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ISSUE No. 1693 | 14 - 20 December 2017

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## Seed bombs rain down

**MALAGA** Provincial Council is hoping that a novel technique will help reforest Axarquía.

It comes as a Guardia Civil helicopter was used to shower the Competa countryside with 'seed bombs' containing more than half a million seeds of 30 plant species. The mostly inaccessible target area - which includes the Perez gorge - was razed by a wildfire in 2014, and it is hoped that around 80 per cent of the seeds will germinate.

The method, developed in Japan, involves impregnating clay discs with the seeds before they are dropped.

## Beach bummer

**NERJA** is to become the third Axarquía town to ban beachgoers from reserving spots on its sandy strips.

Set to be passed shortly, the new law will see spot fines of €30 issued to those who leave towels, parasols, or chairs on the beach, often hours before they intend to use them. Such items will be seized and not returned to their owners until the penalty is paid.

The new rule is included on a list of 35 law changes planned for the town's beaches next year.

## Final call for thieves

**TWO** men have been held in connection with a spate of holidaymaker thefts at Malaga Airport.

The arrests come after police received a number of reports from disgruntled tourists who were robbed after landing or while waiting to check in. A brief probe revealed the culprits to be a 58-year-old from the Czech Republic and a 39-year-old from Kosovo.



Photo by Mario Ortiz Nuevo/Facebook

**THREATENED:** The dune in El Morche is reportedly in danger of disappearing and (inset) Rafael Yus.

# Heads in the sand

By Kat Ashton

A Spanish environmental group has raised the alarm about a sand dune in El Morche that is under threat of disappearing for good.

Rafael Yus, from the organisation Ecologists in Action, has reported that a dune in the La Carraca neighbourhood is in serious danger of being destroyed if plans to develop the seafront path go ahead.

Housing development along the Torrox coastline has diminished most of the region's dunes, with the one in La Carraca - which

stretches on for 500 metres - reportedly the last natural dune still intact in Axarquía Province.

Yus expressed specific concern about heavy machinery, which is used to remove the reeds, causing shifts in the earth.

"Reeds may be an invasive plant species but they help to prevent the dunes from retreating inland," she said.

She also revealed that the reeds form "a habitat for local bird species and are vital for maintaining the dune's height."

Malaga regional authori-

ties had announced their plans to invest €1 million in developing the seafront path in Torrox, which will be lengthened by 900 metres to connect the El Morche walkway with the main one in the town. A 30-metre footbridge will also be built over the Gui River.

The authorities confirmed that measures would be taken to protect the dune during the development, including using eco-friendly materials to build that section of the path and protecting the area from pedestrians with a roped fence.

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**NEWS EXTRA****Coke ring  
takedown**

POLICE have smashed a criminal ring using a new route to smuggle cocaine from Brazil to Spain via Morocco. Officers arrested four people in Malaga and seized 11 kilos of the drug.

**Taxi needed**

**VELEZ-MALAGA does not have the number of accessible taxis required by law, it has been revealed. Currently passengers with mobility issues are forced to wait if the town's two adapted vehicles are already in use.**

**All grounded**

*BAD weather forced six flights in and out of Malaga Airport to be cancelled. Three were due to leave for Amsterdam and London and to arrive from Frankfurt and Santiago de Compostela.*

**Feliz navidad!**  
Spanish royals spread festive cheer

By Kat Ashton

KING FELIPE VI and Queen Letizia of Spain have debuted their annual Christmas card with their daughters, Princess Leonor, aged 12, and Infanta Sofia, aged 10.

The family took a more formal approach this year, with the family colour-coordinating in red outside the Royal Palace of Madrid.

King Felipe wore a red patterned tie while his daughter Princess Leonor, who is first in line to the throne, wore a bright red dress reportedly from Carolina Herrera, one of her mother Letizia's favourite designers.

Meanwhile, Infanta Sofia was dressed in red and white tweed believed to be designed by children's fashion house Pili Carrera.

According to Spanish media sources, the photo was taken on the balcony overlooking the palace's 'Plaza de la Armeria' on October 12, which is Spain's National Day.

Last year, the family sent out a

more relaxed portrait and were seen hugging in casual outdoor clothing in the garden at the Zarzuela Palace in Madrid.

Spain's royal family first released a Christmas card in 2014 to celebrate Felipe becoming the ruling Spanish monarch after his father, King Juan Carlos, abdicated the throne.

They then became the first European royals to make their Christmas card public in 2015.

Written in Spanish inside the



Photo by Casa de S.M. el Rey/Twitter

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card is a note that reads 'Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2018,' along with each family member's signatures.

A message was also sent on behalf of former King Don Juan Carols and Queen Doña Sofia, his wife, which included a Christmas-themed painting by 15th century Italian Renaissance artist Bartolomeo Vivarini.

**A RIGHT ROYAL XMAS: The King and his family.**

**Return of  
the fleas**

SCHOOLCHILDREN in Velez-Malaga are once again complaining of flea bites.

Pupils at the August Santiago Belido primary and pre-school claim the insects are still blighting their building despite recent works to eradicate the pests.

According to the Association of Mothers and Fathers of Students (AMPA), at least 12 children have received new flea bites since mid-November when thermal shock treatment was carried out to the plot next to the school's playground, where the fleas are believed to be from.

Parents are calling on the council to kill the bugs, claiming some children have even needed antibiotic treatment for their bites. They say the plot opposite the school is used by dog walkers and their animals are often allowed to leave mess on the land. The parents say this attracts fleas which in turn enter the playground and bite their children.

AMPA says the council has now promised to carry out fumigation over the Christmas holidays, explaining, "it seems they have decided to do it on December 26 or January 2."

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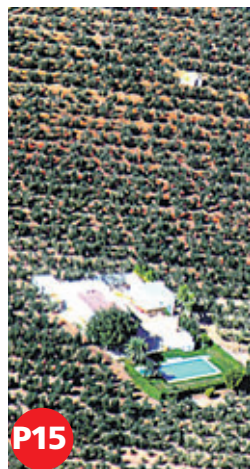
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**HOMES & GARDENS**

INSPIRATION AND INFORMATION FOR INSIDE AND OUT



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# Rail probe launched

A JUDGE has asked for the black box from the recent Malaga-Sevilla train crash as a probe into the incident continues. The court has also requested a series of reports after 37 people were injured in the crash which came after heavy rainfall.

## Beach buy

NERJA Council has bought an old beach bar in Calahonda for more than €950,000 in order to convert the plot into a new hotel complex. The development will reportedly be built into the cliffs next to the Balcony of Europe and will have its own stretch of beach

## Avocado run

OFFICERS in Velez-Malaga have foiled two attempts to steal around 1,000 kilos of avocados. Three people have now been arrested after a farmer complained two men had been caught taking the fruit. Another heist resulted in thieves leaving 700 kilos of avocados behind as they fled.

## Not guilty

NERJA'S councillor for Infrastructure has told a Torrox court he was unaware a landfill was illegal. Jose Maria Rivas was summoned to give evidence at the investigation into the Rio de la Miel dumping ground scandal. He maintains he thought it was legal.

## Towel wars

NERJA has become the third municipality in Malaga to fine people for reserving their space on the beach with towels. Alongside Torrox and Algarrobo, the town will now fine bathers €30 for leaving their towels in beauty spots to se-

## SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE... 41

As the first snows begin to fall in Spain's mountains, ski and snowboard enthusiasts are itching to visit one of the country's more unlikely tourist attractions, writes Harrison Jones.

# Snow way

DESERTIFICATION is coming to Spain. The south of the country sees temperatures regularly top 40 degrees and millions flock to beaches along its coasts.

Yet the country is also home to around 35 ski resorts and roughly 1,000 km worth of runs - some of it within hours of the beach.

Complete with an attractive party scene and good terrain for beginners, many resorts are relatively cheap compared with the rest of Europe, making them highly attractive.

Figures are scarce, but of the near 75 million tourists who visited Spain in 2016, a significant number are thought to have been skiers and boarders.

Statista suggests snow sports vis-

itors - including natives - have numbered around five million in the last few seasons, since 2012.

But visitors tend to opt for a select few resorts.

Dubbed 'the world's best ski resort' by the *Daily Telegraph*, Baqueira-Belet is the most popular, best rated and biggest.

Found in the heart of the Pyrenees, many believe it is favourite of the Spanish royal family, but though the monarchy are still thought to have a chalet there, the King no longer skis.



**SKI OR BOARD:** It's not just snow on offer in Spain.

The resorts of Benasque and La Molina are other tourist favourites, while Formigal has the most terrain in Spain.

The Spanish season can - in theory at least - run from late November to early May, though this depends heavily on snow conditions. The best snow tends to be found between January and March.

# Europe's sunny uplands

WHILE most of Spain's skiing is in the Pyrenees, there is a little in the south of the country too. In fact, Sierra Nevada, about a 40-minute drive from Granada, is Europe's most southerly ski resort - and a highly popular one at that.

Thought to boast over 321 days of sunshine, it also claims the title of Europe's sunniest ski resort.

The classic local brag is that you can ski by morning and sunbathe, on the Costa Del Sol, in the afternoon.

Around a million people, many of them Spanish, skied the



**'STUNNING VIEWS':** Olympic skier Graham Bell.

**NICE ICE:** Tobogganing is also on offer in Sierra Nevada.

resort in 2014, according to Planet Ski.

Remembering his appearance at the 1996 world championships, Graham Bell - a former Olympic skier and *Ski Sunday* presenter - told *Euro Weekly News* that the resort had a "great atmosphere and stunning views."

Though he is also quick to warn that the "snow can be a little hit or miss."

But if sun, skiing and partying are your thing, then you cannot go far wrong with Spain's highest resort.

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## Pretty polly

A SCIENTIST has found a new species of parrot in Parque de

Malaga. Professor Antonio Roman discovered the choclero bird, which has never previously bred in the wild outside of its native South America, on the Costa del Sol.

**100**

The total number of news and features which appeared in Issue 1692 of the *Euro Weekly News Axarquía - Costa Tropical* edition, including 28 local stories.

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# A good Claus

## Thousands of Santas run for charity



Photo credit Twitter

**SEA OF RED: Thousands of Santas took to the streets in Madrid.**

MORE than 7,000 people dressed up as Father Christmas to run through Madrid city centre in aid of a cancer charity.

The athletes braved freezing temperatures and strong winds as Storm Ana rolled into Spain, but the festive atmosphere certainly seemed to warm their spirits up.

Children also took part in the five kilometre gallop, donning green tunics and elf hats, while many of the adults wore long white beards to accompany their bright red hats and robes.

The event saw the merry throng dash along the Spanish capital's famous Paseo de la Castellana, crossing landmarks including the Cibeles and Colon squares.

It is the fifth successive year that the event - which organisers claim is the largest Santa-themed race in the world - has taken place.

And a portion of each runner's registration fee will be donated to the Intheos Foundation, a non-profitable organisation dedicated to fighting cancer.

**POLL OF THE WEEK**

Do you send online Christmas cards?

■ **LAST WEEK'S POLL:**  
 Do you attend religious events over the Christmas period?

**Yes** 28%    **No** 72%

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**Top 5 stories**

**Weather alerts for whole of Spain as Storm Ana set to hit TODAY**

by Jay Emery | Saturday, 09 December 2017 12:04 | 1 comment

Spain is set to be hit by a 'historic' storm today (Sunday) bringing with it strong winds, snow and heavy rainfall according to state weather agency Aemet.

Orange weather alerts for strong winds of up to

- 48,458** views Weather alerts issued for the whole of Spain as storm Ana set to hit
- 6,987** views Cold snap: Weather warnings issued as parts of Costa Blanca and Andalucía go below zero
- 6,673** views Flights diverted and red alerts issued as storm Ana lashes Spain
- 6,662** views Lorry driver dies after crashing onto Costa del Sol beach
- 4,518** views Low-cost airline Ryanair facing pilots' strike before Christmas

*\*For week 4 - 11 December*  
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**OUR VIEW**

# Spain is failing migrant children

THE discovery of a 12-year-old West African boy inside the dashboard of a car bound for Spain shows that migrants are prepared to use ever more daring methods of reaching Europe.

However, the find also illustrates the chilling reality that the number of unaccompanied children fleeing their homelands has risen at an alarming rate.

A recent United Nations (UN) report suggests that the running total for Andalusia so far this year has increased by 240 per cent compared with 2016, leaving the regional authorities unable to cope.

Those aged under 18 are officially protected by Spanish law and placed in so-called 'reception centres,' but once they turn 19 they are released onto the street without food, shelter or documentation allowing them to legally find work.

They can then become prey to prostitution networks, fall victim to radicalism or are tempted by other shady influences, according to non-governmental organisation, Voluntarios Por Otro Mundo.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which Spain is party, obliges countries to prioritise the best interests of children, while international law states that questionable individuals must be treated as children until proven otherwise.

However, the Spanish government is ignoring its obligations, with many youngsters homeless or held in adult detention centres. It is time the country stopped failing them.

*Border control - page 12*

*Now we want to hear your views.*  
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# Measures delayed in drought

A PUBLICATION has claimed major works designed to relieve Malaga's drought problems will not begin for another 10 years.

The Drought Decree due in January 2018 is expected to see current irrigation bans extended, with around 60 per cent of La Viñuela reservoir having been used to water crops.

Current low rainfall levels has meant Malaga is in its second drought in 10 years, with the last affecting Guadalhorce and the rest of the Costa del Sol between 2005 and 2009.

Planned works to ease the situation by transferring five billion litres of water from Iznajar to other reservoirs have been in the pipeline for two years, with progress still not made.

Meanwhile, the Junta de



Credit: Sally Underwood

**LA VIÑUELA:** Supplies were used for irrigation.

Andalusia says it is now 'better prepared and robust' to face the new drought.

Last month, it was revealed the regional authority will provide subsidies for

irrigators who use recycled water. The initiative is designed to compensate farmers after they are being hit with a new round of water restrictions from tomorrow.

# Alleged extremist jailed

A MAN is facing eight years in prison for working with Jihadists.

Malaga-based Elmedjeri is currently on trial for allegedly falsifying documents to help members of a terrorist cell travel to Mali, Syria and Libya. He faces charges of collaborating with Jihadists alongside five others, who were arrested when their alleged terrorist cell was brought down by police in the Spanish enclave of Melilla.

The defendant, who is a resident of Malaga's Las Delicias neighbourhood, is said to have kept precision instruments for falsifying documents at his home, including a stylus, ultraviolet lamp and sealants.

Police claim the cell he was helping carried out 'incessant work of facilitation' of Jihadists between 2012 and March 2014.

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**Celeb  
focus**



**KATE MOSS:**  
No selfies.

### Moss be joking?

SHE'S the enigmatic model who has managed to stay on top for almost 30 years. And now Kate Moss has explained she's no fan of social media. The 44-year-old stunner, who spends her time between London, the US and Ibiza, said: "Everything now is so instant with digital photography and there's no mystique. I'm just not into posting about personal stuff online."

### Taken by storm

SHE recently signed up to the E4 show *Celebs Go Dating*.

And single beauty Tallia Storm, 19, showed why she's such a catch after slipping into a plunging neon pink swimsuit on the beach in Spain.

The Scottish singer flaunted her petite frame as she frolicked in the shallows before taking a stroll along the sand.

## Alice in wonderland

SHE has over a million followers on social website Instagram.

And Chelsea footballer Alvaro Morata's stunning wife Alice Campello now has another reason to celebrate after the couple announced they are expecting their first child.

The Italian model, 22, tied the knot with the Spanish striker in June, just weeks before his €65 million Premier League transfer was announced.

**EXPECTING:**  
Alice Campello.



### Just model behaviour

HE'S the ex-boyfriend of Australian songstress Kylie Minogue. But Spanish model Andres Velencoso, 39, shows no sign of settling down after being pictured with yet another new squeeze.

The Catalan hunk posted photos of himself alongside Argentinian actress Luz Cipriota, 32, in Tossa de Mar on the Costa Brava.

And it appears the pair have sealed their love after jetting off on a South American jaunt.

The rumoured couple visited Buenos Aires, where Luz was born.

It comes weeks after Andres expressed his happiness with 25-year-old Italian model and presenter Ginevra Rossini, known in her homeland for being the ex-girlfriend of Luigi Berlusconi, son of former Prime Minister Silvio.

But the heartthrob has clearly moved on once more, following earlier flings with Spanish model Steffy Argelich, 23, and tennis star Maria Sharapova, 30.



**HEARTTHROB:**  
Andres Velencoso.

## It's all about Cruz control

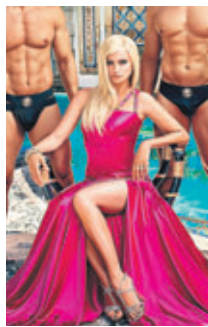
SHE'S Spain's favourite sweetheart. And now Penelope Cruz is due back on our screens in new series, *The Assassination of Gianni Versace: An American Crime Story*.

The 43-year-old stunner plays Donatella Versace, sister of the murdered fashion designer who was killed in 2007. Due for release in January 2018, the show follows the lead up and aftermath of the icon's death.

Cruz, whose normally brunette locks have

been died platinum blonde for the role, stars alongside pop star Ricky Martin, who plays Antonio D'Amico, Gianni Versace's long-term partner. And showing just how well the stars were getting along on set, Martin posted a photo of him and Cruz snuggled up in full costume.

Martin, normally known more for his singing prowess, explained he accepted the role to make a stand against the homophobia believed to have been behind Versace's death.



**BOMBSHELL:**  
Penelope Cruz as Donatella Versace.

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# Thief held for burglaries

POLICE have arrested a person in Granada for robbing homes in Torrox.

Members of the Guardia Civil are also investigating another person in connection with six burglaries in rural homes in the area.

Police began investigating in August when the robberies began. The thieves are said to have

struck while homeowners were in their properties, with one householder surprising the robbers and removing the key from their car to prevent their escape. Although the thieves got away, police found several articles from other robberies in the vehicle. Also found in the vehicle were tools used to rob the houses.



Credit: Wikimedia

NERJA: Still has no sewage plant.

# Sewage works remain on hold

SIX weeks after it was claimed an agreement had been reached, works have still not resumed to Nerja's sewage plant.

The much-anticipated project, which was due to be completed a year ago, has remained stalled despite promises by the Junta de Andalucía to find a solution following financial problems on the part of the site's contractors.

A statement put out by the Junta has stated that it will find a solution to complete the works 'in the shortest possible time.' It has now been eight months since the project halted when its contractors went bankrupt.

In a letter published on October 13, it said, "The Ministry of the Environment is holding periodic meetings with the business group with a view to launching the most viable alternative in the shortest time possible, although no other construction company has yet to answer in the completion of the work by the administrative transfer of the same."

In September, it was revealed that following pressure from the Association of Entrepreneurs of Nerja, the Ministry of the Environment had agreed a scheme to fund and manage the works.

€170,000 was the fine issued to a convent in Sevilla for taking apart an antique organ and cleaning it without asking for permission.

## NEWS EXTRA

### Job search project

JOB seekers are being targeted by Velez-Malaga Council to take part in their new scheme to improve employability. The scheme, starting from February, will offer help on writing CVs and other vital skills.

### Main event

MORE than 1,000 people have visited the Velez-Malaga exhibition, 'El universe magico' (the magic universe) by Antonio Hidalgo. The exhibit opened on October 24.

### High winds

THOUSANDS of drivers have been trapped in traffic for hours after branches fell on one of Malaga's main roads when high winds and heavy rainfall felled several trees and branches.

### Order order

A JUDGE has claimed Malaga needs at least 30 more judges, explaining Spain has the lowest number of magistrates in Europe. Jose Maria Paez, Dean Judge of Malaga, claimed this was slowing response times.

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## NEWS EXTRA

## Beauty queen

FRIGILIANA has been represented at the National Assembly of the Most Beautiful Villages in Spain. The town's councillor for Tourism, Carmen Cerezo, waved the banner for the mountain village at the event.

## New pitch

ALMUNECAR Council is due to replace the artificial turf on its Rio Verde football field following an investment of €80,000 from the Junta de Andalucía.

## Love all!

VELEZ-MALAGA Council is planning three new tennis courts at the Fernando Ruiz Hierro sports complex following a subsidy of €160,000 from the Junta de Andalucía.



NEW LANES: The MA-20 near Plaza Mayor.

# Luxury shopping scheme goes on

MALAGA is set to receive a new designer outlet centre after promoters have agreed to build two more motorway lanes to cater for increased traffic.

The Highway Development Unit has demanded the MA-20 be doubled in capacity in the direction of Torremolinos to avoid excessive queues reaching the new McArthurGlen Designer Outlet. Work on the, almost €3 million, road project could begin as soon as April and have been given

a five month deadline.

Sonae Sierra and McArthurGlen, Plaza Mayor's promoters, have also been told to build a new access road and roundabout to reduce congestion. Currently, queues are commonplace nearly every weekend, with drivers often taking to the hard shoulder to access the Plaza Mayor site, which also houses Ikea, Bricomart and McDonalds.

Two further lanes will now be

added for 1.8 kilometres between the Guadalmar roundabout and Torremolinos. One lane will go directly to the outlet and another onto the roundabout, meaning drivers trying to reach Plaza Mayor do not have to give way.

It is anticipated the works will begin April and end in mid-October, when the new outlet is also due to open. Malaga Council has made it clear the outlet will not be allowed to open until the works are complete.

## Quicker response for victims

MALAGA stroke victims will receive quicker treatment after the Carlos Haya Hospital is doubling its capacity to deal with strokes.

The move will mean fewer patients will be sent to Cordoba to be treated after the hospital's stroke section increased from four to eight beds.

Patients requiring a thrombectomy to remove a clot will now be able to be treated in Malaga in the evenings and weekends. So far the procedure - which can only take place within six hours of a stroke - has only been carried out from Monday to Friday in the morning.

Last year, 14 patients instead, had to be treated in Cordoba owing to Carlos Haya's limited treatment times. Two new doctors have now been hired at the hospital to add to the existing two specialists at the unit.

The expanded section will open in the second half of January, benefiting around 450 and 500 patients a year. The €60,000 project will see the unit fitted with the latest technology to monitor patients.

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Photo by Guardia Civil

**TIGHT SQUEEZE:** It is not known how long the boy had been in the car.

# Boarder control

## Boy, 12, rescued from car dash

SPANISH police have discovered a 12-year-old boy hidden inside a car dashboard.

The child was suffering with numb limbs and breathing difficulties after being crammed into the tiny space, to cross the Moroccan border into Spain.

Reportedly, he is from Guinea, West Africa - though he has no official documenta-

tion - and has been given treatment in a centre in Purisima.

The 65-year-old driver, thought to be Moroccan, was arrested by the Guardia Civil after a heartbeat sensor detected the boy in Melilla, Morocco.

Melilla is controlled by Spanish authorities. Police then began an intrusive search of the BMW X5, and ripped into the dashboard to

find the child.

People smuggling is a prominent issue in Spain, with 5,695 people being released from slavery between 2012 and 2016, according to the Interior Ministry.

A Guardia Civil spokesman said: "He was asked to open his boot but nothing was found.

"When a heartbeat sensor was passed over the car, officers became suspicious. When officers detected the heartbeat, they took the expensive car to pieces."

**1,100** people will be made redundant following Spanish bank Santander's takeover of Banco Popular, 400 less than originally proposed.

# Jews celebrating Hannukah in Spain

THE Jewish festival of Hannukah began on Tuesday.

The festival commemorates the rededication of Jerusalem's Holy Temple during a Jewish revolt from 167-160 BC.

It is also known as the festival of lights, with one of the most recognisable symbols being the Hanukkah, a nine branch candlestick.

Since Tuesday, people have been lighting one candle every night to mark each day of the event. Celebrations finish at nightfall next Wednesday.

Jews in Spain have endured a turbulent history. The country used to have one of the largest and most prosperous Jewish communities. But in 1391, anti-Jewish riots across the country slaughtered thousands, while others were forced to renounce their faith.

Then, in 1492, the Alhambra Decree led to a mass exodus of Jews from Spain, and the con-



Photo by Tomertu

**CANDLE LIGHT:** The Hannukah, a symbol of the festival, holds nine candles.

version of many others, decimating their numbers.

There are currently thought to be around 50,000 Jews living in Spain, mostly in Madrid and Barcelona but also in cities including Malaga, Benidorm and Alicante, although in smaller numbers.

Celebrations of the festival are small and generally private. In fact, 1998 is believed to have seen the first public

celebration of the festival in over 500 years.

Traditions include eating foods fried in oil to remember the legend of a small flask of oil, keeping the Holy Temple's candles alight for eight days.

Types of fried food vary across the world, though children from numerous countries are given chocolate money and a four-sided spinning top known as a dreidel.



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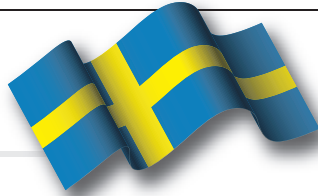


Doctor



Arzt

## SWEDEN



**ETHEREAL:** Skiers were in for a treat when they spotted this natural phenomenon.

national support for the anti-immigration Sweden Democrats party has slumped to its lowest level since its surge during the 2015 migration crisis of 2015.

### Treasure trove

A FARMER from Gotland was awarded more than 40,000 after he discovered hundreds of silver coins dating from the Viking era in his land after it had been dug up for road works.

### Tax fail

SOCIAL media network Facebook has been hit with a tax bill worth around €200,000 from Sweden after it was denied a round of tax deductions for not submitting the appropriate documents.

of light, caused when light refracts through clouds 20,000 feet above the ground.

### Support slips

A NEW government poll revealed

## Angelic sight

SKIERS at the Vemdalen resort in western Sweden were awestruck to see a rare phenomenon which makes the sun appear surrounded by a halo

## GERMANY



## Close call

MORE than 220 asylum seekers have avoided being deported from Germany after pilots refused to take off with them on board, allegedly making the decisions on a 'case-by-case' basis if they thought 'flight safety could be affected.'

eight seriously, after a passenger train collided with a freight train near the town of Meerbusch.

### Keep away

A CHRISTMAS market in a forest in Velen, which has a population of only 75 people, has begged visitors to stop coming after thousands descended on the village, blocking its

streets in every direction.

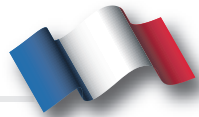
### Village venture

A GERMAN village with only 20 residents, who are mostly retired, will be put up for auction with a starting price of €125,000, after a private investor bought it in 2000 for one Deutschmark (around 50 cents).

## Off the tracks

MORE than 40 people were injured,

## FRANCE



## End of an era

RENOWNED French singer Johnny Hallyday - the 'French Elvis' who sold more than 110 million albums worldwide - has died at the age of 74 from lung cancer.

## Smoke alarm

AROUND 200 workers working at a nuclear reactor site currently under construction in northern France were evacuated 'as a precaution' after smoke was detected on the premises, making the air difficult to breathe.

## Crowded castle

MORE than 7,400 people bought a French castle called La Mothe-Chandeniers during a crowd-funding appeal which raised more than €500,000 to save the 13th-century chateau from ruin.

## Golden oldies

PENSIONERS in France enjoy the longest retirement out of all Western European countries, according to a study by the OECD economic think tank, and also have one of the world's lowest rates of poverty among the over-65s.

## BELGIUM



## Modern living

AN architect in the Belgian town of Keerbergen has structured a building around a street lamp, saying its a "creative solution" to the problem as authorities still haven't moved it after two years of requests.

## On the march

AROUND 45,000 Catalans marched in the Brussels European Quarter demanding that the European Union both respects their wish for independence, and that the Catalan leaders still in jail be released.

## Bias bother

ONE in five people of North African or Turkish descent say they have been victims of discrimination while looking for a job in Belgium, according to an independent anti-discrimination institution.

## No refuge

THE European Commission in Brussels will allegedly sue Hungary, Poland and Czech Republic over their refusal to take asylum seekers into their countries.

## NETHERLANDS



## Lucky escape

POLICE were called to deactivate a hand grenade which was found in front of a house in Rotterdam after a man fired around 25 shots at the home with a firearm, and tried to throw the weapon inside.

## Bike ban

THE Netherlands could ban texting while cycling from 2019 onwards, as ministers are currently in talks on how the law could be implemented, with 75 per cent of Dutch people allegedly in favour of the move.

## Traffic trouble

DUTCH traffic accidents have increased by 8 per cent in the last year, according to research from VNV, the Dutch association of vehicle insurers, who claim 905,000 damage claims were registered last year.

## Housing boom

MORE than 27,000 new homes have been built in Amsterdam in the past four years to try and combat the housing shortage, with a further 60,000 scheduled to be built before 2020.

## NORWAY



## Mountain high

TO mark the hundredth anniversary of Finnish independence from Russia, Norway tried to give its neighbour a mountain as a present but it was rejected on the grounds that it would be too controversial legally.

## Tall plans

NORWAY has plans to build the world's tallest timber building in the town of Brumunddal, which will be more than 80 metres tall when complete and 30 metres higher than the current tallest timber building.

## Youth held

A 14-YEAR-OLD Norwegian boy in Grenland has been accused of raping a girl the same age, filming the encounter and posting the video online before being reported to police by the girl's parents.

## Ferry flooded

PASSENGERS and crew were evacuated from a ferry in Hordaland after it began to take on water, with nearly 20 people on board in total, and fire services were also dispatched to pump water from the boat.

## DENMARK



## Let it snow

THE chances of a white Christmas in Denmark this year are 50/50, according to a national weather forecaster, which only happens roughly every 13 years on average due to the country's strict criteria.

## Gang busted

POLICE detained 15 people allegedly connected to organised crime gangs which were linked to several incidences of gun violence in Copenhagen, as well as theft, fraud and breaking and entering, following a major operation.

## Speedy chase

A 37-YEAR-OLD man was detained on suspicion of vehicle theft and driving under the influence following a dramatic car chase in Fredericia, during which the car lost a tyre but carried on after driving over a spike strip.

## Wrong turn

A TRAIN which was part of Letbane's light railway in Aarhus, which is still being tested, collided with a car driven by a 19-year-old man who accidentally turned left at a junction where the manoeuvre was forbidden.

## French group may move into Spain

THE European Commission has approved the takeover of Spanish car rental firm Goldcar by Europcar for an estimated €550 million. Having considered the overall number of European companies involved in the market, the Commission does not consider this acquisition likely to hurt competition.

The French company considers that the incorporation of Goldcar into the group will help it to expand its business in the Mediterranean area in particular and strengthen its position in the leisure market.

# New idea for street sales

IT is virtually impossible to escape the approaches of Looky Looky men in almost any tourist area in Spain.

Many people consider these young men who are mainly African in origin harmless and at least they aren't scrounging off social services, but others see them as an example of illegal activity, as they sell shoddy counterfeit goods, don't pay taxes and some of the profits made may go towards supporting terrorism.

The Spanish call them manteros (blanket makers) after the blankets many keep their goods in which they

By John Smith

can unfold to 'open up shop' and then close quickly and run if they see the police.

One man Aziz Faye, a Senegalese immigrant has come up with an innovative idea as he now purchases large numbers of unbranded clothes and trainers from Asia and then has colleagues sew on the Top Manta (blanket top) logo of his range.

His concept ensures that his sellers are offering legal merchandise on which tax is paid and he hopes that

this project will take off in a big way, allowing more immigrants to become accepted members of society.

It may be some time before street sellers give up their stock of inferior fake products, but at least this is a step in the right direction and may combat some of the prejudice against them.

The next part of the plan will be to try to persuade councils to allow the sellers of the Top Manta branded material to legally offer their goods for sale in the streets although this could be quite difficult to achieve.

## Amazon and Ebay lose EU case

THE European Court of Justice (ECJ) has supported a case brought by Coty which owns Marc Jacobs and Calvin Klein to ban the sale of their products on Amazon and Ebay.

Currently consumers may use the internet to try to obtain luxury goods at reduced prices by ordering from the websites of different companies in different countries.

Although the decision affects just one brand, it is common practice for such decisions to be quoted as precedence.

### Quote of the Week

*In the UK we are a British bank and will consider the implications once the outcome of the process is known," Ana Botin Executive Chairman of Santander Bank.*



Photo by Phillip Capper flickr

**SPANISH FARMING:** An Andalusian orange grove.

## Farmers fear loss of subsidies

THERE is a significant fear that the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) will start to wind down from 2020 causing major problems for Spanish farmers.

The Federation of Agribusiness Cooperatives of Andalusia believes that recent comments from the European Union suggest that the CAP could be on its way out which will be of particular damage to the Spanish agricultural industry.

The federation argues that the maintenance of the finan-

cial support will allow farmers to continue to invest for the future and to move forward with environmental improvements.

They blame the fact that the UK is leaving the European Union for a possible break down of the CAP and with Russia banning the import of some Spanish products and the USA placing much higher tariffs on imports such as olive oil, the farming industry in Spain expects more rather than less support.

### » BUSINESS EXTRA

## More power

THE Spanish economy Minister Luis de Guindos has said that following Brexit he expects that Spain will have a much bigger role in the European Union. Currently even Portugal appears to hold more positions of power within the Union but he expects that to change.

## Fibre cover

GIANT telecoms company Orange is to spend €2 billion in order to expand its Spanish fibre optic service to 16 million homes by 2020. This is an increased user target of 15 per cent and an additional spend of €500 million over that originally planned.

## Aid grant

THE Provincial Council of Huesca has allocated €200,000 to 30 development projects around the world. The money will be spent during the next six months on projects in different developing countries around the world.

## Hotel to be auctioned

SANTANDER bank foreclosed on a €2.12 million debt owed by the beachfront Koral hotel in Morro de Gos (Castellon) forcing it into liquidation. Now the former four-star

tourist hotel which had slipped to become a two-star operation has been put up to auction by the courts with an estimated value of €7.08 million.



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# Support for de Guindos

## Next ECB vice-president may be Spanish

DESPITE denials a week ago, it looks as if Spanish minister Luis de Guindos wants to become vice-president of the European Central Bank (ECB).

The Economy and Industry minister had previously declared that a Spaniard should take up the position next May when current incumbent Vítor Constâncio of Portugal leaves the post but he had not indicated that he was actually looking for the job.

Now, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has stated publicly that whilst his government has not put De Guindos' name forward for the position, he would be an ideal candidate as he has raised the status of Spain as a successful financial player since he came to his position in 2012.

The Prime Minister believes that the international profile of his Economy minister is high and that should he be put forward for the role, he should be a natural successor to Mr Constâncio especially as Spain is poorly represented in the higher echelons of European institutions with only one Commissioner, Miguel Arias Cañete who is European Commissioner for Climate and Energy.

Whilst it is recognised that many European countries would like to hold the position, as one of the top four economies in the eurozone, Spain believes it is only right that it should be represented at a senior level within the ECB.

The actual decision to appoint the next vice-president will be decided by a vote of all members of the European Commission and the successful candidate will be allowed to serve a single eight year term of office.

Mr De Guinos has had some disappointment in the past when he ran for president of the Eurogroup (an informal meeting of EU finance ministers) which he was tipped to win but lost to the Dutch minister



**Firm friends**  
Mariano Rajoy  
and Luis de  
Guindos.

Jeroen Dijsselbloem when it appears that socialist members of the voting committee turned against him.

Time will tell and it is possible that in order to save the minister from any embarrassment that Mr Rajoy is sounding out fellow heads of state before announcing his official nomination in order to ensure that there is a large enough majority who are happy to see Spain take on the vice-presidency.

## Egyptian sales slump

THE Egyptian Minister of Trade and Industry Tarek Qabil has announced that exports to Spain at €779.8 million were 75 per cent up on last year.

Currently in Buenos Aires for the 11th World Trade Organisation (WTO) ministerial conference which has attracted representatives of 164 member countries, he met with his Spanish counterpart Maria Luisa Poncela.

The export figures refer only to the period January to August 2017, although imports from Spain to Egypt for the same period were down from €929 million to €823.5 million significantly narrowing the trade gap as far as Egypt is concerned.

According to the Spanish minister, Spain is currently looking at ways of expanding investments in the Egyptian industry.

## AS ECONOMY RECOVERS AWAIT HIGH INTEREST RATES

# Try fixed rate loans now

ANALYSTS believe that financing for companies will shortly become more expensive and therefore loans should be obtained sooner rather than later.

The reasoning behind this opinion is that bank regulations will continue to get tighter and that there will be less liquidity in the market as the European Central Bank (ECB) reduces its purchasing support of EU members bonds.

For the larger company it is suggested that they should issue their own long term bonds where investors lend them an agreed amount of money over a set period of time while the companies pay annual interest and redeem the bond at a date in the future.

For smaller businesses who cannot afford this, now may be a good time to enter into a long-term loan with fixed interest rates which are still available from some banks at the present time.

It is forecast that there will have to be an increase in both interest



**An old Italian bond.**

rates and inflation across Europe during 2018 and as banks are being instructed to make sufficient provisions in order to safeguard their customers, they are likely to increase rates or general charges to support the cost of making the provisions.

The other problem for the banks is that the targeted longer-term refinancing operations (TLTROs), an ECB operation that provides financing to credit institutions for

periods of up to four years will be coming to an end.

They offer long-term funding at attractive conditions to banks in order to further ease private sector credit conditions and stimulate bank lending to the real economy, but they are effectively subsidising the lending that banks are undertaking so again, interest rates charged to borrowers between 2018 and 2020 are likely to increase.

Whilst there is action that companies can take in order to try to reduce the likely effect of rate increases, the consumer is in a much worse situation.

With governments leaving interest rates at very low percentages, banks and lenders still manage to turn a 0.5 per cent interest rate into a 20 per cent rate on credit cards and even cheaper overdrafts suddenly attract new higher bank charges so that the amount of interest paid remains low but the overall cost increases dramatically.

## Baby milk problems could hit

A FRENCH manufacturer of baby milk which is sold in Spain has ordered a global recall of baby milk product due to fears of salmonella.

Lactalis which took over Granada-based group Puleva in 2010 has admitted that so far 26 French users of the milk powder marketed under the names of Celi, Milumel and Picot have become sick during December.

A spokesman for the company which is one of the world's largest dairy producers has told press sources that up to 7,000 tonnes of powder produced in a single factory in northern France may have been contaminated, but Lactalis is unable to determine how much is currently still in stores around the world.



# A NUMBER OF LAWSUITS COULD HURT SPAIN

## Another legacy of crash

A GROUP of hedge fund managers who have purchased debt from the builders of nine bankrupt toll roads around Madrid are looking to claim €4.5 billion.

The roads themselves were built by a number of Spanish companies who formed joint venture operations with toll road managers in order to earn what they expected to be lucrative income.

Sadly for them however all of this took place prior to the financial crash and by the time that the roads were opened, the money collected was far less than originally forecast, leading many of the groups to declare bankruptcy.

The roads themselves have been closed for years and many of the debts were sold at heavily discounted rates to various global investors who are now working together in order to make the Spanish government pay damages, thanks to particular clauses known as RPAs which existed in the contracts when the approval for the building was granted.



DESERTED: A toll road.

Whilst the government acknowledges that it will be unable to reopen and franchise the closed roads without making a payment to those holding the debts, the amount which they believe is due and that which the hedge funds are claiming is significantly different.

The government previously indicated that it expected to have to pay a manageable €2 billion, but those who are claiming compensation which includes corporate giants such as Goldman Sachs and Deutsche Bank are looking for a whopping €4.5 billion pay out.

Rather than each acting separately, all of the major claimants have joined forces and are being led by American company Houlihan Lokey to try to lever the best possible deal out of the Spanish government.

According to their spokesman, the Spanish are acting like a South American government by delaying any agreement in order to hide the potential problem from the Spanish people, although the government rejects this, explaining that the delay was due to matters relating to the correct procedures when any bankruptcy occurs.

Spain finds itself in a somewhat difficult position as it tries to negotiate a settlement with the combined might of some of the world's biggest hedge fund organisations.

On one hand it wants to pay as little as possible so that the amount does not hurt its economic recovery, but at the same time cannot afford to be too parsimonious as the government doesn't want to be at the receiving end of a number of law suits.

## Surprise closure of franchise

WHAT was thought to be a successful frozen yogurt franchise Ilaollao in Singapore leased from the Spanish chain closed with just 24 hours' notice.

With 29 outlets the stores have been very successful and there has been no information about why the closure took place, although all stores reopened two days later branded Yole, another frozen yogurt company.

Four years of success came to an end without explanation from D+1 Holding, the company that is the master franchisee of Ilaollao in Singapore which simply confirmed that it will no longer be continuing the franchise. It did not reveal the reason why.

No explanation has been received from the Spanish company either although similar events have occurred in Singapore in the past with the original company taking back the franchise within six months.



# Losing mental capacity whilst living abroad

by Stone King

Charlotte Macdonald

Contact me at [international@stoneking.co.uk](mailto:international@stoneking.co.uk)



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

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

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



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

**What is an LPA?**

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

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

Your attorney can be a professional,

such as a solicitor or a family member or friend.

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

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

**Why should you get an LPA?**

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

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

**Will my LPA be recognised in Spain?**

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

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



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# Back in Blighty nothing much has changed

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT  
OTHERS THINK IT



TWO things have been glaringly consistent on my latest trip to the old country, the almost unbelievable volume of traffic and the cold!

Talk about the appendages of brass primates; the streets are littered with them! As for the traffic - well, not being the most patient of drivers, after two days of automobile altercations, my companion has now banned me from taking the wheel altogether. We did however manage to squeeze in a three-day trip to Malta.

Although it temporarily took care of the brass monkey syndrome, it certainly didn't resolve the increased traffic dilemma. Malta's tourist economy is, I'm delighted to say, positively booming, but unfortunately the road development programme hasn't quite caught up with the amount of newly acquired vehicles the locals are treating themselves to. Ah well I'm sure they'll sort it. Good luck to 'em. This historically beleaguered island deserves all the success it can get.

'Course back in Blighty nothing much has changed. I was particularly peeved about the report of the black female, who was ticked off for putting her muddy feet up on the seat of a train.



**TRAFFIC NIGHTMARE:** London, left, and Malta.

When the gentleman opposite (an MP no less) objected, she launched into a mouthy tirade which, among other things, included calling him a 'white idiot.' The report went on to say that it was all resolved peacefully however and by the end of the journey they had 'become friends.' Mmm, interesting. If he had called her a black idiot they would have been having their differences resolved down the local nick!



I was also a party to the views of some of the ladies concerning the recent surge into the, oft trivial, sexual harassment complaints. Almost without exception they consider the bulk of accusations frivolous and often quite ridiculous. Indeed some have told me that in their younger days, if they didn't receive some form of sexual connotation or wolf whistle on their travels they would often worry that there may be something

wrong with them. I did take note of the recent cartoon which showed a woman complaining to her boss that, as she was the only member of the female staff that hadn't been subjected to some form of sexual harassment, she was going to sue for discrimination. Don't laugh, nothing would surprise me anymore.

Not sure the latest Brexit deal is quite as wonderful as they all seem to be making out. Hopefully it will at least finally shut up all the Remoaners and allow the more forward thinkers to get on with the task of making the UK a leading, independent and successful runner in the whole host of world markets now finally opening up to us.

One dark spot, for the ol' boy, straight from the horse's mouth as it were. Apparently I had actually been seriously considered for a spate in the *Celebrity Jungle* series but had been passed over because of my past criminal record! Marvellous ennit? One, highly debatable slip, some 45 years ago, in an otherwise untarnished lifetime of lawful existence, and it still follows me around. Ah well, didn't want to eat their rotten grubs anyway.

*Keep the faith*

*Love Leapy*

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



## Strictly's Shirley is out of step through real lack of charisma

SHIRLEY BALLASS, the new head judge on *Strictly Come Dancing*, (BBC1, weekends) somehow just does not fit into the show.

She may be an expert and has all the experience and professionalism to sit in 10-from Len Goodman's chair, but she lacks charisma, which is the most important part of the job.

True, she can shimmy as good as the rest of them, but she gets a lowly three from me I am afraid.

*The Yorkshire Vet* run by former James Herriot trainee George Wright with veterinary partner Julian Norton and their team is worth a look on My5 on various nights.

The North Yorkshire town of Thirsk is the setting of this real life *All Creatures Great and Small* continuation, but be prepared to witness scenes in the operating theatre as well as in the farmyards and barns.

Undoubtedly some viewers will not find them overly appealing.

I feel *EastEnders*, BBC1's flagship soap opera brought in to counter ITV's *Coronation Street* dominance years ago, deserves a mention this week.

**WASTE OF SPACE:**  
Greg Wallace.



Having not seen an episode since Martine McCutcheon was mowed down, at first I thought I had stumbled on to *The Jeremy Kyle Show* given the shouting and arguments, though this appears par for the course since Angie and Den's famous Christmas ding dong of yesteryear.

I feel Albert Square is covered in chewing gum and not gold as Dick

Whittington thought. Still, the viewing figures don't lie.

My own tip for Worst TV Programme Ever goes to *Len Goodman's Partners in Rhyme* (BBC1 Saturday). Resurrecting Z listers to help two contestants identify rhymes and mimes; what a total shambles and a real embarrassment as Len ain't no Brucie, though Strictly definitely needs him.

**WRONG FOOTING:**  
Shirley Ballass.



Dec's 'he's a very small man' put down for Dennis Wise and himself on *I'm a Celebrity Get me Out of Here* (ITV nightly) is hilarious.

Amir Khan has turned out to be a proper wuss with his girlie screams (though I am anxious he does not know my full identity!) But Toff (the posh one) is a star who smiles through everything and Stanley Johnson with

an even posher DNA also comes across as a jolly good egg.

Ant and Dec have a plethora of awards under their belt, and watching the quick-witted pair, it is easy to see why.

Narrated by the late and great Sir Laurence Olivier, a repeat of *World at War* (Yesterday) is a timely reminder of the horrors of the Second World War, with black and white film capturing live footage of carnage, coupled with eye witness accounts of what must have been a nightmare.

It is good to remind ourselves occasionally just how lucky we are.

Meanwhile, *Master Chef the Professionals* (BBC2) is a mixture of culinary expertise and near nervous breakdowns for some of the victims... sorry competitors.

Mainly sous chefs battle it out to create the dish that can make their careers, with triumph and despair in equal measures when judges Marcus Waring and Monica Galetti taste the dishes.

But why do some of the competitors submit dishes they have never cooked before, though the greater question for me is what does ex-greengrocer Greg Wallace add to the proceedings?

**Critique: PM, San Fulgencio, Costa Blanca.**

## It's simple manipulation

**Mike Senker**

*In my opinion*

*Views of a Grumpy Old Man*



I'M not big on social media. I do have a Facebook account just because it's where my Orthostatic Tremor organisation posts a bit of news. I never post anything on Facebook. I also use Twitter where, I must admit, I do post a few comments. I only follow 100 people and I have a few followers myself.

Something I've noticed recently is the amount of hate, lies and bullying that goes on there. Katie Hopkins and Donald Trump are two of the worst offenders but I've also noticed how it's used to manipulate simple everyday entertainment shows.

Mrs S and I enjoy Strictly Come Dancing and view it as a simple entertainment show. Nothing more and nothing less. Just an hour or so of 'celebs' trying to out dance each other. But all of a sudden on Twitter a columnist, from the scummiest of the red tops, has started a hate campaign against one of the celebrity participants - Alexandra Burke - absolutely slaughtering her anyway he can.

My question is why? This is not only on Twitter but in the paper too. Which, of course, is not one I'd read. We also enjoy 'I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here' and this same geezer - his name is Dan Wootton - waited until one of the celebs - a young lad called Jack Maynard - was in the show for a couple of days and then exposed something he said three or four years ago and, of course, made sure Jack got booted out.

Now, what the kid said wasn't very nice and it was pretty offensive. My point is tell the producers of the show before he goes in. Don't wait until he's in and then make it a big thing on Twitter trying to show how you have exposed this scoop. But it's what he does. On another note every time I buy something online or book something I do not need emails asking me to fill in a survey or asking if I'm happy with the service I received. Believe me you will know if I'm not.

I don't want to be on your mailing list receiving emails every day about what events are coming up. If they just sent me something every couple of months maybe I wouldn't unsubscribe or delete them the instant I see who they are from.

By the way, if you want to follow me on Twitter, I'm @silverfox1949xx or email

[columnists@euroweeklynews.com](mailto:columnists@euroweeklynews.com)  
[mikesenker@gmail.com](mailto:mikesenker@gmail.com)

## LEGALLY SPEAKING

### Carrying a load

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



**LOADING THE BOOT: Heavy items must be secured.**

*"COULD you please clarify for me the rules regarding what (if anything) you are allowed to carry on the rear seats of the car? I have heard so many conflicting stories. Thanks."*

If you are driving a vehicle that is carrying a load in the car, you have to make sure that the load is restrained properly.

Load restraint is not just about making sure that the load does not come off - it is also about making sure that the load does not shift in a way that makes the vehicle unsafe to handle or allows the load to crash into the driver's cabin, which may cause injury or death.

Please restrain the load properly, if you have a traffic accident, you could have serious injuries caused by the load you carry.

The Spanish Traffic Law requires that any load carried on or in your vehicle must:

1. Not be placed in a way that makes your vehicle unstable or unsafe.

2. Be secured so it won't move or fall from your vehicle while driving - including driving consisting of emergency braking or turning suddenly.

3. Not project from your vehicle in a way that is likely to injure a person, obstruct the path of other drivers or pedestrians, or damage another vehicle or anything else.

4. Be restrained using an appropriate load restraint method. Anything on the back seats must be secured with seat belt.

What objects can you carry in your vehicle? Do you take any security measure when you carry them?

It is advisable to not carry anything in the car, please use the boot. In case you need to carry load in the vehicle, use the seat belt to secure the load, and if you carry heavy things, use a car net, it is forbidden to carry a heavy load without a load restraint net.

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

## Reinvest full price in EU home

**Q.** In your article in EWN of 30 November, about Capital Gains Tax relief on selling your principal residence, you omitted to mention that homeowners resident in Spain can also be exempt from CGT on selling their main residence in Spain if they purchase a new residence anywhere in the European Union, not only in Spain. It seems to be a little known change of tax legislation. Many estate agents and even tax consultants seem ignorant of it.

*WE (Costa Blanca)*

**A.** You are quite right, on both counts. If a homeowner residing in Spain sells his main residence here and uses all of the proceeds of the sale to purchase a new home in Spain or in another EU

**David Searl**  
You and the Law  
in Spain



country, he can be completely exempt from Spanish Capital Gains Tax. Imagine a German on the Costa Blan-

ca who wants to return home to Germany. He sells up in Spain and buys a new home in Germany. He will be free of CGT if he uses all the money for the purchase. If he reinvests only half the price, he will get half off his CGT.

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

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# YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

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## Seagulls are not the problem

SIR, To Mr P Comwall (EWN, November 11, 2017).

You must be kidding. You present the seagulls as public enemy number one. You call them 'flying rats' and 'horrible birds.'

Don't you think you've seen Hitchcock's 'The Birds' too many times?

If you are proposing to murder them then you are not kidding.

Think a little: we can frighten them, move them away, stop violating the environment so that these animals could return to their natural habitats.

Or are we going to cut the trees because some fruits fall on our heads? Dry the sea because it sometimes causes damage to the coasts? Destroy the sun because it causes skin burns? Shoot the EWN readers who like the seagulls?

There are no 'horrible birds.' There are birds. We share the planet with them but we have not worried about respecting nature. These seagulls now return, in some way, the damage we have done to Mother Nature.

Who is the real menace? The birds that no longer have places to find food

### Customer care all important

AT this time of year when unwanted gifts are often received I am happy that in Spain nowadays there appears to be new marketing re-think whereby more local shops agree to exchange purchases.

When I lived in the UK more than 40 years ago Marks and Spencer's had an enviable reputation as a concern always willing to exchange purchases for customers as long as they were returned undamaged and with a receipt. But this policy at that time definitely did not extend to the majority of shops.

Move forward to the end of 2017 and to Spain, and I have increasingly found in recent years more shops



**SENSIBLE RETURNS POLICY: Shoppers in Benidorm.**

happy to exchange items, and at times surprisingly so.

Last week my wife even returned a pair of shoes, and the shop happily exchanged them for a different colour and size... even though she had worn them one night (admittedly on carpeted floors... but she told the assistant they had been worn (even though the soles did not identify with the fact).

And a neighbour happily recalled that she had received total satisfaction from Lidl recently when returning a garment that did not fit perfectly by merely producing the receipt and returning the item in its box within 30 days.

Such businesses deserve praise, along with the likelihood of swelling sales thanks to all-important customer care.

*C Power, Huercal-Overa*

or we, who believe we have the right to exploit, usufruct and damage the world? Love, peace and reason.

*Jose Manuel Fernandez Santana, address withheld*

### Calling card

SPARE a thought before you abandon the idea of sending a printed Christmas card to your family or friends due to the recent changes at the Post Office and send an email greeting instead.

Although having a printed card from a loved one on the mantelpiece at home is not quite as good as them being with you in person, it sure as hell beats printing out an email to stick to the walls.

*Edwin Cheeseman, Javea*

### Sorry state

MOST people worth their salt might issue an apology or retraction when they have been found to commit to print a falsehood which perpetuates a misunderstanding. Not so Leapy Lee, who brushes aside his blunder as a 'completely innocuous EU gaffe' and considers correction to be 'vitriolic spitting' by 'sad sacks' and 'jowl juggling vultures.'

He consoles himself though with his 'thousands of wonderful like-minded readers,' who he must assume to be also ill-informed. But as I said... most people worth their salt...

*Elaine, Torremolinos*

### Final word

NO, No, No. Please don't publish the answers to the puzzles in the same issue! What's the point in attempting the cryptic crossword deciding you can't solve a clue and just giving up and looking at the answer! There are plenty of inferior free papers that supply answers in the same issue, so let's keep these puzzles a challenge.

*Stewart, Torrevieja*

### Lotto plea

YOUR weekly newspaper is the best of the bunch, but I request an improvement to be considered for the thousands of lottery ticket buyers. There are two weekly La Primitiva draws but you only give results for one, and the Euro Millions tickets now carry numbers that are for a Spain-only million Euro prize. Can you include both in the Lottery section of Time Out please

*Name and address withheld*

**Editor's note: The lottery winning details have now been expanded.**

### HAVE YOUR SAY

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

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

## Lorry driver dies after crashing onto beach

RIP driver, but people mention it's an accident blackspot but what is wrong with the road? I drive up and down that road all the time and have done in all weathers but to me there's nothing actually wrong with that part of the road. *Adam Brown*

Road's fine, they drive too fast and disregard the suggested speed reduction signs... *Matt Silver*

No judgement intended and of course no one should die, but I think the lorries in particular go into the bend too fast and when they break it just jack knives and goes over onto the beach. I've lost count of the number of accidents there over the years, all unfortunately involving lorries. Let's hope they come up with something. *Anne-Marie Nyberg Savastano*

I think they made a mistake lowering the limit along the whole section between Fuengirola and Marbella. Before at least people not familiar with the road could sense some dangerous section approaching when the speed limit dropped. Now they've been numbed by the time they reach tricky spots. Speed limit is fine there, but you often see lorries ignoring it. *Jurgen Imschoot*

How many more people will be injured or die before they remove the ridiculous tolls on the motorway? *Peter Courtney*

### Comments from EWN online

#### Brexit 'really is a shambles'

Yes. We should walk away and see if the EU shoot themselves in the foot by imposing stupid tariffs on imports from the UK.

I can't see German and French industry letting that happen. They have just as much to lose as the UK does. Their 'negotiating' stance (aka bullying) is the reason we find ourselves in this mess to start with. *Andy Funnell*

I think the government are trying to negotiate with an EU who do not want to negotiate. They really don't want us to go and will try anything to delay negotiations in the hope that Brexit will go away. Who will fill the huge financial hole when the UK are gone? Looks increasingly more likely that we will leave with no settlement which will harm EU countries more than it will the UK. Roll on 2019. *John Grieve*

In one word ... NO. Don't think they have any idea what to do to be honest. They didn't have a

plan at the start and they don't have one now. It takes two parties at least to negotiate and in this case a lot more. Needed for everyone to get round a table at the very start rather than putting it off and upsetting all and sundry since. *Moirá Armitage*

#### No white Christmas for drug dealers in southern Spain

That's good. Might actually be able to walk down a busy street at night without every Tom, Dick and Harry offering to sell drugs when I'm on holiday in Spain. *Neil Hilton Butchers*

Great news!!!! *Audrey Carr*

#### Two Malaga hospitals named among the best in Spain

Brilliant hospital, they totally deserve that award. After spending six days in there cannot fault them. Kind and professional I felt totally safe. *Michelle Johnstone*

Best hospital abroad. Saved my husband's life! *Cathy Ransome*



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## MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



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## Trivia from around the world

- THE world's shortest international bridge is 'El Marco' in Badajoz, Extremadura, which links Spain to Portugal and is just 3.2 metres long.



**EL MARCO: Links Spain to Portugal.**

- There are more doner kebab eateries in Berlin - which has 4,000 - than Istanbul according to tourism website Visit Berlin.

- San Marino, founded in 301 AD, is the world's oldest republic.

- Russia has at least 13,000 uninhabited villages due to a fall in birth rates since the 1980s.

- The escalators in London's underground travel two times the circumference

of the Earth every week.

- Scotland makes an estimated €34 million in tourism a year due to the Loch Ness Monster myth, according to experts.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The highest point in Belgium (694 metres) is lower than the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai (828 metres).

### Women's wit

"Happiness is a choice. You can choose to be happy. There's going to be stress in life, but it's your choice whether you let it affect you or not."

*Valerie Bertinelli, Actress*



### Famous quote

"All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them."

*Walt Disney, Cartoonist*

### World of English

"Antiphrasis - uses a word with an opposite meaning - the Chihuahua was named Goliath."

## YOUR STARS FOR NEXT 7 DAYS

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

When it comes to throwing wobblers, please don't. It is so important this week to stay cool and unruffled. Change nothing that you can avoid changing. Even having discussions about change can set your nerves jangling.

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

This month, there is much to be celebrated. So much has happened in the latter part of the year. Certainly, congratulations are in order. When you have made such an effort and are rewarded for it, the satisfaction level is high. Be aware, though, that someone close also needs to feel that there is progress.

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

The importance of making the right choices is clear to you. Where to begin seems to be a sticking point. Starting by taking away the things you really do not want is essential. Be practical and logical. This is not a time for sentiment or muddled thinking. Although you will need patience in abundance as the week progresses, take one thing at a time.

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

Although you have the feeling that younger members of the family are not interested in your point of view, this is far off the mark. They, in their inexperience, may not know how best to approach you in this regard. Getting out family photos or starting a family tree with them can be both entertaining and fascinating.

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

The prospect of travel sets you thinking. Have you been spending too much time considering others? Should you take steps now to get time alone then these plans cannot be changed. This will save any discussions as to how or when.

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

With the best will in the world it is only possible to spend money once. We are all guilty of trying to get over this truth, but it never works. Have patience when looking to improve your possessions. There are more pressing needs and these, in the long run, prove more satisfying.

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

Going over old ground is counter-productive. There is nothing to be gained from repeating methods that did not work in the past. If it is not possible to find a fresh approach then seek the opinions of others. You do not need experience of a situation to be able to come up with a useful idea. Staying in the same old rut has not served you in the past and will not do so now.

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

Getting together with others to entertain is sure to be successful after the 26th. Before that there may be some irritations, particularly with people who refuse to be positive and make decisions. Those moving house or going on a journey need a lot of patience, and forward planning is essential.

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

This is an important week for both your physical health and your mental well-being. Because of things beyond your control, you may have let your diet or exercise slip. Having sorted out any problems that side-tracked you, there is a need to be particularly strong.

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

This is a week to let yourself be heard. Be it writing letters, sending emails, making phone calls or making conversation, you must express yourself. Being honest and outspoken need not mean upsetting people. Think of the way that a child gets its point over.

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

Having problems with that new computer? Fallen foul of the new mobile phone? That wouldn't be surprising this week. As you are prone to mistakes and misunderstandings, try not to tackle anything vital. Be sure to get plenty of sleep and fresh air.

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

You are in for a bit of a bumpy ride this week. Some things will go well but other outcomes can be quirky. People change their minds, technology doesn't work, phone calls don't come. Be assured, however, that if you keep your sense of the absurd it could all be quite amusing.

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY	IRISH LOTTO	EURO MILLIONS		LA PRIMITIVA		EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA
Saturday December 09	Saturday December 09	Tuesday December 05	Friday December 08	Thursday December 07	Saturday December 09	Sunday December 10
(2) (32)	(5) (13)	(11) (36)	(4) (22)	(1) (3)	(5) (32)	(1) (3)
(37) (39)	(15) (23)	(43) (44)	(30) (32)	(4) (7)	(33) (38)	(8) (11)
(46) (54)	(36) (45)	(48)	(34)	(14) (45)	(40) (47)	(49)
<b>BONUS BALL</b>	<b>BONUS BALL</b>	<b>LUCKY STARS</b>	<b>LUCKY STARS</b>	<b>REINTEGRO</b>	<b>REINTEGRO</b>	<b>REINTEGRO</b>
(19)	(28)	(2) (7)	(3) (4)	(18) (6)	(34) (2)	(5)
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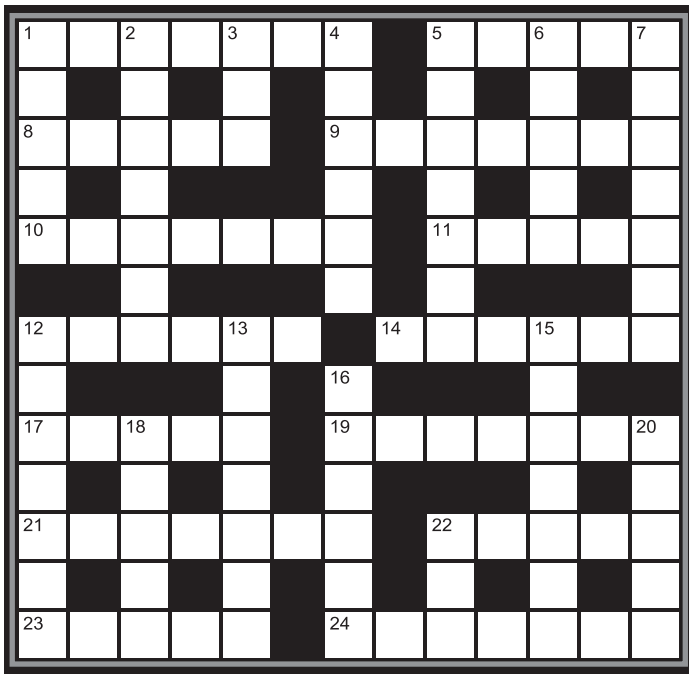
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- Across**  
 1 Supervisor set off to part of hospital (7)  
 5 Subject to constant cold (5)  
 8 Come to Korea, Chinese part (5)  
 9 American state or a Nazi atrocity? (7)  
 10 English paella is cooked with beer (4,3)  
 11 Trouble returns in pirates' pub (5)  
 12 Give up work and go to bed (6)  
 14 Painful bid (6)  
 17 Virginia rented a personal assistant (5)  
 19 Bit of a stir on in garment pressing (7)  
 21 Plague cures go wrong (7)  
 22 Evade hotel boundary (5)  
 23 Treats dossiers, no sir (5)  
 24 Having funds that are liquid (7)

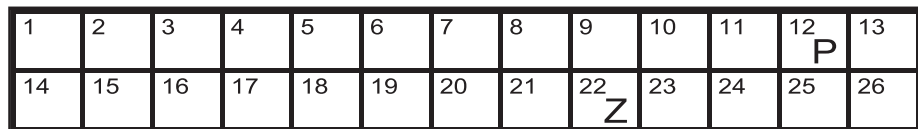
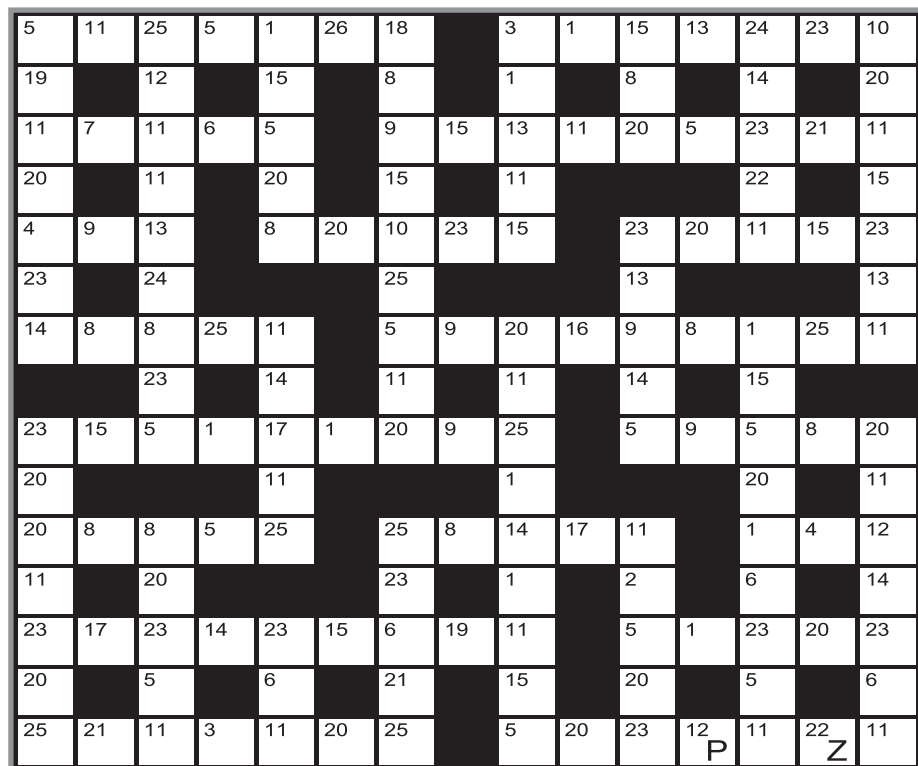


- Down**  
 1 Undress for Saturday outing (5)  
 2 Eastern apostle and French decoration (7)  
 3 Cinderella has changed (3)  
 4 Doctor copies curtains (6)  
 5 Roman official melody about a bone (7)  
 6 Phosphorus is put on many bits of land (5)

- 7 Idle talk about milliner (7)  
 12 Verse I'd composed is updated (7)  
 13 Rotters breaking glass vessels in the lab (7)  
 15 Contents of woodwind lessons diminish (7)  
 16 Hoarders appearing in film is erstwhile (6)  
 18 Cats are kept in bullion safe (5)  
 20 Hotel customer speculated out loud (5)  
 22 Little Henry was perfectly healthy until the engineer left (3)

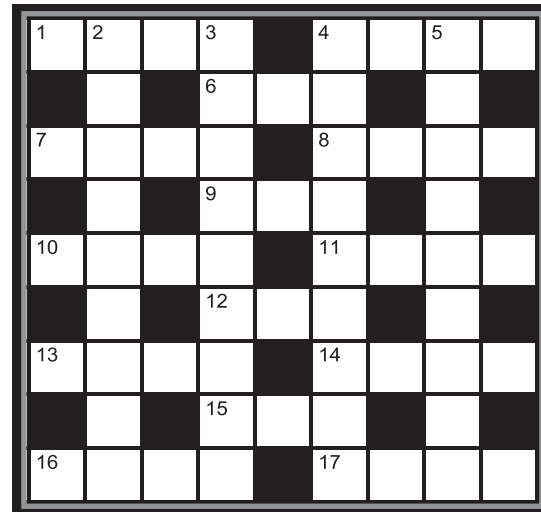
Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 12 represents P and 22 represents Z, so fill in P every time the figure 12 appears and Z 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



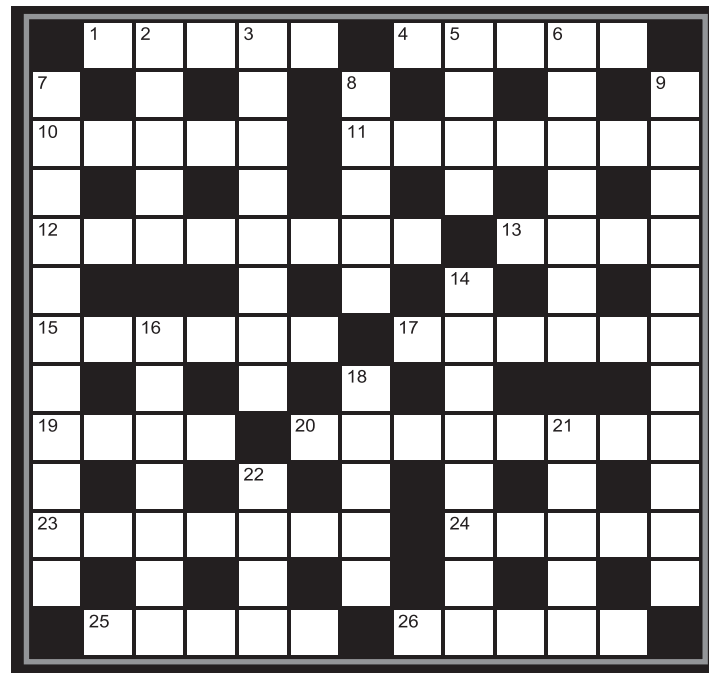
- Across**  
 1 Potato (4)  
 4 Feel physical pain (4)  
 6 See 15  
 7 Fail to hit (4)  
 8 Knocks softly (4)  
 9 Prosecute at law (3)  
 10 Have a desire for (4)  
 11 Move about aimlessly (4)  
 12 SI unit of electrical resistance (3)  
 13 South American country (4)

- 14 Slightly open (4)  
 15/6 Begin a trip (3,3)  
 16 Surrender (4)  
 17 Conceal (4)

- Down**  
 2 Special benefit (9)  
 3 Cheap lodging accommodation (9)  
 4 Consequences of an event (9)  
 5 Random (9)

English - Spanish

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



- Across**  
 1 Gusto (sentido) (5)  
 4 Tornillo (en punta) (5)  
 10 Entrar (5)  
 11 Milagro (7)  
 12 Options (8)  
 13 Tazas (4)  
 15 El más seco (6)  
 17 Museo (6)  
 19 Tripulación (aeronáutica y náutica) (4)  
 20 Skating (8)

- 23 To chat (7)  
 24 Acontecimiento (5)  
 25 To hate (5)  
 26 To be (5)  
**Down**  
 2 Desván (5)  
 3 Tortuga (8)  
 5 Expensive (4)  
 6 Plug (electrical) (7)  
 7 Cuckoo clock (5,2,4)  
 8 Ámbar (5)

- 9 Thought (11)  
 14 Negocios (8)  
 16 Islandia (7)  
 18 Llevar (5)  
 21 Sand (5)  
 22 Dawn (4)

CROSSWORD PAGE

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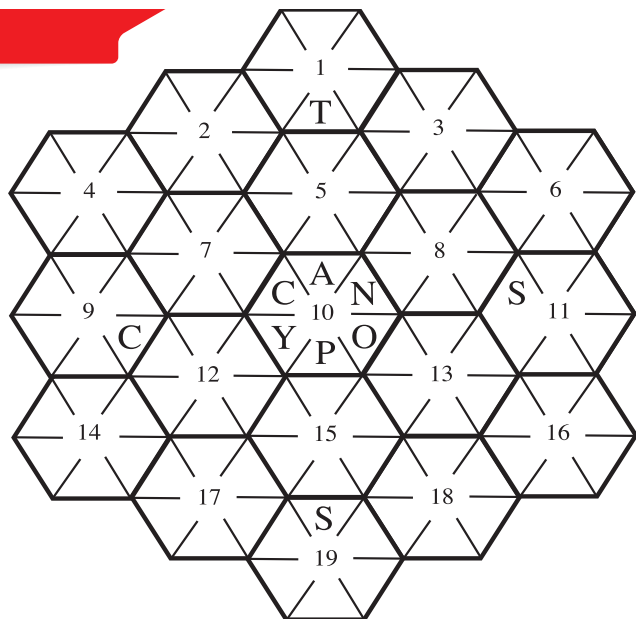
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## Hexagram

- ABRUPT
- ADVENT
- ASSENT
- BESTOW
- BEYOND
- BLOUSE
- CANOPY (10)
- DAINTY
- DITHER
- GATHER
- HECTIC
- LETTER
- SPLASH
- SPREAD
- STOCKY
- SUNDRY
- THEORY
- TICKET
- TOILET



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

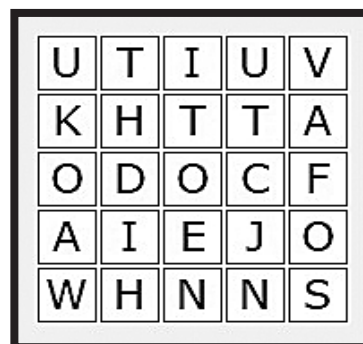
### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

- 1 Scythe 2 Serene 3 Teeing 4 Yearly
- 5 Garish 6 Petite 7 Sleigh 8 Truant
- 9 Snappy 10 Grudge 11 Grater
- 12 Inhere 13 Raised 14 Praise
- 15 Emerge 16 Retire 17 Elapse
- 18 Freest 19 Methyl

## Boggled

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

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



### TARGET:

- Average: 23
- Good: 32
- Very good: 45
- Excellent: 59

### SCORING:

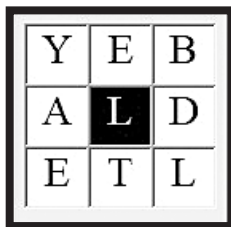
- 4 letters: 1 point
- 5 letters: 2 points
- 6 letters: 3 points
- 7 letters: 5 points
- 8 or more letters: 11 points

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

obese odes bode bodes bens bend bene benes bees been endue endues send sendup sendups seen seed dens dense dune dunes duns dues need nude nudes noes eons fund fusion fusions puns pups pion pions pips undo ones ions dude dudes done donee donees dons does dips spud spun spues squid quip quipu quipus quips quid dido

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



### TARGET:

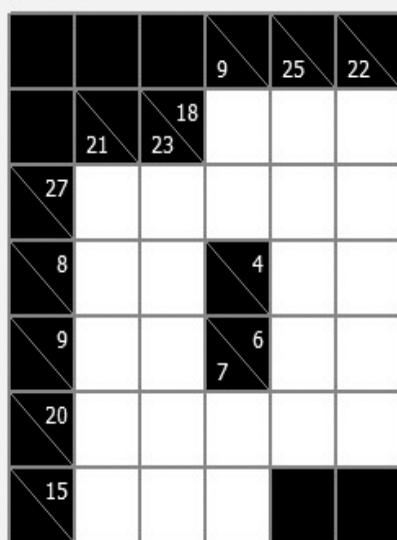
- Average: 13
- Good: 18
- Very good: 25
- Excellent: 33

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

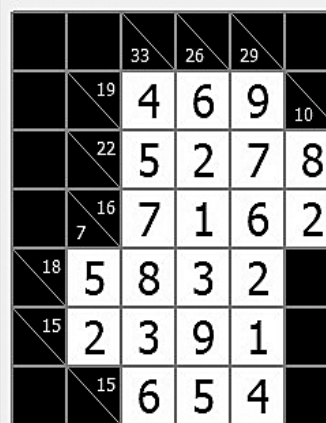
alit gait ghat gilt halt hilt lath lilt malt math milt path phat pita pith plat tail tall tamp till lathi light might plait alight plight lamplit LAMPLIGHT

## Kakuro

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



### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

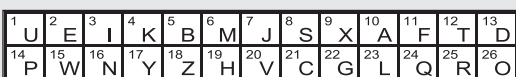


## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

### QUICK

- Across:** 1 Recover, 7 Orchestra, 8 Cost, 9 Unit, 11 Primitive, 12 Replies.
- Down:** 2 Excessive, 3 Obey, 4 Extensive, 5 Concept, 6 Partner, 10 Bill.

### CODE BREAKER



### CRYPTIC

- Across:** 1 Rosette, 5 Bails, 8 Lupin, 9 Agitate, 10 Ethos, 11 Align, 12 Force, 14 Pepsi, 19 Debut, 21 Ledge, 23 Interns, 24 Adieu, 25 Tense, 26 Senegal.
- Down:** 1 Relish, 2 Supremo, 3 Tench, 4 Elapse, 5 Brigade, 6 Iraqi, 7 Steins, 13 Coterie, 15 Seeking, 16 Adrift, 17 Blasts, 18 Ritual, 20 Baton, 22 Drain.

### ENGLISH-SPANISH

- Across:** 1 Pulsera, 5 Start, 8 Lobster, 9 Niece, 10 Spoon, 11 Iceland, 12 Anchoa, 14 Greedy, 17 Pasillo, 19 Sheep, 22 Ready, 23 Earlier, 24 Roads, 25 Showers.
- Down:** 1 Pills, 2 Libro, 3 Estanco, 4 Afraid, 5 Since, 6 Average, 7 Tuesday, 12 Aspirar, 13 Cascada, 15 Rosario, 16 Voters, 18 Leyes, 20 Exile, 21 Peras.

## App of the week



### Rush

In this roller-coaster ride game, players must rush through the 'void' while dodging endless obstacles. The game requires competitors to think quickly and tap to switch lanes in order to reach incredible speeds.



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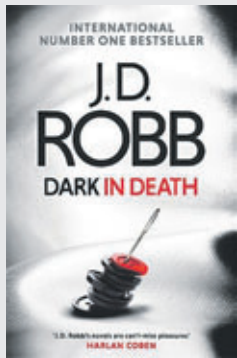
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**There's always a reason for murder**

WHEN a young actress is killed in a violent attack at a cinema screening, Lieutenant Eve Dallas and her team can't decipher why the brutal murder has occurred.

It is only when best-selling crime writer Blaine DeLano arrives at the precinct that the truth is suddenly revealed, someone is recreating the murder scenes from her latest series, book by book.

With six more novels left in the series, Eve now knows how the killer will perform their next murder, but just why are these murders happening?

Fiction soon turns into a bloody reality but luckily for Eve, her husband, Roarke, is a fan of DeLano's series and is more than happy to work alongside his wife no matter how sinister things become.

books@euroweeklynews.com

**Axarquía**

**weather**



Location	Today	Tomorrow	Saturday	
Malaga	Today: Max 19, Min 10-S Fri - 18 7-C Sat - 17 5-C Sun - 16 7-S Mon - 16 6-S Tues - 17 6-Cl Wed - 17 7-S	Today: Max 17, Min 10-S Fri - 19 8-Cl Sat - 16 7-S Sun - 16 8-S Mon - 16 8-S Tues - 16 8-S Wed - 16 9-S	Today: Max 15, Min 8-Sh Fri - 9 6-Sh Sat - 10 6-Sh Sun - 11 4-Sh Mon - 12 6-Sh Tues - 13 6-Cl Wed - 13 7-C	Today: Max 11, Min 7-C Fri - 11 0-C Sat - 10 -3-Cl Sun - 9 -2-Cl Mon - 10 -2-C Tues - 11 -2-S Wed - 10 -1-S
Almeria	Today: Max 20, Min 11-S Fri - 20 8-C Sat - 17 6-S Sun - 16 6-S Mon - 16 7-Cl Tues - 17 7-S Wed - 17 7-S	Today: Max 20, Min 10-S Fri - 20 8-C Sat - 17 7-S Sun - 16 7-S Mon - 16 8-Cl Tues - 17 9-S Wed - 16 9-S	Today: Max 17, Min 10-S Fri - 17 7-Sh Sat - 14 5-Sh Sun - 14 5-C Mon - 15 6-C Tues - 15 6-C Wed - 15 6-C	Today: Max 16, Min 9-C Fri - 16 4-Sh Sat - 13 3-S Sun - 12 3-S Mon - 13 4-C Tues - 13 4-C Wed - 13 4-C

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

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

**BIRTHDAYS**

• **Miranda Hart**, TV actress, December 14, 45  
Hart became best-known for starring in her own show, Miranda, before going on to star alongside Mellissa McCarthy and Jason Statham in 2015 hit film Spy.  
• **Jesse Lingard**, Footballer, December 15, 25  
Now a regular in the Manchester United first-team, Lingard has been with the club since 2011 and got his first England international call-up in November 2015.



Pope Francis.

**Zara Larsson**, Singer, December 16, 20  
The Swede won her country's singing competition, Talang, at the age of 11 in 2008 and has gone on to have hit songs *Lush Life* and *Never Forget You*.  
• **Pope Francis**, Religious Leader, December 17, 81  
The 266th Pope of the Catholic Church was first ordained as a priest in 1969 and took over as Pope from Benedict XVI in March 2013.

• **Brad Pitt**, Actor, December 18, 54  
Hollywood star Pitt has played lead roles in a number of films including Moneyball, Fight Club, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button and Inglorious Basterds, as well as featuring as Rust Ryan in the Ocean's trilogy.  
• **Richard Hammond**, Presenter, December 19, 48  
The Broadcast Journalist is best-known for presenting Top Gear alongside Jeremy Clarkson and James May before moving to present Amazon's The Grand Tour with the same pair.

**Sierra Nevada SNOW REPORT**

THE recent storms have helped cover Sierra Nevada in snow, with most of the main slopes now being open. Clear skies expected for today (Thursday) but light snow and rain is forecast for tomorrow. Temperatures will struggle to stay above freezing with highs of 1 degree but clear skies for the weekend and the start of next week are forecast.



**1799 - George Washington dies**  
American revolutionary leader and first president of the United States, George Washington dies of acute laryngitis at the age of 67.  
**1843 - Dickens' A Christmas Carol is published**  
Charles Dickens' classic tale 'A Christmas Carol' is published for the first time. The tale was released after classics such as Oliver Twist in 1838 and Nicholas Nickleby in 1839.  
**1903 - First airplane flies**  
Brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright make the first successful flight in history of a self-propelled aircraft near Kitty Hawk in North Carolina.  
**1911 - First explorer reaches South Pole**  
Norwegian explorer, Roland Amundsen, beats British rival, Robert Falcon Scott, to become the first explorer to reach the South Pole.  
**1963 - Berlin Wall opens for first time**  
More than two years after the Berlin Wall was constructed by East Germany, nearly 4,000 West Berlin residents are allowed to cross into East Berlin to visit relatives for the first time.  
**1979 - Stuntman Stan Barrett breaks sound barrier**  
Stan Barrett, a Hollywood stuntman becomes the first man to travel faster than the speed of sound on land as he blasts across a Californian dry lakebed in a rocket and missile-powered car.  
**1984 - Britain agrees to return Hong Kong to China**  
British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang sign an agreement committing Britain to return Hong Kong to China in 1997. Hong Kong was leased to Great Britain by China for 99 years in 1898.

This week in history

**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.

**Word Ladder**

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**

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

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

**PLAN**

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**SHIP**

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

- PLAN
- PLAY
- SLAY
- SLAP
- SLIP
- SHIP

**DVD**

**Return of an old friend**



AFTER the Kingsman headquarters are destroyed by a psychotic drug lord, Poppy, the world is held hostage as she is determined to achieve world domination.  
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THURSDAY - 14 DECEMBER

BBC ONE	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
7:00am Breakfast	7:00am Flog it! Trade Secrets	5:00am This is BBC Four	9:30am Everybody Loves Raymond	8:20am Thomas and Friends
10:15am Island Medics	7:30am Island Medics	8:00pm Beyond 100	10:00am Frasier	8:30am Peppa Pig
11:00am Homes Under the Hammer	8:15am The Hairy Bikers	8:30pm Christmas University	10:35am Frasier	8:40am Peppa Pig
11:30am Grenfell Tower Memorial Service	9:00am MasterChef: The Professionals	9:00pm The Secrets of Quantum Physics	11:05am Ramsay's Kitchen	8:50am Flogals
1:00pm Bargain Hunt	10:00am Victoria Derbyshire	10:00pm The Science of Doctor Who	12:00pm Christmas with Bells On	9:05am Digby Dragon
2:00pm BBC News at One	11:30am Street Auction	11:00pm Horizon	1:00pm Channel 4 News	9:20am Noddy: Toyland Detective
2:30pm BBC London News	12:15pm Fake Britain	12:00am Every Breath We Take:	1:05pm Kirstie's Handmade	9:35am Shimmer and Shine
2:45pm Doctors	1:00pm The Daily Politics	1:00am Understanding Our Atmosphere	1:15pm Kirstie's Handmade	9:55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
3:15pm Armchair Detectives	2:00pm Coast	1:00am Gabrielle Walker tells the remarkable story of the quest to understand the air.	1:25pm Film The Holiday Tree	10:05am Mofy
4:00pm Escape to the Country	3:00pm Mason's Great Food Trip	2:00am Empire of the Seas: How the Navy Forged the Modern World	3:10pm Countdown	10:15am The Wright
4:45pm The Hairy Bikers Home for Christmas	3:30pm Home Away From Home	2:00am Peaky Blinders	4:00pm Lost and Found	12:45pm 5 News
5:30pm Money for Nothing	4:15pm 32 Brinkburn Street	2:00am Peaky Blinders	5:00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun	12:50pm The Perfect Holiday
6:15pm Pointless	5:05pm The Fifteen	2:00am Peaky Blinders	6:00pm Kirstie's Handmade	2:35pm My Christmas Dream
7:00pm BBC News at Six	6:05pm The Blue Planet	2:00am Peaky Blinders	6:00pm Kirstie's Handmade	4:20pm A Perfect Christmas
7:30pm BBC News at Seven	7:00pm Celebrity Eggheads	3:55am Peaky Blinders	7:00pm The Simpsons	6:00pm 5 News at 5
8:00pm The One Show	7:30pm Strictly - It Takes Two	4:55am This is BBC Four	7:30pm Hollyoaks	6:35pm The Yorkshire Vet
8:30pm EastEnders	8:00pm Celebrity Antiques Road Trip		8:00pm Channel 4 News	7:30pm 5 News Tonight
9:00pm The Apprentice: Why I Fired Them	9:00pm MasterChef: The Professionals		9:00pm Amazing Spaces	8:00pm The Gadget Show
10:00pm Love, Lies and Records	10:00pm Blitz		10:00pm Snow and Ice Special	9:00pm Brunel
11:00pm BBC News at Ten	11:00pm Live at the Apollo		10:00pm The Crystal Maze	10:00pm Strictly Come Dancing: Before They Were Famous
11:30pm BBC London News			11:00pm Extraordinary Teens	11:00pm The Strictly Story: Fake Tan, Tangos and a Ten From Len
			12:00am Naked Attraction	

FRIDAY - 15 DECEMBER

BBC ONE	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
7:00am Breakfast	7:00am Flog it! Trade Secrets	8:00pm World News Today	8:35am Everybody Loves Raymond	8:30am Peppa Pig
10:15am Island Medics	7:30am Island Medics	8:30pm Christmas University	9:00am Everybody Loves Raymond	8:40am Peppa Pig
11:00am Homes Under the Hammer	8:15am The Hairy Bikers	9:00pm Challenge 2016	9:30am Everybody Loves Raymond	8:50am Flogals
12:00pm Street Auction	9:00am MasterChef: The Professionals	9:00pm Rocks the Seventies (a Bit)	10:00am Frasier	9:05am Digby Dragon
12:45pm Fake Britain	10:00am Victoria Derbyshire	9:30pm Top of the Pops	10:35am Frasier	9:20am Noddy: Toyland Detective
1:15pm Bargain Hunt	10:00am BBC Newsroom Live	10:00am NewRoy	11:05am Ramsay's Kitchen	9:35am Shimmer and Shine
2:00pm BBC News at One	12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live	10:30am Orbison: Love Hurts	11:05am Ramsay's Kitchen	9:55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
2:30pm BBC London News	1:00pm The Daily Politics	11:30pm Roy Orbison and Friends: A Black and White Night 30	12:00pm Jamie's Festive Feast	10:05am Mofy
2:45pm Doctors	2:00pm Coast	1:35am Top of the Pops	1:00pm Channel 4 News	10:15am The Wright
3:15pm Armchair Detectives	3:00pm Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip	2:35am Roy Orbison: Love Hurts	1:05pm Kirstie's Handmade	10:15am The Wright
4:00pm Escape to the Country	3:30pm Home Away From Home	3:35am Peaky Blinders	1:15pm Kirstie's Handmade	12:45pm 5 News Lunchtime
4:45pm The Hairy Bikers Home for Christmas	4:15pm 32 Brinkburn Street	3:35am Peaky Blinders	1:15pm Kirstie's Handmade	12:50pm Married by Christmas
5:30pm Money for Nothing	5:00pm The Fifteen	4:15pm Peaky Blinders	1:15pm Kirstie's Handmade	2:35pm Once Upon a Holiday
6:15pm Pointless	6:05pm BBC News at Six	4:35am This is BBC Four	1:25pm Christmas Magic	4:15pm Mr Christmas
7:00pm BBC News at Seven	7:00pm The One Show	4:35am This is BBC Four	3:10pm Countdown	6:00pm 5 News at 5
7:30pm BBC News at Seven	8:30pm A Question of Sport	4:35am This is BBC Four	4:00pm Lost and Found	6:35pm The Yorkshire Vet
8:00pm The One Show	9:00pm EastEnders	4:35am This is BBC Four	5:00pm A Place in the Sun:	7:30pm 5 News Tonight
8:30pm EastEnders	9:30pm Still Open All Hours	6:00pm Strictly - It Takes Two	5:00pm Peaky Blinders	8:00pm The Gadget Show
9:00pm The Apprentice: Why I Fired Them	10:00pm Have I Got News for You	7:00pm Celebrity Antiques Road Trip	5:00pm Peaky Blinders	9:00pm Brunel
10:00pm Love, Lies and Records	10:30pm Mrs. Brown's Boys	7:30pm Hollyoaks	5:00pm Peaky Blinders	10:00pm Strictly Come Dancing: Before They Were Famous
11:00pm BBC News at Ten	11:00pm BBC News at Ten	8:00pm Channel 4 News	5:00pm Peaky Blinders	11:00pm The Strictly Story: Fake Tan, Tangos and a Ten From Len
11:30pm BBC London News	11:30pm Newsnight	8:00pm The Simpsons	5:00pm Peaky Blinders	
		8:00pm Hollyoaks	5:00pm Peaky Blinders	
		8:00pm Channel 4 News	5:00pm Peaky Blinders	
		8:00pm Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast	5:00pm Peaky Blinders	
		10:00pm Gogglebox		

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& prosperous  
New Year*

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## SATURDAY - 16 DECEMBER

BBC one		BBC TWO		BBC FOUR		CHANNEL 4		CHANNEL 5	
7:00am	Breakfast	8:00am	Nature's Weirdest Events	8:00pm	All Aboard! The Sleigh Ride	7:05am	Adventure Racing	9:30am	Nella the Princess Knight
11:00am	Saturday Kitchen Live	8:30am	Naomi's Nightmares of Nature		<i>In a Slow TV Christmas special, a traditional reindeer sleigh is rigged with a fixed camera for a journey across the frozen wilderness of the Arctic.</i>	7:30am	Everybody Loves Raymond	9:45am	Noddy: Toyland Detective
12:30pm	Nigel Slater's 12 Tastes of Christmas	9:00am	Deadly 60		<i>Ray worries when Ally's friend's mother flirts with him.</i>	9:55am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom	9:55am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
1:00pm	Football Focus	9:30am	Show Me What You're Made of: UK		<i>Shimmer and Shine</i>	10:15am	Shimmer and Shine	10:15am	Shimmer and Shine
2:00pm	BBC News	10:00am	Saturday Mash-Up!	10:00pm	Witnesses	10:30am	Digby Dragon	10:30am	Digby Dragon
2:15pm	Sports	12:00pm	Penguins on a Plane: Great Animal Moves	10:55pm	The Vietnam War	10:45am	The Gadget Show	10:45am	The Gadget Show
	Personality of the Year 2017 - The Contenders	12:00pm	Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well	11:55pm	Rich Hall's You Can Go to Hell, I'm Going to Texas	8:20am	Everybody Loves Raymond	11:45am	Nativity 3: Dude, Where's My Donkey?!
3:15pm	Bargain Hunt	1:00pm	Tom Kerridge's Best Ever Dishes	12:50am	Natural World	8:45am	Frasier	1:55pm	One Christmas Eve
4:15pm	Escape to the Country	2:00pm	Homes Under the Hammer	2:20am	Flamenco: Gypsy Soul	9:15am	Frasier	3:40pm	Love Always, Santa
5:00pm	Final Score	2:45pm	Coast	4:15am	This is BBC Four	9:40am	The Big Bang Theory	5:25pm	Mariah Carey's a Christmas Melody
6:25pm	BBC News	3:20pm	Garden Rescue		<i>BBC Four is the BBC channel for people who want more.</i>	10:05am	The Big Bang Theory	6:25pm	5 News
6:35pm	BBC London News	3:50pm	Mastermind			10:35am	The Simpsons	6:30pm	Mariah Carey's a Christmas Melody
6:40pm	Pointless	4:20pm	Possessed			11:35am	The Simpsons	7:05pm	Sinkholes
7:30pm	Strictly Come Dancing	6:05pm	Roger Moore: My Word is My Bond			12:05pm	Holiday in Handcuffs	8:00pm	Sinkholes
10:00pm	Michael McIntyre's Big Show	7:05pm	Escape to Athena			1:50pm	Come Dine with Me	9:00pm	5 News
11:00pm	BBC News	9:00pm	Attenborough's Life That Glows			3:55pm	Come Dine with Me	9:55pm	Weekend
11:20pm	Match of the Day	10:00pm	Feud: Bette and Joan			4:30pm	Grand Designs	10:00pm	Football on 5
12:45am	The NFL Show	10:55pm	Feud: Bette and Joan			5:30pm	Best Laid Plans	11:00pm	Football on 5
1:15am	Surviving Christmas	11:45pm	QI XL			6:35pm	Channel 4 News	11:30pm	NCIS: New Orleans
2:40am	Weather for the Week Ahead	12:30am	Jeff Lynne's Elo - Wembley or Bust			8:00pm	Guy Martin v the Robot Car	12:20am	NCIS: New Orleans
2:45am	BBC News					9:00pm	The World's Most Expensive Presents		

## SUNDAY - 17 DECEMBER

BBC one		BBC TWO		BBC FOUR		CHANNEL 4		CHANNEL 5	
7:00am	Breakfast	7:05am	Coast	8:00pm	Only Connect	7:10am	3rd Rock from the Sun	9:30am	Nella the Princess Knight
8:35am	Match of the Day	8:05am	Gardeners' World	8:30pm	Great Continental Railway Journeys	7:35am	3rd Rock from the Sun	9:50am	Noddy: Toyland Detective
10:00am	The Andrew Marr Show	8:35am	Monty Don's Secret History of the British Garden	9:00pm	Mrs Dickens' Family Christmas	8:05am	Everybody Loves Raymond	10:00am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
11:00am	Fern Britton Meets...	9:35am	Countryfile	10:00pm	The Mystery of Edwin Drood	8:30am	Everybody Loves Raymond	10:10am	Shimmer and Shine
12:00pm	Sunday Politics	10:30am	Saturday Kitchen	12:00pm	The Real Star of Bethlehem: A Sky at Night Christmas Special	8:55am	Everybody Loves Raymond	10:30am	Digby Dragon
1:15pm	Bargain Hunt	12:00pm	Best Bites	12:00am	The Genius of Marie Curie - The Woman Who Lit Up the World	9:25am	Everybody Loves Raymond	10:45am	Peppa Pig
2:00pm	BBC News	12:30pm	Nigel Slater's 12 Tastes of Christmas	1:00am	The Simpsons	9:55am	Everybody Loves Raymond	10:55am	Peppa Pig
2:15pm	BBC News	1:15pm	MOTD2 Extra	1:00am	The Simpsons	10:30am	Everybody Loves Raymond	11:00am	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
	Country House Secrets	2:00pm	Escape to the Country	2:00am	The Simpsons	1:30pm	Everybody Loves Raymond	11:35am	Football on 5
3:15pm	Songs of Praise	2:30pm	Equestrian	2:00am	The Simpsons	2:00pm	Jamie's Ultimate Christmas	12:30pm	Football on 5
3:50pm	Toy Story 2	5:35pm	Ski Sunday	3:00am	The Simpsons	3:05pm	The Simpsons	1:00pm	Season's Greetings
5:20pm	Blue Planet II	6:20pm	Nativity!	4:00am	The Simpsons	3:35pm	The Simpsons	2:50pm	Twelve Trees of Christmas
6:20pm	BBC News	8:00pm	Life in Polar Bear Town with Gordon Buchanan	4:00am	Roger Bannister: Everest on the Track	4:05pm	Jingle All the Way	4:35pm	Our First Christmas
6:35pm	BBC London News	9:00pm	James May's Toy Stories	5:50pm	Born Silly	5:50pm	Born Silly	5:35pm	5 News
6:45pm	Countryfile	10:00pm	The Alternativity	6:20pm	Miracle on 34th Street	6:50pm	Miracle on 34th Street	5:40pm	Our First Christmas
7:45pm	Sports	11:00pm	Detectorists	9:00pm	Coastal Railways with Julie Walters	9:00pm	Coastal Railways with Julie Walters	6:20pm	5 News
	Personality of the Year 2017	11:00pm	The Apprentice: Christmas Special	10:00pm	Inside Bentley: A Great British Motor Car	10:00pm	Inside Bentley: A Great British Motor Car	6:25pm	A Heavenly Christmas
10:00pm	The Apprentice: You're Hired	11:30pm	Match of the Day 2	11:00pm	Die Hard	11:00pm	Die Hard	8:10pm	Legally Blonde
12:00am	BBC News	12:30am	Insert Name Here	1:35am	Mercury Rising	1:35am	Mercury Rising	10:00pm	Agatha Christie's Crooked House
12:20am	BBC London News	1:00am	Roger Moore: My Word is My Bond	3:25am	I Origins	3:25am	I Origins	11:50pm	Sleepy Hollow
12:30am	Ronny Chieng: International Student							1:50am	Criminals Caught on Camera
12:55am	Weather for the Week Ahead								
1:00am	BBC News								

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**TECH FOR THE TIMID**

LAST month I won half a million in an online lottery I hadn't entered. Before that I could make a tidy commission simply by giving my bank details to a nice Nigerian minister to help him move his money.

Well may you laugh, but it's astonishing how many people plunge wallet-first into obvious scams, especially since e-mail made the con-artist's job so much easier and saved on the stamps.

A Tennessee pensioner lost tens of thousands of dollars of his life savings not once, but three times to the same conmen, in a triumph of hopeless greed over basic hog-sense.

You might think it takes an IQ in single figures to fall for such swindles. Indeed a recent BBC documentary revealed that e-mail scammers with a perfectly good command of the English language deliberately 'dumb down' their appeals with terrible grammar and spelling, because that weeds-out the more literate (and apparently less gullible) among us up-front.

But things have become so sophisticated in this age when hooking even a tiny fraction from an e-

# Watch out for that damn scam spam

Terence Kennedy decided not to collect his vast online winnings and is all the richer for it



**SCAMS:** Think before you click.

mail blitz can unlock a fortune for the scammer.

Your bank e-mails asking you nicely to update your details by clicking the link below. Except it isn't a link to your real bank. Ka-

ching and goodbye life savings.

Or take our Nigerian minister and similar fraudsters offering truly improbable amounts of money, if only you will pay the transfer fee involved. Ka-ching.

A friend (whose name has been hacked from your address book) e-mails from Thailand where she's stranded without funds. Of course you'll help? Ka-ching again.

A sad little girl in Anywhereville needs money for a life-saving operation and you open your heart. And wallet. No such girl, naturally.

The UK alone saw 1.7 million reported cases of cyber-fraud last year - never mind the rest that go unreported because victims are too embarrassed to admit their gullibility.

Just one victim website, , gets 10,000 hits a day. Plus two dozen messages daily from people who are victims of sextortion; that's when a person is blackmailed after being persuaded to carry out a sex act on webcam, which is then recorded.

Many scams are not a particularly sophisticated form of fraud, and you might think you're not going to fall for it.

So just remember the old adage: if it looks too good to be true or not quite right, it probably is. And if you do decide to 'take the chance' of untold riches despite utter improbability, well, step this way because I have a bridge to sell you.

## Hooked

SCAMMING may be an old trick but it's still an effective one. If you do get scammed, here are a few simple rules:

**Drop all contact with the scammer.**

**Don't try to track them down - remember, the scammer has your real details and possibly compromising information about you. It's not worth the risk to continue talking to them, and especially not worth confronting them.**

**If you sent cash, there's no realistic way to get it back; beware the 'recovery scam' where the scammer then claims to be an agency able to get the money back, for a fee.**

**Contact the police.**

**Share as many details about the scam as you can to warn others.**

**And a final golden rule to use in the first place: Google everything.**

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MONDAY - 18 DECEMBER

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
3:30pm Escape to the Country	2:00pm The Link	8:30pm Christmas University	1:00pm Channel 4 News	10:10am Mofy
4:30pm The Instant Gardener	2:45pm Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip	9:00pm Mexico: Earth's Festival of Life	1:05pm Jamie's Comfort Food	10:15am Puppies Make You Laugh Out Loud
5:15pm Money for Nothing	3:15pm Home Away From Home	10:00pm New The Art That Made Mexico: Paradise, Power and Prayers	1:20pm Carry on Cleo	11:10am The Gadget Show
6:15pm Pointless	4:00pm Inside Claridge's	11:00pm The Blue Planet	3:10pm Countdown	12:05pm The Gadget Show
7:00pm BBC News at Six	5:00pm Alaska: Earth's Frozen Kingdom	11:00pm Celebrity Eggheads	4:00pm Lost and Found	1:10pm Jim Henson's Turkey Hollow
7:30pm BBC London News	6:00pm The Blue Planet	11:30pm Britain's Lost Masterpieces	5:00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun	2:55pm Back to Christmas
8:00pm The One Show	7:00pm Celebrity Antiques	12:30am Kiri Te Kanawa at the BBC	6:00pm Kirstie's Handmade Christmas	4:35pm A Cinderella Christmas
8:30pm Panorama	7:30pm Road Trip	1:30am Mexico: Earth's Festival of Life	7:00pm The Simpsons	6:25pm Christmas Bucket List
9:00pm EastEnders	8:30pm Inside the Christmas Factory	2:30am The Art That Made Mexico: Paradise, Power and Prayers	7:30pm Hollyoaks	8:00pm World's Strongest Man 2017: Giants Live
9:30pm Mary Berry's Christmas Party	9:30pm University Challenge		8:00pm Channel 4 News	9:00pm Brick by Brick: The Lego Story
10:30pm Would I Lie to You?	10:00pm Employable Me		9:00pm Paul Hollywood	10:00pm BBC News at Ten
11:00pm BBC News at Ten	11:00pm The League of Gentlemen		9:30pm Supershoppers	
			10:00pm Old People's Home for 4 Year Olds at Christmas	
			11:00pm First Dates	

TUESDAY - 19 DECEMBER

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
2:30pm BBC London News	10:00am Victoria Derbyshire	8:00pm Beyond 100 Days	12:00pm Channel 4 News	10:15am Access
2:45pm Father Brown	12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live	8:30pm Christmas	1:00pm Channel 4 News	10:25am Nutcracker Sweet
3:40pm Escape to the Country	1:00pm The Daily Politics	9:00pm Armada: 12 Days to Save England	1:05pm Jamie's Cracking Christmas	11:45am Free Birds
4:25pm The Instant Gardener	2:00pm The Link	10:00pm New Invasion!	1:25pm Five Children and It	1:25pm Five Children and It
5:15pm Money for Nothing	2:45pm Equestrian	11:00pm The Science of D-Day	3:10pm Carry on Cabby	3:10pm A Royal Family Holiday
6:15pm Pointless	4:00pm Inside Claridge's	11:30pm Flying Scotsman	4:00pm Lost and Found	4:50pm Hearts of Christmas
7:00pm BBC News at Six	5:00pm Alaska: Earth's Frozen Kingdom	12:30am The Trains That Time Forgot: Britain's Lost Railway Journeys	5:00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun	6:25pm A Prince for Christmas
7:30pm BBC London News	6:00pm The Blue Planet	1:30am Everything and Nothing	6:00pm Kirstie's Handmade Christmas	8:00pm World's Strongest Man 2017: Giants Live
8:00pm The One Show	7:00pm Russia with Simon Reeve	2:30am Bought with Love:	7:00pm The Simpsons	9:00pm Jo Brand's Cats and Kittens
8:30pm EastEnders	8:00pm The Repair Shop at Christmas		7:30pm Hollyoaks	10:00pm Britain's Favourite Biscuit
9:00pm Holby City	9:00pm MasterChef		8:00pm Channel 4 News	11:30pm Greatest Ever Christmas Movies
10:00pm U2 at the BBC	10:00pm Rick Stein's Road to Mexico		9:00pm Jamie's Italian Christmas	
11:00pm BBC News at Ten	11:00pm The League of Gentlemen		10:00pm Shamed	

WEDNESDAY - 20 DECEMBER

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
7:00am Breakfast	7:30am Flog it! Trade Secrets	8:00pm Beyond 100 Days	9:35am Everybody Loves Raymond	8:05am Paw Patrol
10:15am Let's Get a Good Thing Going	8:00am Nicella's Christmas Table	8:30pm Christmas University	10:00am Frasier	8:20am Thomas and Friends
11:00am Homes Under the Hammer	9:00am David Suchet: In the Footsteps of St Peter	9:00pm Mexico: Earth's Festival of Life	10:35am Frasier	8:30am Peppa Pig
12:00pm Street Auction	10:00am Victoria Derbyshire	10:00pm New The Art That Made Mexico: Paradise, Power and Prayers	11:05am The Big Bang Theory	8:50am Floogals
12:45pm Fake Britain	12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live	11:00pm The Two Ronnies' Old-Fashioned Christmas Mystery	12:00pm Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	9:05am Digby Dragon
1:15pm Bargain Hunt	12:30pm The Daily Politics	11:00pm The Two Ronnies Christmas Show	1:00pm Channel 4 News	9:20am Noddy: Toyland Detective
2:00pm BBC News at One	2:00pm The Link	12:00am The Guilty	1:05pm Jamie's Cracking Christmas	9:35am Shimmer and Shine
2:30pm BBC London News	2:45pm Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip	1:00am Appropriate Adult	1:25pm Carry on Nurse	9:50am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
2:45pm Raiders of the Lost Ark	3:15pm Home Away From Home		3:10pm Countdown	10:10am Mofy
4:35pm Chicken Run	4:00pm Inside Claridge's		4:00pm Lost and Found	10:15am Snow Queen
5:55pm Book of Dragons	5:05pm Alaska: Earth's Frozen Kingdom		5:00pm A Place in the Sun	11:35am Jack and the Beanstalk
6:15pm Pointless	6:05pm The Blue Planet		6:00pm Kirstie's Handmade Christmas	1:25pm James and the Giant Peach
7:00pm BBC News at Six	7:00pm Russia with Simon Reeve		7:00pm The Simpsons	2:55pm My Angel
7:30pm BBC London News	8:00pm The Sweet Makers at Christmas		7:30pm Hollyoaks	4:40pm Christmas Carol
8:00pm The One Show	9:00pm MasterChef		8:00pm Channel 4 News	6:20pm A Fairytale Christmas
9:00pm Judi Dench's Secret Woodland	10:00pm Peaky Blinders		9:00pm The Secret Life of the Zoo at Christmas	8:00pm World's Strongest Man 2017
10:00pm The Real Marigold on Tour	11:00pm The League of Gentlemen		10:00pm The Channel	9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
			11:00pm Gogglebox	10:00pm Harry Potter: 20 Years of Magic
			12:05am TOTP2	12:00am Football on 5
			2:30am Bought with Love	

itv	itv2	itv3	itv4	sky sports main event
11:30am This Morning	10:00am The Ellen DeGeneres Show	7:00am Judge Judy	7:05am The Chase	8:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
1:30pm Loose Women	10:50am Mr. Bean	7:20am Coronation Street	7:55am The Chase	8:30am Good Morning Sports Fans
2:30pm ITV Lunchtime News	11:20am Jack Frost	7:45am Coronation Street	8:45am Storage Wars Texas	9:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
2:55pm ITV News London	12:25pm FYI Daily	8:10am Heartbeat	9:10am Storage Wars Texas	9:30am Good Morning Sports Fans
3:00pm Judge Rinder	12:30pm Jack Frost	9:10am The Royal	9:40am Pawn Stars	10:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal	1:20pm Emmerdale	10:15am Judge Judy	10:10am Pawn Stars	10:30am Good Morning Sports Fans
5:00pm Tipping Point	1:50pm You've Been Framed!	11:05am Judge Judy	10:35am Ironside	11:00am Premier League Daily
6:00pm The Chase	2:50pm The Ellen DeGeneres Show	11:30am A Touch of Frost	11:40am Quincy, M.E.	12:00pm Sky Sports Daily News
7:00pm ITV News London	3:40pm The Jeremy Kyle Show	1:35pm The Royal	12:45pm The Sweeney	1:00pm SKY Sports News
7:30pm ITV Evening News	4:50pm The Jeremy Kyle Show	3:40pm Coronation Street	1:50pm The Professionals	1:00pm SKY Sports News
8:00pm Emmerdale	5:55pm The Jeremy Kyle Show	4:15pm Coronation Street	2:55pm Ironside	2:00pm SKY Sports News
8:30pm Coronation Street	7:00pm Take Me Out	4:45pm A Touch of Frost	3:55pm Quincy, M.E.	2:30pm Cricket
9:00pm Gino's Italian	8:00pm You've Been Framed!	7:00pm Heartbeat	5:00pm The Sweeney	6:00pm SKY Sports News
9:30pm Coastal Escape	8:30pm The Jeremy Kyle Show	8:00pm Murder, She Wrote	6:00pm The Professionals	6:00pm SKY Sports News
10:00pm A Night for the Emergency Services	9:00pm You've Been Framed!	9:00pm Midsomer Murders	7:00pm Storage Wars Texas	7:00pm SKY Sports News
11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	9:00pm Two and a Half Men	11:00pm Cilla	7:30pm Storage Wars Texas	7:00pm SKY Sports News
11:30pm ITV News London	9:30pm Two and a Half Men	12:00am The Guilty	8:00pm Pawn Stars	8:00pm Sky Sports Tonight
11:45pm Birds of a Feather	10:00pm The Hangover Part III	1:05am Agatha Christie's Marple	8:30pm Pawn Stars	8:30pm Football
12:45am Play to the Whistle	11:00pm FYI Daily	3:55am The Knock	9:00pm The Chase	11:30pm Conor Benn: The Destroyer
		4:50am A Touch of Frost	10:00pm Rambo III	12:00am SKY Sports News
			11:00pm FYI Daily	
			11:05pm Rambo III	
			12:05am Crank 2: High Voltage	

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Ask The

Brought to you by

Doctor



## Dealing with a frozen shoulder



**SPECIALIST: Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.**

### What is frozen shoulder?

Frozen shoulder is a condition in which the muscles and ligaments of the shoulder hurt and lose movement due to inflammation. What can cause it?

The capsule of the shoulder joint has ligaments attaching the shoulder bones to each other.

When inflammation of the capsule occurs, these bones are unable to move freely in the joint. Most of the time, there is no cause for inflammation. Risk factors include: diabetes, thyroid disorders, menopause, previous shoulder injury, previous shoulder surgery, cervical disc disease, etc.

### What is the best course of treatment to follow?

Treatment should be started with anti-inflammatories and painkillers, along with applying heat to the affected area. If this is not enough, injections can be done to reduce the symptoms. Physical therapy often improves stiffness and pain.

In certain cases, surgery is necessary.

### How long does recovery take?

The recovery can last several months, often requiring treatment with pills, injections and rehabilitation for a long time.

### What are some general tips for muscle injuries?

When any type of injury occurs in which joints such as the shoulder are affected due to the injury of the surrounding muscles and tendons, it is necessary to visit a specialist in the human musculoskeletal system as well as consulting with a physiotherapist. Adequate and timely treatment can often prevent complications such as full limb stiffness, which limits mobility, as well as avoiding more aggressive treatments.

Physical therapy is one of the most important elements in this disease since the strengthening of the shoulder joint helps a prompt and successful recovery.

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

# No tantrums this Christmas

## Having grandchildren to stay this Christmas?

IF you are having young children at your home over the festive period, there's a good chance there will be something on the menu they won't like. Whether it's vegetables, soups or seafood, children can often be picky eaters.

But rather than creating a whole new menu for your younger guests, why not follow expert advice and encourage children to eat the same foods as you?

Nutrition professors Kathryn Walton and Jess Haines have spoken to one publication sharing their top tips for a harmonious Christmas meal.

The experts explain children aged around four are starting to develop a sense of independence and will often have strong opinions about which foods they like and dislike. They say, "rather than viewing children as non-com-

pliant, we can recognise this show of independence at mealtimes as completely appropriate for their age," instead focusing energy on making sure children eat more of the healthy foods they do like rather than insisting on more bites of something they don't. Kathryn and Jess explain research shows the most effective way of encouraging children to eat foods they might dislike - such as vegeta-

bles - is to expose them to the food every day, offer non-food rewards (like stickers) for trying something new, and eating the same foods alongside them.

Finally, they also suggest asking a child for their input before going food shopping or preparing a meal, giving them a small amount of control over their preferences without changing your whole meal to suit them.

## Feeling hoarse?

IF you are prone to a sore throat you will be more than aware winter can make symptoms worse than normal.

No one likes losing their voice or being in pain, especially over Christmas. Thankfully, one publication has spoken to an ear, nose and throat expert to get the best tips on treating the complaint.

Alasdair Mace, a consultant at Charing Cross and St Mary's Hospitals in London, explained, "95 per cent of sore throats are viral, and don't respond to antibiotics, but the good news is that they will usually get better within a few days, or a week," adding, "you can often tell by looking at the back of your throat using a torch and a mirror. If it's very red and swollen, it's most likely a virus."

Mr Mace said, "any sign of yellow gunk or white spots indicates a bacterial infection. Those white spots are colonies of bacteria, just like the ones that are grown in petri dish in laboratories."

The expert adds, "in both cases, it is important to stay hydrated as mucus and saliva help

protect the throat," explaining, "a humidifier will help counteract the drying effect of central heating, or simply drape a damp towel over a radiator, it will have the same effect."

Mr Mace concludes the best ways to treat the ailment at home are eating vitamin C rich foods like oranges, gargling with salt water to loosen mucus and drinking tea to sooth your throat.

Mr Mace recommends avoiding alcoholic drinks like hot toddies as these will dehydrate you, as well as smoking or speaking too much. Finally, he says it is important to avoid aspirin as this can lower your immune response.



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Cassandra Nash

A weekly look

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

CRITICAL COALITION: Ada Colau and Pablo Iglesias.

# Which way to turn

HOWEVER much the PP and PSOE fear Cs, they can't coherently fail to back Arrimadas should she win enough votes and parliamentary seats on December 21.

But the Cataluña en Comun-Podemos coalition between Ada Colau's party and Pablo Iglesias' party will be the deciders.

Neither party knows which horse to back, although Colau only has to worry about Catalan voters who are anyway split 50-50 regarding separatism. At least she knows she will please half of them whichever way she swings.

Iglesias has his party's plummeting popularity to contend with and the power-hungry, popularity-seeking Podemos supremo knows that whether he supports a separatist or a constitutionalist party on December 22, somebody will be upset, either in Cataluña or in the rest of Spain.

## Ines and the bride's bouquet

CIUDADANOS (Cs) were the eternal bridesmaids and never the bride. Attractive and worth a second glance but never

the centre of attention - until now.

At the time of writing Cs would be the most-voted party ahead of the ERC secessionists if the December 21 regional elections were held today.

What was founded in Cataluña as a regional civic association opposed to independence is now a national, constitutionalist party. In March 2016 it came within a hair's breadth of helping the PSOE socialists and Pedro Sanchez to form a government, a nice little plan scuppered by Pablo Iglesias and the Podemos party.

Come December 22, if Cs progress we shall see if the constitutionalist parties will put their money where their mouths are by backing a Cs government.

Could be time for the bridesmaid to

catch the bride's bouquet.

## The president over the water

CARLES PUIGDEMONT, erstwhile president of the Catalan region, stayed out of jail by decamping to Brussels shortly after declaring the Republic on October 27.

If he wanted to remain in the public eye and Catalan hearts he would have done better to stay and accompany the Jordis, Oriol Junqueras and his former government in prison.

Instead of cutting a romantic exiled figure, a sort of Catalan Bonny Prince Carles, Puigdemont is unromantic and an irritant inside and outside Cataluña.

He recently described the December 21 elections as the second round of the October 1 referendum-that-wasn't or at the very least a plebiscite, neither of which is far from the truth.

But Puigdemont and his latest party, Junts per Catalunya, can probably expect a result like Artur Mas's in the 2015 regional elections. In other words, plebiscite, schlebiscite. Or, possibly, plebischite.

## The very idea of it

GABRIEL RUFIAN, MP for the ERC party in the national parliament in Madrid, claimed recently that the imprisoned Jordis, Oriol Junqueras and now-released government members reminded him of Galileo.

Like the separatist politicians, he was punished for his ideas and obliged to declare that the earth was flat, Rufian maintained.

In fact Galileo got into hot water because he insisted that the earth revolved round the sun, not the other way round. Rufian got his history wrong and he's equally wrong about the Jordis, Junqueras and the Consellers. They were remanded for breaking the law and breaching the Constitution, not for their ideas.

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

## Spare a thought

THE six ex-consellers released from remand insisted as they exited prison, "We are thinking of Oriol, their remaining colleague Joaquim Forn and the Jordis." No doubt. But above all they are thinking of themselves, home for Christmas, turkey, turrón and cava.

## THURSDAY THOUGHTS

By Jeff Sinton, San Pedro de Alcantara

## Defining dates

THINGS seem to change without explanation and in a conversation with a young person it transpired that they didn't recognise the terms BCE and CE.

Common Era and Before Common Era have in theory replaced BC (Before Christ) and AD (Anno Domini (Year of the Lord)) in official parlance although it appears that most people guess what they mean rather than actually understanding the letters.

The concept of using the birth of Christ as the starting date for modern history was first thought of in 525 and was adopted in England in 731 by the Venerable Bede who actually then came up with the concept of referring to events with dates BC.

By the early 15th century the whole of Europe had adopted this concept and was generally accepted around the world (even though Jewish and Muslim societies have their own calendars) until the early 21st century when it was considered appropriate to replace what could be considered unacceptable to non-Christians.

Slowly but surely, different countries have accepted the Common Era definitions and these were introduced into the English and Welsh school curriculums, but some staunch Christian societies, especially in the USA are opposed to the concept.

In simple terms, BCE is the same as BC and CE is the same as AD but just to confuse, some organisations such as the History TV Channel are said to use the original letters for most dates, but then the new ones when referring to Jewish or Muslim history.

columnists@euroweeklynews.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@euroweeklynews.com.

## Will Brexit Britain 'Cinders' get to the ball or be stopped by her EU 'stepsisters'?

Nora Johnson

Breaking Views

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



INSPIRED by the #MeToo campaign against sexual harassment, a PR consultant wants the Sleeping Beauty story taken off the curriculum at her son's school because the non-consensual kiss by the prince who wakes her up has an 'inappropriate sexual message.'

For goodness sake! What's the world coming to? For centuries, children have been familiar with this fairy story and haven't become raving rapists. Soon young people will be so paranoid about kissing they'll need written consent. Incredible!

And what might be banned next? Goldilocks and the Three Bears as she nicks their porridge and abuses their home without their consent? The Tale of the



## CONTROVERSIAL: Are fairy tales at risk of being written out of our literary heritage for good?

Three Pigs, as the wolf blows down their houses, again without consent? Let alone Little Red Riding Hood, that encourages girls to walk alone through woods and talk to strange wolves...

What about old women in pointy hats, living in forests, wanting to cook and eat small children after enticing them with candy? Call the police now, this must be stopped!

And, yep, Sleeping Beauty should file charges for having been drugged with that Rohyp-

nol-tipped spindle.

As for Cinderella, wearing glass shoes is highly dangerous - they could smash. Also, it's extremely misogynistic about ugly older sisters and defamatory of stepmothers. Incidentally, looked at in a different light, it could also be regarded as an allegory of the UK's frustrated attempts to get to the ball and away from the constraints of Europe and its 27 stepsisters, er, member states. Brexit fairy tale or Brexit nightmare?

Heck, this could mean the end

of the Panto tradition as we know it. All these could be banned: Aladdin, for trespassing in a cave and stealing jewels. Jack and the Beanstalk, the murder of an innocent giant. Babes in the Wood: oh, no way! And don't get complacent, Famous Five: you'll be next!

In the present climate, when police have warned Christmas party goers to get consent before kissing under the mistletoe otherwise they may be guilty of rape, Prince Charming should wait another 100 years before trying anything on...

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](http://www.nora-johnson.net)) available from Amazon in paperback/eBook (€0.99;£0.99) and iBookstore. All profits to Costa del Sol Cudeca cancer charity.

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## Venue change

A CHRISTMAS concert of angelic carols being performed by local choir, Coraxalia has had to be relocated at the last minute after they discovered, to their horror, that a rock concert had been organised in the square outside the church at exactly the same time.

They are now performing at the Convento de las Carmelitas Descalzas in the Plaza de las Carmelitas, Velez-Málaga on Saturday at 8pm.

Coraxalia will also be performing two other concerts in the coming days. One will be in the Chapel at Competa Tanatorio (tomorrow) Friday at 8pm and the other will be at the Iglesia San Miguel (near Parador), Nerja on Tuesday at 5pm.

For more information, please email: [eurorax@hotmail.es](mailto:eurorax@hotmail.es) or call: 669 682 139 (English) or 689 111 352 (Spanish).

# The Offspring to headline

NINETIES favourites, The Offspring has been announced as the headline act at next year's Weekend Beach Festival.

The pretty fly for a white guy rockers will join Jimmy Cliff, Izal and Adam Beyer in celebrating the festival's fifth anniversary. The band, led by Dexter Holland, who alongside his music, has a PHD in Molecular Biology, this year made a tour of the world which will take them to Torre del Mar in 2018.

The Offspring has sold around 50 million copies worldwide.

Jimmy Cliff, one of the key figures in the history of reggae, is also booked to perform. From Jamaica, the musician famous for songs: *Sittin' in limbo*, *Many rivers to cross*, *Samba reggae* and *You can get it if really want*, has been going for almost 50 years.

The annual festival in Torre del Mar will also feature performances by Loco Dice, Caleb Calloway, The Qemists, Natos & Waor, Muchachito, Invisible Dance and Juancho Marques.

In addition, Alborosie, Avalanch, The Sticker, The Tarambana, The Root, Neuman, Viva Sweden, The Kanka, Celtas Cortos, and Vitalic Live have al-



## 90'S HITMAKERS: The Offspring.

ready been confirmed.

The event will also feature important names in international electric music, including Tunisian group, Loco Dice and Puerto Rican group, Caleb Calloway. The British group, The Qemists will be playing the festival for the second time.

Some of Spain's most important acts will also be playing, including El Langui, one of the country's prominent rap stars. While Natos & Waor are one of

Spain's youngest and most current groups.

Invisible Dance and La Regadera will also be performing for the second time, having played in the morning last year. The Malaga groups form part of nine artists named for the 2018 line up in a grand reveal coinciding with Black Friday.

The 'most beloved and eclectic festival on the Andalucian coast' will take place next year on July 4, 5, 6 and 7,

promising, 'an exceptional line up and many surprises,' according to its organisers.

Although the 2017 Weekend Beach Festival only took place several months ago, starring 90's band, The Prodigy as the headline act, organisers decided to release a handful of tickets early.

In October, 6,000 tickets went up on sale, which had to be increased to 10,000 within minutes due to the volume of people buying them. All tickets, costing between €28 and €35, were sold out in less than two hours, a record for the festival.

In just four years, the festival has positioned itself as one of the essential events on the Spanish festival calendar. In previous years it has featured international artists, including Skrillex, The Prodigy, Hardwell, Fabulous Cadillac, Anthony B, Sepultura, and Resident.

Last year 35,000 festival-goers visited Weekend Beach Festival over four days and four stages, camping on the beach.

Further tickets are expected to be on sale soon. For tickets and further information, visit [www.weekendbeach.es](http://www.weekendbeach.es).

## BACCHUS CELLAR

by Lorenzo Barbareschi



CONTINUING in the festive mood, Prosecco is an Italian white wine named after a village near Trieste and produced in the Veneto and Friuli Venezia Giulia regions.

First mention of the name is attributed to the British explorer Fynes Moryson, when he visited Italy in 1593.

The most popular Prosecco is spumante (sparkling), but there is also frizzante (semi-sparkling), and the rarely exported tranquillo (still). Depending on sweetness, Proseccos are labelled Brut, Extra Dry or Dry.

Prosecco is made from Glera grapes, but up to 15 per cent of other grapes may be included, including Verdiso, Chardonnay, Pinot Bianco, Pinot Grigio and Pinot Noir. The bulk of

## Sparkling success



### PROSECCO: An aperitif.

Prosecco DOC is grown on low-lying plains, while the higher quality Conegliano Valdobbiadene Superiore D.O.C.G. is produced exclusively in a small area on hillside vineyards.

Growing in popularity over the last 40 years, Prosecco exports have been increasing by double-digit percentages since 1998. Approximately 150 million bottles are produced annually, with the UK the biggest importer, consuming 25 per cent of all production.

Unlike Champagne, Prosecco is produced using the Charmat-Martinotti method, in which the secondary fermentation takes place in stainless steel tanks instead of in the bottle

Served chilled it should be drunk preferably within three years of its vintage, with only exceptional quality bottles aged longer.

Meant to taste fresh and light, its aromatic and crisp flavour brings apple, pear, peach and apricot to mind.

Prosecco is usually drunk as an aperitif, but Brut can be paired with Parma, mild cheeses, sushi, seafood and dim sum, while the extra dry goes well with Panettone, sponge cakes, macaroons, mousses and par-faits.

It can also be used in cocktails including Bellini plus Spritz, and substitute Champagne in the Mimosa.

Cin cin and happy tasting!

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# Selling like hot cakes

A NEW report on the state of Spain's residential real estate sector has underlined some interesting findings. The Euroval Real Estate Situation Report takes into account full data from the first half of 2017. Among the highlights are a substantial increase in the number of sales. They shot up by 20 per cent in the 2016-17 period, compared to 10 per cent from 2014-15.

The community with the largest number of sales was Andalusia, which accounted for 18 per cent of all transactions in Spain. But adjusted for population, Madrid saw the highest number,

with 81 sales per 1,000 inhabitants, compared to 72 in Valencia and just two per 1,000 in the Balearics. From January to June this year just one in 10 homes sold was a new build.

That trend is expected to change by 2020 but second-hand homes dominate today's market. Total real estate activity is 30 per cent lower today than it was in 2007 when the market peaked before the crisis. But many experts doubt whether reaching such highs again would be desirable, nevermind attainable, and consider today's situation to be more sustainable.



**HOT CAKES:** Spanish real estate is thriving.



**SUNNY FUTURE:** Prices are up but still haven't reached pre-crisis levels.

## Encouragement for the housing market

HOUSE prices in Spain have risen by 2 per cent on last year, according to the Association of Spanish Notaries' figures for the last 12 months since September.

The same statistics show impressive growth in residential property sales, which are up 9 per cent.

Though new build sales fell by 2 per cent, apartment sales

went up by 8 per cent, while detached home sales saw an annual increase of 12 per cent, according to the analysis.

The six most watched house price indices in Spain are all indicating that the market has recovered. The Association of Spanish Registrars showed the strongest growth, of 7 per cent in the third quarter, while Notaires projected

the lowest growth - of 2 per cent in September.

However, according to a report from property portal Idealista, some house prices are still lagging far below their peaks before the economic downturn nearly a decade ago.

Malaga prices are 26 per cent below their peak, while in Barcelona prices are down 8

per cent and in Madrid down 20 per cent. In provincial capitals such as Lleida, Zaragoza and Castellón, prices are still over 50 per cent down.

Meanwhile, new homes are continuing to be built, with the total expected to reach 75,000 this year, a 15 per cent increase on 2016, according to consultants DBK Informa.

## Oozing confidence

MAJOR property developers are preparing for a bumper 2018 across Spain. Several promoters and developers have secured huge financing deals from banks and are set to build along the Mediterranean coast.

One of them is Metrovacesa which has just secured €275 million from seven different banks, including Morgan Stanley and BBVA. With that financial backing the company is set to become just the third major real estate developer to go public since the crisis.

The money will be used to deliver at least 5,000 new homes per year from 2020 to help satiate a Spanish market hungry for new brick.

Meanwhile Aedas

Homes, which also recently went public, plans to invest almost one billion euros in the Costa del Sol. It will both build new homes and renovate old ones, developing a total of 2,600 properties along one of Spain's most in-demand coastlines.

This latest venture will join other Aedas Homes' projects already underway in the Balearic Islands, Sevilla and Madrid. On the retail front Lar España are set to invest €247 million in shopping centres nationwide between 2018 and 2021. The firm are betting on Spain's booming 'alternative' property scene which includes offices, retail space and student accommodation.

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WINTER pruning time is here. Pruning is an essential part of any healthy garden. It is necessary to remove damaged and dried out branches, restrict plants to fit into the garden design space, promote flowers and fruits of better quality, and to shape the plant to look better.

Now is the time to prune most deciduous trees that require improvement.

The first key to good pruning is understanding the basics of plant growth to cut in the right place at the right angle at the right time to improve recovery of the plant from the wound.

The second is ensuring the right tools for the job are sharp and effective to give a clean cut. Thirdly, as a rule of thumb, only prune a third of the plant's height and width in a year to allow it to recover before removing any more. If you need to prune more than a third of a plant in a year your plant is probably in the wrong place.

There are different types of pruning methods and tools to suit the way you tackle the maintenance of your plants. Trees need specialist care when mature to ensure their longevity, shape and purpose with correct pruning cuts.

# Winter pruning



**ESSENTIAL GARDENING:** Safe pruning with a sharp tool.

Densely branched shrubs and hedges need skill but generally have smaller, thinner branches that allows shearing off multiple branches with minimal damage to the plant if prun-

ing is done regularly. Sparsely branched shrubs, such as roses, need more care and skill in pruning to encourage a good framework and promotion of flowers.

The main point to pruning cuts is to make the cut just above a bud or branch with minimal waste wood after the joint. This is to prevent die back which promotes insect and fungal

entry. Avoid damaging the remaining bud or lateral branch including the branch collar, which is the swelling on the branch around the joint, by allowing a small space of clear-

ance above the joint.

On large limbs it is easiest to cut a branch first well away from the joint to the trunk to remove the weight and make the final precise cut with only the stub to be removed.

In a garden with a variety of plants and trees, pruning can be a year round activity. Autumn is the time to restrict pruning to damaged and dead branches for mature trees as it is a time of fungal growth and insect activity that can infect trees.

Most deciduous trees are pruned in winter when the plants are dormant in order to establish a good framework of branches while visible and encourage stronger growth in the remaining branches to produce better flowering and, for fruiting trees, premium quality fruit.

Spring pruning is normally undertaken for winter and spring flowering plants to remove flower stems and reshape the plant to encourage the next flowering season. Summer pruning is mostly removal of die back branches and overgrowth that may be taking over the allotted space to the detriment of other plants, paths or proximity to buildings and utilities, this includes hedges and topiary features. Take care when pruning.



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## Kitchen cabinet black hole

CHRISTMAS is coming and many of us might be thinking about giving cooking enthusiasts a kitchen appliance.

But maybe you should think twice before committing to your purchase. According to Mintel, many of these gadgets may lie forgotten in the kitchen cupboard, as 54 per cent of kitchen gadget owners say they have a small kitchen appliance they rarely use.

And it seems it could be user ignorance that is holding back usage, as one in eight (16 per cent) of gadget owners admit they have a kitchen appliance they don't know how to use, rising to one in five

(19 per cent) male gadget owners.

But while Britain's men struggle to navigate their way around kitchen gadgets, according to Mintel, men (55 per cent) are more likely than women (52 per cent) to have purchased a small kitchen appliance in the past year.

And while men are more likely to invest in the tools, it comes as they showcase confidence in the kitchen. Three in four (76 per cent) men say they are confident in their ability to cook and 50 per cent of men are confident baking; what's more, 8 per cent of men purchased a food mixer last year compared to 5 per cent of women.

The top five kitchen appliances owned by Brits are a kettle (96 per cent), toaster (92 per cent), sandwich toaster or grilling machine (60 per cent), slow cooker or multicooker (57 per cent) and food processor (52 per cent).

Just under four in 10 (38 per cent) own a juicer/smoothie maker and just over a third own a capsule coffee machine (35 per cent) and a fryer (35 per cent).

So if you are thinking of taking advantage of Spain's expanded Christmas opening hours to buy your presents this year, it may pay to stay clear of the appliance section.



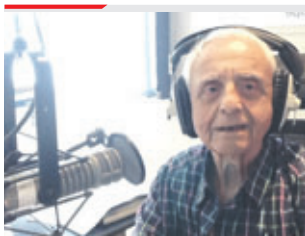
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# Group or private training



**FURRY FRIENDS:** Group training classes are a great way to help your dog socialise.

ONCE you have chosen your method of training, you then have to decide if you want to attend group classes or if you want to train your dog in private.

I recommend group classes to enable your pet to socialise with other people and dogs.

Group training usually consists of a group of dogs, all roughly the same age, all learning the same basic commands at the same time. Make sure the class you choose is appropriate for your puppy's skill level, as well as his age.

A good group class will have no more than 10 dogs in it; an instructor

familiar with all breeds of dogs; teaching more than just the basic commands and knowledge of behav-

oural issues is extremely important; and the class must be structured in such a way that it is fun for you and

your puppy. If there are children in your home, having them attend the classes is also important.

If there are no classes in your area, or none that you find suitable, private training is another option. It is individualised to suit your needs. Private training is also good for dogs that have behavioural issues such as aggression towards strangers or other dogs. However your trainer will want you to attend a training club which has dog socialisation.

Whether you are looking for private training or group classes, ensure the trainer teaches you how to teach your dog. Another sign of a good trainer is that he/she has the ability to acknowledge that some situations are beyond his/her knowledge, and tells you as such.

Inappropriate training techniques can lead to bigger problems. Unfortunately there are a number of people who call themselves trainers who really are fakes. Do not be impressed by trainers that tell you they are members of this or that, it all means nothing. Safest bet is to go to a school that has been established and known for years.

## Early holiday bookings secure great deals, for pet care also!

WHILE it's not always possible to take your pets with you on holiday you can make sure they are kept comfortable, safe and secure, their daily routines intact.

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**SMART PUP:** Dogs beat out most pets in the intelligence stakes.

## How smart is your pet?

DOGS are much more intelligent than cats, according to a new study in the scientific journal 'Frontiers in Neuroanatomy.'

Dogs apparently have 530 million cortical neurons, the brain cells which are linked to intelligence, while cats only have 250 million.

One of the scientists who conducted the study, Dr Suzanaerculano-Houzel, developed the method used to accurately determine the number of neurons in different brains and used

it to discern how smart some animals actually are. She revealed the research suggests that dogs are able to process more complicated thought procedures and live a more varied, flexible life than cats. The study also looked at a wide range of animals such as lions, hyenas, mongooses and bears.

It was assumed that meat-eating mammals would have more cortical neurons compared to plant-eating mammals with the

same sized brain, as hunting requires more intelligence. However, it turned out that the bigger the brain did not necessarily mean the smarter the animal as bears were revealed to have roughly the same amount of cortical neurons as cats even though they have much bigger brains.

Scientists came to the conclusion that this was because brains take up a lot of energy, so brawnier animals can't afford to expend any extra energy needed by their muscles.

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*There are footballers wives who would be happy with this quality of stitching... on their face." Some might say...*



## Jaguar I-Pace set for 2018



**NUMBER ONE:** The I-Pace will be Jaguar's first electric car.

THE brand new Jaguar I-Pace, Jaguar's first electric car, is set to make its debut at next year's Geneva Motor Show.

Jaguar's newest SUV will star at the Swiss show next year, which begins on Thursday, March 8, and is expected to go straight on sale in the UK.

The British car giants

claim that the I-Pace Concept's high tech Lithium Ion battery will offer approximately 310 miles on a single charge.

It will also be able to go from 0-60mph in under 4.0 seconds, with 700Nm of instant torque available and when the battery runs out of juice, it can reportedly achieve 80 per cent charge

in just 90 minutes.

The five seater has two electric motors that produce 400ps of power to deliver high performance 'All Wheel Drive,' capable of driving in any conditions.

Inside the car, a floating centre console combines with a panoramic roof to create a spacious, practical interior with enough

legroom to comfortably seat five adults.

Aiming to steal the thunder of the Tesla Model X, Jaguar have created a dynamic electric SUV with both heritage and dynamism, more than equipped to rival the Model X.

First customer cars are expected by the summer of 2018.



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Classic Car Club of Andalucia

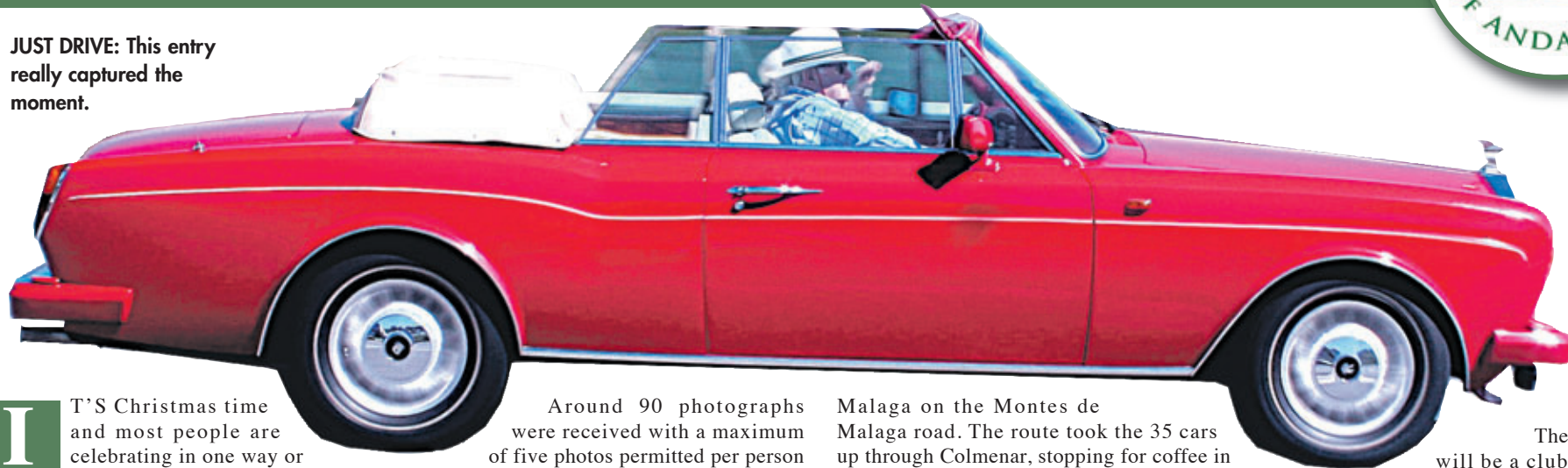
# Classic cars caught in motion

Motoring correspondent Ian Giles reports on the latest news from the Andalucia Classic Car Club, the most

successful such society in the area and probably in Spain with over 600 members.



**JUST DRIVE:** This entry really captured the moment.



**I**T'S Christmas time and most people are celebrating in one way or another. The Classic Car Club of Andalucia is no exception and held the first of three celebratory events last week.

Not only was the Club night a great excuse for a party, with Michelle Daniels performing whilst members were enjoying dinner, but the evening was also the occasion of the results of the Club's year-long photographic competition.

Around 90 photographs were received with a maximum of five photos permitted per person for judging by top professional photographer and judge, Paul Yaffe.

The prize for the best portfolio of the year went to Andrew Buck-Honour. The main year-long competition was won by Richard Masters and runner up was Frank Jolley. Both their entries are shown here.

On Saturday the Club had its Christmas special classic car run which started near

Malaga on the Montes de Malaga road. The route took the 35 cars up through Colmenar, stopping for coffee in Alfarnate. There was a welcome second stop for cakes, coffee and hot mulled wine at La Galeria Art gallery in Periana where a fascinating display of Flamenco related art was on show.

The finish lunch was enjoyed at the Lake Vinuela Hotel where many stayed the night and partied until the small hours.

On Tuesday this week, the club had a fabulous Christmas Party at La Sala in Puerto Banus before many of its members go off to families and home countries or take winter holidays. There is a break now until events restart in January.

The first event will be a club night and dinner on Tuesday January 9 and then a classic car run and lunch on Saturday January 13, both these events running a week later than usual to avoid clashes with the Three Kings celebrations.

Meantime, the CCCA wishes all its members, friends and readers a very happy Christmas and new year.

*Ian Giles*  
MOTORING



**VA VA VROOM:**  
The unique angle shows off the beauty of this classic car.

**WHAT A VIEW:**  
Who knew cars made such good mirrors?



Further information on Classic Car Club of Andalucia events can be found on the Club's website [www.cccandalucia.com](http://www.cccandalucia.com).

Membership of this vibrant club is open to anyone owning a genuine classic car here in Spain. Saca tu coche clásico del garaje y diviértete con él.

# Spain star Morata feeling the cold Chelsea Blues



## Spain Europe Global World of SPORT

with Andrew Atkinson

SPAIN and Chelsea star Álvaro Morata will take a stroll home at the weekend after the Blues Premier League fixture against Southampton at Stamford Bridge.

"If we win the game, I take a beer while walking home," said Chelsea's record €65 million signing Morata.

"I put a hat on - it's colder there - and walk home," said Madrid-born Morata, who penned a five year deal in a move from Real Madrid in July.

"The sun does come out - just for half an hour - and then goes away," quipped Morata, 25, set to be named in Spain's 2018 World Cup squad by Julen Lopetegui.

Morata, capped 50 times for Spain at youth level, a member of the squad that won the 2013 European Under-21 Championship, made his senior debut in 2014.

Morata began his career at Real Madrid, winning the 2014 Champions League, prior to joining Juventus in a

€20 million transfer in 2014, where he won the domestic double of Serie A and Coppa Italia.

A €30 million return to Real in 2016 saw Morata win another La Liga and Champions League, before departing for Chelsea: "I'm very happy at Chelsea," said Morata, settled with his wife Alice.

### Global Sport

**SQUASH:** The 2017 Men's and Women's Squash World Championships in Manchester feature the world's best players compete for the sport's most prestigious titles.

"I'm thrilled the World Championship is back to Manchester, it will be a great spectacle for the sport," said England Men's No 1 Nick Matthew.

England Women's No 1 Laura Masaro said: "It's huge to have this prestigious event in the UK - a real showcase - the best in the world."

The quarter-final action onwards



Photo credit: www.tribuna.com

### ALVARO MORATA: Winter chill.

takes place at Manchester Central Convention Complex during December 14-17.

### No soggy bottom for beefed-up Anderson

JAMES ANDERSON would never have dreamed his garage door 'wicket' in his home town of Burnley over two decades ago would lead to stardom.

"I used to bowl against the garage door, pretending I was bowling for England," said England ace Anderson,

who took 5-43 in the second test of the Ashes series in Australia.

Anderson, 35, who grew up in the old mill town, trod the road to stardom at Burnley Cricket Club, aged 17, prior to being noticed by Lancashire CCC.

Lancashire, long dubbed as the 'flat cap and clogs' part of the UK - famed for tripe and onions - parched peas and crusty pies.

"I prefer Beef Wellington - the pastry has to be just right - no soggy bottom," quipped Anderson.

"The Lord's tea break is more about

protein shakes and fruit and nuts, than scones and cucumber sandwiches," said Anderson, who took his first five-wicket haul in Australia in his 15th Test.

"I was happy to get the five wickets," said Anderson, part of the England set up since 2002.

"I have felt in good rhythm all year and feel like I am bowling as well as I have. My body is in good shape," said Anderson.

"People tell me I am about to finish and retire - I want to show I still have wickets in me - hopefully that can continue for the rest of this trip," said Anderson.

"I am loving playing cricket and as long as I am bowling well and doing myself justice on the field I am going to keep playing," said Anderson.

England travel to Perth - trailing the series 2-0 - for the third Ashes Test against Australia, which starts on December 14. Australia will regain the Ashes, if they win.

"We have shown in the first two Tests that we can out perform Australia - the belief is there - we're still massively in this series," said England captain Joe Root.

MANCHESTER CITY and England defender Kyle Walker faces his former club Spurs in the Premier League at the weekend, booting: The club are in my heart.

"Spurs gave me my Premier League opportunity and believed in me. The club is in my heart after being there eight years," said Walker.

"I thought about what I wanted to do with my career and I wanted something new," said Walker, who moved to The Etihad in a £45 million deal.

Walker, who began his career at Sheffield United a decade ago, during a time when he was shipped out on loan to Northampton, left Spurs to join City in the summer.

"Going to City was the right step, working with manager Pep Guardiola. It's a good move for me and, hopefully, England too," said Walker.

Walker, capped 32 times, hoping to be named in England's 23-man 2018 World Cup squad, said: "The main objective at the end of the season is to be at a World Cup."

Spurs have dipped in the Premier League and gaffer Mauricio Pochettino says it is possible players have too much

# Spur a thought for Kyle



## UK SPORTSCENE

with Andrew Atkinson

confidence after beating Real Madrid in the Champions League in November.

"It was a massive statement beating Real Madrid, but it is important we don't get carried away," said Spurs midfielder Dele Alli.

Fernando Llorente, who joined Spurs in August, has struggled to score in the Premier League, having netted 433 career goals at Basconia, Bilbao Athletic, Athletic Bilbao, Juventus, Sevilla and Swansea.

Spanish international striker Llorente, 32, in Spain's 2010 World Cup winners squad, sustained a broken arm ahead of pre-season.

"It's so difficult to arrive in a club without pre-season and perform the way that you want. But I am happy with his contribution.

"He is disappointed when he

plays and doesn't score, but I am sure he is going to help the team," said Pochettino.

Spurs will be without suspended Davinson Sanchez, red-carded against Watford, missing Premier League games against Stoke, Brighton and Manchester City.

### Monkey business away from Gnome

H'ANGUS the Monkey is a legendary tale that Brian Clough carried on his back at Hartlepool United during 1965-67 while in charge of the The Monkey Hangers.

Ex-Nottingham Forest, Leeds, Brighton and Derby boss Clough visited pubs in a

quest to raise money to keep the struggling club afloat. He also applied for a coach driver's licence to drive the team bus.

Clough, who died of stomach cancer in 2004, aged 69, and assistant Peter Taylor were sacked by the chairman in 1966. A boardroom coup saw them reinstated.

The Hartlepool monkey-hanging legend emerged during the Napoleonic Wars, after a French ship was shipwrecked, at a time of fear of a French invasion of Britain - French infiltrators - and spies.

Amongst the wreckage lay one survivor - the ship's pet monkey - dressed to amuse in a military-style uniform.

It's said fishermen held a beach trial - concluding the monkey was a French spy - and sentenced to death, by hanging.

The legend lives on with Hartlepool United's mascot H'Angus the Monkey and Rugby Union team Hartlepool Rovers nicknamed the 'Monkey Hangers.'

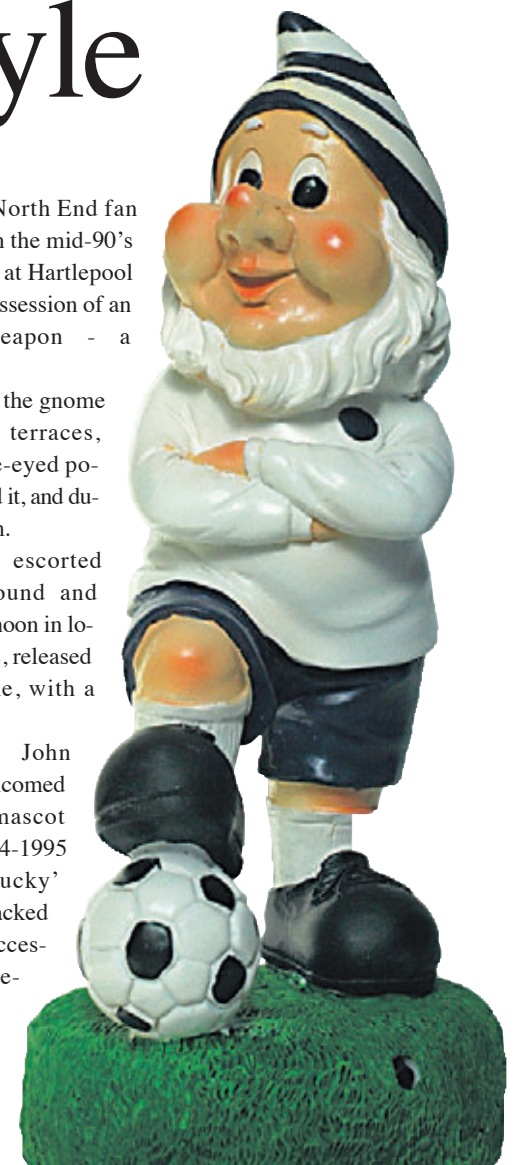
A Preston North End fan was arrested in the mid-90's during a game at Hartlepool for being in possession of an offensive weapon - a GNOME!

The fan and the gnome were on the terraces, when an eagle-eyed policeman copped it, and duly arrested them.

Both were escorted from the ground and spent the afternoon in local police cells, released after the game, with a caution.

PNE boss John Beck, who welcomed the gnome mascot during the 1994-1995 season as a 'lucky' mascot, was sacked after seven successive League defeats.

**GNOME:  
Offensive  
weapon.**



SPAIN narrowly missed out on the World Rugby Sevens Challenge Trophy as they lost 26-7 to Australia at the Cape Town Sevens. The result leaves Spain in 10th place in the Men's World Series standings.

Axarquía's best guide to local sport

TO READ MORE



Photo by Twitter

By Benjamin Park

SERGIO GARCIA has been named the Hilton European Tour Golfer of the Year for the first time.

The Spaniard has enjoyed a fantastic year on the global stage, winning three times on the European Tour, including his first Major championship at Augusta National in April.

The 37-year-old defeated Ryder Cup team-mate Justin Rose in a play-off to become just the third Spaniard to win the famous Green Jacket, following in the footsteps of Seve Ballesteros and Jose Maria Olazabal.

"This is an amazing honour," said Garcia.

"I think both on and off the golf course it has been a unique and unbelievable year, and one

# Hitting new heights Garcia named Europe's best

that I will definitely remember my whole life."

Garcia's 2017 European Tour campaign got off to the perfect start with a wire-to-wire victory in the Omega Dubai Desert Classic in February, his first European Tour title in three seasons.

Just two months later, Garcia became the 26th European Tour member to win a Major championship.

Having previously recorded 22 top 10 finishes, the Spaniard

produced a magnificent display to beat Englishman Justin Rose in a play-off on a final day that will go down in Masters folklore.

In October, Garcia completed a remarkable season as he lifted his third title of the year on home soil with victory at the Andalucia Valderrama Masters, hosted by his own foundation.

He was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the European Tour, as well as of Real Club Valderrama, during the

tournament week and ended it with the trophy, as he continued his love affair with one of Europe's top golf courses by claiming a one stroke victory over Dutchman Joost Luiten.

Keith Pelley, Chief Executive of The European Tour, said: "Sergio is a wonderful ambassador for our game and an incredible talent, so it was no surprise his victory in the Masters Tournament proved so popular with golf fans around the world.

"That alone was a remarkable achievement, but to also win two other prestigious titles in 2017, including his home tournament at Valderrama, makes it a simply sensational season, and he is a thoroughly deserving winner of the Hilton European Tour Golfer of the Year award."

MOMENTOUS: Garcia won his first Masters at Augusta National in April.

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