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# Emergency

Government pledges funds for repairs



Guardamar.

*By Simon Firth*  
 Repairs to coastal areas badly damaged by the recent storms will be carried out and completed before the tourist season begins, the government has pledged.  
 With millions of euros riding on the massive influx of tourists, the government has now declared a state of 'civil protection emergency.'  
 This sanctions the release of funds to repair infrastructure severely damaged by the high winds and rain which lashed the southern Costa Blanca.  
 At first the arrival of a cold front from Russia's iciest wastes left large areas of the region under a blanket of snow.  
 Record books showed Torrevieja last experienced snow more than 100 years ago.  
 As temperatures plunged local councils were left unprepared. Many inland towns and villages were cut off with many major and minor roads blocked.  
 But as the snow disappeared - thankfully without any fatalities - the southern Costa Blanca was left to face a second weather onslaught.  
 This time high winds and rain lashed the region leaving a

trail of devastation in their wake, especially along the coast.  
 Roads were ripped up and waves up to six metres high in places crashed onto the region's beaches.  
 Entire sections were washed away leaving many coastal properties badly damaged and some facing demolition.  
 The rains also brought landslides in many areas blocking roads and causing widespread disruption.  
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**LOCAL NEWS**

# Official business

THE mayor of Orihuela has come under fire for refusing to reveal the identity of three municipal chauffeurs who were driving the official car when it received three separate fines for traffic offences. Emilio Bascañana has also been left red-faced after it emerged that he spent €470 on a single night's hotel stay in Granada.

# Suicide stopped

POLICE rescued a woman on the verge of committing suicide. She sent a goodbye text message and photo to her husband saying she would jump off a tall building in Elche, leading him to call police who were able to identify her location from the photo. When they found her, she had already cut her wrists with a razor blade and was ready to leap into the void.

# Green light

SANTA POLA Council has amended local traffic law in favour of pedestrians and citizens with limited mobility who are able to drive a car. The town hall has added a rule which sets a limit of two hours for parking in blue zones, while a special parking card will be created for disabled residents, allowing them to park in specially reserved areas.

# Care crisis

ELDERLY residents of Torrevieja are facing a care crisis. The regional government has admitted that a shortage in doctors and nurses could last several months. Contracts have been cancelled and services abandoned since the start of the new year without any substantial explanation. The Third Age home has over 200 full time residents, some of whom are expatriates with no family in Spain.

# 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.



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## Teenager's home birth tragedy

POLICE have launched an investigation in to the death of a baby, born to a teenager who had a home birth.

The 16-year-old is reported to have given birth at her family home in Pilar de la Horadada, apparently without receiving any medical professional in attendance. The parents of the young Estonian girl called police when they found the baby at their home and said they were unaware that their daughter was pregnant.

## Wayfaring strangers

LOCAL Spanish media have found themselves enthralled by the unusual specimens of Belgian, Dutch and German motorhome campers on the southern Costa Blanca.

One article marvelled at how the wintry weather was just like spring according to the campers.

The almost anthropological articles welcome the wayfaring strangers as a boon to the local economy and an exciting sight on local beaches. The expats, mostly retired couples, are congratulated on their cleanliness and tranquillity.

## Catch the pigeons

THE owners of pigeons belonging to one of the oldest racing clubs in Spain lost birds worth thousands of euros in the recent storms.

More than 100 birds were loosed as part of a competition on Monday by members of the Torrevieja-based La Colosal club.

But the competition was disrupted by the poor weather conditions including winds which prevented the birds from returning to their point of release.

Around 50 birds were recovered but another 40 have been lost.

## Cultural crimes spark arrests

SEVENTY-FIVE people have been arrested and more than 3,500 artworks and cultural artefacts recovered in a Europe-wide crackdown

# All in the line of duty

A POLICE officer was injured following a dramatic chase after a stolen car along the A-70 in Alicante ended in Crevillent.

The pursuit began when a patrol unit spotted a Peugeot 307 in the Rabassa area of Alicante that had been reported stolen. Noticing the attention, the robbers sped away and a chase along the motorway ensued, heading south.

Cars from the National and Local Police forces plus

the Guardia Civil joined the convoy, and a roadblock was constructed at kilometre point 522 in Crevillent. Unable to continue, the driver lost control of the car and crashed into the central barrier, with a National Police officer injured in the process. He was attended to at the scene by paramedics crew and was later taken to the IMED private hospital in Elche.

One of the thieves inside the car managed to flee the scene but the other was captured.

## SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE... 1

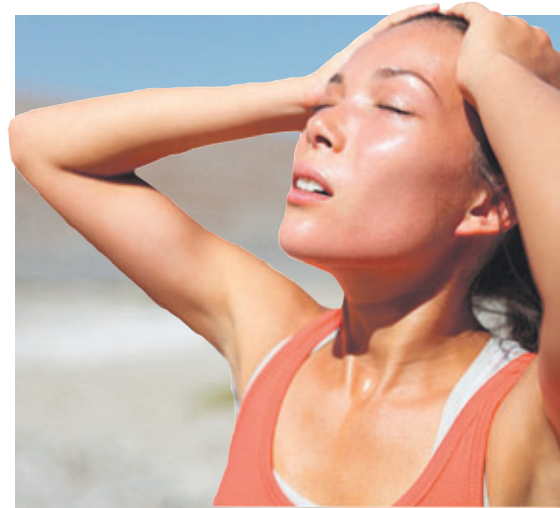
Despite the at times Arctic-like temperatures in recent days, last year was the hottest since world records began in 1880. And local weather is set to change more up to the year 2100 than it has in the last 10,000 years, according to experts.

# 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.

on traffickers involving Spanish police.

Eighteen countries, led by Spain and Cyprus and including the UK, participated in Operation Pandora which took place between October and November last year.

The Guardia Civil has now revealed details of the operation which saw a total of nearly 50,000 people investigated.

In Spain alone, police recovered 500 objects, 19 of them stolen in 2014 from the Archaeological Museum in Murcia.

In one operation adverts on the internet were investigated and 400 historically important coins were recovered.

Operation Pandora took place with the participation of Europol, Interpol and the UN's world heritage body, UNESCO.

## Unknown remains found

AN investigation has launched after human remains appeared on the Ur-

banova beach in Alicante.

It is believed they were washed up following the heavy storms at the weekend. Early police reports have concluded they are not recent and the skeletal remains belong to a person of around 20 years of age.

A resident found the skull and bones half buried in the sand in the Urbanova beach area, also known as the Saladar beach.

The remains are now with the Institute of Legal Medicine in Alicante where forensic experts will try to clarify their origin and identity and work out if they had been buried in the sand or if they were out at sea and had been washed up on to the coast after the storm.

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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 Almeria, 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

## MADRID

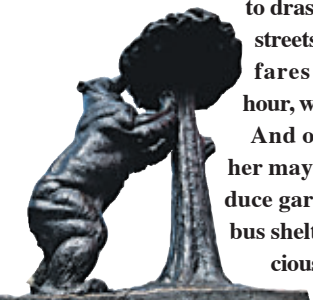


**WHILE many motorists refuse to use the metro and continue to drive on the city's main and frequently clogged roads, Mayor Manuela Carmena wants to ban all vehicles from many main streets by 2019.**

**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 Vía 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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# Work to be undertaken to restore the affected areas

» From Front page

Guardamar was battered for the second time in a month. Beaches were swamped and premises flooded including those of the Spanish Red Cross.

In the aftermath of the storms, the central government's public works minister Iñigo de la Serna promised they would help.

"Do not have the slightest doubt that the government is going to work intensively to make this happen."

Work, he said, would be undertaken "to restore the areas affected by the storm."

The announcement came in a meeting with the president of the Valencian Community, Ximo Puig.



Twister.



Torrevieja.



Torrevieja.

## Snow brings classes to a halt

IT was back to school yesterday (Wednesday) for students at the Virgen de las Maravillas school in Cehegin, Murcia, after an extended weekend due to weather damage.

The town hall closed the school as a precaution after heavy snow and wind resulted in the collapse of a wall located next to the school.

Schools ceased classes on Friday due to the snow in the municipalities of Alledo, Bullas, Caravaca de la Cruz, Calasparra, Cehegin, Moratalla, Pliego and Yecla, but all returned to normal this week, except for the Virgen de las Maravillas school.

Snow remains in some areas above 1,000 metres.

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*Advertising Feature*

### Copper Heeler brings relief from arthritis

MANY people have suffered with arthritis over the years, finding no long-term solutions, turning to strong medication to try and ease the pain, and thus putting up with a lesser quality of life.

Malcolm Landsman, who had studied magnetic and copper therapy for years, realised he may have hit on the solution to easing the joint pain that so many people experience. Copper Heelers are a simple accessory placed inside the heel of the shoe that gives arthritis sufferers incredible results within weeks. This works by means of replacing the copper in the body that arthritis sufferers lack. We all need certain metal elements in order to thrive and one of those key elements is copper, it is an essential part of the minerals within the body. There are 25,000 sweat glands in the foot alone, and so this is a prime area to absorb copper and utilise its healing properties.

Copper also prevents inflammation around the joints, so there is a feeling of well-being all round.

Malcolm has been marketing the Copper Heelers in Spain for more than five years now, and he has satisfied customers spreading the word about their change of life since using them. One lady from Las Siesta wrote to Malcolm only last week to say: "I have suffered for 10 years with the agony of arthritis, but since I have bought the Copper Heelers and worn them, my arthritis has improved in only five days!" This miracle insole has brought joy to many who have been restricted with movement in the past.

For more information on the Copper Heelers, please visit the website at [www.copperheeler.es](http://www.copperheeler.es) or call Malcolm on 966 763 770.



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**DANGEROUS REMNANT:** From the Spanish Civil War.

# Grenade brigade

By *Matthew Elliott*

BOMB disposal experts recently deactivated a hand grenade found by a hiker in El Palmar, Murcia.

The device was found deep in a ravine in a popular trekking spot. Specialists later confirmed that the mortar dated from the Spanish Civil War.

After the hiker contacted the emergency services an elaborate protocol was instantly put into action.

GEDEX, the Explosives Deacti-

vation Specialist Group was quickly deployed to the region, which they evacuated while working.

Grenades and other dangerous remnants of the Civil War are commonly found across Spain. The Guardia Civil advises anyone who comes across something suspicious to contact them immediately on 062 with GPS coordinates if possible.

People are advised never to touch such devices and to remain in the area until experts arrive to ensure the safety of others.

## 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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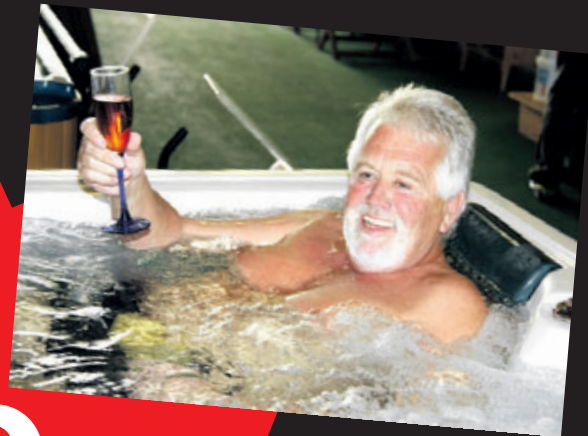
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# A bold escape from Alcatraz

A CONVICT staged a dramatic escape from a prison ambulance after his girlfriend broke up with him. Juan Alejandro tried to kill himself on hearing the news. He then jumped out the back of a moving ambulance on the way to hospital.

At the time of writing police are still hunting the fugitive. The 28-year-old was last seen on Valencia's V-30 motorway. Despite being shackled to the ambulance, the prisoner managed to break free, jumping into the rushing

traffic from a back window.

Amid the noise and confusion he slipped police patrols and is believed to have shed his prison uniform. The suspect should still have his right arm in a sling after slitting his wrist when his girlfriend dumped him by telephone.

Police confirmed that Alejandro's first move was a threatening phone call to his ex. They have been searching his old neighbourhood haunts. Alejandro was serving a two and a half year stint for robbing tobacconists.

# Crackdown on pet poo

SHOPS in Elche are to stock dog poo sacks in a bid to encourage owners to pick up the mess after their pets.

The idea is part of a new campaign aimed at highlighting the issue.

Pet owners could also face tougher sanctions if they allow their animals to defecate on the pavement, according to Mayor Héctor Diez.

The current maximum fine is €750, but it could go higher if the warnings go unheeded.

In one neighbourhood nine penalties were imposed in the last week as part of



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**POO SACKS:** To encourage owners to pick up the mess.

the new get-tough attitude by the civil authorities.

Around 100 shops have agreed to stock up dis-

pensers of poop bags in a bid to make it easier for pet owners to get the bags when needed.

## NEWS EXTRA

### Electric avenue

THE L'Aljub shopping centre has installed two charging points for electric vehicles. Charging will be free for the green citizens making use of the futuristic car park.

### Cyber city

TOURISTS and Cartagena citizens can now download a handy app on their smartphones detailing the city's key attractions and intriguing walking routes

### Free courses

THE Generalitat is offering 5,500 free places on online courses. The e-courses include digital literacy, sign language, waste recycling, environmental practices and consumption. For more information visit website [www.saps.gva.es](http://www.saps.gva.es).

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**NEWS EXTRA****Teacher call**

AROUND 5,000 teaching spots are available for the next school year. The Regional Ministry of Education said 400 of these are in primary and 300 in infant education, with the rest in secondary, vocational and specialist centres.

**Pollution prevention**

**THE anti-pollution tank in the Alicante neighbourhood of San Gabriel, has collected almost 81,000m<sup>3</sup> of water which would otherwise have been discharged into the sea.**

**No signal**

NEIGHBOURS in the golf area of San Juan were left with no TV after poor weather knocked out the antennas and gave a poor signal but as temperatures rose the service resumed.

# Four-legged friends protected

AS Torrevieja worked to protect the homeless residents in the city during last week's cold snap, providing a temporary shelter, the city's smaller residents were also being protected.

Volunteers of the Municipal Animal Shelter of Torrevieja put in place measures to protect the animals from the severe drop in temperatures.

For dogs, which are usually in cages open to the air from the front and back, semi-transparent panels were put around the cages which allowed any rays from the midday sun to heat them up, but at the same time, protected the pooches from the cold wind.

Residents and supporters also donated extra blankets to be placed inside their beds and a volunteer quickly worked to sew some coats for the dogs to keep out the cold. Cats were also 'dressed' for the occasion giving them extra protection and little cave like houses were made allowing them to snuggle in away from the cold.

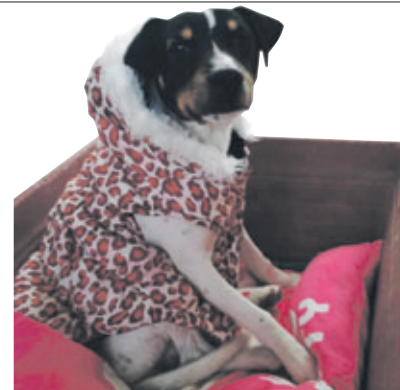
Councillor for Animal Protection, Carmen Morate, said the animals happily



**ANIMAL PROTECTION: Dogs and cats were protected from the cold snap.**

accepted the improvements: "The cats have immediately used the caves without wanting to go out or eat, and the dogs, very surprisingly, have not tried to take off their coats."

The councillor added that the smaller puppies were taken away to foster



homes to completely keep them away from the cold. Currently, the animal shelter has 16 cats and 19 dogs. A low number thanks to the increased involvement of the Association Animalistas Torrevieja that helps to promote adoption and fostering of the animals.

## Costa's Silicon Valley

RURAL areas across the Costa Blanca may finally have a solid internet connection. Ipo networks was founded in Elche and plans to bring WiFi to campo homes in Camp d'Elx and other isolated parts of the province.

They will offer 4G, fibre optic cables and radio links to households and businesses, many of whom have been basically shut off by major providers. Ipo specialises in alternatives to ADSL connections, and offer 'rural internet' packages custom made to individual needs.

Elche has become the Silicon Valley of the Costa Blanca with an impressive variety of technological start-up companies making a name for themselves. Other budding entrepreneurs are designing sunglasses and even insect colonies.

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**TOURISM HEADS:** Will continue to make the Costa Blanca an attractive destination.

# Costa Blanca plans to fight off Brexit

BREXIT was a hot topic at the Fitur tourism fair in Madrid.

With the Costa Blanca enjoying a successful 2016 in terms of tourist numbers and revenue, headed by the British contingent, none of the local businesses were daring to think about how Brexit could affect tourism.

Fitur highlighted the

strength of the Costa Blanca as a top tourist destination, with numerous great attributes.

It is one of the safest destinations in the Mediterranean, with strong transport links and is relatively cheap, particularly for the European middle class tourist.

These are conditions that have so far guaranteed suc-

cess, but no one really knows the impact Brexit will have on the British tourism market.

Hoteliers and tourism heads said there is nothing else they can do but continue to offer quality, maintain prices and work to attract other markets, and continue to make the Costa Blanca an attractive destination year round.

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# Fears over future of coastal lagoon

MEASURES to safeguard the future of the Mar Menor coastal lagoon must be taken soon to avoid irreversible damage, scientists claim.

Its progressive deterioration will lead to the area's ecological collapse unless activities such as tourism, urban development, agriculture and mining are better controlled.

Experts argue farmers in the surrounding areas must be aware

of the dangers of pesticides running off during periods of heavy rain and flooding.

A reduction in the use of fertilisers and the adoption of enhanced irrigation techniques are just two of the measures recommended.

Improved management of resources during periods of drought would also help improve the state of the lagoon.

Without such schemes the en-

tire future of the lagoon as a separate ecological entity is in danger.

The saltwater lagoon is the largest of its kind in Spain with water that is a maximum of 7m deep and wetlands of international importance.

Conservation measures taken now mean the lagoon will be in a best possible position to offset the rise in the level of the Mediterranean due to global warming.



Photo by EdithFotografie

**MAR MENOR:** The saltwater lagoon is the largest of its kind in Spain.

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# Show your support for no kill policy

THE animal protection centre in Orihuela that is run by Asoka el Grande and Orica, has called a demonstration rally for Saturday January 28.

The rally, at midday in the Plaza del Carmen in Orihuela, is to show their indignation that a company from Murcia could be awarded the contract for the centre.

At the moment the bidding process for the new contract

to run the centre is paralysed, following claims over Asoka's economic solvency which they are hoping is an administrative error and that they will be able to continue doing the sterling work they have done over the past three years.

Asoka wants the centre to remain in their hands as a private company would never maintain such a large number

of animals waiting for rehoming and therefore would put animals to sleep to save money. Nick Moore a volunteer said: "There is no way a private company would pay to treat sick animals or pay for food. They'd put them to sleep. We must make our voice heard. It's high time we had a demonstration!"

Asoka's concern is that the contract does not require that anyone in charge of the centre has a no kill policy. This weekend's demonstration is in support of a 'no kill' policy not only in Orihuela, but across Spain.

To show your support for Asoka's great work join them this Saturday at midday in Orihuela. There's plenty of parking in the shopping centre at Ociopia then it's a short walk to the Plaza next to the town hall.



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The regulation that protects the consumer, in article 89.2 of the General Law of Consumers and Users also considers that clause abusive.

For example, a mortgage of €150,000 contracted between the years 2006 and 2013 would incur a



return for the customer of about €3,000.

It is estimated that millions of people who have a mortgage can now begin the process of reclaiming thousands of euros, via tribunals and the courts in Spain.

The Supreme Court has considered

that there is an unfair imbalance between lender and borrower.

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# Officers seize illegal firearms

By John Smith

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.

The operation which included police forces from Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland, Greece, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Sweden and the United Kingdom netted a total of 225 people arrested and seizure of 664 firearms, 33,748 cartridges of different calibres, hand grenades and silencers.

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, Almeria, Badajoz,



Photo by Guardia Civil

**WEAPONS HAUL:**  
Some of those seized in Spain.

Barcelona, Bizkaia, Cordoba, Granada, Huelva, Huesca, Jaen, Madrid, Malaga, Murcia, Sevilla, Tarragona, and Zaragoza provinces.

Many of the weapons had been obtained from Eastern Europe with a number supposedly made inoperable but the various well equipped firearms work-

shops were able to convert them back to working models and they also manufactured cartridges at the same sites.

All of those taking part were pleased with the results and the fact that so many working weapons were made unavailable to criminals and terrorist organisations.

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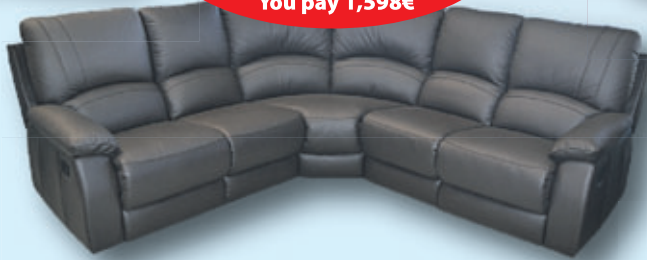


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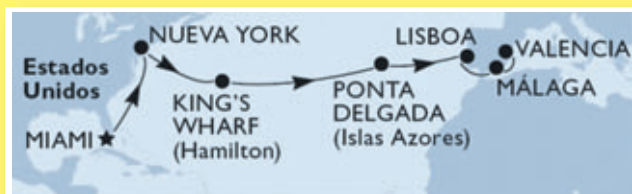
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# New office opens after years of delays

THE new Local Traffic Office of Elche starts operating today (Thursday).

This new service, launched by the General Traffic Department (DGT) is aimed to improve citizen service,

avoiding unnecessary waits, saving time and speeding up the procedures to be performed.

The plans for the Traffic Office were first announced in 2010 but delays oc-

curred following the bankruptcy of the builder and it never came to fruition.

It will serve the towns of the Baix Vinalopo and Vega Baja and is expected to relieve the Provincial Traf-

fic Office in Alicante of its workload, reducing it by 40 per cent.

The office opens today at 9am to those who have booked an appointment.

The office is situated in Calle Fuensalida 5, Elche and appointments can be made via [www.dgt.es](http://www.dgt.es) where you can choose your preferred day and time.

## Palm tree control demanded

A CONTRACT worth at least €18,000 is to be awarded to firms by the civil authorities in Orihuela to prune and weed the city's palm trees.

Two previous companies withdrew from the project meaning some specimens in the town have not been checked for three to four years.

Residents have criticised the city authorities for not doing more to tackle the issue which led to one tree falling and crushing a parked car in the recent high winds.

A number of the trees also stand on private land which means the municipal authorities cannot currently act.

A by-law could be enacted shortly to allow workers onto private land if the council regards the state of the trees there as dangerous.

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# Taking taboo out of death

FOLLOWING the great success of the first Death Café Costa Blanca in November 2016 and in response to many requests, another event is being organised.

Harry's Bar, Ave Costa Azul, Quesada, is the venue for the event on January 31 from 3-5pm.

The concept involves an attempt to undermine one of the last great taboos in today's society.

Over coffee and cake people can talk about death and what it will mean for those left behind.

Being well-informed and aware of the procedure and choices you have here in Spain can really help when the time comes. This is an informative discussion group, exchanging thoughts, ideas, wishes, and experiences. It will be followed



**DEATH CAFÉ: An informative discussion group.**

by a question and answer session with the experts and professionals from GRUPO ASV.

It is an opportunity to dispel some of the myths about the differences here in Spain to a funeral in the UK.

Many people who attended the last Café said that it had really made them stop and think

about how they could plan and prepare to lessen the pain for loved ones. They were reassured to meet the professionals and get answers first-hand to quell any uncertainties.

No selling takes place just lots of information to glean.

Places are limited so please contact us to register your interest to attend via Facebook Death Café Costa Blanca/ email: [dm.washbourne@gmail.com](mailto:dm.washbourne@gmail.com) / Tel 672 806 098 or pop into Harry's Bar.

The Death Cafe event is hosted by Denise Washbourne (Civil Funeral Celebrant) and is sponsored by GRUPO ASV Funeral Services. <http://www.grupoasvserviciosfunerarios.com/en/>.

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# Officials are among stranded passengers



Photo Credit: Luis Barcala/Twitter

**HAPPIER TIMES:** Luis Barcala (centre).

TRAVELLERS stranded on the Madrid-Alicante train line have criticised the lack of information they were given.

Snow caused the collapse of the service and trapped some 2,400 travellers in Albacete as four high-speed trains that departed from Puerta de Atocha in Madrid

became stranded. The passengers were then regrouped in a single train that was diverted to Cuenca, not expecting to arrive in Alicante until the early hours of the morning, some 12 hours after they set off on their journey.

Passengers complained of the lack of regular updates from Renfe workers. Among

the trapped passengers were municipal spokesman of the PP in Alicante, Luis Barcala, entrepreneur Enrique Ortiz, mayor of Elche, Carlos Gonzalez, mayor of Elda, Ruben Alfaro along with the President of Hosbec, Toni Mayor.

All had been returning from the Fitur tourism fair in Madrid.

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**A&E DEPARTMENT:** Reported that patients are having to wait up to 40 hours.

## Hospital reaches saturation

TORREVIEJA Hospital's A&E department is struggling to cope as the number of flu cases reaches epidemic proportions.

According to unions at the hospital, the emergency department has been "saturated due to the cold wave we are suffering in our region and the flu epidemic." There are reports that patients are having to wait up to 40 hours in the observation area waiting to be admitted.

The union said added to this lack of space is the lack

of staff. They have requested meetings with management to discuss contingency plans for this type of situation and are waiting to hear back.

However, management have rejected claims they are at breaking point. The hospital assures there is no influenza-related health care problem in the emergency department, although there are more patients with respiratory conditions, which is typical at this time of year.

They also said that the 12-hour stay in observation is not

exceeded at any time prior to hospitalisation or discharge and that 12 more doctors and nurses are being provided for the emergency department.

Torrevieja Hospital serves a potential population of 160,000 residents of Torrevieja, Orihuela Costa, Formentera, Guardamar, Pilar de la Horadada, among other municipalities of the Vega Baja. Torrevieja Health is managed under the public private model by Ribera Salud and has more than 1,000 workers.

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# Returning to normal

AS schools are gradually getting back to normal after last week's snow and rain storms, complaints have been made in Torrevieja about the state of the schools.

Classes were suspended at the Colegio Amanecer as the portacabin structures could not cope with the weather conditions. With water coming through the ceilings and causing power cuts, lessons were forced to stop. Despite the parents association complaining lessons should have been cancelled sooner, the municipal technician, upon an inspection of the facilities, said there was "no structural damage at the school" although as water was generally entering via the roof, the continuation of the school's activities "was uncomfortable."

The school is one of the oldest ones in the Valencia Region to have portacabins with the 'temporary' structures in place since 2004.

It is reported that since this time, the Generalitat has spent more than €2 million on the rental of pre-fabricated portacabins, which would have been enough to build a new school.

The secondary schools in San Fulgencio, also made of portacabins, was likewise forced to close.

## NEWS EXTRA

### Car 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.

### Fitur fiestas

**THE Moors and Christians of Orihuela, paraded through the streets of Madrid to highlight the festival as part of the Fitur tourism fair.**

### Local recruitment

*SANTA POLA is hiring 23 unemployed people from vulnerable groups thanks to aid granted to the Local Development Agency. They will be working in the area of works and services in the town.*

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**BREECH BABIES:** Are the most common reason mothers need a caesarean section.

## More natural births in Elche

THE number of mothers needing caesarean sections in Elche's General Hospital has fallen by 13 per cent in the last five years. The Vinalopo Hospital has seen a reduction of 5 per cent. The number of caesareans in Elche is now below the regional average.

Head of the General Hospital's Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department, Marcos Reillo, said: "We try to avoid caesareans, or reduce them as much as possible because mortality is higher than that of a natural birth." He said the baby being in a breech position was often the most common

reason a caesarean was needed, but new techniques have allowed the hospital to intervene and turn the baby to allow for a natural birth.

Work to turn breech babies has been used in the Vinalopo Hospital since 2012, but has increased in recent years as the hospital bid to provide a humanised, minimally invasive delivery. As a result, mothers are increasingly given options to have a natural birth, thanks to techniques such as external cephalic version (ECV) where the obstetrician tries to turn the baby into a head-down (cephalic) position by applying pressure on the abdomen.

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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



Photo by The Supreme Court

**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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# A New Year, a new image



**NEW LOGO:**  
For Costa Blanca  
branding.

By Caroline Tyszka

THE Costa Blanca brand logo has been relaunched in a bid to make it an identifiable referent in emerging markets.

The new look has been designed to present a more universal, modern, versatile, genuine and innovative image.

The president of the regional government, Cesar

Sanchez, and the deputy of Tourism, Eduardo Dolon, revealed the new corporate identity. As a whole it has maintained most of its original features with only a change in type style, additional colour and the word Spain alongside Alicante.

Sanchez said: "With the Tourism Board relaunching our destination we now present a stronger image that re-

flects each and every one of our attributes and conveys the values that we place on tourism."

The International Tourism Fair, Fitfur 2017, where the new image was first presented, is a symbol of excellence, quality and experience, which seeks to reinforce the brand, already established in much of the international market.

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## NEWS EXTRA

### Country fire

A FIRE has destroyed a country finca in El Altet. It is believed a tool shed attached to the house was where the blaze started and spread to the rest of the property. The owners were not at home at the time.

### Husband jailed

AN Elche man has been sentenced to a year in jail for breaking his 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.

### Bless animals

ALICANTE'S annual 'blessing of animals' event for the fiesta of San Anton, will now take place on Sunday, January 29.

# Vulnerable families



**ALICANTE:** Survey reflects the reality of the city.

OVER 15 per cent of Alicante families are at serious risk of vulnerability. That's according to a survey conducted by the city of Alicante of families living in the city. The figures are double the average for the Valencia Region where 6.7 per cent of families are at social risk.

The study was carried out as part of the Plan for Social Inclusion and looked at payment of bills, energy poverty, unforeseen expenses, buying meat and fish, holidays, possessing a car and a computer.

The results showed a north and south divide with more than 50 per cent of the population of the central city and beaches area having a university degree, compared to less than 10 per cent of the population in the north zone of the city. The average income in the north is up to €10,000, with an unemployment rate of more than 50 per cent, while in the central and beaches zone the average wage is more than €15,000 and unemployment is less than half that in the north.

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# es at risk



Despite the findings, councillor and Project Coordinator, Natxo Bellido (Compromis) rejected the idea of 'rich neighbourhood, poor neighbourhood' but stressed the survey reflects the reality of the city. The councillor said the survey will let the town hall "act with the goal of achieving a better society."

According to Bellido, the duality in Alicante was present at the beginning of the crisis and has been 'aggravated' as a result of the urban model and austerity policies.

## Could local school be headed to oblivion?

THE rebuilding of the Hispanidad school in Santa Pola is looking more and more unlikely.

Some four years ago part of the school's flooring collapsed as the ground sunk. The incident injured seven students and a teacher who were in the classroom at the time.

The area was closed off with plans to rebuild the structure, but Deputy Director of Infrastructures and Education of the Consell, Jesus Garcia, has admitted that there are currently no plans to rebuild the classrooms.

The Consell has said it will now commission a new report to see if the rebuilding is necessary and to look at the future of the school.

The school has some 180 students, most of them now re-housed in the Jose Tovar school. Only children of three and four years are still at the Hispanidad school, being taught in a different area to where the accident occurred. However, enrolments are down as confidence over the facility falls. Tamara Alaguero from the school's AMPA parents association, fears the school may disappear because parents are railing to enrol youngsters.

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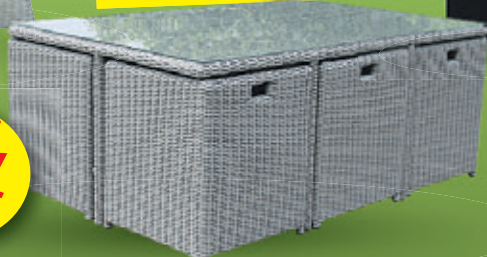


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# Increase in calls by abused women

MORE Murcian women were calling for help last year as victims of gender violence.

According to data, the number of women calling the 112 emergency number rose to 2,700 in the region last year, 15.7 per cent more than in 2015.

Of these calls, 68 per cent of the victims were Spanish women. The next largest nationality group was the Moroccans with 8.4 per cent of calls received by Moroccan women.

According to the data, the scourge of gender violence

particularly affects women who are between 30 and 45 years old, with half the calls made from women in this age group. A quarter were between 18 and 29 years old.

In the region of Murcia, the courts entered 1,550 complaints, 15.5 per cent.

The regional government has said they have pledged 16 per cent more in the budget for this year to help with gender violence, in fighting the crime and supporting victims.



**REGIONAL GOVERNMENT: Has pledged support.**

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## Taxi please!

THE Neighbourhood Association of San Miguel de Salinas is calling for more local taxis in the municipality.

The association has approached the town hall requesting more authorised and licensed taxis as a result of the demands of residents and taxi drivers themselves. Sixty commercial establishments in San Miguel have backed the petition saying that to have just two licensed taxis to serve a population of over 6,500 people is insufficient.

They add the town hall should also take into account the demographics of the populations with around half of residents being aged over 50 and more likely to be in demand of a taxi service to get between the urbanisations, the town centre, the health centre, nearby hospital and airport.

According to figures from the National Statistics Institute, the average number of taxis in Spain is 15.4 per 10,000 inhabitants. According to this average, San Miguel would require nine taxis.



## Spanish growth in exports

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 November is in contrast to that of

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# Exports record in 2016



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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, although 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.

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# Little Pod Appeals4

RECENTLY one of the dogs at Little Pod Noel, who was 15 years old on Christmas Day, was recovering from ear surgery when he pulled out the drain and had to go back to the vets. Although it was only a two-minute drive to the vet surgery he began whimpering, howling and crying just as the staff reached the surgery with him and they knew instantly something was wrong.

Upon opening the boot they saw that Noel had got his foot and leg wedged down a small gap between the boot floor and spare tyre. A vet came out to help as it was twisted and well and truly stuck. The fear of his leg breaking was indescribable by the staff, but thankfully he was freed and unharmed.

The Little Pod Association is a registered charity here in Spain. They are desperately in need of a designated small van for transporting rescued animals to safety, for vets’ visits and to carry food and supplies, etc.



The ancient private car that has been used to date has 243,000kms on the clock and has helped more than 1,500 animals, but it is now on its last legs (or should that be wheels!). As the above recent incident proved, it is not entirely suitable for its purpose.

The charity is asking animal lovers to please help them raise

funds to buy a reliable vehicle. The Little Pod squad is happy to attend any local fundraising events. Of course, if any chairman of Renault, Ford, Peugeot, VW, Seat, Citroen or any car brand happens to be enjoying their Spanish holiday and reads this, we would be thrilled to hear from you!

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## Almoradi Monday Club

THE Almoradi Monday Club is a modern and progressive club that provides an opportunity for people who speak English and live in Almoradi or the surrounding area to meet up on a regular but informal basis to talk together and enjoy life in this Spanish community.

The club activities include social events, club lunches and evening meals in and around the local area, with guest speakers at meetings and entertainment whenever possible. The club also tries to associate itself with other local clubs that hold events including coach trips and anything that may be of interest to members.

It meets on the first and third Monday of every month at 4pm in the Centro Social Rooms, Plaza San Andres, Calle Antimo Illescas, off Calle Comunidad Valenciana, in Almoradi. It is open to people of every nationality living in or just visiting Spain.

If you are interested and would like to have a wider circle of friends then pop along to one of their meetings.

For more information contact [davedanie@gmail.com](mailto:davedanie@gmail.com) or find us on facebook by searching for Almoradi Monday Club.

## Torre Vieja Flower Club

THE season continues at Torre Vieja Flower Club with a demonstration by John McDonald from Scotland on Wednesday February 15 at 2.30pm. Please note the later start time for this month only.

The demonstration will take place at the Asturias Restaurant, Punta Prima and guests will be made very welcome. For any enquiries please contact Sandra on 966 848 220 or Jennie on 965 723 843.

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# Humanists of Murcia walk into the New Year

IN January, on a beautifully clear and sunny morning, 24 intrepid easy ramblers assembled in La Majada for the first two hour walk of 2017.

Despite the brilliant sun, the bitter wind led the walkers to don almost as many fleeces, scarves, hats and gloves as they might have worn in UK.

Ably led by Audrey the group left from the eastern side of the village, causing great excitement for the many dogs in the gardens and orchards that bordered the road.

Soon they were out in open fields with distant views of the surrounding hills and down to the sea in Mazarrón bay.

A steady pace brought them back via the rambla and more orchards and greenhouses to the Bar Puente in time for the AGM.

Officer's reports were presented and accepted, and



**CLEAR MORNING:** The first two hour walk was held.

those committee members who wished to continue were confirmed. The new publicity officer, Martine Smets was welcomed and finally the outgoing chairperson, John Blakey gave a short resume of the development of the group since he and his wife Rhian started it 2010.

The chair was then taken by the new chairperson, Anne Edwards, who proposed a vote of thanks to John and Rhian for their sterling work

in leading the group from small beginnings to its present 60 paid up members.

After the meeting was adjourned, Rhian offered some food for thought from the latest British Humanist Association bulletins before the group enjoyed an excellent lunch in Bar Puente.

Please use the 'contact us' page of the Humanists of Murcia website to request for more details or to be added to the mailing list.

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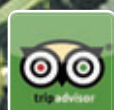
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# EU on the Spanish deficit

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: Kike 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 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.

## Super Rich

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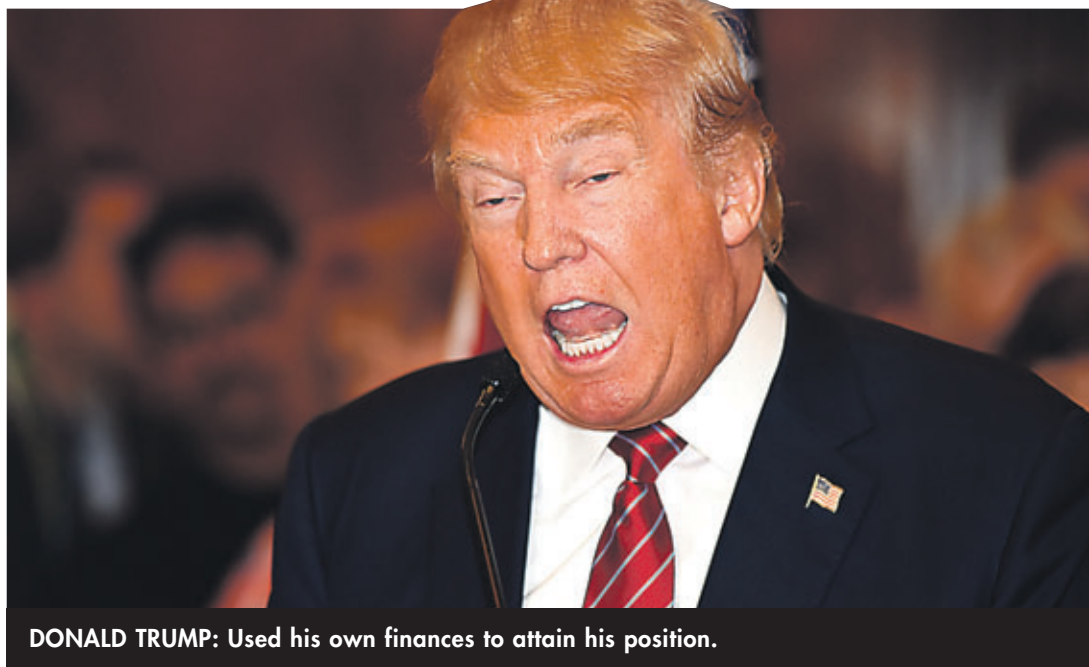
HOPEFULLY the cry of 'Donald Duck' won't be heard issuing from the lips of the new president's bodyguards for a while.

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 impetuosity 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.

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2:45pm Doctors  
3:15pm Father Brown  
4:00pm Escape to the Country  
4:45pm Royal Recipes  
5:30pm Antiques Road Trip  
6:15pm Pointless  
7:00pm BBC News at Six  
7:30pm BBC London News  
8:00pm The One Show  
8:30pm Match of the Day Live  
11:00pm BBC News at Ten  
11:25pm BBC London News  
11:35pm The Graham Norton Show  
12:25am Uncle  
12:55am The Peacemaker  
2:50am Weather for the Week Ahead  
2:55am BBC News

BBC TWO

7:00am Wanted Down Under  
7:45am Royal Recipes  
8:30am Cash in the Attic  
9:00am Caught Red Handed  
9:30am An Island Parish  
10:00am Victoria Derbyshire  
12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live  
1:00pm The Daily Politics  
2:00pm Bowls  
6:00pm Tennis  
7:00pm Eggheads  
7:30pm Great American Railroad Journeys  
8:00pm Only Connect  
8:30pm Eurovision: You Decide  
10:00pm World's Most Extraordinary Homes  
11:00pm QI  
11:30pm Newsnight  
12:05am Further Back in Time for Dinner  
1:05am World Indoor Bowls Highlights  
2:05am Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise  
3:05am Britain's Ancient Capital: Secrets of Orkney  
4:05am This is BBC Two

BBC FOUR

8:00pm World News Today  
*The latest national and international news, exploring the day's events from a global perspective.*  
8:30pm Sounds of the 70s  
*An unashamed celebration of the instantly recognisable classics from the decade of love.*  
9:00pm The Good Old Days  
*Leonard Sachs presents the old-time music hall programme, first broadcast on 7 June 1977.*  
10:00pm Sound of Musicals with Neil Brand  
11:00pm Secret Voices of Hollywood  
*In many of Hollywood's greatest movie musicals the stars did not sing their own songs.*  
12:30am ...Sings Musicals  
1:30am Sounds of the 70s

CHANNEL 4

7:00am Countdown  
7:45am King of Queens  
9:00am Everybody Loves Raymond  
10:00am Frasier  
11:30am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA  
12:30pm Four in a Bed  
1:00pm Channel 4 News  
1:05pm Four in a Bed  
3:10pm Countdown  
4:00pm A New Life in the Sun  
5:00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun  
6:00pm Come Dine with Me  
7:00pm The Simpsons  
7:30pm Hollyoaks  
*It's Ryan's birthday but things become awkward when Amy invites the McQueens.*  
8:00pm Channel 4 News  
9:00pm Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast  
10:00pm 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown  
11:00pm The Last Leg  
12:05am First Dates Hotel  
1:05am Virtually Famous

CHANNEL 5

8:50am Paw Patrol  
9:00am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom  
9:15am Wissper  
9:25am Peppa Pig  
9:50am Toot the Tiny Tugboat  
10:00am Toby's Travelling Circus  
10:15am The Wright Stuff  
12:15pm Cowboy Builders  
1:10pm 5 News Lunchtime  
1:15pm Celebrity Big Brother  
2:15pm Home and Away  
2:45pm Neighbours  
3:15pm NCIS  
4:15pm My Mother's Secret  
6:00pm 5 News at 5  
6:30pm Neighbours  
7:00pm Home and Away  
7:30pm 5 News Tonight  
8:00pm Police Interceptors  
9:00pm Toddlers Make You Laugh Out Loud 2  
10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother  
11:00pm Lip Sync Battle UK  
11:30pm Celebrity Big Brother  
12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side  
1:00am Super Casino  
4:10am Celebrity Big Brother

4

7:00am Suburgatory  
7:20am Charmed  
8:05am Brooklyn Nine-Nine  
8:35am Brooklyn Nine-Nine  
9:00am Rules of Engagement  
9:30am Rules of Engagement  
10:00am Baby Daddy  
10:30am Baby Daddy  
11:00am Coach Trip  
11:30am Hollyoaks  
12:00pm Charmed  
1:00pm Charmed  
2:00pm How I Met Your Mother  
3:00pm The Big Bang Theory  
3:30pm The Big Bang Theory  
4:00pm Baby Daddy  
4:30pm Baby Daddy  
5:00pm How I Met Your Mother  
6:00pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine  
6:30pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine  
7:00pm The Big Bang Theory  
7:30pm The Big Bang Theory  
8:00pm Hollyoaks  
8:30pm Coach Trip  
9:00pm The Big Bang Theory  
9:30pm The Big Bang Theory  
10:00pm Terminator Salvation  
12:15am Colombiana  
2:25am The Big Bang Theory

sky SPORTS 1

10:30am Premier League 100 Club  
11:00am Premier League Daily  
12:00pm Transfer Centre  
12:30pm Barclays Premier League World  
1:00pm Efl Cup Highlights  
1:30pm Premier League Legends  
2:00pm La Liga Show  
2:30pm Efl Cup Highlights  
3:00pm The Premier League Years  
5:00pm Barclays Premier League World  
5:30pm La Liga Show  
6:00pm Efl Cup Highlights  
6:30pm Barclays Premier League World  
7:00pm The Fantasy Football Club  
8:00pm Transfer Centre  
8:30pm Spanish Football Gold  
8:40pm Football  
10:40pm Carl Frampton: Fighter of 2016  
10:55pm Football Gold  
11:00pm La Liga Show  
11:30pm Efl Cup Highlights  
12:00am The Fantasy Football Club

itv

9:30am Lorraine  
10:25am The Jeremy Kyle Show  
11:30am This Morning  
1:30pm Loose Women  
2:30pm ITV Lunchtime News  
2:55pm ITV News London  
3:00pm Jeremy Kyle's Emergency Room  
4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal  
5:00pm Tipping Point  
6:00pm The Chase  
7:00pm ITV News London  
7:30pm ITV Evening News  
8:00pm Emmerdale  
8:30pm Coronation Street  
9:00pm Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury  
9:30pm Coronation Street  
10:00pm Tina and Bobby  
11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather  
11:30pm ITV News London  
11:40pm Fishing Impossible  
12:10am The Wine Show  
1:10am Jackpot247  
4:00am Freeze Out

itv2

7:00am You've Been Framed!  
7:20am Who's Doing the Dishes?  
8:15am The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
9:00am Emmerdale  
9:30am Emmerdale  
10:00am You've Been Framed!  
10:35am Psych  
11:25am Scorpion  
12:25pm Who's Doing the Dishes?  
1:25pm Emmerdale  
1:55pm Emmerdale  
2:30pm You've Been Framed!  
3:00pm The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
3:50pm The Jeremy Kyle Show  
4:55pm The Jeremy Kyle Show  
6:00pm Judge Rinder  
7:00pm You've Been Framed!  
7:30pm You've Been Framed!  
8:00pm You've Been Framed!  
9:00pm Two and a Half Men  
9:30pm Two and a Half Men  
10:00pm Hall Pass  
12:05am Family Guy  
12:35am Family Guy

itv3

7:00am In Loving Memory  
7:25am Heartbeat  
8:20am Where the Heart is  
9:25am The Royal  
*Nostalgic medical drama spin-off from Heartbeat.*  
10:25am Judge Judy  
10:50am Judge Judy  
11:20am Judge Judy  
11:45am A Touch of Frost  
1:55pm Heartbeat  
3:00pm The Royal  
4:05pm Where the Heart is  
5:15pm In Loving Memory  
5:50pm Rising Damp  
6:15pm On the Buses  
6:50pm Heartbeat  
7:55pm Murder, She Wrote  
9:00pm Doc Martin  
10:00pm A Touch of Frost  
12:10am Blue Murder  
1:45am The Knock  
2:45am Wimbledon  
3:50am FYI Daily  
3:55am Wimbledon  
4:25am Wycliffe  
5:20am Rory Bremner's Great British Views

itv4

7:00am British Touring Car Crashes and Smashes  
7:10am Gunsmoke  
8:05am The Saint  
9:10am Quincy, M.E.  
10:15am The Professionals  
11:15am Ironside  
12:20pm Gunsmoke  
1:25pm Storage Wars Texas  
1:55pm Pawn Stars  
2:25pm Pawn Stars  
2:50pm Quincy, M.E.  
3:50pm Ironside  
4:55pm The Professionals  
6:00pm The Saint  
7:00pm Storage Wars Texas  
7:30pm Storage Wars Texas  
8:00pm Darts: The Masters  
12:00am Halloween H2O: 20 Years Later  
1:00am FYI Daily  
1:05am Halloween H2O: 20 Years Later  
1:45am The Professionals  
2:45am The Saint  
3:40am ITV4 Nightscreen  
*Text-based information service.*  
4:00am Teleshopping

sky MOVIES ACTION & ADVENTURE

9:35am Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials  
11:50am Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation  
2:05pm Furious 7  
4:25pm Backdraft  
6:45pm Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials  
9:00pm Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation  
11:15pm Furious 7  
1:35am Bloodsport

sky MOVIES COMEDY

9:35am The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Let's Do the Time Warp Again  
11:10am Zoolander  
12:50pm Zoolander 2  
2:40pm The Top Ten Show 2017  
3:00pm The Apartment  
5:10pm Top Five  
7:00pm Magic Mike XXL  
9:00pm Zoolander  
10:40pm Zoolander 2  
12:30am Superbad

sky MOVIES PREMIERE

7:00am Mercury Plains  
8:55am The Other Side of the Door  
10:40am Alice Through the Looking Glass  
12:45pm Whiskey Tango Foxtrot  
2:45pm Sky Movies 2017 Preview  
3:15pm Money Monster  
5:00pm Mercury Plains  
*Action thriller starring Scott Eastwood as a troubled runaway who joins a paramilitary group battling Mexico's drug cartels.*  
7:00pm Alice Through the Looking Glass  
9:00pm Money Monster  
*The smirking host of a financial TV show is held hostage when an investment tip doesn't pay off.*  
10:45pm The Other Side of the Door  
12:25am Frankenstein

sky SPORTS 2

7:00am Cricket Classics  
8:00am Time of Our Lives  
9:00am Sky Sports Years  
10:00am Cricket's Greatest  
10:30am Cricket's Greatest  
11:00am Cricket  
3:30pm Cricket Gold Shorts  
3:40pm Cricket Gold Shorts  
3:50pm Cricket Gold Shorts  
4:00pm Cricket's Greatest  
4:30pm Cricket's Greatest  
5:00pm Cricket World Cup Classics  
*A look back at some classic matches from the ICC Cricket World Cup.*  
6:00pm Cricket  
10:30pm Super Rugby Gold  
10:40pm Super Rugby Gold  
*A look at some of the most memorable moments in cricketing history.*  
10:50pm Super Rugby Gold  
11:00pm Live Wrlrd Rugby Sevens-New Zealand

|| The schedules for the television programme pages are provided by an external company: we regret that any changes or errors are not the responsibility of Euro Weekly News.



## 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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# 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*

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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12:45pm Caught Red Handed
1:15pm Bargain Hunt
2:00pm BBC News
2:30pm Regional News
2:45pm Doctors
3:15pm Father Brown
4:00pm I Escaped to the Country
4:45pm Royal Recipes
5:30pm Antiques Road Trip
6:15pm Pointless
7:00pm BBC News
7:30pm Regional News
8:00pm The One Show
8:30pm Inside Out
9:00pm EastEnders
9:30pm Panorama
10:00pm Silent Witness
11:00pm BBC News
11:30pm Regional News
11:40pm Weather
11:45pm Class
12:30am Class
1:20am The Graham Norton Show
2:05am Weather for the Week Ahead

BBC TWO

7:30am Wanted Down Under
8:15am Royal Recipes
9:00am Great Interior Design Challenge
10:00am Victoria Derbyshire
12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live
1:00pm The Daily Politics
2:00pm Countryfile
2:25pm Beat the Brain
2:55pm Landward
3:25pm Westminster Abbey
4:25pm Indian Ocean with Simon Reeve
5:25pm A Place to Call Home
6:15pm Flog It!
7:00pm Eggheads
7:30pm Great American Railroad Journeys
8:00pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is
9:00pm University Challenge
9:30pm An Island Parish
10:00pm George III - Genius of the Mad King
11:00pm Insert Name Here
11:30pm Newsnight
12:10am Weather
12:15am Hospital
1:15am The Cult Next Door
2:15am Countryfile

BBC FOUR

8:00pm 100 Days
8:30pm Reel History of Britain
9:00pm The World's Biggest Flower Market
10:00pm Art of France
11:00pm The World's Most Beautiful Eggs: The Genius of Carl Faberge
12:00am How it Works
1:00am The Horizon Guide to Space Shuttles
2:00am David Starkey's Music and Monarchy
Dr David Starkey's exploration of how the monarchy shaped Britain's music concludes with the 19th and 20th centuries, when the crown rediscovered the power of pageantry and ceremony and when native music experienced a renaissance.
3:00am The World's Biggest Flower Market

CHANNEL 4

7:00am Countdown
7:45am King of Queens
9:00am Everybody Loves Raymond
10:00pm Frasier
10:30am Frasier
11:00am Frasier
11:30am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
12:30pm Four in a Bed
1:00pm Channel 4 News
1:05pm Four in a Bed
1:35pm Four in a Bed
2:10pm Four in a Bed
2:40pm Four in a Bed
3:10pm Countdown
4:00pm A New Life in the Sun
5:00pm A Place in the Sun
6:00pm Come Dine with Me
7:00pm The Simpsons
7:30pm Hollyoaks
8:00pm Channel 4 News
9:00pm Dispatches
9:30pm Food Unwrapped
10:00pm The Undateables
11:00pm First Dates Hotel
12:05am Tattoo Fixers
1:10am The World's Weirdest Weather
2:05am 60 Days in Jail

CHANNEL 5

7:00am Milkshake!
10:15am The Wright Stuff
12:15pm Cowboy Builders
1:10pm 5 News
1:15pm Celebrity Big Brother
2:15pm Home and Away
2:45pm Neighbours
3:15pm NCIS
4:15pm Hidden Truth Lies Will Surface.
6:00pm 5 News
6:30pm Neighbours
7:00pm Home and Away
7:30pm 5 News
8:00pm World's Biggest Beasts
9:00pm Police Interceptors
10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother
11:00pm My Mum's Hotter Than Me!
12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side
1:05am Sex Pod
2:00am Super Casino Feeling lucky? Get the authentic, heart-thumping casino experience every night.

4

7:00am Suburgatory
7:20am Charmed
8:05am Brooklyn Nine-Nine
8:35am Brooklyn Nine-Nine
9:00pm Rules of Engagement
9:30am Rules of Engagement
10:00am Baby Daddy
10:30am Baby Daddy
11:00am Coach Trip
11:30am Hollyoaks
12:00pm Charmed
2:00pm How I Met Your Mother
3:00pm The Big Bang Theory
3:30pm The Big Bang Theory
4:00pm Baby Daddy
4:30pm Baby Daddy
5:00pm How I Met Your Mother
6:00pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine
6:30pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine
7:00pm The Big Bang Theory
7:30pm The Big Bang Theory
8:00pm Hollyoaks
8:30pm Coach Trip
9:00pm Battleship
11:25pm Gogglebox
12:10am The Big Bang Theory
12:40am The Big Bang Theory
1:10am First Dates

sky SPORTS 1

7:00am Football Gold
8:00am WWE Raw
9:00am Goals on Sunday
10:00am Premier League 100 Club
11:00am The Premier League Years
1:00pm Goals on Sunday
2:00pm Premier League 100 Club
3:00pm Premier League Legends
4:00pm The Premier League Years
6:00pm Boxing
8:00pm Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17
8:30pm Spanish Football Gold
8:40pm Football
10:40pm Spanish Football Gold
11:00pm Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17
11:30pm La Liga Goals
12:00am Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17
12:30am Premier League Legends
1:00am Scottish Football Round Up
1:15am La Liga Goals

itv

7:00am Good Morning Britain
9:30am Lorraine
10:25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
11:30am This Morning
1:30pm Loose Women
2:30pm ITV Lunchtime News
3:00pm Jeremy Kyle's Emergency Room
4:00pm James Martin's French Adventure
5:00pm Tipping Point
6:00pm The Chase
7:00pm Local News and Weather
7:30pm ITV Evening News
8:00pm Emmerdale
8:30pm Coronation Street
9:00pm The Martin Lewis Money Show
9:30pm Coronation Street
10:00pm The Halcyon
11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
11:40pm Through the Keyhole
12:40am Jackpot247
4:00am The Jeremy Kyle Show

itv2

7:00am You've Been Framed!
7:25am Who's Doing the Dishes?
8:15am The Ellen DeGeneres Show
9:00pm Emmerdale
9:30am Coronation Street
10:00pm Coronation Street
10:35am Psych
11:25am Scorpion
12:25pm Who's Doing the Dishes?
1:25pm Emmerdale
1:55pm Coronation Street
2:30pm Coronation Street
3:00pm The Ellen DeGeneres Show
3:50pm The Jeremy Kyle Show
4:55pm The Jeremy Kyle Show
6:00pm Judge Rinder
7:00pm You've Been Framed!!
9:00pm Two and a Half Men
10:00pm Family Guy
10:30pm The Great Indoors
11:00pm American Dad!
11:30pm American Dad!
12:00am Family Guy

itv3

7:00am In Loving Memory
7:25am Heartbeat
8:30am Where the Heart is
9:35am The Royal
10:35am Judge Judy
11:05am Judge Judy
11:35am Judge Judy
12:00pm A Touch of Frost
2:05pm Heartbeat
3:05pm The Royal
4:10pm Where the Heart is
5:20pm In Loving Memory
5:50pm Rising Damp
6:20pm On the Buses
6:55pm Heartbeat
8:00pm Murder, She Wrote
9:00pm Doc Martin
10:00pm Long Lost Family
11:00pm The Bletchley Circle
12:05am The Mafia with Trevor McDonald
1:05am Wycliffe
2:05am The Knock
3:00am ITV3 Nightscreen
3:30am Teleshopping Innovative, value-for-money products brought directly to you at home

itv4

7:00am Gunsmoke
7:55am The Saint
8:50am Quincy, M.E.
9:50am The Professionals
10:55am Ironside
11:55am Gunsmoke
1:00pm Storage Wars Texas
1:30pm Storage Wars Texas
2:00pm Storage Wars
2:30pm Storage Wars
2:55pm Quincy, M.E.
3:55pm Ironside
5:00pm The Professionals
6:00pm The Saint
7:05pm Storage Wars Texas
7:35pm Storage Wars Texas
8:00pm Rugby
9:00pm The Chase: Celebrity Special
10:00pm The Game of Death
11:00pm FYI Daily
11:05pm The Game of Death
12:05am Bundesliga
1:05am Rugby
2:05am The Professionals
3:05am The Saint
4:00am Teleshopping

sky MOVIES ACTION & ADVENTURE

9:10am Run All Night
11:05am Terminator Genisys
1:15pm Rocky Balboa
3:05pm Night at the Museum
5:00pm The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor
7:00pm Self/Less
9:00pm Terminator Genisys
11:10pm Run All Night
1:10am The Scorpion King

sky MOVIES COMEDY

9:40am Valentine's Day
11:50am Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo
1:20pm The Top Ten Show 2017
1:40pm License to Drive
3:20pm Spy
5:35pm Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2
7:15pm The House Bunny
9:00pm Spy
11:15pm The Bad Education Movie
12:50am Analyze This

sky MOVIES PREMIERE

7:00am The Challenger
8:45am Avengers: Age of Ultron Special
9:15am The Man Who Knew Infinity
11:15am Money Monster The smirking host of a financial TV show is held hostage when an investment tip doesn't pay off.
1:00pm Exposed Thriller about a detective investigating the death of his partner.
3:00pm The Challenger
4:45pm Sky Movies 2017 Preview
5:15pm The Other Side of the Door
7:00pm The Man Who Knew Infinity
9:00pm Money Monster
11:00pm Exposed
12:45am Mercury Plains
2:35am Frankenstein
4:10am The Other Side of the Door

sky SPORTS 2

7:00am Cricket's Greatest
7:30am Cricket's Greatest
8:00am Cricket Classics
9:00am Cricket
10:00am Cricket's Greatest
10:30am Cricket's Greatest
11:00am Great Sporting Moments
11:15am Great Sporting Moments
11:30am Great Sporting Moments
11:45am Great Sporting Moments
12:00pm NFL
1:00pm Cricket Classics
2:00pm Cricket
3:00pm NFL
4:00pm Cricket's Greatest
4:30pm Cricket's Greatest
5:00pm NFL
6:00pm Cricket
7:00pm Sporting Triumphs
7:30pm Sporting Greats
8:00pm NFL
9:00pm Cricket
10:00pm Cricket's Greatest
10:30pm Cricket's Greatest
11:00pm NFL
12:00am Ashes Best Days



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**BBC one****BBC TWO****BBC FOUR**

CHANNEL 4

CHANNEL 5

4

**sky SPORTS 1**

7:00am Breakfast  
10:15am Rip Off Britain  
11:00am Homes Under the Hammer  
12:00pm Wanted Down Under  
12:45pm Caught Red Handed  
1:15pm Bargain Hunt  
2:00pm BBC News  
2:30pm Regional News  
2:45pm Doctors  
3:15pm Father Brown  
4:00pm I Escaped to the Country  
4:45pm Royal Recipes  
5:30pm Antiques Road Trip  
6:15pm Pointless  
7:00pm BBC News  
7:30pm Regional News  
8:00pm The One Show  
8:30pm EastEnders  
9:00pm Holby City  
10:00pm Silent Witness  
11:00pm BBC News  
11:30pm Regional News  
11:40pm Weather  
11:45pm Match of the Day  
1:05am Who Do You Think You Are?  
2:05am Weather for the Week Ahead

7:00am Flog It!  
7:30am Wanted Down Under  
8:15am Royal Recipes  
9:00am Great British Menu  
10:00am Victoria Derbyshire  
12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live  
1:00pm The Daily Politics  
2:00pm Cash in the Attic  
2:25pm Beat the Brain  
2:55pm Landward  
3:25pm Westminster Abbey  
4:25pm Indian Ocean with Simon Reeve  
5:25pm A Place to Call Home  
6:15pm Flog It!  
7:00pm Eggheads  
7:30pm Great American Railroad Journeys  
8:00pm Our Dancing Town  
9:00pm Further Back in Time for Dinner  
10:00pm Sicily  
11:00pm Revolting  
11:30pm Newsnight  
12:10am Weather  
12:15am Special Forces - Ultimate Hell Week  
1:15am Antiques Roadshow  
2:15am The Big Life Fix with Simon Reeve  
3:15am This is BBC Two

8:00pm 100 Days  
8:30pm Secrets of Bones  
9:00pm Planet Earth II  
10:00pm Legends of the Deep: Deep Sea Sharks  
10:50pm Legends of the Deep: Giant Squid  
11:35pm The Maharajas' Car: The Story of Rolls-Royce in India  
12:35am Bombay Railway  
1:35am Bought with Love: The Secret History of British Art Collections  
2:35am Britain's Most Fragile Treasure  
3:35am Planet Earth II  
3:35am Planet Earth II Documentary exploring how animals meet the challenge of surviving in some of the most iconic habitats on earth.

7:00am Countdown  
7:45am King of Queens  
8:10am King of Queens  
8:35am King of Queens  
9:00am Everybody Loves Raymond  
9:30am Everybody Loves Raymond  
10:00am Frasier  
10:30am Frasier  
11:00am Frasier  
11:30am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA  
12:30pm Four in a Bed  
1:00pm Channel 4 News  
1:05pm Four in a Bed  
2:10pm Four in a Bed  
3:10pm Countdown  
4:00pm A New Life in the Sun  
5:00pm A Place in the Sun  
6:00pm Come Dine with Me  
7:00pm The Simpsons  
7:30pm Hollyoaks  
8:00pm Channel 4 News  
9:00pm How to Lose Weight Well  
10:00pm 24 Hours in A and E  
11:00pm Iraq (Title TBC)  
12:05am This is Us  
1:05am The Undateables

7:00am Milkshake!  
10:15am The Wright Stuff  
12:15pm Cowboy Builders  
1:10pm 5 News  
1:15pm Celebrity Big Brother  
2:15pm Home and Away  
2:45pm Neighbours  
3:20pm NCIS: Los Angeles  
4:15pm Fatal Memories  
6:00pm 5 News  
6:30pm Neighbours  
7:00pm Home and Away  
7:30pm 5 News  
8:00pm Sinkholes: Buried Alive  
9:00pm The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door  
10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother Bodies  
11:00pm Celebrity Botched Up  
12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side  
1:05am Celebrity Big Brother Super Casino  
2:00am Feeling lucky? Get the authentic, heart-thumping casino experience every night.

7:00am Suburgatory  
7:20am Charmed  
8:05am Brooklyn Nine-Nine  
8:35am Brooklyn Nine-Nine  
9:00am Rules of Engagement  
9:30am Rules of Engagement  
10:00am Baby Daddy  
10:30am Baby Daddy  
11:00am Coach Trip  
11:30am Hollyoaks  
12:00pm Charmed  
2:00pm How I Met Your Mother  
3:00pm The Big Bang Theory  
3:30pm The Big Bang Theory  
4:00pm Baby Daddy  
4:30pm Baby Daddy  
5:00pm How I Met Your Mother  
6:00pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine  
6:30pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine  
7:00pm The Big Bang Theory  
7:30pm The Big Bang Theory  
8:00pm Hollyoaks  
8:30pm Coach Trip  
9:00pm The Goldbergs  
9:30pm The Goldbergs  
10:00pm Tattoo Fixers  
11:00pm Virtually Famous  
11:45pm The Big Bang Theory  
12:15am The Big Bang Theory

10:00am Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17  
10:30am Premier League 100 Club  
11:00am The Premier League Years  
1:00pm Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17  
1:30pm Premier League 100 Club  
2:00pm Scottish Football Round Up  
2:15pm Football Gold  
2:30pm Premier League Legends  
4:00pm The Premier League Years  
6:00pm Scottish Football Round Up  
6:15pm Football Gold  
6:30pm Premier League Legends  
7:00pm Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17  
7:30pm Premier League 100 Club  
8:00pm Scottish Football Round Up  
8:15pm Football Gold  
8:30pm Football  
11:00pm Nissan Match Choice  
12:00am Football

itv

itv2

itv3

itv4

sky MOVIES ACTION &amp; ADVENTURE

sky MOVIES PREMIERE

sky SPORTS 2

7:00am Good Morning Britain  
9:30am Lorraine  
10:25am The Jeremy Kyle Show  
11:30am This Morning  
1:30pm Loose Women  
2:30pm ITV Lunchtime News  
3:00pm Jeremy Kyle's Emergency Room  
4:00pm James Martin's French Adventure  
5:00pm Tipping Point  
6:00pm The Chase  
7:00pm Local News and Weather  
7:30pm ITV Evening News  
8:00pm Emmerdale  
8:30pm Save Money  
9:00pm Tales From the Coast with Robson Green  
10:00pm Sugar Free Farm  
11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather  
11:40pm Wilderness Walks with Ray Mears  
12:10am The Investigator

7:00am You've Been Framed!  
7:25am Who's Doing the Dishes?  
8:15am The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
9:00am Emmerdale  
9:30am Coronation Street  
10:00am Coronation Street  
10:35am Psych  
11:25am Scorpion  
12:25pm Who's Doing the Dishes?  
1:25pm Emmerdale  
1:55pm Coronation Street  
2:30pm Coronation Street  
3:00pm The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
3:50pm The Jeremy Kyle Show  
4:55pm The Jeremy Kyle Show  
6:00pm Judge Rinder  
7:00pm You've Been Framed!  
8:00pm You've Been Framed!  
9:00pm Two and a Half Men  
9:30pm Two and a Half Men  
10:00pm Hell's Kitchen  
11:00pm Celebrity Juice  
11:50pm Family Guy  
12:20am Family Guy

7:00am In Loving Memory  
7:25am Heartbeat  
8:30am Where the Heart is  
9:35am The Royal  
10:35am Judge Judy  
11:05am Judge Judy  
11:35am Judge Judy  
12:00pm A Touch of Frost  
2:05pm Heartbeat  
3:05pm The Royal  
4:10pm Where the Heart is  
5:20pm In Loving Memory  
5:50pm Rising Damp  
6:20pm On the Buses  
6:55pm Heartbeat  
8:00pm Murder, She Wrote  
9:00pm Midsomer Murders  
11:00pm A Touch of Frost  
1:10am Wycliffe  
2:15am The Knock  
3:05am ITV3 Nightscreen  
3:30am Teleshopping

7:00am Gunsmoke  
7:55am The Saint  
8:50am Quincy, M.E.  
9:50am The Professionals  
10:50am Ironside  
11:55am Gunsmoke  
1:00pm Storage Wars Texas  
1:30pm Storage Wars Texas  
1:55pm Storage Wars  
2:25pm Quincy, M.E.  
3:55pm Ironside  
4:55pm The Professionals  
6:00pm The Saint  
7:05pm Storage Wars Texas  
7:35pm Storage Wars Texas  
8:00pm Pawn Stars  
8:30pm Pawn Stars  
8:55pm Mr. Bean  
9:30pm Mr. Bean  
10:00pm Benidorm  
11:00pm A Dangerous Man  
12:10am FYI Daily  
12:15am A Dangerous Man  
12:55am Barb Wire  
1:55am FYI Daily

11:10am I Am Wrath  
12:50pm The Man From U.N.C.L.E.  
3:00pm Behind Enemy Lines  
5:00pm Everest  
7:10pm Swordfish  
9:00pm The Man From U.N.C.L.E.  
11:00pm Armageddon  
1:45am Gone in 60 Seconds  
3:55am The Top Ten Show 2017  
9:40am Welcome to Me  
11:15am The Holiday  
1:35pm My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2  
3:15pm How to be Single  
5:15pm Me, Myself and Irene  
7:15pm The Hangover  
9:00pm My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2  
10:40pm How to be Single  
12:40am Two Night Stand  
2:15am Eddie Murphy: Raw  
3:50am Stir Crazy  
5:50am The Pink Panther

7:00am The Challenger  
8:45am Money Monster  
10:30am The Other Side of the Door  
12:15pm Exposed  
2:15pm Just Jim  
3:45pm The Man Who Knew Infinity  
5:45pm The Challenger  
7:30pm Just Jim  
9:00pm Money Monster  
The smirking host of a financial TV show is held hostage when an investment tip doesn't pay off.  
10:45pm The Other Side of the Door  
12:25am The Man Who Knew Infinity  
2:20am Frankenstein  
4:00am Exposed  
Thriller about a detective investigating the death of his partner.

7:00am Cricket Classics  
8:00am Time of Our Lives  
9:00am Sky Sports Years  
10:00am Cricket's Greatest  
10:30am Cricket's Greatest  
11:00am Great Sporting Moments  
11:15am Great Sporting Moments  
11:30am Great Sporting Moments  
11:45am Great Sporting Moments  
12:00pm Sporting Heroes  
1:00pm Cricket Classics  
2:00pm Time of Our Lives  
3:00pm Sky Sports Years  
4:00pm Cricket's Greatest  
4:30pm Cricket's Greatest  
5:00pm Cricket World Cup Classics  
6:00pm Sporting Greats  
6:30pm Sporting Greats  
7:00pm Top 14 Highlights  
7:30pm Sporting Triumphs  
8:00pm Gillette Soccer Special  
11:00pm Gillette Soccer Special  
1:00am La Liga World



# Some 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.

Advertising feature

**Christina Sharp**



**GLOBELINK INTERNATIONAL**  
christina@globelink.co.uk

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

## All Aboard!



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

trip to Venice, Paris and Verona. Or venture 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.*



**LETTERS**

**YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION**

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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@euoweeklynews.com](mailto:photonews@euoweeklynews.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, Huerca-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.euoweeklynews.com](http://www.euoweeklynews.com)





## Crossword

page

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

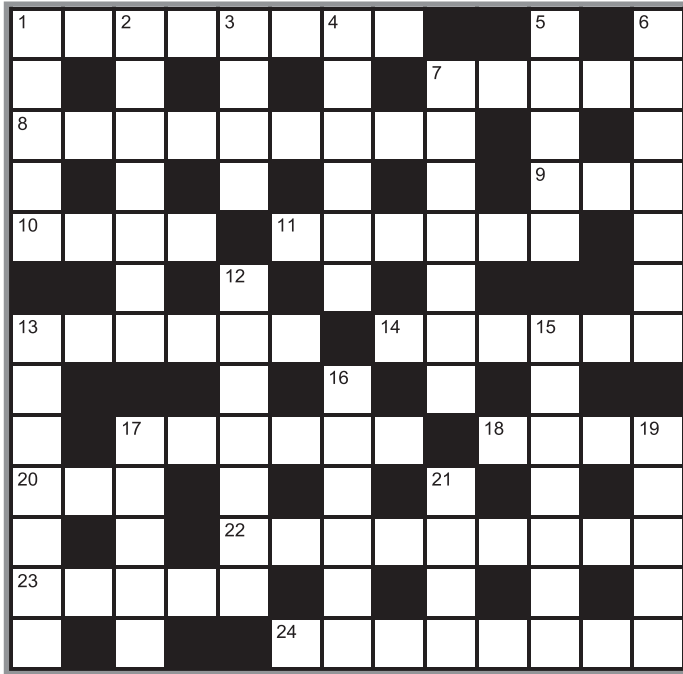
### Cryptic

**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)

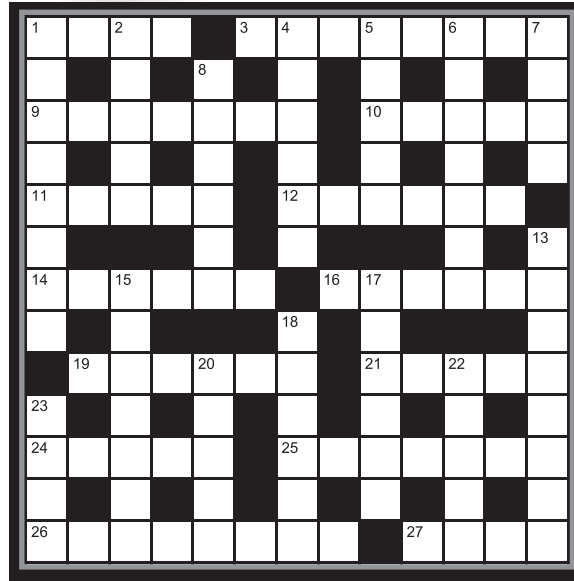
**Down**

- 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:**

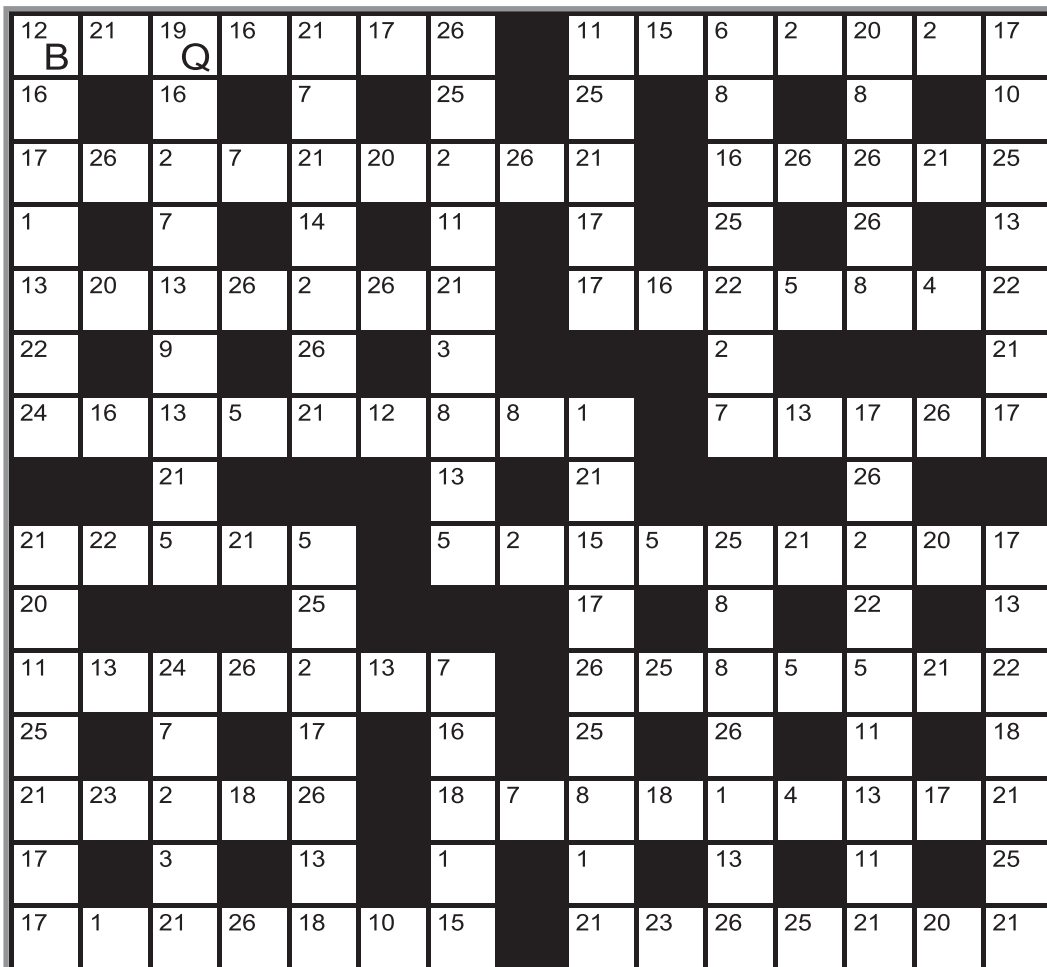
- 1 Liar, 2 Departure, 3 Ejercito, 5 Rastrillo, 6 Poor, 7 Escarcha, 11 Ocho, 12 Osos.

### CODE BREAKER

1	N	2	Q	3	P	4	Z	5	J	6	B	7	H	8	R	9	C	10	V	11	O	12	K	13	F	14	T	15	D	16	A	17	I	18	U	19	G	20	W	21	Y	22	X	23	L	24	M	25	S	26	E
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### Code Breaker

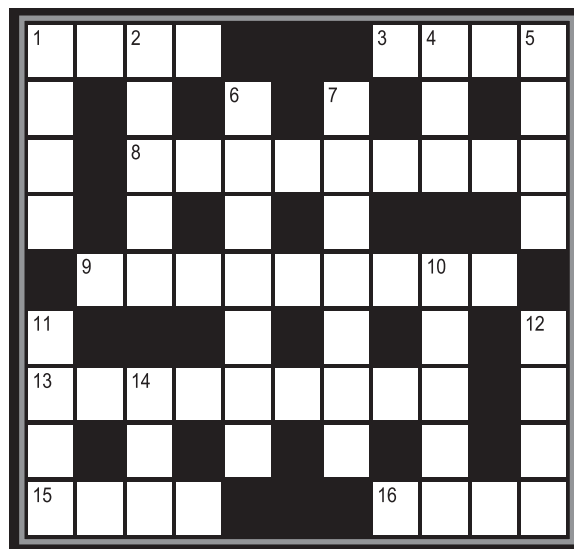
Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 12 represents B and 19 represents Q, so fill in B every time the figure 12 appears and Q every time the figure 19 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters 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.



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

### 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**

- 2 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)

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TO READ MORE

Advertising feature

# Half price health checks can save more than just money

THERE is less than a week left to take up the offer of the half price New Year Health Checks at Medcare's British GP clinics in Benijofar and Alfaz del Pi.

Due to the demand of the checks last year, Medcare is once again running the offer encouraging everyone to start the year with a full health check which they believe is so important. "Tragically, too many people continue to die unnecessarily because disease is detected far too late for want of a few simple tests," said Medcare's Dr Hussain: "Many British ex-pats on the Costa Blanca seem to be

particularly vulnerable because of language barriers or not knowing what health screening is available, meaning that they are even less likely to attend for screening."

Routine health checks and early diagnosis can stop some of the biggest killers from claiming lives, including heart disease, prostate cancer, breast cancer and cervical cancer. Medcare is therefore urging everyone to see their GP to find out what screening is available.

Anyone who is not registered under the Spanish system or who prefers to see a private British GP can go to Medcare for health

screening and take advantage of the half price offer.

The Medcare health check includes screening for cervical, bowel and prostate cancer. Comprehensive blood tests will be performed and patients will be screened for many conditions including diabetes, liver and kidney disease, anaemia, infection, bowel cancer, high cholesterol, high blood pressure and thyroid problems. Patients will also receive a nutrition and lifestyle review, ECG, BMI check, skin cancer and mole check, dental examination and osteopath body alignment check.

The checks really can make a dif-

ference as one patient said of his Well Man check: "If I had not had a Well Man check at Medcare I don't know what would have become of me." A full Medcare Well Man MoT revealed Roy had a heart arrhythmia and needed medication, and his prostate check showed a slightly raised reading. The doctor advised the reading be checked again in three months.

When this second reading turned out to be a lot higher the doctor sent him to a urologist who diagnosed prostate cancer. Surgery was quickly scheduled and Roy was then given a clean bill of health. He said he could

not thank Medcare's doctor enough for finding the heart arrhythmia and picking up the prostate problem.

Getting a health check could be the most important thing you do in 2017. Don't waste time, visit your own GP or book your half-price Medcare Health Check for January by calling 966 860 258. You could save more than just money.

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Advertising feature

# Prevention of varicose veins

VARICOSE VEINS are swollen and enlarged veins, usually blue or dark purple in colour, that occur on the legs giving a lumpy, bulging or twisted appearance.

Some people are genetically more prone to getting them but there are things you can do to help prevent them.

Clinic Mejorate Physiotherapy and Osteopathy Centre owner Trinidad Sanchez Fuentes, gives her top tips to help prevent varicose veins:

**Avoid being overweight** as this encourages varicose veins.

**Eat healthily.** A diet rich in vegetables, fruits, legumes and cereals encourages and promotes bowel movement as constipation can also be a problem for sufferers.

**Exercise.** Regular physical exercise, especially walking, will help mobilise leg muscles and will push the blood back to the heart, preventing build-up which may dilate the veins. Cycling and swimming are also good exercises for the legs.

**Footwear.** Avoid high heels or shoes that are too tight, because they hinder the movement of the feet.

**Clothing.** Do not wear tight clothing as this can prevent the flow of blood causing swollen veins.

**Posture.** Change your position regularly, espe-



**VARICOSE VEINS: Do not despair, as treatment is available at our clinics.**

cially during work. Standing or sitting for too long with your legs crossed can affect the blood flow. It is also advisable to sleep with legs slightly raised.

**Massage.** A good massage from ankle to thigh will help boost your circulation.

**Scratching.** Although varicose veins often cause itching, try to avoid scratching as it can

break a varicose vein that can then easily become infected.

However, should you suffer from varicose veins, do not despair as treatment is available which Trinidad offers at her clinics in Los Montesinos and Altea.

Avoiding invasive surgery, general anaesthesia and overnight stays in hospital, they use a method

called sclerosis, which involves the direct injection of medicinal agents in the vein. The best agent for this purpose is Polidocanol (only authorised in Spain) for its excellent results and low complication rate.

It is used in combination with vitamins and nutrients through a method called 'Blastogenesis' which achieves optimal aesthetic results and a lower incidence of recurrence of new varicose veins.

Since any type of treatment is applied in a varicose vein until the desired result is obtained, optimum results can take two to three months as the natural healing and tissue repair takes place, so now is the perfect time to enquire to get your legs summer ready.

Contact Clinic Mejorate Physiotherapy and Osteopathy Centre owner Trinidad Sanchez Fuentes for more information and to find out how the treatment could help you.

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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 avail-

able 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.

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



# Overnight fasting can help you to 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

**“ It is believed restriction on eating reduces the chances of illnesses.**

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.



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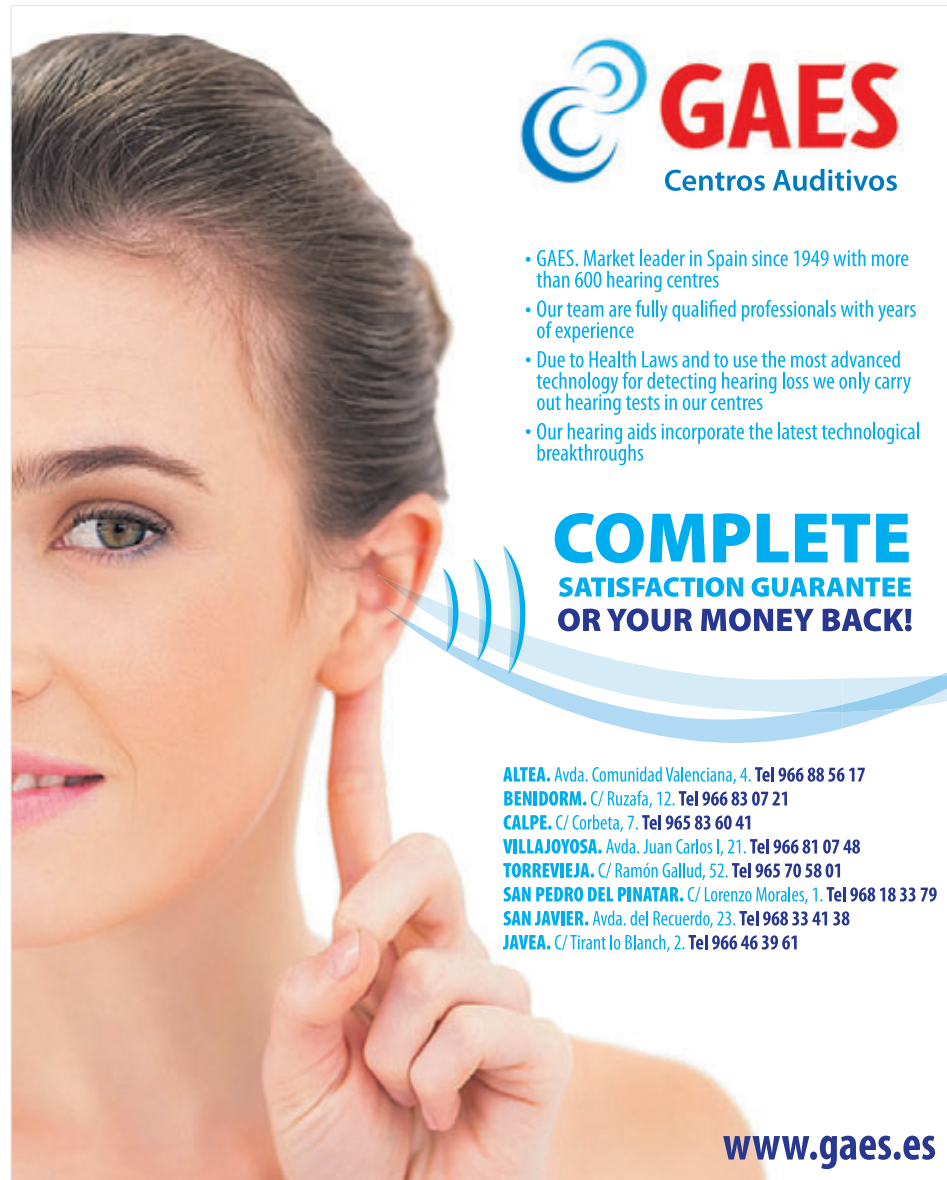
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# Being a mummy can be bad for your health

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 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 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.



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



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This is an opportunity over complimentary coffee and cake to discuss one of life's biggest taboo subjects. There are lots of misconceptions and rumours surrounding the funeral process here in Spain, particularly amongst expats. This is a great opportunity to gain knowledge about the choices and help you have available when the time comes and you lose someone. This is an information packed, thought provoking, fact-finding meeting with professionals on hand to answer your questions.

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## Films in English

THIS week's film showing at the cinema in Pilar de la Horadada is 'Nine Lives' showing tonight (Thursday) at 7pm and Saturday January 28 at 5pm. This light-hearted comedy tells the story of a stuffy businessman played by Kevin Spacey, who finds himself trapped inside the body of his family's cat.

Next week the film, showing at the same times, is the 2016 film 'Ghostbusters.'

Tickets cost €5 and the cinema is located in the Duplex Espacio Cultural in Calle Canalejas, 4.

To keep updated on the latest films search Cinemapilar on Facebook or visit the website <http://cinemapilar.blogspot.com.es/>

# International library open to everyone

THE Las Filipinas neighbourhood association has reached an agreement with the town hall of San Miguel de Salinas, to open an International Library in the Las Filipinas Social Centre located in Calle Benidorm in Blue Lagoon.

There is going to be free wifi, plus free computers to use and a large multi-purpose room which can be used by everybody in both San Miguel and the Orihuela Costa to host events, activities and courses. The library has been made possible thanks to the assistance of Maria Jose Costa Medrano, councillor for Citizens Attention in San Miguel.

As a result, the Las Filipinas neighbourhood association is now asking for help and collaboration from residents, to donate books to the library. The idea is to have books from everywhere, so



**INTERNATIONAL LIBRARY: Books needed to help fill the shelves.**

it does not matter what language the book is in, all are welcome.

The centre is open weekdays from 8am-2pm and books can be donated during this time.

Any person interested in doing any activity in the centre, can contact the neighbourhood association group via their Facebook page by searching 'Asociacion Vecinos Las Filipinas.'

## World Cancer Day

THE Zenia Boulevard shopping centre in La Zenia is hosting an event to mark World Cancer Day on February 4.

Live artists including singers and dance groups, will be on stage performing from mid-day to 5pm helping to raise awareness of cancer and research and screening programmes.

Money raised will go to the AECC cancer charity with Maria Wilson's Pink Ladies and Pink Panther's fundraising teams on hand shaking the charity buckets and offering information on screening available locally for breast, cervical and prostate cancer.

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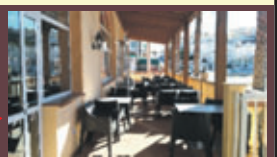
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## Orihuela travels back to popular medieval times

ONE of the most popular events in Orihuela's cultural calendar; the Medieval Market, takes place February 3-5.

Last year's event was under the theme 'the legend comes true' based on the legend of Armengola which relates to the turbulent period of uprising when Moors were rebelling against the

unjust laws and taxes imposed by Christian invaders. Armengola caught wind of the Moors' plot against the Christians and warned them and led their own battle against them.

Whilst full details and programmes of this year's event have not yet been released, the market is always a highlight in the city's calendar, with Orihuela being divided into zones.

It attracts thousands of visitors enjoying a wide range of food stalls and hundreds of artisan and craft products for sale as well as entertainment which has traditionally included sword fighting and falconry displays, jousting events and puppet shows.

# 3-5

February are the dates for Orihuela's Medieval Market.

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## Book your o

LOVE is in the air at Punjabi Palace as thoughts are already turning to Valentine's Day.

The Los Montesinos and La Marquesa restaurants are both hosting special Valentine's menus on February 14 so why not treat your special someone to a great night out in one of the area's most popular Indian restaurants.

The evening menu is being served from 7-11pm and costs €42.95 per couple. There is a welcome drink upon arrival, followed by poppadoms and chutney.

Guests will then be served a special sharing starter platter and for mains choose any curry dish with rice or naan bread. Finish off your meal with coffee or ice cream and enjoy a DJ and karaoke.

Tables are already booking up quickly so reserve yours today.

Los Montesinos is also already preparing for their anniversary celebrations in March so stay tuned for more details soon to be released.

The restaurant recently re-



**SPECIAL NIGHTS:** Diners enjoy

ceived a bit of a facelift and fresh new look, ahead of their anniversary so it is ready for its next decade of business.

But as always, Punjabi Palace remains open daily in Los Montesinos, La Marquesa and La Murada.

For those looking to escape the cold nights and want to en-

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(All the above served with Pommes puree, roast potatoes, Yorkshire pud, cauliflower cheese, green beans and mashed carrot and swede)  
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Home-made Baileys & Orange Cheesecake

Get your tickets at €17.50 per person and fill in your menu choices at the bar. Meal served at 7:30 pm

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# Cozy table for two now



A night out at Punjabi Palace.

Enjoy a nice meal in the day, the award-winning Punjabi Palace continues with its popular €8.95 menu del dia served from 12-3pm including poppadoms, any chicken or lamb dish with rice or naan bread and dessert or coffee. There is also a complimentary glass of wine, beer or soft drink.

A children's menu is also available as all Punjabi Palace restaurants are family friend-



ly and welcoming for younger diners.

Punjabi Palace also continues to receive five star ratings on TripAdvisor so why not make it your New Year's Resolution to dine

out at one of the best, authentic Indian restaurants in the area. Whether you are a regular or a new customer, you will be guaranteed of a warm welcome and a wonderful meal.

Punjabi Palace - Los Montesinos  
Tel: 966 720 383

La Marquesa - Tel: 966 714 963  
La Murada - Tel: 966 779 169

## Let us entertain you

REHEARSALS are already underway for the New Cardenal Belluga Theatre Group's 2017 show, 'Let Us Entertain You.'

The show is in October and further details will be given nearer the time, but the group are still looking for new members for both on stage and back stage, including technical personnel.

For information, call 966 790 547 or email [thomasford442@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thomasford442@yahoo.co.uk). The AGM will take place at the Social Centre on January 30 at 1.30pm and everyone is welcome.

### What's on!

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### Valentine's Evening Menu

Tuesday 14th February 7-11pm

**€42.95 per couple**

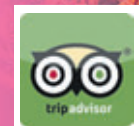
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- 1st Course - Welcome Drink
- 2nd Course - Poppadoms & Chutney
- 3rd Course - One Special Platter for 2 people
- 4th Course - Choose any curry dish with rice or naan
- 5th Course - Coffee or ice cream

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**CRIANDO RATAS:** Starring youngsters from the slums of Alicante City.

## Surprise triumph for free local film

A LOCAL film due to be officially presented next week in Madrid is breaking records and more than six million people have already viewed teasers on the internet.

Directed by Carlos Salado, produced by Ruben Ferrandez and starring Ramon Guerrero, the Alicante production aims to recover what in Spanish was known as 'quinqui' movies, a genre which focused on marginal characters and delinquency.

Criando Ratatas (raising rats) is a different type of production from those which usually attract viewers' interest. Starring youngsters from slums and poor districts of Alicante City, the film has been created specifically for free viewing on the internet. Although it is to be presented at a cinema

in Madrid, it will never appear commercially on the big screen.

Ferrandez said the more than 20,000 daily visits to the site where the film is hosted were completely unexpected and would never have been possible on commercial screens. "I'm 100 per cent sure that this was the only way to show our work. It would never have had the repercussion it is having in commercial cinemas, it would have been just another film, nobody would have promoted it or supported it.

"When I watch it I'm gobsmacked by what we've managed to do with so little. Four guys and €5,000. You couldn't ask for more," said the producer, who said he is considering new projects.

## Bumper programme for all music lovers announced

MUSIC lovers are in for a real treat this year with the summer programme presented for the ADDA, Alicante Provincial Council's auditorium.

More than 20 performances are planned for the summer months and there are also to be 15 symphonic concerts between October 2017 and July 2018.

Pianist Michael Nyman will be performing on July 2, followed by Diego El Cigala's Indestructible flamenco show on July 8.

On July 9, Richard Bona will be back in Alicante with music

from his album Heritage.

Young trumpet-player Andrea Motis and Joan Chamorro Group, with musicians from Cataluña and New York, will be performing on July 12 followed by the BvR Flamenco Big Band, a combination of Andalusian and Dutch musicians, on July 15. American jazz guitarist John Scofield and the Überband Band will be on stage on July 16 while Chick Corea and Bela Fleck will perform on July 18 and The Manhattan Transfer vocal group on the 21st. The next day (July 22), will see Robert Glasper

take to the stage with Experiment, followed on the 23rd by flamenco with Vicente Amigo and Rafael de Utrera.

The Young Orchestra Festival will run from July 30 to August 6, with orchestras invited to attend from Poland, Russia and Holland.

The symphonic season, meanwhile, will see The Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra, the Zurich Philharmonic, the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic and the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester perform along with the Orchestra of Valencia or that of the Palau de les Arts.

## From Norway to Elche

THE Ytre Suløens Jass-Ensemble, one of the most prominent and emblematic jazz groups in Norway, are headed for Elche.

The popular group, created in 1973, specialise in traditional, New Orleans style jazz and will perform at the Grand

Theatre in the city on January 28 at 8.30pm, before heading to Villajoyosa on January 29 and Torrevieja on January 30.

The concerts form part of the group's Spanish tour.



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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 quizzier. 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/un-ripe 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.

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# Fantastic year ahead

A SURVEY among senior property experts suggests that 2017 will be an exciting year for Spanish real estate. Half of the managers questioned believed that house prices will rise by between 3 and 6 per cent. Asked the same question last year, only one in five considered such a performance possible.

The comprehensive survey was conducted by internationally renowned surveyance firm CBRE, who asked 100 recognised experts to share their thoughts on the future of Spanish property. The results were overwhelmingly positive and bode well for 2017.

Two out of every three believed that private investors will shape the market to a greater extent than they did in 2016, while more opportunistic investors will take a back seat.

That is a positive trend for long term stability and highlights growing confidence in

the residential market.

The impact of international investors is expected to remain stable, contributing around one third of total developments and continuing

to buy up second homes. Meanwhile the experts anticipate that the office sector will really take off this year, especially in the quickly growing major cities.



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**4 bed, 2bath Country Property.** This reasonable priced country property is located close to Elche City and not too far from the beach and close to the golf courses. It comprises a comfortable living room.

REF: 00354 €249,500



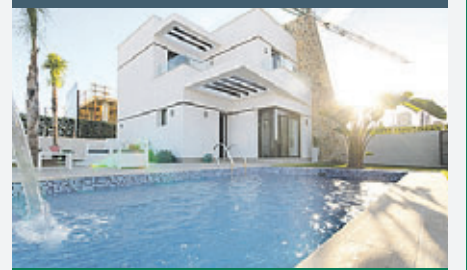
**3 bed, 2 bath Stunning Country Property in Catral.** This property represents a great opportunity. This is a magnificent country property located in the picturesque town of Catral, situated 25 minutes from the coast.

REF: HP229 €325,000



**2 detached villas on one plot of 1,050 m2.** Each one consists of 3 bed, 1 bath. Features: Terraces, pool, garden, off road parking, air conditioning & storage room. Close to La Marquesa golf course and to a wide range of amenities.

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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?'

## 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.

## 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.



OLD BLOOD: Patxi Lopez.

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VP ADVISERS are tax specialists, established since 2010.

Situated in La Mosca Commercial Centre in Playa Flamenca overlooking the sea, VP Advisers are made up of an expert team able to assist and advise in most instances, from tax management and business accountancy to conveyancing and wills. It now also offers traffic management services such as car transfers and traffic reports, all with the same low price policy as its other services.

The company has fully trained professional economists and lawyers covering all your legal needs and you will always speak directly with the professionals. There is no middle man so every time you have a concern or question, it will be their expertise that assists you and they are continually keeping updated with the ever changing laws, rules and regulations in Spain.

Its main form of business is conveyancing and accountancy, assisting you in setting up and running your own business or being a self-employed worker and doing your quarterly tax returns, all on a low price policy.

If you take up the services of VP Advisers, there are no registration fees unlike some companies and with non-residents' taxes being carried out for people for €30 per person, VP Advisers offer the best value around.

"We started in the height of the economic

crisis," said economist and owner David Valero, "so a lot of people were going through changes in their situation and our ethos was giving the correct legal advice for their situation and if they went on to use our services, we wanted to offer the best value possible."

As a result, VP Advisers has hundreds of happy customers who use it for all their legal and fiscal needs; when buying and selling a property, making or changing a will and doing their tax returns.

David said the company is now seeing a positive upturn in the property market with more people buying compared to a few years ago when it was dealing with a lot of property sales and expats selling to return to their home countries. He said now is also a good time for businesses with a lot more incentives and lower costs in setting up as autonomous.

For more information or advice and assistance, visit the office on the first floor of the La Mosca Commercial Centre open 10am-2pm and from 3-6pm. Booking an appointment is advisable to ensure the best possible service and full attention.

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BRISTOL UNIVERSITY: One of the options for University of Alicante architecture students.

## Building a future abroad

ARCHITECTURE students from the University of Alicante will be the first in Spain to carry out part of their degree in either Germany or the UK.

The next course will be working with the University of Bristol in the UK and Braunschweig in Lower Saxony, Germany. It means students will spend the first two years of the course in Alicante and the final two abroad.

After completing their studies they would leave with a double degree, being graduates of Bristol or Braunschweig without having to do any other process to practice in the UK and Germany.

The University said that it has been working on deepening the internationalisation of the architecture course for a number of years so that it can broaden the work opportunities

for graduates.

After the boom of construction and the subsequent crisis of the sector, the situation of the students who finish their studies in architecture has not been easy and enrolments fell.

However, through this new internationalisation it is hoped it will enhance teaching quality, promote the exchange of experiences and encourage employability and entrepreneurship.

# 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.

Jaana Piira Shutterstock

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, 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 go-

ing 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 early 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 makes them useful to add 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.

All of these plants will last



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

on balconies until about the end of April, when it will be time to swap them for spring and summer blooms.

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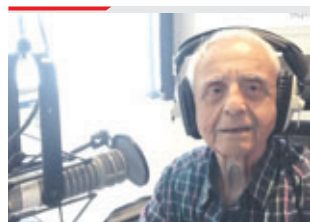
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1. PETS should always have complete Pet Passports well before you make a journey. Ensure that you schedule a visit to your veterinarian and allow sufficient time prior to your trip to discuss diseases or problems that might exist where you are travelling 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 emer-

gencies, 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 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 heat-stroke 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.

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



Photo by Nalaphotos

## 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.*

## Baby talk works... for puppies

A NEW study published in Proceedings of the Royal Society B biology journal has explained that humans talk to dogs in a similar way to babies because puppies in particular are more responsive to the short phrases and high tone.

People were recorded saying certain phrases such as 'good boy' and 'come here' while looking at photos of dogs of different ages, human beings and while not looking at anything.

Not only were the subjects found to employ what we refer to as baby talk when addressing the dog photos, but when the recordings were played back to dogs of different ages puppies paid far more attention to it.

Older dogs, however, appeared not to be as attentive



**BABY TALK: Puppies are responsive to short phrases.**

to baby talk, possibly because as they grow older they are less interested in understanding strangers, scientists suggested.

Dogs are believed to have evolved over more than 30,000 years of close interaction with humans to understand them better. This, researchers claim, has led them

to develop communication skills similar to those of small children.

Dogs react to gestures such as pointing in a way which no other animals do, studies have found. Unlike children, though, dogs take these gestures as a mild order rather than a way of passing on information.

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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 affordable 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 Geneva

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 are 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.

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.

The Geneva Motor Show takes place from March 9-19.

# Bernie Ecclestone gets ousted from Formula 1 after 40 years in charge

## Tony Matthews



International Sports

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

Costa de Almeria

### FOOTBALL:

• I'LL start by congratulating Wayne Rooney who, last Saturday, earned Manchester United a 1-1 draw at Stoke with his 250th goal for the club, thus breaking Sir Bobby Charlton's record which has stood for 44 years. Also I congratulate Swansea for a terrific 3-2 win at Liverpool.

• Last night Liverpool (trailing 1-0 and looking to bounce back from that horrid defeat by Swansea) met Southampton in their LC semi-final second leg, while tonight Manchester United (2-0 up and unbeaten in 17 games) visit Hull in the other 'semi.'

• There are 16 fourth round FA Cup ties coming up, the pick being Derby v Leicester (tomorrow), followed by Chelsea v Brentford, Crystal Palace v Manchester City, non-League Lincoln v Brighton, Liverpool v Wolves, Middlesbrough v Accrington, Southampton v Arsenal and Spurs v Wycombe on Saturday and Manchester United v Wigan and non-League Sutton United v Leeds on Sunday.

• The top SPL games are Celtic v Hearts and Motherwell v Rangers (a repeat of last Saturday's cup tie). SL1 leaders Livingston play Brechin.

• In the PL next Tuesday, it's Arsenal (2nd) v Watford, Liverpool (4th) v leaders Chelsea and Sunderland (bottom) v Tottenham (3rd), followed on Wednesday by Manchester United (6th) v Hull (again) and West Ham v Manchester City (5th).

• In the African Cup of Nations, Cameroon, Congo DR, Ghana and Senegal are eyeing up semi-final places and there are eight FA Trophy fifth round ties this weekend.

• £175m was spent in last January's transfer window... expect £200m to have changed hands when this year's 'window' closes next Tuesday.

Deals already include: Oscar (Chelsea-Shanghai SIPG, £60m); Gabriel Jesus (Palmeiras-Manchester City, £27m); Morgan Schneiderlin (Manchester United-Everton, £24m); Memphis Depay (Manchester United-Lyon, £16m+); Wilfred Ndidi (Genk-Leicester, £15m); Saido Berahino (WBA-Stoke, £12m); Jeffrey Schlupp (Leicester-Crystal Palace, £12m); Ademola Lookman (Charlton-Everton, £11m); Jake Liver-

more (Hull-WBA, £10m) and José Fonte (Southampton-West Ham, £8m).

• Manchester United, the world's richest club, banked £505m last season. Real Madrid and Barcelona earned £463.8m each, Bayern Munich £442.7m and Manchester City £392.6m.

• Last Saturday, FC Chapecoense (Brazil) played its first match since that horrific pre-Christmas Colombian air crash. They drew 2-2 with Palmeiras before a record 22,700 crowd as tears were shed and drums were banged throughout the 90 minutes. No one cared about fouls, misplaced passes or goals. This was the

birth of a new team.

### TENNIS:

• In the Australia Open, Sir Andy Murray and Novak Djokovic suffered shock defeats to Germany's Mischa Zverev (ranked 50th in the world, and 1,013th two years ago) and Uzbekistan's Denis Istomin respectively.

• Another Brit, Birmingham-born Dan Evans, beat two seeds, Marin Cilic and Bernard Tomic, before losing to Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

• At the start of this week, Roger Federer, David Goffin, Rafael Nadal and Stan Wawrinka were looking strong, likewise GB's Johanna Konta who ousted Caroline Wozniacki on her way to a quarter-final clash with Serena Williams. Spain's Garbine Muguruza was also going well.

### CRICKET:

• England lost the first two ODIs against India by three wickets and 15 runs but won the third, just, by five runs. Over 140,000 spectators attended the three encounters.

• The countries now play three T20 matches: today, on Sunday and next Wednesday.

### RUGBY UNION:

• There were European Champions Cup wins last week for Clermont, Glasgow (43-0 at Leicester), Sale and Saracens, and in the Challenge Cup for Bath, Cardiff, Gloucester, Ospreys and Worcester.

• This weekend there's Anglo-Welsh Cup action.

### FORMULA 1:

• AS soon as the \$8 billion (€7.45 billion) takeover of Formula 1 was completed, Liberty Media announced that Bernie Ecclestone would, with immediate effect, step down as CEO and become Chairman Emeritus of the group.

Current chairman of Formula 1 Chase Carey who represents Liberty Media on the board will combine his current role with that of CEO and former Ferrari technical director and Mercedes team boss Ross Brawn who had been acting as a consultant to Liberty, has been appointed managing director of motor sports.

According to a statement by 86-year-old Ecclestone, who was at the helm of F1 for 40 years, to a German auto-sports magazine, he has been forced out, saying "I was dismissed.

This is official. I no longer run the company. My position has been taken by Chase Carey."

There is no question that Ecclestone has transformed the sport and made the company into a multi-billion dollar brand, but with so much money invested in the takeover it is hardly surprising that the new owners want to have complete control at the top.

### ROUND-UP:

• Ronnie O'Sullivan beat Joe Perry to claim a record seventh UK Masters snooker title.

• Welshman Alex Thomson, after 74 days at sea, finished second to Frenchman Armal le Cleac'h in the gruelling Vendee Globe round the world yacht race.

• England golfer Tommy Fleetwood won the Abu Dhabi Championship and Europe's 2018 Ryder Cup captain Thomas Bjorn can use four wild card entries to face America.

• The Finn, Valtteri Bottas, will partner Lewis Hamilton at Mercedes in this year's F1 races. Felipe Massa replaces Bottas at Williams.

• Carl Frampton (GB) fights Leo Santa Cruz for the WBA featherweight title in Las Vegas on Saturday.

• Last Sunday, skier Dave Ryding became the first Brit since 1981 to stand on the podium after taking silver in the World Cup slalom in Kitzbuhel, Austria.

### SAD NEWS:

Although a tad late, I must say what a great sporting lady Baroness Rachael Heyhoe Flint was. Captain of England ladies 1973 World Cup winning cricket team and vice president of Wolverhampton Wanderers, Rachael died last week, aged 77. RIP maam.



**BERNIE ECCLESTONE:** Stepped down as CEO as soon as the takeover was completed.

## DID YOU KNOW?

HALF of the 92 clubs in the PL, Championship and Leagues 1/2, have 'stadium' in their ground name, including: Wham Stadium (Accrington), Hive Stadium (Barnet), American Express Stadium (Brighton), Keepmoat Stadium (Doncaster), Cherry Road Records Stadium (Wimbledon), Matchroom Stadium (Leyton Orient), Lamex Stadium (Stevenage) and New York Stadium (Rotherham).



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

**Costa Blanca's best guide to local sport**

**TO READ MORE**

# Club's sixth award

LA MANGA CLUB'S place at the head of Spanish golf has been cemented after being named as the country's best golf resort for an incredible sixth year in a row at the 2017 Today's Golfer Travel Awards.

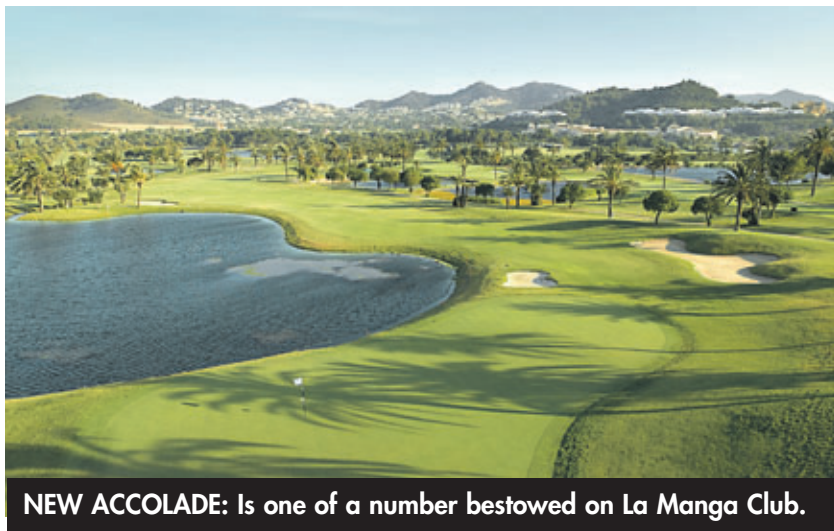
The prestigious resort in Murcia, south-east Spain, was the overwhelming first choice of readers of the UK's best-selling golf magazine and received nearly 10 per cent more votes than its nearest challenger.

The new accolade extends La Manga Club's amazing record of winning the coveted title every year since it was introduced, and is further confirmation of the resort's status as one of Europe's most popular golf resorts.

Jose Asenjo, general manager of La Manga Club, said: "To have won this award six years is an incredible achievement and is testament to the outstanding experience that we offer to all our golfers.

"With fantastic golf complemented by an array of five-star leisure facilities, there is no better place in Europe for a relaxing golf break and, with investment continuing across the resort, we're looking forward to La Manga Club going from strength to strength in the years ahead."

Kevin Brown, courses and travel editor at *Today's Golfer*, said: "Special congratu-



**NEW ACCOLADE:** Is one of a number bestowed on La Manga Club.

lations must go to the legendary La Manga Club for registering its sixth straight success in Spain's 'Best Resort' category. It is a fantastic achievement and shows just how highly the resort is regarded by golfers across the UK."

The award is one of a number of top recent honours to have been bestowed on La Manga Club and is recognition for the venue's sustained investment in its extensive golf and leisure facilities to maintain

its position as Spain's flagship resort.

La Manga Club boasts unrivalled facilities as a sports and leisure destination. As well as its golf courses it has a 28-court tennis centre and a 2,000sqm spa and fitness centre. It also features a five-star hotel, four-star serviced apartments and townhouses and more than 20 bars and restaurants.

For more details on La Manga Club, visit [www.lamangaclub.com](http://www.lamangaclub.com).

## Great performance

MAZARRON gave one of their best performances of the season so far with an excellent 3-0 away victory at UD Los Garres.

Against a team with the best defensive record in the league, Mazarron took control of the game early on and dominated the first half deserving their two-goal advantage at half time.

Miguel had been the subject of some strong challenges by the uncompromising Los Garres defenders and he was replaced by Chino at half time. Los Garres began the second half like a house on fire and Mazarron had to defend heroically to preserve their lead.

However, Mazarron weathered the storm and looked dangerous on the break. Chino drove in a trademark free kick from the edge of the penalty area to give Mazarron a three-goal cushion.

The win moves Mazarron up to eighth in the league table and they are now just one point away from a play-off position.

## Brave Eurogolf Toffs

SEVENTY-SEVEN golfers braved the elements to play in the weekly Toff's Stableford competition. Results were:

Cat 1 (0-14): 1st Fred Reeve 34, 2nd Franz Berndt 33, 3rd Bob Buckeridge 33.

Cat 2 (15-19): 1st Clive Peck 31 c/b, 2nd Ian Turner 31, 3rd Gary Grierson 31.

Cat 3 (20-24): 1st Gordon Bourne 34, 2nd John Holland 32, 3rd Kern Brett 31.

Cat 4 (25-36): 1st Sue Pegg 35, 2nd Lauraine Walker 32, 3rd Kevin Bonser 32.

Overall winner: Sue Pegg.

Best front 9: Claire Daye Gretton 19. Best back 9: Norman Wood 22. NTP's: 5th Kevin Bonser, 11th Jan Shorley, 12th George McCallum, 15th Clive Horne, 17th Morag Turner.

To play with Eurogolf visit [www.eurogolf-quesada.co.uk](http://www.eurogolf-quesada.co.uk).

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