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ISSUE No. 1678 | 31 Aug - 6 Sept 2017 **COSTA DE ALMERÍA » YOUR PAPER, YOUR VOICE, YOUR OPINION** WWW.EUROWEEKLYNEWS.COM

## Safety fears

RETIREMENT and a lack of recruits mean that Almeria is set to lose hundreds of Local Police officers in the next decade. The force is growing older and there are not enough police on the beat to ensure security, say the PSOE.

There could soon be just one police officer for every 1,000 residents. Many officers are taking advantage of an early retirement package being offered by Madrid.

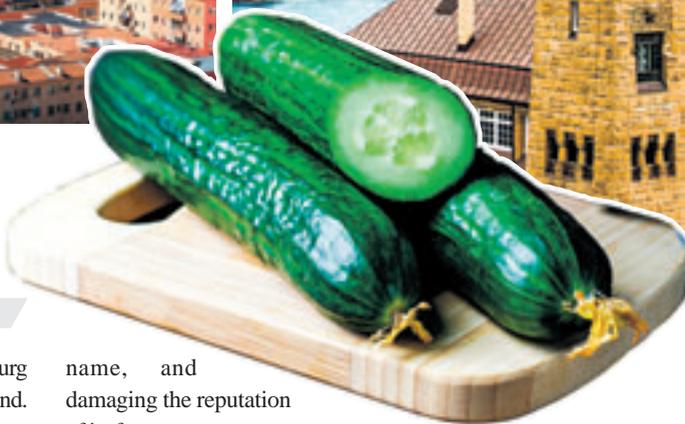
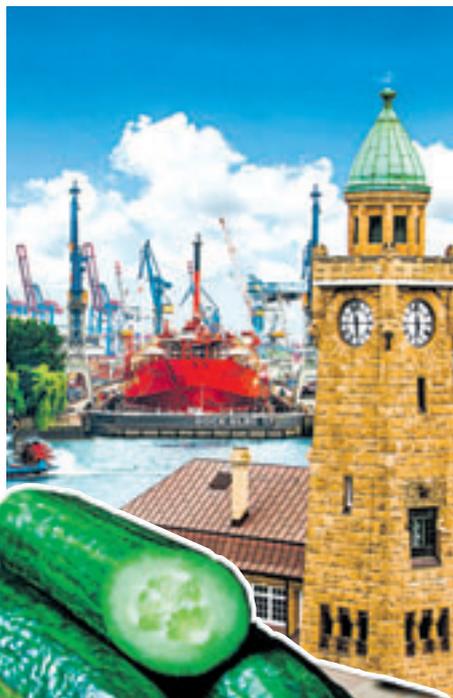
## Fairground fighting

A PRISON sentence has been doled out to a foreigner convicted of drunkenly slashing a man with a knife in Campohermoso.

The two got into a heated discussion at the fairground during the festivities last month. The defendant pulled a small knife and slashed the victim in the arm and stomach.

His jail sentence was reduced to two years after even the victim suggested that booze was the real villain.

# Cucumber battle in court War is over



**WAR IS OVER:**  
 Hamburg blamed Almeria company for cucumber deaths.

By Matthew Elliott

A legal battle between Hamburg and Almeria has come to an end. One of the province's biggest fruit and veg companies was cleared of causing an E-coli outbreak in Germany six years ago.

The city of Hamburg accused Hortofruticola Costa de Almeria of exporting the E-coli tainted cucumber which killed 46 people in 2011. It was a huge scandal at the time and the German authorities have pursued the case relentlessly for six years.

Biochemical analysis has now completely absolved Hortofruticola of any blame. The company is expecting a multimillion euro settlement from Hamburg as compensation for blackening its

name, and damaging the reputation of its farmers.

"This judgement clears the unfairly tarnished name of our company, the work of our farmers, and the whole of Almeria," Hortofruticola wrote on its Facebook page. "Respect for our crops is our mark of quality and trust to our millions of customers in five continents," it added.

In the aftermath of the E-coli outbreak and accusations against Hortofruticola, Andalusia's exports to Germany collapsed by more than 30 per cent.

The EU was forced to provide €200 million in aid to farmers hit by fears of E-coli contamina-

tion. Andalusian farmers needed a €33 million aid package from Madrid to stay afloat until the crisis abated.

Andalusia's agriculture minister, Rodrigo Sanchez, welcomed the ruling from a German court. "This represents the closure of the worst crisis the Spanish horticultural sector has ever experienced," he said.

Sanchez was scathing of Hamburg councillor Cornelia Prufer-Storcks, who aired the first allegations, calling her statements "deeply wrong and a great injustice to Andalusia."

## Rewiring electric avenue

SERIOUS investment in electricity generation is set to benefit residents of Nijar and Vera. A total of €3 million will be ploughed into generators across the province, especially in the Cabo de Gata area, to ensure a regular, uninterrupted electricity supply.

The joint project between the state and the Endesa power company will get underway next year. Nijar's flickering San Jose line will see the bulk of the investment. Endesa has blamed salt in the air for complicating the wiring around Nijar and the Natural Park.

The investment will nullify the threat of a severe forest fire being sparked by a power outage. Last June some 70 hectares of land was destroyed due to a faulty Nijar power line.

Endesa has also pledged to improve electricity infrastructure for smaller, interior towns, including Purchena.

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**NEWS EXTRA**

**Car crash**

A TEENAGE boy, woman and three men were taken to Poniente hospital following a serious car crash in Vicar late on Saturday night. Two cars collided head-on on the A-1050 road.

**Thief tail**

POLICE caught a burglar accused of breaking into an Alhama de Almeria home and stealing a laptop and €80. They tailed their suspect for days until they saw him stashing the laptop.

**Party time**

THREE days of street parties begin tomorrow in Adra as the town celebrates its traditional end of summer fair. The event kicks off at 10pm with live music from a Latin Grammy award winner.

# Anger over filthy water

DIRTY bathing water and pollution must go, Vera mayor Felix Lopez has been told. Neighbourhood association Vera Playa Azul has demanded urgent action be taken to restore bathing quality and safety along Vera's seven kilometres of beaches.

The group, which has thousands of members, claims many Vera residents feel compelled to travel and visit other, cleaner beaches.

Association president, Miguel Jurado, said the dirty water is a result of the weak purifier at Villaricos and rampant dumping in the emissary rivers from Cuevas del Almanzora.

He has invited the mayor to join Vera Playa Azul in a tour of the worst affected beach areas to demonstrate the scale of the problem.

What might grab the mayor's attention is that the pollution issue affects more than disgruntled residents. Vera Playa Azul believe the poorer water quality has adversely affected tourism numbers this summer.

Vera only has one Blue Flag, an international indicator of quality, at Marina Bolaga. And even there the

pollution problem is getting worse.

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Photo by Facebook/veraplayazul

**SHOWDOWN: Vera Playa Azul demands action.**

As revealed in last week's EWN, there is also growing anger among residents of Salinas over the total neglect of public cleaning, gardening and maintenance. The mayor has since visit-

ed the area, and the naturalist beach, and expressed his shock at its condition. Vera Playa Azul has advised him to consider abandoning private contractors and taking all public cleaning and handyman duties back under council control.

# Heavens open with cold snap

A COLD snap brought a touch of relief to Almeria residents exhausted from constant heat and humidity. Some much-needed rainfall was also welcomed by farmers who live in continual fear of drought.

The atmospheric phenomenon arrived from the Atlantic over the weekend. It moved down the Iberian peninsula in a southerly direction, before reaching the Mediterranean coast on Tuesday.

Temperatures dropped slightly to British summertime levels, and thunderstorms were predicted for stretches of the Carboneras and Velez-Rubio coast. There was also the possibility of hailstones and high winds in Almeria's mountainous interior areas.

By Wednesday the cold drop was expected to have passed, though some areas might still experience storms and heavy rainfall. Over the weekend temperatures will rise back up.

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## High speed pursuit

A VIOLENT fugitive wanted on suspicion of four burglaries sped through a police checkpoint in Vicar, forcing Guardia Civil officers to dive for cover.

A high-speed chase ensued and the 25-year-old was eventually found hiding in a scarpard at the Poligono industrial estate.

He is accused of four robberies of industrial premises, stealing two cars, and almost killing the policemen during his escape attempt.

## Axe attack

A NIJAR man is in custody after allegedly attacking his colleague with an axe. The 45-year-old suspect from Cam-pohermoso pulled the weapon from his car during a heated argument in the area.

It is unclear what caused the fight but it had severe consequences for the victim. He is recovering in El Toyo hospital with deep gashes in various parts of his body.

## Jilted stalker

A DESPERATE ex-boyfriend pestered his former flame with 1,500 emails begging her to take him back. He was slapped with a 12-month suspended sentence by Almeria's provincial court for the psychological abuse.

His ex was also granted a restraining order. She had blocked him from WhatsApp after their nine-month relationship ended but he didn't get the message and resorted to email harassment.

## Kitten contest

A KITTEN plucked from the litter of a street cat won the Best Domestic Pet award at the traditional animal contest in the Almeria fair.

Best Exotic Pet was awarded to an Australian parrot, which beat a tortoise to the punch. There were giant guinea pigs and Russian hamsters delighting children. The event is managed by local animal adoption association Alma Felina.

## Well lubricated

A DRUNK lorry driver from Vera was caught by French police charging down

# SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE...27

## A fruity fiesta indeed

On the last Wednesday in August, revellers in Buñol, near Valencia, bombard each other with tomatoes to celebrate La Tomatina - the world's most famous food fight.

BUÑOL, a small town just 38km inland from Valencia, has received global fame in the past few decades for hosting one of the world's most enjoyable yet bizarre festivals, La Tomatina. Thousands flock from all corners of the globe to take part in the city's annual tomato fight, during which participants hurl over 100 metric tons of ripe tomatoes at each other in the streets.

Before 2013, up to 50,000 people would descend on the town to take part in the festivities, dramatically increasing the town's modest population of 9,000 citizens. In order to protect the town from over-expansion, an official ticketing system is now in place which limits the numbers to just 20,000 blessed participants.

FUN FACT: These days, the tomatoes used in La Tomatina are usually imported from Extremadura where they are less expensive.

## Tomatoes, tourists and turmoil

THE flavoursome festivities normally commence around 11am, this year with the ignition of a firework. Once trucks



LA TOMATINA: Has gained international recognition.

a highway while eight times over the legal limit. The 49-year-old was transporting a shipment of oil from Sevilla and had just entered France from Pamplona.

Alarmed French police noticed his erratic driving and pulled him over. He had a blood alcohol rate of 1.22 milligrams per litre. The maximum allowed is just 0.15 milligrams.

## Grandparent tribute

A LOCAL company has started a campaign to install a plaque in an Almeria street that honours grandparents everywhere. El Pozo, a meat products firm,



THOUSANDS: Flock from all over to take part.

have hauled the prized tomatoes into the central square, Plaza del Pueblo, chaos ensues and the streets turn into a saucy warzone where it's every man for himself.

After an hour of madness, fire trucks hose down the streets while locals offer their garden hoses to participants so they can wash the tomato debris off their bodies.

## The legend begins

URBAN myth claims that the festival started in 1945, after a vegetable stall fell in the way of disgruntled locals during a parade and they proceeded to pelt each other with its contents. The next year, the same participants deliberately brought along tomatoes with the intention of starting a fight and La Tomatina was born.

Although initially banned by the police, the residents continued to take part in the festival despite some even being arrested for doing so. When the festival was cancelled in 1957, the locals held a tomato burial as a sign of protest, marching a giant tomato in a coffin through the streets of Buñol. This unusual demonstration actually worked and La Tomatina was finally recognised as an official festivity.

The festival has gained international recognition, and is now as famous as the Running of The Bulls in Pamplona - another outlandish Spanish festival. The festival has also inspired imitations in towns in the US, China and Colombia.

said grandparents deserve a special public mention for all the help they put into looking after grandchildren.

They have launched an appeal for support online. A popular vote will be held to decide the plaque's destination.

## Toxic triumph

A CLEANING campaign recovered more than 25,000 cigarette butts from the five beaches of Cabo de Gata in just four days.

The monstrous haul was collected by an army of dedicated volunteers. They counted roughly 700 butts per plastic water bottle and had more than 35 bottles in total. Cigarette butts are toxic and can take 10 years to decompose.

## Province prepares terror defence

BOLLARDS and heavy-duty plant pots will be installed in busy areas as Almeria ups its defences against a potential terrorist attack.

The decision comes after senior police officers and politicians met on Tuesday to discuss the province's readiness in the fight against terrorism.

Bollards will be set up on the Paseo de Almeria, the Paseo Maritimo, and in Roquetas de Mar and El Ejido.

Surveillance will be stepped up across the province with more road controls and random criminal background checks.

A unit from Spain's elite anti-terror task force, the UPR, was dispatched to Almeria after the Barcelona attack to watch over the feria.

They are heavily armed worked in unison with 200 extra National Police officers to ensure public safety.

Police are also supported by a new and improved dog unit, with the animals trained to smell out explosives.

Mayor Ramon Fernandez praised the officers for their "quiet but continuous work," sending out the message that "Almeria is a safe city."

## INSIDE VIEW

News

1 - 21

Finance

25

Leapy Lee

31

Property

33

TV



42

Letters

44

Time Out

47

Health & Beauty

52

Social

54

Albox

58

Classifieds

66

Motor



68

Sport

71

# 166

The total number of news and features which appeared in Issue 1677 of the Euro Weekly News Costa de Almería edition, including 36 local stories.

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## Top 5 stories

From 15 - 28 August

- 1 Spanish airports to be hit by 25 days of strikes as unions announce dates - **49,400**
- 2 Taxi strike spreads throughout Malaga Province leaving thousands stranded - **13,257**
- 3 Alicante airport security threatens strikes - **10,639**
- 4 Southern Spain braces for thunderstorms and heavy rain - **8,185**
- 5 Group of teens catch rabies after having sex with a donkey - **6,132**



Strikes could cause huge delays

## Top Social Media comments

**Costa del Sol couple devastated by theft of camera with photos of son they lost** - Sadly this is the second story on Facebook of parents who have lost their phones and precious photos of a lost child. I hope others learn from this traditional story and print off such irreplaceable pictures before it's too late. *Tricia Hawkins*

**Planes diverted from Malaga airport as storms lash the Costa del Sol and inland** - Well how did I get to be so lucky flying into Malaga from Switzerland last night with not even a hint of turbulence - mind you I had taken two valium so perhaps I didn't notice! *Sue Hawkes*

**Chris Froome increases La Vuelta a España cycle race lead** - We saw them in Javea, didn't last long but wouldn't have missed it, they are all amazing athletes. *Avril Butt*

**Southern Spain braces for thunderstorms and heavy rain** - Not looking good in Fuensanta near Martos, but it will please the olive oil workers and farmers as it has very very hot for months. *Tim McMahon*

We do need it... can't even remember when we last had rain! *Barbara Stallwood*

**British couple devastated over Axarquía**

**home demolition** - This is such a heartbreaking story why oh why have they demolished a home that the owners bought in good faith and paid and trusted solicitors, builders etc, wrong wrong wrong in so many ways someone really needs to have a finger pointed here for absolutely ruining these people's lives, imagine the emotional stress the owners have gone through. Disgusting hope you guys will find the strength within you best wishes. *Stephen Kim Raymond*

**Shop worker investigated for filming up young woman's skirt with mobile phone** - This seems to be happening a lot lately and it should be a crime to stop the dirty buggers from doing it without redress. *Margaret Wigley*

**Safe at last, injured owl is rescued by Seprona officers** - Well done Seprona. Thank you for being there for your all your wild birds and animals as well as the domesticated ones, they need your help so much. Thank you. *Elizabeth Saunders*

**Ten sailors missing as US destroyer collides with oil and chemical tanker** - Were the crew all asleep, no lookouts or maybe they thought the radar was a computer game? *Bob Saunders*

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## Poll of the week

**Are bollards and other security measures used in Spain enough to prevent future terror attacks?**

■ **LAST WEEK'S POLL:**

**Should horses be bred for food as they are in areas such as Valencia?**

Yes = 47%

No = 53%

**FOR COMMENTS FROM EWN ONLINE TURN TO LETTERS PAGE**

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In 1963, major league American baseball pitcher Gaylord Perry commented that "they'll put a man on the moon before I hit a home run." On July 20, 1969, an hour after Neil Armstrong set foot on the surface of the moon, Perry hit his first and only home run while playing for the San Francisco Giants.

The sentence 'THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPS OVER THE LAZY DOG' uses every letter in the English language.

Macau has the highest population density in the world, 55,001 per sq mile.

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**Did you know?**



**Venom from the boomslang snake causes victims to bleed from every bodily orifice before they turn blue from internal bleeding, while taking up to five days to die.**

## Lost in translation



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## CORRECTIONS

At the EWN, we pride ourselves that reports are accurate and fair. If we do slip up, we promise to set the record straight in a clear, no-nonsense manner. To ask for an inaccuracy to be corrected.

Email: editorial@euroweeklynews.com

Little bits on the side

**OUR VIEW**

## Lack of respect for the victims

WHEN it was announced there was to be a major demonstration in Barcelona against terrorism it appears that different ideological factions saw opportunities to advance their agendas.

In an unprecedented move, King Felipe VI decided that it would be appropriate for him to join the demonstration to show his support for the people of Barcelona, which is still part of the Spanish nation.

He and Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy together with Catalan President Carles Puigdemont marched together behind a front line of emergency workers and those who had helped following the terrorist attack.

The leading group carried a huge banner simply stating No Tinc Por (I am not afraid) and joining them were an estimated 500,000 who wanted to make their statement against terrorism and also Islamophobia.

Unfortunately, a number of demonstrators managed to get relatively close to the king and prime minister, carrying Catalan flags, calling for independence, booing both men and criticising Spain's close relationship with Saudi Arabia, said to be a promoter of terrorism in Europe.

Photographs with or without Catalan flags were used by media outlets (as well as the Royal Household) to promote whatever view they had on independence from Spain.

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# Seeing red! Froome goes for glory

BRITISH cyclist Chris Froome is hoping to break his Vuelta a España hoodoo as the second week of racing draws to a close.

It comes as the peloton head for Malaga Province after tackling the Costa Blanca, Murcia, and Almeria earlier this week.

The four-time Tour de France winner is looking to become the first rider to win both the French flagship event and Spanish tour in the same season since the latter was moved to August and September from April in 1995.

Having consolidated his position in the leader's red jersey on last Saturday's challenging stage eight from Hellin to Xorret de Cati, the Team Sky leader opened up an even larger gap after winning Sunday's stage nine from Orihuela to Cumbre del Sol.

Following a rest day the battle resumed on Tuesday with stage



**AIMING HIGH: Chris Froome.**

10, which saw the participants race from Caravaca de la Cruz to Alhama de Murcia.

Despite challenging conditions at the start of the day, with heavy rain lashing the riders, Froome managed to stay out of trouble ahead of yesterday's stage 11 from Lorca to the Calar Alto Astronomical Observatory

in Almeria, located at 2,168 metres above sea level in the Sierra de los Filabres.

Today the race resumes in Motril, Granada, before heading along the Costa Tropical and inland to Antequera in Malaga Province.

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Share your opinions

**NEWS EXTRA**

## Nervous tick

POLICE stopped a nervous young man from Adra and found a bar of hash in his pocket weighing 90 grams. He attacked the officers and struggled to escape before being subdued.

## Rent chaos

**FORTY families are facing eviction in Carboneras due to a management mistake. Confused council bureaucrats told them to pay their rent to the wrong account and now the real landlord has come knocking.**

## Safe sheep

*RURAL residents are have seen an 8 per cent drop in thefts this year. Incidences of stolen livestock have dropped by 44 per cent thanks to a heavier police presence.*



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# Hot to trot

MORNING TV star, Lorraine Kelly, has been pictured dancing to the small hours at Marbella's famous Aqwa Mist club where Craig David was performing.

The 57-year-old national treasure reportedly partied until 4am, surprising fellow revellers. One clubber told a publication, "it was incredible to see. Lorraine was dancing like someone in her 20's and looked fantastic... She was there till about 4am and was putting the youngsters to shame. Even the staff at the

club were in awe that Lorraine was there showing everyone how to party."

The partygoer added, "it was clear she adored Craig's music and he put on a great show for her. Most people couldn't believe it was happening!"

The presenter, who was attending one of Craig David's TS5 parties, later tweeted her thanks to the singer, saying, "Was such a joy to be there. You are a class act. We loved it- thank you so so much!"



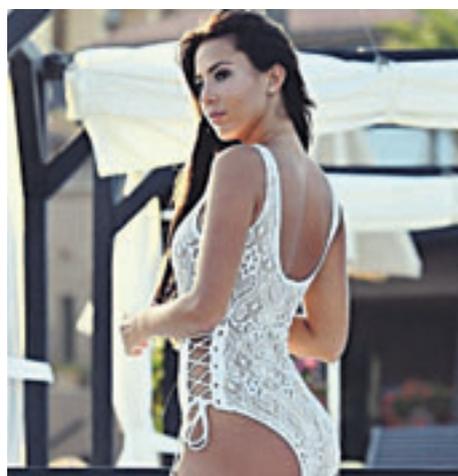
LORRAINE KELLY: Looking fantastic.

## Wedding belle

VICKY PATTISON, the 29-year-old star of reality TV show, Geordie Shore, has been spotted kissing husband-to-be, John Noble, in a resort in Marbella.

The brunette beauty, who got engaged in June, took time out to have a holiday with her tailor fiancé, and looked stunning in a grey zip-up one-piece swimming costume.

The couple first got together around 10 years ago but broke off their relationship before rekindling it earlier this year with John surprising his fiancée by getting down on one knee after only six months of dating. The stunner said the proposal "knocked her for six" as she thought the relationship might end because they were often too busy to see each other. Following her engagement, Vicky told a publication, "I'm so happy personally and professionally - there's a level of equilibrium in my life that I've never experienced before. He is so lovely, I'm very fortunate."



YAZMIN OKHELLOU: Stunning figure.

## All in lace

REALITY TV star, Yazmin Okhellou, was photographed showing off her stunning figure in a white lace one-piece swimsuit on a beach in Marbella.

The 23-year-old reality The Only Way is Essex (TOWIE) star was taking a break from filming for the show, napping on a sun lounger in the popular resort.

Yazmin, who is going out with fellow TOWIE star, James Lock, jetted to Turkey last month for surgery to her nose. The Essex-born beauty had the corrective surgery after breaking her nose, leaving her with a 'small bump,' and says she is thrilled with the 'amazing' results.

## Barbie world

RODRIGO ALVES, otherwise known as the 'human Ken doll' has been partying up a storm with model Kylie Jenner's ex, rapper Tyga, in Marbella. The 34-year-old is famous for his mission to look like Barbie's boyfriend, Ken, and has undergone 50 plastic surgeries.



VICKY PATTISON: Loved up.

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**NEWS EXTRA**

**Multi task**

A MATRON at Huerca-Overa hospital has become the first in Almería to become a doctor. Maria Barroso won a PhD in nursing care research from the University of Murcia focused on reducing labour pains.

**Head on**

**TWO women and two children, aged four and 11, were badly injured in a collision between two cars on the A-352 in Vera. All four were transferred to Huerca-Overa hospital.**

**Chalk free**

SCHOOLS across Almería are set to benefit from a €14.5 million investment in digital learning. Interactive digital whiteboards and more than 12,000 laptops will be distributed by the Junta Andalucía this year.

# Road legal?

## Brits fail Spanish theory test

BRITISH drivers do not understand Spanish road laws, new research suggests.

Despite thousands of Brits choosing to visit Europe by car every year, almost one in three (29 per cent) said they are not confident driving on foreign motorways.

Over 1,000 UK drivers were quizzed in an international theory test which revealed that UK drivers would fail similar exams for Spain, France, Germany, Sweden and the USA.

Brits were least likely to know the correct answers for Spanish road laws; the average score was just 5/10, 36 per cent less than what

would be needed to pass based on the 86 per cent pass mark for UK theory test standards.

Over a third (35 per cent) of those quizzed were unable to identify the right answer to 'What distance are you required to leave between you and the car in front of you in most situations,' and 32 per cent were unable to correctly answer 'Child seats must be provided for children under 1.35m tall and under what age?'

Brits were most familiar with German road laws, with the average person getting 75 per cent of the answers right, followed closely by the USA (70 per

cent) and France (69 per cent).

On average, men (62 per cent) scored higher than women (58 per cent), with those aged 55 - 65 coming out on top with 6.3 out of 10.

The 26 - 35 age group got a meagre 5.5, suggesting they need to brush up on their international road

laws knowledge before heading abroad. Vehicle parts distributor Euro Car Parts ([www.eurocarparts.com](http://www.eurocarparts.com)) created the International Theory Test, the first of its kind, surveying 1,019 UK adults.

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Photo credit: Guardia Civil

**STOLEN:** Police inspect stolen cars found at Port

## Stowaways snared in crackdown

A GUARDIA CIVIL operation uncovered 32 immigrants hidden in lorries and buses, and recovered five stolen cars.

Operation Paso del Estrecho took place at Almería Port last week. Guardia Civil, backed up with a unit from the Rural Security Group (GRS), performed an exhaustive search of traffic arriving from North Africa.

The operation was also part of wider anti-terrorism efforts across southern Spain.

Officers found 32 male immigrants, all individually hidden in various corners and gaps of lorries, buses, and vans arriving from Morocco and Algeria. All were adults, with no documentation, and in good health. They have since been transferred to National Police custody.

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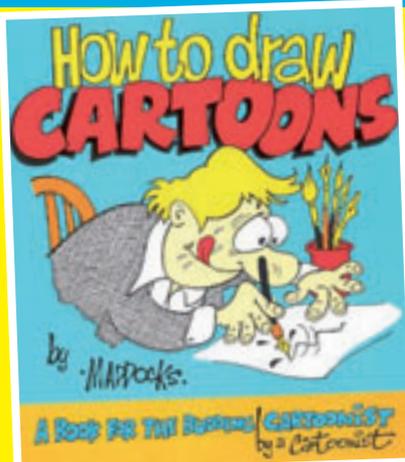
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Photo credit: Facebook/Mojateporla vida

**HARDCORE:** Swimmers dive deep for sick children.

# Epic swim for sick children

By Matthew Elliott

AMATEUR swimmers completing a cancer fundraising challenge braved strong winds and waves in the Almeria leg of a national tour.

Dozens of volunteers travelled from Madrid to cover the distance between Agua Amarga and Las Negras beaches. The Cabo de Gata-Nijar stage was

the second in a tour of Spain's best swimming challenges by the 'Mojate por la vida' team.

They are raising funds to start an advanced therapy unit at the children's cancer ward in Madrid's Hospital de la Paz.

In tackling the Cabo de Gata-Nijar stage they were accompanied by Nijar Civil Protection boats and canoeists from the Los Troncos club.

The epic swim was broken up into four stages, with a total distance of 12 kilometres.

They stopped at different islets and reserves and wrote in a Facebook update that it was an incredibly beautiful route with abundant marine life.

Swimmers came from Almeria, Cordoba, Madrid and Navarre. They are hoping to raise €60,000 for their goal.

# Praise for tax collectors

A NEW and improved tax-paying system has been awarded for its accessibility to citizens. Almeria's provincial council received a pat on the back from the Spanish Standardisation and Certification Association (Aenor) for its efforts.

Aenor described Almeria as a 'pioneer' and one of the top 50 of 8,000 local entities in Spain regarding tax ad-

ministration. The province's treasury deputy, Manuel Alias, welcomed the award and promised to work on improving resident's satisfaction with the new system.

Citizens can now pay their taxes or request meetings online, on their mobile devices, face-to-face, or on the telephone, and in three different languages, including English.

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## NEWS EXTRA

### Dodgy cargo

TWO fugitives were found hiding in cargo destined for Morocco in separate ships at Almeria port.

Both are North Africans wanted for years by Spanish police on assault charges.

### Beach death

A 77-YEAR-OLD man drowned at El Zapillo beach in Almeria City. He was spotted by witnesses floating near the shore. Rescue services tried to resuscitate him but it was too late.

### Cold feet

THREE immigrants treading water near the Almeria docks were rescued by the coastguard. One was sinking from total exhaustion.

### Fire fear

A MINI van caught fire in the centre of Aguadulce last Saturday. A family travelling in the vehicle jumped out when smoke soared from the hood. A fire crew extinguished the blaze.

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HOME AWAY: Mojácar has thousands of tourist rentals beds on offer.

# Tourists choose home comfort

By Matthew Elliot

TOURIST numbers are soaring across Almeria but the number of hotel stays is sinking. Less hotel rooms were sold this July than last, and the decline has been steady throughout 2017.

Compared to last year, an extra 15,000 people have visited the province. Yet hotel

bookings are down by 21,000. The striking difference is forcing Almeria's hotel industry to confront a changing landscape.

Travellers are opting for shorter trips that are more frequent and scattered throughout the calendar. Two week long hotel stays are becoming rarer by the day as people enjoy long weekends and visit friends instead.

There has also been a substantial increase in the number of tourist apartments available in places like Mojácar, Nijar and around the Cabo de Gata.

There are more than 8,000 beds available in tourist apartments across Almeria. Almost 2,500 of them are in Mojácar, with 2,200 in Vera and 1,500 in Nijar, with Mo-

jacar and Vera combined accounting for more than half the total.

Despite the figures, the Costa de Almeria is still a newcomer to the tourist rental game. It accounts for just 6 per cent of all beds across Andalucía. In much of Spain there are now more tourist rental spaces than hotel beds.

There has also been a shift in the demographics of tourists to Almeria. The number of domestic Spanish visitors has fallen sharply, while international tourism steadily increases.

Despite the decline, Almeria's hotels are still on course to surpass one million overnight stays in August, a milestone reached for the first time in 2016.

## Caretaker betrayal

A TRUSTED caretaker looking after an elderly Garrocha resident stole €10,000 from his victim's credit card. Police were called when the senior citizen noticed that the sum had been taken from his account in regular transactions for months.

Yet he always kept the card in the same place. Suspicion soon fell on the caretaker, aged 56 and also of Garrocha. Police followed him to an ATM where he used the card, having sneaked a peek at the PIN code, then returned it to exactly the same place.

He did little to cover his tracks, despite using different ATMs. Police have tracked all the missing money and are charging the caretaker with fraud and theft.

## NEWS EXTRA

### River revolt

A PETITION has been launched to demand the urgent cleaning of the Antas river. Neighbourhood association Vera Playa Azul claims that waste from the river is affecting bathing water at Vera Playa.

### Film fun

MORE than 8,000 people watched films screened outside during the province's Summer Film Circuit. There were 100 films shown in 65 municipalities and attendance was 20 per cent higher than last year.

### Easy work

HUNDREDS of athletes competed in the second triathlon held by Roquetas de Mar. Pablo Salmeron won, swimming 500 metres, cycling 10 kilometres and running four kilometres in just 44 minutes.

### Poetry slam

FAMOUS poet and writer Benjamin Prado will be on the jury for Vera's first ever international poetry competition. It takes place in March and is expected to attract thousands of entrants.

### Stunt fail

A YOUNG man screeching his tyres around Almeria's La Vega de Aca roundabout predictably crashed into it, perched in an almost vertical position. Police found the 20-year-old to be completely sober.

### Big stink

POLICE found a secret marijuana plantation at a Mojácar farm after neighbours complained of a strong smell. They arrested a local man, aged 37, and seized 14 plants.

If you are planning on moving to Almería or have recently done so, you have made an excellent choice. There are so many benefits to living here, and Spain can offer tax-efficient opportunities too.

#### 1. Where will you need to pay tax?

You need to establish when you will become resident in Spain and liable to Spanish taxation on your worldwide income, gains and wealth, and subject to the Spanish succession and gift tax rules.

You will be tax resident in Spain if you are in the country for more than 183 days a year, but other situations can also make you resident. Be wary of UK tax residence rules – in some cases, just 16 days back home could unintentionally trigger UK residency.

#### 2. How much tax will you pay?

Income tax rates for general income range from 19.5% to 48% in Andalucía. Savings income is taxed progressively at 19%, 21% and 23%.

Spain also imposes an annual wealth tax, which generally hits those with worldwide assets worth over €1 million.

Tax-efficient investment wrappers offered through a Spanish-compliant

# Moving to Spain? 7 questions that could save you money



By Gerald Turner,  
Partner, Blevins Franks

you relocate too. Take a fresh look at your financial planning to ensure you are suitably diversified and everything is set up in the best way for your new circumstances.

#### 4. What is the right currency mix for you?

Once you are living in Euroland, keeping savings and investments in sterling makes your income vulnerable to exchange rate fluctuations. Look for flexible structures that let you diversify by holding investments in multiple currencies.

#### 5. What are your property options?

Another issue to consider early is the tax implications of buying and selling property. When is the best time to sell your UK property or buy a Spanish home to limit tax? How could owning a high value property affect your wealth and succession tax liabilities? Take care to establish your best approach.

#### 6. What should you do with your UK pensions?

Make sure you fully understand your pension options and the tax implications before making any decisions. There are now many options for taking your pension, but you need to weigh them up, looking at how they work for you and the tax consequences or benefits. Take regulated advice.

#### 7. Is your estate planning suitable?

Spanish succession law works very differently from the UK. Unless you take action, 'forced heirship' rules could automatically pass two thirds of your estate to your direct family, whatever your intentions. Take care to understand your options and tax implications.

Spanish succession and gift tax is also different from UK inheritance tax. The rules vary according to who the beneficiary is, where the deceased and beneficiary are resident and the

assets located. Rates and allowances vary across regions.

UK domiciles remain liable for UK inheritance tax, so seek advice on how to reduce these taxes for your heirs.

Getting the answers to these key questions can provide peace of mind that your financial affairs are in order so you can relax and enjoy your new life in Spain. Cross-border taxation is complicated, so take personalised, professional guidance.

*Tax rates, scope and reliefs may change. Any statements concerning taxation are based upon our understanding of current taxation laws and practices which are subject to change. Tax information has been summarised; an individual is advised to seek personalised advice.*

Keep up to date on the financial issues that may affect you on the Blevins Franks news page at [www.blevinsfranks.com](http://www.blevinsfranks.com).

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This is a good time for us to help you review your tax and estate planning, investments and pensions. We will ensure you are in the best position going forward and keep you informed of Brexit developments that may affect you. It may be worth acting now, under known rules, rather than waiting to see if the situation changes after Brexit.

Keep an eye on the Blevins Franks website for Brexit news - [www.blevinsfranks.com/brexit](http://www.blevinsfranks.com/brexit) and contact us if you want to sign up for regular updates.

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# Panic over 'olive ebola' threat

## Contagious virus could decimate rural economy

By Matthew Elliott

LOCAL farmers are holding their breath as the dreaded 'olive ebola' bacteria spreads across Spain. Incidences of the devastating tree disease have been recorded just across the provincial border in Alicante.

Now concerned Almeria farmers are placing their hopes in a scientific breakthrough which may be just around the corner.

The situation is most perilous on the Balearic Islands, where the European Union has insisted on a cull of hundreds of thousands of olive and almond trees.

The disease, scientifically known as Xylella fastidiosa, attacks essential harvest trees, including olive, almond, vine, cherry and fig. It arrived in Europe from North Africa a decade ago and devastated Italy's olive oil industry in 2013 when one million trees were destroyed.

Now that it is in Spain, farmers worry that it is only a matter of time before it spreads across the peninsula. Juan Miguel Montaner, spokesman for Alicante's agricultural union, said it was 'as though the plague is coming and we do nothing.'

As the most vibrant agricultural econo-



OLIVES: Under serious threat from vicious virus.

my in Spain, Almeria stands to lose the most if olive ebola rears its head in the province. The virus is so contagious that, for every tree infected, 500 trees surrounding it must be destroyed.

Hope lies in the genomics lab at the Institute of Agricultural Research of Andalusia. Scientists,

who dislike the ebola metaphor, compare the virus to the flu. They are working on a mushroom-sourced vaccine that should be able to create protective buffer zones around farms.

But it will take at least three years and it is unlikely Almeria has that long.

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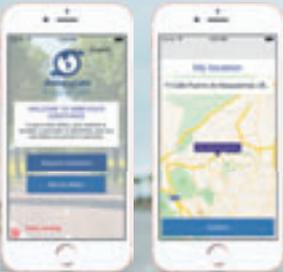
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MOJACAR: Pueblo carries old romance in the air.

## Pueblo's long lost songs

A NEW book exploring the culture and character of Mojacar has been released. 'Mojacar y su Guajira' delves deep into Mojacar's history while sharing famous local tales of love, life and music.

The book was written by author Jose Maria Montoya Perez. To celebrate its release, he signed the book for Mayor Rosemari Cano and Culture councillor Raquel Belmonte at a special ceremony at the Multiple Uses Centre.

Guijara refers to a traditional genre of Spanish music that touches on romance and the 'good life' of countryside culture. Those themes are the glue that binds together Perez's passionate work.

Written in the style of old Guajira songs, it takes the reader on a whirlwind tour of romantic

Mojacar legends stretching back more than a century. Much of it relates to Perez's childhood memories and is essentially a musical ode to Mojacar written after decades of reflection on the town.

The book even includes a CD, featuring Guajira songs composed and performed by Perez and his brothers. Perez is an established local writer who also pens the opening speeches at Mojacar's Moors and Christians festival.

His latest work is available locally and is a must-read for anyone with an unquenchable thirst for all things Mojacar. Even those who don't read Spanish can find joy in the unusual Guajiras.

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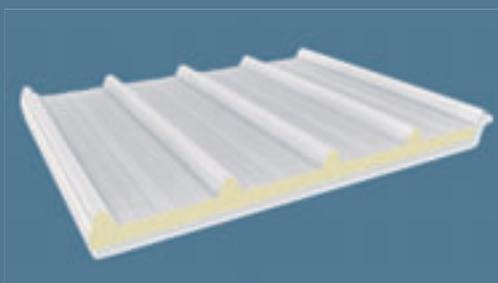
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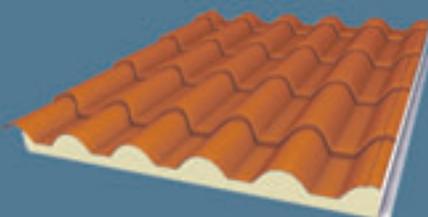
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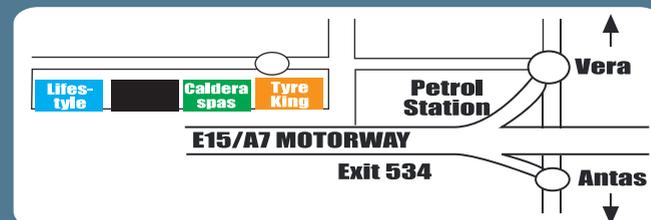
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## NEW FORD FIESTA



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**NEWS EXTRA**

**Bulls eye**

A SHARP shooter from Granada scooped top prize at Mojacar's traditional clay pigeon shooting tournament. The competition was revived seven years ago and attracts shooters from all over Spain.

**Fair pay**

NURSES at Poniente hospital won the right to be paid for the 15 minutes they spend preparing for shifts and washing down afterwards in a landmark ruling from the Supreme Court.

**Super science**

A NEW method of predicting drought five months in advance has been developed by Barcelona University researchers. It will have major benefits for Almeria's drought-stricken agricultural sector.

# The film festival at high noon

SUBMISSIONS to the upcoming Almeria Western Film Festival (AWFF) have shot up by 60 per cent this year. The next edition of the popular festival takes place next month in Spain's only true desert.

There are different competitive sections, including feature films, shorts, and documentaries. Categories are also divided into Andalucian, Spanish and international, to encourage both local and foreign filmmakers to participate.

Submission deadlines have now passed with hundreds of directors having sent in their work. The seventh edition of the festival is already guaran-

teed to be its biggest yet.

AWFF director, Juan Viruega, was delighted with the upsurge in creative interest. "We have received feature films and short films from all five continents," he said, adding that this testifies to the relevance of the western genre across all cultures.

"Western cinema has ceased to be an American heritage or an Italian-Spanish substitute to become an unquestionable



**WILD WEST:** Clint Eastwood trilogy was shot in Tabernas Desert.

framework for expressing the social realities of the contemporary world," he said.

This year the festival takes place from October 11-14. It is the only major western film festival in Europe and one of the very few on the planet. Set in the Tabernas Desert it also celebrates Almeria's heritage as the land of Sergio Leone and his Spaghetti Western trilogy.

The 2017 edition will also see an artistic contest. An exhibition of western inspired paintings, photography, sketches and sculptures will be seen by thousands of visiting film fans.

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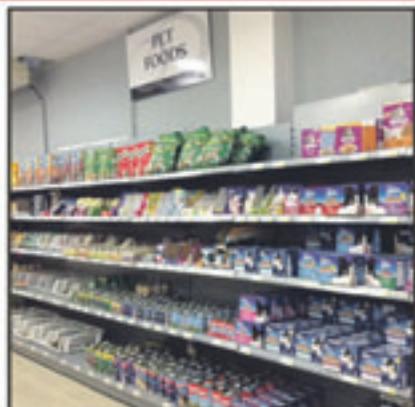
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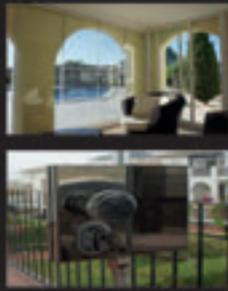
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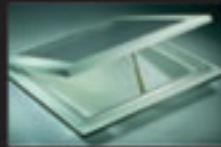
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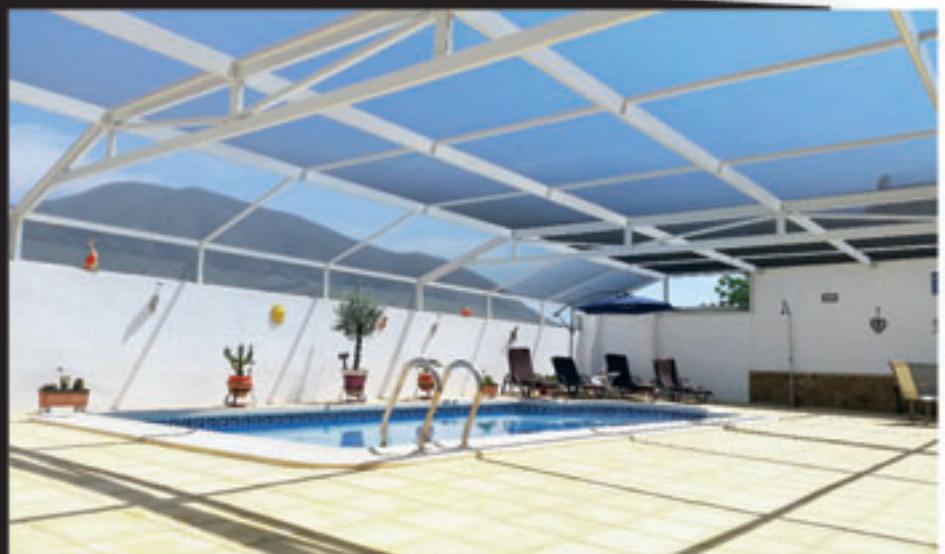
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# Dames in Huercal-Overa



Photo by mutuum.net

**DAY OUT:** The Dames enjoyed a lovely day in Totana.

THE Dames in Huercal-Overa enjoyed a lovely day out in Totana. First a visit to the market, then on to the tennis club for a superb

lunch. The trip was a repeat of the very successful 10th anniversary trip last year. If you would like to join

them, they meet at the tennis club in Huercal-Overa on the third Wednesday of each month at 10.30am. You will be very welcome.

# Back to school

A roundup of all the dates you need to know for 2017/18

SUMMER is coming to a close, beaches and pools are growing quieter and parents are out shopping for new books and rucksacks.

This can only mean one thing - school is almost back in session.

Here is a roundup of all the important dates to mark on your calendar so you're organised for the busy months ahead:

**Andalucia**

Classes start: September

11 (primary and elementary schools) or September 15

(secondary, baccalaureate and vocational education)

Christmas: December 23 - January 8

Easter: March 24 - April 2

School year ends: June 22 (primary and elementary schools)

June 25 (secondary, baccalaureate and vocational education)

Regional holidays: February 28, April 30, October 13 and December 7.

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# Wet wipes wreaking havoc

WET WIPES being flushed down the toilet are causing substantial damages to the province's plumbing network. Every year there are thousands of operations to unblock jams.

The cost is in the millions. In Roquetas de Mar alone, there is an average of six blockages a day and the council spends €300,000 each year removing the wipes, which are not biodegradable.

It is paid for by raising taxes. Which means that if everyone stopped flushing wet wipes, the tax bill would be lowered.

Sewage experts have called on residents across Almería to use bins for wet wipes and spare building communities the cost of hiring expensive plumbers. Roquetas Council is even considering taking legal action against the manufacturers of certain brands of wet wipes.



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NEWS FROM OUR FIVE OTHER EDITIONS

# Burundanga story wouldn't wash

■ COSTA BLANCA NORTH



Photo credit: Serge

■ BURUNDANGA: Found in many Costa gardens.

➤ A CAMPELLO delivery driver was charged with inventing a sham robbery to mask his own crime.

The 28-year-old Spanish man who works for a drinks distribution firm went to the Guardia Civil, claiming that he was robbed of €1,000 after an Italian couple sprayed him with scopolamine.

This drug, made from the burundanga plant and known as devil's breath, overrides the will of the consumer who submits to the orders of others. It can cause sleepiness and memory loss, making it a choice drug for criminals and sex offenders.

Although the man could describe the man and woman with Italian accents in detail he remembered nothing about their car and the Guardia Civil, made suspicious by other inconsistencies, contacted his employers who had been given an entirely different story.

Checking the man's route investigators failed to find any witness to the incident and discovered he had instead been fined for double parking.

■ AXARQUÍA

## Beach wars

DESPITE Torrox Council's legislation, passed in 2014, fining anyone reserving a place on the beach with towels, the number of culprits this summer has remained the same as last year, at around 1,500.

## Red handed

FIREMEN in Velez-Málaga were surprised to find a marijuana plantation as they battled to put out a house fire in a social housing block. Two men were arrested for growing the 68 plants.

## Illegal camp

POLICE in Nerja has removed an illegal settlement from Maro Beach following complaints from residents. During the operation 1,500 kilos of waste were removed.

## Comp claim

A JUDGE in Germany has ruled the city of Hamburg must pay back between €400,000 and €700,000 in compensation to Algarobbo-based vegetable company Frunet after falsely claiming its cucumbers contained E-Coli.

## That stinks

AN ecological group says it informed Almuñecar Town Hall in 2016 about a raw sewage leak along a road used by pedestrians, but claim the information was never acted on.

## Fire damage

THREE people in Motril are being treated for smoke inhalation at the Hospital Santa Ana following a blaze which gutted a flat on Calle Cuartel de Simancas.

■ COSTA DEL SOL

## Malaga money

MARBELLA is to receive €1.8 million from a €27 million fund expected to be approved by Malaga Province shortly. The bulk of the funds are to be put towards street repair and improvement of water supply.

## More taxis

LOCAL unions have requested an increase in the number of taxi licences granted in La Linea. In addition they want to see agreement for the introduction of seven and nine-seater taxis.

## Face lift

THE sum of €112,000 plus IVA is being spent by the San Roque Council to make improvements and renovations to the Guadiaro fairground. Work will include additional children's sports facilities.

## Social service

MANILVA Council is re-introducing its subsidy for residents with mobility problems and people over 75 who need to attend hospital in Marbella or Malaga. The council will pay up to two thirds of the normal taxi fare.

## Weather watch

IN anticipation of forecast heavy rainfall, municipal workers were out in force in Estepona clearing the storm drains.

■ COSTA BLANCA SOUTH

## No harm

FIREFIGHTERS from Elche were called to extinguish a fire that broke out in the village of El Altet. No injuries were declared - not even from the effects of smoke inhalation.

## Good stop

LOCAL POLICE in Elche have arrested a man driving under the influence of drugs. They discovered that the car had been stolen and one of the occupants of the car was a wanted man.

## Unlucky break

A YOUNG woman has been taken to hospital suffering from a head injury. The 27-year-old on holiday in Cartagena was about to dive into the sea at Cala Cortina when she slipped hitting her head on the rocks.

## Terrible son

POLICE in Murcia have arrested a man for assaulting his mother. The 49-year-old was detained after insulting and finally attacking her when she allegedly refused to give him some money.

## Family feud

A COURT in Murcia has dismissed an appeal made by a woman accused of injuring two people in a private feud. The woman had been fined €180 for causing injuries to the ex-wife of her boyfriend.

■ MALLORCA

## Social karma

REVENUE from fining violators of holiday rental laws should become a social rent fund for working residents being forced out of their homes by rising prices, according to anti-austerity party Podemos.

## Health risk

A REVIEW of the medication taken by more than 1,000 chronic patients aged over 75 on Mallorca found that 70 per cent suffer adverse effects from the drugs and are confused by labelling.

## I Spy

TIPPED off by a German tourist who saw him lurking in a car park, police arrested a 60-year-old man in Manacor suspected of being behind a spate of 30 car break-ins.

## Booted out

A TRADITIONAL shoe-making shop in Inca is to close. George's has been in business since 1967 and was famed for its suede and leather craft. It can no longer compete with cheap imports.

## Sound proof

MORE than 1,000 apartments should be soundproofed against the noise of planes, argues Palma Residents' Association, which described flight noise every 40 seconds as intolerable.

■ COSTA BLANCA NORTH

## Elbow room

THE narrow bridge over the River Sella on the CV-770 linking Orxeta and Villajoyosa is to be widened in a €526,000 renovation funded by the Alicante provincial council.

## Free flicks

MORE than 1,800 people attended the second edition of the free open-air film sessions that were held each Tuesday throughout July and August in Altea's Plaza de la Cantereria.

## Night birds

THE Mussol (Owl) trams and train service that operated night-long between Alicante City and Denia since June 30 to eliminate the drink-driving risk, has now terminated until next summer.

## Denounce jobs

AFTER having to clean graffiti defacing the Tirisit Park, inaugurated last November in the centre of Alcoy, the city council called on residents to report any vandalism they witnessed.

## Crash'n'grab

A MAN who ram-raided a Petrel shop in a stolen car, taking mobile phones worth €47,000 received a six-year prison sentence for theft and resisting arrest. Police are still looking for his associates.

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## NORWAY

### Bear scare

A TOURIST guide has been fined €1,300 for scaring a polar bear during a snowmobile expedition on the Svalbard archipelago. The guide approached the bear who fled, but regulations say this is prohibited.



**PROTECTED:** A polar bear on the Svalbard archipelago.

### Centre closures

NORWAY is to close 17 asylum centres, reducing the capacity by 1,600 people. It comes as the number of asylum seekers arriving in the country continues to fall.

### Hot worker

A 30-YEAR-OLD Norwegian firefighter

is setting the internet alight with 114,000 fans following her Instagram page with many believing she could be the world's hottest firefighter.

### Terror film

BRITISH director Paul Greengrass is to direct a film about the Utoya terror attacks of July 2011 after Netflix won the rights to make the film.

## GERMANY

### Trump ecstasy

POLICE have seized thousands of ecstasy tablets in the shape of Donald Trump's head, valued at around €39,000. A 51-year-old man and his 17-year-old son were arrested after the drugs were found in their vehicle.

been called 'unfair' by Chancellor Angela Merkel, following the diesel emissions scandal and called on the industry to rein them in.

### Facial recognition

THREE HUNDRED people are volunteering for a facial recognition pilot program in Berlin. However, the increased

surveillance has received mixed views with some calling for the pilot to stopped immediately.

### Muslim integration

A NEW study has found that most of the country's 4.7 million Muslims feel connected and integrated into German society.

## FRANCE

### Gay software

AN 'invisible PC spy software' has been criticised by a French LGBT rights group after the company claimed its software could help parents find out if their son was gay.

### Workers reform

PRESIDENT Emmanuel Macron warns the EU risks breaking up if it fails to reform rules on temporary foreign workers. France wants to introduce a 12 month maximum period that a worker can be 'posted' to work in another country to prevent continued cheap labour.

### Flexible patrols

THE 'Operation Sentinelle,' a domestic military presence that has deployed thousands of soldiers to patrol public spaces since the 2015 terror attacks, is to be revamped.

### Maurice support

THE owners of a noisy cockerel have been told they face legal action if they do not quieten the cockerel which neighbours claim is 'posing a health risk.' Tens of thousands have signed a petition in support of the cockerel named Maurice.

## BELGIUM

### Tip off

IT is reported that a Belgian police officer gave an 'informal' tip to a Catalan colleague last year that the man believed to be behind Barcelona's recent terror attack was suspicious, but at the time no information was found to link him to Islamist extremism.

### Terrorism cases

BELGIAN courts open an average of 23 new terrorist-related cases per month. Since the beginning of the year 189 terrorism files have been opened as police forces crack down on terrorism.

### Burger brand

BELGIUM'S third Burger King restaurant has opened in the Walloon capital Namur. The chain has announced it will open three more restaurants in the country by the end of the year.

### Confidence high

THE country's consumer confidence index has maintained its historic high achieved in July with the National Bank of Belgium saying it was 'comparable' to pre-crisis highs of 2007.

## NETHERLANDS

### Safety steps

AMSTERDAM is increasing security in the wake of the recent terror attacks in Barcelona. The mayor said extra security measures will be enforced in certain areas of the city.

### Ambassador out

HUNGARY now has no ambassador in the Netherlands, after the role was suspended when the Dutch ambassador in Hungary criticised the Hungarian prime minister's government.

### Illegal downloads

DUTCH FILM WORKS (DFW) has

said it will fine and prosecute anyone who illegally downloads films. The chief executive of DFW said those using BitTorrent to view their films without buying them can face sanctions.

### Gig threat

A 22-YEAR-OLD man was arrested hours after a rock concert in Rotterdam was cancelled following an alert from Spanish police about a possible terror threat. He was believed to have sent a threatening message but was later released.

## SWEDEN

### Detention complaints

COMPLAINTS have been made about the Halmstad Detention Centre with those admitted complaining they have to wait hours for the toilets to be flushed with odours coming through the cells and the ventilation system is so loud they cannot sleep.

### Good harvest

HARVEST time is underway with local farmers in the Laholm area saying early signs show it seems to be better than last year's harvest.

### Elderly attack

AN elderly couple were attacked by a man in a store in Laholm. Hitting and kicking the pair in their 80's, police say they tried to take refuge in a clothing store as the man continued the unprovoked attack.

### Sick leave

THE number of people taking sick leave continues to decline for the sixth consecutive month according to new figures from the Social Insurance Agency. Compared to one year ago, it is down by 2.4 per cent.

## DENMARK

### Murder charge

AFTER the dismembered body of journalist Kim Wall was found, prosecutors are looking to charge submarine owner Peter Madsen with murder. Her torso was found washed up near Copenhagen.

### English concern

THE Education Minister has pledged to cut down admissions to courses taught in English saying too many students are qualifying and then leaving Denmark.

### Looking up

DENMARK is currently experiencing a bit of a job boom with experts saying there are a lot of vacancies available. Reports also say nine out of 10 people are unemployed for less than a year.

### Final filming

FILMING of X-Factor begins next week but broadcaster DR has announced it will be the last series to be produced in Denmark after first being broadcast in 2008. The next season will be aired in 2018.

## Card safety

THE Spanish Consumer Organisation considers that despite the fact that an element of fraud and identity theft does exist, use of credit and debit cards is inherently safe.

It is estimated that in 2016, the total amount defrauded was €56 million which whilst slightly up from the previous year, still only amounts to 0.2 per cent of the total annual spend.

Contactless cards and telephone apps may however cause some problems for the future

# EU passports for sale

By John Smith

IF you are worried about the future after Brexit and want to have an EU passport, then for €880,000 you can become a Maltese citizen.

Most of that money will go to a Maltese government social fund but you are required to use up to 25 per cent to rent a property for a minimum of five years and also invest in interest bearing government bonds.

Money buys most things and the Maltese offer even anticipates that your citizenship will be granted

within 12 to 18 months, but other EU members offer similar if not so inexpensive deals and you can also purchase the rights to carry an Austrian, Bulgarian, Cypriot or Hungarian passport.

That means that there are five EU members simply selling national passports and more may follow if there is a demand for them.

Currently British passport holders who can prove direct family

links with Ireland can apply for a change of citizenship and those, mainly of Jewish origin, whose forebears lost their German passports during the Nazi regime can also apply for a German passport.

Other countries offer the opportunity to obtain rights of residency such as Spain and its 'Golden Passport' programme aimed mainly at wealthy Chinese, but these are all significantly more expensive and take a considerable length of time for grant of a passport.

## Idea is appealing

ORANGE growers in Spain should be taking an interest in a number of developments on the Italian island of Sardinia to dispose of orange peel discarded in production of juice.

It is estimated that the total cost of disposal of peel and pips amounted to €14 million per annum but now it is being used to make yarn for fabric, fat-free flour and even biogas which is then turned into electricity.

A juicy opportunity to make money out of waste.

### Quote of the Week

With the data we have we don't see a significant impact on tourism in the short term," Economy Minister Luis de Guindos said with regards to the Barcelona attacks and economic forecasts.



## Economy still growing

THANKS in part to consumer spending, the Spanish economy continued to grow above expectation during the second quarter of 2017.

Unemployment also dropped meaning that less money was being paid from social security and more taxes are being collected.

Exports also continue to grow whilst the number of

tourists has increased and the general consensus of opinion from the Spanish government, the Bank of Spain and the International Monetary Fund is that growth will exceed expectation and break 3 per cent for the third year in a row.

All of this good news means that Prime Minister Rajoy feels more comfortable about his chances of pushing through the 2018 budget when Parliament returns from holiday in September.

On the negative side however, expenditure is currently still in excess of 100 per cent of GDP which may cause problems for the minority government if that situation continues to deteriorate.

**MARIANO RAJOY:**  
Pleased by strong economy.



La Moncloa flickr

## Barcelona flights still busy

RYANAIR which has now formally registered its interest in taking over the bankrupt Air Berlin has announced fare reductions for flights to Barcelona.

It made the decision to reduce fares by between 5 and 7 per cent soon after the attack on Las Ramblas and says that the decision has meant that it has

experienced no reduction in passenger traffic on flights to the city.

According to CEO Michael O'Leary it is company policy to lower fares to destinations hit by a terrorist attack in order to ensure that volume of traffic is maintained.

### » BUSINESS EXTRA

## Fuel down

AFTER a fairly expensive summer, fuel prices look as if they will fall slightly by the end of August and should then hold steady. Currently Spain has some of the lowest prices for petrol and diesel in the EU.

## Day tripper

TO celebrate the 25th anniversary of its high speed service, train company Renfe is continuing to offer travellers the chance to purchase one of 25,000 tickets for €25. The next offer of discounted long distance tickets should be made on the last Friday of September.

## Bottoms up

SPANISH wine exports have reached their highest volume ever with sales of €1.3 billion in the first six months of the year. Even though British imports were down, the overall price of individual wines increased with red and rose doing well.

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# LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES AUGUST 28

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
3I GROUP	9,510	+0,00%	0,000	9.300,42
A.B FOODS	31,840	+0,44%	0,140	25.341,49
ADMIRAL GROUP	19,320	-1,68%	-0,330	5.570,34
ANGLO AMERICAN	13,395	+0,87%	0,115	18.884,80
ANTOFAGASTA	10,220	+0,79%	0,080	10.154,32
ASHTREAD GROUP	15,86	+0,19%	0,03	7.977,63
ASTRAZENECA	44,985	-0,90%	-0,410	57.112,03
AVIVA	5,2150	-0,29%	-0,0150	21.159,42
B SKY B GROUP	9,5500	+0,37%	0,0350	16.390,83
BABCOCK INTL GROUP	8,03	-0,37%	-0,03	4.049,83
BAE SYSTEMS	5,9900	-0,50%	-0,0300	19.156,65
BARCLAYS	1,9430	-0,10%	-0,0020	33.174,81
BARRATT DEV PLC	6,13	-0,24%	-0,02	6.157,62
BHP BILLITON	14,370	+1,41%	0,200	30.530,00
BP	4,455	+0,53%	0,024	88.262,22
BRITISH AM.TOBACCO	48,35	-0,10%	-0,05	111.326,78
BRITISH LAND CO.RE	6,0300	-0,82%	-0,0500	0,00
BT GROUP	2,902	-0,53%	-0,016	28.869,30
BUNZL	23,3200	+0,00%	0,0000	7.861,30
BURBERRY GROUP	17,86	+0,45%	0,08	7.847,01
CARNIVAL PLC	53,20	-0,47%	-0,25	11.405,61
CENTRICA	1,971	-1,35%	-0,027	11.049,61
COCA-COLA HBC N	26,00	-0,46%	-0,12	9.583,99
COMPASS GROUP	16,380	-0,30%	-0,050	25.966,10
CONVATEC GRP RG	2,87	-0,73%	-0,02	5.633,90
CRH PLC	27,20	-2,61%	-0,73	23.158,34
CRODA INTL	38,96	+0,10%	0,04	5.125,63
DCC	69,20	-0,07%	-0,05	6.195,40
DIAGEO	25,680	-0,06%	-0,015	64.788,81
DIRECT LINE INS	3,86	+0,18%	0,01	5.326,75
EASYJET	12,16	+0,16%	0,02	4.814,16
EXPERIAN	15,2000	-0,33%	-0,0500	14.160,65
FRESNILLO	15,800	-0,57%	-0,090	11.539,75
G4S PLC	2,9000	-0,28%	-0,0080	4.513,59
GKN	3,21	+0,25%	0,01	5.521,50
GLAXOSMITHKLINE	15,195	-0,23%	-0,035	74.941,67
GLENORE INTL.	3,53	-0,31%	-0,01	51.065,34
HAMMERSON REIT	5,610	-1,23%	-0,070	0,00
HARGREAVES LANSDOW	13,71	+0,66%	0,09	6.517,14
HSBC HOLDINGS	7,428	+0,04%	0,003	150.453,79
IMPERIAL TOBACCO	32,42	+0,26%	0,09	31.268,35
INFORMA	6,87	-0,87%	-0,06	5.677,39
INTERCONT HOTELS	38,520	-0,26%	-0,100	7.324,12
INTERTEK GROUP	49,48	+0,02%	0,01	8.011,43
INTL AIRLINES GRP	6,17	-0,24%	-0,02	13.203,20
ITV	1,609	-0,49%	-0,008	6.497,01
JOHNSON MATTHEY PL	28,09	-0,85%	-0,24	5.482,80
KINGFISHER	2,954	-0,87%	-0,026	6.483,94
LAND SEC GRP REIT	9,885	-1,84%	-0,185	0,00
LEGAL&GENERAL GRP	2,6320	-0,57%	-0,0150	15.674,01

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
LLOYDS BANKING GRP	0,6491	+0,28%	0,0018	46.908,70
LONDON STOCK EXCH.	39,760	+0,10%	0,040	13.898,36
MARKS & SPENC GRP	3,1290	-1,11%	-0,0350	5.083,79
MEDICLINIC INT	7,53	-0,20%	-0,02	5.580,94
MERLIN ENTMTS	4,61	+0,37%	0,02	4.655,45
MICRO FOCUS INTL	23,14	+1,05%	0,24	5.364,47
MONDI	20,96	-0,43%	-0,09	10.245,18
MORRISON SUPERMARK	2,5140	-0,36%	-0,0090	5.915,66
NATIONAL GRID	9,702	-0,22%	-0,021	33.201,14
NEXT	41,43	+0,95%	0,39	6.082,26
OLD MUTUAL	2,1010	+1,20%	0,0250	10.416,17
PADDY POWER BET	68,05	-2,02%	-1,40	5.749,83
PEARSON	6,215	+1,14%	0,070	5.132,94
PERSIMMON PLC	26,16	-0,57%	-0,15	8.107,57
PROVIDENT FIN	9,16	+22,46%	1,68	1.344,35
PRUDENTIAL	18,215	+0,03%	0,005	47.421,87
RANDGOLD RESOURCES	75,70	-0,72%	-0,55	7.092,84
RECKITT BENCKISER	73,81	-0,53%	-0,39	51.893,07
REED ELSEVIER	16,6700	-0,71%	-0,1200	17.811,64
RENTOKIL INITIAL	2,94	-1,44%	-0,04	5.418,29
RIO TINTO	36,610	+0,43%	0,155	50.530,91
ROLLS-ROYCE HLDG.	9,0650	-0,38%	-0,0350	16.749,27
ROYAL BK SCOT. GRP	2,5580	-0,04%	-0,0010	30.620,54
ROYAL DUTCH SHELA	21,43	+0,37%	0,08	96.842,96
ROYAL DUTCH SHEL B	21,73	+0,49%	0,11	81.520,52
ROYAL MAIL	3,93	-0,73%	-0,03	3.936,00
RSA INSURANCE GR	6,660	+0,68%	0,045	6.825,08
SAGE GROUP	6,935	-0,36%	-0,025	7.479,75
SAINSBURY(J)	2,361	-0,46%	-0,011	5.167,99
SCHRODERS LTD	33,760	-0,35%	-0,120	7.679,48
SEGRO (REIT)	5,28	-0,57%	-0,03	0,00
SEVERN TRENT	22,49	-0,13%	-0,03	5.315,11
SHIRE	37,500	+1,49%	0,550	34.261,95
SMITH & NEPHEW	13,910	+0,29%	0,040	12.207,58
SMITHS GROUP	15,650	+0,32%	0,050	6.197,12
SMURFIT KAPPA	23,49	-0,21%	-0,05	5.594,07
SSE PLC	14,04	-1,68%	-0,24	14.079,49
ST. JAMES'S	11,89	+0,85%	0,10	6.340,35
STANDARD CHARTERED	7,771	+0,05%	0,004	25.857,57
STANDARD LIFE	4,416	+1,21%	0,053	13.183,17
TAYLOR WIMPEY	1,97	-0,10%	-0,00	6.455,62
TESCO	1,842	-1,73%	-0,033	15.077,54
TUI N	13,06	-0,15%	-0,02	7.666,72
UNILEVER	45,11	-0,19%	-0,09	57.006,09
UNITED UTILITIES G	9,130	-0,16%	-0,015	6.232,46
VODAFONE	2,1960	-0,14%	-0,0030	58.557,92
WHITBREAD	36,770	-0,68%	-0,250	6.774,28
WOLSELEY	45,400	+0,00%	0,000	11.539,74
WORLDPAY GROUP	4,19	-1,99%	-0,09	8.480,00
WPP GROUP	14,3700	-1,71%	-0,2500	18.436,38

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# DOW JONES

CLOSING PRICES AUGUST 28

COMPAN	PRICE	CHANGE%	CHANGE	VOLUME(M)
3M	202,130	+0,00%	0,010	120.624,54
AMERICAN EXPRESS	85,4700	+0,13%	0,1100	75.553,74
APPLE	159,860	+0,37%	0,590	825.713,35
BOEING CO	235,890	-1,19%	-2,850	139.430,66
CATERPILLAR	115,350	+0,50%	0,570	68.168,71
CHEVRON	108,23	+0,74%	0,79	205.096,14
CISCO SYSTEMS	31,440	+0,64%	0,200	157.201,70
COCA-COLA	45,57	+0,35%	0,16	194.369,91
DU PONT(EI) DE NMR	82,6600	+0,33%	0,2700	71.732,84
EXXON MOBIL	76,72	+0,51%	0,39	325.070,76
GENERAL ELECTRIC	24,4900	+0,78%	0,1900	212.033,10
GOLDMAN SACHS	222,47	-0,23%	-0,52	86.068,11
HOME DEPOT	149,6500	+0,94%	1,4000	176.468,99
IBM	143,74	+0,56%	0,80	133.957,10
INTEL CORP	34,6700	-0,12%	-0,0400	163.261,03
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	91,8900	+0,40%	0,3700	323.357,64
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	131,6800	-0,91%	-1,2100	353.429,08
MC DONALD'S CORP	158,8200	+0,26%	0,4100	128.643,66
MERCK AND CO. NEW	62,94	+0,37%	0,23	171.659,68
MICROSOFT	72,820	+0,18%	0,130	562.207,90
NIKE	53,90	+0,11%	0,06	70.724,78
PFIZER	33,3900	+0,48%	0,1600	198.581,98
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	92,510	+0,26%	0,240	235.901,82
TRAVELERS CIES	126,47	+0,72%	0,90	34.899,02
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	115,07	-0,20%	-0,23	91.970,70
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	194,36	-0,20%	-0,39	187.918,90
VERIZON COMMS	48,68	+0,77%	0,37	198.585,58
VISA	103,35	+0,13%	0,13	189.065,39
WAL-MART STORES	78,6300	+0,37%	0,2900	237.030,07
WALT DISNEY CO	102,4100	+0,88%	0,8900	158.129,62

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# NASDAQ

CLOSING PRICES AUGUST 28

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
<b>Most Advanced</b>		
Dimension Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 3.15	1.95 ▲ 162.50%
Adamas Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 19.93	5.70 ▲ 40.06%
XOMA Corporation	\$ 11.10	2.17 ▲ 24.30%
eHealth, Inc.	\$ 22.86	3.63 ▲ 18.88%
Fluidigm Corporation	\$ 4.22	0.55 ▲ 14.99%
Chiasma, Inc.	\$ 2.20	0.25 ▲ 12.82%
Kona Grill, Inc.	\$ 3.15	0.35 ▲ 12.50%
1-800 FLOWERS.COM, Inc.	\$ 8.95	0.95 ▲ 11.88%
KalVista Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 6.50	0.66 ▲ 11.30%
Golden Ocean Group Limited	\$ 9.83	0.93 ▲ 10.45%
Famous Dave's of America, Inc.	\$ 4.65	0.415 ▲ 9.80%
<b>Most Declined</b>		
Aceto Corporation	\$ 11.33	4.71 ▼ 29.36%
Intersections, Inc.	\$ 3.07	0.32 ▼ 9.44%
Ulta Beauty, Inc.	\$ 212.36	21.35 ▼ 9.14%
Sunrun Inc.	\$ 6.91	0.68 ▼ 8.96%
ObsEva SA	\$ 6.56	0.64 ▼ 8.89%
Arrowhead Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 2.58	0.23 ▼ 8.19%
Raven Industries, Inc.	\$ 27.35	2.40 ▼ 8.07%
Everspin Technologies, Inc.	\$ 15.17	1.29 ▼ 7.84%
Baozun Inc.	\$ 26.58	2.23 ▼ 7.74%
Array BioPharma Inc.	\$ 9.22	0.77 ▼ 7.71%
Endurance International Group Holdings, Inc.	\$ 7.30	0.50 ▼ 6.41%

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 €1.0825 ..... €0.0026  
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SPTIGOBSEN

# Pound struggling, the euro steady

## Ask the expert

Peter Loveday



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A FEW key factors have been driving pound, euro and US dollar exchange rates over the last month - with central bank monetary policy speculation and political uncertainty being the two main ones.

Over the past four weeks the GBP/EUR exchange rate has fallen from highs of €1.1432 to historic lows of €1.1035, GBP/USD peaked at \$1.3256 before drifting to \$1.3020 and EUR/USD advanced from \$1.1385 to highs of \$1.1900.

### What's been happening?

While the Federal Reserve piled pressure on the US dollar by dwelling on low US inflation (leading many to suspect that the central bank will refrain from increasing interest rates for a third time in 2017) the Bank of England (BoE) sent the Pound reeling with its own interest rate decision.

The BoE sent the pound to a 10-month low



### KEY FACTORS: Central bank monetary policy speculation and political uncertainty.

against the euro and drove GBP/USD from an 11-month high. While the bank was split 6-2 on whether or not to increase interest rates, its decision to slash UK growth forecasts for 2017 and 2018 was enough to dash hopes that borrowing costs would be increased soon and Sterling spiralled lower in the wake of the announcement.

A lack of progress in the UK's Brexit negotiations also limited the pound's appeal.

Meanwhile, the euro was supported by a

stream of upbeat economic releases from the Eurozone and comments from European Central Bank (ECB) President Mario Draghi.

Hints from the ECB chief that policymakers will begin discussing the tightening of stimulus in the autumn bolstered the common currency, keeping it elevated against the pound and helping it achieve its best levels against the US dollar since January 2015.

Over in the US, the dollar also had to contend with the fallout from yet another drama at

the White House. The sacking of Communications Director Anthony Scaramucci after just 10 days in office elevated concerns that all the upheaval will prevent President Donald Trump from making good on his promised tax and spending plans.

### What do you need to look out for?

If ecostats from the Eurozone keep impressing in the weeks ahead it will up the odds of the ECB opting to reign in its quantitative easing programme in September. Good news for the euro, but bad news for the GBP/EUR exchange rate.

The pound may also be pressured lower against the euro and US dollar if Brexit negotiations fail to move forward in a positive way.

UK data will be an additional driver of GBP exchange rate volatility, with less-than-impressive results weighing on BoE rate hike expectations and leaving Sterling struggling.

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## Industry warns government control electric costs or expect exodus

AEGE which represents major manufacturers who use electricity in Spain has complained that members who turnover €20 billion could be forced out of the country.

According to the recently appointed president of the association and president of Air Liquide, Teresa Rasero, electricity prices in Spain are so high that they are making major companies consider moving abroad to try to save costs and become more competitive.

The 27 member companies between them employ 66,000 workers directly and a further 120,000 indirectly and should even a few of them look to close their businesses within Spain, it could be very damaging for the economy.

In an interview with the *Expansión* financial paper, she explained that when compared to Germany, itself a major industrial economy, electricity costs in Spain are 30 per cent higher which means that business is potentially being lost.

While the government of Mariano Rajoy appears to favour Spanish



Photo Credit: Asturcon Shutterstock

### Heavy industrial plant in Asturias.

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electricity companies, even considering punitive taxes on those generating solar power, a plea to make the public utility companies reduce their charges is likely to fall on deaf ears.

AEGE speaks with some strength as its members control 83 major industrial plants across Spain producing a range of products from chemicals to metals and steel to gas and account for 11 per cent of total electrical consumption in the country.

Up until recently, the members were more worried about uninter-

rupted supply rather than simple cost but as the delivery of power has become more reliable, so prices have risen and unlike neighbours in the European Union, these companies receive very little state assistance.

There has been some improvement when the market opened up to allow an auction system whereby utility companies were encouraged to bid against each other to supply power on an annual basis but AEGE don't think that this is enough.

Ms Rasero believes that with the need to produce much greater volumes of environmentally friendly electricity the government needs to introduce a coherent and harmonised policy which will ensure green energy in sufficient amounts at prices which are competitive when compared to other EU states.

If this proves to be impossible, then she believes that Spanish heavy industry in particular will become less competitive and will have little option other than to move to areas where costs are lower and greater profits can be made.

## Bank sale controversy

THE European Commission has refused to release certain relevant documents to lawyers representing investors in Banco Popular who are trying to recover lost funds.

According to a document issued by the CEO of one of the arms of the Commission, the reasons given are that the release of the Deloitte's report on the Bank as well as reports from the European Central Bank and Spanish Single Board of Resolution could hurt purchaser Santander.

Part of the document states that the decision has been made in order 'not to harm Santander's commercial interests' and 'protect the financial stability of the eurozone.'

This decision will not please any of those affected by the sale or those who believe that the Commission should be transparent.



Photo Credit: Alimute Sijevicute Shutterstock

**VANILLA** - most children love ice cream.

## Prices rise for tasty treats

VANILLA which was introduced to the 'old world' by Spanish explorer Hernán Cortés in the 16th century is the second most expensive spice in the world after saffron.

The English name comes from the Spanish word vainilla meaning little pod (as its seeds are contained in a long black cylinder) it is used to add taste to a variety of desserts and ice creams, but the wholesale price has tripled to more than €500 per kilo in the last three years.

Although only native to Mexico, 80 per cent of the world's commercially grown vanilla comes from the African island of Madagascar and annual sales of €550 million contribute 5 per cent of GDP to what is one of the poorest countries in the world.

Don't be surprised therefore if you find that your tub of delicious vanilla ice cream has suddenly gone up in price next time you visit the supermarkets.

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## A simple oil contract nearly caused a war in Asia

WHAT appeared to be a simple contract between the Vietnamese government and giant oil Company Repsol has had a ripple effect bringing the communist state closer than ever to the USA.

Traditionally, Vietnam has seen China as a natural partner in Asia and over a period of years imported increasingly large amounts of goods from China whilst exporting what it manufactured to the USA.

The decision made by Vietnam in June to appoint the Spanish firm Repsol to undertake drilling in the South China Sea brought an immediate and unexpected response from China which threatened military action if the work continued.

Within a week, the contract was cancelled and the Vietnamese government was forced to pay millions of dollars to Repsol by way of compensation.

This also led to a senior Chinese official cancelling a planned visit to Hanoi whilst the staunch Vietnamese Communist Minister of Defence flew to Washington within a matter of weeks for what were described as friendly talks with his counterpart in America.

As the old guard in Vietnam age and begin to retire from power, it is clear that the country is moving towards a freer state with elements of capitalism creeping in, but those still in power are wily enough to only encourage the USA when China treads on their toes.

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# Are the kids of today ruined or not?

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT  
OTHERS THINK IT



THE unbelievable hype and media hysteria surrounding the A-level exams has now become utterly ridiculous.

Every television channel this year was completely saturated with students elevated to minor celebrity status merely for opening up envelopes, bursting into tears, hugging each other and jumping up and down.

The mind boggles. Even though the authorities vehemently denied tests had been dumbed down, they did admit this privileged, often ungrateful bunch, have had the new test results 'scored more generously.' Oh, that's ok then!

Apparently with the revised method of marking authorities didn't want to cause the students too much 'unnecessary stress.' You really couldn't make it up.

There are even websites advising parents on how to deal with the diddums who didn't do too well. Advice includes relaxing techniques, compris-

ing meditation and exercise. They are also told to give them, 'time to grieve' and teach them rhythmic breathing.

Parents are also informed they should be on the lookout for the signs of stress, ranging from sobbing through tests, ears turning red to losing eye lashes! And what is the result of all this almost beyond belief pandering of these 'future leaders?'

Gratitude? Don't make me laugh. Many of these sensitive little flowers actually see themselves as victims of oppression. One young madam actually insisted that because she suffered from anxiety and depression she should have been afforded special treatment and even allowed extended deadlines, because she was a 'slow reader.'

If you ever wondered where the left-wing PC brigades actually manifests, look no further. The National Union of Students recently wanted to ban clapping and cheering because it 'triggered anxiety.' The hard on activists of the University of East Anglia took offence at what they saw as 'cultural appropriation' because a local restaurant handed out sombreros. Sussex actually wanted to ban the use of 'he' and 'she'

as pronouns, because it made assumptions about identity. Another student body wanted to ban Jamaican stew and Tunisian rice because it created 'racist microaggressions.'

Wha'?

This leftie lot also requested warnings before being exposed to supposedly offensive books, such as *The Great Gatsby* (violence toward women) and even the *Merchant of Venice*, for its anti-semitic portrayal of Shylock.

No wonder they all lean toward Corbyn and his policies of simpering, cynical appeasement. Mark my words, this diversity happy bunch, with their self-centred utterly misplaced priorities will one day, if they find time to look up from their mobile phones, find their women clad in burkas, living under the yolk of sharia law and witnessing beheadings on the campus.

Never mind Jamaican stew. Let them see what happens in that scenario, when they try and protest that every TV show should have a transgender performer. 'Er what television!?' Heaven help them all.

Keep the faith

Love Leapy / leapylee2002@gmail.com



UK STUDENTS:  
Pampered lefties?

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## That's not a serious survey!

**Mike Senker**

*In my opinion*

*Views of a Grumpy Old Man*



I SPEND quite a bit of time watching TV and during some of the TV shows I watch are adverts. Recently I noticed one of them mentioned that, in a survey, 82 per cent of people surveyed thought this product was the best ever. Then I read the small print. It was 82 per cent of 67 people which is about 55 people.

Well, in my opinion, that's not a lot of people and seems to be a bit of an 'I can't be arsed survey.' It's like someone has tried to do a survey and couldn't get anyone to stop and answer their questions. Even Family Fortunes managed 100 people! If you want to sell me something and convince me it is a fantastic product by telling me how many people love it, I want to see serious numbers asked - not a few falling out the pub at closing time.

In other news this week Walnut Whips will no longer have walnuts on them and will be renamed. How can this happen? Well apparently walnuts have become too expensive so they are being removed from the top.

For us oldies that remember there actually used to be two walnuts - one on the top and one on the inside at the bottom. They nicked

the first one out a way back and now the top one's gone too and what's the new name going to be? Whip? What's the point of having it? Just stop making it. Now all it is is a bit of chocolate with a creamy filling. It seems daft to me. I used to enjoy me Walnut Whip and the whole art of eating it. The actual Walnut Whip will still be available, rumour has it, but might only be at Christmas at a much dearer price.

I am going away in a couple of weeks to see a doctor in the USA about my very rare neurological disorder I have. There will be about 40 of us meeting up and will be having dinner at a couple of restaurants on a couple of the nights that we will be there.

I've been there before and the place we are going to eat at is a massive gaff so I was surprised to get an email to tell me that I had till August 28 to decide what I wanted to eat on the two nights I'm going. It's not like there are 400 of us. It's four tables max and we are going to a place that does this for a living.

I actually don't know whether I want fish in a sauce or chicken in a sauce or meat in a sauce on September 26. But being the understanding person I am I told them what I would eat just not to be awkward, though I doubt I'll remember what I ordered by the time I get there. This is my 100th Grumpy column. Thanks for all your support and comments. Email me: [mikesenker@gmail.com](mailto:mikesenker@gmail.com).

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## LEGALLY SPEAKING

# Are you allowed to speed whilst overtaking?

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.



**SPEED LIMIT: Depends on the road.**

MANY people are unsure if they are permitted to exceed the speed limit whilst overtaking and the answer is both yes and no, but mostly no.

According to Article 51 of the Reglamento General de Circulacion, 'The maximum fixed speeds for conventional roads which do not pass through urban areas may only be exceeded by up to 20km per hour by saloon cars and motorcycles, whilst overtaking other vehicles travelling at lesser speeds.'

This clause first came about to allow cars to pass a slower moving vehicle in the shortest possible time, allowing an increase in speed to enable the move to be carried out quickly.

However, the rule does exist and does allow drivers to go over the speed limit, but only in certain circumstances.

First, the rule is only ever applied to cars and motorcycles. There are also limits to the type of road it is applied to. It does not permit the speed increase on motorways or on dual carriageways so faster moving roads are excluded straight away. The clause also does not apply in towns or cities. This just leaves the

'conventional' roads, such as single carriage-ways with no central reservation and those roads that are outside of towns.

The clause also does not apply if you see a speed limit sign as this limit overrules the clause. So for example, if you see a sign (which is called the R-301) that limits the maximum speed of a road to 70km p/h then the maximum speed is 70km and this exceptional speeding clause does not apply and you are not permitted to exceed the speed limit for any reason, including overtaking.

So the circumstances where this clause can be applied are few and far between in reality as the clause only applies on a conventional road where there is no overruling speed limit and where overtaking is allowed.

And remember, overtaking is one of the most dangerous manoeuvres we carry out. In the event of a head-on collision, our speed is added to that of the oncoming vehicle and so a crash where two vehicles are travelling at 90km per hour is the equivalent of crashing at 180km per hour when the two are combined.

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

## Events cause disruption

**Q.** An organisation close to us in the countryside holds seminars lasting 10 days or more on a frequent basis throughout the year, causing us much disruption. Our mains water is not available during these times as so much water is being consumed by this body of people, estimated at 2,500 visitors. We live on an unmade dirt track and are concerned by the volume and speed of the vehicles passing

at all times, day and night. These vehicles range from mini-buses to full size coaches, plus lorries delivering portable loos, air conditioning units, and daily deliveries of food supplies, plus hundreds of hire cars.

We would like to know if there is a law in Spain limiting the number of people to an event or a law restricting the number of events that can be held in a year.

*L G (Costa del Sol)*

**A.** No, there is no such law. However, we suppose that gatherings of this size surely must hold the necessary permits from your

**David Searl**

*You and the Law in Spain*



town hall. Further, if they affect your water supply, this is unacceptable. Why not start with a complaint to the town hall?

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

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# Match made in heaven

PERFECTLY positioned between the larger Costas, Almería's thriving coastline is the hidden gem of Spain's glorious Mediterranean coast. Beautiful homes, unbeatable value for money, and thriving, caring and welcoming expatriate communities. All combine to make the Costa de Almería the property choice of smart investors who dig a little deeper into southern Spain.

Here the property market is in rude health. Especially around the popular expat hotspots of Mojacar, Albox, Nijar and across the Almanzora Valley. Famed for its food, weather, natural beauty and history, Costa de Almería is an evolving landscape, packed with potential.

In Mojacar, the Costa boasts one of the top three fastest growing towns in Spain in terms of

house prices. In Nijar multimillion euro villas lend a star quality to the Cabo de Gata-Nijar park, one of the top natural attractions in Europe.

New developments are planned for the expat communities of Carboneras, Pulpi and Cuevas del Almanzora Valley. Places like Roquetas and Adra are investing in their beaches and beginning to compete with the Costa's northern hotspots for attention.

Sales are increasing, prices are shooting up. The national property market is in fine shape, supercharged by the tremendous recovery along the Mediterranean coast. With its glorious weather, unrivalled natural scenery and strong local communities, Almería is in pole position to attract new investment.

The good news seen across the Spanish prop-



**POTENTIAL: Almería has all the ingredients to become a property heaven.**

erty market is only amplified on the Costa de Almería, which is at the heart of major plans to redevelop the entire Mediterranean coast.

The quality of housing, size, views, and value for money are unrivalled. Mojacar, Nijar, and Albox regularly feature in international property television shows which showcase their stunning variety and beauty to the world.

Whether it's a beachside villa, rural finca, or stylish city apartment, then Almería has it all, and the community atmosphere to match. Undoubtedly one of the smartest places to invest in

Spain today, it's no wonder foreign buyers from the UK to Germany, and even outside Europe are showing interest in record numbers.

Almería also offers investors the deep local knowledge of an incredible variety of real estate agents and property experts. If you are thinking of buying or selling then you need to know how. Choose one or several of the property specialists featured in this supplement for the best advice on one of coastal Spain's fastest growing regions.

## Your Belgian estate agent at the coast!



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Tennis & paddle courts



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# Second homes reap fortune

TWO thirds of all the second, or holiday, homes in Spain are on the country's thriving Mediterranean coast.

Real estate portal Donpiso found that there are roughly six million second homes in the country, with around four million squeezed between the Costa del Sol and Costa Brava.

Researchers also put together a profile of the people most likely to buy a second home on Spain's sunny coast.

The typical buyers are couples aged between 35 and 49 with children and a combined income exceeding €3,500 per month.

The average price of the summer homes these buyers are interested in is €200,000. Murcia offers the cheapest deals, averaging €150,000, followed by Tarragona on €160,000, and Alicante at €200,000. The Costa del Sol is the priciest coastal region, with seaside second homes costing €350,000 on average.

Thousands of the homes are used by owners to reel in serious rental income during the busy summer months. Last year more than 20 million people spent time in Spain's six million holiday homes, paying almost €14 billion for the privilege.

# Wealthy buyers choose Spain

LUXURY house prices in Spain shot up by 7 per cent in the first half of 2017. They now average €6,500 per square metre according to a report from French company Barnes.

That is more than four times the price of the average Spanish property. The massive rise in the price of luxury is especially pronounced on the country's coastal expatriate hotspots.

The Mediterranean stretch from Cadiz to Barcelona is both a hive of luxury homes, and the place where mansions, villas, and grand estate sales are performing especially well.

The situation is mirrored on the Balearic Islands. Mallorca, which boasts four of Spain's top 10 most expensive properties, registered a 10 per cent increase.

Spain's twin cosmopolitan cities, Madrid and Barcelona, clocked up an increase of more than 10 per cent in luxury housing. In particularly dynamic neighbourhoods, rates of almost 20 per cent were registered.

Barnes International in Spain executive Emmanuel Virgoulay said that Spanish real estate is "experiencing its best moment since the economic crisis.

"With the market enjoying greater security, investors in luxury housing now trust Spain as a country with highly profitable assets," he said.

Sellers are also finding it easier to find wealthy buyers willing to splash out on luxury homes. In popular coastal areas, homes priced at more than €1 million are frequently selling in less than three months.

Barnes also found that French investors buy the fastest, usually within two months and visiting the property only two to four times. Brits take three months and five visits. The Chinese are the slowest, taking an average of nine months and 15 visits to make a decision.



**LUXURY:** Appetite growing for Spain's finer properties.

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**SUN-SOAKED:** Brits' Spanish dream stronger than ever.

# Brits smitten with Spain

PROPERTY portal Zoopla has clocked a 17 per cent increase in British searches for European homes in just the past six weeks. Spain is by far the most searched for destination, handily beating France and Portugal for the hearts of budding expatriates.

Zoopla's research revealed that 'pool,' 'beach' and 'sea view' were the most popular search terms among British householders seeking a place in the sun.

Those selling homes in Spain would do well to emphasise those characteristics in their online adverts.

Other popular phrases included 'villa,' 'furnished,' 'golf course,' 'garden' and 'garage.'

The big question is whether the August upsurge in interest will be converted into hard sales. Or if it's simply attributable to Brits coming back from holiday with a temporary conviction that they want to live in Spain permanently.

Putting the summer surge aside, British interest in Spain has risen consistently and considerably over the past year. Since the Brexit vote property portals have uniformly noted a rise in British views of Spanish properties online.

Many viewers are believed to be retired, or soon-to-be-retired, Brits, who are eager to secure a Spanish home before possible post-Brexit red tape comes into play.

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**Cortijo Grande**



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**DV1435 245,000€**

**Vera**



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**Mojácar Playa**



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**DV1426 595,000€**

**Alfaix**



Beautiful house + apartment & guest house. 237m2 living space on a plot of 4,500m2. Private pool & various patios & terraces. Viewing highly recommended!  
**DV1425 399,000€**

**Mojácar Playa**



Desirable 2 bed, 2 bath townhouse of 82m2 on a small complex near the beach. Furnished & well maintained. Allocated parking, community pool & gardens.  
**LV736 128,000€**

**Mojacar Playa**



Deceptively spacious 3 bed, 2 bath, linked villa of 63m2 on a plot of 116m2. Only a 2 minute walk from the beach. Large covered terrace. Well maintained.  
**LV738 179,000€**

**Mojácar Pueblo**



Charming 2 bed, 2 bath, village house of 86m2 on a plot of 100m2. 2 large terraces & fabulous sea views. Easy walk to the village centre. Regular bus service.  
**LV740 150,000€**

**Mojacar**



4 bed, 3 bath, brand new townhouse of 145m2 in a semi-rural complex of 4. Easy driving distance to towns and beaches.  
**SDV643 155,000€**

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Top quality 3 bed, 2 bath, top floor apartment of 100m2 with sea views. Super urbanisation with community pool & gardens. Walking distance to the sea.  
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Attractive 1 bed, 1 bath, penthouse of 60m2 with sea & mountain views. South-facing with sunny terraces. A/C. 2 store-rooms & underground parking.  
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# Spanish Property Choice Your family run agent

## PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

Ref: B1115 Vera 169,950€



This is a magnificent, detached villa on a small complex with very large basement, situated in the prestigious area of Cabuzana which is just a few minutes drive from the main town and the beach/coast and all amenities such as bars, restaurants, shops and supermarkets. The complex has a wonderful communal pool as well as parking. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lovely views.  
Communal fees: €52.50 per month  
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REF: A849 NEW LISTING



**Duplex/Townhouse FOR SALE**  
in Palomares  
Almeria — **Coastal**

3 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms  
Build: 130 m<sup>2</sup>

REF: B1034 FEATURED PROPERTY



**Villa FOR SALE**  
in Sierra Cabrera  
Almeria — **Coastal**

3 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms  
Build: 94 m<sup>2</sup> / Plot: 152 m<sup>2</sup>  
Communal Pool

REF: B1005 A HOME WITH A VIEW



Ref: B1035 Villaricos 69,500€  
1 bed, 1 bath Apartment EPC FE



Ref: B1114 Vera 375,000€  
5 bed, 3 bath Villa. EPC E



Ref: B1063 Vera 729,000€  
5 bed, 5 bath Luxury Villa EPC D



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# Sun Sea and Selling Houses

Due to the huge success of series 1 of Sun Sea and Selling Houses, Channel 4 featuring the Garner family of SPC, they are now filming series 2, which will consist of 25 x 1hr episodes to be aired early 2018. Are you looking for a dream home in Spain? Would you like to film with them? Yes! Call 950615388 now.



## MANAGERS CHOICE

**Ref:A833 ZURGENA 189,995€**



This lovely detached 3 bed, 3 bath villa, is accessed via its own private driveway that leads down to the double car wooden car ports and adjacent to this area there is a gateway which leads you into the well planted borders of the main leisure terraces of the property, which also hosts a large Roman end family swimming pool. Along with all of these benefits there is another garden area to the opposite side of the property with further storage sheds and staircase that leads up to the roof solarium. The open plan kitchen has a wide range of wall and base units and a separate utility to the rear. 25 mins to the beach

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## Paying for your child's tuition fees? Learn how to save money on your currency transfers

Putting your child through higher education can be seriously costly, with tuition fees and living costs typically amounting to tens of thousands of pounds in just a few years.

If you're living abroad but transferring money back to the UK to fund your child's time in University, the process could be made costlier still if you're using your bank to manage the currency transfers.

### A new school of thought

When it comes to transferring money overseas, moving your funds through your bank seems like the logical choice on paper. But in reality, what should be a quick and simple task can end up taking considerably more time than it should.

If you're looking for a simpler and speedier alternative, consider the benefits attached to using a leading currency broker. Whether you need to make regular, smaller currency transfers or have a large lump sum to transfer, currency experts can help you save time and money. They can also help you understand the volatility of the currency market and teach you how to time your currency transfers effectively.

For example, while the EUR/GBP exchange rate initially strengthened considerably in the wake of the UK's vote to leave the EU in 2016, the pairing has experienced significant

fluctuations ever since. This exchange rate movement can make planning your transfers a bit of a pain. With complex Brexit negotiations due to extend for the next two years, the EUR/GBP exchange rate will remain unstable, so it's important to be prepared for sudden shifts.

### Do your sums

One major advantage to using a currency specialist like Currencies Direct is that they don't charge transfer fees (unlike many banks) ensuring that the money you're sending to the UK is not reduced by unnecessary costs. Transfer fees can quickly add up if you make frequent transfers, so you could end up saving hundreds of euros a year.

By using a currency broker you can also ensure that you're getting the most competitive exchange rate for your transfer, meaning you'll get more for your money.

### Revise your options

Using a currency specialist also takes a lot of hassle out of the transfer

process, as you can set up payments 24/7 from the comfort of your own home and arrange for them to be made automatically on pre-set dates.

You can also make instant or 'spot' transfers whenever you need to, so you don't need to wait to move the money if your child needs some emergency funds.

Another option you might want to look into is a forward contract, which gives you the ability to fix an exchange rate for up to two years in advance of making a transfer – protecting your funds from negative market movements.

By doing a bit of research into the different transfer options available you can eliminate the hassle and get more from your currency transfers. Find the services that suit your needs and you'll quickly discover how much you can save.

At Currencies Direct, we've helped over 210,000 customers save on their currency transfers since 1996. Just pop into your local Currencies Direct branch or give us a call to find out more about how you can save money on your currency transfers.

### Get in touch - Costa de Almería

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# Evil strikes at the heart of Barcelona - and Spain

**Nora Johnson**

*Breaking Views*

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



**MOURNING: A t-shirt with black ribbon on Las Ramblas, two days after the attack.**

AT a time when the UK media are going into overdrive with yet more speculation about who did or did not say what about Brexit, and what it may or may not mean, we have to take our hats off to the Spanish police for the speed and decisiveness of their actions in Barcelona following, just this year alone, terrorist attacks in London, Manchester, Stockholm and Paris.

But Spain's geography and history make the terrorist outrage in Barcelona not entirely unexpected. The surprise might be that Spain has mainly escaped the recent activities of Islamic extremists, its last major

terrorist attack the 2004 Madrid bombing.

No European country is closer to North Africa than Spain. Compared with Libya, Morocco and Algeria may be relatively stable but they also contain many unemployed, disaffected young men, vulnerable to an extremist ideology that, while condemning Western decadence, leaves open the economic attraction of life in Europe.

Hence thousands of migrants try to enter Spain's North African territories, Ceuta and Melilla, to seek asylum. And later - like the Barcelona massacre mastermind, a convicted Moroccan imam - use human rights to avoid deportation.

Terrorism won't go away anytime soon. So what can we do? Try to minimise the risk. We need to alter our attitudes and our way of life. We need

secure borders and some straight talking by our political leaders who should drop all the PC nonsense, tell it like it is and get on with protecting not only our towns, cities and citizens, but our valued, civilised western standards.

It's time to allow the security services to compel phone companies and internet service providers to record and hold pro tem all conversations so they can be accessed at any time for 'persons of interest.'

On a more positive note, thanks to all who have purchased my crime thrillers (all profits to Costa del Sol Cudeca cancer charity). Happy reading!

*Nora Johnson's psychological crime thrillers 'The Girl in the Red Dress,' 'No Way Back,' 'Landscape of Lies,' 'Retribution,' 'Soul Stealer,' 'The De Clerambault Code' (www.nora-johnson.net) available from Amazon. Profits to Cudeca.*

## THURSDAY THOUGHTS

By Angus Sylvie

### Supermarket trolleys

THE BEATLES were miffed with Sir Walter Raleigh in one of the tracks on the White Album. I know how they feel. Not about Sir Walter, but for me it's Sylvan Goldman who has got me annoyed, but more of him later.

Isn't it funny how we often manage to find new ways of making ourselves look silly in the most innocuous of places. The supermarket for example. I firmly believe that there is a workshop somewhere specialising in making trolleys with at least one wheel that refuses to work. The number of times I've rammed the ankles of other, poor unsuspecting, shoppers with a trolley that has the accuracy of a guided missile but the social awareness of a two-year-old having a tantrum, are embarrassingly high.

However, last week was the final straw and the one that made me curse Sylvan Goodman. Sylvan was the man who invented the shopping trolley back in 1937 so that shoppers in his Humpty Dumpty store could load up and buy more. Maybe things were quieter then but today, because of him, I'm nursing a bruised ego and a very sore toe!

Unfortunately, I had one of those 'I'll go anyway you want, except forwards' trolleys and as a result, after the thing veered suddenly left, I demolished a beautifully constructed pyramidal display of Rice Krispies. Needless to say, the boxes went Snap, Crackling and Popping to the floor, I was left red faced and in the melee, I was run over by my trolley.

The injuries weren't too bad, but it's another example of finding new ways of making yourself look rather silly. Take my advice, when you need to shop next time - send someone else to the supermarket, or wear protective clothing!

*Readers interested in submitting articles for this guest column should send articles of around 300 words on topics felt to be of interest to the cosmopolitan EWN readership to [editorial@euroweeklynews.com](mailto:editorial@euroweeklynews.com).*

## A beach adventure needs proper planning and packing!

**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.

JUST how long would it take you to get prepared to go the beach? Back in the 1970's you searched for a towel and shut the door behind you. Nothing else was required.

Those good old days are well gone. Truly forgotten. These modern times require that no part of your body, including your feet can touch the dangerous sands on your pilgrimage to the beach. You will need special shoes so your feet don't get too hot. Furthermore, you require a large umbrella to keep that sun off you and anyone else sitting within 10 metres of you.

Then proper beach chairs, light, sturdy and can hold your weight (and Grandma's too). Huge blow up fearsome animals (purchased from the Chinese shops) for the beach are a must, crocodiles, ducks, dinosaurs good for on-

ly one trip anywhere before they die a quick death. Long sleeve vests so that damn errant and not to be trusted sun will not burn you to a crisp and enough sun lotions of varying screen factors that you would need a small wagon to pull them unto the sands.

Sunglasses in various fluorescent colours purchased directly from the Looky Looky men will do nicely to give you a headache within an hour so you can properly retire to the nearest bar and blow the froth off a few cold ones.

Mission accomplished until the wife finally locates you and grabs you by the ear to return to 'family time.' Just while you were explaining to the bar man that Tottenham would rise again this year and Man U would fall.

Of course, all this packing paraphernalia depends on the number of soldiers in your army and the children's friends and how many are marching with them. Hiring a small van wouldn't be out of the question or break beach protocol either. Buckets and shovels are a must. Enough to dig a hole half way to China or at



**INFLATABLES: No beach trip is complete without one.**

least break the leg of some late night lovers taking a stroll along the front in the dark hours.

It is all performed in the ancient and grand tradition of going to the beach in a meaningful and deliberate way. Yet, it is but second rate until the Spanish families from Albox show up and park their vans directly on the sands. They will be loaded with every imaginable consumable food product and few other complements other than chairs and a table. In any case they

will make more than an ostentatious visit and in a style to be admired by any moving army.

Beach days are a must if you've come from afar to enjoy the sands. If you live here you don't go. It's a matter of civic pride and knowing you won't find a place to park anyway.

No, the days of going to the beach with just a towel are long gone. The world has evolved into gadgets and they all must be attended and used.

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THURSDAY	BBC one	BBC TWO	itv	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky sports main event
31 AUGUST	7:00pm BBC News at Six	6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is	7:30pm ITV Evening News	6:00pm Come Dine with Me	6:00pm 5 News at 5	1:00pm Deadline Day
	7:30pm BBC London News	7:00pm Eggheads	8:00pm Emmerdale	6:30pm Streetmate	6:30pm Neighbours	2:00pm Deadline Day
	8:00pm The One Show	7:30pm Royal Recipes	8:30pm Tonight	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:00pm Home and Away	3:00pm Deadline Day
	8:30pm EastEnders	8:00pm Celebrity Antiques Road Trip	9:00pm Emmerdale	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	4:00pm Deadline Day
	9:00pm Who Do You Think You Are?	9:00pm The Big Family Cooking Showdown	9:30pm James Martin's French Adventure	8:00pm Channel 4 News	8:00pm All New Traffic Cops	5:00pm Deadline Day
	10:00pm Ambulance	10:00pm Top of the Lake	10:00pm The Detectives	9:00pm Lego Masters	9:00pm Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords	6:00pm Deadline Day
	11:00pm BBC News at Ten	11:00pm The Premier League Show	11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	10:00pm Educating Greater Manchester	10:00pm Gypsy Kids: Our Secret World	7:00pm Deadline Day
	11:30pm BBC London News	11:30pm Newsnight	11:30pm ITV News London	11:00pm The Great British Bake Off	11:00pm Celeb Trolls: We're Coming to Get You	8:00pm Deadline Day
	11:45pm Football Focus	12:15am Mountain	11:40pm Diana	11:50pm Celebrity Island with Bear Grylls	12:00am Celebity Botched Up Bodies	9:00pm Live Super League
	12:15am The Week the Landlords Moved in		12:40am Bear Grylls: Mission Survive	12:55am 24 Hours in A and E		11:00pm Sky Sports News at Ten
					12:00am Deadline Day	
FRIDAY 1 SEPTEMBER	6:15pm Pointless	6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is	5:00pm Tipping Point	6:00pm Come Dine with Me	6:30pm Neighbours	9:30am Paddock Uncut: Italy
	7:00pm BBC News at Six	7:00pm Eggheads	6:00pm Cash Trapped	6:30pm Streetmate	7:00pm Home and Away	9:45am Live Italian GP: Practice
	7:30pm BBC London News	7:30pm Royal Recipes	7:00pm ITV News London	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	12:00pm Sky Sports Now
	8:00pm The One Show	8:00pm Celebrity Antiques Road Trip	7:15pm ITV Evening News	7:30pm Hollyoaks	8:00pm Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh	1:00pm Sky Sports Today
	8:30pm A Question of Sport	9:00pm Mastermind	7:45pm Emmerdale	8:00pm Channel 4 News	9:00pm Celebrity Five Go	2:00pm Sky Sports Today
	9:00pm EastEnders	9:30pm Only Connect	8:15pm World Cup Live	9:00pm The Crystal Maze	10:00pm Motorhoming	3:00pm Live European Tour Golf
	9:30pm Celebrity MasterChef	10:00pm Gardeners' World	11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	10:00pm 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown	11:00pm Cruising with Jane McDonald	6:00pm SKY Sports News
	11:00pm BBC News at Ten	11:00pm QI	11:30pm ITV News London	11:00pm Naked Attraction	11:00pm The Life and Death of Judy Garland	7:00pm SKY Sports News
	11:25pm BBC London News	11:30pm Newsnight	11:40pm World Cup Qualifier Highlights	12:05am Married to a Celebrity: The Survival Guide	12:00am Inside Balmoral	8:00pm Football
	11:35pm Comedy Playhouse	12:05am Dragons' Den	12:45am Tipping Point			11:00pm Sky Sports News at Ten
12:05am Room 101					12:00am Through the Night	
SATURDAY 2 SEPTEMBER	7:20pm Regional News	5:15pm Only Connect	2:30pm Midsomer Murders	3:20pm Four in a Bed	6:00pm The Nightmare Neighbour	8:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
	7:23pm Weather	5:45pm Gardeners' World	4:30pm Mamma Mia!	3:55pm Four in a Bed	7:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	9:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
	7:25pm Len Goodman's Partners in Rhyme	6:45pm The Big Family Cooking Showdown	6:30pm Local News and Weather	4:25pm Four in a Bed	7:55pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	10:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
	8:00pm Pointless	7:45pm BBC Proms Extra	6:45pm ITV News and Weather	5:00pm A Place in the Sun	8:55pm 5 News	11:00am Live T20 Blast Finals Day
	8:50pm Casualty	8:25pm Venice Biennale	7:00pm The Family Chase	6:00pm Channel 4 News	9:00pm Supernatural Nazis	3:00pm Live T20 Blast Finals Day
	10:00pm The Full Monty	9:00pm Iolo's Great Welsh Parks	8:00pm Cannonball!	6:30pm Formula 1	10:00pm Super Scary Plane Landings	7:00pm Live T20 Blast Finals Day
	11:25pm BBC News	9:30pm Dad's Army	9:00pm The X Factor	8:00pm Rome's Sunken Secrets	11:00pm Secret Life of the Long Haul Flight	11:00pm Info not Available
	11:43pm Weather	10:00pm Whitney "Can I be Me"	10:30pm The Jonathan Ross Show	9:00pm Great Canal Journeys	12:30am Football on 5	1:00am Football
	11:45pm Mrs. Brown's Boys	11:40pm Hunkey Dory	11:30pm ITV News and Weather	10:00pm A Good Day to Die Hard X2		
	12:15am Live at the Apollo	1:25am I'm So Excited!	11:45pm Die Another Day	11:50pm Die Another Day		
		2:15am Jackpot247	2:10am Hollyoaks Omnibus			
SUNDAY 3 SEPTEMBER	7:35pm BBC News	1:00pm A Cook Abroad	4:00pm The X Factor	1:55pm The Simpsons	3:05pm Traffic Cops	11:00am Sports Sunday
	7:50pm Regional News	2:00pm Boxing	5:30pm Victoria	2:20pm Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days	4:05pm Traffic Cops	12:00pm Sports Sunday
	7:55pm Weather	4:00pm Equestrian	6:35pm Local News and Weather	4:15pm The Crystal Maze	5:00pm Traffic Cops	12:30pm Live Italian GP: Track Parade
	8:00pm Countryfile	6:00pm Flog It!	6:40pm ITV News and Weather	5:10pm The Great British Bake Off	6:00pm Traffic Cops	1:00pm Live Italian GP: Pit Lane Live
	9:00pm Fake or Fortune?	7:00pm Wild Tales From the Village	7:00pm Tipping Point	6:25pm Channel 4 News	7:00pm Traffic Cops	1:30pm Live Italian GP: Race
	10:00pm Strike - The Cuckoo's Calling	8:00pm Tribes, Predators and Me	8:00pm Coronation Street	6:45pm Formula 1	8:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	4:30pm Live GAA Hurling Final
	11:00pm BBC News	9:00pm Dragons' Den	9:00pm The X Factor	9:00pm From Russia to Iran: Crossing the Wild Frontier	9:00pm Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights	6:30pm Sports Sunday
	11:20pm Regional News	10:00pm Astronauts: Do You Have What it Takes?	10:00pm Victoria	10:00pm Exodus: Gods and Kings	9:55pm 5 News	7:00pm Live PGA Tour Golf
	11:25pm Weather	11:00pm Ill Behaviour	11:05pm ITV News and Weather	12:50am Safe House	10:00pm Fifty Shades of Grey	12:00am Through the Night
	11:30pm New Tricks	12:00am Let Me in	11:20pm Judge Rinder's Crime Stories		12:25am My Secret Sex Fantasy	
12:30am Keeping Rosy		12:25am Five Gold Rings				
MONDAY 4 SEPTEMBER	7:30pm Regional News	6:15pm Flog It!	4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal	5:00pm A Place in the Sun	6:30pm Neighbours	11:00am Premier League Daily
	8:00pm The One Show	7:00pm Richard Osman's House of Games	5:00pm Tipping Point	6:00pm Come Dine with Me	7:00pm Home and Away	12:00pm Sky Sports Now
	8:30pm Inside Out	7:30pm Eggheads	6:00pm The Chase	6:30pm Streetmate	7:30pm 5 News	1:00pm Sky Sports Today
	9:00pm EastEnders	8:00pm Antiques Road Trip	7:00pm Local News and Weather	7:00pm The Simpsons	8:00pm Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud 3	2:00pm Sky Sports Today
	9:30pm Would I Lie to You?	9:00pm University Challenge	7:15pm ITV Evening News	7:30pm Hollyoaks	9:00pm All New Traffic Cops	3:00pm Sky Sports Today
	10:00pm Panorama	9:30pm Nadiya's British Food	7:45pm Emmerdale	8:00pm Channel 4 News	10:00pm The Murder of Tia Sharp: My Daughter	4:00pm Sky Sports Today
	11:00pm BBC News	10:00pm Adventure	8:15pm World Cup Live	9:00pm Jamie's Quick and Easy Food	11:30pm Murdered by My Fiance	5:00pm Sky Sports Today
	11:30pm Regional News	11:00pm Diana and I	11:00pm ITV News and Weather	9:30pm Superfoods: The Real Story	12:30am Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords	5:30pm Live PGA Tour Golf
	11:40pm Weather	11:30pm Newsnight	11:40pm World Cup Qualifier Highlights	10:00pm 999: What's Your Emergency?		8:00pm Football
	11:45pm Imagine...	12:10am Weather	12:40am The Jonathan Ross Show	11:00pm White Kid, Brown Kid		11:00pm Live PGA Tour Golf
12:50am Live at the Apollo			12:05am Trump's War on the Border		12:00am Through the Night	
TUESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER	7:00pm BBC News	6:15pm Flog It!	5:00pm Tipping Point	6:00pm Come Dine with Me	6:00pm 5 News	12:00pm Sky Sports Now
	7:30pm Regional News	7:00pm Richard Osman's House of Games	6:00pm The Chase	6:30pm Streetmate	6:30pm Neighbours	1:00pm Sky Sports Today
	8:00pm The One Show	7:30pm Eggheads	7:00pm Local News and Weather	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:00pm Home and Away	2:00pm Sky Sports Today
	8:30pm EastEnders	8:00pm Antiques Road Trip	7:30pm ITV Evening News	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:30pm 5 News	3:00pm Sky Sports Today
	9:00pm Holby City	9:00pm Saving Lives at Sea	8:00pm Emmerdale	8:00pm Channel 4 News	8:00pm Britain's Greatest Bridges	4:00pm Sky Sports Today
	10:00pm Doctor Foster	10:00pm The 21st Century Race for Space	8:30pm Save Money	9:00pm The Great British Bake Off	9:00pm The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies	5:00pm Sky Sports Today
	11:00pm BBC News	11:00pm Quacks	10:00pm Lisa Riley's Baggy Body Club	10:15pm Celebrity Island with Bear Grylls	10:00pm Inside Balmoral	6:00pm SKY Sports News
	11:30pm Regional News	11:30pm Newsnight	11:00pm ITV News	11:20pm Married to a Celebrity: The Survival Guide	11:00pm Hotel Inspector: Checking in, Checking Out	7:00pm SKY Sports News
	11:40pm Weather	12:10am Weather	11:40pm Manchester: 100 Days After the Attack	12:20am Naked Attraction	12:00am Cruising with Jane McDonald	8:00pm Football
	11:45pm Stacey Dooley Investigates		12:40am Lethal Weapon			11:00pm Info not Available
12:35am Ambulance					1:00am Through the Night	
WEDNESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER	6:15pm Pointless	4:45pm Great British Railway Journeys	5:00pm Tipping Point	4:00pm Cheap Cheap Cheap	3:15pm NCIS	1:00pm Sky Sports Today
	7:00pm BBC News	5:15pm Planet Earth II	6:00pm The Chase	5:00pm A Place in the Sun	4:15pm Rosamunde Pilcher: The Unknown Heart	2:00pm Sky Sports Today
	7:30pm Regional News	6:15pm Flog It!	7:00pm Local News and Weather	6:00pm Come Dine with Me	6:00pm 5 News	3:00pm Sky Sports Today
	8:00pm The One Show	7:00pm Richard Osman's House of Games	7:30pm ITV Evening News	6:30pm Streetmate	6:30pm Neighbours	4:00pm Sky Sports Today
	8:30pm Fake Britain	7:30pm Eggheads	8:00pm Emmerdale	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:00pm Home and Away	5:00pm Sky Sports Today
	9:00pm Celebrity MasterChef	8:00pm This Farming Life	8:30pm Coronation Street	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:30pm 5 News	6:00pm SKY Sports News
	10:00pm DIY SOS The Big Build	9:00pm World's Busiest Cities	9:00pm Love Your Home and Garden	8:00pm Channel 4 News	8:00pm Starting Up Starting Over	7:00pm SKY Sports News
	11:00pm BBC News	10:00pm Mountain	10:00pm Long Lost Family	9:00pm Location, Location, Location	8:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors	8:00pm Sky Sports Tonight
	11:30pm Regional News	11:00pm QI	11:00pm ITV News	10:00pm Grand Designs	9:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	9:00pm Sky Sports Tonight
	11:40pm Weather	11:30pm Newsnight	11:40pm The Detectives	11:00pm Back	10:00pm Nightmare New Builds	10:00pm Sky Sports Tonight
11:45pm A Question of Sport	12:10am Weather	12:40am British Touring Car Championship Highlights	11:35pm 999: What's Your Emergency?	12:00am Fifty Shades of Grey	11:00pm Sky Sports News at Ten	
12:15am Live From the BBC			12:35am Educating Greater Manchester		12:00am Through the Night	

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.

Advertising feature

# What will the next round of Brexit talks mean for the Pound?

AFTER a break for the summer, negotiating teams from the EU and UK will meet again on August 28 for the third round of Brexit talks.

## Convergence and divergence in second round of talks

At the close of the second round of talks in mid-July, both Michel Barnier and David Davis acknowledged the need to provide certainty for EU citizens in the UK and UK citizens in the EU.

They stated that this will be a priority for the next round of talks.

Shortly afterwards, the parties issued a joint technical note, showing a comparison between the EU and UK posi-

tions on citizens' rights, which will be used to prioritise future discussions.

Both parties claimed that areas of common ground had been identified. But disagreements remain on points such as how to guarantee rights, what rights future family members should receive and voting rights.

It appears that further work is also required on financial settlement, Ireland and the future role of the European Court of Justice.

The timetable for negotiations means that 'sufficient progress' must be made in these areas before discussions about the future relationship, including a new

trade deal, can begin.

## Brexit uncertainty puts pressure on the Pound

During the second round of talks, the continuing uncertainty around the negotiations, combined with apparent divisions within the UK government, had a dampening effect on the Pound.

Sterling came under further pressure at the conclusion of talks, amid speculation that British ministers might walk away without a deal.

It is possible there could be more volatility to come as talks resume at the end of August.

While the currency markets are keen

for certainty, Barnier and Davis have stated that incremental progress shouldn't be expected from every round of the talks.

But whatever happens next, HiFX has a number of options that could help to give you financial peace of mind during periods of potential currency fluctuations.

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# YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

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## Summer is a bummer

WHEN I arrived here 16 years ago, Calpe was a peaceful town where city dwellers could escape the noise and bustle. It was a place suited to walkers, climbers, cyclists and those looking for a peaceful holiday with sun, sand, sea and a wonderful variety of bars and restaurants. A place where one could walk the streets safely.

Now it is full of hotels with their own bars and restaurants, forcing many of the original establishments to close. There is the added congestion of traffic and people, and the tremendous noise of coaches at all hours of day and night with their engines running whilst stationary. Not to mention visitors who insist on getting drunk and those who wander around the town in bikinis.

Flats have to be licensed in order to let them, so having family and friends to visit is increasingly expensive. The heart of the town has been destroyed!

Those of us who live here dread the summer. There are plenty of areas such

### AP-7 took its toll

**BEWARE** of using your payment card on the AP-7 motorway!

**My card was declined three times in the 'fast pass' lane. The green light came on each time, but the barrier did not raise so I had to go to the attendant. My card was handed over and the barrier opened, and I had an identical experience the next day.**

**When I got home I checked my bank account and discovered I had been charged eight times for going through the toll gate instead of two.**

**How I will I ever get that money back? Never, I presume. I later bought the Bip and Drive electronic payment system for €20 and have never had a problem since.**

*T Kirby, Fuengirola*



as Benidorm, Magaluf and Torremolinos where the lager louts, all day English breakfast-eaters and those who think it is cool to wander the streets and supermarkets half naked are welcome. Calpe does not want them!

*Laraine, Calpe*

### Very fishy

I HAVE just been reading your story on the condition of water in the Rio Segura (*EWN Costa Blanca South Issue 1676*). I would just like to add that I was recently out and about looking for places to fish.

I was on the canal that runs alongside the Rio Segura at Guardamar, opposite the Marina. The number of dead fish I came across was staggering, and the stench was awful.

The worst area was where the footbridge crosses the canal towards the Rio Segura, where it looks like a small dam has been installed to stop rubbish washing into the sea. Something doesn't seem right to me.

*Steven Soanes, Alicante*

### HAVE YOUR SAY

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

Readers who have missed correspondence can see all letters - which can be edited before publication - posted on: [www.euroweeklynews.com](http://www.euroweeklynews.com).

## Tiger mosquitoes at home in Spain

IT is about time the government took it seriously about mosquitos.. They should start using crop spraying planes to eradicate the pests, so we can enjoy lovely Spain.

Des

### Malaga police launch mistreated animals operation

CAN they also have a look at the treatment of the donkeys in Mijas Pueblo? I have seen some very disturbing videos of a donkey on the ground being kicked in the head and have seen for myself overweight adults riding the donkeys in very, very hot weather and not seeming to care about the way they are suffering. I know of people who are not visiting Mijas Pueblo any more because of the cruel treatment of the donkeys.

*Chris Jopp*

### Extract a few £30,000 fines and set up rescue facilities.

CAN they also fine bullfighters for the torture they inflict on bulls ???

*Wyn*

### Comments from EWN online

#### Almeria man faces animal abuse charges

ANOTHER one my god is there no end what has happened to the poor dogs. He should be staked out in the hot sun with no water or facilities and see how he fares... the courts do not take this seriously

*Bev Mcphail Eldred*

#### Immigrant boats homing in on the Costa Blanca

PUMP up the boats and tow them back.

Or do the same as Hungary, put them into a fenced area which they cannot leave until their identity and paperwork are settled.

Nobody suddenly wants to enter Hungary...

*Peter Sauer*

#### King Felipe joins anti-terror march

HE is a wonderful role model for all monarchs! As is our dear Queen Elizabeth but in a slightly different way!

*Eithne Kneale*

WELL done Felipe, a monarch who cares.

*Jim McClure*

#### Costa Blanca illegal drinks sellers owe thousands

FINE the people who buy the stuff. In Italy for example if you can't produce a receipt for the goods you have bought, then you can be fined. This practice forces shopkeepers and the like, to issue you with a receipt thus making them declare their sales and pay tax

*Denise McNamara*

#### Brit couple devastated over home demolition

HOPE they get help from European Court Of Human Rights, this needs sorting out, these Demolition Orders are disgusting, not human.

*Vera Green*

### Nude feud

FIRSTLY I must commend Alicante Council for putting up beach signs for a nudist beach near El Altet to let people know that the beach is 'clothing optional,' but wouldn't it be a good idea to have these signs at all nudist beaches in the area, so as to advertise these to the people who wish to use or avoid them? Unfortunately this will not extend to our local nudist beach at Calla Mosca as this might add support to the battle to protect the area!

*TJ Sawkins, Orihuela Costa*

### Stupid tax

RE your story on the front page of *EWN Costa Blanca North Issue 1677*, why do the authorities fine the illegal street sellers/looky-looky men?

Wouldn't it be simpler to fine the people who purchase drinks and items from them? They at least have the means to pay.

Make them cough up on-the-spot fines!

*Rose Marie Hughes  
La Forge de Reynes, France*

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La Perla

174,450€ | cla 6821



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3 bed 2 bath villa  
Limaria

70,000€ | cla 6968



Exclusive to Calida Homes

2 bed 1 bath  
village house La Cinta

149,000€ | cla 7002



**SOLD AUGUST IN 2 DAYS**

3 bed 2 bath villa  
Los Llanos

189,000€ | cla 6725



**SOLD JULY**

3 bed 2 bath villa  
Los Huevanillas

194,950€ | cla 7026



Exclusive to Calida Homes

3 bed 2 bath villa  
Los Torres

185,000€ | cla 7024



Exclusive to Calida Homes

4 bed 3 bath villa  
El Rincon

193,950€ | cla 697



**SOLD AUGUST IN 3 DAYS**

3 bed 2 bath villa  
Los Higuerales

125,000€ | cla 7011



**SOLD AUGUST IN 10 DAYS**

3 bed 2 bath villa  
Cantoria

165,000€ | cla 7000



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3 bed 2 bath villa  
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179,000€ | cla 7010



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## Women's wit

‘If the stable gate is closed, climb the fence.’  
*Julie Krone, retired jockey*

## Famous quote

‘Strength does not come from winning. Your struggles develop your strengths. When you go through hardships and decide not to surrender, that is strength.’

*Arnold Schwarzenegger - Actor, bodybuilder, politician, environmental campaigner*



## World of English

‘A rule of grammar: double negatives are a no-no.’

## MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



**' I CAN'T WAIT FOR STRICTLY TO START - HE HATES EVERYTHING AND ANYONE INCLUDING BREXIT, BAKE OFF, TRUMP AND MARMITE! '**

# Spanish annual fiestas

**TOP 5**

### 1. El Entierro de la Sardina, Murcia

A centuries-old tradition that may appear odd to outsiders, literally translating as ‘the burial of the sardine.’ Some believe it to have been created by students who wanted the Semana Santa fiestas to go on for longer but others claim it dates back to Carlos III having ordered fish to celebrate the end of the festival period. Legend says the heat made the fish go off and the foul stench caused them to be buried. The grand finale sees a giant paper mache sardine set alight.

### 2. Holi Run, Madrid

A Spanish take on the Hindi festival, participants run through the street whilst being showered in coloured powder. The festival combines sport, fun, happiness, music and a plenty of colour. A five-kilometre race with no time limit where thousands are covered from head to toe with different coloured powder every kilometre.

There are over 40 variants of this event throughout Spain but the Madrid version is the original and attracts the greatest numbers. The festivities continue all day until the climax sees a host of colours fill the sky.

### 3. San Fermín and the Running of the Bulls, Pamplona, Navarre

Quite possibly the most world-renowned fiesta in Spain, bulls are let loose in the streets



**The Burial of the Sardine.**

chasing men dressed in traditional white and red. Celebrations take place between July 6 and 14 each year and begin early on with participants lining the streets, enjoying sangria and various tapas. The deadly beasts are not to be trifled with and every year there are injuries and even fatalities as people are gored and trampled.

The origin comes from when the cattle need-

ed to be transferred from the fields to the bullring to be killed by a matador that afternoon, a practice which Pamplona still maintains to this day.

### 4. Fiesta de San Juan, Spanish coastal towns

Not all Spanish may know about Guy Fawkes and the gunpowder plot but they do have an annual celebration involving bonfires. Though celebrated throughout Europe, the Spanish like to add a touch of fire to beaches and create a host of small fires along the coast each June 23. Unlike many Saints days which mark the death of a saint, the feast of St Joseph marks his birth. Dancing, singing and parties generally carry on until the early hours as well as barbecues and tapas.

### 5. La Batalla de Vino, Haro, La Rioja

Each year between June 27 and 30, thousands of thirsty Spaniards and a healthy collection of tourists climb a mountain in La Rioja and spray wine all over each other as part of the celebration of the feast of St Peter.

Locals start the party the night before, taking to the streets whilst drinking and dancing. They then ascend the hill during the early hours of the morning and cover each other in the sweet red liquid.

# YOUR STARS FOR NEXT 7 DAYS

### AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)

The need to be popular mid-week could see you veer off track on a business matter. You have been warned and will be able to avoid it if you wish. Do not underestimate how much hassle a wrong move could cause you. On the domestic front, you are able to fully relax and enjoy good company.

### PISCES (February 20 - March 20)

As someone is not showing the required amount of interest in your activities, you need a plan. Telephoning them and pointing out what you have achieved is one way, but it's not cool. Getting a few people together and using someone else to blow your trumpet for you is better.

### ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

Having been dashing about like a mad thing, you find this week a refreshing change. Only when you slow down do you realise how much you have been doing and just how tired you have become. There are some social engagements that you would not miss for the world, however.

### TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

By using your intuition mid-week, you will be able to solve a small problem at the weekend. Thinking ahead sometimes seems a waste of time to you because circumstances have a way of changing, but it makes sense to put in a bit of extra effort if you are able to avoid aggravation.

### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

A mistake seems a small thing until someone notices it. Although you feel that they are making a mountain out of a molehill, it still leaves a nasty feeling. Get out and do something completely different at the weekend. Not only will it blow the cobwebs away, but it will also put in perspective any negative thoughts.

### CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

A business colleague may be less than honest with you. When it is a small matter you are used to them bending the truth. This is not, however, something that you will want to let go by, so stay on your toes. On the home front, you tend to be snappy with loved ones because you are feeling stressed.

### LEO (July 24 - August 23)

Looking for answers? They are there if only you go to the right source.

There is no 'quick fix' this week and you need to delve deeper to get the information you need. It will be tempting to take a short cut but, believe me, it will not be worth the hassle in the longer term. Once you have the right facts you are truly in charge of what happens next.

### VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)

You are very much in two minds about how to deal with a personal situation. Ask yourself which approach will help and which will do nothing. Although you want to shout at someone and feel negative at times, hold fire.

### LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)

Getting a romantic situation wrong could cause a humorous moment this weekend. I am not telling you this so you can avoid it. You could do with a good laugh right now. Planning ahead is your preferred method but sometimes it is the last-minute decision that brings the best results.

### SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)

The thing that you have to tackle this week is uppermost in your mind, but don't dwell on it. Write it down and what you intend doing about it, then put it away. Relax and get on with other things. When you do come to take it out again and face the situation it will be so much easier.

### SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)

Imposing restrictions on someone else also imposes restrictions on you. Why? Well, you have to hang around and see that your wishes are followed and take further action if they are not. Wouldn't it be easier to find some kind of compromise?

### CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)

Avoid getting involved in other people's arguments. There is no way that you can come out a winner if you do. Taking a step backwards is sometimes the best thing. You have been down this path before, and did your intervention do any good? Go and trim the roses or sort out those rockery stones instead.

# LOTTERY

### UK NATIONAL LOTTERY



Saturday August 26

20 25  
34 41  
42 52

**BONUS BALL**  
58

### IRISH LOTTO



Saturday August 26

1 16  
17 32  
34 35

**BONUS BALL**  
5

### EURO MILLIONS



Tuesday August 22

3 10  
12 17  
27

**LUCKY STARS**  
3 5

Friday August 25

1 5  
7 15  
47

**LUCKY STARS**  
9 12

### LA PRIMITIVA



Saturday August 26

7 19  
23 28  
42 49

**REINTEGRO**  
16 4

### EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA



Sunday August 27

9 21  
31 45  
46

**REINTEGRO**  
8

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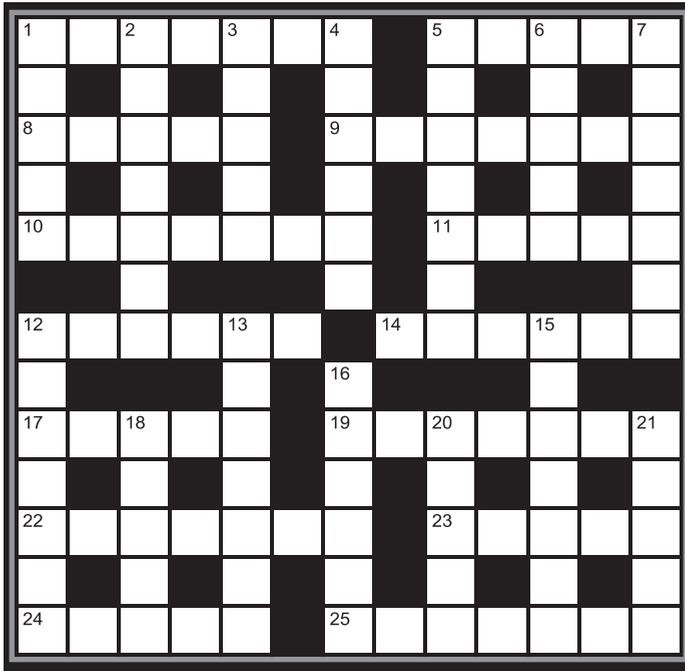
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**Cryptic**

**Across**

- 1 Tick cop off in driver's seat (7)
- 5 So the cover is firm (5)
- 8 Smooths out in the middle of elevenses (5)
- 9 It obstructs gunners in a boat (7)
- 10 Former currency, mostly, for French chemist (7)
- 11 One of the musketeers has to go off (5)
- 12 Canter around in a hypnotic state (6)
- 14 University more certain of lender (6)
- 17 Avoid commercial in the evening (5)
- 19 Today learn about some glands (7)
- 22 Grease around any short rope (7)
- 23 Improve footwear around the beginning of September (5)
- 24 Some musty leather elegance (5)
- 25 A number of workers are lessees (7)



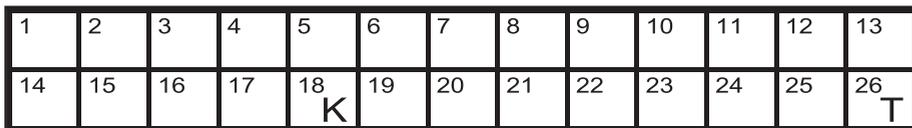
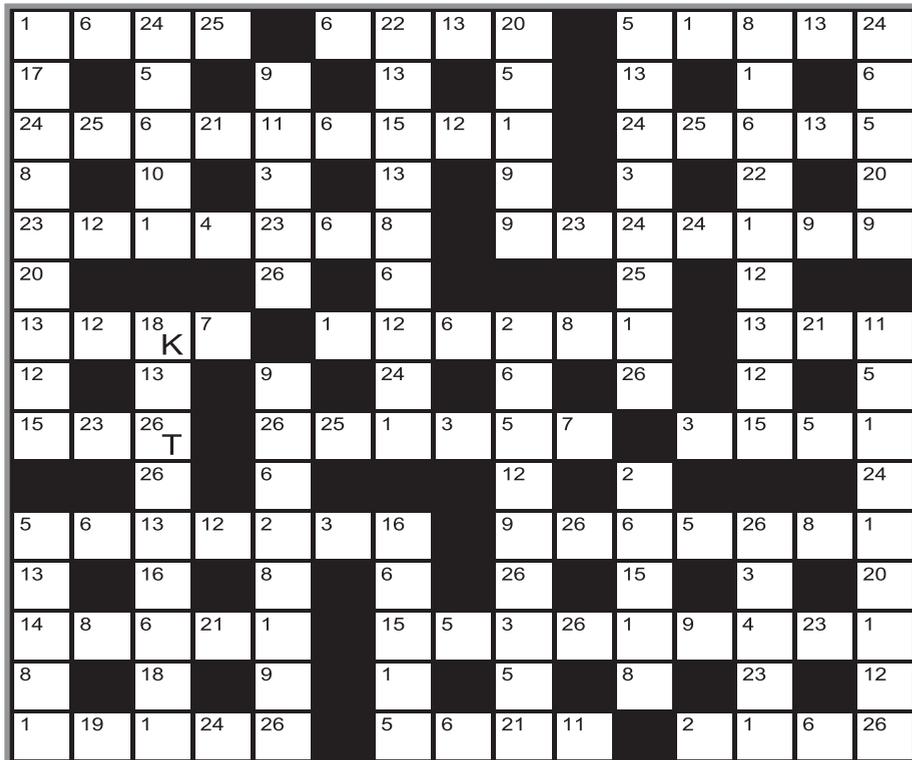
**Down**

- 1 Sing like a bird and sound inexpensive (5)
- 2 Church, if not then, a football team (7)
- 3 From past experience, stick (5)

- 4 A sleeveless tunic, thanks to poet (6)
- 5 Hair highlights for unsteady skaters (7)
- 6 Drain away 50 each (5)
- 7 Actor's assistant's bureau (7)
- 12 Tell sir about the framework (7)
- 13 Brave about carpet burn (7)
- 15 Manage to continue making capital in Burma (7)
- 16 Behind counter spot French sex-symbol (6)
- 18 Upset the start of a nice new office yearbook (5)
- 20 Did not finish dressing bird (5)
- 21 Biblical refugee, American flower (5)

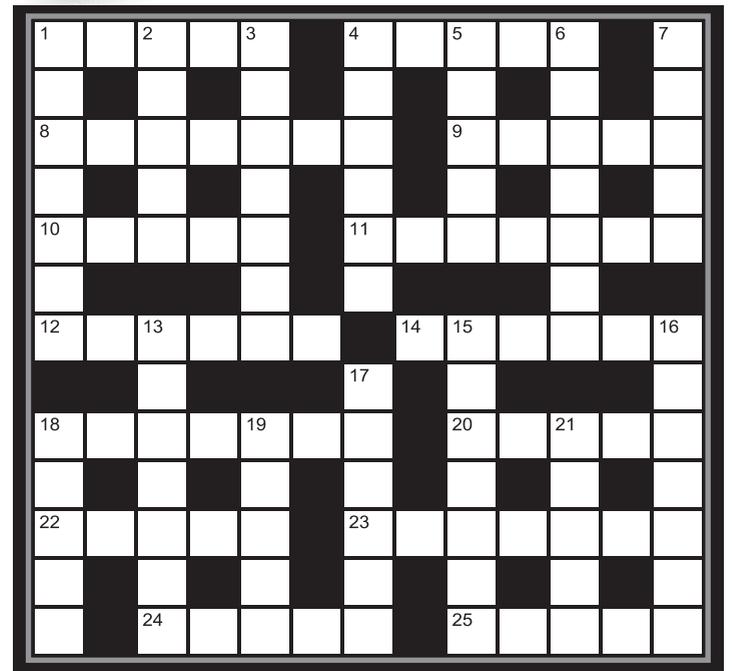
**Code Breaker**

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 18 represents K and 26 represents T, so fill in K every time the figure 18 appears and T every time the figure 26 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.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION FACING PAGE

**Quick**



**Across**

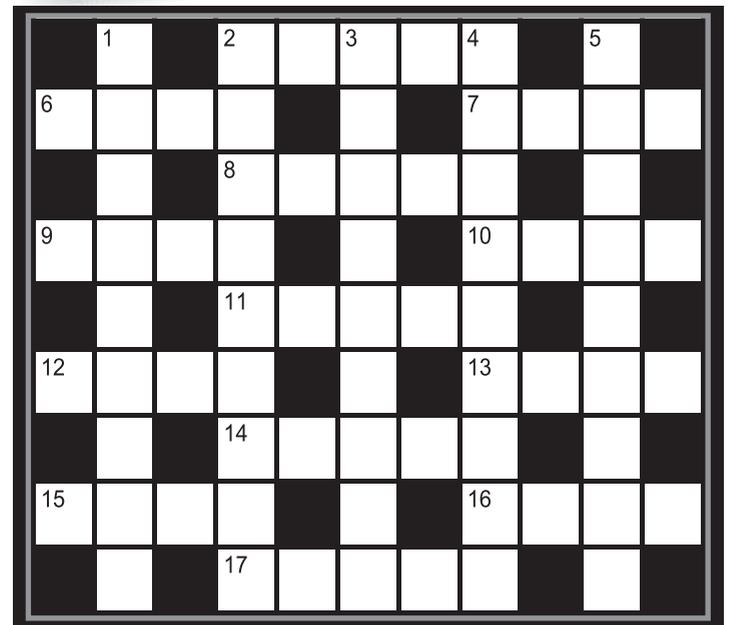
- 1 Gives up for money (5)
- 4 Remains (5)
- 8 Close interaction (7)
- 9 Make fun of playfully (5)
- 10 Art stand (5)
- 11 Frees oneself from (7)
- 12 Begins (6)
- 14 Powerful (6)
- 18 Odd (7)
- 20 Squander (5)
- 22 Shows the way by going first (5)
- 23 Gets thinner (7)
- 24 Children's toys (2-3)
- 25 Outbuildings (5)

**Down**

- 1 Confidential matters (7)
- 2 Gives temporarily (5)
- 3 Bright red (7)
- 4 Small sofa (6)
- 5 Room in the roof of a house (5)
- 6 Liquid preparation for washing hair (7)
- 7 Appears to be (5)
- 13 Prior to a specified or implied time (7)
- 15 In the direction of (7)
- 16 Conjectures (7)
- 17 Racket sport (6)
- 18 Separate into parts or portions (5)
- 19 Offensively curious or inquisitive (5)
- 21 Kitchen appliance used for cooking food (5)

**English - Spanish**

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



**Across**

- 2 Enchufes (eléctrico) (5)
- 6 Mouth (of person, animal, bottle) (4)
- 7 Árbol (4)
- 8 To be born (5)
- 9 Último (final) (4)
- 10 Abbot (4)

- 11 Delantal (5)
- 12 Hervir (agua, leche) (4)
- 13 Puerta (de jardín, ciudad) (4)
- 14 Key (door) (5)
- 15 Candle (4)
- 16 Strange (person, event, behaviour, feeling) (4)
- 17 Fregaderos (5)

**Down**

- 1 Hearts (9)
- 2 Screens (cinema or computer) (9)
- 3 Incierto (9)
- 4 Extraños (9)
- 5 Forward (in position) (9)

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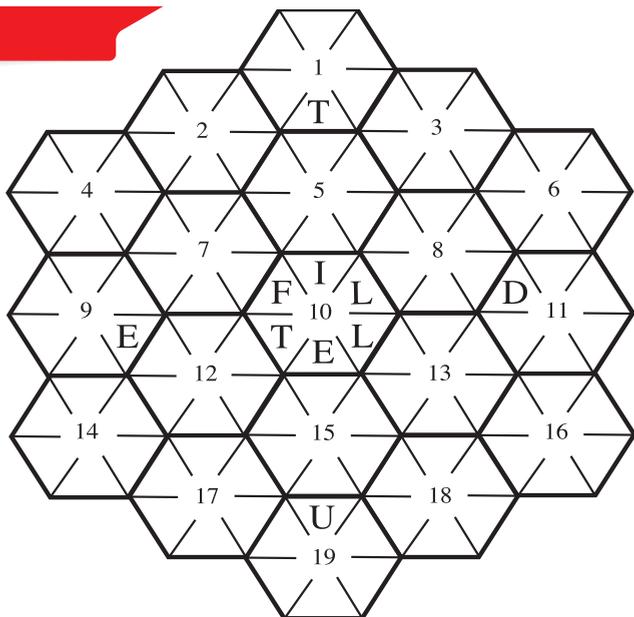
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## Hexagram

- AMULET
- ARCING
- BEETLE
- CONCUR
- CUTLER
- CUTLET
- DELETE
- FILLET (10)
- GIRDLE
- HAUNCH
- INFEST
- INTONE
- JUMBLE
- LEADEN
- MARGIN
- MOROSE
- TEeing
- TRACER
- WATERY



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

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

- 1 Remedy 2 Layout 3 Anomie 4 Travel
- 5 Odious 6 Ponder 7 Russet 8 Pompon
- 9 Attire 10 Supine 11 Gorgon 12 Teeing
- 13 Ginger 14 Earwig 15 Ingest
- 16 Whiten 17 Center 18 Teeter 19 Arrest

## Boggled

How many English words can you find in the Boggled grid, according to the following rules?

- The letters must be adjoining in a 'chain'. They can be adjacent horizontally, vertically or diagonally.
- Words must contain at least four letters and may include singular and plural or other derived forms.
- No letter may be used more than once within a single word, unless it appears twice.
- No vulgarities or proper nouns are permitted.



### TARGET:

- Average: 18
- Very good: 36
- Good: 25
- Excellent: 47

### SCORING:

- 4 letters: 1 point
- 7 letters: 5 points
- 5 letters: 2 points
- 8 or more letters: 11 points
- 6 letters: 3 points

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

issue sues lysis lyes tyke tykes ekes semi semen seem seen keys keen keno emesis emcee emcees enemies envoi ukes unco ounce ones once ovine wise mess messy miss missy mise mien menu meek meekly ness nemesis neem nuke nukes vine vines vino ewes cone cones coney coneys convoke convokes coin invoke invokes

## 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 T)** and there must be **AT LEAST ONE NINE LETTER WORD**. Plurals, vulgarities or proper nouns are not allowed.



### TARGET:

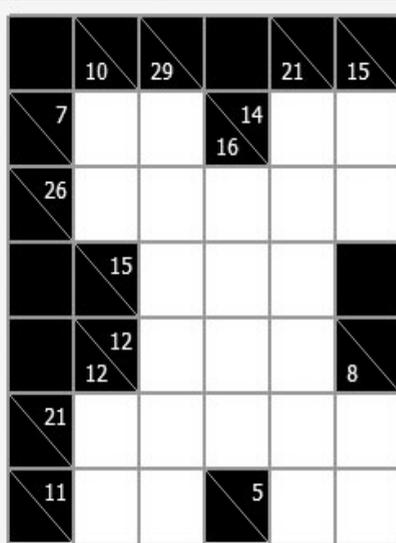
- Average: 11
- Good: 15
- Very good: 21
- Excellent: 27

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

aria arvo iron noir rain rani rant rata riot roan rota tarn taro tiro tori torn trio antra aorta atria intro naira nitro noria raita ratio tiara torii train aroint ration trivia aviator ovarian variant VARIATION

## 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.



### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

### ENGLISH-SPANISH

#### Across:

- 1 Slowly, 4 Flor, 8 Nadie, 9 Habil,
- 10 Encontrar, 14 Andar,
- 15 Smile, 16 Loro, 17 Prensa.

#### Down:

- 1 Sand, 2 Ordenador, 3 Lie,
- 5 Librarian, 6 Roll, 7 What,
- 11 Obra, 12 Nail, 13 Ceja,
- 15 Sur.

### CODE BREAKER

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

### CRYPTIC

#### Across:

- 1 Solicit, 5 Lacks, 8 Anger, 9 Toenail,
- 10 Earlobe, 11 Sites, 12 Gross, 14 Overt,
- 19 Demon, 21 Notices, 23 Shadler,
- 24 Capar, 25 Nitre, 26 Pincers.

#### Down:

- 1 Shared, 2 Lager, 3 Curious, 4 Titter,
- 5 Leeks, 6 Chapter, 7 Splash, 13 Rampant,
- 15 Vatican, 16 Edison, 17 Entrap,
- 18 Osiris, 20 Noise, 22 Copse.

### QUICK

#### Across:

- 1 Desires, 5 Shark, 8 Ships, 9 Garbage,
- 10 Rats, 11 Warnings, 13 Echoes,
- 15 Static, 18 Borrowed, 19 Solo, 22 Stories,
- 23 Ranks, 24 Sorry, 25 Donkeys.

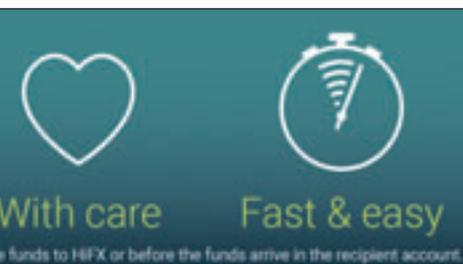
#### Down:

- 1 Deserve, 2 Shirt, 3 Rest, 4 Signal,
- 5 Strength, 6 Against, 7 Keeps, 12 Velocity,
- 14 Harbour, 16 Chooses, 17 Ceased,
- 18 Basis, 20 Ounce, 21 Grin.

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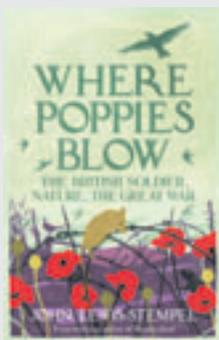


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**Where Poppies Blow**

John Lewis-Stempel

FROM the author of Meadowland, winner of the 2015 Wainwright Prize, comes a natural history of the Western Front during the First World War.

John Lewis-Stempel tells the unique tale of British soldiers fighting in the First World War and the relationship they experienced with the flora and fauna around them.

Bleak, desolate hours made up many of the days for those on the front, animals and birds were of great interest to many an officer and their ability to survive amidst a world of blood, bullets and explosions provided almost a cross species inspiration.

Far from home, the animals and plants provided reminders of a world many a soldier may otherwise have forgotten.

“What makes Where Poppies Blow so freshly moving is the picture it paints of the reverence, love and kindness the natural world can engender, even in the most hellish conditions” - *The Financial Times*.

books@euroweeklynews.com

**Costa de Almería**

**weather**

**TODAY**



**TOMORROW**



**SATURDAY**



<b>Malaga</b> TODAY: MAX 27, MIN 19-S Fri - 27 20 - Cl Sat - 26 19 - Cl Sun - 28 19 - S Mon - 29 19 - S Tue - 28 19 - S Wed - 27 20 - S	<b>Almeria</b> TODAY: MAX 26, MIN 21-C Fri - 27 22 - Cl Sat - 27 21 - C Sun - 27 21 - S Mon - 27 22 - Cl Tue - 27 21 - S Wed - 27 22 - S	<b>Bilbao</b> TODAY: MAX 18, MIN 12-SH Fri - 19 12 - C Sat - 21 12 - Sh Sun - 23 14 - Sh Mon - 22 14 - Sh Tue - 23 14 - C Wed - 23 14 - Sh	<b>Madrid</b> TODAY: MAX 24, MIN 12-SH Fri - 25 11 - S Sat - 25 12 - S Sun - 26 15 - C Mon - 26 13 - C Tue - 27 13 - S Wed - 28 15 - S
<b>Alicante</b> TODAY: MAX 28, MIN 21-C Fri - 27 21 - S Sat - 27 20 - C Sun - 28 21 - Cl Mon - 29 21 - Cl Tue - 27 21 - Cl Wed - 28 21 - S	<b>Benidorm</b> TODAY: MAX 28, MIN 21-TH Fri - 27 22 - Cl Sat - 27 21 - C Sun - 27 21 - S Mon - 28 22 - C Tue - 27 22 - S Wed - 27 22 - S	<b>Mallorca</b> TODAY: MAX 29, MIN 20-C Fri - 27 19 - C Sat - 26 19 - Cl Sun - 26 19 - C Mon - 26 19 - C Tue - 26 20 - Sh Wed - 28 20 - Cl	<b>Barcelona</b> TODAY: MAX 24, MIN 18-TH Fri - 24 18 - C Sat - 24 18 - Sh Sun - 24 18 - C Mon - 23 18 - Sh Tue - 24 18 - Sh Wed - 26 19 - S

S: Sun ☀ Cl: Clear ☁ C: Cloudy ☁ Sh: Showers ☁ Th: Thunder ⚡ Sn: Snow ❄

Euro Weekly News strives for accuracy, but cannot be held responsible for any errors in published forecasts

**BIRTHDAYS**

**September 1, Barry Gibb (71) Musician**

The last surviving Bee Gee, Barry still performs regularly and recently played at Glastonbury Festival 2017 in England.

Famed for his falsetto voice, and with songs such as How Deep is Your Love, To Love Somebody and Stayin Alive, he continues to wow the crowds.

**September 2, Keanu Reeves (53) Actor**  
Everyone remembers Reeves' iconic role



Barry Gibb.

as Neo in the Matrix trilogy of films. He has also starred in Constantine and has even starred in theatre as Hamlet but his original intention had been to be a hockey player.

**September 3, Stefan Kendal Gordy (42) Rapper**

Also known as Redfoo, he is the face behind the group LMFAO and the afro-clad man is famed for songs such as I'm Sexy and I Know It as well as Take it to the Hole.

**September 4, James Bay (27) Musician**

The English-born artist went platinum in 2015 with his song Hold Back the River as well as winning the Critics' Choice Brit Award. Other popular songs include Let it Go, Scars, and If You Ever Want to be in Love.

**September 5, Bob Newhart (88) Actor and Comedian**

The man behind the Bob Newhart show, he also appeared on the Dean Martin Show and the Ed Sullivan show. He recently appeared in hit sitcom The Big Bang Theory playing Sheldon's childhood hero, Professor Proton.

**September 6, Idris Elba (45) Actor**

A former DJ going by the name Big Driis, the actor has played roles in series such as The Wire and Luther. He has also appeared in numerous films including RocknRolla, Prometheus, Pacific Rim and most recently The Dark Tower.

**September 7, Gloria Gaynor (68) Singer**

The disco diva had a smash hit with I Will Survive in 1978 which is still a regular number on the playlist of many modern DJs. Her first hit Never Can Say Goodbye made her an overnight star.

**Sudoku**

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

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**

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

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

**Word Ladder**

**GOLD**

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

**SEAL**

- TOB
- BOLD
- GOLD
- JO
- SEAL
- REAL
- READ
- GOLD
- JO
- SEAL
- SELL
- BELL

**Solution**

**DVD**

**Security**

Directed by: Alain Desrochers  
Starring: Antonio Banderas, Ben Kingsley



Ex-special services veteran, Eduardo 'Eddie' Deacon (Antonio Banderas) is nearing rock-bottom and is desperate for work. He accepts a job as a security guard in mall in a rough area of town. His first night sees him find a crucial witness to a huge case who was being transported in a police convoy to testify. The convoy was hijacked by the group her testimony would have destroyed and the psychotic leader, Charlie (Ben Kingsley), is intent on catching up to her. With a motley crew of loyal henchmen at his side, there are no lengths Charlie will not go to in order to eliminate his witness and ensure the collapse of the court case. Eddie must utilise all of his skills to protect the girl.

**Trivia PS**

There is an island tribe in Tanna, Vanuatu who revere Prince Phillip, the Duke of Edinburgh, believing him to be a 'divine being.'

**This week in history**

**1666** - A fire breaks out in a bakery on Pudding Lane near London Bridge which spreads to warehouses filled with combustibles and a strong wind ensures the blaze becomes an inferno which raged for five days.

**1877** - One of the most famous native Americans, Crazy Horse, who defeated General Custer's forces at the Battle of Little Bighorn is bayoneted after a scuffle with US army soldiers whilst refusing to enter prison.

**1915** - The prototype tank 'Little Willie' rolls off the production line in Lincoln, England. It weighs 14 tonnes and moves at a top speed of around three kilometres per hour.

**1935** - British speed demon, Sir Malcolm Campbell, breaks the land-speed record at 484.95 kilometres per hour surpassing the world records set earlier this year of km/h 445.49.

**1939** - 1.5 million Nazi troops invade Poland whilst the Luftwaffe bomb Polish airfields and warships and u-boats attack Polish naval forces in the Baltic Sea. This marked the beginning of the Second World War.

**1996** - Hip-hop royalty, Tupac is shot in his limousine in Las Vegas following a boxing match between Mike Tyson and Bruce Seldon. He would die from his wounds six days later in hospital.

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# Concerns raised over couch potatoes

LAZINESS seems to be spreading almost like an epidemic as Public Health England (PHE) say they are concerned about the amount of adults who are doing no form of exercise.

It is claimed that 45 per cent of over-16s are so sedentary they do not even manage a health-boosting 10-minute walk every day and half of adults do not even manage a brisk walk once a month. A brisk walk where the heart rate increases and you can feel your heart pumping more.

PHE officials claim there are six million inactive people aged between 40 and 60 who are putting their busy lives first and neglecting

their health, failing to get any form of exercise.

The NHS has long since recommended around 150 minutes of moderate exercise or activity each week, but now, such is the concern over the state of the health of adults in Britain, people are being asked to do just a brisk 10-minute walk each day at least.

This, it is hoped, will be more manageable and attainable and help encourage more activity, warning that cancer, diabetes and heart disease await those who do not get up off the sofa.

**LAZINESS: A large amount of adults do no exercise at all.**

The PHE said the British population was 20 per cent less active now than in the 1960s, and the average person walked 15 miles less a year compared to 20 years ago. Some 67 per cent of adult men and 57 per cent of adult women in Britain are overweight, a figure well above the global average and

of these, 24 per cent of British adults (around 12 million people) are considered obese.

A new app has now been developed called Active 10 to help people reach their 10 minutes of brisk walking. More information on Active 10 can be found at [www.nhs.uk/oneyou/active10](http://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/active10).



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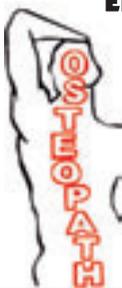
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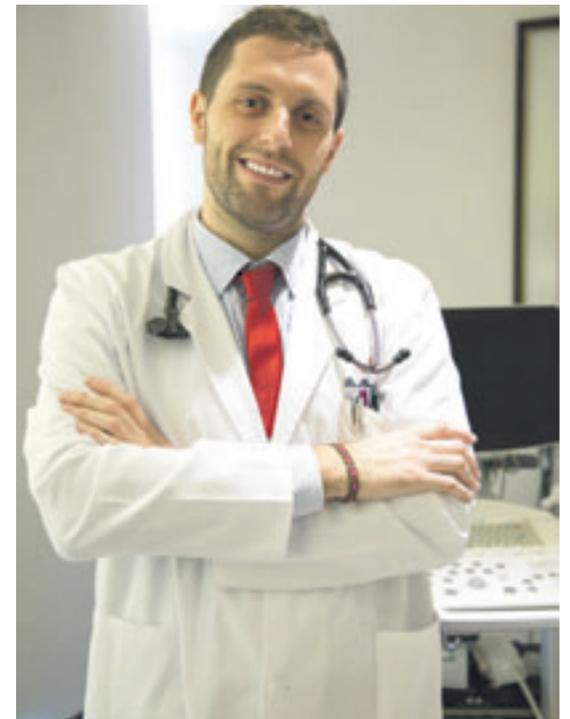
Ask The

Doctor

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## What is gout?



**SPECIALIST: Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.**

GOUT is a type of arthritis in which small crystals form inside and around the joints. It causes sudden attacks of severe pain and swelling.

**What are its symptoms?**

Any joint can be affected by gout, but it usually affects joints towards the ends of the limbs, such as the toes, ankles, knees and fingers. Some of the symptoms of gout include severe pain in one or more joints, the joint feeling hot and very tender, swelling in and around the affected area and red, shiny skin over the affected joint.

Symptoms develop rapidly over a few hours and typically last three to 10 days. After this time the pain should pass and the joint should return to normal. However almost everyone with gout will experience further attacks at some point, usually within a year.

**What causes gout?**

Gout is caused by the build-up of a substance called uric acid in the

blood.

If you produce too much uric acid or your kidneys don't filter enough out, it can build up and cause tiny sharp crystals to form in and around joints. These crystals can cause the joint to become inflamed and painful.

If a person has high blood pressure, diabetes and/or is obese this may increase their chances of getting gout. Having relatives with gout, kidney problems and drinking too much beer or spirits can also increase the likelihood of suffering from gout.

**How can you treat it?**

During an attack, placing ice packs and taking medications such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, colchicine or corticosteroids will help relieve symptoms.

You can also prevent it through a combination of lifestyle changes, such as losing weight and changing your diet, and taking medication that lowers uric acid levels eg Allopurinol.

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

# Masking sleep problems

IN today's world, sleep can be something that is difficult to accomplish.

Bombarded by email, phone apps and text messages, it can be hard to switch off from the technological buzz of modern life, not to mention the constant stimulus provided by 24-hour cities, never-ending TV series and the multitudinous mountains of stress that often overshadow us.

Health experts often remind us to avoid caffeine, to take hot baths or apply soothing lotions. Yet, maybe the problem can be removed by eliminating the one major obstacle to sleep: light. The solution could lie in an eye mask

Eye masks have existed for centuries. Over the years with the increasing demand for health and beauty products, they have been developed to suit various sleep problems and individual needs.

On today's market, scented, padded, moulded and vibrating eye masks are all on the shelves, made aesthetically pleasing given they come in a whole range of colours and de-



**EYE MASKS:** Could be an easy answer to sleep problems.

signs. Yet this simple accessory appears to be rather underrated given its benefits for some insomniacs or wired-up individuals.

On a scientific level, it is worth remembering that when your brain senses pure darkness, it causes the production of melatonin, the sleep chemical. Blocking out both noise and light massively increases your ability to sleep so earplugs would be a welcome addition to complete the outfit.

Deciding on which eye mask to buy can be difficult so choose its purpose. Shift workers would be better choosing a 100 per cent light blocking variety for daytime slumber whilst stressed out non-sleepers

could opt for lavender-scented or massaging types.

Cotton is always a good choice given its breathable nature in hot, sticky summer weather and moulded or contoured eye cavities add greater comfort. Gel eye-pads inserted into the eye cavities can be very soothing and add a light massaging pressure to induce sleep.

When aiming for herbal eye masks, check firstly against any allergies although most are completely natural.

Sleeping pills should be a last resort to sleep problems so, given that eye masks are both affordable and accessible, the answer seems to be as clear as a well-rested mind.



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TO READ MORE

# RBL Grand Raffle packs a punch

A PACKED September diary has been released by the Mojacar Royal British Legion. The Almeria branch of

Britain's leading armed forces charity is holding multiple events in the coming weeks. Doors are open to all who

would like to come along and lend their support.

The first event is next Thursday (September 7). A coffee morning is scheduled at the San Bernabe restaurant. All are welcome and the relaxed meeting begins at 11.15am.

The following Friday there is a quiz night being held at the Beachcomber Restaurant. Fish and chips are the menu of the day, though there is an alternative for vegetarians. The quiz kicks off at 7.30pm sharp and all proceeds go to the Poppy Appeal. Find out more by contacting Mick Coote on 678 101 471.

On Thursday September 21 there is the formal branch meeting being held at the Artisan Centre in Mojacar's multiple uses building. The meeting begins at 11.15am and includes guest speaker Bryan White sharing stories from his life as a Royal Marine.

Perhaps the biggest date on

the calendar takes place in October. The branch is holding a very special Poppy Appeal Dinner with dancing and live music on Saturday October 28.

The evening takes place at the Aventura Hotel (formerly the Vera Hotel). Tickets cost €35, which includes cava, canapes and a three-course meal. Accommodation is available and music is courtesy of local band Driftwood.

There will also be a Grand Raffle. First prize is two return tickets with Monarch to any destination (luggage included). Second is a £200 voucher for Brittany Ferries. There are plenty of other prizes and raffle tickets can be bought from the Oasis Bar in Palomares or by calling Mick.

For any other information on the Mojacar Royal British Legion, contact Branch Secretary Christine on [secretary.rblmojacar@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.rblmojacar@gmail.com) or the Chairman,

Andrew, on [chairman.rblmoj3485@gmail.com](mailto:chairman.rblmoj3485@gmail.com).

**PRIDE: Royal British Legion performs a huge service to veterans everywhere.**



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**DAVID BISBAL:** Tickets are now on sale for his 'Hijos del Mar' tour.

## Stadium finale for superstar

ONE of the biggest events in the history of the Almanzora Valley is taking place soon. Tickets have now gone on sale for David Bisbal's 'Hijos del Mar' tour.

Instead of the bright lights of Madrid, Barcelona or Almeria City, this time the local boy done good is performing at the El Hornillo football stadium in Huerca-Overa.

The gig is on Saturday October 14 and will see Bisbal perform hits from his latest album after a range of local support acts take to the stage.

It is the final leg of an acclaimed tour that has seen the superstar singer, who has sold millions of records, crisscross the biggest venues in Spain.

Huerca-Overa is unsurprisingly delighted that Bisbal has chosen the town for his great finale. Mayor Domingo Fernandez has pledged to do all he can to make sure the event runs to international standards, befitting of a pop star with millions of global followers.

Tickets start at €32 and can be bought online.

# Inspired artistic fusion

TODAY is the last opportunity to catch an astonishing exhibition from Almeria artist Myriam Jimenez at Mojacar's Municipal Art Gallery 'La Fuente.' Entitled 'Vela Blanca' the exhibit is a fusion of photography with watercolour paintings that has been well received across the province.

Jimenez operates from her Cabo de Gata workshop and is a keen explorer of the natural park, which inspires much of her work. She has put together more than 30 pieces detailing the park's animal and marine life, wild flowers and plants, dreamy,



Mojacar town hall

**FUSION:** Jimenez (left) shows off her art to councillor Raquel Belmonte.

alien landscape and the people who pass through it every day. 'La Fuente' art centre is

right in the middle of Mojacar Pueblo, near the fountain. Jimenez's exhibit can be visit-

ed today from 10am until 1.30pm, and later this afternoon from 5pm until 8pm.

# Float on by



**TRADITIONAL:** The water and floral offering to St Augustine.

ONE of the traditions of the Mojacar fiestas is the water and floral offering to St Augustine.

The water is carried from its source to be blessed at the Parish Church of Santa Maria, a 16th century church built upon the remains of an old mosque.

A tradition which has continued for years, Mojacar honours its patron saint for providing them with a water source which has lasted centuries without drying

up.

The water is carried in a variety of methods including atop the heads of women in huge jars and being hauled by animals on their backs or in carriages.

Floral offerings are also made and follow the same route as the water carriers.

All pilgrims dress in local costumes or

faralae (traditional Spanish dresses).

At this year's event, party queen, Pamela Montoya opened the tour, accompanied by her ladies of honour and the mayor of Mojacar, Rosa María Cano.

At the church, the parish priest awaited who blessed everyone before proceeding to celebrate Holy Mass.

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**What's on!**

**DO YOU HAVE ANY IMPORTANT EVENT LISTING TO SHARE?**

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# Hospitality? This is a crazy but true tale of one hotel

A TOAST TO GOOD FOOD, GOOD WINE AND GOOD FRIENDS



WITH GARRY WAITE

ISRAEL has expressed anger to the Swiss government over a hotel's sign that told Jewish guests to shower before using the swimming pool. The sign in English, at Apartmenthaus Paradies in the mountain resort of Arosa, triggered much criticism.

Another sign told Jewish guests to use a refrigerator only at certain times.

Israel's deputy foreign minister called it "an anti-Semitic act of the worst and ugliest kind." Reports say the hotel has now removed the signs.

A photo of the shower sign was tweeted, after an Orthodox Jewish guest spoke about it on Israel's Channel 2 TV. The Israeli interviewee told the TV: "The staff were really very nice to us. But one morning I came down and saw this sign. I was shocked!"

'To our Jewish guests, women, men and children, please take a shower before you go swimming,' it said, adding that 'if you break the rules I'm forced to cloes [sic] the swim-



A chilling reception for some orthodox clients at the picturesque Paradies.

ming pool for you.'

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely said she had discussed the "anti-Semitic" case with Israel's ambassador to Switzerland, who told her the signs had now been removed. However, she said those responsible should be punished, as a deterrent.

Correspondents say the instruction to Jewish guests to have a shower touches raw nerves about the Holocaust, because Nazi death camp guards sent Jews to 'showers' that were actually gas chambers.

The sign in the hotel kitchen said: 'To our Jewish guests: You are allowed to approach the fridge between the hours: 10.00-11.00 in the morning and 16.30-17.30 in the evening. I hope you understand that our team does not like to be dis-

turbed every time.'

Reports say the hotel often has guests from Israel, some of whom are Orthodox Jews. The hotel management was quoted as saying there was "no anti-Semitic intent" and "we have no problem with Jewish guests at the hotel."

Ruth Thomann, responsible for the shower sign, said her choice of words had been a mistake. She said some Jewish guests had gone swimming with clothes, such as t-shirts, on and had not showered first. As for the fridge, she explained, Jewish guests - but not other guests - had been allowed to use it to store kosher food.

Someone's in for a dressing down. Not good PR me thinks!

Courtesy of BBC news online.

“

Nothing is easy - but who wants nothing?  
Donald Trump

## What did my Nan used to say?

"MONEY find its way to money." This must be the case with Donald Trump, as the Trump Turnberry hotel has received a £109,530 business rates rebate as part of an emergency bailout plan for Scottish hospitality firms.

The rebate plan was intended to help struggling businesses in Scotland, but has been criticised for aiding profitable businesses such as Donald Trump's Turnberry hotel.

The payment, uncovered by the *Guardian* newspaper in the UK, has led to a 13.5 per cent reduction in the hotel's annual business rates bill, which was £811,850.

Opposition MSPs told the paper that the rebate was not intended for thriving businesses.

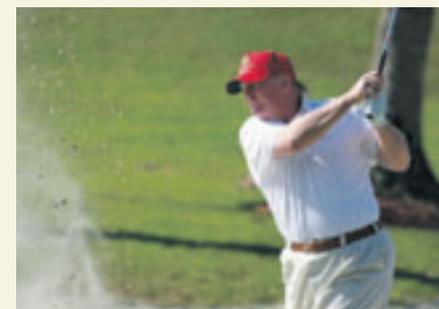
Scottish Green Party leader Patrick Harvie said: "Trump's brand is toxic. It's bad enough that he has a business presence in Scotland. It's galling to learn that the public purse is giving him a helping hand."

Labour MSP Lewis Macdonald added: "The Turnberry case highlights the unfairness of the current system and the urgent need for reform."

The news comes as the Scottish government yesterday published the Barclay Review into business rates in the country, which has made proposals including the cutting of the revaluation period to three years and suggested a one-year delay before rates liability is incurred when a property is improved.

Meanwhile, the US President Donald Trump has resigned as director of his Scottish hotels and golf courses, according to filings at Companies House.

The documents show Trump resigned his directorship of Trump International Golf Club Scotland, which owns the course and hotel at the Menie Estate in Balmedie, Aberdeenshire, on January 19 - the day before his inauguration as president.



Imagine being able to play golf in your own back garden.

He also resigned from SLC Turnberry and Golf Recreation Scotland, which own and operate the five-red-AA-star, 157-bedroom Trump Turnberry course and hotel in Ayrshire that he bought in 2014 and reopened in June following a £200m refurbishment.

Although there was no legal requirement for Trump to step aside from his companies, presidents traditionally pass over their business interests to an independent manager to avoid any conflict of interests, which Trump himself committed to during his election campaign.

Trump's children, Eric, Ivanka and Donald Jr have retained their directorships at SLC Turnberry and Trump International Golf Club Scotland. Eric Trump is also a director at Golf Recreation Scotland.

Somehow I think he may have renounced his directorships, but I can't really see him handing over the reins completely can you? But why are the Scottish MPs really angry about the fact that he has invested money into Scotland. Is it purely that they don't want foreign investment or have they just joined the 'let's knock Trump for all we can' brigade!

Some content courtesy of the Caterer and Hotelkeeper.



IS back I have had so many phone calls and emails from friends, clients and readers asking me if it is true that we are reopening Funky Tapas. I am very pleased to confirm the rumour. We are opening in front of the Hotel Andalucia Plaza in Nueva Andalucia in the first week of September. You can check on our Facebook page or our website for further information or just email me and I will let you have more details. Meanwhile have a great weekend and I look forward to welcoming you next week.

### Hospitality numbers for Donald Trump

**\$288** million in income in the past year from golf courses alone.

**\$37.2** million in income in the past year from Mar-a-Lago.

**\$19.7** million in income through mid-April at his luxury Washington hotel.

**\$600** million to \$650 million the amount brought in, in employment assets and income - or maybe more.

Nothing breeds success like success - maybe that's why the Americans voted for him.

\*Garry Waite is a foodie and restaurateur and Hospitality Management Consultant. If contemplating setting up an operation, or having problems with an existing project contact him on [garryphwaite@gmail.com](mailto:garryphwaite@gmail.com).

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# Take er' easy there, Pilgrim

ONE of the biggest events in the Albox calendar begins next week. The traditional pilgrimage from the town centre to the Saliente shrine is an intensely celebrated religious event and an officially protected Andalusian tourist interest.

The pilgrimage begins early next Thursday morning and concludes on the Friday. It is an opportunity for the faithful to pay their respects to the shrine, known as the Virgen del Saliente.

It is also a fascinating cultural event for those more interested in the historical side of things.

The pilgrims will walk, or in some cases, drive, up the hill singing hymns and forming a party atmosphere. They will attend mass at Saliente and wander around the building, which is a well-preserved masterpiece of religious art.

Charitable donations can be



**ICON: The Saliente monastery attracts pilgrims.**

given and private prayers made. This year the church is celebrating the 300th anniversary of the first arrival of the Virgen del Saliente to Albox, making it a particularly special occasion.

The pilgrimage route is 18 kilometres long. Unlike many other religious festivals, there is usually quite a strong contingent of young people, generating a festive and fun atmosphere.

# Trapped baby saved

A SEVEN-month-old baby was rescued from a baking car by Local Police officers in Huerca-Overa.

The baby's mother was in a rush and accidentally closed the car with the keys still inside.

The car automatically locked, with the infant still in its seat and the August afternoon heat growing unbearable.

The mother began crying for help, unwilling to leave her baby alone while she searched for assistance. Two Local Police officers heard her call and came to the rescue.

They were able to break into the car without harming the baby. The child had a few symptoms of dehydration but was otherwise fine.



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## Courthouse comfort

COURTROOMS in Purchena and Huerca-Overa will be made more bearable thanks to a cash injection of roughly €130,000. The money will be used to revamp old air conditioning systems and on replacing the elevators, which are subject to regular breakdowns.

New furniture will also be installed to make courtroom appearances more comfortable for residents and lawyers. Electrical transformers will be repaired to make Huerca-Overa court more energy efficient. The investments are part of a wider overhaul of Almería's provincial courts. Courthouse jails are to see their basic conditions approved, while computerised filing systems will be revamped.

Recent hacks of the court system's national database have caused major legal delays across the country.

# Feria packs cultural punch

VISITORS from as far afield as Israel and the United States joined British, German and Dutch tourists, and thousands of locals, in celebrating Laroya's annual fair.

The Almanzora town had a full programme for the San Ramon Nonato street parties last week. Despite being one of the smallest municipalities in Almería, Laroya attracted a huge volume of domestic and international guests.

The town has been extremely busy over summer, with local ho-

tels enjoying an 80 per cent occupancy rate. It has used funding for towns with populations of less than 1,000 people to promote itself to travellers from across Spain and beyond.

This year's San Ramon Nonato festival was the biggest in Laroya's history. Much of the success is down to Laroya's growing reputation as a historical hub of the Almanzora Valley.

It boasts mills and other artefacts from as far back as the 17th century.

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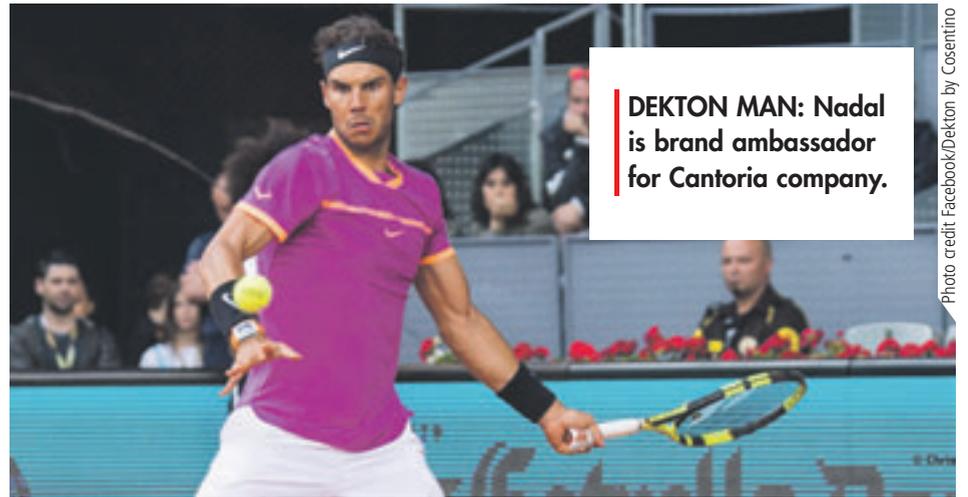
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**DEKTON MAN:** Nadal is brand ambassador for Cantoria company.

Photo credit: Facebook/Dekton by Cosentino

## Nadal spin for local firm

THE world's top ranked tennis player, Rafael Nadal, celebrated his new status at a glitzy event held by a Cantoria-based company in New York City.

Nadal visited the Big Apple showroom of Cosentino, where he is an international brand ambassador. The Almazora Valley company is a world leader in the production of architectural and interior design surfaces.

The heavy hitting Spanish star is in New York preparing for the US Open, where he will battle with old nemesis Roger Federer for tennis supremacy. Af-

ter an excellent comeback in 2017, Nadal is ranked number one, with Federer snapping at his heels.

Cosentino were delighted to welcome Spain's biggest athlete to the flashy New York showroom. The company headquartered in Cantoria, uses quartz from Macael, and recently opened offices across North America.

Nadal thanked Cosentino for its financial contributions to his new tennis academy on Mallorca. The Cosentino trademark brand Dekton is sponsoring the academy.

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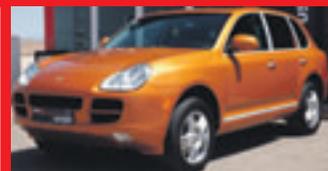
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# New moon is a good time to take a risk

Sally Trotman

www.sallytrotman.com

*Sally Trotman is a qualified Counsellor who works with Astrology, Numerology and the Tarot. Each month she will deliver the forecast as an intuitive tool to aid increased self awareness.*



**WELCOME to your September 2017 forecast. Every month I write about how the Astrology, Numerology, and Tarot for the month ahead affect you, helping you to move forward confidently with your plans. Below is your forecast for September 2017:**

## Astrology: Make a plan

**Sun in Virgo :** This month the sun is ruled by the earthy sign of Virgo, who likes to get organised and tie up loose ends. The new moon in Virgo on September 20, also the day of the autumn equinox, portends a powerful time for insight, change and revelation. Although

Virgo is not traditionally seen as a risk taking sign, this new moon is a good time to take a risk. Security is an illusion. Welcome adventure and growth this month in favour of the safe and familiar.

**Get in tune with the moon :** On September 5 the full moon in Pisces brings a serene and peaceful energy. Take time to relax, by water if possible on the eve of this full moon. Pisces is a sensitive water sign and when the full moon shines in this sign it is a time of insight and heightened perception. It is also a good time to consider your support network. We all need friends and family to support and nourish us. Consider what you can do for those close to you this month and be open to receiving support.

**Numerology:** Endings and new beginnings

**Number 9 :** Numbers are symbols which

carry energy, and the influence of the number nine this month is encouraging you to take time out for yourself, to reflect on what is serving you and what you need to release. Be present and become fully open to the opportunities which currently surround you. Let go graciously and embrace the new doors ready for you to step through.

## The Hermit: Take time for yourself

In the Major Arcana Tarot deck the Hermit is the ninth card. To understand how this influences the current month, let's consider the seasonal change in September. As crops are harvested and the height of the summer fever is now over, it is time to rest and reflect. Conserving your energy is important, so rest a little more and trust that you will be provided with all that is necessary to sustain you over the darker, less active months of the year.



**VIRGO: Likes to get organised and tie up loose ends.**

## Your personalised consultation

Book in for an Astrology, Numerology and Tarot Consultation in person, via Skype, Facetime and email this month, based on the unique numbers and planets in your date of birth. Visit [www.sallytrotman.com](http://www.sallytrotman.com) for more information.

# Small is not always beautiful

Cassandra Nash

A weekly look

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

SMALL anti-system party CUP, which shores up the Junts pel Si coalition in Catalunya's regional parliament, enjoys making political gestures.

After the jihadi killings in Barcelona the party shunned Mass in the Sagrada Familia Basilica and the minute's silence that followed because King Felipe and Mariano Rajoy were there.

CUP does not have an abundance of voters - only 336,375 of Catalunya's total franchise of 5,510,798 - but some would have been present at the minute's silence if not Mass.

Couldn't Anna Gabriel and her fellow politicians have gritted their teeth as regional president Carles Puigdemont and vice-president Oriol Junqueras did by representing their party at events where respect for the dead outweighs politics?



**ANGUISH:** The aftermath of the Barcelona attack.

## Alternative facts

IN the immediate aftermath of the Barcelona massacre a Mexican television presenter referred to the arrest of a "Moroccan citizen, probably from Melilla which is Spanish territory in Morocco."

Speaking on Mexico's El Financiero Bloomberg channel, he commented that another suspected terrorist had also been detained,

"a Catalan, judging by the name Carles Puigdemont," who "possibly" came from Barcelona or Tarragona "or some other part of Catalunya."

The El Financiero channel later apologised profusely via the social media - where else? - for the impressively negative achievement of upsetting Catalunya, Spain and Morocco in one sentence without the excuse of a language barrier.

## Wise after the event

AS happened in the first anguished hours after the Manchester and Borough Market terrorist attacks, there were calls not to politicise the Barcelona carnage. Before the minute's silence in the Plaza de Catalunya the following day, a woman began waving a small Spanish flag only to be told by those near her, "No flags! No flags!" Answering, "I'm Catalan" she put it away to general applause.

But once the numb horror wore off, questioning voices were heard. The ideologue who allegedly radicalised the young jihadists, the imam Abdelbaki es Satty, should have been deported after leaving prison for drugs offences in 2014.

Instead Es Satty appealed and a Spanish judge allowed him to remain, ruling that he did not threaten public order. Es Satty's jihadi recruits, apparently off the radar, were

seen near Paris on August 12, days before the attack. They stockpiled gas canisters without arousing suspicions while Younis Abouyaqoub's inflammatory social media comments went unseen. Possibly there would have been more awareness of what was going on under the noses of the authorities if Carles Puigdemont and Oriol Junqueras were as interested in running the region as they are in running out of Spain.

## It takes two to tango

OSCAR PUENTE, spokesman of the PSOE's Federal Executive Committee, said not long ago that there was collective responsibility for the Venezuela crisis. "A society does not reach this point purely because of what a government does," he said.

Agreed, it takes two to tango but it only takes one to incarcerate opponents and torture them.

# Lavender is a must for your garden

**GRAEME TYRRELL**

LAVENDER is a must for every Mediterranean garden design to be complete. It is a native plant to the region and the naturally occurring species are perfectly adapted to the alkaline soils, summer sun and periods of low rain-fall.

This is a great plus for one of the most pleasantly fragrant small shrubs with natural oils that are very soothing and relaxing from the aroma emitted from the whole plant.

The bluish to violet coloured flowers are a rarer shade of colour for flowers and they are prominently displayed on long stems extending out from the plant for all to see.

If you grow your own it is very easy to take cuttings and tie a bunch to hang in the house to make the home more



Photo Caption: Cora Mueller-Shutterstock

## Lavender has a multitude of uses.

fragrant. You can even dry some bunches briefly in the oven for potpourri and have the benefit of lavender scent permeate the whole house before setting out the jars of potpourri to maintain its presence.

There is a huge range of different varieties of lavender to choose from with the hardiest generally being the more

original species but the newer selected and developed varieties provide a much broader range of colours and forms.

The Spanish lavender, *Lavandula stoechas*, is my favourite in the ornamental garden for its wonderful scent but the English lavender (*Lavandula angustifolias* and hybrids) is best for the culinary

herb garden.

They love to be in the sun and become scraggly in areas of too much shade where the bushes do not thicken up enough to have dense flowering.

To grow lavender, the natural soils being alkaline in Spain are ideal and just a few handfuls of compost mixed into the surrounding soil may be needed to ensure

good drainage, some water retention and nutrients. Lavender do not like wet feet and too many nutrients promotes growth but fewer flowers. More lavender are killed off by overwatering than dryness as they prefer a dry environment and too much water encourages fungal problems.

To keep the plant strong, pruning off the spent flower heads is necessary if you haven't already harvested

them for use elsewhere. Usually this is done in autumn all at once as the plants flower uniformly and finish flowering at the same time so you can wait for the last ones to finish.

If you wish to reduce the size of the plant it is best left until spring when the plant starts to reshoot to ensure a quick recovery from the pruning. Normally you should only cut about one third to a half of the plant each season.

If you want to grow them in containers, choose a compact variety. Use a well-drained

potting mix with at least 10 per cent sand or fine gravel added.

If growing them alone in a container, make the container a minimal size larger than the root ball as excessive pot space invites fungus to move in. Make sure the container is placed where there is sunlight and if using a drip tray elevate the pot or container a little in the tray so that it does not sit in the excess water.

Lavender provides the ideal atmosphere for relaxing, diddling around and enjoying the Mediterranean garden.

## How to get the most out of your basil plant

BASIL is one of the most aromatic and widely-used herbs, but everyone knows that fresh basil beats the dried variety hands down. To get the most out of your basil plant, and ensure that it grows to its full potential, all you have to do is ensure that it gets what it needs: plenty of warmth, light and moisture.

If you want to grow your plant from seeds in the winter, it's wise to grow your plant indoors at first. This will ensure that they are ready to thrive outside once the warm weather descends. A constant temperature of 21°C is recommended.

As your plant grows, make sure to change the pot on a regular basis to ensure it reaches its maximum capacity. This way you can make the most out of all those leaves.

Most varieties of basil are

sensitive plants, so require a substantial amount of moisture and good drainage.

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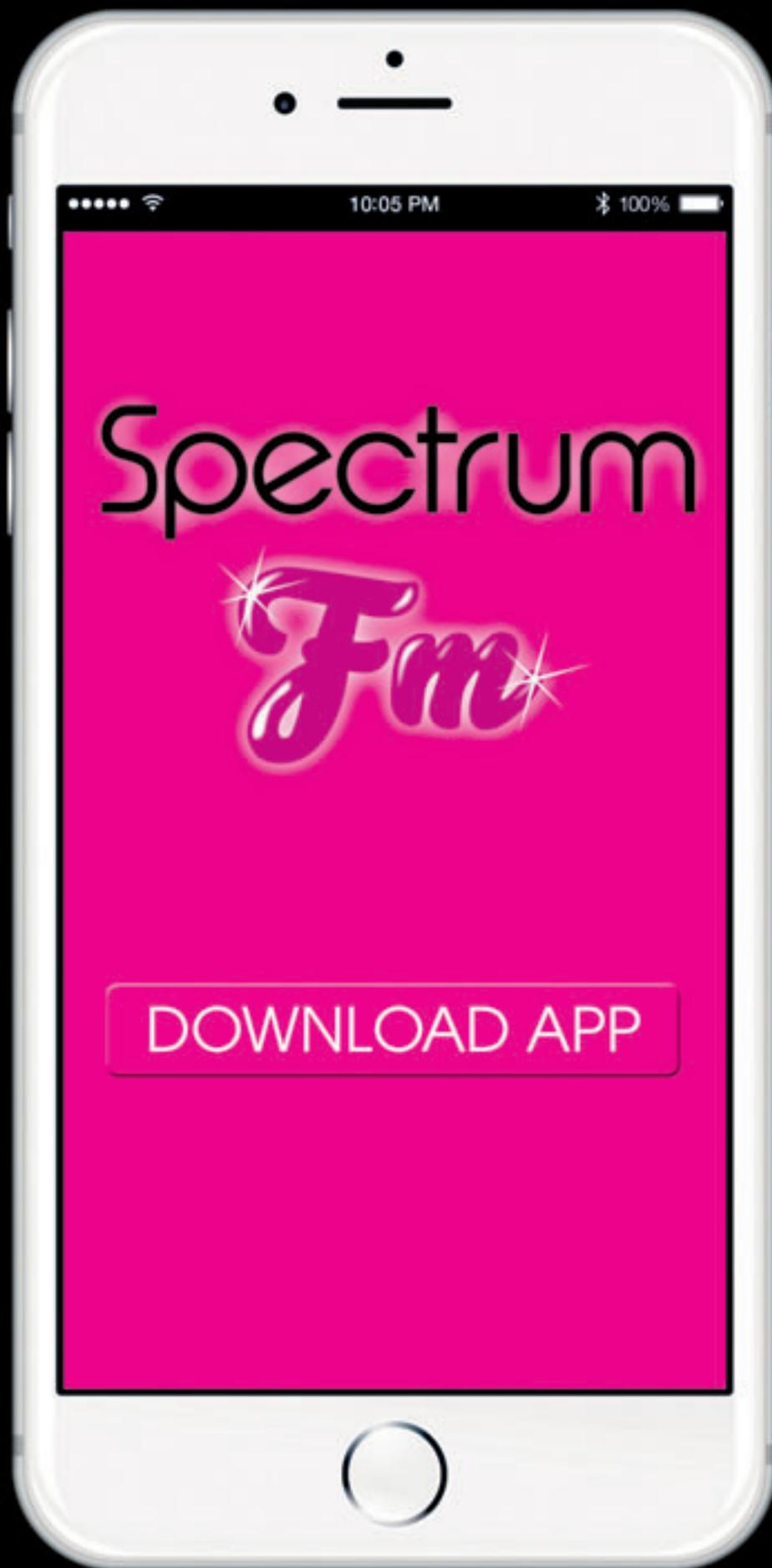


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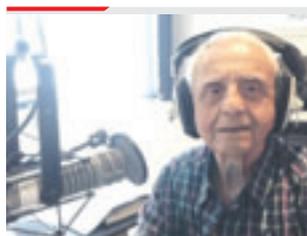
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# Rescue pets

ing on a rescue pet should take into consideration that they have time for the new family pet. Children should be encouraged to help and go to dog training classes which are educational, social and really a lot of fun.

FOR years it has been medically documented that companion animals, like dogs, cats, rabbits and birds, help people live longer and healthier lives.

Being responsible for caring for an animal often gives new meaning to someone who is living alone or who is far from loved ones. Pets can help elderly people keep an active lifestyle and may help fill a void left by living alone or away from family.

For working families tak-

Seniors may want to consider adopting an older adult animal instead of a puppy or kitten or rambunctious 'teenage' pet. Older pets are more likely to be calm, already house trained and less susceptible to unpredictable behaviour. Animal shelter staff can help potential adopters find the most suitable animal for their lifestyle.

Seniors should not be encouraged to take on a large dog, many seniors take on a dog far too powerful for



Pet companionship can be a health benefit.

them, which become unmanageable. Obviously if you live in an apartment then you have a small dog.

Dog's lives evolve around

odour; I always recommend bathing a rescue pet as soon as possible. By doing this you wash away the old identity and allow the dog

to get his new identity. Most dogs will roll in the ground to get their new identity.

Take your new pet for a walk around the area of your street near your home as soon as you are able. This allows your new pet to learn the new smells of the area.

Ensure that all doors, gates etc to the home are secure and that you have apart from a microchip a tab on the collar with your telephone number.

Emotionally you will feel very sorry for the little fellow and often new owners can overdo the attention. Best not to smother the dog and keep in mind that now is the time to set the rules of your home.

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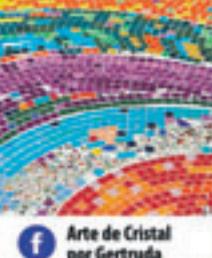
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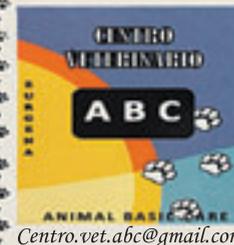


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*The Suzuki Wagon R should be avoided, like unprotected sex with an Ethiopian transvestite.*

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## Motor motivation

FOOTBALLERS will be forced to drive a 23-year-old Rover Metro with over 150,000km on the clock if they put in a bad training shift.

The novel approach to inspiration is the brainchild of Spanish coach Pep Clotet, currently in charge of English League One team Oxford United.

Whoever puts in the worst performance at team training will have to drive the car, which has a British L registration and a few bruises, for a week.

Though in the third tier of English football, first team players at Oxford United can expect a salary of at least £1,000 (€1,100) per week, more than enough to justify a flash new BMW or even a Ferrari. Let the games begin.

# Scrap battle begins

by Matthew Elliott

FORD has joined BMW in launching a scrappage incentive scheme. BMW and Vauxhall have offered drivers a £2,000 discount in the UK to exchange older models for new, more eco-friendly ones.

Ford goes one better. It is allowing motorists to exchange any brand of car or van, and get a discount on a new Ford model. The initiative is expected to be rolled out across Europe next year. Discounts will be at least €2,000, depending on the country.

Only old vehicles registered before 2009

and which precede Euro V engine emission standards can be exchanged for the discount. Germany is leading the way in offering financial incentives to scrap polluting vehicles. In the UK flagging car sales have also inspired the offer, with

many buyers hesitant to buy diesel, and waiting to see how Brexit irons out.

Ford has promised it will scrap all trade-in vehicles.

There are almost

20 million cars on British roads that aren't up to Euro V standards. The latest standard

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# China coy over Jeep takeover

A CHINESE takeover of Fiat Chrysler is on the cards. China's Great Wall Motors put the Shanghai Stock Exchange on notice when it announced interest in a bid for Jeep, a Fiat brand.

The largest SUV producer in China has since said that no formal talks have been held with Fiat. Although it has also floated the notion of buying out the biggest Italian car producer in its entirety, not just the Jeep brand.

Fiat Chrysler is the world's seventh biggest carmaker and has a huge share of the American market, with a major presence in Detroit, Motor City. Chief executive Sergio Mar-

chionne has openly expressed a willingness to welcome investors or even take-over bids as Fiat struggles to keep up with recent motoring innovations.

Great Wall is emerging as a major global player. Sales rose by 26 per cent last year to push past the one million mark, compared to Fiat Chrysler's 4.7 million. If Great Wall took over Jeep it would be on course to become the world's biggest SUV manufacturer.

Meanwhile, in China itself, Ford has entered into a partnership with Anhui Zotye to develop a new line of electric cars in what is now the world's biggest motor market.



SUV KING: A takeover of Jeep would make China world SUV leader.



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## BMW's Tasmanian Devil



### EVOLUTION: BMW'S M5 set for overhaul.

SET to debut at the Frankfurt Motor Show next month, the new BMW M5 is already turning heads with its astonishing speed. Despite being road legal and not touted as a speed demon it boasts a faster acceleration than most super-cars.

Described by BMW as a model which will 'surpass all previous incarnations,' the new M5 can reach 100kph from a standstill in just 3.4 seconds. That's half a second quicker than the last M5, and packs a faster punch than a McLaren 540C or Ferrari 599GTB.

The super saloon, scheduled to hit showrooms in Feb-

ruary 2018, boasts a 4.4 litre twin-turbo V8 engine that can produce 600hp. The top speed is limited to a modest 250kph to comply with regulations.

Though the engine is the same as the older M5, the extra speed comes from smoother oil and coolant systems, enhanced fuel injection pressures, improved rear tyre traction, and a better streamlined body.

The eight-speed automatic gearbox is new, as is the aluminium bonnet. The roof is made of carbon fibre reinforced plastic. The inside of the four-seater is as plush as can be expected with a

€90,000 plus price tag.

### ROAD TEST by Nick Fletcher

# Mini Countryman

HOW big can a Mini be before it is no longer mini? Looks like the German owners of the Mini brand feel there is no upper limit, for the latest Mini Countryman is even larger than before and can now be regarded by many as a mid-size family car.

With famous brand image and build-quality, plus increased practicality, the new Countryman is certainly going to please existing customers and win over a lot of potential new buyers.

Six Countryman variants are available, all with the Cooper prefix, with different engine outputs spanning 136 hp to 228 hp, and there is also the option of a plug-in hybrid. All except the hybrid have a six-speed manual gearbox though there is the option of an automatic, and all-wheel-drive.

To Mini purists, the Countryman's exterior styling may look a little awkward but there will be no complaints about the larger interior space, which allows it to rival crossover models such as Audi Q2, Mazda CX-3, Peugeot 3008 and SEAT Ateca.

Prices start at €24,753 (£22,695) for the model featured, the entry level Countryman Cooper with the 1.5 litre three-cylinder petrol engine and standard six-speed manual gearbox. Top speed is 202 kph

(126 mph), the 0-100 kph time 9.6 seconds. Fuel economy is 18.2 kpl (51.4 mpg).

While this larger Mini is heavier than the standard car and therefore is not quite as nimble, it is still nippy enough to add a fun factor to the driving. The steering is precise and reacts swiftly, giving good grip and composed handling. The ride is on the firm side, but acceptably so and overall, noise levels are low and the driving feel quite refined.

This entry model is well-kitted with alloy wheels, touchscreen, sat-nav, DAB ra-

dio, Bluetooth, air-con, cruise control, roof rails, auto lights and wipers and rear-view camera. Standard connected services on all models include compatibility with an iPhone via MINI's Connected app.

The larger cabin means four adults can travel in comfort, and five if the rear occupants are prepared to squash. The 40/20/40 rear seat fold configuration is useful for occupant and load variation and the boot space, up from 350 litres on the previous model to 450 litres on the latest, can extend to 1,390 litres with rear seats down.

Interior materials have a quality look and the dashboard is lifted by chrome detailing, big dials and chunky switchgear. The overall impression is of classy durability.

This new Countryman will be a hit with loyal fans and will convert others. While not as practical as some crossovers/compact SUVs, it has the bonus of a cool image and BMW-Mini build integrity.

## Stats panel

**Model:** Mini Countryman Cooper  
**Engine:** 1.5 litre petrol  
**Transmission:** 6 speed manual  
**Performance:** 0-100 kph 9.6 seconds, top speed 202 kph (126 mph)  
**Economy:** 18.2 kpl (51.4 mpg)  
**Emissions:** 126 g/km



Model tested is UK-specification and equipment levels and prices may vary in other markets.

### MINI COUNTRYMAN: Larger than before.



Model tested is UK-specification and equipment levels and prices may vary in other markets.

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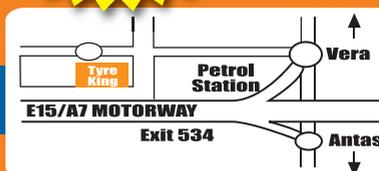
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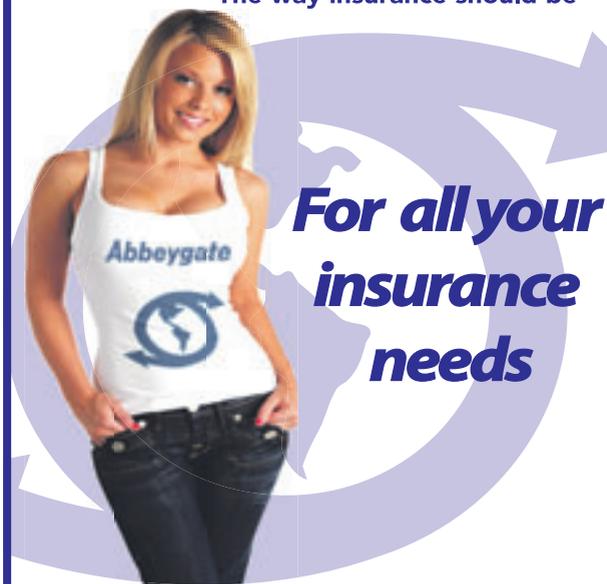
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# Froome looks strong on his bike and Mayweather wins the fight

## » From Back page

one of the richest fights in boxing history.

At a packed T-Mobile Arena, the former five-weight world champion faced a barrage of early punches from McGregor who was making his professional boxing debut.

Indeed, McGregor delivered a crisp uppercut in round one and, though he edged close to breaking rules with several punches to the back of the head, he performed admirably without ever looking as if he would knock out the American who came out of retirement for a potential £230m/€240m pay day. McGregor earned £100m.

When the fight was stopped, Mayweather was ahead on all three judge's cards.

**MOTOR SPORT** - Lewis Hamilton won last Sunday's Belgian F1 Grand Prix at Spa. Hamilton, who equalled Michael Schumacher's record 68 pole positions, is now seven points behind Sebastian Vettel who finished second at Spa ahead of Daniel Ricciardo. The next F1 GP takes place at Monza, Italy on Sunday.

The British MotoGP at Silverstone was won by Italian Andreas Dovizioso with Maverick Vinales (Spain) second and Valentino Rossi third... this after Marc Marquez's engine blew up! Dovizioso leads the rider's championship by nine points (183-174) from Marquez with Vinales third (170).

**FROOME: Leading the Vuelta after Sunday's stage.**

The next race is the San Marino Grand Prix in Misano on September 10.

## SPORTS DIGEST

• The second cricket Test against the West Indies at Leeds was going England's way on the final day (Tuesday). Joe Root's team scored 258 (Stokes 100) and 490-8 declared (Ali 84) while the 'Reggae men' amassed 427 (Hope 147 and Brathwaite 134, with Anderson taking 5-

76), leaving them 322 to win. Anderson was on 497

Test wickets prior to the West Indies second innings, while Root has now equalled A B De Villiers' record of scoring a half-century in 12 suc-

cessive Tests. The final match against the 'Windies' starts at Lords next Thursday (September 7).

• In the domestic T20 blast competition, the two semi-finals on finals day at Edgbaston this Saturday will feature home club Birmingham (Bears) against Glamorgan and Hampshire versus Notts.

• Hull made it successive RL Challenge Cup final wins as they defeated Wigan Warriors 18-14 in an excellent final at Wembley.

• New Zealand, after a

powerful second-half performance, came back to beat England 41-32 in Rugby Union's women's World Cup final in Belfast.

• Mo Farah's last-ever race in the Diamond League meeting in Zurich ended in victory in the 5,000m. The GB athlete will now concentrate on the marathon.

• Chris Froome was in

control and leading the Vuelta a España by 36 seconds at the start of this week. Meanwhile, the women's tour of the Netherlands is underway and today the Para-World Championships start in Pietermaritzburg.

• Andy Murray and Milos Raonic (both injured) and Victoria Azarenka (family reasons) are not competing in

the US Open tennis championship which started at Flushing Meadow on Monday. Rafael Nadal (Spain) and Karolina Pliskova (Czech Republic) are the favourites to win the respective singles titles.

• World number one Dustin Johnson beat fellow American Jordan Spieth in a sudden death play-off to win the Northern Trust golf tournament.

• And all the top sailors are now well into their second week in the 'Clipper round the world' yacht race.

**MAYWEATHER: Beat McGregor in the 10th round in Las Vegas.**



## Aguilon Golf members report

WEDNESDAY August 16 - Individual Stableford

1st Ian Jenner 40 pts  
2nd Roy Bishop 38 pts  
3rd Les Raufer 36 pts

Two's:

Dave Simpson 8th, Les Raufer 14th, Lynne Whibley 17th

Wednesday August 23 - Individual Stableford

1st Les Raufer 38 pts  
2nd Derrick Stephenson 37 pts on a card play off  
3rd Robin Hawkins 37 pts

Two's:

Dave Simpson 8th, Jim Laing, Louis Long, Dave Sharp 17th

For further information log on to their website at [aguilonmembersclub.com](http://aguilonmembersclub.com).

## Valle Del Este Golf Society

THIS week's Stableford event was won with an excellent score of 41 points by Lee Jones with second place being decided by a countback with James Walker, just pipping Tony Dudley on 34 points.

1st - Lee Jones: 41 points  
2nd - James Walker: 34 points  
3rd - Tony Dudley: 34 points

Valle Del Este Golf Society is affiliated to the Valle Del Este Golf Resort in Vera.

They play every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. Singles competitions are played every Thursday including a Monthly Medal.

Visitors are welcome (subject to available tee times). Please ring Alan Townsend on 634 379 887.





**LEWIS HAMILTON:** Won last Sunday's Belgian F1 Grand Prix at Spa. He is now seven points behind Sebastian Vettel who finished second.

Costa de Almería's best guide to local sport

**TO READ MORE**

# Arsenal gunned down, Hamilton wins at Spa

**Tony Matthews**

International Sports

*A former player, Tony is now the world's most prolific author of football books with 150 published since 1975. He has also been a PE teacher and a policeman, and is now a quiz-organiser, fund-raiser, for various charities, and sports correspondent for Spectrum Radio.*

Costa de Almería

I SAID it last week, and I'll say it again, over the 10 days there will be enough sporting action going on to suit everyone... with cricket, football, cycling, F1 motor racing, and tennis high on the agenda.

**FOOTBALL** - Last weekend, Manchester United beat Leicester 2-0 to maintain their 100 per-cent record to stay top of the PL. West Ham, whipped by Newcastle

3-0, lie rock bottom. Just above the Hammers are Crystal Palace who lost 2-0 at home to Swansea City.

Raheem Sterling scored a 97th minute winner and was then sent-off in Manchester City's 2-1 at Bournemouth... Liverpool outplayed 'useless' Arsenal to the tune of 4-0 at Anfield... Chelsea beat Everton 2-0... and the games between Huddersfield - Southampton, Tottenham - Burnley, Watford - Brighton and WBA - Stoke all ended in draws.

Cardiff City - Ipswich Town, Peterborough - Wigan, Exeter - Newport County and Aberdeen - Celtic are lying

first and second in the Championship, Leagues One and Two and the SPL respectively.

After Real Madrid's 2-2 home draw with Valencia, Real Sociedad now lead La Liga ahead of Barcelona, 2-0 winners over Alaves with a brace from Lionel Messi, who also missed penalty.

There are plenty of World Cup qualifying matches coming up including France - Holland tonight; Czech Republic - Germany, Lithuania - Scotland, Malta - England and San Marino - Northern Ireland tomorrow; Georgia - Republic of Ireland, Spain - Italy and Wales - Austria on

Saturday; England - Slovakia, Northern Ireland - Czech Republic and Scotland - Malta on Monday and The Republic of Ireland - Serbia on Tuesday.

\* With all these internationals taking place, there are no Premiership, Championship or SPL games this weekend.

**BOXING** - Last Saturday, American Floyd Mayweather junior (aged 40) extended his perfect career record to 50 successive professional wins by stopping Ireland's Conor McGregor (29) in the 10th round of one of their super middleweight contest in Las Vegas, which was billed as



**STURRIDGE:** Scored in the match Liverpool v Arsenal (4-0).

» Turn to page 71



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