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ISSUE No. 1657 | 6 - 12 April 2017

COSTA DE ALMERÍA » YOUR PAPER, YOUR VOICE, YOUR OPINION

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Burned to death

Cave fire kills three

By Matt Ford

A single 17-year-old boy remains in police custody after two girls and a young man were killed in a fire in the La Molineta area of Los Angeles neighbourhood, Almeria City, on Monday night.

Three teenagers were initially detained, but two have now been released without charge.

The incident occurred at around 8pm on Monday evening, when the alarm was raised that three people were trapped in a cave by a burning sofa.

As they arrived at the scene, police and firefighters came across a group of youths "blaming each other" for the fatal blaze.

The dead include two girls aged 12 and 14 plus a 21-year-old man, whose bodies were "completely charred" according to a statement, which also confirmed that the fire had to be extinguished by force.

After questioning, a Na-



CHARRED CAVE: Where three young people lost their lives.

tional Police spokesman said that the young suspect is to remain in custody for the time being because he is being investigated for homicide.

He allegedly set fire to the sofa outside the cave, a regular haunt for local teenagers, but the flames quickly spread inside after several other

pieces of furniture and other flammable material began to burn.

The boy apparently attempted to put the fire out but was unable to do so, and it engulfed the three victims.

Mayor of Almeria, Ramon Fernandez-Pacheco, expressed his solidarity in a

statement which read: "I can only regret that this kind of thing happens, and I want to express on behalf of the City Council our condolences to the family and relatives of the victims."

"I hope that such events never happen again in Almeria."

No to NATO

PROTESTERS demanded the closure of the NATO base in Viator during a demonstration on April 1. Almeria platform 'NATO no, bases out' denounced the facility as a cover for the imperialist adventures of western armies. They claim locals are regularly fired and replaced with military insiders from Spain and abroad.

» See page 5

Poaching posse

A RESIDENT of Almeria is a prime suspect in an illegal hunting ring operating across Spain. Seprona agents believe a wealthy Almerian individual hired the criminal gang to set up large

game hunting expeditions. Police in Aragon have arrested three men they believe offered hunters the chance to kill wild bears, goats and deer in protected reserves.

» See page 10

Park plea

AN unusual motion is before the Carboneras Council. Patriotic politicians hope to get the town's name on Almeria's most famous natural park. Currently known as Cabo de Gata-Nijar, they insist that, since Carboneras makes up such a huge proportion of the park's territory, it deserves recognition.

» See page 14

Abduction attempt

POLICE are investigating alarming claims from a local mother that a foreign-looking, possibly British, man tried to kidnap her daughter on the streets of Cantoria. After weeks of inquiry officials have made public their ongoing search for the suspect, aged between 55 and 60, speaking in broken Spanish, and of white Anglo-Saxon, possibly Germanic looks.

» See page 73

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Go to page 37

LOCAL NEWS**Hashed escape**

THE Guardia Civil has arrested a 21-year-old after surprising him at a traffic control point. The man was stopped with 300 pellets of hash and

€4,000 cash on the back seat of his vehicle. He fled the scene on foot, abandoning his car, before being intercepted by police just metres later.

Link resumed

MINISTER for Development Inigo de la Serna has announced that work to create a high speed train link between Murcia and Almeria will be resumed in 2019, with a planned investment of €1,770 million. Work has been at a standstill for the past eight years and is now estimated to complete in 2023.

Storehouse robbery

THREE people, one of them a 16-year-old child, are being investigated after allegedly breaking into an agricultural storehouse in El Barranquete. They were discovered after the owner noticed a youth riding a bike similar to his own and reported it to the Guardia Civil.

The perpetrators allegedly stole a generator, bicycle and various tools.

Ex-chief arrested in child porno sting

By Matthew Elliott

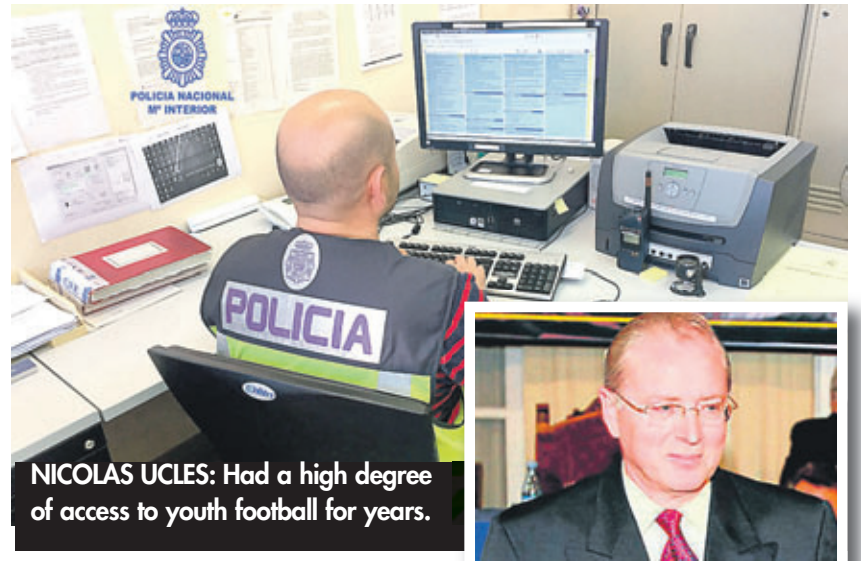
A SUSPECTED paedophile nabbed in a string of arrests across Spain is the former president of the Almeria Football Federation.

Nicolas Ucles was arrested as Spanish police swooped on an elaborate child abuse network operating across the country.

A total of 102 suspected paedophiles were arrested in 38 provinces with a staggering 450,000 photos and videos seized from hundreds of laptops, computers, phones and hard drives.

The operation was codenamed Pilumnus, after the Roman god in charge of helping children grow healthily.

One suspect in Cadiz was found in possession of a 'Paedoph's Handbook,' a document that goes into great detail in advising how paedophiles can get close to children without scaring them.



NICOLAS UCLES: Had a high degree of access to youth football for years.

Ucles had a high degree of access to youth football across the province for decades.

In 2009 he was arrested when police acting on a tip-off found a cache of child pornography on his computer. After a lengthy trial, during which he vigorously

denied the charges, Ucles was given a suspended one-year prison sentence in 2012 and stripped of his position.

Police at the time described it as an 'isolated and one-off incident' that was no part of any greater investigation.

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Learning from the best

STUDENTS from Salford, Manchester participated in a special conference in Almería debating the future of sustainable tourism on the Costa. They were masters students studying business at the city university and joined fellow learners from far flung corners of the world, including Nigeria, Nepal and Malaysia.

The conference was organised by Almería's provincial tourism service which is at once attempting to attract millions more tourists to the coast, while protecting it from the ravages of tourism.

The British students were given a full tour of the Costa Almería and were surprised by the diversity on display, being more accustomed to quick holiday beach trips to Spain.

Their task back in rainy Manchester is to develop new business platforms and partners, as well as advertising techniques, which they believe can best promote Almería abroad. Interestingly a student delegation from the Middle-East decided to stay an extra week and explore Almería's agricultural world, which does excellent business in the arid Arab climate.

Europe backs high speed

SPANISH Socialist MEPs are set to demand the diversion of funds from Madrid to the Mediterranean Corridor railway project. After meeting with a platform of Almería businessmen in Brussels, the PSOE, Spain's second largest party, announced its support for high speed rail investment.

The European Economic Committee was vocal in its own support, describing a fast train from Almería to Murcia as a national priority for Spain. All of Europe is missing out on a better, more profitable passage of goods from the lush fields of Mediterranean Spain.

In response the EU said that, while it cannot force Spain to spend on certain projects, it has high hopes that Almería will be properly connected to Barcelona, and thus to Europe, by 2030.

Secret beauty

GUIDED tours of the caves of Sorbas,

SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE...8

WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE. With most of Spain experiencing a relatively dry climate, water resources for irrigation and public supply are heavily dependent on an extensive reservoirs network. With 1,300 dams, the country places fifth in global rankings, including almost 1,000 'large' dams, more per inhabitant than any other nation in the world.



| Salto de Villarino.

Towering above

LA SERENA reservoir in Badajoz Province, Extremadura, is the biggest in Spain and third largest in Europe. Built on the Rio Zujar, a tributary of the Rio Guadiana, between 1985 and 1990, it can hold 3,219 cubic hectometres of water and is so vast that the adjoining comarca of La Siberia has more kilometres of freshwater coastline than anywhere else in the country.

The tallest dam in Spain is the 202-metre Salto de Villarino, also known as the Almendra dam, on the Rio Tormes in Salamanca, Castilla y Leon. Completed in 1970, it towers almost 50 metres above any other dam in the country, and locks in 2,586 cubic hectometres of water when at capacity.

Less means more in Galicia

IN January this year, a seven-month drought in Galicia, the driest period since 1981, revealed the remains of lost towns and villages that hadn't been seen in decades. As capacities dropped below 25 per cent, locals were able to walk streets that were flooded during the 1960s and even check out forgotten Roman ruins.

The arid conditions were linked to climate change, and with the prospect of further extended dry periods as global temperatures rise, the Spanish National Dams Committee has recommended that 50 more large dams be constructed as soon as possible.



| ROMAN RUINS: The drought revealed the remains.

visits to the El Albardinal botanical garden, hiking in Laujar and adventurous 4x4 visits to the virgin beaches of the Cabo de Gata are all on the packed agenda promoted by the ministry of the environment to showcase Almería's wonders to Madrid.

Local tourism chiefs have gone to great lengths to paint Almería as a cultural hotspot and scenic wonderland and dispel the myths held in Madrid that southern Spain is only about beaches.

Padel power

AFTER making national headlines with its padel advert, the tournament held in Albox on April 1-2 attracted more people and donations than ever before. Organised by the Brotherhood of Our Father Jesus, the poster featured Christ on a padel-style cross and footballer Cristiano Ronaldo dressed in gladiator garb wielding a racket.

It was amusing, controversial and

attention-grabbing in equal measure and appears to have worked wonders for the brotherhood's reputation.

Living wills

A LIVING will was made by 255 people across Almería last year. Another 35 have already been signed in 2017 as the practice grows ever more popular.

Living wills express people's desires as to what future medical treatment they will receive if they are no longer able to make an informed decision. It might involve anything from directing doctors to turn off life support to donating organs.

Dams in their dotage



| Cornalvo Dam.



| Proserpina Dam.

While most Spanish dams were constructed during the 20th century, some have a far longer history.

The Cornalvo and Proserpina dams near Merida, Extremadura, date to the first or second century AD and are considered the oldest European dams still in use.

Built to supply the Roman colony of Emerita Augusta, founded in 25 BC, they now belong to the Archaeological Ensemble of Merida, one of the largest and most important archaeological complexes in Spain.

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Brexit divorce settlement

THE first divorce settlement thought to be directly related to Brexit is going through the courts of Almería. It involves a Spanish man who resides in London but whose family lives in Almería.

He and his wife had already filed for divorce before the referendum but the settlement has been made infinitely more complex by the consequences.

The family live in a rented apartment in Almería while he

has two separate mortgages, one in Barcelona and the other in London. He regularly makes payments for education and healthcare but claims the devaluation of the pound makes it impossible for him to keep paying €500 a month while flying over every two weeks.

With a devaluation estimated at around 20 per cent, the pound to euro conversion is infuriating many continentals who came to the UK to make, rather than lose, money.

Postscript to ponder

45%

The percentage of the world's olive oil that is produced in Spain, with the country also consuming 20 per cent of the global total, around 14 litres per person annually.

Adios topic

THE leaders of France, Italy, Portugal, Greece, Cyprus and Malta will gather at the El Pardo palace outside Madrid on April 10 to discuss Britain's formal notification to leave the EU at talks arranged by Spain for southern leaders.

Family wiped out

A 47-YEAR-OLD council worker is believed to have strangled his wife and then smothered his two children, aged five and eight, before committing suicide by jumping from a second-storey balcony in Ciudad Real in a suspected case of domestic violence.

Safety jump

THE driver of a car that drove through the border between Morocco and Melilla at high speed escaped Guardia Civil and National Police after jumping from the vehicle though his six passengers were all detained.



Postcard from BILBAO



WITH one million residents in the metropolitan area, Bilbao - the largest city in the Basque Country - traces its history back to the 14th century and is now a major industrial area.

There is a mixture of architecture from Gothic to Art Deco to Modernist, and the city centre attracts tens of thousands of visitors.

One of the most important cultural magnets is the Guggenheim Museum famous not just for its displays, but also for the impressive design created by architect Frank Gehry.

Boasting eight Michelin starred restaurants, the city offers a fantastic range of bars and restaurants offering typical Basque cuisine which includes a style of tapas known as pintxos which often marries bread or toast with a mixture of different toppings.

The Port of Bilbao is meanwhile an important conduit for the import and export of goods and additionally operates a ferry terminal for car passengers who wish to travel between Britain and Spain without having to drive the length of France.

Enjoying a climate which rarely gets very cold or very hot Bilbao has fairly regular rainfall.

So sordid

THREE people have been arrested suspected of human trafficking, drug trafficking, and corruption of minors following the discovery of a 14-year-old who was being prostituted in a Madrid club. Officers claim some girls were also used as guarantees for drug payments.

Down at heel

A MIDDLE-AGED driver whose shoe strap became entangled with the accelerator while exiting a car park in central Zaragoza, Aragon, crashed through a barrier and onto a pavement before slamming into a shop. No-one was seriously injured but the driver had to be treated after suffering a panic attack.

Pride and prejudice

A SURVEY by the Catalan Generalitat has revealed that 54.9 per cent of Catalans feel proud when a Spanish national sports team performs well. Meanwhile 32.6 per cent described themselves as feeling "quite proud," and a further 22.3 per cent admitted they are "very proud."

Birthdays

• **Tim Peake, Astronaut, April 7, 45**
First British European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut chosen from more than 9,000 applicants for a place on ESA's new astronaut training programme. In December 2015 he launched into space on a six-month mission to the International Space Station (ISS).

• **Mylene Klass, Singer/TV Presenter, April 6, 39**

British singer who shot to fame after auditioning for ITV reality show Popstars and winning a place in the newly formed band Hear'Say. After the band split she launched a solo career in classical music releasing two albums. She is now better known as a TV and radio presenter.



• **Vivienne Westwood, Fashion Designer, April 8, 76**

Outlandish British designer who brought modern punk and new wave fashion into the limelight in the 70's. She has many notable clients including Princess Eugenie, Camilla the Duchess of Cornwall and Pharell Williams.

• **Robbie Fowler, Footballer, April 9, 42**

Former English professional striker who had a natural ability for scoring goals and who is the Premier League's sixth-highest ever goal scorer. He played mainly for Liverpool FC but also had stints at other clubs including Leeds United and Manchester City.

• **Sophie Ellis-Bextor, Singer, April 10, 38**

English singer who has released six studio albums and had hits with songs such as Take Me Home, Murder on the Dancefloor and Heartbreak Make Me a Dancer. She is the daughter of former Blue Peter and Jigsaw TV presenter Janet Ellis.

• **Jeremy Clarkson, TV Presenter/Journalist, April 11, 57**

Opinionated and controversial former co-host of the hugely popular Top Gear TV show which he hosted for 17 years before being let go by the BBC in 2015 for attacking one of the show's producers.

Numbers that add up to local life

48.5 %

48.5 per cent of Catalonia residents would not vote for independence whilst 44.3 per cent would, according to a Centre d'Estudis d'Opinió poll.

€186,800

The salary received by the Governor of the Bank of Spain.

€3.389 billion

The 'book value' of assets held by the Sareb 'bad bank' set up after the 2008 crisis.

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OUR VIEW

Westminster Bridge murders

JUST about the only really decent thing to come out of the Westminster Bridge murders has been the huge turnout of Muslims all over the UK to express their sorrow at the events and their hatred of those who commit terrorist atrocities.

The press and this includes the ever-expanding *EWN Media Group* has an obligation to report the news, not just one part of it and certainly these demonstrations which saw young Muslims standing side by side with police officers and representatives of other religions needs to be reported.

Some in the media who have been calling for this type of demonstration will perhaps now suggest that this is a cynical show simply to hoodwink the public but in reality this is now one less stick to beat them with.

No-one can argue that a large number of recent terrorist events have been undertaken by those professing belief in their Prophet, but in the same way that large numbers of Irish Catholics were not supporting the IRA, there does need to be a modicum of sense in what is said, as one of the best ways to turn people is to constantly berate them.

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VIATOR: Protestors are demanding its closure.

Vamos NATO!

By Matthew Elliott

PROTESTERS demanded the closure of the NATO base in Viator during a demonstration on April 1. Almeria platform 'NATO no, bases out' denounced the facility as a cover for the imperialist adventures of western armies.

The group also said it is false to suggest Atlantic military alliance base helps create jobs. They claim locals are regularly fired and replaced with military insiders from Spain and abroad.

There is also the central issue of safety. Abandoned mines have been found on the beaches of Almeria.

Many also remember the 1966 Palomares incident when a B-52G US Air Force bomber collided with a refuelling tanker 31,000 feet above the Mediterranean Sea.

Non-nuclear explosives fell from the sky and detonated upon impact in Palomares, a fishing village in Cuevas del Almanzora. Severe radioactive contamination spread around the area and was still found in abundance in snails and soil 40 years later.

Super smart zebras

AN intelligent zebra crossing is coming to Almeria. Equipped with LED technology and sensors, the pedestrian crossing will flash lights at drivers when people are using or approaching it.

The pilot project costs a modest €11,900 and will be installed at the busy passage be-

tween Blas Infante and Guillermo Langle, an area packed with schoolchildren.

Flashing lights are activated both vertically and horizontally to ensure maximum exposure to drivers. If the project proves popular dozens more 'smart' zebras will be rolled out.

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Sadistic dog trap

POLICE are investigating after officers found a badly injured dog and dozens of illegal hunting traps scattered around a rural estate. Patrolling Guardia Civil officers came upon the barbaric site in Dalias when they heard the pained howling of the dog. They found him with his right leg trapped in a vice near a chicken pen. When they released the dog, he ran off terrified, despite having a serious limp, and hasn't been seen since.



Officers then uncovered a series of sadistic and illegal traps that may have killed countless animals over time. They have located the owner of the site and are deliberating on whether or not to bring criminal charges against him

TRAPPED LEG: The dog was howling in pain.

Viking chronicles

VIKING raids were the scourge of Anglo-Saxon Britain. It's less well-known that the Nordic warriors also tormented the coast of Almeria. Reaching Spain in 844 AD they even managed to plunder Sevilla before being driven back by the Moors.

That startling piece of history was recreated by the Alcazaba of Almeria. A visiting professor from the University of Granada explained the raids in all their gory detail to stunned guests. The Alcazaba plans more historical reenactments in the near future.

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Los Higuerales, Arboleas



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SOLD
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Purchena



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€18,000 CASA GALERIA

El Cucador, Zurgena



SOLD
€154,950 VILLA ENCANTACION

Los Labores, Albox



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Police tackle mayor

By Matthew Elliott

POLICE OFFICERS in Carboneras are furious with the council for painting the force as a fully-equipped, crime-fighting machine when the reality is a little less impressive.

The police union accuses the mayor's office of pretending to support officers, while giving them battered second hand vehicles instead of proper police cars.

They are particularly angry that the council even released a press release with much hype and pub-

licity patting themselves on the back for bringing police a 'new vehicle.'

That 'new' vehicle, according to Carboneras police, arrived at their station with 80,000km on the clock. They wryly noted that it was new in comparison to two other vehicles in their fleet, each with more than 250,000km and in continuous need of repair.

The union released a scathing statement saying that police felt the need to inform all Carboneras citizens that their government was not to be trusted.



Stealth armada

SCOURGE of the seven seas, Spanish submarine the Tramontana stopped at the port of Almeria to show off its new surface to air missiles.

The Cartagena-built vessel is carrying out three weeks of training around the Gulf of Mazarron. Launched in 1984 it has seen action during Nato-led naval missions in Libya.

ON SHOW: Tramontana's new surface to air missiles.

Firebombing vandal attacks

VANDALS looting Almeria in a prolonged crime spree have caused an average of €1,000 per day in the past six weeks. Their chief target is empty bins or containers on central streets throughout the city, which they set on fire.

A total of 51 community bins have been torched, presenting authorities with a bill exceeding €50,000. Dozens of cars have been set on fire late in the evening. In one incident the vandals attacked a

series of cars in disabled parking spaces, smashing the windows and stealing valuables before setting the cars alight.

“ Vandals attacked a series of cars in disabled parking spaces.

Avenida Cabo de Gata has been especially targeted and police have launched a huge investigation into finding the culprits.

Last year Almeria City Hall forked out more than €1,750,000 repairing damages caused by vandalism alone. On only one night, December 29, some 11 bins were set on fire in coordinated attacks across the capital.

Health nut paradise

A CANADIAN delegation came to Almeria Province to marvel at its agricultural prowess.

The French-speaking Quebecois farming professionals were on a sightseeing tour to learn about specialised growing techniques and developing produce for niche healthy eating markets.

The Canadians join a list of other nations, including Brazil, Germany and Switzerland, who have voyaged to Almeria in search of the magic farming elixir.

Almeria has one of the world's biggest supplies of unique fresh products with an official stamp of origin. Produce is in high demand in health food shops from New York to Tokyo.

NEWS EXTRA

Thirsty summer

MORE than €1.7 million will be invested in water networks in Zurgena and Vicar to help combat drought and ensure residents are forced to ration water during summer.

Sinking ship

THREE women and 30 men were saved from a sinking boat 17 nautical miles from Almeria Port. The doomed vessel had set sail from Morocco before being discovered by coastguards.

Slick flick

A FILM largely shot in Almeria has been making waves at major international film festivals. 'La Madriguera,' a low-budget flick, won acclaim in Austin, Texas, and was named best independent Spanish film of the year.

Meson mafia

CITY officials accused of corruption in the ongoing Meson Gitano case were suspended. They are suspected of punting the €5.4 million EU-funded contract to construction companies of family members.

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Different strokes

IT is more dangerous to have a stroke during the evening or weekend in Almeria according to a devastating new report that condemns the province's lack of neurosurgeons.

Many hospitals have no skilled doctors to properly handle stroke victims after 8pm or

during the weekends.

Approximately 800 people suffer strokes each year across Almeria, almost three per day. Due to neurosurgeon shortages many are taken by helicopter for urgent treatment in Granada.

Sick hunting ring exposed



GUARDIA CIVIL: Highlight some of the seized items.

A RESIDENT of Almeria is a prime suspect in an illegal hunting ring operating across Spain. Seprona agents believe a wealthy Almerian individual hired the criminal gang to set up large game hunting expeditions.

Police in Aragon have arrested three men they believe offered hunters the chance to kill wild bears, goats and deer in protected reserves.

Expeditions that would usu-

ally require detailed hunting permits and cost over €6,000, were instead offered for €2,000 cash, with the gang providing fake licences and other documents.

Agents from Seprona, the Guardia Civil's animal protection wing, seized a crossbow, telescopic sights, shotguns, mobile phones and radar systems from the gang, which has apparently been operating under the radar for years.

NEWS EXTRA

Highway robbery

IT costs €730 on average in Almeria to insure a car, but just €413 in Segovia, near Madrid. Almeria insurance is about 20 per cent higher than the Spanish average of €623.

Belgium bound

A BUS carrying 67 Moroccan passengers was stopped on the A-7 at Huerca-Overa. They were Belgium-bound but none had the right documents to cross European borders.

Heavy lifting

A MONSTROUS effort will see 12 tons of sand shifted to Aguadulce beach in a last ditch move to spruce up the popular coastline before Easter week begins.



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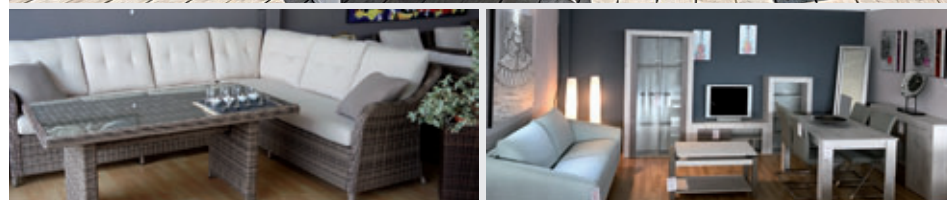
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Vineyard vigilantes

POLICE in Nijar have a new weapon in their battle against greenhouse thefts. Officers are being trained in the use of aerial drones to develop super surveillance over rural land and deter would-be thieves.

Each drone can keep an eye on over 5,000 hectares of land. Around 30 officers will be trained as drone pilots, charged with operating the complex devices and coordinating with colleagues on the ground.

Using a thermal imaging camera the drones can dispatch live feeds from the air to the Local Police headquarters, or even individual mobile phones. Nijar considers the investment worthwhile as it is nearly impossible to physically protect the vast farmlands and abundant fruit of the area.



POLICE OFFICERS: Being trained to use aerial drones.

Jail for foolhardy French shooter

A FRENCHMAN who shot at an Almeria bouncer twice after being rejected from a club has been jailed for almost eight years.

Fortunately the doorman escaped entirely unscathed from the 2015 encounter because the shooter had little idea how to properly use his weapon.

The first shot missed the bouncer's body, no mean feat, and instead pierced his jacket. Furiously trying again to hit his target, the foolhardy Frenchman jammed the semi-

automatic pistol before being wrestled to the ground by two nearby Guardia Civil officers.

The incident took place in Aguadulce on May 9, 2015 at approximately 2.30am after the shooter was barred entrance from a local nightclub.

There was severe panic at the scene when revellers heard the first gunshot, and the suspect violently resisted arrest. His sentence includes six years for attempted murder and almost two years for unlawful possession of a weapon.

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What's in a name?

AN unusual motion is before the Carboneras Council. Patriotic politicians hope to get the town's name on Almería's most famous natural park.

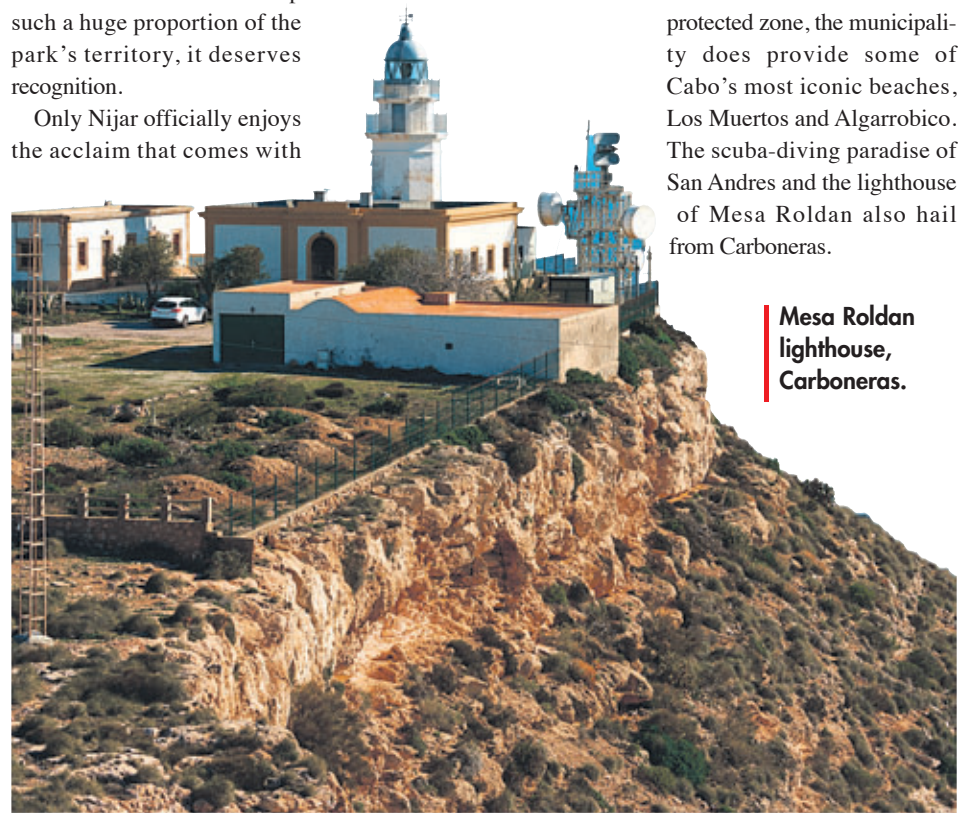
Currently known as Cabo de Gata-Níjar, they insist that, since Carboneras makes up such a huge proportion of the park's territory, it deserves recognition.

Only Níjar officially enjoys the acclaim that comes with

being associated with one of Europe's top natural attractions. Carboneras councillors fear they are missing out on a lucrative stream of tourist revenue and brand name recognition.

Decrees expanding the park in 1994 and 2004 meant that Carboneras technically now contributes roughly 7,500 hectares to the park, vastly more than Níjar does.

Although Carboneras town centre is excluded from the protected zone, the municipality does provide some of Cabo's most iconic beaches, Los Muertos and Algarrobo. The scuba-diving paradise of San Andrés and the lighthouse of Mesa Roldán also hail from Carboneras.



Mesa Roldán lighthouse, Carboneras.

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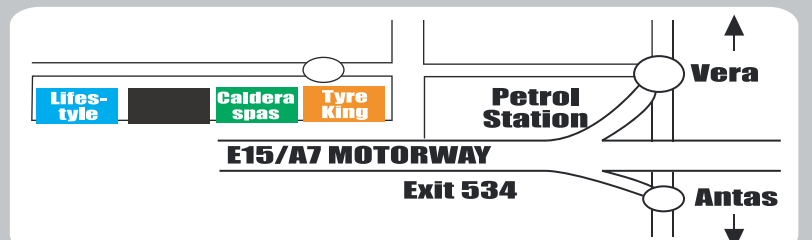
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Mojacar's wondrous wonders

AN adventure sports company has been filming in Mojacar as part of their televised series on adrenaline pumping destinations across Spain. CazaAventura presenters have strolled through the old town, gone deep sea diving at Sombrerico, saw an unforgettable sunset at the Paseo Marítimo and played golf at Marina de la Torre.

Just a small sample of the wonders Mojacar has to offer but certainly enough to compete as one of Spain's top adventure destinations. A further 25 locations will be explored by CazaAventura before the show is broadcast on local TV stations in the Basque Country and on YouTube. The winner will be determined by the most 'likes' on Facebook so be sure to Vote for Mojacar!

Turtle trouble



GET SHELL SOON: The turtle at Equinac's facility.

A SERIOUSLY injured turtle was rescued by marine rescue group Equinac at Pulpi's San Juan de los Terreros beach.

The animal experts were urgently contacted by two local officers who came across the stranded creature. A loggerhead sea turtle, just 50cm long and with puffy eyes, the animal was diagnosed with a parasitic infection. Though in critical condition, the people at Equinac have baptised him Antonio Ramon, after the two officers.

It is incredibly rare to be able to save sea turtles who get washed up on the beach. Unfortunately the number of dead turtles and other cetaceans flushed onto the Almerian coastline continues to increase. Last year alone a total of 82 turtles, dolphins, porpoises, and whales were found on beaches across the province. Human activity is almost always the direct cause of death.



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Joint police operation seizes illegal cigarettes

OFFICERS of police forces in Bulgaria, Portugal, Romania and Spain have acted together to track down a gang of smugglers who were bringing huge volumes of illegal cigarettes

into Spain, which were distributed mainly in Andalucia.

According to the report, gangsters in Bulgaria and Romania were obtaining legally produced cigarettes in countries where prices were low due to reduced taxation and shipping them to Spain which has for years battled the tide of smuggled cigarettes even though prices are much lower here than in many EU countries.

A total of 42 people, 30 in Spain (10 Spanish, 14 Romanians, three Moroccans, one Chinese and two Portuguese), 11 in Romania and one in Bulgaria have been arrested and officers have seized 1,560,000 packs of cigarettes said to have a value of €6 million as well as vehicles, computer systems and physical documentation.

The Spanish raids took place in Almería, Cadiz, Córdoba, Granada, Lleida, Málaga, Sevilla and Tenerife with other raids in Bulgaria and Romania.

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2 beds • 1 bath • Build: 61m²
500m from Las Marinas beach with 2 pools on the urbanization; bars, restaurants, shops & public transport all within easy walking distance, the Fuentemar development is an ideal location for all year round holidays.



Palomares - 83,000€ (ref: PDM)

2 beds • 2 baths • Build: 99m²
A fully furnished southeast facing duplex with multiple terraces providing generous outside living space to match that of the internal living space. Within walking distance to town and beach.



Turre - 87,500€ (ref: TTC)

3 beds • 1½ baths • Plot: 74m² • Build: 148m²
Located on the edge of the village of Turre this large two storey town house with garage and roof top solarium is well presented and within walking distance of the village centre.



Los Gallardos - 89,950€ (ref: HNOM)

2 beds • 2 baths • Build: 83m²
An immaculately presented first floor fully furnished apartment presented to a show home standard and has been developed to a level above that of many others.



Valle del Este - 129,950€ (ref: VDEC)

2 beds • 3 baths • Build: 179m²
Located on Los Alamos Urb, one of the smallest on Valle del Este, and is presented to a very high standard. With views of pool & 12th green, private garden, solarium and furniture negotiable.



Vera Playa (Naturist) - 139,500€ (ref: NBVG2)

2 beds • 1 bath • Plot: 146m² • Build: 67m²
Boasting outside space of 80m² with east and south facing orientations, this ground floor property certainly ticks the location box for those wanting to enjoy maximum hours of sun.



Featured Property



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Antas - 213,000€ (ref: AVOP)

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Los Gallardos - 234,000€ (ref: HNVS)

3 beds • 2 baths • Plot: 2,500m² • Build: 173m²
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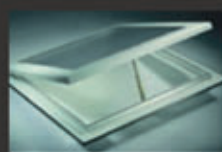
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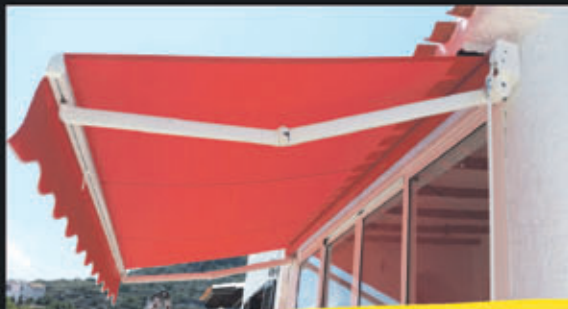
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NEWS EXTRA

Bootleg bazaar

A MARIHUANA supermarket which grew its own product while open 24 hours a day was raided in Almeria Province. Police made 14 arrests, seizing 180 plants and thousands of euros in cash.

TV plea

WARM and welcoming homes are being sought for the 265 orphaned, vulnerable or abused children across Almeria under a new TV and radio campaign.

Dodgy dole

SIX people were arrested as National Police broke up a gang that nabbed unemployment benefits for foreign nationals from Almeria's public coffers using fake residency documents and work permits.



NATURAL PARK: Protecting some of the planet's most stunning geological marvels.

Geopark gems unite

REPRESENTATIVES from the 16 million-year-old Cabo de Gata-Nijar natural park were in Dublin for the annual European Geoparks Summit.

Park director Lucia Tejero discussed sustainable tourism with the heads of 68 other geoparks from 23 countries.

Geoparks are areas devoted to protecting some of the planet's most stunning geological marvels. Volcanoes, fossils, mines, and rock formations give invaluable clues to the formation of Earth and the origins of life.

Cabo de Gata-Nijar joined

the Geopark club in 2006 and is already one of the more prestigious and environmentally active members.

Featuring volcanic deposits from 16 million years ago, it is considered one of the world's fundamental natural heritage sites.

Baby killing hit and run

A DOUBLE killer driver who smashed into another car at top speed faces reckless homicide charges.

A baby and its mother died when they were both flung from their rear seats straight through the window upon impact. Her husband, in the driver's seat, sustained serious injuries.

The driver, a young man identified as Florin, snuck off to his father's house without calling for help. The incident occurred on January 8 on Almeria's Federico Garcia Lorca.

After taking witness testimonies into account the police believe they have enough evidence to bring murder charges against the

suspect. He is believed to have skipped multiple red lights just before the crash, while driving at 95kph in a 50kph zone.

Questions remain as to whether Florin was intoxicated at the time. He eluded arrest for 15 hours, after which alcohol tests become inconclusive.

Whether the mother and baby were properly strapped in to their seatbelts is also unclear.

What is clear is that Florin was captured on CCTV camera calmly walking away from the crash, seemingly without a care in the world, making no attempt whatsoever to get help for his victims.

“ He is believed to have skipped many red lights. ”

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Beware these five top scams

CRIME statistics collated by the National Police and Guardia Civil offer a fascinating, yet alarming, insight into the five most common scams targeting people across Almería today.

Online scams are now by far the most prevalent. Ghost advertisements offering stays in luxury hotels, or rented accommodation for prices that are quite literally too good to be true are the biggest internet scam targeting locals today.

A victim might find a wonderful-looking apartment that meets all of their holiday needs. Asked to secure the property at the knock-down price by transferring a deposit, many will never see that money again.

Cyber theft, phishing and credit card fraud continue to increase in concerning numbers. More people than ever are falling prey to identity theft and online hackers as the savvy criminals develop new technological skills.

Meanwhile 'fake crimes' have increased three-fold across Almería. Police are dealing with an enormous number of cases involving people who pretend to have been mugged or robbed solely to claim insurance money. Now genuine victims face even more of an uphill struggle to secure justice.

Street scams involving people offering hugs while they ransack your pockets or supposedly mentally ill people trying to exchange money are still exploiting new victims on a daily basis.

The fifth popular scam is fake gas inspectors or plumbers who managed to defraud an estimated 2,000 people across the province last year. Targeting elderly residents who often live alone, the scammers identify non-existent problems and charge exorbitant rates ranging from €50-2,500 for unnecessary work.

ONLY a few weeks after Ferrari filmed its new 812 Superfast speeding across the magnificent landscape of Almería, Peugeot is taking to the province's scenic roads.

A new advert, shot in the Cabo de Gata, will promote the global debut of the French brand's hotly-

Take my breath away

anticipated 3008 SUV.

Priced just north of €20,000, the Peugeot 3008 is already one of the best SUVs of 2017.

The advertising campaign will

reach billions of screens across the world, firmly establishing Almería as the world's go to location for spectacular shots and scenic beauty.

The latest ad takes in the Cabo de Gata lighthouse road as the Peugeot winds around the gorgeous coastline at sunset.

Almería is proving to be a favourite location of short film-makers from Ferrari to Hollywood thanks to its uniquely diverse scenery.

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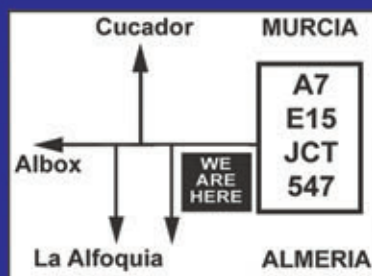
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Semana Santa: Mojacar 2017

SEMANA SANTA in Mojacar is an experience like none other and 2017 is shaping up to be one of the busiest, and brightest yet. The town will be extremely busy with guests, tourists and pilgrims adding to the already fantastical scenes that make up the traditional Easter parades.

Semana Santa runs from April 9-16 this year but the Easter festivities get underway well before the ninth. The Novenas private devotion prayers began on Monday April 3 and run until Friday April 7 at the Mojacar Parish Church in an early ceremony devoted to the Holy Week.

From Saturday April 8 the atmosphere will become noticeably busier with the Sacred Easter Music Concert from the Mojacar town band kicking off at 9pm at the Parish Church.

Sunday April 9 is Palm Sunday and the official beginning of Semana Santa. In Mojacar the Procession of the Donkey begins at 11am from the Fuente to the Parish Church where there will be the blessing of the palms and olive branches.

On Tuesday April 11 traffic will be

tight as the Stations of the Cross begins, symbolising Jesus' hard road on the way to his crucifixion. Holy Thursday will be loud, late and awe-inspiring as the Procession of the Nazarene and the Virgin of Sorrow marches through Mojacar's streets from 10.30pm.

The Procession of the Holy Encounter will make its way through the town centre accompanied by the Mojacar band on Holy Friday from 12.30pm. Again it will be a late evening with the Holy Burial Procession beginning at 10.30pm.

As is traditional Holy Saturday will be quieter on the religious front with only an evening vigil at the parish church. But expect it to be raucous with street celebrations as family, friends and bars pour out onto the sunny plazas and beaches.

Easter Sunday will be a busy day with the official mass at the Parish Church commencing at 12pm. It will be followed by one last communal procession through the town to honour the Risen Christ. At 8pm the week will finish with a huge magic show as the crowds disperse into night.

**See our Semana Santa Special on
pages 52 & 53**

Disasters of War



ENGRAVINGS INVOICE: An inquiry has been launched over alleged embezzlement.

CARBONERAS mayor Salvador Hernandez has accused his political nemesis of pretending to order original Goya art pieces in order to embezzle public funds.

The state prosecutor has now launched an official inquiry into whether PSOE leader Josefa Cruz, himself a

former mayor, forged a €3,250 invoice for 80 engravings from Francisco de Goya's Disasters of War series.

Hernandez is puzzled that his lawyers came across the invoice but no evidence of engravings ever arriving to the town hall. Ordering fictional items is a common ploy

among Spanish mayors who later find themselves behind bars.

The prosecution claims that Cruz ordered an 1863 edition of copied engravings from Goya's famous prints, forged between 1810 and 1820 as a protest during the Napoleonic Wars.

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Jaw-jaw is better than war-war



BREXIT PAGE

By John Smith

THE last week fuelled a feeding frenzy for the press around the world and for politicians in Spain and the UK as following the triggering of Article 50 all eyes were on Gibraltar and its apparent importance to the Brexit agreement.

Point 22 of Donald Tusk's response, which is effectively the draft for European Union negotiations, caught most of Parliament and Gibraltar by surprise as it stated 'After the United Kingdom leaves the Union, no agreement between the EU and the United Kingdom may apply to the territory of Gibraltar without the agreement between the Kingdom of Spain and the United Kingdom.'

The press in Britain had a field



Photo by European Union

DONALD TUSK: His response caught most of Parliament and Gibraltar by surprise.

day about the machinations of the conniving Spanish who were already making a bid to take over the role from the UK as a major player in the EU top echelon and despite the fact that Alfonso Dastis, the Spanish Foreign Minister, has repeatedly said that Gibraltar would not be a pawn in the Brexit negotiations, he seemed to have possibly achieved quietly what

his noisy predecessors had not.

Gibraltar Chief Minister, Fabian Picardo who has visibly risen to the challenge, according to some papers suggested that Spain was behaving like a 'cuckolded husband,' a deadly insult had it been true but in actual fact he was talking about Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, in reaction to his use of

family oriented references.

Much was also made of the fact that Gibraltar was not specifically mentioned in the 'divorce' letter although Mr Picardo, appearing on BBC TV brushed that aside, inferring that the wording was deliberate and produced with the agreement of the Gibraltar government as the important thing was that Gibraltar is

covered in the White Paper.

Former Tory leader Michael Howard jumped into the melee on the exact 35th anniversary of the start of the Falklands War by suggesting that Theresa May could well be strong enough to follow in the footsteps of Margaret Thatcher in order to protect the integrity of the Rock.

The prime minister however decided to emulate an earlier conservative hero by suggesting that the matter would be resolved by "jaw-jaw (rather than war-war)" and with Boris Johnson, never short of a chirpy 'bon mot,' he wrote on Facebook "I wanted to reiterate that the UK remains implacable and rock-like in our support for Gibraltar."

It is still early days and all 27 members of the European Union have to approve the Tusk letter, so possibly Gibraltar will turn out to be a bit of a 'storm in a teacup' but there is no doubt that negotiations will be testing for both sides and will require give and take, especially as a Commons committee has just stated that there is no justification for suggesting that "no deal is better than a bad deal."



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NEWS EXTRA**Paedo jailed**

AN Almeria man was jailed for one year after police raided his home and found four child pornography videos which the 32-year-old admitted possessing and distributing to accomplices online.

Spring time

A MAKE-OVER will smarten up Almeria's old town for spring. Residents are asked to decorate the historic quarter with plants and paintings while the city's youth orchestra provides the soundtrack.

Serious smash

A HEAD-ON collision in Huerca de Almeria between two vehicles injured four people, some of whom had to be extracted from their cars by firefighters.

Latest news from Bremain in Spain

DURING a conversation with Sue Wilson the chair of pressure group Bremain in Spain, she told *Euro Weekly News* that she had been very pleased with the fact that more than 100,000 people had taken the trouble to attend the Unite for Europe march.

According to Sue, she felt part of a large upswell of people who are opposed to the decision for Britain to leave the European Union and although she is not a public speaker she was delighted to address those attending alongside MPs Tim Farron and David Lammy as well as former deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg.

Sue told *EWN* that "this was just one demonstration of the depth of feeling which is

SUE WILSON:
At the Unite for Europe march.

growing and will without doubt be repeated."

As far as the actual triggering of Article 50 is concerned, she refuses to be downbeat as her group knew that it was coming but in her words it is "certainly not the end of the argument."

Indeed she is excited that members of the coalition opposed to Brexit managed to meet with the leader of the EU negotiating team Michel Barnier, even before the British government had done so.

She believes the meeting was the reason for a sudden



Some of the people at the London march.



decision by the Ministry for Exiting the European Union to agree to have face to face discussions with three representatives from the coalition on April 10, although they wait to find out who they will meet, as it appears that Secretary of State David Davis will not be available.

Representing the coalition, British in Europe, the delegates will be Jeremy Morgan (Italy), Jane Golding (Germany), Fiona Frank-Godfrey

(Luxembourg) and Margaret Hales (Spain).

One of the opinions that Sue has was quite interesting as she feels it would appear as she feels it would appear that European Union representatives have a greater interest in the protection of the rights of British citizens within the EU than the British government does.

"As I said in my speech at Parliament Square, I am a proud European and I would like to be proud to be British again," said Sue who is a long term resident of Alcossebre in the province of Castellon.

For more details of the aims of the voluntary organisation, visit www.bremainin-spain.com.

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We hope the information provided in this article is of interest.

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PAWS-PATAS charity quiz

TEST your wits at the PAWS-PATAS charity quiz event which is being held on Wednesday April 12 from 5pm at Marene Restaurante.

Tony Matthews, from Spectrum Radio and *Euro Weekly News*, will be the quizmaster for the evening.

Quiz rounds can include many subjects including music, geography, sport, history, true/false, food/drink, science, fashion, plant-world, pioneers, third world, international royalty and horror movies so get your egg heads at the ready.

Teams should be a maximum of six players and the cost will be €2 per person. A three-course menu del dia is also available from 6pm at a cost of €10.

To reserve your table please call Paul on 657 105 084. For more information visit www.paws-patas.org or find the charity on Facebook.

FUNDRAISING QUIZ: Will help raise vital funds.

RACE NIGHT: Was a great success.



A Dame good night

ON Friday March 24 the Dames in Huerca-Overa held a race night at the tennis club, which included a meal.

The evening was a great success with more than 70 people attending. The proceeds of the night will be donated to the charity fund that helps local good causes.

The Dames meet on the third Wednesday of every month at the tennis club in Huerca Overa, where a warm welcome awaits you. Why not go along and give it a try?

For more information call Sue on 661 190 190.

Royal British Legion Mojacar branch

THE Royal British Legion Mojacar branch meets on the first Thursday of the month at the Artisan centre in Mojacar pueblo at 11.15am.

All are welcome to attend and the group plans to continue having its second meeting of the month, which is the third Thursday, as a coffee/lunch meeting.

Upcoming meetings and events include the branch

meeting on Thursday April 6 at 11.15am in The Artisan centre with Hayley Roebuck from Golden Leaves as the speaker. On Friday April 7 the fish 'n' chip quiz night will be held in the Beachcomber Restaurant in Mojacar and tables can be booked by calling Rhoda on 697 297 929.

Then on Thursday April 20 it will be the social meeting at 11.30am in Hostal Rural,

Turre where there will be coffee and maybe a game of petanque. Sunday April 23 is the St George's Day lunch at Bellavista Restaurant in Mojacar and again this can be booked by calling Rhoda.

Advance notice is given of the golf tournament taking place on Saturday May 27 at Aguilon Golf Club in Aguilas. For more information contact thomastannant@outlook.com.

RBL Albox branch hold coffee morning

THE Royal British Legion Albox (RBL) branch coffee morning will be held at Café Bar Oasis (off Avenida America, Albox) today Thursday April 6 starting at 11.30am with nice nibbles and bevies and plenty of chat.

There are more new members so please do go along and welcome them.

The members' meeting on Thursday April 20 will be

held at La Parrilla Hotel and Restaurant in Albox. It will start at 11am and the main event will be the spring quiz with free entry and an Easter egg for everyone who comes and prizes for the winning and worst teams.

Guests are welcome to attend RBL events when accompanied by a member. New members are welcome to join the branch at any of the meetings or contact

Sandy, the membership secretary, on 648 049 491 or by email at stucker99@hotmail.co.uk.

The Legion does vital work providing practical support to serving men and women, veterans (ex-Service of all ages) and their families. Get in touch for advice, information and guidance on 676 451 780 or email assistance.rbl.dns@gmail.com. They are there to serve you.

Operatic fun for Leo the Lion

ON Saturday May 6 commencing 6pm at the Renfe Site in La Alfoquia there will be a Charity Concert in aid of the local schools of La Alfoquia and Zurgena and the Leo the Lion Fund, with €3 of every ticket sold going to the charity. The concert itself will be headed by four of Spain's top tenors, The 4

Stations, a tribute to Il Divo supported by Kay Frances and compered by Ronnie Taylor aka Justin Sane. Tickets for this great night of music and comedy are only €15.

For more information and tickets, call 642 008 003 or see the Facebook page [barlawnion2013](https://www.facebook.com/barlawnion2013).



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NORWAY

Reindeer cull

NORWAY is preparing to cull thousands of reindeer because experts said an entire herd had to be culled after the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease was detected.

40 arrests

AROUND 40 young people have been arrested in schools and homes near Oslo. The 16-20 year-olds are suspected of being involved in the sale of illegal drugs.

Less understanding

CRITICISM has been raised after the Islamic Council Norway hired a woman who wears the full face-



REINDEER: Suffering from Chronic Wasting Disease.

Embassy move

covering niqab as a communications officer. The Minister for Culture said the appointment would create "distance."

THE US Embassy in Oslo is set to move into its new complex at Huseby and will be open on May 15.

GERMANY

Coin stolen

A GOLD 100kg gold coin with the image of Queen Elizabeth II, has been stolen from a museum in Berlin. It was minted by Canada in 2007 and has a face value of one million Canadian dollars (€70,000).

Demand rejected

CHANCELLOR Angela Merkel has rejected one of the key Brexit demands

from UK PM Theresa May. Merkel said the 'divorce settlement' leaving the EU must come before talks on the future UK-EU relationship.

Pay gap

A NEW graph has shown the average pay for professionals and business leaders throughout their working life in Germany. The biggest leap is be-

tween the ages of 25 and 30 when average salaries rose from €36,789 to €45,302.

Amazon jobs

AMAZON is looking for 2,000 new workers in Germany by the end of the year as part of its European expansion. Many will be based in the new logistics centre throughout the country.

FRANCE

Cheap driving

LORRAINE in north east France has been named as the cheapest region for owning a car according to the Automobile Club Association which looked at the cost of everything from petrol, road tolls, maintenance and insurance.

Caught red-handed

A MAN received a three-month suspended prison sentence after he was caught sexually assaulting one of his chickens in Normandy. His wife and daughter caught him in a compromising position with his trousers down.

More tolerant

AN annual survey measuring levels of racism has reported the French are becoming more tolerant of minority groups, with a drop in racist incidents.

Decisions, decisions

AROUND 40 per cent of French voters say they are still unsure of who to vote for in the presidential election, with less than a month to go.

BELGIUM

Rich regions

BRUSSELS is the fourth-richest region in the EU in terms of regional GDP per capita according to a report from the European Statistical Office. West London was named as the richest region.

Ticket-less travel

MORE than 1,000 passengers across the STIB public network, were caught without tickets or travel passes in Brussels during planned police checks.

Merger plans

BRUSSELS AIRLINES wants to take over Thomas Cook Airlines Belgium (TCAB) as part of merger plans recently announced.

Delay compensation

A COURT in Charleroi has ordered Ryanair to pay compensation to six Belgians because their flight was delayed. The ruling is a first since the budget carrier normally demands that unhappy travellers appear before an Irish court. Ryanair is appealing the ruling.

NETHERLANDS

Hotting up

MARCH 30 was officially the warmest day of the year in the Netherlands so far with temperatures topping 20 degrees at the De Bilt weather station.

Foreign students

FOREIGN students at Dutch universities have doubled to 81,000 over the past 10 years. In the 2016/17 academic year, a record 112,000 international students attended Dutch higher education centres with 81,000 on a full degree course.

Poor drawings

INSPECTORS said that today's 11 and 12-year-olds are producing more basic drawings stating that the standards in art are going down compared to 20 years ago.

New rules

THE Dutch doctors association said they are not in favour of new euthanasia rules for elderly people who want to end their lives despite not being physically ill.

DENMARK

Science month

THE Danish Science Festival is underway this month with 600 science orientated events taking place. It aims to encourage and inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers.

Immigrant detection

HELP is wanted to detect illegal immigrants. Denmark's integration minister wants citizens to alert the authorities if they witness people working in back rooms or in restaurant kitchens, not speaking Danish.

Uber no more

UBER car sharing will no longer be available in Denmark after a new taxi law was passed by the government introducing measures such as compulsory taxi meters and seat occupancy detectors.

First of a kind

A NEW supermarket has opened in Copenhagen that is fighting against food waste by selling produce cheaply that is technically past its sell-by date but is still edible. It is believed to be the first of its kind in Europe.

SWEDEN

Car crash

A MAN was killed after a car crashed into the City Hall building in Stockholm in the early hours of the morning. Police are investigating and trying to identify the body.

New brand

SWEDISH clothing giant H&M is launching its eighth fashion brand aimed at upmarket buyers in a bid to recover lost profits in the American and central European market. The Arket brand will launch in the summer in

London first of all.

Million people

THE population of Gothenburg, Sweden's second city, reached one million this week according to calculations by analysts.

Turn off

OVER 250 of Sweden's 290 municipalities took part in the big switch off, turning off lights during Earth Hour to raise awareness of climate change.

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ANGRY MOBS: Tens of thousands have marched in recent weeks.

Robocop returns

ROBOT riot police should tackle anti-corruption protesters should they ever again march on Moscow according to a top pro-Kremlin newspaper. Komsomolskaya Pravda notes that kicking a robot only hurts your feet and recommends smoke grenades and rubber bullets to disperse angry mobs. Tens of thousands have marched in recent weeks.

Unpopular patriots

CINEMAS are fuming over the Ministry of Culture's decision to postpone the release of American blockbuster The Fast and the Furious 8. Ministers don't want the popular franchise to conflict with First Time, a state-funded film about a Russian cosmonaut expected to bomb at the box office.

Paid pregnancy

SURROGATE pregnancies may soon be banned all across Russia. A new bill before parliament describes it as a violation of children's rights. Unlike in the UK, surrogacy is an industry in Russia, where surrogate mothers can be paid handsomely. Fundamentalists fear that homosexual couples might pay for children.

Check mate

A BIZARRE controversy has engulfed the World Chess Federation. It released a statement saying that its president, Russian politician Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, had resigned. But Ilyumzhinov popped up a day later denouncing the news as 'fake.' The colourful leader also claims to have once been abducted by aliens.

Underdog jailed

KEY opposition leader Alexei Navalny was arrested for inspiring huge anti-corruption protests across Russia. Navalny was jailed for 15 days and fined 20,000 roubles. In 2018 he plans to run for president against Vladimir Putin. Pollsters give him almost no chance of pulling the upset.

Coffee kingdom

COFFEE sales are soaring in Russia while the tea trade plummets. Russia is one of the world's biggest instant coffee exporters, despite not a single bean growing there. Tea drinkers are also switching to alternative herbal concoctions.

Cult chaos

MOSCOW police launched a raid on a church of Scientology straddling the outskirts of the city. Russia and the American-based cult have a difficult relationship after lawmakers stripped Scientology of its religious status. Some politicians began treating its preaching as potentially seditious, along with Islam and Hinduism.



SCIENTOLOGY CHURCH: Police launched a raid.

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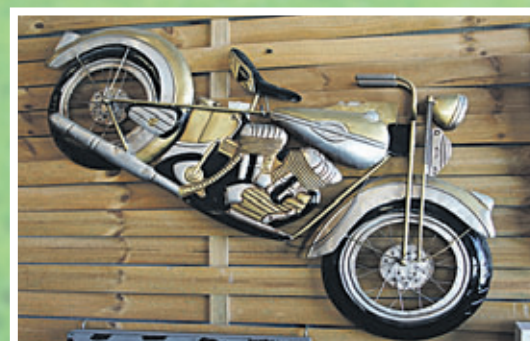
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Stock Exchange merger blocked

By John Smith

FOR the third time, the planned merger between the London Stock Exchange (LSE) and the Deutsche Boerse has fallen through, this time because it has been blocked by the European Commission in order to stop what it considered to be a potential financial monopoly.

To some extent it is ironic that the decision was announced so close to the triggering of Article 50 and it must have passed through the minds of exchange executives who 'regret'

€24 billion

would have been the value of the combined London Stock Exchange and Deutsche Boerse merger.

the decision that Brexit may have been partly responsible.

What would have seen the creation of a strong financial operation which

straddled the European Union and post Brexit Britain is now unlikely to ever come to fruition, but it does leave the door open for other organi-

sations to cast their eyes over the London Stock Exchange in particular.

Over the past 20 years, apart from the three failed attempts to merge, the LSE has rejected takeover bids from Australia, Sweden and the USA as well as almost merging with the Canadian Stock Exchange.

In the event of a hostile or even friendly bid, the LSE may be helped or frustrated by the government as it has recently introduced new rules concerning the take-over of British companies by foreign ones.

Real Madrid sponsor

IN what is a slightly unusual move, Spanish telecoms giant Telefonica will become a major sponsor of Real Madrid's basketball and football teams in a two year multi-million euro deal whereby it will supply WiFi at the Bernabeu stadium.

In addition it will launch an exclusive Madrid App but it will not gain the benefit of seeing its logo on the shirts of the players, as that right continues to remain with Emirate Airlines.

Quote of the Week

"The answer is some form of passport for goods, a technology-based solution." Tim Waggott of Dover Port on movement of goods after Brexit.



Poundland venture



Photo Credit: Tupungato Shutterstock

POUNDLAND: Intend to offer cheap clothes in store.

By John Smith

THOSE who remember F W Woolworth & Co fondly may have a new champion in South African group Steinhoff International who purchased Poundland for £610 million (€700 million) in 2016, as they intend to ramp up the amount of cheap clothing in their stores.

By the end of 2017, they expect to have very cheap fashion clothing produced by

their brand Pep&Co in 100 of their 850 UK stores and then if take up is successful to expand to a further 100 stores.

It doesn't necessarily mean that all clothing placed in Poundland stores will cost just one pound but it is an indication that low priced fashion will be making its way back onto the high street, with many of the Poundland stores actually located where Woolworth used to be.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Lloyds move

AS previously predicted, now that Article 50 has been triggered, Lloyds of London, the world's largest insurer has announced it will open a subsidiary office in Brussels in order to avoid losing EU business. It is not intended to be the start of a major move out of the UK but is a precautionary decision, made to ensure ongoing access to the EU market.

All Uber

SOMEWHAT controversial but highly successful cab hire firm Uber have announced after three years they will close their operation in Denmark in April due to newly introduced laws that require cabs to have fare meters and seat sensors. The company which has 2,000 drivers in Denmark will not see a huge profit loss.

New coin

THE UK has introduced a new 12 sided £1 coin which is said to be much more difficult to counterfeit than the old round pound. Operators of vending machines have faced large bills for converting their machines to recognise both coins.

Fighting cancer together

THE Amancio Ortega Foundation (FAO) has reached an agreement in principle with the health departments of all the autonomous communities to extend its support programme to modernise the cancer detection and radiotherapy treatment units

in public hospitals. This FAO programme, already underway in Galicia and Andalucia, has an overall budget of €320 million and will enable the purchase of 290 pieces of equipment, in accordance to the needs detected by local health professionals.

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Focus on Brexit, nine months after the UK referendum

Ask the expert

Peter Loveday



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IT'S been over nine months since the UK referendum on Europe took place, and Brexit is about to get real, so markets are trying to figure out what this means for the UK. Theresa May is entering divorce proceedings with the EU in a position of strength that was unimaginable in the chaotic aftermath of the June 23, 2016 referendum. All the doom and gloom scenarios predicted failed to materialise.

Even in the face of legal challenges that a parliamentary assent is required for the government to trigger Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, notifying the EU of the decision to leave, there has been no constitutional crisis and the Parliament as well as the House of Lords have not revolted against the government, despite a thin majority.

Theresa May has been lucky so far and the economy has been resilient despite all the challenges and uncertainties ahead. Growth remains buoyant, unemployment has continued to fall and house prices remained steady as consumers' confidence stays surprisingly strong.



ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN: Is not the only concern posed by Brexit.

One might think that the Prime Minister could not ask for more as she prepares for negotiations, but it would be naïve of Mrs May to forget that Brexit hasn't happened yet and firms are continuing to trade.

As the first quarter of 2017 comes to an end, the recent slight deterioration in data and the prospect of slower growth post-Brexit might really mean that uncertainty is starting to have a real impact. Inflation hit its highest level in February as rising fuel prices bumped up the cost of living. The staggering 20 per cent devaluation of

Sterling since the referendum is now filtering through the real economy as households start to crack under inflation pressures.

There are no more talks of a hard or soft Brexit in the news, but businesses are starting to adjust to the prospect of new barriers to trade with the EU as Mrs May seems willing to walk out from negotiations if the deal offered to the UK isn't right. Ahead of triggering Article 50, the challenges and uncertainties of the negotiation are laid bare by the government's own revised economic forecasts, which now expect growth to

slow to 1.6 per cent in 2018 and 2019.

Economic slowdown is not the only concern posed by Brexit as the government might potentially face constitutional crises on two fronts. The Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has now confirmed she will be calling for a new Scottish independence referendum.

Although the economic case for a Scottish referendum is not as strong as it was in 2014, the Scottish voters' commitment to the UK looks shakier now after Scotland voted overwhelmingly to stay in the EU. A bigger threat in a post Brexit world will be Northern Ireland, which will be the only part of the UK sharing a border with the EU. A hard border and barriers to trade with the Republic of Ireland could be economically damaging and there are fears new tensions could destabilise the region.

Brexit is for sure the biggest challenge facing the UK in a long time and Mrs May is not in such an enviable position as it might seem. Her own party keep her in check as the hardliners dictate their line of uncompromising attitude toward the EU and are prepared to walk away from negotiations if they don't get what they want. As we are about to find out what Brexit is all about, Mrs May will have to rise to the challenge and show she has the political clout to strike the deal the UK needs in a post Brexit world.

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Albert Rivera confirms support of budget

By John Smith

IN a slight spirit of self-congratulation, Albert Rivera, leader of the Ciudadanos political party has announced that he has negotiated a deal with Mariano Rajoy and the government which will see real benefits for Spain.

Mr Rivera explained that in order to support the proposed budget, he has secured an additional €4.1 billion (a similar amount to that granted to Catalonia) to help the working and middle class without the need to increase income tax or IVA.

Of the €4.1 billion promised, €1.915 will be aimed directly at the working and middle classes and €2.1 billion is intended to help in the modernisation of the country.

According to him, he has achieved more than originally expected when he agreed to support the minority government and has secured a number of advantages in social measures as well as reversing cuts in such vital areas as education as well as seeing increased investment for future economic development.

The Ciudadanos leader also said that he can see that there is a new dynamic in which "two parties with different ideas can agree to take the budgets forward. It's a shame that the PSOE will not approve the most social budgets of recent years."

Having seen that the government can easily lose important votes if opposition parties act together or



Photo by Ciudadanos

ALBERT RIVERA: Announced that he has negotiated a deal which will see real benefits for Spain.

even abstain, a great deal does depend on the main opposition, the PSOE, as if it votes against the budget, despite or perhaps because it is currently being run by a committee, the position of the minority government would be difficult, especially as the European Union wants to see a strong and clear financial policy.

It may well be that the PSOE decides to abstain en masse in order to allow a new leader to be elected, especially as Mr Rajoy has hinted at the possibility of another election, which the main opposition would want to avoid at this time, especially if it was blamed by the public for causing the elec-

Toshiba face serious financial problems

ONE negative side to globalisation has just emerged at a stormy meeting of shareholders in the giant Toshiba company which has revealed that its US business arm Westinghouse has just filed for bankruptcy protection.

In order to meet some of the projected annual losses of one trillion yen (€8 billion) it is looking to sell its valuable memory chip business which may be worth as much as €16 billion and this has reluctantly been approved by shareholders as Toshiba desperately needs to add liquidity to its business.

Westinghouse has suffered huge cost overruns at two US nuclear reactor projects in Georgia and South Carolina, so by applying for protection in the US, Toshiba hopes to reduce its future financial liability.

Coffee cups can help the environment

By John Smith

THE western world is besotted with the idea that purchasing coffee from one of a plethora of coffee shops is a cool and sensible activity but few give too much thought to the amount of waste that is created once the coffee is drunk.

Use of plastic bags from supermarkets has been dramatically reduced following the imposition of a charge and whilst you can't really take your coffee away without a container, a joint university study suggests that a charge could cut usage dramatically.

The concept is very simple and that is that a charge would be made for any disposable cup that was taken, but if a reusable cup was offered at no additional cost then people would be likely to think positively and would recognise the environmental benefits and financial advantage.

It would be naive to think that every reusable cup would be used again but the researchers who worked with students purchasing coffee in three universities around the UK and in other businesses believe that up to 12.5 per cent of the cups would be used again.

That doesn't sound like a great deal



Photo by Franitc00 Shutterstock

DISPOSABLE CUPS: Britain alone devours 2.5 billion each year.

but as Britain alone devours 2.5 billion disposable cups each year, that relatively small percentage adds up to 312 million and if the concept can then be taken up across Europe and North America, the number of cups saved

“ **If a reusable cup was offered at no cost, then people would think positively.**

would be absolutely enormous.

The results of this study will be presented to the government and major coffee stores in the hope that the idea might be picked up and the amount of landfill would reduce.

UK is not a 'cash cow'

ACCORDING to David Davis the Minister responsible for Brexit negotiations, whilst Britain will honour its financial obligations to the European Union when it leaves, it is leaving because it doesn't want to pay more and more money and certainly doesn't expect to pay the rumoured €57 billion.

The argument is that Britain will have to provide funds to cover its percentage of the pensions paid to EU employees for the period of which it has been a member until the last pensioner dies.

In addition the EU will also ask for funding for ongoing projects agreed whilst Britain was a member.

Losing mental capacity whilst living abroad

by Stone King

Charlotte Macdonald

Contact me at 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.

If you would like to discuss LPAs contact Charlotte Macdonald or Dan Harris at Stone King LLP by email international@stoneking.co.uk or by telephone on +44 (0)1225 337599.



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The gloves will be truly discarded

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I THINK Gibraltar is about to become a huge and potentially highly dangerous issue between Spain and the UK.

“ Gibraltar is far closer to home both in proximity and spirit.

Notwithstanding the disputes of its sovereignty, which date back to the 1700's and beyond, 'Gib' has however managed to maintain a somewhat 'rocky' alliance with the Spanish, purely because we were both members of the EU. With this stripped away, the gloves I feel will truly be discarded.

As many of you are aware, my re-



GIBRALTAR: Maintains a somewhat 'rocky' alliance with the Spanish.

spect for most politicians is not exactly glowing. I consider the majority of them self-serving bubble dwellers, whose naivety is sometimes almost beyond belief. The recent statement by Lord Howard is a case in point.

To announce that he is sure Theresa May will take the same stand

against the Spanish as Margaret Thatcher did against The Falklands, is almost unbelievably provocative and inflammatory.

He is actually inferring, that to protect Gibraltar, Britain would be prepared to go to war with the Spanish! Thank God this idiot no longer holds

any ministerial position.

He is however able to command an airing of his views to vast numbers of the public and would have most certainly been noted by the Spanish. His foolish remarks reveal just how out of touch and unaware he is of the Spaniards' passionate attitude to

Gibraltarian sovereignty.

I truly believe that should the situation be allowed to disintegrate into some form of confrontation, we could all be in trouble. I have been here long enough to remember Brits being spat on in the streets following the Falklands war, and that was with Argentina!

Gibraltar is far closer to home both in proximity and spirit. Just how this whole sorry situation will pan out I have no idea. I envisage border situations of alarming proportions with possible siege conditions arising.

The one thing I am sure about is that any troop deployment would be highly irresponsible and could lead to a dispute that could endanger us all.

Let us all hope that the leaders of both our countries have more sense than the ilk of former MP Howard but don't hold yer breath!

Keep the faith

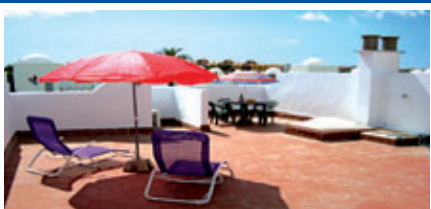
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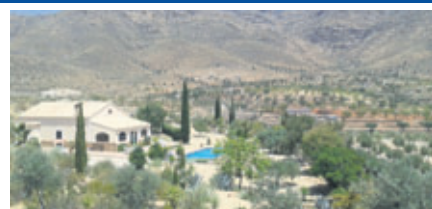
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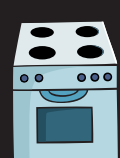
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- Plumbing apparatus in hardwater areas is prone to build up of limescale, so try to add a water softener to your washing machine and dishwasher.

- Ensure your toilet cistern is fitted with an overflow, otherwise this can cause a leak.

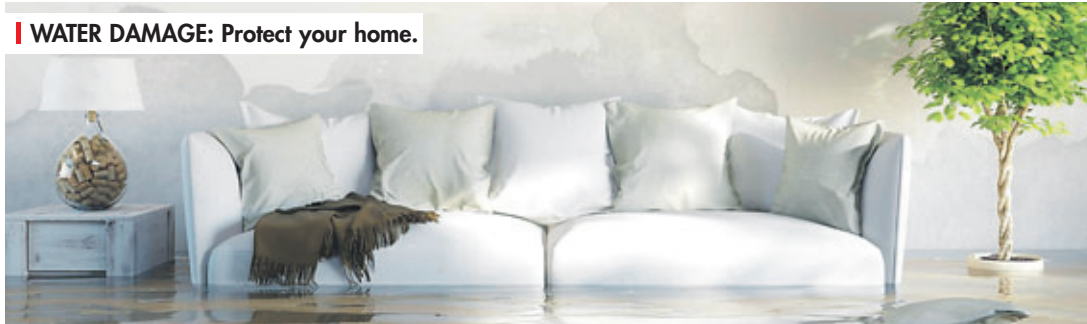
- Rust inhibitors will extend the life of the central heating system.

- Have your central heating systems serviced annually.

Kitchen

- Ensure drain hoses from washing machines and dishwashers are firmly in the drainpipes and cannot jump out.

WATER DAMAGE: Protect your home.



- Ensure the water inlet pipes for appliances are correctly fitted.

- Check and clear the filters in washing machines and dishwashers regularly. If your machine has a special self-cleaning programme, it is recommended this is used periodically.

- Properly maintain appliances.

Bathroom

- Ensure the seal between the bath/shower cubicle and the wall is watertight to prevent leaks.

- Do not leave the bathroom when you are running a bath.

Key Points

- Make sure that all building and internal plumbing works are carried out

by qualified and competent people. Avoid cold callers.

- Do not leave washing machines or dishwashers on whilst the property is unattended.

- Turn off your water supply when you go on holiday or if you are leaving your holiday home for a period of over 14 days.

- Know where your stopcock is located.

- Make sure flat roofs receive a proper regular maintenance.

Contents cover forms a major part of a household insurance policy and is often overlooked or underinsured.

Breaking down your contents into

the following categories can assist you with ascertaining the amount of contents cover you may require.

Kitchen: furniture, free standing cooker, fridge, washing machine, equipment, unfixed flooring, curtains, pictures, lights, fittings, cutlery, utensils, pots, pans, food, drink.

Bedrooms: furniture, bedding, clothing, shoes, electrical equipment, carpets, curtains, pictures and other items.

Bathroom: furniture, towels, perfumes.

Hall, stairs, landing: furniture, carpet and other items.

Other (outbuildings, cellar, attic,

garage, etc): general items, gardening equipment.

Other items: jewellery, watches, clocks, miscellaneous.

Personal belongings (items that will leave home with you): jewellery, watches, photographic equipment, sports equipment, musical instruments, bicycles.

Household insurance can be tailor made to suit your needs and can cover items used outside the home (including worldwide cover) which perhaps you didn't know could be included on a household policy, for example:

- Permanent and second holiday homes on one policy.

- All Risk items - Jewellery, laptops, mobile phones, personal money, credit cards - on worldwide cover.

- Property Owners Liability.

- All risk cover - Pedal Cycles.

- All Risk Cover - Golfing Equipment.

It's always worthwhile reviewing your home insurance, so visit Ibox offices at Albox and Mojacar Playa or call us 950 120 070 or 950 120 192.

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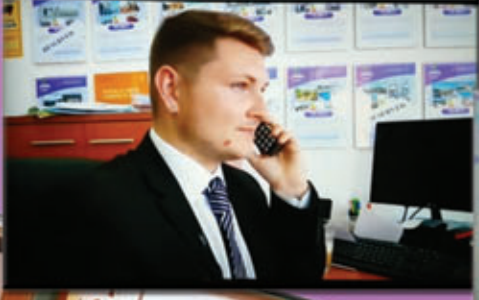
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Fake research and some fake Latin tattoos ... Ad nauseam

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



HAVE you got a tattoo, like Angelina Jolie or David Beckham, fashionably in Latin? Do you take the latest health and medical research seriously? Now, bear with me here: I'm writing about fakery, which affects us all one way or another.

Firstly, news that over 300 allegations of plagiarism, fabrication and inaccuracy were reported at the research-intensive Russell Group universities between 2011 and 2016, resulting in the retraction of over 30 papers. Retractions of scientific papers, many describing medical breakthroughs, increased tenfold over the past decade amid reports this is a huge underestimate.

A respected scientific journal recently revealed that 50 per cent of scientific papers contain results that cannot be repeated and



LATIN TATTOOS: Are they correct? |

are therefore false. And it's reasonable to assume that fields that attract huge publicity such as climate change, diet and health are more prone to this sort of fake science than other more staid research areas.

Does this affect us? You bet! Firstly, because of dangerously misleading (if not downright wrong) pseudo-medical 'revelations.' We're constantly bombarded with contradictions, particularly regarding health

and diet: eat this, don't eat that. Secondly, because of people like Trump - who calls global warming a "hoax" and is scrapping all Obama's climate-change policies.

This, then, is what happens when universities become obsessed with money and league tables. Being correct is less important than being published in prestigious journals and having masses of funding. Sadly, though, many scientists who get to publish in the most presti-

gious journals get to publish another, related paper, quite quickly: the retraction!

Finally, and back to Angelina's and David's tattoos which, at least, are in correct, non-faked Latin. Other tattoos have reportedly ended up with schoolboy errors or dodgy online translations, half in English, half in Latin (Linglish?) so: 'I walk through the valley of the shadow of death' becomes: 'Ingredior per valley of umbra of nex.'

I'm reminded here of my favourite Latin tattoo: 'Sic transit gloria mundi.' (Roughly translated: 'The van's broken down, can Gloria pick it up next week?')

So, in this era of Trump-style fake news, buyers beware of tattoos in fake Latin... caveat emptor!

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

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No-one will listen to you

Mike Senker

In my opinion

Views of a Grumpy Old Man



WE have a couple of apartments that we rent out. Nothing too amazing, but nice and clean and tidy and help give us a small income. When we first started to rent them out we did it online and all went very smoothly for many years. Mrs S has always handled all the enquiries herself and dealt directly with the clients. She paid the annual fee for the use of the site and all was good. If you paid a bit extra you could go higher up the list.

Then the site got taken over and things became slightly more complicated. A few more things were added to 'help' us get the best from our apartments but all was still OK. The company has been sold again and is now owned by Trivago, which is a mega travel company, and it's turned into a nightmare.

They have, as all big companies do, told us what is best for us but in fact it's not best for us at all, it's best for them. They want to handle all the bookings, they want to handle all the payments and pay us after the punters have left. Yeah right oh. And they tell us the customers prefer this way. Oh and on top of that they now not only charge us they charge the punter a service charge too. Of course, if

you try and speak to them about anything they do, as all big companies do now, is just to mockingly repeat the party line. They will not listen to anything you have to say and are very much of the take it or leave it attitude.

The amazing thing is that if you go online and see if there are any others who are asking the same questions as you, there are pages and pages of thousands of people all complaining about the same thing but which falls on deaf ears. The trouble is, as one company just gets absorbed into another, everything becomes controlled by these huge multi-million pound faceless entities. No-one will listen to you. It's their way or no way because they know they have a monopoly.

On top of all that there are the new rental laws which means we have had to put aircon into both apartments. We have to meet and greet every arrival, take copies of their passports which then have to be registered with the police who, by the way, have no clue what's going on.

There are many other things which make renting out a lot less attractive and a lot more hard work to do something that has worked very well for as many years as I can remember. It has been said that these new rules were brought in after the large hotels put pressure on the government. Who knows? It will be interesting to see how it all works.

Email me: mikesenker@gmail.com

LEGALLY SPEAKING

New campaign highlights the danger of mobiles

AS part of a new series, we answer some common driving questions, kindly provided by members of the Guardia Civil based in Torre Vieja, Costa Blanca, who set up the N332 website and Facebook page to help break down barriers.

THE DGT has launched a new campaign to stop people from using their mobile phones whilst driving.

The campaign has engaged the comedic skills of comedy group Tricicle, Joan Gracia, Paco Mir and Carles Sans, to deliver the message of the dangers of distractions during driving, especially the increasingly frequent use of mobile phones.

It is hoped by using humour to raise awareness of the dangers, the campaign will become a viral message spread across social media.

Minister of the Interior, Juan Ignacio Zoido said: "We want to universalise a simple, friendly and cordial gesture that serves to warn drivers or pedestrians who are using their mobile phone whilst driving or crossing the road, of the risk involved and there is no one better than Tricicle for expressing the message."

A video has been released to accompany the campaign with the simple message 'At the wheel, don't use your mobile' which is available on various social media accounts.

It is reported that distractions cause around 30 per cent of all fatal incidents, meaning that at least 500 people die each year in traffic incidents where distraction was a concurrent factor.

Mobile phone use is cited as the most frequent distraction, an action that is classified as a very dangerous practice by 94 per cent of drivers according to a study by the RACC.

Another survey of more than 6,000 young Europeans found that despite the danger, 43 per cent of young people admitted to using What-



MOBILES: A dangerous distraction.

sApp instant messaging service whilst driving.

When dialling a number on a phone in a vehicle travelling at 120km per hour, a distance of 429m is travelled, the equivalent of around four football fields. Whilst writing a message, your vehicle can travel 660m blind whilst you are distracted typing.

According to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, sending messages has three forms of distraction; the actual visual distraction, the manual distraction of the fingers typing on the keypad and the mental distraction as drivers are concentrating on the message rather than the road. These combined can multiply the possibility of an accident by up to 23 times.

Zoido wants to encourage drivers to make a simple hand gesture to phone users they spot on the roads to remind them to hang up.

He added: "We have an important awareness ahead of the real risk of using the phone whilst driving. Nothing is so urgent it cannot wait a few minutes."

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

Must they take down their shed?

Q. WE bought a penthouse on the Costa del Sol in 2015. The complex originally had planning permission, but the Andalusian Junta had withdrawn this so the complex was not legal. However our solicitor informed us that this would not be a problem. The maintenance company never gave us a copy of the Complex rules, so we went ahead and built a small aluminium

room on the roof. Since then our estate agent has been contacted by the maintenance company and he said we would have to take down the room. If we do not, we will be taken to court. My question therefore is: If this is an illegal Complex building, are the Committee legal? Can they make us take down the room on the roof?

MT (Costa del Sol)

A. YOUR building may be 'illegal' but your Community of Property Owners is perfectly legal and, yes, they can order you to take down your shed-type construction on the roof.

David Searl

You and the Law in Spain



In fact, the roof area actually belongs to the Com-

munity, with 'exclusive use' assigned to you.

Properly, you should have requested permission from the Committee or the President before you put up any structure.

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

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Living with the good life

Cassandra Nash

A weekly look

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

THE frugal will ever suspect flamboyant spend-thrifts and Eurogroup president Jeroen Dijsselbloem accused Spain of squandering Brussels money on "wine and women."

Speaking in the national parliament Ciudadanos leader Albert Rivera agreed that money was wasted, but it went on corruption, empty motorways and closed airports.

Admittedly, the population once enjoyed a slight trickle-down effect but it was largely a trickle-up process that has made the rich richer and the poor, poorer.

Forget ideology

THE PSOE crisis is about politicians, not politics. The party has been leaderless since its then secretary general Pedro Sanchez was manoeuvred into jumping before he was pushed last October.

Now it's time to choose his successor in a three-way stretch between Susana Diaz, Patxi Lopez and Sanchez.

They parrot their patter, lay out their wares and produce a magic formula for bringing the PSOE out of the shadows to bask in the sunny warmth of voter approval.

With primaries in view they are not trying to convince voters but must preach to the converted, the paid-up party militants who want doctrine not promises.

They should spare their



Photo by Wikimedia

JEROEN DIJSSELBLOEM: Eurogroup president.

breath and if the membership wants the PSOE to have an outside chance in any election they should forget ideology and choose the person most likely to rake in votes.

Staying power

SUSANA DIAZ won Andalusia's regional election shored up by Ciudadanos, Lopez another with PP (yes PP!) votes in the Basque Region. And Pedro Sanchez won nothing at all, apart from the 2014 primaries.

Both his parliamentary seats were inherited, his by default after those preceding him on the PSOE's closed candidates' lists dropped out.

On the face of it - and Sanchez's is a pleasant face - he had everything going for him as secretary general. Instead he brings to mind the winner of a television talent contest whose career nosedives after early triumph. It takes talent to get to the top but it needs more than talent to stay there.

A salutary lesson to be learnt

JEREMY CORBYN, is a salutary example of what happens when the membership chooses the party leader. And we probably have him to thank for Brexit as his Remain campaign fell flat and lacked an ounce of passion, possibly because his famed integrity made him reluctant to align with Cameron & Co.

Corbyn is a politician whose credentials look good on paper, who remains faithful to his beliefs and does a thoroughly mediocre job of leading the UK's Socialist party. A photo of him should be prominent wherever PSOE primaries are held.



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Mind your language if you please

**Trudy
Stewart**



MY love for reading comes from my mum. When I was little, she would read to me every night and as soon as I was old enough, we played Junior Scrabble. As I got older and started reading on my own, I would always have a dictionary on hand to look up and memorise any new words.

My love for books has never waned and alongside it my love of language developed. At school I studied French and Latin and although it seemed a cruel form of torture at the time, I'm glad that I did.

As I struggle now with my ageing brain to learn Spanish, I'm constantly surprised at how much more I can understand when I see it in written form. There is so much shared vocabulary - maybe not always identical but similar enough that you get the idea.

Words can be so powerful and as a form of communication it's about as effective as you can get even in an electronic age where images are often used as a replacement. Authors can transport you wherever their imagination takes



OFFENSIVE WORDS:
Are not necessarily swear words.

you just by using words. Poets can bring us to tears.

However, it doesn't all have to come from putting the right combinations of words together, sometimes a single word can have all the

punch of the Bard's best soliloquy. I'm talking of course about swear words.

Now it's always made me chuckle that alongside developing language as a means to communicate, we've also felt the need for an al-

ternative for when those other words just aren't enough. When children are learning to speak and inadvertently copy what daddy said when he stubbed his toe moments earlier, they are discouraged from parroting the 'bad word.'

So, here's my confession. Yes, I adore language and words and have an extensive vocabulary at my disposal but sometimes that's just not enough and I swear. Now don't get me wrong, I'm not dropping 'f-bombs' all over the place offending all who come in contact with me, but every so often in the right context, it's the only word for the job.

A couple of weeks ago, whilst walking my dog at night, I was looking at the stars when I should have been looking where I was going and fell down some stairs. I went over my ankle and what sprang forth would not only have made a sailor blush, it would have had him reaching for a copy of the profanisaurus!

I know swearing isn't big or clever and it definitely isn't for everyone but I'd say there are more damaging words than the standard swears. Words like stupid or ugly can do more to undermine a person. I find those sorts of words far more offensive but they are socially acceptable.

I guess, like everything else, it comes down to the individual and what they find offensive. At the end of the day, they're only words.

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Hail Holy Week

By Francesca Souter

FROM Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, thrones bearing lifelike effigies of Christ and the Virgin Mary are carried through towns and cities the length and breadth of Spain. Semana Santa represents the journey that Jesus took from his arrival in Jerusalem to his death and resurrection.

Spain is internationally acclaimed for its Easter celebrations and Semana Santa is a big deal in the yearly event calendar.

Entire cities come to a standstill as grand processions make their way through the streets, men and women bearing floats upon which stand depictions of stories from the gospel.

In some cases, these floats have been preserved for cen-

turies in their original condition.

The history surrounding the celebration is tangible.

The origins of Semana Santa in Spain lie all the way back in the early 1500s and the celebrations we see today are the result of centuries of evolution. For example, it wasn't until the 17th century that the 'cofradías,' or brotherhoods, began to divide and organise themselves into the factions which are now essential to celebrations.

For spectators who expect every Spanish celebration to be a flamboyant fiesta, the first experience of a Semana Santa parade can be a little daunting. Depending on where you are in Spain, the celebrations can differ in both piety and vibrancy. Across Andalucía, the week is a jubilant celebration of religion, with incredibly de-

tailed and elaborate floats held up by different church brotherhoods. These men and women are so in sync with one another that the effigies they carry look eerily lifelike.

The further north you travel, the more solemn and sombre the tradition becomes. Compared with the festival atmosphere in the south, some would describe Spain's northern towns as having more authentic and historical Semana Santa parades.

The processions are sober and regal, emphasising devotion, remembrance and silence.

Wherever you choose to visit during Semana Santa, it is guaranteed to be a unique and unforgettable experience. For information on what is happening in your city or town this year, head online for full breakdowns of the timetables.



Malaga |



Nerja

Malaga

Semana Santa in Malaga

WITH over 500 years of history, Malaga is one of the most popular destinations for visitors who wish to see the religious, social and cultural spectacular that is Semana Santa.

Semana Santa on the Costa del Sol is often considered a little livelier than celebrations in the north of Spain.

There is no doubt that Malaga comes alive as the brotherhoods make their way through the streets bearing their thrones, over-

whelmed by the sounds of joy and applause, but there is still an element of religious piety evident throughout the week.

In fact, variety defines Semana Santa in Malaga, with old and new brotherhoods coming together to mix the luxury of the ornate thrones with a great emphasis on the penitential spirit.

Every year, Malaga-born actor Antonio Banderas makes an effort to spend Semana Santa in his hometown, where he leads the Virgin de las Lagrimas y Favores procession.

Almeria

Battling brotherhoods

IT may be bigger in Sevilla or Malaga, but Holy Week in Almeria is actually considered one of the best, and most important, in all of Spain. In fact the event itself is officially considered to be of National Touristic Interest, one of the exclusive few in the country to win such an accolade.

First and foremost is the fascinating rivalry between the brotherhoods.

Due to occupation by the Islamic Moors, Semana Santa didn't get off the ground in Almeria until the 16th century.

A century later different brotherhoods began competing for influence and souls during an economic and demographic crisis which saw many people set sail for the new world.

The brotherhoods became alternative power structures with incredible influence which lasts to this day.

Today there are more than 20 across the city and Semana Santa is made infinitely more fascinating as the different sects try to outdo one another with separate parades spread out across the week.

Interview

Community camaraderie in Calpe

AS more and more British become integrated with Spanish traditions and culture, *Euro Weekly News* caught up with one expat, who is taking part in the Holy Week events in Calpe, as part of the Cofradía Jesús Nazareno Calp brotherhood.

Giovanna Wallis moved to Calpe six years ago, and quickly settled into a life involving theatre, dance and singing (both performing and choreographing.) It was through this involvement with the community that, a few years ago, she attended the Good Friday procession in her town and left feeling really emotional and moved by the experience.

Giovanna said: "Watching the events left me feeling inspired, and wanting to find out



| Giovanna Wallis.

more, so with a group of friends I joined the Cofradía and feel honoured that I am going to take part in the most important week in the Catholic calendar."

"I definitely would recommend anyone to join a group like this, not just for integration into the community but to practise Spanish and make new friends, it really is like being part of another big family.

"I have been welcomed and nurtured by everyone and it is really lovely to feel part of the town's celebrations and learn about the old Spanish traditions."



| The Cofradía Jesús Nazareno Calp.



Alicante |



Almería

Costa Blanca

The passion comes alive

SEMANA SANTA on the southern Costa Blanca is truly a sight to see. Incredibly, the region has four different celebrations which are each officially recognised as festivals of international significance.

The entire Easter Week in Orihuela, Crevillent and Alicante are considered events of such special standing, as is the Palm Sunday procession in Elche.

And that's not even to mention spectacular affairs in Torrevieja and Murcia that are considered emblematic of Semana Santa in their own right. But it is in Alicante, the largest city of the southern Costa Blanca that Easter's profound yet bloody history is most chaotically celebrated.

Thronges of people, numbering well above 20,000 will set the city alight with colour amid the beating processionary drums.

A deeply religious place, especially during the darker ages of history, the Costa Blanca's proximity to the sea marries its maritime myths with passionate Catholicism. A past bloodied with conquest by the Moors means that Easter is celebrated even more fervently here.

Mallorca

Easter on the island

A LITTLE more subdued than the celebrations on the mainland, Mallorca takes the tradition of Semana Santa to heart.

One of the most significant and memorable weeks on the island, processions begin on Palm Sunday at churches everywhere with the bearing of palm branches, and continue throughout the week.

Brotherhoods dressed in penitential robes and conical hoods proceed through the streets accompanied by sombre music, taking hours to complete their penitentiary route.

The town of Pollensa is the location for one of the most incredible Semana Santa traditions in the world.

Thousands travel to the town to watch the dramatic recreation of the descent from the cross, where a figure of Christ is carried down the 365 Calvari steps after a mock crucifixion. The tone is sombre as the body is taken down by torchlight.



Elche |

Travel

Raw and unapologetic

WILD, windy, raw and exotic, Cadiz was one of the first parts of Spain to welcome western civilisation as we know it, but today stands firmly at the far edge of the tourist and travel experience. The province is sprawling with hot, dusty, coastal towns separated by pine forests and sublime beaches.

The skies are a deep, daily blue, which is why this is the Costa de la Luz. From the beaches and surrounding mountains you can easily see Africa. Yet it is the Arab and Gitanos which dominates through the splendid architecture and pulsating flamenco.

The laid-back port of Cadiz has some of the wildest carnivals in the world and a hip alternative community that makes a welcome change from the tourist magnets of Granada and Barcelona. There is an adventurous feel to the place, which first welcomed Roman and Phoenician armies thousands of years ago. Since then seafaring Spanish soldiers used Cadiz as a hub of empire and the archaic flavour of those forgotten times lingers on today.

Trips to Cadiz are mainly based on three things. The beaches, food and isolation.



VIRGIN BEACHES:
Stretch around the coastline.

CADIZ CITY:
Makes a welcome change.

From Tarifa to Vejer de la Frontera you will find some of Spain's finest virgin beaches, endlessly stretching around the craggy coastline. A renowned surfing paradise, beaches like Valdevaqueros are at world competition level standard but offer a spectacular reward for the non-surfer who just wants to feel as though they are standing at the end of the world.

Fish of course is the prime dish at almost any restaurant. Across Cadiz you can be certain of enjoying local, freshly caught fish on demand, washed down with the region's acclaimed wines. Unaccustomed to tourists to the same extent as other Spanish hotspots, you can't always expect good English or standard service. What you can expect is an excellent, hearty meal and an experience you won't soon forget.

Cadiz is easily accessible by car from Malaga Province, or by air from airports across both the UK and Spain. The nearest airport is Jerez, which Ryanair flies out of, and which is just over a half hour's drive or one hour train ride away from Cadiz city.

SEMANA SANTA ALBOX 2017

LANGUAGE AND TRADITIONS

For hundreds of years, come Spring, Albox becomes the stage for an event commemorating the passion, death and resurrection of Christ bringing together religion, history, tradition and fiesta. All of Albox takes to the streets, either to participate in, or to watch, the processions of the four cofradías and the hermandad. Easter Week in Albox is a cultural display where sacred statues, floats, costumes and pagentry can be admired in the streets. All part of a rich heritage treasured by each one of the cofradías.

THE LANGUAGE OF EASTER WEEK

Cofradía and Hermandad: Congregation of devotees of particular sacred images who take part in the processions.

Paso: The name given to the floats that are carried aloft containing the sacred images.

Maragullos: The name given to the member of a cofradía dressed in a tunic and hood who accompanies the pasos. This name is unique to Albox, with the more widely used name being Nazareno.

GASTRONOMY OF EASTER WEEK

Cod (bacalao) is the star of Easter Week. In Albox you can find it in the form of Remojón, buñuelos de Viernes Santa or Gachas Migas.

As for confectionery you must try torrijas, a dessert made with syrup, sugar or cinnamon, and Easter Tarts (tortas de Pascua) or Hornazos or Roscos.

MERIENDAS

"Meriendas" are celebrated on Easter Sunday and the following Monday. The tradition is to get together with family or friends and spend the day in the countryside celebrating and eating the traditional food of Easter Week (fried rabbit, potato tortillas, Easter tarts, hornazos, etc)

CHILDREN'S PROCESSIONS

FRIDAY, 7th APRIL

17:30 **PASO NEGRO INFANTIL.** From the Parish Church of Santa Maria in the Plaza del Pueblo via the old town to Avenida Pio XII, Plaza Nueva, c/del Muro returning to the Plaza Mayor.

SATURDAY, 8th APRIL

16:00 h. **PASO MORAO INFANTIL.** From the Parish Church of Santa Maria in the Plaza del Pueblo via the Old Town to Plaza Garcia Haro

MONDAY, 10th APRIL

17:00 h. **PASO COLORAO INFANTIL.** From Plaza San Francisco via C/ Amistad, General Alvear, C/ Santa Isabel, Viento, Ancha returning to Plaza San Francisco.

WEDNESDAY, 12th APRIL

16:30 h. **PASO BLANCO INFANTIL** From the Casa de la Hermandad via Cervantes, Plaza del Pueblo, C/ del Muro, Plaza Nueva, Avda. Pio XII, returning to the Casa de la Hermandad.

MAIN PROCESSIONS

FRIDAY, 7th APRIL

22:00. **PASO NEGRO.** PROCESSION with the float of 'NTRA. SRA. DE LOS DOLORES'. From the Parrish Church of Santa Maria in the Plaza Mayor via Cervantes, Ramón y Cajal and returning to the Plaza Mayor.

SATURDAY, 8th APRIL

21:30. **HERMANDAD JESÚS DE LA PASIÓN,** PROCESSION with the float of 'NUESTRO PADRE JESUS DE LA PASIÓN Y MISERICORDIA EN SU SAGRADO PRENDIMIENTO'. From the Casa de la Hermandad via c/Córdoba, Duque de Ahumada, Rosario and the old town returning to Casa de la Hermandad.

SUNDAY, 9th APRIL

11:00. **PASO COLORAO,** Blessing of the Palms and PROCESSION of NTRA. PADRE JESUS DE LA VICTORIA (La Borriquita). From Plaza San Francisco via Leonardo, Rulador, Viento, Concepcion, Ancha and returning to Plaza San Francisco.

TUESDAY, 11th APRIL

21:30. **PASO MORAO,** PROCESSION with the float of 'NTRIO PADRE JESUS NAZARENO EN EL LAVATORIO'. From Plaza Mayor via the old town to c/Ramon y Cajal, returning via the old town to Plaza del Pueblo.

THURSDAY, 13th APRIL

20:00. **PASO NEGRO,** PROCESSION with the floats of 'CRISTO DE LA COLUMNA', 'NTRIO PADRE JESUS DE LA HUMILDAD Y EL SILENCIO' and 'NTRA SEÑORA DE LOS DOLORES'. From Plaza Mayor via the old town to Avenida Pio XII, Plaza Nueva, C/ del Muro and returning to Mayor.

FRIDAY, 14th APRIL

11:00. **PASO COLORAO,** PROCESSION with the floats of 'SAN JUAN EVANGALISTA', 'VIRGEN DEL PRIMER DOLOR' and 'CRISTO CRUCIFICADO'. From Plaza San Francisco via Leonardo, Rulador, Arrabal de Santa Barbara, Salitre, Ancha and returning to Plaza San Francisco.

17:30 **PASO BLANCO,** PROCESSION with the floats of 'ORACION EN EL HUERTO', 'NTRA. SRA. DE LA ESPERANZA' and 'NTRA. SRA. DE LAS ANGIUSTIAS'. From the Casa de la Hermandad through the old town to c/Ramon y Cajal, Avenida Pio XII, Plaza Nueva, Plaza Mayor before returning to the Casa de la Hermandad.

20:30 **PASO MORAO,** PROCESSION from the Parish Church of Santa Maria with the floats of 'NTRIO PADRE JESUS NAZARENO', 'MARIA SANTISIMA DE LA REDENCION' and 'CRISTO YACENTE'. From Mayor via Cervantes, Ramon y Cajal, Rosario and the old town returning to Plaza Mayor.

24:00 **PASO COLORAO,** PROCESSION in SILENCE with the float of 'NTRA. SRA. DE LA SOLEDAD'. From Plaza San Francisco via Concepcion, Viento, Principe de Asturias, San Leonardo, Rulador, Aguila returning to the Harmandad in Plaza Diego Capel.



Trainspotting's writer is turning the acid house scene into a TV series

Richard Shanley
Dishing the Dirt
OF EUROPA DIGITAL



JUST when we thought T2 may just be the last we'd see of Danny Boyle's Trainspotting franchise, the novel's original writer Irvine Welsh is bringing it back for a whole new series based on the acid house scene. Welsh will co-write a new TV show about acid house and rave culture.

The Leith-born writer has previously hinted at plans for a small-screen spin-off, but this is the first time such a project has officially been announced. The series will be loosely based on the beginning of the careers of prominent British DJs Nicky Holloway, Paul Oakenfold and Danny Rampling and will be called 'Ibiza87.'

It will follow the trio's career, starting with their inspiring trip to Ibiza in 1987. "[The show] ties in with the 30-year anniversary of our trip to Ibiza and what followed thereafter; the birth of the dance mu-



TRAINSPOTTING: A new TV show is to be based on acid house and rave culture.

sic club and festival scene as we know it today," said Paul Oakenfold.

The cast for Peaky Blinders' fourth season just keeps on getting bigger and bigger,

as it's been announced that Aidan Gillen has now signed up for the BBC Two crime drama. You'll of course already know Gillen as Petyr 'Littlefinger' Baelish in

Game of Thrones, as well as from roles in The Wire, the UK's Queer as Folk and The Dark Knight Rises. The cast now includes himself and Adrien Brody (plus, y'know, Tom Hardy and Cillian Murphy), must-see TV just found a new meaning.

Line of Duty's David Caffrey will be directing the fourth season, which is expected to air later this year. A fifth season has also already been confirmed (yep, before the fourth has even aired), so it looks like the gang will be around for a good while yet.

If you would like me to answer any questions you may have on satellite TV or to expand on anything I have written about please call me on 678 332 815 or email richard@europa-digital.com. I look forward to your comments and questions.

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THURSDAY	BBC one	BBC TWO	itv	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky SPORTS 1
6 APRIL	7:00pm BBC News at Six	6:15pm Antiques Road Trip	8:00pm Emmerdale	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:00pm Home and Away	5:00pm Football's Greatest
	7:30pm BBC London News	7:00pm Eggheads	8:30pm Deal or No Deal?	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	5:30pm Football's Greatest
	8:00pm The One Show	7:30pm The Repair Shop	9:00pm Brexit Britain: Tonight	8:00pm Channel 4 News	8:00pm Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords	6:00pm Premier League 100 Club
	8:30pm EastEnders	8:00pm Great American	9:30pm Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule	9:00pm Great British Buildings	9:00pm On Benefits: Britain's Most Married Man	6:30pm Premier League 100 Club
	9:00pm MasterChef	9:00pm Railroad Journeys	10:00pm Prime Suspect 1973	10:00pm Three Wives, One Husband	10:00pm Rich House, Poor House	7:00pm Premier League Review 2016/17
	10:00pm Galapagos	10:00pm The Last Kingdom	11:00pm The Nightly Show with Bradley Walsh	11:00pm Kitchen 999: Emergency Chefs	11:00pm Shannon Matthews: The Mother's Story	8:00pm Masters - Live
	11:00pm BBC News at Ten	11:00pm Mock the Week	11:30pm ITV News	12:00am Isis and the Battle for Iraq	12:05am When Kids Kill	1:30am Scottish Football Round Up
	11:30pm BBC London News	11:30pm Newsnight	12:00am ITV News London	1:00am 24 Hours in A and E		
	11:45pm Question Time	12:15am Top Gear				
	12:45am The National Pet Service					
FRIDAY 7 APRIL	7:30pm BBC London News	9:00pm Gardeners' World	7:30pm ITV Evening News	6:00pm Couples Come Dine with Me	8:00pm The Gadget Show	5:00pm Football's Greatest
	8:00pm The One Show	9:30pm Only Connect	8:00pm Emmerdale	7:00pm The Simpsons	9:00pm Tony Robinson: Coast to Coast	5:30pm Football's Greatest
	8:30pm A Question of Sport	10:00pm Natural World	8:30pm Coronation Street	7:30pm Hollyoaks	10:00pm Spectacular Spain with Alex Polizzi	6:00pm Premier League Review 2016/17
	9:00pm EastEnders	11:00pm QI	9:00pm Judge Rinder's Crime Stories	8:00pm Channel 4 News	11:00pm Britain's Cleverest Dog	7:00pm The Fantasy Football Club
	9:30pm MasterChef	11:30pm Newsnight	9:30pm Coronation Street	8:30pm Unreported World	12:05am Yorkshire: A Year in the Wild	8:00pm Masters - Live
	10:00pm Decline and Fall	12:05am Robot Wars	10:00pm Lethal Weapon	9:00pm George Clarke's Amazing Spaces	1:00am Super Casino	1:30am Barclays Premier League Preview
	11:00pm BBC News at Ten	1:05am Paula Rego: Secrets and Stories	11:00pm The Nightly Show with Bradley Walsh	10:00pm Gogglebox		2:00am Premier League Legends
	11:25pm BBC London News	2:35am Panorama	11:30pm ITV News	11:00pm The Last Leg		
	11:35pm The Graham Norton Show	3:05am Imagine...	12:00am ITV News London	12:05am First Dates		
	12:25am Witless	4:40am This is BBC Two				
12:50am The Stepford Wives						
SATURDAY 8 APRIL	7:45pm Regional News	3:00pm Flog It!	7:20pm ITV News and Weather	3:30pm Extreme Food	6:15pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	9:45am The Fantasy Football Club
	7:48pm Weather	4:00pm University Challenge	7:30pm You've Been Framed!	4:00pm A Place in the Sun	7:10pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	10:45am Soccer A.M.
	7:50pm Pointless	4:30pm Only Connect	8:00pm Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway	5:00pm Location, Location, Location	8:10pm NCIS: Los Angeles	12:30pm Football
	8:40pm Who Dares Wins	5:00pm Gardeners' World	9:30pm An Evening with Take That	6:00pm Grand Designs	9:00pm NCIS	1:30pm Football
	9:25pm Casualty	5:30pm Tennis	10:35pm King Kong	7:00pm Channel 4 News	9:55pm 5 News	4:00pm Gillette Soccer Saturday
	10:15pm All Round to Mrs Brown's	6:30pm Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby	11:30pm Inc ITV News and Weather	7:30pm Escape to the Chateau	10:00pm Football on 5	6:15pm Football
	11:15pm BBC News	7:30pm Natural World	11:45pm King Kong	8:30pm Battleship	11:30pm The Funny Thing	9:00pm Masters - Live
	11:28pm Weather	8:30pm Golf	1:25am Lethal Weapon	11:00pm The World's End	12:30am Fail Army	1:30am Sporting Triumphs
	11:30pm Match of the Day	1:00am Ilo Ilo		1:05am East is East	12:55am Access	1:45am Sporting Triumphs
	12:55am I Am Number Four	2:35am This is BBC Two				
SUNDAY 9 APRIL	7:50pm Regional News	10:15am Saturday Kitchen	7:10pm ITV News and Weather	2:25pm Gogglesprogs	6:45pm P.S. I Love You	10:00am The Sunday Supplement
	7:55pm Weather	Best Bites	7:30pm Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule	3:30pm Formula 1	9:00pm Cutest Puppies Make You Laugh Out Loud	11:30am Goals on Sunday
	8:00pm Countryfile	11:45am Triathlon World Series	8:00pm 5 Gold Rings	5:45pm The Boxrolls	9:55pm 5 News	1:30pm Live Nissan Super Sunday Pre-Match
	9:00pm Antiques Roadshow	1:15pm MOTD2 Extra	9:00pm Vera	7:35pm Channel 4 News	10:00pm When Chat Shows	2:30pm Live Nissan Super Sunday
	10:00pm Line of Duty	2:00pm Tennis	11:00pm ITV News and Weather	8:00pm Kevin McCloud's Escape to the Wild	1:00am One Night with My Ex	4:30pm Live Nissan Super Sunday
	11:00pm BBC News	7:30pm Golf	11:20pm The Nightly Show	9:00pm Spying on the Royals	2:00am Super Casino	8:00pm Masters - Live
	11:20pm Regional News	1:00am The Tempest	12:45am Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights	10:00pm Homeland	4:10am Law and Order: Criminal Intent	1:30am Masters Official Film
	11:25pm Weather	2:40am Question Time		11:00pm Gogglebox		
	11:30pm Match of the Day 2	3:40am Holby City		12:00am 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown		
	12:30am I'm Different: Let Me Drive	4:40am This is BBC Two				
MONDAY 10 APRIL	8:30pm Fake Britain	6:15pm Antiques Road Trip	7:30pm ITV Evening News	6:00pm Couples Come Dine with Me	6:00pm 5 News	4:00pm Goals on Sunday
	9:00pm EastEnders	7:00pm Eggheads	8:00pm Emmerdale	7:00pm The Simpsons	6:30pm Neighbours	5:00pm Football
	9:30pm Panorama	7:30pm The Repair Shop	8:30pm Coronation Street	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:00pm Home and Away	6:00pm Premier League 100 Club
	10:00pm Peter Kay's Car Share	8:00pm Mary Berry's Easter Feast	9:00pm Devon and Cornwall Cops	8:00pm Channel 4 News	7:30pm 5 News	6:30pm Football
	11:00pm BBC News	9:00pm University Challenge	9:30pm Coronation Street	9:00pm Warship	8:00pm MotoGP	7:30pm Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17
	11:30pm Regional News	9:30pm Grand Tours of Scotland	10:00pm Broadchurch	10:00pm 24 Hours in A and E	9:00pm Police Interceptors	8:00pm Football
	11:40pm Weather	10:00pm Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby	11:00pm The Nightly Show	11:00pm How'd You Get So Rich?	10:00pm Inside the Tube: Going Underground	12:00am Scottish Football Round Up
	11:45pm All Round to Mrs Brown's	11:00pm QI	11:30pm ITV News	11:50pm Britain's Benefit Tenants	11:00pm All New Traffic Cops	
	12:45am Have I Got a Bit More News for You	11:30pm Newsnight	12:15am Robson Green's Tales From the Coast	12:50am Three Wives, One Husband	12:00am Hummingbird	
		12:10am Weather			2:00am Super Casino	
TUESDAY 11 APRIL	7:30pm Regional News	7:00pm Eggheads	6:00pm The Chase	6:00pm Couples Come Dine with Me	9:00pm The Secret Lives of Puppies: Meet My New Families	3:00pm Premier League Legends
	8:00pm The One Show	7:30pm The Repair Shop	7:00pm Local News and Weather	7:00pm The Simpsons	10:00pm Yorkshire: A Year in the Wild	3:25pm Cricket
	8:30pm EastEnders	8:00pm Mary Berry's Easter Feast	7:30pm ITV Evening News	7:30pm Hollyoaks	11:00pm Me and My... Face	11:30pm La Liga World Premier League Review
	9:00pm Holby City	9:00pm Bake Off Crème de la Crème	8:00pm Emmerdale	8:00pm Channel 4 News	12:05am The Boy with Giant Hands	1:00pm Premier League 100 Club
	10:00pm Peter Kay's Car Share	10:00pm Obesity	8:30pm Save Money Good Food	9:00pm The Secret Life of the Zoo	1:05am On Benefits	1:30pm Premier League 100 Club
	10:30pm My Friend Victoria	11:00pm Later Live... with Jools Holland	9:00pm The Olivier Awards	10:00pm One Born Every Minute	2:00am Super Casino	
	11:00pm BBC News	11:00pm Newsnight	11:00pm The Nightly Show	11:00pm House of Quads		
	11:30pm Regional News	12:10am Weather	11:30pm ITV News	12:05am Gogglebox		
	11:40pm Weather		12:15am Prime Suspect 1973			
	11:45pm Panorama					
12:30am No Strings Attached						
WEDNESDAY 12 APRIL	5:30pm Flog It!	6:15pm Antiques Road Trip	6:00pm The Chase	5:00pm French Collection	8:00pm Ancient Mysteries: Dead Sea Treasure Map	9:15pm Burns Night Again
	6:15pm Pointless	7:00pm Eggheads	7:00pm Local News and Weather	6:00pm Couples Come Dine with Me	9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors	9:30pm Barclays Premier League World Review
	7:00pm BBC News	7:30pm The Repair Shop	7:30pm ITV Evening News	7:00pm The Simpsons	10:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	10:00pm Premier League Review
	7:30pm Regional News	8:00pm Great American	8:00pm Emmerdale	7:30pm Hollyoaks	11:00pm One Night with My Ex	11:00pm Barclays Premier League World Review
	8:00pm The One Show	9:00pm Railroad Journeys	8:30pm Coronation Street	8:00pm Channel 4 News	12:05am Gypsy Kids: Our Secret World	11:30pm Premier League Legends
	9:00pm MasterChef	9:00pm Me and My Dog	9:00pm Little Big Shots	9:00pm Location, Location, Location	1:05am All New Traffic Cops	12:00am Premier League Review
	10:00pm Reported Missing (w/t)	10:00pm Second Chance	10:00pm Benidorm	10:00pm The Knowledge	2:00am Super Casino	
	11:00pm BBC News	11:00pm Summer: Tuscany	11:00pm The Nightly Show	11:00pm My Online Nightmare		
	11:30pm Regional News	11:00pm Rhod Gilbert's Work Experience	11:30pm ITV News	12:05am One Born Every Minute		
	11:40pm Weather	11:30pm Newsnight	12:15am UEFA Champions League Highlights			
11:45pm Car Share	12:10am Weather					
12:15am A Question of Sport						

|| 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.

Teaching new words to the Spanish ambassador

Ric Polansky



Ric Polansky moved to Mojacar in 1969 as a pioneer developer. He reads extensively and has travelled in South America panning gold and looking for El Dorado.

I HEARD a light tapping on my front door. Unusual for a sunny morning to have visitors. I peered out the window flap and saw that it was my new neighbour. “Don Juan, please come in. Sit and have some coffee. What can I do for you?”

“Ricky, I’ve been worried. You haven’t been up to play tennis for a whole week. Have I done something to offend you?”

Well, I was speechless, this kind, elegant, soft spoken Spanish diplomat was worried about me, an intruder that borrowed his tennis court frequently. I was a little dumb-struck.

“Well, I thought Don Juan we were abusing your gracious offer and the last people I brought up were very loud and swore a lot.” He snapped a reply, “no, that’s just it, I was enjoying listening to the swearing. I am learning new words. In two weeks I am meeting many American



TENNIS COURT: Sometimes you found someone that could play.

ambassadors at a conference and want to be up on the latest popular American colloquialisms.”

It’s too true, real Americans really only talk in popular jingos, regional sayings and everyday blasphemous exclamations that if listened to frequently create a familiar patter that becomes a language. Cursing was just a part of adding exciting adjectives

to any exclamatory refrain to give it immediate impact and a colourful nuance.

We exchanged a few more pleasantries and he left, dress and all to waddle back up to his very large house that he was renting. Don Juan was the Spanish ambassador to some place out in the Pacific Ocean where the men wore dresses instead of

pants. That didn’t bother me at all. He was well-travelled, a great story teller and seemed to know everyone in Spain, first hand, of any importance. He allowed me the use of his tennis court, but lately I had been arriving with lots of new risky people.

Risky in that you never knew whether they even knew how to play tennis nor how to deport themselves

on a borrowed court. The last group I found in Puerto Rey. Now, any Yank that could even find that place back in ’71 looking for a vacation had to be honoured to a certain degree.

Their women were worse in that they’d pull up chairs to watch, drink their drinks and just leave the cans, wrappers for the snacks lying about. But the guys playing took more sport in shouting at the ball, after they had missed it, than concentrating on the game. Then, they would make jokes between themselves using a special cursing language.

Their women would bay like horses and shout down additional disparages to further demean the cause. It was Hillbillies vs the world in their own hee-haw vernacular.

In any case Don Juan got a kick out of it apparently, although I was embarrassed to the eyes with their unlearned shenanigans and couldn’t get them away quick enough.

Sometimes you found someone that could play. I got Bjorn Bjorg’s coach one time for an entire week. He didn’t swear at all. Got a little worried about him.

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LETTERS

YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

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Help indeed for couple in need

I WOULD just like to say a massive thank you to Carolyn Drew from Benidorm's indoor market, what a lovely helpful person she is and a credit to your paper.

Myself and my wife were in a bit of a state in March due to missing flights back to the UK, but unlike the hotel group mercenaries, this lady was sympathetic to our situation and helped as much as she could. I will write our story in due course and hopefully you will publish it, but at the moment I just want to thank Carolyn.

Arthur Redwood, Benidorm

Idea for Leapy

THERE are two million empty properties in Spain and the UK needs two million properties

Crisis in care service in UK. Spanish always looking for this

work. One Spanish lady today asked if I knew of anybody looking for a carer. Live-in carers get €700 (£600).

Never any waiting in local private hospital in emergency. Pay €17 for nurses. Once had six nurses, two working on my infected leg, two trainees and two holding my hands and chatting about dating sites in Spain!!!

Solution: ship two million elderly Brits to Spain. Solve housing crisis in both countries. Health and care service problems solved. Simple. Should make me prime minister. Love your page.

Robert Mason

Spain's OK!

I WAS very interested in the tweet from Mr Harry Paine in your paper dated February 22.

Mr Paine seems upset about some aspects of Spanish culture. He seems to forget illegal

hare coursing with dogs, pit bull type dog fights and much more take place in the UK.

On the whole, Spanish people are very kind to their old people and children.

Contrast this with old people in England, dying of cold and neglect, often pushed into so-called care homes by their grasping children, waiting to get their inheritance.

Care home workers have been sent to prison for abuse of old people.

Then there are the dreadful cases of sexual abuse, torture and murder. In one terrible case a baby of six weeks suffered life threatening injuries by sexual assault. There was a man alone in the house and the judge let him off, saying it could not be proven. You could not make it up, as the great Leapy Lee might say!

Might I suggest to Mr Paine that he leaves this wonderful country we live in and returns

to the 'land of milk and honey' that is the UK? Then he could devote his time to writing to the newspapers about the above subjects.

I hope you can find space for my letter in my favourite newspaper.

J E Frensham, Rojales, Alicante

Age Concern

JUST a quick word of thanks for the coverage you have given our first charity shop in Fuengirola. The response in terms of customers, donated goods and enquiries to be volunteers has been incredible.

Thought you would like to know the outcome of your efforts.

Thank you for your continued support.

Steve Marshall, Fuengirola

COMMENTS from EWN Online

» Gang in Valencia

THERE are so many crimes committed by people from other member countries across the EU that it is time to fix laws so that anybody convicted has to serve his or her sentence in their own country and be denied the right to return for five or 10 years depending on the nature of the crime. Why should Spain, in this and other cases, be obliged to house thousands of foreign criminals at a great cost to the state.

Peter Fieldman

» Female equality

JUST a thought... what do the female of the species receive when they enter the gates of paradise?

Are there 35 big hunky men awaiting their every wish? I say 35 because it is reputed that they are half the value of men.

Do the washing up! Clean the kitchen! Put more shelves up! Mow the lawn! Weed the garden! etc.

How silly of me... as if the females would be allowed in to such a masculine club. Unless they died as virgins of course.

The more people that see through this mask of masculine control the sooner we might have some peace on earth.

I saw a devout Muslim on TV some time back, explaining how paradise had rivers flowing with wine. One of the gathering reminded him that alcohol was not permitted. Without hesitation, he replied... "Ah it is alcohol free wine." All religion is man made for the benefit of the strong men to remain in control.

We all know that women are just as capable as men in most things, and even better in some. That is why these control freaks don't want to give women the chance of proving it, in case they lose their control.

There are evil men and women all over the world needlessly killing and torturing children for instance. Radical Muslims are just the flavour of the decade. We do not have to concentrate on their crime alone.

Let's get our own house in order before we complain about others.

Roy Leon

» Free Scotland

SCOTLAND needs freeing from England's negative downward spiral.

Denise Williams

» Home Nations

HAVE to say it's very refreshing to see good sports writing from a female writer! Bravo EWN.

James H

» British Ambassador statement

ONE item of legislation that does need to be retained is The European Pension Regulations. There are many UK citizens who have worked in the EU (including Spain) but will not have sufficient years in the EU schemes to get a pension but within the regulations, their service in, say Spain, can be amalgamated with their pensionable service in the UK to give them a reasonable pension.

Alan Bowman

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

Marbella's horses

I WOULD like to react to an article about a horse and carriage petition in EWN last week. As anyone can see, these horses are well fed, well shod, have a shiny coat and no injuries. Some of them wear leg protectors.

Most owners have more than one horse which means they don't work every day. They are stabled at night and although they work hard in the summer, in winter most of them are turned out in a field.

They have water at the stops to drink and cool them down, the only problem being a lack of shade but that is an issue for the town hall, as they cut down all the shady trees.

Believe me, if all the horses in Spain looked like these in Marbella there would be no need for rescue centres.

So if you do want to sign a petition, change Marbella into Marrakech - over there it really is shameful.

Hanneke Haslinghuis



IN FINE FETTLE: The horses are well looked after.

HAVE YOUR SAY

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

Readers who have missed earlier correspondence can see all letters posted on: www.euroweeklynews.com

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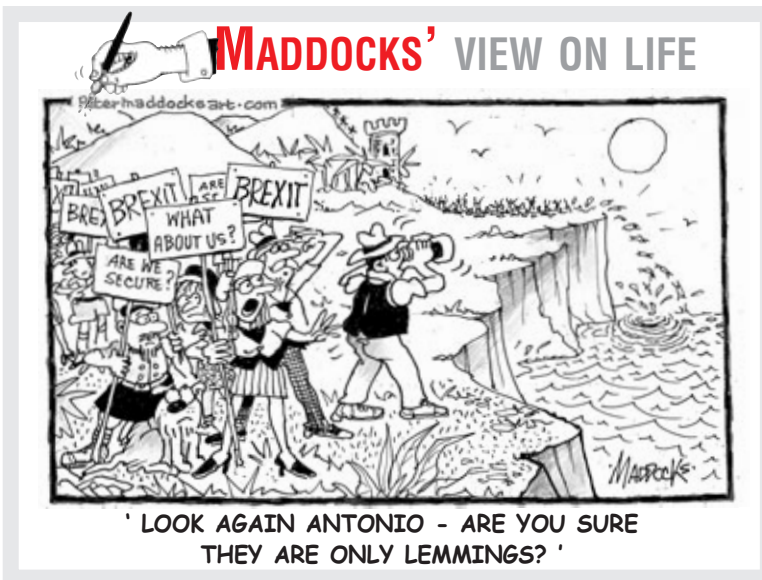
Kakuro

Fill all the empty squares using the numbers 1 to 9, so that the sum of each horizontal block equals the 'clue' on its left, and the sum of each vertical block equals the clue on its top. No number may be used in the same block more than once.

	15	29		26	9
9			3		
			16		
31					
	16				
	16				
13					3
	26				
12			4		

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

8	32	32	8		
14	5	9	10	8	2
17	1	5	3	2	6
20	2	3	9	6	13
8	8	2	7	3	
24	6	1	4	5	8
8	2	6	4	2	



Nonagram

How many English words of four letters or more can you make from the nine letters in our Nonagram puzzle? Each letter may be used only once (unless the letter appears twice). Each word MUST CONTAIN THE CENTRE LETTER (in this case G) and there must be AT LEAST ONE NINE LETTER WORD. Plurals, vulgarities or proper nouns are not allowed.

A	A	C
T	G	I
L	E	R

TARGET:

- Average: 8 • Good: 11
- Very good: 16 • Excellent: 21

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

into newt nope note nowt open oven
pent peon pine pint pion pone pont tine
tone town twin vein vent vine vino went
wine wino wont envoi inept opine ovine
pinto piton point twine woven invite
pointe tiepin townie VIEWPOINT

LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY

Saturday April 01

1	2	11	BONUS BALL
23	25	54	14

IRISH LOTTO

Saturday April 01

9	16	31	BONUS BALL
35	37	43	34

EURO MILLIONS

Tuesday March 28

9	13	31	BONUS BALL
33	46	10	6

Friday March 31

17	24	26	BONUS BALL
28	45	12	4

LA PRIMITIVA

Saturday April 01

6	8	18	BONUS BALL
22	26	36	9

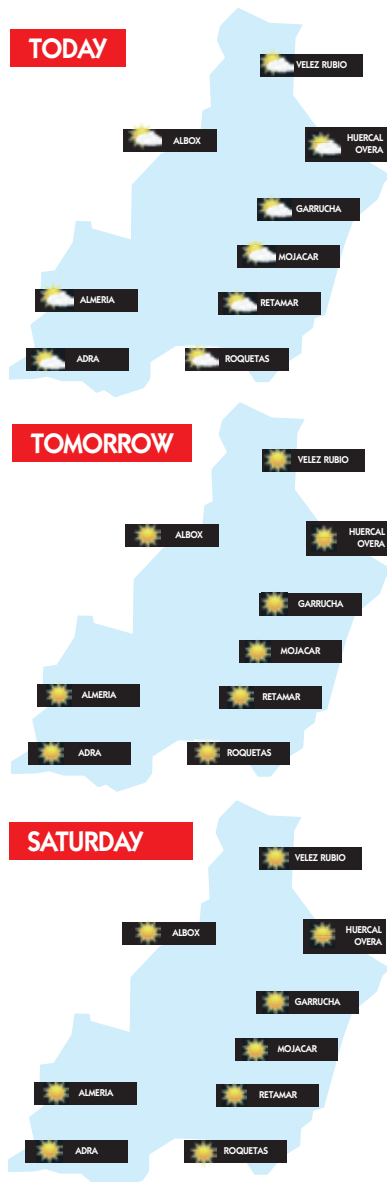
EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA

Sunday April 02

1	11	17	BONUS BALL
21	32	9	9

Costa de Almería

weather



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

Alicante	Bilbao
TODAY: MAX 20, MIN 11 - S	TODAY: MAX 16, MIN 6 - C
Fri - 21 12 S	Fri - 20 9 S
Sat - 21 12 S	Sat - 26 11 S
Sun - 23 13 S	Sun - 26 13 S
Mon - 23 14 C	Mon - 22 10 Sh
Tues - 23 13 C	Tues - 17 10 Sh
Wed - 22 13 Sh	Wed - 16 9 C

Almería	Madrid
TODAY: MAX 20, MIN 13 - C	TODAY: MAX 22, MIN 7 - S
Fri - 23 13 S	Fri - 24 7 S
Sat - 24 14 S	Sat - 25 8 S
Sun - 25 15 S	Sun - 25 9 Cl
Mon - 25 15 C	Mon - 23 8 C
Tues - 24 14 Cl	Tues - 20 7 Sh
Wed - 23 14 Cl	Wed - 19 6 Sh

Barcelona	Malaga
TODAY: MAX 20, MIN 9 - S	TODAY: MAX 20, MIN 10 - Cl
Fri - 18 9 C	Fri - 22 10 Cl
Sat - 19 9 S	Sat - 21 11 Cl
Sun - 19 10 S	Sun - 22 10 S
Mon - 19 12 C	Mon - 23 12 C
Tues - 18 11 Sh	Tues - 22 12 Sh
Wed - 18 10 Sh	Wed - 22 12 Sh

Benidorm	Mallorca
TODAY: MAX 20, MIN 12 - S	TODAY: MAX 21 MIN 9 - S
Fri - 20 12 S	Fri - 22 8 S
Sat - 20 12 S	Sat - 22 9 S
Sun - 21 13 Cl	Sun - 23 10 S
Mon - 22 14 C	Mon - 24 11 Cl
Tues - 21 12 C	Tues - 21 11 C
Wed - 21 13 C	Wed - 21 11 C

Euro Weekly News strives for accuracy, but cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of published forecasts

Sudoku

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There's no maths involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

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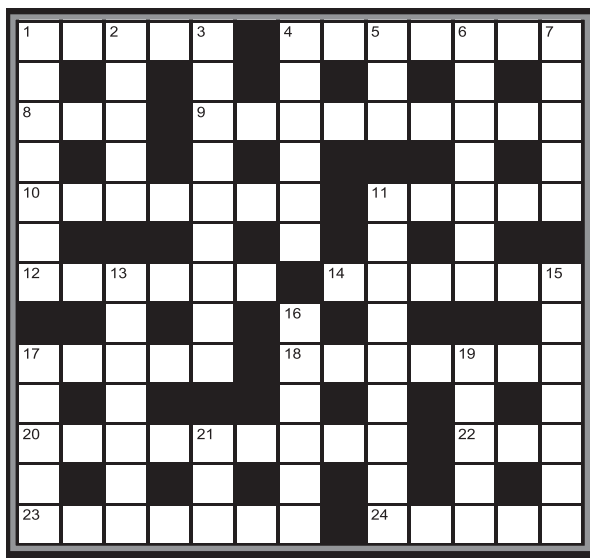
Crossword

page

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

Cryptic

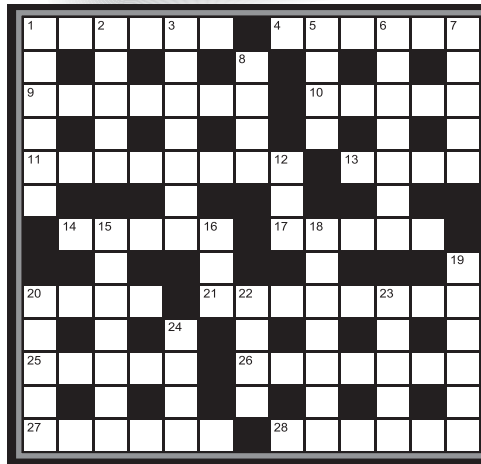


- Across**
- 1 Decides on ground-breaking tools (5)
 - 4 Repeat odd tea rite (7)
 - 8 Raced one out of the rain (3)
 - 9 Organise date with Rambo, he's a hunk (9)
 - 10 Article about a concert (7)
 - 11 The whole small drink is given to a beginner (5)
 - 12 Could be a worry for this garden plant (6)
 - 14 Offer to be gentle (6)
 - 17 Satisfies asset management (5)
 - 18 Taking a chance, hide in oil platform (7)
 - 20 Infantryman re-reading novel (9)
 - 22 Some insipid yellow colour? (3)
 - 23 Comes back for the profits (7)
 - 24 Breaks useful for snooker players (5)

- Down**
- 1 Depict a harbour man (7)
 - 2 'Incompetency' nicely encapsulates doubter (5)
 - 3 Disloyal revolutionary is outside (9)
 - 4 Goals for working ladies (6)
 - 5 Tree turns up in Hamlet (3)
 - 6 Fuss before a small department gets reorganised and taken over (7)
 - 7 Celebrate former road charge? Not entirely (5)
 - 11 Money manager more confident after rate review (9)

- 13 Go back and pay for the drinks again (7)
- 15 Sorrow for river herons (7)
- 16 Paths of planets or particles (6)
- 17 Some tiramisu, garibaldi biscuits etc are sweet (5)
- 19 A flower in Asia some find useful (5)
- 21 The appearance of a melody (3)

Quick



- Across**
- 1 Frightened (6)
 - 4 Leave (6)
 - 9 Amaze (7)
 - 10 Female fox (5)
 - 11 Buttoned sweater (8)
 - 13 Gloomy (4)
 - 14 Earnings (5)
 - 17 Quick and energetic (5)
 - 20 Highest quality (4)
 - 21 Greek lamb dish (8)
 - 25 Frighten (5)
 - 26 Rust (7)
 - 27 Call off (6)
 - 28 Upper class (6)
- Down**
- 1 Look for (6)
 - 2 Following (5)
 - 3 Difficult to describe (7)
 - 5 Covetousness (4)
 - 6 Apprehensive (7)
 - 7 Adult male singing voice (5)
 - 8 Thought (4)
 - 12 Writing point of a pen (3)
 - 15 Voluntarily refrain (7)
 - 16 Total (3)
 - 18 Set aside (7)
 - 19 Recently (6)
 - 20 Fundamental (5)
 - 22 On one occasion (4)
 - 23 Regarding (5)
 - 24 Give over (4)

CRYPTIC

- Across:**
- 1 Stag, 4 Perverse, 8 Tenner, 9 Tailed, 10 Bear, 11 Sanction, 13 Rolling stones, 16 Respects, 19 Cram, 20 Throbs, 22 Agaric, 23 Beverage, 24 Dank.

- Down:**
- 2 Therefore, 3 General, 4 Pores, 5 Ratings, 6 Edict, 7 Sue, 12 Operation, 14 Nicosia, 15 Orchard, 17 Prone, 18 Shade, 21 Hoe.

QUICK

- Across:**
- 1 Ogre, 3 Scramble, 9 Explain, 10 Traps, 11 Halve, 12 Uproar, 14 Admits, 16 Battle, 19 Garage, 21 Short, 24 Adder, 25 Certain, 26 Sorcerer, 27 Find.

- Down:**
- 1 Overhead, 2 Repel, 4 Concur, 5 Alter, 6 Blatant, 7 Easy, 8 Talent, 13 Destined, 15 Meander, 17 Absurd, 18 Rescue, 20 Agree, 22 Okapi, 23 Bans.

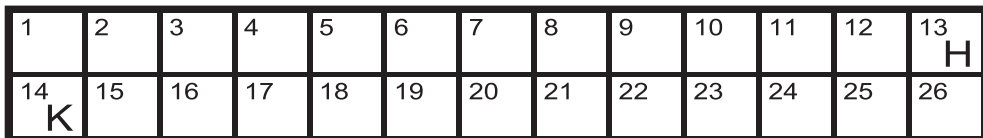
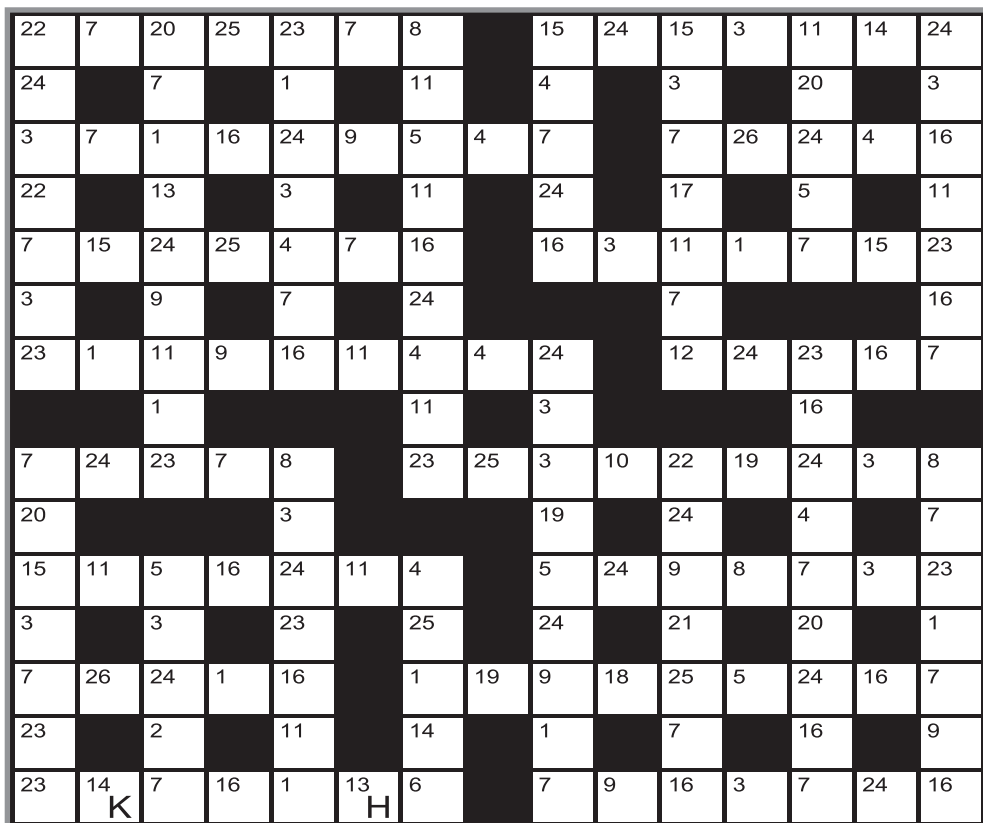
ENGLISH-SPANISH

- Across:**
- 1 Nearby, 4 Dust, 8 Niece, 9 Sobre, 10 Libraries, 13 Clavo, 14 Bolsa, 15 East, 16 Crisps.

- Down:**
- 1 None, 2 Americans, 3 Beetroot, 5 Umbrellas, 6 Toes, 7 Escribir, 11 Ache, 12 Pais.

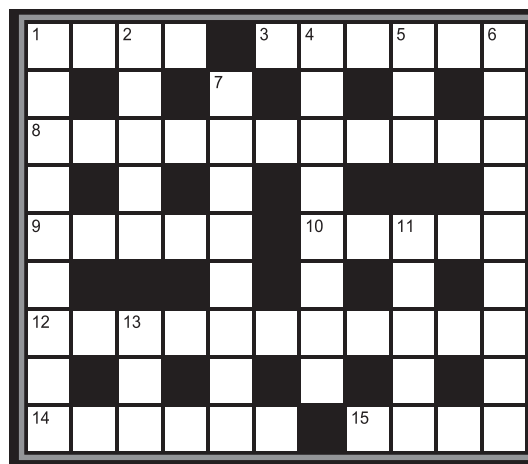
Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 13 represents H and 14 represents K, so fill in H every time the figure 13 appears and K every time the figure 14 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the control grid.



English - Spanish

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



- Across**
- 1 Una vez (4)
 - 3 Caricia (6)
 - 8 To stammer (11)
 - 9 Silver (metal) (5)
 - 10 Regla (para trazar líneas) (5)
 - 12 Grasshopper (11)
 - 14 Señal (6)
 - 15 Brazos (4)
- Down**
- 1 Pulpos (9)
 - 2 Letter (mail) (5)
 - 4 Aquariums (8)
 - 5 Ojo (3)
 - 6 Sorpresas (9)
 - 7 Pumpkin (8)
 - 11 Más tarde (5)
 - 13 Pierna (3)

CODE BREAKER



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Banish the burn



SUNBURN: The pain can be avoided.

SUMMER is just around the corner and as things begin to hot up, it can be difficult to avoid the dreaded sunburn.

An unfortunate side-effect in the lives of many sun worshippers, sunburn can be a real pain - literally! The good news is that there are ways to ease the discomforts and minimise the consequences.

Your first step should be to stay out of the sun. Admittedly difficult in such a hot climate, but essential to prevent further sun damage. Keep the burned areas covered up with light-

weight clothing and stick to the shade.

A cool bath or shower is your new best friend. The cold can help to soothe the pain and inflammation that comes with sunburn. It's also a good idea to have a cold compress handy for use in short bursts throughout the day.

Sunburn dries out your skin, so a focus on hydration is key. Drink as much water as you can, avoid harsh chemicals in soaps, and slather on the moisturiser.

It isn't exactly groundbreaking information, but aloe is your best bet when treating a sunburn. If you can find pure aloe vera, it can seriously reduce the time it takes for your skin to fully heal.

The best sunburn cure is prevention. Ensure you're wearing high factor sun creams and if you can, stay in the shade between 12pm and 4pm when the sun is at its strongest.

“A two parent family can affect children.”



A father's influence?

DOES living with a two parent family really affect the health and future of children? A new study carried out on British families claims it does.

Researchers from the London School of Economics looked at the lives of more than 1,000 children born to single mothers at the turn of the century, based on reports following the lives of nearly 20,000 children. They followed youngster's

health, intelligence and social skills up to the age of seven and found that those who lived with their biological father also, were more likely to go on to have a better education and get a good job.

However, if a stepfather joined the father the results were not the same and children were more likely to have the same issues as youngsters brought up by just their mothers.

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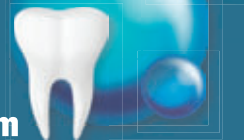
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Spain remains meat eaters

IN Spain, 8 per cent of 16-24-year-olds say they are vegetarian, and 7 per cent say they follow a vegan diet.

This compares to the rest of Europe where in Germany, 14 per cent of those in this age category call themselves vegetarian and 10 per cent are vegan. In Italy and Poland 11 per cent are vegetarian, with 9 per cent being vegan in Italy and 10 per cent in Poland.

Whilst Spain remains a strong meat lover it seems, the vegan market is growing worldwide and it seems that Germany is the leading country

for vegan product innovation.

According to the Global New Products Database (GNPD), by Mintel market intelligence agency, Germany was the leading market for vegan food and drink product launch activity in 2016, with 18 per cent of all global food and drink product launches with vegan claims occurring in Germany.

The only country coming close to this amount of vegan launch activity in 2016 was the United States, where 17 per cent of all new global vegan food and drink products were launched, followed by the UK with 10 per cent global share.

Vegetarian claims have also witnessed growth in recent years in Germany. Over the past five years, the share of food and drink launches with vegetarian claims more than doubled, rising from 3 per cent in 2012 to 7 per cent in 2016.

Baby boomers

MORE and more women are drinking in excess. Figures from a study show more female baby boomers are binge drinking at a rate much faster than men.

The study was carried out by the US National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, which collected data on more than 65,000 men and women aged 60 and older who were current drinkers. Among them, more than 6,500 men and 1,700 women were binge drinkers.

From 1997 to 2014 the researchers found that the number of older male drinkers increased by around 1 per cent each year, but the number of female binge drinkers increased nearly 2 per cent per year.

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Treatment for ingrown toenails



SPECIALIST: Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.

AN ingrown toenail occurs when the nail grows into the skin surrounding it. Eventually, the nail pierces the skin, causing it to redden and become swollen and tender.

The big toe is most commonly affected, with other typical symptoms including pain when pressure is applied to the toe, inflammation of the skin, a build-up of fluid beneath the skin, bleeding, an overgrowth of skin around the end of the toe, or the excretion of pus.

What causes an ingrown toenail?

It comprises excessive growth of the skin around the nail, causing it to become red and inflamed, and even becoming infected with accumulation of pus.

How do you treat an ingrown toenail?

First of all you should ensure proper foot hygiene. You can reduce inflammation using warm salt baths or taking anti-inflammatory drugs, al-

though in some cases this is insufficient and surgery may be required.

What type of surgery?

When surgical intervention is necessary the idea is to free the nail and eliminate any infected areas. In rare cases the infection can be so severe that antibiotic treatment is required after surgery.

Can an ingrown toenail occur more than once?

It can happen many times if you do not take care of your feet and use appropriate footwear.

What can I do to avoid ingrown toenails?

It is best to take care of your feet avoiding the accumulation of dirt or moisture. You must also choose footwear that does not rub when you are walking or running.

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



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TO READ MORE

A rare opportunity for all star-crossed lovers

A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME opportunity is up for grabs on Saturday April 8. There are 60 places available for a stunningly rare opportunity to gaze at the night sky from one of the most powerful telescopes on the planet at the Calar Alto observatory.

Organised by research company Azimuth, the evening tour, which begins at 7.30pm, allows lucky observers to peer into space from the 1.23 metre-long telescope and highly advanced binoculars.

There will also be a special talk from a top astronomer from the Astrophysics Institute of Andalucía on detecting meteoroids, the nature of the solar system and different celestial objects.



CALAR ALTO: Located near the peak of the Sierra los Filabres.

The Calar Alto observatory is located near the peak of the Sierra los Filabres.

Tickets for Saturday's adventure can be purchased at www.azimuthspain.com.

Always looking for acting talent

MOJACAR'S Indalo Players amateur theatre group have announced the date for their AGM. It will take place on Wednesday April 12 at 4.30pm at Bar la Parra in Turre.

The friendly group, a wonderful addition to the local social and arts scene, welcome all members and are always looking for new actors or backstage wizards to join.

Anyone interested can find out a wealth of information about the group and directions to the AGM on Facebook at the Indalo Players El Teatro Mojacar page.

Dance parade spectacular

A SPECIAL Semana Santa dance parade will be showcased at the Nijar School of Music and Dance on Friday April 7. The afternoon event will be the fantastic finale to the Nijar School's very first cultural week, a wonderful cascade of activities put on just before the Easter rush.

Students and teachers have been practising hard for the week-long affair, which is open to the public. Musicals, choirs and entire orchestras have been perfected by the 290 talented boys and girls enrolled at the well-regarded school.

There will be flute and clarinet performances, and a special guitar orchestra on the Friday. Piano, saxo-

phones and even computer-generated music and choreographed dance will be among the other highlights.

The week began with a powerful screening of animated film *Ballerina*. It is about a young lady's quest to become a professional dancer, an aspiration shared by hundreds of youngsters in Nijar. So determined are they to put on a terrific performance that they've even undergone workshops in concentration and playing in public.

Certainly not one to be missed, the performance on Friday begins at 4pm with the guitar orchestra at Nijar's multipurpose courts. The musical extravaganza will wrap up around 8pm.



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POPULAR ADVENTURE: Zombies capture and turn fleeing survivors.

Zombie apocalypse

TICKETS are now available for the last day in Almeria of the zombie craze which has swept like wildfire across Spain. After the stunning success of 'Last Day Zombie' in Huerca de Almeria, a new date of the popular adventure programme has been set for May 6 in Cuevas del Almanzora.

The after-dark event involves more than six hours of 'zombies' chasing around 'survivors.' Kicking off at 11pm the horde of zombies will try to capture and turn fleeing survivors until day break, when the last remaining survivor will be crowned champion.

A huge hit from Malaga to Alicante, the virtual survival game involves elaborate costumes, flashlights, props, music and even actors all provided by the organisers. There are tests and missions that will be set right across Cuevas, with incognito safety stewards ensuring no zombies terrify, or crash into, late night traffic.

Anyone interested in taking part in the flesh-eating ruckus should be prepared to walk, crawl or run up to 25 kilometres during the mammoth six-hour event, with the organisers disavowing any responsibility for sprains, tears, or falls. Tickets from www.lastdayzombie.com.

The Irish Rover

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Friday 7th April - Live entertainment with Jake Collins, ex backing singer with Deacon Blue and Simple Minds.

Sat 8th April Grand National shown on 3 large screens - Sweepstake available.

16th April Easter Sunday: Start with Sunday Carvery followed by Easter Bonnet Parade and Easter Egg Hunt with Entertainment by Smarty-pants Fun for all the Family.

Friday 21st April our 11 year Anniversary with The Beatles Tribute Band - booking recommended.

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Foodie fantasy route

ONE of the most deliciously satisfying tours in all of Spain is ready for residents and tourists across Almería.

The Garrucha tapas route is now in full swing and will be providing mouth-watering delicacies for culinary connoisseurs until April 9.

The spectacular affair has seen more than 10,000 pamphlets distributed in English and Spanish detailing the route, the food and the competing restaurants. There is even a free shuttle bus taking legions of hungry visitors to the main thoroughfare in the gorgeous seaside town.

With more than 95 per cent of the local hotel sector participating in the publicity,



TAPAS ROUTE: Providing mouth-watering delicacies.

Garrucha's gastronomic celebration is quickly gaining acclaim as one of the very best in the country.

The 10-day long affair provides the perfect prelude to an energetic Easter Week with the town already in fine condition to attract thousands of tourists.

Police and English-speaking guides are out in full force to offer advice, while the route itself is well mapped out and easy to navigate. It runs along the seaside, making the tapas route a wonderful stand alone walk with a terrific variety of snacks and locally brewed drinks to tuck into on a balmy spring day.

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Sun 9th April
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 Everton v Leicester 5pm
Mon 10th April
 Crystal Palace v Arsenal 9pm

Wed 12th April
 Atletico Madrid v Leicester 8.45pm

Thurs 13th April
 Anderlecht v Man Utd 9.05pm

Sat 8th April
 The Grand National from Aintree 6.15pm

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It's film festival time in Almeria

FROM April 5-8 an exciting variety of creative films will be showcased at Almeria's Apollo Theatre as it celebrates the Creative Commons Film Festival. Dozens of films in multiple languages will

touch on the most interesting subjects in the industry, including photography and post-modernism, before finishing up with a beer festival on the Saturday evening.

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A FEW YEARS AGO there was a super trendy tapas bar that opened behind the gas station on the 'Ronda roundabout' near San Pedro, called Biznaga. It was a forerunner for lots of new trendy tapas bars and was even around before Funky Tapas. It was run by a Spanish couple (no relationship - just working partners!), he front of house and she was in the kitchen. He was a very knowledgeable wine enthusiast and she was a damn good cook.

The combination was great and the place became very popular. Every client was made welcome and suggestions and specials, were made daily.

If you wanted something that wasn't actually on the menu, then they would prepare that something for you as long as they had the necessary ingredients. It was popular with the local Spanish business people as well as the expats that appreciated what they had to offer. My friends and I would frequent it regularly. Service was always attentive and the staff that were there were brilliant. There was always a warm welcome and often a glass or two of wine on the house for their regulars.

Sadly, the young lady Chef

left and the manager also. Despite one of the waiters taking over the food went downhill and eventually the team changed completely and we stopped going. It was no longer the place it was and eventually it closed. Sometime later it reopened as Friends. I popped in one day to check it out and was not impressed. It took me ages to get a glass of wine (there was only three clients in the place) the wine was undrinkable and the service and attitude were not good. Some several weeks later a friend of mine who used to go with me to the previous operation asked me to join him for lunch. I told him I was not over impressed on my one and only visit. He said it had become quite good.

We have now been using it for some time but recently the guy who seems to be running the place has developed an attitude which is in keeping with the stereotypical bad Spanish waiter. He hardly smiles, makes you as about welcome as a f..t in a spacesuit! And his attitude is dreadful. When you order your food you ask for it in an order of some sort.

I don't want to eat meat while I am still waiting for fishy bits! "It's a tapas bar, you get it when it's ready" he would say. He would take last orders at 3.30 despite the fact they say 4.00. Even if you only wanted a drink! A couple of the other waiters made up for this ignoramus which encouraged

us to keep going.

Anyway after a catalogue of disasters over the last few months a visit the other day proved yet again a problem for 'Mr Personality' when we asked for a plain mixed salad to go with the steak. They sent out a salad with tuna.

When we asked for the tuna to be removed as we only wanted a simple salad he said that was a mixed salad and that is 'what we serve.' Needless to say we did not eat it but of course paid for it, as we were charged for it. On Wednesday last week we popped in for a glass of wine before moving on to two different appointments. Mr Rude came over asking if we had a reservation.

We replied that we did not, but were only stopping for a glass of wine and my colleague wanted a quick tapa. Apart from about six people in the place - it was empty. "There are no tables for you two here!" came the astonishing reply. We had been banned!! Incredible. This is the sort of attitude I have not seen in many, many years and I can't wait to write to the owners if I can be bothered. After all, it's probably their fault for employing such a twerp! (the nicest word I could come up with!!).

Well, there is a consolation, in as much as I don't have to see his ignorant face again and also can take pleasure in the fact I have been banned from far better places than that!!



If your job is to tell me how to do my job, you should at least know how to do my job.
A reminder to those managers I have seen in jobs over the years.

THERE CAN'T BE MANY FOODIES who have not heard of Le Gavroche, one of London's premiere restaurants, once the holder of three Michelin stars under the guidance of its original family team of Albert and Michel Roux. This iconic eatery is celebrating its 50th anniversary, having first opened in Lower Sloane Street in 1967.

In 1974 it gained a Michelin Star (the first in Britain) and in 1977 made it two. In 1981 it moved to Upper Brook Street and the following year achieved the highest accolade of Three Michelin Stars.

In 1991 Le Gavroche was taken over by the very amiable Michel Roux Jr and despite receiving only two stars in 1993 the family tradition continues and in a climate where quality restaurants come and go it is wonderful to see such an institution still respected as one of the consistently finest restaurants in the world.

But in true controversial style, since the end of January 2017 Michel has removed the 13 per cent service charge from its menus. In a bid to explain this move he claims that the addition of a service charge confuses the clients as they believe it to be a tip!! Well hang on a bit Michel, I think the majority of diners probably do, especially when the words 'optional' or 'voluntary' are added to the words 'service charge'!

This takes me back to the early days in hotels in the 60's when a 10 per cent or 12.5 per cent service charge was added to all bills, the explanation being that everyone from the kitchen porter to the Head Housekeeper received a share.

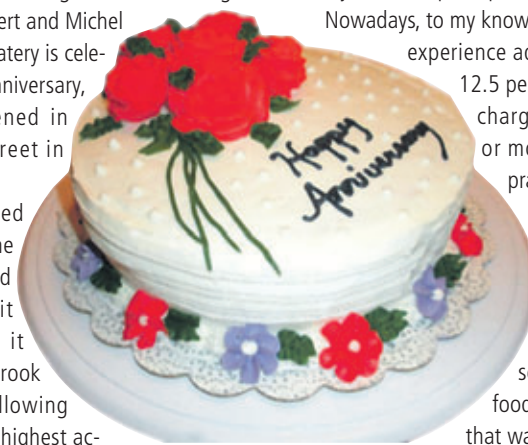
The truth was though, that this charge was used to pay wages and although staff did receive a 'payment' as part of their salaries it was certainly not an 'equal' split.

Nowadays, to my knowledge and professional experience adding a 10 per cent or 12.5 per cent 'optional service charge for parties of seven or more' is fairly common practice - and it does get added to the tips and is distributed as such. When explained as a charge that includes the preparation, presentation and service of food I would have thought that was part of the workload of a restaurant. After all I can't ever remember going to have a suit made and the tailor telling me it was 300 pounds for the suits and 15 per cent service charge for making it!!

So guests at Le Gavroche can now leave a tip without being encumbered as to whether or not to leave a voluntary or optional service charge - not tip!! - as Michel Roux explains:

"For me, tipping and service charge are two different things but by removing the service charge and incorporating it into the cost of the menu then it is clear, clean, and unambiguous. Then if diners wish to leave a tip on top of that it is up to them. I think this is something we should do in the restaurant industry. It is not clear for the customer whether or not they should leave extra on the table or whether or not it is going to all the staff or how it is being distributed. I dare say some restaurateurs have been abusing that."

Ahhh! Now I get it! It ain't voluntary anymore - you've got to pay it!! Oh well, you win some, you lose some!!



**Roux Family Le Gavroche
50 years 1967 - 2017.**

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN, my appointment that same day meant meeting a colleague for a late lunch in San Pedro. So we paid a visit to an Indian restaurant. Nothing spectacular from the outside but a pleasant terrace on which to enjoy the spring sunshine!

But most importantly was the welcome from the young Indian manager, Fahim. "Whichever table you would like," he offered, immediately clearing the tables from the departing clients. An hour ago I had been treated with such contempt, but now was being treated with such respect. The menus arrived and wine was served.

Apart from the menu being artistically well put together it also contained some dishes not normally seen in a bog standard Indian eatery. I was intrigued



It's not just the food that is important - the welcome and the attention count too.

with the dishes on offer and asking the young man what he considered the specialities of the house to

be, he enquired as to my personal taste in Indian food. I told him what style I liked and he immediately offered to create something he felt sure I would like. Filled with confidence, my colleague said they would leave him to create something as well. The food arrived, excellent!

But the care for his clients was as it should be. Up until then I thought he was the owner and asking if he was, was when I was told that he was only the manager. As I told him, if you look after your guests as if you were the owner, an owner can ask no more of a manager than that.

So pay a visit to the Bombay Grill Indian restaurant (number 15 out of 147 restaurants in TripAdvisor) and ask for Fahim and avoid the aforementioned tapas bar!

ON THAT NOTE 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.

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.

Travel

Three days in Santiago

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, capital city of Galicia, has been attracting visitors for hundreds of years. The city started out as a small settlement by a Roman road but discovery of St James' tomb early in the ninth century led to it becoming a place of Catholic worship at the end of a peninsula at that time dominated by Muslim invaders.

Gradually, as penitents started to flock there, Santiago de Compostela grew into a holy city and its cathedral and numerous monasteries, churches, hospitals to accommodate pilgrims and stately homes formed around magnificent streets and squares, eventually forming the historical centre which today attracts millions of tourists every year.

Walking the Camino is the most traditional way to get to Santiago and there are different routes of varying lengths from most of Spain and other parts of Europe. For those who prefer a speedier form of transport, the city is also easily accessible from the rest of the country and continent by plane, train, coach or car.

To make the most of a visit and see as much as possible, the local tourism department recommends a three-day visit and suggests the following schedule:

Start day one by exploring the streets and squares of the historical centre before visiting the cathedral. Either join a guided tour or hire

an audio-guide from the tourist office to make the most of your visit. Plan to enter the Cathedral not long before noon if you would like to attend a pilgrims' mass which, depending on the calendar of liturgical celebrations, usually employs the famous Botafumeiro censer. No visit to the cathedral is complete without heading to the roof for panoramic views of the city.

In the afternoon head for the Cidade da Cultura de Galicia (CdC) museum, which boasts magnificent architecture by Peter Eisenman and holds very interesting exhibitions and cultural activities. Back in the historical part of the city, there are two main parks which are worth a visit and offer panoramic views of the area: San Domingos de Bonaval and La Alameda.

The next day visit the Mercado de Abastos market, the main and most traditional in the city and the second most visited place after the cathedral. Fresh fish and seafood are the stars of the show at this market, which opens every day except Sunday but is busiest on Thursdays and Saturdays, but fruit and veg, flowers, cheeses and other typical produce is also on sale.

Not far from the market is the university's Faculty of Geography and History which is well worth a visit and has an impressive library and a terrace with spectacular views.

In the afternoon take the tourist train for a different view of the city and a relaxed way to



sightsee which is apt for all the family. Then head to the shops to pick up souvenirs to take home: Galician crafts, textiles and delicacies come highly recommended. There are many art galleries and monuments, such as the Pazo de Fonseca and the Iglesia de la Universidad which will complete a pleasant afternoon.

On the third and final day, take the chance to join tours of other parts of Galicia such as Finisterre and Costa da Morte, Rias Baixas or A Coruña or visit nearby monasteries or stately homes.

Then in the evening it's time for a final Galician meal and a walk through the streets and squares, stopping off at a pub in the historical centre for a traditional 'queimada' to ward off bad spirits.

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Homegrown empire

GRUPO CONSENTINO, perhaps the biggest name to come out of the Almanzora Valley, is expanding its American empire to Miami.

The innovative design and architecture firm was established in Cantoria in the 1940s using materials from Macael quarries. In summer 2017 it will open its North American headquarters in the sunny Florida city. Today Grupo Consentino maintains its global headquarters in Cantoria and distributes Silestone and Dekton surfaces in more than 80 countries worldwide.

Thieving trio

JEWELS robbed from a Benitagla home were smuggled all the way to Murcia by a thieving trio from Albox, Olula del Rio and Purchena. The three crooks have been arrested and accused of flogging their ill-gotten goods worth more than €7,000 to a Murcia pawn shop.



PÉREZ QUILES: Has criticised the state of the town's parks and green areas.

Parks are 'shameful'

WITH the spring evenings growing longer and more guests set to arrive, Albox politicians have harshly criticised the state of the town's parks and green areas.

Popular Party spokesman Pérez Quiles went so far as to call the state of neglect and abandonment 'shameful and dangerous.'

The parks of San Francisco square, Abastos square and those in Le Canada and Carmen square were singled out for particular criticism.

A total lack of maintenance has left flooring with exposed concrete, children's playparks with rusty bolts and broken nails, dirt, litter, and graffiti, and filthy facilities that betray a stunning lack of regard for local residents.

Quiles said it was ironic that there are signs scattered around the town forbidding children from ball games, when it's hardly safe or appealing to play any kind of game anywhere.

He has demanded urgent investment be made.

Oldest and finest artwork

ONE of the best artistic works to be forged in Almeria is now on display in Arboleas. The painting of Jesus of Nazareth is almost 300 years old, being drawn by a Moorish artist in 1720. It is considered the oldest and finest artwork available for public viewing in Almeria today.

Unveiled ahead of Holy

Week at the Church of Santiago, the painting has been painstakingly restored by local artist Joaquin Gilabert Lopez. Carved in wood which has deteriorated over the centuries, restoring the piece required years of careful work and minute attention to detail from Gilabert, who also works with the Picasso Museum in Malaga.

Sandwich a la MedSandwich

A NEW province-wide healthy eating campaign took off in Arboleas with a bang. Top chefs and nutritionists showed 30 local youngsters how to include more vegetables in their diet.

The school tour extolling the virtues of a delicious Mediterranean sandwich will also arrive in Albox and Huerca de Overa in the coming months.

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Fighting fires

A REQUEST to join the Fire Rescue Consortium of the Levante was approved unanimously by Olula del Rio councillors. The town badly needs to integrate its firefighting resources with the rest of the Almanzora Valley and the Levante.

During the discussions, Mayor Antonio Martinez Pascual reminded councillors that when the local radio station caught fire, Olula del Rio was slapped with an €8,000 bill from Albox which helped extinguish the blaze.

Work will now begin on incorporating Olula with its neighbours, with time a key concern ahead of a long hot summer.

At the meeting councillors also gave the 2017 budget the green light as it passed without controversy.

Girl escapes child snatcher

POLICE are investigating alarming claims from a local mother that a foreign-looking, possibly British, man tried to kidnap her daughter on the streets of Cantoria.

After weeks of inquiry officials have made public their ongoing search for the suspect, aged between 55 and 60, speaking in broken Spanish, and of white Anglo-Saxon, possibly Germanic looks.

He is believed to have targeted a 13-year-old girl returning home alone after spending time with her friends at the town square on Sunday March 31, shortly before 9pm. Testimony from the girl and her mother claims that a man driving a dark industrial usage van approached the youngster asking for directions to the square.

He then asked whether she could help him retrieve some items from the back of the van. She obliged and went round to the back. As soon as she realised there was nothing there, the would-be kidnapper grabbed



YOUNG GIRL: Was targeted on her way home.

her by the waist and tried to force her inside.

Described by her mother as fast and athletic, the girl shoved aside her attacker and sprinted down Ermita street, past the

Saavendra theatre and kept on running until she reached her grandparents' home. Anyone who may have witnessed the incident is asked to contact the Cantoria Guardia Civil.

Cracking bridge to be repaired

HALF-A-MILLION euros will be invested in essential repair works to one of the Comarca's key roads. The Andalucian government will provide the funding to

establish a safe and fast connection between Albanchez and Cobdar by fixing up the AL-1100.

Built six years ago, cracks have devel-

oped in the bridge with the problem aggravated by industrial companies pumping waste and other liquids into the Almanzora river.

Social skills

YOUNG people with disabilities from Albox have been participating in the 2017 Adapted Sports Programme of Almeria. A total of 128 children from Albox, Viator and Vera joined in the fun, held in different towns across the province throughout March.

The programme is entirely focused on helping boost self-esteem and teambuilding skills among youngsters with a range of disadvantages, be they physical or mental. It also helps raise awareness among other young people that their disabled friends and classmates can be included in sport too.

Becoming fit

OUTSTANDING local athletes were celebrated by the Almanzora town of Tijos in its acclaimed sports gala. Awarding athletes from all across the Valley, the organisers noted that the province has been a ripe source of young sports stars who have gone on to bigger fame across Spain.

Motocross, rally racing and Roman wrestling are the best.



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WINE CONTEST: Included tastings, flamenco music and delicious local dishes.

In vino veritas

A WINE contest in Seron showcased the very best vinos of the Almanzora Valley to an invited jury on April 1. There was public tastings, flamenco music and a delicious range of local dishes on display too.

Wines were restricted to those bottled this year and distinguished between red, rose and white.

First prize was a ham, second won a box of finely smoked sausages, and third a treasure

trove of cheese and oil.

More than 100 people attended from all over the province.

Jointly organised by the Wine Club of Seron and Cambium Ingeniería Medio Ambiente, an engineering group, the wine contest seeks to recover the tremendous traditions of wine harvesting in the Almanzora Valley and rejuvenate a thirst for knowledge and fine local wines among locals young and old.

Marching for autism

A MOTHER whose young daughter has autism gave a series of special talks around Albox to try and educate people about the condition. Juana Maria Perez also hoped to dispel many of the myths and stereotypes surrounding it on World Autism Day, April 2.

More than 50 parents and teachers attended her talks at Virgen del Saliente and Francisco Fenoy. Schools across Almeria have been welcoming speakers and experts who do their bit to de-stigmatise autism.

After her talks, on Monday April 3 Albox schoolchildren played their part by performing a 'a march for autism.' They wore blue t-shirts, covered Plaza Mayor in blue decorations, and let dozens of blue balloons into the air.

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Finale to a gruelling race

ALBOX was the final stage of the second Vuelta a Almería cycle race which was a sensational success across the board. Antonio Canovas displayed immense heart and physical effort in winning the third stage, a gruelling ride from Nijar to El Saliente, Albox on April 2.

He was greeted by some 300 spectators, showing the terrific level of support the Vuelta is now generating among local biking lovers. The race is now attracting professional cyclists from outwith Almería and has become a proper test for those looking to compete at the An-



VUELTA A ALMERIA: Racers take off from Nijar.

dalucian level.

The overall winner of the

Vuelta was Javier Chacon, who finished second in the Ni-

jar-Albox leg, just 37 seconds behind Canovas. It was a tough, heart-pumping finale for the riders, who finished with the steep 20km ascent to El Saliente with very little rest after two equally difficult legs on April 1.

Albox will be the departure point for the third edition of the Vuelta a Almería, tentatively scheduled for spring 2018, once again attracting top cyclists, spectators and media attention to the beautiful town.

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No Vegas to be built in Madrid



EUROVEGAS RESORT: The complex planned for Madrid fell through.

THE search for Spain's first big Vegas-style property theme park goes on. A proposed multi-billion super complex planned for Torres de la Alameda, Madrid has fallen through.

It was due to be built by American giant, the Cordish Companies, but the Community of Madrid balked at the public cost of €340 million needed for infrastructure. The Cordish Companies, which runs more than 40 million square feet of real estate worldwide, is still interested in setting up the macro-complex in Spain.

They are prepared to invest €2.2 billion in a facility boasting hotels, restaurants, shops, cinemas, theatres, convention centres, casinos and even a circus. It would be an alternative to the failed Eu-

rovegas concept planned by American gambling magnate Sheldon Adelson. Only 10 per cent of the enormous leisure centre would be devoted to casinos to get around strict Spanish gambling rules.

The failure to reach a deal is the latest in disappointments for American companies trying to construct spectacular gambling resorts across Spain. Eurovegas collapsed due to Adelson's demands on the Spanish parliament, even demanding it reverse anti-smoking laws for his premises alone.

Chinese group Wanda has seen a similar project vanish. Another consortium tried to open 32 casinos in the Tabernas desert but again the deal fell through. 'Barcelona World' has been put on the backburner.

Add value to your home



LOFT SPACE: A cosy room can be created exploiting natural light.

LOFTS are the next big property investment in Spain. Natural light, ventilation and views are the major benefits. Experts now reckon a well-crafted loft can increase the value of a property by up to 15 per cent.

With a solid budget around €5,000, a cosy room can be created, completely transforming the ambience of the home. Guestrooms, playroom, offices, or just

somewhere to relax are all possible.

The key to a successful loft is exploiting natural light by making it open plan. Roofs provide twice as much natural light as windows because the sun shines through them far more often during the day. A glass roof of just 2sqm provides more than enough light for a loft space of 20sqm.

Warm colours help create the illusion of

more space and are an excellent contribution to feng shui and wooden floors with solid soundproofing spare people downstairs.

Other essentials include a spiral staircase leading up to save space, and proper insulation.

And if you don't have an attic space? A loft concept is easily achievable by vertically dividing a room with high ceilings.

Spain is turning into a mature marketplace

ECONOMISTS at the EU and IMF have warned that housing bubbles may be forming in Australia, Sweden, the UK and the Netherlands. Yet Spain is enjoying growth rates not seen in a decade and far outstrips the UK in the speed of the market's resurgence. So why are there no fears of a Spanish bubble developing?

In 2006 the Spanish property platform Idealista was roundly mocked for warning that the market was about to collapse. Needless to say they were correct. In 2017 Idealista are bullish about the future prospects for Spanish real estate. Head of research Fernando Encinar laughs at

the prospect of a bubble in a country of 45 million people where just 100,000 homes are built each year and access to mortgage credit is now strictly regulated.

A key symptom of a housing bubble is the expansion of credit to people who simply can't afford it, combined with the overvaluation of homes. In 2008 for instance almost one million mortgage contracts were signed, an obviously absurd figure in hindsight. In 2016 the figure was just above 280,000, a far healthier and more sustainable number.

Express financing and easy loans are on the backburner as the banks come

to grips with a new regulated reality, consumer protection laws and the prospect of huge payouts over unfair mortgage clauses in the past. Today any talk of bubble is limited to the most desirable neighbourhoods of Madrid and Barcelona, which see highly paid professionals fighting over jazzy locations with top private schools.

Research from BBVA indicates that real estate growth will continue its smooth growth in 2016. Sales will increase by around 7 per cent and level out at about 600,000 in the short term. Prices will rise between 3 and 4 per cent per annum until 2020.

Landlord exposed

A BRITISH landlord made world headlines after allegedly trying to ban 'coloured people' from his hundreds of properties. Kent-based Fergus Wilson is one of the biggest buy-to-let millionaires in the country with 1,000 homes.

An expose from the *Sun* revealed allegations that he told one letting agency not to rent out his homes to 'coloured people because of the curry smell.'

Wilson now faces investigation from the Equality Commission but was unrepentant, telling the *Sun* that curry stains are expensive to remove.



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Keyhole gardens offer a new option

By Graeme Tyrrell

CREATING a vegetable garden with limited space, time, soil materials and water available can make it a difficult decision for many aspiring, or even seasoned, gardeners.

There are many ways to grow plants in containers and raised beds that have advantages over the natural garden soil which always needs the adding of nutrients through compost and other soil improvement materials to make the garden thrive.

Having gardens above soil height makes it easier to access the plants without creaking joints and strained backs and they reduce weed, pest and soil condition management problems due to greater ability to control the environment of the garden.

Containers and raised beds have the big disadvantage in the Mediterranean climate of needing more regular watering due to the long, hot and often dry summers. In cooler, wetter climates containers and raised beds have the advantage of good drainage but as most popular vegetables are grown in the summer months it is not a great advantage here.

A great solution for making a raised garden with its own nutrient production from compost and higher water retention is a keyhole garden.

Keyhole gardens are generally a raised circular garden, around two metres in diameter with a central half metre diameter funnel for filling with compost that has an access path within the cir-



HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE: A typical keyhole garden for growing vegetables, flowers or herbs.

cle for adding the compost and accessing the garden.

The design gives the look of a keyhole which is the reason for its name. The border of the garden can be made from any suitable local material capable of retaining the soil mixture.

The selected materials for the border should also consider the permanency of the garden. Stone walls are strong, allow drainage and last for years, but an organic wall made of hay bales for example or untreated wood will decompose over a couple of seasons, which is fine

if the garden is also for making compost to add to other gardens or for remaking new keyhole gardens.

The central funnel should be of a material to hold back



There are many ways to grow plants in raised beds.

the soil of the garden to allow the adding of compost in the centre. The funnel wall can be made of wire for more permanent gardens or materials such as bamboo or

other types of wooden stakes that can eventually be a part of the compost in the garden.

The gardening area between the border wall and the funnel can be filled with organic soil and amendments with a base of coarse material such as branches and twigs topped with manures, compost, washed sand, seaweed, mulching materials, other organic soil amendments and natural soil with the finer material at the top for preparing the garden bed.

The purpose of all the organic material is to provide good water retention and provide nutrients.

The central funnel compost is also a way to add nutrients to the garden, recycle organic material into the garden and allow water penetration deeper into the garden during hot dry periods. The funnel can be capped with a lid to prevent saturation of the compost during wet weather and to reduce unwanted insects access.

The result is a highly productive small garden to grow vegetable, flowers, herbs or a combination of the various plants you may wish to grow at an easily accessible height and with a means to add recyclable organic material to the garden.

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Beneficial bugs

DANGER is lurking everywhere in your garden. All sorts of little pests are threatening your flowers and vegetables, but chemical pesticides don't have to be the answer! To keep your garden organic, you can enlist the help of the good bugs, ready to keep pest outbreaks at bay.

Ladybirds are a gardener's delight! The larvae will feed on pests that are small and slow, like aphids, which can decimate flower beds. These little red bugs are attracted by dill and dandelions and can be great friends in the garden.

Feared by many, the misunderstood common spider is a fantastic member of

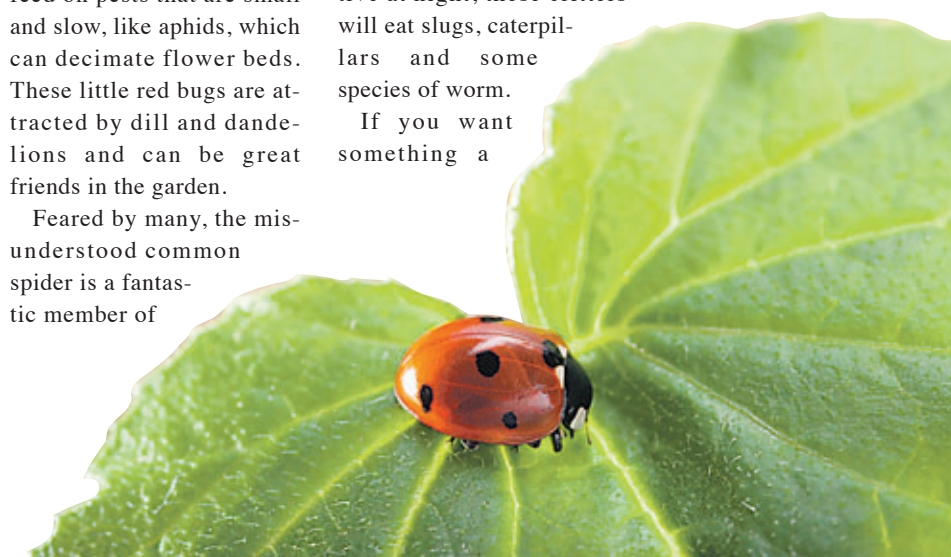
the insect pest control team, so leave the webs untouched and let them help you out. Spiders have a wide range of prey, including caterpillars, aphids and fruit flies.

If you want a beneficial bug that you don't have to see very often, maybe consider introducing some ground beetles into your garden. Typically only active at night, these critters will eat slugs, caterpillars and some species of worm.

If you want something a

little more interesting, a praying mantis could be the answer to your problems. Just be aware that these ferocious predators will attack just about any insect in its path, including the good guys.

LADYBIRD:
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SIMPLICITY: The warming glow of candlelight can transform your living room.

Harmonious home

By Francesca Souter

DENMARK is often credited with being the world's happiest country and over the past few years people have started to adopt the 'hygge' way of life.

'Hygge' is a Danish word used to describe a feeling or moment which is cosy, charming or special. It's about finding happiness in simplicity, so it's no surprise that people all over the world want to emulate this way of living.


A large part of 'hygge' is centred on the home, creating a warm and cosy environment devoid of clutter but full of charm. The concept encourages calm, traversing both winter and summer and you can bring a little bit of Scandinavia into your home in three easy steps.

Firstly, you should invest in candles. The warming glow of candlelight can transform your living room or your terrace into a little wonderland. The cosiness created

isn't just confined to winter, creating a close and chilled atmosphere that's perfect for summer evenings.


Embrace organisation. Confine your clutter with smart storage space, leaving surfaces sharp and clean, keeping your house looking effortlessly tidy.

You don't have to overhaul your interior. Little decor additions like picture frames can remind you of happy memories, it's all about showing your personality.







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The owners live on the premises and all animals are attended to from early in the morning until late at night. The vets in the town are both on call 24/7 for emergencies, but if there is a problem which requires no urgent treatment, they are more than happy to contact your own vet.

The design of the hotel allows two dogs to see and interact with each other and each

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Each dog sleeps in a fully equipped indoor room, complete with a large private patio. The building is fully insulated and will protect your pet from the elements.

At night, shutters to the patio are closed and your pet can sleep as safely as it does when at home.

The shaded patios will protect the dogs from harsh sunlight, particularly during the summer, and will keep them nice and cool whilst they play and relax.

In the larger fenced playing areas, all dogs are carefully monitored to check which ones are friendly to each other before they are allowed to run and play together.

After a play session, all dogs are given treats and bones to cool them down.

If you wish, your dog can even attend classes during the day at the fantastic dog school!

“ All animals are attended to from early morning to late at night.

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NEW CATTERY: With shelving.

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Motoring shorts

No plates for Lorne

A CANADIAN man is fuming after his plans for a personalised number plate with his name were thwarted by the authorities. Nova Scotia rejected the licence plate renewal of Mr Lorne Grabher, arguing that his surname was offensive towards women.

Grabher is of German descent and has used the licence plate, which features only his surname, for years. But after an infamous video was released of Donald Trump making misogynistic remarks during the 2016 election, Grabher's surname suddenly became a chauvinist symbol.

It's even more irking for Grabher, who despises the American president saying it's ridiculous to put him in the same class of personality. Trump infamously mentioned grabbing women by their private parts in the video.

GT C Roadster earns rave reviews

By Matthew Elliott

MERCEDES' latest marvel, the AMG GT Roadster has been released to rave reviews. The much-hyped convertible version of the AMG GT comes with a 470hp engine as standard, while the GT C version generates a whopping 550bhp. Prices range

from €120,000 to €160,000.

The result is a classic sports car with a long hood, large wheels and muscular 1950s aesthetic sure to go down a treat over summer. The GT C has a 4.0 litre

V8 engine, top speed of 320kph, carbon-fibre cabin, and extreme, almost violent accelerative power that will squash you right against the seat.

Some are already calling it the best GT there is. Its engineering perfection and precision suggest it's been ready for a long time. Perhaps

with Mercedes deliberately holding back release to ensure the Roadster doesn't overshadow other Mercedes offerings such as the popular SL.

It's extremely loud, extremely flexible and has rock solid handling. Comfortable with the roof down even at high speeds, it's the perfect Californian or Mediterranean speed demon for the modern world.



LATEST MARVEL: Much-hyped convertible.

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ROAD TEST by Nick Fletcher

Fiat Tipo Lounge test

THINK of Fiat and its chic 500 model immediately springs to mind, followed by its practical Panda.

What probably won't come to mind right away is its Tipo model, and that is unfortunate for it deserves wider appreciation and more of the limelight.

Priced from €15,437 (£13,445), this mid-size hatchback and estate range offers a value-for-money alternative to the bigger names - Ford Focus and VW Golf for instance - in this popular mainstream sector.

My recent test model, a Tipo hatchback with an impressively economical 1.6 litre diesel engine, was a reminder that if potential buyers take a wider look at the market, they can come across commendable models that can sometimes slip under the radar.

The Tipo is quicker, more economical and has lower emissions than some rivals, and of course, being less common it is a little more exclusive! Its sleek shape has an elegance often lacking in the family hatchback class and it also has excellent driving dynamics.

My test model was an upper range Lounge version with a 120 hp 1.6 litre diesel engine. The 0-100 kph time is quite



TIPO HATCHBACK: The cabin is well designed for comfort and ease of use.

Model tested is UK Specification. Equipment levels and prices may vary in other markets.

nippy at 9.8 seconds and top speed is 200 kph (124mph). Fuel economy is impressive - 27 kpl (76.3 mpg).

Standard equipment on this version, which costs €20,819 (£17,995), includes alloy wheels, LED daytime running lights, climate control, touchscreen, DAB radio, sat-nav, USB and Aux port, and steering wheel audio controls. It has cruise control, auto lights and wipers and chrome detailing. The test model also had some optional features including leather seats.

The cabin is well designed for comfort and ease of use, with decent head and leg room

Stats panel:

Model: Fiat Tipo Lounge
 Engine: 1.6 litre diesel
 Transmission: 6 speed manual
 Performance: 0-100 kph 9.8 seconds, top speed 200 kph
 Economy: 27 kpl (76.3 mpg)
 Emissions: 98g/km

for rear occupants and a roomy 440 litre boot which can be expanded with drop-down rear seats. Some of the trim materials do appear to be rather low-budget but that apart, the Tipo scores well.

It also impresses with its precise driving feel, with good steering feedback and a suspen-

sion set-up which nicely balances the need for ride comfort with firmness for assured handling.

Anyone planning to buy a new mid-size hatchback ought to put the Tipo on their viewing list. It may have a low profile in its sector, but may also surprise many with how much it offers.

Super cop car is unveiled

ITALIAN supercar heavy-weight Lamborghini has donated a rather special gift to the country's traffic police; a brand-new Lamborghini Huracan LP 610-4.

The Huracan Polizia is designed to chase down speeding drivers and has been modified for the transport of life-saving organs and blood between hospitals.

Boasting a top speed of 325kmh and the ability to accelerate from 0-100kmh in just 3.2 seconds, the new

car is equipped with various technological gadgets, including a video camera that tracks and films vehicles being pursued, an on-board tablet and a gun holster.

It also has a defibrillator installed, plus a bespoke refrigeration system for the transport of human organs.

Under the bonnet is a V10 engine producing 610 horsepower, while the car also has all-wheel drive, and a hybrid chassis fabricated from aluminium and carbon fibre.

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Costa de Almería

FIRST and foremost, congratulations to Johanna Konta who became the first British woman to win a major tennis title in 40 years after beating Caroline Wozniaki in the Miami Open final last Saturday.

Looking ahead the Masters golf starts today; the Chinese F1 Grand Prix and Argentina Motor-GP on Sunday; the Grand National on Saturday (see my preview); France v GB in Davis Cup tennis; men's world curling and European weight-lifting championships, the Hong Kong rugby sevens and football matches galore.

• I think Jordan Spieth, Jason Day or Hideki Matsuyama will win the Augusta Masters.

• Second to Sebastian Vettel in the first F1 Grand Prix of

2017, Lewis Hamilton is aiming to go one better in Shanghai. He was seventh last year.

• Spain's superstar Maverick Vinales, winner in Qatar a fortnight ago, can double up with victory in the second MotoGP in South America.

• GB will be without Andy Murray against France in the Davis Cup quarter-final tie but his brother Jamie, Kyle Edmund and Dan Evans all play.

• In the Premiership, Bournemouth play leaders Chelsea (reeling after losing against Crystal Palace and having had a tough mid-week game with Manchester City); Palace face Arsenal and City meet Hull; Stoke take on Liverpool; Sunderland play Manchester United and Spurs oppose Watford.

• In the Championship, Newcastle (top) visit Sheffield Wednesday; QPR play Brighton (2nd) and Huddersfield travel to Nottingham Forest. In FL1, it's Sheffield United v Northampton and Scunthorpe v Bolton, while

Doncaster entertain Mansfield, Plymouth play Crawley and Portsmouth welcome Yeovil in FL2. In the SPL, Aberdeen (2nd) play Rangers (3rd) and in Spain's La Liga, leaders Real face Atletico in a Madrid derby.

• Next Tuesday, we have Juventus v Barcelona and Borussia Dortmund v Monaco in the Champions League, followed 24 hours later by Atletico Madrid v Leicester and Bayern Munich v Real Madrid.

ROUND-UP:

• Congratulations to Coventry, FL Checktrade Trophy victors over Oxford and to Celtic on winning their 48th Scottish League title after a 5-0 romp over Hearts but alas Rotherham have been relegated from the Championship.

• PSG are the 2017 French

Le Ligue champions and Bayern Munich (after walloping Augsburg 6-0) are close to clinching the German Bundesliga title.

• After last Saturday's 3-1 win over Everton, Jürgen Klopp became the first Liverpool manager to win his first three Merseyside derbies, and Leicester's Craig Shakespeare is the first English manager to record four successive PL wins in his first term in office.

• Chelsea recently had 32 players on international duty at various levels.

• Well done Oxford University – winners of the annual boat race.

• GB boxer James DeGale could meet Gennady Golovkin or George Groves in a super-middleweight fight this year.

• Mark Selby beat Mark Williams 10-08 in the China Open snooker final.

• It's Saracens v Munster and Leinster v Clermont in the semi-finalists of Rugby Union's European Champions Cup and France's Yoann Maestri has been fined £26,000 (€30,379) for criticising referee Wayne Barnes after his country's 20-18 Six Nations win over Wales.

• Castleford, Leeds and Hull stand 1-2-3 at the top of Rugby's Super League.

• Roger Federer beat Rafael Nadal in the Miami singles final.

• Four more Russians have been found guilty of doping at the 2012 Olympics.

GRAND NATIONAL PREVIEW:

Vieux Lion Rouge (ridden by Tom Scud-

amore and trained by David Pipe) and Definitely Red (Danny Cook/Brian Ellison) are 10-1 joint favourites for Saturday's race. One for Arthur is 11-1, Cause for Causes 12-1, The Last Samuri and Blaktion 14-1 and More of That, Saphir Du Rheu, Ucello Conti, The Young Master and Pleasant Company all 16-1.

My three each-way tips are Ucello Conti, Foxrock (20-1) and Saint Are (25-1).



JOHANNA KONTA:
Winner of the
Miami Open final.

CHARITY QUIZZES

I HAVE two coming up: tomorrow night at Fatima's Riad restaurant in Cabrera (7 for 7.30pm) and next Wednesday (April 12) at restaurant Marene, adjacent to the Los Gallardos petrol station (5pm). Meals available.

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AFTER Barcelona B crushed Club Deportivo Eldense 12-0 in the Segunda B division last week it emerged the match may have been fixed amid allegations Eldense's players had been bribed.

TO READ MORE

Costa de Almería's best guide to local sport

Forum Golf Society at Aguilon

A GOOD field turned up at Aguilon Golf Club for the Forum Golf Society Stableford and final qualifier for the Campbell Lamont Golf league 2016/2017.

Good weather resulted in some good scores with a maiden Forum win for Byron Sherlock with 40 points. Second place went to Bob Vincent with 39 points and third place to Fran Elam with 36 points. Ron Wileman was fourth with 35 points, Andy Birch fifth with 33 points, Richard Price sixth with 33 points, John Bridgen seventh with 33 points and Sandra Vincent was eight with 33 points.

Longest drive off the yellow tees went to John Bridgen and from the blue and red tees longest drive went to Adrienne Ruiz seeing off a large field of men playing off the blue tees. On the par three's nearest the pin on the 12th went to Fran Elam and on the 17th to Bob Vincent. Nearest the pin in two on the seventh went to Jim Barclay.

Fran Elam's excellent day got even better



GOOD FIELD: Scored well.

when her 36 moved her up from 12th to fourth place in the Campbell Lamont league and thus she qualified for the regional finals. The other qualifiers for Forum Golf are Myra Dickson, Max Gonzalez and John Smith.

The society's next events will be held on April 7 at Aguilon and a Pairs Texas scramble on April 21, also at Aguilon.

For more information call Richard Price on 850 993 073 or email rjp53@yahoo.co.uk.

Cabrera Lawn Bowls Club

TWO competitions have been held recently at Cabrera Lawn Bowls Club, both of which started in January and concluded with the finals on March 21.

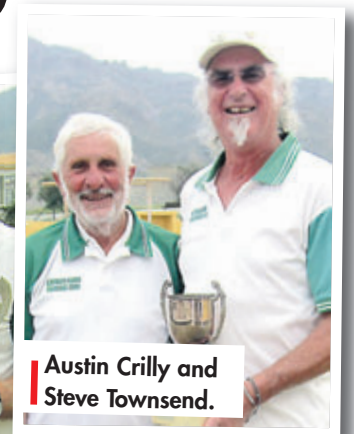
In the Ted Barrett Yardstick competition a point was awarded for bowls within a yard of the jack. The competition is played over 18 ends and the winner is the player with the most shots.

The final was contested between Trevor Young, last year's beaten finalist, and Frances Riley. It was a very close final as after 14 ends the score was level at eight all but Trevor picked up another three shots to Frances's one to win the final and competition 11-9. Congratulations Trevor and well done Frances for getting to the final.

The Bob Wright Singles



Frances and Trevor.



Austin Crilly and Steve Townsend.

competition was slightly different as it was for members who have not won a singles club competition at Cabrera LBC before. There were quite a few entries for this as Cabrera have had a lot of new members joining in the last 12 months.

The winner was the player first to reach 21. The final was between Austin Crilly and Steve Townsend and what a brilliant final it was. Austin started off better but Steve kept in touch and after 13 ends the score was level at 11 all. Steve, however, pulled away to win 21-15. Congratulations to both players.



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*Fees and exchange rate data for banks taken from the International Money Transfer Index™ (IMTI™).
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