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ISSUE No. 1680 | 14 - 20 September 2017 **COSTA DE ALMERÍA » YOUR PAPER, YOUR VOICE, YOUR OPINION** WWW.EUROWEEKLYNEWS.COM

## Dog beach demand

ANIMAL lovers have launched a petition urging the creation of proper dog spaces on Mojacar's beaches. The petition on Change.org now had more than 300 signatures at the time of writing, with a target of 500.

It will be sent to Mojacar Town Hall and the Junta de Andalucía. Online those interested in supporting it can find a full manifesto in Spanish.

## Fighting terror hand in glove

VITAL security meetings were chaired in Mojacar and Garrucha. The respective councils met with representatives from the Spanish armed forces and National Police to collaborate on anti-terrorism measures.

The objective was to ensure that Local Police in both municipalities work hand in glove with their National counterparts and military officials if and when the need arises.

Local Police will be expanding their responsibilities to keep a lookout for potential terrorist activity.

# Pumped up

## Illegal steroids gang busted



Officers in one of the suspected gyms.

By John Smith

Gyms and sports outlets in Almeria have been distributing illegal steroids, it has emerged.

It comes after 41 people have been arrested for the illegal importation and sale of banned substances estimated as being worth €2 million.

A probe was launched after police discovered that a gym in Palma de Mallorca was selling various banned drugs including anabolic steroids which are considered damaging to the health of those who use them.

Based on information

gathered from this first investigation, officers realised that the importation and sale of the drugs was much greater than first expected and although many of the items came into Spain via Portugal, they were actually being obtained from Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Poland and the United States.

Generally, the items were smuggled into Spain in vehicles which had false floors and were then distributed to gyms and sports outlets in Mallorca, Barcelona and the Canaries as well as the provinces of Almeria, Huelva, Malaga,

Tarragona, and Toledo.

In all, the investigators believe that between 2016 and 2017, the gang had imported 4,400 parcels with a weight of approximately 3.1 tons, which earned them around €2 million.

Payment for the banned substances was made in cash and in one intercepted parcel officers found €80,000 hidden in printer cartridges that were destined for Greece.

After 45 different raids on properties, officers seized a huge volume of these illegal drugs as well as €180,000 in cash, five luxury vehicles, narcotics and a number of weapons.

## Smuggler's paradise

MORE than a 10th of all the drugs imported into Spain come through Almeria.

In a paper published recently the Spanish State Security Corp says it seized 43,413 kilos of narcotics in the province in 2016.

That amounts to roughly 12 per cent of the total seized in Spain from traffickers. Only Malaga and Cadiz fared worse, with roughly 40 per cent of drugs entering Spain coming through the latter.

In Almeria much of the seizures are related to the hash trade. The province's extensive Mediterranean coastline is targeted by traffickers from North Africa where the drug is produced.

The province is now a leader in exporting marijuana to the rest of Europe, leading investigators to work directly with electricity company Endesa. They can help identify homes using a suspicious amount of electricity.

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**NEWS EXTRA**

**Pension problem**

A 'RETIREEES march' for decent pensions has been planned for Almeria. Angry trade unionists say Almeria has the third lowest public pension in Spain and plan to march next month.

**Pep talk**

**THE humble pepper is to become a Berja trademark. The town is petitioning the government to have its ubiquitous green pepper established as a desirable product of 'certified quality.'**

**Strange fruit**

*POLICE raided a farm in Gador where a 46-year-old local man had hidden 100 marihuana plants in amongst his orange trees. Suspicious neighbours smelt the crop and contracted police.*

# Nothing to see here

## Spain's best beach should be kept secret

By *Matthew Elliott*

LOS MUERTOS beach in Carboneras has been voted the best beach in Spain. The vote was cast by thousands of readers of popular journal '20 minutos' which held an online poll.

But not everybody was happy with the result. A throng of Almerians took to social media to preemptively repel an expected wave of tourism to the Cabo de Gata beach after the result.

Many voiced fears that being voted the best beach in Spain could prove a curse rather than a blessing for Los Muertos and the Cabo de Gata-Nijar Natural Park.

The '20Minutos' poll went viral across Spain and the world, reaching millions of Facebook and Twitter accounts. With its lofty new

title, Los Muertos is likely to attract vastly more tourists than usual next summer.

Readers from Almeria expressed wishes for a return to the past, when the beach was one of Spain's best kept secrets and a source of local pride.



**SECRET'S OUT:** Cabo de Gata preparing for invasion.

Even Almeria's tourist board, which exists to attract more visitors, has voiced disquiet about the prospect. Head of the provincial tourism service, Javier Garcia, has said "we do not want Costa del Sol-style tourism, nor do we want to become Alicante, Benidorm or Barcelona."

Instead the Costa de Almeria hopes to "attract just enough tourists so that

they can all be served with quality, while respecting the province's natural spaces."

Parallels can be seen in Mojacar, which several years ago banned wild stag parties and inflatable sex dolls in a bid to avoid becoming 'another Magaluf.' While the Cabo de Gata is less of a lads' holiday location, there is growing local anger over littering and poor parking by tourists.

**One-armed champion wins again**

AN Olympic hero from the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Games won the first gold medal in Spain's Para-Triathlon Championships. Jairo Ruiz of Almeria came top in his field in the Valencia competition last weekend.

Ruiz is one of the province's greatest sportsmen. He won Bronze in the Rio Paralympics and Silver in the European Championships this summer. Gold at Spain's Para-Triathlon secures his status among the elite of the sport.

Despite having no left arm from the elbow down, Ruiz has been able to sprint, swim and cycle his way to sporting glory. The triathlon specialist is sponsored by the Costa de Almeria board and is one of the province's top ambassadors.

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## Brothers Grimm

TWO brothers convicted of beating and raping the stepchildren of one of them at their impoverished El Ejido home will be given a retrial. The Supreme Court found flaws in the judicial process of the original judgement. The stepfather of the children was initially given 14 years and his brother three.

## Cutting corners

THE owner of a Nijar greenhouse was jailed for two years over the reckless death of an employee. The man plunged from the roof with no basic protective equipment or proper safety training. A judge also ordered the farm owner to pay €19,200 compensation to the parents of the deceased.

## Ferry fire

A FIRE broke out in the engine room of a Transmediterranean ferry bound for Almeria. More than 1,660 passengers were towed back to the Moroccan port of Nador. They were rudely awoken by the fire at 3am but it was quickly extinguished with no injuries. Passengers were offered new tickets to Spain.

## Voltage villains

A SECRET drug laboratory was uncovered when firefighters were called to a huge blaze at a block of flats in Roquetas de Mar. Thirty people were evacuated thanks to the greed of marihuana growers, who were stealing vast volumes of electricity from the mainframe. Guardia Civil are now searching for the culprits, who escaped in the commotion.

## Hero skater

SKATEBOARDERS invaded Velafique during the mountain town's biggest 'Freeride' event in history. More than 160 riders from six countries wooed crowds as they sped down steep hills performing gravity-defying stunts. Tribute was paid to Spanish skateboarder Ignacio Echeverria who was killed in June's London terrorist attack while trying to save a British policeman's life.

## Scruffy half dozen

SIX refugees fleeing war in Syria have arrived in Almeria. They are part of a group of 92 Syrians sent to Spain from refugee camps in Italy and Lebanon under an EU agreement. All six will receive professional help

# Tech veg intrigues Chinese

A CHINESE region is collaborating with Almeria on innovative new farming techniques. Delegates from Hebei, a northern region near Beijing, are in the province to study agri-food developments with local experts.

Representatives from the Hebei and Chinese governments flew to Spain with the heads of three major agricultural companies. They have toured Almeria's expansive greenhouses, particularly near Aguadulce and the 'plastic sea' of advanced agricultural production.

Chinese entrepreneurs are hoping to establish lucrative business links directly with Almerian companies and research centres.

They are especially interested in organic foods, artisan hams, cheeses, olives and oil. Almeria's citrus fruit industry, wines and meats are also of interest.

There is a rapidly growing market in China for high-quality Spanish food and drink, with Iberian ham now selling at record prices internationally.

Hebei is also looking to Almeria for technological expertise to help boost its own sizeable agricultural industry. Almeria is a global pioneer in farming education and the use of new, creative and cost-effective ways of growing organic food. Hebei has a population of 80 million people, almost double that of Spain, despite being less than half its size.

## SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE... 29

Tomorrow (Friday) is Queen Letizia of Spain's birthday, this most modern of royals having charmed the world with her grace, compassion and stylish wardrobe.

# Crowning glory



IMAGE-CONSCIOUS: Queen Letizia.

QUEEN LETIZIA is known as much more than the consort to King Felipe VI and mother to her two daughters Leonor (11) and Sofia (10). A style icon, philanthropist and Special Ambassador for the UN, she has built a reputation for being elegant, kind and socially aware, and gave the Spanish Royal Family's declining image a much-needed boost when she was crowned Queen in 2014.

## Not your average royal!

Like the Duchess of Cambridge Kate Middleton, Letizia does not have royal blood by birth, being the daughter of a journalist and a nurse from Oviedo, while her grandfather worked as a taxi driver.

She is the first non-noble person to be crowned Queen of Spain.

Letizia is known for her fashion sense and is often praised by fashion bloggers for her flawless outfit choices. She is a loyal Hugo Boss fan but also steps out in high street brands while on official duty.

Among her many duties as Royal Consort to the King, Letizia focuses her attention on many charitable causes and is particularly passionate about campaigning for children's rights, culture and education.



STILL ACTIVE: Queen Sofia.

## Women of means

- Isabella I (1451-1504) was the Queen of Castille and responsible for the political unification of Spain following her marriage to Ferdinand II of Aragon. She lowered the country's crime rate and unburdened the kingdom of the debt her brother had left behind.

- Mary I (1516-1558) was the daughter of King Henry VIII's Spanish wife, Catherine of Aragon. As well as reigning as Queen of England and Ireland, she was the Queen consort of Spain following her marriage to King Phillip.

- Isabella II (1830-1904) was crowned Queen at just three years old, but her succession was disputed by those who refused to recognise a female sovereign and led to the Carlist wars. She was eventually deposed in the 1868 Glorious Revolution.

- Queen Sofia (1938-), Letizia's predecessor still takes an active role in royal duties and remains dedicated to her passions such as art, sport and charity work. She is the executive president of the Reina Sofia Foundation which raises money to fund international projects in education, healthcare, environment and women's rights.

settling into their new homes. Spain has accepted just 1,980 of the 17,000 it promised to welcome.

## Mixed DNA

MASS graves from the Spanish Civil War have been reused over the decades. Relatives of victims executed by the Franco regime in

Almeria will never be able to identify family members. There are several mass graves in the province, but archaeologists say distinguishing victims from other bodies is like finding a needle in a haystack.

## Art auction

AN art exhibition in Rodalquilar is

holding an auction to raise funds for children with cancer. Paintings, photos and sculptures held at the Cabo de Gata gallery will be sold to big-hearted buyers, with all the proceeds going to the Argar children's charity. The initiative is supported by several local artists and photographers.

## Hurricane Pepe

AN Almerian man was caught in the eye of a hurricane. Pepe del Aquila, aged 31, found himself locked in the basement of his Miami apartment building as Hurricane Irma tore through the Florida city. He still found time to speak to Spanish press via Skype, telling the nation about his ample supplies of food and water.

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# 175

The total number of news and features which appeared in Issue 1679 of the Euro Weekly News Costa de Almería edition, including 51 local stories.

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## Top 5 stories

From 4 - 11 Sept

- 1 First two days of strike action suspended at Spain's airports to allow space for talks - **7,813**
- 2 Ryanair to axe wheelie bags in cabin - unless you book priority - **6,768**
- 3 UK-Spain flights face disruption from French air traffic control strike - **6,322**
- 4 Weather alert for three-metre high waves in Malaga, Granada and Almeria - **5,672**
- 5 Check your €20 banknotes now it could win you €6,000! - **5,575**

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## Poll of the week

Given the number of incidence involving drunk travellers on planes heading to/from Spain, should an alcohol limit be introduced in airports?

### LAST WEEK'S POLL:

As protests mount in Cataluña and Mallorca, should numbers be limited in Spanish tourism hotspots

Yes = 67%  
 No = 33%

## Top Social Media comments

**UK-Spain flights face disruption from French air traffic control strike** - Every single year, Europe has to endure this from the French. Can anybody understand why this is allowed to happen. If these people hate the job/conditions, leave and be replaced. The French are very weak over this. *Richard Taylor*

**Police investigate human skeleton found buried on Spanish beach** - Seems very strange January and again now. Wonder if he knows more than he is saying. Spooky! *Wendy Holliday*

My dogs would have found it all in one go, first time and dug it up for the police! *Julie Jones Peel*

**TV presenter blasted for 'macho' stunt as co-star's skirt is slashed live on-air** - Male chauvinist and a pervert, can you imagine if she was cutting his clothes off? (Not that anyone would want to) disgraceful to think young children might be watching! He needs to imagine if that was his daughter after all she must be the same age as his daughter?? *Imelda Hall*  
 Apart from him being a total creep, what person in their right mind chases anyone around

with open scissors? Me thinks he has serious mental issues. *Geoffrey Wilson*

**Drunken passengers who cause emergency landing for Alicante-bound flight are sentenced** - Why don't they sort out the cause and not the end result... so it is ok for them to sell drinks on the flight!!! but then when for whatever reason they were delayed everyone is surprised when people for the flight then get pissed... just stop all the drinking on the flights and close the rip off 'lounge' bars and the tax free shops... oh no we can't do that... then stop moaning... *Mike Aucott*

Totally inadequate for the disruption they cause. Limit drinks at airports and on flights. Easy to do just stamp their boarding pass. Allow two drinks and no more. *Maureen Quarlington*

**Torremolinos animal shelter killer faces new charges** - It's so easy when you work for a charity as others perceive you as a genuinely good person therefore placing you in a position of trust and unimpeachable. I have personal experience of this having witnessed fraud in a local charity in Mallorca. *Susan Ryan*

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## Bad booze survivor

THE one survivor among three men who drank contaminated alcohol was released from Almeria's Torrecardenas hospital. He had been in critical condition since the city fair several weeks ago.

His two friends died from alcohol poisoning after the trio consumed a home-made brew that contained traces of a biocide used to remove algae from swimming pools.

The chemicals caused serious liver complications which saw all three men keel over in public during the feria celebrations.

They were drinking in San Sebastian square before the severe abdominal cramps kicked in. Ambulance and police were called when two men collapsed and a third turned white and began defecating near a tree.

All were drenched in sweat and one died of a heart attack before paramedics could transfer him to hospital. The other died later in medical care.

## OUR VIEW

### Catalan problem

AS the Spanish Foreign Minister gets ready to visit the Campo de Gibraltar to discuss the future of the area after Brexit, he has greater problems on his mind.

If the Spanish government spends so much time on trying to recover a tiny enclave at the southernmost tip of the country, it now has to look elsewhere to an area that covers 32,000 square kilometres and has a population of 7.5 million.

The Catalanian Parliament is simply ignoring instructions received from the national government and the majority ruling party no longer recognises the legitimacy of Spain in the area.

It intends to proceed with what is regarded by Spain as an illegal referendum as it wants to declare independence and has even indicated that it intends to retain the euro as the official currency in the event that it does secede from Spain.

The European Union has made it clear that it would not recognise a new Catalan State and that it would not be able to officially use the euro as its unit of currency.

As police officers raid offices in Barcelona, there have been demonstrations on the streets but we can only hope that if the referendum goes ahead, there will be no independence majority otherwise the country runs the risk of falling into total chaos.

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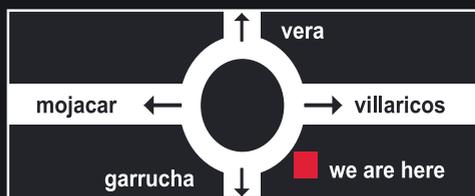
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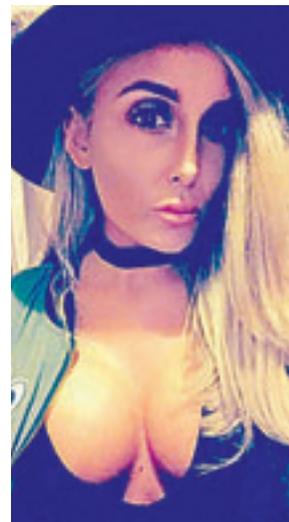
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# Rooney girl hits Spain

LAURA SIMPSON, the 29-year-old girl Wayne Rooney was caught sharing a 'kiss and cuddle' with, has been photographed in Marbella.

The mother-of-one has fled the UK in the midst of a media storm to enjoy the Spanish sun. The former lettings agent was snapped strolling along a beach wearing a nude bandeau top and snakeskin bikini bottoms after insisting her night with the Everton footballer was just "harmless fun."

The 31-year-old Everton player is said to have flirted



**CURVY: Laura Simpson.**

with Miss Simpson at a pub in Cheshire before drunkenly driving her car home. The father-of-three was then reportedly pulled over by police at around 2am for having a missing brake light before being breathalysed and arrested.

Rooney's wife, Colleen, is said to have left her €6 million marital home in Prestbury, Cheshire, and moved into her parents' house in Liverpool. According to media reports, Wayne now faces losing half of his €80 million fortune if Colleen now files for divorce.

BOXER, Conor McGregor, has been snapped letting off steam in Ibiza after

his recent fight against Floyd Mayweather. The 29-year-old attended the wedding of childhood friend, Tom Devitt, still sporting a black eye after earning £100 million (€1,100,000) for losing in the 10th round to Mayweather.

The handsome fighter looked healthy and happy in a white shirt and grey suit trousers while he danced with friends at the wedding and downed whisky.

# Punch drunk!

The super-fit star reportedly hired a 100-foot private yacht for

his friends to celebrate the event. The fighter also brought his sisters Erin and Aoife, and parents Margaret and Tony on the trip around the Balearics. After the wedding, McGregor took to Instagram to express his delight for his friends, commenting, "some buzz watching two childhood friends get married in Ibiza. Congrats Tom and Emma, absolutely delighted for you both. Bring on today's party, oh yes!"

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by Matthew Elliott

A NEW political group will fight for the interests of Almeria's gay and transsexual communities. It will be set up by the Socialist PSOE party to lead the way in devising policy ideas to promote inclusion.

General Secretary of the Almeria PSOE, Juan Carlos Navas, says the idea is to see members of the LGBT community create

# Boost for 'pink policies'

policy that is relevant to them, rather than it being the preserve of heterosexual politicians.

Various LGBT activist groups have called on the PSOE and other political parties to allow them to at least offer advice on issues

of bullying and abuse towards gay and transsexual people.

Navas claims that instances of public aggression are on the rise in Almeria. Other incidents have also brought the issue to the forefront.

During the Gay Pride celebrations in June, one Almeria neighbourhood refused for the first time in history to allow the parade on its turf. Conservative groups have also responded to the encroachment of LGBT-

friendly initiatives in the classroom.

The PSOE has been demanding that the Popular Party begin a major programme of inclusiveness. They would like streets to be named after famous gay people and information campaigns about abuse experienced by LGBT people in schools, social centres and even old folk's homes.

## NEWS EXTRA

### Local Lenin

A NIJAR councillor may become the provincial coordinator of Izquierda Unida, Spain's insurgent left-wing party. Alexis Pineda is considered heavy favourite to replace Rosalia Martin.

### Voting fever

NATIONALIST fever is ramping up among Almerians of Catalan descent. Polls have found that many Catalans living outside the region are even more in favour of independence than their compatriots.

### Hot olives

FIREFIGHTERS extinguished a serious blaze in Gador on Sunday morning. Damage was inflicted on a local olive grove and nine firemen attended the scene.

### Body found

A MAN'S body was removed from the Moline-ta area of Almeria City by firefighters. He had been missing for days. Four teenagers died in the same place earlier this year.

### Holy police

FOR the first time in history, Guardia Civil Day will be held at Almeria's Cathedral Square. A mass will also be held for the police on the October 12 national holiday.

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# Home comforts

## Real estate sector thrives as sales soar

By Matthew Elliott

THE health of Almeria's real estate sector is more robust than the rest of the country. The province has enjoyed the second largest increase in sales volume in all of Spain.

Only Tarragona fares better than Almeria according to the latest statistics from the National College of Registrars. From June 2016 to June of this year, the number of sales shot up by 25.7 per cent across the province, vastly more than the Spanish average.

From April to June this year, a total of 2,468 homes were sold, an increase of 21.3 per cent on the same period last year. Nationally



**SOARING:** Sales on the Costa de Almeria are second best in Spain.

the increase in sales volume was just 4.99 per cent.

Almost 10,000 homes have been sold across Almeria in the past 12 months. Adjusted for population the province is now on a par with the likes of Malaga, Al-

icante and the Balearic and Canary Islands, Spain's most popular tourist and second home destinations.

Almeria differs from its coastal neighbours in one important respect. Domestic buyers dominate, with 85 per cent of homes sold in the second quarter of 2017 going to Spanish nationals and 15 per cent to foreigners. In

Tenerife for example, 40 per cent of buyers are foreign.

But Almeria still surpasses the Spanish average when it comes to foreign buyers, and their proportion of the market is increasing. The province is also faring well with prices. Mojacar was recently named among Spain's top three fastest rising locations for property values.

**62** The number of different countries people came from to celebrate 30 years of Buddhism in Axarquia



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Moving to Europe is a dream for so many Britons. Some aim to retire abroad, while others cannot wait and move over while still working, or take early retirement to start the dream sooner rather than later.

What about you?

Around 900,000 UK citizens are currently long-term residents of other EU countries, according to the Office for National Statistics. But will this trend continue after Brexit? In fact, we have noticed a surge in interest from people who want to leave the UK, and as soon as possible. With offices in five EU countries, including Spain, we are also getting enquiries from people who have not yet chosen a country and are investigating their options.

#### Residency rights

Reassuringly, both the UK and the EU have said they will recognise existing residency rights. So if you are already fully resident within the EU - or gain residency before a certain date - you should keep the right to stay there permanently.

What we do not yet know is what the cut-off date will be, or what the rules will be for those who arrive

# Britons continue to move to Europe – Are you one of them?



By **Gerald Turner,**  
Partner,  
**Blevins Franks**

after Brexit. New mutual agreements should lay out how processes like acquiring residency, visas and permits will work in a post-Brexit world. We anticipate that most countries will continue to welcome British expatriates, but the procedure may be less straightforward than today. You may want to secure residency soon – under

current rules – rather than waiting to see what happens.

#### Which country?

For many people it is an easy decision; they have visited a country a few times and can happily picture themselves living there. But could the tax implications put you off?

Others are still weighing up a few different countries. In this case you need to think about which country will suit you best, but also research the tax regimes as one of the factors to consider.

For most of us, lifestyle is more important than how much tax you pay, but tax does play a part and tax burdens vary across countries.

You may be surprised to find that, with effective, compliant tax planning in place, the taxes in your preferred country, such as Spain, are not as high as you imagined. With a deep understanding of the local tax

regime and planning opportunities you may be able to significantly reduce your tax liabilities. This is particularly the case if you are retired and have pension and investment income, as how you hold your assets can make a big difference to how they are taxed.

#### Tax and estate planning tips

This is not an area for do-it-yourself tax planning. However much research you do on the internet, it will not match the knowledge and experience you get from a specialist who lives in the country, has been working with the local tax system for years and knows how to use it to your advantage.

You also need to think about when to sell assets. Weigh up whether you would be better off selling UK property and investments while still UK resident, or waiting until you are

resident in your new country.

It is also important to consider estate planning, as each country has its own succession laws and often some form of inheritance tax, typically with very different rules to the UK. Again, these rules can often be overcome or mitigated with local knowledge and careful planning.

Cross-border financial planning can be complex at the best of times. The new global automatic exchange of information regime makes it even more important to get this right, and Brexit adds further considerations. Specialist advice from a firm that can advise on a few countries and the interaction between regimes will be invaluable as you navigate this new world.

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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Gerald Turner, our local Blevins Franks Partner for Almeria, is holding Open Consultations in Mojacar.

Consultations

Whether you have queries regarding personal taxes in Spain, or are worried about succession tax or want to improve the tax efficiency of your investments, come along and see Gerald. Or just pop by to pick up a free copy of the 'Blevins Franks Guide to Living in Spain'.

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# Volcanic lair for geopark gathering

By Matthew Elliott

THE Cabo de Gata-Nijar Natural Park is being represented at the European Conference of Geoparks this week. The celebration of geodiversity takes place in the volcanic Azores islands and brings together some of the planet's most unique natural spaces.

Geologists with expertise in the Cabo de Gata, one of Europe's few landscapes unspoiled by human habitation, will discuss plans to help preserve the continent's natural parks.

One strategy being considered is an advance in scientific tourism. The Cabo de Gata, with well-preserved geological imprints millions of years old, is already a popular destination for universities and other institutions.

The European Geopark



**GEOPARK:** Cabo de Gata among world's most unique geological marvels.

Network hopes that by expanding scientific tourism, the parks will gain more funding from the scientific community to help preserve the areas.

It will also decrease their reliance on mass tourism, the effects of which are starting to be seen in the Cabo de Gata. Badly parked rental cars and littering have dismayed

local ecologists.

Strategic decisions from this week's event will be carried on to the eighth International Conference on World Geoparks next September. There are currently 111 recognised geoparks on the planet and Spain ranks third on the global rankings.

Three of Andalusia's natural parks are on the list.

## Club betrayal

MAYOR of Almeria Ramon Fernandez-Pacheco has come under fire for apparently promising the same empty public building to two different groups.

The La Goleta site was initially promised to the local neighbourhood association, but now plans are being drawn up to make the site a huge open space for various social clubs.

The La Goleta neighbourhood association has been prepared for its plush new digs since late last year. But they were shocked last week to find out that the council has been drawing up secret plans.

Instead the space will be opened up to 75 other social groups scattered across the city so they can hold regular meetings.

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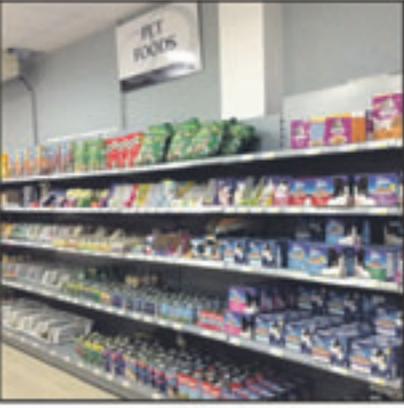
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## ‘Selfie’ contest underway



**SMILE:** Selfies being used to showcase tourist attractions.

By *Matthew Elliott*

A ‘SELFIE’ competition is underway as Almería prepares to celebrate World Tourism Day at the end of the month. Tourist chiefs are encouraging residents across the province to take photos of themselves which will showcase Almería to the world.

All photos must be ‘selfies,’ meaning they are self portraits instead of picturesque snaps of the sunset over Mojácar. As

long as the person taking the photo is in the photo, and it shows Almería in a good light, the website [www.turismodalmeria.org](http://www.turismodalmeria.org) is accepting entries until next week.

People are asked to take three selfies near touristy areas that could function as an advert for the city on World Tourism Day, Thursday September 27.

There are prizes for the best photos. The two winners will receive an eight-day cruise

from the Costa Cruise company to either Paris or Rome.

Almería is doing its best to promote the selfie contest with advertisements on social media, city posters, the radio and in hotels and bars.

Selfie takers are advised to be careful with their shots. The Darwin Awards, which celebrates bizarre, self-inflicted deaths around the world, features a regular stream of ‘selfies gone wrong.’

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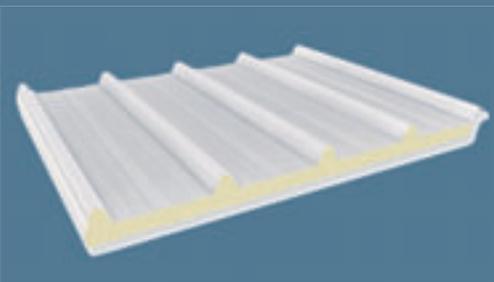
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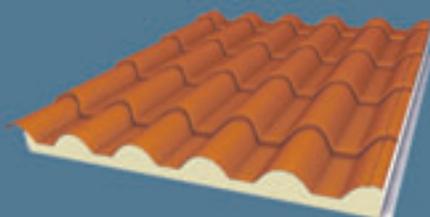
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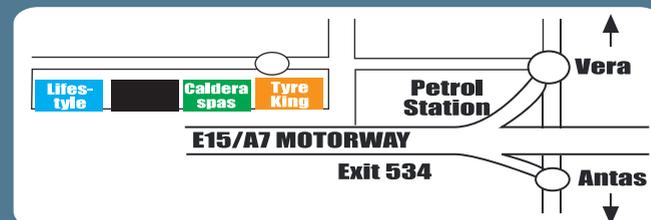


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## Pipeline problems

AFTER a series of inconvenient water cuts, Mojacar has requested a full analysis of the pueblo's water infrastructure.

The town hall has urged the Almería provincial board to look closely at the section running between Silos and the Jaramel tank.

Isabel Sanchez, presidents of the Mojacar Pueblo Commercial Association wrote a letter to the council pleading with them to help prevent further cuts in the vital supply.

Residents as well as hotel, bar and restaurant owners, are badly affected by the continuing uncertainty.

Many have sustained losses, especially those with heightened water demands over the tourist season. Proposals have been made to ensure that businesses affected by the pipeline problems are fairly compensated.

# Spy game!

By Kat Ashton

FACEBOOK has been slapped with a €1.2 million fine after breaking Spanish law.

The Spanish Data Protection Agency (AEPD) claimed in a report that the social media site had violated their users' privacy on multiple accounts by exploiting their personal data for advertising purposes.

The AEPD focused on how Facebook harvests information on people's sexuality, religious beliefs and ideologies without informing them how it plans to use this information. The agency said that users did not give the social network consent to manipulate their information for these purposes and revealed that the company broke more laws by not deleting the data once it was no longer useful.

In a statement, Facebook rejected the accusations and claimed that the AEPD was wrong to accuse the company of showing advertising based



**NO PRIVACY:** Prosecutors say the site violated users' privacy.

on sensitive personal information. They assert that their ad-targeting was solely based on content people 'liked' on the site.

However, under EU law, 'any information relating to an identified or identifiable natur-

al person' qualifies as personal data, which includes the content people 'like.'

Spain has followed the example of France, Belgium and Germany who have also taken action against the company in recent months.

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**Apartment in Mojacar Pueblo**  
2 Bed 1 Bath. Large terrace with views.  
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# Major traffic crackdown

By Matthew Elliott

TRAFFIC police across Almeria are preparing to launch a campaign targeting drivers and passengers who don't wear seatbelts. The crackdown will be at its fiercest on the province's smaller roads where, statistically, more people try and get away with it.

This is despite the fact that the vast majority of road deaths across Almeria occur on small, rural roads and that half of the fatal victims were not strapped in.

In the past four years 24 car passengers who neglected to wear seat belts have been killed in the province. Five of

them died this year.

A recent survey found that one in five drivers don't bother wearing a seat belt for shorter journeys. Almeria also has the highest proportion of old cars, aged between 10 and 20, in Spain. Most cars don't emit an alarm when the driver isn't buckled in.

The police checks in the coming weeks are designed to coincide with the start of the new school year. There will be a special focus on child safety seats and restraint systems.

The last time the Guardia Civil carried out seatbelt checks they caught more than 160 people in just seven days, issuing an

average fine of €200 and deducting three points from drivers.

This year they have a new technological ally. There are now seven smart cameras dotted around the province that are able to detect if drivers or passengers are not wearing seatbelts. They can also determine whether a driver is using a mobile phone.

These super cameras are located on the A-1000 between El Cercado and Viator, on the N-344 in El Toyo, the A-3101 at Vicar, at kilometre 448.08 on the A-7 between Almeria and Huerca de Almeria (where there are two), the Roquetas de Mar ring road and the Las Losas road.

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## APSA raffle winners - August 2017

THE lucky winners this month are:

Bill and Malone's Lennon who won a two-course Sunday lunch for two or fish and chips with dessert for two any day of the week (closed Mondays).

Jill and Colin who won a €10 voucher for Colin The Card.

Barbara Dickinson who won a €15 voucher for Pricebusters.

Sellers - Jean and Mac: €46, Keith: €30. Total collected: €76.

APSA is grateful to Almeria Ten Pin Bowling, Colin The Card and Pricebusters for their monthly prizes and to all who purchase raffle tickets. The proceeds will go towards helping the many animals in the care of APSA.

# A friendly reminder

ALMANZORA GROUP OF FRIENDS are to hold an open day from 11am to 1pm on Saturday September 23.

The event will take place at the Library and Information Centre at Avenida Lepanto 44 in Albox, just down from Total Entertainment and close to Chapmans.

Visitors will be able to browse the vast selection of library books or buy some of the second-hand titles on sale.

Raffle tickets costing €2 for a strip of five have been available since August 8 and are still available, with prizes including bottles of wine, chocolates, picture frames, toiletries and much more.

Why not take the opportunity to meet some of the committee members, make new friends and sip a cool complimentary drink?

The group very much appreciates the continued support.

## Dames' 25th anniversary!

DAMES IN TURRE will be celebrating their 25th anniversary with a lunch on Wednesday September 20 at Torre Bahia. Members and special guests will be welcome. Zoe representing Currencies Direct will be sponsoring a Cava reception.

Dames' first meeting after the summer break will be on

Monday September 25 at The Hostel Rural Turre at 11am. Tinaka will be bringing along her fabulous jewellery plus Carol and Margaret from Casa Carma will have lovely gifts and items for the home.

Contact Membership Secretary Eileen McGill on 652 208 072 or President Lesley Barlow on 661 085 551.

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NEWS FROM OUR FIVE OTHER EDITIONS

# Keeping agricultural traditions

■ COSTA BLANCA NORTH



Photo credit: Muchamiel town hall

■ SMALLHOLDERS: Help towards acquiring seeds and plants.

» By Linda Hall

MUCHAMIEL smallholders and growers have until September 15 to apply for subsidies.

The town hall hopes to encourage the town's agricultural sector by providing economic help that will help growers acquire seeds and plants as well as the materials and equipment required to prepare their land. There will also be grants towards the introduction of modern irrigation methods that will help to economise on the amount of water used.

The principal aim, the town hall's Agriculture explained, is to ensure a continuance of the town's farming traditions by helping growers reduce their costs.

Those wishing to take part in the scheme should apply to the OMAC Citizens' Attention office before September 15. The necessary forms are available at OMAC or can be downloaded from the town hall's website [www.mutxamel.org](http://www.mutxamel.org) under the Medio Ambiente (Environment) and Agricultural sections.

■ COSTA BLANCA NORTH

## Watered down

TORRENTIAL rain and hail damaged 700 hectares of agricultural land in wine-producing Utiel-Requena (Valencia) causing €1 million of damage, principally to vines although almond and olive groves were also affected.

## Quick getaway

AFTER trying unsuccessfully to break into the restaurant at a Tibi petrol station thieves forced open a fruit machine but had fled when the alerted Local Police arrived six minutes later.

## Good clients

CHINA overtook Germany as the principal customer for Alicante Province wine during the first six months of the year, with a 23.5 per cent increase in imports, compared with 2016.

## Help offered

FINESTRAT'S mayor and Education councillor visited municipal kindergartens for those up to three years old, reminding low-income families that they could apply for subsidies until September 30.

## On the ball

THE Valencian Ballgame team representing Spain in the World Cup in Colombia next November held their second training session in La Nucia, as they prepare to defend their 2016 title.

## Healthy stuff

THE Mercat Arrels farmers' market featuring organic vegetables, wine and cosmetics returned to San Juan's Plaza del Ayuntamiento and will be held on the second and fourth Sunday of each month.

■ AXARQUÍA

## No electric!

FOLLOWING a series of power cuts in Motril, electricity company Endesa has claimed their network is in "perfect condition," and that €60,000 will be spent on line maintenance this year.

## Dry river

ALMUNECAR'S Councillor for the Environment, Luis Aragon, claimed the Junta de Andalucía are blocking the town's attempts to clean debris from the Rio Seco and plans to demand an explanation.

## Migrant move

THIRTY-THREE African migrants have arrived in Motril by boat, including four minors. The group have now been placed in a 'temporary stay' centre.

## Cliff hanger

A MAN has been rescued by emergency services in Canillas de Aceituno after falling and injuring a leg while rappelling in a remote area of the Almachares ravine.

## Adult school

REGISTRATION for classes at the Nerja Adult School is open until tomorrow (Friday) with lessons in Spanish for foreigners and computer science on offer.

## Popular rule

THE mountain town of Archez now has a minority-led council after a Partido Popular's councillor, Miguel Fernandez, stepped aside due to 'discrepancies.'

■ COSTA BLANCA SOUTH

## Care homes

OVER the past two years, the municipality of Cartagena has increased the number of senior citizens using their residential care facilities from 406 to 671.

## Thank you

EMILIO BASCUÑANA, the mayor of Orihuela, has taken the opportunity to formally thank all those that helped during and after last winter's floods.

## Illegal catch

GUARDIA CIVIL officers have detained two fishermen for allegedly catching a large tuna fish off the Portman Beach in La Union, Cartagena.

## Increase staff

FOLLOWING the initiative of the Alicante health service to carry out more operations on a Saturday to reduce the numbers of people on waiting lists for surgery, unions have demanded more staff to meet the extra requirements.

## That hurts

THE recent rains that hit many areas of the Costa Blanca affected Torreveja more than most. One of the major downsides has been that it has meant an infestation of mosquitoes particularly at the weekly market.

■ COSTA DEL SOL

## Wet work

AFTER two years of issues, a €1.4m swimming pool will finally open in October. The Sabinillas pool near Manilva has seen conflicts between promoters, delays and a flood since work began in 2015.

## New homes

A NEW €23.75m investment will see 674 new homes built in Mijas. National construction company, Quabit Inmobiliaria, announced that the 79,000 square metre investment will be aimed at foreigners looking for second homes.

## Squid tribute

A SPANISH basketball megastar has had an octopus named after him. Sea Life Benalmadena made the tribute to Pau Gasol after his triumph in Eurobasket 2017 where he became the top scorer in the competition's history.

## Honey pot

BEEKEEPERS will receive €5.7 million from the government, 1,074 beekeepers in provinces across Andalucía will receive the funding as the government focuses on biodiversity conservation.

## River boost

MALAGA Council has stumped up €200,000 for the regeneration of Cueva del Gato, in Benaolan. The funds will see a wooden gangway over the riverbed of Rio Guadiaro and as well as the improvement of the surrounding area.

■ MALLORCA

## Car crooks

GUARDIA CIVIL officers arrested three men accused of a spate of 50 car break-ins across Mallorca. Police believe they made €10,000 flogging stolen goods on Palma's black market.

## Liebes island

HIT British reality TV show Love Island will have a German edition also filmed on Mallorca. It is the same format of couples shacking up and hoping to gain public support at home.

## Naval warfare

TWO American war ships spent the weekend at Palma port. The USS Porter, a destroyer, and the USS Bataan, an amphibious attack ship, are part of the US Navy.

## Gorge rescue

A HIKER was rescued by a dozen soldiers when he fell into a rocky gorge during the descent from the Torrent de Pareis and injured himself. The route is among the hardest in Mallorca.

## Fat lady

TWO theatre companies which have enthralled Mallorca audiences for decades are on the verge of collapse. Res de Res and En Blanc are struggling to make ends meet while maintaining artistic freedom.

## DENMARK

### Airport evacuated

A TERMINAL at Copenhagen airport was temporarily evacuated and blocked off last Tuesday while police investigated a suspicious piece of luggage. Authorities reopened the terminal less than two hours later.

### Trusted nation

A NEW poll reveals British citizens think Denmark is the most trustworthy country out of all their neighbours, with 21 per cent of those surveyed saying they would trust a Dane more than any other European nationality.

### False floods

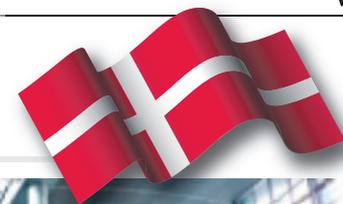
LOCALS in Esbjerg thought they were in for a monsoon following a faulty



weather forecast. The Danish Meteorological Institute website wrongly stated the town would have an unprecedented rainfall level of 18mm for two days.

### Girl power

DENMARK'S newest political



party, Feminist Initiative, aims to push women's issues to the forefront of Danish politics. The party made its political agenda public last week and will enter five candidates in upcoming municipal elections.

## GERMANY

### Green cabs

THE company CleverShuttle has come up with a ride-sharing solution that will help you do your bit for the environment. The app, which acts like a car-share service, now boasts 10-hydrogen powered Toyotas in its Hamburg fleet.

### Sick notes

AIR BERLIN was forced to cancel

dozens of flights last Tuesday due to an unusually high number of pilots calling in sick. Over 120 flights were affected by the epidemic.

### Smart tickets

A NEW check-in option on Deutsche Bahn trains will allow passengers to validate their own tickets. Passengers can use the train's free onboard WIFI to

open their app and check in once they've found their seat.

### Beer record

A GERMAN man has broken the world record for carrying beer. Oliver Struempfel managed to walk 40 metres while carrying an impressive 29 beer-filled tankards, weighing more than 69kg in total.



## FRANCE

### French union

FRENCH workers protested against Macron's labour reforms last Tuesday. More than 4,000 strikes were called by the CGT, France's biggest trade union, with over 180 street protests attended nationwide.

### Banksy blanked

THE owner of a house in Calais, France painted over a mural by the British street artist Banksy, whose work can sell for thousands of euros, because he thought the building looked too shabby.

### Wolves back

WOLF numbers in France are on the up, with over 360 predators now thought to roam the French countryside, and seven new packs reported since last year.

### Tensions mount

A SENIOR North Korean official has criticised France for claiming that the country's nuclear ambition poses a threat to Europe while Paris remains in full possession of their own nuclear arsenal.



## BELGIUM

### Mayor murdered

THE murder of a 71-year-old Belgian mayor, whose throat was slit in the Mouscron graveyard where he acted as caretaker, has sent ripples of shock throughout the country.

### Suburb shooting

AN elderly man was shot dead by his 74-year-old neighbour who also wounded another man. The perpetrator, from Linkebeek, has since been arrested by police.

### Gymnast gold

TWO Belgian gymnast pairs have taken home gold medals following their performances in the 2017 Acrobatic Gymnastics World Cup, the finals of which were held last weekend in Lisbon, Portugal.

### Refugees rejected

A BELGIAN NGO has described the increased police action against refugees taking shelter in parks and transport hubs as "inhumane." The Humain organisation claims that those detained by police only visited the areas to receive food donations.



## NETHERLANDS

### More millions

THERE are now over 106,000 millionaires in the Netherlands - and a fifth of these are farmers. The number has increased by almost 25 per cent over the past decade, with their combined assets now totalling €309 billion.

### Monument men

NEARLY a million people visited a monument during the Netherlands' Open Monument Day. Over 4,000 monuments that are normally closed to the public were open free of charge last weekend.

### Dutch reach

CYCLISTS are campaigning for learner drivers to be taught the 'Dutch reach' - a way to safely open car doors while checking the blind spot - to cut down on the number of cyclists injured by careless motorists.

### Irma strikes

KING WILLEM-ALEXANDER made a trip to the former Dutch colony Saint Martin which was hit hard by Hurricane Irma last week. The Dutch King visited the hospital to meet those injured.



## SWEDEN

### Gun spike

POLICE are cracking down on gun crime following 81 shooting incidents over the summer. Most of the incidents happened in Stockholm and almost all were a result of gang-related crimes.

### Reckless roads

ACCORDING to a new survey, almost one in 10 Swedish road users skip red lights. The worst offenders are pedestrians, of which 26 per cent were discovered to cross roads before getting the green light.

### Cash-free

SWEDEN is now the most card-friendly nation on the planet, with only 1 per cent of the nation's payments made using cash in the past year.

### Picture protest

RENOWNED Swedish photographers are coming together to launch an exhibition to protest Donald Trump's criticisms of the nation's immigration policies. The artists seek to counter this by showing a more diverse image of the country.



## NORWAY

### Election victory

NORWAY'S Prime Minister Erna Solberg was re-elected into power following a campaign fought on oil and taxes. Solberg's right-wing Conservative party narrowly defeated the Labour-led opposition with promises of steady regulation on the oil-fuelled economy.

### Wealth record

THE largest sovereign wealth fund in Norway hit \$1 trillion for the first time in history. The record-breaking fund was established in 1998 to safeguard oil and gas proceeds for future generations.

### Homeless goals

OSLO hosted the Homeless World Cup this year which gathers players from over 50 nations with the aim of ending homelessness for good. Brazil took home the prize after narrowly beating champions Mexico.

### Black gold

NORWAY is struggling to phase out its dependence on oil due to the sharp fall in prices. Over 50,000 jobs have already been erased from the industry which inflated the nation's wealth in recent decades.





# almeria homes

Here is a selection of properties sold by Almeria Homes in August

<p>La Perla, Arboleas</p>  <p><b>SOLD</b> €142,950 VILLA SALSA</p>	<p>Aljambra, Albox</p>  <p><b>Sold in 3 weeks</b> €185,000 VILLA LEON</p>	<p>Los Higuerales, Arboleas</p>  <p><b>SOLD</b> €130,000 CORTIJO ANDALUZ</p>	<p>Locaiba, Albox</p>  <p><b>SOLD</b> €183,950 VILLA ROVER</p>	<p>Cucador, Zurgena</p>  <p><b>Sold in 1 day</b> €144,950 VILLA BARRACUDA</p>
<p>Aljambra, Albox</p>  <p><b>SOLD</b> €159,000 CORTIJO OLIVOS</p>	<p><b>WE NEED PROPERTIES FOR SALE</b></p>			<p>La Hortichuela, Albox</p>  <p><b>SOLD</b> €239,950 VILLA DELFIN</p>
<p>La Hortichuela, Albox</p>  <p><b>Sold the same day</b> €225,000 VILLA INVINCIBLE</p>				<p>Cantoria</p>  <p><b>SOLD</b> €135,000 VILLA GRANADA</p>
<p>El Rincon, Arboleas</p>  <p><b>SOLD</b> €97,000 CORTIJO OLIANDER</p>	<p>Partalao</p>  <p><b>Sold in 5 days</b> €196,000 CORTIJO BUDDHA</p>	<p>Las Labores, Albox</p>  <p><b>SOLD</b> €169,000 VILLA DORITAS</p>	<p>Los Patricios, Albox</p>  <p><b>Sold in 5 days</b> €170,000 VILLA BACARES</p>	<p>El Cucador, Zurgena</p>  <p><b>SOLD</b> €85,000 CORTIJO SELVA</p>

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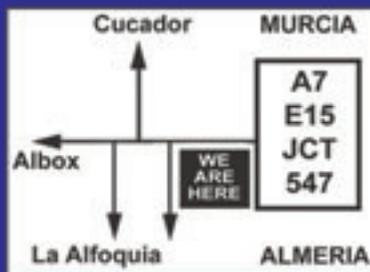
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# Sausage party



**ALEXEI NAVALNY: Was pelted with sausages.**

VLADIMIR PUTIN'S biggest critic, Alexei Navalny, was pelted with sausages when he arrived at Moscow's Domodedovo airport. The opposition leader was in Strasbourg fighting a human rights case. A divisive figure, he has led public protests against the president and been arrested numerous times.

## Humpty Dumpty

TWO hackers who are part of the infamous (Shaltai Boltai) Humpty Dumpty computer gang were jailed for leaking sensitive information about senior Russian politicians, including prime minister Medvedev. The men also attempted to blackmail their victims. They have been given three years each in a Moscow jail.

## Weather woes

ALCOHOL is behind 70 per cent of deaths of men aged under 35 in Russia's far east. Chronic alcoholism rates are double the Russian average in the remote region. In Chukotka 330 out of every 100,000 people are alcoholics. Russia is the world's fourth largest consumer of alcohol.

## Tweet wars

A TWITTER account called BritishEmb1917 has been shut down after a complaint from the British government. The account, set up by Russia Today, a propaganda network, was supposed to represent British actions in Russia at the height of the 1917 Revolution. Moscow's real British Embassy wasn't happy.

## Wobbly legs

A RUSSIAN astronaut has returned to Earth after spending years in outer space. Fyodor Yurchikhin spent 673 days on a variety of extra-terrestrial missions. He spent most of the time with American astronauts on the International Space Station, including Peggy Whitson who, at age 57, has now completed 10 space walks.

## Model workers

A FLIGHT attendant who claimed she was discriminated against for being unattractive has won her case. Yevgeniya Magurina said she was sidelined from Aeroflot's long distance flights and forced to take short domestic overnight trips. She stopped receiving bonus pay when she requested a larger uniform.



## First serve

TENNIS star Maria Sharapova has released her memoirs. 'Unstoppable: My Life So Far' was already a bestseller before it hit bookshops around the world. The number of pre-orders of the Russian's book shot it to the top of the Barnes and Noble bestseller list last week.

**SHARAPOVA:**  
Has released  
her  
memoirs.

## Better credit rating for bank

THE American credit rating company Moody's has reacted well to Liberbank's announcement that it intends to raise €500 million on the Spanish stock exchange.

Coupled with its decision to dispose of some of its toxic real estate and bad loans more quickly than initially expected, Moody's has given it a B1 debt rating.

This will come as welcome news to what has been regarded as the most vulnerable medium-sized bank still trading in Spain.

# Spanish rich get richer

THOSE Spaniards with money are seeing their worth expand more quickly than ever and there are now 549 taxpayers with fortunes worth more than €30 million.

Unlike most of the other members of the European Union, Spain still operates a wealth tax and requires anyone with a gross taxable wealth in excess of €1 million to register and pay the additional tax.

The latest report from Spanish Tax Agency shows that 188,680 individuals signed declarations to establish their obligation to pay this tax and of

By John Smith

those, approximately one third had cash and assets in excess of €1.5 million which is a 10 per cent increase over figures from five years earlier.

One reason may be that the Tax Authorities have taken action to identify wealth within the country following much publicised alleged evasion often from politicians and more recently footballers.

In addition, a tax amnesty which allowed the rich to pay only a small proportion of tax owed may have

'flushed out' rich residents who had not previously been registered for the wealth tax.

The combined assets of all of those who have registered to pay wealth tax totals €582 billion which equates to nearly 50 per cent of Spain's Gross National Product and a single individual, Amancio Ortega founder of Inditex accounts for €71 billion of that total.

Whilst those with few investments see a slow growth, there seems to be some truth in the old saying that 'money attracts money.'

## US firm promotes Santander

MORGAN STANLEY the powerful American investment company is very bullish about the potential for rises in the shares of Spanish bank Santander.

It has upped its target price for the shares three times in the last six months even though actual price on the stock exchange has not matched the forecasts.

It is suggested by outside analysts that the decision to recommend the shares is based on expectations of medium-term increased profits thanks to the takeover of Banco Popular.

### Quote of the Week

"Discussions will probably take place in the autumn," European Central Bank President Mario Draghi on the decision to reduce quantitative easing (the amount of money being pumped into the eurozone).



Canary Luc Shutterstock

Cook Airlines 737 at Lanzarote airport.

# Airline pilots go on strike

PILOTS at the Thomas Cook airline which flies to parts of Spain from British regional airports walked out on a 12-hour strike last Friday.

Those pilots who are members of the British Airline Pilots' Association (Balpa) voted to strike and walked out although the company insists that all flights will operate.

This is believed by the union

to be the first UK pilots' strike for nearly 50 years and is only a token stoppage so that passengers are inconvenienced as little as possible.

According to the union, the pilots have seen a deterioration in their terms and conditions as well as real-term pay cuts and even though they have been offered a 4 per cent pay rise over two years feel they have to take this action.

### » BUSINESS EXTRA

## Faster growth

THE economy of the eurozone is growing at a quicker rate than forecast with forecast growth of 2.2 per cent during 2017. If correct, this will be the fastest growth in a decade with Spain being one of the leaders.

## Less profit

MADRID-based industrial investment company Sacyr has reported a profit for the first six months of the year of €60 million, a drop of 6.3 per cent over last year. Income has dropped as 2016 saw major sales of assets.

## Rail strike

THE rail union CCOO has called a strike over job losses at railway companies Renfe and Adif on Friday September 29. The 23-hour long strike will be a protest against making an ageing and reduced workforce support an unsustainable system.

## Catalan situation slows investment

FINANCIAL institutions around the world have not reacted positively towards the vote by the Catalan Parliament to push forward with the Independence Referendum.

Whilst many believe Catalonia will remain part of Spain, they are also uncomfortable with the conflict between the National government and the

Catalan Parliament which is reflecting in an immediate migration, albeit slow, from Spanish bonds.

It is now cheaper to buy Italian government bonds and Spanish banks which have a strong presence in Catalonia such as La Caixa immediately saw pressure on their share values. Spain's rating is to be reviewed in the next six weeks.

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# LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES SEPTEMBER 11

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Anglo American	1,385.00	7.00	0.51	20,043.73
Associated British Foods	3,237.50	-27.50	-0.84	26,054.00
Admiral Group	1,861.00	28.00	1.53	5,241.32
Ashtead Group	1,695.00	0.37	0.02	8,406.96
Antofagasta	1,011.50	3.50	0.35	10,321.92
Aviva	509.25	3.25	0.64	20,352.57
AstraZeneca	4,934.50	144.50	3.02	60,433.93
BAE Systems	600.25	0.75	0.13	18,967.20
Babcock International Group	813.00	2.50	0.31	4,163.59
Barclays	187.95	0.35	0.19	31,347.35
British American Tobacco	4,922.75	5.75	0.12	112,462.35
Barratt Developments	603.00	4.00	0.67	6,145.25
British Land Co	610.25	11.25	1.88	6,148.06
BHP Billiton	1,406.75	4.25	0.30	30,783.45
Bunzl	2,281.00	2.00	0.09	7,580.80
BP	448.40	2.30	0.52	88,890.00
Burberry Group	1,788.50	16.50	0.93	7,586.84
BT Group	283.25	-0.70	-0.25	28,419.03
Coca-Cola HBC	2,657.00	-6.00	-0.23	9,555.68
Carnival	5,127.50	92.50	1.84	10,893.53
Centrica	195.30	1.00	0.51	10,939.04
Compass Group	1,647.50	7.50	0.46	25,983.22
Croda International	3,890.00	-10.00	-0.26	5,077.02
CRH	2,673.00	21.00	0.79	22,381.97
ConvaTec Group	280.15	1.95	0.70	5,327.52
DCC	7,405.00	35.00	0.47	6,520.54
Diageo	2,597.75	4.25	0.16	64,988.27
Direct Line Insurance Group	388.30	5.30	1.38	5,219.50
Experian	1,519.50	9.50	0.63	14,149.63
easyJet	1,164.00	8.00	0.69	4,603.64
Ferguson Ord 10 5366p	4,563.50	18.50	0.41	11,483.42
Fresnillo	1,588.00	-33.00	-2.04	12,320.86
G4S	285.40	3.80	1.35	4,313.43
GKN	330.05	1.05	0.32	5,695.12
Glencore	365.40	2.35	0.65	53,044.62
GlaxoSmithKline	1,499.00	5.00	0.33	74,294.28
Hargreaves Lansdown	1,401.00	10.00	0.72	6,564.57
Hammerson	562.75	7.25	1.31	4,418.24
HSBC Holdings	730.80	1.40	0.19	145,461.76
International Consolidated Air	596.75	3.25	0.55	12,246.18
InterContinental Hotels Group	3,792.00	22.00	0.58	7,187.33
3i Group	936.25	5.75	0.62	9,037.80
Imperial Brands	3,309.50	-5.50	-0.17	31,637.46
Informa	684.25	0.25	0.04	5,611.47
Intertek Group	5,087.50	32.50	0.64	8,069.53
ITV	161.65	1.05	0.65	6,521.16
Johnson Matthey	2,892.00	-13.00	-0.45	5,598.92
Kingfisher	291.60	3.60	1.25	6,516.16
Land Securities Group	1,008.50	10.50	1.05	7,904.53
Legal & General Group	256.80	2.80	1.10	15,095.48

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Lloyds Banking Group ORD	64.00	0.23	0.36	45,386.26
London Stock Exchange Grp	3,874.50	16.50	0.43	13,354.61
Micro Focus International	2,362.00	-62.00	-2.56	10,714.82
Mediclinic International	754.00	5.00	0.67	5,551.45
Merlin Entertainments	462.00	2.50	0.54	4,691.01
Marks & Spencer Group	323.30	2.00	0.62	5,316.13
Mondi	2,027.50	4.50	0.22	9,847.03
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	248.65	0.35	0.14	5,835.62
National Grid	977.80	3.40	0.35	33,560.92
Next	4,348.00	-6.00	-0.14	6,438.14
Old Mutual Group	201.50	1.10	0.55	9,869.40
Provident Financial	802.75	7.75	0.97	1,168.71
Paddy Power Betfair	7,187.50	-7.50	-0.10	6,065.86
Prudential	1,786.25	24.25	1.38	45,446.55
Persimmon	2,561.00	21.00	0.83	7,990.29
Pearson	590.50	4.50	0.77	4,905.37
Reckitt Benckiser Group	7,114.00	5.00	0.07	50,362.56
Royal Bank of Scotland Group	245.50	1.10	0.45	28,715.68
Royal Dutch Shell	2,147.00	9.00	0.42	97,316.58
RELX	1,679.50	4.50	0.27	17,935.24
Rio Tinto	3,627.50	27.00	0.75	51,088.21
Royal Mail	379.90	3.90	1.04	3,771.00
Rolls-Royce Group	892.75	0.75	0.08	16,270.72
Randgold Resources	7,997.50	-127.50	-1.57	7,699.18
RSA Insurance Group	642.75	6.75	1.06	6,519.70
Rentokil Initial	306.75	0.55	0.18	5,585.49
Sainsbury (J)	236.65	1.75	0.74	5,194.41
Schroders	3,293.00	20.00	0.61	7,363.81
Sage Group (The)	695.75	0.75	0.11	7,528.39
Segro	540.25	2.75	0.51	5,372.05
Shire	4,082.50	45.00	1.11	36,424.46
Smurfit Kappa Group	2,346.00	5.00	0.21	5,527.76
Sky	948.75	0.25	0.03	16,373.64
Standard Life Aberdeen	421.00	4.90	1.18	12,310.84
Smiths Group	1,592.50	6.50	0.41	6,228.76
Scottish Mortgage Invstmnt Trst	432.50	2.50	0.58	6,000.94
Smith & Nephew	1,412.00	13.00	0.93	12,163.82
SSE	1,440.50	0.50	0.03	14,394.81
Standard Chartered	743.20	2.30	0.31	24,374.47
St James's Place	1,155.00	13.00	1.14	5,909.94
Severn Trent	2,268.50	-5.50	-0.24	5,393.07
Tesco	188.50	0.75	0.40	15,267.74
TUI AG	1,328.00	7.00	0.53	7,784.13
Taylor Wimpey	195.55	0.55	0.28	6,478.53
Unilever	4,514.00	7.00	0.16	57,262.00
United Utilities Group	918.75	1.25	0.14	6,259.74
Vodafone Group	214.33	0.58	0.27	57,362.35
Worldpay Group	417.85	1.25	0.30	8,234.00
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Whitbread	3,792.00	24.00	0.64	6,953.20

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COMPAN	PRICE	CHANGE%	CHANGE	VOLUME(M)
3M	205,690	+0.60%	1,230	122,749,03
AMERICAN EXPRESS	84,2500	-0.19%	-0,1600	74,475,29
APPLE	158,630	-1.63%	-2,630	819,360,12
BOEING CO	238,780	+1.05%	2,470	141,038,41
CATERPILLAR	117,820	+0.04%	0,050	69,628,41
CHEVRON	110,78	-0.91%	-1,02	210,023,15
CISCO SYSTEMS	31,480	-0.88%	-0,280	157,401,70
COCA-COLA	46,30	+0.04%	0,02	197,568,89
DU PONT(EI) DE NMR	83,9300	+0.89%	0,7400	73,485,81
EXXON MOBIL	78,82	-0.27%	-0,21	333,968,68
GENERAL ELECTRIC	23,8200	-0.83%	-0,2000	206,232,27
GOLDMAN SACHS	217,21	+0.63%	1,37	84,033,15
HOME DEPOT	159,6600	+1.10%	1,7300	188,210,02
IBM	142,45	-0.31%	-0,45	132,754,90
INTEL CORP	35,1900	-0.98%	-0,3500	165,709,71
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	88,4200	-0.12%	-0,1100	311,146,83
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	130,9800	-0.92%	-1,2100	351,765,00
MC DONALD'S CORP	159,7100	-0.12%	-0,1900	129,372,66
MERCK AND CO. NEW	64,27	-0.08%	-0,05	175,259,79
MICROSOFT	73,980	-0.48%	-0,360	571,163,70
NIKE	52,20	-0.36%	-0,19	68,507,25
PFIZER	34,1000	+0.32%	0,1100	202,804,60
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	92,840	-0.14%	-0,130	236,743,32
TRAVELERS CIES	119,76	+3.98%	4,58	33,047,42
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	109,55	-0.39%	-0,43	87,513,55
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	197,75	-0.21%	-0,42	191,196,55
VERIZON COMMS	46,11	-0.19%	-0,09	188,101,50
VISA	104,43	-0.12%	-0,13	191,059,41
WAL-MART STORES	78,8800	-1.55%	-1,2400	235,779,83
WALT DISNEY CO	97,0700	+0.01%	0,0100	149,872,00

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CLOSING PRICES SEPTEMBER 11

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
<b>Most Advanced</b>		
Oncobiologics, Inc.	\$ 2.02	1.12 ▲ 124.44%
Kura Oncology, Inc.	\$ 11.80	4.95 ▲ 72.26%
NewLink Genetics Corporation	\$ 17.67	4.07 ▲ 29.93%
Zumiez Inc.	\$ 16.30	3.10 ▲ 23.48%
Adaptimmune Therapeutics plc	\$ 8.93	1.38 ▲ 18.28%
Veritone, Inc.	\$ 20.04	2.61 ▲ 14.97%
Federated National Holding Company	\$ 12.05	1.50 ▲ 14.22%
Okta, Inc.	\$ 30.30	3.18 ▲ 11.73%
Novan, Inc.	\$ 6.12	0.58 ▲ 10.47%
Acacia Research Corporation	\$ 3.75	0.35 ▲ 10.29%
Strongbridge Biopharma plc	\$ 6.25	0.55 ▲ 9.65%
<b>Most Declined</b>		
Tintri, Inc.	\$ 4.55	2.13 ▼ 31.89%
American Outdoor Brands Corporation	\$ 13.92	3.02 ▼ 17.83%
Cherokee Inc.	\$ 3.90	0.75 ▼ 16.13%
Ophthotech Corporation	\$ 2.65	0.45 ▼ 14.52%
Aeglea BioTherapeutics, Inc.	\$ 4.30	0.54 ▼ 11.16%
National Security Group, Inc.	\$ 11.89	1.31 ▼ 9.92%
United Therapeutics Corporation	\$ 120.82	12.70 ▼ 9.51%
BCB Bancorp, Inc. (NJ)	\$ 12.50	1.30 ▼ 9.42%
Alico, Inc.	\$ 29.75	3 ▼ 9.16%
NAPCO Security Technologies, Inc.	\$ 8.45	0.85 ▼ 9.14%
SunPower Corporation	\$ 8.59	0.83 ▼ 8.81%

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Price Movement

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 EUR Currency B  
 Multi Asset Conservative B GBP  
 Multi Asset Conservative B EUR  
 Multi Asset Balanced B GBP  
 Multi Asset Balanced B EUR  
 Multi Asset Growth B GBP  
 Multi Asset Growth B EUR

DEALING PRICE

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 €0.9573.....-€0.0002  
 £1.1582..... £0.0003  
 €1.0814..... €0.0001  
 £1.3099.....-£0.0011  
 €1.2120.....-€0.0013  
 £1.4500.....-£0.0022  
 €1.3486.....-€0.0024

Price Movement

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# Fear of new bank failures

## ECB wants control over client deposits

ONE of European banking's most powerful women, Daniele Nouy wants to introduce fresh powers to prevent depositors from removing funds from struggling banks.

The European Central Bank's (ECB) Chair of Banking Supervision wants to have the right to temporarily suspend the ability of customers to withdraw their money from banks facing financial difficulty.

This ban would cover cash withdrawals at the bank, through cash machines and by online transfer.

She explained in a letter to a Member of the European Parliament that due to the fact a problem within a bank could quickly see a run on its liquidity which could be fuelled by social media comment and the ease of internet banking.

The recent problems with Banco Popular in Spain and Monte dei Paschi di Siena in Italy are examples of how matters can escalate quickly, although in the case of Banco Popular, current and imminent law suits from disgruntled investors suggest the final decision to demand its quick sale may have been premature.

In 2016, the ECB had tried to introduce a restriction on the removal of funds in excess of €100,000, as generally lower amounts are covered by national governments. It has actually even commented that the authorities should have the right to delay payment of lesser funds for between five and 20 days.

The Bank - which is owned by member states of the European Union - only has legal powers over the 19 members of the eurozone and perhaps surprisingly, the third largest shareholder with a 13.67 per cent holding is the Bank of England exceeded only by France and Germany.

The chairman of the ECB is an Italian, Mario Draghi and critics of the bank suggest that he influenced a decision to allow the Italian govern-



Photo Credit: European Central Bank flickr

**ECB Chair of Banking Supervision Daniele Nouy.**

ment to circumvent the rules in order to bail out the fast failing Monte dei Paschi di Siena bank.

This proposal to allow the suspension of withdrawals in emergency situations is taken by analysts to suggest the ECB does expect more commercial banking failures in the future and wants to have legislation in place at the earliest opportunity in order to take control, albeit briefly, of deposits placed in good faith by the general public and corporate investors.

## CATALONIA BUSINESS TAX PAYER'S DILEMMA

# A rock and a hard place

AS the split between the Catalan and national governments gets wider, the latest salvo concerns the payment of income tax and IVA (VAT).

The Spanish Finance Ministry has issued a blunt statement 'reminding' tax payers in Catalonia that any payment should be made to the correct authority which is the national government.

Any company or self-employed person which pays money due for VAT, income tax or corporation tax to the Catalan authority will be considered as having not paid the tax and may be open to criminal charges.

This statement was made in advance of the threatened Independence Referendum which will possibly be held on Sunday October 1 as the Catalan government has created an enlarged Catalan Tax Authority which is ready to divert the collection of national taxes to the 'New Catalan State.'

According to Catalan Deputy First Minister Oriol Junqueras, systems are in place to allow for the collection of some €42 billion of tax as soon as the decision to create an in-



Photo Credit: Kippelboy Wikimedia

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dependent state is taken.

In Spanish law, if VAT is collected and then not paid to the correct authority it will leave the collector open to a charge of theft and if a company, all of the directors could face charges.

The Spanish government appears powerless to stop the proposed referendum although it has been declared illegal for the Catalan Parliament to even buy ballot boxes using Community funds, although it is suspected that the ballot boxes and voting papers are currently being held in a secret location.

As the referendum date approaches, both Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy and Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont regularly indulge in a war of words with each other which is now certain to be fought out in the courts and with potential arrests of Catalan politicians and their supporters.

**Demanding Catalan Independence.**

## Fruit and vegetable imports

MOROCCO was the biggest supplier of fruit and vegetables to Spain in the first half of 2017 with exports totalling €404 million.

This shows a 33 per cent increase on the previous six months and Spanish purchases have increased generally with large volumes also being imported from Brazil and Costa Rica.

According to a report issued by the Spanish Federation of Associations of Producers and Exporters of Fruits, Vegetables, Flowers, and Live Plants (FEPEX) imports from the European Union are also up by 8 per cent with France and Italy being the two major suppliers, closely followed by Portugal and the Netherlands.

Potatoes and tomatoes were the major products exported to Spain, although fruits were also high on the list.

## Tourist spend up again

VISITORS to Spain spent €49 billion in the first seven months of the year, an increase of 15 per cent over the same period in 2016.

The July total was slightly less than €12 billion according to the National Statistics Institute.

The figures show that the United Kingdom accounts for the highest spend by tourist visitors, parting with €9.9 billion which was 20.2 per cent of total spend, followed by the Germans at €6.86 billion (14 per cent) and Scandinavians at €4.16 billion (8.5 per cent).

The three most popular destinations were Catalonia, Canary Islands and the Balearics which between them saw 58 per cent of the total amount of holidaymakers money spent.



Photo by Casa de América flickr

Guest speaker  
Felipe González.

## The future of work

DELEGATES from 49 countries arrive in Malaga City today (Thursday) to participate in a four-day conference entitled Future of Work.

Hosted by the Eisenhower Fellowships (EF), a non-profit international leadership organisation with branches around the world, the conference welcomes 50 different speakers including Felipe González, former Spanish Prime Minister.

In addition, Eisenhower Fellows will present 12 innovative projects designed to create concrete impacts after the conference and it will introduce the first EF Youth Leaders Net-

work featuring more than 30 exceptional young leaders aged 18 to 25 from around the world.

Participants who will have paid up to €625 to attend will explore economic and social drivers of change; the impact of technology and innovation, including artificial intelligence, labour mobility and gender and other demographic shifts as well as the role of education in addressing the changing nature of work.

Supported by the Malaga Council, the conference is co-hosted by the Eisenhower Fellows of Spain and Jordan.

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## Bank shareholders are set to vote for final merger

TODAY (Thursday) the shareholders of Bankia and Mare Nostrum Bank (BMN) will attend extraordinary general shareholders' meetings to vote to merge.

The Bankia meeting is being held in Valencia whilst the BMN meeting is being held in Madrid with the expectation that the vote will be positive following the announcement of the intent to merge last June.

Once the formal votes are confirmed, then the two banks will be able to present the proposal to the various authorities in Spain for approval, which should be something of a formality as Bankia is currently effectively owned by the taxpayer.

Shareholders in BMN will receive

shares in Bankia but they will be hoping that the new operation will be successful as they are only receiving about 40 per cent of the book value of BMN which has assets of €38 billion, although most of that is in customer deposits.

The advantage for Bankia is that the merger will increase its coverage in the Balearics, Granada and Murcia whilst BMN shareholders will receive an almost immediate cash dividend with the anticipation that the government will start to release the shares that it holds onto the market.

It is believed that a stronger Bankia will attract financial investors and that share prices will increase to the benefit of all existing shareholders.

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# Our children are confused enough

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT  
OTHERS THINK IT



I TRULY am getting up to here with all this gender bender bulls..t we are being deluged with these days. No one is more liberal minded than me. I was raised in Bayswater during the 60's.

I remember the first Notting Hill carnival, started by the influx of West Indians who wanted to recreate the carnivals of their own country. Men dressed as utterly flamboyant, female characters played a large part and, although a hitherto unseen phenomenon, were accepted as the fun figures they were meant to depict. Lesbian clubs abounded and I've had more fun than I care, or indeed, can remember in those, some may consider iniquitous dens, where most of the delectable 'femmes' were bi-sexual anyway. (I wasn't silly!) Many of my friends during those rip-roaring days of yore swung both ways.

Over the years I've watched with approval how the 'queer' or now much more acceptably entitled 'gay' fraternity have become a part of the 'norm.' Unfortunately, I now think it's all gone too far. By my reckoning the introduction of gay marriage was fine and completely acceptable.

Gays conscripted into the armed forces? No problem. I did slightly twitch at gay couples adopting children, having seen some disastrous and tragic outcomes for children living with same



## A QUESTION OF GENDER: Are we now too politically correct?

sex partners in those far off days. Still times have changed and vetted legal adoptions by couples from more stable backgrounds than those I had

been familiar with, has allowed me to come to terms with even this previously frowned on situation. But we are not all gay!

It does now appear to me that certain society members would like to see us, if not all gay, then basically, sexless altogether. Particularly the children. From advocating the teaching of homosexuality in schools, to children of both sexes able to wear either trousers or skirts and even trying to prevent them being referred to as he or she, it really has all become too much.

Watch my lips. The majority of us enjoy being girls and boys. Men and women. Males and females. It's fun. And despite those who would have it otherwise. Perfectly normal. Our children are confused enough. For heaven's sake leave them alone and let them enjoy their development into adult life in whatever natural way they choose. Take a leaf out of the Spanish book.

Over here, all the TV anchors are glamour girls. The female presenters ooze with sexy femininity. All the men are macho (unless they choose otherwise) Senoras and Senoritas abound. (No Ms nonsense around here.) And the Ninias and Ninios are all proud little peacocks and hens, thoroughly enjoying their young genders to the full. And what is most important of all? The majority are perfectly happy with their lot.

Just think, if Adam and Eve had been genderless we wouldn't be here at all. Time to let it rest. Let us all now be happy with our own manifestations and allowed to exist in our own particular choices of normality. Leave well alone. Awright!?

*Keep the faith.*

*Love Leapy leapylee2002@gmail.com*

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## Have you been ripped off?

**Mike Senker**

*In my opinion*

*Views of a Grumpy Old Man*



I'M going away next week and I was going through all my bookings and I was looking at my hotel booking for Las Vegas and noticed that, on top of my room charge, they have an additional item, not the VAT, but something called a 'resort fee' which, in the case of the hotel I'm staying at, is \$29 a night.

When delving further into it I found out it's for use of Wi-Fi in the room which, by the way, is free anywhere else in the hotel. It's also for use of the fitness facility, which I won't be using, unlimited free local calls - well they are included in my phone package so I don't want that - and a newspaper. No thanks! And access to thousands of top magazines and newspapers using some App that I don't have.

Of course, that's really what I want to do whilst staying at a casino hotel is catch up on my reading! I will let you know how I get on with not paying my 'resort fee' when I return.

So this got me thinking about all the other rip off hidden and not so hidden fees we have to pay. Try changing a flight online. Airlines charge a fee, £50 in one I saw, as a 'service charge.' What service charge? I logged on, I

found the new flight, I changed the old one, I did it all myself. So what service am I getting?

It's just another way of getting money for nothing. They sell my seat again and so they don't lose anything. What about fuel surcharge on flights which is another additional cost. I have a maintenance fee on my credit card. It's a piece of plastic that sits in my wallet. It doesn't need maintaining. I don't need anyone to come round from the bank once a month to water it or take it for a walk.

Every time I use it they earn money from it and that should be enough. If I don't pay the full balance at the end of the month I get charged interest which is fine as I know that's how it works. We are getting ripped off all the time because, like most normal people, we don't read all the small print. Maybe we should but the fact is we don't. Most contracts are longer than War and Peace and War and Peace is easier to read!

When I lived in the UK I had a gym membership so I could go swimming. I went twice and decided it wasn't for me so I said I wanted to cancel it and was told I couldn't as I had signed up for a year. I kicked off like you can't believe and told them I wasn't going to pay. I demanded to see the manager who wasn't interested. I never paid another penny and never heard another thing. I think sometimes you have to just stick to your guns.

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## LEGALLY SPEAKING

### Back to school

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



**DROP OFF:** The laws still apply.

IT'S that time of year once again when the summer is coming to a close, and attentions start to turn back to yet another annual phenomenon, back to school time.

Although it might be a relief for some parents, it might also be a disappointment for some children, in road safety terms we have to be aware that the characteristics of the road network will once again change.

Firstly, we have an increase in traffic at certain times of day as parents resume the school run. It is quite normal for traffic to increase in the mornings because of this, which in turn can result in delays. The same situation applies at the end of the school day, but at what time? Often, in Spain, schools operate a less robust timetable, adapting to such things as weather conditions and light, and so the school day often varies from season to season. All non-parents can do to prepare for this is be aware of the changing timetable and allow extra time for all journeys.

If you are taking your children to school by car, remember that children under 1.35

metres in height are not allowed in the front seats of the car. There are one or two exceptions, which you can read about on the website, [n332.es](http://n332.es).

Children must be secured in the vehicle, by means of a seatbelt, or specially designed retention system suitable for them. Any objects they are carrying must also be secure in the vehicle.

When you arrive at the school drop off point, remember that the laws still apply to you, the same as any other driver. You are still not allowed to double park, block entrances, or park in an illegal place with your hazard lights on just because you are dropping off your children for school. You must choose a safe, convenient and legal place to drop off your children. Where possible, ensure that they exit the vehicle on the pavement side, still warning them to be aware of their surroundings before opening the door.

During late September, there will be an awareness campaign focusing on seatbelt and child restraint use, and the use of seatbelts on school buses (where fitted).

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

## Does he need a Spanish licence?

**Q.** Yesterday I was stopped by the Guardia Civil, who asked to see my vehicle documents. They then asked my date of birth and then went back to their car and were on the radio for about five minutes. When they returned I was presented with a €500 fine for not having a

Spanish driving licence. They never asked to see my licence at all. I do not have residence in Spain as I have only been here a few months, so I was shocked. On the back of the form it says I can appeal within 20 days. Any advice?

*P W (Costa Blanca)*

**A.** Yes, appeal immediately. You do not say, but whether you are an EU citizen or a non-EU citizen in Spain, you can use your home country driving licence for six months, which is

**David Searl**

*You and the Law in Spain*



the legal limit for a tourist stay. If you are an EU citizen, you can use your EU

driving licence in Spain until it expires, even if you obtain a residence certificate. If you are not EU, you must obtain a Spanish driving licence when you become a resident.

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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# Troubling tales of taking the plunge and making a splash

**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)*

HEARD about the latest craze among kids? Swimming with elaborate mermaid tails. A trend already 'massive' in the USA but now taking off in the UK, the third annual Miss Mermaid UK pageant having recently taken place in Northampton.

The Royal Life Saving Society UK which works to prevent drownings warns parents against letting children swim with elaborate, decorative monofins without supervision after a teenager's recent death: "These activities must be done in a safe and approved environment. We are conscious that there have been a number of incidents caused through improv-



Photo Credit Channel 4

**MERMAID TAILS: A trend that is taking off in the UK.**

er use of mermaid tails."

Well, don't you just love this officialise! 'Improper use,' how? Attempting to wear them on your head like a hat and suffocating? Eating them and getting poisoned?

But, seriously, it really doesn't surprise me that, even in the 21st century, parents have to be warned against allowing their children to go swimming with their feet tied together. Why?

Because some parents simply don't pay sufficient attention to their children when outdoors.

Recently I watched a number of parents busily chatting in a nearby park while children of nursery-school age played on swings, roundabouts and slides.

One child came hurtling down a slide and tumbled off, screaming her head off before mum noticed anything amiss. Another ran in front of swings

being 'manhandled' by older kids and fortunate not to have been knocked senseless, the older kid jumping off just in time. His scowl at the baby's mum spoke volumes.

The fact is that these mermaid tails are on sale and available as a colourful child's 'toy' making them seductively attractive to some parents - not all of whom can swim themselves. And just how did all this commercialisation start? First it was 'trick or treat,' then school proms and baby showers. Now it's mermaid pageants!

But surely doesn't all this say more about the standards of parenting than the ethics of the mermaid-related businesses concerned? After all, who makes the final decision what their children put on and which activities they indulge in?

([www.nora-johnson.net](http://www.nora-johnson.net)) Nora's books are available from Amazon. Profits to Cudeca.

## THURSDAY THOUGHTS

By *Graham Braben, Almería*

### Senseless science

THERE'S no doubt that scientists are highly intelligent people and have come up with stunning inventions over the years; the wheel, penicillin, the microchip... Celebrity Big Brother, but at times I wonder if some of them really are in the real world.

I was reading a newspaper last week and was flabbergasted to see some of the new developments that were coming from highly skilled scientists. One such example is a heatproof phone case that can hold coffee inside it, ready to dispense at any minute. This particular case has a special pouch for the coffee and a button to press when you're ready for a drink.

Am I the only one who can see a major flaw in this? What happens if you mistakenly sit on the button and get hot coffee all over your clothes? Apart from the embarrassment, it would hurt... a lot! Maybe their next invention should be scald proof long johns! Anyway, if you fancy one of these phone cases, they'll set you back upwards of €75! Does the phrase more money than sense spring to mind?

On a bigger scale, the master plan of some maritime scientists is to have self-navigating cargo ships zipping about the high seas with nothing more than something akin to a dalek behind the wheel. They claim that, if you use technology instead of a person to drive these monster ships and their invaluable cargo, then the number of accidents at sea-amazingly, currently over 2,000 annually-will be dramatically reduced.

Really? Replacing people with technology will make things safer? Haven't they seen 2001: A Space Odyssey, Alien or any of the other films that show how decidedly dodgy technology can be? Intelligence? Yes. Common sense? The jury is definitely out!

*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).*



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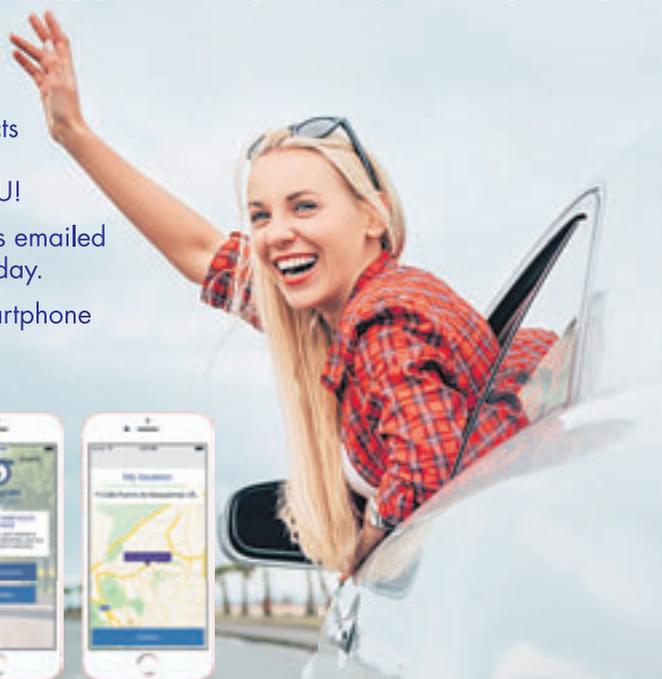
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# Making the best of a bad job

**Cassandra Nash**

*A weekly look*

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

AUGUST is a weird month for employment. Statistics are promising early on thanks to the people engaged in July to serve beer to tourists and make hotel beds.

Then August 31 arrives and most of the workers return to the out-of-work wasteland.

Hauling Spain out of the economic crisis and putting people back into employment is Mariano Rajoy's favourite "Look what I've done!" cry but new jobs are mostly short-term, part-time and precarious.

Better than nothing, but not as good as Rajoy makes out when he bats away corruption accusations and launches into his "Yes but..." rebuttal.

This year 313,141 people were sacked on August 31, the worst single-day figure ever known. Unfortunately for Rajoy 59,563 lost jobs - more than anywhere else - were in

Cataluña. That's one less argument in Spain's favour and yet another weapon for the secessionists.

## Boots on the other foot

POLLS show that the Basques are more concerned about employment than independence.

It's a long time since the lehendakari, regional president Juan Jose Ibarretxe, proclaimed the Basques' right to vote for "free association with the Spanish state," a proposal voted down in the national parliament in 2005.

End of story, notwithstanding earlier chapters written by the ETA separatists.

The present lehendakari Iñigo Urkullu has even less motivation to emulate Ibarretxe.

The PNV is going strong, unlike CiU, the party in power when Catalan



**Juan Jose Ibarretxe,**  
regional president.

independence rumblings loudened to murmurs and then shouts. Now defunct thanks to disagreements over independence it morphed into PDeCat, which is giving ground to the ERC republican separatists and the CUP anti-system party.

Urkullu would not want to be in Carles Puigdemont's shoes right now and who knows if the Catalan president won't soon be needing a change of footwear himself.

## Not today, thanks

CATALUÑA'S president Carles Puigdemont recently visited Denmark to open the region's Copenhagen delegation, but he was not received by the Danish government.

Yet again, his hard sell received the 'not today' treatment reserved for fast-talking commercial travellers in the past and importunate cold-callers like Puigdemont now.

## Knock knock, who's there

CIUDADANOS leader Albert Rivera agreed to back Mariano Rajoy's investiture at a price that included a long list of concessions.

These included allowing national and regional presidents only two consecutive terms but, like many of Rajoy's concessions, this has not materialised.

Now Rivera is again resurrecting an unthinkable and unspeakable prospect that could show Mariano Rajoy the door. Nevertheless, behind that closed door the Partido Popular has spoken and thought about this in the past and at present.

And depending on what happens or does not happen on October 1, a kindly but inexorable defenestration could be under discussion in the very near future.



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Views expressed and opinions given are not necessarily those of the EWN publishers. No responsibility is accepted for accuracy of information, errors, omissions or statements.

## Vegan finds extra food for thought

DEAR Sir,

I'm 50-years-old and have been a strict vegan since changing my diet after a cancer scare a decade ago.

I've been staying with my Spanish partner's family for three months per year for the last couple of decades and we've recently been using a local Thai restaurant, Wai Wai Wok on Burriana Beach. Up until this year we were in love with the place for providing amazing service and food exactly as we ordered.

This year, however, something has gone horribly wrong. We've been in Nerja since early June and have visited the restaurant six times plus ordered a takeaway for lunch. Every meal we've ordered has had to be sent back because we have found meat in the food. They are obviously cooking a standard batch of, for example, Pad Thai, and then just removing the meat.

I advise dozens of clients a week all across the world on nutrition so I feel it

### A healthy warning

**RECENTLY my wife and I visited the UK where she tripped on a kerb, breaking a leg which required urgent medical treatment with a long pin inserted.**

**We normally take out holiday insurance but forgot this year which created a problem with receiving free NHS cover as expats, being told we would have to pay for aftercare and be treated as private patients unless we presented an S1 form.**

**Following extensive research we discovered that the S1 is a replacement for the E121 form we completed when registering**



**UK HEALTH COVER: Ensure you have the right documents.**

**with the Spanish NHS.**

**Following heated discussions with various hospital staff my wife was finally given the NHS cover that she was entitled to.**

**The word of warning is that**

**when visiting the UK take out holiday insurance, obtain the S1 form, carry your EHC card and be of pensionable age currently receiving the State Pension.**

*Russ Hudson, Alicante*

is my duty to report this problem.

*John Hodges, Nerja*

*Editor's note: Wai Wai Wok's manager Khalid told EWN that "the chef made a mistake, but as far as I know it only happened once. We have apologised and just want to make our customer happy no matter what the cost. I don't understand what else I can do!"*

### Home truths

I DID agree with the original concept of social housing in Orihuela Costa, but after the recent price reduction many of the residents are not in a lower income group, with one buyer apparently owning another three homes!

In addition, the entrance is on the busy Calle Clavo where parking is now almost impossible, and police have been called at least twice over driveways blocked. Worse, many residents simply throw rubbish in the street or ignore the separate containers.

Perhaps 'social' housing in this instance us a misnomer!

*Ian Fairbairn, Orihuela Costa*

### 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).

## Are the kids of today ruined?

### Reaction to Leapy Lee's latest column.

There is NO WAY that A-levels are easier nowadays! Twenty years after getting my two A-grades, I've just taken another 'for fun.'

The amount you now have to write in a 2hr exam is the same as in the 3hr ones in '97/98, there's masses more material to digest, evaluation and terminology is more crucial, and more evidence required to be cited with less room for assertions.

I worked just as hard this time as 20yrs ago, and got a B instead. Grade boundaries are lower, but marks far less generous: your 80 per cent essay in 1997 will get you 63 per cent now.

Also, A-level results dictate to kids whether they can follow their chosen career, which university will go down on their CV for the rest of their lives, and even dictate where they're going to be living for the next four years! All that with less than a month's notice!

The pressure is immense and would wreck most adults! A-levels are the toughest exams on earth; my two master's degrees were child's play compared with my A-levels in '97 and the one I've just taken. And the town you live in and your type of job for the next few years or decades depends upon how you perform in 2hr slots three times in one month.

A headache on one of these can change your life's course. You clearly don't have A-levels, Graham.

### Comments from EWN online

I challenge you to take one and report back.

*Kally*

I did not realise you were a supporter of Rees-Mogg and his Victorian values.

*John Booth*

### Drunk Brits sentenced

#### Rowdy passengers handed jail terms.

Fine them. Give them an appropriate custodial sentence but more importantly endorse their passports to say they have been previously removed from an aircraft for drunken behaviour and then the airlines have fair opportunity to deny boarding at check-in. It's a genuinely frightening experience at 37k feet when this happens and is simply not appropriate behaviour.

*Gordon Hulme*

They are an extremely small percentage of travellers. We travel a lot... like a drink in the airport and on the plane... why should the majority of travellers pay

the price for a small percentage of idiots?

*Ann Telford*

Inadequate jail sentences and should not be suspended. Passports should be cancelled for 15 years after jail sentences completed.

*Eddie Stanton*

### Nurses' holiday hell

#### Brit students complain of Costa del Sol attack.

I used AirBnB once before in Barcelona and it was absolutely fine. Proper meet and greet and checking everything worked. These two girls were just stupid to leave their belongings behind with total strangers. I don't agree with extra regulations. These are (mostly) private individuals renting out their properties. Extra regulations will mean extra cost which defeats the object. I guess that's also what the hotel industry wants.

*Andy Funnell*

Why leave your suitcases in a place occupied!? I would have left immediately, contacted the owner. How stupid, no sympathy from me I am afraid.

*Sian Foster*

Are these women complete idiots? You turn up, find two unconscious women in your apartment and then leave your stuff there and go out?

*Greg Hume*

### No empathy

MY husband passed away on August 12 leaving (his wish) body to research.

Unfortunately, he had the audacity to die in August and the University was closed for holidays so they wouldn't take him. A quick funeral had to be arranged because the mortuary charges €60 per day to keep the body!!

We didn't want a religious service but wanted to say our last goodbyes. He was wheeled into a corridor and the coffin lid was lifted. What a shock!! He looked exactly the same as when he died. I know this is the Spanish way but not one sign of any empathy, not even from the Universidad!

*Christine Farnell, El Pinillo*

### Driven mad

HAVING obtained my driving licence in Barcelona I am not surprised 50 per cent of Brits failed a sample Spanish theory test (*EWN Issue 1678*). I passed mine in Barcelona and the theory segment is, to say the least, a hit and miss affair with some questions apparently written and thrown in at random! You could sit it 100 times and only pass 50!

*Phil Grainger, Denia*

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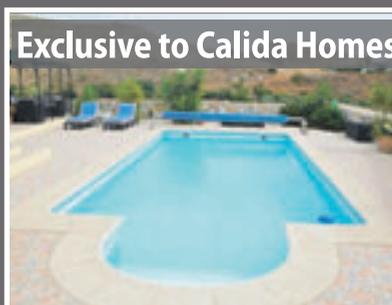
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## Women's wit

Some people come in your life as blessings. Some come in your life as lessons."

Mother Teresa, Nobel Peace Prize-winning nun

## Famous quote

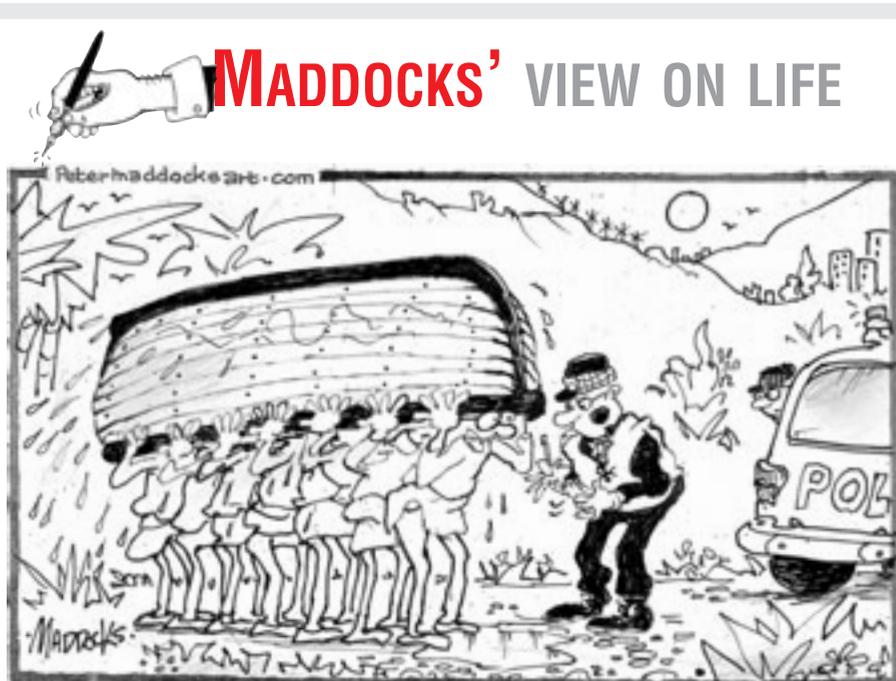
I don't understand why people would want to get rid of pigeons. They don't bother no one."



Mike Tyson - Retired boxer

## World of English

Oh snap, it's onomatopia!



**' YES, I KNOW WHERE MALAGA IS - BUT FIRST I NEED YOUR HOME ADDRESSES '**

# Birds of prey in Spain

**TOP 5**

SPAIN is among the best places in Europe to see these majestic creatures.

### 1. Egyptian Vulture

This vulture species is smaller than the other European vultures with a wingspan of up to 170 centimetres.

This species is endangered due to power lines and poisoning but conservation efforts and breeding programmes have been implemented across Europe.

### 2. Eurasian eagle owl

The Eurasian eagle owl is one of the largest species of owl. It is found in many habitats but mainly mountain regions, forests and other relatively remote places. The Eagle owl hunts mainly small mammals but also birds of varying sizes, reptiles, amphibians, fish, large insects and other assorted invertebrates. It typically breeds in concealed locations such as cliff ledges or among rocks with nests averaging two eggs which hatch at different times.



**EGYPTIAN VULTURE: Saved by conservation efforts.**

### 3. Black Vulture

The black vulture is one of the largest scavengers in Spain with a wingspan that can reach up to three metres.

It typically lives in mountainous regions and is an increasingly common sight in Spain due to conservation projects having been cited as an endangered species since the 1970's, threats include farmers poisoning the prey upon which it feeds as well as wind farms.

Its beak is dark in colour, as well as being sharp enough to allow it to cut through carcasses with ease.

### 4. Spanish Imperial Eagle

This eagle is entirely brown minus a cream-coloured head and neck with white patches on the shoulders and a gray upper tail. Its wingspan can reach up to 210 centimetres and it mainly inhabits woodland, plains and marshes. It lives on a diet mainly of rabbits

but also smaller birds and reptiles and has even been known to feed on flamingos in wetter areas.

Mainly nesting in trees, they avoid cliffs altogether unlike most eagles.

Deforestation, electrocution, hunting and poisoning have all contributed to make the Spanish imperial eagle an endangered species.

### 5. Bonelli's Eagle

With a wingspan of up to 172 centimetres, it is mainly found in mountainous habitats with rocky walls and generally close to woodland.

The upper plumage is dark brown whilst it has a white underbelly patterned with dark bands. The tail is also white with a single black band at the end. Young eagles lack the black band and have much less striking plumage with a beige underbelly and wings.

It is named after the Italian ornithologist, Franco Andrea Bonelli.

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY	IRISH LOTTO	EURO MILLIONS		LA PRIMITIVA	EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA
					
Saturday September 9	Saturday September 9	Tuesday September 5	Friday September 8	Saturday September 9	Sunday September 10
(4) (7) (13) (49) (56) (58)	(2) (8) (20) (25) (33) (45)	(6) (9) (18) (28) (29)	(9) (24) (42) (47) (49)	(1) (10) (20) (21) (37) (44)	(7) (9) (12) (33) (47)
<b>BONUS BALL</b>	<b>BONUS BALL</b>	<b>LUCKY STARS</b>	<b>LUCKY STARS</b>	<b>REINTEGRO</b>	<b>REINTEGRO</b>
(6)	(7)	(1) (9)	(1) (5)	(23) (9)	(6)

**LOTTERY**

# YOUR STARS FOR NEXT 7 DAYS

**AQUARIUS**  
(January 21 - February 19)

There are enough people in this world who will be willing to tell you what to do. Although it is in your nature to value your freedom, have you been compromising? Think of the time you have left to get to grips with a particular situation.

**PISCES**  
(February 20 - March 20)

Your opinion of someone is in the process of changing. It is not through any particular action of theirs towards you, rather it is a feeling that you should not be involved with their business. Trusting our instincts is something that we do not do enough.

**ARIES**  
(March 21 - April 20)

There is a lightness to this week that is welcome. After more than a little bit of aggravation and frustration of late it is overdue. Someone you believed had lost interest in you suddenly surfaces. You may be unsure of how to react, so save judgment.

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

A need to listen to your innermost feelings and needs has perhaps been overlooked. With the hustle and bustle of everyday life, philosophical thoughts are often pushed into a corner. Even so, you owe it to yourself to truly consider what you want as opposed to going along with what others want from you.

**GEMINI**  
(May 22 - June 21)

Someone you would not normally consider to be a friend shows an interest in you. Your immediate reaction may be joy or suspicion. In fact, you are not quite sure what to think. All the same, try to put aside preconceived ideas and give them a chance.

**CANCER**  
(June 22 - July 23)

Time is of the essence when pursuing a pet project this week. Having been given the opportunity to go ahead with a plan, do not waste time. Some opportunities do not come twice so be sure to show your enthusiasm.

**LEO**  
(July 24 - August 23)

A close relationship seems to be changing. You need to know why and maybe believe that you do. However, be sure to get all the facts. Asking outright questions of the person involved is your best chance of getting the right answers. Someone may urge you to 'read between the lines' but it is hardly necessary.

**VIRGO**  
(August 24 - September 23)

With so much energy around you, it will be hard to concentrate on business matters.

Finances, however, do require your attention and a brief period of scrutiny will show you why. Someone close may be spending too much or undermining the situation by making big plans.

**LIBRA**  
(September 24 - October 23)

Nostalgia overtakes you and an urge to look back into the past is strong. Perhaps you are thinking of tracing your family tree. It may be that you have received a letter or phone call that aroused your curiosity.

**SCORPIO**  
(October 24 - November 22)

When you start to worry too much about things, it is time to take a step back.

Senseless worrying is when you really cannot do anything to change the situation. Take into account how, in the past, worrying has affected your wellbeing. Maybe it is time to walk away and take another path entirely.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
(November 23 - December 21)

This is a creative week and one in which you seek to find your talents. For some time now you have toyed with the idea of joining a club or group. This will enhance your social life and bring you laughter.

**CAPRICORN**  
(December 22 - January 20)

Life can get complicated at this time of the year and you may feel pulled in more than one direction. You are perfectly entitled to change your mind about an arrangement.

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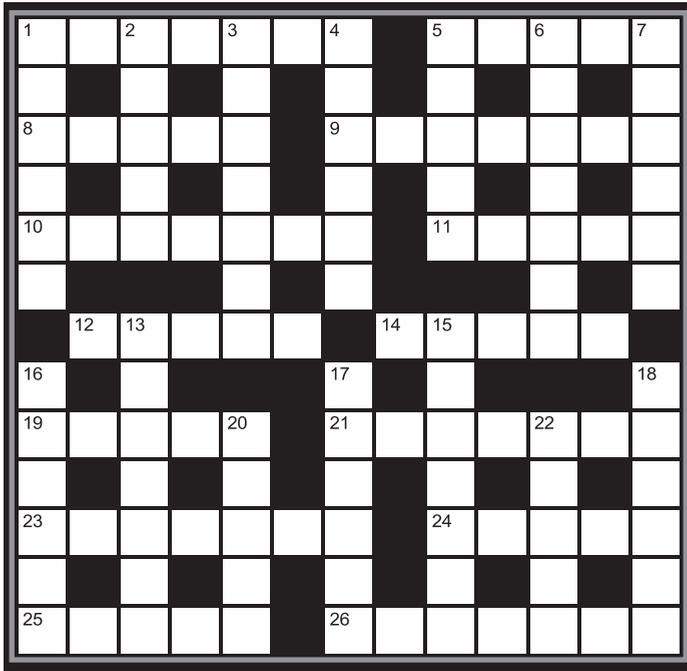
**Cryptic**

**Across**

- 1 Confirm exam, if the end of July (7)
- 5 Some of Al Capone's mob are chicken (5)
- 8 Assemble in part of the jungle, anticipating adventure (5)
- 9 Confuse or alert US estate agent (7)
- 10 Appeal for fairy wisdom (7)
- 11 Pleased with English clearing (5)
- 12 Money to be won and where to keep it (5)
- 14 Right in the middle of one's land (5)
- 19 Competitions for ethnic groups (5)
- 21 Vagrant the French walk all over (7)
- 23 A bird has swallowed her cigar (7)
- 24 Firm with nothing in stock (5)
- 25 Father meets Northern enchantress (5)
- 26 Captive eats hog cooked (7)

**Down**

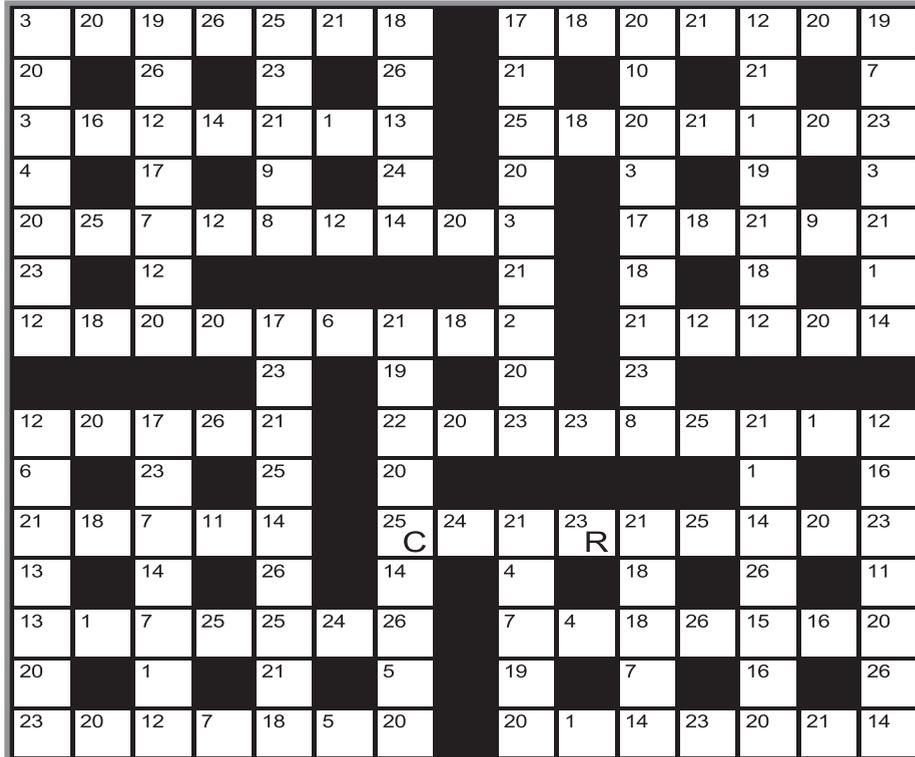
- 1 Cat, losing direction, is found in Asian river (6)
- 2 Clean up in lottery (5)
- 3 I have gone around US to find rock (7)
- 4 Special delivery from Prince Andrew's duchy to his Mum (6)
- 5 Tribe noted for a ringing sound



- (5) celebrations (6)
- 6 Stew made from pet goat (7)
- 7 School head never out after butterflies (6)
- 13 Concealed nuclear explosion (7)
- 15 Transport company suffers (7)
- 16 Antics in Saint Patrick's Day
- 17 This may stop you running to join up (6)
- 18 Try to sell part of a bike, one hears (6)
- 20 Now so chaotic and faint (5)
- 22 La Paz rebuilt town square (5)

**Code Breaker**

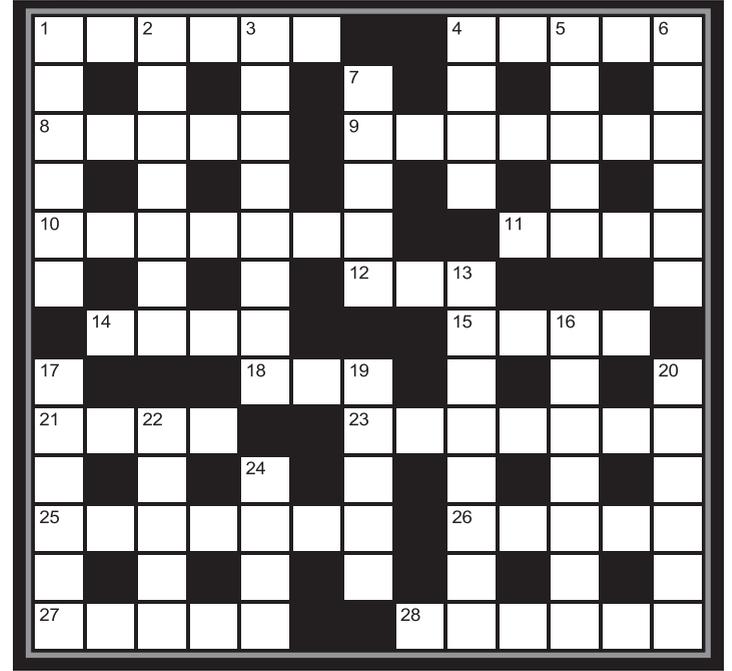
Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 23 represents R and 25 represents C, so fill in R every time the figure 23 appears and C every time the figure 25 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the control grid.



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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION FACING PAGE

**Quick**



**Across**

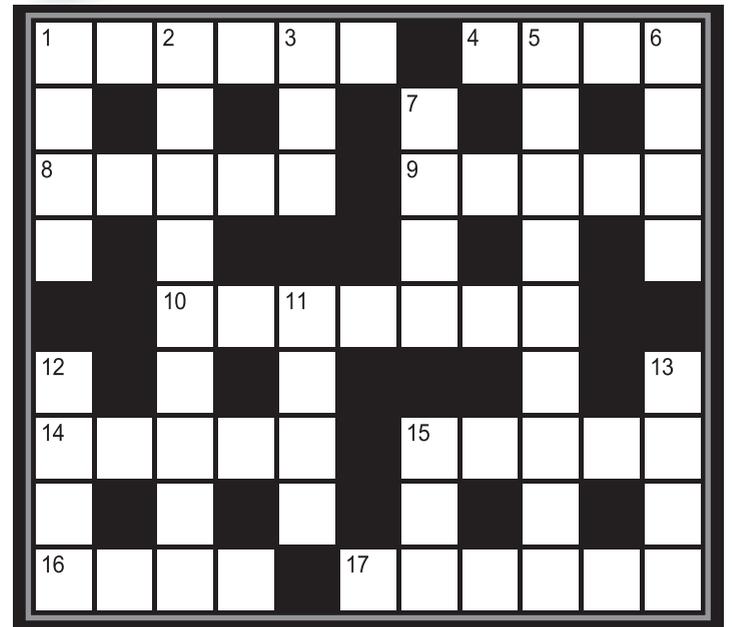
- 1 Having the properties of an adhesive (6)
- 4 Small rowing, sailing or motor vessels (5)
- 8 Yellow citrus fruit (5)
- 9 Act of touching physically (7)
- 10 Include (7)
- 11 In or at this place (4)
- 12/18 Give insider information to (3,3)
- 14 Nothing (4)
- 15 Any loose flowing garment (4)
- 18 See 12
- 21 Connection (4)
- 23 Answer (7)
- 25 Easily agitated (7)
- 26 Correct (5)
- 27 Alloy of iron with small amounts of carbon (5)
- 28 Sweet liquid secretion that is attractive to pollinators (6)

**Down**

- 1 Choose (6)
- 2 Vast in extent or degree (7)
- 3 Australian marsupial (8)
- 4 Group of musicians (4)
- 5 Having knowledge or perception of a situation (5)
- 6 Small sofa (6)
- 7 Perfume (5)
- 13 Keep or maintain in unaltered condition (8)
- 16 Came with (7)
- 17 Merges (6)
- 19 Recently made, produced or harvested (5)
- 20 Person in charge of a newspaper (6)
- 22 One skilled in caring for young children or the sick (5)
- 24 Prevent (something considered wrong or undesirable) from succeeding (4)

**English - Spanish**

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



**Across**

- 1 When (in questions and reported speech) (6)
- 4 Cola (de animal, avión, cometa) (4)
- 8 Cuttlefish (5)
- 9 Acordar (5)
- 10 Inglaterra (7)

- 14 Letter (mail) (5)
- 15 Goat (5)
- 16 Obedecer (4)
- 17 El más raro (6)

**Down**

- 1 Almost (4)
- 2 Manzano (5-4)

- 3 Day (3)
- 5 Pleasant (9)
- 6 Mentiras (4)
- 7 Room (in a house) (4)
- 11 Gol (4)
- 12 Leisure (4)
- 13 Esperar (4)
- 15 Bacalao (3)

CROSSWORD PAGE

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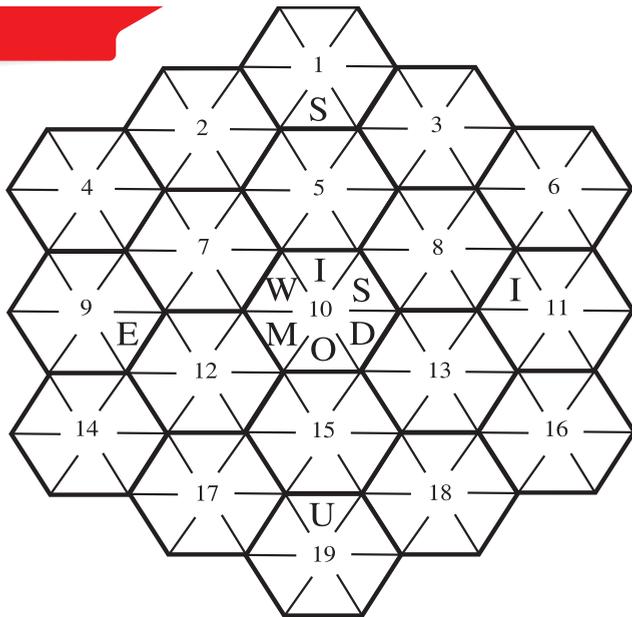
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## Hexagram

- APIECE
- BEATEN
- DREAMT
- EMERGE
- INHERE
- INWARD
- KAISER
- LEADEN
- RABIES
- RENDER
- RETIRE
- SERINE
- SPRINT
- SURETY
- TENURE
- TONGUE
- TRASHY
- UPWARD
- WISDOM (10)



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

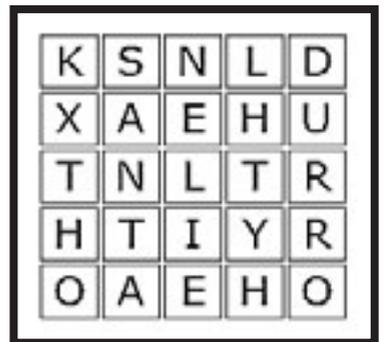
### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

- 1 Milieu 2 Earwig 3 Teeing 4 Appall
- 5 Tingle 6 Bestow 7 Deepen 8 Testes
- 9 Ampere 10 Discus 11 Netted
- 12 Resort 13 Thence 14 Peseta
- 15 Around 16 Behest 17 Arrear
- 18 Indeed 19 Demean.

## 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: 19
- Good: 26
- Very good: 37
- Excellent: 48

**SCORING:**

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

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

town townee tone tope topee tote totted toted wont wanted nowt nope note noted notate notated nett netted need needy fete feted feta feet feed tent tented teed tied pont pone potted poteen poet potent peon petted peat peak peaked teen teat teak eyed eaten tatted take taka yeti aeon atone atop ketone keen kata detent date data feat fatten fatted fate fated fake faked

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



**TARGET:**

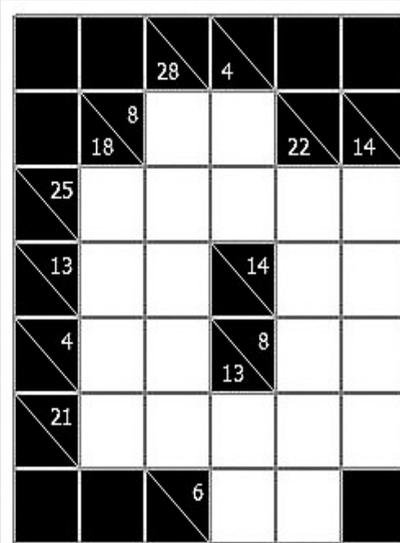
- Average: 11
- Good: 15
- Very good: 22
- Excellent: 28

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

earl kart lark lore mare mark marl mart more mort okra oral rake rale rate real ream roam role rota rote tare taro tear term tore tram trek trow ware warm wart wear wore work worm wort alert alter amort laker lamer later lower maker mater metro molar moral morel mower orate ratel realm rowel taker tamer tower trawl waker waler water wreak wrote armlet market molter morale mortal talker trowel walker teamwork workmate METALWORK

## 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 Orchards, 7 Tecla, 8 Chalk, 9 Monederos, 11 Gorra, 12 Bride, 14 Pavement.
- Down:** 2 Cachorro, 3 Ama de casa, 4 Diciembre, 5 Joke, 6 Camomile, 10 Agua, 13/1 Eat out.

### CODE BREAKER

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

### CRYPTIC

- Across:** 1 Exalt, 4 Set fair, 8 Garbage, 9 Indus, 10 Reassure, 11 Read, 13 Clever, 14 Hassle, 17 Soft, 19 Meantime, 22 Adieu, 23 Enabled, 24 Entitle, 25 Deter.
- Down:** 1 Edgar, 2 Acreage, 3 Teamster, 4 Spears, 5 Toil, 6 Addle, 7 Residue, 12 Gainsaid, 13 Cascade, 15 Skillet, 16 Serene, 18 Faint, 20 Elder, 21 Lust.

### QUICK

- Across:** 1 Choices, 5 Bloom, 8 Loose, 9 Resting, 10 Marries, 11 Shift, 12 Beats, 14 Crisp, 19 Under, 21 Revolve, 23 Tornado, 24 Rival, 25 Egypt, 26 Slender.
- Down:** 1 Column, 2 Odour, 3 Chemist, 4 Stress, 5 Basis, 6 Origins, 7 Mighty, 13 Elderly, 15 Reverse, 16 Subtle, 17 Errors, 18 Cellar, 20 React, 22 Loved.

## App of the week



### Wakeout

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Advertising feature

NINE years ago two British expats, Richard and Tony, were looking for affordable heating when they stumbled, accidentally, on a brand of Norwegian convector heaters that couldn't be bought in Spain.

Not only were these wall-mounted heaters discreet and stylish, but they were also packed with 'Es.' Efficient; effective; economical.

Recognising a huge gap in the market these attractive affordable heaters would fill, Richard and Tony established Neater Heater and have been heating the casas and apartments of shivering expats ever since.

"We all come out to Spain for the good weather and lifestyle," said Tony "yet everyone is caught out by the cold winter nights in their spectacularly non-insulated Spanish homes. We all come from the UK where we had radiators and fires, and that is what most British expats still want.

"A decent oil or gas central heating system is going to set



NEATER HEATERS: Can be wall-mounted or free-standing.

you back thousands of euros just to install it, so most people opt for unhealthy gas estufas, or electric heaters. The problem with most electric heaters, is that the cheap ones are always expensive to run, and ugly, whereas any decent ones always cost a fortune to install.

"We can have most homes up and running with affordable, stylish, economic Neater Heaters, for less than €1,000. The cost obviously depends on the size of house and the size of heaters. Or they can be

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bought individually according to your requirements"

Starting out in their home region of the Costa Blanca Richard and Tony searched for, and found, businesses that were happy to become agents for Neater Heater. "We hope to cater for all types of customer," explained Richard.

"Some people are comfortable with computers, and are quite happy to buy from our

online shop, with free delivery. But many want to shop in the traditional way, look at the heaters and talk to someone about their requirements.

"These customers can go to one of our numerous outlets from Moraira, Calpe, all the way down through Benidorm, to several around Torrevieja, Murcia, Antas and now, we are happy to say, our latest outlets in the Costa Del Sol, and in Portugal. If you live in certain parts of the Marina Al-

ta, Torrevieja, or Murcia, we even have agents who can visit your home and offer advice, sales and an installation service.

"Our website will let you know all about our products, and the FAQ section will hopefully be helpful. It also tells you the location of the outlet, or agent, nearest to you, including details for our newest distributor in the Costa del Sol: The Bed Warehouse, Calahonda."

Travel

## Historical elegance

A ROMANTIC and elegant city, the first impression of Antequera is the magnificent view of 'Peña de los Enamorados' (lovers' rock) a magnificent mountain with the silhouette of an Indian's face, set in a vast area of flat land with neat rows of olive trees. Folklore legends say that a young Christian man from Antequera and a Muslim girl from nearby Archidona held hands and threw themselves from the top of the mountain, as they could not be together.

The ancient Moorish Alcazaba and its castle walls look down over Antequera. The steep climb to it is worth a visit, with views of the whole of Antequera. Archaeologists have uncovered Roman mosaics in the grounds below and right next to it is the 15th century church of Santa Maria, the first Renaissance style church in Andalucia. There are, in fact, 33 churches in Antequera, making it the city with the most churches per capita than anywhere else in Spain.

A bronze Roman sculpture 'El Efebo' was discovered in Antequera by archaeologists in 1955. It is 1.43m tall and perfectly preserved and can be seen in the local museum along with other interesting artefacts.

Last year UNESCO named two sites in Antequera as



CULTURE AND HISTORY: The breathtaking city of Antequera.

World Heritage Sites; the dolmens and El Torcal. The dolmens are ancient burial tombs dating back to 4,000 BC and recently named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There are three dolmens, Menga, Viera and El Romeral. Entrance is free and there is an information centre.

A short drive up the hills just out of Antequera leads to the natural park of El Torcal, an area of curious, impressive Jurassic age limestone formations which are 150 million years old and one of the most impressive karst landscapes in Europe. In the past, the whole area was under the sea.

Those feeling energetic may want to hike up the mountain. There are three guided routes: green, orange and red, the latter being the most difficult. Perfect for nature lovers and all types of birds, eagles and even vultures can be seen. Afterwards why not have a refreshing drink and traditional

tapas in the restaurant.

A few local delicacies include 'porra Antequerana,' a cold dish of blended tomatoes and bread served cold with one of their famous 'molletes,' delicious soft, white bread rolls, usually eaten for breakfast or 'merienda' (high tea). Gazpachuelo is a white soup with fish, garlic, prawns, potato and mayonnaise and for the sweet toothed 'bienmesabe,' literally meaning 'it tastes good to me,' an ancient dessert of Arabic origin, made with ground almonds, honey, egg yolk and cinnamon.

Antequera, being the centre of Andalucia, is easily accessible by car from Malaga, Cordoba, Sevilla, Granada and Cadiz provinces, or by air from airports across both the UK and Spain. The nearest airport is Malaga, just a 45-minute drive or just over an hour by train.

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THURSDAY	BBC one	BBC TWO	itv	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky sports main event
14 SEPTEMBER	6:15pm Pointless	6:15pm Flog It!	8:30pm Fat: The Healthy Option?	5:00pm A Place in the Sun	4:15pm Boyfriend Killer	2:00pm Sky Sports Today
	7:00pm BBC News at Six	7:00pm Richard Osman's House of Games	Tonight	6:00pm Come Dine with Me	6:00pm 5 News at 5	3:00pm Sky Sports Today
	7:30pm BBC London News	7:30pm Eggheads	9:00pm Emmerdale	7:00pm The Simpsons	6:30pm Neighbours	3:30pm Live Ladies European Tour Golf
	8:00pm The One Show	8:00pm This Farming Life	9:30pm James Martin's French Adventure	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:00pm Home and Away	6:30pm SKY Sports News
	8:30pm EastEnders	9:00pm The Big Family Cooking Showdown	10:00pm Safe House	8:00pm Channel 4 News	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	7:00pm SKY Sports News
	9:00pm Without Limits: Vietnam	10:00pm Tribes, Predators and Me	11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	9:00pm Lego Masters	8:00pm Police Interceptors	8:00pm Sky Sports Tonight
	10:00pm Ambulance	11:00pm The Premier League Show	11:30pm ITV News London	10:00pm Educating Greater Manchester	9:00pm Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords	8:30pm Live Super League
	11:00pm BBC News at Ten	11:30pm Newsnight	11:40pm UEFA Europa League Highlights	11:00pm The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice	10:00pm Gypsy Kids: Our Secret World	11:30pm Live PGA Tour Golf
	11:30pm BBC London News	12:15am Mountain	12:55am Bear Grylls: Mission Survive	11:50pm The Undateables	11:00pm My Extreme Ocd Life	1:00am Premier League Matchpack
	11:45pm Question Time			12:55am Gogglebox	12:05am My Secret Sex Fantasy	
12:45am MND and 22-Year-Old Me						
FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER	6:15pm Pointless	6:15pm Flog It!	7:30pm ITV Evening News	5:00pm A Place in the Sun	7:00pm Home and Away	11:00am Live Ladies European Tour Golf
	7:00pm BBC News at Six	7:00pm Richard Osman's House of Games	8:00pm Emmerdale	6:00pm Come Dine with Me	7:30pm 5 News Tonight	2:00pm Sky Sports Today
	7:30pm BBC London News	7:30pm Eggheads	8:30pm Coronation Street	7:00pm The Simpsons	8:00pm Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh	3:00pm Sky Sports Today
	8:00pm The One Show	8:00pm This Farming Life	9:00pm Teach My Pet to Do That	7:30pm Hollyoaks	9:00pm Celebrity Five Go Motorhoming	3:30pm Live Ladies European Tour Golf
	8:30pm A Question of Sport	9:00pm Mastermind	9:30pm Coronation Street	8:00pm Channel 4 News	10:00pm Cruising with Jane McDonald	6:30pm SKY Sports News
	9:00pm EastEnders	9:30pm Only Connect	10:00pm Cold Feet	9:00pm The Crystal Maze Ep4	11:00pm Maurice Gibb: In Life and Death	7:00pm SKY Sports News
	9:30pm Celebrity MasterChef	10:00pm Gardeners' World	11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	10:00pm Gogglebox	12:05am The Greatest Ever Pop Families	8:00pm Football
	11:00pm BBC News at Ten	11:00pm Mock the Week	11:30pm ITV News London	11:00pm 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown		11:15pm Live PGA Tour Golf Through the Night
	11:25pm BBC London News	11:30pm Newsnight	11:45pm Tonight at the London Palladium	12:05am Married to a Celebrity: The Survival Guide		
	11:35pm Comedy Playhouse	12:05am Dragons' Den	12:45am Tipping Point			
12:05am Room 101						
SATURDAY 16 SEPTEMBER	7:10pm Pointless	1:00pm Len and Ainsley's Big Food Adventure	5:00pm Bean	1:55pm Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix Qualifying Live	6:10pm The Nightmare Neighbour	7:00am Through the Night
	8:00pm Even Better Than the Real Thing	1:45pm World Triathlon Grand Final: Rotterdam	6:35pm Local News and Weather	4:45pm World's Most Expensive Cars	7:05pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	8:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
	9:00pm Who Dares Wins	6:15pm The Big Family Cooking Showdown	6:45pm ITV News and Weather	5:45pm A Place in the Sun	8:00pm Can't Pay Special: Big Family Bust Up	9:00am Rugby Union
	9:45pm Casualty	7:15pm Dad's Army	7:00pm The Family Chase	6:35pm Location, Location, Location	9:00pm The Great Fire: In Real Time	11:45am Rugby Union
	10:35pm Mrs. Brown's Boys	7:45pm PDC Darts Champions League	8:00pm Cannonball!	7:30pm Channel 4 News	9:55pm 5 News	12:30pm Football
	11:05pm BBC News	11:15pm The A-Z of Later... With Jools Holland: From Adele to ZZ Top	9:00pm The X Factor	8:00pm Dunkirk	10:00pm Football on 5	4:15pm Live Super League Q8
	11:20pm Weather	12:45am The White Countess	10:15pm The Jonathan Ross Show	9:00pm WWII's Great Escapes	11:00pm Football on 5	6:15pm Football
	11:25pm Match of the Day		11:20pm ITV News and Weather	10:00pm Super 8	11:30pm Ncis Movie: Legend	8:40pm Cricket
	12:55am People Just Do Nothing		11:35pm The Nutty Professor	12:20am The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones	1:05am Cricket on 5	11:00pm Live PGA Tour Golf
	1:25am The Uninvited		12:20am Hungry Sailors			12:00am Through the Night
SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER	7:35pm BBC News	10:30am Saturday Kitchen Best Bites	2:50pm The X Factor	4:10pm Formula 1	1:00pm Police Interceptors	10:00am Total Goals
	7:50pm Regional News	12:00pm Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food	4:00pm Never Say Never Again	5:15pm The Crystal Maze Ep4	2:00pm Police Interceptors	11:00am Sports Sunday
	7:55pm Weather	12:30pm My Life on a Plate	6:35pm Victoria	6:15pm The Great British Bake Off	3:00pm Police Interceptors	12:00pm Sports Sunday
	8:00pm Countryfile	1:15pm MOTD2 Extra	7:35pm Local News and Weather	7:30pm Channel 4 News	4:00pm Open Season	1:00pm Sports Sunday
	9:00pm Fake or Fortune?	2:00pm PDC Darts Champions League	7:45pm ITV News and Weather	8:00pm Amazing Spaces: Shed of the Year	5:45pm Annie	1:30pm Live Nissan Super Sunday
	10:00pm Strike	5:30pm Tribes, Predators and Me	8:00pm Tipping Point	9:00pm Speed with Guy Martin	8:05pm Before They Were Stars	4:30pm Live Nissan Super Sunday
	11:00pm BBC News	6:30pm Top Gear	9:00pm The X Factor	10:00pm Electric Dreams	9:00pm Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights	8:00pm Live NFL: New England @ New Orleans
	11:20pm Regional News	7:30pm PDC Darts Champions League	10:00pm Victoria	11:10pm Lee Mack	9:55pm 5 News	10:00pm Live NFL: Dallas @ Denver
	11:25pm Weather	11:00pm Risk	11:05pm ITV News and Weather	12:05am Slumdog Millionaire	10:00pm How Magic Changed TV	2:00am Live NFL: Green Bay @ Atlanta
	11:30pm Match of the Day 2	12:25am The Devil's Double	11:20pm Judge Rinder's Crime Stories	2:20am The Supervet	12:05am When Magic Goes Wrong	
12:30am Fugitives		12:20am Liar				
MONDAY 18 SEPTEMBER	8:00pm The One Show	6:15pm Flog It!	6:00pm The Chase	4:00pm Cheap Cheap Cheap	6:00pm 5 News	1:00pm Sky Sports Today
	8:30pm Inside Out	7:00pm Richard Osman's House of Games	7:00pm Local News and Weather	5:00pm A Place in the Sun	6:30pm Neighbours	2:00pm Sky Sports Today
	9:00pm EastEnders	7:30pm Eggheads	7:30pm ITV Evening News	6:00pm Come Dine with Me	7:00pm Home and Away	3:00pm Sky Sports Today
	9:30pm Panorama	8:00pm Antiques Road Trip	8:00pm Emmerdale	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:30pm 5 News	4:00pm Sky Sports Today
	10:00pm Rellik	9:00pm University Challenge	8:30pm Coronation Street	7:30pm Hollyoaks	8:00pm FIA World Rally Championship Highlights	5:00pm Sky Sports Today
	11:00pm BBC News	9:30pm Upstart Crow	9:00pm Countrywise	8:00pm Channel 4 News	9:00pm Police Interceptors	6:00pm SKY Sports News
	11:30pm Regional News	10:00pm Horizon	9:30pm Coronation Street	9:00pm Jamie's Quick and Easy Food	10:00pm Paddington Station 24/7	7:00pm SKY Sports News
	11:40pm Weather	11:00pm W1A	10:00pm Liar	9:30pm Superfoods: The Real Story	11:00pm Caught in the Act: Dumb Builders	8:00pm Sky Sports Tonight
	11:45pm Professor Green: Is it Time to Legalise Weed?	11:30pm Newsnight	11:00pm ITV News and Weather	10:00pm The Undateables	12:05am Drive Angry	9:00pm Football
	12:40am Live at the Apollo	12:10am Weather	11:45pm 100 Year Old Driving School	12:05am The Wedding Day		11:00pm The Debate - Live Through the Night
TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER	7:30pm Regional News	4:30pm Hairy Bakers	6:00pm The Chase	4:00pm Cheap Cheap Cheap	6:30pm Neighbours	9:30am Good Morning Sports Fans
	8:00pm The One Show	4:45pm Great British Railway Journeys	7:00pm Local News and Weather	5:00pm A Place in the Sun	7:00pm Home and Away	10:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
	8:30pm EastEnders	5:15pm Human Planet	7:30pm ITV Evening News	6:00pm Come Dine with Me	7:30pm 5 News	11:00am Premier League Daily
	9:00pm Holby City	6:15pm Flog It!	8:00pm Emmerdale	7:00pm The Simpsons	8:00pm Tony Robinson: Coast to Coast	12:00pm Sky Sports Now
	10:00pm Doctor Foster	7:00pm Richard Osman's House of Games	8:30pm Save Money	7:30pm Hollyoaks	9:00pm The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies	12:30pm Sportswomen
	11:00pm BBC News	7:30pm Match of the Day Live	9:00pm Robson Green's Coastal Lives	8:00pm Channel 4 News	10:00pm Alaska - A Year in the Wild	1:00pm Cricket
	11:30pm Regional News	10:00pm Saving Lives at Sea	9:30pm Call the Cleaners	9:00pm The Great British Bake Off	11:00pm Hotel Inspector: Checking in, Checking Out	8:30pm Football
	11:40pm Weather	11:00pm Quacks	10:00pm 100 Year Old Driving School	10:15pm Celebrity Island with Bear Grylls	12:05am Cruising with Jane McDonald	11:00pm The Debate - Live Through the Night
	11:45pm Germany's New Nazis - Panorama	11:30pm Newsnight	11:00pm ITV News	11:20pm Gogglebox		
	12:30am Ambulance	12:10am Weather	11:40pm Safe House	12:25am Britain's Benefit Tenants		
WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER	6:15pm Pointless	3:30pm Cycling	5:00pm Tipping Point	3:10pm Countdown	6:00pm 5 News	12:00pm Sky Sports Now
	7:00pm BBC News	5:45pm Great British Railway Journeys	6:00pm The Chase	4:00pm Cheap Cheap Cheap	6:30pm Neighbours	1:00pm Sky Sports Today
	7:30pm Regional News	6:15pm Flog It!	7:00pm Local News and Weather	5:00pm A Place in the Sun	7:00pm Home and Away	2:00pm Sky Sports Today
	8:00pm The One Show	7:00pm Richard Osman's House of Games	7:30pm ITV Evening News	6:00pm Come Dine with Me	7:30pm 5 News	3:00pm Sky Sports Today
	8:30pm Rip Off Britain	7:30pm Eggheads	8:00pm Emmerdale	7:00pm The Simpsons	8:00pm Nightmare Neighbour Next Door: Fight Back	4:00pm Sky Sports Today
	9:00pm Celebrity MasterChef	8:00pm This Farming Life	8:30pm Coronation Street	7:30pm Hollyoaks	9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors	5:00pm SKY Sports Today
	10:00pm How to Stay Young	9:00pm World's Busiest Cities	9:00pm Bad Move	8:00pm Channel 4 News	10:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	6:00pm SKY Sports News
	11:00pm BBC News	10:00pm The Detectives	9:30pm Coronation Street	9:00pm Location, Location, Location	11:00pm Undercover Benefits Cheat	7:00pm SKY Sports News
	11:30pm Regional News	11:00pm Famalam	10:00pm Doc Martin	10:00pm Grand Designs	11:35pm Football on 5	8:00pm Sky Sports Tonight
	11:40pm Weather	11:30pm Newsnight	11:00pm ITV News	11:00pm Back	1:05am Cruising with Jane McDonald	8:30pm Football
11:45pm A Question of Sport	12:10am Weather	11:40pm Paragon	11:35pm Fugitives		11:00pm The Debate - Live Through the Night	
12:15am Live From the BBC		12:35am Goodwood Revival	12:35am Educating Greater Manchester			

I HAVE been reminded that today I start my 49th year living in Mojacar. Only a few special celebrations of this type should be remembered.

But, September 10, 1979 I remember all too well. There were complications. My wife and children were in the states. My two closet buddies were away on a golf adventure and nobody I knew well enough seem to be lurking near. I went wandering for a friend.

At the Parata I came across my victim, sitting alone and enjoying the quiet views was Gordon Goody, of mail train fame. I had a good relationship with him having helped him buy his beach bar and sold several of his 'inside friends.'

We drank cava until there wasn't any. Then he invited me to his apartment in Guardia Vieja (above Los Arcos) to drink a few bottles he had.

Off we drove and as I plumped myself down I was handed one large stogie of a spliff. Well, why not I said to myself, I've survived this long. Gordon busied himself getting more cava. Wherever he wandered his trusty golden lab followed him everywhere. He pulled up a chair near me and his trusty companion sat directly in front of Gordon staring intently into his masters eyes.

# An anniversary to remember (so that I can forget again)

**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.*



**FLYING DOG: A great tragedy had occurred.**

We drank deeply and puffed away. The air turned blue and then became a dense cloud.

We continued to mumble manly phrases to each other and continued to glug glug, puff puff. Then Gordon jumped up. The dog too. "We're out of cava, I'm going to pop down to the bar and get more. Here hold the dog." And he

put my hand on the dog's collar. It made sense to me.

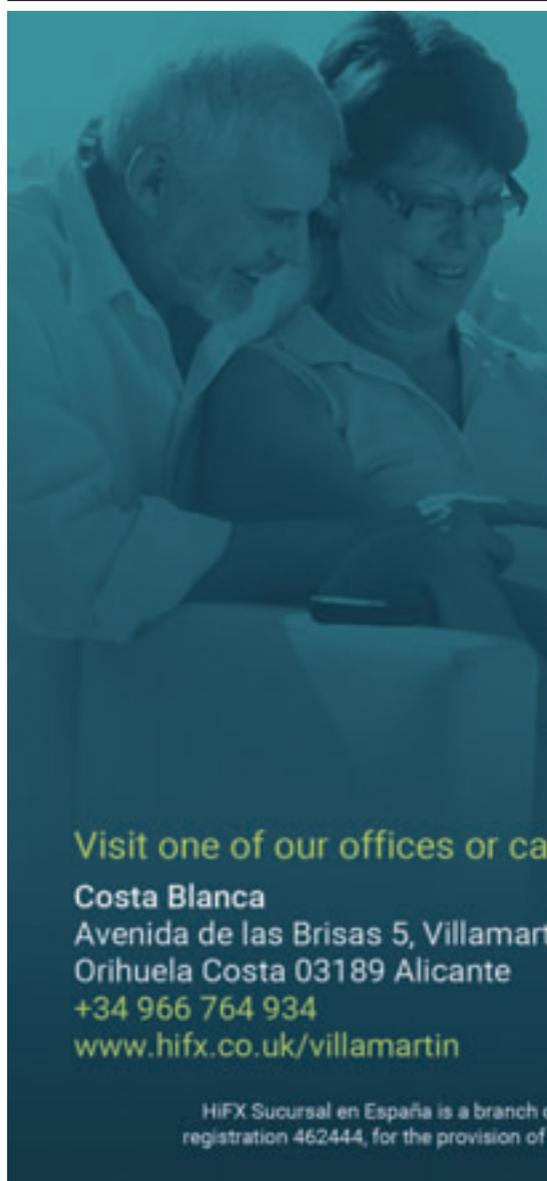
That damn dog followed him everywhere. He had it about six months but they were thick as tea leaves. Like a ghost Goody moved through the haze and I heard the door slam. Moments later I believe I dreamt I heard Gordon's voice below in the bar. The dog did too.

His ears perked up and bolted for the terrace. I didn't think anything of it. But, before I could blink the dog became spread-eagled and was glid-

ing through the air into the night and off the terrace. I painfully heard the crash and the frantic yelping. I mean, who expects a dog to believe it can fly? But it was all too late. A great tragedy had occurred.

Amongst the shocked and grumbling clients below and scurry of chairs and tables fearing more flying animals a lot of screaming and admonishing was taking place. It was all a haze to me. The dog was whimpering and Gordon was getting a car organised to take his dog to the local medical centre.

The dog had broken two legs and sprained two or three more. Never mind, Gordon carried him around for four weeks everywhere. He wouldn't answers questions about the incident. He told everyone to ask me. After a while I got bored with that. I swear that dog didn't have one drop to drink. But fly, it really wanted to do that.



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# Best workouts for a happy, healthy heart

WHEN it comes to improving your heart's health, exercise is as key as eating the right kind of foods. You don't have to be doing a large amount of activity to start noticing the changes - in fact it is better to start small and increase the number of workouts you do week on week.

If you want to get your heart's health up to scratch, these workouts are an excellent way to get the blood pumping:

**Weight training:** This

form of exercise is widely recommended to anyone with heart disease. As well as helping to build muscle mass and burn fat, it also benefits your bone and heart health.

The key to this kind of training is progression; starting with small weights then gradually moving onto heavier ones will ensure you don't get stuck in a fitness rut.

**Swimming:** Your heart (and lungs!) will love you for taking a regular dip in the local pool. Varia-

tion is key to swimming - aim to do between eight to 12 lengths in different strokes each time, and change it up on other days.

**Pilates:** A study published in the International Journal of Cardiology revealed that doing Pilates regularly is actually great for reducing blood pressure.

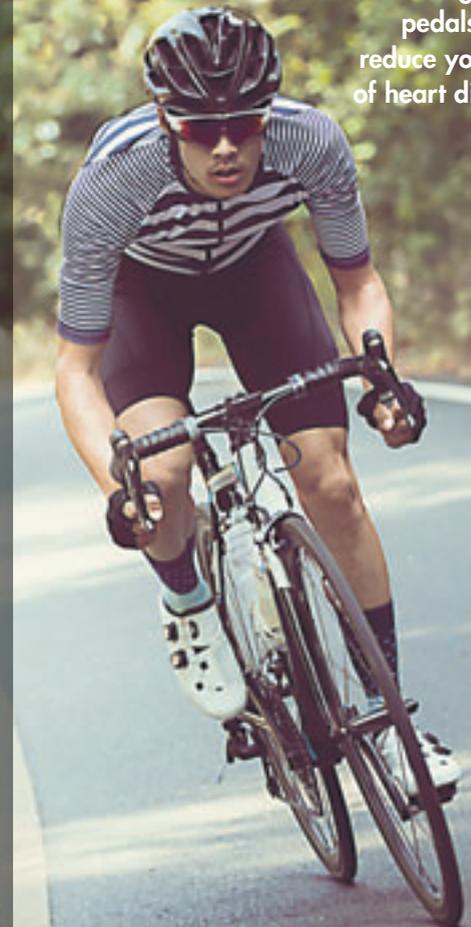
It also increases flexibility, improves hand strength and puts minimal pressure on muscle and joints.

**Cycling:** According to research carried out by the British Medical Association, taking the bike out on a regular basis could actually reduce your risk of coronary heart disease.

Apparently cycling 32 kilometres a week reduces the chances of developing the disease by an incredible 50 per cent.

To start seeing a difference, aim to do one of these exercises for 30 minutes, three times a week.

Taking to the pedals could reduce your risk of heart disease.



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SUPPLEMENTS are a great way to give your body that extra boost and keep everything in order.

With winter on the horizon, not to mention all those nasty bugs that make the rounds, now's a great time to add a few more nutrients to your diet.

Taking a good multi-vitamin,

## Autumn boost

an extra dose of vitamin C will bump up your immune system and neutralise free radicals.

If you're particularly prone to colds, you could also take Echinacea to reduce the symptoms. It takes time for the pro-

tection to build up in your system though, so taking it when you're already ill will be too late!

It is common to feel more tired in winter, but a vitamin B supplement will hike up ener-

gy levels. A dose of flaxseed oil or good omega-3 fish oil also helps to keep you sharp as the days get shorter.

Keep in mind the body gets most of the good stuff it needs from food; however, so consult with your doctor before making any radical changes to your supplement intake.



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# Sleeping the night away

SLEEP is essential for our mental and physical well-being, and struggling to drift off at night can be incredibly frustrating. Seven to eight hours of sleep is ideal for adults, although many people struggle to fit this much into their busy schedules. However, what do you do if you've set these hours aside and you still spend the night tossing and turning?

There are several simple methods you can use that could make all the dif-

ference and help you get a good night's rest.

First things first, make sure you keep hydrated. Drinking lots of water keeps the body temperature down, which will help if you find yourself overheating between the sheets.

Try to keep your water intake regular throughout the day; however, you don't want a trip to the toilet to break your sleep cycle!

It's also wise not to eat anything too

**“ Your brain should associate the bedroom with sleep, so switch off all your devices.**

heavy in the hours before you go to sleep. Eating a meal heavy in carbohydrates, for example, will mean your stomach is going to be digesting them

for hours

afterwards, which may make it harder for you to go to sleep. Salads, fruit and soup are all good alternatives.

Keep calm. If you feel yourself getting frustrated, this will only exacerbate the situation. Sprinkling a few drops of lavender oil on your pillow or

Are you getting enough Zzzs? Seven hours is ideal.

making a cup of hot milk with honey will help you to unwind.

Switch off all your devices at least 30 minutes before you tuck in, and keep them out the bedroom. Phones, televisions and tablets emit an artificial light which inhibits the production of the sleep hormone melatonin. Your brain should associate the bedroom with sleep, so having a digital detox in the evening will help programme it to switch off as soon as you lie down.



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# Gluten-free: friend or foe?

THE demand for gluten free-food has exploded in recent years. Ten years ago, anyone with gluten intolerance had to pre-order certain foods to maintain a varied diet but now you can walk into almost any supermarket and find bread, biscuits, cakes and even chicken nuggets all marked with the desired label.

This is all thanks to the gluten-free diet craze that has swept the western world, particularly the US and UK. Nowadays, people who do not even test positive for celiac disease, or any kind of intolerance, are choosing to cut it out of their diets completely, claiming that they experience notable health improvements as a result.

As research is ongoing, there is evidence to support both sides of the debate over whether cutting gluten out of your diet is actually good for you. It's possible that those who feel healthier as a result of the change are also inadvertently cutting out other allergens and irritants, which may be causing the problems in the first place.

Although many suspect gluten causes inflammation in the gut, even in people without celiac disease, it has yet to be proven whether this is the case.

Some gluten-free products also contain more sugar and fat than their alternatives, to make them taste better. Many also contain a whole bunch of other additives, such as



Could cutting gluten from your diet really make you feel better?

starch and binding agents. A lot of gluten-rich foods also contain important nutrients, such as folate, and anyone who eliminates this food group completely runs the risk of developing a deficiency if they don't supple-

ment their diet accordingly.

If you believe you are gluten intolerant, or would like to try cutting it out anyway, you should talk to your doctor first before making any drastic dietary decisions.

Ask The  
Doctor

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## Haemorrhoids



**SPECIALIST: Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.**

**What are haemorrhoids?**

Haemorrhoids are venous dilatations that appear in the area of the anus. Normally they do not cause any problems, however they can get inflamed and cause a lot of pain, and form clots that become infected which cause bleeding.

**What are its symptoms?**

Some of the symptoms of haemorrhoids may include bleeding after passing a stool, an itchy bottom. A lump hanging down outside of the anus, which may need to be pushed back in after passing a stool and/or soreness, redness and swelling around your anus.

**What causes them?**

These dilatations can be caused by a number of things including straining, recent surgery in and around the area and illnesses that cause the intestinal walls to weaken are among them.

**How can you treat haemorrhoids?**

There are various ways of treating haemorrhoids. Bathing in warm water, some medicines and ointments usually help circulation which can fix the problem however sometimes surgery is the only solution.

**When should you seek medical attention?**

You should always see your doctor if you feel your symptoms are serious or even contact emergency services.

**Can it be prevented?**

There are certain situations which increase the chances of haemorrhoids appearing, and certain people who are more likely to get them due to weaker intestinal walls. In general, avoid straining excessively and sitting on the toilet to defecate with your legs flexed helps prevent haemorrhoids appearing.

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

## Useful Aloe Vera

DUE to its many medicinal properties, Aloe Vera is a firm favourite among both health and beauty experts. The plant has been shown to improve skin, hair and even to help control body weight. It can also be used to treat injuries.

Aloe Vera is used beauty treatments, as it contains Vitamin C and E which have nourishing and anti-ageing effects on the skin. It is also widely used to treat sunburn and stretch marks.

The spiky succulent also contains a proteolytic which has been proven to work wonders for hair.

To use, break off a leaf as close to the stem as possible and slice off the ends. This should enable you to see the gel inside the tough skin. Use the gel to make into a face or hair mask. You can also rub the moist side of the skin directly onto sunburn.

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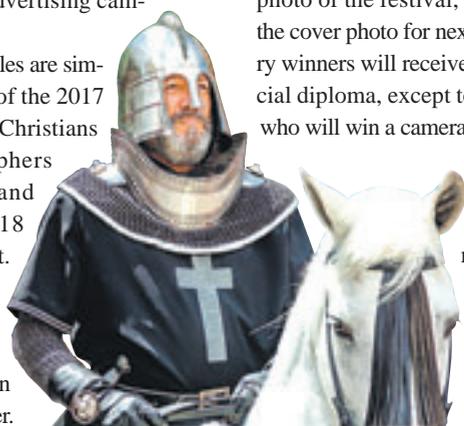
### Golden ticket for festival snappers

THE deadline is now approaching for a very special photography competition being held by Mojacar Town Hall.

Aspiring artists are requested to submit their best photos taken of the 2017 Moors and Christians festival. Mojacar has celebrated the historical reenactment for 29 years now, with its festival considered among the biggest and brightest in Spain.

Organisers for next year's special 30th anniversary event want superb images to use for their international advertising campaign.

The competition rules are simple. Photos must be of the 2017 Mojacar Moors and Christians Festival. Photographers must be aged 14 and over. Those under 18 need parental consent. The deadline for submission is October 31, but it is advised to get photos in sooner rather than later.



Photographers | Festival is goldmine for photography.

don't have to be Mojacar residents, only to have attended the festival. Photos must also be unpublished and not already used on social networks or for advertising.

There are six different categories and each participant can submit up to five photos per category. Categories include photos of the Moors; photos of Christians; black and white photography; parade photos; creative photos; and a special category for 14-18-year-olds.

There will be an official award for best photo of the festival, which will be used as the cover photo for next year's event. Category winners will receive €150 cash and a special diploma, except teenage photographers who will win a camera instead of the cash.

Future official use of winning photos will see the author named. The competition offers an immensely valuable opportunity for ambitious photographers to get their art, and their name, out there.



Photo by Wikimedia

ICON: Jordan still performs at ripe old age of 90.

## Jazz legend arrives

### Singer with 'a million dollar ear' knew Charlie Parker

JAZZ master Sheila Jordan will be performing and teaching students at one of Spain's hottest jazz clubs in Almeria this weekend.

The living legend, aged 90, will be doing a workshop for singers at the new premises of Classjazz in Almeria City.

She will also perform two live and intimate gigs with Jose Carra on piano and Bori Albero on bass.

This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for jazz lovers. Jordan is a jazz icon who was once described by the great Charlie Parker as the

'singer with a million dollar ear.'

She was married to band leader Duke Johnson for 10 years and recorded 'You are my sunshine' with George Russell in 1962.

On Friday and Saturday the singer's workshops take place from 5pm until 8pm. Attendance is restricted to just 10 people. The real entertainment is later in the evenings when, on both Friday and Saturday, the Sheila Jordan Trio takes the stage from 10.30pm.

Tickets cost €10 for Clas-

sijazz members and €20 for non-members.

The iconic club opened a new venue in Calle Maestro Serrano in the Centro Comercial Oliveros last week. Some of the biggest names in Spanish, European and world jazz are set to appear at the new digs in the coming months.

On Sunday there is a fundraising concert at 12pm with free entry. On Monday a Latin Big Band session, and on Wednesday a regular jam session with entrance for just €2.

## Dirty Dancing returns

DIRTY DANCING, the hit 1980's film, is coming to Almeria in the form of a musical. Next month at the Maestro Padilla Auditorium, Patrick Swayze fans will get the chance to dance, swoon and sway as Dirty Dancing, the Musical returns to Spain.

Under the direction of Federico Bellone, the musical has received critical acclaim. It is coming to Almeria's top music venue on October 25 for a five-night run, so there's no ex-

cuse to miss out on tickets.

With live music and expert choreography, this will be a show to remember. Tickets went on sale last week and cost between €36 and €55. They are available from the Auditorium itself and online through Almeria Cultura.

Showtimes are different depending on the night with early evening performances beginning at 5pm and the final performance starting at 10.30pm with a 1am finish.

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# Voice of the south



Photo by India Martinez.es

ONE of Spain's top singing and flamenco talents is bringing her acclaimed one woman show to Almeria. India Martinez began travelling the country back in January with her 'I will tell you a secret' tour, showcasing her latest hit album.

The Cordoba-born star has been performing for the public since she was just five-years-old. She will play the El Ejido Auditorium on Saturday October 7 at 9.30pm. Tickets are now available online.

Martinez is an enormously popular figure in Almeria, thanks to her solo efforts and collaborations with local star David Bisbal. Her duets with top male Spanish singers have attracted millions

of fans to her independent career. She has worked with Prince Royce, and La Oreja de Van Gogh.

With seven studio albums under her belt, the star born Jennifer Martinez was declared the 'voice of the south' in 2004 after the release of her second album 'Awakening.' In 2009 she was nominated for two Latin Grammys, one as best artist, the other for best recording engineering.

Martinez will be followed by former dance partner David Bisbal just one week later. The Almeria-born TV and pop star is playing the Huerca-Overa festival the following Saturday, October 14.

DUET: Almeria-bound India. |

WITH frontman Tony Lindsay on stage, Almeria fans will have an opportunity to see a genuine member of the legendary Santana lineup this autumn. He will be joined by another former official Santana band member, Alex Ligertwood, when 'The Magic of Santana' play in Roquetas de Mar's Theatre Auditorium on Saturday November 25.

The band are based in Germany but will be touring

## Black magic woman

Spain in the next few months to bring the very best of the Latino icon's decades of guitar tracks to Almeria expatriates.

Between them Lindsay and Ligertwood have performed countless times with the legendary Mexican maestro making 'The Magic of Santana' far better and more accomplished than the

average cover band.

Lindsay first found himself in Santana back in 1991. Scotsman Ligertwood began his Santana career in 1979 and has worked with the Grateful Dead and Jeff Beck.

The Magic of Santana is widely considered Europe's best act dedicated to covering the iconic band fronted

by Carlos Santana, among the greatest guitarists in history.

Music fans can go onto YouTube to watch 'The Magic of Santana' in live performances across the world.

This is certain to be one of the most exciting live performances on the Costa de Almeria this year as the band return to Spain in a tour that also covers Murcia, Malaga and Alicante.

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# Gone but not gorgotten - ever!

**A TOAST TO GOOD FOOD, GOOD WINE AND GOOD FRIENDS**



WITH GARRY WAITE

IT is eight years ago today that the world of television lost one of its greatest and most successful food presenters.

Dubbed the first celebrity chef, Keith Floyd redefined the way that cookery programmes were presented. Away from the clinical studio style of Fanny and Johnny Craddock and even the delightful Delia Smith, Keith brought 'personality' to food.

His apparently bumbling, sometimes incompetent preparation and presentation of food delighted millions of viewers.

Keith was born in Exmoor and went to Wellington School. He first started in journalism before joining the army, the Third Royal Tank Regiment, in 1963.

Sadly this was not to last and the army's loss was the catering world's gain. Keith started his catering career like most of us in those days by washing up and preparing vegetables in restaurants in France (where he learnt

to speak virtually fluent French) and London before opening his first restaurant in Clifton, Bristol in 1966 at the age of 23.

Floyd's Bistro opposite the Grand Spa Hotel and close to the famous suspension bridge had long wooden tables and benches and served inexpensive 'French' Bistro type food. Very popular with young people who used to queue outside to wait for a space in the refectory style dining room.

Keith's life became synonymous with hard drinking and heavy smoking as the years rolled on, but in the early days a glass of wine and a good meal were his *raison d'être* and his first marriage in 1967 at the tender age of 24 to Jesmond Rutledge boded a step into what could be called a normal life.

However there were two things that Floyd was not too good at - relationships and business. After three years of marriage he and Jess split up, he having become a father to Patrick. In the early 70's he sold the restaurant to another friend of mine Neil Ramsay (no relation to Gordon) who increased business at the already successful bistro and through the latter years he reformed it until it became more of a fine dining restaurant which his son Peter eventually took over.

It certainly did Neil well - enough to retire very early!!

With the proceeds from the sale of his restaurant, Floyd 'broke free' and bought himself a yacht and sailed the Mediterranean. After 18 months and not having seen his son for that time he returned to spend more time with him but this time with a new woman in his life. That didn't last too long either and he soon met Paddy, the editor of the paper for whom he first wrote.

They took the brave move of opening a restaurant in his beloved France, in the Provençal town of L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue. Things didn't go well and so they returned to the UK and went their separate ways.

“

Food is life, life is food. If you don't like my approach you are welcome to go down to McDonald's.

Keith Floyd

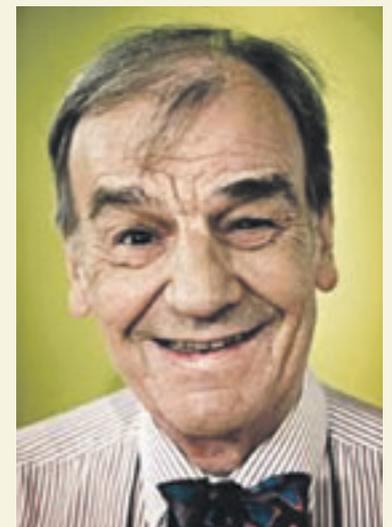
## Floyd moved to Ireland

ON what he called a 'Murphy's inspired whim' but that didn't work out either. In an effort to get back on track Keith opened the Maltser's Arms in Tuckenhay in Devon, the sign outside saying Floyd's Inn (sometimes). Even with a young talented French chef in the form of Jean Cristophe Novelli, the pub was to go the same way as his other ventures.

Sold in 1996 and by now on his fourth wife and living on the Costa del Sol he was drinking more heavily and he would do a half bottle of Scotch 'before breakfast.' Restaurants were no longer part of his 'portfolio' although he did 'lend' his name to a Floyd's Brasserie in Phuket in 2007 which gave him an excuse to travel a lot to another part of the world he loved.

By 2009 his lifestyle came back to haunt him as he was treated for bowel cancer. He spent a lot of time recovering at the home of mutual friend Paul Hickling, of Roman Oasis fame but spent more time back in the UK. It was there, on September 14, 2009 having been given the 'all clear' from his cancer he went out for lunch with his companion Celia to celebrate. On their return they were expecting to watch a documentary, Keith on Keith (by Keith Allen). But he never got to see it. He died of a heart attack while sitting on the sofa. He was 65. Cheers my friend, I'm just going to pour myself a glass of wine to drink your health.

(Keith Floyd 1943 to 2009)



His last couple of years.

## I first met Keith

WHEN we both had restaurants in Bristol. I also took over one of them in Clifton in the early 80's.

One of his many restaurants, however, was to become the birth place of Floyd's huge rise to TV success. I got a phone call from his able bodied right hand woman, Angie, in a bit of a panic as she was getting ready to open his latest venture in Clifton, but Keith had gone AWOL!!

If I remember she had had a flood in the place and there was no kitchen help and the restaurant had bookings. So I sent up two of my chefs to help her out and we opened Floyd's for him!

One of his regular customers was a chap called David Pritchard, a producer from BBC Southampton TV. Each time he came in Keith would avoid speaking to him as he kept sending messages to the reluctant star asking if he could do a TV programme with him. David's persistence paid off and Keith was persuaded to make a pilot.

Filmed in a domestic kitchen in Southampton, Floyd on Fish was born. Floyd on Food, Floyd on Fire and even Far Flung Floyd were to follow. One day somebody asked him if he had chosen the name Floyd on purpose so as he could match it to the programmes and books!! Success grew and grew.

With his new style of presentation, "Come here Clive (cameraman) focus on the food that's what the viewers want not pictures of me!" But it wasn't really.

The viewers tuned in, in their millions to watch the 'bow-tied' 'shabby-chic' presenter 'slurping' his wine and bossing Clive around.

Success did mean that he left a lot of his old friends behind. In 1985, I interviewed him for my radio show in Bristol at the time. It was an easy interview.

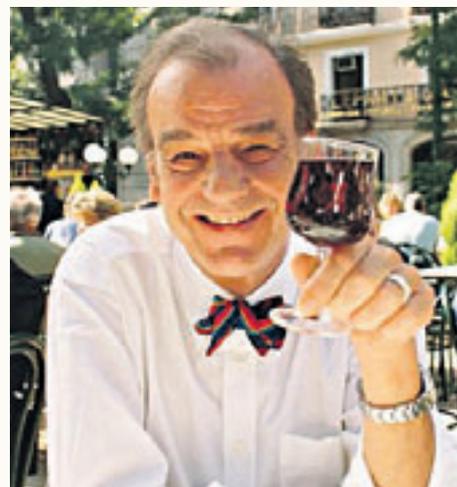
After all it was just two mates sitting discussing one of their lives and good fortune. I



At the height of his fame.

left the UK in 1986 and did not see him again until 1992 while he was filming Floyd on Spain. By then he had started drinking. Not just his occasional wine, but Scotch.

Also he had married again, Julie Hatcher was to provide Keith with his second child Poppy. But success, travelling and drinking took their toll and they eventually divorced.



One for the long and winding road.

\*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).

**4** the number of wives Keith Floyd had.  
**10** the number of restaurants he opened.  
**22** years, the length of time he was at the 'top.'  
**£7,500** the amount he left in his will.



RESCUE: Animal collections to help smaller villages.

# Animal rescue service

A NEW service collecting and transporting lost and abandoned animals will reach 71 municipalities across Almería. Many of the targeted areas are in the Almanzora Valley and all have a population of less than 3,000 people. This has made animal rescue operations difficult in the past.

The contract for animal collections was won by a local company which will operate for two years with a budget of €170,000. That money will

help the province's smaller municipalities resolve all cases of lost and abandoned animals.

For its part, the company awarded the service will receive €1,000 per month in fees and additional money for any deworming or vaccinations.

The funding will allow animals to be kept in more humane conditions while the authorities prepare them for transport or wait to see if an owner steps forward. An emer-

gency telephone number will soon be issued in each of the 71 villages where residents can report cases of dangerous, injured or neglected animals.

Dog collection services in particular have been long sought after by many of the included municipalities.

Among others, they include Laroya, Felix, Armuña de Almanzora, Lucar, Albanchez, Purchena, Gergal, Oria, Sorbas, Los Gallardos, Fines, Seron and Zurgena.



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# Car sale scammer

A RESIDENT of Olula del Rio was swindled by a fraudster who targeted victims across Spain. His experience provided police with key evidence which helped them arrest the

suspect, an El Ejido native.

The Olula del Rio victim paid €3,000 online for a car which was not delivered. The vehicle had been advertised on a popular car selling website

with a good reputation for verifying the credentials of buyers and sellers.

When the car didn't arrive, the man tried to contact the seller only to find that the account no longer existed. He then reached out to police who began an investigation.

They tracked the bank account number used by the fraudster and found that it already appeared on the Guardia Civil's national database. Other victims had reported the same story from Galicia, Bilbao and Leon.

Officers were eventually able to track down the computer used to operate the bank account to an address in El Ejido, Almeria. They then arrested the individual, identified only as ML in police documents.

He has been charged with multiple counts of fraud and arraigned at Purchena court. Police are now investigating whether there are other victims scattered around the country.

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## Retro reading

A LOCAL library has developed a successful new reading programme aimed at encouraging youngsters to rediscover books.

All through summer the Guadalinfo de Seron centre has been running its #UnaSemanaUnLibro (one week, one book) initiative.

Children and young adults borrow a book from the library and then have just one week to finish it. Each week there are meetings where they can share their thoughts on the book and recommend it to others.

They are also requested to discuss it online through social media groups. The idea is to connect modern technology with reading physical literature, a hobby that is fast becoming an ancient artform.

All participants, except those who angered librarians by not returning their books promptly, won a backpack for participating in the programme.

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# Landlords' winter goldmine

LANDLORDS are opening their homes to students in record numbers. Spain's student renters are now among the fastest growing demographics in the property market.

The rise in students searching for their own shared flats has not gone unnoticed by homeowners looking for a solution to the seasonality problem.

Students fit the mould perfectly. Rents are typically from September to May or

June, just when rates can be dramatically raised for summer.

Online bookings of rooms in Spanish cities by students has grown 60 per cent in 2017 compared to last year.

On average students also pay more per month than working tenants for their rent.

That gap is emphasised with international students, who pay €392 each month, €30 more than the average Spanish student. Americans fork out €460 for a room.



STUDENT HOTSPOT: The city of Granada.

“ On average students pay more per month than working tenants for their rent.

They spend less time in the country, however, at just five months.

Nor is it just Madrid and Barcelona who are benefiting from the student expansion. Strong student populations exist in Sevilla, Malaga, Valencia, Asturias and Granada.

More and more young Spanish are moving to different cities to study, away from the parental nest. They also want the independence of distinct accommodation, rather than opting for halls of residence. The halls themselves are being spruced up and ad-

vertised to Chinese students at eye-watering prices.

Landlords are able to demand a reference and a parental guarantee to ensure deposits are paid, the rent is timely and the place isn't a mess by the end of the contract.

## 2017 shaping up nicely

Year surpassing expected property success

BBVA's Research department has put together its bi-annual Real Estate Observatory of Spain report. The comprehensive analysis draws on data from the General Council of Notaries for the first half of 2017.

The report welcomes what it describes as the 'good tone' of the Spanish property market. In six months, 265,000 deeds of sale have been completed. That makes the consensus target of half a million homes sold by the year's end more than likely to be achieved.

BBVA also welcomes the increase in mortgage lending across the board and the continued evolution of Spain's construction industry, especially in the residential sector.

Spain's sales volume increase has been accom-

panied by a GDP growth of 0.9 per cent in the second quarter of 2017. An estimated 377,000 jobs were also created from January to July.

Financing costs to purchase a new home hit a historic low in July. Credit has expanded as consumer confidence grows and lenders fiddle with debt restructuring programmes to make them more secure.

Outside the residential sector the news is also good for the wider property market. Sales of work premises, including offices and industrial warehouses, shot up by 10 per cent in the first half of the year. The office sector in particular is experiencing major foreign investment as Spain's cities attract more global business.



COSTA SUCCESS: 2017 is beating forecasts.

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# How to prepare your garden for the autumn

IT feels like only yesterday when gardens were buzzing with the arrival of spring, but soon the nights will get cooler and darker, meaning it's time to have a good tidy up before for winter arrives. Many gardens have erupted into a beautiful mess by the time summer is over, but if you do the work now it will make a big difference when next year rolls around.

First things first, get rid of any dead vegetation and take note of any damage.

If the task ahead seems daunting, just take it one bed at a time to make the workload easier.

This is incredibly important as certain diseases and pests can live on what's left over, such as fruit and foliage. You should also make sure to burn any plants that have developed blight, mould or mildew to avoid it spreading, rather than just tossing them on the compost pile.

The next fun task is to get rid of all the weeds. It's

important to haul them out now before the seeds start to fall as this will help to slow growth and ensure the right plants are getting access to the nutrients.

If left to germinate until next spring, you run the risk of them taking over the garden as each plant produces thousands of seeds.

Finally, take a step back and admire all the good work you've done this season. It won't be long before your fingers are green again.



TIDY UP: Before the winter arrives.

## Creepers and crawlers

IF you have a wall that's looking a bit bare, and would like to add some drama to your garden, try your hand at planting some climbing plants. There are many varieties you can try, and whether you go for something local to get that Mediterranean vibe or choose something a little more exotic, these plants add the perfect backdrop to any home.

To start off, you will need a trellis which you can either build yourself if you're feeling handy or buy from the local garden centre. Bamboo sticks are also quite effective. You can often buy the plant you wish to grow already partly formed, so all you have

to do is water it well and then plant it by the wall you want to cover.

The hole needs to be twice as wide as the plant pot and half as deep again. It should also be about 30cm away from the wall to ensure the plant gets plenty of moisture. To make sure the plant thrives, water well for the first few months and make sure to spread out the stems across the trellis as it grows.

Stunning climbers to try are Plumbago, which produces a beautiful waterfall of pale blue flowers from May to November, and Bignonia capreolata which sports flaming red flowers throughout summer and autumn.



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WE all look forward to summer for the bright sunny days and balmy nights to enjoy the outdoors, the beaches and nightlife. The garden is also a favourite place to relax, even more so if you have a pool.

This summer has had hotter than normal night temperatures in many zones of Spain. This has had its effects on the gardens.

Many native plants in our Mediterranean gardens can cope with this heat but the introduced plants from temperate climates and many vegetables can be severely affected by the lack of cooler weather in which they are accustomed to grow.

Many temperate plants in exposed positions have suffered from the heat and will appear drooped and with growth stunted. Watering can assist as it cools the root zone, but a more permanent solution to save water is to surround the plants with mulch to insulate the root zone from direct sun heating up the soil.

Providing shade over the plants during the hot periods of summer is also a good option to ensure the plants pass the summer to thrive the rest of the year. A frame covered in shade cloth is a good option for protecting valuable plants.

With autumn coming the lessons of the summer heat is that new planting, that should



IN THE SHADE: A useful herb garden.

# Hot summer nights in the garden

be being planned now for a flourishing winter/spring garden, need to include strategies for protecting the delicate plants to be able to pass the next summer without being set back. Make sure that your

delicate plants are placed in areas that have shade from the summer midday sun.

If you have found your vegetable garden has suffered with no other apparent cause then it may well be the

high night temperatures that have affected tomatoes, pumpkins and many other vegetables to die off earlier this year.

The good thing is that there is space to plant out

earlier this year for the autumn and winter crops so they are better established before the colder weather that slows them down sets in.

The summer storms developed by the summer heat pro-

“Mediterranean gardens can be at their best during the cooler months.

vide a great opportunity for the garden to be prepared for the autumn planting as they stimulate growth and add nitrogen to the soil from the combination of lightning and rain.

Some storms have been very damaging though with hail stones and flooding creating havoc that will take time to repair the damage in the garden. Damaged plants will need to be pruned to remove the damaged branches.

Gardens always recover though with our help and the soil is improved with the rain adding relief for the thirsty trees and plants. After the rains the soil, when moist rather than wet, is ideal for digging over and adding compost in preparation for the autumn planting of new trees, shrubs, herbs, vegetables and annuals.

Unlike many dormant northern winter gardens, Mediterranean gardens can be at their best during the cooler months.

The use of native Mediterranean plants as a foundation for the garden will ensure the garden will always manage the summer heat and we can prepare our favourite temperate plants with some extra care to also get them through the hot nights.

## Strawberry fields forever

IF you want to enjoy your own home-grown strawberries with cream next June, now is the perfect time to sprinkle some seeds in the garden. Autumn is the ideal time to plant strawberries as they form good roots in warm soil and it allows them to get settled before flowering starts in spring.

First of all, make sure the soil is free from

weeds and well-worked to get the best results. As the plants need well-draining soil, planting them in a raised bed will help them to flourish. A good helping of compost and manure never hurt either.

If you fancy trying your hand at a more exotic species, alpine strawberries are attractive plants that require minimal care.

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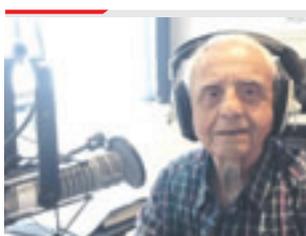
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# A few doggy tips



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• IF your dog gets badly hurt and injured you should rub firmly the very tip of his tail (the bone part), the rubbing will release endorphins which act like a morphine injection and will give your dog some relief of pain until you can get him to the vets or other area with medical assistance. Cover his eyes and ears at the same time as you transport him and this will settle all his senses and will also help give him relief

• Watch when two dogs meet. They shake hands in their own way just as we do. While we use the touch system by shaking the other person's hand, the dog uses his olfactory sys-

tem by scenting the other dog out, particularly in the nether regions. This form of communication between two or more dogs is total and they are getting every piece of information they require from that dog, by what they smell.

Is it a bitch, is it an entire dog, has the dog been neutered? All will be told in this initial meet and greet. It will also watch for Calming Signals (another issue) of great importance which can be covered at some other time.

• Watch your dog sniff around before it goes to the toilet. Is it looking for a good spot to go? Is it making enquiries as to who else has used this area as a toilet? Why do many dogs scratch the ground after going to the toilet? Are they spreading their scent further around? Are they marking territory? 'I've been here, I own this spot.' If they want to claim a particular area, they will most likely spread their urine over the top of any existing



ON MEETING: Dogs shake hands in their own way.

urine in the area. They could be declaring to all and sundry - this is mine. I am bigger and stronger than you who have been here before me. Don't challenge me.

• The urine of a bitch in heat is much stronger in scent than normal. This tells the experienced male that

she is in a good place for him. If the dog has never had anything to do with other dogs (the domestic pet which is kept inside), it may not have learnt what this additional smell means. It is difficult for us as humans to really grasp how strong this smell of the bitch is to the dog especially if it is

still entire. We, the human, are so bad at using our olfactory systems.

• The bitch in season which is allowed to wander creates absolute chaos in the dog world. Dogs have been known to jump fences, break out of gardens, cars etc, and do considerable damage to their places of usual confinement even to the extent of throwing themselves through a plate glass window; such is the power of smell.

Male dogs do tend to urinate more frequently than bitches. This not really a necessity within the dog, it is usually a dominance, perhaps territorial function it develops when allowed.

I would always teach my pupils that it may be a good idea to teach it to go to the toilet on command, rather than just any time it pleases. All working dogs are trained to go on command, it would not be good for a working dog to just go to mark territory it doesn't really own. I am sure your trainer will give you help on this.

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**Motoring shorts**

## Turn a new leaf in GB

NISSAN LEAF will build its flagship Qashqai and X-Trail models in the UK. It's the latest boon for Britain's post-Brexit motor industry, which has been fearful of the impending split.

New Leafs will be built in the UK, US and Japan. The five-door electric hatchback is a frontrunner in the zero-emissions revolution.

The British market is dwarfed by Nissan's sales in America and Japan but that may change when the new Sunderland production facility opens.

Despite warnings from BMW leading to fears of a post-Brexit manufacturers exodus, the future looks bright. BMW will build its electric Mini in the UK, while Toyota will double down on investment in its British plants.

# Show on the road!

WITH the Frankfurt Motor Show just around the corner, the full line-up of cars has finally been revealed.

One of the biggest motor shows on the planet, the Frankfurt affair will showcase concept cars of the future as well as the expected heavy hitters of 2018.

It is also the home of special and limited editions, such as the Mercedes AMG G65 and G63 models expected to make an appearance. The G65 is the real head-turner, boasting a raucous 621hp twin-turbocharged V12 engine. Mercedes are also revealing their top secret electric model, the EQ A Concept. It is the manufacturer's answer to the Volkswagen ID and arch nemesis BMW's i3 models.

Britain will be represented



**FUTURISTIC: The Mercedes EQ A.**

by two models which couldn't be more contrasting. Bentley is unleashing its heavily-hyped Continental GT, while the British-built Mini Electric could be the definitive car of the next decade.

The sleek Bentley GT has a 6.0 litre W12 turbocharged en-

gine with 635hp. But it also has an electrical component propping up the air con system, making it more eco-friendly than the average Bentley. There are luxury wood finishings, driver assistance programmes and a state-of-the-

art infotainment system including Bang & Olufsen speakers.

Meanwhile Mini's Electric Concept isn't set to hit the streets until 2019, but is already slated for mass production and low-cost success. It boasts advanced aerodynamics which

help the hatchback speed along with a minimum energy expenditure. Mini have promised that it will be a car for the masses, affordably priced and a stalwart of the electric revolution of the 2020s.

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# Royal classic at Goodwood



**GOLDEN OLDIES:** Goodwood revives Britain's best classics.

AMONG the many highlights of the Goodwood Revival motorsport event last weekend was the auctioning of a Bentley Mulsanne once owned by the Queen.

The 2012-built saloon sold for roughly €200,000 at the event, which combines classic cars and clothing at the iconic Goodwood Estate in southern England.

With less than 10,000km on the clock the Bentley was used to transport the Queen during public events in London from 2012 to 2014.

It was sold by Bonhams, who have kept the satellite navigation's 'Home' setting as Wind-

sor Castle. The personalised car has walnut picnic tables and is a dark green.

Bentley provided the style to TVR's speed at Goodwood Revival, which celebrates cars built from 1948 to 1966. TVR, a British car-maker, showcased its latest high performance car, which can hit 200mph, as they celebrated their 70th anniversary. It is the first time a new car has debuted at the oldies festival.

The festival, which is a companion to the Goodwood Festival of Speed, was a huge success. Last Friday to Sunday were all devoted to historic motor racing, with parades and aerial displays thrown in for good measure.



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**ROAD TEST** by Nick Fletcher

# Opel/Vauxhall Crossland X

THE new Crossland X from Opel/Vauxhall is a practical family car with trendy styling which aims to bridge the gap between SUV and MPV models.

Based on a modified Peugeot 2008 platform - the French company now owns Opel/Vauxhall - the Crossland X offers a choice of engines.

The entry level versions have a 1.2 litre petrol unit and there are also turbo-petrol versions and diesels in the range. The starter models have a five-speed manual gearbox though up the range you get a six-speed box, and auto transmission is also available on some models. Prices start at €18,052 (£16,555).

The overall size of the Crossland X is very neat, managing to be quite roomy but with a smaller footprint than many SUV and MPV rivals. It is agile, easy to park, and has a smooth light-touch driving feel. With slightly raised ride-height and softer suspension set-up than many in the class, the Crossland X is a very comfortable car though I felt the front seats required a bit more shoulder support.

My test model was in SE EcoTEC trim, with a 108 hp turbo-petrol engine. This version costs €19,490 (£17,875) and has plenty of standard kit including stop-start system, touch



## Stats panel

**Model:** Opel/Vauxhall Crossland X  
**Engine:** 1.2 litre turbo-petrol  
**Transmission:** 5-speed manual  
**Performance:** 0-100 kph 10.6 seconds, top speed 188 kph (117 mph)  
**Economy:** 20.3 kpl (57.6 mpg)  
**Emissions:** 111 g/km

screen, Bluetooth, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, cruise control, climate control and auto lights and wipers. You also get alloy wheels, and a front-camera system.

The 0-100 kph time is 10.6 seconds, fairly typical of models in this class, and the top speed is 188 kph (117

**CROSSLAND X:**  
A very comfortable car.

mph). Fuel economy is 20.3 kpl (57.6 mpg) - very good for a petrol model.

Designed to maximise interior capacity, there is good head and leg room for five adults and the boot holds 410 litres, larger than most rivals, and there is the option of a sliding rear seat which can boost space to 520 litres. Rear seats fold and an adjustable boot floor means no load lip so larger items can be loaded with minimum hassle.

With its potent looks and muscular body-cladding, the Crossland X stands out in an increasing crowded SUV/MPV marketplace and with the visual charisma to attract new buyers to the brand, is likely to be a very strong seller.

## Smart steering wheel



**SAYER:** Can be activated by voice.

IN the near future, Jaguar drivers might purchase a steering wheel instead of a car. The steering wheel would allow them to enter and drive different Jaguars distributed around a city.

The concept wheel has been dubbed 'Sayer' after a famous brand designer and was revealed at a London tech show last week. It can be activated by voice and is being

hyped as the world's first artificially intelligent wheel.

The creators say the wheel will be like a modern smartphone. With the wheel at home, drivers will use it to order a Jaguar straight to the door.

They can then tell the wheel to plan their journey and enjoy the pleasure of driving a Jaguar without the cost of buying one.

*Model tested is UK-specification and equipment levels and prices may vary in other markets.*

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## 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

# 500 for Jimmy, Reds belted, great wins for Nadal and Froome

## SPORTING DIARY

This weekend it's the Singapore F1 Grand Prix where Lewis Hamilton hopes to extend his seven-point lead over Sebastian Vettel in the driver's championship. However, the Marina Bay track has not been good for Mercedes in the past!

Elsewhere, Australia play Argentina and New Zealand meet South Africa in Rugby Union internationals; there's a T20 cricket match between England and the West Indies at The Riverside on Saturday, followed by ODI's at Old Trafford next Thursday and Trent Bridge 48 hours later while county championship-chasing Essex play relegation-threatened Warwickshire; the St Leger takes place at Doncaster on Saturday; the world sailing and cycling championships continue in Japan and Bergen respectively, and there's Masters Golf in Vilamura,

Portugal: September 21-24.

There's plenty of football matches to consider as well, with 10 in the Premiership: Bournemouth-Brighton (tomorrow), Huddersfield-Leicester, Liverpool-Burnley, Newcastle-Stoke, Spurs-Swansea, Watford-Manchester City and WBA-West Ham (Saturday) and Chelsea-Arsenal and Manchester United-Everton (Sunday).

Top Championship fixtures are Cardiff-Sheffield Wednesday, Nottingham Forest-Wolves and Sheffield United-Norwich while Real Sociedad play Real Madrid in La Liga.

Earlier this week in the Champions League it was Barcelona-Juventus, Celtic-PSG, Chelsea-Karabakh and Manchester United-Basel on Tuesday and Feyenoord-Manchester City, Liverpool-Sevilla and Spurs-Dortmund

last night. Everton visit Atalanta and Arsenal play Cologne in the Europa League this evening

## ROUND UP

• Jimmy Anderson has joined an elite band of six bowlers who have taken 500 Test wickets... he's now on 506. His second innings return of 7-42 (the best figures of his international career) helped England (194 and 107-1) whip the West Indies (123 and 177) by nine wickets in the third and final Test at Lords. This was Henry Blofeld's last Test as a BBC commentator and he saw 26 catches dropped!

• Anderson is chasing Courtney Walsh (519) and Glenn McGrath (563) to become the greatest wicket-taking fast bowler. Spinners Muttiah Muralitharan (800), Shane Warne (708) and Anil Kumble (619) stand 1-2-3.

• Next for England, the

winter Ashes series in Australia.

• Chris Froome (Team Sky) became only the third cyclist to win the Vuelta a España and the Tour of France in the same year. He won the Spanish race in Madrid last Sunday, ahead of Italy's Vincenzo Nibali to collect the €150,000 prize. The previous 'double' winners were Frenchmen Jacques Anquetil (1963) and Bernard Hinault (1978).

• Mo Farah, last Sunday, won the Great North Run for a record fourth consecutive year, and celebrated with some sticky toffee pudding!

• The all-American US women's singles final saw unseeded Sloane Stephens (world number 957 six weeks ago) thrash Madison Keys... Rafael Nadal beat Kevin Anderson in the men's final (his 16th major title)... and Wimbledon champions Jamie

Murray and Martina Hingis won the mixed doubles.

• Marc Marquez of Spain and Italians Danilo Petrucci and Andreas Dovizioso finished 1-2-3 in the San Marino MotoGP. Valentino Rossi will miss the Spanish race on September 24 after suffering a double leg break when training.

• In last weekend's PL games Manchester City walloped 10-man Liverpool 5-0; Chelsea won 2-1 at Leicester, Spurs defeated Everton 3-0, Watford triumphed 2-0 at Southampton, Arsenal beat Bournemouth 3-0, Brighton did likewise against WBA, Newcastle and Burnley pipped Swansea and Crystal Palace 1-0 respectively, and leaders Manchester United drew 2-2 at Stoke. West Ham beat Huddersfield 2-0 on Monday.

• In the Championship, Leeds walloped Burton Albion 5-0 and Derby crushed Hull 4-

0, but Birmingham and Sunderland lost again! Here in La Liga, another hat-trick by Lionel Messi helped table toppers Barcelona slam Espanyol 5-0 as Real Madrid, having their worst start to a season since 1995, were held 1-1 at home by Levante.

## GOODBYE 'MOTTY'

Next May, John Motson will shed his sheepskin coat and unplug his microphone when he retires as a BBC/radio commentator. Since 1968, he's covered over 1,200 football matches including 203 England internationals, 10 World Cups and 29 Wembley Cup finals. A Barnet supporter, his best game is the 1981 FA Cup final replay when Spurs beat Manchester City 3-2... his best goal is Ronnie Radford's for Hereford v Newcastle in the 1972 FA Cup and his best team is Liverpool: 1977-86. Well done 'Motty' - happy retirement.



## Open Day to Cabrera Tennis Club

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You are invited to join us at "One of the 5 most beautiful places to play tennis in Spain". That was the opinion of a leading racket sport representative for Spain when he visited our Club.

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The Club has just invested in a new astro turf court to International Tennis Federation standards. This is both pleasing to the eye and gentle on the body.

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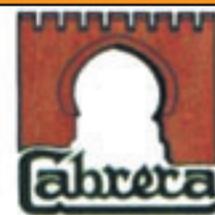
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**SERGIO AGUERO** (Manchester City) is now the leading overseas scorer in Premier League history with 124 goals.

Costa de Almería's best guide to local sport

TO READ MORE

# The Celebration Mixed Singles Set Play

THE Celebration Mixed Singles Set Play Knockout competition was held at Cabrera LBC between August 30 and September 3.

This is a slightly different format from normal competitions as it is played in sets, ie nine ends are played followed by another nine ends. If after this the sets are tied then a deciding three ends are played to decide the winner. If a competitor wins both sets then they have won the match and deciding ends do not have to be played.

Although there were some very good rounds during the competition, the final was between two on-form bowlers, namely Ian Jackson and Nigel Rushton, so the spectators were expecting a real battle and were not disappointed.

Nigel won the first set quite convincingly 8-3. Ian, however, was having none of it and won the second set 10-4. That meant that three tiebreak ends had to be played with Nigel winning the first end. Ian then won the second end so it went down to a third and deciding end.

Ian put up three lovely woods and sadly for Nigel it was not one of his better ends with Ian



**Nigel Rushton and Ian Jackson.**

winning the end and the match. What a brilliantly contested final. Many congratulations to Ian and well fought Nigel. The spectators were definitely not disappointed. Many thanks to all umpires and markers for their time in very hot conditions.



**TIGHT FINISH:** For the Golfer of the Year competition.

## Aguilon Golf members report

AGUILON GOLF SOCIETY is approaching the finish line for their annual Order of Merit/Golfer of the Year competition and it is looking like a tight finish with eight players within six points. At the moment the leading positions are:

Tied first: Peter Death and Norman Ridgway on 372 points.

Tied third: Derek Manning, Glyn Ombler, Les

Raufur on 370 points.

Their Belgium member also managed to get a Hole in One - his tee shot on the difficult par 3 third hit the green and gently ran and nestled in the bottom of the cup.

**Friday September 1 - Individual Stableford**

Due to the heavy rain this week's competition was moved to Friday, however even the sunshine failed to

inspire the players on what was a low scoring day.

First: Robin Hawkins 37 points.

Second: Ian Jenner 36 points.

Third: Rob Banton 33 points on a card play off.

Twos: Mark Newall, Lynne Whibley 14th, Tony Lea 17th.

For further information log on to the website at [aguilonmembersclub.com](http://aguilonmembersclub.com).



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