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A fright in the night

CALLOSA residents were rudely awakened when the roof of the old washhouse collapsed in the early hours of the morning.

Residents hearing the 'thunderous noise' advised the Emergency Services who sent out the Local Police and Guardia Civil as well as the Fire Brigade with their Canine Rescue Unit to ensure that no-one was

trapped beneath the wreckage.

Town hall operatives then removed the rubble and debris and stabilised what was left of the 18th century Poador de la Font Major.

The wall giving on to Calle de la Font, which was still standing, had to be partly demolished as it was badly damaged when the roof fell.

"It was just a fright and luck-

ily nobody was hurt," said Callosa mayor Josep Saval afterwards.

Accompanied by councillors, the mayor visited the site later that morning where municipal technicians inspected the damage to discover the reasons for the collapse.

Initially they believe this could have been caused by a

defect in a corner of the Calle de la Font wall that supports the washhouse roof.

Saval has pledged to rebuild the structure which was built in 1783 with 12 spouts and can hold more than 70 people.

It was first roofed in 1910 and restored 25 years ago when the fibrocement was replaced with cement.



Photo credit: Callosa town hall

WRECKAGE: All that is left of the 18th century washhouse



Wondering how to save on your overseas money transfers?

The secret is revealed on page 43

Property Special 75 - 79



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NEWS EXTRA

Naming names

THE most popular name for newborns in the Valencian Community in 2015 was Lucia for girls and Hugo for boys. These were also the most popular nationally, followed by Maria and Daniel.

Sad stats

SIX of the 45 women killed by their partners this year lived in the Valencian Community, where the region's 112 Emergency number received 1,251 alerts relating to gender violence between January 1 and November 16.

Way to go

CALPE recently presented three electric bicycles and five electric cars to promote its Sustainable Energy Action Plan - the municipality has also installed LED lights in municipal buildings.

By Harrison Jones

SPAIN is looking forward to two national holidays.

Next Wednesday marks Spanish Constitution Day, but in the wake of controversy surrounding Catalanian independence, the public holiday may have a different feel to other years.

Traditionally, the day is one of national pride, with plenty of patriotic displays.

Yet with the constitution and the national flag now widely seen as a symbol of Spanish repression in Cataluña, the anniversary could be used as an opportunity for further defiance from the region.

In early October, Catalonians voted overwhelmingly in favour of independence in an illegal referendum, which sparked ugly scenes in Barcelona.

In the rest of Spain, most of the public spend the day quietly at home.

December 6 marks the day Spaniards approved a new constitution in 1978, following the overthrow of General Franco, the Fascist dictator who ruled Spain for 36 years.

Holiday time!

Spain set for 5-day weekend



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DEMONSTRABLY SPANISH: Pro-Spain demonstrators on Constitution Day last year and (inset) a Christmas market.

In the build up to next week's 39th anniversary, schoolchildren have had extra lessons on Spanish history and politics. Each year, a small number are invited to read from the constitution in Madrid parliamentary buildings, which have a special

public opening close to the anniversary.

Another public holiday takes place next Friday, with many Spaniards taking the Thursday off to enjoy a five-day weekend. The December 8 holiday is a Catholic event, known as the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

It is an ideal time to visit one of the many Christmas markets springing up around the country since it is typically viewed to mark the start of the festive season.

Murder and suicide

A MAN of 40 drove from Germany to Vinaros (Castellon) solely to kill his ex-girlfriend. After they broke up three months earlier, 31-year-old Katharina left Germany to join her parents and sister in La Triador, a quiet urbanisation inhabited almost exclusively by Northern Europeans.

The family occupied three houses on the same plot and not long after 7am on the day of the murder, Katharina's ex-boyfriend climbed the garden wall and went to the house where she lived with her two cats.

Hearing shouting and shots from the house, her sister alerted the Emergency Services and the Guardia Civil, already patrolling in La Triador, arrived almost immediately.

Seeing that he was cornered, the killer then shot himself, sources close to the case said.

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LEAPY LEE

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TV COUCH CRITIC P53

Love it, hate it! The Best and worst of home viewing



BACCHUS CELLAR

Thoughts on various wines but first a peep into Spain's rich vino history



P69

Blackspot accident

THREE people were injured when two cars collided on the N-332 at the turning to Albir. The accident occurred near the El Ventorillo restaurant and hostel, a recognised blackspot at the busy crossroads and three vehicles from the Benidorm fire station were sent to the scene.

Faking it

FIVE men - four Senegalese nationals aged between 30 and 36 years old and a 29-year-old Moroccan - were caught selling counterfeit goods at Denia's weekly market and arrested for crimes against industrial property. Officers also seized 500 items, worth approximately €30,000.

Beach glee

OLIVA will receive a grant of €65,000 from the Valencian Provincial Tourism Agency to make improvements to its beaches in time for next year's high summer season. Fifteen cabins will be erected along the Oliva coastline, providing beach-goers with toilets, showers and baby-changing facilities.

What's up?

DENIA'S Department of Culture was in trouble after mistakenly creating a WhatsApp group and sharing the data of some 280 contacts. The group was set up to promote events and cultural goings on in the town, but what the department actually meant to create was a 'broadcast list.'

Tidying up

THE regional government is clearing trees damaged in last winter's storms from Sierra de Mariola woodland in the national park's beauty spot adjoining Agres. This will assist in preventing forest fires next summer and also reduce the likelihood of plagues affecting the

SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE...39

In the build up to Christmas, hordes of Spaniards spend hours queuing outside to buy tickets for El Gordo, the €2.3 billion festive lottery that has become the richest draw in the world.

Feeling lucky?



Credit: BarcexFlickr

FULL OF HOPE: A queue of people waiting to buy lottery tickets in Puerta del Sol, Madrid.

'EL GORDO' - or the 'the fat one' - is the nickname given to Spain's unique annual Christmas lottery, also known as el Sorteo Extraordinario de Navidad.

According to state figures, around 70 per cent of the population take part each year, with each person spending an average of €60 on tickets, while the total prize money in 2017 is forecast to be €2.38 billion.

The draw started more than 200 years ago in 1812, and is held every year on December 22 at the Teatro Real de Madrid in Madrid.

A group of 40 children, aged between eight and 14, from the Colegio de San Ildefonso school in Segovia are chosen to select the numbers each year. The school used to be an orphanage and the winners of the lottery traditionally donate a portion of their winnings to the school.

Many people flock to watch the ball be drawn live, with many dressing up in lottery-themed clothing for luck.

The numbers are drawn from two giant golden drums, one with the numbers of the lottery tickets and another with the prize amount, and the children traditionally sing the results as they're drawn.

The prize fund is split among thousands of prizes ranging in value. Unlike other traditional lotteries, it's not possible to pick your own numbers. When you buy a ticket, the number is already printed on it and can range from 00000 to 99999. A full 'billete,' or ticket sheet, costs €200, but most people buy a 10th of a ticket, or a 'decimo,' for €20; meaning they win a 10th of the prize money allocated to the winning number. This can be split up further into 'participaciones' worth €1.

A fat chance

IT is not uncommon for people in the same location to win at the same time if they buy 'decimos' or 'participaciones' from the same place. Last year the first prize of €4 million was split between 10 people who all bought their tickets from the same lottery shop in Madrid.

In 2011, all but one of the 250 residents in the tiny Spanish village of Sodeto won a share of €120 million,

with people collecting prizes worth between €100,000 and €1 million depending on how many tickets they had bought. This was the first time in history that an entire village won the prize.

The unlucky man who missed out was a Greek man who lived on the edge of town and allegedly didn't realise what a big deal the Christmas lottery was.



Credit: Madridia Director/Twitter

SING WHEN YOU'RE WINNING: The draw is chanted by schoolchildren.

dead trees.

Too late

A WILD boar piglet, found in a gap beneath an electricity pole in Pinoso

died soon afterwards despite veterinary care. Discovered by an Environment department employee, it was probably trapped for two or three days and weakened by lack of food and low night-time temperatures.

PLUS THE REGULARS

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Crisis deepens

'Spain has lived as if it were water rich'



DRY AS A BONE: The Entrepeñas reservoir, the Tajo-Segura transfer (inset left) and its course (inset right).

By Matt Ford

THE longest river in the Iberian Peninsula is drying up.

It comes as a series of dramatic images showing the extent of the crisis gripping the Tagus river emerged.

Known as the Tajo in Spain and Tejo in Portugal, the river rises in Aragon, northern Spain passing close to Madrid before forming a length of the border with Portugal and eventually emptying into the sea at Lisbon.

Along its 1,000 kilometre length it is dammed 51 times, but its current problems arise at the headwaters.

And they are likely to exert a knock-on effect in expatriate strongholds on the Mediterranean slope.

Constructed between 1966 and 1979, the 292-kilometre Tagus-Segura transfer is a concrete canal designed to carry water from the upper Tagus to the Segura river basin, where it is used to irrigate crops in Alicante, Murcia and Almería.

But much of the channel is open to the air, meaning tens of thousands of litres of water are lost to evaporation before reaching their destination.

Environmental organisation Greenpeace this week published a scathing report on water management in Spain, as the country continues to battle its worst drought for two decades.

The study, entitled Drought, Something More Than a Lack of Rain, concludes that 75 per cent

of Spain is at risk of becoming a desert and claims that "the problem is not drought, but robbery."

According to the report, the national government "has not worked to mitigate dry periods" and Spain has instead "lived and legislated as if it were a water-rich country."

The Entrepeñas reservoir in Guadalajara near Madrid is one of the sources of the Tajo-Segura transfer, but currently sits below 10 per cent of capacity, with local villages forced to ship drinking water in by lorry.

Our View - page 8

Photo credit: Pedro Armentre/Greenpeace



Parts of Spain braced for the cold and wet weather.

EWN on the web

Page views **144,920** *Nov 20 - 27*

Top 5 stories

5,756 views Winter is coming: Temperatures plummet, strong winds and rain forecast for most of Spain

3,408 views Icelandic airline to launch daily flights between Spain and UK

3,400 views Charter flights from UK airport to Gibraltar trialled next July

3,108 views Malaga's €500,000 Christmas lights switch-on

2,631 views Passengers quarantined over infectious disease concerns after flight from Spain

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

Poll of the week

With Black Friday out of the way, have you already finished your Christmas shopping?

LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Amid air pollution fears in Spain, should cars be banned from city centres?

Yes 51% No 49%

CORRECTIONS

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

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Harry to marry Prince and Megan Markle to tie the knot

By John Smith

THE announcement of the engagement of Prince Harry to actress Meghan Markle hardly came as a surprise as there had been much speculation over the possibility.

Prince Harry is, on the face of things, making a groundbreaking choice as far as the Royal Family is concerned as he is marrying a divorced American actress of mixed race.

It was 81 years ago that the Duke of Windsor gave up the throne for the love of a divorced American woman and then in 1955, Princess Margaret decided not to marry Group Captain Peter Townsend also a divorcee, although in this case, it was not because of political pressure but because she was unsure of her love for him.

Despite the fact that the Queen and Prince Philip have just celebrated 70 years of marriage, their children have not been so successful with only Prince Edward still with his

first wife.

This new couple who are expected to marry in the spring of next year are in the happy position that it is very unlikely that Harry who is currently fifth in line will ever ascend the throne, so they can be a little more relaxed in their behaviour.

Ms Markle had a history of involvement in charitable causes long before her blind date meeting with the Prince and she has declared that once married, she will give up acting and concentrate on humanitarian work.

Prince Harry has indicated that he hopes the pair of them will spend much of their time touring the Commonwealth and extending their assistance to those in need.

It has been confirmed that the wedding will take place in St George's Chapel in Windsor, the same location for the wedding of Prince Edward and Sophie Countess of Wessex and for the Service of Prayer and Dedication following the civil wedding of Prince Charles and Camilla

Duchess of Cornwall.

Unlike certain previous Royal Weddings, it has been indicated that there will be no public holiday to celebrate the event.

The government of Gibraltar on learning of the engagement announcement immediately sent the couple their best wishes and invited them to visit the Rock.



HAPPY COUPLE: Announcing the engagement to the press

Photo by Prince Charles @Charles_HRH Twitter

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Strutting her stuff

SHE'S the philanthropic model who got her big break posing for Calvin Klein.

And now Toni Garrn, 25, has lent her looks to fashion brand Calzedonia.

The leggy star wowed in a short dress with a see-through chest panel over pear fishnet tights which perfectly showcased her endless legs.

With her golden hair falling over her shoulders, the stunner wowed at the company's 25th anniversary in Madrid.

The German model, who spends her spare time raising money for girls' education in Zimbabwe, showed off her tanned skin and chiselled cheekbones as she posed for photographers.

Garrn made headlines in September when she was spotted dining with former flame Leonardo di Caprio in New York. The stunner previously dated the Hollywood star for 18 months between 2013 and 2014.



Photo credit Toni Garrn/Instagram

SHEER DARING: Toni Garrn.

Purr-fect hostess!

SHE'S one of the most desired women in Spain.

And actress Blanca Suarez, 29, showed why she leaves others in the shade as she appeared as brand ambassador for British car manufacturer Jaguar at the launch of the new E-type in Madrid.

After slipping into an eye-popping, multi-coloured mini-dress combined with thigh-skimming stiletto boots, the TV star posed for a series of racy snaps with the car.



TOP CAT: Blanca Suarez.

Photo credit Twitter



LAWSUIT: Nick and Holly.

Millionaire's row

HE'S a super-wealthy property developer married to a former star of Australian soap Neighbours.

But multi-millionaire Nick Candy is suing a former good friend whose wife filmed him being 'drunk and embarrassing' in Ibiza.

Emma Hollyoake, partner of his ex-business associate Mark Hollyoake, allegedly refused to erase the footage from her mobile phone, leading to a court battle.

The property tycoon, who tied the knot with Australian actress Holly Valance in 2012, is said to have 'engaged in some embarrassing behaviour when heavily intoxicated' at a party on Ibiza in 2010 as friends filmed him. He now claims his privacy and data protection have been breached.

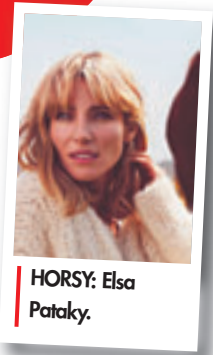
Candy, who is said to have a joint worth of €1.6 billion with his twin Christian, shares two children with his wife.

Neigh joke

SPANISH actress Elsa Pataky has a new best friend.

The Madrid-born star, 41, took to Instagram to show off her new horse Dolly as she enjoyed an afternoon of riding near Byron Bay in Australia, where she lives with actor husband Chris Hemsworth and their three children.

A smiling Elsa appeared to be fully-recovered after a recent trip to Spain.



HORSY: Elsa Pataky.

Crown glory

SHE'S the monarch with a taste for high fashion. And Spanish Queen Letizia did not disappoint as she attended a Jubilee Year celebration in Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia.

The mother-of-two slipped into a glamorous grey jacket and snakeskin heels, together with diamond earrings.

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Town hall sees the light

MUNICIPALLY-OWNED Personas y Ciudad (Pycsa) has saved San Juan Town Hall €200,000 on the Nou Nazareth electricity deal.

Pycsa has negotiated with Iberdrola and succeeded in reducing the cost of the electricity line

connecting Nou Nazareth to the Cantalar substation.

This also brings the development nearer to completion after it was ceded to the town hall

following the 2015 municipal elections, six years after work halted.

The line crosses San Juan from north to south and initially the energy company was asking €1,623,000 with IVA on top of this.

Pycsa instead asked for the cost to be shared between all the sectors that will benefit from the new connection, including Alicante City Hall.

Iberdrola has now agreed and after a re-assessment will charge

€740,000 plus IVA, 55 per cent less than the original estimate, saving the town

hall €200,000.

“Pycsa has cleared the way towards finishing Nou Nazaret, which has been a priority for me since taking over the Town Planning department,” said councillor Esther Donate.

“The municipal company has saved the town hall more than €300,000 this year, first with the contract for cleaning municipal buildings and now the Iberdrola agreement,” pointed out San Juan mayor Jaime Albero said.

“It has also absorbed the difference between official Dependency payouts and the amounts that are paid to carers.”

EWN online
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Heavy-handed Iberdrola maintenance

THE owner of a La Carrasqueta property complained after Iberdrola maintenance workers felled a stand of pines without authorisation.

He has now made an official complaint to the Guardia Civil and is claiming compensation from Iberdrola for demolishing the trees on his land near Jijona.

He was aware that trees and vegetation beneath high-tension cables must be cleared to reduce fire risk but this should also be done with permission and in the presence of the owner, he said.

Usually Iberdrola lopped the tops of the trees to leave a safety margin beneath the electricity lines, he continued.

This time however, the energy company had destroyed a plantation of young pines together with their drip-irrigation system and had felled a 30-year-old pine “without a second thought,” reducing it

to firewood.

Iberdrola have now offered their “most sincere apologies,” explaining that the

damage had been done by subcontractors who would be held responsible for felling the trees.

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Hunter's death mystery

POLICE are investigating the death of a huntsman whose body was found floating in a large water deposit near Fontcalet.

The man had left his shotgun and other belongings nearby and his body was discovered five metres from the edge of the huge irrigation pond by a party of hunters. Initial investigations suggested that the 63-year-old man's death was accidental and that he drowned while trying to rescue his dog from the water.

According to the provincial media, the 112 Emergency Services also received a call from someone in the area who reported that a dog was barking at the side of the deposit.

After the body was recovered from the water, divers carried out searches to determine whether a dark patch at the bottom was the submerged dog although the National Police later declined to provide further details.

OUR VIEW

It's time to save water

THE ongoing water shortage is a crisis that has been lurking in Spain's shadow for decades. But the country appears to have no plan or will to deal with it.

And as a Greenpeace report claims that Spain has 'lived and legislated as if it were a water-rich country,' then it certainly appears time to address a problem which is long in need of a solution.

As reservoirs lie at their lowest levels since the 1990s, and state weather office AEMET forecasts a mild and dry winter, a natural fix may not be close at hand after the third driest year on record behind 1981 and 2005.

Ill-advised infrastructure projects such as the Tajo-Segura transfer, largely created during General Franco's era, are wasteful and woefully inadequate for a country as rich as Spain. Golf courses and public green spaces are typically irrigated with drinking water, while a number of towns and cities continue to pump raw sewage into rivers including the Tagus and Ebro.

As climate change continues to show that it is far from a future problem, Spain must find a way to use its precious water resources more efficiently or suffer the inevitable consequences brought about by a perfect storm of rapidly-warming planet, over-exploited aquifers and unchecked pollution.

What is clear is that connecting more river basins by building pipelines, canals and dams is not the answer.

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NEWS EXTRA

**Black spot
smash up**

A MOTORCYCLIST who lost control on a tight bend on the Carrasqueta mountain was unharmed after running into several parked bikes. This was the same spot where another biker was killed a year ago.

Cleaner air

CAMPELLO residents living near the Les Canyades landfill site want details of air tests carried out in the area and requested a meeting with the regional government to clarify the extent of pollution.

Air lifted

OWING to the steep terrain, a Fire Consortium helicopter from Alicante was mobilised to take a Bocairent woman to hospital after she was taken ill while walking in Sierra Mariola near Alcoy.



Photo by Generalitat Valenciana

I TRAM: Stoppages since last September.

Train drivers still stopping

THE TRAM service is still affected by industrial action which hit trains on Tuesday and today, Thursday.

All lines on the TRAM network as well as the Line 9 trenet between Benidorm and Denia will be affected by a stoppage between 6.35pm and 10.35pm today.

The drivers, who have been striking intermittently since last September, claim that regional rail operator FGV still refuses to discuss their claims.

These include equal status and training as mainline drivers, schedules observing the minimum rest periods stipulated by the Railway Laws and updated driving regulations.

FGV announced a 60 per cent minimum service when a stoppage coincides with a peak period and 50 per cent outside this.

"More information is always available on the free 900 720 472 line or the www.tramalicante.es website," FGV said.

Margarita Gonzalez, a Madrileña staying in Benidorm who took the trenet on several occasions to visit her British sister-in-law - *Euro Weekly News* reader Ali Maples - in Altea, was unimpressed by the stoppages.

"Each time we called we were put on hold only to be told that all their operators were busy and to please ring later," Ali said. "So on the strike days she had to get the bus instead. It took longer but at least it ran to time."

Drivers not put to the test

FOUR THOUSAND people in Alicante Province have been waiting since June to take their driving test.

Examiners from the General Directorate of Traffic (DGT), calling for better working conditions and already on strike since last year, took further action in June and July.

In August, complaining that the DGT had failed to make even one proposal, the examiners announced that the stoppages would continue indefinitely.

The strike is also affecting driving schools whose pupils are having to wait 45 days instead of the usual 12 after putting their names down to take the test.

There is also a month's wait for the theory exam with an enormous backlog of pupils.

Strike action is threatening 1,000 direct jobs and two Alicante Province driving schools have now closed, sector sources revealed. "People don't know when they can take the test and the moment comes when you have to cut the classes," a driving instructor said.

DGT director general Gregorio Serrano pledged a 50 per cent minimum service if the stoppages continue into December and announced that more examiners would be taken on to lessen the effects of the strike.

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Photo by Juan Carlos Molina Gimenez

OLD HEADQUARTERS: Built over Iberian necropolis.

Headache over new headquarters

CAMPELLO Council announced that it cannot afford to build new Guardia Civil headquarters.

The town hall advised the Ministry of the Interior some time ago that it was unable to find the €1.5 million needed for new premises.

After Campello's new General Urban Development Plan (PGOU) was cancelled on a technicality last year, the town hall faces huge compensation payments from investors and developers affected by the court ruling, mayor Benjamin Soler explained.

Although Campello has €30 million in the bank and no debts, the town hall has no idea how much it will be obliged to pay out and does not want to put the Council's fi-

nances at risk, Soler said,

A new Guardia Civil post would also be dependent on the town hall's joint plans with Alicante City's archaeological museum (Marq) to develop and excavate the La Illeta tower area.

The Campello Guardia Civil post, currently housed in temporary rented premises, was originally located next to the tower where an Iberian burial ground was located in 2015.

Soler was prepared to exchange municipal land for the vacated site, he said, but the Ministry of the Interior has not confirmed the agreement despite asking the town hall to go ahead and provide land for the new post.

Butano explodes on country road

A LORRY carrying butano canisters caught fire and exploded on the CV-846 road near Aspe.

The driver pulled up immediately on noticing fire inside

the cabin and was able to leave unhurt, although the flames spread to the gas canisters.

These finally exploded and firemen called to the scene activated standard procedures for

accidents involving dangerous cargoes.

No other vehicles were involved and no-one was hurt although flames reached adjoining land planted with vines.



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Photo credit: Villajoyosa town hall

SPAIN-BRAZIL: Condemnation of gender violence.

A banner that says a lot

TOWN HALLS and institutions all along the Costa Blanca observed International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

In Villajoyosa, as well as the official commemoration, the Spanish Rugby Federation demonstrated its rejection of gender violence before the start of a friendly with Brazil as both teams unfurled a banner pro-

claiming, 'No to gender violence.' This is the first time that the Spanish side has chosen Villajoyosa to prepare players for matches against Germany, Belgium, Romania and Russia in the qualifying rounds for the 2019 Rugby World Cup in Japan.

"It is an honour for Villajoyosa to receive the national team, so today is a fiesta on a sporting level," said Jose Ramon Ucles who heads the town

hall's Sports and Social Welfare departments.

"Nevertheless, we should not forget that today is a day for awareness and condemnation and the town hall wanted to join the Spanish Rugby Federation in this gesture.

"A banner can say a lot and we know that this will reach a great many people, as all eyes will be on today's match," Ucles said.

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Every little can help

LIKE many municipalities, the local population in Aigues can choose how part of the town hall budget is spent.

While some Costa Blanca participatory budgets run into five or six figures, Aigues' is more modest, with just €1,000 to spare, but the town hall nonetheless put how it should be spent to

the vote. A little over 15 per cent of Aigues residents - a total of 134 - voted in the mini-referendum and the majority voted in favour of improving traffic signs and road safety.

Aigues Town Hall has so little to spare because it was declared bankrupt in 2011 and still has an €800,000 debt.

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Photo credit: Generalitat Valenciana

MONICA OLTRA: 'Linguistic rights subject to vulnerability'.

Parlem València - and that's official

THE regional government will set up an office to regulate the use of Valenciano.

The Oficina de Drets Linguistics will collect, process and attend to claims, suggestions and consultations relating to the rights of Valenciano-speakers.

Generalitat vice-president, Monica Oltra said that although the right to know and use Valenciano was officially guaranteed, 'numerous deficiencies' existed in administrative practices as well as private relations.

The official stance did not always correspond to social reality, the vice-president added.

Approval for an Oficina to safeguard the

rights of Valenciano-speakers was announced a day after, use of Valenciano in public administration regulations that favour Valenciano over Spanish, came into force.

At present linguistic rights in the Valencian community are frequently subject to vulnerability in many different contexts, Oltra said: "For that reason it was necessary for the public authorities to provide the Oficina which can mediate in cases of linguistic discrimination."

At the same time it was important to help society to re-establish normality in using Valenciano as an official language, explained sources in the regional government's Education department.

Fire risk suggestions invited

MUCHAMIEL residents were given two weeks to contribute to the local plan for preventing and dealing with forest fires.

Muchamiel is officially classed as a municipality that is at high risk from forest fire and is obliged by regional law to have established procedures in place that are ready to be applied when necessary.

The same Generalitat regulations also require the town hall to request input from the local population on matters relating to the environment. Residents can take part via the municipal web page or Mutxamel App Participa.

All suggestions and comments will be taken into account, said Environment councillor, Lara Llorca who urged residents to take part.



YOU'RE PAYING HOW MUCH FOR YOUR INVESTMENT??

By Sam Kelly, Managing Partner, Chorus Financial



Many of you will have read my article last week regarding financial advisors in Spain charging substantially more than the equivalent service in the UK. In just the last few days I have had several people come to my office to see if I can help them reduce the fees they're paying on their QROPS and Spanish Compliant Investment Bonds.

I saw a lady on Tuesday, we'll call her Sandra (as before, I've changed her name to protect her privacy). The first thing Sandra explained was that every few months her advisor would hand her another wad of pages covered in numbers, charts etc., bamboozle her with complex terminology, and she'd leave the appointment none the wiser as to why her QROPS hadn't grown over the last 4 years.

Well, finally she was sat in front of someone who would break it all down for her. One of my major concerns was that her advisor was changing her funds on a regular basis, and it was often costing the client between 3-5% to buy a new fund. I also questioned the fees on the funds she had been moved into, which were between 1.5%-2.5% per year - this is 3 to 4 times more than I'd expect a client to pay for a top performing UK fund, yet she was paying this for pretty average performing funds, which makes me question why they were chosen.

In addition, she was paying another 2% per year in combined fees to her advisor and bond provider. When we broke it all down, her annual fees were around 5% of the total amount she had invested, and I calculated that around 3.5% of this was going to her financial advisor, most of which was in hidden fees which would be illegal in the UK. I was astounded by the combined level of fees here, and it's safe to say, so was Sandra! The investment returns were barely covering her

fees, which is why Sandra had seen no growth after 4 years.

Even worse, was that the entry costs of 3-5% each time she switched funds wasn't actually a genuine fund charge, rather a commission being paid each time to her advisor. This practice is illegal in the UK and referred to as 'churning'.

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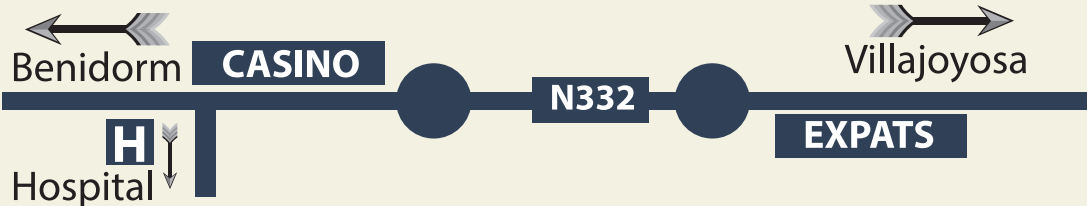


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Marina Baixa no more

EIGHT Marina Baixa municipalities took to the streets of Benidorm last Saturday waving 'Marina Baixa contra la violencia de genero' (Marina Baixa against gender violence) flags to celebrate International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Supporters gathered on the plaza de Sus Majestades los Reyes de Espana where a manifesto was read by Councillors of Equality from Benidorm, Altea, Callosa d'En Sarria, Finestrat,



Photo credit Benidorm

MAKING A STAND: Men and women, old and young, participated in the march.

La Nucia, l'Alfas del Pi, Polop and Villajoyosa.

A minute's silence was then followed by a march, weaving through the city's streets, before a service held outside the Els Tolls building paid homage to victims of gender violence, including Jessica Bravo Cutillas, the 28-year-old Spanish mother who was shot dead by her ex-partner in front of their son in Elda just over three weeks ago.

Christmas cracker!

THE Giving4Giving charity is organising a Christmas Fair in Benidorm.

Taking place at the Hotel Flash Benidorm, next to the Hotel Calypso, there will be over 50 gifts and well-being stalls, a tombola and raffle, with all proceeds going direct to the charity.

Visits to Santa Claus in his grotto, including a gift for each child, will cost €2.

The event is on Friday December 8, from 11am to 5pm, and entrance is free.

A taste of Benidorm

BENIDORM participated in the sixth edition of the 'Sneak Preview' fair organised by the Dutch tour operator, Solmar in Eindhoven, last weekend.

The event is organised exclusively for Solmar customers, who it transports from different areas across Holland, to its headquarters in North Brabant.

Benidorm has several hotels in Solmar's catalogue, including the Poseidon chain hotels, Hotel Poseidon Playa, Poseidon Resort and Hotel La Estacion.

Poseidon's Commercial Director attended, together with Department of Tourism representatives, to get to know the Dutch customers first-hand and promote everything the city has to offer.

Benidorm reaffirmed its commitment to Dutch tourists, who have a medium-high purchasing power and tend to visit in the autumn/winter months when the Netherlands are typically very cold.

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Whining about cava



Photo credit: Tango717

CAVA: Requena is giving Cataluña a run for its money in cava (inset) production.



Photo credit 2: cyclonebill

THE Cava Regulatory Committee asked the Ministry of Agriculture to restrict any increase in areas authorised to produce Spain's 'Champagne.'

This should be restricted to 0.1 hectares over the next three years the Regulatory Committee said, a proposal that Valencia's AVA-Asaja agricultural union opposes. This would harm Requena's burgeoning cava industry, the AVA-Asaja claimed.

In contrast Catalan bodegas, which concentrate 95 per cent of production, would profit while those outside the region would suffer, the union said. "Cataluña wants to prevent Requena from producing more cava," a union spokesman said.

"But it would be senseless to put the brakes on an activity that is growing and has an increasing demand."

Of the 159 municipalities where cava is produced, 132 are in Cataluña, with the remainder located in La Rioja, the Basque Region, Zaragoza, Navarra, Badajoz and Requena.

A total of 36,000 hectares of land are given over to cava-production, of which only 7,000 are outside Cataluña. Most of this - 4,000 hectares - is located in Requena.

60% of Spaniards between the ages of 18-65 do not do any sports or physical activity according to a health survey by insurance company Linea Directa.

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NEWS EXTRA**Success for student**

TWENTY-YEAR-OLD Estela Marti Simo from Denia travelled to Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam recently, where she was awarded the prize for excellence in the Silk Road University Network (SUN)'s first ever writing contest.

It begins

CONSTRUCTION works have begun at the new Marina Real development in Denia. A complex of 80 houses complete with a swimming pool will be erected on the site located on Calle Castor.

No decision

THE Ministry of Education has proposed that instead of refurbishing the El Trinquet school in Pedreguer, it should be demolished and completely rebuilt - its fate is to be decided before the end of the year.

Open again

MASYMAS (Juan Fornes Fornes, SA) reopened its newly refurbished Benitachell store last week, boasting locally caught fresh fish and seafood and a new 'kitchen' section, where takeaway food is prepared daily.

Buzzed off

THE treatment against *Xylella fastidiosa* is threatening thousands of beehives in Bolulla and Tarbena. Beekeepers have said the fumigation of the plots affected by the plague is likely to affect this year's production of medlar honey.

Hiker saved

A 60-YEAR-OLD French hiker from Pedreguer was airlifted to safety after fainting on the Segaria mountain - the man had been walking with two friends.

THE Valencia region's government is a PSOE-Compromis coalition that needs Podemos onside to ensure its parliamentary majority.

It could soon lose this support when it tries to put through the 2018 Budget unless the PSOE agrees to include a tourist tax.

The tax proposed by the

Arm-twisting over tax

Podemos party and backed by Compromis is opposed by most of the PSOE socialists including the regional president, Ximo Puig and Tourism chief, Francesca Colomer.

The Consell, equivalent to Puig's Cabinet, is prepared to make a 'gesture' to Podemos with a committee or an amendment introduced at some in the future, but nothing more.

Vice-president, Monica Oltra, who belongs to Compromis, has avoided any mention of introducing the tax next year but stressed that she was always ready to study matters that affect the

voting agreement with Podemos.

The regional government is adamant that applying a tourist tax in 2018 is unviable and Ximo Puig has maintained that a measure bringing 'at best €20 or €30 million' should not be central to a €20 billion Budget.

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A welcome change of direction



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ALMOND GROVE: Trees need seven years to bear fruit.

LOCAL agricultural growers welcomed a possible easing of Xylella fastidiosa restrictions.

Stringent EU directives at present require the destruction of infected trees and those within a 100-metre radius. As a result, approximately 500 almond trees in inland Alicante Province have been uprooted and shredded to stem the plague that is spread by flying insects.

Regulations ban replanting for five years but the regional government has been in touch with the national government's Ministry of Agri-

culture and Brussels in hopes of cutting this to two.

"This is good news," the Asaja Young Farmers' Union said, since almonds take seven years to bear fruit and regenerating a plantation would currently require 12 years.

Until now eradicating the plague has been limited to uprooting and shredding the trees, but the new approach would allow growers to plant species that are not hosts for the deadly bacterium, said Asaja's Technical secretary Ramon Espinar.

"The regional government's tunnel vision is widening a little instead of

laying waste to everything without offering an alternative," Espinar added.

Some varieties of almonds and olives are resistant to Xylella, he pointed out, and studies are underway in Balears, where the first Spanish cases were detected, to determine which trees would be suitable.

Asaja also believes that healthy trees should not be felled but only those infected or suspected of harbouring the bacterium.

There was still some way to go, Espinar said, although Asaja welcomed the Generalitat's change of direction.

NEWS EXTRA

To me to you

FIREFIGHTERS worked for four hours pumping 40,000 litres of water from a leak in the basement of the shopping centre at Denia - Ibiza port last weekend.

Red-handed

A 57-YEAR-OLD Italian scammer was caught red-handed in Benissa and arrested. He had three search and detention orders issued on him, one from Gran Canaria, one from Madrid and another from Italian authorities.

Two hired

DENIA Council has received a €24,358 grant from the European Social Fund and the Servef Youth Initiative to hire two unemployed young people on full-time contracts for a period of six months.



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By Kat Ashton

Are you registered?

Why it's important for expats to get on the 'Padron'

THE 'Padron' is the town hall's list of everyone who lives in the vicinity. It is the local authorities' way of keeping track of how many people live in the area without delving into their financial affairs. Everyone who lives in Spain is legally required to get themselves on this list, yet there are many expatriates who have yet to do so, or are not aware this is something they need to do.

What are the benefits?

There are many benefits of 'Empadronarse' - the act of registering yourself on the 'Padron' - which could make a significant difference to your time in Spain.

As the residence certificate ('Certificado de Empadronamiento') is your official proof of address, you will need it if you want to register for healthcare, enrol your children in Spanish schools or get Spanish number plates for your car.

You can only have access to certain benefits and social care services provided by the town hall if you are registered on this list. It also helps to improve local services, such as health centres, fire department and schools, if you register as the Spanish government allocates money to different towns depending on how many people are on the 'Padron.'

It is also required if you want to take part in local or European elections as this is how the census office gets their information to



ON THE LIST: There are a multitude of benefits.

put together the electoral register.

What do you need to register?

To get on the 'Padron' list, you just have to take the following documents to your lo-

cal town hall:

- Your passport and a photocopy.
- NIE certificate or residency card issued by the National Police Foreign Office.

• Proof of ownership of property (either your deeds or a rates receipt in your name and a photocopy).

• If you are renting a property, bring the rental contract in Spanish and a photocopy.

• If you don't own a property and are not renting, you need to bring the owner of the dwelling in order for them to sign the registration form to authorise you to register at the property.

• All family members over the age of 18 must sign the registration form in person. For children, the birth certificates and passport have to be presented, but the form can be signed by parents.

The procedure takes approximately 10 minutes, and then you will be issued with a certificate of registration with your name, NIE number and address on it. The information you provide when you register is kept confidential and is protected by data protection laws.

You will need to renew the certificate again every two years if you registered with a passport or NIE number or five years if you registered with your residence card.

If you are asked to provide the certificate under any circumstances, the date of issue should not be older than three months. If this is the case, you can ask the town hall to print you a new one.

If you leave Spain, you must inform the town hall before you go so you will be taken off the 'Padron.'

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Beach bar stays closed

AN Alicante court upheld the closure of a bar on the Varadero beach in Villajoyosa.

It was shut down by Villajoyosa Town Hall last September as a precautionary

measure following claims that the owners had not respected the terms of the concession.

The chiringuito owners appealed against the temporary closure but the Alicante

court ruled that there were no grounds for reversing it.

Costas, the Ministry of the Environment's coastal authority, allowed the chiringuito to partly occupy the maritime-terrestrial strip - a public right-of-way - on condition that some of the installation could be used by the public.

Instead, a solarium and children's play area were a clients-only zone, complained nearby residents, who were also inconvenienced by fumes and cook-

ing smells from the kitchen.

The bar put on live music, not allowed for in its contract, and the owners had attached cables and lights to nearby palm trees, they said.

A spokesman claimed that Villajoyosa Town Hall was persecuting the chiringuito's owners who were given only days to rectify smoke extractors or install a noise limiter. "But they could not comply because the restaurant was closed down before the time limit was up," he said.

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Liar got it in the neck

A MONFORTE DEL CID resident who squandered €400 initially claimed that he had been mugged.

He made a formal complaint to the Guardia Civil, displaying bruises that he said were inflicted during 'a brutal attack.'

As the investigation progressed, Guardia Civil investigators concluded that the supposed victim's ordeal was nothing more than a montage.

He finally admitted that his injuries were self-inflicted and he invented the story so that his partner and family would not know he had spent the cash "on a wild night out."

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Photo credit: Dilema

SAN VICENTE: Buildings in the Old Town will be respected.

Building licences put on hold

SAN VICENTE will not grant planning permission in its Old Town for the next two years.

This period will be used to draft new regulations but meanwhile it will not be possible to construct, extend or demolish buildings in the area between the Plaza de España, Calle Mayor, Plaza del Pilar, Calle Dominguez Margarit and the Municipal Market.

The Old Town was built over

a period of time and modified at different stages in the past, explained the town hall's Territory and Infrastructure Advisory Committee.

Only the present Town Development Plan (PGOU) has made provision for substituting existing buildings, the Committee added. Suspending building licences is a safeguard contemplated in the region's Land Use Laws to provide time to study

or reform new zoning regulations, said San Vicente's councillor for Town Planning, Marijo Jorda. This breathing space would be used to draft protection plans, she added.

San Vicente's mayor, Jesus Villar visited the Old Town with Jorda stressed the importance of having a system to protect and respect San Vicente's heritage while avoiding 'situations of negative visual impact.'

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The power of attorney is the most practical and common way of delegating authority and is very common in Spain, especially when buying a property and the main residence is not Spain. It is a fantastic way to avoid problems and help with the complexities in the purchasing process.

To make the Power of Attorney legally binding, the donor and the attorney must be mentally competent and of legal age. The power of attorney must be witnessed and signed before a notary, where the donor is clearly instructed with the contents and the effects of the POA.



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red.

A power of attorney for the purchase of a property often includes clauses allowing the attorney to open, close and manage bank

accounts, set up direct debits, contract utility suppliers, pay taxes, submit forms, send and receive notifications to and from different authorities.

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PROTESTERS in more than 50 cities across Spain marched to protest violence against women.

To commemorate the 2017 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, people took part in demonstrations across Spain to rally against violence against women and girls.

As well as holding marches through the streets of all major towns and cities, including Barcelona, Madrid and Malaga capital, organisers also arranged talks, presentations and minutes of silence held in memory of the victims who lost their lives to gender violence.

While speaking to the

Abuse awareness



Photo by Ayuntamiento de Malaga

ON THE MARCH: The protest in Malaga City.

Spanish press, Pedro Sanchez, leader of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) denounced violence

against women and girls, saying that "each murder is a failure of society as a whole."

The PSOE leader also condemned the murder of a German woman in Vinaros, Castellon last Friday, saying that the high number of deaths from gender violence each year was proof of "how much remains to be done to achieve effective equality between men and women."

More than 1,000 women in Spain have been murdered by their partners or ex-partners since 2001, according to data collected by a Spanish media outlet, including 45 deaths this year alone.

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She's a total knockout!

SPANISH beauty queen Sofia del Prado declared herself "not entirely satisfied" despite a top 10 finish in the Miss Universe 2017 pageant.

The 22-year-old from Albacete in Castilla-La Mancha followed up her victory in September's Miss Universe Spain by wowing the judges at the international extravaganza at the Planet Hollywood resort in Las Vegas.

She performed particularly well in the swimsuit section but was let down by her evening gown score.

And the stunner took to Instagram in the wake of the glittering event - famously owned by Donald Trump until 2015 - to review the experience.

"A top 10 place is quite good considering there were 90 contestants," she wrote. "But I think I could have finished higher."

The competition was won by South Africa's Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters, while British entrant Anna Burdzy, 25, also did herself proud after placing in the top 16.



Photo by Miss Universe/Twitter

SIZZLING: Sofia in the swimsuit lineup.

Going cheap

Flat owner rents murder scene

A HOMEOWNER has advertised her flat for rent in a trendy suburb of Valencia at half the going rate.

But there is a chilling reason for the bargain price.

Her neighbours say the owner has been too honest about the reason for the rent reduction.

An advertisement posted by a middle-aged 'Anglo-Saxon' woman called Cathy, who works at a local school, read, 'Apartment for rent in Calle Sueca, Valencia. €580 a month. 120 square metres, four bedrooms, second floor.'

"In September there was a murder in the flat. That's why it's cheap."

Furious neighbours told the *El Pais* newspaper, "Everyone here is trying to put this behind us and we don't understand how an educated person can do something like that."

The advertisement has since

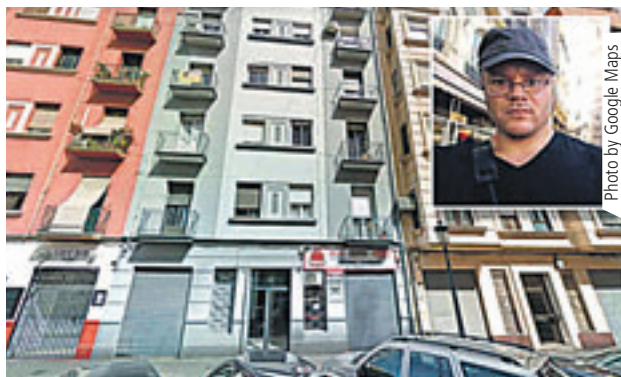


Photo by Google Maps

FLAT BARGAIN: Calle Sueca in Valencia and (inset) Pierre Danilo Larancuent.

been removed from the Idealista website.

The previous tenant of the flat was Swedish citizen Pierre Danilo Larancuent who murdered his boyfriend, Alberto Enrique Ferrer, a 42-year-old hairdresser, by stabbing him through the heart before chopping up his body and hiding the torso in a suitcase.

At the time a downstairs

neighbour said he saw a red stain appear on his ceiling.

Police said the murderer cut up his victim in the bath before getting rid of the body parts.

Once the suitcase was found, police traced bloodstains back to Larancuent's apartment.

When two policemen asked him to identify himself, Larancuent stabbed one fatally in the heart before he was shot dead.

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Non resident income tax

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AS we do every year, we wish to remind readers who are non-tax residents in Spain, that they are still obliged to pay income taxes in Spain, even if they do not have any Spanish income, just because they own a Spanish property or a share of it.

If you live in Spain, are not registered with the tax office as a tax resident or you do not submit taxes as tax residents, you could be legally considered as a non-tax resident, as no notice has been given to the tax authority.

Non-tax residents could be liable to pay wealth tax but only if the value of their assets in Spain (after deducting debts such as outstanding mortgage capital) is above €600,000 in the Community of Valencia, that means the provinces of Alicante, Valencia and Castellon.

“ Non-tax residents are still obliged to pay income taxes.

If you are a non-tax resident in Spain (or you are not legally tax resident in Spain), you will need to pay tax for income in Spain (Income Tax for Non-Residents, IRNR): for example,

rents from a letting, interest on bank accounts, etc.

However, if you do not have any income but own a property or a share in a property, your tax bill will be based on a calculation, called Cadastral Value (value that appears on your Spanish local rates receipt from the town hall, the SUMA office or the equivalent).

Even now it is quite common for people who are non-fiscal residents in Spain (or not legally tax resident in Spain) to simply not pay this tax; usually due to ignorance or neglect and especially when they have no income in Spain and only own a house.

Please note, however, that if you let your property in Spain, you have an obligation to submit the taxes

every three months and not just once a year.

If you are not sure whether you are legally or officially a tax resident or non-tax resident, we can assist you by studying your personal situation.

Please bear in mind that the tax declaration for 2016 (when the property is not let out, etc.) must be presented before the end of this year, 2017.

If you are a non-tax resident, do not forget to meet your tax obligation if you want to avoid a possible tax inspection with resultant penalties, do contact us and we will try to help you.

The information provided in this article is not intended to be legal advice, it merely conveys general information relating to legal issues.

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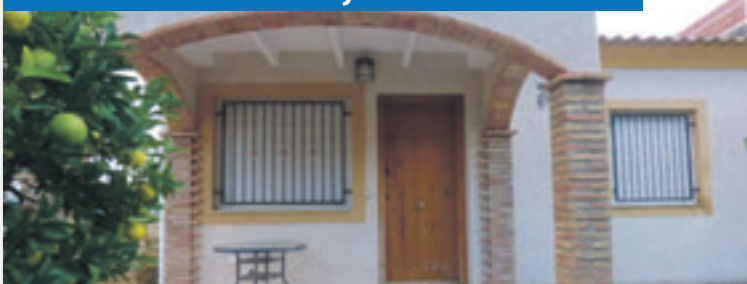
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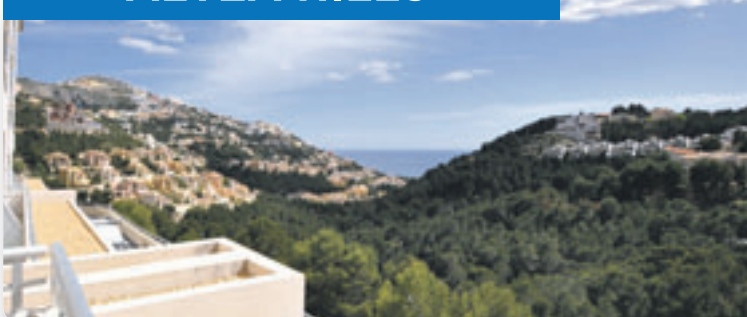
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EXPORT CRISIS: Spanish ham.

On a knife edge Chinese ham demand causes shortage

SPAIN is in danger of running short of one of their most beloved delicacies.

According to Spanish media sources, Chinese consumers have developed a love for the top-of-the-range Iberian ham, but their demand for the product is now threatening to exhaust supply.

As the best quality ham takes a long time to produce, the increase in exports of China have put pressure on producers and raised prices by nearly 10 per cent.

The priciest ham on the market, jamon iberi-

co de bellota - made from pigs that graze on acorn-rich pastures for months on end - is reportedly the most in-demand in China but is also cured for the longest amount of time.

To try to speed up the process, the Chinese have allegedly started to import frozen ham legs and cure it themselves but the result is often much saltier.

The country have become such aficionados of the gourmet product that they have even opened specialised academies to train their own ham slicers.



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Photo by Twitter

NATURE PRIZE: Good Morning Damian Shan by overall winner Jesus M Garcia.

Eyes on the prize

Spanish snappers claim top spots

Muggles behaving badly

A 4,000-YEAR-OLD megalithic tomb in Vigo, Galicia was vandalised with the 'Deathly Hallows' symbol from J K Rowling's Harry Potter series.

The symbol, which represents the 'Resurrection Stone,' the 'Cloak of Invisibility,' and the 'Elder Wand' in the books, was spray painted onto the ancient monument along with the word 'Always.' The ancient monument is considered

one of the top tourist attractions in the town of Vigo, Galicia, and is a renowned example of megalithic stone building from the Spanish occupation by the Moors.

The tomb is allegedly located on private property but is managed by local officials.

According to Spanish media sources, authorities are on the hunt for the culprits, who could face a fine of up to €150,000.

SPANISH photographers have finished first and second in a major international contest.

It comes as Jesus M Garcia from Castilla-La Mancha in central Spain was crowned the 2017 Photographer of the Year in the Epson International Pano Awards.

His stunning shots of the sun rising over Damian Shan in China, a foggy night in his home city of Toledo, and Whuzi Hill in China saw him bag the trophy.

The Damian Shan photo also scooped the Open Award for nature and landscapes, while the built environment and architecture gong was won by fellow countryman and overall runner-up Javier



STUNNING: Toledo City Foggy Night by Jesus M Garcia.

de la Torre for his brooding capture of Shanghai, China.

And the 2017 Major Amateur Winner was British lensman Darren Moore, who triumphed with an image of a row of beach huts in Essex.



ARCHITECTURE PRIZE: Flying Shanghai by Javier de la Torre.

Emergency calls to report a traffic accident were **24,918** made in Andalucia from January to October this year, a 12 per cent increase on the same period in 2016.

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The good life

ALFAZ has joined the International Association of Educating Cities, a non-profit-making organisation founded in 1994. The association now has 488 members from 36 countries who share a common goal of working together on projects and activities to improve their inhabitants' quality of life through active involvement.

Unsocial media

THE itinerant exhibition No em toques el WhatsApp (Don't touch my WhatsApp) is currently on show at the L'Arabi high school. Organised by Valencia's Youth Institute (IVAJ) it centres on eliminating gender violence while stressing the right to equality, respect and freedom from bullying via the social media.

ALFAZ DEL PI / ALBIR NEWS



GREAT FOOD: In a delightful environment.

Great food that simply Sizzles in Albir

THERE are plenty of ordinary restaurants around the world but when a new and innovative kitchen opens, then people start talking about it.

This is true of Sizzle in Albir which is run by German owner, Rene and his Irish wife, Fiona, with the intention of presenting a very special range of food to local residents and visitors.

Although relatively new to the area, the restaurant is receiving a lot of very positive comments about the unusual food options and the quality

of the meat that is served.

Much of the food is served on a sizzling stone so that you can choose exactly how well done you want your juicy steak to be.

There are so many options including the seafood platter, home smoked ribs and a range of food suitable for vegetarians.

The latest innovation to be offered in this friendly and comfortable restaurant is the brand new 'El Macho' burger weighing 250 grams which is made from 65 days dry aged

meat covering a centre of Emmental cheese plus three additional cheeses and a Jack Daniel's based sauce.

“El Macho’ burger weighing 250 grams which is made from 65 days dry aged meat.

Determined to offer efficient service with a superb dining experience, guests are made to feel at home in the

recently opened Sizzle restaurant in Albir.

Situated at Oscar Esplá 7 in Albir and serving food from noon until 11pm, seven days a week, reservations aren't always necessary but for those who like to be sure of a table, you can call 657 262 790, email sizzlerestaurante@gmail.com or visit the Sizzle Facebook page which shows a range of the delicious dishes available.

Newest technology for ancient history



Photo by Alfaz town hall

GEO-DETECTION: Getting to the bottom of Albir's Roman past.

By Linda Hall

A CADIZ UNIVERSITY (UCA) team are using ground-penetrating radar to explore the Albir subsoil.

They are concentrating on the protected area that surrounds the Roman villa, first discovered in 1979 and excavated during the 80's and 90's. Alfaz's Culture department and Alicante University are backing this geophysical prospecting that should provide important information and determine the area that the late Roman settlement occupied.

UCA's Geo-detection Unit, coordinated by Lazaro Lagostena will reveal details of unexcavated zones and the possible existence of further remains, explained Alfaz's Culture councillor, Mayte Garcia. The operation, part of the Patrimonio Virtual project directed by UCA's, Jaime Molina Vidal, is examining the area between the Camino Vieja de Altea, the seafront, Calle Andromeda and Avenida de Albir.

This area includes the Villa Romana and Mausoleum as well as a possible necropolis, Molina Vidal said, and the non-invasive technique will allow the archaeologists to learn more without having to excavate.

“When this area was developed, digs were carried out using the methods available in the 80's and material was collected but not documented,” he explained. “In places, where no previous excavations have been made, any information we obtain will be fundamental because it will provide a record and a better understanding of this zone's history.”

Concert to stamp out disease

ALFAZ'S newly-formed branch of Rotary Club International organises its first fundraising concert at 8pm tomorrow (Friday).

There is a recital by Jovenes Prodigios, pupils from the Franz Liszt Centre for Perfecting Young Talents. They will be performing at Casa de Cultura.

All money raised through the €5 entrance free will go entirely towards eradicating polio.

The local Rotary Club presi-

dent, Caroline Bjalstam, Mai-Lis Bruse, who contracted polio as a child, and the Franz Liszt Centre's director, Isaac Istvan Szekely, who is also the Rotary International secretary, visited the town hall where they met Alfaz's mayor, Vicente Arques, councillors and town hall staff.

They explained the work that the Rotary Club's one million members have been carrying out worldwide since 1979 to eliminate polio.

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You can take your hat off

AN Escoles Velles exhibition commemorates the Spanish women, who more than a century ago, described themselves as 'hatless.'

At the recent inauguration writer, poet and university lecturer, Jose Luis Vicente Ferris, explained that the group of thinkers and artists born between 1898 and 1914, broke away from the stereotypes of their time.

Living and developing their artistic activities in Madrid, they would remove their hats in public in an era when a hatless woman was considered shameful.



British resident receives British Empire Medal

BRITISH AMBASSADOR to Spain Simon Manley presented Teulada-Moraira resident Sylvia Tatnell with a British Empire Medal last week.

British Empire Medals are awarded twice annually by Her Majesty The Queen and recognise meritorious civil or military service.

Sylvia, who moved to Teulada-Moraira in 1971, was presented with the medal for her services to British residents and the wider community here in Spain.

She was a local councillor for 25 years and Head of Social Services.

Sylvia is now President of the Teulada-Moraira Alzheimer's Society (AFA) and helps the municipality's most vulnerable residents.

She was surrounded by her family and friends at the award ceremony and said:

"I am overwhelmed. I decided to go into politics 25 years ago, because I felt I could be of help to fellow British residents in Spain. I

am deeply honoured to have received this award, which is a fantastic encouragement to continue assisting people in need."

She also expressed her greatest thanks to former mayors Antoni Joan Bertomeu and Pepe Ciscar - who attended the award ceremony - for their support whilst she worked at the town hall.

Sylvia is now entitled to sign using the post-nominal letters 'BEM.'



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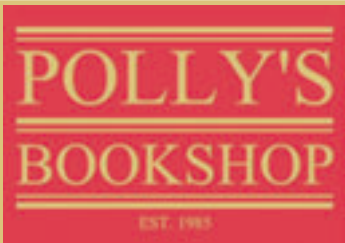
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JAVEA - XABIA

NEWS

This Sunday

THE CORAL CLASICA JAVIENSE (Javinese Classical Choir) will take to the stage at the church of Loreto in Javea Port this Sunday with the Orquesta de la Marina Alta to perform the second part of J S Bach's Christmas Oratorio. Tickets cost €15 and are available on the door or in advance from Humpty Dumpty.



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Arrested for sexually assault of children

A 20-YEAR-OLD man has been arrested in Javea accused of sexually assaulting two children.

The investigation began after the victim filed a complaint with the Guardia Civil.

The children described how they met the accused just one day prior to the incident and he later added them on Facebook.

The man messaged the victims on Facebook and invited them to watch some shooting stars with him in the isolated area near the Ermita del Calvario.



ERMITA DEL CALVARIO: Scene of the alleged incident.

The children obliged and met with the accused again.

Taking advantage of the darkness and remoteness of the site, the man allegedly sexually assaulted the victims.

It took the Guardia Civil less than 24 hours to locate and arrest the accused after analysing Facebook and identifying him. He remains in custody awaiting trial.

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Wheely good news

NEARLY seven months later, Andres Contreras - one of the three surviving cyclists of the accident that occurred on the N-332 in May - is back on his bicycle. He cycled 17 kilometres from his home in Javea to Gata and back last Sunday and captured the ride on video, which will be used to make a documentary.

Forest fire

FIREFIGHTERS extinguished a fire that broke out in Javea last weekend. The emergency services were called to the forest area in the Portixol on Saturday. Thanks to the speed at which the fire was controlled, it was not necessary to evict any neighbours in the area.

A gift from me to you

NINETY-ONE-YEAR-OLD local painter Rosa Cortell Valles has donated almost all her works to Caritas in Javea.

The organisation will sell the paintings to raise funds for the needy.

Rosa, originally from Javea herself, emigrated to France in the late 1950s, fleeing the hardship of the post-war period.

In France, in addition to finding work (and love!), she trained in fine art and developed her practice with a paintbrush.

Rosa, who signs her paintings as Rosa Gonzalez (the



Photo credit: Javea Ayuntamiento

HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER: Rosa together with Caritas representatives.

surname she took from her husband when she married in France), specialises in painting landscapes and na-

ture scenes.

The works donated to Caritas mostly depict the agricultural and mountainous settings of the Alps and Avignon, France where she lived until she returned to Javea in 2000.

The collection also includes paintings of riaraus and typical Marina Alta villages.

Caritas acts as a social safety net, providing a food bank, a clothing store, help in preventing eviction proceedings, grants to pay for utilities, help to improve people's job prospects, household essentials and school supplies for children.

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Your Christmas shopping - sorted!

AMATA has organised a beautiful Christmas market for the first time in the middle of Benigembla. The main attraction is a live nativity scene, with craft people playing the part of Joseph and Mary. Joseph will give carpentry demonstrations and Mary will produce wool using a spinning wheel.

There will be a local tavern, stalls with Christmas decorations and local delicacies as well as an arts-and-crafts exhibition. There will also be traditional Christmas music and live music by Solredo at the market, which runs from December 8 to 10.

The craft people will not only show (and sell) what they have made, but many of them will also be at work, so you can ask questions on techniques, tools and materials. Quite a few even speak some English (or French or



SILENT NIGHTS: The fair's nativity scene with Joseph and Mary.

German). There will be a blacksmith, a potter who makes beautiful Raku pottery and lets you have a go at making your own little bowl or cup, stalls with different styles of candles and ample choice of presents for children and adults.

Amata has been organising craft fairs over the last 20 years and makes sure that everything on sale is hand-made by the participants.

As Friday December 8 is a bank holiday, the fair will be open all day from 11am to 9pm, with the usual break for lunch from 2pm to 5pm. On Saturday, the opening times are also from 11am till 2pm and from 5pm to 9pm, but on Sunday it is only open in the morning, until about 2pm. For more information ring: 639 979 678 or visit: www.amata.es.

Hair today

WINNIES Cafe Bar in La Cala de Finestrat is holding a charity event to raise money for Help International tomorrow (Friday).

The Barbershop BM of Calle Almeria, Benidorm (just off the beach front Levante) shall be donating their skills and time to offer traditional cut throat shaves or hair cuts for a donation of €5 per person. Kevyn Noble (the owner of Winnies) has been growing a full beard and won't have shaved the whole of November, or 'Movember', so it can all be shaved off on the day.

The event will start at 11am and there will also be a charity raffle and collections for Help International, who fund many worthwhile causes including cancer.

THE Costa Blanca Male Voice Choir will be filling the Santa Maria Magdalena church in Benitachell once again this year for their annual Christmas carol concert.

It's always standing room only at this beautiful church and this year the choir are promising a great programme of festive songs, old and new, with some traditional carols which

Get into the festive spirit

the congregation can join in with.

The concert will be held on December 13 at 7pm.

Entry to the concert is free but there will be a collection on exit.

The choir have also been invited to take part in a carol service in the Iglesia de Santa Catalina Martir in Teulada old town on December 14 at 8pm. Once again, entry is free.



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GOOD TIDINGS: The English Choir of Teulada/Moraira invites you to join them at their annual Christmas concert.

The most wonderful time of the year

IT'S that time of the year again and the English Choir of Teulada/Moraira is well into rehearsal for their annual Christmas concert.

Following the sell out success of A Little Light Music in the autumn, the choir is hoping for another full house and to making another substantial donation to the Alzheimer's day centre as well as spreading some seasonal goodwill.

The Christmas concert promises to be great fun with plenty of audience participa-

tion. Carol sheets will be provided and the congregation will be invited to join in with old favourites such as *Good King Wenceslas*, *Deck the Halls*, *Silent Night* and many, many more.

Under the mighty baton of Joanna Baldwin and fantastic organist, Heather Butcher, the choir will sing for you the theme from *The Snowman*, then the very dramatic *March of the Kings* and Schonberg's *Bethlehem*. They will also delight you with *Angel Tidings*, *Little*

Drummerboy, *Winter Wonderland* and *The 12 Days of Christmas* in Moraira Parish Church at 7pm on Wednesday December 6.

To pre-order your tickets contact Janet Brown on: 965 745 091 or email her at: janet.brown.craft@gmail.com. Tickets are €5 each and proceeds will go towards Church funds and the Alzheimer's Society.

For any further information about the choir or future events please phone Judith on 966 480 195.

Festive dates for the diary

LIKE churches around the world, the Church of England on the Costa Blanca is preparing for Christmas. This year the Chaplaincy has formed a choir and will present *The Gift*, by Graham Kendrick.

They will sing their hearts out on the following dates:

December 5, 7pm: Calpe Church (La Merced).

December 8, 8pm: Denia Church.

December 13, 7pm: Albir Church.

There are other carol services and worship up and down the Costa Blanca, including carols and readings:

December 4, 3.45pm: La Fustera - Service of nine lessons and carols.

December 6, 6.30pm: Gandia - Carol Service.

December 8, 10.30am: Javea - Christmas Coffee Morning at the home of Carol Buchanan. €5 cava draw. (For more information please contact Pamela Pittar by email: pam.pittar@gmail.com, or Gill Atkinson at petergillatkinson@yahoo.co.uk.

December 9, 1pm: Calpe - Carols in the old town.

December 10, 10.45am: Javea - Christmas Hamper Raffle. For more

information, please contact Pamela Pittar by email: pam.pittar@gmail.com, or Gill Atkinson at petergillatkinson@yahoo.co.uk.

December 11, 3pm: Albir - Carols on the Beach by the Albir Anchor.

December 12, 4pm: Javea - Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

December 14, 4pm: Calpe - Carol Service at the Merced church.

December 16, 4.30pm: El Campello Carol Service.

December 18, 5pm: Albir - Candlelit Carol Service.

December 24, 11.30pm: Javea - Midnight Mass.

The Eucharist will be celebrated in all our churches on Christmas Day at the usual Sunday service times:

Albir - 9.45am, Javea - 9.45am, Calpe - 10.30am, Denia - 11.45am, El Campello - 12.00, Gandia - 12.00 and La Fustera - 12.00.

For information on the activities of the church, contact details and service times visit: costablanca-anglicanchaplaincy.org.

For services in the southern Costa Blanca (as far south as La Manga and Hondon de las Nieves) visit: c-of-e-torrevieja.com.



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PANTO JUNIORS: Back row: Emily, Charlotte and Maya. Front row: Izabel, Aliyah, Daisy and Laura.

Party at the Panto

'ROBIN HOOD - The Panto', directed by Marian Carter, is coming to the Careline Theatre in Alcalá.

Written by Peter Denyer, it has all the traditional ingredients of the classic pantomime, with 'The Babes in the Wood' as the twist in the tale. With Careline's trademark professional touch, it's sure to be a hit with the whole family.

Opening night will be 'Party at the Panto' with a free glass of cava plus nibbles. Donations from this production will be going to

Help of Denia and Marina Alta, MABS and Jalon Valley Help.

Seats are €12, with children under 10 years €8. Pre-paid groups of 10 or more adults are €11.

Performance dates are Thursday January 18 to Sunday January 21 at 8pm, with matinees on Saturday January 20 and Sunday January 21 at 3pm.

To reserve your tickets, contact the Box Office on the new number: 605 181 726 or email: carelineboxoffice@gmail.com.

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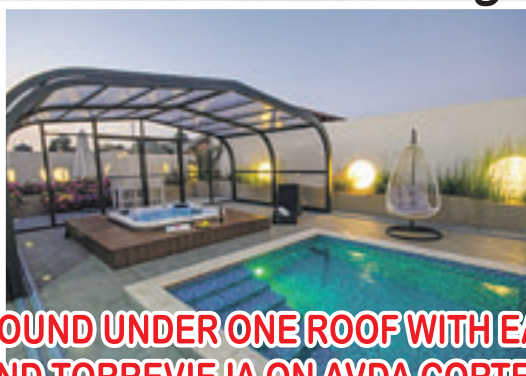
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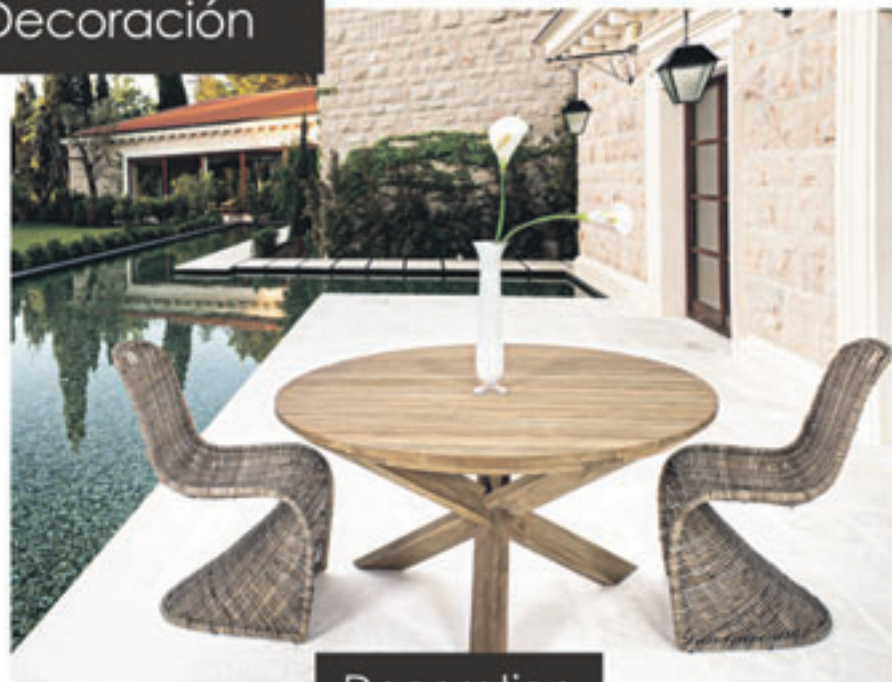
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4:00 pm - 8:00 pm
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NORWAY

Off the hunt

WOLF hunting in Norway has been temporarily suspended after the World Wide Fund for Nature sued a court in Oslo, demanding they examine current laws on controlling the wolf population.

Raised voices

MORE than 1,000 Norwegian artists have condemned sexual assault and harassment in a new manifesto published by the national media, claiming the problems are as prevalent there as in other countries.

Black protest

THE owner of an online shop in Norway has announced he will double his prices on Black Friday to protest 'irresponsible'



LEADING THE PACK: The wolf population is on the rise in Germany, while hunters in Norway have also been banned from shooting them.

conduct by retailers.

Royal recovery

KING HARALD of Norway was submitted to hospital to receive treatment for an infection, but the 80-year-old is now believed to be in good health.

GERMANY

Cut short

THE life expectancy in Germany was revealed to be significantly lower than that in many other European countries as the 80.7 year average ranked 18th among the 28 EU countries.

showing that there are now 60 packs of wolves living across the country; 13 more than last year.

Packed full

THE wolf population in Germany is reportedly on the rise, with research

Grey matter

A DOCTOR faces up to two years in jail for providing financial information about abortions on her website - ruled illegal in Germany - after she

was reported by a member of a pro-life organisation.

Killer owns up

A 40-YEAR-OLD truck driver has confessed to murdering a 27-year-old jogger in Freiburg, and is also suspected of killing a French exchange student in Austria in 2014.

FRANCE

Smoked out

A FRENCH senator has demanded that smoking in films be banned as she suggests that seeing film stars indulging in the deadly habit on screen makes it seem cool.

Xmas threat

PILOTS from the French budget airline Hop! have threatened to strike over Christmas if their request for better working conditions is not met, which could affect thousands of people.

Attraction axe

COUNCILLORS in Paris have voted to get rid of the city's riverside Ferris wheel to protect the area's 'historic visual appearance,' after already scrapping the Champs-Elysees Christmas market because they felt it looked too 'tacky.'

Job success

CONFIDENCE in French business confidence hit a near 10-year-high in November according to French statistics agency INSEE, following President Emmanuel Macron's decision to push through a major reform of French labour law.

BELGIUM

Waffle woes

A HUGE fire at a waffle factory in Brussels caused delays on the Eurostar train between London and the Belgian capital, while residents were warned to close their windows due to the potentially toxic smoke.

Safe haven

BELGIUM has issued visas to 150 Syrian refugees on humanitarian grounds, whose stay will be funded by religious groups, in an effort to stop human trafficking.

Gone to pot

POLICE busted a huge cannabis farm in Jurbise and seized 2,100 plants that were spread across four growing rooms, but have yet to arrest those responsible.

Pricey present

AN opinion poll from the myShopi app revealed that the average Belgian family with three children spends around €150 on presents from Father Christmas each year.

NETHERLANDS

Big move

THE European Medicines Agency has decided to relocate 1,000 of their London-based staff to Amsterdam as the EU organisation will be unable to stay in their current UK headquarters after Brexit.

Hot spot

TOURISM in the Netherlands increased by 5.5 per cent last year, according to reports by Statistics Netherlands and the World Tourism Organisation, beating the European average of 2.4 per cent.

Roof rip-off

A MAN from Cork, Ireland is on trial in the Netherlands for allegedly running a roof repair fraud scheme that scammed several senior Dutch citizens.

Housing boom

HOUSE prices in the Netherlands were 8.2 per cent higher in October than they were at the same time in 2016, marking the biggest increase since 2002 according to Statistics Netherlands.

DENMARK

Sympathy vote

A COPENHAGEN councillor who resigned from her post after it emerged she used the city hall for her wedding reception free of charge was voted back into power in local elections.

Flight fright

THE Independent Police Complaints Authority is investigating an incident which saw an Algerian man lose consciousness onboard an aircraft and die in hospital two days later after a struggling with police who were deporting him.

Fluffy find

VOLUNTEERS from an animal protection organisation found 46 rabbits running freely around a small apartment in Denmark - many of which were injured - living in less than ideal conditions.

Balanced out

DENMARK has been revealed to have the best work/life balance after a survey from TotallyMoney studied which countries offered the highest amount of leisure time and minimum working hours.

SWEDEN

Slavery stopped

TWO men have been sentenced to more than four years in prison for operating a human trafficking network which lured people from Bulgaria to Sweden then forced them to beg on the streets.

Santa scrapped

THE Santa Winter Games in Sweden have been cancelled this year due to urban development in the town where they have been held since 2003 due to multiple construction projects.

Case buried

A CASE against a Sweden Democrat politician, who allegedly sexually assaulted one of his colleagues, was dropped due to a lack of evidence, saying it was "word against word."

Higher power

THE Church of Sweden has urged its clergy to use gender-neutral language when referring to God as they have agreed that God is "beyond our gender determinations" and "not human."

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ICE FUN: Magical Christmas at Gorky Park.

A winter wonderland

CHRISTMAS ice-skating has opened at Moscow's Gorky Park. British music stars Maribou State and Holly Walker performed at the opening ceremony. The new rink is cube shaped and, like a Russian doll, has nine smaller rinks inside. There are 15 kilometres of LED strip lights.

Outraged conservatives in the Russian parliament demanded he apologise for insulting Soviet forces.

Rail birds

SAKHALIN island will be connected to the Russian mainland in a huge infrastructure project. The 580-kilometre railroad will include a tunnel and will cost almost €10 billion. There has long been talk of connecting Sakhalin to the Japanese island of Hokkaido, creating a rail link between the two countries.

High-rise Pisa

TOY cars are rolling from one side of the room to another in a Nizhny Novogorod high rise now being described as Russia's very own leaning tower of Pisa. More than 200 worried people live in the bendy building which began to tilt two years ago.

Health and safety

HUNTING and gun sales will be banned in Yekaterinburg during the 2018 World Cup. The safety precaution will also see gun-owning residents banned from travelling with their weapons. Terrorist group Daesh have pledged to attack the summer football tournament, leading to a security crackdown.

Sex scandal

A MOSCOW university has been accused of a cover-up. A female student was threatened with expulsion unless she retracted allegations of sexual harassment. Other students have suggested that the Higher School of Economics is trying to avoid the embarrassment of a sex scandal.

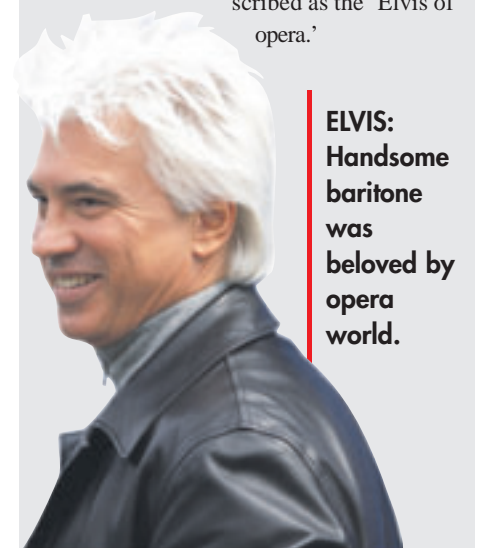
Speech furore

A TEENAGE student from Novy Urengoy who gave an anti-war speech in the German parliament has received threats. Nikolai Desyatenchenko expressed sadness over the fate of German POWs who perished in Soviet camps.

Elvis of opera

ONE of the world's greatest opera singers died in London. Dmitry Hvorostovsky, an acclaimed baritone from Krasnoyarsk, passed away from brain cancer aged 55. He performed Russian classics across the world, was best known for playing Tchaikovsky's

Eugene Onegin, and was described as the 'Elvis of opera.'



ELVIS: Handsome baritone was beloved by opera world.

Investment bond lasts a millennium

A COMPANY in Denmark has seen its latest bond offer five times oversubscribed, even though the bond cannot be cashed in for 1,000 years.

Orsted which builds wind farms is offering 2.25 per cent annual interest and could have raised €2.5 billion whilst analysts are surprised at how popular it has been.

There is of course no guarantee that the company will still be trading in 3017 or that descendants of bond holders will still be around.

Uber ethics under question

By John Smith

UBER, the private hire company which is surrounded by controversy, may face an EU fine of up to €20 million if they fail to alert consumers to security breaches again.

The company which has seen its licence to operate rescinded in London and taxi drivers all over Spain striking because of its presence, recently admitted that it had been hacked and lost data covering 57 million customers and drivers.

This is not the first, nor likely

to be the last, group to have information compromised in this way, but what has horrified regulators around the world is that it kept the hacking secret for more than a year after reportedly paying a ransom of \$100,000 (€84,000) to the hackers to have the data deleted.

It is claimed by the company that no financial information had been taken and the head of security has since been dismissed

with offers of assistance being made to drivers but nothing to customers whose information was taken.

A new General Data Protection Regulation is due to be enacted by the EU early next year which will require that companies have to notify data regulators about a breach within 72 hours of becoming aware of a hack.

In the event that they don't, then they can be fined 4 per cent of their global annual turnover or €20 million whichever is higher.

USA to tax olive imports

DESPITE the recent warm meeting between Mariano Rajoy and Donald Trump, 'Olivegate' continues to be a problem and could result in annual import duties of up to €4.3 million. Following a complaint from Californian olive growers that Spanish exporters were receiving unfair subsidies of between 2.3 and 7.2 per cent, the US Commerce Department has agreed and will impose equivalent import duties on ripe Spanish olives entering America.

Although the duties have been announced, it has been decided the matter is subject to final ratification in May 2018 alongside a number of other new duties aimed at protecting American producers.

Quote of the Week

"The challenge for us as a nation is to prove them wrong," said British Chancellor Philip Hammond after the Office for Budget Responsibility slashed its 2017 growth forecast from 2 per cent to 1.5 per cent.



Photo by ICCI

DR ALI (in tie) being greeted at ICCI.

Pakistan promotes EU trade

THE Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy of Pakistan in Spain returned to Islamabad to encourage local businessmen to expand their exports to the EU using Spain as a base. He made it clear that Spain was an ideal partner both as a stepping stone for exports and as a customer for IT and marble products in particular.

Advising those attending a meeting at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Counsellor Dr Muhammad Hamid Ali observed that the Mobile

World Congress would be held in Barcelona next February and urged that the Pakistani business community of relevant sectors should take active participation in this event to explore new business opportunities.

In addition it was suggested that as law and order had become much stronger in Pakistan that inward investment from Spain should also be encouraged and that the Pakistan Embassy and the ICCI would consider ways of assisting exporters to encourage increased trade with Spain.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Bank jobs

SANTANDER Bank has reduced the number of redundancies that it expects to make following the takeover of Banco Popular from 1,585 to 1,384. Whilst this has been welcomed by the unions, they have asked the bank to consider keeping more staff in work.

Price drop

DESPITE the fact that the average cost of luxury properties in Barcelona has dropped by 20 per cent, the actual market has collapsed by 50 per cent. This figure has been calculated by estate agents Barnes and covers the six weeks since the Catalan referendum.

EU support

THE European Union, taking into account the potential financial losses to the Spanish economy since the Catalan crisis has accepted the forecasts for the next two years may be reduced. There is no plan to threaten penalties if this is the case.

Giving Tuesday suggested

FORGET Black Friday says Giving Tuesday, a global movement supported by ecologists in Spain who last year raised €558,617 for 321 projects. The concept that they have is that the Tuesday following Thanksgiving should cele-

brate the action of giving food, money, time, second-hand objects or even blood to those worse off than oneself. With Black Friday and Cyber Monday, only Wednesday and Thursday are left without titles.

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Anglo American	1,450.00	-10.50	-0.72	20,373.85
Associated British Foods	3,202.50	159.50	5.24	24,328.15
Admiral Group	1,917.50	31.50	1.67	5,405.37
Ashtead Group	1,881.00	-38.00	-1.98	9,600.11
Antofagasta	967.00	-11.50	-1.18	9,661.40
Aviva	497.50	-1.90	-0.38	19,895.58
AstraZeneca	5,065.00	82.00	1.65	63,291.11
BAE Systems	540.00	-2.00	-0.37	17,313.94
Babcock International Group	733.25	67.25	10.10	3,450.70
Barclays	189.25	-0.10	-0.05	32,171.40
British American Tobacco	5,030.00	26.00	0.52	115,804.34
Barratt Developments	619.00	18.50	3.08	6,286.81
Berkeley Group Holdings	3,464.00	-211.00	-5.74	5,050.99
British Land Co	616.50	-2.00	-0.32	6,208.18
BHP Billiton	1,400.00	-10.50	-0.74	29,790.77
Bunzl	2,160.00	24.00	1.12	7,279.23
BP	499.08	-2.22	-0.44	99,156.58
Burberry Group	1,755.00	15.00	0.86	7,465.41
BT Group	257.40	10.95	4.44	24,695.27
Coca-Cola HBC	2,509.00	91.00	3.76	8,882.39
Carnival	4,980.00	22.00	0.44	10,481.38
Centrica	138.50	-0.50	-0.36	7,722.04
Compass Group	1,555.50	45.50	3.01	23,912.79
Croda International	4,257.50	-45.50	-1.06	5,640.69
CRH	2,773.50	124.50	4.70	22,176.69
ConvaTec Group	212.50	17.00	8.70	3,864.66
DCC	7,292.50	202.50	2.86	6,332.99
Diageo	2,640.00	17.50	0.67	65,299.53
Direct Line Insurance Group	395.00	38.10	10.68	4,900.50
Experian	1,560.00	-18.00	-1.14	14,343.45
easyJet	1,364.00	-1.00	-0.07	5,465.58
Ferguson	5,317.50	-2.50	-0.05	13,403.94
Fresnillo	1,454.00	89.00	6.52	9,948.06
G4S	275.00	17.60	6.84	4,029.49
GKN	307.00	0.90	0.29	5,269.22
Glencore	362.50	0.15	0.04	52,404.05
GlaxoSmithKline	1,298.25	0.75	0.06	64,213.39
Hargreaves Lansdown	1,620.50	-2.12	-0.13	7,612.81
Hammerson	519.50	5.00	0.97	4,132.70
HSBC Holdings	739.25	3.55	0.48	146,138.53
International Consolidated Airlines Group	598.50	2.50	0.42	12,225.70
InterContinental Hotels Group	4,320.00	-24.00	-0.55	8,247.47
3i Group	933.00	3.50	0.38	8,891.98
Imperial Brands	3,132.50	1.00	0.03	29,978.11
Informa	703.50	-56.50	-7.43	6,192.40
Intertek Group	5,152.50	1.87	0.04	8,343.89
ITV	153.95	3.55	2.36	6,134.72
Johnson Matthey	3,080.00	-3.00	-0.10	5,937.61
Kingfisher	318.50	2.40	0.76	6,948.76
Land Securities Group	923.00	6.00	0.65	6,828.64

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Legal & General Group	263.00	-3.00	-1.13	15,842.83
Lloyds Banking Group ORD	65.99	-0.10	-0.15	47,293.26
London Stock Exchange Grp	3,803.50	27.50	0.73	13,123.42
Micro Focus International	2,565.00	-90.00	-3.39	11,690.47
Mediclinic International	672.50	152.00	29.20	3,870.53
Merlin Entertainments	362.40	0.50	0.14	3,652.11
Marks & Spencer Group	300.00	2.20	0.74	4,853.10
Mondi	1,796.00	45.00	2.57	8,540.89
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	212.50	0.30	0.14	5,018.95
National Grid	879.00	12.40	1.43	29,344.25
NMC Health	2,859.50	-6.05	-0.21	5,858.91
Next	4,362.50	56.50	1.31	6,409.84
Old Mutual Group	201.15	8.55	4.44	9,583.87
Paddy Power Betfair	8,560.00	-250.00	-2.84	7,204.40
Prudential	1,908.50	25.50	1.35	48,679.45
Persimmon	2,590.00	34.00	1.33	8,181.76
Pearson	705.00	-3.00	-0.42	5,737.20
Reckitt Benckiser Group	6,460.00	-10.00	-0.15	45,169.60
Royal Bank of Scotland Group	268.00	-2.80	-1.03	32,250.20
Royal Dutch Shell	2,348.00	10.50	0.45	106,293.86
RELX	1,610.00	-154.00	-8.73	18,779.81
Rio Tinto	3,650.00	-5.00	-0.14	49,748.92
Rolls-Royce Group	817.50	-69.00	-7.78	16,390.46
Randgold Resources	6,520.00	-760.00	-10.44	6,825.02
RSA Insurance Group	632.50	29.00	4.81	6,192.71
Rentokil Initial	326.90	-0.48	-0.15	5,969.50
Sainsbury (J)	229.60	2.20	0.97	5,011.07
Schroders	3,535.00	78.00	2.26	7,852.02
Sage Group (The)	844.75	40.25	5.00	8,714.77
Segro	557.75	0.65	0.12	5,606.35
Shire	3,710.00	-1.00	-0.03	33,937.67
Smurfit Kappa Group	2,327.50	-39.50	-1.67	5,565.87
Sky	962.50	22.50	2.39	16,175.95
Standard Life Aberdeen	420.25	1.25	0.30	12,597.28
Smiths Group	1,525.00	22.00	1.46	5,963.09
Scottish Mortgage Invstmnt Trst	460.60	-3.40	-0.73	6,507.78
Smith & Nephew	1,372.50	53.50	4.06	11,659.06
SSE	1,330.00	-14.00	-1.04	13,823.61
Standard Chartered	738.05	-1.85	-0.25	24,262.12
St James's Place	1,113.00	-73.00	-6.16	6,237.68
Severn Trent	2,186.50	80.50	3.82	5,046.59
Tesco	193.50	0.90	0.47	15,892.91
TUI AG	1,336.00	-20.00	-1.47	7,819.35
Taylor Wimpey	198.50	6.30	3.28	6,442.54
Unilever	4,142.50	-118.50	-2.78	52,270.88
United Utilities Group	778.75	-10.75	-1.36	5,400.56
Vodafone Group	225.00	-0.50	-0.22	60,122.76
Worldpay Group	414.75	-1.11	-0.27	8,296.00
WPP Group	1,267.50	11.50	0.92	16,092.99
Whitbread	3,555.00	-21.00	-0.59	6,607.02

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 Norway kroner9.70847

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THE ABOVE TABLE USES THE CURRENT INTERBANK EXCHANGE RATES, WHICH AREN'T REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RATE WE OFFER

DOW JONES

CLOSING PRICES NOVEMBER 27

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE%	CHANGE	VOLUME(M)
3M	231,380	-0.09%	-0,200	137,811,80
AMERICAN EXPRESS	93,4800	-0.36%	-0,3400	81,140,29
APPLE	174,970	0.01%	0,010	898,350,57
BOEING CO	265,880	0.28%	0,730	158,352,42
CATERPILLAR	137,390	-0.45%	-0,620	81,737,92
CHEVRON	116,51	0.52%	0,60	221,296,06
CISCO SYSTEMS	36,490	0.11%	0,040	182,451,97
COCA-COLA	45,88	0.09%	0,04	195,479,42
DOWDUPONT	71,16	0.79%	0,56	166,513,71
EXXON MOBIL	81,42	0.39%	0,32	344,985,18
GENERAL ELECTRIC	18,1900	0.22%	0,0400	157,745,23
GOLDMAN SACHS	235,95	-0.20%	-0,48	89,000,69
HOME DEPOT	172,3300	0.16%	0,2700	201,238,12
IBM	151,84	0.05%	0,07	140,599,94
INTEL CORP	44,7500	0.22%	0,1000	210,280,25
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	98,3200	-0.32%	-0,3200	341,143,42
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	138,0100	0.52%	0,7200	370,766,63
MC DONALD'S CORP	169,1100	0.04%	0,0600	134,812,05
MERCK AND CO. NEW	54,35	-0.04%	-0,02	148,073,14
MICROSOFT	83,260	0.18%	0,150	641,288,84
NIKE	59,32	+0.42%	0,25	77,250,82
PFIZER	35,4900	0.17%	0,0600	211,545,50
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	88,450	0.14%	0,120	224,393,94
TRAVELERS CIES	129,83	-0.14%	-0,18	35,533,94
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	116,91	0.15%	0,18	93,392,75
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	212,51	+0.61%	1,29	205,965,60
VERIZON COMMS	47,01	-0.19%	-0,09	191,856,10
VISA	111,97	+1.04%	1,15	203,561,46
WAL-MART STORES	96,6200	0.22%	0,2100	288,623,42
WALT DISNEY CO	102,6400	-0.10%	-0,1000	158,422,89

M - MILLION DOLLARS

NASDAQ

CLOSING PRICES NOVEMBER 27

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
Xcel Brands, Inc	\$ 2.65	0.4144 ▲ 18.54%
ANI Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 74.56	11.21 ▲ 17.70%
ATA Inc.	\$ 5.10	0.60 ▲ 13.33%
Corvus Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 11.51	1.27 ▲ 12.40%
Flexion Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 26.32	2.83 ▲ 12.05%
Marinus Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 7.23	0.77 ▲ 11.92%
Great Elm Capital Group, Inc.	\$ 4.20	0.40 ▲ 10.53%
Videocon d2h Limited	\$ 9.39	0.89 ▲ 10.47%
Compugen Ltd.	\$ 2.80	0.25 ▲ 9.80%
IRIDEX Corporation	\$ 8.58	0.76 ▲ 9.72%
Melinta Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 15.25	1.35 ▲ 9.71%
Most Declined		
SMART Global Holdings, Inc.	\$ 36.20	4.45 ▼ 10.95%
Net 1 UEPS Technologies, Inc.	\$ 10.945	1.335 ▼ 10.87%
Editas Medicine, Inc.	\$ 25.80	2.45 ▼ 8.67%
Tuniu Corporation	\$ 8.78	0.69 ▼ 7.29%
Xencor, Inc.	\$ 20.36	1.45 ▼ 6.65%
Hibbett Sports, Inc.	\$ 17.90	1.25 ▼ 6.53%
Coherus BioSciences, Inc.	\$ 8.75	0.60 ▼ 6.42%
Epizyme, Inc.	\$ 11.90	0.80 ▼ 6.30%
Novelion Therapeutics Inc.	\$ 3.77	0.25 ▼ 6.22%
Francesca's Holdings Corporation	\$ 6.90	0.45 ▼ 6.12%
Maxwell Technologies, Inc.	\$ 5.52	0.35 ▼ 5.96%

Kleinwort Hambros Elite PCC Limited

Distributing Funds

EUR Fixed Income B
 Sterling Fixed Income B

DEALING PRICE

€0.9393 €0.0018
 £0.9278 £0.0005

Price Movement

Accumulating Funds

GBP Currency B
 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

£0.9796.....-£0.0005
 €0.9528.....-€0.0006
 £1.1623..... £0.0053
 €1.0813..... €0.0043
 £1.3299..... £0.0097
 €1.2254..... €0.0083
 £1.4870..... £0.0144
 €1.3772..... €0.0125

Price Movement

Remaining Elite Fund prices available on request

Prices correct as at 22/11/2017

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*Fees and exchange rate data for banks taken from the International Money Transfer Index™ (IMTI™).

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Pound reacts to budget & Brexit, EUR fluctuates on German concerns

Ask the expert

Peter Loveday



Currency Direct

Contact me at euroweekly@currenciesdirect.com

STAYING on top of the latest currency news can help you time your transfers more effectively, so find out what you should be looking out for over the next couple of weeks...

Latest currency news

The pound lost much of its strength at the beginning of November, but GBP was able to rebound from its lowest levels as the month progressed. Over the past two weeks GBP/EUR has trended between a high of €1.13 and a nine-week low of €1.10.

GBP/USD, meanwhile, has seen even choppy trading, moving between lows of US\$1.30 and a three-week high of US\$1.32.

Over the same period, EUR/GBP fluctuated between £0.88 and £0.90 while EUR/USD ranged from US\$1.16 to US\$1.18.

What's been happening?

The pound has largely recovered from the significant GBP sell-off inspired by the November 2 Bank of England (BoE) interest rate decision.

Although the central bank increased interest rates at the November gathering, policymakers made it



CURRENCY MOVEMENT: The pound could climb if UK/EU trade negotiations get underway.

clear that borrowing costs wouldn't be increased again for a considerable period, leading to widespread pound losses.

Political scandals also rocked market confidence in the government and its ability to deliver a smooth Brexit, further weakening the pound. Theresa May was faced with mounting pressure from within her own party to sack Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and Secretary for International Development Priti Patel following separate diplomatic incidents. Then it emerged that 40 Tory MPs were prepared to sign a letter of no confidence in May.

Since then positive Brexit news has given the pound a lift, with hopes that trade negotiations could progress bolstered by reports the UK plans to up its offer to the EU for the Brexit bill.

The UK Autumn Budget turned out to be a bit of a non-event, having little impact on GBP exchange rates.

The euro, meanwhile, was caught between positive economic data and a less rosy outlook for monetary policy. The latest Eurozone data continues to largely suggest that the currency bloc economy is in robust health and is headed for its strongest year of growth since the financial crisis.

However, the European Central Bank (ECB) is unlikely to make any positive adjustments to monetary policy for some time, somewhat limiting the euro's strength.

The euro also came under pressure in response to the news that German coalition talks collapsed, leaving the nation without a working government two months after the election.

What do you need to look out for?

Over the next couple of weeks, the euro will be responsive to any political developments in Germany.

If it looks as though the nation will have to head to the polls again, the euro could be pressured lower.

The pound, meanwhile, could climb if it looks as though UK/EU trade negotiations will finally get underway.

UK data to look out for includes the nation's consumer confidence figure and Markit's Manufacturing PMI, while the Eurozone is set to publish inflation figures and German employment data.

At Currencies Direct we're here to talk currency whenever you need us, so get in touch if you want to know more about the latest news or how it could impact your currency transfers.

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BBVA TESTS BLOCKCHAIN New technology could speed up commerce

NEW technology is being tested by BBVA which could speed up international transactions by days rather than hours.

Many payments are made by use of a letter of credit which requires a great deal of physical work to actually set up and if there are any errors in the document then payment may be withheld.

In the case of an agreement between a Barcelona-based company and a Mexican company for the purchase of 25 tons of frozen tuna, the bank issued the letter of credit using Blockchain technology.

By allowing digital information to be distributed but not copied, Blockchain technology created the backbone of a new type of internet. Originally devised for the digital currency, Bitcoin, the tech community is now finding other potential uses for the technology.

Initially, the most well-known example of Blockchain technology was Bitcoin the computer generated currency



Photo Credit: Daniel Pentfield Wikimedia

BLOCKCHAIN: IEEE Computer Society Techgnite conference 2017.

which started as being worth less than the cost of a pizza and is now a whisker away from \$10,000 (€8,377) for a single coin.

Analysts believe that using the Blockchain procedures, a whole new and more efficient form of secure internet connectivity could be achieved in the not too distant future and this test by BBVA Bank is a major step forward in international commerce.

In this particular transaction, the entire documentation was completed in just two and a half hours rather than the normal seven to 10 days that a traditional letter of credit would take to be completed.

Not only was the activity safe and made the entire transaction much more efficient, it allowed all parties to be able to view the documentation at the same time and to note any changes in delivery.

Spain is particularly advanced in the use of new and developing technology and a recent European Union report which was very critical of the level of unemployment in Spain acknowledged that the number of students studying computers and programming was high and they were leaving university with much-needed skills and in demand.

This innovative test by the bank could well pave the way for a massive increase in the use of Blockchain technology to speed up worldwide commerce.

Congress expected to approve new payment law

A LAW proposed by the Ciudadanos political party which could see fines as high as €819,780 for late payment of invoices is expected to be approved by Congress.

Research suggests that the larger the company, the later that payment is made and in some cases it can take as long as 120 days when the legal requirement is to settle within 60 days.

Within the European Union, late payment occurs with 30 per cent of purchasers but in Spain the number is believed to be as high as 60 per cent which can have a crippling effect on the cash flow of smaller companies.

Persistent offenders will face fines ranging from €406 to €819,780.

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PROPOSED URANIUM MINE STILL CLOSED Greens oppose opening

THE Spanish arm of Australian mining corporation Berkeley has had an appeal against an environmental group stymying its €454 million uranium project rejected.

A Madrid court reviewed a number of complaints raised by the company against Ecologistas en Acción and political party Equo which had started a legal attempt in 2016 to stop the company from operating an open cast mine in Retortillo, Salamanca.

According to the environmentalists, the mining company's environmental assessment failed to recognise that the uranium processing activities and nuclear debris disposal at the mine could potentially cause health problems to the residents of surrounding towns.

Berkeley had seen a previous appeal rejected by the judges at the court of National Audience and the current decision highlighted the fact that the presentation was weak in



Photo by Berkeley

EQUIPMENT: Ready for use at Retortillo.

defending its position and was similar to the previously rejected appeal.

The proposed mine is a major financial opportunity for the company which Berkeley has stated will show significant profits in the long run, especially as the local area has benefited from EU development funding and therefore initial investment is lower than normal.

According to its forecasts, the company expects to produce 4.4 million pounds of uranium each year for the next 10 years and will make between \$5 (€4.21) and \$21 (€17.70) per pound over that period.

There is already a ready demand for material from the mine, if it gets the go-ahead, as it has entered into a non-binding agreement with the Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO) to cede 35 per cent of its uranium activity in Salamanca in exchange for a \$70 million (€59 million) investment.

In addition, there has been a further investment of \$120 million (€101 million) in the project from the Sultanate of Oman which means that the approval for the opening of what will be the largest open uranium mine in Europe is attracting a great deal of interest worldwide.

On one hand the environmentalists are fighting against the mine which is close to a river and a protected area as well as a number of towns, whilst the company is anxious to start converting its investment into hard cash.

Politicians are also involved in the debate with a Podemos spokesman suggesting that the Castilla and Leon authorities would make things easy for the opening of the mine whilst the president of the Junta has responded that he has no personal opinions about the opening of the mine other than wishing to ensure that the entire project respects the law.

Should do better

BASED on information collected across Europe in 2016, the EU acknowledges that whilst Spain's economy is improving, it could do better.

Although it acknowledges that many countries, especially those in the east of the Union, are suffering from significant problems with unemployment it has highlighted Spanish inequality in income and the consistently high number of young unemployed.

As the economy continues to improve and unemployment drops (often due to part-time contracts) Spain still has the second highest number of unemployed at 17.3 per cent after Greece at 21.6 per cent.

Youth unemployment however at 40 per cent in Spain compares exceptionally badly in comparison with the EU average of 18.7 per cent whilst the average age of school leavers continues to drop.

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Losing mental capacity whilst living abroad

by Stone King

Charlotte Macdonald

Contact me at international@stoneking.co.uk



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

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

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



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

What is an LPA?

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

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

Your attorney can be a professional,

such as a solicitor or a family member or friend.

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

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

Why should you get an LPA?

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

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

Will my LPA be recognised in Spain?

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

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



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You really couldn't make it up could you?

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT

OTHERS THINK IT



APPARENTLY, the term Black Friday refers to the chance for businesses to get back into profit (black ink) after being in the red for the rest of the year. Ah well, each to his own.

The only thing that has surprised me, is that some luvvie committee or another has not declared the term to be somehow non-PC! Well just about everything else has. This past week really has taken the whole ridiculous tin. Caring surgeon Colin Baillie was chastised when he praised a toddler's father for acting 'manfully.'

The child's Mother accused him of 'promoting sexism' and demanded an apology from the surgeon's bosses. Girl Guide leader advisors ruled that teenage boys who identify as girls would be allowed to use the girls' changing rooms and showers. (Probably one of the best excuses for declaring gender confusion to date!).

A woman was banned from giving a University lecture because she, quite acceptably, stated that young children, who are somewhat sexually confused, should not immediately be labelled as transgender. A terror suspect was awarded thousands of pounds in legal aid to overturn his travel ban, as it prevented him taking his children to a



Photo credit BBC

DIANE ABBOT: 'The savvy of a senile sea sponge.'

(non-halal!) McDonald's. The whole, almost unbelievable debacle simply went on and on. We learned that re-arrested child killer and monster Jon Venables, has cost the taxpayer over five million pounds for his 'rehabilitation'! Another scintillating snippet told us that last year, every six seconds, an immigrant won the right to stay in the UK (and they were only non-EU individuals!).

And of course, the greatest humdinger of all, the woman who wanted Sleeping Beauty banned because she considered the Prince, kissing the sleeping beauty without her permission, was tantamount to sexual assault! Sorry love chucking a bucket of water over her royal highness, just doesn't have the quite the same romantic ring to it. Oh no it doesn't. You really couldn't make it

all up, could you?

The only true bit of sanity to emerge this week was the doubling of Oscar Pistorius's laughable sentence for the brutal murder of his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp. I always said the whole case involving this spoiled psychopathic brat, was a struggle of money and power versus justice and was delighted to see the rule of law finally emerged as the victor in this previously unsatisfactory example of the South African legal system.

'Dumb, Dumber' award of the week has to go to the producers who selected Diane Abbot to partner the razor-sharp Paul Merton on 'Have I Got a Bit More News for you.' This awful, incompetent political pretender, proved that with the personality of a plank and the savvy of a senile sea sponge, she could probably lose any future election of the Labour movement totally unaided. Sitting there with a blank, albeit slightly panicked expression (ala her mathematical budget gaffe) she was an embarrassment to all concerned.

Keep at it love, the way you're going, you could possibly get more votes for the Conservatives than Theresa May (the way things are going, not that difficult!).

Keep the faith.

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

Love Leapy leapylee2002@gmail.com

Leapy Lee's opinions are his own and are not necessarily representative of those of the publishers, advertisers or sponsors.

Advertising feature

The first Bitcoin bakery

THE SPACE BAKE is a new artisan bakery recently opened in the heart of Albir.

Selling 100 per cent sour dough bread, speciality breads and delicious cakes all made with natural ingredients and no chemicals, this is a true bread lovers' delight.

The bakery is beautifully decorated and much care and detail has gone into designing this little gem.

All produce is baked on site with the bakers starting at 2am to provide clients with delicious, quality baked goods and there is a delightful terrace to sit and have coffee made by one of the baristas.

The man with the idea of The Space Bake is Alex.

Originally from Ukraine, and after living in China for 10 years, he moved to Spain two years ago and finally settled in Albir to open the first Bitcoin bakery.

This is a new venture for Alex and he is driven by hard work and ambition and his dream is to open a chain of The Space Bake across Spain with plans for a second one in the near future.



ARTISAN BAKERY: Visit the brand new Space Bake in Albir.

Bitcoin technology may be new to some but has been around for a number of years, originating in Japan. Bitcoin is a digital currency known as cryptocurrency. This is different from normal currency as it is decentralised and no notes or coins are printed meaning there is no need for banks or bank accounts.

Many businesses and people are using this system and The Space Bake was opened with Bitcoin.

The Space Bake is one of the first to take payment for produce using Bitcoin, so no need to take your wallet or purse, all you need is your smartphone.

Alex and his team welcome you all to

The Space Bake for delicious bread, cakes and coffee. They are open six days a week (closed Monday) from 7.30am until 6pm.

Find them at C/Ruperto Chapi 4, Edif Capitolio 2, Local 6, Albir, visit the Space Bake Facebook page or call 679 786 996.



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BBC one

12:45pm The Sheriffs are Coming
 1:15pm Bargain Hunt
 2:00pm BBC News at One
 2:30pm BBC London News
 2:45pm Doctors
 3:15pm Armchair Detectives
 4:00pm Escape to the Country
 4:45pm Royal Recipes
 5:30pm Flog It!
 6:15pm Pointless
 7:00pm BBC News at Six
 7:30pm BBC London News
 8:00pm The One Show
 8:30pm EastEnders
 9:00pm DIY SOS The Big Build
 10:00pm Love, Lies and Records
 11:00pm BBC News at Ten
 11:30pm BBC London News
The latest news, sport and weather from London.
 11:45pm Question Time
 12:45am This Week

BBC TWO

7:00am An Island Parish
 7:30am Claimed and Shamed
 8:15am Royal Recipes
 9:00am DIY SOS
 10:00am Victoria Derbyshire
 12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live
 1:00pm The Daily Politics
 2:00pm The Link
 2:45pm Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip
 3:15pm Going Back Giving Back
 4:00pm The Indian Doctor
 5:30pm Oxford Street Revealed
 6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is
 7:00pm Eggheads
 7:30pm Strictly - It Takes Two
 8:00pm Celebrity Antiques Road Trip
 9:00pm MasterChef: The Professionals
 10:00pm Blitz
 11:00pm Live at the Apollo
 11:30pm Newsnight
 12:15am Expedition Volcano

BBC FOUR

8:00pm Beyond 100 Days
The latest national and international news, exploring the day's events from a global perspective.
 8:30pm Christmas University Challenge 2015
Jeremy Paxman asks the questions in the Christmas-themed quiz for distinguished university alumni.
 9:00pm SAS: Rogue Warriors
 9:55pm The Farthest: Voyager's Interstellar Journey
 11:30pm The Beginning and End of the Universe
 12:30am The Beginning and End of the Universe
 1:30am SAS: Rogue Warriors
 2:30am Revolution and Romance: Musical Masters of the 19th Century
 3:30am Moominland Tales:

CHANNEL 4

7:20am King of Queens
 8:35am Everybody Loves Raymond
 9:00am Everybody Loves Raymond
 10:05am Frasier
 11:05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
 12:00pm Undercover Boss USA
 1:00pm Channel 4 News
 1:05pm Come Dine with Me
 2:05pm Kirstie's Crafty Christmas
 3:10pm Countdown
 4:00pm Lost and Found
 5:00pm A Place in the Sun
 6:00pm Four in a Bed
 6:30pm Come Dine with Me
 7:00pm The Simpsons
 7:30pm Hollyoaks
 8:00pm Channel 4 News
 9:00pm Great Canal Journeys
 10:00pm Trump: An American Dream
 11:00pm The Sex Robots are Coming
 12:05am Naked Attraction

CHANNEL 5

8:05am Paw Patrol
 8:20am Noddy: Toyland Detective
 8:35am Peppa Pig
 8:50am Floogals
 9:05am Digby Dragon
 9:20am Rusty Rivets
 9:35am Shimmer and Shine
 9:55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
 10:05am Mofy
 10:15am The Wright Stuff
 12:45pm Christmas Mix
 2:25pm 5 News Lunchtime
 2:30pm Neighbours
 3:00pm Finding Mrs Claus
 4:45pm The Christmas Angel
 6:30pm 5 News at 5
 7:00pm Neighbours
 7:30pm 5 News Tonight
 8:00pm UK's Strongest Man 2017
 9:00pm Bargain Loving Brits in Blackpool
 10:00pm Seventh Son
 11:00pm 5 News
 11:05pm Seventh Son
 12:05am Sinkholes

4

7:00am Hollyoaks
 8:00am Charmed
 10:00am Rules of Engagement
 11:00am Black-Ish
 12:00pm How I Met Your Mother
 1:00pm New Girl
 2:00pm The Big Bang Theory
 2:30pm The Big Bang Theory
 3:00pm The Goldbergs
 3:30pm The Goldbergs
 4:00pm How I Met Your Mother
 4:30pm How I Met Your Mother
 5:00pm New Girl
 5:30pm New Girl
 6:00pm The Goldbergs
 7:00pm The Big Bang Theory
 8:00pm Hollyoaks
 8:30pm First Dates Abroad
 9:00pm The Big Bang Theory
 10:00pm 2 Broke Girls
 10:30pm The Big Bang Theory
 11:00pm The Inbetweeners
 11:35pm The Inbetweeners
 12:10am The Big Bang Theory
 1:05am Rude Tube

sky sports main event

7:30am Live European Tour Golf
 9:30am Total Goals
 10:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
 11:00am Premier League Daily
 11:30am Live European Tour Golf
 2:30pm SKY Sports News
 3:00pm SKY Sports News
 6:00pm SKY Sports News
 6:30pm Live PGA Tour Golf
 10:30pm Sky Sports Tonight Cricket
Day one of the first Test as New Zealand take on the Windies at Basin Reserve in Wellington.
 1:30am Live NFL: Washington @ Dallas
 5:50am Cricket
Day one of the first Test as New Zealand take on the Windies at Basin Reserve in Wellington.

itv

7:00am Good Morning Britain
 9:30am Lorraine
 10:25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
 11:30am This Morning
 1:30pm Loose Women
 2:30pm ITV Lunchtime News
 2:55pm ITV News London
 3:00pm Judge Rinder
 4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal
 5:00pm Tipping Point
 6:00pm The Chase
 7:00pm ITV News London
 7:30pm ITV Evening News
 8:00pm Emmerdale
 8:30pm Elderly Theft: Robbing the Relatives - Tonight
 9:00pm Emmerdale
 9:30pm Paul O'Grady: For The Love of Dogs
 10:00pm I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!
 11:30pm ITV News
 12:00am ITV News London
 12:15am Car Crash Britain
 Caught on Camera
 1:15am Parking Wars
 2:05am Jackpot247
 4:00am Elderly Theft

itv2

7:00am Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records
 7:20am Planet's Got Talent
 7:45am Dinner Date
 8:35am Emmerdale
 9:00am Coronation Street
 9:30am Coronation Street
 10:00am The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 10:50am Dinner Date
 11:50am I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!
 12:50pm Planet's Got Talent
 1:20pm Emmerdale
 1:50pm Coronation Street
 2:20pm Coronation Street
 2:50pm The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 3:45pm The Jeremy Kyle Show
 7:00pm I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!
 8:00pm You've Been Framed and Famous!
 9:00pm Two and a Half Men
 10:00pm Family Guy
 11:00pm Family Guy
 11:30pm I'm a Celebrity... Extra Camp
 12:30am American Dad!
 1:00am American Dad!
 1:30am Plebs

itv3

7:00am Judge Judy
 7:20am Classic Coronation Street
 7:45am Classic Coronation Street
 8:15am Heartbeat
Drama, set in the North Yorkshire moors in the 1960's.
 9:20am Wild at Heart
 10:15am Judge Judy
 10:40am Judge Judy
 11:05am Judge Judy
 11:35am A Touch of Frost
 1:35pm Wild at Heart
 2:40pm Heartbeat
 3:40pm Classic Coronation Street
 4:15pm Classic Coronation Street
 4:45pm A Touch of Frost
 6:50pm Heartbeat
 7:55pm Murder, She Wrote
 8:55pm Doc Martin
 10:00pm Midsomer Murders
 12:10am Blue Murder
 1:35am A Touch of Frost
 3:25am ITV3 Nightscreen
Text-based information service.
 3:30am Teleshopping

itv4

7:00am The Chase
 7:50am The Chase
 8:40am Cash Cowboys
 9:25am Pawn Stars
 9:55am Pawn Stars
 10:25am Ironside
 11:30am Quincy, M.E.
 12:35pm The Sweeney
 1:35pm The Avengers
 2:50pm Ironside
 3:55pm Quincy, M.E.
 5:00pm The Sweeney
 6:00pm The Avengers
 7:05pm Cash Cowboys
 8:00pm Pawn Stars
 8:30pm Pawn Stars
 9:00pm Steve McQueen: Motorcycle Movie Star
 10:00pm Bullitt
 11:05pm FYI Daily
 11:10pm Bullitt
 12:20am The Road
 1:20am FYI Daily
 1:25am The Road
 2:30am The Professionals
 3:35am Tommy Cooper
Comedy and magic from legendary Tommy Cooper.
 4:00am Teleshopping

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

7:15am Operation Chromite
 9:15am Stealth
 11:20am Green Zone
 1:20pm Lethal Weapon
 3:20pm The Great Escape
 6:15pm Troy
 9:00pm Green Zone
 11:00pm The Rock
 Bloodsport
 3:00am Face/Off
 5:25am Rocky V

sky CINEMA COMEDY

7:40am Julie and Julia
 9:50am How the Grinch Stole Christmas
 11:40am The Waterboy
 1:20pm Keeping up with the Joneses
 3:10pm Why Him?
 5:05pm Meet the Parents
 7:00pm How to be Single
 9:00pm Keeping up with the Joneses
 11:00pm Why Him?
 1:00am The Escorts
 2:40am Knocked Up
 5:00am Brúno

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

7:00am The Top Ten Show 2017
 7:20am Burn Country
 9:15am Escobar: Paradise Lost
 11:30am Collateral Beauty
When a New York exec Will Smith tips into depression, his scheming partners plan to use his letters to Love, Time and Death against him.
 1:20pm At the Devil's Door
 3:10pm Winter Wedding
 4:55pm Burn Country
 6:50pm Escobar: Paradise Lost
 9:00pm Collateral Beauty
 10:45pm At the Devil's Door
 12:30am The Night is Young
 2:15am Creepy
 4:45am Winter Wedding
Couple Hallie and Lucas hold a small town winter wedding in the snow after their original plan for a breezy wedding in the tropics is cancelled by family conflict.

sky sports football

12:00pm La Liga Icons
 1:00pm Football's Greatest
 1:30pm Football's Greatest Teams
 2:00pm La Liga Icons
 3:00pm 20 Years of El Clasico
 3:45pm La Liga Icons
 4:00pm Football's Greatest
 4:30pm Football's Greatest Teams
 5:00pm Scottish Cup Greatest Games
 5:15pm Scottish Cup Greatest Games
 5:30pm La Liga Greatest Games
 6:00pm Football Years
 6:30pm Football Countdowns
 7:00pm 20 Years of El Clasico
 7:45pm La Liga Icons
 8:00pm EFL Matters
 8:30pm EFL Greatest Games
 9:30pm EFL Matters
 10:00pm 20 Years of El Clasico
 10:45pm La Liga Icons
 11:00pm La Liga Show
 11:30pm EFL Matters
 12:00am Football Years
 12:30am Football Countdowns
 1:00am La Liga Show

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BBC one

12:00pm	The Housing Enforcers
12:45pm	The Sheriffs are Coming
1:15pm	Bargain Hunt
2:00pm	BBC News at One
2:30pm	BBC London News
2:45pm	Doctors
3:15pm	Armchair Detectives
4:00pm	Escape to the Country
4:45pm	Royal Recipes
5:30pm	Flog It!
6:15pm	Pointless
7:00pm	BBC News at Six
7:30pm	BBC London News
8:00pm	The One Show
8:30pm	Sounds Like Friday Night
9:00pm	EastEnders
9:30pm	Still Open All Hours
10:00pm	Have I Got News for You
10:30pm	Mrs Brown's Boys New Year Special 2017: Chez Mummy
11:00pm	BBC News at Ten
11:25pm	BBC London News
11:35pm	The Graham Norton Show
12:25am	Would I Lie to You?

BBC TWO

7:00am	An Island Parish
7:30am	Claimed and Shamed
8:15am	Royal Recipes
9:00am	Anglesey
9:30am	Britain Afloat
10:00am	Victoria Derbyshire
12:00pm	BBC Newsroom Live
1:00pm	The Daily Politics
2:00pm	The Link
2:45pm	Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip
3:15pm	Going Back Giving Back
4:00pm	Match of the Day Live
5:30pm	Oxford Street Revealed
6:15pm	Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is
7:00pm	Strictly - It Takes Two
8:00pm	Mastermind
8:30pm	Match of the Day Live
11:00pm	QI
11:30pm	Newsnight
12:05am	Snowfall
12:45am	Panorama
1:15am	Saying Goodbye
2:15am	Army: Behind the New Frontlines

BBC FOUR

8:00pm	World News Today <i>The latest national and international news, exploring the day's events from a global perspective.</i>
8:30pm	Christmas University Challenge 2015 <i>Jeremy Paxman asks the questions in the Christmas-themed quiz for distinguished university alumni.</i>
9:00pm	The Good Old Days <i>Leonard Sachs presents the old-time music hall programme, first broadcast on 6 August 1980.</i>
10:00pm	Top of the Pops 1980 Top of the Pops collection.
11:00pm	Gregory Porter's Popular Voices
12:00am	Truth Tellers at the BBC
1:00am	Bastille Live at Eden
1:55am	Top of the Pops

CHANNEL 4

7:20am	Kevin Can Wait
7:45am	King of Queens
8:35am	Everybody Loves Raymond
9:00am	Everybody Loves Raymond
9:30am	Everybody Loves Raymond
10:05am	Frasier
10:35am	Frasier
11:05am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
12:00pm	Undercover Boss USA
1:00pm	Channel 4 News
1:05pm	Come Dine with Me
2:05pm	Kirstie's Homemade Christmas
3:10pm	Countdown
4:00pm	Lost and Found
5:00pm	A Place in the Sun
6:00pm	Four in a Bed
6:30pm	Come Dine with Me
7:00pm	The Simpsons
7:30pm	Hollyoaks
8:00pm	Channel 4 News
9:00pm	Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast
10:00pm	Gogglebox
11:00pm	The Last Leg
12:05am	First Dates

CHANNEL 5

8:05am	Paw Patrol
8:20am	Thomas and Friends
8:35am	Peppa Pig
8:50am	Floogals
9:05am	Digby Dragon
9:20am	Rusty Rivets
9:35am	Shimmer and Shine
9:55am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
10:05am	Mofy
10:15am	The Wright Stuff
12:45pm	A Country Christmas Story
2:25pm	5 News Lunchtime
2:30pm	Neighbours
3:00pm	Wishin' and Hopin' at Christmas
4:45pm	A Family for Christmas
6:30pm	5 News at 5
7:00pm	Neighbours
7:30pm	5 News Tonight
8:00pm	The Gadget Show
9:00pm	Greatest British Bridges: The Severn
10:00pm	Eight Days That Made Rome
11:00pm	Secrets of Henry VIII's Palace
12:05am	Nazi King: Royal Conspiracy

4

8:00am	Charmed
9:00am	Charmed
10:00am	Rules of Engagement
10:30am	Rules of Engagement
11:00am	Black-Ish
11:30am	Black-Ish
12:00pm	How I Met Your Mother
12:30pm	How I Met Your Mother
1:00pm	New Girl
1:30pm	New Girl
2:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
2:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
3:00pm	The Goldbergs
3:30pm	The Goldbergs
4:00pm	How I Met Your Mother
5:00pm	New Girl
5:30pm	New Girl
6:00pm	The Goldbergs
6:30pm	The Goldbergs
7:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
7:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
8:00pm	Hollyoaks
8:30pm	First Dates Abroad
9:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
9:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
10:00pm	Oblivion
12:30am	The Big Bang Theory
1:00am	The Big Bang Theory

sky sports main event

7:00am	Live Rugby Sevens: Dubai
10:30am	Good Morning Sports Fans
11:00am	Premier League Daily
11:30am	Live European Tour Golf
2:30pm	Sky Sports Today
3:00pm	Live Rugby Sevens: Dubai
6:00pm	Ram Slam T20 Challenge
8:30pm	Football <i>Leeds United take on Aston Villa at Elland Road in the Sky Bet Championship.</i>
11:00pm	The Debate - Live
12:00am	Cricket <i>Day two of the first Test as New Zealand take on the Windies at Basin Reserve in Wellington.</i>
4:50am	Cricket <i>Day one of the third Test as India host Sri Lanka in Delhi. This is the final Test in this series.</i>

itv

7:00am	Good Morning Britain
9:30am	Lorraine
10:25am	The Jeremy Kyle Show
11:30am	This Morning
1:30pm	Loose Women
2:30pm	ITV Lunchtime News
2:55pm	ITV News London
3:00pm	Judge Rinder
4:00pm	Dickinson's Real Deal
5:00pm	Tipping Point
6:00pm	The Chase
7:00pm	ITV News London
7:30pm	ITV Evening News
8:00pm	Emmerdale
8:30pm	Coronation Street
9:00pm	Australian Wilderness with Ray Mears
9:30pm	Coronation Street
10:00pm	I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!
11:30pm	ITV News
12:00am	ITV News London
12:15am	Total Recall
2:15am	Jackpot247
4:00am	Storage Hoarders
4:50am	ITV Nightscreen

itv2

7:00am	Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records
7:20am	Planet's Got Talent
7:45am	Dinner Date
8:35am	Emmerdale
9:30am	Planet's Got Talent
10:00am	The Ellen DeGeneres Show
10:50am	Dinner Date
11:50am	I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!
1:20pm	Emmerdale
1:55pm	Emmerdale
2:20pm	Planet's Got Talent
2:50pm	The Ellen DeGeneres Show
3:45pm	The Jeremy Kyle Show
4:50pm	The Jeremy Kyle Show
7:00pm	I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!
8:30pm	You've Been Framed!
9:00pm	Two and a Half Men
9:30pm	Two and a Half Men
10:00pm	Family Guy
11:30pm	I'm a Celebrity... Extra Camp
12:30am	Family Guy

itv3

7:00am	Judge Judy
7:20am	Coronation Street
7:45am	Coronation Street
8:15am	Heartbeat
9:15am	Wild at Heart
10:15am	Judge Judy
10:40am	Judge Judy
11:10am	Judge Judy
11:35am	A Touch of Frost
1:30pm	Wild at Heart
2:35pm	Heartbeat
3:40pm	Coronation Street
4:15pm	Coronation Street
4:45pm	A Touch of Frost
7:00pm	Heartbeat
8:00pm	Murder, She Wrote
9:00pm	Doc Martin
10:00pm	Midsomer Murders
12:05am	Blue Murder
1:40am	A Touch of Frost
3:35am	Margery and Gladys
5:20am	Judge Judy
5:40am	Judge Judy <i>The Emmy nominated reality courtroom series, presided over by outspoken family court judge.</i>

itv4

7:00am	Sporting Funnies Humorous sporting moments.
7:10am	The Chase
8:00am	The Chase
8:50am	Cash Cowboys
9:45am	Pawn Stars
10:15am	Pawn Stars
10:45am	Ironsides
11:50am	Quincy, M.E.
12:55pm	The Sweeney
1:55pm	River Monsters
2:30pm	ITV Racing: Live from Newbury
5:00pm	The Sweeney
6:00pm	The Professionals
7:00pm	Cash Cowboys
8:00pm	Pawn Stars
8:30pm	Pawn Stars
9:00pm	Road Racing Series
10:00pm	Die Another Day
11:00pm	FYI Daily
11:05pm	Die Another Day
12:40am	Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber
1:40am	FYI Daily
1:45am	Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber
3:00am	The Sweeney
3:55am	ITV4 Nightscreen

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

7:15am	Twister
9:15am	Charlie's Angels
11:00am	Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle
12:50pm	Death Race
2:50pm	The Magnificent Seven
5:00pm	Fearless
6:50pm	Air Force One
9:00pm	Death Race
11:00pm	The 13th Warrior
12:50am	Fearless

sky CINEMA COMEDY

8:00am	The Meddler
9:50am	Dumb and Dumber
11:45am	50 First Dates
1:30pm	Sisters
3:30pm	Bad Neighbours 2
5:15pm	Almost Christmas
7:15pm	Uncle Buck
9:00pm	Sisters
11:00pm	Bad Neighbours 2
12:45am	Beverly Hills Cop
2:35am	Beverly Hills Cop II
4:25am	Beverly Hills Cop III

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

7:00am	The Night is Young
8:45am	Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: Special
9:15am	Collateral Beauty
11:05am	Escobar: Paradise Lost
1:15pm	Mine
3:15pm	Burn Country
5:10pm	The Top Ten Show 2017
5:25pm	Winter Wedding <i>Couple Hallie and Lucas hold a small town winter wedding in the snow after their original plan for a breezy wedding in the tropics is cancelled by family conflict.</i>
7:10pm	Collateral Beauty
9:00pm	Mine
10:50pm	Escobar: Paradise Lost
12:55am	At the Devil's Door
2:35am	The Night is Young
4:10am	Creepy

sky sports football

10:00am	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
10:30am	La Liga Greatest Games
11:00am	EFL Matters
11:30am	La Liga Show
12:00pm	La Liga Icons
1:00pm	EFL Matters
1:30pm	La Liga Show
2:45pm	La Liga Icons
3:00pm	EFL Matters
3:30pm	La Liga Show
4:00pm	Football's Greatest Teams
4:30pm	Football's Greatest Teams
5:00pm	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
5:15pm	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
5:30pm	La Liga Show
6:00pm	La Liga Preview 2017/18
7:00pm	SPFL Matters
7:30pm	EFL Matters
8:00pm	Football
11:15pm	MLS Round Up Show
11:45pm	SPFL Matters
12:15am	SPFL Greatest Games
12:30am	SPFL Matters
1:00am	Football

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

TECH FOR THE TIMID

Fake it till you make it

Fake vs funny

MY favourite TripAdvisor review, for a really appalling hotel, said its best feature was the car park. And that was written by the manager.

Well no, it wasn't. But it could have been, because it turns out - shock, horror - that by one professional estimate, up to 40 per cent of all online reviews are fake.

There's even a new word for it: astroturfing, or 'the deceptive practice of presenting an orchestrated marketing or public relations campaign in the guise of unsolicited comments from members of the public.' In simpler words: 'Will lie for cash.'

A recent trawl by an American consultancy unearthed 650 reviewers who had posted 40,000 fake reviews involving up to 6,000 businesses. Produce a new product or service and just over €4 buys you a good review.

In the early days you could pretty much count on a review being genuine. So much so that when a couple logged a terrible review of

Would you buy a product with a one-star review? No, neither would Terence Kennedy, but you might both be wrong



FAKE REVIEWS: Scourge of the internet.

Blackpool's Broadway Hotel ('a rotten stinking hovel'), the hotelier was deluged by bad publicity after adding a £100 (€112) fine to their bill for reputational damage.

Now tens of thousands of more flattering hotel and restaurant reviews are written by the owners themselves. Amazon is struggling under a deluge of fake reviews and has launched more than a thousand

rearguard legal actions.

The reviews may be fake, but in another twist to the tale the reviewers themselves often aren't. Companies increasingly pay (okay, bribe) real customers to write good reviews, giving them products, perks and discounts.

Why should it matter to the rest of us? Because the stakes are so high: online, 70 per cent of cus-

tomers read reviews before buying.

Any number of websites offer tips beyond the ability of most of us to perform, to discover whether a review might be real or a rip-off. Google, Amazon and others put their faith in algorithms and Artificial Intelligence to sniff out patterns, serial reviewers and obvious inconsistencies like a whole rash of great reviews coming out just as a product hits the warehouses.

But until someone creates that digital magic bullet, all the rest of us can do is sample as many reviews as we can to glean what might or might not be a realistic assessment of the product or service under review, take away the review you first thought of, and hope.

Things were so much simpler when a journalist friend managed to sink a truly awful movie about an elephant almost single-handed in his home town. All he wrote was: 'They say elephants never forget. Let us hope they forgive.'

ONE thing fake reviews don't do is 'funny.' Little could match this real review of a Kim Kardashian book: 'It's a little uncomfortable, but it doesn't leave pieces behind when you wipe, like other toilet paper brands.'

Would you stay where 'The owner kept trying to sell me the hotel?'

From a 'dissatisfied' buyer: 'I measured the TV and it was actually 104.6 inches not 105 so I returned it.'

An Amazon grocery review for Tuscan Whole Milk: 'Has anyone else tried pouring this stuff over dry cereal? A-W-E-S-O-M-E!'

Or one I confess to writing myself after visiting the lost city of Petra in Jordan: 'The tourist brochure says you approach the ruins, becoming more beautiful the further you go. Well I did, and I didn't.'

Sticking the knife into poncey, cheffy 'theatre on a plate'

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.euoweeklynews.com/3.0.15/nora-johnson

THE 'sainted Delia' (Smith) was recently roundly attacked online for complaining that: "Cooking has become very poncey, very cheffy. If I get one more plate put in front of me with six dots of sauce on it, I will go mad."

Personally, I can't stand Michelin-style minute portions, the emphasis being on minute, with artfully arranged drizzles of coloured spots or smeary daubs.

I go out to eat, not admire the lavish plate decoration when more time's plainly been spent on appearance than on how the food tastes. And don't get me started on seasonal tasting menus with wine flight - I'd have more fun at the chiropodist, getting my corns removed. If I get served



one more, I'll have the chef up before The Hague...

The problem with present-day cookery that we see on shows like 'Masterchef' is the idea of deconstruction. This turns food into something less about the pleasure of eating, more about the chef's creativity. 'Good' cooking invariably reflects the established ways of making the dishes.

That's why old-fashioned TV chefs like Keith Floyd were so much fun to watch. He wasn't a creative genius but was devoted to tasty dishes

'SIX DOTS OF SAUCE': Michelin-style food and (inset) critic Delia Smith.

made traditionally.

Nowadays, everything's rushed: chopping, pressure cooking, pan frying, pre-cooking in a water bath. What's become of long slow roasts, braising, stews? Chefs produce 'theatre on a plate,' traditional cooks produce tasty, comforting food full of flavours and tantalising smells.

But that's 'reality' TV for you: everything's instantaneous. A garden can be 'made over' in days, an entire house in a week.

Unlike in real life...

Benny Hill had it right. Diner sees sign in Diner: 'Home Cooking Just Like Mother Made.' Diner orders meal which he finds disgusting. He complains that he expected more from 'Mother's Home Cooking.' Chef responds: 'Nobody said my mother was a good cook!'

So, good, traditional 'home cooking' best done, yes, at home and you avoid the salt, sugar and fat, plus all the added preservatives most people can't spell let alone pronounce. You got this one so right, Delia!

Nora Johnson's psychological crime thrillers 'The Girl in the Red Dress,' 'No Way Back,' 'Landscape of Lies,' 'Retribution,' 'Soul Stealer,' 'The De Clerambault Code' (www.nora-johnson.net) available from Amazon in paperback/eBook (€0.99; £0.99) and iBookstore.

All profits to Costa del Sol Cudeca cancer charity.

columnists@euoweeklynews.com

THURSDAY THOUGHTS

By Susan Piercy

Nanna: the new scapegoat?

SO the media tells us we have a new culprit in the childhood obesity saga.

We no longer blame the usual suspects like computer games and mobile phones, Nanna's in the dock now.

Not the hours watching TV, munching on sweets and crisps so working parents can have peace and quiet. No, Nanna's the culprit.

And it's not the fact that rushed for time, working Mums' dish up ready meals and TV dinners. Oh no Nanna gave little Freddie a bag of jelly babies as an after-school treat. Guilty as charged.

No denying busy roads and dodgy neighbourhoods can be unsafe. Children can't play in the streets like we did; hopscotch, 'run-outs,' 'knock down ginger' - if you're too young to have played such games believe me you missed out.

No instead Mum's Taxi drives the children to school and takes them to their clubs. Welcome to the 21st century.

Don't even get me started on Christmas, Halloween, and Easter. All wonderful calorie-laden celebrations where gluttony, (yes, I used the word gluttony) takes on gargantuan proportions. Now I'm not suggesting you go back to giving a tangerine and a couple of walnuts for Christmas, but really mums and dads, get a grip.

Dear ol' Nanna waited years for your offspring to arrive. Are you really going to deny her, and them, the treasured moments of home baking, days out, and special treats? Twenty-first century living isn't easy but somehow, we all need to find a healthy balance.

columnists@euoweeklynews.com

Readers interested in submitting articles for this guest column should send articles of around 250 words on topics felt to be of interest to the cosmopolitan EWN readership to editorial@euoweeklynews.com.

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BBC one

12:00pm	The Housing Enforcers
12:45pm	The Sheriffs are Coming
1:15pm	Bargain Hunt
2:00pm	BBC News at One
2:30pm	BBC London News
2:45pm	Doctors
3:15pm	Armchair Detectives
4:00pm	Escape to the Country
4:45pm	Royal Recipes
5:30pm	Flog It!
6:15pm	Pointless
7:00pm	BBC News at Six
7:30pm	BBC London News
8:00pm	The One Show
8:30pm	Sounds Like Friday Night
9:00pm	EastEnders
9:30pm	Still Open All Hours
10:00pm	Have I Got News for You
10:30pm	Mrs Brown's Boys New Year Special 2017: Chez Mummy
11:00pm	BBC News at Ten
11:25pm	BBC London News
11:35pm	The Graham Norton Show
12:25am	Would I Lie to You?

BBC TWO

7:00am	An Island Parish
7:30am	Claimed and Shamed
8:15am	Royal Recipes
9:00am	Anglesey
9:30am	Britain Afloat
10:00am	Victoria Derbyshire
12:00pm	BBC Newsroom Live
1:00pm	The Daily Politics
2:00pm	The Link
2:45pm	Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip
3:15pm	Going Back Giving Back
4:00pm	Match of the Day Live
5:30pm	Oxford Street Revealed
6:15pm	Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is
7:00pm	Strictly - It Takes Two
8:00pm	Mastermind
8:30pm	Match of the Day Live
11:00pm	QI
11:30pm	Newsnight
12:05am	Snowfall
12:45am	Panorama
1:15am	Saying Goodbye
2:15am	Army: Behind the New Frontlines

BBC FOUR

8:00pm	World News Today <i>The latest national and international news, exploring the day's events from a global perspective.</i>
8:30pm	Christmas University Challenge 2015 <i>Jeremy Paxman asks the questions in the Christmas-themed quiz for distinguished university alumni.</i>
9:00pm	The Good Old Days <i>Leonard Sachs presents the old-time music hall programme, first broadcast on 6 August 1980.</i>
10:00pm	Top of the Pops 1980 Top of the Pops collection.
11:00pm	Gregory Porter's Popular Voices
12:00am	Truth Tellers at the BBC
1:00am	Bastille Live at Eden
1:55am	Top of the Pops

CHANNEL 4

7:20am	Kevin Can Wait
7:45am	King of Queens
8:35am	Everybody Loves Raymond
9:00am	Everybody Loves Raymond
9:30am	Everybody Loves Raymond
10:05am	Frasier
10:35am	Frasier
11:05am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
12:00pm	Undercover Boss USA
1:00pm	Channel 4 News
1:05pm	Come Dine with Me
2:05pm	Kirstie's Homemade Christmas
3:10pm	Countdown
4:00pm	Lost and Found
5:00pm	A Place in the Sun
6:00pm	Four in a Bed
6:30pm	Come Dine with Me
7:00pm	The Simpsons
7:30pm	Hollyoaks
8:00pm	Channel 4 News
9:00pm	Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast
10:00pm	Gogglebox
11:00pm	The Last Leg
12:05am	First Dates

CHANNEL 5

8:05am	Paw Patrol
8:20am	Thomas and Friends
8:35am	Peppa Pig
8:50am	Floogals
9:05am	Digby Dragon
9:20am	Rusty Rivets
9:35am	Shimmer and Shine
9:55am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
10:05am	Mofy
10:15am	The Wright Stuff
12:45pm	A Country Christmas Story
2:25pm	5 News Lunchtime
2:30pm	Neighbours
3:00pm	Wishin' and Hopin' at Christmas
4:45pm	A Family for Christmas
6:30pm	5 News at 5
7:00pm	Neighbours
7:30pm	5 News Tonight
8:00pm	The Gadget Show
9:00pm	Greatest British Bridges: The Severn
10:00pm	Eight Days That Made Rome
11:00pm	Secrets of Henry VIII's Palace
12:05am	Nazi King: Royal Conspiracy

4

8:00am	Charmed
9:00am	Charmed
10:00am	Rules of Engagement
10:30am	Rules of Engagement
11:00am	Black-Ish
11:30am	Black-Ish
12:00pm	How I Met Your Mother
12:30pm	How I Met Your Mother
1:00pm	New Girl
1:30pm	New Girl
2:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
2:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
3:00pm	The Goldbergs
3:30pm	The Goldbergs
4:00pm	How I Met Your Mother
5:00pm	New Girl
5:30pm	New Girl
6:00pm	The Goldbergs
6:30pm	The Goldbergs
7:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
7:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
8:00pm	Hollyoaks
8:30pm	First Dates Abroad
9:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
9:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
10:00pm	Oblivion
12:30am	The Big Bang Theory
1:00am	The Big Bang Theory

sky sports main event

7:00am	Live Rugby Sevens: Dubai
10:30am	Good Morning Sports Fans
11:00am	Premier League Daily
11:30am	Live European Tour Golf
2:30pm	Sky Sports Today
3:00pm	Live Rugby Sevens: Dubai
6:00pm	Ram Slam T20 Challenge
8:30pm	Football <i>Leeds United take on Aston Villa at Elland Road in the Sky Bet Championship.</i>
11:00pm	The Debate - Live
12:00am	Cricket <i>Day two of the first Test as New Zealand take on the Windies at Basin Reserve in Wellington.</i>
4:50am	Cricket <i>Day one of the third Test as India host Sri Lanka in Delhi. This is the final Test in this series.</i>

itv

7:00am	Good Morning Britain
9:30am	Lorraine
10:25am	The Jeremy Kyle Show
11:30am	This Morning
1:30pm	Loose Women
2:30pm	ITV Lunchtime News
2:55pm	ITV News London
3:00pm	Judge Rinder
4:00pm	Dickinson's Real Deal
5:00pm	Tipping Point
6:00pm	The Chase
7:00pm	ITV News London
7:30pm	ITV Evening News
8:00pm	Emmerdale
8:30pm	Coronation Street
9:00pm	Australian Wilderness with Ray Mears
9:30pm	Coronation Street
10:00pm	I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!
11:30pm	ITV News
12:00am	ITV News London
12:15am	Total Recall
2:15am	Jackpot247
4:00am	Storage Hoarders
4:50am	ITV Nightscreen

itv2

7:00am	Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records
7:20am	Planet's Got Talent
7:45am	Dinner Date
8:35am	Emmerdale
9:30am	Planet's Got Talent
10:00am	The Ellen DeGeneres Show
10:50am	Dinner Date
11:50am	I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!
1:20pm	Emmerdale
1:55pm	Emmerdale
2:20pm	Planet's Got Talent
2:50pm	The Ellen DeGeneres Show
3:45pm	The Jeremy Kyle Show
4:50pm	The Jeremy Kyle Show
7:00pm	I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!
8:30pm	You've Been Framed!
9:00pm	Two and a Half Men
9:30pm	Two and a Half Men
10:00pm	Family Guy
11:30pm	I'm a Celebrity... Extra Camp
12:30am	Family Guy

itv3

7:00am	Judge Judy
7:20am	Coronation Street
7:45am	Coronation Street
8:15am	Heartbeat
9:15am	Wild at Heart
10:15am	Judge Judy
10:40am	Judge Judy
11:10am	Judge Judy
11:35am	A Touch of Frost
1:30pm	Wild at Heart
2:35pm	Heartbeat
3:40pm	Coronation Street
4:15pm	Coronation Street
4:45pm	A Touch of Frost
7:00pm	Heartbeat
8:00pm	Murder, She Wrote
9:00pm	Doc Martin
10:00pm	Midsomer Murders
12:05am	Blue Murder
1:40am	A Touch of Frost
3:35am	Margery and Gladys
5:20am	Judge Judy
5:40am	Judge Judy <i>The Emmy nominated reality courtroom series, presided over by outspoken family court judge.</i>

itv4

7:00am	Sporting Funnies Humorous sporting moments.
7:10am	The Chase
8:00am	The Chase
8:50am	Cash Cowboys
9:45am	Pawn Stars
10:15am	Pawn Stars
10:45am	Ironsides
11:50am	Quincy, M.E.
12:55pm	The Sweeney
1:55pm	River Monsters
2:30pm	ITV Racing: Live from Newbury
5:00pm	The Sweeney
6:00pm	The Professionals
7:00pm	Cash Cowboys
8:00pm	Pawn Stars
8:30pm	Pawn Stars
9:00pm	Road Racing Series
10:00pm	Die Another Day
11:00pm	FYI Daily
11:05pm	Die Another Day
12:40am	Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber
1:40am	FYI Daily
1:45am	Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber
3:00am	The Sweeney
3:55am	ITV4 Nightscreen

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

7:15am	Twister
9:15am	Charlie's Angels
11:00am	Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle
12:50pm	Death Race
2:50pm	The Magnificent Seven
5:00pm	Fearless
6:50pm	Air Force One
9:00pm	Death Race
11:00pm	The 13th Warrior
12:50am	Fearless

sky CINEMA COMEDY

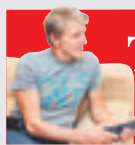
8:00am	The Meddler
9:50am	Dumb and Dumber
11:45am	50 First Dates
1:30pm	Sisters
3:30pm	Bad Neighbours 2
5:15pm	Almost Christmas
7:15pm	Uncle Buck
9:00pm	Sisters
11:00pm	Bad Neighbours 2
12:45am	Beverly Hills Cop
2:35am	Beverly Hills Cop II
4:25am	Beverly Hills Cop III

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

7:00am	The Night is Young
8:45am	Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: Special
9:15am	Collateral Beauty
11:05am	Escobar: Paradise Lost
1:15pm	Mine
3:15pm	Burn Country
5:10pm	The Top Ten Show 2017
5:25pm	Winter Wedding <i>Couple Hallie and Lucas hold a small town winter wedding in the snow after their original plan for a breezy wedding in the tropics is cancelled by family conflict.</i>
7:10pm	Collateral Beauty
9:00pm	Mine
10:50pm	Escobar: Paradise Lost
12:55am	At the Devil's Door
2:35am	The Night is Young
4:10am	Creepy

sky sports football

10:00am	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
10:30am	La Liga Greatest Games
11:00am	EFL Matters
11:30am	La Liga Show
12:00pm	La Liga Icons
1:00pm	EFL Matters
1:30pm	La Liga Show
2:45pm	La Liga Icons
3:00pm	EFL Matters
3:30pm	La Liga Show
4:00pm	Football's Greatest Teams
4:30pm	Football's Greatest Teams
5:00pm	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
5:15pm	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
5:30pm	La Liga Show
6:00pm	La Liga Preview 2017/18
7:00pm	SPFL Matters
7:30pm	EFL Matters
8:00pm	Football
11:15pm	MLS Round Up Show
11:45pm	SPFL Matters
12:15am	SPFL Greatest Games
12:30am	SPFL Matters
1:00am	Football



TV Couch Critic

Kay raises the smiles but its heartache from rubber ducks

HOW could Kay Mellor make the day-to-day running of a register office interesting? Simply through her usual brilliant writing.

Welcome to *Love, Lies & Records* (BBC1), her latest creation situated at Leeds City Hall and starring Ashley Jensen as Kate, a Superintendent Registrar who combines chaotic home surrounds with her professional life.

It may be a cliché but Kate doesn't always play by the rules and where work is concerned it's very successful. There was the man registering his baby's birth, born to a mother with cancer who refused treatment to save the child.

They are not married, but as Kate does weddings as well, cue the resulting tears.

Staff wise, Registrar James announces plans to work dressed as a woman, with all are pleased except Judy who happens to have been passed over when Kate was promoted to superintendent.

Popular with everyone except Judy, Kate is particularly liked by Rick, especially after they sidled off

to a storeroom for some festive fun at the Christmas party.

But Judy had a copy of the CCTV recording their event in full, with this leading to a proposal from Kate to her partner Rob, a detective investigating the local murder of a young woman.

This will no doubt be linked to one of the future story lines in a comedy drama series that is yet another triumph for Mellor, making Thursday evening one to look forward to.

BRILLIANT WRITING:
Kay Mellor.



Blue Planet II (BBC 1) was a bitter-sweet highlight with the consignment of 7,000 plastic duck bath toys ready to embark on their various journeys after being tipped from a container ship in high seas off Alaska.

The star performer landed off the west coast of Scotland, but then there was the sad sight of tons of discarded plastic, endangering

and killing the blue world, including a whale carrying dead offspring, thought to have been poisoned by pollution.

It was truly heart-breaking and

thought provoking as usual.

I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here (ITV) is beginning to scrape the barrel for so-called celebrities, though many viewers clearly still enjoy it and it's good to see Ant fit and well and self depreciating about his personal life over the last six challenging months.

The sight of the first five contestants meeting and not knowing who each other was served up amusing viewing. But the camp mates discussing each others' fame with Rebekah Vardy claiming recognition for her charity work (really?) and Hollyoaks 'star' Jamie Lomas telling Made in Chelsea 'star' Georgia Tofolo "that's what your talent is, being yourself," was another matter.

Boxer Amir Khan's frightened reaction to pulling out a snake thinking it was a rope, however, was priceless... showing there is still potential for comedy gold.

Would I Lie to you (BBC1) is back

for a new series. Arguably television's funniest panel show is as good as ever, but why put it on Monday evening opposite Coronation Street which is a traditional graveyard slot?

Meanwhile *The A Word* (BBC1) is back for a second series and as good as ever. This time around it follows Joe's move to a more specialised school and the effect this has on his dysfunctional family.

The separation of Alison and Paul, Joe's mum and dad, while travelling to his new school leads to problems between them and the inter-action between Paul's own father and music teacher Maurice and Louise is both amusing and sad as he tries to support her during her cancer fight whilst bringing back memories of his previous wife's death from the same disease.

Eddie (Alison's brother) and Nicola pretend to her parents that they haven't separated, with this leading to amusing moments, and as always some brilliant music is a theme throughout with the talented actor Max Vento having an encyclopaedic knowledge of the songs and lyrics as he sings along to them.

Critique: SC, Torrevieja, Costa Blanca



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GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



BBC one

7:00am	Breakfast
8:25am	Match of the Day
10:00am	The Andrew Marr Show
11:00am	Fern Britton Meets...
12:00pm	Sunday Politics
1:15pm	BBC News
1:30pm	Flog It!
1:50pm	Mary Berry's Country House Secrets
2:50pm	FA Cup Final Score
5:15pm	Songs of Praise
5:55pm	Blue Planet II
6:55pm	BBC News
7:10pm	BBC London News
7:20pm	Countryfile
8:20pm	Strictly Come Dancing
9:00pm	Blue Planet II
10:00pm	Howards End
11:00pm	BBC News
11:20pm	BBC London News
11:30pm	Match of the Day 2
12:30am	Ronny Chieng: International Student
12:55am	Weather for the Week Ahead
1:00am	BBC News

BBC TWO

8:05am	Gardeners' World
8:35am	Monty Don's Secret History of the British Garden
9:35am	Countryfile
10:30am	Saturday Kitchen Best Bites
12:00pm	Food and Drink
12:30pm	My Life on a Plate
1:15pm	MOTD2 Extra
2:00pm	Snooker
7:00pm	Match of the Day
8:00pm	Turkey with Simon Reeve
9:00pm	Robot Wars
10:00pm	Expedition Volcano
11:00pm	Snowfall
12:40am	Snooker Hazel Irvine introduces highlights from Sunday's second-round matches at the UK Championship.
1:30am	Snooker
3:30am	Question Time
4:30am	Holby City
5:30am	This is BBC Two Highlights of programmes on BBC Two.

BBC FOUR

8:00pm	Great Continental Railway Journeys
8:30pm	University Challenge
9:00pm	Classic Quartets at the BBC
10:00pm	Natural World Wildlife film. South African naturalist Mike Rutzen is crazy about great white sharks.
10:50pm	Natural World
11:40pm	Mull: Eagle Paradise The story of the white-tailed sea eagle is one of the great successes of British conservation.
11:50pm	Shearwater Island
12:00am	Taxi Tehran
1:20am	Classic Quartets at the BBC
2:20am	Natural World
3:10am	Natural World
4:00am	This is BBC Four BBC Four is the BBC channel for people who want more. More depth, more range, more to stimulate the mind.

CHANNEL 4

7:20am	Kevin Can Wait
7:45am	Kevin Can Wait
8:10am	Everybody Loves Raymond
8:35am	Everybody Loves Raymond
9:00am	Everybody Loves Raymond
9:30am	Frasier
10:00am	Frasier
10:30am	Sunday Brunch
1:30pm	Paul Hollywood
2:00pm	F1: Grand Prix
3:00pm	The Simpsons
3:30pm	The Simpsons
3:55pm	The Simpsons
4:25pm	The Simpsons
4:55pm	Arthur Christmas
6:50pm	Shrek
8:30pm	Channel 4 News
9:00pm	Coastal Railways with Julie Walters
10:00pm	Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol
12:35am	I, Frankenstein
2:15am	Morning Glory
4:00am	Trump: An American Dream
4:55am	Gillette World Sport
5:25am	KOTV Boxing Weekly
5:50am	Mobil 1 The Grid

CHANNEL 5

8:55am	Paw Patrol
9:10am	Noddy: Toyland Detective
9:25am	Shimmer and Shine
9:40am	Peppa Pig
9:55am	FIA Formula E: Hong Kong
11:40am	Football on 5
12:25pm	Finding Father Christmas
2:10pm	The Christmas Secret
3:55pm	On the Twelfth Day of Christmas
4:55pm	5 News
5:00pm	On the Twelfth Day of Christmas
5:45pm	Northpole 2: Open for Christmas
6:45pm	5 News
6:50pm	Northpole 2: Open for Christmas
7:30pm	Call Me Claus
9:15pm	Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights
9:55pm	5 News Weekend
10:00pm	The Paul O'grady Story
11:30pm	When Reality TV Goes Horribly Wrong
2:30am	Lip Sync Battle UK
2:55am	Super Casino

4

7:00am	Rules of Engagement
7:25am	Couples Come Dine with Me
8:25am	Couples Come Dine with Me
9:25am	Hollyoaks Omnibus
12:00pm	Made in Chelsea
1:00pm	Don't Tell the Bride
2:00pm	Marmaduke
3:45pm	Rude(Ish) Tube Shorts
4:00pm	The Goldbergs
4:30pm	The Goldbergs
5:00pm	The Goldbergs
5:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
6:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
6:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
7:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
7:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
8:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
8:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
9:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
9:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
10:00pm	Ted
12:05am	The Big Bang Theory
12:35am	The Big Bang Theory
1:05am	Gogglebox
2:05am	Rude Tube
3:10am	First Dates
4:05am	Rude Tube
4:35am	Hollyoaks Omnibus

sky sports main event

7:00am	Cricket Day two of the third Test between India and Sri Lanka in Delhi.
12:00pm	Goals on Sunday
1:30pm	Football Aberdeen meet Rangers at Pittodrie in the SPFL Ladbrokes Premiership.
2:15pm	Live Nissan Super Sunday
4:30pm	Live Nissan Super Sunday Manchester City take on West Ham United at the Etihad Stadium in the Premier League.
8:00pm	Live PGA Tour Golf Day four of the Hero World Challenge from New Providence in the Bahamas.
10:00pm	Live NFL: Sunday Game
2:00am	Live NFL: Sunday Game
5:30am	Cricket

itv

9:10am	Mr. Bean
9:30am	Make it Pop
10:00am	Wishfart
10:25am	ITV News
10:30am	Australian Wilderness with Ray Mears
11:00am	Peston on Sunday
11:55am	The Martin Lewis Money Show
12:25pm	Save Money: Good Food
1:00pm	Tipping Point
2:00pm	ITV News
2:05pm	The X Factor
4:10pm	Midsomer Murders
6:05pm	How to Spend it Well at Christmas with Phillip Schofield
7:05pm	ITV News London
7:15pm	ITV News
7:30pm	The Chase: Celebrity Special
8:25pm	The X Factor
10:00pm	I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!
11:30pm	ITV News
11:45pm	Peston on Sunday
12:45am	Car Crash Britain Caught on Camera

itv2

12:25pm	Take Me Out
1:40pm	You've Been Framed!
2:10pm	Merry Christmas Mr Bean
2:45pm	The Smurfs: A Christmas Carol
3:15pm	Beethoven's Christmas Adventure
4:15pm	FYI Daily
4:20pm	Beethoven's Christmas Adventure
5:05pm	I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!
6:10pm	Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang
7:15pm	FYI Daily
7:20pm	Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang
8:20pm	The Amazing Spider-Man
9:20pm	FYI Daily
9:25pm	The Amazing Spider-Man
11:00pm	Family Guy
11:30pm	I'm a Celebrity... Extra Camp
12:35am	Family Guy
1:05am	Family Guy

itv3

7:00am	On the Buses
7:25am	Murder, She Wrote
8:20am	Murder, She Wrote
9:15am	Heartbeat
10:20am	Heartbeat
11:25am	Santa Claus
12:30pm	FYI Daily
12:35pm	Santa Claus
1:40pm	Columbo
3:45pm	Agatha Christie's Marple
5:50pm	Midsomer Murders
7:55pm	Midsomer Murders
10:00pm	Endeavour
12:00am	Lewis
2:00am	The Knock
3:05am	The Knock
4:00am	Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four
5:50am	Judge Judy The Emmy nominated reality courtroom series, presided over by outspoken family court judge, Judge.

itv4

7:00am	Football's Greatest
7:10am	The Sweeney
8:00am	The Big Fish Off
8:50am	Storage Wars
9:25am	Storage Wars
9:50am	Pawn Stars
10:15am	Pawn Stars
10:40am	Pawn Stars
11:05am	Pawn Stars
11:35am	Pawn Stars
12:00pm	Pawn Stars
12:30pm	Superman
1:30pm	FYI Daily
1:35pm	Superman
3:25pm	The Dam Busters
4:25pm	FYI Daily
4:30pm	The Dam Busters
8:05pm	Nacho Libre
9:05pm	FYI Daily
9:10pm	Nacho Libre
10:00pm	The Dictator
11:00pm	FYI Daily
11:05pm	The Dictator
11:40pm	Hot Tub Time Machine 2
12:40am	FYI Daily
12:45am	Hot Tub Time Machine 2
1:30am	Mars Attacks!
2:30am	FYI Daily

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

7:00am	Avengers Confidential: Black Widow and Punisher
8:30am	In the Heart of the Sea
10:35am	The Goonies
12:35pm	Troy
3:20pm	Lawrence of Arabia
6:55pm	In the Heart of the Sea
9:00pm	Braveheart
12:00am	Last Action Hero

sky CINEMA COMEDY

12:25pm	27 Dresses
2:25pm	Popstar: Never Stop Never Stopping
4:00pm	A Street Cat Named Bob
5:50pm	Airplane!
7:25pm	Airplane II: The Sequel
9:00pm	Popstar: Never Stop Never Stopping
10:35pm	Airplane!
12:10am	Airplane II: The Sequel
1:40am	Brüno

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

7:00am	Escobar: Paradise Lost
9:15am	Winter Wedding
11:00am	Louis and Luca and the Snow Machine
12:30pm	Red Dog: True Blue Mine
2:15pm	Mine
4:05pm	Collateral Beauty
5:45pm	Louis and Luca and the Snow Machine
7:15pm	Red Dog: True Blue Mine
9:00pm	Mine
11:00pm	At the Devil's Door
12:45am	Escobar: Paradise Lost When a New York exec Will Smith tips into depression, his scheming partners plan to use his letters to Love, Time and Death against him.
2:55am	The Night is Young
4:40am	At the Devil's Door

sky sports football

9:15am	La Liga Highlights: Barcelona
9:30am	EFL Goals: Championship
10:00am	EFL Goals: League 1 and 2
10:30am	The Sunday Supplement
12:00pm	EFL Goals: Championship
12:30pm	EFL Goals: League 1 and 2
1:00pm	Football
3:45pm	SPFL Greatest Games
4:00pm	La Liga Greatest Games
4:10pm	Football
6:15pm	La Liga Greatest Games
6:25pm	Football
8:30pm	La Liga Greatest Games
8:40pm	Football
10:45pm	La Liga Icons
11:00pm	EFL Goals: Championship
11:30pm	EFL Goals: League 1 and 2
12:00am	La Liga Highlights: Real Madrid

LEGALLY SPEAKING

Classic cars in Spain

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.



NO RULE CHANGE: Classics subject to same road laws as newer cars.

ROYAL DECREE 1247/1995, deals with the laws for historic vehicles, or classic cars, under article 10 of the circulation rules.

First and foremost, unless rules are specifically in place for this type of vehicle, classic cars are governed by the same laws and rules as normal vehicles, including the requirement of liability insurance.

The rules relating to the technical inspection and registration are also applicable, as per normal vehicles. The period of the technical inspection also remains the same, unless otherwise indicated in the official report.

Those vehicles which, on account of their age or constructive characteristics, do not have lights or indicators as are normally required by law, are not allowed to travel between sunset and sunrise, or in circumstances which would normally require use of lights and indicators.

Historic vehicles that are not able to exceed the speed of 40 kilometres per hour should drive on the shoulder, if practicable and it is suffi-

cient, or, alternatively, as close as possible to the right outside edge of the roadway, except when overtaking or turning left, manoeuvres which may force other drivers to abruptly change the direction or speed of their vehicles. Historic vehicles are not allowed on the motorway if they are unable to reach a speed of at least 60 kilometres per hour.

The General Directorate of Traffic also reserves the right to prohibit classic cars on certain dates and routes, if they are not able to exceed the speed of 80 kilometres per hour.

Vehicles categorised as classic cars under Royal Decree 1247/1995, or over 25 years old and in numbers greater than 10, and with a speed of less than 50 kilometres per hour on average, as well as participating in events or demonstrations, rallies, competitions or, in general, any kind of event in which there is established classification on the basis of vehicle movement, either in terms of speed or regularity, will require administrative authorisation.

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

How does he pay CGT?

Q. I read your article in the *Euro Weekly News* concerning inheritance tax. If I sell my house in Spain for €225,000, how is the CGT paid or can I roll this into another property? *M C (by email)*

A. You have left out some important information from your question. So, let us first suppose that you are a non-resident who lives in the European Union. You pay Spanish capital gains tax at 19 per cent. You file Form 210 within 30 days of the sale.

If your profit is € 50,000, your tax will be € 9,500. If

David Searl
You and the Law
in Spain



you are tax resident in Spain, and the house is your principal residence, where you have lived for three years, and you use all of the amount of the sale to purchase a new principal residence, you are free of capi-

tal gains tax. If, in addition, you are more than 65 years old, you are completely free of CGT.

If you are resident but the house is not your principal residence, you must pay Spanish CGT on your profit at a slightly higher rate than the non-resident, declaring on your next year's income tax declaration.

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

It's a complete wind up

Mike Senker

In my opinion

Views of a Grumpy Old Man



WE have inherited a few things from the USA but this Black Friday nonsense is a complete wind up. First of all it's the day after Thanksgiving - a holiday that doesn't even exist in the UK or Spain. Secondly, it goes on for two weeks so it should be called Black Fortnight.

I suppose you could say it's a good time to start your Christmas shopping but I think December 24 is fine for me. In fact, I now prefer to go Christmas shopping after Christmas when the real sales start, not this Black Friday nonsense.

Having said that, my daughter wanted a cordless vacuum cleaner and asked me to research some for her as she is a very busy lady and well, to be honest, I do absolutely nothing. In fact, if doing nothing was a sport, I'd play off scratch. So I got online and typed in 'best cordless vacuum cleaner' and that's when the fun started.

This make, that make, then there's the different models within the makes, then there's the different prices. I get four or five different ones up on screen and it has a comparison fea-

ture. This model has loads of tools but needs charging every 30 minutes, another one lasts for 60 minutes without charge but has no tools. Another weighs a bit more than the other two but has got a shoulder strap and on and on it goes.

Then there's the model numbers. Fifteen digit numbers and letters which are impossible to remember and probably even too complicated to use as an Apple password and, believe me, that's saying something! When I was younger you had a Hoover. That was it - no different models; just a Hoover. You might have had a choice of colours and every couple of years they might bring out a slightly different model.

I also quite like the Henry. That's simple - you went in the shop and asked for it by name. They should just make it a simple model number 1, then 2, then 3 so you can just look at it and know if it's the latest model or not. It ticks me off big time when I buy something and then find out it's a deleted model.

I sent my daughter all the information and said it was now up to her and what did she do? She ordered the only one that didn't have any discount on it and wasn't in the Black Friday sale! KIDS!!

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

Email me: mikesenker@gmail.com



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GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



BBC one

10:15am	Island Medics
11:00am	Homes Under the Hammer
12:00pm	Claimed and Shamed
12:45pm	The Sheriffs are Coming
1:15pm	Bargain Hunt
2:00pm	BBC News at One
2:30pm	BBC London News
2:45pm	Doctors
3:15pm	Armchair Detectives
4:00pm	Escape to the Country
4:45pm	The Hairy Bikers Home for Christmas
5:30pm	Money for Nothing
6:15pm	Pointless
7:00pm	BBC News at Six
7:30pm	BBC London News
8:00pm	The One Show
8:30pm	Panorama
9:00pm	EastEnders
9:30pm	Would I Lie to You?
10:00pm	The Real Marigold on Tour
11:00pm	BBC News at Ten
11:30pm	BBC London News
11:45pm	Have I Got a Bit More News for You
12:30am	Michael McIntyre's Big Show

BBC TWO

7:00am	An Island Parish: Falklands
7:30am	Claimed and Shamed
8:15am	Royal Recipes
9:00am	Mary Berry's Country House Secrets
10:00am	Victoria Derbyshire
12:00pm	BBC Newsroom Live
1:00pm	The Daily Politics
2:00pm	Snooker
6:15pm	Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is
7:00pm	Celebrity Eggheads
7:30pm	Strictly - It Takes Two
8:00pm	Match of the Day
8:30pm	Wild Cameramen at Work
9:00pm	University Challenge
9:30pm	Nigella: At My Table
10:00pm	Employable Me
11:00pm	Insert Name Here
11:30pm	Newsnight
12:15am	Snooker
1:05am	Snooker
3:05am	Countryfile
4:00am	Blue Planet II
5:00am	This is BBC Two Highlights of programmes on BBC Two.

BBC FOUR

8:00pm	Beyond 100 Days <i>The latest national and international news, exploring the day's events from a global perspective.</i>
8:30pm	Christmas University Challenge 2015
9:00pm	Mexico: Earth's Festival of Life
10:00pm	The Art That Made Mexico: Paradise, Power and Prayers
11:00pm	Handmade in Mexico <i>An intricate look at the creation process of three Mexican art forms.</i>
11:30pm	Britain's Lost Masterpieces
12:30am	Mugabe and the Democrats
2:00am	Pappano's Classical Voices
3:00am	How to be a Surrealist with Philippa Perry
4:00am	The Art That Made Mexico: Paradise, Power and Prayers
5:00am	This is BBC Four

CHANNEL 4

7:20am	3rd Rock from the Sun
8:35am	Everybody Loves Raymond
10:00am	Frasier
11:05am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
12:00pm	Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast
1:00pm	Channel 4 News
1:05pm	Kirstie's Handmade Christmas
1:25pm	A Christmas Proposal
3:10pm	Countdown
4:00pm	Lost and Found
5:00pm	A Place in the Sun
6:00pm	Four in a Bed
6:30pm	Come Dine with Me
7:00pm	The Simpsons
7:30pm	Hollyoaks
8:00pm	Channel 4 News
9:00pm	Paul Hollywood
9:30pm	Supershoppers
10:00pm	999: What's Your Emergency?
11:00pm	First Dates
12:05am	Don't Tell the Bride
1:05am	Life Stripped Bare
2:20am	One Born Every Minute

CHANNEL 5

8:25am	Milkshake! Festive Fun!
8:30am	Peppa Pig
8:50am	Floogals
9:00am	Digby Dragon
9:20am	Noddy: Toyland Detective
9:35am	Shimmer and Shine
9:55am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
10:05am	Mofy
10:15am	The Wright Stuff
12:35pm	GP's: Behind Closed Doors
1:25pm	The Gadget Show
2:25pm	5 News Lunchtime
2:30pm	Neighbours
3:00pm	Christmas Cookies
4:45pm	The Christmas Calendar
6:30pm	5 News at 5
7:00pm	Neighbours
7:30pm	5 News Tonight
8:00pm	Weather Terror
9:00pm	Sinkholes
10:00pm	Concorde
11:00pm	JFK's Secret Killer: The Evidence
12:05am	JFK Jr: The Crash That Killed a Kennedy

4

7:00am	Hollyoaks
7:30am	Hollyoaks
8:00am	Charmed
9:00am	Charmed
10:00am	Rules of Engagement
10:30am	Rules of Engagement
11:00am	Black-ish
11:30am	Black-ish
12:00pm	How I Met Your Mother
1:00pm	New Girl
1:30pm	New Girl
2:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
2:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
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7:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
7:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
8:00pm	Hollyoaks
8:30pm	First Dates Abroad
9:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
9:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
10:00pm	Made in Chelsea
11:00pm	Tattoo Fixers
12:05am	The Big Bang Theory

sky sports main event

7:00am	Cricket
12:15pm	My Icon
12:30pm	Sky Sports Daily
1:00pm	Sky Sports Today
2:00pm	Sky Sports Today
3:00pm	SKY Sports News
4:00pm	SKY Sports News
5:00pm	SKY Sports News
6:00pm	SKY Sports News
7:00pm	SKY Sports News
8:00pm	Sky Sports Tonight
8:30pm	Football <i>Birmingham City meet Wolves at St Andrew's in the Sky Bet Championship.</i>
11:00pm	Info not available
12:00am	Cricket <i>Day five of the first Test between New Zealand and the Windies at the Basin Reserve in Wellington.</i>
2:15am	Live NFL: Pittsburgh @ Cincinnati
5:45am	Cricket <i>Day four of the third Test between India and Sri Lanka at Feroz Shah Kotla Ground in Delhi.</i>

itv

7:00am	Good Morning Britain
9:30am	Lorraine
10:25am	The Jeremy Kyle Show
11:30am	This Morning
1:30pm	Loose Women
2:30pm	ITV Lunchtime News
2:55pm	ITV News London
3:00pm	Judge Rinder
4:00pm	Dickinson's Real Deal
5:00pm	Tipping Point
6:00pm	The Chase
7:00pm	ITV News London
7:30pm	ITV Evening News
8:00pm	Emmerdale
8:30pm	Coronation Street
9:00pm	The Martin Lewis Money Show
9:30pm	Coronation Street
10:00pm	I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!
11:30pm	ITV News
12:00am	ITV News London
12:15am	Killer Women with Piers Morgan
1:15am	Life Inside Jail: Hell on Earth
2:05am	Jackpot247

itv2

7:00am	Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records
7:20am	Planet's Got Talent
7:45am	Dinner Date
8:35am	Emmerdale
9:00am	Coronation Street
10:00am	The Ellen DeGeneres Show
10:50am	Dinner Date
11:50am	I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!
1:20pm	Emmerdale
1:50pm	Coronation Street
2:50pm	The Ellen DeGeneres Show
3:45pm	The Jeremy Kyle Show
7:00pm	I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!
8:30pm	You've Been Framed!
9:00pm	Two and a Half Men
9:30pm	Two and a Half Men
10:00pm	Family Guy
10:30pm	Ghosted
11:00pm	American Dad!
11:30pm	I'm a Celebrity... Extra Camp
12:30am	Family Guy
1:00am	Family Guy

itv3

7:00am	Coronation Street
7:25am	Coronation Street
7:55am	Heartbeat
9:00am	Wild at Heart
10:00am	Judge Judy
10:25am	Judge Judy
10:55am	Judge Judy
11:20am	A Touch of Frost
1:35pm	Wild at Heart
2:40pm	Heartbeat
3:40pm	Coronation Street
4:15pm	Coronation Street
4:45pm	A Touch of Frost
6:50pm	Heartbeat
7:55pm	Murder, She Wrote
9:00pm	Doc Martin
10:00pm	Foyle's War
12:00am	Blue Murder
1:35am	A Touch of Frost
3:20am	ITV3 Nightscreen <i>Text-based information service.</i>
3:30am	Teleshopping <i>Shopping from home.</i>

itv4

7:50am	The Chase
8:40am	Cash Cowboys
9:30am	Pawn Stars
9:55am	Pawn Stars
10:25am	Ironsides
11:30am	Quincy, M.E.
12:35pm	The Sweeney
1:35pm	The Avengers
2:45pm	Ironsides
3:50pm	Quincy, M.E.
4:55pm	The Sweeney
6:00pm	The Avengers
7:00pm	Cash Cowboys
8:00pm	Pawn Stars
8:30pm	Pawn Stars
9:00pm	River Monsters
10:00pm	Live and Let Die
11:05pm	FYI Daily
11:10pm	Live and Let Die
12:30am	Senna
1:30am	FYI Daily
1:35am	Senna
2:40am	Motorsport UK
3:45am	ITV4 Nightscreen <i>Text-based information service.</i>
4:00am	Teleshopping <i>Shopping from home.</i>

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

9:20am	Drop Zone
11:05am	I Am Legend
12:50pm	The Bourne Identity
2:50pm	Domino
5:00pm	Once Upon a Time in Mexico
6:50pm	Superman 2
9:00pm	The Bourne Identity
11:00pm	I Am Legend
12:50am	Universal Soldier
2:45am	The Punisher: War Zone

sky CINEMA COMEDY

8:15am	Our Brand is Crisis
10:10am	Planes, Trains and Automobiles
11:50am	Hail, Caesar!
1:45pm	The Boss
3:30pm	The Back-Up Plan
5:20pm	Hitch
7:25pm	Liar Liar
9:00pm	The Back-Up Plan
10:45pm	The Boss
12:35am	Jackass: The Movie
2:10am	Jackass: Number Two
3:50am	Jackass 2.5
5:05am	Three Amigos!

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

7:00am	Louis and Luca and the Snow Machine
8:35am	Mine
10:30am	Winter Wedding <i>Couple Hallie and Lucas hold a small town winter wedding in the snow after their original plan for a breezy wedding in the tropics is cancelled by family conflict.</i>
12:15pm	Non-Transferable
1:55pm	Red Dog: True Blue
3:40pm	Escobar: Paradise Lost
5:45pm	Louis and Luca and the Snow Machine
7:15pm	Red Dog: True Blue
9:00pm	Mine
10:50pm	Non-Transferable
12:30am	The Night is Young
2:15am	At the Devil's Door
4:05am	Burn Country

sky sports football

7:30am	SPFL Greatest Games
8:00am	Football Years
8:30am	Football Countdowns
9:00am	Football's Greatest
9:30am	Football's Greatest Teams
10:00am	Info not available
10:30am	La Liga Greatest Games
10:45am	La Liga Greatest Games
11:00am	Football
1:45pm	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
2:00pm	La Liga 2017/18
4:05pm	Football's Greatest
4:30pm	Football's Greatest Teams
5:00pm	La Liga 2017/18
7:05pm	Magical Messi
8:00pm	Soccer A.M.
8:30pm	Football
11:00pm	SPFL Round Up 2017/18
11:15pm	SPFL Greatest Games
11:30pm	Soccer A.M.
12:00am	20 Years of El Clasico
12:45am	La Liga Greatest Games

Advertising feature

Insurance you can rely on

ESTABLISHED since 1987, AJB Insurance Consultants have been providing a wide range of insurance products and services to the expat community on the Costa Blanca for 30 years.

With offices in Javea and Calpe, they provide a quick, efficient and competitive service of the highest professional standards, helping every client find the best policy at the best price.

They provide insurance cover on everything from car and contents to pet and private medical, meaning you can rest assured and have the peace of mind that you are protected.

AJB work alongside several of the largest international insurance companies which allows them to provide the best range of cover and ensure that you get the lowest premiums.

One of the most popular is car insurance of which manager Philip Rayner says they have some of the cheapest policies around: "We have some very good deals for expat drivers, for example, fully comprehensive policies for a Ford Focus 1.8 diesel cost just €285 with an excess of €200." Philip explained this is just one such example of their highly competitive prices.

Another popular and much-needed service is medical insurance. With waiting times for specialists and operations becoming much longer in



AJB INSURANCE: Offer the best policy at the best price with a friendly service.

Spain with reports of some patients having to wait over a year to see a specialist on the national health service, many people are turning to private cover. With AJB's range of policies they can make sure you are seen by a specialist within 48 hours in most cases.

Until the end of 2017 AJB Insurance Consul-

tants have some amazing discounts - three months free on all new life and funeral insurance policies.* They even have a pre-paid funeral plan for the over 70's with no medical required and immediate cover.

Should the worse happen and you need to make a claim, AJB will be your point of contact

and remain with you throughout your claim process, on hand 24 hours a day if you need assistance.

They have provided insurance cover to many tens of thousands of clients throughout the years and many clients who joined them in 1987 have remained with them, happy with their ethos of offering the best policy at the best price, combined with a friendly and personal service.

So for a wide range of insurance policies, all in English, contact the team. Or fill out the form online with your requirements and the team will contact you directly with the best quote.

The offices are open from 9am-3pm Monday to Friday. The managing director Philip Rayner is available on 606 213 665 24 hours a day for any emergencies.

* Conditions apply.

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Cassandra Nash

A weekly look

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

EXAMINING judge Jose Castro, trod on many toes during his instruction of the Noos case which could send the Infanta Cristina's husband to prison for fraud and tax evasion.

Castro revealed recently that while handling the pre-trial instruction he was openly followed and would wake up to find excrement smeared on his doormat or silicone filling the lock on his front door.

After installing a CCTV camera Castro was bothered no more and he made no further attempt to identify who was behind the intimidation.

Cristina's husband Iñaki Urdangarin was found guilty and has appealed against a sentence that could be as much as 14 years. Cristina was acquitted of any involvement or knowledge of the money siphoned off from the non-profitmaking Noos Foundation to jointly-owned Aizoon which paid for so many of the couple's material goodies.

The Infanta stuck faithfully to her story throughout the instruction phase and trial, insisting that she was

Not an earthly

little wifey at home who left everything to her clever hubby.

Yes, that's the same Cristina who has a degree in Political Science and a Master's in International Relations, plus a high-flying job with the Caixa Foundation.

Unsugared pill

DID Cataluña really believe it would be possible to snaffle the European Medicines Agency (EMA)? Article 155 and the December elections notwithstanding, Cataluña is no longer the kind of calm millpond that the EU wants for one of its agencies.

EMA was up for grabs thanks to Brexit and it slipped from Spain's grasp thanks to the cataleptic miasma emanating from Catalexit.

Get us out of here

FORMER Catalan vice-president Oriol Junqueras plus independence diehards and one-time government

members Jordi Turull and Josep Rull are currently remanded for sedition and rebellion.

They believe the National High Court should release them as all accept the measures imposed by the Constitution's Article 155 and Junqueras says the UDI of October 27 was "strictly political and not executive." Now he tells us. Amazing what a few weeks in the slammer can do to men of strong convictions.

Have a swinging time

BARCELONA mayor Ada Colau is still hedging her bets. CatComu, the alliance between her Cataluña en Comu party and Pablo Iglesias' Podemos, could swing either way after the December 21 elections.

After intoning the obligatory promises to prioritise the social agenda and eliminate corruption she wouldn't rule out pacts with parties that defend unilateral independence or those taking the authoritarian route.

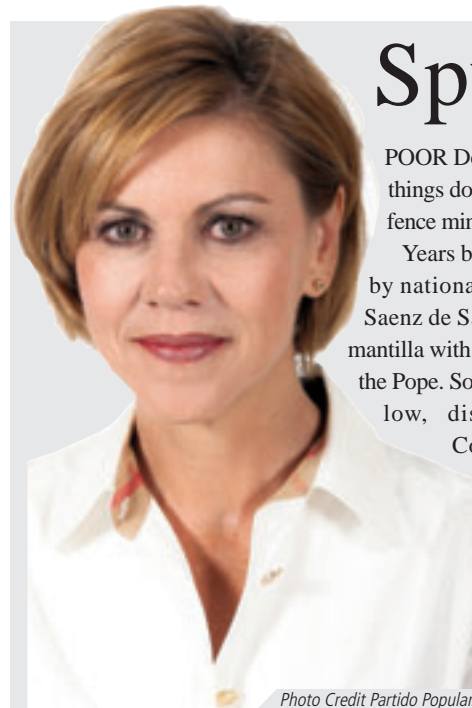


Photo Credit Partido Popular.

Spy story

POOR Dolores de Cospedal. Some things don't change for Spain's Defence minister.

Years back she was wrongfooted by national vice-president Soraya Saenz de Santamaria into wearing a mantilla with an outsized comb to meet the Pope. Soraya then turned up with a low, discreet comb, making Cospedal look like something from the rancid Franco era.

This time a couple of Russian comics made her look a twit after convincing her that she was talking to the Latvian Defence minister on the phone.

Amongst other things she was warned that the

TRICKED: Dolores de Cospedal.

self-exiled ex-president of Cataluña Carles Puigdemont is a Russian spy codenamed Cipollino, a revelation that she promised to pass on to Mariano Rajoy.

Cospedal evidently still takes a long time to catch on and more so in a situation when she hears something she'd like to be true.

Yet again Colau demonstrates that she wants to have her cake and eat it

and there is every reason to believe that she will.



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BBC one

7:00am Breakfast
10:15am Island Medics
11:00am Homes Under the Hammer
12:00pm Claimed and Shamed
12:45pm The Sheriffs are Coming
1:15pm Bargain Hunt
2:00pm BBC News at One
2:30pm BBC London News
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3:15pm Armchair Detectives
4:00pm Escape to the Country
4:45pm The Hairy Bikers Home for Christmas
5:30pm Money for Nothing
6:15pm Pointless
7:00pm BBC News at Six
7:30pm BBC London News
8:00pm The One Show
8:30pm EastEnders
9:00pm Holby City
10:00pm The A Word
11:00pm BBC News at Ten
11:30pm BBC London News
11:45pm Drugsland

BBC TWO

7:00am An Island Parish: Falklands
7:30am Island Medics
8:15am The Hairy Bikers Home for Christmas
9:00am Celebrity Antiques Road Trip
10:00am Victoria Derbyshire
12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live
1:00pm The Daily Politics
2:00pm Snooker
6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is
7:00pm Celebrity Eggheads
7:30pm Strictly - It Takes Two
8:00pm Celebrity Antiques Road Trip
9:00pm MasterChef: The Professionals
10:00pm Rick Stein's Road to Mexico
11:00pm Motherland
11:30pm Newsnight
12:15am NFL
1:05am Snooker
1:55am Snooker
3:55am The Apprentice

BBC FOUR

8:00pm Beyond 100 Days
8:30pm Christmas University Challenge 2015
9:00pm Armada: 12 Days to Save England
10:00pm Invasion! With Sam Willis
11:00pm The Vikings
12:00am The Turner Prize 2017
12:30am The Fairytale Castles of King Ludwig II with Dan Cruickshank
1:30am Pappano's Classical Voices
2:30am Armada: 12 Days to Save England
3:30am Invasion! With Sam Willis
4:30am This is BBC Four
BBC Four is the BBC channel for people who want more.

CHANNEL 4

8:10am 3rd Rock from the Sun
8:35am Everybody Loves Raymond
10:00am Frasier
11:05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
12:00pm Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast
1:00pm Channel 4 News
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5:00pm Four in a Bed
6:00pm Come Dine with Me
7:00pm The Simpsons
7:30pm Hollyoaks
8:00pm Channel 4 News
8:55pm The Political Slot
9:00pm Kirstie's Handmade Christmas
10:00pm Finding Me a Family
11:00pm Extraordinary Teens: My Gay Life
12:05am Naked Attraction

CHANNEL 5

8:30am Peppa Pig
8:50am Floogals
9:00am Digby Dragon
9:20am Noddy: Toyland
9:35am Shimmer and Shine
9:55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
10:05am Mofy
10:15am The Wright Stuff
12:35pm Film Christmas Angel
2:25pm 5 News Lunchtime
2:30pm Neighbours
3:00pm Film The Christmas Apprentice
4:40pm Call Me Claus Film
6:30pm 5 News at 5
7:00pm Neighbours
7:30pm 5 News Tonight
8:00pm Yorkshire: A Year in the Wild
9:00pm Jo Brand's Cats and Kittens
10:00pm Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild
11:00pm The 00s: The Most Shocking Celebrity Moments
2:00am Super Casino

4

10:00am Rules of Engagement
11:00am Black-ish
12:00pm How I Met Your Mother
1:00pm New Girl
1:30pm New Girl
2:00pm The Big Bang Theory
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sky sports main event

12:30pm One2eleven
2:00pm Eredivisie
3:00pm SPFL Round Up 2017/18
3:15pm SPFL Greatest Games
3:30pm Football Countdowns
4:00pm Soccer A.M.S
4:30pm Football's Greatest
5:00pm Scottish Cup Greatest Games
5:15pm Scottish Cup Greatest Games
5:30pm La Liga Greatest Games
6:00pm Eredivisie
7:00pm SPFL Round Up 2017/18
7:15pm SPFL Greatest Games
7:30pm Soccer A.M.
8:00pm Football Years
8:30pm Gillette Soccer Special
11:00pm Revista de la Liga
11:30pm La Liga World
12:00am Eredivisie
1:00am Revista de la Liga

itv

7:00am Good Morning Britain
9:30am Lorraine
10:25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
11:30am This Morning
1:30pm Loose Women
2:30pm ITV Lunchtime News
2:55pm ITV News London
3:00pm Judge Rinder
4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal
5:00pm Tipping Point
6:00pm The Chase
7:00pm ITV News London
7:30pm ITV Evening News
8:00pm Emmerdale
8:30pm Save Money: Good Food
9:00pm How to Spend it Well at Christmas with Phillip Schofield
10:00pm I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!
11:30pm ITV News
12:00am ITV News London
The latest news and weather from London and the South East.

itv2

7:20am Planet's Got Talent
7:45am Dinner Date
8:35am Emmerdale
9:00am Coronation Street
9:30am Coronation Street
10:00am The Ellen DeGeneres Show
10:50am Dinner Date
11:50am I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!
1:20pm Emmerdale
1:50pm Coronation Street
2:20pm Coronation Street
2:50pm The Ellen DeGeneres Show
3:45pm The Jeremy Kyle Show
4:50pm The Jeremy Kyle Show
5:55pm The Jeremy Kyle Show
7:00pm I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!
8:30pm You've Been Framed!
9:00pm Two and a Half Men
9:30pm Two and a Half Men
10:00pm Family Guy
10:30pm Family Guy
11:00pm Family Guy
11:30pm I'm a Celebrity... Extra Camp
12:30am Family Guy

itv3

7:00am Judge Judy
7:20am Coronation Street
7:45am Coronation Street
8:10am Heartbeat
9:15am Wild at Heart
10:15am Judge Judy
10:40am Judge Judy
11:05am Judge Judy
11:35am A Touch of Frost
1:35pm Wild at Heart
2:35pm Heartbeat
3:40pm Coronation Street
4:15pm Coronation Street
4:45pm A Touch of Frost
6:50pm Heartbeat
7:50pm Murder, She Wrote
9:00pm Doc Martin
10:00pm Foyle's War
12:00am Blue Murder
1:30am A Touch of Frost
A ruthless, calculating man holds a supermarket chain to ransom with the life of a young boy.
3:20am ITV3 Nightscreen
Text-based information service.
3:30am Teleshopping
Shopping from home.

itv4

7:00am The Chase
7:50am The Chase
8:40am Cash Cowboys
9:35am Pawn Stars
10:00am Pawn Stars
10:30am Ironside
11:35am Quincy, M.E.
12:40pm The Sweeney
1:45pm The Avengers
2:50pm Ironside
3:50pm Quincy, M.E.
4:55pm The Sweeney
5:55pm The Avengers
7:00pm Cash Cowboys
8:00pm Pawn Stars
8:30pm Pawn Stars
9:00pm The Chase Celebrity Special
10:00pm The Man with the Golden Gun
11:00pm FYI Daily
11:05pm The Man with the Golden Gun
12:35am Bullitt
1:35am FYI Daily
A round-up of the latest entertainment news.
1:40am Bullitt
2:55am Ax Men
3:50am ITV4 Nightscreen

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

1:00pm The Bourne Supremacy
3:00pm The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen
5:00pm Fearless
6:50pm Superman III
9:00pm The Bourne Supremacy
11:00pm The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen

sky CINEMA COMEDY

7:00am The Top Ten Show 2017
7:20am Hot Shots!
9:00am Runaway Bride
11:00am This Christmas
1:00pm Julie and Julia
3:10pm Splash
5:10pm Almost Christmas
7:10pm Dragnet
9:00pm Splash
11:00pm Big
12:50am Date Night
2:30am Jackass 3
4:10am Jackass 3.5
5:40am Music and Lyrics

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

7:00am Winter Wedding
Miranda (Erin Krakow) travels to small-town Vermont hoping to spend the perfect Christmas with her long-lost family, but an anonymous text threatens to derail everything.
8:40am Non-Transferable
10:20am Louis and Luca and the Snow Machine
11:55am Red Dog: True Blue
1:40pm Mine
3:40pm Detour
5:30pm The Top Ten Show 2017
5:45pm Louis and Luca and the Snow Machine
7:15pm Red Dog: True Blue
9:00pm Mine
10:50pm Detour
12:35am Non-Transferable
2:05am At the Devil's Door
3:45am The Night is Young
5:20am Winter Wedding

sky sports football

11:30am Football Countdowns
12:00pm Soccer A.M.
12:30pm One2eleven
1:45pm One2eleven
2:00pm Eredivisie
3:00pm SPFL Round Up 2017/18
3:15pm SPFL Greatest Games
3:30pm Football Countdowns
4:00pm Soccer A.M.
4:30pm Football's Greatest Teams
5:00pm Scottish Cup Greatest Games
5:15pm Scottish Cup Greatest Games
5:30pm La Liga Greatest Games
5:45pm La Liga Greatest Games
6:00pm Eredivisie
7:00pm SPFL Round Up 2017/18
7:15pm SPFL Greatest Games
7:30pm Soccer A.M.
8:00pm Football Years
8:30pm Gillette Soccer Special
11:00pm Revista de la Liga
11:30pm La Liga World
12:00am Eredivisie



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BBC one

7:00am Breakfast
 10:15am Island Medics
 11:00am Homes Under the Hammer
 12:00pm Claimed and Shamed
 12:45pm The Sheriffs are Coming
 1:15pm Bargain Hunt
 2:00pm BBC News at One
 2:30pm BBC London News
 2:45pm Doctors
 3:15pm Armchair Detectives
 4:00pm Escape to the Country
 4:45pm The Hairy Bikers Home for Christmas
 5:30pm Money for Nothing
 6:15pm Pointless
 7:00pm BBC News at Six
 7:30pm BBC London News
 8:00pm The One Show
 9:00pm Mary Berry's Country House Secrets
 10:00pm The Apprentice
 11:00pm BBC News at Ten
 11:30pm BBC London News
 11:45pm A Question of Sport
 12:15am Junior Doctors
 12:45am Jamie: Drag Queen at 16
 1:45am Weather for the Week Ahead
 1:50am BBC News

BBC TWO

7:00am An Island Parish: Falklands
 7:30am Island Medics
 8:15am The Hairy Bikers Home for Christmas
 9:00am See Hear
 9:30am Nigella: At My Table
 10:00am Victoria Derbyshire
 12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live
 12:30pm The Daily Politics
 2:00pm Snooker
 6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is
 7:00pm Celebrity Eggheads
 7:30pm Strictly - It Takes Two
 8:00pm Celebrity Antiques Road Trip
 9:00pm MasterChef: The Professionals
 10:00pm Peaky Blinders
 11:00pm The Apprentice: You're Fired!
 11:30pm Newsnight
 12:15am Snooker
 1:05am Snooker
 3:05am See Hear
 3:35am Rick Stein's Road to Mexico

BBC FOUR

8:00pm Beyond 100 Days
 8:30pm Christmas University Challenge 2015
 9:00pm How the Wild West Was Won with Ray Mears
 10:00pm Digging for Britain
 11:00pm Detectorists
 11:30pm The League of Gentlemen
 12:00am The Undiscovered Peter Cook
 1:00am Spike Milligan: Assorted Q
 1:30am Spike Milligan: Assorted Q
 A further selection of sketches from the legendary Spike Milligan's irreverent sketch shows.
 2:00am Pappano's Classical Voices
 3:00am How the Wild West Was Won with Ray Mears
 4:00am Digging for Britain
 5:00am This is BBC Four
 BBC Four is the BBC channel for people who want more.

CHANNEL 4

8:10am 3rd Rock from the Sun
 8:35am Everybody Loves Raymond
 9:00am Everybody Loves Raymond
 9:30am Everybody Loves Raymond
 10:00am Frasier
 10:35am Frasier
 11:05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
 12:00pm Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast
 1:00pm Channel 4 News
 1:05pm Kirstie's Handmade Christmas
 1:25pm Christmas Land
 3:10pm Countdown
 4:00pm Lost and Found
 5:00pm A Place in the Sun
 6:00pm Four in a Bed
 6:30pm Come Dine with Me
 7:00pm The Simpsons
 7:30pm Hollyoaks
 8:00pm Channel 4 News
 8:55pm The Political Slot
 9:00pm The Secret Life of the Zoo
 10:00pm The Channel
 11:00pm Gogglebox
 12:05am The Mega Brothel
 1:05am Random Acts

CHANNEL 5

7:35am Fireman Sam
 7:50am Thomas and Friends
 8:00am The Secret Life of Puppies
 8:05am Paw Patrol
 8:20am Thomas and Friends
 8:30am Peppa Pig
 8:40am Peppa Pig
 8:50am Floogals
 9:05am Digby Dragon
 9:20am Noddy: Toyland Detective
 9:35am Shimmer and Shine
 9:55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
 10:05am Mofy
 10:15am The Wright Stuff
 12:45pm The Christmas
 2:25pm 5 News Lunchtime
 2:30pm Neighbours
 3:00pm Spirit of Christmas
 4:45pm Marry Me at Christmas
 6:30pm 5 News at 5
 7:00pm Neighbours
 7:30pm 5 News Tonight
 8:00pm All New Traffic Cops
 9:00pm GPS: Behind Closed Doors
 10:00pm My Son: The Serial Killer
 11:00pm Levi Bellfield Left Me for Dead

4

8:00am Charmed
 9:00am Charmed
 10:00am Rules of Engagement
 10:30am Rules of Engagement
 11:00am Black-Ish
 11:30am Black-Ish: Just Christmas, Baby
 12:00pm How I Met Your Mother
 12:30pm How I Met Your Mother
 1:00pm New Girl
 1:30pm New Girl
 2:00pm The Big Bang Theory
 2:30pm The Big Bang Theory
 3:00pm The Goldbergs
 3:30pm The Goldbergs
 4:00pm How I Met Your Mother
 4:30pm How I Met Your Mother
 5:00pm New Girl
 5:30pm New Girl
 6:00pm Kevin Can Wait
 6:30pm Kevin Can Wait
 7:00pm The Big Bang Theory
 7:30pm The Big Bang Theory
 8:00pm Hollyoaks
 8:30pm First Dates Abroad
 9:00pm The Big Bang Theory
 9:30pm The Big Bang Theory
 10:00pm Prometheus
 12:25am The Big Bang Theory

sky sports main event

11:00am Revista de la Liga
 11:30am La Liga World
 12:00pm One2eleven
 12:45pm One2eleven
 1:00pm Revista de la Liga
 1:30pm La Liga World
 2:00pm La Liga Icons
 2:45pm La Liga Icons
 3:00pm Revista de la Liga
 3:30pm La Liga World
 4:30pm Football's Greatest Teams
 5:00pm Scottish Cup Greatest Games
 5:15pm Scottish Cup Greatest Games
 5:30pm La Liga Greatest Games
 5:45pm La Liga Greatest Games
 6:00pm Football Years
 6:30pm Football Countdowns
 7:00pm Revista de la Liga
 7:30pm La Liga World
 8:00pm Football Years
 8:30pm Gillette Soccer Special
 11:00pm EredivisieEredivisie
 12:00am Magical Messi
 1:00am EredivisieEredivisie
 2:00am One2eleven
 2:30am One2eleven

itv

7:00am Good Morning Britain
 9:30am Lorraine
 10:25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
 11:30am This Morning
 1:30pm Loose Women
 2:30pm ITV Lunchtime News
 2:55pm ITV News London
 3:00pm Judge Rinder
 4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal
 5:00pm Tipping Point
 6:00pm The Chase
 7:00pm ITV News London
 7:30pm ITV Evening News
 8:00pm Emmerdale
 8:30pm Coronation Street
 9:00pm Gino's Italian Coastal Escape
 9:30pm Coronation Street
 10:00pm I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!
 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
 11:30pm ITV News London
 11:45pm UEFA Champions League Highlights
 1:15am Stuck on You: The Football Sticker Story
 2:05am Jackpot247
 4:00am May the Best House Win

itv2

7:20am Planet's Got Talent
 7:45am Dinner Date
 8:35am Emmerdale
 9:00am The Cube
 10:00am The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 10:50am Dinner Date
 11:50am I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!
 1:20pm Emmerdale
 1:50pm You've Been Framed!
 2:50pm The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 3:45pm The Jeremy Kyle Show
 4:50pm The Jeremy Kyle Show
 5:55pm The Jeremy Kyle Show
 7:00pm I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!
 8:30pm You've Been Framed!
 9:00pm Two and a Half Men
 9:30pm Two and a Half Men
 10:00pm Family Guy
 10:30pm Family Guy
 11:00pm I'm a Celebrity... Extra Camp
 12:00am Family Guy
 12:30am Family Guy
 1:00am American Dad!

itv3

7:00am Judge Judy
 7:20am Coronation Street
 7:45am Coronation Street
 8:10am Heartbeat
 9:15am Wild at Heart
 10:10am Judge Judy
 10:40am Judge Judy
 11:05am Judge Judy
 11:35am A Touch of Frost
 A ruthless, calculating man holds a supermarket chain to ransom with the life of a young boy.
 1:35pm Wild at Heart
 Drama series set on a South African nature reserve.
 2:40pm Heartbeat
 3:40pm Coronation Street
 4:15pm Coronation Street
 4:45pm A Touch of Frost
 7:00pm Heartbeat
 8:00pm Murder, She Wrote
 9:00pm Doc Martin
 10:00pm Foyle's War
 12:05am Blue Murder
 1:35am A Touch of Frost
 Detective drama series.
 3:30am Teleshopping

itv4

7:00am Snooker v Darts
 7:05am The Chase
 7:55am The Chase
 8:50am Cash Cowboys
 9:35am Pawn Stars
 10:00am Pawn Stars
 10:30am Ironside
 11:35am Quincy, M.E.
 12:40pm The Sweeney
 1:40pm The Avengers
 2:50pm Ironside
 3:50pm Quincy, M.E.
 6:00pm The Avengers
 7:00pm Cash Cowboys
 8:00pm Pawn Stars
 8:30pm Pawn Stars
 9:00pm Devon and Cornwall Cops
 9:30pm Devon and Cornwall Cops
 10:00pm The Spy Who Loved Me
 11:00pm FYI Daily
 11:05pm The Spy Who Loved Me
 12:35am Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber
 1:35am FYI Daily
 1:40am Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber
 2:55am Ax Men

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

11:30am The Bourne Ultimatum
 1:30pm Lawrence of Arabia
 5:05pm The Mask of Zorro
 7:25pm Superman IV: The Quest for Peace
 9:00pm The Bourne Ultimatum
 11:00pm Conan the Barbarian
 1:15am Wanted
 3:10am Uncommon Valor

sky CINEMA COMEDY

7:30am Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: Special
 8:00am Hot Shots! Part Deux
 9:35am Whiskey Tango Foxtrot
 11:35am Superbad
 1:35pm Sausage Party
 3:10pm How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days
 5:10pm Fred Claus
 7:10pm Dad's Army
 9:00pm Sausage Party
 10:35pm Superbad
 12:35am Brüno
 2:05am Tyler Perry's Boo! a Madea Halloween

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

7:00am Mine
 Stranded in the desert after a mission falls apart, lone US soldier Armie Hammer must battle both his enemies and the hostile environment. Thriller with Annabelle Wallis.
 9:00am Louis and Luca and the Snow Machine
 10:35am Winter Wedding
 12:20pm The Top Ten Show 2017
 12:35pm Red Dog: True Blue
 2:20pm Non-Transferable
 4:00pm Detour
 5:50pm Louis and Luca and the Snow Machine
 7:20pm Red Dog: True Blue
 9:00pm Mine
 11:00pm The Deal
 12:50am Detour
 2:45am Non-Transferable
 4:40am At the Devil's Door

sky sports football

10:45am La Liga Greatest Games
 11:00am Revista de la Liga
 11:30am La Liga World
 12:00pm One2eleven
 12:45pm One2eleven
 1:00pm Revista de la Liga
 1:30pm La Liga World
 2:00pm La Liga Icons
 2:45pm La Liga Icons
 3:00pm Revista de la Liga
 3:30pm La Liga World
 4:00pm Football's Greatest Teams
 4:30pm Football's Greatest Teams
 5:00pm Scottish Cup Greatest Games
 5:15pm Scottish Cup Greatest Games
 5:30pm La Liga Greatest Games
 5:45pm La Liga Greatest Games
 6:00pm Football Years
 6:30pm Football Countdowns
 7:00pm Revista de la Liga
 7:30pm La Liga World
 8:00pm Football Years
 8:30pm Gillette Soccer Special
 11:00pm Eredivisie
 12:00am Magical Messi
 1:00am Eredivisie

YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

Letters should be emailed to yoursay@euoweeklynews.com or make your comments on our website: www.euoweeklynews.com

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It's nothing to do with the EU

SIR,

I see Leapy Lee adding weight to the argument that the most ardent Brexiteers are those with least knowledge of the European Union. In his last column he gleefully cites the case of a Somali criminal as absolute justification for leaving the EU because of the decision of the much maligned European Court of Human Rights.

Although it has the word 'European' in its title, this court is NOT an EU body, and is part of an entirely different legal system to the European Court of Justice with which it is constantly confused.

It was set up after the war by the Council of Europe to uphold the Convention of Human Rights and in fact the UK was one of the first members to ratify the Convention when it passed through Parliament in 1951.

The EU has actually decided not to be bound by the rulings of the European Court of Human Rights

Elaine, Torremolinos



STAR APPEAL? From left, Nicky Minaj, Nicole Scherzinger and Gorka Marquez.

Strictly cobblers

I WOULD be interested to know how your editors decide what news is worth including in this publication, because I see no obvious logic.

Anybody ever heard of Nicky Minaj, Nicole Scherzinger or Gorka Marquez? Er... who? Yet for some reason we are informed of their activities and of other non-entities in your page labelled Celeb Focus. Sorry, this does not qualify as news. No way! By publish-

ing this nonsense, the *Euro Weekly* is simply playing into the hands of those press agents who will do anything to get publicity for their talentless clients.

Please, *EWN*, use your valuable space to give us real news!

David Baird, Frigiliana

Editor's note: Since introduction, the celebrity page has been warmly welcomed by thousands of EWN readers.

Editor's note: This is correct, and was noted by other readers. The error slipped through due to pressing deadlines in the editing process, and we apologise.

What a puzzle!

A reader wrote in asking for puzzle answers to be printed the same week, sparking a deluge of replies. Here is a selection.

The case for...

I THINK putting puzzle solutions in the same week as set would be a bad move, as often I find that the answer is so obvious I wonder why it took me so long. If you get a majority response to include answers, will you please put them on a different page so that they are not seen accidentally!

Les Johnston, address withheld

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.euoweeklynews.com.

Woman rescued above busy road

Firefighters worldwide are all heroes. With love and gratitude to each and every one of you. *Irene Margaret Weston*

Good job. Hopefully she will get the help she needs.

Jeni Potter

Gibraltar 'to fall out of the single market'

'Blow for the UK leaving the EU!' You are totally mistaken! It is a blow for EU, UK leaving the EU! That is the reason that EU put up all the obstructions, they can find, in the 'Brexit' negotiations! They know, that UK leaving the sinking ship, will mean the beginning to the end, for EU!

Carsten Thorvald

It's a blow for everyone Carsten Thorvald but it will be a bigger mistake for the UK singularly and every indicator is showing this to be the case - nothing positive is jumping out to show us that leave is the way forward. As for sinking ship, well all the predictions of collapse, capitulation and other members queing up to leave haven't transpired and if anything Brexit has galvanised the other members to stick together. Obstructions? The EU negotiators have made it clear what is required to move this forward, the obstructions to progress are internal caused by a divided government that is wasting more time and energy from belligerent in-fighting, and power positioning. The only ship sinking is the Britannia!

Dave Syd

Comments from EWN online

Police reopen toddler death

I said before that there is no way a three-year-old could walk 4km on her own at night without something happening. *Debbie Tobin*

Strange, all of it. Something doesn't add up. Keep delving more and see what the outcome will be.

Jay Ellis

Something doesn't add up!!

Karen Joy Harley

Spain defends holding migrants in prison

Here in Malta they are sent to detention centres for two years!

Moira Palmqvist

Yes, sounds like they are warm, dry and being fed, what's the problem?

Madeline Wilson

Best place. Can keep track and process... well done at least they know where they are and if not eligible for staying

they can be returned from whence they came.

Susannah Washington

Spain is battling this type of immigration virtually on its own. Eleven thousand arrived in boats on the shores of southern Spain this year alone to date. The problem is the trafficking mafias in their home countries, that is where the solutions should start.

Carl Venvulgen

Passengers 'quarantined' after flight from Spain

Better still, a dab of Vaseline in each nostril will catch the germs. Most throat and chest problems are caught when breathing through the nose. I always take a cotton handkerchief with tea tree oil on it and inhale it regularly, as it's antibacterial. I do this in hospitals as well.

Jeni Potter

Just returned from trip to UK and back. I think I have picked up every germ on those planes. People will get on, sit down and put the air-con on... Don't they realise that just spreads everyone's germs around.

Clare Lloyd

Wear a mask on every trip. The amount of people that have nasty colds when flying to and fro from the UK is terrible. The air circulation/aircon units are crap.... Thank god I don't fly these days...

Sian Foster

REGARDING the letter from Norman (November 23-29) - no, no, no - please DON'T publish the answers to the puzzles in the same issue, it takes all the fun away! Sometimes it can take me two-three days to complete the cryptic crossword and people should have a little patience to wait for the answers to be given the following week.

Barbara, Alhaurin de la Torre

...and against

I AM one of the loads of people and I definitely agree with last week's reader! It is infuriating not to be able to check the answers to the puzzles immediately. I particularly like the crosswords and even using a dictionary I cannot find one or two of the answers so have to wait.

Muriel, Algorfa

I AM writing with regard to the puzzle answers being printed in the same issue. My partner and I take two papers every week so that we can each do the Codebreaker and puzzle. We both feel that it would be much easier for most of us if the solutions were in the same issue, obviously printed on a different page, otherwise we might peek.

Lynn Hopkins, Fuengirola

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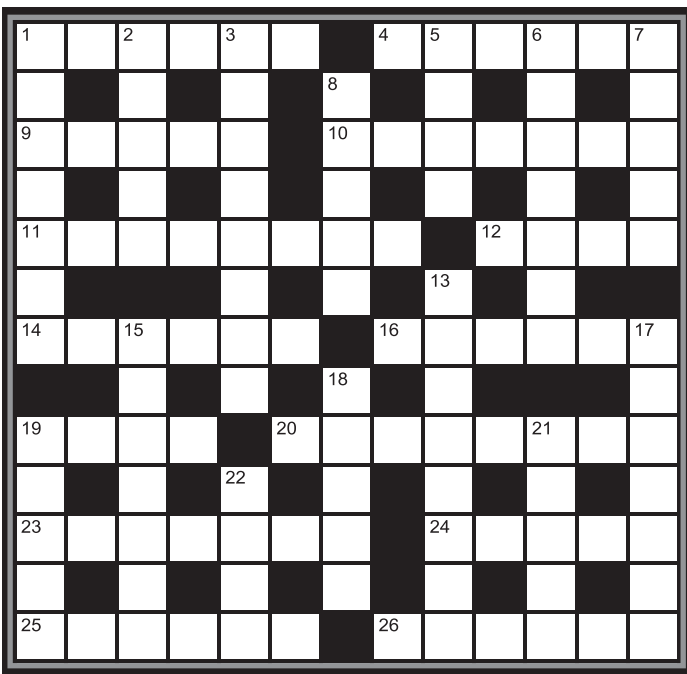
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Cryptic

Across

- 1 Corporal revised by lido (6)
- 4 Improves barracks around the street (6)
- 9 Distant from pedalo off the coast (5)
- 10 Scottish town's tune has dire arrangement (7)
- 11 Broad squadron leader is in tears (8)
- 12 Five hundred sick, Herb? (4)
- 14 Animator Sidney's upset (6)
- 16 From and to Kensington for souvenirs (6)
- 19 Voice quality begins to offend nearly everybody (4)
- 20 Naval ice breaker in Spanish city (8)
- 23 Company chief ordered to get a small house (7)
- 24 Withdraw yearbook, it has a letter missing (5)
- 25 Father's address is now in a closer Monaco villa (6)
- 26 Prevents the desert crumbling (6)



Down

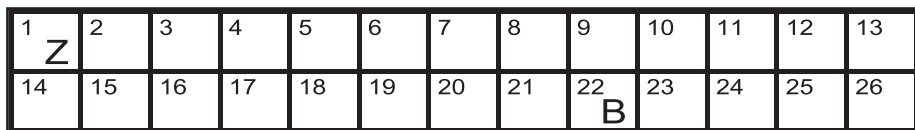
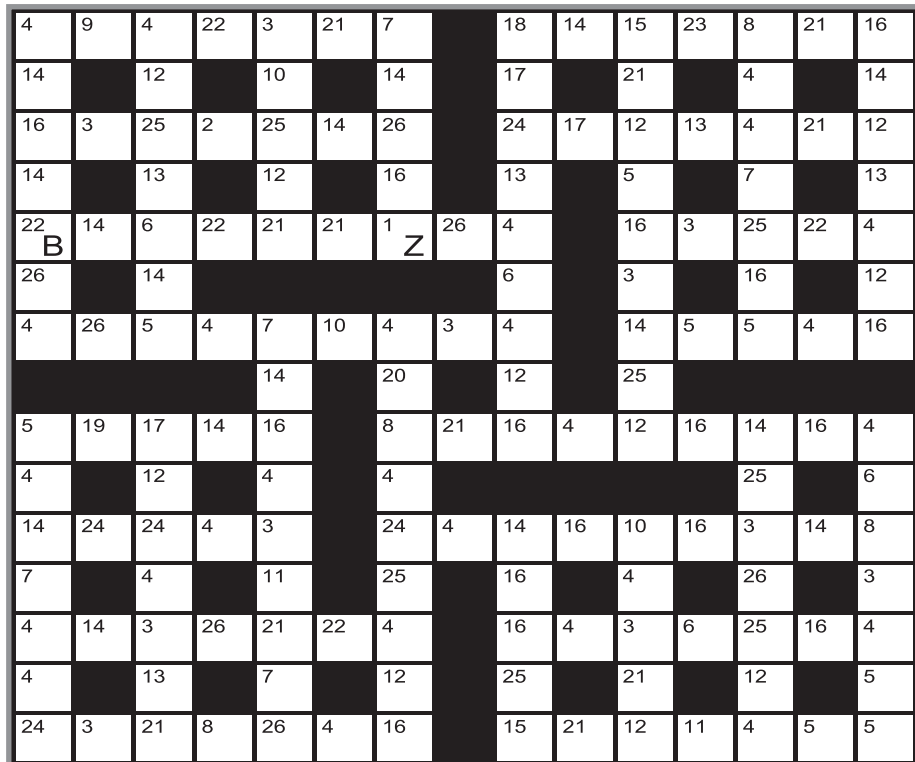
- 1 Fresh bread is cooked (7)
- 2 Doctor has a small aircraft (5)
- 3 Nobleman might feel pier shake (4,4)
- 5 Blades appearing when people have a row (4)
- 6 Presume serum is destroyed (7)
- 7 It's metal crime, reportedly (5)

- 8 Fashionable to be covered in fat? That's hard to see (5)
- 13 Average fashion cost (8)
- 15 Failure to snare legislator (7)
- 17 Small pieces of furniture for farm buildings (7)
- 18 Rubbery stuff of recent times (5)

- 19 They secure money for the government, so we hear (5)
- 21 Stick nothing in boat (5)
- 22 Bermuda dollar contains part of a wall (4)

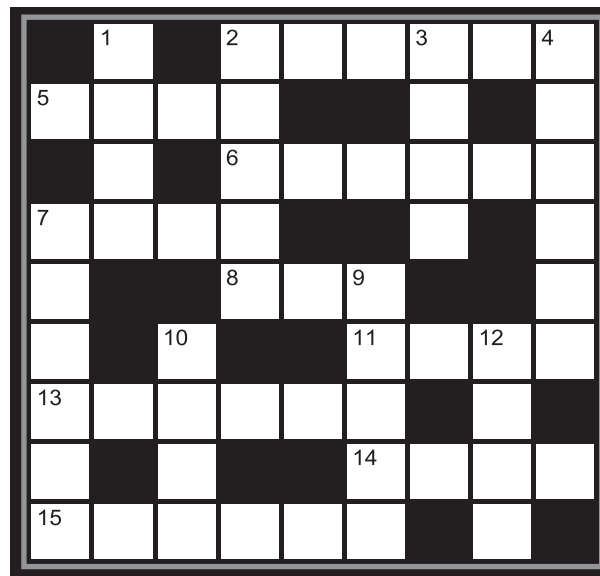
Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 1 represents Z and 22 represents B, so fill in Z every time the figure 1 appears and B every time the figure 22 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the control grid.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION FACING PAGE

Quick



Across

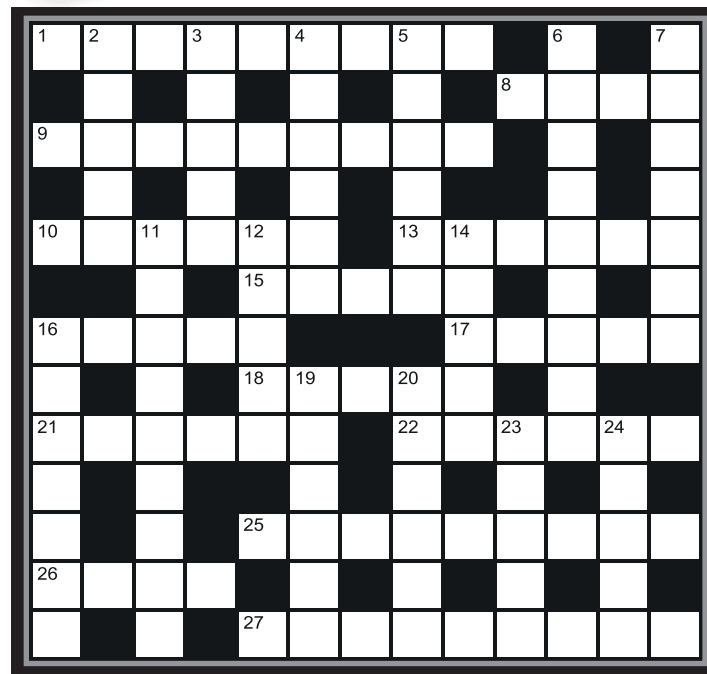
- 2 Annoy continually or chronically (6)
- 5 Second letter of Greek alphabet (4)
- 6 Eyeball membrane (6)
- 7 Weapons (4)
- 8 See 1 Down
- 11 Fewer (4)
- 13 African country (6)
- 14 Dreary (4)
- 15 Long for (6)

Down

- 1/8 Rough, tight embrace (4,3)
- 2 Rough (5)
- 3 Dry (4)
- 4 Plays for time (6)
- 7 Ludicrous (6)
- 9 Open space in a wood (5)
- 10 Go across or through (4)
- 12 Counterfeit or pretence (4)

English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Dump (hovel) (9)
- 8 Hueso (4)
- 9 Courgette (9)
- 10 Botella (6)
- 13 Suitcase (6)
- 15 Seaweed (5)
- 16 To owe (5)
- 17 Peludo (5)
- 18 Guante (5)
- 21 Raffle (draw) (6)

Down

- 2 Used (stamp, syringe) (5)
- 3 Corazón (5)
- 4 Viajar (6)
- 5 Language (6)

Across

- 6 Ama de casa (9)
- 7 Alemania (7)
- 11 Stools (seats) (9)
- 12 Grande (5)
- 14 Cenizas (5)
- 16 Recogedor (7)
- 19 Lotion (6)
- 20 Poison (6)
- 23 Python (5)
- 24 Juez (5)

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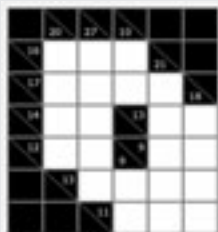
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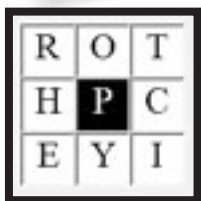
Kakuro

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



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



TARGET:

- Average: 13
- Very good: 27
- Good: 19
- Excellent: 34

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

aged ague drag dreg drug egad frag frug gaud gaur gear gird grad grid guar rage urge argue auger dirge fudge grade grief guard guide raged ridge urged urger argued arguer figure fridge girder grader guider regard figured figurer gaudier guarder argufied **FIREGUARD**

Sudoku

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3X3 box contains the digits 1-9. There's no maths involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

CRYPTIC

Across:

- 1 Lush, 3 May apple, 9 Parsnip, 10 Issue, 11 Taboo, 12 Erodes, 14 Crummy, 16 Starve, 19 Mantra, 21 Altar, 24 Alarm, 25 Sceptre, 26 Pleasure, 27 Reed.

Down:

- 1 Lipstick, 2 Scrub, 4 Apples, 5 Amigo, 6 Pasteur, 7 Eyes, 8 Inform, 13 Befriend, 15 Unaware, 17 Thanet, 18 Hawser, 20 Times, 22 Title, 23 Wasp.

QUICK

Across:

- 1 Pastime, 5 Bling, 8 Pious, 9 Baggage, 10 Recline, 11 Seems, 12 Suffer, 14 Canyon, 18 Stoat, 20 Shatter, 22 Edifice, 23 Agree, 24 Scarf, 25 Satisfy.

Down:

- 1 Papyrus, 2 Stoic, 3 Inspire, 4 Emblem, 5 Bogus, 6 Imagery, 7 Guess, 13 Florida, 15 Adamant, 16 Nursery, 17 Assess, 18 Sheds, 19 Thief, 21 Turns.

ENGLISH-SPANISH

Across:

- 1/4 Rub out, 3 Rabo, 5 Esto, 6 Soft, 8 Risa, 11 Bed, 12 Aula, 15 Once, 16 Leal, 17 Onda, 18 Yes.

Down:

- 1 Roer, 2 Bees, 3 Rosada, 7 Fall, 9 Iron, 10 Abuela, 13 Ugly, 14 Arms, 15 Oro.

CODE BREAKER

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

KAKURO



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4 7 29 **BONUS BALL**
45 54 56 8

IRISH LOTTO
Saturday November 25

4 16 18 **BONUS BALL**
24 32 35 46

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Tuesday November 21

2 10 14 **BONUS BALL**
28 31 5 7

Friday November 24

19 24 28 **BONUS BALL**
30 50 3 10

LA PRIMITIVA
Saturday November 25

21 29 31 **BONUS BALL**
32 34 46 4 38

EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA
Sunday November 26

3 24 39 **BONUS BALL**
50 54 6

YOUR STARS FOR NEXT 7 DAYS

AQUARIUS
(January 21 - February 19)

When you are at home this week I would like you to consider how you view your surroundings. This is a good week to make changes and have discussions about future directions. It is assumed that those close are happy with the status quo, but this may not be the case.

LEO
(July 24 - August 23)

Consider what is the most important thing to you at the moment? Is it wealth or social position? Your work, or how it may be possible to afford that new conservatory are minor considerations compared with your greatest asset which is your health.

PISCES
(February 20 - March 20)

Pat yourself on the back for all of your efforts of recent weeks. Looking back just a few months, would you have thought so much progress could be made? Because of your efforts, home life is enhanced and you are more appreciated. Give yourself a break at the weekend and do something with a loved one that you have not done together for some time.

VIRGO
(August 24 - September 23)

As the saying goes, 'no one ever said it would be easy'. In the past few months you have found this to be true. Hard work is not alien to you, but there is a point where you want to shout 'enough'. It may be that business or home life needs some rearranging, or that someone is moving job and the routine is severely disrupted.

ARIES
(March 21 - April 20)

Rarely has your mind been as sharp as it is at the moment. There have been some awkward and downright bad periods in the recent past, but this week everything falls into place. Why, you wonder, have you worried so much about things which could not be changed?

LIBRA
(September 24 - October 23)

As a home-loving Libran, you are torn between making changes to your surroundings and getting some cash in on the business side. Apparently, it is not possible to do both because energy levels fluctuate.

SCORPIO
(October 24 - November 22)

There is so much in you that is determined and looking forward to a fresh start, but something that you are trying to get rid of, or give up, may be giving you more trouble than anticipated. Some things have to be done alone, or so you think, but others have gone through this before you so they are able to give support.

TAURUS
(April 21 - May 21)

For all of the things that you want to do, there are three others that you wish to do. Maybe they are waiting for their own time to come. During the course of this week you will be thinking of what the future could hold, even though dealing with practical issues.

SAGITTARIUS
(November 23 - December 21)

Is playing the waiting game really to your advantage? Your Sagittarian character naturally leads you to be optimistic, and why not? Even so, it won't hurt to hurry someone along rather than having them go at their own pace. Bear in mind that, in letting someone get away with sloppiness, you are doing them no favours at all.

GEMINI
(May 22 - June 21)

When it isn't possible to change something, often it is just as effective to rearrange it. That is the solution which comes to you this week. Instead of being frustrated at a delay, try changing the conditions or times. This may mean that you save money or delay a payment to your advantage.

CAPRICORN
(December 22 - January 20)

The enthusiasm of your bright Capricorn mind is also capable of making you restless. There are mixed feelings about being at or near home this week, with thoughts of more progress being possible elsewhere.

CANCER
(June 22 - July 23)

When we have long-standing friendships, these are often taken for granted and yet often we could make so much more of them.

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Advertising feature

Nowadays hearing loss sufferers need suffer no more

THE way our ears and our hearing perform is an amazing process.

To put it simply, for our ears to receive sound, the sound travels down our ear canal, through the middle ear and into the cochlea. The cochlea is a portion of the inner ear that looks like a snail shell (cochlea is Greek for snail.) The cochlea is filled with a watery liquid, the perilymph, which moves in response to the vibrations coming from the middle ear which causes the small hair cells inside to move to the different frequencies.

These signals are then sent to the brain, which subsequently decodes the incoming messages and makes sense of them. When we have normal hearing, our brain routinely filters out the background noise and other non-important information to allow us to focus on speech and other important signals.

However, this process can be more problemat-

ic for someone with hearing loss. Due to the damage to the tiny hair cells in the ear, people with hearing loss have a harder time distinguishing speech when they are in a noisy environment and more often, they will also find loud noise uncomfortable.

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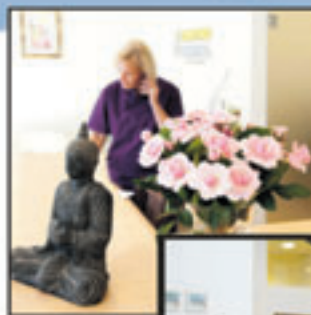
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Beat the bulge

IT takes nine months to put it on and can easily take nine or more to take it off.

But celebrity personal trainer, Lulu Adams, has offered one publication simple tips on how to safely return to your pre-baby weight after giving birth.

The professional, who helped Made in Chelsea star, Binky Felstead, get back into shape after giving birth five months ago, starts by explaining it is important to appreciate your body has been through a lot of change and take workouts slowly.

She goes on to add it takes around eight to 10 weeks for the abdominal



Photo by Lulu Adams/Twitter

them on an in breath. You could also try gentle stomach crunches by lying on your back with bent knees before slowly raising your head to your chest while engaging your core muscles.

Lulu also recommends sticking to low-impact training for six months after giving birth and avoiding weights to prevent healing muscles and organs from being placed under too much pressure as well as upping your water intake to help cells renew.

The trainer suggests further boosting your body's cells with healthy fats, including those found in coconut oil and oily fish, as well as taking a multivitamin to ensure you are getting all the nutrients you need as you heal.

Finally, Lulu tells new mothers to be relaxed about returning to their pre-baby weight and not give themselves a hard time, advising, "just have some faith and be patient!"

BEFORE AND AFTER: Lulu Adams.

“ New mothers should be relaxed about returning to pre-baby weight.

muscles to heal after giving birth, explaining exercise should focus on re-strengthening the core and pelvic floor muscles.

Suggested training includes contracting abdominal and pelvic muscles on an out breath and relaxing



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More than just cold fingers



SPECIALIST: Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.

THIS week, the doctor answers our questions on Raynaud's phenomenon.

What is Raynaud's Phenomenon?

Raynaud's Phenomenon is a condition whereby cold temperatures or strong emotional reactions lead to vascular spasms which block blood flow temporarily. If when you are out in the cold or at emotional times find that your fingers, toes, ears or nose turn white, then blue, then red over a period of a few minutes or up to a few hours, you may have Raynaud's.

When does it happen and what is the cause?

This phenomenon is usually caused by low temperatures and stress.

There are two types: primary Raynaud's, where the cause is unknown and most patients have few symptoms, and secondary Raynaud's, which is associated with autoimmune diseases, artery problems, certain medications, infections and heavy smoking among others.

Can I beat it without having to take drugs?

These steps can help keep Raynaud's under control: keep your body warm, avoid exposure to the cold

in any form, use gloves when outside or touching ice or frozen food, avoid getting cold after active sports, stop smoking as this causes blood vessels to narrow, avoid caffeine and medicines which cause blood vessels to spasm. If these measures are not enough to control the problem, you should see a Specialist in Internal Medicine for evaluation who may prescribe medication if necessary. It is important to treat the cause of the phenomenon.

Who does it usually affect and why? When does it appear?

Primary Raynaud's usually appears in women under the age of 30. Secondary Raynaud's is association with other conditions and generally appears in the over 30s.

Can it cause other health problems?

Primary Raynaud's Phenomenon is usually related to other illnesses and only appears due to cold or stress. Secondary Raynaud's however is associated to other conditions. In any case, patients suffering symptoms of Raynaud's should see a specialist in Internal Medicine for evaluation

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



GET INVOLVED: Find local community groups, or use technology to contact family and friends.

Don't suffer this winter

AFFECTING one in 12 adults, eczema is an uncomfortable - and sometimes painful - skin condition.

Often exacerbated in winter when the air is drier due to heating, the eczema can cause skin to become red, swollen and itchy. The consequences can be lower self-confidence, an inability to wear certain clothes which chafe, and an intolerance to certain skin creams.

So what you can do to avoid or reduce the impact of eczema?

If this is the first time you have suffered from the condition, it may be that you have contact eczema, where your skin is reacting to a particular irritant. This particularly affects the hands if they have been in contact with harsh chemicals and can be treated with prescription or over-the-counter steroid creams to reduce inflammation. A strong non-allergy moisturiser such as E45 will help to restore skin's hydration levels, reducing your symptoms.

If you have been suffering from eczema for some time, however, and find your symptoms flare up time and time again, there are some home remedies to improve the condition.

According to the *Express* newspaper, the most important thing is to take steps to lock moisture into the skin and avoid irritation. This begins with lowering the temperature on your bath or shower. The hotter the water, the more moisture is drawn out of the skin and high temperatures can also cause itching.

Similarly, the newspaper suggests ditching scratchy fabrics for smoother ones, including replacing wool with cotton or cashmere and swapping manmade polyesters for breathable, natural fabrics like linen.

Finally, keep your skin hydrated by moisturising before and after showering and swap harsh shower gels for kinder soap substitutes.

If your symptoms persist, however, or you think your eczema may have become infected, it is always advisable to visit a doctor.

Junk food overload

A DIETICIAN has warned some so-called 'superfoods' - could be as bad for us as junk food.

Australia-based nutritionist, Lyndi Cohen, has told one publication there are several junk foods disguising as healthy options.

Lyndi's first victim are acai salads which are commonly mentioned as a superfood. According to the dietician, "while they do contain good nutrients and have the same amount of antioxidants as an apple, they are simply not worth paying the extra money - just because they are a so-called 'superfood'," adding, "in fact, acai bowls can be incredibly high in both sugar and calories."

Instead she says, "swap the acai berries for one banana and a cup of frozen blueberries and top with a handful of seeds and nuts."

Next on the list are rice cakes. Lyndi explains, "they might be low in calories, but they are not a healthy op-



CALORIFIC: An acai salad.

tion," explaining they, "offer fast-burning carbohydrates without much fibre or nutritional value." Her alternative? Grainy brown bread topped with avocado of cheese.

Finally, prepare to forgo your favourite fruit juice. According to the nutritionist, "while a whole piece of fruit is healthy, fruit juice is really high in sugar without the ben-

efit of fibre to help slow how quickly it's digested." She adds, "it can also take six to seven oranges to squeeze one cup of orange juice, yet you'd never just sit down and eat seven tangerines." Lyndi argues this makes the calorie content high, explaining, "it might be better than a soft drink, but it's not a healthy option." Instead she suggests a vegetable juice or water.

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Total Access offers these services across Alicante Province and is happy to work with individual customers, shops, restaurants, hotels and social clubs.

One of the major advantages to using Total Access is that the company has contacts with all of the major manufacturers of this type of machinery and equipment and is therefore able to introduce clients to new innovations and development made to make life easier for those with mobility problems.

Total Access is open Monday to Friday 9am to 7pm at C / Pau Casals 6, Local 2, 03581 El Albir (Alicante) and can be contacted by calling their Toll Free number 900 525 920 or 622 555 160 and 622 555 168.

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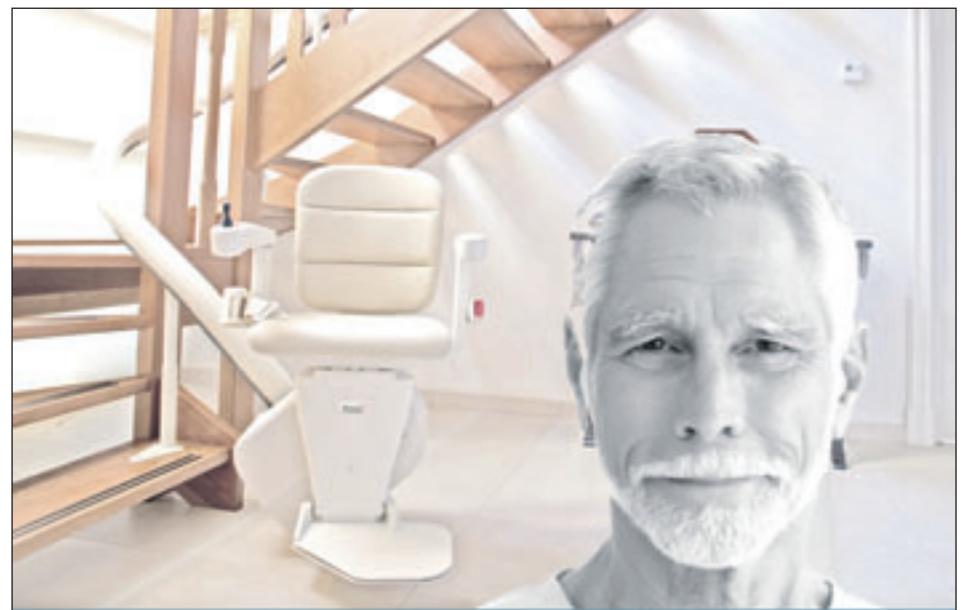
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Viva España was established in 1977 by a Valencian family, along with their two daughters following their return to Spain from South Africa, where they set up the first Viva España in Johannesburg.

This Oliva restaurant is the perfect setting for a romantic meal or a fun outing with friends and family. In creating Viva España the aim was to give customers the best in quality food and entertainment in a relaxed and comfortable environment and they succeeded, so much so that now, some 40 years later, the restaurant is more popular than ever.

Christmas and the New Year promise to be particularly exciting for the restaurant and guests with



Get to know the real Andalucía at Viva España.

some very special offers which will delight customers new and old alike.

Although traditionally a summer event, there will be a special Andalusian Horse Show on Saturday December 23 with a wonderful exhibition of horses in the skilful hand of excellent horse riders.

After the exhibition customers will be served with a typical An-

dalucian dinner and later they can enjoy the famous flamenco floor show.

Christmas offers a superb set meal which includes drinks at just €45 per person or €18 for children with a performance from the Viva España flamenco dance troupe.

New Year's Eve is even more exciting where the restaurant offers a

spectacular evening which includes a range of starters, two further courses followed by dessert and coffee and a selection of drinks. Add to this the Viva España flamenco dance troupe, balloons and grapes at midnight and an open bar for just €90 per person.

All of these great events will be popular and reservations are essen-

tial, so call 962 850 018 or 695 161 207 to arrange everything with Jacqueline.

The restaurant offers a vibrant, modern space serving excellent food at surprisingly reasonable prices.

If you can't make one of the celebration nights, then don't forget there is a Menu del Dia which costs just €9.50 plus IVA on Monday to Friday at lunchtime and every Saturday they have a dinner and dance night with a Spanish band and a three-course menu for just €16.

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Tickets still available

TICKETS are still available to see Brotherhood of Man and Mud II perform in an expected sell-out concert at Benidorm Palace on Sunday December 10.

Brotherhood of Man are a British pop group who achieved success in the 1970s. They won the 1976 Eurovision Song Contest with *Save Your Kisses for Me*.

Altogether, the group have released 16 studio albums, with worldwide sales topping 15 million records.

Mud (now Mud II) are an English glam rock band, formed in February 1966. Their earlier success came in a pop and then glam rock style, while later hits were influenced by 1950's rock and roll.

The band had 14 UK Top 20 hits between 1973 and 1976, with three number ones, including *Lonely This Christmas* which reached Christmas number one in December 1974.

Tickets are priced from €25 and are available via the Benidorm Palace Box Office on 965 851 660.

TORO is a Spanish Denominación de Origen (DO) for wines produced in the Castile and León areas of Zamora province.

The DO takes its name from the town of Toro with wines made locally since 100 BC and where King Alfonso IX in 1300 year later granted lands to religious order with the obligation to plant vines.

Many of the 40 churches that still exist in Toro - which sits above the Río Duero and boasts medieval architecture and the site of Spain's first university - were built through wealth generated by the wine trade.

Producers established underground bodegas to ensure more effective temperature control, as many vineyards sit at 600 - 750 metres above sea level amid sand, clay and calcareous soils that suffer climate changes from winter lows of -11c to

Spanish value

BACCHUS CELLAR

by Lorenzo Barbareschi



TINTO DE TORO: Deeply coloured and full-bodied.

summer highs of 37c.

Due to the protection provided by the sandy soils, Toro vines were not affected by the phylloxera louse at the end of the 19th century, and many vineyards 80 to 100 years old are now the source of grapes for special cuvées.

Tinto de Toro, which is synonymous with Tempranillo, is an early-ripening grape with small berries and thick skin translating into intense, deeply coloured, full-bodied, tannic

and excellently valued wines that pair well with meat dishes.

Most of Toro's best wines are 100 per cent Tinto de Toro, although those with just 75 per cent of the variety and blended with Garnacha, also qualify for DO status.

Tempranillo Colegiata by Bodegas Fariña (100 per cent Tinto de Toro) and Caño Tempranillo-Garnacha (Blend) by Bajoz are among my recommendations.

Happy tasting.

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Photo credit: sarabaras.com

WE DANCE: Sara herself on stage.

Bailamos!

FLAMENCO dancer and choreographer Sara Baras requires little introduction.

Born in Cadiz and taught by mother Concha Bara, Sara has been dancing for more than 30 years and is currently touring Spain directing her company's 14th show 'Sombras.'

Sara Baras' Flamenco Ballet - founded in 1998 - boasts 4,000 performances at some of the best theatres in the world and Sara is fast becoming recognised as an ambassador of Spanish culture.

The company has sold out some of the world's most emblematic stages such as the 104-year-old Theatre des Champs-Elysees in Paris.

Sara herself has danced at the iconic Parisian theatre more than any other artist, performing more than 200 times and wowing audiences totalling more than half a million.

The company has also performed at the Sydney Opera House, the Royal Albert Hall in London, the Buenos Aires Opera House, Tokyo Orb The-

atre and the Great Theatre in Shanghai to name just a few.

Sombras will take to the stage at Valencia's Teatro Olympia next month, with show dates running from Thursday December 14 - Saturday December 23 at 8.30pm each evening.

Tickets are priced from €30 to €54 and are available via the Teatro Olympia Box Office on 963 517 315 or online at <http://www.teatro-olympia.com/compania-sara-baras>.

Let's party!

By Linda Hall

ALTEA'S municipal sports complex hosts a Lan Party over the long Constitution weekend between December 6 and 10.

The 250 people expected to take part will each have a 2GB fibre optic internet connections so that they are assured of an uninterrupted link for the 100 hours that the Lan Party lasts, the organisers explained.

The event revolves round computers and video games and includes workshops, competitions and tournaments to test participants' skills. Official tournaments will be League of

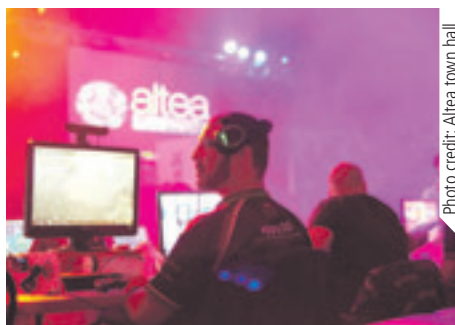


Photo credit: Altea town hall

LAN PARTY: 100 hours' gaming.

Legends, Heartstone, Counter Strike and Clash Royale with €1,500 in prize money that will be shared amongst the winners.

Places are limited and more information is available on www.altealanparty.com.

A reason for saying 'cheese'

A CALLOSA cheese manufacturer received a silver medal at the World Cheese Awards 2017 held recently in London.

This was the second consecutive year that the local cheesemaker took a prize, after receiving a bronze in last year's edition.

This year's prizewinner was a cured goat's cheese with the addition of rosemary, selected from a total of 3,001 cheeses from all over the world judged by a jury of 250 professionals of different nationalities.

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Photo credit: La Nucia town hall

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS: A day to remember them.

Dual-purpose fun morning

By Linda Hall

MORE than 3,000 people attended La Nucia's 10th International Children's Day.

All the 25 activities held in the car park at the Camilo Cano sports ground were free and focused on the three-to-12 age group.

The event was organised by the Social Welfare while 30 volunteers coordinated the activities and workshops.

Each of the 15 workshops was themed on one of the

Rights set out in the UNICEF Convention, so the children could make a

glove puppet at the Right to Protection workshop, for instance, or a bookmark at the Right to Education booth.

As well as the workshops there were bouncy castles, organised games and an obstacle course.

There was also a bar for the adults, run by the Els Grillats fiestas association to raise funds



for the Festes d'Agosto 2018 celebrations.

As well as reminding children of their rights and providing them with a fun morning, the event was also held to encourage all La Nucia residents to integrate and meet socially through their children's activities, the Social Welfare department explained.

Sculptures in a Zen garden

SCULPTOR Teo San Jose is exhibiting his work at the Frax Foundation in Albir.

Originally from Valladolid but now based in Denia, San Jose is a sculptor, art therapist and writer who is best known for monumental works after several years of working in wood and metal.

A member of Britain's Royal Society of Sculptors, San Jose's work was selected for the 2006 Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition and displayed alongside those of the internationally renowned Spanish artist, Antoni Tapies.

The exhibition jury chose San Jose's Fire Bird as one of the summer show's most significant pieces and it was later featured in a BBC documentary.

San Jose's exhibition at the Frax Foundation entitled Esculturas en un jardin zen opens tomorrow, Friday, in the hall and the stairs at the entrance and can be seen until February 7.

Each of the large-size works is accompanied by a poem which San Jose will be reading at tomorrow's inauguration.



Photo credit: Wikimedia

MONUMENTAL WORK: One of Teo San Jose's sculptures.

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Advertising feature

No need to paint with Andura

GIVE your home the ultimate spring clean with Andura Abroad No Need To Paint system.

Every home owner on the Costa Blanca is aware of the continual struggle to upkeep and retain the fresh, clean appearance of the exterior of their Mediterranean home, but with Andura, this spring clean is one that will last for years. Thanks to the Andura Abroad No Need To Paint system, repetitive house painting is a thing of the past, as this specialist exterior wall coating lasts up to 10 times longer than any ordinary paint.

The system has been in place since 1979 and has been on the Costa Blanca in Spain for 25 years, transforming the exterior appearance of thousands of homes.

Andura wall coatings offer numerous benefits over standard exterior paints. The coating is made from a flexible resin allowing it to expand and contract with the building, preventing cracks and blisters. It is 10 times thicker than paint offering an unrivalled coverage and resists strong sunlight and UV rays.

The coating creates an impenetrable barrier which prevents any water getting into the fabric of the building, but also allows internal moisture to escape. It prevents mould and fungus and also acts as an insulator to the building.



Before



After

As well as vastly improving the appearance of your property it also adds value.

The coating comes in a standard range of 12 colours and the professional team will offer the best service possible working on your home until it is completed. The service begins with the walls being cleaned to remove dirt and loose paint and surface imperfections are carefully treated.

Doors and windows are masked up and plants and lawns are fully protected by tarpaulins before the primer and coating is applied.

Andura Abroad No Need To Paint is so confident of the long lasting finish you will obtain, they offer a 15 year guarantee and an insurance backed guarantee is available.

Promotional homes are currently wanted across the Costa Blanca. For nearly 20 years the company has successfully used the open house/open day promotional homes concept to promote the products and services they offer as the home owner enjoys substantial discounts on the normal cost of the Andura coating.

So for more information or to arrange a free

on site survey and assessment, contact the team today.

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Albir offers an Oasis of comfort

ESTABLISHED in 1980, the Albir Oasis Park was one of the original mobile home parks on the Costa Blanca.

Run by Shaun and Chris Wilson it is set in a peaceful, residential, suburb in Albir, is close to all amenities and only a short drive to Benidorm.

Albir Oasis is one of the very few mobile home parks where owners can stay 12 months of the year and although there are many residents that use the park as their own home away from home, many stay the whole year round.

There is a shop offering a range of British staples and the popular Pineapple bar which serves food and runs quizzes and karaoke with delicious fish and chips on Fridays.

The park has a well-appointed sun terrace where you can relax and enjoy a drink if the weather is clement as well as a good sized swimming pool and a gymnasium together with a bubbling Jacuzzi and Sauna.

As well as the traditional mobile



Oasis Parks.

home business, Oasis has unveiled a new concept to owning your own holiday home in Spain. Home Share is a system where you can purchase a selected three month period which will be yours for the next 10 years.

The year is divided January - March, April - June, July - September, October - December. The choice of homes ranges from one to two bedrooms and all the mobile homes are fitted out to a high stan-



Single chalet.

and children are generally only present when they visit a relative there. The whole site is fenced in and there is a security barrier to stop unwanted

visitors.

So if you ever dreamed of owning your own Oasis in Spain then contact Shaun or Chris at Oasis Parks Albir and make your dreams a reality.

With just 67 sites this is a discreet and exclusive park ideal for those expatriates who want to enjoy all of the benefits of Spanish life.

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The Oasis Parks at Albir aims to offer a feeling of tranquillity in a busy world so has a no pets policy

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Home improvement

Expatriate property sales up by nearly 15 per cent



BEACH LIVING: La Manga is a popular seaside resort in Murcia.

BRITISH homebuyers continue to flock to Spain.

It comes after a report revealed that property sales to foreigners in Spain have increased by 13.4 per cent from last year.

For the first time in history, the number of purchases by expatriates exceeded 50,000 between January and June of this year, according to the General Council of Notaries.

More than 46 per cent of the foreign transactions were carried out by non-residents, an in-

crease of 5 per cent from last year, while the rest was made up from those already living in the country. This figure was the highest it's been since 2011.

The highest amount of sales occurred along the Mediterranean coastline, with the Canary Islands taking the top spot with around 42 per cent of the purchases, the Balearic Islands were next with nearly 38 per cent, followed by the provinces of Valencia (35.5 per cent), Murcia (26.9 per cent) and Andalusia (19, 4 per cent).

While the biggest increase in sales amongst the hotspots was in Valencia Province (12 per cent up from last year), the highest increase nationwide was actually in the lesser-explored La Rioja region, which saw a whopping increase of 74 per cent in property sales to foreigners this year.

The buyers with the biggest share of the market was once again revealed to be the British, making up nearly 14 per cent of the total purchases, closely followed by the French (8.8 per

cent), Germans (8.2 per cent), Italians (7.7 per cent), Romanians (6.9 per cent) and Belgians (6.2 per cent).

The average amount spent per square metre by foreign buyers turned out to be €1,667 per square metre, another increase of 2.9 per cent from last year's figure.

The amount was even higher when only the purchases by non-residents were taken into account, as they spent an average of €1,941 per square metre.

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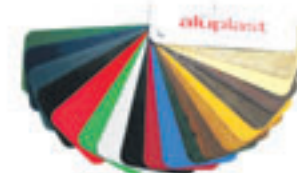
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Peculiar properties

Here are Spain's craziest houses

Spain has some of the most eccentric architecture in the world.

From Barcelona's La Sagrada Familia to Frank Gehry's Hotel Marques de Riscal in Elciego, Basque Country, Spain has proven it possesses some of Europe's wackiest buildings. And when it comes to houses, there is certainly no difference. Here are four of the most unique.

1. Sunflower house, Girona

THIS house stands out for its unusual shape and architecture, as well as the stunning cliff top location.

The cubic boxes that make up the shape of the house were reportedly done so as to help catch as much sunlight as possible, with each cube having one glass side highlighted in black frames to help attract the sunlight.

There are stunning views from all of the three top-floor bedrooms, where you can see the Cab de Creus National Park and across the Mediterranean Sea.

Downstairs, the house has a kitchen, dining space and an open plan living room, all defined by their individual cubes.



BUILDING BLOCKS: Girona's Sunflower house is made up of a number of cubes.



The Gaudiesque house in Granada was influenced by dragons and has tiles that look like scales.

2. Gaudiesque house, Granada

Located in Salobrena in the south of Spain, from the side, this house can barely be seen as it blends naturally into the surroundings.

The property produces fantastic views of the Alboran Sea and has large glass windows, an outdoor pool and a dragon-inspired roof.

Inside the home, the two-storey building has enough room to host up to 70 people, which makes it perfect for entertaining guests.

3. Crossed house, Murcia

The crossed house gets its name because the two floors are pivoted 35 degrees from each other, meaning the upper floor is reportedly 10 metres out from the lower floor.

The ground floor has a living space, garden and pool, while the first floor has a large bedroom block.



CRISS CROSS: The top level of Murcia's crossed house is reportedly 10 metres out from the ground level.

4. House on the Cliff, Alicante

Created by Fran Silvestre Arquitectos, this house has an amazing 18-metre long balcony overlooking the Balearic Sea.

The house was reportedly built with the idea of containing the property on just one level, despite the steepness of the plot.

The living rooms and bedroom are in the only interior level of the house in the upper storey and have incredible, panoramic views, while the pool is outside on the lower level.



CLIFF EDGE: With an 18-metre long balcony, the House on the Cliff in Alicante has stunning views.



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Three Brexit questions to ask before buying Spanish property in 2018

We're fast approaching the New Year – a time when many people reassess their dreams and vow to make them a reality. But if you're determined to realise your ambition of buying a home in Spain in 2018, you won't be able to avoid thinking about Brexit, and how it could affect your purchase. Here's a look at some key moments in the tentative Brexit timetable, and how they might affect your Spanish property purchase in the year ahead.

Who will lead the UK to Brexit?

Theresa May's turn as Prime Minister has been beset by complications at every turn. She called a snap election to capitalise on the Conservative Party's poll lead over Labour, only to see her advantage collapse and be left relying on the DUP for a parliamentary majority.

Labour describe themselves as the 'government in waiting' and EU officials are allegedly preparing for negotiations with a UK Prime Minister who is not Theresa May. Everyone else seems prepared for an election; can Theresa May last an entire year without calling one?

Will there be trade tribulations?

Once trade talks actually begin and we start being subjected to rumours regarding the type of deal we will end up with, the pound will become even more volatile.

From a market perspective, the best type of Brexit is a 'soft Brexit', where the UK retains access to the EU single market and customs union, which would allow tariff free trade to continue uninterrupted.

Markets will therefore judge the evolving deal in terms of how far away it is from the best case scenario; signs that the UK is drifting towards a polar opposite 'hard Brexit' could have a profoundly negative impact upon the pound, making your Spanish property purchase a lot more expensive.

Can negotiations really wrap up in October?

Chief EU negotiator Michel Barnier said that he wanted talks finished within 18 months of the triggering of Article 50, which would mean October 2018 if things run to plan.

This deadline is already in question, considering the UK and EU spent several months making no progress on the issue of the divorce bill.

However, things could still be rescued and the deal sent to national parliaments to ratify.

Even though many complications would lie ahead, it would be a positive sign if talks were indeed finalised on schedule, and the pound would be expected to gain in response, allowing you to get more euros than you do currently when you transfer sterling to the Eurozone.

Predicting GBP/EUR movement in 2018

Unfortunately, as uncertainty regarding the future is the very thing the pound is reacting negatively to, it's impossible to say what the overall outlook for GBP/EUR and EUR/GBP is for 2018.

Regardless of what happens, it's worth bearing in mind that the currency markets are driven by the whims of large-scale investors, such as pension funds and asset managers. They're looking for good returns, so anything that threatens the UK economy will negatively affect their appetite for the pound, weakening Sterling.

Therefore, if the development seems to be moving the UK towards a soft Brexit or some kind of free trade deal, the pound is likely to strengthen, while anything that moves towards the implementation of tariffs or quotas will undermine Sterling, raising the costs of Spanish property from the point of view of UK buyers.

Let's talk currency.

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Roses

A challenge for the Mediterranean gardener

GRAEME TYRRELL

ROSES are one of the most favourite flowers for their wonderful form and beautiful scent.

To grow a rose plant in the Mediterranean is a challenge though as they prefer cooler summers and winters to be at their best. There are ways to improve the ability to grow them.

The most important difference in the Mediterranean climate is to provide summer shade for roses for at least half of the day, preferably shaded from the afternoon sun.

The normal requirements for growing roses applies in terms of providing a rich soil with soil amendments of compost, manures

and other fertilisers suited to alkaline soil. Alkaline soil is predominant in the Mediterranean regions.

Roses prefer neutral to acid soil but will tolerate a degree of alkalinity.

Applying mulch around the rose plants will also help to keep their root zone cooler in summer, so a thick layer is recommended to provide the most insulation. Organic mulches are the best for roses as they allow greater aeration for the soil to breathe.

If you apply the organic mulch after the start of the hot weather it should last through summer and even if it breaks down by winter it does not need renewing until the next spring. Allowing the mulch to thin out over winter permits the colder weather to affect the rose

plants to become dormant and rest before the spring awakening.

Planting roses adjacent to buildings can keep the rose plants too warm in winter so they are better planted in rose beds in zones more exposed to the winter cold but protected from strong winds.

Roses have the advantage in the Mediterranean of having a spring flush of flowers and a second flush in autumn. They often reduce their flowering over summer due to the heat and may have some flowers over winter, although it can make the plants stronger to remove the winter buds, it is also wonderful to be able to get roses at that time.

Pruning is best done at the start of spring to create a good framework for the coming flower season and another pruning at the end of



Photo Credit: Tracie Hall Flickr

A FAVOURITE: The beauty that is a rose.

summer to reduce height and remove crossing branches, but leaving many of the new shoots that have grown over summer to support the autumn flower display which can often be their best display if treated in this way.

Spring and summer removal of rose hips is also a good idea to make the plants stronger and more attractive.

Aphids can be a problem in late spring but a 50/50 mix of pharmacy type alcohol and water sprayed

on them can clean them up easily and it is safer than many chemical products. Caterpillars usually attack at the end of summer.

They can be sprayed off with water from a hose. I leave a lot of them though so that the air is full of butterflies in autumn at the cost of perforated rose leaves for a month. The rose plants always recover quickly and they seem to flower better or at least the flowers stand out better for their perfect form and beauty.



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FRUIT SALAD: Many trees can be grafted.

A feast of fruit salad

WHILE some of us may be lucky enough to have a garden, many of us simply have a patio or balcony.

And although this may seem to offer fewer options for planting out, there are many things you can do to make the most of a small outdoor space.

“Several stone fruits, including plums, apricots, peaches and nectarines can all be grown on the same tree.

If you are a grow-your-own fan, don't be put off, you can still grow several fruits and vegetables by maximising the space you do have. One of



PLACE CUTTINGS: Into the root.

the most efficient ways to grow several plants in one go is by grafting one to another.

An example of this is so-called 'fruit salad' trees which can combine up to six fruits on one plant. Stone fruits including plums, apricots, peaches and nectarines can all be grown on the same tree, while citrus fruits like lemons, limes, oranges and grapefruits

can also share a plant.

While fruit salad trees can be bought in garden centres and online, you can create your own and enjoy all the benefits of a country house garden on your balcony!

Start by buying or using an existing root of a fruit tree measuring around one inch thick. Then take up to five cuttings of plants from the same family - like stone fruits, citruses or apples - which each measure around 1/4 inch thick and four inches long.

Make a two-inch-deep cut into your root and use a knife to make a spear-shaped end to your cuttings. Place the cuttings into the root and cover the plant to keep it secure and keep water out.

And prepare to enjoy the fruits of your labour.

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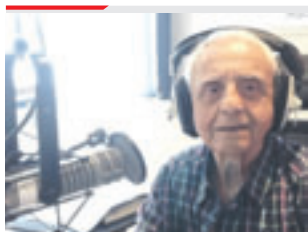
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Q. My dogs like to eat grass and mushrooms. Is this a problem?

A. There is no definitive answer as to why dogs and cats eat grass. Three veterinarians will most likely give three answers. Theories range from their stomach is upset to the need for vegetation in their diets.

The fact is grass has no nutritional value for pets. The most plausible



ROUGHAGE: A dog eats grass.

explanation is that it is a habit dating back to their ancestors where a certain amount of roughage was required for normal bowel activity.

Present-day dog and cat foods contain varying amounts of fibre

making grass eating unnecessary. It is most likely an instinct that has just not faded away with time.

It is true that too much grass can be irritating to the stomach lining, which can cause vomiting. Although some

dogs enjoy eating grass, it is best to discourage them from grazing like cows.

Some mushrooms can indeed be very toxic to pets. Most cause gastric irritation resulting in vomiting

and diarrhoea. Others can cause damage to the heart, liver and kidneys. In some cases, seizures and death can occur. The best advice is to identify the species of mushrooms in your garden. If they are safe for human consumption, they will not be harmful to your pet.

Remove all poisonous and unidentifiable mushrooms from your pets' environment. Cats are finicky and less likely to ingest mushrooms.

The potential for ingesting such toxic agents is another reason to keep your dog from roaming freely.

Owners should constantly inspect their pets' outdoor environment for potential toxins.

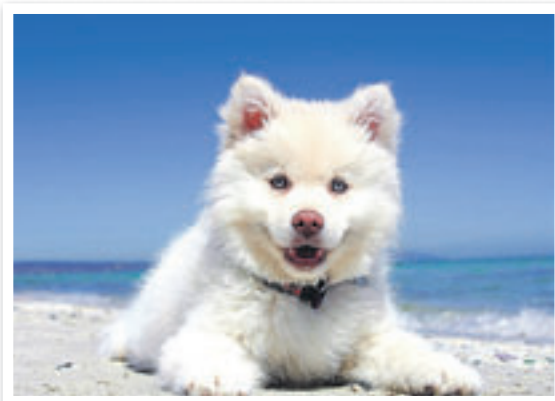
These include garbage, dead animals, dangerous mushrooms and toxic plants. Remember pets, especially dogs, are non-discriminating when it comes to potential food. Items such as rotting garbage and dead birds may appear disgusting to us, but they can be filet mignon to some pets.

Sharing is caring!

Planning to go away this springtime ...?

AS Christmas approaches many of us try to get ahead of the game to book our flights and hotels early with good prices for a spring break. If you're planning a holiday you may also be wondering what to do with your dog, cat or other animals. There are many options today, but keeping them at home in their own environment with minimal disruption to routines, can often be the best option.

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house-sitting network, www.HouseSitMatch.com, take a look online. It is easy to join and we can help you get started. Check out our Trustpilot reference online to

see what our verified customers say about us too. So if you have holiday plans firming up, best to pin down your house-sitter now. Get ahead and start early.

Do you need a house or pet-sitter? Get in touch. House-sitting can be a win-win for both parties, free house and pet-sitting and the experienced and checked sitters get free accommodation! Register as either house-sitter or homeowner now with a 20 per cent off introductory offer using coupon code PERFECT20. To find a house or pet-sitter go to www.HousesitMatch.com or call Lamia on 00 44 (0) 777 214 2742.

Leaders of the pack

NEW research has suggested that those who own dogs are less at risk from developing serious illnesses than those who don't.

Scientists studying heart disease came to the conclusion after examining data from more than 3.4 million Swedish nationals between the aged of 40 and 80.

As registering a dog and going to the hospital both require Swedes to present their national identification number, scientists were able to analyse the records of people over a 12-year period to see if there was any correlation between the two factors.

They discovered those who had registered a dog in the system were less likely to be treated for heart disease in the long run if they had not shown any previous symptoms of the illness.

Although the research did not draw any conclusions why this was the case, scientists suggested that it might have something to do with the fact that having a dog gives

people more motivation to do exercise.

They also encourage people to be more social and are known to improve happiness levels, all of which has a positive impact on physical and

health.

It has also been suggested that being in constant exposure to dog's germs could help to boost the immune system which helps to keep serious illnesses at bay.

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Volvo strikes taxi deal

By Matthew Elliott

VOLVO is set to supply Uber with 24,000 cars which the American tech-taxi company will convert into driverless cars.

Uber has transformed the transport market in recent years by supplanting the traditional taxi industry in almost every country it operates in. Users order taxis and pre-pay using an application on their smart phones.

The company is also at the forefront of driving technology. Instead of hiring drivers, who have frequently been accused of sexually assaulting female passengers, it wants a legion of autonomous cars to serve as taxis.

Swedish carmaker Volvo has stepped in, signing a deal to provide Uber with 24,000 cars between 2019 and 2021. Each car will be compatible with Uber's pioneering driverless technology.

Uber chief, Travis Kalanick, said: "Over one million people die in car accidents every year.

These are tragedies that self-driving technology can help solve, but we can't do this alone. That's why our partnership with a great manufacturer like Volvo is so important."

Volvo CEO Hakan Samuelson said the firm has ambitions to be the major worldwide supplier of vehicles for the emerging driverless taxi industry. If the Uber deal goes ahead it will be the biggest for Volvo since it was taken over by Chinese giant Geely in 2010.

Although Uber will be responsible for the autonomous component of the cars, Volvo has its own designs on the intelligent car market.

It is currently trialling its driverless XC90 in the United States and has four other models Volvo engineers are working on making it 100 per cent autonomous.



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ROAD TEST by Nick Fletcher

Volvo V90 D5

VOLVO has long been noted for capacious estate models and its latest V90 upholds this tradition, with practicality complementing executive luxury and sporty performance.

The company has also been a pioneer of new technology, and even on entry level versions, from €40,530 (£35,865), you get large touch-screen, sat-nav, connectivity, voice control, adaptive cruise control, LED headlights, and safety kit which includes pedestrian, cyclist and large animal detection, auto emergency braking, and Pilot Assist, a semi-autonomous system to aid steering, acceleration and braking, plus 17-inch alloys and leather-faced upholstery.

My test model was V90 D5 PowerPulse AWD Inscription, a top-spec version laden with many extra features including a premium sound system, 360-degree surround-view parking camera, head-up wind-screen display,



sunroof and much more, taking the price to €64,338 (£56,935).

The car featured Volvo's smooth and quiet 2.0 litre 235 hp diesel engine mated to an eight-speed auto gearbox, with all-wheel-drive. This is a beautiful combination of refinement, performance and economy - so good I felt I could drive right across Europe and still be relaxed at the end of the journey.

The 0-100 kph time of 6.9 seconds underlines its sporty credentials and top speed is 233 kph (145 mph). The fuel figure is very respectable at 20.3 kpl (57.6 mpg).

The V90 has elegant classy styling which turns heads, and the cabin also impresses with its use of top-quality materials, thoughtful layout and comfortable seating. I did find the touch-screen menu hard to fathom though admittedly, I was trying it without first reading the 22-page instruction book!

There is good space for occupants front and rear and the boot space with rear seats in use - while not the largest in the class - is still a substantial 723 litres. The rear seats drop flat to boost capacity to 1,526 litres and the tailgate is powered.

On the road, the relative quiet of the car, its seamless auto gearshifts, responsive acceleration and reassuringly composed handling get top marks. Overall, I rate this Volvo estate as arguably best in class.

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

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Three Lions set to roar in 2018 World Cup

Harry's top quality - we're fortunate to have him - Southgate

THE 2018 World Cup Group draw is set to take place in the Kremlin Palace, Moscow, Russia, with England's Three Lions set to roar.

The 32 teams playing at 12 venues in 11 different cities that go head-to-head during June 14-July 15, 2018, will be split into four pots, based on their current FIFA world rankings. Pot 1 contains Russia and the highest-ranked seven teams.

The December 1 draw will divide the 32 teams into eight groups of four, from A to H. Each group will play three matches, before the top two countries advance to the second round. Russia are in Group A as host nation.

England meet Italy and Holland in friendlies in March, prior to manager Gareth Southgate naming his final 23-man squad: "The team are getting clearer messages in how we want to play," said Southgate.

"Playing for England is different from that at club level and one of the key things we have to continue to work at," said Southgate.

There will be players 'missing out' in the England 23, with Daniel Sturridge, dropped in the friendly internationals against Germany and Brazil, desperate to return to the fold.

Liverpool outcast Sturridge, 28, in the cold at Anfield under manager Jurgen Klopp, is among a plethora of players that could miss the cut.

Ashley Young, Adam Lallana, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, Fraser Forster, Chris Smalling, Danny Wellbeck, Jermaine Defoe and Theo Walcott await their fates.

Sturridge could miss out, with Liverpool teammate Dominic Solanke, 20, getting the nod after his surprise call up to the England squad.

"We assess who can take us forward - that's the challenge for



UK SPORTSCENE

with Andrew Atkinson



Photo by England/Twitter

HARRY KANE: Top quality - fortunate to have him - Southgate.

all the players - you have to be playing well enough to get into the squad," said Southgate.

Klopp, ahead of Liverpool's

Premier League game at Brighton on Saturday, said: "Solanke will be a future player for England, 100 per cent.

"Apart from his football skills, his character is absolutely outstanding. He is completely calm and doing so well, but doesn't feel like 'roll out the red carpet'; he is a smart lad."

Chelsea duo Ruben Loftus-Cheek, 21, and Tammy Abraham, 20, on loan at Crystal Palace and Swansea, respectively, are among new blood, alongside Solanke, brought in by Southgate.

"Ruben and Tammy are two really good young players - the future for Chelsea," said Blues boss Antonio Conte, ahead of the Blues fixture against Newcastle on Saturday.

Two players who have surely got their England passports stamped for Russia are Phil Jones and Harry Kane: "Phil Jones has got the pace and the reading of the game at a relatively young age.

"He competes well and it's clear what he brings to the team.

Harry's finishing is top quality, as good as anyone, we're fortunate to have him," said Southgate.

Manchester United travel to Arsenal on Saturday and Red's boss Jose Mourinho said of defender Jones, 26: "Phil Jones is still young, still learning."

The 2018 World Cup Final Draw: Pot 1: Russia, Germany, Brazil, Portugal, Argentina, Belgium, Poland, France.

Pot 2: Spain, Peru, Switzerland, England, Colombia, Mexico, Uruguay, Croatia.

Pot 3: Denmark, Iceland, Costa Rica, Sweden, Tunisia, Egypt, Senegal, Iran.

Pot 4: Serbia, Nigeria, Australia, Japan, Morocco, Panama, Korea Republic, Saudi Arabia.

Group Stages: June 14-June 28; Round of 16: June 30-July 3; Quarter Finals: July 6-July 7; Semi Finals: July 10-July 11; Third place play-off: July 14. Final: July 15.

JULEN LOPETEGUI'S shoulders carry the hopes of Spain's 2018 World Cup glory in Russia - after qualifying undefeated to top Group G - in a bid to repeat Spain's success in 2010.

"Whoever wants to do something special at the World Cup, besides having great players, they will need a great team," said Lopetegui.

Spain, who beat the Netherlands 1-0 at Soccer City, Johannesburg, South Africa after an extra-time goal by Andrés Iniesta, giving Spain its first World Cup title in 2010, have a great team.

Spain qualified for the 2018 World Cup, winning nine and drawing one of their 10 group games, scoring 36 goals, conceding a paltry three.

That underlines David de Gea will be the No. 1 goalkeeper pencilled in by Lopetegui, knowing their chances of glory are in safe hands.

Spain are in Pot 2 at The Kremlin in Moscow on Friday December 1, along with Peru, Switzerland, England, Colombia, Mexico, Uruguay and Croatia, for the draw on the road to the final on July 14 at the Luzhniki Stadium, Moscow.

Spain have a plethora of talent, including Carvajal, Pique, Ramos, Alba, Azpilicueta, Nacho, Alonso, Alba, Busquets, Iniesta, Silva, Isco, Koke, Alcantara, Niguez, Pedro, Deulofeu, Asensio, Morata and Alcaer.

Will Juan Mata, Cesc Fabregas, Diego Costa, Iago Aspas, Nolito and David Villa get the nod in Lopetegui's 23-man squad?: "There are many that will be in Russia," said Lopetegui.

"But I have not got the clear 23 players that will go to the World Cup. There are some that

SPORTSCENE SPAIN

with Andrew Atkinson



Photo by England/Twitter

MORENO: World Cup dream.

Baby talk from Moreno as he dreams of Spain World Cup glory

are certain and others that have an excellent opportunity," said Lopetegui.

Spain have a strike force to be reckoned with and Lopetegui said of striker Alvaro Morata,

who joined Chelsea from Real Madrid in the summer: "Morata is a very good No. 9 and we are very happy with him."

Costa, Celta Vigo's Iago Aspas, Valencia's

Rodrigo and Athletic Bilbao's Aritz Aduriz are all vying for striker roles in Russia, and Lopetegui said: "Rodrigo is very good - so is Aspas - Diego Costa too.

"We will decide who our No. 9 player will be for our first game. It may be that we will not play with the same No. 9 for our second game. We shall see. They all have possibilities to be the starting No. 9 for Spain."

Atletico Madrid's Costa cannot play until January 2018, having last played for Spain in June, having missed the final four qualifying games, after a dispute with his former club Chelsea.

Liverpool left-back Alberto Moreno, 25, returned to the Spain squad for the friendlies against Costa Rica in Malaga and against Russia after a three-year absence.

"Alberto, a left-back that suits us, is someone that is eager to go forward, and is also very fast at correcting his position," said Lopetegui.

Former Sevilla star Moreno and his wife Lilia, who became proud parents following the arrival of Alberto Junior two weeks ago, said: "Last season was bad for me. I didn't play.

"I am playing all the games now, and at a good level. I am here now, and with the World Cup so close why not dream?"

Defending champions Germany, bidding to become the first country to win back-to-back World Cups since Brazil in 1958 and 1962, are the 5-1 favourites; France 11-2; 6-1 Brazil; 7-1 Spain; 8-1 Argentina; 14-1; Belgium; 20-1 England; Portugal 24-1; Russia 40-1; Mexico 80-1.



Photo credit: You Tube

REALISTIC: Wayne Bennett.

England to take on Australia Rugby League

ENGLAND coach Wayne Bennett believes his side's huge task in defeating Australia in the Rugby League World Cup final is unlikely: We probably won't win.

"We'll be there, we'll still go to the game, but we probably won't win," said Australian Bennett, 67, a World Cup winner with New Zealand in 2008, when assistant coach.

England, who defeated Tonga in the semi-final, play in their first World Cup final since

1995, against holders Australia, 1-9 odds-on favourites, in Brisbane on Saturday.

Australia, unbeaten under coach Mal Meninga, are on a path to win a fourth World Cup crown in five attempts. Underdogs England's odds are 6-1. Will defeat see Bennett retire?: "Retiring isn't in my head.

"The England job challenges me - there's a lot of talent in this team - the type I want to work with," said Bennett.

Javea Green Bowls Club Winter League go from strength to strength

JAVEA GREEN'S Winter League team continued their winning streak when they welcomed The Emerald Isle Bowls Club on Wednesday.

Anticipation for a good result was high and from the onset Javea stamped their mark on the game. Ahead from the onset on all five rinks they finished with a shot difference of plus 53 and the all important 12-0 scoreline.

Javea's Berleen team were also victorious. Emerald Isle's Captain was kind enough to say that Javea are the team to beat this year.

This puts Javea in the enviable top of the league spot, eight points clear of their nearest rivals. If Javea dominated on the green then Emerald Isle certainly made their mark during the post match lunch with impromptu singing and joke telling.

Javea's Winter League Captain Clive English commented: "This is what the winter league is all about, meeting up with old

friends, making new ones and playing good competitive bowls in a great sporting spirit before sharing an enjoyable lunch."



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MALAGA, Real Madrid and Barcelona were all in Copa Del Rey action earlier this week. La Liga clubs dominate the final 16, which may provide more drama than the league, where Barca remain comfortably top.

TO READ MORE

www.euroweeklynews.com

Costa Blanca's best guide to local sport

Pego Golf Society report

THIRTY-EIGHT members and one guest, Andrew Brown, played a medal match for the Copa De Escocia. The weather was very changeable but all managed to get through without getting too wet, too cold or too hot.

The scores were interesting as a few new faces in the Winners' Enclosure supplanted the usual suspects.

The winner of this prestigious trophy was Paul Trigwell coming in with a net score of 71 playing off 21.2, followed by Bob Jenkins with



WINNERS: Paul Trigwell, centre, holds his trophy aloft.

72 playing off 17.2. The following four players all had net scores of 75, third Barry Carter playing off 19, fourth Ian Robertson playing off 13.5, fifth Michael Connolly playing off 17 and sixth John Guest playing off 11.4.

The lowest gross score of the day was from Shaun O'Gorman with 84, a great

score.

Nearest the pins were Malcolm Wise, second shot on hole five and Angus Muir on hole 16. There were three twos today, from Peter Cornes, Roger Miller and Ian Robertson.

There were 109 ball in the water today, with a correct guess by our guest An-

drew Brown.

Next week the society is playing a singles Stableford competition, any guests wishing to play contact *pegohandicapsec@gmail.com*.

The competition will be followed by our AGM and the club would like as many members as possible to attend.

Global Sport: Cricket: Ashes

ENGLAND and Australia go head-to-head in the opening day of The Ashes 2nd Test at the Adelaide Oval on Saturday December 2 after the First Test in Brisbane.

Vice-captain Jimmy Anderson has laughed off speculation it will be his last Test Series after Aussie off-spinner Nathan Lyon talk about ending England players' careers.

"The stuff he's been coming out with has been tickling us - we've been laughing about it in the dressing room - it's good for team spirit," said Anderson.

Swing bowler Anderson, 35, played in the 2010-11 series in Australia, that England won; and the

2013-14 Ashes series humiliating 5-0 whitewash.

"I am not thinking if we don't win I am 'done.' My body feels fine. It's just a case of looking after myself. If I can keep fit, keep my speeds up," said Lancashire star Anderson.

Anderson, who broke onto the international scene in the 2002-03 season, says he could be in the 2021-22 Ashes series in Australia.

"There's no reason why not. There's no reason why I can't extend my career - I wouldn't rule it out," said England's most successful test bowler Anderson.

The Ashes 2nd Test is during December 2-6 at the Adelaide Oval.

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