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Photo by Wikimedia

**OVERWHELMED WITH GUILT:** The man handed himself in at Malaga City's provincial police headquarters.

# 'I confess'

## Sex abuse teacher hands himself in

By Matt Ford

A teacher accused of sexually abusing three girls at a school in Torre del Mar, Malaga, has admitted committing a string of other offences.

The 40-year-old man handed himself back into police a day after being released following an initial round of questioning.

He claimed an overwhelming sense of guilt had forced him to return.

After his initial arrest he was questioned and bailed, but told investigators it was

then that he experienced "a change in conscience."

He returned to police headquarters and told detectives he had a problem and needed treatment for it.

During a lengthy second interview at the provincial police headquarters, he reportedly admitted abusing a number of other girls, aged either 10 or 11, at other schools in Malaga Province and beyond.

The teacher, who is married with children, told officers he was mentally ill and wanted to go to jail to be

cured.

The man has now been remanded in custody pending a trial.

Police were alerted to his offences after receiving a tip-off from the mother of one of his victims.

At the school, El Custodio Puga, he was put under observation by other members of staff and at one stage was found alone with a girl in an area that was not used for teaching.

During his first court appearance the prosecution said he would be investigated in relation

to five specific cases.

The news of his confession has raised alarm among parents at the school, while regional Education councillor, Patricia Alba, said the man had committed "disgusting acts which have no place in our schools."

## Case continues

FOLLOWING the crash of a light aircraft in Velez-Malaga before the weekend, further details regarding the occupants of the Ran S-6ES Coyote single engine plane have come to light. It is now believed that the female pilot was the owner of the aircraft and her passenger was an instructor from a local flight school.

» See page 3

## Frightful farm

ANIMAL welfare police called to a farm found 22 horses had been abandoned without food or water and many had serious illnesses and painful injuries. One

pony at the farm in Velez-Malaga had to be put down because its injuries were so severe, while 68 goats and eight dogs had also been mistreated.

» See page 5

## Junk in the trunk

MOTRIL Council has instructed the municipal waste company LIMDECO to clean up abandoned plots in the Calle Remo and Carrera del Mar. After receiving complaints about the unsightly

and potentially dangerous dumps in Varadero, the council mobilised their waste company to undertake the work, which will be charged to the respective site owners.

» See page 7

## All guns blazing

ACTING within part a pan-European investigation, with assistance from Europol, the Guardia Civil has announced that it arrested 46 people and seized 247 firearms and more than 23,000 cartridges. In Spain, four illicit factories were also closed down together with two illegal internet gun shops with some arrests taking place in Granada and Malaga provinces.

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**LOCAL NEWS**

# Quarrelsome quartet

THREE men and a woman who became embroiled in a punch-up over access to a swimming pool in Almayate, Velez-Malaga, are to be fined after a Malaga judge rejected their appeal. The quarrelsome quartet were all injured during the skirmish, which erupted after one of the aggressor's children jumped a fence to access the water.

# Live wire

COLMENAR is home to the longest zip-line in Spain, with thrill seekers now able to zoom 436 metres over the Montes de Malaga at a hair-raising height of 100 metres, and reaching speeds of up to 38 kilometres per hour. The project was funded entirely by the town council at a cost of around €20,000.

# Rolling stones

OTIVAR Council has confirmed that it has forked out €67,000 to reinforce metal netting running alongside the A-4050 access road after falling rocks crushed two cars and damaged three others during the recent spell of bad weather. The owner of one of the vehicles had parked up just minutes before the dramatic incident.

# A new year begins

By Eleanor Hawkins

ALTHOUGH it adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1912, the Chinese New Year, one of the most important events of the year for the Chinese community, is still calculated using the ancient Chinese lunar calendar.

Falling on the second new moon after winter solstice, the Chinese New Year falls on a different date every year and this month, the Year of the Rooster and 4,715th year of the traditional Chinese calendar begins on January 28.

The new year sees a long period of festivities which last until the Festival of the Lanterns on the 15th day of the new month. Traditionally the Chinese sweep their houses with old brooms which are then thrown away for luck, and pending tasks and debts must whenever possible be dealt with before the beginning of a new year.

In Spain, given the large Chinese community which has taken up residence in the country, the new year is honoured in many places with parties, fireworks and various events. In Madrid, for example, City Hall organises almost two weeks' worth of events centred around the celebrations. Things kick off on January 28 with a street parade and last until February 12, which will see traditional Chinese customs displayed at Plaza de España.



**CHINESE NEW YEAR:**  
Celebrated with street parades.



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## On the market

THE old San Francisco de Velez-Malaga market building is being refurbished and ground floor offices will be made available shortly for businesses involved in hospitality, tourism and artisan activities.

There will be 14 units in all of which seven will be reserved for the hotel trade and the intention is that new start-ups in particular will be welcome to take over these units provided they meet certain criteria, as the building is intended to be a centre for businesses which will help to revitalise the environment and the town of Velez-Malaga.

Units will be made available free of charge although occupants will be required to pay for water, electricity, cleaning and security.

In addition to business units, there will be an administrative area, meeting room, multipurpose room, common central space, storage area, dressing and a kitchen classroom.

## Stick up turns sour

A 29-YEAR-OLD man from Baza has been arrested for holding up a petrol station with a large knife and stealing €575.

The robbery was caught on camera, with the video depicting a hooded individual threatening the attendant before grabbing the cash and making his getaway in a nearby car.

Police were able to identify the suspect within a short space of time and nabbed him as he was parking the vehicle in his garage.

Inside, they immediately found the cash, a stocking that the villain had apparently worn over his face, and the jump blade.

He has now been sent to prison.

## Tragic trip

AN 81-year-old Danish man fell to his death as he took a stroll with his wife on Las Alberquillas beach in Nerja.

His panicking wife ran to the access road, where tourists parked with their motor homes were able to raise the alarm.

Although Local Police, Guardia Civil, and civil protection patrols were quickly at the scene, followed by paramedics and firefighters, all attempts at resuscitation failed.

Witnesses reported that the couple had left their own motor home, and that the victim came a cropper in a particularly rocky area.

# Remains reveal the reality

FOLLOWING the crash of a light aircraft in Velez-Malaga before the weekend, further details regarding the occupants of the Ran S-6ES Coyote single engine plane have come to light.

Initial reports incorrectly suggested that the two passengers in the plane were a middle aged woman and a 10-year-old child, but having undertaken DNA tests on the two bodies discovered in the wreckage, it transpires that the second passenger was an adult male.

It is now believed that the female pilot was the owner of the aircraft and her passenger was an instructor from a local flight school.

Investigators from the Civil Aviation Accident and Incident Investigation Commission are in the process of investigating the scene of the crash and the burned-out wreckage in order to try to identify the reason for the plane's sudden descent and crash into an avocado plantation located about 500 metres from the runway of the Leoni Benabu aerodrome.

## SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE... 1

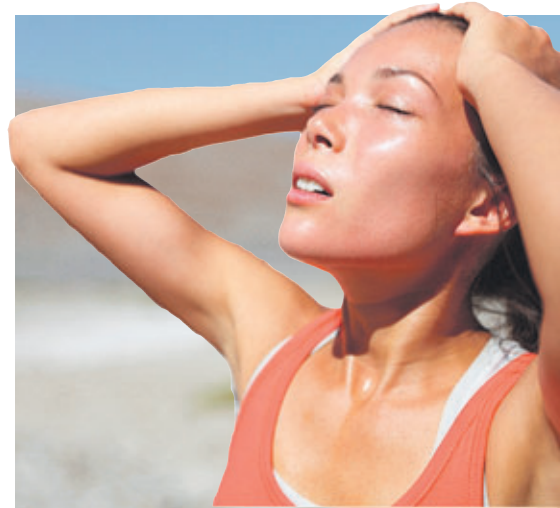
Despite the at times Arctic-like temperatures in recent days, last year was the hottest since world records began in 1880. And local weather is set to change more up to the year 2100 than it has in the last 10,000 years, according to experts.

# Things are hotting up

TEMPERATURES in Spain could increase up to 5°C by 2080, with 30 per cent of the country becoming a desert should the most severe predictions play out.

Climate change has already warmed Spain 1.3°C in the last century, 0.3°C more than the global average. As a result, parts of the Bay of Biscay coastline could become submerged by the end of this century.

September 6 was the hottest day in Spain last year with 45.4°C recorded in Cordoba and 38 provinces experienced temperatures above 40°C. Meanwhile, 21.4°C in Cuenca on December 26, 2016 was the hottest for the



month in Spain since national records began in 1955.

In the future, extreme summers and heat waves are likely to become four times as common.

## 8 AT-A-GLANCE SURPRISES

■ Rainfall in Spain could decrease 10-20 per cent over the next 30 years, with water shortages affecting up to 60 per cent of residents.

■ Spain's tourism industry could suffer if it becomes too hot to comfortably visit during summer.

■ The Pyrenees lost 75 per cent of their glacial ice from 1980 - 2012.

■ Spring in Spain has moved forward two weeks in the last 30 years, with almond trees now blossoming in late January.

■ Large wildfires are expected to increase.

■ Olive and grape production will be hit if Spain warms by over 4°C.



CONCERNS: Higher temperatures could hit olive productions and lead to a more arid landscape.



■ Spain lost 15 per cent of its fresh water resources between 1996 and 2005.

■ With half of the EU's biodiversity found in Spain, 70 per cent of its species will need saving as the climate warms.

## Drunk driver hit cyclists

A MOTORIST who drove into another car and then hit two cyclists, injuring one of them, later tested positive for drugs and alcohol.

A witness reported the driver swerving from one side of the road to the other just before the collision.

One of the cyclists was pushed down an embankment by the force of the impact and subsequently needed hospital treatment.

Officers from the Guardia Civil arrested the motorist at the scene in La Cala del Moral. It is understood the driver later tested positive for drugs and alcohol.

## Calamitous call

A 78-YEAR-OLD resident of Colmenar was killed by an articulated lorry as it attempted to exit the Virgen de la Candelaria cooperative.

The victim, whose son is employed at the facility, was caught between the trailer and a wall and crushed to death while he spoke on his mobile phone.

Town mayor, Jose Martin, expressed his condolences as he explained that the driver "lost his angle of vision and the trailer struck this man, who was inside the premises at the time."

## Drug trafficker arrested

A MAN convicted of drug trafficking in Italy has been arrested on the streets of Torre del Mar. The 40-year-old Spaniard, who comes from Granada, is being held on an international arrest warrant.

Police revealed he is wanted in Italy after being convicted of drug trafficking offences including the importation of illegal substances.

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## Postscript to ponder

**75.3m**

SPAIN attracted more foreign tourists than ever in 2016, smashing the previous record set in 2015 by almost 10 per cent. In 2002 the figures stood at 51.7 million.

## Love-struck pensioner nods off

A PENSIONER taking part in a popular Spanish dating show fell asleep while the programme was live on air. The hapless contestant had taken a sleeping pill to stave off nerves and instead of finding love, she ended up falling asleep.

The presenter of Canal Sur's Andalucía-based show asked technicians to turn off the lights when the show had finished, leaving this particular sleeping beauty still in slumberland. The woman, known as Eloisa and from Almería, was then told the footage had been seen by around three million people.

Presenter Juan Y Medio was on hand to help wake her up, but Eloisa is still without a partner.

## Radioactive

SPAIN'S intention to stockpile nuclear waste less than 100 miles from the Portuguese border has angered its neighbour.

The plant is to be built at the Almarez complex, but Portugal has filed a complaint with Brussels.

It claims it should have been consulted when 'transborder' issues potentially affect the environment and says this was not done.



## Postcard from

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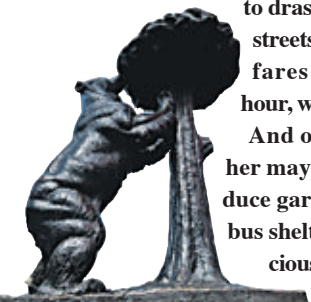


**WHILE many motorists refuse to use the metro and continue to drive on the city's main and frequently clogged roads, Mayor Manuela Carmena wants to ban all vehicles from many main streets by 2019.**

**With her term of office due to end in two years' time she is keen to drastically reduce the pollution levels in streets that at present are daily thoroughfares for thousands of vehicles every hour, with the Gran Via one of the busiest. And other changes are also planned as her mayoral hope is to additionally introduce garden areas on the tops of buses and bus shelters as a boost to her aims to "deliciously pedestrianise" the capital.**

**Statistics reveal that the city of 3.2 million boasts one car for every two citizens. Given its high ground location, vehicle fumes are in part blamed for the smog that can grip it during winter months, affecting daily life for tens of thousands of families.**

**While the mayor's schemes have been criticised and even ridiculed by some, around 2,000 people die annually in Madrid from the effects of polluted air.**



## Underground arms stash

WEAPONS including machine guns, pistols and thousands of rounds of ammunition have been seized in the Basque country.

Police uncovered a sophisticated underground workshop where arms were reconditioned before being sold to criminal gangs.

The haul is estimated to be worth €10 million on the black market.

## Topless tumult

A TOPLESS female protester grabbed a waxwork of US President Donald Trump by the testicles in a protest in Madrid.

The woman rushed past security guards, grabbed the statue and shouted "grab patriarchy by the balls."

Her statement was a reference to a leaked recording of President Trump when he spoke about grabbing women by a part of their anatomy.

## Cop reborn

ONE of the most enduring characters in Spanish fiction and equally famous on television is set to reappear on the nation's screens. The original creator of much-loved Detective Pepe Carvalho, novelist Manuel Vázquez Montalbán, died 13 years ago.

Now Carvalho is set to make another appearance with the publication next year of a new novel which will be televised. Poet and writer Carlos Zanón is the man charged with reigniting Spain's love for the iconic detective.

## Birthdays

• **Marc Gasol, Professional Basketball Player, January 29, 32**

Born in Barcelona the 7-foot-1-inch tall titan plays in the National Basketball Association (NBA) for the Memphis Grizzlies and also for the Spanish national basketball team. He has two silver Olympic medals under his belt as well as two EuroBasket titles, EuroBasket bronze medal and a FIBA World Cup title.

• **Ellen DeGeneres, TV Host/Actress, January 26, 59**

Very funny and entertaining she hosts her own successful show named The Ellen DeGeneres Show. She has also had acting roles in the sitcom Ellen and films such as EDtv and Mr Wrong and voiced the character of Dory in Disney's Finding Nemo. In 2008 she married fellow actress and model Portia de Rossi.

• **Nick Mason, Drummer, January 27, 73**

English musician who was the drummer with rock band Pink Floyd and the only member of the band to feature on every single Pink Floyd album. A self-confessed petrolhead he owns and races classic cars and wrote the book Into the Red in 1998 about them. He competes in motor racing events like the 24 Hours of Le Mans and is also a qualified pilot.

• **Jessica Ennis-Hill, Athlete, January 28, 31**

The face of the 2012 London Olympics she went on to win the Heptathlon gold medal at the event with a sensational performance. She set a new British and Commonwealth record with her score of 6,955 points and also broke the British record for the heptathlon 100 metres.

• **Gene Hackman, Actor, January 30, 87**

Retired American actor whose career spanned five decades and won him three Golden Globes and two BAFTAs. He has starred in many film greats such as Bonnie and Clyde, The French Connection, Crimson Tide, Enemy of the State with his final appearance in the film Welcome to Mooseport in 2004.

• **John Lydon, Actor, January 31, 61**

Otherwise known as Johnny Rotten he was the lead vocalist of the riotous punk rock band the Sex Pistols. The controversial group had hits including Anarchy in the UK and God Save the Queen and were never far from media attention.

## €14,200 'to kill a husband'

A MAN accused of hiring a professional hit-man to kill the husband of his partner has been arrested by police in southern Spain.

Acting on information from Interpol and police in Bolivia, officers swooped on their target in Algeciras.

The man is wanted in connection with a murder in 2014 when the then husband of his current partner was shot dead in Santa Cruz. South American police claim the hit-man received \$15,000 (€ 14,200) to carry out the killing and are now seeking his extradition.



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**OUR VIEW**

**Looking forward**

NOW that we have a general idea of Theresa May's strategy for handling the matter of Brexit and the EU's immediate response it is clear that what she wants and expects could be quite difficult to achieve.

Anyone who has gone through a personal divorce knows how awkward the other party can be and in this case Britain is divorcing not only a huge federalist organisation which wants to look after its own best interests but also 27 spouses.

Whilst there will be any number of points to discuss, the two most important and probably the greatest hurdles will be over Britain's intention to control immigration and to leave the customs union.

From a point of view of expatriates in Spain, we certainly don't want to be thrown out with the dishwater and sincerely hope that our position (and by definition those of EU nationals in the UK) is made clear as soon as is possible so that we can prepare for the future.

From a purely parochial point of view, those receiving British pensions will also be hoping that sterling doesn't take a further beating as the final divorce approaches.

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**Animals left in limbo at farm**

ANIMAL welfare police called to a farm found 22 horses had been abandoned without food or water and many had serious illnesses and painful injuries.

One pony at the farm in Velez-Málaga had to be put down because its injuries were so severe.

Three people were subsequently accused of cruelty to animals. One was jailed for a year and two others received suspended sentences of 12 and 32 months.

National Police officers also found 68 goats and eight dogs on the farm off the El Trapice road.

All the animals had been left in a situation that amounted to total abandonment.

Some of the horses had been contained and simply left while containers of so-called food contained rotten watermelons, hard bread and dry beet pellets.

The dogs were also suffering from severe malnutrition and had numerous injuries and infections.

The judge warned those given suspended sentences that if they offended again they would be jailed.

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## NEWS EXTRA

## Hairy hazard

A MUNICIPAL pest control team was called to the Santa Cruz junior school in Almuñecar after nests of the potentially dangerous pine processionary caterpillar were found in trees within the grounds.

## Havana ball

CUBAN guitarist Ali Arango picked up the winner's gong at the 32nd Certamen Internacional Classic Guitar competition in La Herradura, with his prizes including €10,000 in cash and a traditional guitar worth €5,200.

## Anchors up

LA HERRADURA marina is expected to enjoy a profitable year in 2017, with occupancy of its moorings predicted to rise above 90 per cent for the first time in a decade.



DIFFICULT ACCESS: Means workers have to move some materials by hand.

## Upgrade moves into second stage

By John Smith

WORK has now started on the second phase of upgrades in the Calle Carmen Baja and San Miguel Bajo in Almuñecar at a cost of €140,000 which includes the need to employ 77 workers.

The area of San Miguel de Almuñecar, in the heart of the old quarter, continues to be improved with comprehensive rehabilitation works. Now comes the turn of Carmen Baja (second phase) and San Miguel Bajo street.

“ It will take about six months to complete all of the upgrades due to the difficulty of access.

This new work has been undertaken by the council thanks to the release of funds from the Agricultural Employment Promotion Programme, under a collaboration agreement between the Provincial Dele-

gation of the Department of Government of the Junta de Andalucía and Diputación de Granada 2016.

Included in the programme is the replacement of damaged pavements, upgrading of drains, better street lighting and the provision of bins, railings and benches but according to councillor for Works, José Manuel Fernández, it will take about six months to complete all of the upgrades due to the difficulty of access for machinery and materials.

## Easter in Almuñecar

WHILST attending the international tourist exhibition Fitur in Madrid, the mayor of Almuñecar, Trinidad Herrera, unveiled the official town poster of Holy Week at Easter and explained how important this festival is.

The processions and festivity in the town are of “national tourist interest” she said and although it is created locally, it is an event that draws visitors from all over Spain and Europe.

This year's theme will be based on one of forgiveness as embodied by the sacrifice of Christ and the poster itself will depict an image by local photographer Leonardo Cervilla Rivero of a sculpture in the 16th century church showing the passion.

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# Unsightly plots cleared in Motril

By John Smith

THE Motril Council has instructed the municipal waste company LIMDECO to clean up abandoned plots in the Calle Remo and Carrera

del Mar with charges going to the owners for the work according to deputy mayor Francisco Sánchez-Cantalejo.

After receiving com-

plaints about the unsightly and potentially dangerous dumps in Varadero, the council mobilised their waste company to undertake the work which included

need for heavy machinery as a wall was in danger of collapsing.

This work would have been undertaken earlier according to the deputy mayor

but budget restraints had made it difficult to commence cleaning the plots until such time as they hit upon the plan to charge the owners of the private plots.

As time passes and funds become available by the identification of the owners of more disused land, then the clean-up will be extended to other parts of the town.

## Owners sign-up and chip their pets

A CAMPAIGN in Motril, organised by the council and Alcampo Shopping Centre, has seen more than 1,000 pets registered and chipped in the town.

The 1,000th owner to bring her animal for registration, María del Mar Rodríguez received a prize of a €100 voucher to spend on dog food and animal care products for her six-year-old basset hound Pepa.

The idea behind the campaign is to ensure that owners look after their animals and do not simply abandon them if it becomes inconvenient to continue to look after the.

The Local Police now hold six microchip readers so they will be able to identify any animal that is found on the street.

In addition to this, the council has also distributed 50,000 plastic bags for owners to use when their dogs in particular make a mess. Cleaning up after their animals will help to make the town more attractive and also reduce risks to health.

Registration is free and can be organised by visiting the council office in Calle San Rafael.

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## NEWS EXTRA

## Bearing fruit

THE world leader in the cucumber trade, Alhondiga la Union, has set up four new distribution centres in El Puntalon (Motril), Castell de Ferro, Carchuna and Castillo de Baños, continuing its expansion in south east Spain.

## Crook busted

NATIONAL POLICE investigators working at Malaga Airport arrested a 51-year-old Romanian man wanted for aggravated robbery in his home country. A European Arrest Warrant had been issued in his name.

## Raise the roof

It appears 2017 should see a boom in new building in Malaga Province, according to the College of Architects, with contracts totalling €400 million having already been approved.

# Birds of a feather

By Matt Ford

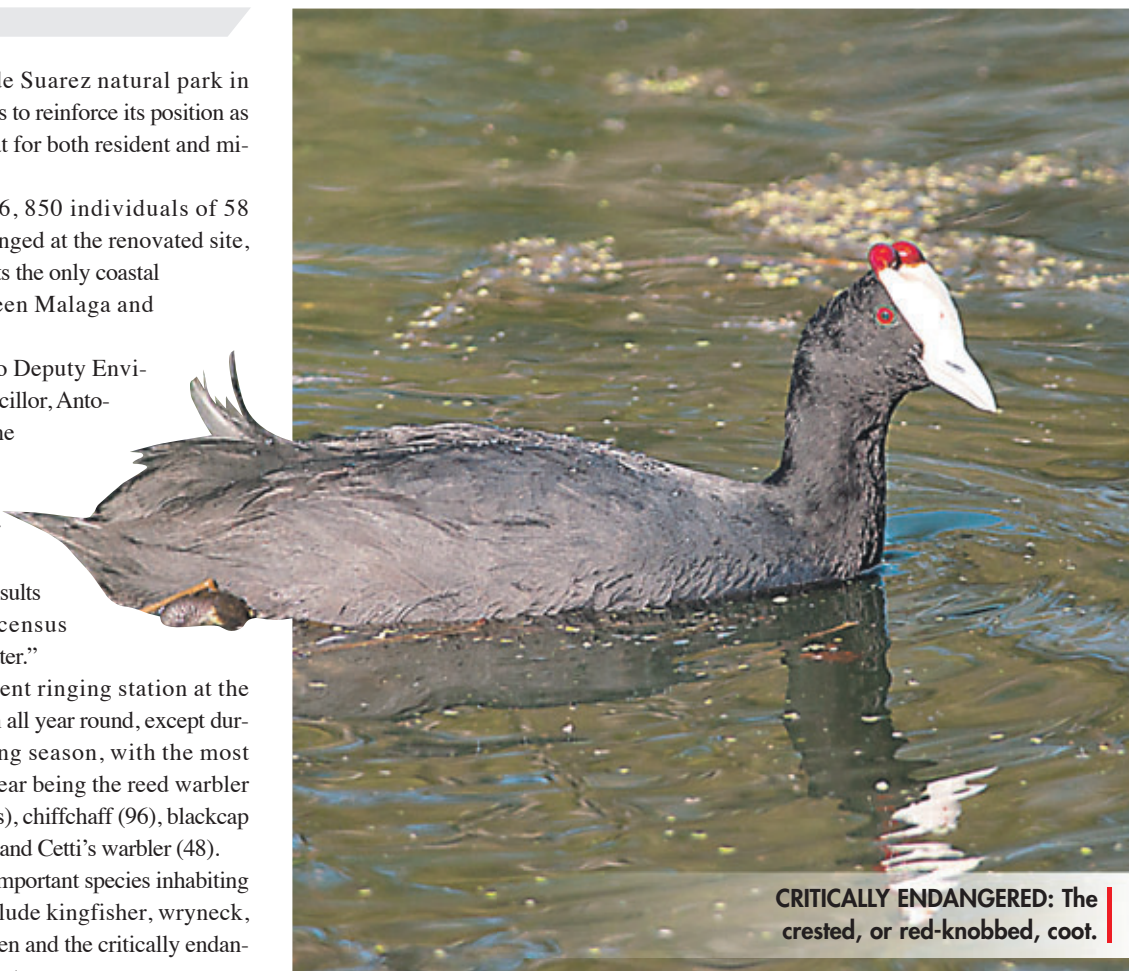
THE Charca de Suarez natural park in Motril continues to reinforce its position as a critical habitat for both resident and migrating birds.

During 2016, 850 individuals of 58 species were ringed at the renovated site, which represents the only coastal wetland between Malaga and Almeria.

According to Deputy Environmental councillor, Antonio Escamez, the swampy area is now "an obligatory stop for many migrating birds, and the results for our 2016 census could not be better."

The permanent ringing station at the park is in action all year round, except during the breeding season, with the most common last year being the reed warbler (137 individuals), chiffchaff (96), blackcap (55), robin (53) and Cetti's warbler (48).

Particularly important species inhabiting the reserve include kingfisher, wryneck, purple swamphen and the critically endangered crested coot.



CRITICALLY ENDANGERED: The crested, or red-knobbed, coot.

## New car park in Motril

THANKS to the release of funds amounting to €57,000, an empty plot owned by the Motril Council, situated between Calle Melaza and Calle Cañadu, will be converted into a much needed municipal car park for local residents.

Expected to take about two months to complete, the work will not just concentrate on making another tarmac jungle but will include a small green area for local people to enjoy.

The decision to undertake this work was made following complaints from people in the area who found the derelict site unpleasant, with weeds growing and dust blowing around when it was windy so this change of use should be welcomed locally.

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**NEWS EXTRA****Snow Queen**

CHILDREN young and old had a great time when they visited Teatro del Carmen in Velez-Málaga to see the travelling musical the Snow Queen based on the fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen.

**Nerja budget**

DESPITE losing some government support, but keeping additional income from the Junta de Andalucía, the Nerja Council has announced that its budget allocation for 2017 will be set at €30,985,000.

**Cleaner streets**

THE Torre del Mar Council has been undertaking a great deal of street cleaning throughout the town over a period of 10 days in an effort to make it more attractive and presentable.

# Spanish exports record growth in 2016

**ALL-TIME HIGH: For Spanish exports.**

By John Smith

THERE was some positive financial news as the Spanish government announced that the value of exports had hit an all-time high and the trade deficit had shrunk by 27.1 per cent in the period January to November 2016.

As imports fell by 0.9 per cent to €250.11 billion in the period under review, the trade deficit fell to €16.1 billion in one of the best years since 1977, beaten only by the result in 2013.

The positive performance of Spanish exports between January and Novem-

ber is in contrast to that of Spain's neighbours. In the Eurozone, exports increased slightly (0.2 per cent) while in the European Union as a whole exports shrank by 0.6 per cent.

Exports were up in Germany (0.8 per cent) and Italy (0.7 per cent), but less so than in Spain, and were down in France (-1.8 per cent) and the United Kingdom (-1.5 per cent), with figures for the USA (-4 per cent), China (-6.4 per cent), and Japan (-8.5 per cent) being far worse.

Main improvements in exports were seen in capital goods, the automotive sector, and food, drink and tobacco, al-

though growth of imports was also seen in the same sectors.

Exports to the EU which amount to 66.5 per cent of all exports grew by 4 per cent whilst sales to other countries throughout the world saw some falls although Canada, China, Hong Kong and Morocco saw significant and welcome increases.

Spain's trade surplus with the EU stood at €1.71 billion in November 2016 compared to €554 million in November 2015 but the trade deficit with non-EU countries increased by 23 per cent over the November 2015 results to €2.96 billion.

## Illegal firearms seized

ACTING as part of a pan-European investigation, with assistance from Europol, the Guardia Civil from its involvement in Operation Bosphorus has announced that it arrested 46 people, seized 247 firearms and more than 23,000 cartridges.

In Spain, four illicit factories were also closed down together with two illegal internet gun shops with arrests taking place in A Coruña, Albacete, Alicante, Almería, Badajoz, Barcelona, Bizkaia, Córdoba, Granada, Huelva, Huesca, Jaen, Madrid, Málaga, Murcia, Sevilla, Tarragona, and Zaragoza provinces.

Many had been obtained from Eastern Europe and were supposedly made inoperable but the various firearms workshops were able to convert them back to working models and manufacture cartridges.

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# Supreme Court confirms parliament must be consulted over Article 50



## BREXIT PAGE

By John Smith

THE Supreme Court has rejected the government appeal against the High Court decision requiring that parliament should vote on the triggering of Article 50 of the Lisbon agreement by eight votes to three on January 24.

In summing up the decision made by the majority of 11 Supreme Court judges, Lord Neuberger explained that the overall view was that whilst the government could make decisions of this sort under most circumstances, on this occasion, as the rights of the British people would be affected, that parliament must have a say.

In addition, the judges unanimously agreed that in the case of the devolved assemblies, there was no obligation to allow them to add their approval as this was a decision to be made by the government of the



**SUPREME COURT JUDGES: Decided parliament must have a say.**

“The overall view was that whilst the government could make decisions of this sort under most circumstances, on this occasion parliament must have a say.”

United Kingdom, supported or rejected by members of parliament representing all of the UK voters.

The immediate response from the Attorney General on behalf of the government was that it was disappointed with the decision but would comply with the ruling.

As Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn announced that he had no intention of voting against the decision to implement Article 50, there seems little likelihood of the government being defeated.

## ‘My new Maggie’ to meet with Trump

ALTHOUGH much was made of the fact that Prime Minister Theresa May was the 10th leader to be called after Donald Trump won the US presidential election, she has turned the tables and will be the first major world leader to meet him as president when she travels to Washington on January 27.

Whilst she was quick to explain to interviewer Andrew Marr on BBC TV that she would be confronting him on a number of matters including NATO, treatment of women and his policies with regards to Muslims and other minorities as well as Syria and terrorism, there is little doubt that a trade agreement will be uppermost in her mind.

Having suffered the embarrassment of losing the government’s appeal to the Supreme Court and being told in no uncertain terms by the European Union that she can’t pick and choose what she wants from any future negotiations on immigration and trade, she needs to be able to show that Britain can stand alone.

President Trump has sent Mrs May (who he refers to as ‘my new Maggie’) an indication that he wants the relationship between America and Britain to be as close as it was under the Reagan administration and that he would be happy to put a new trade deal in place quickly.

Unfortunately for Mrs May, under current EU rules, EU countries cannot make separate trade deals with non-EU countries so whilst she may be able to thrash out the terms, she can’t actually implement the agreement until Britain leaves or EU rules are changed.

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# The Phoenix Club's future adventures

IT'S a busy time ahead for The Phoenix Club with lots of trips and activities to look forward to.

There will be a trip to the new shopping centre in Granada, which has several floors of shops and restaurants and a great view of the snow capped Sierra Nevadas, on Friday February 10. The cost for the trip is €14.50 per person and the coach will leave Algarrobo Lidl at 9am and also pick up in Torre del Mar.

On Saturday February 18 they are off to Mijas Pueblo, a historical and artistic complex which climbs up the Sierra de Mijas. The old town is a typical Muslim village, the parts of the old walls are still standing offering great panoramic views of the Costa del Sol from their beautiful gardens.

There's lots to see and do in Mijas. Take a stroll along the old cobbled streets, stop for a tapas or two, have a look at the museums and just enjoy the hustle and bustle.

There is an opportunity to visit the Mayan Monkey Chocolate Workshop and try your hand at making chocolate but this would be an extra cost.

The cost is €14 per person with coach pick ups at Algarrobo Lidl at 9am and then Torre del Mar bus station at 9.15am and will leave Mijas at 4.30pm.

It's off to the zoo on Friday March 18 with a visit to the zoo at Castellar de la Frontera. Started as a private rescue sanctuary in 1998, Zoo de Castellar is not your typical zoo as either customs or the police has rescued all of the animals.

In 2002 the rescue sanctuary opened to the public so that it could raise funds and also educate visitors as to animals' plight and it has more than 500 animals from a range of 120 different species. The cost is €30 per person and includes a €1 gratuity for the driver. Lunch is not included. The bus departs Algarrobo Lidl at 8.30am with a stop for breakfast.

Early booking is recommended if you like a particular place on the bus as seat numbers are allocated on a first come, first served basis. There is also a trip to see the theatre show Stars of the West End on Friday March 24 at the beautiful Las Lagunas

who have all starred in leading roles in the top West End musicals, will feature in the performance. The coach will depart from Algarrobo Lidl at 6pm and the cost, including concert ticket,

**“The old town is a typical Muslim village, the parts of the old walls are still standing.”**



MIJAS PUEBLO: Has lots to see and do.

Theatre in Mijas Costa.

The audience at the theatre production will hear songs from The Phantom of the Opera, Les Misérables, Jersey Boys, Oliver, Mamma Mia, Miss Saigon and many more during a two-hour show (two acts with a 20-minute interval).

Mike Sterling, Lisa-Anne Wood and Michael Conway, all principle performers who have all starred in leading roles in the top West End musicals, will feature in the performance.

The coach will depart from Algarrobo Lidl at 6pm and the cost, including concert ticket,

coach fare and driver's gratuity, is €32 per person. Payment is required at the time of booking.

For more information on any of the club's activities or to book please contact Gail on 951 067 723, email phoenixsocialclub@yahoo.co.uk or visit www.phoenixsocialclub.co.uk.

The Phoenix Club is a registered association raising funds for three local charities and Help4Heroes in the UK. It meets every Tuesday at the bar restaurant La Vega in Torre del Mar between 12 and 2pm and you can book or pay from 12.15pm onwards.

Do pop in and meet the group. You can find La Vega behind the Repsol Garage on the way out of Torre towards Benajarafa.



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# Competa Art Walk

IN keeping with the cultural and artistic history of Cómpe-ta and indeed the province of Malaga, Semana Santa 2017 will once again see various international artists flock to Cómpe-ta to show their art and meet art lovers from April 12 until April 16.

Since its inception almost 10 years ago, the Cómpe-ta Art Walk has grown in size and fame each year. Especially during the last three years, since Dutch artist and gallery-owner Lieuwke Loth took over organising the event, the Art Walk has grown considerably.

This year the Art Walk will be host to professional artists from countries such as Denmark, Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, England and more. On display will be paintings, drawings, textile art, ceramic art, bronze sculptures, turned wood and jewellery.

The local and visiting artists will be delighted to

meet with visitors, and talk about their inspiration, vision, and techniques - offering visitors a unique opportunity to meet art and artist in person.

Not to mention Cómpe-ta itself, a special kind of town. Perched high in the foothills of the Sierra Almijarra, this traditional 'pueblo blanco' combines stunning sea and mountain views, winding streets, a broad variety of excellent cuisine and an adorable community. The town is easy to reach at 60 minutes from Malaga.

If you are looking for high quality arts and crafts along with a fantastic atmosphere then the Cómpe-ta Artwalk is the place to be! Visit Cómpe-ta for a few days and discover all that it has to offer.

For more information, images, or interviews, please contact the Artwalk Organisation by email at [artcompeta@gmail.com](mailto:artcompeta@gmail.com) or visit [www.artcompeta.com](http://www.artcompeta.com).



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## Lux Mundi activities

ON Monday February 6 the Half Orange 'bring and share' lunch group for widows, widowers and singles will meet at 1pm. You are welcome to join them at the centre to make and meet new friends. They also meet on the other Mondays of the month for coffee, walks and visits to places of interest.

The photography group will meet at 4pm on Tuesday February 7. Go along and learn the art of photography with Rob Bell photography. Open to all, from beginners to more experienced photographers, regardless of the type of camera you use.

This season the group will look at various styles of photography and computer software. There's something for everyone but don't forget to bring your camera!!!

For further information and bookings contact the centre in Torre del Mar on 952 543 334 or [luxmundi@lux-mundi.org](mailto:luxmundi@lux-mundi.org). Please note bookings cannot be made through the website and cards cannot be accepted.

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**NEWS FROM OUR FIVE OTHER REGIONS**

# Pensioners help the needy

**COSTA BLANCA NORTH****WELCOME DONATION: From the Albir Retired Association.***By Caroline Tyszka*

A PENSION group in Albir has raised over €2,000 for the Alfaz del Pi food bank.

The Retired Association Raco of Albir presented a cheque for €2,145 at a special meeting held at the town hall in Alfaz del Pi.

The Social Volunteer Association of Alfaz del Pi has been opened since January 2013 and is run by 45 volunteers who dedicate their free time to the collection, sorting and distributing of clothing and food. They also care for the sick and the elderly.

Mayor Vicente Arques, the councillor for Social Welfare Vicenta Baldo and the vice president of the retired association, Lola Colomera, were among those to welcome receiving the cheque. Carmen Soto, from the volunteer association, thanked everyone for their constant support, both from private donations and public institutions.

**COSTA DEL SOL**

## Road safety

WORK to widen and resurface a stretch of main road linking Manilva and Gaucin has started. The contract for the A-377 is worth more than €4.3 million and will mean improvements to nearly 27 of the road's 29 kilometres.

## Burglar caught

POLICE called to a Marbella restaurant after neighbours heard the sound of breaking glass found a man hiding inside. The suspect, a 30-year-old from Morocco, is accused of breaking into the premises

## Burned out car

THE body of a man has been found in a burned out car in Marbella. Investigators believe he may have been shot.

## Carer held

A WOMAN has been arrested after four withdrawals totalling €1,200 were made from the account of man who had hired her as a carer. The man, who uses a wheelchair, had given the woman his PIN number because he has difficulty getting to a cash machine.

## Drugs for weapons

POLICE have broken up a gang of arms traffickers in Costa del Sol accused of selling weapons for drugs. The arsenal seized included four grenade launchers, a machine gun and an AK-47 assault rifle.

## Two die

TWO people have died in an accident between two vehicles in Estepona. Emergency services were alerted to the accident at the entrance to an industrial estate.

**COSTA BLANCA SOUTH**

## Landslides strike

STRONG winds caused a landslide in Alcoy in the area known as Beniata, crushing parked cars and closing off the roads. Fallen trees also caused problems.

## Solidarity race

THE solidarity race 'Colours against gender violence' gathered in Murcia with around 3,000 people taking part showing their commitment to gender equality and the eradication of abuse.

## Vehicle fire

A CAR fire in La Mata caused damage to the facade of a building, damaging the front of an estate agency. A resident reported the car was on fire in the early hours of the morning. No one was hurt.

## No signal

NEIGHBOURS in the golf area of San Juan were left without any TV after the poor weather conditions knocked out the antennas and gave a poor signal. Systems were back up and running as temperatures rose.

## Husband jailed

AN Elche man has been sentenced to a year in jail for breaking a restraining order against his ex-wife. The woman reported his violent behaviour and he was ordered to stop all contact but was jailed for continual WhatsApp messages.

**MALLORCA**

## Fire damage

FIVE people were treated for smoke inhalation after a fire broke out on the fourth floor of an apartment complex in Pere Garau, Palma.

## Swimming danger

A TOTAL of 38 people died in Balearic waters in 2016, up from 30 people in 2015. Mallorca accounted for 26 of the deaths. Meanwhile 51 people were rescued.

## Sprucing up

NEW street lighting and better pavements will be brought to Palma as €140,000 is being ploughed into renovating multiple districts across the city.

## Hardcore patriots

SANT Sebastia revellers braved the cold in Palma to celebrate the city's patron saint's day and enjoy music from around 40 handpicked local bands. Some of them even set up barbecues.

## Drilling ban

THE Balearic Parliament has proposed a bill to ban oil drilling in the Spanish Mediterranean. It would forbid all exploration and production in a bid to save the environment.

**COSTA BLANCA NORTH**

## Film festival

THE date has been set for the 29th Alfaz Film Festival which will be held from July 7 to 16, according to Alfaz mayor Vicente Arques.

## Easy accessibility

BENIDORM Council has signed an agreement to make the resort one of the most accessible holiday destinations in Spain.

## Near thing

A CAR parked in Calle Beniarrés (Moraira) hung over a four-metre drop after a retaining wall collapsed due to heavy rain. The car was later removed by a tow-truck.

## Eco Alcoy

ALCOY recycled 2,745 tonnes of waste in 2016, an increase on the 2015 figures with more paper and cardboard being collected in the town's blue containers.

## River rescue

A 53-YEAR-OLD German man spent the night trapped in his car before being rescued by the emergency services. He had tried to cross the Guadalest River between Callosa and Polop when he got caught in the current. He was unharmed.

**COSTA DE ALMERÍA**

## Alleged gun owner

A YOUNG man from Albox has been arrested suspected of being the owner of a pistol found in a cardboard package wrapped in sellotape behind the urinals in a station bathroom at Alicante train station.

## Desert on wheels

TWO hundred bikers will be crossing 41 municipalities in Almeria Province during the Desert Adventure, a non-competitive Paris-Dakar Rally style event to be held for the fifth year running on May 27-28.

## Good results

THE University of Almeria registered 12 patents for new discoveries in 2016, the Investigation Result Transfer office reported.

## Emergency rescue

THE Guardia Civil had to help a doctor and a nurse reach an emergency in Sorbas after their ambulance got stuck in the snow on the AL-1101 road.

## More people

ALMERIA Province had a total of 704,297 residents registered on January 1, 2016, 0.4 per cent more than a year beforehand, according to a new report from the National Statistics Institute.

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## NORWAY

Diesel  
ban

AS air pollution levels rose to dangerous levels in Oslo, the city implemented its first ever ban on diesel vehicles on the roads between 6am and 10pm.



OSLO: Suffers from high air pollution levels. |

## Bribery sentence

THE American chief legal adviser of Norwegian company Yara International, has been sentenced to seven years in jail for aggravated bribery in Libya and India to win contracts.

## Norwegian base

AROUND 300 US Marines have arrived in Norway for a rotational deployment. Norway accepted a US request to station troops in the country, much to the anger of Russia amid

rising tensions with the West.

## Israeli ban

TRONDHEIM has approved a plan to boycott all Israeli goods produced in settlements in the occupied Palestinian areas as the settlements are illegal.

## FRANCE

## Real contender

EMMANUEL MACRON, considered a wild card in the upcoming French Presidential elections, has seen his support rise in opinion polls with his popularity gaining momentum.

## Space walk

FRENCH astronaut Thomas Pesquet has carried out his first ever space walk as he carried out work changing batter-

ies to upgrade the power system at the International Space Station. He is only the fourth French astronaut to perform a space walk.

## CCTV controls

CCTV is to be installed in abattoirs across France to improve transparency and controls over what goes on in the facilities. The move has been approved

after a damning report showing animal cruelty at abattoirs.

## Melt down

POLICE have said they believe the gold and jewels stolen from American reality star Kim Kardashian in Paris last year, have already been melted down and the diamonds recut ready to be sold on.

## SWEDEN

## 10 million

THE population of Sweden is expected to hit the 10 million mark any time now, according to number crunchers using their 'population clock.' This could be a newborn child or a person who gets their residence permit.

## Costly burger

LIKE your Big Macs? Well avoid Sweden and Norway. Sweden has the world's third most expensive Big Macs, behind only Switzerland and Norway according to the Economist magazine.

## Hospital reported

A PREGNANT woman has died in a Swedish hospital. The hospital reported itself to the watchdog saying overcrowding may have to be blame as no beds were available for her and she had to stay in an emergency room overnight.

## Arctic breakdown

THE village of Nattavaara, close to the Arctic Circle, rallied around to provide food, drink and warm clothing to passengers stranded on a train that broke down as it passed through the village and temperatures dropped to minus 38 degrees.

## HOLLAND

## Tourists depart

AS a state of emergency was declared in the Gambia, Dutch tourists on holiday were advised to leave with holiday companies such as TUI and Corendon arranging flights to get them out of the country.

## More tulips

THE tulip industry is expected to break the two billion flower barrier in 2017, for the first ever time. Last year 1.9 billion blooms were grown, but that is expected to increase this year.

## Deer cull

THOUSANDS of deer living east of Amsterdam are to be culled. Noord-Holland wants to reduce the deer population to 1,000 to reduce damage to the environment and reduce road accidents involving the animals.

## Body farm

DECOMPOSING dead bodies will be studied after a teaching hospital in Amsterdam was permitted to study bodies buried in a small cemetery in its own grounds. The cemetery is the first of its kind in the country.

## GERMANY

## Election date

SEPTEMBER 24 has been proposed as the date for Germany's parliamentary elections. President Joachim Gauck has now to confirm the date.

## Formal invite

MUNICH'S mayor has invited outgoing US President Barack Obama to their famous beer festival after he commented he has sadly continued to miss the event and would love to attend.

## Celibacy choice

ELEVEN high-ranking Catholic

priests who have now retired, have called for an end to celibacy. Reviewing their 50 years as clergy, they believe it should be a choice as some priests face isolation.

Remembrance  
service

A MEMORIAL service has been held across Berlin to remember the victims of the Christmas market attacks a month ago. A candle was lit for each of the 12 people who lost their lives.

## BELGIUM

## Drunk on duty

AN investigation has launched after three police officers from Brussels were arrested for being drunk in a cafe whilst still in uniform and armed.

## New president

THE European Parliament named Antonio Tajani (European People's Party or EPP) as the new President of the European Parliament following the fourth and final round of voting.

## Popular property

THERE were 8.2 per cent more

property transactions carried out in Belgium last year compared to 2015. As property prices remained stable, experts said low interest rates have made property more accessible for young people increasing sales.

## Fines paid

THE Treasury recovered around €16.5 million in unpaid fines last year thanks to new methods of collection being introduced such as salary deductions and number plate recognition. Ministers hope the improved systems will reduce the number of people trying to avoid paying such fines.

## DENMARK

## Toddler testing

CALLS are being made for mandatory language testing of all three-year-olds to ensure those who are behind get extra help before reaching school.

## Danish words

'DANSKHED' or 'Danishness,' was voted Denmark's word of the year for 2016 after a list of 100 suggestions. Danish word 'Hygge' was also a contender for the English word of the year.

## Negotiations ready

DENMARK'S Prime Minister

has said the country is ready to cooperate with the UK in negotiating a new free trade agreement as Denmark has 'an enormous interest in cooperating with the UK on trade, combating terror and education.'

## Work balance

A STANDARD full-time working week in Denmark is 37.5 hours, meaning Danes put in fewer hours than almost everyone else in the EU. Only workers in France and Slovakia have a lower average.



# EU on the Spanish deficit

By John Smith

A REPORT from the European Commission stated that Spain's budget for 2017 appeared to be in accord with EU rules concerning budget deficit, but it needs to be aware that it may need to take additional action if required.

As has been much publicised, Spain amongst other members has regularly missed deficit targets and risked significant fines or withdrawal of financial support unless it took drastic action to

**€1,166 billion**

*is the estimated debt that the Spanish government will carry forward at the end of 2017.*

bring the economy into line with EU expectations.

Part of the ongoing problem was blamed on the lack of a government for so long, but now that the Partido Popular has been

accepted to lead a minority administration, it is expected that it will take steps to rectify the situation.

The economy is currently one of the healthiest in the Union but it is

anticipated that the 2017 deficit will be 3.3 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) - which is the difference between government income and expenditure - against a budget of 3.1 per cent and the forecast for 2018 is currently 2.8 per cent against a budget of 2.2 per cent.

In order to reach these figures, the government has been forced to make a number of major expenditure cuts as well as requiring businesses to pay certain taxes such as IVA much earlier.

## Airline safety

AIR INDIA has announced that it plans to introduce women only seating sections on a number of its flights due to an increasing number of complaints concerning unwelcomed attention, sometimes physical from male passengers in adjacent seats.

The airline will wherever possible set aside the first six rows in the economy section for women travelling alone or in groups.

At the same time, Korean Air have reacted to criticism that it was unable to restrain an unruly passenger by inviting the world's media to visit a training event where airline staff were instructed on the use of Tasers.

### Quote of the Week

*"I am pro-sensible trade, not trade that is to the disadvantage of the American worker and to the American manufacturing community."* Wilbur Ross, new commerce secretary in the Trump administration on protectionism.



## Car production on the increase



Photo Credit: Mike Fernandez Shutterstock

**NEW CARS: Contribute to the Spanish economy.**

By John Smith

WHILST there is every reason to be pleased with results of car manufacture in Spain in 2016 which is up 5.6 per cent over the previous year, the manufacturers association ANFAC warns that Brexit may depress future results.

With just under 2.9 million vehicles produced together with 1.9 million engines and 1.73 million gear boxes, the situation was very good for the car industry

which contributes a significant amount to the Spanish economy as more than 80 per cent of its production is exported.

Brexit fears however have already hurt the sector in the latter part of the year as the fall in the value of the pound has increased sales prices in the UK and if Britain takes a protectionist stance following Brexit, then it may become more difficult and more expensive for the Spanish industry to remain in that market.

### » BUSINESS EXTRA

## Vegemite returns

ICONIC and possibly addictive yeast food brand Vegemite will return to Australian ownership after several years of foreign ownership as Bega Cheese agreed to buy a range of well-known food brands in a deal worth €322 million.

## Wage reductions

IT is calculated that once inflation is taken into consideration together with loss of certain long service and expenses benefits that of all civil servants, teachers and university professors have seen the largest drop in their personal income.

## Building No 3

AS part of what appears to be an investment strategy in Madrid, British company Princeton Investments plc has purchased its third building in the city, this time from Telefonica for €25 million, with the intention of expanding further within Spain.

## Bank staff leaving London

ON the day after Theresa May's Brexit speech, the heads of two international banks, HSBC and USB each announced that they intended to move about 1,000 jobs in their European investment divisions out of London.

HSBC expects to resite its staff in Paris whilst USB is most likely to move its people to Frankfurt, both cities being in the forefront of those trying to poach finance jobs from London post Brexit.

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# World Economic Forum in Davos

By John Smith

WHILST many conspiracy theorists comment on the fact that the World Economic Forum meeting held in Davos, Switzerland each year is a front for a small group dominating the world, there is no doubt that it attracts politicians from every continent.

**“The Forum engages businesses in projects and initiatives to address industry, regional and systemic issues.”**

In its own words, “the Forum provides a platform for the world’s 1,000 leading companies to shape a better future. As a membership organisation, the Forum engages businesses in projects and initiatives - online and offline - to address industry, regional and systemic issues.”

To some extent therefore there is little doubt that this organisation does help to shape future decisions as the members contribute so much to the economies of so many countries and



**WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM: Theresa May speaking in Davos.**

whilst there are any number of public speeches and meetings, it would be naive to assume that no other deals take place in private.

This year saw the first visit from a Chinese leader as Xi Jinping addressed members with a thinly veiled message for President Elect Trump

about the dangers of a potential trade war and the advantages of globalisation.

Theresa May rushed over to Davos following her Brexit speech at Lancaster House and explained her view of the future for Britain, Europe and the rest of the world and warned

multinational organisations that they need to pay more tax to ensure fairer treatment for individuals.

As far as she is concerned, she believes “It is essential for business to show leadership - to show that in this globalised world, everyone is playing by the same rules.” In addition, she

wants them to forget short term profits and invest in helping individuals and the community for the long term.

This view agrees with that of Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund who has also called for fairer treatment for individuals where big business uses globalisation to reduce its tax obligations to the detriment of the economies of a number of countries.

Mrs May has also indicated that she intends to make Britain a world leader in free trade, although it would appear that she will be unable to negotiate any of these trade deals until such time as Britain has physically left the European Union, by which time there could well be less than one year before a new General Election in the UK.

Davos is an important event which also highlights the fact that so few women are involved in the forum that rules have been introduced (and sometimes ignored) that each member company should bring one woman for every four men who attend, whilst every organised discussion should have at least one woman on the panel.

# Rolls-Royce agrees massive bribery fine

By John Smith

ROLLS-ROYCE HOLDINGS PLC which is responsible for the production of engines for the aeronautical industry has issued a public apology and agreed to pay fines totalling £671 million (€771 million) to Britain, Brazil and the USA.

This deal which is being made under the Deferred Prosecution Agreement (DFA) will save them from a number of proposed criminal prosecutions for what it admits was endemic bribery in order to win contracts over an extended period.

The main bulk of the fine, £479 million (€550 million) will be paid to the British government with a further £141 million (€162 million) being paid to the US Department of Justice, with the balance being paid to Brazil.

Introduction of the DFA system in the UK is relatively recent and this is without doubt the largest agreed settlement ever reached in Britain, but it is fairly common in the USA and has been in regular use with regards to agreed fines for banks who acted improperly in the run up and subsequent to the financial problems of 2008.

Sources suggest that the decision to reach these agreements now was in part due to fears that the new President might have been tempted to instruct the DOJ to take an even tougher stance

The investigation by the UK Serious Fraud Office (SFO) started in 2012 when certain information concerning the use of bribes to obtain business for the company was brought to its attention.



**BA aircraft with a Rolls-Royce engine.**

As investigations proceeded and with the full cooperation of what was effectively a new management team, it became clear that bribery was almost the norm rather than the exception for several years, with payments amounting to as much as \$36 million (€34 million) being paid to ensure that contracts were obtained.

In some cases, the company ‘turned a blind eye’ to bribes being made by agents or intermediaries whilst in other cases it was complicit in the actual payments which were alleged to have been made to companies in Angola, Azerbaijan, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Russia and Thailand.

The current management of the company will continue to give the SFO access to documents even though they have reportedly examined 30 million already and

this agreement is seen as something of a triumph for the department which has seen many investigations fall down in the past.

Although the company, which is no longer associated with the car manufacturer owned by BMW, is safe from prosecution, the Crown Prosecution Service will be considering whether there is sufficient evidence to bring criminal prosecutions against any individuals involved at the time.

# Manchester United makes a Super Rich fortune to top revenue table

By John Smith

THEY may be out of the Champions League this year but Manchester United have topped the revenue league table prepared annually by financial consultants Deloitte for the first time in 12 years.

If anyone doubts the value of top class football teams then the 10 most successful clubs earned €5.228 billion between them with five of the top 10 coming from the Premier League.

For the last 11 years, Real Madrid has been the most financially successful club followed by Barcelona with Manchester United in third place but this year, with income of €689 million, the British club has pushed Los Blancos (Real Madrid) to third position with Barcelona pipping them to second place by just €100,000.

Every club in the top 10 has seen an increase in income for 2015-2016, with the average in-



**MANCHESTER UNITED:** Increased profits are generated through tickets sales and TV rights.

crease being 12 per cent.

Although many smaller clubs around Europe are finding it difficult to generate sufficient income, those who are at the top consistently generate increased profits through tickets sales, TV rights and most importantly merchandising.

Deloitte forecasts that the next season could see another turnaround as United will not be in the Champions League, will face increased pressure on salaries and transfer fees due to continued Chinese expansion and may well also suffer from a weaker pound.

A very important part of the revenue stream for the Manchester club has been in respect of commercial and merchandising deals which have seen an additional €100 million in income, but other clubs are likely to learn from the Manchester United lesson.

THE international charity Oxfam has released a report to tie in with the World Economic Forum in Davos that states that eight men own as much wealth as the 3.6 billion people who make up the poorest half of humanity.

The report entitled 'An economy for the 99 per cent' suggests that the gap between the rich and the poor is actually getting greater and that the super rich, both corporate and individuals are using their wealth to screen themselves from paying taxes, for influencing politicians and driving down wages.

Whilst all of the eight richest people in the world are men and the majority come from the USA, there is one Spaniard, Amancio Ortega of Inditex and a Mexican, Carlos Slim.

Previously it was thought that the major wealth of the planet was held by 62 individuals, but this figure has been drastically reappraised following new data concerning poverty levels in China and India, both of which boast many millionaires although millions of people exist on meagre daily incomes.

Oxfam is calling on business leaders to play their part in building a human economy by ensuring their businesses pay a living wage and individuals around the globe can join the campaign at [www.evenitup.org](http://www.evenitup.org).

## Losing mental capacity whilst living abroad

by Stone King

Charlotte Macdonald

Contact me at [international@stoneking.co.uk](mailto:international@stoneking.co.uk)



MANY UK expatriates living in Spain own properties in the UK and have pensions and investments in the UK. They rely on their UK assets to maintain their lifestyles (and those of their families) in Spain. If they can no longer manage their affairs in the UK due to a loss of mental capacity, it can cause many difficulties.

**“ You can choose a person or people, who you trust, to act for you when you are no longer able. ”**

The best way to avoid the legal and practical difficulties that can occur with the loss of mental capacity is to plan for it in advance by drawing up a document called a 'Lasting Power of Attorney' ('LPA').



**An LPA must be made while you have full mental capacity.**

**What is an LPA?**

An LPA is a legal document that enables you to appoint one or more attor-

neys to act for you when you are no longer able to act for yourself.

Your attorney can be a professional,

such as a solicitor or a family member or friend.

There are two types of LPA: 'Health and Welfare' or 'Property and Financial Affairs'

An LPA must be made while you have full mental capacity. It is therefore important to make one while you are in good health.

**Why should you get an LPA?**

You can choose a person or people, who you trust, to act for you when you are no longer able.

If you lose your mental capacity and do not have an LPA, then your family (or the authorities) will have no choice but to make an application to the Court of Protection to appoint a 'deputy' to look after your affairs, which can be time consuming and costly.

**Will my LPA be recognised in Spain?**

Unfortunately there is no international type of LPA which is guaranteed to work in both the UK and Spain.

The advice we give to our clients at Stone King, is that if you have assets in both Spain and the UK, your only safe option is to appoint attorneys in both jurisdictions.



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# Most exciting thing to happen

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT  
OTHERS THINK IT



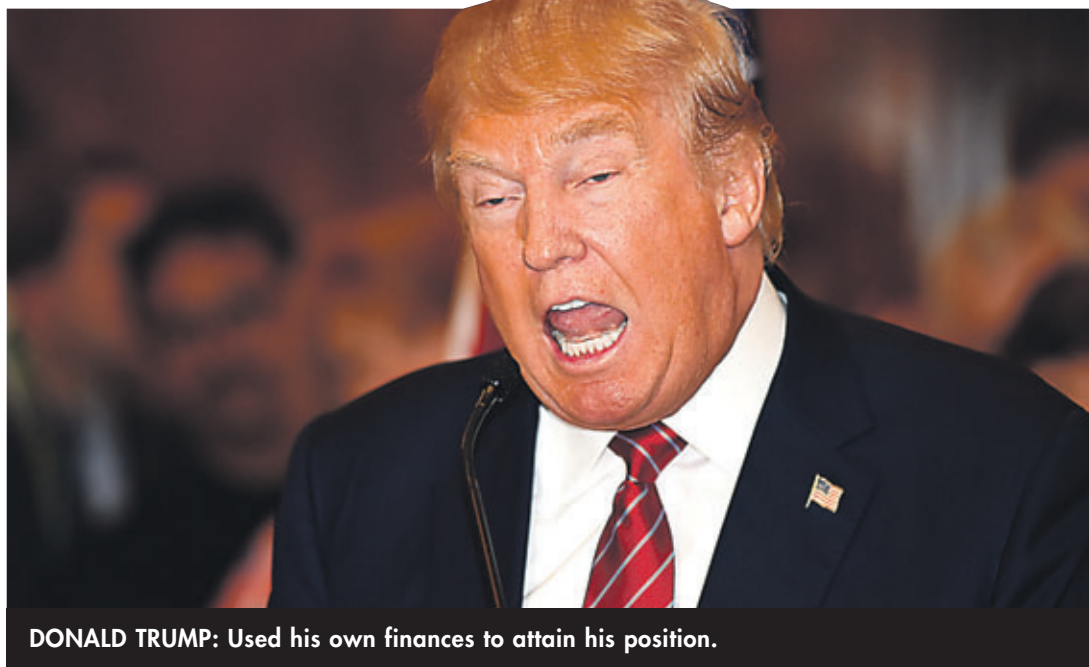
HOPEFULLY the cry of 'Donald Duck' won't be heard issuing from the lips of the new president's bodyguards for a while.

Although many of the dissenters would love to see the red spot appear between Mr Trump's eyes, I for one am delighted to see this largely unknown entity emerge as the leader of the free world. I found his inauguration speech particularly invigorating.

And you know why? Because, despite the waffling and his somewhat blustery style of delivery, you can't help feeling that he's speaking from the heart.

Gone were the old empty political cliches and lies, that glibly pour from the lips of the career politicians - irrespective of which party they represent.

In its place we heard a man, not bought by campaign backers, who use their puppet politicians



**DONALD TRUMP:** Used his own finances to attain his position.

as a means to their own ends, but a man who used his own finances to attain his position and who owes no allegiance to those powerful companies and countries that manipulate and influence the

limp-wristed leaders of our so called democratic societies. And the biggest plus of all?

He's a businessman. I've lost track of the amount of times this blurb has reflected that this planet

is a business. To be a successful and fair place for all its inhabitants it must be run by business people, with boards of directors and decision makers, that have only the sweet smell of overall



Despite the waffling, you can't help feeling that he's speaking from the heart.

success to give them the enthusiasm and impetuous to make our world a better place.

Well I for one, despite the vitriolic reactions I have received from a number of people! Can't wait to see what Corporation Trump has in store for planet Earth. Coupled with the freedom we are about to experience by casting off the shackles of the now mortally wounded, ego-riddled EU, I think the future we are about to experience is probably the most exciting thing that has happened to the human race since the conquest of space. Bring it on.

*Keep the Faith*

*Love Leapy*

*leapylee2002@gmail.com*

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### Word Ladder

FEEL

SLIM

Move from the start word (FEEL) to the end word (SLIM) in the same number of steps as there are rungs on the Word Ladder. You must only change one letter at a time.

- WITS
  - DITS
  - SLED
  - (SEED)
  - FLED
  - FEED
  - FEEL
- Solution

### MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



THAT IS NO CHINESE NEW YEAR ROOSTER - THAT'S A RHODE ISLAND RED THOROUGHBRED CROWING FOR HIS PRESIDENT!

### Weather

### for next 7 days

Alicante			Madrid		
TODAY: Max 14, Min 11 - C			TODAY: Max 8, Min 3 - SH		
Fri - 15 10 Sh	Mon - 16 10 C		Fri - 9 2 Sh	Mon - 13 2 S	
Sat - 15 10 Sh	Tues - 16 11 C		Sat - 11 2 C	Tues - 12 4 C	
Sun - 15 10 Sh	Wed - 16 11 Sh		Sun - 13 1 C	Wed - 12 5 Sh	
Almeria			Malaga		
TODAY: Max 15, Min 9 - C			TODAY: Max 14, Min 12 - C		
Fri - 15 9 Sh	Mon - 17 9 C		Fri - 13 8 Sh	Mon - 17 8 C	
Sat - 15 8 Sh	Tues - 18 10 C		Sat - 16 7 C	Tues - 17 10 C	
Sun - 17 8 Sh	Wed - 18 12 Sh		Sun - 17 7 C	Wed - 16 11 Sh	
Barcelona			Mallorca		
TODAY: Max 10, Min 5 - Cl			TODAY: Max 13, Min 6 - Cl		
Fri - 11 8 Sh	Mon - 13 5 Cl		Fri - 15 8 Sh	Mon - 14 8 Sh	
Sat - 10 6 Sh	Tues - 14 6 Cl		Sat - 14 7 Sh	Tues - 15 8 Cl	
Sun - 12 5 C	Wed - 13 6 C		Sun - 14 7 Sh	Wed - 15 9 Sh	
Benidorm			Bilbao		
TODAY: Max 14, Min 9 - C			TODAY: Max 13, Min 6 - C		
Fri - 15 10 Sh	Mon - 15 11 Sh		Fri - 12 6 Sh	Mon - 15 7 C	
Sat - 14 10 Sh	Tues - 16 11 Cl		Sat - 14 4 Sh	Tues - 15 8 C	
Sun - 15 10 Sh	Wed - 16 11 C		Sun - 13 4 C	Wed - 15 9 C	

S Sun, CI Clear, F Fog, C Cloudy, Sh Showers, Sn Snow, Th Thunder

Euro Weekly News accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the weather forecasts which are supplied by a third party.

### YOUR STARS

**PISCES ♋ (February 20 - March 20)**  
One thing is certain, when you come through this week's restless planetary antics, you won't be totally the same Piscean who walked in. Whether you're figuring out numbers, analysing your dreams, or getting into a playfully social mood, there'll be much to enjoy and put to the test.

**ARIES ♈ (March 21 - April 20)**  
Education, media, creative and social connections are given star merit. The solar eclipse in your own sign bursts with vitality and success, more so for an array of bold moves, replacements and makeovers covering your personal affairs.

**TAURUS ♉ (April 21 - May 21)**  
Stand by for a week of whoosh and whirl. More importantly, try to avoid getting tongue-tied or dogmatic on Tuesday and Friday.

**AQUARIUS ♒ (January 21 - February 19)**  
Eager Mars meets affluent Jupiter and enriches your financial forecast. It might show a foretaste of money to come, or on-stream benefits. If you intend to make alterations to your personal and home interests, you'll undoubtedly cope with both offbeat and upbeat activities.

Promising potentials appear, especially if you spruce up your competitive streak.

**GEMINI ♊ (May 22 - June 21)**  
Throughout this fortunate week, whatever else you decide, refuse to discard your hopes and wishes. As a Gemini, you like to have two strings to your bow of life, which gives you an alternative option, especially if the going gets tough.

**CANCER ♋ (June 22 - July 23)**  
A vivid star pattern portends a frantic personal and social diary. Ensure that any tight planning is carefully handled, especially if you hope to fit in everything you would like to say. Don't allow Monday or Wednesday's tensions to spoil opportunities for settling something important.

**LEO ♌ (July 24 - August 23)**  
Pave the way for any ambitious

schemes you may have, rather than actually starting them. With your ruler the Sun eclipsing your kindred fire sign, determined Aries, you are now more likely to get the support and affection you need from the powers that be or someone who thinks the world of you.

**VIRGO ♍ (August 24 - September 23)**  
Even if the opposite to what you want happens, it could prove useful. One clue to this week's planetary crossword puzzle is "What word could also mean success?" Check it out, and make it work for you.

**LIBRA ♎ (September 24 - October 23)**  
The solar eclipse in your opposite sign of Aries intensifies your willpower. Before you say "go," find out where you stand. It might pay you to leave things be for a little longer to see if anything begins to change.

**SCORPIO ♏ (October 24 - November 22)**  
The planets mobilise your streak of Scorpio daring, but don't stretch your limits. Your most effective weapon against personal and work-related pitfalls is your ability to be objective.

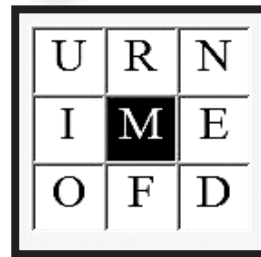
Your desire to make specific situations and conversations work needs to be combined with your faith that they will work.

**SAGITTARIUS ♐ (November 23 - December 21)**  
The main gist of the solar eclipse in fiery Aries and the link between plucky Mars and your ruler friendly Jupiter will stir surprises. Whether you create the right atmosphere all round depends on how you interpret other people's views.

**CAPRICORN ♑ (December 22 - January 20)**  
Hard-working, enterprising and self-sacrificing are just some of the words that describe your zodiac sign. It will be these qualities that count. Friday will boost your powers of persuasion, but you won't have too much to complain about if you follow this lucky trend into next week's encouraging tide.

### Nonagram

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 (in this case M) and there must be AT LEAST ONE NINE LETTER WORD. Plurals, vulgarities or proper nouns are not allowed.

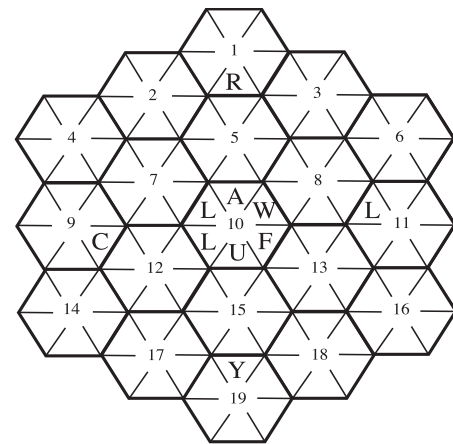
- TARGET:**
- Average: 11 • Good: 15
  - Very good: 22 • Excellent: 28

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

ache chad chat dahl dhal doth each echo echt etch hale halo halt hand hate head heat held hoed hold hole holt hone lath lech loch loth oath tach tanh tech than then ached ahold altho chant cheat chela cloth cohen death dhole doeth dhalon hated helot holed honed hotel latch lathe leach letch loach loath nacho natch neath notch teach tench thane thole chalet clothe dalesh detach haloed halted handle loathe techno cathode chanted clothed ethanol latched loathed notched DECATHLON

### Hexagram

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 (LAWFUL) and one letter in four other cells are given as clues.



- AIRWAY
- AROUND
- ARTERY
- DIAPER
- DULCET
- EYEFUL
- FAULTY
- FETTER
- FEUDAL
- FIDDLE
- INCITE
- KAISER
- LAWFUL (10)
- PLANAR
- QUARTZ
- RETAIL
- RUCKUS
- SCALAR
- WINKLE

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

1 Hereby 2 Cereal 3 Esteem 4 Garage 5 Warren 6 Possum 7 Reason 8 Octant 9 Blanch 10 Swanky 11 Poetic 12 Coyote 13 Entire 14 Heroic 15 Broken 16 Hearty 17 Tracer 18 Linear 19 Rabies.

### LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY	IRISH LOTTO	EURO MILLIONS		LA PRIMITIVA	EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA
Saturday January 21	Saturday January 21	Tuesday January 17	Friday January 20	Saturday January 21	Sunday January 22
4 13 37 40 52 58	18 21 22 23 24 36	4 16 25 43 47	10 17 27 31 49	4 9 15 29 37 45	11 20 23 32 40
BONUS BALL 51	BONUS BALL 45	LUCKY STARS 2 10	LUCKY STARS 3 5	REINTEGRO 1 2	REINTEGRO 8

### Sudoku

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.

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

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





## Crossword

page

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

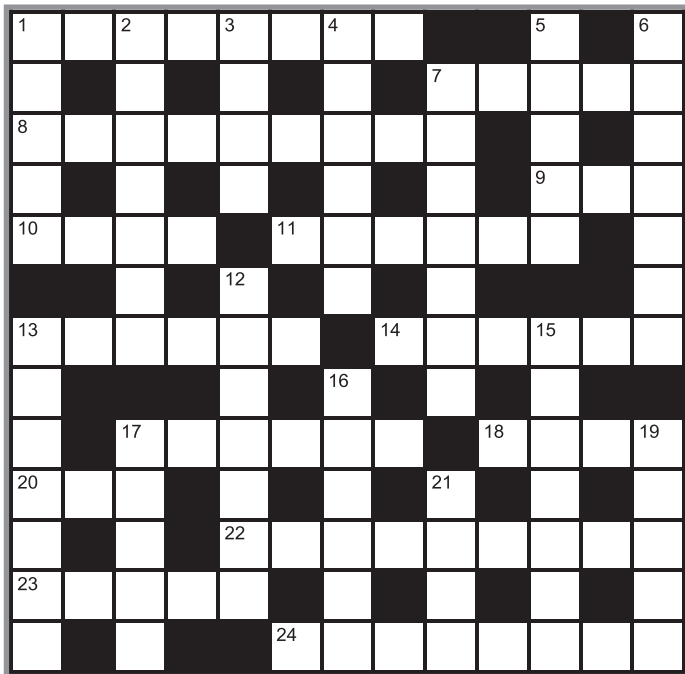
### Cryptic

**Across**

- 1 Incomparable like the House of Commons? (8)
- 7 Step inside, sir, thank you (5)
- 8 I hate cork cooked as a vegetable (9)
- 9 Raced from the veranda (3)
- 10 Perfect herb (4)
- 11 Political leader is involved in surprise attacks in fast-flowing water (6)
- 13 Presented by good man of advanced years (6)
- 14 Foolishly races a Roman emperor (6)
- 17 Blames cold pelts (6)
- 18 Very quick to go on a diet (4)
- 20 Regret the French way (3)
- 22 A luxury car is involved in domestic story (9)
- 23 Order some sudden action (5)
- 24 Forcible opening around English border (8)

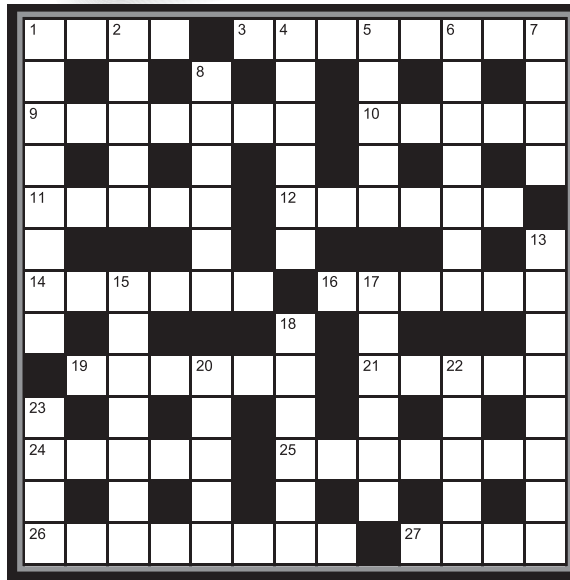
**Down**

- 1 The prime minister entertains little Sally with a hymn (5)
- 2 Country stretching from the Azores to Niagara Falls (7)
- 3 Rugby forward returned in polo-neck collar (4)
- 4 Rallying cry: 'Keep record in hospital' (6)



- 5 Hiding places for damaged rails (5)
- 6 One thousand rand for Her Majesty to make things more luxurious (7)
- 7 Half ran back for the meeting (7)
- 12 Aggressive drunk fainted (7)
- 13 Mark to allow bright red (7)
- 15 New disease from the coast (7)
- 16 King discovered echo in ravine (6)
- 17 Timber Ed put in vehicle (5)
- 19 Deal with Halloween choice? (5)
- 21 Start singing after kicking energy drink (4)

### Quick



**Across**

- 1/23 Polaris (4,4)
- 3 Showing careful forethought (8)
- 9 Move back (7)
- 10 Ordinary (5)
- 11 Strangely frightening (5)
- 12 Golfer's assistant (6)
- 14 Late meal (6)
- 16 Austria's capital (6)
- 19 Spanish rice dish (6)
- 21 Austere person (5)
- 24 Freshwater fish (5)
- 25 Clerical robe (7)
- 26 With no apparent pattern (8)
- 27 Weapons considered collectively (4)

**Down**

- 1 Wrongheaded (8)
- 2 In a while (5)
- 4 Launch assault on (6)
- 5 Moderately warm (5)
- 6 No Clue
- 7 Mentally healthy (4)
- 8 Calm and collected (6)
- 13 Flat cakes of thin batter fried on both sides on a griddle (8)
- 15 Subdivision of a military company (7)
- 17 Be emphatic or resolute and refuse to budge (6)
- 18 Annul (6)
- 20 Bingo-type game (5)
- 22 Distinctive smell (5)
- 23 See 1 Across

### CRYPTIC

**Across:**

- 1 Trite, 4 Harems, 9 Despair, 10 Rigid, 11 Ties, 12 Engrave, 13 Sir, 14 Abut, 16 Nods, 18 Dot, 20 Absence, 21 Idle, 24 Larva, 25 Adrenal, 26 Washed, 27 Party.

**Down:**

- 1 To date, 2 Issue, 3 Esau, 5 Arrogant, 6 England, 7 Sodden, 8 Drier, 13 Stone age, 15 Bistros, 17 Wallow, 18 Delay, 19 Replay, 22 Dinar, 23 Trip.

### QUICK

**Across:**

- 1 Fraught, 5 Pacts, 8 Steal, 9 Replica, 10 Yesterday, 12 Nap, 13 Quaint, 14 Appear, 17 Emu, 18 Somnolent, 20 Inquire, 21 Plain, 23 Scone, 24 Erratic.

**Down:**

- 1 Fussy, 2 Axe, 3 Galleon, 4 Tirade, 5 Puppy, 6 Clientele, 7 Scarper, 11 Status quo, 13 Queries, 15 Prosper, 16 Impede, 18 Seize, 19 Tunic, 22 Apt.

### ENGLISH-SPANISH

**Across:**

- 1 Ladder, 4 Trap, 8 Apple, 9 Susto, 10 Armchairs, 13 Crust, 14 Colas, 15 Obey, 16 Mayors.

**Down:**

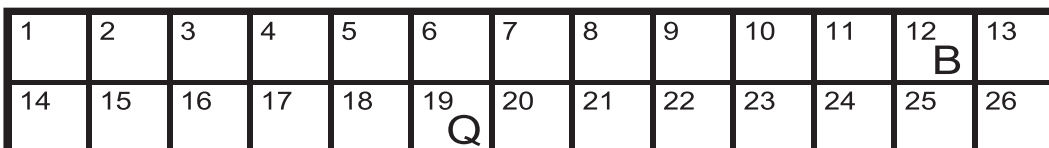
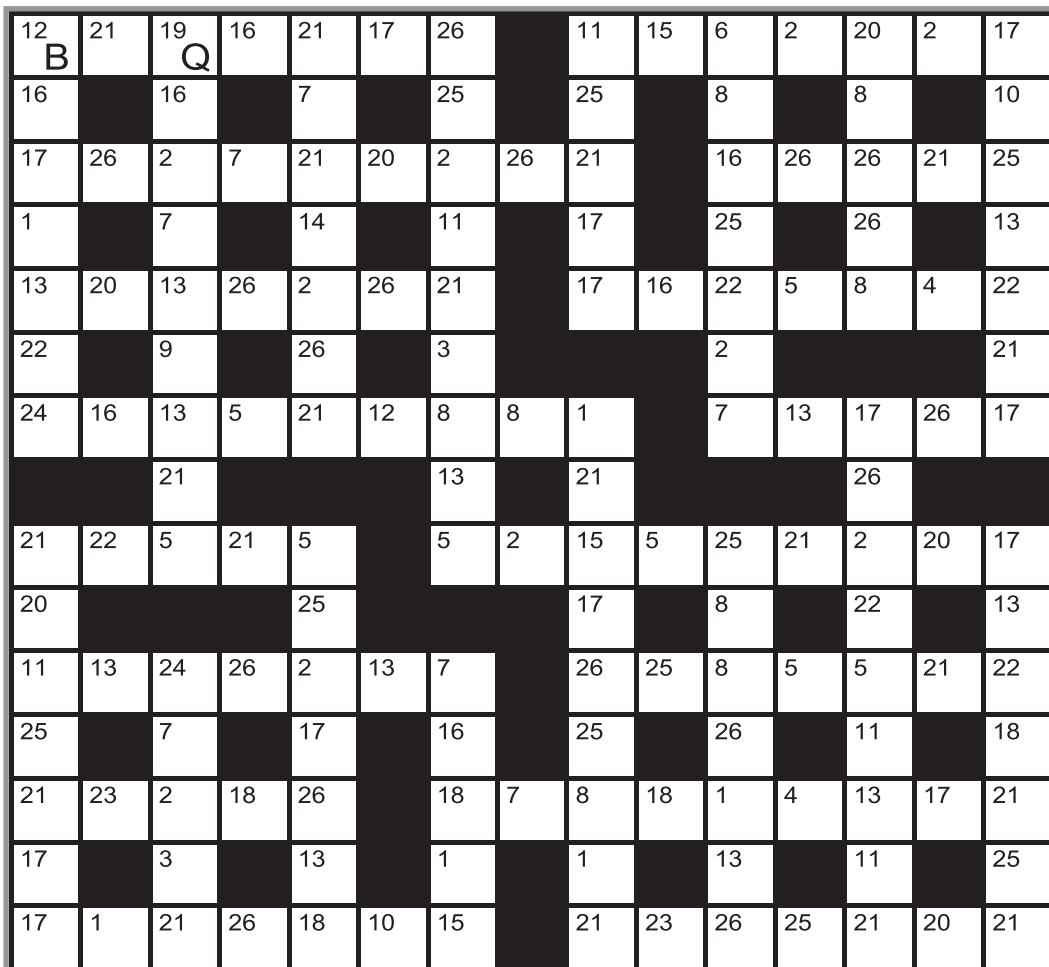
- 1 Liar, 2 Departure, 3 Ejercito, 5 Rastrillo, 6 Poor, 7 Escarcha, 11 Ocho, 12 Osos.

### CODE BREAKER



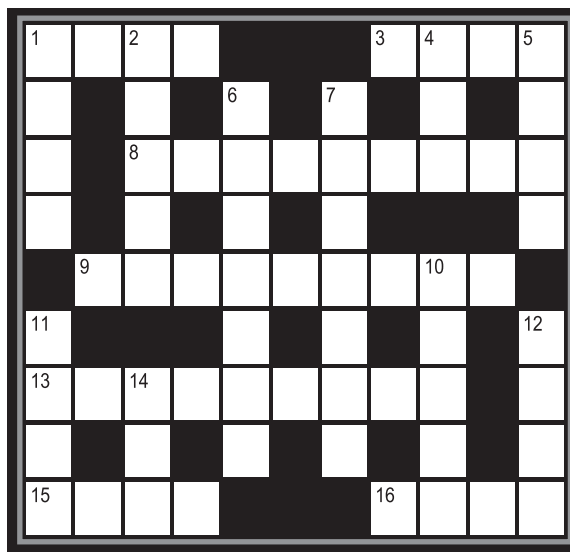
### Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 12 represents B and 19 represents Q, so fill in B every time the figure 12 appears and Q every time the figure 19 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.



### English - Spanish

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



**Across**

- 1 Pan de molde (4)
- 3 Dolor (4)
- 8 Manzano (5-4)
- 9 A veces (9)
- 13 Garantía (de producto) (9)
- 15 Piel (4)
- 16 Seal (animal) (4)

**Down (physical movement)**

- (5)
- 4 Coche (3)
- 5 Plano (llano) (4)
- 6 To tighten (belt, shoes) (7)
- 7 Magazine (journal) (7)
- 10 January (5)
- 11 Huevos (4)
- 12 Classroom (4)
- 14 There (near you) (3)

**Down**

- 1 Izquierdo (4)



# Could Blair pick up the Brexodus baton?

**Nora Johnson**

*Breaking Views*

Nora is the author of popular psychological suspense and crime thrillers and a freelance journalist. To comment on any of the issues raised in her column, go to [www.euroweeklynews.com/3.0.15/nora-johnson](http://www.euroweeklynews.com/3.0.15/nora-johnson)



THIS week I was planning to write about the post-neoclassical endogenous growth theory. Quite brief. Provocative. And thrilling. You'd have loved it. Trust me. I'm a journo... Never mind!

But then something happened. My blood pressure started rising rapidly. And not in a good way. After weeks of depressing news about Trump, Putin, Corbyn, who again emerges from the woodwork? Yes, you guessed: Tony Blair.

And reports he is said to have met an Oscar-winning film producer to discuss making a documentary about his life. Although Blair's spokesman said he received many such requests but had agreed to none, according to a source: "They were really keen on the idea. It just ticks all the boxes."

Intriguingly, we can only

guess what form a possible documentary could take. For some, it could be 'LA LA Land,' the movie sequel, where Tony and Cherie write their own fantasy screenplay, find God and dance and sing their way through numerous properties until they locate a bank.

For others, a kind of Bible Story: how an 'ordinary guy' feels the hand of history on his shoulder, is 'instructed' to topple ruthless tyrants and overcome all manner of evil and, finally, a legend in his own mind, ends up living in countless country piles.

We can only guess, too, what Blair, a staunch Europhile who has dropped heavy hints about returning to politics, makes of Theresa May's 12-

point plan (her '12 Commandments' or 'Brexodus'). One thing's certain, though. He'd love her job.

Which reminds me: according to Tom Bower (Tony Blair's biographer), when Blair became PM, he realised he hadn't read enough history, so asked Roy Jenkins, his mentor, for advice. Jenkins sent him five books, four

written by himself. "The only one we know he read is the biography of Gladstone," Bower recalls. "Unfortunately, the lesson he seems to have taken from it is that it's possible to return as PM time and again until the age of 84."

Help! Given all last year's 'surprises' (Trump, Brexit etc) who knows what the future might still hold for the UK electorate?

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



Tony Blair. |

Photo by 360b

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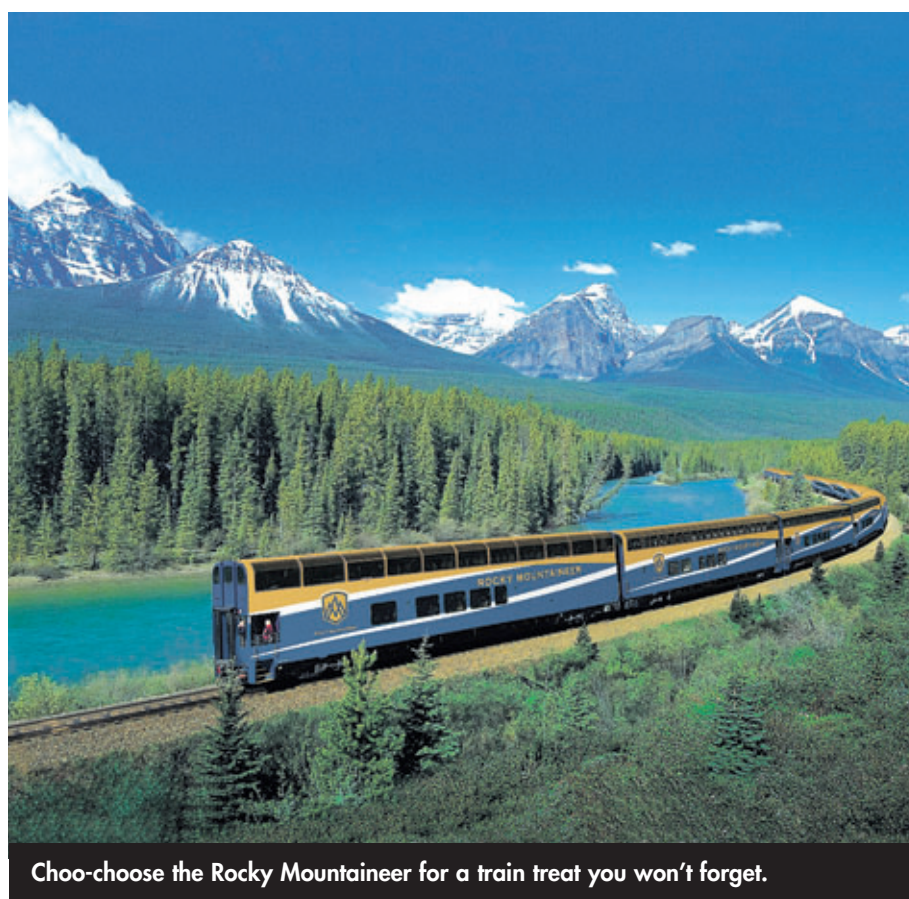


## All Aboard!

PERHAPS an unusual suggestion in the midst of the UK's recent Southern Rail strike misery, but why not try a luxury train journey as an elegant and relaxing alternative for your next holiday? For those who prefer to keep their feet firmly on the ground it beats flying and it's definitely a cut above joining the masses in the airport departure lounge.

Rail cruising is a perfect way to take in the landscape and culture of your surroundings whilst indulging in the on-board splendour of your chosen train. And with travel companies competing to offer the most unique and luxurious trips, you are in for an unforgettable experience that will leave you chuffed to bits...

Whether you hanker after the opulent bygone era of Art Deco glamour, or prefer a modern, glass ceiling carriage with gourmet dining and personal service, the luxury train choices are tantalisingly alluring with an abundance of routes and journeys to suit all tastes. You can stay local with Spain's very own El Transcantabrico and Al Andalus trains and explore the north Atlantic coastline, or Andalusia's cultural and gastronomic delights. Alternatively, opt for the iconic Venice Simplon-Orient-Express and treat yourself to a once-in-a-lifetime luxurious trip to Venice, Paris and Verona. Or venture



Choo-choose the Rocky Mountaineer for a train treat you won't forget.

further afield with the Blue Train traversing South Africa, or the Rocky Mountaineer through the majestic Canadian Rockies.

There are many other options with a variety of companies offering bespoke packages, so take a look at the Luxury Train Club, Belmond, or Abercrombie & Kent for some ideas.

If you decide to splash out on a trip, do remember to buy a reliable travel insurance policy to cover unforeseen mishaps while you are away. You can get great cover with Globelink's Comprehensive Single Trip policy for as little as £23.96 (one adult aged 51-65yrs travelling in Europe for eight days) and be covered for up to £10,000,000 emergency medical and repatriation expenses, up to £3,000 for your baggage and £4,000 if you have to cancel or cut short your trip, plus many other benefits.

Wherever you chose to travel, visit the FCO website on health and safety abroad, [www.gov.uk/travelaware](http://www.gov.uk/travelaware). It could invalidate your travel insurance if you go against their advice. This week, following political unrest in Gambia, the FCO are advising against all but essential travel to Gambia, so the website is a good place to help make an informed choice about where to travel.

*Globelink Travel Insurance: for people living in the EU. Get an instant quote and arrange cover securely with [www.globelink.co.uk](http://www.globelink.co.uk), or call (UK) +44 1353 699 082 or call our Spanish link line on 966 265 000. Your Policy and Emergency Assistance Card will be delivered immediately by email.*





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## LEGALLY SPEAKING

# The DGT joins Waze

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.



**A SAFER COMMUTE:** Now that the DGT has joined Waze.

SPAIN has joined up with Waze, a traffic information and planning application, aimed at improving road safety and information.

Waze was designed to try to get other motorists to share information on the road conditions, making more people aware of issues such as delays or any obstructions in the road. By connecting drivers to one another, they help people create local driving communities that work together to improve the quality of everyone's daily driving. It could help them avoid the frustration of sitting in traffic, or save them time on their regular commute by showing them another route.

Waze works by typing in your destination address and the app remains open contributing traffic and other road data. Users can share details on accidents or poor weather conditions, giving other drivers a 'heads-up.'

Now, as the DGT joins Waze's 'Connected Citizens Programme' it puts Spain in line with other traffic authorities such as Transport for London, ASFA (French Highways) as well as the authorities in New York and Barcelona who are already part of the group. The DGT will be able to freely exchange traffic data through Waze to improve traffic management and safety, hopefully reaching a wider audience.

The initiative is part of the DGT's commitment to move towards advanced traffic management models, using real-time data. It is hoped this will help create smarter management in the Traffic Management Centres to improve the flow of traffic and safety.

Download the app by searching for Waze in the app or play store. Remember drivers cannot touch devices when driving. Pull over to report problems or get a passenger to do it.

For more news and articles visit [www.n332.es](http://www.n332.es) or search N332 on Facebook.

## Can he use UK licence?

**Q.** I HAVE lived in Spain for two years and have 'residencia.'

However, I have not changed my driving licence and I have heard that I would lose some entitlements, such as being able to drive a 7.5 tonne lorry, and my full motor-cycle licence. Is this correct?

Also, I have two cars in the UK, that are insured with a UK licence. I regularly return to the UK, so a change would make my insurance invalid.

I am also told that I can register my UK licence with Trafico and continue to use the licence. Is that possible?

R O (Costa del Sol)

**A.** LET'S keep it simple. If you are a citizen of the European Union and you take up official residence in Spain, you may continue to use your home-country licence to drive in Spain until this licence expires.

**David Searl**

*You and the Law in Spain*



Before then, you must exchange your UK licence for a Spanish permit, registered to

your address in Spain. You may need to talk with Trafico in advance to see how your entitlements transfer. You will have to change your UK insurance at that time. No, you cannot register your UK licence and continue to use it in Spain.

Send your questions for David Searl through lawyers *Ubeda-Retana & Associates* in Fuengirola at [Ask@lawtaxspain.com](mailto:Ask@lawtaxspain.com), or call 952 667 090.

## Hidden charges on my bills

**Mike Senker**

*In my opinion*

*Views of a Grumpy Old Man*



WELL Trump is now the President of the USA... I could finish the article there really. Never mind. God bless America - or as it is now - God help America and the rest of the World really. OK on with the more serious stuff of me being grumpy! Mrs S goes to the bank to pay a friend's community fees.

They live in the UK and, don't ask me why, but they transfer money to us so that when it's paid they get a receipt. Anyway in she goes and the girl behind the counter looks at the paper and asks if she wants to put a reference in. Mrs S says yes and adds the name of our friend. The girl then says that will be another three euros please. What? Why? 'Admin charge', she said. 'What, to type in a name?'

'Yes,' well 'Si' actually as Mrs S speaks Spanish. 'Ok don't put it in.' So she didn't and wasn't charged. What a lot of nonsense. How many times have you been in a bank and the person in front of you is there forever and it finally gets to your turn and then a colleague comes over with a query and you are left standing there like a muppet. I feel sometimes it's like 'If you bloody customers didn't keep coming in I could get on with my work!'

But this did make me think about other charges that have ticked me off recently. I got a message from my phone company saying I had used up all my Data and I could get more for two euros. I called them and said OK.

Then she said for three euros I could get an even better deal, so I said OK cancel the two euro one and please send me a text confirming because of problems I've had before. She said OK and did just that. Of course, when I got my bill, both charges were on there and I now have to get my two euros back. It's not the money, it's the principle, but as you all know by now I don't have anything better to do.

Here's a good one. When I was on a visit to the USA I was in hotel and ordered some coffee as there was no coffee maker in the room. When I looked at the bill I had to sign, on it is a \$5 'tray charge.' 'Can I have the coffee without the tray?' 'No.' 'Do I now own the tray?' 'No.'

I will now add that to the other cons in hotels like charging for parking and the 'free' looking bottle of water on the table in the room that turns out to cost \$8. How about the cover charge in restaurants which I've been told is for the bread etc. Don't bring me what appears to be free bread then charge me for it. If I want bread I'll order it and gladly pay for it. Don't stick hidden charges on my bills! OK?

*On Talk Radio Europe on January 27. Have a listen and call in or email me [mike.senker@gmail.com](mailto:mike.senker@gmail.com)*



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# Protect your pensions now

YOUR article on the current situation whereby UK pensioners living in certain countries do not receive the annual increases in the state pension will have horrified many expatriates.

When Brexit comes into effect it could mean that the UK will no longer be legally obliged to pay the annual increases to pensioners residing in the EU. Whether this actually happens will become apparent during the negotiations.

For the half million UK pensioners already living in the EU and in receipt of their state pension there is little that can be done apart from protesting should their state pensions become frozen.

However those UK expatriates already living here who are not yet of pension age can take action to maximise their pension. In the UK the working population pay into the state pension system since it is compulsory when in employment.

However upon leaving the UK to live abroad the state pension becomes voluntary and as a result many expatriates decide that a pension is something which can be faced up to at a later date and is usually overlooked until it is too late to do anything about it.

The government will argue that it has bent over backwards during the last 15 years to make contribution rates attractive. It is currently possible to catch up in respect of contributions for the last six years if they have been missed and from time to time it has campaigns in order to persuade people to improve their pension record and so maximise the state pension that they will ultimately receive.

The return on additional contributions made in this way is over 30 per cent. In the event of the government depriving UK pensioners living in the EU of the annual increases, they should at least ensure that their state pension is approaching the maximum amount of £160 per week and is not a derisory amount as a result of taking no action.

*Peter Sanderson, Estepona*

## Processed meat

SURPRISING you should support 'boost your intake by eating more red meat' in your health section! Really! We all know doctors for

» Photographs for possible publication should be sent by email with a full caption to: [photonews@euroweeklynews.com](mailto:photonews@euroweeklynews.com)



**GIBRALTAR:** Spain will seek joint sovereignty with Britain.

## An orderly divorce

“ SPAIN will seek a friendly and orderly divorce for Britain (Spain's economy minister in Davos recently). Spain's PM has said earlier that in the negotiations between EU and Britain Spain will seek joint sovereignty with Britain over Gibraltar.

To the best of my ability I can't see that Britain's territory should be on the agenda in the divorce proceedings! Should Britain trade away their sole sovereignty over Gibraltar to get a friendly divorce from EU? With due respect, it is rather naive.

*Leif Krogstad, Palma Nova*

years now have been suggesting to cut back on meats for health reasons... not only is factory farming unhealthy, it impacts the environment more than any other food, because livestock require much more land, food, water, and energy than plants to raise and transport.

Not to mention the horror and constant torture to millions of animals! From locking animals in tiny cages, to slicing parts of their bodies off without any pain relief, to genetically selecting them to grow so obese and so fast that many become lame, it's by far the biggest cause of animal suffering in the world.

Eating red or processed meat can, over time, increase the risk of de-

veloping type 2 diabetes as well as other disease. Try boosting your intake with beans and dark green leafy vegetables which are especially good sources of iron, even better on a per calorie basis than meat.

Iron absorption is increased markedly by eating foods containing vitamin C along with foods containing iron. None or less meat eaters do not have a higher incidence of iron deficiency than do full-time meat eaters. Tofu, spirulina, pumpkin seeds, quinoa, tomato paste, white beans, dried apricots, cooked spinach, dried peaches, prune juice, lentils, peas...

Loads of information on the net!

*Felipe, Baleares*

## Fly right

IN answer to the article 'Droned to Death' (EWN 1642) there will now be thousands more drones because of Christmas presents, unfortunately not all of these will be flown responsibly. As far as petitioning the government goes there are already rules and regulations for drone flyers with more in the pipeline.

Unfortunately as with any sport or hobby you always get those people that are not bothered about rules and regulations so more rules will only penalise the responsible fliers.

It seems the media is willing to name anything that flies as a drone without recognising what it really

is. The last drone strike reported by a UK airline pilot was later found to be a polythene bag. When you think that all aeroplanes are stringently tested with numerous articles being fired into engines and air frames the damage done by a toy drone would be minimal.

In saying this, it is not an excuse for flying near airports. If there is anybody that has a drone and wants to learn to fly it responsibly please contact your local aero model club. Don't think it's ok to fly at National Parks, you could be fined €6,000.

*Gray Callow, Huercal-Overa*

## Soothe yourself

WHAT an abusive rant by Leapy against Obama! Petulant he says!?! Pillock. White Nanny (Mrs Clinton?! Pathetic! Islamic! Limp! Infantile! Nasty! Arrogant missus (Mrs Obama?) OMG. Easy on Leapy. Relax. Enjoy the New Year. Soothe yourself back to 'keeping the faith' and sharing some of your old fashioned, fair/unfair, balanced and challenging observations with which I don't always agree.

*John Kennedy, Benalmadena Costa*

## Snow joke

QUITE right about keeping snow in perspective. Our northern friends have to endure lots of snow and winter darkness. We in Britain have a more moderate climate. In the north from North Yorkshire up we do have a fair bit of snow. Road gritting commences in November all through the winter and snow ploughs are ready at a moment's notice. We from those parts are ready for it. However we Brits love talking about the weather to the extent whereby it sells newspapers etc.

We are serial weather watchers. I don't expect people who spend half their lives in the dark to understand.

*Ian Terry*

### 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.

Letters may also be edited.

Readers who have missed earlier correspondence can see all letters posted on: [www.euroweeklynews.com](http://www.euroweeklynews.com)



## Overnight fasting can help you live longer

DIETING whilst you sleep can help you live longer. Fasting overnight and not eating between 5pm and 8am can help you lose weight and also live longer.

Researchers carried out a study on monkeys and stopped food between these hours and found it

helped them live longer. Restricting food appeared to make bodies more able to fight off illnesses that accompany old age. As humans share 93 per cent of the same genes, they say their findings will also apply to humans. However, the results showed that it didn't work in young

monkeys, so advised that people started it later in life also.

It is believed this restriction on eating reduces the chances of illnesses such as cancer and dementia and that by eating less it may send the body into survival mode so that it focuses on protecting itself.

The scientists said they wanted to look at ways to slow the aging mode of the body in a bid to reduce serious illnesses.

The study carried out by the University of Wisconsin in the USA, was published in the journal *Nature Communications*.

## Gossip is good

OK ladies, admit it, we all like a good gossip right? Well feel guilty about it no longer as a study claims that sharing gossip can actually be good for you.

A study carried out by researchers at the University of Pavia in Italy studied the effects of gossip on 22 women.

They found that gossip can be good as it releases oxytocin, the so-called love hormone.

More oxytocin was released from gossip compared to normal conversations and this hormone helps bring people closer together and gives a feeling of closeness.

Oxytocin is naturally released in the blood and brains of humans and other mammals, during social and sexual behaviours. It is also produced during labour by women to help with the baby bonding process.

## Being a mummy can be bad for your health

MOTHERS fall ill an average of 324 times during their child's childhood years and most of these illnesses have been passed on from their youngsters.

A survey of 2,000 parents found that 68 per cent of women said they often got more sick after having children and admitted to only feeling completely well for an average of 13 days per month.

From when their child is born to the age of 18, mothers will suffer from around 54 colds, as well as a total of 108 sore throats or runny noses, as well as around 36 sickness bugs.

The survey by Healthspan also reported that 72 per cent of mothers said that they cope with being ill better than their partner does. Around 36 per cent soldier on through feeling bad, but their partners have to resort to bed rest.

Psychologists believe this could be similar to the flight or fight response, with women unconsciously needing to do everything to ensure the survival of their child and safeguard their family.

The study also found that two-thirds of people

**“ A survey found that 68 per cent of women got more sick after having children.**

were prone to becoming ill when they switch off or take a holiday. This is because stress can effect the immune system and at the end of periods of stress the immune system remains relaxed and leaves people more vulnerable to illness.

In a bid to prevent winter



**PREVENT COLDS: Eat healthily to provide greater defence and try taking multivitamins.**

colds affecting your children, and you, stay warm and cosy. Encourage children to wash their hands properly using soap and wipe down surfaces,

such as door handles, regularly with anti-bacterial wipes or sprays.

Eat healthily to increase your vitamin and mineral

take to provide greater defence against colds and try taking a multivitamin, although check before giving to a child.



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**BEFORE SKIING:** Try to warm up before hitting the slopes to prevent injuries such as pulled muscles or strains.

## Prepare for the white stuff

SNOW arrived in many parts of Spain last week, including along the coastal areas of the Costa Blanca, an event not seen in a generation. Whilst it may have been a brief fluttering, many have turned their thoughts to a wintry wonderland and are dusting off the skies in search of more of the white stuff.

But before you head to the Sierra

Nevada, or further afield, it is important to remember some basic health checks.

Skiing can be a demanding sport so always try to warm up before hitting the slopes to prevent injuries such as pulling muscles and strains. Ten minutes of squatting and stretching after skiing will also help prevent problems.

For those who do little exercise, skiing

can be a shock on the system as to how physical it can be, so try and prepare at home a little before heading off. Even simple walking up and down stairs will help prepare the leg muscles.

The snow reflects 80 per cent of solar radiation so whilst you may be wrapped up, don't forget to wear a high sun protection factor on the face and lip balm.

## One in 67 babies suffers from FAS

EVERY year, over 100,000 babies are born in the world with foetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) as a result of the mother drinking too much during pregnancy.

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Canada, carried out a study to find out which countries had the highest incidence of women drinking during their pregnancy.

In Canada it is estimated that around 10 per cent of women continue drinking alcohol when pregnant. The five countries with the highest consumption were Russia, the UK, Denmark,

Belarus and Ireland. Europe as a region, saw pregnant women drinking 2.6 times more than the world average. Southeast Asia and the Eastern Mediterranean saw the lowest levels of alcohol consumption.

It is believed that FAS affects one in every 67 babies from drinking mothers. Babies may be shorter in height, have a small head, behavioural problems and issues with sight and sound. The risk of problems depends on how much and often the mother drinks.

Ask The

Doctor

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## What to do about flu?



**SPECIALIST:** Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.

**THERE** is a lot flu about at the moment and also a lot of coughs and colds.

**- What are the usual symptoms of flu?**

Flu usually causes fever, muscle and joint pain, headache, cough, fatigue, lack of appetite and a general feeling of being unwell. Sometimes it can also cause chest infections with green mucus, chest pain and difficulty breathing being warning signs.

**- What's the difference between flu and a common cold?**

Common cold symptoms are far less severe and include a runny nose, stuffed up feeling and sneezing. Fevers are rare.

**- Should I go to the doctor if I think I might have flu?**

Generally, you don't need to see a doctor as there is no cure. However, if your symptoms last for a long time or you get worse rather than better, then get yourself checked out by a doctor.

**- So there's no treatment?**

The only medication available for flu is to treat the symptoms: control pain and reduce fevers. Antibiotics are not needed for flu. Drink plenty of water and get lots of rest.

**- When should I go to hospital?**

Very rarely, complications require hospital treatment. If you have serious trouble breathing or any other severe symptoms, then a visit to A&E is probably a good idea though.

**- How long will it last?**

Flu symptoms usually last between five and 10 days. Common colds usually last one week.

**- I had the flu jab, can I still catch flu?**

You are less likely to catch the flu but there is always a possibility of doing so. Your symptoms will probably be far less severe than if you hadn't had the vaccination though.

If you have any questions for Dr Perez Belmonte, please send them to:  
jefemedico@helicopterosanitarios.com

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# Healing the rift

**Cassandra Nash**

*A weekly look*

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

CLEVER Patxi! Patxi Lopez has taken the political equivalent of a selfie and put his name down in PSOE's secretary general race.

Lopez is old blood instead of Pedro Sanchez's new blood which caused such bad blood in the PSOE. As secretary general Sanchez appealed to the paid-up party membership - aptly described in Spanish as militants - but not the voters or party hierarchy.

Former president of the Basque region, Lopez was briefly Speaker following the December 2015 elections. He backed Sanchez's 'no means no' stance over Mariano Rajoy's investiture bid but later abstained. Nothing to complain about there, then - unless you're Susana Diaz and thought you had it in the bag.

## Change of heart

EX-SECRETARY GENERAL Pedro

Sanchez has a problem and not only with Patxi Lopez or Susana Diaz.

Backing for Sanchez in his tug-of-war with the party hierarchy stemmed not from support for his person, but his refusal to allow Mariano Rajoy to form a government. Balears regional president, Francine Armengol, and Idoia Mendia, secretary general of the Basque socialists, have now spelled that out to Sanchez.

The PSOE membership, which famously chose Sanchez in the 2014 primaries dropped by several thousand under his leadership. The militants might not be enamoured of the Managing Committee headed by Javier Hernandez but will they come out for Sanchez now that Patxi Lopez has thrown his hat in the ring? Or will it be 'No means no thank you?'

## Of primary concern

SPAIN'S president Mariano Rajoy has compromised over the primaries that some in the Partido Popular are calling for.

Members up to date with their dues will vote for candidates in a first round. In the second, the party's US-style delegates, will vote for those obtaining more than 10 per cent of the vote.

Galicians like Rajoy are notorious for answering questions without giving a definite reply. And this, for the time being, is his response to an issue that brought so much grief to the PSOE.

## Undesired effect

EX-PRESIDENT Jose Maria Aznar has severed most of his links with the Partido Popular but confirmed that he does not intend to start a new right-wing party. Not that he is going to keep quiet, he warned, which will do neither Rajoy nor the PP any harm. Criticism from Aznar is praise indeed.



OLD BLOOD: Patxi Lopez.

# Great ideas and teamwork can make miracles happen!

**Guest**

*Columnist*

Today: Peter Hughes



GREAT ideas and inventions often become viable only with time, dedication and the help of other people. The progress made when putting our heads together can be extraordinary. We have gone from steam engine to self-driving electric Tesla cars in just a couple of centuries.

When we combine ideas with resources we can generate new possibilities that can be barely otherwise imagined. Let's say if someone has some land, people have spare time to plant trees, this then can produce fruit and new incomes. Scaled up, this increases healthy, home-grown produce and so there are less imported goods.

Like many great ideas, crowdfunding was innovated in the UK. It's a



TESLA electric car.

Photo by Iaina Sohlman

good way for innovators and 'crowdfunders' to work together. The idea caught on quickly, supported by social media and began assisting projects to get help.

Investors scan projects in technology, music, environment or community, find projects that resonate and then fund them. The investor com-

municates directly with the inventor. Together with incentives for participating, including the feel good factor, as people cooperate, miracles start to happen.

In 2012, crowdfunding raised \$3 billion for charities and projects. In 2015, the figure was more than 10 times that amount! Crowdfunding took many

progressive steps to reach the heights it's reached today and it has the potential to go even further.

A more connected community can empower answers to today's problems, no matter how complex. Linking ideas and funding can generate improvements and benefits for all of us. It does relate to charity, yet it al-

so produces worthwhile investment opportunities, beyond monetary value alone.

Back in the 90's, a group of friends and I wanted to save a rain forest. With only a phone and a fax and minimal funds we were fortunate when a local newspaper joined us. The project expanded and many people working together helped preserve the ecologically valuable land and establish a small national park.

The partnership between the people and the media made the dream a reality. Sharing an idea and teamwork combined, can make it feasible.

Britain and the EU are in talks discussing the exit of the UK from the EU. Where this all goes in future we do not yet know. However what we can be sure of is that teamwork can help produce answers that can benefit us all.

A few hours searching crowdfunding projects makes a day very well spent.

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# Weekend Beach Festival

By John Smith

AFTER the great success of previous Weekend Beach Festivals in Torre del Mar, it has been announced that 2017 will see it return for its third year and run from July 5 to 8 with a whole range of varied music.

Probably the most famous international band to have been announced so far is The Prodigy, a British electronic band who have been together in one form or other since 1990 and who broke the charts with such singles as Firestarter and Smack my Bitch up.

Loud and exciting they will be guaranteed to get any crowd on its feet, although locals may find the noise a bit intimidating. As a complete contrast, newest addition to

the line-up will be Spanish brothers David and Jose Manuel Munoz who as Estopa have sold millions of records.

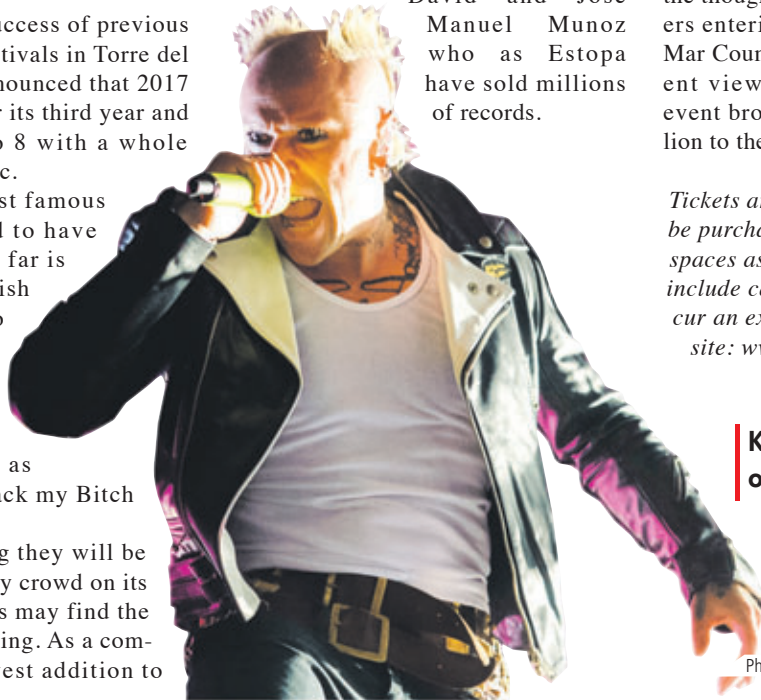


Photo Credit: Marko Ristic Serbia Shutterstock

Whilst some councils may not like the thought of up to 30,000 festival goers entering their town, the Torre del Mar Council takes a completely different view, especially as last year's event brought in more than €2.5 million to the town economy.

Tickets are reasonably priced and can be purchased with or without camping spaces as well as VIP packages which include car parking (although vans incur an extra cost) at the festival website: [www.weekendbeach.es/2017/entradas](http://www.weekendbeach.es/2017/entradas)

**Keith Flint of The Prodigy.**

## Tell us what's on in your area

STARTING shortly, we will be introducing a new What's On section in the paper, and we invite readers to send in typed details of any events they are involved with (no pdfs of posters please) at least two weeks before the event to [whatson@euroweeklynews.com](mailto:whatson@euroweeklynews.com).

## Chanquete World Music Festival

THERE will be a great deal of music and support for local businesses in Axarquía during 2017 as Nerja promises to see the return of the Chanquete World Music Festival on the beach of El Playazo which last year attracted an audience of 15,000 and saw sell outs at all of the local hotels.

This time, it is intended that the Festival should be held in early September in order to extend the tourist season which tends to tail off at that time of the year and whilst confirmation of actual dates and performers is awaited, if the line-up this year is as strong as last year, it should be another great success.

World music is a very wide genre that encompasses a huge range of different musical styles, but also allows Spanish performers such as Chambao and Macaco to take their rightful place in this type of festival thanks to the influences from Africa, Flamenco and South America.

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# Good food, good wine and good friends



with Garry Waite

I was approached a few years ago by a Finnish lady who had found my company on the internet. She wanted to open a restaurant in Puerto Banus. She had the premises, but needed a complete reform, new kitchen, interiors, terraces et al. She was a strange lady but very nice and I was a bit concerned for her.

She actually had a very successful restaurant business with her husband in her native Finland. However I could see that she was going to have a lot of problems and the money I know she was going to have to invest, made me wary. I knew the premises and they had never succeeded for any of the previous occupants. So I said to her, "if you give me €20,000 I will save you €350,000."

She asked me how and of course I said that she had to give me that before I would tell her. Now I know it is a bit 'tongue in cheek' but what I was implying was not to do it as I was pretty sure that it was going to turn out badly for her. Having said that we did all the work, came out with a great place and a fabulous kitchen operation and on the surface it looked as if it would work and that I was going to have to eat my words.

● **However**, after a few months of relative success the owners decided that they didn't need the expertise of the team that I had put in. Letting the manager go and replacing the chef with the client's husband. That was the beginning of the end, and as I had foreseen the business fell into a downward spiral. Eventually closing with a loss of - you guessed it - €350,000. No assets to sell, no way of selling the traspaso - just money down the drain!!

● **I suppose** the moral of this story is probably, that if you seek and pay a professional for advice, be it a lawyer, accountant, financial adviser or a management consultant - then heed it!!



Ann Hegerty doesn't know her Puff from her Flaky!

**I QUITE LIKE TV** quiz shows. It helps to keep the brain active!!

One such is ITV's The Chase. Four contestants pit their wits against a highly experienced quizzer. Usually the team gets beaten and the contestants leave with nothing. On occasions they win some money. But there are times when I listen incredulously to the 'Chaser' and think how on earth did you know that?? While at the same time wondering how some of the contestants ever got past the interview stage! But seldom do both sides get it wrong. On one occasion though the question to both was 'What pastry is used to make a Mille Feuille?' (options) Choux - Short - Puff?

Now the contestant was a Hospitality Manager and the Chaser, the brilliant Ann Hegerty. Both selected Choux. The Hospitality Manager chose it because it sounded French (sic) and Ann because she was hoping that Flaky Pastry would come up! I would have thought that Hegerty would know the relationship between Flaky and Puff pastries!

As for the Hospitality Manager..... I wonder what branch of Hospitality he works in? HMPs? I trust, dear reader, that you got it right!!



Nathan Odom - destined for great things.

**READERS** of last week's column will have seen that my guilty pleasure has been watching Junior MasterChef (from America). I watched the two finalists battle it out last week and was utterly amazed at the menus and the standards that 11-year-old Andrew Zapple and 12-year-old Nathan Odom produced.

● **NATHAN'S MENU** was a Roasted Fennel Gratin with French Ham and Fennel Salad followed by Herb-Crusted Rack of Lamb with an Asparagus Puree finishing with an amazingly creative Early Grey Tea Tart with Blood Orange Coulis. The judges loved all the dishes, with Gordon Ramsay saying about the dessert in particular "it shouldn't work, but it does" and it was "bloody delicious."

● **ANDREW'S MENU** consisted of a starter of Herb Infused Ricotta Cheese (freshly made) with Roasted Baby Beetroots and Pumpernickel Bread.

A main course of Beef Cheek Ravioli with Shaved Parmesan was followed by a Risotto (Made with Arborio rice - normally for savoury risottos) Figs and a Verjus\* Reduction. All dishes were praised by the judges, but the overall winner who also received a cheque for \$100,000 was - Nathan Odom!! I wish I could find Chefs of that standard!! Let alone 12 year olds!!!

(\*Verjus is a highly acidic pressing of sour/unripe fruits such as apples and grapes)

**OVER THE YEARS** of opening and running restaurants I have spent lots of money on making sure that the kitchens have plenty of approved storage containers. Different colour identifying marks on the tops ensure that the correct food and sauces are properly stored. These items are expensive but wonderfully hygienic and strong. No matter where I have been over the years (including my own operation in the UK many, many years ago) chefs (including me!!) used ice cream containers. The five litre catering packs make great storage for sauces and the small one litre ones make for good portion control, gar-



The top and bottom of it!

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

“ A toast to good food, good wine and good friends.”

nishes etc. But, like wire coat hangers, these things take on a breeding pattern of their own. Lids abound (with lovely coloured identifying marks) but no bases on which to place them.

Or bases exist without the correct size covering. They have disappeared into the kitchen ether - along with multitudinous other kitchen aids - leaving said containers 'divorced'! But I have found similar things happening in my own kitchen at home. Although I have a few containers with their correct partners, I too have loads of lids with no bottoms and some bottoms without lids. So I, like so many of my Chefs, have resorted to using the containers that chicken livers, scallops and ice creams come in. Now I have plenty of these usable, virtually free, containers for freezing down.

● **If there are** any car booters reading this and you come across a load of expensive storage containers with no lids - some of them are probably mine!! By the way, I've got a load of tops that might fit!!

● **I was given** a very pleasant bottle of wine to try this week. I took full advantage of this, in as much as I did not share it with anyone!! I am more of a Ribera del Duero type of guy who fell out of love with young Riojas some time ago. But I still have a penchant for good Reservas and Gran Reservas none more so than those that come from Bodegas Muga. This particular gem was a Prado Enea Gran Reserva 2009. Having not made any in 2007 or 2008 (they only sell the best vintages) and not releasing the 2012 or 2013 it makes this spectacular wine even more desirable, collecting from 'they that know' 95/97 points.

**ON THE NOSE** it had great aromas of ripe fruits, plums, redcurrants, black pepper, dark chocolate and typical Spanish cedar. On the palate, smooth, polished and refined. Full flavour, but still feeling quite young, for a wine with such depth. I wouldn't mind trying it again in 10 years. It would probably be at its best then. This is a blend of 80% Tempranillo, with Garnacha, Mazuelo and Graciano making up the other 20%. Retailing around €40 it isn't quaffing wine, but would grace any enthusiastic wine consumer's dinner party table.



Fit for a King - or wine loving columnists.

Garry Waite is a well-known foodie and restaurateur as well as a Hospitality Management Consultant. If you are contemplating setting up an operation in Spain, or indeed having problems with an existing project contact him on [garrywaite@euroweeklynews.com](mailto:garrywaite@euroweeklynews.com).

# Red hot properties down under

By Matthew Elliott

REAL estate in New Zealand startled observers when two Auckland homes were sold five times in just four days. The country continues to experience a property boom, considered one of the biggest in the world today.

**“New Zealand continues to experience a property boom, considered one of the biggest in the world today.”**

Both houses were ‘flipped,’ meaning sold two or more times during a year. The phenomenon is common in piping hot property markets but averaging more than one sale a day for five days straight is unprecedented.



**AUCKLAND:** Almost 2,000 homes in the city changed hands more than twice last year.

The properties are actually neighbouring homes located in an affluent Auckland suburb. One saw its value almost double from €900,000 to €1.6 million from February to August 2016. Both properties ended up in the hands of the same developer, who reportedly plans to demolish them and build 18 townhouses in their stead.

Almost 2,000 homes in the city changed hands more than twice last year and there are so-called ‘flipping hotspots’ scattered around both the north and south islands. The average house price in Auckland recently shot through the NZ\$1 million mark (roughly €670,000), up from half that 10 years ago. With foreign investors snapping up thousands of properties the city is now experiencing a housing crisis as many working people are forced to live in tents and caravans.

## Spain attracts eastern money

ASIAN investors are increasingly turning away from the UK and looking to countries like Spain, France and Germany when they consider expanding their European property portfolios. That is the message of the European Public Real Estate Association (EPRA).

The group represents Europe’s publicly listed property companies, which boast more than €360 billion worth of assets. It has well over 200 members and prides itself on helping them secure lucrative deals

from global investors outside the EU.

**“Investment looks certain to gather pace throughout 2017.”**

Chief executive Philip Charls has noted that the first generation of Asian investors chose London, largely due to the language and financial strength of the capital. He believes that Brexit might see a flourish of activity around an alternative continental financial centre such as Dublin or Frankfurt.

Charls also explicitly mentions the booming hotel sector in Spain in an interview with one of China’s top newspapers.

The industry has been fuelled by the red hot tourist market and investment looks certain to gather pace throughout 2017.



**CATALONIA:** The project has been pioneered by the local government as rents in the region reached a record high last year.

## New incentives for landlords

By Matthew Elliott

LANDLORDS who offer their tenants fair rents will be offered tax breaks and other subsidies as a reward under a new scheme aimed at lowering prices and ending the scourge of abusive rents. The project has been pioneered by the Catalan government as rents in the region reached a record high last year.

High demand and a lack of rent con-

trol had led to predatory pricing whereby landlords take advantage of struggling tenants and booming foreign and touristic demand, especially in Barcelona. Rent control schemes have made a major impact in Germany and other places, but are relatively unheard of in Spain.

Instead the government hopes to act indirectly, offering incentives for landlords whose prices don’t exceed a new

local price index. On the other hand those who do demand higher prices will be forced to admit this is the case on official documents.

The real test, however, is how Catalonia can compete with accommodation sharing platforms like Airbnb which encourage homeowners to rent out their homes to tourists for a handsome price, far beyond that affordable by local families.

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# Climbing roses are ideal to plant in the winter and need little care

By Graeme Tyrrell

THE Mediterranean winter is short but it gives a break from the many activities needed to maintain the garden through the long hot summer. Not needing to water the garden is a great relief and gives more time to attend to actual gardening work. Now is an ideal time to prepare the soil and plant roses.

There is a limited range of quality roses that will thrive in the Mediterranean garden but an often overlooked possibility that is more reliable than most is the climbing rose.

Traditional rose beds can do well when carefully planned with varieties selected to suit the long hot summers. I have a rose bed that provides exquisite blooms with scents that put most bottled perfume to shame.

Rose bushes need a lot of care to maintain the right amount of sunlight without being too shaded or too scorched with balanced moisture levels between drying out and saturating the soil, mulch to insulate the soil temperature and reduce evaporation, applied nutrients to ensure vigorous growth, regular pruning of spent blooms, rose hips and unwanted lateral branches in addition to winter pruning, insect control and fungal preven-



**SPECTACULAR DISPLAY:** Established climbing roses framing a door.

tion.

I find it well worth the effort to be able to appreciate the queen of flowers and they provide a valued gift for friends and visitors to the garden but it does take very regular care.

The most spectacular display of

rose flowers in my garden however is the 20+ year old climbing roses that grace the stone walls in full sun all day and all the year. They need and receive little care except for an annual pruning after the main flowering period in May/June, when working in the

garden is the most pleasant.

The advantage of a climbing rose is that it finds the best way to grow itself if placed where it can ramble over walls and structures to optimise its own environment by shading its own root zone and foliage with its own

branches and seeking out the place to receive the right amount of sunlight. The roots also tend to have the same rambling character and are better at finding the best sources of moisture and nutrients underground to better sustain themselves when irregularly watered.

A formal rose garden doesn't have this flexibility to adapt and is more prone to failure due to susceptibility to the intensely harsh Mediterranean summer.

If you can find a climbing rose that is doing well and that will fit into a suitable situation in your garden, cuttings from local plants are invaluable as they are already proven to be adapted to the climate and they often grow well from cuttings. If you can, layering a branch or finding ones that have self layered is the best option. My neighbourhood has lots of climbing roses that have grown in this way from sharing the strongest and best roses to create a zone where roses rule in fine majesty.

When buying roses it is worth asking local experts on the best variety for your area.

Not all climbing roses available in nurseries are suited to all environments but they are in general hardier than the bush varieties.

## New year, time for a new room

IF you've decided to redecorate your living room this year, there are a few common points interior designers tend to agree upon to get it right.

Firstly, remember the room needs a focal point. Think about where you want visitors' eyes to be drawn when they first walk into the room.

Next, consider the atmosphere you want for your home. Failing to get the right feel can lead to a sterile, unwelcoming room.

Go for a colour-scheme that suits the room and your character. It's no good going mad with the latest fashions if they are going

to look wrong or make you feel uncomfortable, after all, a living room is for living in, not cringing in.

Lighting and layout are just as important as paint and prints. Leaving the lighting till last can be a big mistake and just sticking a lamp in a corner can ruin the overall effect you've worked so hard to achieve.

Layout, too, is a vital part of things. Too much furniture or pieces which are too big will cramp a smaller room and feel claustrophobic.

## Giving colour to balconies

IT'S often hard to know what to plant on balconies, especially in the winter when maintenance can be complicated. These are five of the best plants to cheer up your balcony boxes or pots at this time of year:

*Dracaena:* these plants are best suited to south-facing balconies. Their dark purple leaves will give a touch of elegance and add volume to planters.

*Primroses:* a seasonal plant used to add colour and cheer up winter compositions. They tend to flower towards the end of winter and last until spring.

*Red Swiss chard:* not only are these very decorative for the autumn and winter months, you can eat them too! The intense red colour of their stems adds colour to balconies.

*Violets and pansies:* these outdoor plants tend to start

flowering in the winter. They cope well with low temperatures so are apt for the autumn and winter seasons.

*Snapdragons:* native to the Mediterranean, these grow very well in pots and can reach heights of up to two metres.



**PANSIES:** Start to flower in the winter.

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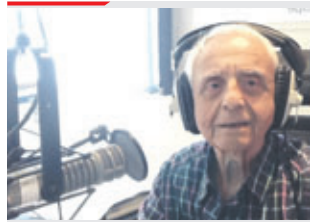
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# Taking your pet on a trip?



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1. PETS should always have complete Pet Passports well before you make a journey. Ensure that you schedule a visit to your veterinarian and allow sufficient time prior to your trip to discuss diseases or problems that might exist where you are travelling and that don't exist at home.

2. When travelling by car, plan for twice as many rest stops as you would for a small child. Pets need ample time to stretch their legs and to go to the bathroom.

3. Avoid motion sickness by only feeding your pet a small meal a few hours before leaving for your trip. Also, start with short local trips and gradually increase the time before a long trip.

4. Take plenty of fresh water, possibly enough for some days. It has been found that many areas water varies, this has caused problems. Whenever you travel with your pet and factor in potential emergencies, such as if your vehicle breaks down. Always bring extra food and snacks for the road.

5. Safety belts and harnesses are good for securing small dogs in vehicles, but the safest way for your dog to travel is secured in a crate in

your back seat or at the rear of an estate vehicle. Dogs should never travel in the open bed of a pick-up truck.

6. If your trip includes an overnight stay, research pet-friendly hotels first and have a full understanding of what accommodations are available for them, as well as any extra charges that may apply.

7. All airlines require pets to have a health certificate before

**“ Take plenty of fresh water and always bring extra food and snacks for the road.**

they can fly -make sure you check first. Each airline's policy differs, so plan accordingly. Also, find out if the airline will fly your pet during weather extremes - hot or cold.

8. Make sure your pet has a strong collar and identification tag, and include information about your destination should you get separated. Also, remember that all dogs and cats in Europe are required by law to be microchipped. Also, remember to carry a current photo of your pet along with the health certificates and inoculation records.

9. Never leave a pet in a car on warm or hot days. Temperatures in cars are at least 20 degrees above the outside temperature and heatstroke or death can result.

10. Prepare for the unexpected and enrol your pet with a Veterinary Pet Insurance policy. Pet Plan of Spain now cover you for all veterinary fees in Europe, which will give you great peace of mind should an accident or illness occur on the road.



Photo by Nalaphotos

**PET PASSPORT: Make sure your pet has one before you set off on a journey.**

## Daisy likes to catch 40 winks

DAISY is a friendly and very relaxed Cocker Spaniel. She lives at home in Malaga with her expat family from Britain. She is an only dog and absolutely loves attention, especially the unconditional adoration of children. Generally speaking her owner Junita talks of her happy attitude and easy going manner.

A few times each year the family travel back to Britain for high days and holidays, and that's when Junita calls in house-sitters from HouseSitMatch. She prefers for Daisy to be cared for at home by experienced dog lovers she finds on the website.

For Junita, using our house-sitting network offers a simple process that helps her plan her pet and home care arrangements at the same time as she plans her holidays.

She posts her holiday dates securely on the site, with a few photos of Daisy and their home to give an impression of what the house-sitters can expect. She also describes the location of her home and what can be enjoyed in the region, there is lots to do and that appeals to many house-sitters who exchange their services for free accommodation.

Once she has posted details of the pet-sitting requirements, the website then sends out an email alert with the house-sit advert and



**DAISY: Is friendly and relaxed.**

house-sitters apply. Before committing to anyone, she checks their references and asks to speak to them on SKYPE. Then she makes her selection. Unperturbed by new visitors to the house Daisy keeps her daily routine while her owners travel. New house-sitters means new people to love and cuddle her.

Do you need a house or pet-sitter? Get in touch. House-sitting can be a win-win for both parties, free house and pet-sitting, and the experienced and checked sitters get free accommodation! Register as either house-sitter or homeowner now with a 20 per cent off introductory offer using coupon code PERFECT20.

*House-sitting can be a win-win for both parties, free house and pet-sitting and the experienced and checked sitters get free accommodation! To find a pet-sitter go to [www.HousesitMatch.com](http://www.HousesitMatch.com) or call Lamia on 00 44 (0) 777 214 2742.*

## Protect your pets

WITH the abnormally cold recent weather all over Spain, humans and animals alike are suffering the effects. It is more important than ever to make sure pets are warm and dry as, unlike humans, they cannot tell you they are cold or put on a jumper to protect themselves!

Move all animals indoors, even if they usually live outside. Under no circumstances should pets be left outside in freezing conditions.

If you have no choice but to leave dogs in the garden during the day, make sure they have access to a dry, draught-free kennel or shelter which is big enough to move in, but small enough to hold in body heat. The floor should be off the ground and some form of bedding should be included.

Pets which spend time outside will need more food to replace extra calories burned keeping warm and, as always, they require constant access to fresh water. Use plastic food and water dishes outside.

Small dogs will appreciate a coat on walks at this time of year and keep a pot of Vaseline handy to deal with chapped noses and paws.

Use common sense and remember, if it feels cold to you it probably feels cold to your pet too.

**WRAP UP: It's cold for pets.**





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**Clarkson  
Quote of the Week**

“On driving a BMW IM ‘It’s as if somebody suddenly gave you permission to set fire to Piers Morgan.’”

Some might say...



**Motoring shorts**

**Top motors to buy in Europe**

THE Ford Fiesta has long been the best-selling car in the UK, but what are other European countries buying?

The ever-popular Volkswagen Golf was the best-selling car of 2016 in Germany, Austria, Belgium, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Luxembourg.

Elsewhere, the Nissan Qashqai topped the sales charts in Croatia and Latvia, while the Renault Clio was most popular in France, Portugal, and Slovenia.

It was a good year for Skoda, with their Octavia shifting the most units in Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Poland and Switzerland, and the smaller Fabia beating off the competition in Slovakia.

In Italy, the Fiat Panda was the year’s best-selling motor, while the Fiat 500 sold the most in Lithuania and the 500L in Serbia.

# Farewell to the underdog

By Matthew Elliott

ZENOS Cars, the Norfolk-based sports car firm much-loved for its af-

fordable lightweight lineup, has gone into administration. The British car maker had recently produced its 100th vehicle, but a series of cancelled export orders proved too much for the small yet intimate company to handle.

Founded in 2012 by two experts who had worked at Lotus and Caterham Cars together, Zenos first produced its E10 sports car in 2015. It had no roof and was priced at a modest £25,000 (€29,000).

Later followed the more powerful E10 S and E10 R. The E10 R could hit 60mph in just three seconds, had a top speed of 155mph and weighed just 750kg. Around half of Zenos’ cars were sold within the UK, while others can be found as far away as the US and Japan.

**ZENOS CARS:** Norfolk-based sports car firm.



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## Countdown to the Geneva Motor Show

THE Geneva Motor Show may still be a few months away but several big-hitters have already come forward to stake their claim to motoring dominance. McLaren, Ferrari and even a Singapore outfit have put their cards on the table, ready to showcase their next generation masterpieces.

British manufacturer McLaren will debut the second generation of its acclaimed Super Series. Engineers claim that it will

have double the aerodynamic efficiency of the 650S, which is no mean feat.

Stronger, lighter and with outstanding grip and even an airbrake, the new McLaren model will need to outshine its predecessor if the struggling company wants to keep its place at motoring’s top table.

Meanwhile Singapore modestly claims it will kickstart an ‘electric revolution’ when

it debuts its awkwardly named Dendrobium. Produced by Vanda Electrics it is a two-seat electric supercar with an automatic roof and doors shaped like Dendrobiums, a flower native to Singapore. The Geneva Motor Show takes place from March 9-19.

Thousands of spectators will also see the new Ferrari F12 M; Range Rover Coupe; Kia Picanto and Jaguar XF Sportbrake.

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CLASSIC CAR CLUB: 2017 has got off to a flying start.

## Classic Car Club of Andalucia

# Great scenery, venues, cars and company!

I am pleased to tell you that 2017 has gotten off to a flying start for the Classic Car Club of Andalucia.

After a hectic December there was still no slowing down for the club. An excellent Club night and dinner was enjoyed at El Chaparral golf on the first Tuesday of the month, very well supported, excellent food, wine and service and all for only €20 each.

The following Saturday saw the Club enjoy its first classic car run and lunch of the year. Organised by club members Don and Sue Foster, the event started from El Balneario on the beach just the other side of Malaga. A halfway stop saw everyone at the famous Alfarate Inn, the oldest Inn in Andalucia. The dining area there still has its 'Calaboose' or jail, where the sheriffs would lock up their bandit prisoners en route to the courts in Granada. A few of the wives thought that a very good idea...

The run finished with a very good lunch near the trout farms of Riofrio.

This is what Club member and participant Andrew Buck-Honour had to say about the day out:



STARTING POINT: A coffee at El Balneario on the beach.

“ Yet again the Classic Car Club of Andalucia monthly run took us across some superb scenery in the mountains north-east of Malaga.

Don and Sue Foster had found a good start venue on the seafront just on the eastern edge of Malaga, with views of the port and city on a beautiful sunny day.

From there we headed into the mountains with great views back to the coast and a variety of backdrops - rock formations, green valleys and white-washed villages.

Our coffee stop in Alfarate used to be a prison, however today it merely kept us for only about half an hour as we enjoyed a welcomed drink.

Finally, after the last part of the scenic route, we arrived in the popular village of Riofrio where there are trout hatcheries and this fish is a favourite and also sturgeon caviar is produced.

A filling lunch in the Raimundo Restaurant here ended a fantastic day.

Great scenery, venues, cars and company!

Thanks Don and Sue for organising so well.

- with Simon Buck-Honour

#classiccars #classiccarclubofandalucia - with Sue Foster and Don Foster.

I do hope you enjoy a selection of photographs of the day from Andrew Buck-Honour. Next on the Club list are the Rock-n-Roll concerts at The Sunset Beach Club in Benalmadena on Saturday and Sunday January 28 and 29. There is a superb concert featuring the Memphis Trio with Ricky Lavazza on the Saturday night (Tickets are only €15) and a Rock-n-Roll Legends concert on the Sunday night where tickets are only €10. Amazing value. The Club will be going to Sunset Beach Club around 1.30pm on the Sunday where there will be a display of classic cars, some actually parked around the pool, and

CLASSIC CARS: Come along and join in the fun.

where there will also be a poolside Hawaiian BBQ available for only €20. There is a Rock-n-Roll theme and prizes will be presented for the best turned out car and crew. Rock-n-Roll style or Hawaiian shirts would be excellent!

Nearing the end of the following week, the Club has its first longer classic car event of 2017. The first day is Thursday, February 2. Called simply 'The Sherry Tour,' the four-day event will start just outside San Pedro, on the Ronda road, before heading to Ronda and then cross country to Puerto de los Galles and then on to finish with a dinner and night stop together near Vejer de la Frontera. On Friday February 3, cars head around the coast of Zahara, the Costa de la Luz, and on to the famous Trafalgar for coffee on the beach and then finish in Puerto de Santa Maria for the night. Here will be held a formal black-tie dinner in the most exquisite hotel in the area which has been completely taken over by the Club for two nights.

The following day, Saturday, is a rest day where the cars will probably be left behind and most will take the boat across to Cadiz, following in the recent footsteps of Rick Stein, to test as many tapas bars as possible. Dinner that night will be in the famous Michelin rated 'El Faro' restaurant. For those with enough appetite...

The Sunday sees a beautiful cross-country route back towards Benalup and then the Tarifa coast-road, finally finishing with a huge lunch near Algeciras. The Club has a very full entry for this it's annual opening event of the winter.

Moving on, there is a Club night and dinner at El Chaparral Golf in Mijas Costa on Tuesday February 7. Always a great evening, new members and guests are welcome. This will

be followed on Saturday February 11 with a classic car run and lunch, ably organised by Steve and Lynne Robinson which, as always, will be a great day out. More info can be found on the Club website, [www.cccandalucia.com](http://www.cccandalucia.com).

One can join 'Online' here assuming possession of a classic car in Spain. What is a classic car? You may ask. That's something I'll cover and try to explain next time.

Meantime, a happy New Year to all classic car enthusiasts out there.

Ian Giles



A display of classic cars.



Further information on Classic Car Club of Andalucia events can be found on the Club's website [www.cccandalucia.com](http://www.cccandalucia.com).

Membership of this vibrant club is open to anyone owning a genuine classic car here in Spain.

Saca tu coche clásico del garage y diviértete con el.



Wayne Rooney scored his 250th goal for Manchester United, thus breaking Sir Bobby Charlton's record which has stood for 44 years.

Axarquía's best guide to local sport

TO READ MORE

# Golf International Nerja Society

ON Friday January 13, just under 60 members played to qualify for the final of the GINS Championship. It was not easy and although it was a gloriously sunny day the Los Moriscos wind blew!

It was an early start off three tees so there was a few bleary-eyed players desperate for a caffeine kick to get them started as they trundled off to the 6th and 10th tees ready to do battle.

Congratulations to Pepe Gil and Pat Lowe, the overall winners, both players will represent Los Moriscos on Wednesday January 25 at Las Gabias. Also there will be Brian Downey, the first gent. All nine players, three

from each course, will compete to be the GINS lady champion and men's champion for 2017.

There was a surprise visit from long-standing member Brian Parker and his wife Pam. Brian hasn't been too well lately, although he was looking pretty good, so it was great to see him smiling and chatty like his old self. They were both happy to be back in Nerja.

The Glenn Cowie Memorial event will be played at Los Moriscos on Friday January 27.

#### Los Moriscos Results:

Ladies overall winner: Pat Lowe Hcp 27, 33pts

1st Gill Green Hcp 20, 31pts

2nd Jill Parker Hcp 29, 31pts  
3rd Linda Wiggins Hcp 28, 30pts

Men's overall winner: Pepe Gil Hcp 10, 38pts

1st Brian Downey Hcp 15, 36pts

2nd Malcolm Ritchie Hcp 28, 35pts

3rd John Vertanness Hcp 19, 35pts

4th Ray Craig Hcp 8, 34pts

Two's: Tony Downey and Ricky Allen

On Monday January 16 it was a Dubai team game at Añoreta with some good scoring in nice sunshine but with a difficult breeze. The top pairs were separated only on count-back.

The winners were an international bunch - Norway, Germany, Belgium and Spain; not a Brexiteer in sight!

Añoreta is in very good condition at the moment so get down to play there before the

luck runs out.

#### Anoreta Results:

1st team: Helmut Muller, Lola Montero Fuentes, Geir Froland and Dirk Van den Brandt 99pts

2nd team: Dietmar Stec, Esther McClenaghan, Stewart Green and Ingrid Stec 99pts

3rd team: Franck Stein, Lyn McAllister, David Trotman and Francoise Stein 97pts

Two's: John Millward 9, Geir Froland 5, Helmut Muller 5

Tuesday January 17 at Baviera was a beautiful day so it was fitting that the Brian Chewins Memorial Trophy (Individual Stableford) was played on such a glorious day.

The largest congregation of GINS members for some months (47 golfers) took part in the competition and scoring well proved elusive for the vast majority of players, with only a quarter of the field managing to



GLORIOUS WEATHER: For the Brian Chewins Memorial Trophy.

score 30 points or more.

Only three players managed to achieve birdie two's at some of the short holes on the course. Take a bow Derek Sibson, Alan Jones and Brian Wiggins who got their two's at the 5th, 8th and 10th hole respectively.

#### Baviera Results:

Ladies:

1st Linda Wiggins, 28pts

2nd PJ Bentley-Ennis, 26pts

3rd Marlyse Blair, 25pts

Men:

1st Clive Akid, 33pts

2nd Mark Fulton, 33pts

3rd Miguel Frayne, 33pts

Two's: Derek Sibson 2, Alan Jones 5 and Brian Wiggins 8

Overall winner of the Brian Chewins Memorial Trophy was Gill Sibson with 36 points, the only player to play to handicap.

The trophy was presented by John Pyle, a good friend of the Chewins' family, who made the time and effort to join everyone for the presentation of prizes.

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