotions from the table and allow the matter to be dealt with in a scientific, productive and environmentally respectful manner.





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# Young and free

By Eleanor Hawkins

THIRTY graffiti artists from across Spain will be competing for more than €2,000 in prizes in Vicar.

Eight individuals, five pairs and four trios have been shortlisted for the final on January 21 and will have from 10am to 7pm to adorn Jose Cano de La Gangosa sports hall with their work.

The competition is part of the 13th edition of Hip Hop Street Vicar and participants come from Gijon, Tenerife,

Sevilla, Madrid, Malaga, Castellon, Alicante, Valencia, Cadiz, Cordoba and Almeria.

The artist who creates the winning piece of graffiti will win €1,000 while second prize will be €700 and third prize €500. The panel of judges will be formed by last year's winners, GFX and Leon from Alicante and Eneko from Navarra.

Youth councillor Almudena Jimenez said: "the graffiti competition is more popular than ever as it is organised by young, local graffiti artists. Daniel Fernandez 'Coma,' a long-standing promotor of graffiti in Almeria, also collaborates. His work is known at an international level and he is well known in Almeria for having decorated a lot of the city and province."

Hip Hop Street Vicar is an international festival which brings different arts and sports together, all in a free event which is aimed at and

**GRAFFITI COMPETITION:** For young artists.

focuses on youths.

About 15,000 people from all over Almeria Province and further afield are expected this year for the festival, which along with the graffiti competition includes concerts, breakdance competitions, rap, basketball and parkour.

The council also stressed that the health authorities would be taking advantage of the event to set up information stands and distribute leaflets on STIs.





# Mobile bank branch

ALMERIA-based bank Cajamar will be swapping offices in 17 small rural villages across the province for a mobile branch to cut

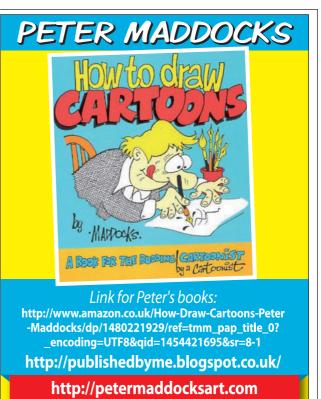
The villages affected, derly people, the bank manwhich include Somontin, Bentarique, Doña Maria and Santa Fe de Mondujar, are all extremely small, rural and mostly inhabited by el-

agement explained. Whereas at the moment they have small branches which are open for just a few hours a week, as of January 30 these will close down and be replaced by the mobile

The van, Cajamar representatives said, includes an ATM machine and a customer service office and will travel between the villages to guarantee financial services for residents.

Bearing in mind that most of the inhabitants of these areas are elderly and not used to using electronic banking services, they will be attended at the mobile office and will, in many cases, receive a better service than in the past, bank sources claimed.

In other, larger villages the bank also intends to close down its branches to reduce outgoings but a 'financial agent' will continue to work in each area.





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Ref: NW999 Beds: 2 | Baths: 1 Sunny 2 bedroom apartment with attractive terrace and views, a short walk to the beach.

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Ref: NW1032 Beds: 3 | Baths: 2 Well presented villa on the desirable Agua Nueva urbanisation with great interior space, private driveway, large tiled terrace with 8x4 private pool and spacious roof terrace.

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Ref: NW1035 Beds: 2 | Baths: 1.5 2 bedroom townhouse on the popular Las Brisas community close to the beach, excellent rental property.

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Ref: NW1009 Beds: 3 | Baths: 2.5 Spacious gated villa in Cabuzana with private garden, pool area and 50m2 basement



Ref: NW977 Beds: 3 | Baths: 2 Stunning 3 bedroom villa in Mojacar, optional use of communal pool or space for private pool, beautiful sea views, garage and 300 metres to La Parata restaurant. Offers invited.

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# Railway delays 'inexcusable'

By Eleanor Hawkins

THE regional government representative for Almeria has urged the Spanish government to get a move on with the high speed railway line between Murcia and Almeria, work on which has been halted for more than four years.

Gracia Fernandez, the Junta de Andalucia regional government delegate for Almeria, said the delay to the stretch of line between Pulpi and Cuevas del Almanzora was "inexcusable and very bad for the province," stressing that €417 million budgeted for the works between 2013 and 2016 have been lost.

Fernandez visited Bedar, Cuevas del Almanzora, Los Gallardos, Garrucha, Huercal-Overa, Mojacar, Turre, Pulpi and Vera accompanied by provincial delegates and coordinators to discuss the effects of the delays to the AVE high speed rail connec-



GRACIA FERNANDEZ: Paid a visit.

tion on the municipalities it is due to pass

The delegate also spoke to local mayors about the specific needs of each town and village and asked how work was going to repair damage caused by recent floods.

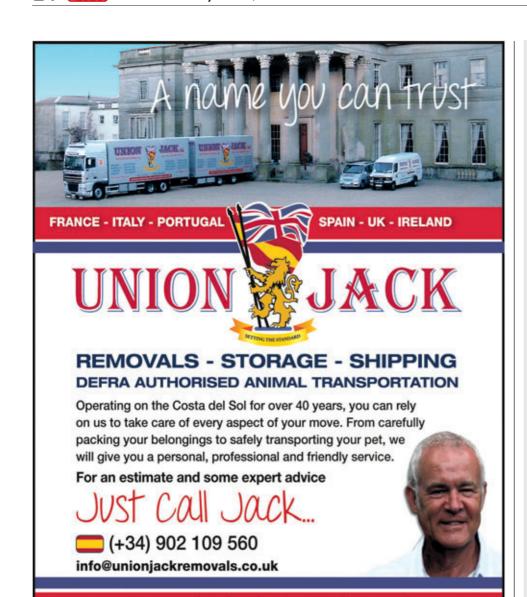


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# A call for food

AN annual campaign to take food to Saharan refugee camps in Tindouf, Algeria, will be collecting at various places in the province until January 27.

Almeria Provincial Council is collaborating with the Caravan for Peace charity campaign, which has been running since 1990 to provide assistance to the camps in the form of much-needed food.

At a press conference, provincial Social Welfare Delegate Angel Escobar and Amigos del Sahara Association representatives Jose Manuel Soria and Victoria Ramos urged everyone who can to donate something to the campaign.

The association, Escobar said, plays an important role in defending the rights and meeting the needs of Saharan refugees with regular campaigns all year round.

The provincial council, he explained, is collaborating by running three collection points at its facilities in the city on Rambla Alfareros, Hermanos Machado and at the Palacio Provincial.

"It's vital we raise awareness amongst the people of Almeria of the problems these refugees suffer, especially as the only food they have comes from humanitarian aid and there is a very high percentage of child malnutrition. Many of these children have known nothing except life in these camps," Escobar said.

"We ask mostly for oil, rice and sugar, but all nonperishable foodstuffs are welcome due to the delicate situation in the camps, where any food that gets in comes from outside and there isn't always enough for everyone," Ramos explained.

Jose Manuel Soria added that there are also collections points at Galeria Acanto on Calle Javier Sanz in Almeria City, at the association headquarters on Calle La Venta in Aguadulce and at the Guadalinfo centre in Tijola.

The association hopes to beat the 4,500 kilos of food it managed to collect last year.

# Secon



By Eleanor Hawkins

THE socialist opposition at Almeria City Hall has complained that Cabo de Gata district is suffering a lack of police presence, leading to a wave of vandalism and an unsafe feeling amongst its residents.

As multiple rubbish bins have been burned and bus shelters bashed to bits, PSOE councillors complained that calls to the Local Police are often left unanswered as

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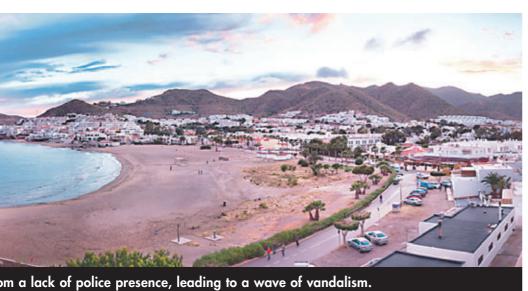


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# d class suburbs



there are insufficient patrols. The district, some distance from the city centre, is too far off the beaten track for patrols to be sent out to more than the most important calls, complained councillor Consuelo Rumi, and the same occurs in other suburbs including El Alquian and La Cañada.

"Officers are overworked due to the Partido Popular council's refusal to take on

These incidents are not isolated crimes.

more staff and ensure the Local Police force has enough human resources to meet the needs of a city with more than 195,000 inhabitants and suburbs which are a long way from the centre." Rumi complained.

"The mayor of Almeria needs to take this matter seriously because, sadly, the incidents in Cabo de Gata are not isolated crimes, they are also happening in other districts, where people also feel unsafe and unhappy as they know most of their calls for help remain unanswered due to the lack of police officers," the councillor stressed.



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# Prizes for winning windows

MOJACAR Council's Christmas activities ended with an announcement of the winners of the third Christmas Window Display Competition.

Boutique Palme at the Parque Comercial was awarded first prize in the competition, which attracted a large number of participants.

This year, the public voted for their favourite displays via Facebook and Palme received 825 likes, and a €500 prize. Second was tobacconists La Fuente with 660 likes and a prize of €300, while La Vuelta de las Golondrinas in Mojacar's old town received €100 for coming in third place.

The council congratulated participants on the quality of their displays.

# **Indalo Players** over until nex



INDALO PLAYERS: The colourful cast of Robinson Crusoe can

ANOTHER New Year... another pantomime. Having worked so hard for four months; building the set, making costumes, locating props and learning so many lines... the colourful cast of Robinson Crusoe can finally put it all 'behind' them. But rest assured The Indalo Players will return again next year... 'oh yes they will!!!'

As if there wasn't enough drama one of the cast members ended up in a cast. Poor Sandra unfortu-

nately slipped on the stairs back stage during the second half and landed badly on her right arm. Like a true trouper she carried on and only after the show had finished went to the hospital only to discover that she had broken two bones in her wrist!

The Indalo Players would like to thank everyone who came to support the three performances which attracted almost 200 people. All the proceeds will support local





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charities, with proceeds from tickets sales going to Vera Orphanage and PAWS-Patas cat neutering programme. Refreshments were supplied by Stepping Stones which will help their Alzheimer's charity and programme monies will be given to

The Indalo Players would like to send a special thank you to Vera Town Hall who let them use the El Cine Teatro venue in Vera free of

# Car boot sale

BAR EL ALMENDRO, in La Mela, Sorbas will be hosting a car boot sale on Saturday February 4 from 10am until 1pm. Stall holders should arrive at 9am.

There will be several charity stalls including PAWS which are free of charge.

If anyone has any unwanted items that they would like to donate please drop these off to the bar. These will then be given to the various charity stalls to sell and raise funds. Tea, coffee, breakfast rolls and cakes will also be available in the bar.

You can find Bar el Almendro on the A1101 Sorbas to Lubrin road at 8km. For more information please contact karenl loyd0204@gmail.com.

# Facts and legends of the Turre area

DAMES IN TURRE'S first meeting of 2017 will be held at The Hostel Rural Turre, on Monday January 30 at 11am and the speaker will be David Jackson.

David will be providing facts and legends of the area. It should be very interesting so go along and find out things you never knew.

Dames in Turre is a friendship club which raises money for local charities. Why not pop along and see for yourself? New members and guests are always welcome. For more information please contact the secretary, Pam Smith, on 677 543 031 or President Lesley Barlow on 661 085 551.

# Lions help out the gymnastics club



LIONS CLUB: Were delighted to hand over a cheque for €1,500 to Stacey Smith.

ON Wednesday January 11 Pam Mattioli and Sandie Tinkham from Vera and District Lions Club were delighted to hand over a cheque for €1,500 to Stacey Smith from Adelante Gimnasia Artistica Arboleas.

The Club desperately needs

a sprung track and with this donation now has enough money to purchase one. The club moved into its new home in October and has been busy fundraising ever since.

Fundraising will continue as more equipment is still

If you would like more information about Vera and District Lions Club and the work it does, please contact Pam Mattioli on 610 309 032 or Sandie Tinkham on 950 439 324. Stacey, from the gymnastics club, can be contacted on 622 129 702.



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#### Partaloa area

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APF2956 - €110,000



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## **DENMARK**

# Best burger

COPENHAGEN'S Gasoline Grill has been named as one of the best burger joints around the world according to US media group Bloomberg, which selected 27 venues globally with most in either New York, London or LA.

### Safe skies

THE annual report from Airline Ratings has named SAS as being among the safest airlines in the skies and ranked it in the top 20 after assessing 425 airlines



### Sustainable student

THE new campus of the Copenhagen International School, has reopened incorporating new architecture and sustainability in a bid to create and promote sustainable living.

### Airbnb limit

COPENHAGEN'S mayor has made suggestions that the capital follows the lead of other major European cities and limits how long a property can be rented out for through site Airbnb.

## **FRANCE**

# Kardashian arrest

SIXTEEN people were arrested in the Paris region in connection with the robbery of American reality star Kim Kardashian who had around €9m worth of jewellery stolen from her apartment.

#### Elle awards

FRENCH movie Elle, described as a rape-revenge thriller, has won two

Golden Globes for French actress Isabelle Huppert and veteran director Paul Verhoeven.

## Illegal help

A FRENCHMAN accused of giving a lift to three illegal immigrants, has been acquitted by a Nice court. The 45-year-old teacher was stopped with three

women in his car and had planned to help them reach Marseille.

## **Production plea**

PRESIDENTIAL candidate Marine Le Pen has vowed to bring car production back to France with a return Renault and Peugeot Citroen, similar to what Donald Trump aims to do in America.

# SWEDEN

# **Housing crisis**

STOCKHOLM'S Housing Agency has reported that there are now over half a million people waiting to rent an apartment through them. This marks an increase of almost 40.000 in 2016.

#### **Crime stats**

INITIAL crimes figures for last year report that fraud and crimes against the individual increased last year, but cases of drugs crimes fell.

### London bound

THE Abba-themed venue, Mamma Mia The Party, which opened in Stockholm last year, could be headed to London in spring 2018. The event sees guests in a fictional tavern eating Greek food as they watch a Mamma Mia style stage show.

### Top name

THE name 'Leia' has entered the top 100 most popular dog names in Sweden for the first time, believed to be inspired by the release of the new Star Wars movies. Molly is currently the most popular name amongst registered dogs.

# HOLLAND

# Top names

THE names Daan and Anna were the most popular baby names in the Netherlands last year with 681 Daans born and 665 baby girls were named Anna. The top spots were previously held by Liam and Emma.

### **Pre-crisis levels**

ACCORDING to the Dutch real estate agency association NVM, house prices are now almost back to their pre-crisis level. The average price for a home is currently €248,000, 20 per cent higher than when prices plunged in 2013.

## Panda approval

A DUTCH zoo has spent €7 million on a new compound to house a pair of giant pandas from China. The facility has now been approved by Chinese zoo inspectors who said it was "incredibly beautiful."

### **Strained services**

SEVERAL hospitals have stopped admitting new patients because of the flu epidemic. An increase in the number of elderly residents suffering is straining medical services in some parts of the country.

## **GERMANY**

# Snowman damage

A SNOWMAN on a train track in northern German resulted in €5,000 worth of damage to the train as the driver quickly hit the brakes unable to distinguish between whether it was a snowman or an actual person.

### **GDP** increase

GERMANY has recorded a gross domestic product (GDP) increase of 1.9 per cent in 2016, the highest increase in five years.

### **Record fines**

GERMAN car maker Volkswagen is pleading guilty to criminal charges in the USA relating to the diesel emissions scandal. The company will pay \$4.3 billion (€4 billion) in fines.

### Sweet concern

SECURITY was on high alert after an unidentified powder was posted to German courthouses. The powder sparked concerns but was found to be sugar.

## **BELGIUM**



# **Corruption complaints**

BELGIUM has been criticised for not putting in place any of the 15 recommendations made to help prevent corruption of deputies, judges and prosecutors.

## **Social support**

KING PHILIPPE received around 50,000 letters last year. Of these, some 769 people received financial support of €200 after the letters were passed to the palace's 'social' and then the Public Welfare Service.

## Beauty ban

THE Flemish parliament wants beauty pageants for children to be stopped claiming that such events for those under 16 are unacceptable and should be formally banned.

### **Tourism boost**

TOURISM in Brussels has reportedly picked up in recent weeks following a downturn after the attacks last March. Brussels will increase its efforts to promote the city through a campaign across Europe.

# Norway



# More radical

MASS murderer Anders Behring Breivik, who killed 77 people in 2011 for their 'multicultural' views, claims his five-year prison isolation has made him even more radical as he gives evidence against the state for treating him 'inhumanely.'

### Abuse case

A NORWEGIAN paedophilia ring has been disbanded. Police have filed charges against 51 individuals involved in what is thought to be one of the largest child sexual abuse cases ever in Norway.

## Threatening case

A MAN, aged 66, has been charged with threatening a female district court judge. His legal representative did not deny he sent the email, but said that he was not making a threat against her.

### Local beer

SUPERMARKET Rema has said it will focus more on stocking beer from local microbreweries. The move has upset Tromso brewery Mack, which said its sales will fall so much as a result and they will have to make redundancies.

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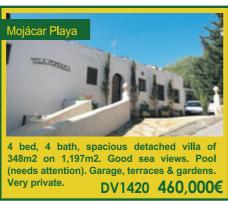








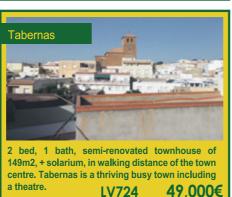
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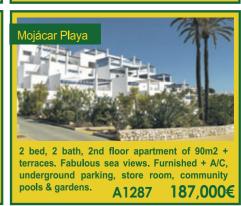
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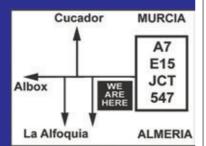
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# RUSSIAN PRESS



# Rich teenage kicks



VLADIMIR ZHIRINOVSKY: Wants to send joyriders into exile.

A LEADING politician suggested that rich teenage joyriders should be exiled to Russia's remote regions. Liberal Democratic party chief Vladimir Zhirinovsky said five years exile from Moscow would terrify nuisance street racers who wouldn't have their parents to help them in Siberia's frozen wastelands.

## Golden boy

KREMLIN officials ridiculed reports that Russian intelligence services had collected compromising material on Donald Trump. Unverified sources claimed that the President-elect hired prostitutes to perform 'golden showers' in a Moscow hotel room. Putin's spokesman called the story 'pulp fiction.'

### Moscow mules

AN OECD report found that Russians spent an average of 1,978 hours working during 2015, far more than the average Brit who clocked up 1,674 hours, or Spaniards who managed 1,691. But despite Russians working more, productivity is far lower due to many people working hard manual jobs around the home.

# Topical taboos

SEX, suicide and death are the topics Russians are least likely to discuss around the dinner table. One in three people polled thought the subjects far too unpleasant to mention to family or friends. Another taboo topic was the 'dark

### Fortunes soar

pages of Russian history.'

■ RUSSIA's richest people have seen their pockets swell by almost €30 billion following Donald Trump's election. Collective bank balances grew by 7.9 per cent as the rouble gathered strength and energy companies gained confidence. The new president is also expected to weaken sanctions.

# Guru grudge

A YOGA teacher is on trial for illegal missionary work after giving a talk on the practice's spiritual roots. Dmitry Ugai claims he was shopped to the government by an Orthodox activist who harbours a grudge against spirituality after his wife left him to join a cult and live with a Hindu gu-

# Family affair

■ A NEW bill planning to decriminalise domestic violence within the family has passed the first stage of legislation. It was proposed by conservative lawmaker Yelena Mizulina who believes linking domestic assault with violence between strangers is 'anti-family.'



# RBS faces another hurdle

By John Smith

THERE seems to be a certain irony in the fact the RBS (The Royal Bank of Scotland) which is 73 per cent owned by the British government is likely to be fined an extremely large amount of money by the US government.

The whole problem revolves around its involvement in what is known as the sub-prime market in the USA where it acted recklessly alongside plenty of other national and international banks.

\$10 billion (€9.5 billion)

as a fine from the US government would probably be seen as a reasonable amount for RBS to have to pay. More could be problematical.

Barclavs has decided not to settle with the US Department of Justice (DOJ) and is going to court to argue that as they were only a small player in this market they should not pay huge fines and that the DOJ has favoured US banks, fining them far less than foreign banks.

It seemed that Deutsche Bank could have gone under when it was threatened with a \$14 billion (€13.3 billion) fine and then settled at \$7.2 billion (€6.85 billion) with the company still intact.

By the time that a decision is made with RBS, there will be a change of president as well as director of the DOJ, so it will be something of a tight rope walk as the British government lobbies on behalf of the bank whilst the Americans look to make as much money

# Bank bail-out cost

ACCORDING to a report issued by the Spanish Court of Auditors on January 10, the actual provision made for the cost of 'bailing out' the banks in the period of 2009 to 2015 is recorded as €122.122 billion.

This figure does not take into account potential income which could be raised from the probable sale of shares in banks held by the government, which includes Bankia and BMN and the actual amount actually expended is the slightly less eye watering €60.718 billion at the end of

Time will tell whether either figure will reduce depending on market fluctu-

**Quote of the Week** 

Signs are appearing... that the weaker pound is benefiting the economy

# Five year Brexit



### XAVIER ROLET: Head of the London Stock Exchange.

By John Smith

AS the UK moves closer to the final triggering of Article 50, so different committees in Parliament continue to interview senior businessmen asking their opinion on the future and how the economy is likely to cope with Brexit.

In the latest round of enquiries, the Treasury Select Committee interviewed a number of influential financial figures, one of whom was Xavier Rolet the head of the London

Stock Exchange.

In his statement, he warned that a two-year negotiation was likely to be far too short and that Britain faced a massive desertion of financial jobs from the City of London to other EU member states unless sensible and clear agreements could be made.

To this end therefore, he recommended that Mrs May should look for a five-year rather than two-year exit plan, especially as so many stock sales were made

# More in work

UNEMPLOYMENT continues to reduce in Spain and the 2016 figure was down by 9.5 per cent compared to 2015 according to the ministry of labour with 3.7 million still out of work, but many of the newly employed are on short term contracts.

# Malta teasers

AS the EU's smallest member Malta takes over the presidency, a group of MEPs has accused it of being a tax haven, helping multinational companies avoid payment of more than €14 billion in tax which should have been paid to member states.

# Increased turnover

RESULTS from Sainsbury's during Christmas week have surprised analysts by showing an increase in turnover rather than the expected drop, which in turn has led to a healthy growth in the share price thanks in part to the takeover of the Argos Group.

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# Tourism is still important

GIVING a hint as to the results of the most popular holiday destinations in the world (due to be announced on January 17), the United Nations World Tourism Organisation has revealed that Spain's figure was 10 per cent up on 2015.

With just under 75 million visitors, tourism brought an estimated €60 billion to the country, some of which will have been thanks to the reduction in visitors to Turkey caused by security

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## **LONDON - FTSE 100**

COMPANY PR	ICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% Снд.	NET VOL
3i Group PLC	724.50	-1.00	725.00	54.83
Admiral Group PLC	1765.00	-10.00	1774.00	7.82
Anglo American PLC	1367.75	38.00	1329.50	423.32
Antofagasta PLC	741.00	16.00	725.00	151.44
Ashtead Group PLC	1623.00		1600.00	72.96
Associated British Foods PLC	2579.50		2580.00	11.43
AstraZeneca PLC	4650.25		4609.00	75.78
Aviva PLC	483.10		489.10	249.65
Babcock International Group.			954.00	34.27
BAE Systems PLC	611.00		611.50	258.94
Barclays PLC	232.22		235.25	1,976.23
Barratt Developments PLC	509.25		516.00	415.80
BHP Billiton PLC	1488.75		1454.50	403.74
BP PLC	516.95		518.00	940.82
British American Tobacco PLC			4729.50	84.37
British Land Co PLC	614.00		618.00	104.38
BT Group PLC	390.07		391.75	362.59
Bunzl PLC	2138.00		2136.00	14.82
Burberry Group PLC	1629.50		1611.00	137.70
Capita PLC	510.00		515.50	85.22
Carnival PLC	4251.00		4242.00	16.29
Centrica PLC			230.20	256.38
Coca-Cola HBC AG	232.05 1801.00			9.85
	1469.00		1802.00	<u>9.65</u> 87.25
Compass Group PLC			1460.00	
ConvaTec Group PLC	240.65		239.70	10.24
CRH PLC	2887.50		2878.00	21.65
Croda International PLC	3340.00		3338.00	5.74
DCC PLC	6122.50		6120.00	2.75
Diageo PLC	2207.50		2197.50	162.23
Direct Line Insurance Group			348.60	134.43
Dixons Carphone PLC	348.85		350.90	106.22
easyJet PLC	1022.50		1036.00	190.22
Experian PLC	1609.00		1601.00	58.69
Fresnillo PLC	1453.50		1413.00	100.51
GKN PLC	343.35		341.30	174.46
GlaxoSmithKline PLC	1593.00		1585.50	491.91
Glencore PLC	323.57		316.70	3,272.24
Hammerson PLC	559.75		564.00	27.41
Hargreaves Lansdown PLC	1279.00		1277.00	19.69
Hikma Pharmaceuticals PLC	1900.00		1896.00	4.50
HSBC Holdings PLC	679.05		678.00	617.40
Imperial Brands PLC	3617.75		3590.00	70.37
Informa PLC	694.25		693.50	42.61
InterContinental Hotels Gro			3759.00	16.30
International Consolidated	481.05		488.70	383.44
Intertek Group PLC	3551.00		3547.00	6.87
Intu Properties PLC	276.90		278.80	21.33
ITV PLC	207.40		208.60	599.24
Johnson Matthey PLC	3255.00		3248.00	19.18
Kingfisher PLC	351.40	-1.50	353.00	139.99

COMPANY F	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% Снс	. NET VOL
Land Securities Group PLC	1007.00	-13.00	1020.00	37.43
Legal & General Group PLO	246.75	-1.90	248.70	393.18
Lloyds Banking Group PLC	65.33	-0.69	66.04	10,165.96
London Stock Exchange G	roup2936.50	3.00	2933.00	4.94
Marks & Spencer Group Pl	.C 340.35	1.29	339.10	372.04
Mediclinic International PL	C 800.25	8.50	792.00	17.92
Merlin Entertainments PLC	480.50	1.40	479.00	32.20
Micro Focus International F	PLC 2156.00	-1.00	2157.00	7.59
Mondi PLC	1772.50	5.00	1768.00	25.46
Morrison (Wm) Supermark	ets PLC240.75	-1.20	241.90	338.14
National Grid PLC	960.30	3.60	956.90	260.81
Next PLC	4032.00	-9.00	4042.00	27.36
Old Mutual PLC	213.70	1.10	212.50	240.78
Paddy Power Betfair PLC	8597.50	-50.00	8645.00	.87
Pearson PLC	813.75	-3.00	817.00	65.46
Persimmon PLC	1973.00	-24.00	1997.00	33.16
Provident Financial PLC	2833.00	-12.00	2844.00	5.50
Prudential PLC	1600.25	-11.50	1612.50	68.91
Randgold Resources Ltd	6865.00	150.00	6710.00	34.71
Reckitt Benckiser Group PL		34.00	6845.00	35.38
RELX PLC	1472.00	7.00	1464.00	87.84
Rio Tinto PLC	3494.50	76.50	3417.50	181.26
Rolls-Royce Holdings PLC	663.75	2.50	661.50	108.43
Royal Bank of Scotland Gro				
	ou 217.15 2382.75	-3.90 5.50	221.10	749.78
Royal Dutch Shell PLC	443.85		2377.50 447.40	160.60
Royal Mail PLC		-3.60		138.13
RSA Insurance Group PLC	579.50	-1.00	580.50	27.51
Sage Group (The) PLC	676.50	2.00	674.50	24.39
Sainsbury (J) PLC	262.45	-1.90	264.60	276.41
Schroders PLC	3042.50	-2.00	3047.00	2.23
Severn Trent PLC	2215.00	0.00	2215.00	24.48
Shire PLC	4685.00	22.00	4661.50	70.40
Sky PLC	993.25	1.00	992.00	83.57
Smith & Nephew PLC	1243.50	8.00	1236.00	125.17
Smiths Group PLC	1533.00	6.00	1526.00	15.57
Smurfit Kappa Group PLC	2150.00	22.00	2129.00	10.33
SSE PLC	1558.50	4.00	1553.00	87.12
Standard Chartered PLC	719.75	1.20	718.50	144.01
Standard Life PLC	353.20	-3.50	357.10	92.58
St James's Place PLC	1076.50	-9.70	1085.00	58.05
Taylor Wimpey PLC	171.30	-1.20	172.60	597.70
Tesco PLC	204.25	-2.14	206.00	640.52
TULAG	1134.00	-5.00	1141.00	36.23
Unilever PLC	3410.00	25.50	3383.00	75.70
United Utilities Group PLC	896.00	6.00	890.00	49.02
Vodafone Group PLC	212.62	-2.05	214.70	2,247.45
Whitbread PLC	4078.00	-14.00	4093.00	17.54
Wolseley PLC	4986.00	-11.00	4996.00	29.39
Worldpay Group PLC	291.65	-1.10	292.60	80.23
WPP PLC	1896.50	9.00	1888.00	117.16

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APPLE	119,040	-0,18%	-0,210	625M
BOEING CO	158,830	+0,34%	0,540	98M
CATERPILLAR	94,480	+0,52%	0,490	55M
CHEVRON	116,38	+0,19%	0,22	219M
CISCO SYSTEMS	30,070	+0,10%	0,030	151M
COCA-COLA	40,88	-0,17%	-0,07	176M
DU PONT(EI) DE NMR	73,6000	-0,69%	-0,5100	64M
EXXON MOBIL	86,35	+0,01%	0,01	357M
GENERAL ELECTRIC	31,3600	-0,10%	-0,0300	277M
GOLDMAN SACHS	244,30	+0,19%	0,46	96M
HOME DEPOT	135,0400	-0,02%	-0,0300	164M
IBM	167,34	-0,36%	-0,61	159M
INTEL CORP	36,7900	+0,22%	0,0800	173M
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	86,7000	+0,53%	0,4600	309M
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	114,6000	-0,02%	-0,0200	311M
MC DONALD'S CORP	121,5000	-0,49%	-0,6000	100M
MERCK AND CO. NEW	62,34	+0,21%	0,13	171M
MICROSOFT	62,700	+0,14%	0,090	486M
NIKE	52,92	+0,99%	0,52	69M
PFIZER	32,5200	-0,25%	-0,0800	196M
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	84,010	+0,20%	0,170	224M
TRAVELERS CIES	117,05	+0,26%	0,30	33M
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	110,22	-0,54%	-0,60	90M
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	161,80	-0,34%	-0,56	153M
VERIZON COMMS	52,55	-0,25%	-0,13	214M
VISA	81,17	-0,25%	-0,20	150M
WAL-MART STORES	67,1300	-1,24%	-0,8400	206M
WALT DISNEY CO	108,0600	+0,49%	0,5300	171M

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# **Distributing Funds**

**EUR Fixed Income B Sterling Fixed Income B** 

Price Movement €0.9788 ......€0.0005 £0.9468 ......£0.0004

9
GBP Currency B
<b>EUR Currency B</b>
Multi Asset Conservative B GBP
Multi Asset Conservative B EUR
Multi Asset Balanced B GBP
Multi Asset Balanced B EUR
Multi Asset Growth B GBP

Accumulating Funds	DEALING PRICE	Price Movement
GBP Currency B	£0.9859	£0.0002
EUR Currency B	€0.9659	€0.0002
Multi Asset Conservative B GBP	£1.1395	£0.0085
Multi Asset Conservative B EUR	€1.0749	€0.0073
Multi Asset Balanced B GBP	£1.2661	£0.0141
Multi Asset Balanced B EUR	€1.1846	€0.0123
Multi Asset Growth B GBP	£1.3846	£0.0220
Multi Asset Growth B EUR	€1.3023	€0.0195

Remaining Elite Fund prices available on request

Prices correct as at 11/01/2017

# **NASDAQ**

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
DexCom, Inc.	\$ 85.13	17.52 ▲ 25.91%
Telenav, Inc.	\$ 8.05	1.05 ▲ 15%
Celyad SA	\$ 21.6588	2.6588 ▲ 13.99%
Achaogen, Inc.	\$ 17.96	2.15 ▲ 13.60%
Atlanticus Holdings Corporation	\$ 3.068	0.342 ▲ 12.55%
Sangamo Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 4.40	0.45 ▲ 11.39%
Century Aluminum Company	\$ 11.52	1.16 ▲ 11.20%
Immune Design Corp.	\$ 6.25	0.60 ▲ 10.62%
Fate Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 3.05	0.29 ▲ 10.51%
Diana Containerships Inc.	\$ 2.96	0.28 ▲ 10.45%
TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 5.60	0.50 ▲ 9.80%
Most Declined		
Inventure Foods, Inc.	\$ 6.36	0.92 ▼ 12.64%
Zogenix, Inc.	\$ 10.35	1.15 ▼ 10%
1st Constitution Bancorp (NJ)	\$ 17.45	1.60 ▼ 8.40%
Fenix Parts, Inc.	\$ 2.70	0.20 ▼ 6.90%
Olympic Steel, Inc.	\$ 24.53	1.69 ▼ 6.45%
HomeStreet, Inc.	\$ 29.10	1.85 ▼ 5.98%
Inseego Corp.	\$ 2.87	0.18 ▼ 5.90%
Applied Optoelectronics, Inc.	\$ 28.22	1.64 ▼ 5.49%
Novan, Inc.	\$ 22.69	1.31 ▼ 5.46%
ReWalk Robotics Ltd	\$ 2.60	0.15 ▼ 5.45%
Roka Bioscience, Inc.	\$ 4.72	0.26 ▼ 5.22%



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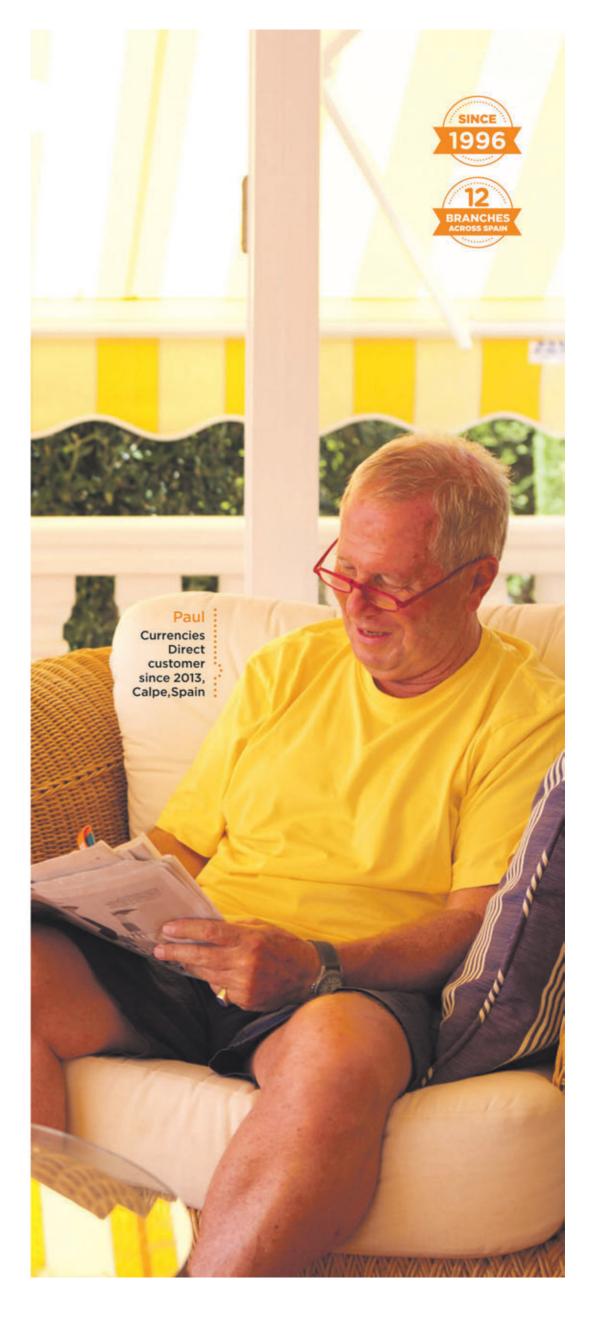
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\*Fees and exchange rate data for banks taken from the International money transfer

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# Machines could take over the future

By John Smith

EVER since the Jewish religion introduced the concept of the Golem in the Middle Ages, a mud statue brought to life but without a soul, mankind has believed that human replicas could eventually be animated and created with intelli-

It is anticipated that call centres manned by humans will disappear within next 10 years.

The word Robot was first introduced to the world in 1920 in a play and since then, the concept of a mechanical being has been expanded to include Android (human robot) and Cyborg (man-machine hybrid).

Popular culture abounds with references to these man-created machines and robotics have been used in industry for many years now, but the European Parliament is worried that as they become more human in form and thought, their existence



NEW LAWS: To be created, just in case robots take over.

should be covered by law.

MEPs have therefore been presented with a report which recognises that there is a new revolution in robotics and artificial intelligence and therefore laws should be passed before it is too late to regularise their production and 'lives.'

In essence the reports suggests that the parliament needs to decide whether there is such a thing as an 'electronic person' and if so what rights if any they should be given. In addition, MEPs are recommended to instruct manufacturers to come up with an easy way to terminate the robots 'life' if necessary.

In his 1950 novel 'I Robot' science fiction writer Isaac Asimov created the three laws of robotics which were built into the brains of all robots and these are:

'A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a

human being to come to harm.'

'A robot must obey the orders given to it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law.'

'A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Laws '

It is possible that these 'laws' will be part of any new EU legislation especially as artificial intelligence becomes more than a jerky white plastic robot playing chess and humanoid androids start to take over work from human beings.

It is already anticipated that call centres manned by humans will disappear within the next 10 years or so and as we enter the 'Brave New World,' the EU wants to ensure that it does not become a dystopian nightmare as seen in 'The Terminator' and 'The Matrix.'

It is however unlikely that legislators will be brave enough to stop the inevitable job losses that will occur when big business is able to use artificially intelligent creations which don't have unions, lunch breaks, wage demands, holidays or maternity leave.

# Enjoy free coffee and pay for your time

By John Smith

TWO major developments have caused some problems for High Street operators and a Russian entrepreneur may just have found the answer.

When the coffee revolution saw the expansion of companies such as Starbucks, Costa Coffee and even McCafe across Europe, it created a whole new generation of baristas and customers but this coincided with the growth of home work-

Rather than hang around in the house, individuals with their lap tops started to congregate in these coffee shops to take advantage of the trendy interiors, good coffee, warm surroundings and

The problem that arises is that these individuals take up space and unless they are keeping the corporate coffee cup loaded, are not generating the sort of profits that these international (and even independents) need to keep in business.

A few years ago, a Russian poet turned businessman Ivan Mitin expanded a poetry group which met in bars and cafés in Moscow so that it had a regular meeting place called the Treehouse.

At that time, he relied on donations to ensure that he was able to secure the room on a regular basis but having decided that this was a somewhat precarious situation he came up with the idea of charging people to attend.

As this went so well he expanded the concept and created Ziferblat which means Clockface in



both German and Russian with the concept that people would pay by the minute to use a room as a café and meeting place but all food and drink

So successful was this concept that he soon found himself opening a number of these rooms around Russia and in 2014 opened his first Ziferblat in London.

Very simply visitors receive a clock when they

arrive and pay 3p (4c) per minute whilst using the room. There are no waiters but guests can make themselves tea and coffee, have biscuits and cakes and use the free WiFi whilst chatting with friends or sitting at their laptops working.

Unlike a coffee shop, the laid back atmosphere encourages people to talk to each other and there is background music as well as occasional performances by local musicians with artists often welcome to hang their work on the walls.

Whilst this wouldn't suit everyone, the concept is such that it has expanded within the UK to Liverpool and Manchester and other sites where rents are not too high will be developed.

As the business continues to develop so, it will no doubt head for popular cities with trendy student populations such as Amsterdam and Barcelona.

# Bitcoin, the world's strongest currency



WEB HELD: Mining for Bitcoins.

#### By John Smith

FOR those who have heard the name but don't understand the meaning, a Bitcoin is an imaginary currency supposedly created by a Japanese genius several years ago which can be used instead of traditional cur-

There are an estimated 15 million Bitcoins in existence at the moment, but the amount grows each day as more coins are 'mined'!

The act of 'mining' involves a computer solving a difficult mathematical problem and every time the problem is solved a number of new Bitcoins are created with a proportion going to the problem

There are a number of Bitcoin factories with numerous computers linked together to solve the problem as quickly as possible, thus generating more of the web held coins for the problem solver.

All of the Bitcoins are web held in Bitcoin wallets and they are traded for hard cash so that demand and availabili-

ty dictates the value of an individual Bitcoin, but the price is surprisingly high and the record cost of a single Bitcoin was set early in January 2017 at \$1.129 (€1.144).

The reason that this form of artificial currency is so expensive is that it is completely uncontrolled by any government and it is therefore an ideal way of hiding income and moving worth around the world.

It is alleged that many major international drug deals are paid for in Bitcoins and those wanting to transfer undeclared profits out of their country of residence also turn to Bitcoins.

Without question, there has been a steady increase in the value of this 'imaginary currency' especially as different countries impose export restrictions on funds as well as cracking down on tax avoid-

Years ago, airline tickets were a good way of getting money out of a country, so someone in the UK could purchase a ticket giving them first class flights from Lagos to London, return Concorde

flights to New York and then return tickets to Lagos for half the price of the normal Concorde fare.

The concept was simple as the Nigerian purchaser of the original ticket paid in Naira and he in turn was then paid in Sterling into a foreign bank account and the Lagos-London-Lagos legs were just thrown away.

Recently, there has been a great demand from China for Bitcoins where wealthy individuals have been using them to get round exchange control, but as the Chinese authorities have announced they will be investigating this whole matter, the Bitcoin market saw a drop in a few days of \$369 (€346) per coin due to nervousness in that market.

When one considers that at the beginning of 2011, a single Bitcoin was worth just €1, anyone who invested in them then has seen an incredible growth in value and the currency is likely to continue to have worth, as long as there are those who don't enjoy financial transparency.

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# Stick to your lives of fantasy



I NEVER chose to be a nonconformist. Sitting here at 77 years of age (already not conforming to three score and 10!) it is now painfully obvious that choosing to remain within our society as an 'antisocial,' was, at the very least, going to be difficult and certainly not make you the winner of many popularity contests.

Of course, at the outset you don't know who, or even what you are. As a new manifestation you simply go with the flow. There is no set beginning to nonconformity, it is something that just happens. There does however become a point when the choice has to be made. You either drop out or stay in.

Well I chose to stay in. Although, through my spiritual leanings, I was offered a host of escapes, i.e. hippie communes, becoming a Tibetan monk, taking

the junkie route, membership of numerous cults, including the highly dangerous Scientology and all of its pathetic offshoots specifically designed to control the

I knew that to have any chance of influencing events in a society I didn't agree with, I had to stay a

**Egotistical multi**millionaires of the Angelina Jolie and Bono ilk wander between mud huts trying to make us all feel bad."

part of it. Politics would have been an obvious choice I suppose, but unfortunately, in my day, to enter into the political arena you had to either be a total conformist. a complete hypocrite, or an 'old boy' (no change there then!)

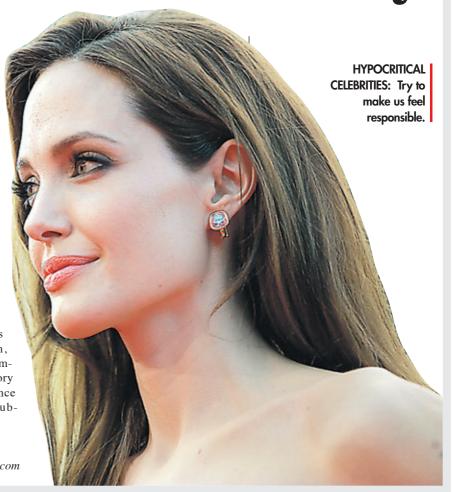
So I chose Showbiz. Ha! The most hypocritical occupation of them all. Typical examples of this

are the egotistical multi-millionaires of the Angelina Jolie and Bono ilk, wandering between mud huts, trying to make us all feel bad and responsible for the ills of the world, before scurrying back to their existence of cosseted grandeur and luxury.

For heaven's sake give us all a break and stick to your lives of fantasy, where you all belong.

One thing non-conformity does achieve however is a relentless thickening of the skin, so keep those letters coming. The more derogatory they are, the more chance you have of being published!

Keep the Faith Love Leapy leapylee2002@gmail.com





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# It's not my dog that's howling

**Mike Senker** *In my opinion* 

Views of a **Grumpy Old Man** 

I GOT an email recently from Bryan and it's about a subject I've had a problem with myself. It concerns the owners of dogs that leave them at home all day on their own. Now, if they left them indoors it wouldn't be a problem, but in our case and Bryan's too, we live in an apartment and these dog owners leave them on the terrace and the poor pooches don't like it, so they decide to let everyone know they don't. The way they do this is by crying and wailing or barking.

Now, this is not the dog's fault. It is the selfish owner and to compound the problem the owner, when told about the problem, declares no, their dog is as good as gold and wouldn't disturb anybody. 'Err, yes it does.' 'No it doesn't.' So what do you do about it?

Well in our case we taped the dog crying and then played it back to its owner so she didn't have an argument or so we thought. She then said what did we want her to do? She had to go out to work all day and didn't get home until late in the evening. Whilst we appreciate she had to work, the community couldn't put up with the distressing noise and it most certainly was not fair on the dog.

Eventually the lady moved so the problem went, but it can be terrible and in Bryan's case he doesn't seem to be getting any help from the police which is pretty strange because all you should have to do is get a few of you and go and denounce the offender. So I wish him good

I quite often get asked how I manage to write these grumpy columns every week. Well I tell you it's actually easy to do. You know why? It's because I have reached an age where I am allowed to be peed off by the things that used to not bother me because I had more important things to do, like earn a living and feed the kids. Now all I have is time and the trouble with doing nothing is you don't know when you have finished.

So my day consists of me deciding what bit of nothing I should do next. It can take me an hour to get dressed because I can't stand for more than a few seconds so I have stop and sit all the time. But once I'm up and out and getting on with my non-busy days there are always situations which raise the grump levels! I've been getting some great emails regarding things that make other people grumpy. A lot of them are in the form of poems which is actually very clever, so please keep them coming. If you see me out and about stop and say hello. It's nice when that happens to be honest and it stops me being grumpy. Email me mikesenker@gmail.com.



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# LEGALLY SPEAKING

# Motorhomes - can they park or camp?

AS part of the series, we answer some common driving questions and keep you updated on the latest driving and road news kindly provided by members of the Guardia Civil based in Torrevieja, Costa Blanca, who set up the N332 website and Facebook page to help break down barriers.



### OPENING SKYLIGHTS: Is not an activity that falls into the category of camping.

DEBATES often arise about where motorhomes and camper vans can park. Whilst many town halls have introduced their own legislation, the law is quite clear and in Spain it states that motorhomes and campers are not allowed to 'camp' on the street.

However, what defines 'camping' and what is a vehicle which is simply 'parked?'

The law states that if certain actions are performed, the vehicle is considered to be camping and should do so in an authorised place. These include emitting noise, such as using a generator; extending sun blinds and shades; vehicle stabilisers deployed; emptying or disposing of fluids; using exterior furniture and side or 'swing' windows opened.

There are activities that can be performed whilst stopped which do not fall into the category of camping: occupants being inside the vehicle eating or sleeping; opening the skylight or rooftop window; using wheel chocks on an incline and turning the wheels so they are secured against the kerb.

If the vehicle is correctly and legally parked, these activities can be carried out and will not be classed as camping. Motorhomes have a legal right to park anywhere other vehicles are allowed to as long as not 'camping.'

For more news and articles visit www.n332.es or search N332 on Facebook.

# Can they renew residence?

IN 2006 we went to Alicante and applied for the old style ID card 'residencia.' Of course they were only valid for five years and in 2011 we were unsure about staying in Spain so we let it lapse. Now we have decided to stay so we need to renew. Can we just exchange the old card for the new paper type or do we need to go through the whole process again? If so, what documents do we need?

C A (Costa Blanca)

NO, you cannot exchange your expired permit for a new residence document. You must make a new application.

As EU citizens, you will get the paper document of Certificate of Residence of EU Citizen in Spain. As of



2012, the requirements have been stiffened. You will need to show proof of income, either by having a job or being self-employed, and show that you are registered for Social Security payments. You will need proof of medical insurance as well.

If you are a pensioner with the right to transfer your medical care to Spain, this should be sufficient.

Send your questions for David Searl through lawyers Ubeda-Retana & Associates in Fuengirola at Ask@lawtaxspain.com, or call 952 667 090.

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THURSDAY	BBBONE	BBCTWO	itv	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 6	sky SPORTS 1		
19 JANUARY	6:15pm 7:00pm 8:00pm 8:30pm 8:30pm 9:00pm 10:00pm 11:30pm 11:30pm 11:45pm 12:45am Peointless BBC News at Six BBC London News The One Show EastEnders Spy in the Wild Death in Paradise BBC News at Ten BBC London News Question Time This Week	8:00pm Masters Snooker  8:30pm The Premier League Show 9:00pm The Great Interior Design Challenge Horizon Jack Dee's Inauguration Helpdesk Newsnight Masters Snooker Highlights	8:00pm Emmerdale 9:00pm President Trump 9:00pm The Cruise 10:00pm Unforgotten 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather 11:30pm ITV News London 11:45pm The Late Debate Piers Morgan's Life Stories	5:00pm G:00pm Come Dine with Me 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm The Restoration Man 10:00pm Spies 11:00pm G Days in Jail 11:55pm 24 Hours in A and E Britain's Benefit Tenants	7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News Tonight 8:00pm Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords 9:00pm Eagain Loving Brits in the Sun 10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother 11:00pm Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink 12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side	7:30pm 8:30pm 8:45pm 8:55pm 11:00pm Premier League Legends 8:55pm Football 11:00pm Premier League Match Pack 11:30pm 12:00am Premier League Match Pack 12:30am Premier League Match Pack 12:30am Premier League Match Pack Premier League Match Pack Premier League Morld		
FRIDAY  20 JANUARY	7:30pm 8:00pm 7:30pm 8:30pm 8:30pm 9:00pm 9:00pm 9:30pm 10:00pm 10:30pm 11:00pm 11:25pm 11:35pm 11:25am BBC London News The One Show A Question of Sport EastEnders Room 101 EastEnders Not Going Out 11:00pm BBC News at Ten BBC London News Uncle	7:30pm Great British Railway Journeys 8:00pm Masters Snooker 9:00pm Mastermind 9:30pm Only Connect 10:00pm World's Most Extraordinary Homes 11:00pm Ql 11:30pm Newsnight 12:05am Masters Snooker Highlights	8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Coronation Street 9:00pm Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury 9:30pm Coronation Street 10:00pm Tina and Bobby 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather 11:30pm ITV News London 11:40pm Fishing Impossible 12:10am The Wine Show	5:00pm A Place in the Sun 6:00pm Come Dine with Me 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast 10:00pm 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown 11:00pm Lee Mack 12:05am First Dates Hotel	7:00pm 7:30pm 8:00pm 8:00pm 9:00pm Penguin A and E with Lorraine Kelly Puppies Make You Laugh Out Loud 2 10:00pm 11:00pm 11:30pm 12:05am Laugh Out Loud 2 Celebrity Big Brother Lip Sync Battle UK Celebrity Big Brother Side	5:00pm Football Gold 6:00pm Barclays Premier League Preview 6:30pm Premier League Legends 7:00pm The Fantasy Football Club 8:00pm Football 11:15pm Barclays Premier League Preview 11:45pm The Fantasy Football Club 12:45am Football Gold		
SATURDAY  21  JANUARY	6:25pm Weather 6:30pm Who Dares Wins 7:10pm Pointless 8:00pm Let it Shine 9:25pm Taboo 11:10pm BBC News 11:25pm Weather 11:30pm Match of the Day 12:55am Tayboo Paycheck	2:00pm Talking Pictures 2:30pm Bundle of Joy 4:05pm Tennis 5:30pm Masters Snooker 6:30pm Only Connect 7:00pm Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise Documentary . 8:00pm Snooker 11:30pm Looper 1:20am Snooker	7:00pm S:00pm ITV News and Weather You've Been Framed! Ninja Warrior UK The Voice UK Through the Keyhole ITV News and Weather I Am Legend Jackpot247 Join the presenters live and play roulette on your telly	3:30pm Come Dine with Me 4:30pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun 5:15pm Location, Location, Location 6:15pm Grand Designs 7:10pm Channel 4 News 7:40pm Snow White and the Huntsman 10:00pm The Other Woman 11:10am The Watch	12:35pm 2:50pm 2:50pm Police Interceptors 3:20pm The Yorkshire Vet 7:15pm NCIS: Los Angeles 9:00pm NCIS 9:55pm 5 News Weekend 10:00pm Football on 5 11:30pm Celebrity Big Brother 12:35am Size Police Interceptors 12:00pm Police Interceptors 13:00pm Police Interceptors 14:00pm Police Interceptors 15:00pm Police Interceptors 16:00pm Police	1:00pm Football 4:00pm Gillette Soccer Saturday 6:15pm Football 9:00pm EFL Goals 9:30pm Nissan Game of the Day 11:30pm Nissan Match Choice 12:30am Info Not Available 1:00am Pl: Match TBA Highlights		
SUNDAY  22  JANUARY	7:25pm Weather 7:30pm Countryfile 8:30pm Still Open All Hours 9:00pm Apple Tree Yard 11:00pm BBC News 11:25pm Regional News 11:25pm Match of the Day 2 12:40am Veather	9:30am The Edible Garden 10:00am Countryfile 11:00am Saturday Kitchen Best Bites 12:30pm Talking Snooker 1:15pm MOTD2 Extra 2:00pm Masters Snooker 6:15pm Tennis 7:15pm Ski Sunday 8:00pm Masters Snooker 12:00am Ql XL	6:15pm ITV News and Weather 6:30pm The Chase: Celebrity Special 7:30pm Dance Dance Dance 9:00pm Endeavour 11:00pm ITV News and Weather 11:15pm Peston on Sunday 12:15am Jackpot247	6:50pm The Day After Tomorrow  9:00pm Walking the Americas  10:00pm Homeland 11:05pm Trainspotting 12:55am The 90s: Ten Years That Changed the World  2:20am How to Lose Weight Well	4:00pm George of the Jungle 5:45pm Herbie: Fully Loaded 7:30pm Dads Make You Laugh Out Loud 8:30pm The Adele Story 9:55pm 5 News Weekend 10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother 11:00pm Bodies 12:05am Just Go with it	12:30pm Live Nissan Super Sunday 3:00pm Live Nissan Super Sunday 5:15pm Live Nissan Super Sunday 8:00pm Transfer Centre 8:30pm Live NFL 12:00am Live NFL 3:30am Pl Match Highlights 4:00am Pl Match Highlights		
MONDAY  23 JANUARY	7:30pm         Regional News           8:00pm         The One Show           8:30pm         Inside Out           9:00pm         EastEnders           9:30pm         Panorama           10:00pm         Silent Witness           BBC News           11:30pm         Regional News           11:40pm         Weather           11:45pm         Class           12:30am         Class	6:30pm Flog It! 7:00pm Eggheads 7:30pm Great American Railroad Journeys 8:00pm An Island Parish 8:30pm University Challenge 9:00pm Winterwatch 10:00pm Horizon 11:00pm Insert Name Here 11:30pm Newsnight 12:10am Weather	7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Coronation Street 9:00pm The Martin Lewis Money Show 9:30pm Coronation Street 10:00pm The Halcyon 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather 11:40pm Through the Keyhole 12:40am The Chase	5:00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun 6:00pm Come Dine with Me 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm Dispatches 9:30pm Food Unwrapped 10:00pm The Undateables 11:00pm First Dates Hotel 12:05am Tattoo Fixers	7:00pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News Tonight 8:00pm World's Biggest Beasts 9:00pm Police Interceptors 10:00pm 11:00pm My Mum's Hotter Than Me! 12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side	8:40pm Football 10:40pm Spanish Football Gold 11:00pm Scottish Football Round Up Show 11:15pm Football Gold 11:30pm Premier League Legends 12:00am Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17		
TUESDAY  24  JANUARY	8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm EastEnders 9:00pm Holby City 10:00pm Silent Witness BBC News 11:30pm Regional News Weather 11:45pm Brainwashing Stacey: Anti-Abortion Camp 12:35am Call Security	6:30pm Flog It! 7:00pm Eggheads 7:30pm Great American Railroad Journeys 8:00pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is 9:00pm Winterwatch 10:00pm 11:00pm Revolting 11:30pm Newsnight 12:10am Veather	7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 9:00pm Martin Clunes: Islands of Australia 10:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather 11:40pm Wilderness Walks with Ray Mears 12:10am It Investigator Jackpot247	5:00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun 6:00pm Come Dine with Me 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm How to Lose Weight Well 10:00pm 24 Hours in A and E 11:00pm Case 39 12:05am This is Us	4:15pm Stolen Child 6:00pm 5 News at 5 6:30pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News Tonight 8:00pm Police Interceptors 9:00pm Info Not Available 10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother 11:00pm Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side	7:00pm Premier League Review 8:00pm Transfer Centre 8:30pm Info Not Available Live Coppa Italia 10:40pm Info Not Available 11:00pm La Liga World 11:30pm Premier League 100 Club 12:00am Premier League Review		
WEDNESDAY  25  JANUARY	6:15pm Pointless 7:00pm BBC News 7:30pm Regional News 8:00pm Who Do You Think You Are? 10:00pm Italy's Invisible Cities BBC News 11:30pm Regional News 11:40pm Weather 11:45pm A Question of Sport Film 2017	5:45pm Tennis 6:30pm Flog It! 7:00pm Eggheads 7:30pm Great American Railroad Journeys 8:00pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is 9:00pm Winterwatch 10:00pm Hospital 11:00pm Common Sense 11:30pm Newsnight 12:10am Veather	7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Coronation Street 8:30pm The National Television Awards 2017 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather 11:45pm Joanna Lumley's Japan 12:45am It's Not Rocket Science 1:40am Jackpot247 4:00am 1000 Heartbeats	5:00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun 6:00pm Come Dine with Me 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm Location, Location, 10:00pm No Offence 11:00pm Women Who Kill 12:05am 24 Hours in A and E	6:00pm 5 News at 5 6:30pm Neighbours 7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News Tonight 8:00pm The Concorde Air Disaster 9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors 10:00pm 11:00pm In Therapy 12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side	5:00pm Efl Cup Highlights 6:00pm Premier League Review 7:00pm Efl Cup Highlights 8:00pm Iransfer Centre 8:30pm Live EFL Cup Semi-Final 11:15pm Barclays Premier League World 11:45pm Football Gold 12:00am Premier League Review		



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Chaise longue & coffee table– Was €1,095
Now €699



Table, 6 Chairs & Cushions - Was €1,355 Now €899















### Cassandra Nash

A weekly look

- and not entirely impartial reaction - to the Spanish political scene

FORMER defence minister and soon to be ex-Ambassador in London Federico Trillo was ultimately responsible for the 2003 Yak 42 air disaster.

Few ever doubted that and the State Council has joined the chorus 14 years later.

An aircraft with 62 Spanish soldiers returning from Afghanistan came down over Turkey, killing everyone aboard.

Trillo's successor at the Ministry of Defence said that Jose Maria Aznar's government chartered "rubbish planes" to offset the cost of backing Bush and Blair during the Iraq invasion.

Interestingly, the Ministry of Defence paid €149,000 to charter that plane. The owners Um-Air received €38,000 so where did €111.000 go?

The old UK government auditors' preadding machine dictum comes to mind: check the books twice if a manager or department head is overtly religious. Trillo is a fully paid-up member of Opus Dei and religion doesn't get more overt than that.

# Power play

ACCORDING to Spain's Constitution, parliament packs up in July, August and Janu-

In recent years - allegedly to give a good example - January has been a working month for MPs. Not in 2017, though. Possibly they are exhausted by the December 2015-October 2016 hiatus when MPs literally didn't know whether they were coming or going.

Doubtless the PP, Podemos and Ciudadanos - PSOE are waiting until June - are more concerned about February's national conferences. Now's the time to distribute power inside the parties, an issue that clearly interests them more than the voters who pay their wages.

# **Progress made**

STREETS named after men triple those of women in Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia.

Those considered worthy of A-Z honour are either virgins, saints, monarchs or aristocrats, which just about sums up previous Spanish attitudes towards women

Federico Trillo.

Females outside these categories existed only as childbearers, housewives and servants but at least something has changed as they're now expected to hold down a job as

# Too little, too late

THE government is planning a national centre to house a database of Spain's 'disappeared.' Staggeringly this will not include the thousands of people who vanished in the years of Francoist repression during and after the Civil War. The centre will instead concentrate its efforts on those who have disappeared since then. Not so much a matter of shutting the stable door after the horse has bolted as choosing the wrong sta-

# Voss Homes' in-depth service helps both buyers and sellers

IF you have a property to sell or long-term rent then contact Voss Homes now!

By specialising in a more focused area the Voss Homes team can give both home buyers and sellers a better service which increases the chances of getting your property sold.

Covering a smaller area means the team can take the time to show and tell potential buyers and tenants how great the area is around Huercal-Overa, Zurgena, La Alfoquia and Taberno.

Because the team is not driving all over the province Voss Homes has more time to relax with potential buyers in the office whilst discussing the client's specific requirements to match them to the right properties to view.

Once the buyer falls in love with the area it is Andy, Anna, Jess, Adele and Hannah's job to help them chose the right property to buy or rent.

When the right properties are chosen Voss Homes then take more time to show potential buyers the area and explain more about your property: its history, what's around it, take them into the local villages, shops, restaurants, etc. and explain fully all the features and benefits of living in your property and in this area.

This is even done before the buyer gets to each property allowing them to relax and get a better 'feel' of each one.



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This more in-depth service means that the clients brought to your property are serious buyers who specifically want to buy a property like yours.

Also, Voss Homes sell and rent so many properties here because the staff have all

lived, worked, shopped and socialised in this area for over 12 years. Today's buyers demand that their agent has this in-depth local knowledge in which they are also hoping to

Efficient marketing and advertising across all countries is vital and Voss Homes only advertise in the most efficient websites such as Rightmove, Kyero, Zoopla, Facebook, A Place in the Sun, etc. (their properties regularly feature on the programme).

In addition, Voss Homes advertise in newspapers and magazines and work with a select number of other professional agents.

Above all personal recom-

mendation is key and Voss Homes thanks all its clients for recommending them to other buyers and sellers.

Please call or email to arrange a free, truthful and realistic, no obligation valuation and to discuss the ongoing low commissions, free paperwork checks and advice on how to get your property sold.

The office is just 1km off exit 553 of the A7 motorway, 100m from Lidl in Huercal-

Voss Homes Estate Agents, 155a CarreteraEstacion, Huércal-Overa, 04600, Alme-

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- Fully furnished
- Walk to amenities
- 10 mins drive to Huercal-Overa

# VH896 €149,950 CEE TBC



- 4 bed, 2 bath Country House
- 9,619m2 of landBeautiful Views
- Swimming pool12 mins drive to Huercal-Overa

## VH1003 €124,950 CEE E145 8



- · 3 / 4 bed, 2 bath Det Village House
- 104m2 garage / workshop
- 874m2 walled garden
- · Walk to a shop
- 8 mins drive to Huercal-Overa

### VH980 €164.950 CEE TBC



- 4 bed, 3 bath edge of Village Villa
- 624m2 walled garden
- Walk to amenities
- 12 mins drive to Taberno village

### VH982 €124,950 CEE E130 30



- · 3 bed, 2 bath Villa
- 418m2 garden with Jacuzzi
- · Walk to amenities
- · 8 mins drive to Huercal-Overa



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### VH847 €169,950 CEE F75 57



- Large 4 bed, 4 bath Country House
- Garage & apartment
- Swimming pool
- 12 mins drive to Huercal-Overa

# VH682 €215,000 CEE G47 21



- · Large 4 bed, 2 bath Country Villa
- · Ideal equestrian property
- 17.000m2 of flat fenced land
- 5 mins drive to Huercal-Overa

### VH1056 €144,950 CEE TBC



- · WOW 2 bed, 2 bath Villa
- Swimming pool
- 609m2 garden Walk to amenities
- 8 mins drive to Huercal-Overa

# ASK US **ABOUT OUR ONGOING LOW** COMMISSION RATES FOR ALL CLIENTS NEW & OLD

### VH1048 €149,950 CEE E156 1



- · 3 bed, 2 bath Villa
- Swimming pool
- 411m2 garden
- Walk to amenitiesLa Alfoquia









# The etiquette of owning burros.



THEY were everywhere. We didn't have one. Everyone else had them. Wherever you went, they were there. Living moveable creatures that showed up at every function and gathering. Nothing was personally distinguishable about them, no hats or specially coloured bridles or sad-

> They were the quiet standard, as much a part of Spanish life as modern media communications are today."

They were cursed by a sameness that left them anonymous until death. If anything, they might be recognised by their unkempt situation. Some were just plain filthy. It was a long time between cleansing rains.

They were the quiet standard, as

much a part of Spanish life as modern media communications are today.

The village burros were the water carriers. In the mornings they took the women down to the fountain to do the laundry along with the children that filled up the clay jars with water. While the mother laboured the children directed the burros back home with water for drinking and cleaning, quite often selling a jar or two along the way to friends and neighbours.

This parade of animals and children ran through the day while the sun was up. It was the life line for the entire town and their way of life.

Across the road from our office was the landmark building, Cueva del Lobo. Antonio was the resident burro owner. He came daily, left, came back always without words, but a friendly smile and nod.

My one and only confrontation with him was when I asked him what



VILLAGE BURROS: Were the water carriers.

his burro was named. He shrugged his shoulders indicating that he didn't know, then flashed that toothless smile.

That broke my heart. How could anyone spend 18 hours a day riding on the back of his most naturally entwined companion and leave it nameless? I mean, what kind of a nation survives a cultural unfurlment without gifting a name to a lifelong companion of consequential services?

This troubled me a lot. This same ubiquitous beast was the reason that it is popularly accepted for all nationals to arrive at any fiesta when they get there (late). You see, back in those days, you couldn't celebrate a birthday party or BarBe setting a time. All you could do is invite and suggest that day. People would arrive when they wanted, or could.

This was not to say there wasn't traffic. Most never witnessed it unless you spent a Friday night on the tiles drinking and then racing home to beat the dawn's glow. I have guesstimated that more than 3,000 hardy folk lived in them that hills and would set out at 4am or 5am to get to the Vera market.

These processions followed a strict regulation of protocol. No one ever passed another. Who rode or walked behind firmly holding the animal's tail was an essential inner family secret.



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- Full Driving Licence And Own Car Required
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# **LOOKING TO SELL YOUR HOME IN 2017?**

You will not find a better service or lower commission than with our 2017 New Year Special Offer!

Each New Year begins with the January sales and Coles of Andalucia want to carry on this tradition. That is why we are offering a Special Reduced Commission to all new clients that list their property for sale with us during January and February.

Our service will include:

No up-front charges, professional photography, HD

promotional video, exposure on major worldwide property portals, local advertising, property exhibitions and help with collating all necessary paperwork required to list your home along with checks on all legal paperwork.

So whether you are new to the market or already marketing with other agents, please contact us now to arrange a FREE, no

obligation consultation and let us sell your home in 2017.

We are looking for fully legal properties of all types; Villas, apartments, town-houses & country properties both coastal and inland.

2016 was our busiest year to date and we at Coles of Andalucia want to ensure that 2017 continues in the same way.

# 2017 • SPECIAL OFFER • 2017 • SPECIAL OFFER • 2017 • SPECIAL OFFER • 2017

## Ref: GAL2AL007



⊨ 2 🚔 2 急 COMMUNAL

2 bed 2 bath ground floor apartment near Los Gallardos with a huge plot of 404m2. A corner plot with great views and plenty of private garden. Central heating, air-con, fly free dining area, communal pool and so much more!

Los Gallardos

89,950€

## Ref: ARB3VT21



⊨ 3 🚔 2 継 PRIVATE

3 bed 2 bath villa in Arboleas with private pool, Air Con throughout, fitted wardrobes in all bedrooms, large kitchen, country views and a fully walled plot. Fantastic Value!

Arboleas

149,950€

## Ref: CGR2T04



**⊨** 2

2

NO

2 bed 2 bath village house in Cortijo Grande, Turre. Breath-taking valley & mountain views. Terraces from the lounge & master bedroom, 80m2 build size, walking distance to bar / restaurant, 15 minutes to the beach. Can be sold fully furnished subject to negotiation.

Cortijo Grande

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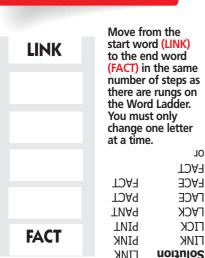
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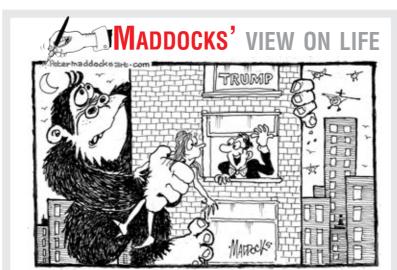
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# **Word Ladder**





'MERYL STREEP, OF ALL PEOPLE - WHAT BRINGS YOU THIS FAR UP TOWN?'

# PISCES H

(February 20 - March 20)
An exciting invitation may set tongues wagging and make a loved one jealous. You, meanwhile, are quite bemused by the whole thing. What comes out of this week is that you are of considerable value to others. The mere thought of you not being around sends ripples through your social circle.

# ARIES

(March 21 - April 20)

Being asked to take on a new and demanding task this week may see you wishing that you had been less visible. However, don't think of the hard work involved but rather the brilliant outcome. You will be popular.

#### TAURUS **X** (April 21 - May 21)

work and social life

An interest in technology is not something new to you. What is great though, is that the penny has suddenly dropped. This week sees you understanding more and wanting to know more. This is good for both your

# AQUARIUS 🗯 (January 21 - February 19)

This being a family oriented week, much of it may be spent getting together with relatives and going over old times. Perhaps you are compiling a photo album for older members of the family or vice

# GEMINI I

(May 22 - June 21)

OL

An urge to get moving must mean that spring is round the corner. Certainly, you are questioning where you want to be in the months ahead. A house move or work placement may be on your mind. At what seems to be an unsettled time, decisions need to be made and worked

#### CANCER 3 (June 22 - July 23)

Be aware that not everyone is willing to work as hard as you. When approached by someone wanting you to trust them, be sure of their motives. Do what you feel is right but remain firmly in control, especially financially. It may not be the time to make a particular move, although others think that it is. There's no problem with discussing things and talking them through. Keep up your healthy habits because you need lots of energy, especially at the weekend.

# LEO

IRISH LOTTO

2 4 11

22 25 34

BONUS BALL

7

2 (11) (29)

(35) (44)

LUCKY STARS

4 9

(July 24 - August 23)

Social demands are made, but try to

shuffle them to the weekend. Be diplomatic or someone close could become irritated. Keep an eye on the small print because something fundamental may have changed in a long-standing arrangement. Suddenly, at the weekend, you are thrust into the limelight

# VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)

Be aware that leopards do not change their spots, they merely hide them. Those who demand your trust need a cool checking out and don't be afraid to say 'no' as and when necessary. Finances are well aspected this week with a new idea proving both worthwhile in terms of your time and profitable.

# LIBRA 📤

(September 24 - October 23)

Friday January 13

(3) (7) (16)

26) (50)

LUCKY STARS

4 7

Career and home are in disharmony but a bit of compromise soon sorts things out. You don't like playing the 'bad guy,' but honesty is also important to you. Speaking your mind can be liberating although, initially, you may

see it as a nuisance and embarrassing. A meeting at the weekend is both confusing and disarming.

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)

Someone with a larger-than-life imagination makes you smile but that was not their intention. Try to be diplomatic and steer them in a different direction. Some feelings of loneliness will not be assuaged by working more. Perhaps it is time to consider taking on a pet or giving a current pet more attention.

## SAGITTARIUS 🗡

(November 23 - December 21)

Sometimes, you find it hard to do things just for the pure enjoyment of it. Realise that not everything has to have a purpose or a profit. Look round this week and seek out something that will please your senses and bring a smile to your lips Make this a week when you live for the moment and give full rein to your imagination.

# CAPRICORN

LA PRIMITIVA

2 3 6

10 25 43

(42) (7)

(December 22 - January 20) Contact with a less than ideal situation makes you realise just how lucky you are. It has been clear that the weeks are changeable and your situation at the moment far from settled. Pity those whose day-to-day life is completely predictable. As someone who values an element of challenge, it is enjoyable to

know that unexpected times are ahead.

EL GORDO DE

LA PRIMITIVA

(3) (21) (31)

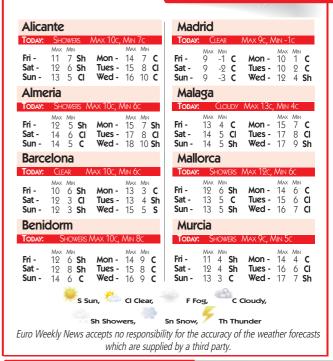
39 (46)

REINTEGRO

(2)

# Weather

# for next 7 days



# Nonagram

О

Η

D

N

L

Ε

How many English words of four letters or more can you make from the nine letters in our Nonagram puzzle? Each

letter may be used only once (unless the letter appears twice). Each word MUST CONTAIN THE CENTRE LETTER se H) and there must be AT LEAST ONE NINE LETTER WORD. Plurals, vulgarities or proper nouns are not allowed.

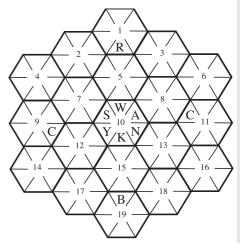
#### TARGET:

• Average: 16 • Good: 22 • Very good: 32 • Excellent: 42

#### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

coin cone enol glen gone gown icon lien limn line ling lino lion loin lone long mien mine mown nice noil omen once wine wing wino cling clone clown coign genic gnome incog ingle lemon limen lingo melon mince owing wince women coigne coming cowing cowmen gnomic income legion lowing mewing mingle mowing oilmen wigeon cowling genomic meowing mewling WELCOMING

The purpose of the Hexagram puzzle is to place the 19 six-letter words into the 19 cells. The letters at the edges of interlocking cells MUST BE THE SAME. The letters in the words must be written CLOCKWISE. The word in cell 10 (SWANKY) and one letter in four other cells are given as clues.



BLANCH
BROKEN
CEREAL
COYOTE
ENTIRE
ESTEEM
GARAGE
HEARTY
HEREBY
HEROIC
LINEAR
OCTANT
POETIC
POSSUM
RABIES
REASON
SWANKY (10)
TRACER
WARREN

# Sudoku

14 (19) (21)

(36) (53) (54)

BONUS BALL

33

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3X3 box contains the digits 1-9. There's no maths involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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

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

9

# LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

1 Escrow 2 Cohere 3 Rookie 4 Chisel 5 Worker 6 Gaiety 7 Cheese 8 Arrive 9 Victim 10 Skater 11 Larvae 12 Raster 13 Stereo 14 Twisty 15 Presto 16 Arrear 17 Tappet 18 Pastor 19 Depose.

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# Crossword

page

Enjoy filling in the following puzzles and check the answers in next week's edition

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

# **Cryptic**

- 1 After time the ceremony becomes commonplace
- 4 Damages found around oriental women's quarters
- 9 Lose hope when praised by mistake (7)
- 10 Hard to falsify ID (5)
- 11 Neckwear connections (4)
- 12 Eve rang about score (7)
- 13 Address that's somewhat undesirable (3)
- 14 Be against tuba coming back (4)
- 16 Bob's the head and Don's upset (4)
- 18 Mark is hiding in the torpedo tube (3) 20 Lack of sailor ruined scene (7)
- 21 I would have the French not working (4)
- 24 Part of a similar variety of grub (5)
- 25 Gland is real and damaged (7)
- 26 Cleaned up the fire residue within a day (6)
- 27 A political group get together (5)

- 1 Up to now, Dorothy has come back and dined (2,4)
- 2 An edition for the children (5)
- 3 Biblical character in Roget's Thesaurus (4)
- **5** Proud of tarragon rum (8)
- 6 Part of UK named Glenda incorrectly (7)
- 7 Drenched lair is covered by grass (6)
- 8 Rider out to get less wet (5)
- ${\bf 13}$  Goat seen running around, but that was a long time ago (5,3)
- 15 They write about street eateries (7)
- 17 Indulge in some Mountain Dew, all owned by me (6)
- 18 Hold up the Spanish about 24 hours (5)

# 10 12 16 18 19 20 21 22 23 25

- 19 Show again what happened about the act (6)
- 22 Princess ran up to get foreign currency (5)
- 23 Stumble when making a journey (4)

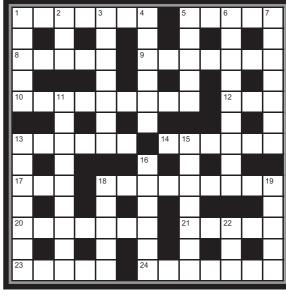
# **Code Breaker**

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 2 represents Q and 14 represents T, so fill in Q every time the figure 2 appears and T every time the figure 14 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the control grid.

13	23	16	3	5	16	9	12	25		15	11	4	26	1
16		10		11		7		11		26		26		17
9	23	11	25	18	8	26		24	18	25	14	16	1	19
26		9		8		26		1		12		23		7
14	8	16	17	1	26	8		11	18	14	3	11	25	14
		15		16				23		11		18		13
12	1	11	20	23	26	15	19	26		3	16	25	14	16
17						21		1						23
15	11	1	11	8		25	16	14	17	8	17	9	16	23
1		26		26		3				26		11		
16	1	14 T	17	$^{2}$ Q	18	26		26	22	9	23	16	17	24
3		14		18		3		24		23		25		18
3	8	17	24	26	8	25		3	23	16	25	14	17	9
26		1		25		17		14		17		16		12
8	17	19	7	14		16	6	21	25	24	16	23	23	21

1	$^{2}$ Q	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<sup>14</sup> T	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

# Quick



#### Across

- 1 Marked by distress (7)
- 5 Treaties (5)
- 8 Take without the owner's consent
- 9 Duplicate (7)
- 13 Pleasantly odd (6)
- 14 Come into view (6)
- 18 Inclined to drowsiness (9)
- 21 Not elaborate or elaborated (5)
- 23 Small, lightly-sweetened cake (5)
- change (7)

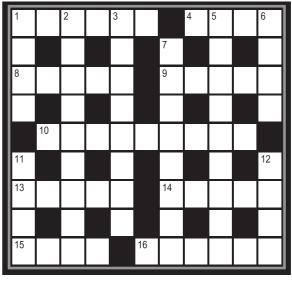
- (5)
- **10** Day immediately before today (9) 12 Short sleep (3)
- 17 Large Australian flightless bird (3)
- 20 Request information about (7)
- 24 Liable to sudden unpredictable

#### Down

- 1 Overcrowded or cluttered with detail
- 2 Chopping tool (3)
- 3 Large sailing vessel (7)
- 4 Speech of violent denunciation (6)
- 5 Young dog (5) 6 Customers collectively (9)
- **7** Flee (7)
- 11 Existing state of affairs (6,3)
- 13 Asks for information (7)
- 15 Succeed in material terms (7) 16 Block passage through (6)
- 18 Grab hold of (5)
- 19 Loose fitting garment (5)
- 22 Fitting (3)

# **English - Spanish**

The clues are mixed, some clues are in Spanish and some are in English.



## Across

- 1 Escalera de mano (6)
- 4 Trampa (para cazar) (4) 8 Manzana (fruta) (5)
- 9 Fright (sudden fear) (5)
- 10 Sillones (9) 13 Corteza (de pan) (5)
- 14 Tails (of birds, horses, fishes,
- planes) (5)
- 15 Obedecer (4)
- **16** Alcades (6)

## Down

- 1 Mentiroso (4)
- 2 Partida (9) 3 Army (8)
- **5** Rake (9)
- 6 Pobre (persona, familia, barrio)
- **7** Frost (8)
- 11 Eight (4) 12 Bears (animals) (4)

### **CRYPTIC**

1 Telltale, 7 Stall, 8 Resonance, 9 Din, 10 Bath, 11 Pewits, 13 Sloped, 14 Natter, 17 Taiwan, 18 Digs, 20 Two, 22 Emigrated, 23 Trend. 24 Fallible.

1 Throb, 2 Lesotho, 3 Tang, 4 Linger, 5 Lauds, 6 Plunder, 7 Seminar, 12 Merited, 13 Statute, 15 Twin tub, 16 Manila, 17 Tower, **19** Sedge, **21** Oral.

## **QUICK**

1 Costume, 5 Screw, 8 Dispute, 9 Adapt, 10 Raise, 11 Precise, 12 Pallet, 14 Barges, 17 Nursery, 19 Press, 22 Arise, 23 Termite,

1 Cedar, 2 Sushi, 3 Ukulele,

24 Tasty, 25 Monster.

4 Exempt, 5 Share, 6 Roaming,

7 Witness, 12 Pennant, 13 Lorries, 15 Aspirin, 16 System, 18 Every,

**20** Evict, **21** Smear.

### **ENGLISH-SPANISH**

1 Manguera, 8 Niece, 9 Packs, **10** All, **11** Latas, **12** Encia, 13 Ida, 14 Since, 15 Droga, 16 Saturday.

2 Aceitunas, 3 Greasiest, 4 Empleador, 5 Alcachofa, 6 English, 7 Espadas.

### **CODE BREAKER**

ш  $\times$  $\alpha$ CД G ш S O  $\leq$ ್ದ⊦ M ွပ

# **LETTERS**

# YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

Letters for Your Say should be emailed to yoursay@euroweeklynews.com or make your comments straight on our website: www.euroweeklynews.com

# Online voting is real democracy

IMAGINE my disappointment on reading your report on online voting. It was just another way of keeping the same representative system, of choosing which tribe to argue with each other and strut around Westminster. In a digital world we have the opportunity to really democratise politics.

We can be voting for policies, politicians should become the executive that carries out our demands.

This direct democracy would give me the chance to vote for no renewal of Trident, a very expensive policy. It might well be that most voted to keep it, but I could live with that. It would be the choice of the people.

I would want to vote for full people-owned NHS. Again perhaps most people would want public-private partnerships. That again would be their choice. At least I had had my say.

There is actually little difference between the Tory options that you rush off to vote for and even less when they are in power. I don't care which tribe of clowns carries out our directions. Transition would be difficult. Many people are still not online. Perhaps they would still have to visit a polling station to fill in their policy choices. It would not have to happen in one day only. I think more people would take part. They would be much closer to making a difference.

Julian Turner, Malaga

# Transport appeal

WE sent a letter to be published in February 2014 regarding the trenet service to Denia. We suggested that a spur could be considered to provide a stop beside the Marina Alta Hospital near La Xara.

Unfortunately there appeared to be no interest. Once again, this week, we had an appointment at the hospital and saw how beneficial a stop could be there. Parking spaces are limited and side roads are choked with vehicles. Anyone without a car has to rely on friends/family, or pay for a taxi.

Using the bus from Denia station to and from the hospital is not an ideal alternative.

We note that there appears to be money available to re-route the tracks on the outskirts of Benidorm >> Photographs for possible publication should be sent by email with a full caption to: photonews@euroweeklynews.com



RESCUE CENTRES: Are struggling to get dogs adopted into forever homes.

# Dog lovers need info

I HAVE just read in your newspaper regarding 3,000 dumped dogs and rescue centres struggling to get sufficient dogs adopted into forever homes. My husband and I spend the winters in Spain. We have always had dogs who travelled with us. After losing our last Yorkie we began looking in Spain for a little dog as we felt lost without one. We now have a female Yorkie from a centre near Malaga who has been with us three years. The resident vet there helped with all the formal documents and she happily travels with us between the UK and Spain.

However we feel that not enough publicity is given to make more people aware of the problem, also definitely

not enough is done to advertise events such as one recently where dogs for adoption were on display and stalls were available to purchase items or give a donation. It took us two hours to find where it was located.

We only found out about it from a notice in Spanish on a tree trunk in Benalmadena. We mentioned this to a Spanish gentleman running a stall and he said that was probably why they hadn't had a good turnout. We noticed we were the only English people there. I have asked around amongst dog loving expats who confirm they had not known of events until after they happened.

Barbara Nicholas

# to make a stop beside the bus station. We consider this a very sensible move since buses and taxis provide a better service there than the main Benidorm station. (We regularly use the trenet from Teulada.)

It would be really encouraging if someone in authority would consider our proposal at the present time while the track is being upgraded on this stretch.

The stop beside the Marina Baixa hospital, south of Benidorm, is extremely convenient and well used. A stop to serve the Marina Alta would surely be as well used, and encourage people to 'leave the car at home and use public transport.'

Lorna Ross

# Much missed

GRAHAM TAYLOR was probably not as popular as he should have been with the average England fan. But his heart was in the right place.

There was no doubt about that. I well remember listening to him as a pundit on a Saturday on Radio 5. I also remember him talking about FIFA and its cash-in-a-paper-bag culture, cash that he refused.

My condolences to his family. He will be much missed as a character in the game and applauding his

memory at every ground in the UK is a fitting tribute.

David P, email.

# **Snow flakes**

I HAVE friends from northern Europe who laugh at me when they hear that back in the UK we are struggling with a bit of snow. I have to admit they are right and that's the annoying thing. If you have it all the time you can put resources into preparing for it. But we don't seem to do that in the UK.

Also I find it embarrassing to see all the coverage in the media. My friends laugh at too - it's as if the world was going to end. If it is bad then it's bad, but keep a bit of perspective.

Dave, Benalmadena

# False impression

LEAPY, is your plaintive cry about 'slings and arrows' at the end of your latest item (*issue 1645, January 12 - 18*) merely a response to the two letters entitled 'Leapy Logic' and 'Bitter Taste'?

The two letters mentioned above serve to contrast your narrow, unbalanced views on President Obama with your obvious hero-worship of President-elect Trump - a deeply flawed man by most standards of common sense. Now you make sweeping comments on the causes of racism, based on one dreadful assault on a man with educational needs. You falsely call the four perpetrators 'care workers.'

This is very mysterious when they were actually drug and alcohol fuelled thugs holding him hostage! There was never any suggestion they might be his care workers. Where do you get your news from? The Trump Foundation? Your emphasis on their skin-colour has nothing to do with it. Their livestreaming of the abuse to millions of people on social media was the REAL reason for the size of the public response!

You would have done better to focus your wrath on the darker aspects of social media when mixed with drugs, alcohol and violence than to use it as an excuse for ill thought through comments on racism - of much lesser importance in this case. Sometimes skin-colour is a factor, Leapy, sometimes not. Picking out this particular angle over all the others creates at best a false impression about racism and at worst provokes unjustified hatred of black people in general. By doing so, you fuel racism yourself. What a surprise!

Brian Eagleson, Mojacar

#### WHEN YOU WRITE

All letters, whether by email or post, should carry the writer's postal address, NIE and contact number though only the name and town will be published.

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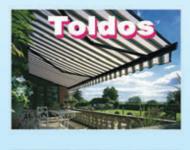


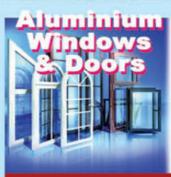


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Advertising feature

# Easing pain for over 40 years

WITH more than 40 year's experience, Monica Algañaraz has healing hands. As a physiotherapist and osteopath, Monica has helped hundreds of patients become more mobile, more agile and become free of pain.

Working from her clinic, Centro Physis, in Valle del Este, this is Monica's second clinic having previously worked in Madrid for 23 years.

Working with private patients, no one is the same and no case is the same. Many people come to her as a last resort, having spent months on various doctors and hospital appointments with prescribed medications not working: "They come with a medical diagnosis but the problem is not resolved," said Monica. "I do a full check and often find the problem is related to another area that needs attention and the patient can be treated and we can resolve the situation."

She said one such case was a man who had visited her being in pain for three

months. She eased his pain in three sessions and wrote a full report for him to present to his GP explaining her findings and treatments.

Monica said she sees a range of patients at the clinic of all ages and with a whole

If the vertebrae are misaligned, the brain under-performs and this can lead to a number of conditions."

range of complaints, from golf and tennis related injuries to back pain and those needing rehabilitation after an operation.

Back pain is one of the most common complaints and Monica stresses the main problem can be related to bad posture: "If the vertebrae are misaligned, the brain under-performs and this can lead to a number of conditions." Monica uses a mixture of therapies including osteopathy, physiotherapy and posture alignment to treat patients with back and joint pain and each one is treated individually by Monica's calming and professional manner.

General postural assessment with full spinal alignment and holistic health checks are available from the clinic based in Valle del Este golf resort commercial centre. Centro Physis is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9am-2pm and from 4-9pm and by appointment for all other emergencies.

Book your appointment now to ease those aches and pains and get yourself fitter and stronger for the new year.

> Centro Physis Valle del Este, Vera Tel: 695 355 381

Visit: www.centrophysis.net Email: monica@centrophysis.net MONICA ALGAÑARAZ: Uses a mixture of therapies to treat patients.





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# Sugar is causing a dental crisis amongst youngsters in the UK

SUGAR. The deadly sin that some experts say can be just as addictive as smoking or drugs. Whether you are indulging in sweets and cakes, or are falling victim to hidden sugars found in cereals and sauces, many of us are having too much of it and children are particu-

Figures in the UK say more and more children are having to be admitted to hospital to have rotten teeth taken out with sugar being

A report said nearly 41,000 youngsters had teeth taken out in hospital in 2015/16, some 11 per cent more than four years ago. These operations were carried out at a cost of around £35.6 million.

The chairman of the British Dental Association, said the millions spent on child tooth extractions in hospitals was emblematic of the government's disinterest in oral health and more must be done to prevent tooth decay. It is hoped the government's sugar tax will go some way to cutting the sugar consumption that leads to tooth decay.



ROTTEN TEETH: Some experts say sugar can be just as addictive as smoking or drugs.

Public Health England recently warned children consume half their daily recommended sugar intake even before they go to school with many having almost three teaspoons of sugar at breakfast time with cereals often being the cause of high amounts of sugar.

> More and more children are having to be admitted to hospital to have rotten teeth taken out."

The government recommends youngsters aged four to six have no more than 19g, or five teaspoons of sugar a day and seven to 10-yearolds should consume no more than 24g, around six teaspoons.

Sugary soft drinks should also be limited as children aged 11-18 get 40 per cent of their added sugars from drinks. UK youngsters are amongst the biggest consumers of soft drinks in Europe with 40 per cent of 11-15 year-olds drinking them daily.

# Conjoined twins die too soon

CONJOINED twins who made the headlines recently have tragically passed away before any treatment could be conducted.

It is believed that they shared all of their major internal organs, but had their heads and own brains.

The hospital in Mexico where they were born confirmed they had passed away. but said the mother was in good health.

Siamese, or conjoined twins, occur in around one in 100,000 pregnancies. Around 40 to 60 per cent of conjoined twins are stillborn. and around 35 per cent survive for just a



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ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION: Britain is not the worst.



# Brits aren't top of the charts for their drinking

BRITS have a reputation for liking a drink or two, but Britain is not the booziest nation and in fact, ranked number 17 in the world according to a study.

Vouchercloud.com used data from the World Health Organisation relating to 2010 to 2015 to plot the world map charting alcohol consumption and listed Moldova, Belarus and Lithuania as being the highest drinking nations in the world. Moldovans drink an average of 17.4 litres of pure alcohol per year 17th

is where the UK is ranked in the world for boozing.

per person, followed by 17.1 litres in Belarus and 16.2 in Lithuania.

The UK ranked 17th consuming an average of 11.6 litres per person per year which is the equivalent of around 119 bottles of wine or 408 pints of lager. Spain was listed at number 33 with 10.6 litres.

Australians were named as the 10th most excessive drinkers whilst the United States doesn't even make the top 20, coming in at number 49.



# Stay married to help prevent broken bones

COULD being married help prevent broken bones? Researchers in Spain believe it could.

They carried out a study and reported that elderly men were 50 per cent less likely to fracture a hip if they are married, while elderly married women cut their risk by 30 per cent.

They believe the reason behind this could be that elderly people who live with their partners are more likely to care for each other and are less likely to

be malnourished or depressed, making them less

Previous studies have also shown that those with dementia were more likely to suffer a fall.

The original study was carried out by the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health at the University of Zaragoza in Spain and analysed the medical and psychiatric histories of around 4,800 adults over the age of 55 in Zaragoza.



# **Constant back pain**

What are the most common causes of back pain?



SPECIALIST: Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.

BACK pain can be caused by many different things, but some of the most common causes are inflammation of muscles and tendons or damage to vertebra caused by an injury, prolonged bad posture or lifting excess weight for example. It can also sometimes be caused by inflammation of internal organs such as the kidneys, intestines, liver, etc.

#### • Many people say their doctor tells them to buy a new mattress when they have back pain. Why?

Mattresses are very important for joint and muscle health, including the lower back area, and to get a good night's sleep. A mattress which is too hard or too soft can be harmful as they can force the spine into a position which puts stress on muscles and vertebra.

#### • If it turns out not to be the mattress, what can we do to avoid back pain?

There are lots of things that can be done to improve back pain. While the pain is at its worst we should rest. avoid forced postures or lifting heavy items, take antiinflammatories and muscle relaxers if necessary and see a physiotherapist.

#### Can back pain be a sign of a serious problem that requires surgery?

Sometimes back pain, es-

pecially if it lasts a long time, can be a symptom of serious spinal problems occasionally requiring surgery to solve the problem.

#### • What's the best way to ease the pain? Do I need to take medication?

The best way to ease the pain is to rest, avoid putting strain on the back and applying heat to the affected area. If this doesn't improve matters there are anti-inflammatory creams, pain killers and muscle relaxers which will all help.

#### • Is there any type of exercise to prevent back pain and spinal problems?

Moderate daily exercise such as walking or swimming combined with specific exercises to strengthen back muscles, avoiding being overweight and avoiding adopting unnatural positions or lifting heavy weights are the best ways to prevent back problems.

If you have any questions for Dr Perez Belmonte, please send them to: je femedico@helicopteros sanitarios.com

### VISIT WWW.EUROWEEKLYNEWS.COM /FEATURES/RESTAURANTS

# Killing for charity

BULLFIGHTING fans are in luck as they will be able to see some of the top names in the country in Vera on February 26.

Grupo Vientobravo SL, which took over management of Vera bullring last year and reported a positive public response to a bullfighting festival, announced it would be starting the 2017 calendar of events with a festival in aid of Caritas Parroquial charity.

Names on the list for the event, which will start at 4.30pm and use bulls from Buenavista, owned by Clotilde Calvo, include Diego Ventura, Manuel Diaz El Cordobes, Francisco Rivera Paquirri, David Fandila El Fandi. Roca Rev and Juan Carlos Benitez.

# Classics in town

By Eleanor Hawkins

HUERCAL-OVERA will be hosting its first classic car rally on Saturday January 29 in collaboration with the Asociacion de Coches Clasicos del Marmol club.

Participating vehicles, which are ex-

Almeria Pprovince and neighbouring Murcia, will tour the area, stopping off at Santa Maria de Nieva, Urcal, El Gor, San Francisco and the Museo del Agua and will end their visit on Plaza Mayor, where the cars will be parking for viewing by the

So far about 30 car owners have signed up to councillor Monica Navarro explained. The councillor said that the event will be very good for the local economy as vehicle owners and visitors will spend their money at local businesses while there for the event.

Classic car owners interested in taking 607 701 468.

# Las Migas tour hits Almeria

AN unusual Spanish girl group Las Migas have been together since 2004 and mix traditional Flamenco music with latin, folk. jazz, pop and classical music.

Having recently returned to Spain from a tour of Cuba, Jamaica and North America, they are bringing their new album Vente Conmigo to venues in Spain and Europe and will be playing at the Teatro Apollo in Almeria City at 9pm on February 4.

Consisting of two guitarists from Andalucia, Alicia Grillo and Marta Robles, Catalan singer Alba Carmona and violinist Roser Loscos, the group has now released three albums and a number of videos and is building a steady following.

They don't simply tinker with existing songs and music but are composers in their own right which means they are able to put their personal stamp on all of their compositions whilst at the same time keeping true to the traditions of flamenco.

Tickets cost €20 to €25 from the theatre box office or online from the usual sources.



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# Flamenco in Almeria – real deal

MANY visitors to Spain are lured into restaurants which offer Flamenco shows without often understanding the tradition or history behind this very special and not necessarily typical Spanish obsession.

This is very much an art form of southern Spain which is attributed to the arrival of the Romany gypsy population which made its way to Spain from India in the 15th century and there is no doubt that many of the most famous Flamenco performers came and continue to come from the gypsy world.

It has to be remembered however that Spain in the Middle Ages in particular had a huge cross culture with Jewish settlers and Moors who also added their traditions to the Flamenco style. which was not really recognised until the 18th century.

Originally it was dance only, an ex-

pression of the feeling of the performers and their compatriots, but it expanded to include voices and instruments with hand claps and shouts of encouragement from the audience.

Nowadays, the Flamenco style is more popular than ever, not just in Spain but on an international basis and it is said that there are more Flamenco academies in Japan than in Spain, whilst in America there are even heavy metal bands who incorporate Flamenco into their musical style.

Almeria has a thriving Flamenco culture with at least 18 clubs (known as Peñas) affiliated to the Federation of Flamenco clubs of Almeria (Federacion de Peñas Flamencas de Almeria) and whilst the audience in these small but thriving clubs is predominantly Spanish, most welcome expatriate visitors who want to know more about the music and dance.

Although they serve simple food and drink, these are not drinking clubs but temples to the Canto Jondo (deep song) style which can be very moving, yet to some ears is rather cacophonous. This singing is accompanied by guitar and cajon (the wooden box drum on which the drummer sits).

Dance is another intricate part of flamenco with both men and women performing to a very high standard. On occasion you can witness duels between the musicians and the dancers to see who can be the fastest and yet most accurate performer.

If making your way to a Peña is a bit daunting, then prior to any Feria, local Peñas will host a Concurso de Cante which is a competition for local artists with the winners being invited to participate with more established artists (often full time professionals and recording artists) in the Festival.





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Gary Maclean: Won

MasterChef 2016.

# MasterChef talents

# with Garry Waite

S a semi-frequent watcher of food programmes such as MasterChef I do still get impressed with some of the contestants.

Even after having spent a life time watching and promoting good food, I step back in awe at some of the talent that now exists, especially considering I came from that traditional school of classic food, but have spent my life living and encouraging, modern creative food. The last programme I watched was last year's Professional Master Chef. I was firstly impressed by the young female contestants. (not being sexist!!) They were young, talented and competitive, a great tribute to the kitchens in which they have been trained and those that trained them.

THE WINNER of MasterChef 2016 was Gary Maclean a 45-year-old Chef/Lecturer in Glasgow. Now, I worked in Glasgow in the early 70's and I can assure you there were no Chefs like Gary around, even in four star hotels in which I was working!

As we all know, there is that age old expression 'those that can't do teach!!' But let me tell you this did not apply to this guy. His creativity, work ethic and conduct were beyond reproach. He kept his cool and dignity throughout what was a very pressurised competition. Congratulations to him and all the others that took part. As Marcus Waring (holder of two Michelin Stars) said, "Gary soaked up every little bit of this competition. He's lived the Master Chef dream. He's a major talent, he's grown incredibly well, and he's a gentleman of the kitchen."

Wait until he returns to his college the teacher is not just a teacher anymore, he will be a true inspiration!

**BUT**, and hence the purpose of this introduction, I am watching junior MasterChef America. Now we all know how confident (and precocious) the Americans can be, especially the kids!! However it has been eye opening to see kids from the age of nine preparing and presenting dishes of such a high standard. From many walks and areas of life some of these kids are amazing.

Once such young aspiring cook (the series call them 'home cooks?) when asked how often he cooked, informed head judge Gordon Ramsay that he cooked breakfast, lunch and dinner for his family every day!! The saddest thing is when they are eliminated (it is after all a competition!) everyone becomes very emotional, even (this one) the viewer!!

**THEN** we have another four foot Schofield and Holly Willoughby with old colleague Phil Vickery - showing how to cook Fish and Chips!! By the

culinary star in Oscar Jefferson. At eight years of age he reached the semi final of the Spanish version of the super MasterChef franchise. But he broke down in tears when his attempt to recreate his Grandfather Michael Jefferson's traditional British comfort food of Fish and Chips fell short of the mark. Oscar (the name Jefferson was used in the programme to avoid confusion with the Spanish name of Oscar) was comforted by one of the female judges. He got the cooking of the fish wrong, spilt his tartare sauce and ran out of time. The Spanish public fell in love with him and he has done more to cement the special Spanish/ British relationship than most.

The inconsolable Oscar was re-assured by his grandfather (who came over from the UK to surprise him) not to worry as it is only cooking, not life and death!! Something our Michelin star chefs should learn!! Although I know how they feel!!! But as always there is a bonus. The young aspiring ended up on ITV's Good Morning way Phil, use beer rather than fizzy water - makes it special!!

**WATCHING** these programmes takes me back to my beginnings. Over the years I have often been asked where my interest in food began. I used to reply that when I was 14 and was looking for a holiday job, my Mother suggested that I try and find a job in a hotel, as I apparently loved helping my parents with dinner parties

I did just that, and as a kid started working at the iconic (at the time) Grand Spa Hotel in Clifton, Bristol. But over the years, I realised that for some unknown - and never to be determined - reason I actually used to get up early (6.00am) at my boarding school in Exeter, Devon and go down into the kitchen to help the Headmaster's wife prepare 70 breakfasts for an array of spotty seven to 13 year olds!

Haute Cuisine and fine dining it certainly wasn't! But memories still abound (my grandmother made me a white 'chef's jacket') and I remember cutting toast listening to BBC's morning radio 4!! (highly exiting for a 10year-old!) Maybe the American kids aren't the only precocious ones!!

Oscar Jefferson:

Reached semi-final.

A GOOD FRIEND of mine, who writes an exceptionally interesting and informative wine and gastronomy column for another local newspaper, and I, have had a long running discussion about the oft over used expression 'Michelin Star Chef.' He, correctly in some ways, claims that there is no such thing as a Michelin Starred Chef!! He has reason in his argument, but! - Although the much coveted star (or stars) is awarded to the establishment, it is because of the endeavours of the Chef and his team.

Any establishment that is a recipient acknowledges that without the Chef they could not have achieved the acco-

I AM reminded of the quote from the great British Chef and holder of three Michelin Stars, Marco Pierre White. When he was being interviewed by a young foodie journalist, while he was chopping onions, the young scribe asked 'does chopping onions make you cry?' he replied....

My dear girl, the only time a Michelin Star Chef cries is when he loses his star - or gains another."

> lade: The fact of the matter is the award is given to the establishment (and it's Chef) because if the Chef leaves, then the Star is suspended and the new Chef has to earn the kudos anew! When said departing Chef leaves for pastures new he takes with him ONLY his reputation as a Michelin starred chef and he, like his previous establishment, has to prove in his new operation, that he is worthy of his ranking!

> I HAVE KNOWN and worked with a few 'Michelin Starred Chefs,' one of them tragically passed away at the age of 59 in 2015. Chris Oakes was one of the nicest guys you could hope

> A great Chef, and a real gent in the kitchen too. He gained a star at the Castle Hotel in Taunton, UK and then left to open his own business OAKES of STROUD (Gloucester, UK). In the first year he gained his first Michelin star for that establishment. The following year he gained his second. That became the straw that broke the camel's back.

> As anyone who lives/lived in that area knows it was not, at the time, the centre of gastronomic excellence and it proved too much to sustain for the young talented chef who ended up selling his restaurant and getting divorced at the same time! A bi-product of the pressures of our profession. I had not seen Chris since leaving the UK in 1986 and was so pleased that I managed to catch up with him during his first visit to Marbella and have lunch together at Funky Tapas in the year of his passing. He had spent the last few years as Executive Chef at Trinity College Cambridge. He along with many other colleagues is sadly missed.

> On that note, I will bid you farewell until next week and should aspiring restaurateurs need some help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

> A toast to Good Food, Good Wine and Good friends.

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# Selfie-absorbed zombies

**Guest** Columnist

**Today:** Trudy Stewart

IF Room 101 existed, one of the things I'd have to put in there is the 'selfie stick.' In a

world where we are increasingly withdrawing from each other, we have added another obstacle by using a stick that, by its very design, creates a barrier between us and the

world we're engaging with; ironically, to share our experiences and connect with others

I must confess. I have never used one myself. There are several reasons for this but the main one is I'm a bit nervous about whatever it is that the stick transmits from your hand to the rest of your body.

From what I can see, for the duration of its use, you become temporarily deaf, partially blind and completely disconnected from the rest of the world

I live in a beautiful, white, mountain village which, naturally, attracts tourists in their droves. Having spent most of the summer cursing under my

watching themselves walking up the street on their screen, I have spent the winter months perfecting a hybrid of dancing and assault course manoeu-

them. Of course there are occasions we stick zombies, shambling

> Back when we all just had cameras, a photo album was a common answer when asked 'What three things would you rescue your from burning house?'

along with their arms raised, oblivious Now, photo albums are digital. to everything and everyone around backed up and for the most part free to share with anyone you want. A doubleedged sword that allows you to save

> but also means that there is almost no limit to what can be uploaded and But, there are an increas-Did you watch any videos of your ing number of people friends' children performing as shepwho seem underherd number three in their school nawhelmed by what their tivity play on social media over Christboring, old eyes have mas? If you see a friend has posted 130 to offer and prefer inphotos to their 'Day out at Blenheim stead to view every-Palace' album, do you look through thing through the deevery photo? I know I don't. So why tached lens of their do we feel this need to document and share everything and who are we doing

> > My friend, American comedian Keith Lowell Jensen, summed it up beautifully for me when he said, "What Orwell failed to see was that we'd go out and buy the cameras ourselves. And that our biggest fear would be that nobody is watching."

> > your precious digital memories forever

Let's assume they're not. Make 2017 the year we smash our sticks, give our full attention to each other and remember that some moments are just



# Nostalgia sure ain't what it used to be!

**Nora Johnson** Breaking Views

THE tsunami of revivals and relaunches that hit TV late last year is hardly surprising given the country's Brexit blues and people craving comfort viewing - pure TV nostalgia. We had revivals of Are You Being Served?, Porridge, and one-off remakes of original episodes from three of the greatest sitcoms: Steptoe And Son, Hancock's Half Hour and Till Death Us Do Part. Some believe political correctness has killed off dark, alternative TV comedy shows like Psychoville and The Office by overanalysing it - we mustn't mock this or that. They claim most comedy IS based on laughing at others' misfortunes which is healthy, acting as a vent for life's stresses and frustrations. For many, the original versions of Dad's Army, Open All



TV REVIVALS: Viewing to comfort people with post-Brexit blues.

Hours and Porridge are 'real' people acting in character (not just a load of actors spouting so-called funny lines) - an era of performers working in front of audiences and feeding from them. Not the dull unblinking eye of a TV camera and

teleprompt for a script that is often nothing more than a string of obscenities in modern sitcoms.

It often seems nowadays as if TV is too lazy to bother with anything but four-letter words and lavatory humour, divorced of originality and

interest, relying on hackneyed programmes and repeats. Classic comedy used to hold up a mirror to society; now it just raises its middle finger.

However, the problem with any 'return' to a format (revivals, nostalgia TV) is that, like Andrew Lloyd Webber musicals, if the public becomes saturated with a product, they'll buy it. Give any new TV comedy show a long enough run (like Morecambe and Wise churned out every Christmas) and it becomes an institution (with Lloyd Webber, it's the coach parties).

No, what we really need in 2017 are better writers, better scripts and better sketches. TV worth watching again, then? That'd be a laugh.

Finally, a footnote about the UK's recent cold spell: sub-zero temperatures and arctic blasts from northern and central Europe are no longer good enough for us. Post-Brexit, our winters now come from Canada!

Nora Johnson's psychological/ suspense crime thrillers 'No Wav Back,' 'Landscape of Lies,' 'Retribution,' 'Soul Stealer,' 'The De Clerambault Code' (www.norajohnson.com) available from Amazon in paperback/eBook (€0.99; £0.99) and iBookstore. All profits to Costa del Sol Cudeca cancer chari-



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# Two alleged quad thieves caught

By Eleanor Hawkins

TWO men, one from Albox and another from Olula del Rio, have been arrested for allegedly stealing a quad and selling its tyres.

The owner of the quad reported the theft to the Guardia Civil, explaining that it had been parked in a garage after recent repairs. Investigators were told that the vehicle was worth around €3,000 and that the tyres bore the brand name marked in green paint.

The police force began enquiries in the vehicle and quad sale sector and discovered on social media that two people had recently sold a set of quad tyres to a man in Albox.

Officers visited the purchaser, who showed them the wheels which turned out to bear the green marks described by the supposed own-



The police tracked down the two men who had sold the tyres, both in their 20's and with previous police records for similar offences and arrested them for alleged theft.

The case has been placed in the hands of Purchena court.



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# Royal British Legion, Zurgena visit Viator



ON Saturday January 14, members of the Royal British Legion, Zurgena Branch and guests, left at 8am to attend the Brigada De La Legion 'Rey Alfonso XIII' at Base Militar, Viator, to witness the Parade in Remembrance of the Battle of Edchera. January 1958.

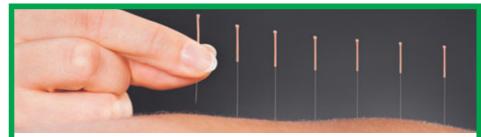
Afterwards the parade members enjoyed a lunch at the base.

A plaque was presented to Excelentisimo Señor, General de Brigada, Juan Jesus Martin Cabrero, by Zurgena Chairman, Dennis Hibbert and David Robson, membership secretary, as a memento of the visit. After a very good day the group arrived back to Zurgena at 5.30pm.

The Zurgena Branch of the Royal British Legion meet at Latino's Bar in La Alfoquia on the first Thursday of the month at 10.30am. There is also a coffee morning on the third Wednesday of the month at 10.30am and a Quiz Night on the last Friday of the month at 7.30pm.

For membership details contact David Robson davidrossrobson@gmail.com.





# ACUPUNCTURE

# There is an abundance of research to support its use.

by Fred Smithers Lic. Ac., FEMTC.

One of the main criticisms levelled against Acupuncture is there is 'no evidence'. This may have been true 30 years ago but these days there is so much good research on its efficacy it's very hard to dispute. The National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) in the UK now recommends Acupuncture for back pain, migraine and other common pain conditions. See below for the list of illnesses for which The World Health Organisation considers Acupuncture 'effective'.

The British Acupuncture Council holds a full record of research in their Acupuncture Research and Resources Centre. You can find them online.

Acupuncture has been shown to be better than placebo and sometimes better than conventional medicine in the treatment of quite a few conditions. But not all. It would be questionable to compare Acupuncture treatment with things like Insulin for Diabetes, Blood Pressure medication or even Hormone Replacement Therapy. There is much that conventional medicine is very very good at, even miraculous and the skill of surgeons is indisputable.

However, there are quite a few areas of illness and disease on which conventional medicine falls very short. If you speak to a person with chronic pain, depression, low back pain, insomnia, grief, Irritable Bowel Syndrome or some bladder problems they might confirm this. Conventional medical treatments for these conditions are often poor or over-pharmacised.

The first written records of Acupuncture are 4,500 years old. Odd as piercing skin with needles for therapy seems, it really has stood the test of time. Its theories, methods, diagnosis and treatments are laden with ancient, obscure and sometimes beautiful words and expressions, which can be confusing or strange. Along with herbs and massage Acupuncture forms a complete medical system that is complex and covers all aspects of health.

Treatments are usually weekly, often in courses of six and generally does not hurt. At the beginning there is a thorough assessment of a person's case including their medications to get a clear picture of their health - of they themselves, their body and their mind (also known as holistic). A diagnosis leads to a treatment plan in order to improve things or put them right. There is no guarantee of success but outcomes are often favourable. It is not uncommon for someone to simply 'feel

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# Fighting for school survival

By Eleanor Hawkins

PARENTS of pupils of Albox's Francisco Fenoy school, which is due to close down at the end of this academic year, are gathering support and have pledged to fight for its survival.

In just hours, the parents' association collected more than 1,000 signatures in sup-

950 39 09 08

travel

port of their cause on change.org and hundreds of locals have also signed a petition which will be presented to the Education department.

Meanwhile the Partido Popular opposition has announced its intention to present a motion against closure of the school, the oldest in Albox, "The aim of our motion is to get Mayor Francisco Torrecillas and his council team on the side of the people of Albox.

"We need the council's support to demand that the regional government changes its mind and meets its commitments," said spokesman Juan Pedro Perez Quiles.



PUPILS' PARENTS: Are gathering support.

We feel alone and abandoned by our representatives."

Both the PP and parents of pupils at the school have expressed their disappointment at the council's support of the closure. "Closing a school is bad news and it cannot be supported by a council. It's their job to represent and defend the rights of the people, not just to pick up a cheque at the end of the month," Perez Quiles said.

"We've been offered false promises for years and are disappointed that the mayor is supporting the closure. We feel alone and abandoned by our representatives," said Maria del Mar Alfonso, president of the parents' associa-



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# Macael factory future uncertain



THE 34 remaining workers at a factory in Macael are uncertain as to their future since they were locked out after the Christmas holidays.

The workers, from all over the Almanzora Valley, arrived faithfully outside the padlocked gates at 7.30am each morning to huddle round an oil drum where they burned wood to try and keep

A representative explained that the Hank Marmoles factory used to be one of the biggest in the area, with 150 workers, but has gradually gone downhill and now workers are all owed between three and five months' salary.

Administrator Jose Antonio Canovas bought the company in June last year and that, workers claim, was when the problems really started. After the Christmas holidays, the union representative was sent a note explaining that the factory would remain closed while inventories of supplies and equipment were done.

"They've been promising solutions for months. They owe money to suppliers and haven't paid out insurance. Worst of all, now they've left us out on the streets and we have no idea what's going on. We have families, mortgages to pay and some of us cannot go on like this," a spokesman for the workers said.

"We have to keep turning up to work, otherwise they could sack us for breach of contract and not pay us off," he said.

Meanwhile Canovas denied there was a problem and told La Comarca local news site: "we informed the workers through the union that the inventory was going to mean closing for a few more days. The factory will reopen soon and those who wish to return to work will be welcome to do so. The company has plenty of orders but for some reason they haven't been filled.'

# Better system under the streets

FUNDS allotted to Taberno under the 2017 Provincial Plans will be used to improve drainage and sewerage systems under the village's

Provincial Public Works and Development Delegate Oscar Liria visited Taberno, accompanied by technicians, and examined the areas which need work with local mayor Antonio Martos.

Altogether €158,000 will be spent over the next two

years on the work, which although hidden below the streets, will be noticeable as basic services will improve.

During the visit, Liria and Martos also walked through the village with the latter pointing out all areas where work is needed, including the AL-7101 road where it passes through Taberno, and a wall which needs reinforcing to improve pedestrian

# On your bikes

THE Vuelta a España (Tour of Spain) will pass through the Almanzora Valley in 2017, with a 188km stage set to pass by Bacares and the famous Collado Ramal climb before ending on the 2,168-metre-high Calar Alto in the Sierra de los Filabres. It will be the first time that a stage has started or ended in Almeria Province since 2009, and the final gruelling 22 kilometre climb up Calar Alto has an average gradient of 6.3 per cent.

# THE METAL WORKS

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# Minimal measures and no response

THE Ombudsman for Andalucian Children has once again requested that the Education Board of the Junta de Andalucia publish a report of the antibullying measures that were applied at the IES Rosa Navarro school, Olula del Rio, in the wake of an attack on a 12-yearold boy in September 2016.

This is the second time that the office headed by Jesus Maetzu has submitted a written request to the regional authority, following the original request on November 24.

"We have not even received a response to date," said a spokesman.

The victim's family have requested that the protagonist of

the attack and five other children who were harassing him be moved to different schools.

However, the only action taken to date was the temporary expulsion of the aggressor, who was suspended for 29 days then moved to a different class on his return, in order to avoid direct contact with the victim.

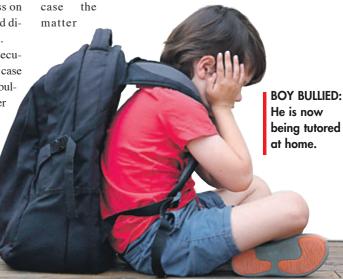
The Office for the Prosecution of Minors did open a case against one of the alleged bullies for a small offence after the incident, which took place inside a classroom shortly after the summer holidays.

The victim meanwhile, has not returned to school and is being

tutored privately at home, where he is under treatment for psychological depression.

His lawyer, Juan Morilla, has confirmed he will soon undergo medical tests in order to officially certify his condition in

Morilla says that the child "avoids leaving his home," while his family report that he suffers "frequent nightmares" and "repeated stressful episodes."





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TO READ MORE

# Fabulous news on all fronts

By Matthew Elliott

LAST year was a spectacular one for Spain's booming hotel industry as the residential property market shed the last relics of recession. Total investment in Spanish hotels reached an astronomical €2.15 billion in 2016, the second highest year of the decade after 2015.

International investors interested in new and ever more luxurious hotel complexes across Spain are behind the financing surge. Four and five-star hotels are specifically desirable for foreign companies which are expected to increase their Spanish

investment portfolios in 2017.

On the residential property front the number of so-called 'unsellable homes' is rapidly dwindling. These are homes that were built during the boom years pre-2007 and have

The total homes sold in **2016** rose by over a quarter."

been incredibly difficult to sell off since, due to the recession but also often their location and style.

Yet from a peak of 650,000 unsaleable homes in 2009, there are now just over 300,000. In 2016 the number fell by 20 per cent and that feat is expected to be repeated this

Huge swathes of the country, particularly around the Costas, now no longer have any unsellable homes, while they once seemed destined to be permanently inked on the landscape.

The good news comes as the total number of homes sold in 2016 rose by over a quarter to around 445,000. The volume is expected to top the magic half million mark



# Catalonia gold rush

IT took a while to gather pace but in 2016 the Spanish government's golden visa scheme finally took off, celebrated with a flourish of Chinese second-home

The number of Chinese citizens investing in Spanish property rose by 75 per cent last year, contributing €469 million to the state in 666 real estate transactions by November.

In the first 10 months of 2016, the government raked in over €1.7 billion from non-EU foreign nationals eager to invest at least €500,000 in Spanish properties in exchange for a permanent visa.

The Chinese, who largely favour Barcelona and Madrid, topped the contribution list ahead of the Russians who

**Barcelona's property** market in particular is flourishing under the golden visa scheme."

ploughed in €480 million, chiefly along

Barcelona's property market in particular is flourishing under the golden visa scheme. Foreign buyers now account for over 15 per cent of the market, with the Chinese outspending British and French investors to claim top spot.

Wealthy Chinese are drawn to Spain for a variety of factors. Climate, major cities, standard of living and visa-free travel across Europe are hugely impor-

A key reason, however, is the value for money that Spain represents. Similar visa schemes are offered in other European countries but none offer quite the same combination of pricing, stability and investment prospects that Spain can.



HOUSE PRICES: On average rose 6.5 per cent in 2016.

# A new record set

PREDICTIONS that 2017 will mark the beginning of the end for skyrocketing UK house prices didn't stop a new all-time high being set in December. Average house prices rose by almost £4,000 (€4,600) in the last month of the year, the highest monthly increase since the Brexit vote.

The average British home finished the year valued at £222.484 (€256,848), marking an annual rise of 6.5 per cent, down on 2015 but still a markedly strong performance. The biggest increases were seen in greater London with Luton and Dagenham clocking average prices almost 20 per

cent higher than in Decem-

Experts still expect the momentum to slow down this year, with prices anticipated to increase a more modest 1 to 4 per cent as economy slows and spending power diminishes.

One looming difficulty is the continuing divergence of property prices and wage increases. Prices are going up at roughly five times the rate of average earnings, an untenable situation that will soon contribute to reduced buver demand.

Tenants face the same problem with average rents even outside of uber expensive London now reaching £750 (€865) per month.



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# Water features are a Spanish tradition

By Graeme Tyrrell

WATER features in a garden landscape have been a treasured element since ancient times. The oldest known landscape design named the Sennufera Garden, discovered in an Egyptian tomb dated circa 1400 BC, included ponds as water features.

Water features add an ambience of tranquillity, fluidity and contrast to hard landscaping as well as a variety of practical uses. Initially the ponds were for water storage, allowing easy access to water for use in the house, irrigation for the garden, a water source for animals, fish ponds and a refreshing way to cool off.

Ponds, fountains and water channels have been an integrated part of Spanish landscape gardens for centuries. The influence of the Persian, Roman, Moors, British and European Renaissance and Baroque gardens are all appar-

Most traditional water features in Spain tend to be formal in design rather than a replica nature design, such as

in Japanese gardens. The influence of the early church decorating fonts or springs as holy basins and sacred grottos has added to the formality of water design features in Spain.

Today a garden design is not complete without a water feature of some kind. Other than for water use in the house, water features can serve similar purposes to ancient days. Swimming pools are included in gardens all over Spain and serve not only as a place to swim but also as a water feature in the garden when well-placed and designed.

Natural filtration swimming pools with aquatic plants are gaining popularity in some gardens. Water can be added from the natural rainfall when channelled into the pool and overflow directed into the garden or water storage for the

Adding a pond to the garden allows inclusion of a water garden with a range of aquatic plants to add variety to the soil based plants. A pond provides water to attract frogs, dragonflies, terrapins, birds

and can be the garden's cooling element in summer. Creating waterfalls and placing fountains also gives the relaxing sound of water movement.

Of course a pond requires good design and maintenance to provide its benefits. Clean water rather than most treated tap water needs to be used to fill it and the water must not become stagnant. A sustainable ecology to retain water quality has to be developed in the design to minimise maintenance disasters. Water should be recycled to prevent wastage and overflow directed to benefit the garden.

Fortunately there is a range of pumps and filters available that can assist in creating a perfect pond or fountain that can become a fascinating focal point in the garden. Decorating a pond with solar lights and lanterns allows a pond to be enjoyed day and night. If you have a confined space, there are plenty of table top fountains and self-contained ornaments with flowing water that can be added to enhance the quality of your garden space indoors or outdoors.

# Home organising hacks

THERE are plenty of tricks and hacks which can help turn a chaotic, disorganised home into an oasis of calm and tidiness. If one of your New Year's resolutions was to get organised this year, these tips can help you get off to a good start.

- Twice the space: Wardrobes apparently crammed to overflowing can be quickly improved by using ring-pulls from drinks cans to double capacity. Simply hang the pull from the handle of one coat hanger and loop the handle of another through the bottom ring.
- If you don't use it, lose it: Books you've read and won't read again, old phones, clothes you never wear... stop hoarding and get rid of the lot! There are plenty of charities which would be grateful for your discards.
- That knife drawer: there are two questions vou need to ask yourself, to decide whether to keep or bin all the knifes and gadgets lurking at the back. Has it been more than a month since you used it? Do you have something else that works better? If you answer yes to both, it's time to get rid of it.

**TOWELS:** Will make

- Orderly laundry: Rolling towels up instead of folding them will make it easier to remove one from the cupboard without creasing or dragging out the rest. Sheet sets can be easily kept together by folding and storing each inside one of its pil-

These are just a few little areas which can be quickly and easily organised. If you embrace the attitude and sort out one little bit at a time, within a few weeks you too can have the organised, tidy







# Personal protection dogs can be good pets



## **David THE Dogman**

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MANY people think a correctly trained personal protection dog is no different to a security dog, guard dog or stereotypical scrapyard dog, this could not be further from the truth.

A well-trained personal

protection dog should be of a bold and confident nature, sociable and accepting of people that pose no threat to its owner, owner's family or property.

It should have the ability to accompany it's owner to the office, out in the car, shopping, or even on a boat. In all of these situations the dog should remain stable, alert and obedient, as a personal protection dog's first role should be that of a well-mannered obedient pet.

The dog should have been well socialised prior to trainbeing trained in a variety of venues and different situations, slowly learning what will be expected of it in its future role, as a pet, companion and protector.

Once a dog has been

specific training in different environments can be tailored to fulfill a client's exact reauirements.

Over the years I have trained and supplied many protection dogs to people from all walks of life. Some originally not understanding the benefits of owning such a dog and others through bad experience of crime, sometimes violent, felt a need for increased personal security.

Many of the dogs I was (I am now retired) supplied and trained were sold to families with children thus dispelling another myth that trained dogs and children don't mix.

It is essential to advise clients as to what type of dog would be suitable for their rematch a trained dog with the right family or individual. It is vital to ensure that dogs trained and supplied to families are the right dog for them, their family and their lifestyle.

Once the match is made, training the future owner and their family how to correctly handle their new dog so they are able to communicate the correct commands and are shown how to work the dog in different ways and in varying situations, is essential.

This is as important as initial dog training and should not be skipped as it is a valuable time for early bonding to occur. If mistakes are made by the new handler, they are made under supervision and can be quickly rectified.

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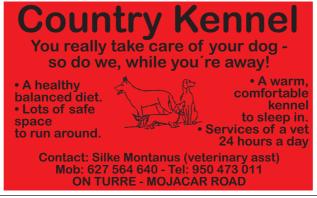
Many times I've been asked to find sympathetic and experienced house and pet-sitters to care for rescued animals now living in the homes of caring pet owners. Given safe, and comfortable shelter they are fed and cared for. Once fit and recovered from their ailments they are rehomed.

Teresa, apart from her own five cats (most of which she rescued and rehabilitated) continues to collect abandoned cats. With help from the local vets and her own family she nurses them back to health and finds homes for them. Naturally she prefers to keep the animals at home when she travels as they are beginning to find stability and strength. Staying at home helps them to build trust in humans.

We find house and pet-sitters for Teresa and other pet owners like her. Perhaps we can help you? Register now for 20 per cent off using coupon code PERFECT20.

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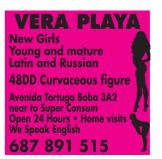
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Clarkson **Quote of the Week** 



On the Porsche Cayenne: "Honestly I've seen more attractive gangrenous wounds than this. It has the sex appeal of a camel with gingivitis." Some might say...



# British car awards 2017

By Matthew Elliott

almost in, with winners just announced in every category and the overall winner to be declared in February. Decided by 27 top British motoring journalists, the awards give a valuable industry insight into what's hot and what's not.

Best luxury car was the Rolls

THE UK Car of the Year awards are Porsche 718 Cayman, which may soon overtake even the esteemed 911.

Royce Dawn, a decadently opulent convertible version of the Wraith Coupe. Best coupe award went to the

Porsche hit a double with its 718 Boxster named best sports car, now boasting a flat-four turbo engine. But Mercedes managed the double too.

top British motoring journalists decided the award winners

two-door S-Class Cabriolet won best cabriolet, while the E-Class was awarded best executive car courtesy

of its sleek design and unparalleled interior technology.

Other standouts were the Jaguar F-Pace which won best large crossover and the Volvo V90, awarded best estate car as the Swedish manufacturer sets its sights on the luxury market.

Considered the favourite to steal the overall best car of the year award is the impressive new Ford Focus RS. The 2017 model was launched to rave reviews and won best performance car outright.

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**Motoring shorts** 

# Detroit's motor show

AMERICA's Motor City kicked off the 2017 motoring year with its hotly anticipated motor show. Hundreds of thousands of people attended to see the fastest, weirdest, most innovative cars set to hit the market this year.

Generating the most buzz was Volkswagen's camper-van concept aptly named the I.D. Buzz. The electric, autonomous van replicates the iconic 60's microbus but is clearly just a concept at this stage.

What will be on sale this vear is the new Volkswagen Tiguan Allspace and a spectacular new Lexus LS with a hydrogen fuel-cell option that was perhaps the show's most dramatic entrance.

Mercedes brought their new AMG GT C with a top speed of 197mph, while Porsche doubled down on its 911 with a GTS version boasting a sevenspeed manual option.



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# Sunshine of vour love

By Matthew Elliott

A FERRARI F40 formerly owned by rock and blues legend Eric Clapton has gone up for sale with London luxury car specialists GVE. The 1991 model with under 7,000 miles on the clock was bought by Clapton in 2000, sold three years later, and is now

priced at £925,000 (€1,01 million)

The F40 is considered an all time Ferrari classic, an acclaimed 40th anniversary celebration and the last car personally presented by Enzo Ferrari himself. Clapton's car was one of just 1,311 produced and boasts a 2936cc engine with a top speed of just over 200mph.

The former Cream singer was an obsessive Ferrari collector. He owned a 275 GTS, a custom-built SP12 EC, and a 250 GT Lusso.

The love affair began in the late 60's when George Harrison arrived at Clapton's home in style, brandishing a dark blue 356 GTC. Clapton didn't even have a driving licence but instantly ordered one for the 'princely sum of four







ROAD TEST by Nick Fletcher

# 0 Infiniti PR 8473 Q30 Premium Tech BEAUTIFULLY BUILT: It's a stylish and creditable rival.

INFINITI was introduced in 2008 as a stand-alone luxury marque from the Nissan stable and it offers cars which are charismatically designed and beautifully built, and are a stylish alternative to the long-established premium German brands.

For many, Infiniti may be a car brand which is still under the radar, but that situation is changing rapidly as sales begin to gain significant momentum in Europe, China and the USA.

The Q30 is a good entry to the Infiniti stable, a five seater sporty-looking hatchback models start at £20,550 (€24,311). There are petrol and diesel options and five trim levels

It competes in a sector which includes the BMW 1 Series, the Mercedes A Class and the Audi A3 and many would argue the Q30 has a much more distinctive appear-

**Stats panel:** 

Engine: 2.2 litre diesel

Model: Infiniti Q30 Premium Tech

Transmission: 6 speed automatic

Economy: 57.6 mpg combined

Performance: 0-60 mph 8.5 seconds, top speed 134 mph

Its bold stylised grille, sleek headlights and large badge make a strong statement. Each time my Q30 Premium Tech test model, costing £31,180 (€36,887), was parked, people came to take a closer look, and most admirers guessed the price at around £50,000 (€59,177).

My test car had the 168 hp 2.2 diesel engine with a sixspeed auto gearbox. Top speed is 134 mph and the 0-60 mph time a nippy 8.5 seconds. Even so, fuel economy is very good - 57.6 mpg combined.

Ride quality is superb, arguably best in class, and it feels smooth and effortless to drive, with the dual-clutch auto transmission seamless with the gear changes. Handling characteristics are composed and reassuring though the Q30 isn't the most agile and fun in its

The cabin has a luxury feel, with quality materials and a

nice understated premium look. The front seats are especially comfortable and the rear seats will take three adults although head and legroom is a little compromised. Bootspace is good at 440 litres and can be increased by dropping the split-fold rear seats, though they do not go completely flat.

Standard kit on the Premium Tech version includes dual-

zone climate control, leather upholstery, wood inserts, powered front seats, front and rear parking sensors, rear view camera, 7-inch touchscreen, radio/CD Bluetooth, adaptive brake assist, lane departure warning, 18 inch alloys wheels, auto lights and wipers and cruise control.

A creditable rival and more of a head turner than most.



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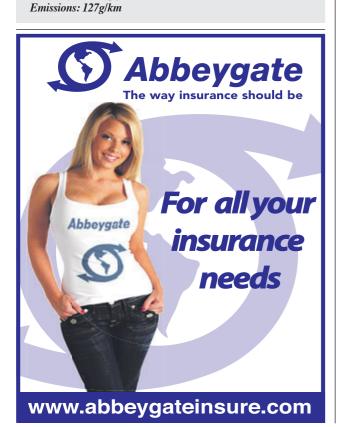
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# Impressive wins for Arsenal, Spurs and Everton and Johanna Konta

## **Tony Matthews**

International Sports

A former player and now the world's most prolific author of football books with almost 150 published since 1975, Tony is also the sports correspondent for Spectrum Radio and lives on La Pilica in the Sierra Cabrera Mountains overlooking Turre.

#### Looking ahead:

WE'RE now deep into the sixth month of the 2016-17 season and checking the various league tables. I feel that there will be tight finishes in at least eight of them - the Premiership (despite Chelsea's current advantage), the Championship, Leagues 1 and 2, the National League and in the top

flights in France, Germany and Italy. Celtic are well clear in the SPL, Hiingston and

Forfar all look strong in the other three Scottish Divisions and Real Madrid seem to be in control of La Liga.

The African Cup of Nations is now underway and ties this week include Cameroon v Guinea Bissau, Congo DR v Morocco, hosts Gabon v Burkina Faso, Ghana v Uganda, Mali v Egypt and Senegal v Zimbabwe

Several FA Cup third round replays took place on Tuesday and last night, among them non-Leaguers Sutton United at AFC Wimbledon and Lincoln City v Ipswich, plus Burnley v Sunderland, Crystal Palace v Bolton, Newcastle v Birmingham, Plymouth v

Liverpool and Southampton v Norwich. The top Premiership games

on Saturday feature Liverpool versus Swansea (who last Saturday afternoon crashed 4-0 at home to Arsenal)... Manchester City (who were battered 4-0 by Everton five days ago) versus Spurs (fresh from a 4-0 home win over WBA courtesy of Harry Kane's hat-trick)... and Stoke against Manchester United who's eight-match winning run came to an end last Sunday against the Reds from Anfield). Twenty-four hours later, it's Arsenal against Burnley... Chelsea versus Hull City... and Southampton against inconsistent Leicester City, who crashed 3-0 at home to Antonio Conte's team last Saturday.

Second-placed Brighton play Sheffield Wednesday in the Championship tomorrow night and on Saturday/Sunday it's two of the league's founder members Aston Villa v PNE... a Yorkshire showdown between Barnsley and Leeds... Derby County

v Reading... Huddersfield v Ipswich... leaders Newcastle United v Rotherham... out-ofform Norwich City v Wolves... and QPR versus Fulham in a London derby.

North of the border, non-leaguers Bonnyrigg Rose and Formantine United will be aiming to cause upsets in the Scottish Cup fourth round against Hibs and Partick Thistle respectively, likewise Albion Rovers against Celtic.

We have the second legs of the League Cup semi-finals next week with Liverpool (a goal down) playing Southampton on Wednesday January 26 and Manchester United (2-0 up) visiting Hull 24 hours later. Wembley stages the final on February 26.

Kevin Nolan has taken charge at Notts County, the club's 50th managerial change in 50 years; Justin Edinburgh is Northampton's new boss. John Sheridan is back as Oldham's manager and Chris Humphries has moved in at Chesterfield.

#### Round up:

The Australian Open tennis championships are underway in Melbourne where GB have high hopes with Sir Andy Murray and Johanna Konta who last week warmed up by lifting the Sydney International trophy with victory over Agnieszka Radwanska. Dan Evans (singles) and Jamie Murray and Bruno Soares (doubles) lost in their respective finals.

Rugby Union's European Cup continues this weekend with Montpellier v Northampton tomorrow: Leicester v Glasgow, Munster v Racing 92, Saracens v Toulonnaise and Ulster v Bordeaux on Saturday and Zebre v Wasps, Sunday.

Former football manager of Lincoln, Watford, Aston Villa, Wolves and England, Graham Taylor (aged 72) and jockey Brian Fletcher (69), three-time Grand National winner, twice

on Red Rum, both sadly died last week. RIP.

GB Olympic gymnast Nile Wilson has injured himself in a freak fall off the parallel bars.

Sam Sunderland has become the first Brit to win the Dakar Car Rally.

Justin Thomas (USA) posted the lowest 36-hole score in PGA history when carding a 123 in Hawaii. He then equalled the world record for 54 holes (188).

The first one day cricket international between India and England ended in a three wicket win for the hosts (356-7 against 350-6) before 52,000 spectators in Pune's MCA stadium. The second game took place in Cuttack this morning and the third is in Kolkata on Sunday. Two T20 games follow on January 26/29.

Holder Ronnie O'Sullivan (after a scare in the opening round) is favourite to win a record seventh UK Masters snooker title which is underway at London's Ally Pally.



EARLIER this month, the former Manchester United and current Real Madrid and Portuguese international forward Cristiano Ronaldo, became the first recipient of the FIFA World Player of the Year award... adding this accolade to the Ballon d'Or prize he won at the end of last year. In fact, the irresistible goal-machine has now won the prestigious Ballon d'Or a record four times, having previously collected the coveted trophy in 2008, 2013 and 2014 - the most by any European player.

Now regarded as being one of the greatest marksmen in football history, as at January 17, 2017 Ronaldo had netted a staggering 595 goals in 873 games for club, country (U15, U17, U20, U21 and senior levels) and FIFA, including 382 in just 369 appearances for Spanish giants Real Madrid.

Ronaldo, who has already been named as the best Portuguese player of all time by his country's Football Federation, is the only player to win four European Golden Shoe (boot) awards.

He is without doubt one of the most marketable athletes in world sport. In 2016 Forbes named Ronaldo as the world's best paid athlete and in June 2016, ESPN ranked him as the world's most famous athlete.

Born Cristiano Ronaldo dos Santos Aveiro on February 5, 1985 in Santo Antonio, Funchal, Madiera, he was an amateur with CF Andorinho and Nacional, eventually starting his professional career with Sporting Club Portugal before transferring to Manchester United at age 18 in 2003.

In his first season in England, he helped the Reds win the FA Cup (2004) before starring for United as they clinched three successive Premier League titles (2007-09), won the UEFA Champions League (2008) and also the FIFA Club World Cup.

At the age 23, he had already received Ballon d'Or and FIFA World Player of the Year nominations before becoming the world's most expensive footballer when he moved from Old Trafford to Real Madrid in the summer of 2009 for €94 million (£81.52 million).

With Real here in Spain, he has since won La Liga, two Copas

del Rey, two Champions League titles and two Club World Cups... and suspects there will more trophies coming to the Bernabeu in the not tool distant future!

Ronaldo, who holds the record for most goals scored in a single

UEFA Champions League season, 17 in the 2013-14 season, also became the fastest player to score 200 goals in La Liga when he reached that magic milestone in 2014, which he achieved in only his 178th appearance in the competition.

The only player in the history of football (worldwide) to net 50 or more goals in a season on six consecutive occasions, in 2015, Ronaldo became the all-time top marksman in the Champions League. He also became Real Madrid's all-time leading goalscorer, but perhaps not surprisingly he is currently the second highest scorer in La Liga history behind Argentina's Lionel Messi, his perceived career rival.

On the international front. Ronaldo made his senior debut for Portugal in August 2003, at the age of 18 and right now he is his country's most capped player of all time with 136 under his belt and also the top scorer with 68 goals to his credit. He has participated in seven major tournaments - four UEFA European Championships (2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016) and three FIFA World Cups (2006, 2010 and 2014) - and, of course, captained Portugal to victory in last season's European Championship, having taken over the skipper's armband in July 2008.

He led his country into the semi-finals at Euro 2012, finishing as joint-top scorer, and in November 2014, he became the alltime top scorer in the UEFA European Championship (including qualifying rounds) with an overall total of 23 goals.

At Euro 2016, he became the most capped player of all-time in the tournament. The first player to score at four consecutive European Championship finals he also equalled Frenchman Michel Platini's all-time record for most goals scored in the competition.



# DID YOU KNOW?

THIS is what an unnamed Chinese football club has offered Chelsea's Diego Costa:

- £30m a year salary
- £2.5m a month
- £576,900 a week
- £82,191 a day •£3,424 an hour
- £57 a minute
- 95p a second

Players on higher wages: Carlos Tevez (Shanghai Shenhua) and Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid) both earn £31.98m a year and Lionel Messi (Barcelona) is paid £34.95m per annum.



"With this policy change we are helpless," said Chinese billionaire club



THE Marina Phoenix Golf Society is based at the Marina Golf Club in Mojacar. For many years the Society at the Marina Golf Club have been under the efficient stewardship of Jim and Margaret Budd. At the recent AGM of the Society before Christmas, Jim and Margaret announced to members' surprise that they would not be putting themselves forward for re-election to the committee for the coming season, thus bringing to a close their brilliant management of the activities of the society.

Jim and Margaret originally hail from Yorkshire, something that they are both very proud of. They share a wide interest in all sports particularly the ups and downs of the English cricket team and Manchester United with which they have had a long association.

When they moved to Spain from the UK they built their new home and have settled into their local community very happily. Both being keen golfers they joined the fledgling Marina Golf Club in Mojacar. They got involved with the emerging Society and in due course Jim became the Captain with Margaret taking



#### PRESENTATION: Jim and Margaret Budd are retiring.

over as Secretary-Treasurer. It did not stop there of course as other related tasks, handicaps and Society PR were willingly taken on by them. While some of these jobs have since been taken up by others, Jim and Margaret remained at the core of the Society. Organisation is a key word to describe their commitment.

On the social side of things Jim and Margaret excelled. They are very generous hosts at their own home, and many members also enjoyed their company at their favourite restaurants in Casa Jova or Crisbies. Jim of course is a great singer

and many evenings were finished off with his favourite songs.

Their family remain living in England where in recent years they have been made proud grandparents. Family visits for them to the UK and the family to Spain are very important.

At the presentation evening of the Society in late November Jim's and Margaret's service was marked by a few presentations to them on behalf of Society members and friends. The members of the Society wish them both a happy retirement from their tireless efforts.

# **Aguilon Golf report**

AS all golfers are eternal optimists, always thinking the next round will be better than the last one. we wish the golfing fraternity 'feliz año nuevo.

Wednesday Januarv 4 - Monthly Medal

What a good way to start the new year with the dreaded 'medal round."

A cold windy start soon gave way to a sunny benign day, but the fast greens kept all the players on their

1st Lynne Whibley 96-25 =

2nd Louis Long 92-20 = 72on a card play off

3rd Phil Miles 82-10 = 72Two's: only two, Phil Miles, Gill Vine 12th

Wednesday January 11 -Campbell Lamont Qualifier

The sixth qualifying round was played in difficult conditions with a blustery wind combining with lightning speed



Whibley.

greens to ensure that points scoring did not come easy.

1st Kevin Manser 36 pts 2nd Rabbe Thun 34 pts 3rd Norman Whibley 33 pts Two's: Roy Lewis 3rd, Steve Vine 12th, Chris Tyler, Gill Vine 14th, David Lees, Ann

For further information log on to the website www.aguilon membersclub.com.

Miles, Dave Sharp 17th.

