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21 - 27 December 2017

COSTA DEL SOL » YOUR PAPER, YOUR VOICE, YOUR OPINION

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Unfound

By Benjamin Park



VANISHED:
Alex Batty.

A BRITISH boy remains missing a month after an international alert was issued.

Alex Batty, 11, from Oldham, vanished after flying to Malaga with his mother Melanie, who does not have parental custody of her son, at the end of September.

When contacted by the *Euro Weekly News*, a Greater Manchester Police official said: "I can confirm that Alex Batty is still missing and we are doing our utmost to try and locate him. Anyone with any information should contact us immediately."

It is believed that the pair may have left the port of Malaga for Melilla, on the coast of Morocco. Anyone with any information should call police on +44 161 856 8972 or Crimestoppers anonymously on +44 800 555 111.

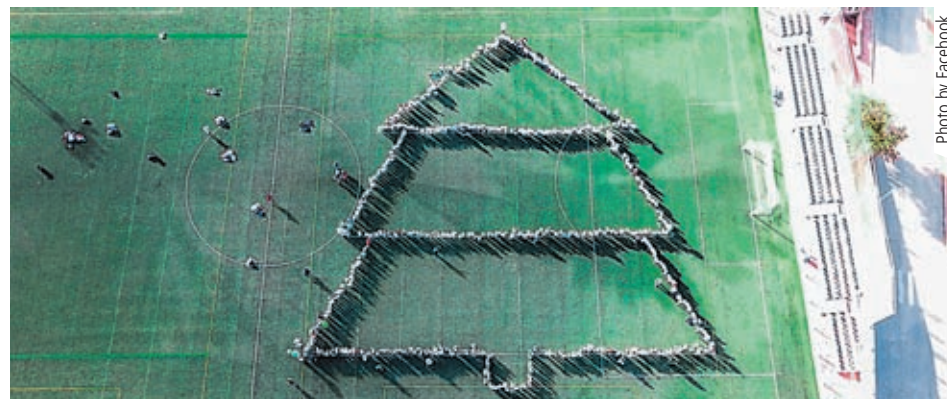


Photo by Facebook

IT'S THE SEASON: The giant tree as seen from above.

Happy holidays!

More than 1,000 schoolchildren dressed in white to form a giant human Christmas tree.

Taking place at Los Manantiales football ground in Alhaurin de la Torre, the stunning scene was captured by a drone.

It comes after the local education department teamed up with the Las Canteras social and environmental foundation to design the initiative, which aimed to bring children together ahead of next week's festivities.

A 43-YEAR-OLD Serbian man has been held after investigators unearthed a huge cannabis plantation in two luxury Marbella homes.

More than 1,200 plants were seized after police swooped on the uninhabited properties following a short probe.

They had been tipped off by a neighbour on the Mirador de Sierra Blanca urbanisation, who

Designer drugs

complained about the strong smell and constant buzzing of extractors. No-one was seen entering or leaving either house during a stake out, leading detectives to obtain a search warrant before launching a raid dur-

ing which 66 specialised halogen light units were also confiscated.

A police statement said that the ground floor of both buildings had been "completely conditioned" to house the illegal crop, with dividing walls demolished and wine cellars modified. One other person is reportedly under investigation, but has not yet been arrested.

No white Christmas

A MILD Christmas is forecast for the Costa del Sol.

An official from national weather office AEMET said that while temperatures will be cool at night, there is almost no chance of heavy rainfall over the festive period.

Scattered showers are expected in central and northern Spain plus the Canary Islands, but Mediterranean parts of the country - including Malaga - will bask in daytime highs of 17-

21°C. The dry conditions are being driven by the return of an anticyclonic weather system off Portugal, which is blocking the entry of Atlantic fronts.

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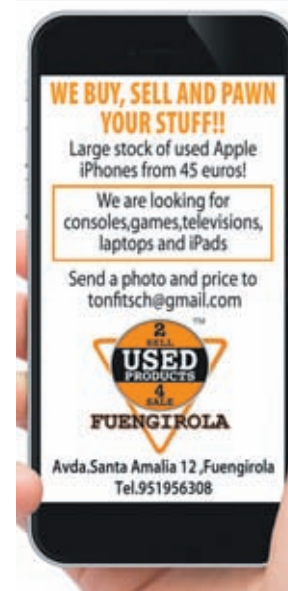
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CATALONIANS vote in hotly anticipated regional elections today (Thursday). Some hope it will resolve the crisis which has engulfed Spain for the last two months but others fear it will further complicate the situation.

Here, we provide a handy timeline to the confusing saga.

September 2015

Pro-independence parties win a majority in regional elections.

November 2015

Catalonian MPs vote to support independence.

January 2016

Carles Puigdemont takes over as Catalan president.

June 2017

The Catalan government calls an independence referendum for October 2017.

September 7

The Spanish constitutional declares the referendum illegal.

September 15

Spanish police seize ballot boxes hidden by the regional government.

September 20

Spanish police storm and occupy Catalan government buildings. There are protests in response.

October 1

Catalans vote overwhelmingly for independence in the referendum, which is overshadowed by



CONTROVERSIAL: Thousands have participated in protests over the poll which sees deposed leader Carles Puigdemont (inset left) take on Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy (inset right).

Timeline: Catalan independence crisis

police violence, 92 per cent vote in favour, turnout is only 43 per cent.

October 3

King Felipe VI condemns the Catalan government in a strongly-worded television address. There is a general strike and huge protests.

October 11

Prime Minister Mario Rajoy sets the Catalan government a five-day deadline to clarify whether they have declared independence or not. This is extended to October 19.

October 21

Spanish government suspends Cataluña's autonomy and says it will impose direct rule on October 28.

October 26

Catalan president Carles Puigdemont delays declaring in-

dependence, saying he will leave the decision to MPs.

October 27

Catalan parliament meets and unilaterally declares independence. The opposition boycott the

vote. The Spanish senate responds by approving new powers for Madrid to impose direct rule on Cataluña.

October 28

Spain dissolves Catalan Parliament - deposing president Puigdemont - and call fresh elections.

October 29

Thousands march through Barcelona calling for unity.

October 30

Puigdemont flees to Belgium with five ministers, shortly before a prosecutor files charges of rebellion, sedition and misuse of public funds.

November 3

Spain issues a European arrest warrant for Puigdemont.

November 5

Puigdemont turns himself in to

Belgian authorities.

December 4

Spain's Supreme Court denies two former ministers - including the vice-president - bail, leaving them to contest the election from prison.

December 5

A Spanish judge withdraws Puigdemont's arrest warrant. Theresa May meets her Spanish counterpart Mariano Rajoy and gives him her support.

December 11

Scuffles break out as artwork is removed from a Catalanian museum.

December 13

The homes of Catalan officials are seized to pay for the costs of October's referendum.

December 21

Catalans go to the polls.

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Polls predict tight race

By Harrison Jones

THE final official poll ahead of the regional elections projected a hung parliament.

Such an outcome could trigger further uncertainty and coalition negotiations.

However, an unofficial poll released yesterday suggested that the pro-independence parties could yet take an unlikely majority.

The National's poll predicts independence parties will win 69- 73 seats, 68 is required for a majority.

Data suggests 25 per cent remain undecided. Turnout is expected to be over 80 per cent, a record high.

Ciudadanos, a pro-Spanish party, are set to win most seats but be outnumbered by rival pro-independence parties working together.

Ousted president Puigdemont's party is expected to finish third, behind imprisoned vice-president Oriol Junqueras' ERC.

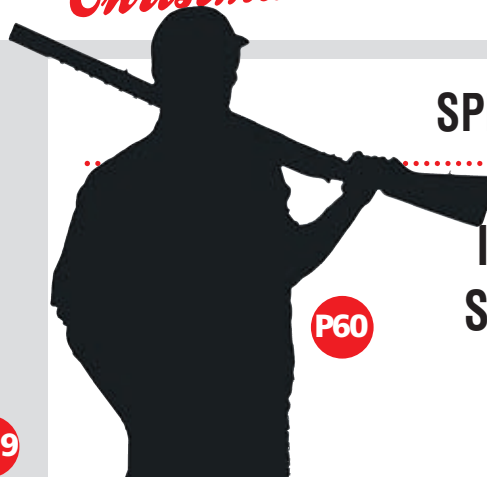


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Love it, hate it! The Best and worst of home viewing



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IS IT TIME FOR SPAIN TO LEAVE HUNTING TRAIL? P60

SOCIAL SCENE

What's happening near you this Christmas? P81

Cuddle trouble

A MAN, 33, and a woman, 24, have been held on suspicion of committing a number of thefts targeting elderly citizens in Marbella by embracing them. The pair were arrested in a shopping centre car park after failing to remove a man's watch.

Have-a-go hero

A PHARMACIST from Coin has been hailed a hero after averting a potential tragedy. A man known to suffer from mental illness entered his shop and sprayed the entrance with petrol before producing a lighter, leading the chemist to tackle him and drag him outside.

Jobs boom

THERE have been more jobs created by foreign companies in Malaga Province than any other region in Andalucia, according to Pilar Serrano, the Andalucian Deputy Minister of Employment. Out of the 19 companies that chose to do business in Andalucia, 11 came to Malaga, creating 450 jobs.

Santa paws

MALAGA City's unemployed residents can seek financial support to help them pay for a genetic analysis of their dogs which the local authorities made compulsory for all owners in an effort to reduce the amount of canine excrement on the streets. The deadline for registration is January 31.

On the edge

A 42-YEAR-OLD man who suffers from a paranoid schizophrenia - and was labelled an 'extremely dangerous individual' in court - was sentenced to nine years in a mental health institution and five years probation after stabbing another man several times during an argument in

SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE... 42

With the festive season upon us, Spain's traditional celebrations - from grapes, to kings and jokers - are not what you might expect, writes Harrison Jones.

'Tis the season!

ON Christmas Eve, while British children are getting overly excited, Spanish children have Christmas carols and midnight mass to look forward to.

Families eat their main Christmas meal on the 24th - often a varied spread including all sorts of fish, meat and cheese, depending on the region and family preference.

Tempting Christmas snacks also include turrón, mantecados, churros and marzipan.

After the eating and religious services, some Spaniards walk through the streets with music and lights. Christmas Day is not roundly celebrated and, traditionally,



THE MASSES: Spaniards go to mass on Christmas Eve.

there are not even presents - those come later in the festive season.

On the 28th, the country celebrates El Dia de los Santos (Innocents' Day).

Friends, family, and occasionally the media are in on this Spanish answer to April Fool's Day, with the unsuspecting being labelled 'Innocent, Innocent!' when caught out.

In Malaga, they also celebrate the Fiesta de Verdiales on the same day. This cultural celebration involves groups of musicians playing songs and dancing.

3 kings, 12 grapes

WITH Christmas antics complete, the real fun begins. In Spain, perhaps the biggest festive celebrations take place on January 6, on the Dia De Los Reyes (Three Kings' Day).

First, though, Spaniards celebrate New Year in style.

With the wine flowing, attention turns - oddly enough - back to grapes. Twelve 'lucky' grapes, in fact, with one for each striking of the midnight clock.

As the New Year comes in, Spaniards eat grapes one by one in time with the chimes, broadcast live on television.

If you can manage to eat the grapes in time, it is considered a sign for a year of prosperity and good luck.

The rest of the fiesta, which is often a family affair, is spent eating and drinking until the very early hours.

Five days later, on Three Kings' Day, 'Christmas' presents are given out.

Similarly to a Christmas stocking, children in Spain leave shoes by their door in the hope that the Three Kings will leave their gifts there.

The day is also celebrated by eating Roscon de los



NEW YEAR'S EVE: Madrid's Puerta del Sol, above, is a popular place for Spaniards to eat 12 grapes, right.

Reyes (ring-cake of kings), which is made to look like a king's crown. It is decorated with icing and sprinkles, often including glazed fruit.

A toy is also buried inside, with Spaniards being superstitious that the finder will have a year of good luck.

Malaga City.

Tourist trap

ANTEQUERA Council asks the local authorities to control tourist numbers

to the Dolmens archaeological site. Juan Rosas, the local World Heritage councillor, has requested that access to the popular attraction be regulated after more than 9,000 people flocked to the ancient site in December.

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Work of art

Festive sand sculpture is world's biggest



CHRISTMAS CRACKER: The giant scene from above and (inset) visitors admire the sculptures.

SPANIARDS are famous for inventing new twists on the traditional nativity scene.

And arguably the most spectacular of all is found on Las Canteras beach in Palma de Gran Canaria, the Canary Islands.

Every December, some of the world's premier international sand sculptors descend on the sandy strip to painstakingly carve a giant homage to the birth of Christ.

The tradition was started by Canarian artist

Etual Ojeda in the early 1980's, but has grown in scale since.

Said to be the world's largest open-air sand sculpture, more than 2,000 tonnes are now used to construct the incredible scene.

Entry is free, but visitors can leave a donation at the entrance with the proceeds given to local food banks.

In 2016 more than 200,000 people visited the nativity, raising €17,000.

POLL OF THE WEEK

Are there too many repeats on TV during Christmas?

LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Do you send online Christmas cards?

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Top 5 stories

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

- 6,648** views Weather alerts issued for the whole of Spain as storm Ana set to hit
- 4,503** views Lorry driver dies after crashing onto Costa del Sol beach
- 4,367** views December strike call by Ryanair ground staff in Spain
- 3,861** views Flights diverted and red alerts issued as storm Ana lashes Spain
- 2,362** views Raiders pillage wrecked lorry in southern Spain

**For week 11 - 18 December*

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Merry Christmas

Mum-to-be is all heart

A SPANISH model has revealed her heart-shaped baby bump to send her social media followers in to a flap.

Gala Caldirola, 24, is married to Chilean international football star Mauricio Isla, 29, who currently plys his trade at Turkish club Fenerbahçe.

She is well-known for her regular appearances on reality TV in Spain, and shared a saucy snap of her bump on Instagram, where she has 1.5 million followers.

She added the caption: "This is beautiful and strange. It's probably not the only one in the world, but it is the first time that I've seen one. I would love to know if someone else has seen it."

"In the ultrasound the doctor had already told me that my uterus had a heart shape, and today I could see it with clarity for the first time."

"My little light is without doubt the fruit of love."

LOVEBIRDS: Cesc and Daniella and (inset) the engagement ring shot.

Photo by Gala Caldirola/Instagram



BABY ON BOARD: Gala's bump.



Holly Rickwood/Twitter

BEST OF FRIENDS: Kayleigh, right, and Holly.

Racy pair back on the beach

SHE'S the Welsh firecracker famed for being kicked off Big Brother after issuing violent threats to a housemate. But former Ex On The Beach (EOTB) star Kayleigh Morris, 29, appeared carefree after slipping into a skimpy orange bikini for a beach day during a winter break in Tenerife.

And she was joined by former rival Holly Rickwood, 25, who donned a matching - and equally revealing - swimsuit as the pair put on

Fab-ulous result!

HE'S the Chelsea midfielder who has won everything with his native Spain.

And now Cesc Fabregas, 30, has won the best prize of all after his long-term girlfriend Daniella Semaan, 42, agreed to marry him.

The pair have been together for six years and already have three children together, and they took to Instagram to share a picture of Daniella's jewel-encrusted engagement ring.



Rose exposed

SHE is best-known for flaunting her famous curves on the internet.

But British model Demi Rose, 22, made headlines with her clothes on after candid snaps of her locking lips with a mystery man at Madrid airport emerged.

The steamy moment came after the buxom beauty shared photos from her latest swimsuit campaign - shot in Mallorca - with her 5.9 million Instagram followers.

Fit of Pique

COLOMBIAN pop superstar Shakira and footballer boyfriend Gerard Pique have once again set tongues wagging.

After scotching recent rumours of their break-up, the pair filmed a group of paparazzi photographers outside their Barcelona home on their phones before calling the police. But the snappers were doing nothing illegal under Spanish law so were not moved on.



Demi Rose/Instagram

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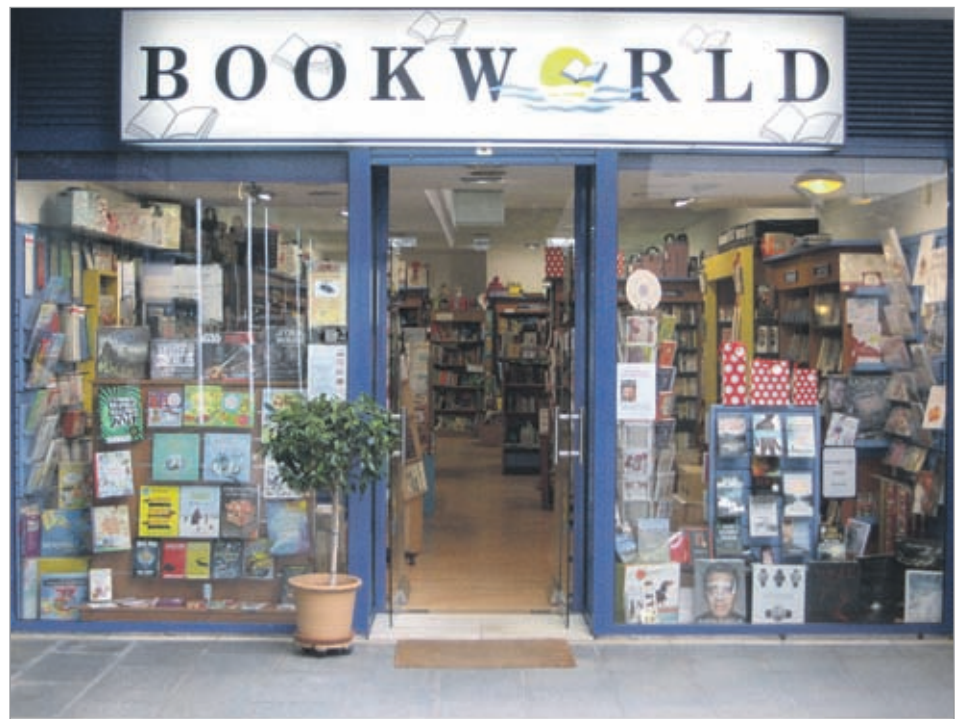
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Death crash witness speaks out Out of control?

By Matt Ford

A BRITISH father-of-two has spoken of the events surrounding a deadly lorry crash that he witnessed on the Costa del Sol.

"I was in the car that the lorry overtook just before it crashed," London-born Darren John Cook, 44, told the *Euro Weekly News*.

"Lots of people on social media have been making comments that he was speeding unnecessarily, but he was sounding his horn repeatedly and I believe there was a problem with the vehicle."

It comes after the articulated lorry careered off the A-7 dual carriageway on a notoriously dangerous bend in La Cala de Mijas, plummeting several metres onto the beach.

"My wife Kasia was driving and I don't think he tried to slow down as he hit the bend, then the trailer fell sideways, slid along the road and then the whole lot went through the barrier."



HEROIC EFFORT: The lorry crash witnessed by Darren John Cook (inset top), leading to his attempt to save the driver.

"He could have been out of control and I think it's wrong to judge him without all the evidence."

Mr Cook, who has lived in Cabopino for the last three years and teaches at a private Marbella school, continued: "He did not die on impact, myself and a couple of other people rushed to the beach to try and save him and he was

speaking to us before he died.

"We could see diesel pouring out but a couple of Spanish men managed to get the door partially open and confirmed he was alive.

"When the police arrived we were asked to step away."

Mijas fire brigade has confirmed the above version of events after the incident was misreported in other local media.

An official at the town's fire station, speaking exclusively with the *Euro Weekly News*, said: "Two Spanish lifeguards - who we know personally - managed to get the door open and reach the driver, but they were unable to resuscitate him.

"There were no British people involved in giving mouth-to-mouth."

Photo credit Bomberos de Mijas/Darren Cook

Winter wonderland



Photo credits: Jeronimo Sanz

GLACIAL: The Sierra de las Nieves.

THE Sierra de las Nieves is living up to its name.

Located around an hour inland from Malaga, the 'Mountains of the Snow' were decorated in white as temperatures plummeted during the recent cold snap.

And local snappers have been flocking to capture the icy landscapes, with some stunning results.

It comes after a proposal to bestow National Park status on the 22,000-hectare beauty spot was recently formalised, with officials from the Spanish government and regional Junta de Andalucía handing the plans over to local mayors at a ceremony in Ronda.

The park is home to one of the last remaining populations of the endangered Spanish fir tree, or pinsapo, as well as the world's largest outcrop of peridotite, a rare volcanic rock, plus abundant flora and fauna.

It is expected to become Andalucía's third National Park - after Doñana in Cádiz and the Sierra Nevada in Granada - by the end of 2018.

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OUR VIEW

Christmas cheer needed

CHRISTMAS is suddenly upon us.

Amid the festive rush and preparations for family events, it is easy to forget that many people are in need at this time of year.

From the homeless, to the lonely, to migrants being held in an unopened prison, many people will not enjoy the happiest Christmas.

With the seasonal pay squeeze, helping those outside of your immediate circle also becomes more challenging.

But across the region various charities and volunteer groups are doing worthy work to make sure the less fortunate can enjoy - or at least be comfortable - at this time of year.

There are countless important causes - too many to name - that are worth your spare change and more, if you can afford it.

And as we gear up for Christmas, New Year and even Three Kings, we could do worse than to just offer our time to local charities.

Spain has plenty to offer over the festive period. Christmas lights, traditional winter snacks and Innocents' Day on December 28 are particular highlights.

Christmas is a time for family and friends - so enjoy the festivities but spare a thought for those who are less lucky.

We know it often isn't easy to part with your time or money - but it can be very rewarding if you do.

From everyone at *Euro Weekly News*: have a very Merry Christmas.

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MISSING SCENE: Crowds gather to express support for Lucia's family in Alhaurin de la Torre and (inset) her parents Almudena and Antonio talk to the protestors.

Neighbours rally for Lucia

By Kat Ashton

PROTESTORS gathered in Alhaurin de la Torre to express support for the parents of Lucia Vivar, the three-year-old girl whose body was found on the train tracks near Pizarra.

Around 100 people gathered in the town centre to demand justice for Lucia's family on Saturday nearly five months after the tragic event occurred.

Lucia's parents Antonio

and Almudena gave a speech to the crowd to thank everyone who supported them through "the worst night of their lives" and again stressed that their daughter "did not travel alone to the spot where her body was found," as police concluded.

Antonio went on to say that "we cannot and we will not stop fighting for her, for her memory" and admitted that Christmas would be "very difficult."

Three-year-old Lucia went missing from her family at the Pizarra train station last July, and her lifeless body was found more than 4km away on the tracks the following day.

The investigating judge recently requested that the case be reopened to confirm whether Lucia's injuries hold up to the findings in the police report, which ruled her death was accidental.

NEWS EXTRA

Sex slaves released

THIRTEEN women have been freed and 11 people held, including two in Marbella, after joint swoops by Spanish and Romanian police on an international human-trafficking gang which forced women into prostitution.

Rail fail

THE driver of the train that derailed on the Malaga-Sevilla line, injuring 35 people, claims that he received no instructions regarding potential dangers on the line leading up to the crash, as investigators continue to probe the incident.

Ear we go

THE Los Alamos Beach Festival will next year move to Estepona, organisers have announced, after they failed to reach an agreement with Torremolinos Council following a raft of complaints over loud music during the five-day event in August this year.

Snuffed out

AN unseasonal wildfire which broke out on Finca La Resinera in Benahavis was brought under control within a few hours after 85 firefighters swooped on the blaze.

THE alleged killers of a homeless man at Malaga's Costa del Sol airport have been charged with murder.

Three Finns and an Irish man face up to four years imprisonment if found guilty of the manslaughter charge and one of submitting the victim to degrading treatment.

The four facing trial are Jussi Petteri Munck, Kimo Tapani Naivo, Mika

Airport killers charged

Tapio Soininem and James O'Byrne, but the court date has not yet been set.

Steven Allford was found dead on a bench and bound by cable ties outside Malaga airport in October 2016 with his trousers pulled down, ham on his exposed buttocks and his genitals

placed inside an empty tuna can.

A post-mortem revealed he choked to death on his own vomit after a heavy drinking session.

A video showing several men taunting Mr Allford on the night he died which was briefly posted on Facebook.

It was discovered by Finnish police who tipped off their Spanish counterparts. The video was taken down soon afterwards.

The prosecution document claims that because of the drunken state Mr Allford was in, and because it was practically impossible for him to move due to the plastic ties, he ended up choking to death from his own vomit.

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Costa del Sol says: Do you care about the Catalan elections?

THIS week, we asked local expatriates what they think about the Catalan elections, which take place today (Thursday). Here's what six of you thought.



'Not told the truth': Geoffrey, 76, questions the information available.

Geoffrey Saunders, 74

Living in Los Boliches, from Staffordshire

"I do care, because this last couple of weeks I've applied for residency here and I have a close friend, who is a student of mine and he is from that part of Spain so I've been asking him what he thinks. He is in despair!

"I am not knowledgeable about it, it's just that I believe, you see, that as with Brexit, the general public are not told the truth. I don't think we know the real truth of it, because who is going to tell us the

truth - everybody is going to want to tell us their side of the story, aren't they?"

Marcus 'Maximus Brutus', '2027'

Living in Fuengirola, from Jersey

"I think it's a load of b*****s!"



'Split': Jersey born Ross notes the polls are very close.

Ross Donaldson, 46

Living in Marbella, from Jersey

"I am from Jersey, so we are under that same idea that we are Jersey, we are different from England and we have our own government and everything.

"Everyone has a right to self determination, don't they? I think that, but looking at the figures, Puigdemont's pact is short to take control. So that shows you that the general populace are split down the

middle much like Britain and Brexit - it's very similar."



'Crackers': Benalmadena resident Valerie believes the Catalans should not be allowed to leave.

Valerie Kirk, 76

Living in Benalmadena, from Nottinghamshire

"I think it's crackers!

"They are the richest province, if they were the poorest they wouldn't want to split. Definitely not. They don't like giving, such as Andalucia which is a poor province, their money.

"A lot of people in Cataluña are Andalucian, and no way would they want to split Andalucia off from it.

"It doesn't seem right for me. No, (they shouldn't

be allowed to leave)."



Scottish comparison: Fuengirola pair Paul and Lisa see similarities with Scotland's 2014 referendum.

Paul Warwick, 34

Living in Fuengirola, from Glasgow

"I would probably vote independence because I'm from Scotland and I wanted independence there, so I kind of see what they're going on about."

Lisa Bell, 37

Living in Fuengirola, from Cumbria

"I don't know enough about it. I would just like them to have the freedom to have their own vote, just like with the UK - Scotland had their choice, Catalan should have theirs.

"People should have a voice and be able to air their own opinion and not have to suffer for it."

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Prime Minister Theresa May's message to UK nationals living in Europe

THE following statement on Brexit and UK nationals living outside of the UK has been released by Prime Minister May.

Road to Brexit

From the very beginning of the UK's negotiations to leave the European Union I have been consistently clear that protecting the rights of both EU citizens living in the UK and UK nationals living in the EU was my first priority. I know that the referendum result has caused considerable anxiety for many of you and your families.

That is why, at the beginning of the negotiating process, I made it clear that any deal guaranteeing the rights of EU citizens living in the UK would be dependent on such an offer being reciprocated for our UK nationals in the remaining Member States.

So I am delighted to announce that in concluding the first phase of the negotiations that is exactly what we have achieved.

From speaking to my counterparts across Europe, I know that they hugely value the UK nationals living in their communities. We have worked hard to address the very complex and technical issues that needed working through before a formal agreement could be reached. The details are set out in the Joint Report agreed by the UK government and the European Commission, as published Friday December 8.

This agreement guarantees that your rights as residents in the EU will be pro-

tected in the Withdrawal Agreement, so you can have certainty that you will be able to receive health-care rights, pension and other benefit provisions as you do today.

You can also benefit from existing rules for past and future social security contributions.

Furthermore, we have agreed that close family members will be able to join you in the Member State where you live, after the UK has left. This includes existing spouses and civil partners, unmarried partners, children, dependent parents and grandparents, as well as children born or adopted outside of the UK after March 29,



PRIME MINISTER: A message of reassurance.

2019.

While I hope this agreement will bring you some reassurance, I know there are a few important issues that have yet to be concluded. We raised these concerns, including the ability of UK nationals living in the EU to retain certain rights if they move within the EU, but the EU was not

ready to discuss them in this phase of the negotiations. We will continue to raise these issues with the EU in the New Year.

I will continue to push for the best possible deal for our nationals across the EU, but in the meantime, please do sign up for the latest updates on gov.uk.

The constructive way in

which these talks have been conducted gives me confidence that we will achieve a final deal that reflects the strong partnership between the UK and our European partners, and is in the mutual interest of citizens living across the continent.

I wish you and your families a great Christmas and a very happy New Year.

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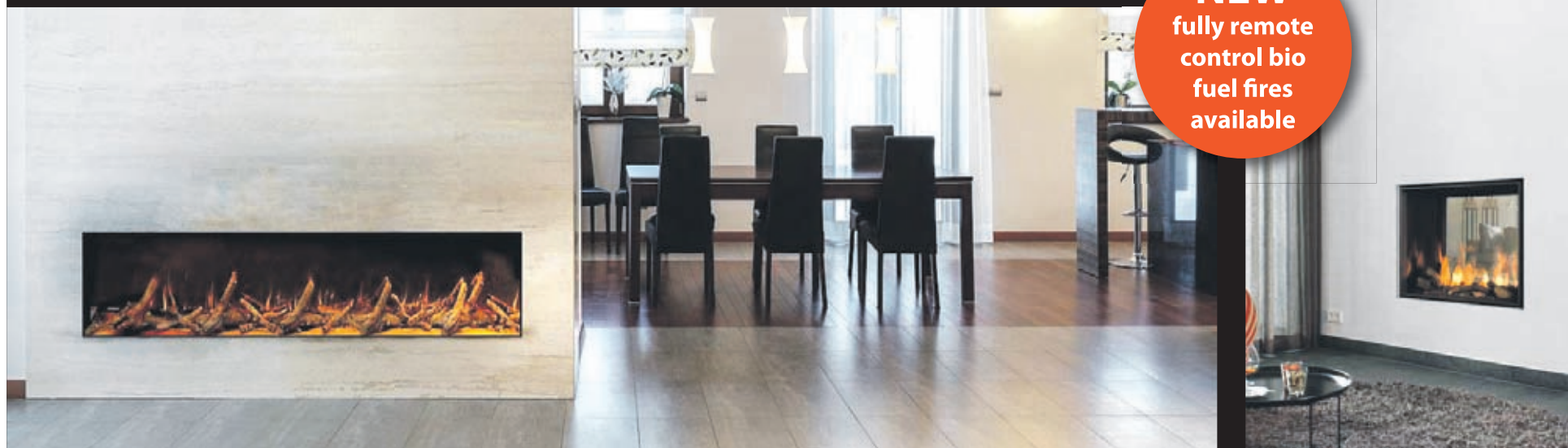
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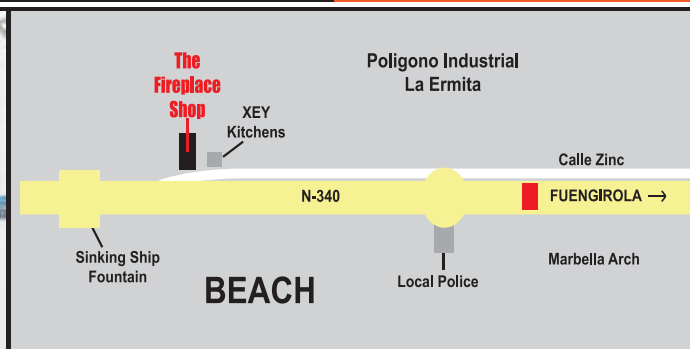
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MC Boulevard News

The luxurious Puente Romano is set for the 2017 Festive Season!



THIS year's **Puente Romano's Christmas** is celebrated in **Sea Grill**. The **Christmas Eve** will be accompanied with a **four-course** menu and live music programme.

On Monday December 25, the traditional **Christmas Day brunch** will take place. It's a fun-filled day with a heavenly buffet where the selection features turkey, oysters, lobster and a great array of other Mediterranean inspired delicacies; the gastronomy feast is completed by a grand assortment of desserts and special Christmas pastries. It's an all family lunch that Santa Claus never skips.

For **New Year's Eve** there are three events to choose from;

Grand Gala Dinner that takes place in **Salon Andaluca**. It's a family friendly gala event offering welcome cocktail, **seven-course dinner** paired with wines and extensive programme.

Nobu's nine-course New Year's Eve menu has been created by legend **Nobu Matsuhisa** himself.

The selection dishes such as Slow Cooked Chilean Seabass with Uni sauce and Bottarga and Japanese A5 Beef with Truffle Crust & Sake Soy Wild Mushrooms.

Mediterranean views restaurant **Sea Grill** serves a warm ambience in a classy setting. For **New Year's Eve** there is a live music programme, served together with a **five-course** menu.

For the ones who wish to enjoy the sunshine of **New Year's Day**, **Sea Grill** hosts a legendary lunch buffet. It's a display of splendid local and international delicacies, such as Beef Wellington, Oysters, Caviar and delicacies cooked on the Grill and in the Tandoor Oven.



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Drama at Archidona after 'humiliating riots'

By Harrison Jones

DRAMATIC scenes continue to emerge from an 'unopened' prison in Archidona, where the Spanish government have been holding hundreds of migrants since mid-November.

Amid accusations of the use of tear gas, rubber bullets and batons by riot police on prisoners protesting against a lack of food last Wednesday, Spanish authorities say they have now taken seven children from the group into their care.

After being repeatedly accused of breaking the law, the government reportedly began deporting the migrants last week - without allowing them legal advice.

On Tuesday, around 1,000 demonstrators called for the group - thought to be mainly Algerian and number between 464 and 570 people - to be released.

Having heard accounts from relatives of the migrants, Carlos Lopez, a member of Plataforma Ciudadana (CIE), said: "We believe the possibility that they used rubber bullets, batons and tear gas, but we haven't evidence to confirm that."

Lopez, 37, suggested the government was "breaking their own laws" with "total impunity."

Migrants were allegedly kept in the same



! 'NOT A RIOT': Spanish authorities called Wednesday's tensions a 'small incident.'

clothes for 12 days.

Speaking via an activist, Mohamed Tellal, who was being held at the prison on Friday, said*: "They risked their lives and invested a lot of money so they could ride a boat, and they want the right to a lawyer and to see the judge."

The 29-year-old Algerian added: "The police (violently) humiliated them by putting them on their knees after using the (tear) gas."

However, the Ministry of the Interior dispute the claims and have sought to downplay Wednesday's events.

A spokesman said: "We can confirm that it was a small incident not a riot, without injured people and it was quickly controlled by the Spanish Police."

"In no case (can) this be considered a serious incident or riot that also had no relevance or caused any injuries and any problem."

The ministry did not deny that deportations had begun.

In August, the UN warned that Spain did not have the facilities to cope with a huge influx of migrants.

The Spanish government say the prison is being used because the "exceptional situa-

tion" means other facilities are full.

Activists say conditions at the prison, not scheduled to be opened until early next year, are inadequate and that there was no heating or drinking water when the migrants arrived.

Other details are disputed but rights groups have roundly condemned the government.

Tellal, the Algerian inmate, added: "Life is very difficult inside the prison for people who have not committed crimes."

"They have fled the miseries where the war is in search of better lives and they are treated in inhuman ways."

"They do not have hygiene products to wash. They are entitled to small portions of food, one at noon and one in the evening. The prison was not ready to welcome people."

"The visits last only a few minutes after a long wait and the refugees are brought chained by three as if they are criminals."

A total of 210 migrants died trying to reach Spain by sea this year, according to the International Organisation for Migration.

Meanwhile, Spain has this week provided €2 million for Palestinian refugees, according to the UN.

*Mohamed Tellal's words have been translated from French.

FULL STORY: See EWN online

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SICKENING: The pet goat that was found mutilated.

Sickening attack

A FAMILY has been left devastated after their pet goat was found dying with its four legs cut off in a sickening attack.

The legs of the animal were not found near the plot which leads investigators to believe that it may be connected with

some form of satanic ritual.

Owner Francisco Javier Jimenez said: "I had to call the vet to put her down. I do not understand how there can be people who can do something like that."

The goat was the favourite pet of his two children, aged

nine and 12.

Francisco has offered a €500 to anyone who can help find those responsible.

The attack happened in Rincon de la Victoria, in Malaga and has been reported to the Local Police and the Guardia Civil.

NEWS EXTRA

Biker dies in crash

A MOTORCYCLIST has died after an A-366 accident near Alozaina. The middle-aged man died on Sunday afternoon after coming off his bike near km 40. Guardia Civil say medical attention could not save him.

Walk on

TORREMOLINOS will begin pedestrianising its town centre on January 8. The delayed work is due to end in November and will reportedly also involve gas and internet reforms.

Just sick

A 40-YEAR-OLD man who suffers from mental illness has been sentenced to 11 years behind bars and a fine of €12,490 for beating and raping his 76-year-old adoptive mother.

Pure weevil

A PLAGUE of red palm weevil has caused dozens of palm trees to be cut down in Torremolinos. The insect is known to hollow out the trees but is not thought to bite humans or animals.

€8 million park project

A PARK planned for the former Repsol petrol works in Malaga is now set to start being built at the end of 2018 at the earliest.

The announcement follows a deal between the Partido Popular (PP) government team and the Ciudadanos party to unblock city budgets for 2018, which include funding for the Parque Repsol.

The site of the planned park, on the Avenida Juan XXIII, was once home to the Repsol oil works. Repsol removed oil tanks from the site in 2000 and it has since become derelict.

Plans for the park suggest it could cover up to 130,000 square metres at a cost of around €8 million.



Photo credit: HCP Architecture and Engineering/Facebook

PLANS: Artist's impression of the planned Parque Repsol.

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NEWS EXTRA

Grand theft
avocado

APPROXIMATELY 10,000 kilos of avocados have reportedly been stolen from Estepona farms since the beginning of the harvest in September, amounting to around €25,000 in losses.

Secret out

AMERICAN lingerie retailer, Victoria's Secret opened its first Costa del Sol store in Malaga yesterday (Wednesday), located on the corner of Calle Larios by the Plaza de la Constitucion.

Debt down

MALAGA City Council has reduced its year-on-year debt by €51 million, according to data published by the Bank of Spain, making the total €502 million as of the end of September.

All at sea

Brit jailed after epic swim

A BRITISH man who reportedly swam from Spain to Gibraltar to hand himself in has been sentenced to seven years in prison for drug smuggling.

Jason 'Jugs' Waterman from Watford was wanted in connection with an incident that occurred at Bagby airfield near Thirsk, North Yorkshire in October 2015.

The 33-year-old, whose nicknames include Jugs and Jumbo due to his 'distinct' ears, had been on board an aircraft that had flown into the airfield carrying approximately seven kilos of cocaine, worth an estimated €1.3 million.

As Border Force officers arrived on the scene to carry out checks on the plane, he ran off and escaped, leaving a suitcase full of the drugs in a nearby hedgerow and subsequently fled to Spain.

After more than a year and a half on the run, Waterman eventually handed himself in to the Gibraltar authorities in June af-



Photo credit: Twitter

GIBRALTAR: Jason 'Jugs' Waterman (inset) swam to the rock to hand himself in.

ter he was featured on the BBC's Crimewatch Roadshow.

The Brit appeared in Gibraltar dripping wet and carrying a bag of clothes, claiming that he had swam across from Spain, rather

than cross the land border.

Waterman was later extradited back to the UK to face drug importation charges and was sentenced to seven years and two months in prison last Monday.

School bus scandal

THE family of a three-year-old girl who spent five hours trapped inside a school bus are to launch an official complaint.

It comes after the child fell asleep on a seat and was left inside the vehicle, which was parked at the gates of the Maria del Mar Romera primary school in Rincon de la Victoria from 9am.

No one spotted the terrified child - who soiled her clothes during the ordeal - until the driver returned at 1.30pm.

The bus, which transported 25 children between the ages of three and 11, was staffed by two monitors, with the firm providing them set to be fined.

Hundreds of parents took to social media to express their disgust in the wake of the incident, with several commenting on their 'concern' over security at the school after a child, weeks ago, 'left the building at the end of the day without anyone noticing and before the parents arrived to pick him up.'

The Junta de Andalucia's education department is probing the bus company and released a statement apologising to the child's parents and expressing 'deep regret over everything that happened.'



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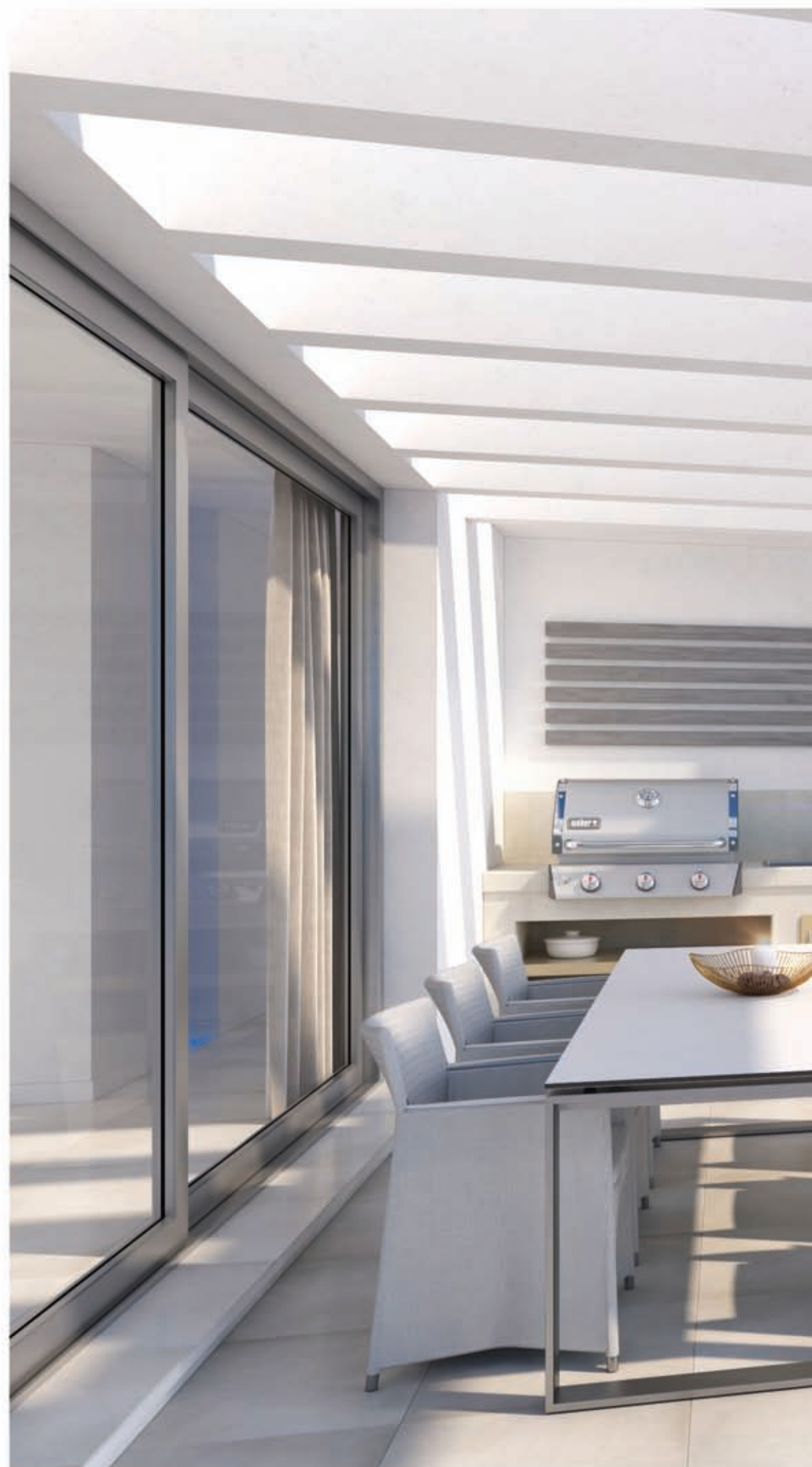
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Keeping beaches safe

MARBELLA City Council plans to install water rescue devices on three of their beaches that will operate year-round.

The SOS Orange water rescue devices - also known as 'los puntos naranja' - are equipped with harnesses attached to a 300-metre lifeline which reels people in automatically. They will also be connected to the emergency services 24 hours a day.

They allow members of the public to rescue up to three people who are drowning and have already been introduced to several beaches across Spain. The devices will operate on the La Venus, Cabopino and San Pedro beaches 365 days a year.

Marbella City Council has invested more than €45,000 on the devices, which includes their maintenance and upkeep over the first two years.

The council's beach department has claimed that the devices are easy for anyone to use, whether or not they are lifeguard professionals.



Photo credit: Punto Naranja/Facebook

ORANGE FUTURE: A 'punto naranja' device in Malaga City.

Andalucia to back new LGBTQ+ laws

ANDALUCIA'S parliament is set to unanimously back new laws for the LGBTQ+ community, according to Spanish media. In its final session of the year, the body is expected to support proposals for harsher punishments against those who

discriminate against LGBTQ+ people.

The new legislation - jointly proposed by a coalition of leftist parties - is also the first from a Spanish regional parliament to guarantee the rights and outlaw discrimination

against the children of LGBTQ+ parents.

Conservative parties have also agreed to support the initiative. The region reportedly has one of the worst records in Spain for discrimination and homophobic hate crime.

NEWS EXTRA

Bungling burglar

POLICE in Ronda caught a would-be thief carrying a bag of tools and a fake gun in the act of breaking into a hotel cigarette machine after he was spotted by the establishment's security guard.

Play up

A SERIES of seven new travel-themed play areas for children aged two to eight-years-old have been installed in both arrivals and departures of terminals two and three at Malaga Airport.

Prime slot

THE Costa del Sol will for the first time feature in the final advert of the year on national TV channel Antena 3, with a 20 second slot highlighting 12 reasons to visit the area scheduled just before midnight on New Year's Eve.

Bitter luck

A PAIR of fruit thieves were held after police spotted them loading a car with shopping bags containing 200 kilos of oranges and lemons stolen from a farm near Campanillas.

Loan raider

A MAN has been held in Malaga for fraudulently obtaining €1,250 in loans from credit companies using his own ID before claiming that he himself had been the victim of a scam.

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'First of many'

First female Muslim MP in Cataluña set to be elected

CATALUÑA could elect its first female Muslim MP in the region's elections on Thursday.

Najat Driouech is standing for imprisoned vice-president Oriol Junqueras' party, Republican Left of Catalonia.

The party is pro-independence, but Mrs Driouech refuses to say whether she supports the cause or not, claiming instead that she is in favour of "the right of the people to decide."

Having arrived in the region from Morocco as a nine-year-old, she has been a community worker for Masnou



Photo credit Esquerra Republicana/Twitter

BIG PLANS: Najat Driouech.

Council - just outside Barcelona - for 17 years. Forecasters predict she will be elected on Thursday.

"It's not my goal to be the first Muslim woman member of parliament, but the first of many," she told the BBC.

"It's sad to turn on the television and never see a black face or an Arab personality," she adds, suggesting she regularly sees and hears about discrimination in her community.

Cataluña is home to 515,000 Muslims - 15 per cent of the population - according to reports.

Foreign Office 'doesn't know' number of Brits in Spain

EXCLUSIVE

THE Foreign Office does not know how many British citizens are resident in Spain.

That is according to a government response to a Freedom of Information (FOI) request asking how many British citizens were on the Spanish civil register.

Three weeks after the FOI request was submitted, the Foreign Office replied: "I can confirm that the Foreign and Com-

monwealth Office (FCO) does not hold information relevant to your request as we do not record information on the number of British nationals resident overseas."

They were asked how many British citizens were officially resident in Spain and for an official estimate of the number of Britons living in the country. The two figures are widely thought to be dramatically different.

Delayed response times to FOIs are not unusual.

The British Office For National Statis-

tics estimates 309,000 UK citizens were living in Spain this year, while the UN estimated a very similar number for two years ago.

However, these figures are unlikely to take account of the British residents who live in Spain but are not registered on the Spanish civil register.

The register listed just over 250,000 British people as residents in Spain in 2016.

However, the number who have not registered could be significantly higher.

Innocents' Day: Spain's guilty Christmas pleasure

IN most cultures, December 28 is a rather meaningless day, perhaps spent hungover in the post-Christmas lull, or at work contemplating New Year celebrations.

But, in Spain, locals enjoy a rather bizarre tradition instead.

El Dia de los Santos or Innocents' Day, is the country's answer to April Fools' Day. Also celebrated in parts of Latin America, mischievous participants play a host of practical jokes on each other.

Friends, family, and occasionally the media are in on the act, with the unsuspecting being labelled 'innocent, innocent!' when caught out.

The event has Catholic routes, with a vague connection to a New Testament story about King Herod massacring innocent children.

In some parts of the country, the festive day includes building bonfires and a strange ritual of children acting as 'mayors' by ordering residents to do community chores. Refusal is greeted with fines to pay for the celebrations.

Different regions of the country celebrate the event in distinct ways. In Alicante, there is a flour fight, while locals in Frega throw eggs at each other and in Tremp a giant paper doll is hung from the bell tower.

One of the day's most famous events takes place in Malaga. Thousands descend on the city for the Fiesta de Verdiales, which involves groups of musicians competing to play the longest and loudest songs.

The festival has been held on the December 28 for over 50 years, according to Tourism Malaga, who say the musical event is one of the city's strongest cultural expressions.

Thought to have peasant origins, the festival is in the process of being culturally protected.

The city's mayor takes part in proceedings, brandishing his staff and deciding when pieces of music begin and end.

Residents wear traditional dress and exuberant floral hats, while taking part in Flamenco dancing, in celebration of the local traditions.

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Strike off

IRELAND-BASED pilots for low-cost airline, Ryanair have suspended their one-day pre-Christmas strike action on Wednesday.

It comes after Impact, the union representing the 117 directly employed pilots, has agreed to meet the airline's management. Ryanair said it would recognise unions for the first time as it also faces challenges from staff in Spain, Germany, Portugal, Britain and Italy.

The firm's chief operations officer, Peter Bellew, said: "Let's keep talking and get people home quietly for Christmas."

Impact said it hoped the suspension of industrial action would remove any uncertainty for passengers intending to travel on Wednesday. Unions in other countries had already halted action, but Impact said Irish pilots wanted more clarification.

The union said: "Impact has suspended a planned one-day strike of Ryanair pilots on Wednesday after company management agreed to recognise the union as the representative of Ireland-based pilots."

Impact says the dispute is about winning independent representation for pilots in the company.

Attack of the drones!

THE Spanish government will press ahead with controversial plans to relax drone regulations in the country.

New laws will require security checks and authorisation to let the small, unmanned crafts be flown at night and in particular areas, but current restrictions will be relaxed.

Previously, enthusiasts were not allowed to fly drones in the evenings or around buildings, towns and crowds.

But after presenting a safety study and gaining approval from the State Aviation Safety Agency (AESA), professionals will now be allowed to use the machines in the previously restricted areas.

Operations, in controlled airspace, will require additional authorisation.



CONTROVERSIAL: Current laws to be relaxed.

tion.

The new law, approved on Friday, also requires minimum design requirements and pilot training.

According to AESA, almost 4,500 drones are registered in Spain.

This summer, the government announced plans

to use drones to combat wildfires, according to *The Local*.

Drones have a number of other functions, including photography, surveillance and leisure, but some fear they could be used for more sinister purposes.



Photo credit: Policía Local de Murcia

BURNED ALIVE: The scene in the wake of the blaze.

Pig farm fire sparks panic

AROUND 2,000 pigs have died after a fire engulfed a Murcia farm.

The blaze destroyed a large building housing the animals and the owner of the facility near the remote village of Valladolises was hospitalised after suffering a

panic attack.

A total of 16 firefighters in five vehicles were sent to extinguish the flames, but when they arrived at the scene most of the animals had been burned to death.

No other buildings were affected.

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Sunday 31st	Closed	Closed
Monday 1st	Closed	Closed
Tuesday 2nd Jan	10-6.30pm	10-6.30
Wed 3rd Jan	10- 6.30pm	10-6.30
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Photo by Antonio Herrera/Twitter

REST IN PEACE: Ana pictured earlier this year.

A life well lived

EUROPE'S oldest person has died in Spain weeks after celebrating her 116th birthday.

Ana Vela, who moved to Barcelona from Puente Genil in Cordoba during the 1940's, passed away in her sleep at a retirement home in the Catalan city.

The great grandmother outlasted two of her four children and was living with her 90-year-old daughter at the La Verneda residence. She became the oldest woman in Europe, when 117-year-old Italian, Emma Morano died in April this year, and turned 116 on October 29.

Despite being wheelchair-bound and suffering from dementia, staff at the home described her as being 'strong as ever' prior to her death. Her daughter last year told Spanish media: "She likes a glass of semi-sweet wine with her meal but doesn't drink a lot. "When it comes to food, she eats everything, meat, fish, vegetables. She has a very normal diet."

It comes as the world's oldest man, Francisco Nuñez Oliveira from Extremadura, last week celebrated his 113th birthday. Ana is succeeded as Europe's oldest woman by 114-year-old Italian, Maria Guiseppa Robucci, while Japanese ladies, Nabi Tajima, 117, and Chiyo Miyako, 116, remain the two oldest people on the planet.

China thanks Spain

More than 100 scammers to be extradited



Photo credit: Policía Nacional

HUGE OPERATION: The police sting saw 269 people held.

CHINA has welcomed Spain's landmark decision to extradite 121 Taiwanese fraudsters.

In doing so, it becomes the first European nation to send Taiwanese criminal suspects to the far-eastern nation.

An official from the Chinese Foreign Ministry said that the ruling represents 'an important outcome' of cooperation between the two countries.

It comes after 269 people were arrested in connection with an elaborate telephone scam that swindled working class people in China out of an estimated €16 million.

The gang had offices in Madrid, Barcelona and Alicante, and the racket involved members posing as friends or family, warning victims about fraudulent schemes. In subsequent calls they pretended to be police or judicial officials, convincing thousands to deposit cash in their bank accounts. One

young man is reported to have committed suicide after handing over money saved for his studies.

In the wake of the arrests a number of gang members told investigators they had come to Spain thinking they would be employed as tour guides. There was a diplomatic element to court proceedings, with the defendants' lawyers arguing that they should not be extradited due to the ongoing dispute over Taiwan, which split from China in 1949 and remains under self-rule.

But China claims sovereignty over the island, and the Madrid court noted that Taiwan has had no diplomatic relations with the European Union since 1978. "The international community, except for those countries with which (Taiwan) has diplomatic relations, consider Taiwan to be part of China and take the view that its independence cannot be achieved unilaterally," said the written ruling.

Guns and body found

INVESTIGATORS in Jaen, Andalusia, were forced to call in the bomb squad after unearthing a weapons arsenal at a dead man's home.

Two armed bombs, one of which was designed to be dropped from an aircraft and weighed more than 50 kilos, more than 70 guns and a crossbow were among the items recovered.

The surprise find came after concerned residents in the town of Linares reported that a neighbour had not been seen for several days.

After forcing entry into the property, with the help of fire fighters, detectives found the man's body, with initial reports suggesting that he died from natural causes days earlier.

The discovery of the bombs led police to evacuate the surrounding area. They erected a security perimeter while the items were removed and detonated at an undisclosed rural location.

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Killer confesses

A SERBIAN ex-soldier has pleaded guilty to killing two police officers and a farmer in Teruel.

It comes after Norbert Feher, 36, appeared in a regional court in local capital Alcañiz.

The shooter - who has 18 known identities - also agreed to be extradited to Italy in a video conference with a National Court judge in Madrid.

The testimony was necessary due to a European arrest warrant issued in his name by Italian authorities, who want to quiz him over a spate of robberies and three brutal murders earlier this year.

But the man also known as Igor the Russian must first face a Spanish court after shooting dead Guardia Civil officers Víctor Romero Pérez, 30, Víctor Jesús Caballero, 38, and

THE STORY THAT SHOCKED SPAIN: The scene after the shootings with Norbert Feher (bottom left) and three of his many identities (bottom right).

civilian Jose Luis Iranzo, 39, near the village of Andorra.

Feher has been remanded in custody without bail, although he can stand trial in Italy before serving a sentence in Spain.

The three men killed last Thursday were shot as they investigated an earlier incident which saw two others seriously injured.



Photo credit Policía Nacional/Twitter/Facebook



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It came after a 73-year-old was unable to open the door to his country house, leading him to return with a locksmith, 42.

When they managed to unlock it, they were shot at close range from inside the property.

A manhunt was launched in which Iranzo participated as a volunteer alongside Perez, Caballero and other officers who formed part of a special unit

dedicated to investigating rural crime.

But when he returned to a farm owned by his family he was shot dead, with neighbours raising the alarm after hearing gunfire.

Six Guardia Civil officers swooped on the property, with four heading to the fields while Perez and Caballero inspected a green Mitsubishi pickup which was parked outside.

And when the quartet returned empty-handed, they found their colleagues lying in the road while the vehicle, which belonged to Iranzo, had disappeared along with the wounded officers' weapons.

A backup patrol discovered Iranzo's body shortly after.

Feher was eventually arrested eight hours later and 75 kilometres away after crashing the pickup between the hamlets of Cantavieja and Mirambel.

The funeral of the two dead officers took place on Saturday at the Church of Santa Maria in Alcañiz, with hundreds of citizens joining a host of officials - including the government's delegate in Aragon to pay their respects.

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SOUL TRAIN: Costa Soul Singers got everyone in a festive spirit at the Age Care concert.

Jingle bell rock

MORE than 90 clients, volunteers and guests at the Age Care Day Centre in the International Baptist Church, Calahonda were treated to a special event heralding the beginning of the Christmas festivities.

Costa Soul Singers entertained everybody for over an hour with traditional Christmas songs like *Jingle Bells*, *Winter Wonderland*, *Merry Christmas*, *Hallelujah* and carols as well as modern popular songs. The concert also included some songs for audience participation as well as familiar Motown classics.

Age Care would like to sincerely thank Costa Soul Singers for giving their time freely and entertaining everybody with a brilliant performance.

Age Care is a non-profit making organisation run entirely by volunteers whose aim is to help the older English-speaking community across the Costa del Sol, from Benalmadena to Marbella.

For information call: 952 933 409 or 635 407 255 or email: info@agecarecosta.org.

MEMBERS of the RAF Association, along with family and friends, enjoyed the annual Christmas dinner dance last Friday. Some had travelled a great distance as there were guests from Ireland, Hull, Costa Blanca and of course the Costa del Sol.

Jack Griggs, the Chairman of the Costa del Sol Branch, welcomed VIP guest, Charmaine Arboin, the British Consul to Malaga and the Canary Islands, who had arrived straight from the airport having been visiting the consulates in the Canaries.

Other honoured guests were Sarah Waugh, the RAFA Overseas Area Director and Northern Ireland Regional Manager, with her partner George Gordon, Robert Hunt, Chairman of the Overseas Area Council with his wife Margaret, Emma Smith, Chairperson of the RAFA Hull Branch, and Stuart Gray, RAFA Northern Area Branch Support Officer.

Guests were greeted with a glass of cava and this was followed by a three-course meal, finishing with mince pies. Entertainment was provided by singer, Laura Elen.

The Association relies on the proceeds from their social events for the vital welfare work aiding both serving and former members of the Royal Air Force and their families. During the evening guests contributed to 'Naming the Bear'. When the secret envelope was opened the bear was



FESTIVE FUN: RAF Association members dressed to the nines for the Christmas dinner dance.

called Louis and it was claimed by a delighted, Tricia Ferrier. There was also a raffle and €190 was raised in total. The RAF Association thanks those who contributed prizes.

The Costa del Sol Branch is a friendly group who organise various events throughout the year to which anyone is welcome, both members and non-members.

There is also a social get-together at noon on the first Tuesday in the month at Restaurante Los Morenos, Alhaurin el Grande and at 2pm on the third Monday of the month at El Jardin Bar, Arroyo de la Miel. There is also a quiz and a raffle, so come and meet some new people and join in the fun.

For more information please visit the website: www.rafacostadelsol.co.uk.



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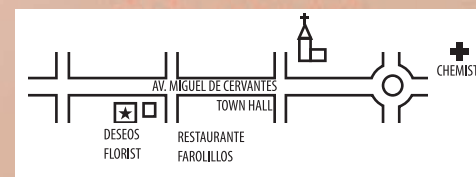


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ALL SMILES: RBL members and guests at Los Candiles, Alhaurin el Grande.

Getting into the festive spirit

MEMBERS and guests of the Coin branch of the Royal British Legion launched the festive season with a Christmas dinner dance at Los Candiles in Alhaurin el Grande.

Entertainment was provided by the talented Juliet Williams, who is loved by everyone in the Coin branch.

Chairman of the Branch, Jo Taylor, acknowledged that a lot of hard work had gone

into organising the evening and paid tribute to Jean Mer-ry, Maureen Ramayon and Rosie Mahoney who decorated the dining room and made table arrangements that set everyone's festive spirits soaring.

The branch also took the opportunity to celebrate their very successful 2017 Poppy Appeal year.

In October, the Poppy Launch and Autumn Fayre

raised €865, and in November a further €3,191 was raised from generous donations and the money collected in poppy boxes.

This brought the overall sum raised by the Coin branch in 2017 to a magnificent €8,874.

The Coin branch has a full entertainment programme right up to Christmas, details of which can be found at www.coinrbl.info.

Why not take a look and consider joining one of the most active and friendly groups in the area?

1.46% Rise in the average electricity bill in Spain in November compared to October, as prices went up for the third consecutive month.

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Organisers in Wonderland at tea party for paralysed biker



Antony Wolfson and David Toms.



Fundraisers had to pinch themselves to make sure they weren't dreaming when they totted up the donations made during a Mad Hatter's Tea Party in aid of paralysed biker David Toms.

By Karl Smallman

THEY had set a target of €2,500 which would pay for one month of care for the popular Costa del Sol photographer - who made a surprise personal appearance at the themed event.

But the actual amount raised by the themed tea party, raffle and auction at The Terrace, Benavista, near Estepona was smashed and more than doubled. The total amount raised was €5,120.

The afternoon went with a swing as entertainer Antony Wolfson was joined by Johnny Baker, Helena Paul and Nathan Dean while the event was compered by radio presenter Hannah Murray and attended by TV presenter Nicole King.

Jo Pitcher, owner of The Terrace, was thrilled with donations to the raffle with the star prize of a luxury night's stay with breakfast and dinner for two at the Kempinski Hotel Bahia in Estepona. Many other Costa del Sol businesses including La Sala Group, El Oceano restaurant also offered big raffle prizes. She described the afternoon as 'amazing' and she's already got her thinking cap on for

DAVID TOMS SUPPORT FUND



THREE WAYS YOU CAN HELP DAVID

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- 2) Contribute to his monthly living costs via [fundmemonthly](https://fundmemonthly.com/fund/david-toms/)
fundmemonthly.com/fund/david-toms/
- 3) Set up a direct debit to his bank account [ask us for a form](mailto:askusforaform@jackie@manifestodesign.com)
jackie@manifestodesign.com

the next fundraiser for David.

Jackie Stone, co-organiser of the tea party with Antony and Jo and representing the David Toms Support Fund, was overwhelmed at the amount raised for the fund which cannot attain charitable status as it is for an individual.

Antony said, "Jackie, Jo and I were overwhelmed with the support and generosity. The out-

pouring of love for David had us all in tears."

Euro Weekly News publishers, Michel and Steven Euesden, and all of the *EWN Media Group* 'family' also contributed by foregoing their Christmas party this year and, instead, donating a cheque to pay for one whole month of care for David. They also presented David with a huge Christmas hamper which included a coffee machine, lots of festive treats and even a bottle of David's favourite tiple.

Don't forget to check out the *Euro Weekly News* Facebook page for more photographs from the event: www.facebook.com/EuroWeeklyNews/



David Toms arrives at the Mad Hatter's Tea Party.



Lori Sijlema and David Toms.



The EWN team with their donation.



Antony Wolfson wowed the crowd.



Entertainer Helena Paul.



Nicole King and special guest.

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Permanent weight loss with the Gastric Mind Band treatment

The Costa del Sol, and Fuengirola in particular, is acknowledged around the world for a number of reasons, but for a few in the know, including a number of celebrities, it remains the Go-To destination for those wishing to achieve Permanent Weight Loss.

Back in 2008 the Gastric Mind Band® treatment was developed and then trademark protected in Europe and North America by Martin and Marion Shirran. Shortly afterwards, Claudia Connell of the Daily Mail travelled to Spain to meet the developers and experience the treatment for herself. Two weeks later she wrote a two-page feature in the Daily Mail newspaper detailing her treatment that literally got the whole world talking. Martin and Marion were then flown to New York to be featured in a Good Morning America TV special regarding their approach, and as a result they established a number of licensed clinics around the world.

Following the TV appearances they signed a multi-title publishing contract with leading Mind Body publishers

Hay House in New York, and were then invited to share details of their work at two leading European psychology conferences at universities in Portugal and Poland.

The revolutionary treatment, which can be completed over either three or four days, delivers what is surely Utopia for dieters... Permanent Weight Loss using a range of proven psychological interventions. Today the Gastric Mind Band® is regarded by many as the gold standard in permanent non-surgical, weight loss treatments.

The unique approach has been refined during a decade of research and extensive client trials. Every element of the treatment is evidence-based. There's no smoke and mirrors, no diet plan, and no exercise regimes to follow.

"Helping people to successfully, and permanently lose weight is a complex task, requiring a careful fusion of empirically proven interventions. Our research has repeatedly shown that instigating change in a person, especially in the field of weight loss, is best achieved not

by one approach alone, but by underpinning a number of therapies and approaches with each other. We use Cognitive Behaviour Therapy, Neuro-Linguistic Programming and our very own registered, TactileCBT along with Mindfulness Techniques, each underpinned as and when required by Hypnotherapy. The treatment has been further enhanced following the new and exciting research in the field of Neuroplasticity."

Their past clients have been interviewed in the media and on TV worldwide. Sarah Price, pictured, lost half her body weight following her treatment; Katie Drew, also pictured, went on to lose over 100 pounds; Kay Lindley, a past client, was interviewed by Lorraine Kelly on GMTV Breakfast show, after losing 105 pounds and reversing her diabetes.

For more information visit www.gmband.com or phone us on 951 311 591

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In the final test, the Tanita Body Composition Analyser is used to accurately establish your starting weight, as well as your body fat percentage, fat mass, visceral fat rating, and interestingly, your metabolic age too.



KATIE, now 32, was diagnosed with Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS) and Hypoinsulism. Katie went on to lose 95 pounds with the Gastric Mind Band Therapy; "A totally life changing experience" Katie was featured in the Daily Mail Newspaper.



WHEN SARAH arrived she weighed in excess of 20 stone. Her BMI was 46.7 and she was rated as morbidly obese. Sarah lost half her body weight 144 pounds, after having the Gastric Mind Band Therapy, her story has been featured in the media around the world.



KAY LOST a permanent 105 lb following her Gastric Mind Band treatment, but more importantly, she lost her Diabetes as well. Kay was interviewed by Lorraine Kelly on GMTV breakfast programme.

Church bells ring

THE Anglican Church will hold the following events over the Christmas period:

Today, 7.30pm: Carols by candlelight in the Sabinillas Church.

Christmas Eve (Sunday), 6pm: Christingle in San Pedro.

Christmas Eve, 11.30pm: Midnight Mass in Sotogrande.

Christmas Day (Monday), 10am: Christmas family communion in San Pedro.

Christmas Day, 12pm: Christmas family communion in Sotogrande.

Details can be found at: www.costachurch.com.

Chocolate oranges for Christmas

The Anglican Church have handed out around 600 Chocolate Oranges, kindly donated by customers of Overseas Supermarkets (Puerto Banus) to Emaus at Estepona, as well as hundreds of Christmas biscuit packs, also donated by customers of Overseas Supermarkets (Puerto Banus) to Caritas in San



CHOCOLATE HEAVEN: Reverend Adrian Low (Anglican Chaplain) picking up some of the donated chocolate oranges at Overseas Supermarket (Puerto Banus).

Pedro. Hopefully these will be welcome additions to the Christmas fair for those less fortunate than ourselves.

A brilliant fair

Hundreds of people, 25 classic cars, 35 stalls, Father Christmas on a throne, two choirs, bouncy castles, magic show, face painting and 10 charities made the multi-charity Christmas fair, organised by the Anglican Church

at the Estepona Palacio de Congresos, a great day.

The fair was a major success this year, raising more money than ever for the charities involved. It was a great start to the Christmas season for those who came and helped, and the Anglican Church will be passing on around €6,000 to the different charities the church supports.



FRESH START: Swimmers braving the cold last year for a good cause.

Swim in the New Year!

THE New Year's Day swim, that has been organised by Stacey Lloyd for 12 years running and was formerly held at The Caribbean Bar in Carvajal, will go ahead at the new venue, Restaurante Videra, Paseo Maritimo in Los Boliches, Fuen- girola.

Swimmers and sponsors are still needed so please come along. This has always proved to be a fantastic family day out on New Year's Day. There

will be something for everyone; the New Year's swim is at 2pm alongside the safety divers. There will then be an auction, raffle and BBQ (with vegetarian options).

This fun day is not to be missed, and proceeds will go to 4 PAWS Adoptions.

For more information see 4pawsadoptions on Facebook or call Stacey on: 606 572 407 or email: stacey@4pawsadoptions.com.

THE Iglesia International Costa Del Sol church will be holding their first Christmas Eve carol service in the Picasso Room at La Cala Golf Club House.

The event will feature a blend of traditional and more contemporary Christmas carols.

The singing will be led by European Worship Leader and

Christmas Eve carols

recording artist Valma Merrick who, together with her husband Stephen, is also one of the new pastors at the church.

The couple look forward to welcoming all nationalities and all denominations from

7pm on Sunday.

Non-christians are also welcome to join them.

For more information contact Pastor Stephen Merrick on: stephenmerrick@iglesiainternacionalcostdelsol.com.

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Problems with community debtors

Community Law Corner

By José Luis Navarro
Solicitor for
Intercala Administration
jose.luis@intercala.com www.intercala.com
with Pete Woodall, Woody's Los Boliches



MANY communities will have problems with debtors and as not all situations are the same, some will be easier to resolve than others. Unfortunately, Spanish law is quite weak on this subject and even with specialised lawyers some debts may never be fully recovered, however, there are a few tips that might help.

Some debtor-owners will never appear sufficiently solvent, at least on paper, to pay their outstanding contributions. Their property might be in the name of a company declared bankrupt or have prior embargoes already lodged with the Land Registry.

Sometimes there is a mortgage for more than the current market value or the community cannot find another property or an income, in the name of the

debtor to embargo or the debtor has left the country.

In other cases, it may still be possible to instigate procedures but if the property has changed hands, despite the concept, buy the property - buy the debts - new owners will only be held responsible for the current year and the three years prior to the year of the transfer. The years before that will be lost.

Taking this into consideration, a little pre-emptive thinking and some planning can help redress these situations.

Reluctant payers can be taken to court by their communities. Once a court has passed judgement, the community can claim the debt from the owner or the co-owners as it suits. Meaning, if the debtor-owner has no funds now but may have in the future, an embargo can be deferred until later.

A classic strategy used by some communities is to approve a prompt payment discount. The community votes to increase the budget by 25 per cent and at the same time approves a 20 per cent discount

for prompt payment.

For example: If the annual fees per owner are €1,000. The community approve this, plus an additional 25 per cent, to increase it to €1,250. They also simultaneously approve a 20 per cent reduction for owners paying within a specified time, reducing the fees to the original €1,000 for those who pay on time and effectively fining the ones who don't, by €250.

If the property is sold or auctioned, the new owner will not enjoy the prompt payment discounts and must pay the original amounts approved in the budgets. These discount budgets can be approved by a simple majority, unlike a 'fine' or surcharge which could be considered illegal and requires a unanimous vote of approval by all the owners in the community.

Another 'encouragement' which also requires approval by all the owners, is to legally prevent debtor-owners and their tenants, from using some or all of the non-essential facilities eg the swimming pool. This is par-

ticularly effective on owners with short term holiday rentals. Remember, although debtors can attend meetings they cannot vote and owners that do pay are unlikely to vote against these punitive proposals.

So a little Christmas cheer for owners who thought debtors could go on getting away with not paying their contributions.

Not every case needs to be resolved in the courts, which are already overloaded and move slowly and not all cases will be found in favour of the community.

Steps can be taken to collect extra money from debtor-owners that compensates for the missing funds needed for the smooth running of the community making it quite clear, non-payment will have strong consequences. Otherwise, debtors may end up ruining not only the economy but also the harmony of the community.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and remember to always seek competent advice in all matters regarding the law.

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Lions bring winter comfort

By Paul Butler

JULIE BARRY, the President of the La Cala de Mijas Lions Club, recently presented Martha Lucia Rivera Avila of Lux Mundi with a collection of mens' and ladies' underwear and socks for the homeless people of Fuengirola.

These brand-new items were all donated by those attending the recent Lions Christmas party and their shop volunteers lunch, both held at El Olivo restaurant in La Cala. They were collected in response to an ap-



FULL OF PRIDE: Martha Lucia Rivera Avila and Julie Barry (centre) with Lions members Sandra Tavendale and Paul Butler.

peal from Lux Mundi, which receives frequent donations of outerwear for the homeless, but rarely receives any underwear or socks.

Lux Mundi, located at Calle Nueva 3 in Fuengirola (telephone: 952 474 840), will always welcome any donations of underwear or outerwear to help the homeless of our area.

The presentation was made on the occasion of the Lux Mundi lunch for those who will be alone at Christmas. A small group of the La Cala Lions provided a musical accompaniment of Christmas carols and songs.

The Lions Charity shop in La Cala, at Calle Torremolinos 12, now has a wide selection of high quality win-

ter clothes available at very reasonable prices.

They also urgently need some more volunteers to cover a few hours a week, any time between Monday and Saturday from 10am to 2pm.

If you can spare one morning a week, please go along and support them. The shop telephone number is: 677 059 061.

Light a light

CUDECA once again celebrated lighting the Hospice Centre at Christmas in memory of loved ones.

On this special occasion the lights on the Hospice building were switched on by Joan Hunt OBE, Cudeca Founder, Marisa Martin and Rafael Olalla.

In addition to switching on the lights, Father Christmas was present together with the choirs from Sunny View School and Costa Soul Singers.

After the performances, Marisa Martin Rosello presented Inmaculada Ramos and Jose Maria de las Peñas with a diploma of gratitude for the 'Solidarity Challenge' from Maro to Manila that took place from December 4 to 10 and raised more than €1,200 for the hospice charity.

The solidarity raffle was drawn offering great prizes donated by El Corte Ingles, Carefour Torremolinos, Sabor a Malaga, Famadesa, Unicaja Basketball, Malaga CF, Nagomi Spa, Vithas Xanit International Hospital, Ice Club, Baboo Restaurant, Muebles David, GHD, Doña Lola and many more.

The draw for the patchwork quilt was also held by 'Lucky Quilters,' who raised €630 to benefit CUDECA.

A letter was read from the mayor of Benalmadena, Victor Navas excusing his attendance at the event and sending affection and support to all those present.

This was followed by a special prayer of remembrance in honour of loved ones and was followed by the lights being switched on, accompanied by more than 200 candles carried by the attendees.

At that moment there was a performance of the Chilean tenor, Rodrigo Orrego who delighted us with his rendition of *Noche de Paz* and *Adeste Fideles*.

If you wish to light a light for a loved one, please visit www.lightupcudeca.org. You can also write a dedication which will be included in our 'En Memoria' book 'Light a light.'



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NORWAY



Credit: NorgesFotballforbund/Twitter

ning of February, just two months before the Duchess of Cambridge is expected to give birth.

Equal footing

THE captains of Norway's men's and women's football teams have signed an equal pay agreement at the Norwegian Embassy in London, thought to be a significant move towards equal pay in sport.

What a dump

AN estimated 35,000 tonnes of waste are dumped into Norwegian seas annually, according to national media reports, with the Norwegian Society for the Conservation of Nature claiming more should be done to tackle the problem.

SCORE: Norway's national football team captains sign historic equal pay agreement.

Radio gaga

NORWAY has completed its total transition to digital radio, making it the first country in the world to shut down national broadcasts through

an FM radio network.

Royal visit

THE Norwegian Royal Family has confirmed that Prince William and Kate will visit Norway at the begin-

GERMANY

Pension pains

MEN in Germany receive double the amount of pension that women get, according to a study by the Economic and Social Sciences Institute, as elderly men receive an average of €1,154 per month whereas women receive €634.

was horrified to discover that his workshop had been vandalised by a raccoon, which destroyed 40 works of art and caused €3,000 worth of damage.

Round trip

A MAN from Afghanistan who was deported from Germany has returned to Frankfurt after it was revealed his ex-

pulsion to Bulgaria, where he was put on a plane to Afghanistan, was illegal.

Festive flight

AN AIRBUS A380 owned by Emirates - which is the world's biggest aircraft - performed a seasonal stunt over Germany flying in a deliberate pattern to sketch out a Christmas tree in the skies.

Furry fiend

A 72-YEAR-OLD artist in Thuringen

FRANCE

Train tragedy

AT least four children were killed when a school bus accidentally collided with a train near the small town of Millas in southern France, with seven more reported seriously injured and another 12 slightly hurt.

Wifi win

THE French government has announced plans to make high-speed internet available to the country's most isolated households by 2022 following a €100 million investment, as 7.5 million people are allegedly unable to get a high-speed connection.

Social limits

FRANCE has drafted new legislation which will mean all children under the age of 16 will have to get their parents' permission to open an account on Facebook.

Food friends

A REPORT published by the Barilla Center for Food and Nutrition revealed France is the most sustainable country in the world in terms of how they deal with food-related issues such as nutrition and food waste.

BELGIUM

Prince penalty

THE Belgian government wants to cut Prince Laurent's allowance by 15 per cent as punishment for being controversially photographed at a ceremony marking the anniversary of the Chinese army, according to a spokesman of the prime minister.

Case closed

JUDICIAL proceedings have officially ended against ousted Catalan president Carles Puigdemont and four former members of his cabinet who fled to Belgium after illegally declaring the region's independence from Spain.

Big money

BRUSSELS could earn up to €123 million if it hosts the Euro 2020 football tournament, according to calculations made by a student of the Solvay Brussels School, who earned a distinction for his work.

Lights on

BELGIUM is reportedly the only European country to keep almost all of its 2.2 million streetlights on during the night, while only 7.8 per cent of the country's energy is generated from renewable sources; half the EU average.

NETHERLANDS

Toll tackled

THE Netherlands has joined Austria in filing a lawsuit against Germany's plans to introduce a toll for passenger cars, which allegedly discriminates against foreign drivers and conflicts with EU legislation

Racist rental

A DUTCH-Moroccan couple, who are both Dutch citizens and hold Dutch passports, were allegedly prevented from renting a flat in the village of Rijnsaterwoude because the owner only "wanted to rent to people of Dutch descent."

Sand plan

IN order to protect the Netherlands' coast from rises in sea levels and erosion, the Dutch government has built a 'sand motor,' consisting of tonnes of dredged sand that simulates the natural formation of dunes.

Knife attack

AT least two people have been killed and three others wounded after two stabbing incidents in Maastricht, but police said they do not suspect a terrorist motive.

SWEDEN

Pension push

SWEDEN plans to raise the minimum pension age from 61 to 64 by 2026 as citizens are living roughly 2.5 years longer on average, meaning that pensions have to last longer.

'goodest' country, according to the Good Country Index, having dropped from first to sixth place, reportedly due to Swedish troops' involvement in international violent conflicts and the country's arms exports.

Student stabbing

A 17-YEAR-OLD student in Stockholm, who came to the country as an unaccompanied refugee, has died after being stabbed at school by a 16-year-old during a fight.

Hate crime

A JEWISH cemetery in Malmö was attacked when two flammable bottles were thrown into the grounds, making it the second suspected anti-Semitic attack in a week following Donald Trump's announcement to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Not so good

SWEDEN is no longer the world's

DENMARK

Shoot out

A CEASEFIRE between organised gangs in Copenhagen, which was called after a man was shot dead in November, has been extended by a month while more than 50 people have been detained in relation to the shootings.

Cosy cells

THE world's most 'humane' maximum security prison, which allegedly creates a 'vibrant community for the inmates,' has been built on the Danish island of Falster, and was designed by Danish architects C F Moller.

Paws and order

POLICE in East Jutland have decided to drop charges against two men charged with stealing military sniffer dog Pablo and dying his fur black as they lack sufficient evidence to prosecute them.

Youth seized

A 22-YEAR-OLD Danish citizen had his passport seized by authorities and was sentenced to five years in prison after travelling to Syria to fight for Daesh when he was 18.

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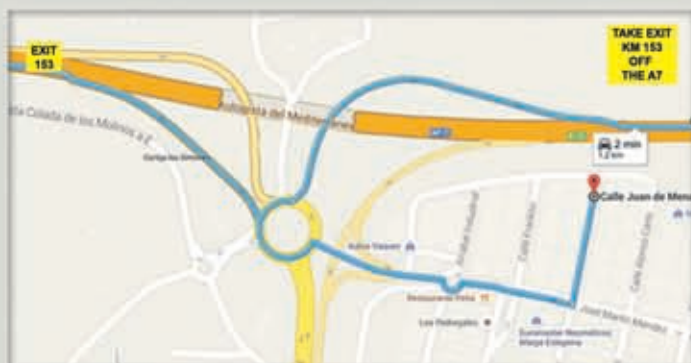
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Rolls Royce approved takeover

THE Spanish government has sanctioned the purchase of ITP (Industry Turbo Propulsions) by Rolls Royce for a reported €720 million.

ITP which has headquarters in Bilbao and employs 3,000 workers across the world is the ninth largest manufacturer of aero engine components used in both civil and defence aircraft.

Rolls Royce already held a 46.9 per cent stake in the company and will purchase the balance of shares from SEN-ER Grupo de Ingeniería SA

Shopping centre take over

THE owner of Westfield shopping centres is to earn €21 billion in a deal that will see the brand extend throughout Europe.

The Westfield Corporation, an Australian group is to sell its portfolio to French property group Unibail-Rodamco which operates shopping centres in 13 locations around Spain.

There are currently 35 Westfield shopping centres in the UK and the US, while the French group owns 71 sites in Europe but wants to create more operations under the recognis-

By John Smith

able Westfield brand name in major cities within the EU including Barcelona, Paris and Vienna.

As well as giving the new owners access to lucrative markets in America and Britain it estimates that it will be able to make savings of at least €100 million in the first year following completion thanks to a consolidation of advertising and marketing expenses.

In order to help fund the acquisition, Unibail-Rodamco expects to

sell some of its smaller developments and hopes to raise some €3 billion to boost liquidity.

The takeover is the second major deal involving shopping centre owners to emerge in just over two weeks.

A proposed €3.88 billion merger between shopping centre operators Hammerson and Intu is set to create one of the UK's biggest property companies which will create a €24 billion giant provided that Intu shareholders vote in favour of the merger next year.

Chinese company finds success

HUAWEI SPAIN, the Spanish arm of the Chinese tech manufacturer which employs 180,000 people worldwide sold two million smartphones in 2017.

According to CEO Tony Jin Yong it has seen growth in its three Spanish branches, infrastructures and networks, enterprise and private consumers.

So successful has it been that it claims to now own 20.6 per cent of the entire high street market for phones, tablets and wearables (such as smart watches).

With 1,200 employees in Spain it is now developing fibre-optic networks especially in rural areas as well as developing 5G networks and has opened service centres in Barcelona and Madrid.

Quote of the Week

Seat is the only Spanish brand in the automotive sector, which is rooted in Barcelona and I see no reason to change this." **Francisco García Sanz**, Chairman of the Board of Management of Seat on the company's future.



Photo by Eric Salard flickr

Iberia A320 aircraft at El Prat airport.

Barcelona airport Christmas strike

THE UGT union has announced that following a poll of its 2,000 Iberia Airline workers that there will be a strike at El Prat Barcelona airport from December 21 to 24.

According to the union, the decision to call the strike was forced upon the staff at the airport as employers IAG (who also own Aer Lingus, BA and Vueling) had not complied with the

terms of agreements entered into.

The decision to introduce partial stoppages in the week leading up to Christmas Day is to protest at the lack of staff needed to undertake necessary work at the airport and to highlight that staff there are owed 7,000 hours of leave.

The expansion of the Vueling presence has increased the workload for the staff.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Google aid

PROJECTS from 26 European countries will receive in excess of €20 million as part of Google's Digital News Initiative. The Spanish share of this fund which is to be used to develop news platforms will be €1.5 million.

Mango sale

AFTER suffering losses in 2016, privately owned Catalan fashion company Mango has reached an agreement to sell the facilities it has in Palau-Solità i Plegamans (Barcelona) for €100 million. It will then lease the property back and continue to trade there.

Helping Rafa

THE company that has developed radiotherapy machines used by Rafael Nadal and the Spanish Basketball team has been sold for €65 million. Indiba which has been improving its range of specialist equipment for 40 years is now owned by Spanish investors Magnum Capital.



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Careful when using wifi

BEWARE the use of public wifi as it has been revealed that a Starbucks in Buenos Aires had its service hijacked by scammers.

In this case, the hackers obtained access to customer's computers in order to use

their power to link with other computers to 'mine' for digital cash.

In this case no harm other than a slow-down of service occurred, but the dangers are clear.



LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES DECEMBER 18

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Anglo American	1,405.00	-5.00	-0.35	19,503.05
Associated British Foods	3,135.00	292.00	10.27	22,641.88
Admiral Group	1,872.50	-34.50	-1.81	5,500.15
Ashtead Group	1,899.00	5.00	0.26	9,595.12
Antofagasta	914.50	-16.00	-1.72	9,020.59
Aviva	506.50	4.00	0.80	20,076.43
AstraZeneca	4,865.00	-16.00	-0.33	61,836.87
BAE Systems	570.00	7.00	1.24	17,920.89
Babcock International Group	684.00	-8.93	-1.30	3,412.78
Barclays	201.50	-0.75	-0.37	34,572.72
British American Tobacco	4,910.00	-57.00	-1.15	112,949.40
Barratt Developments	626.00	0.06	0.01	6,378.29
Berkeley Group Holdings	3,705.00	-455.00	-10.94	5,553.38
British Land Co	644.00	-27.00	-4.02	6,707.28
BHP Billiton	1,382.50	-37.00	-2.61	29,315.56
Bunzl	2,014.50	0.20	0.01	6,782.43
BP	504.13	-1.07	-0.21	99,648.50
Burberry Group	1,750.00	27.00	1.57	7,364.37
BT Group	272.50	-5.05	-1.82	27,159.85
Coca-Cola HBC	2,387.00	62.00	2.67	8,507.38
Carnival	5,000.00	170.00	3.52	10,052.51
Centrica	145.50	7.50	5.43	7,733.52
Compass Group	1,541.00	7.00	0.46	24,126.39
Croda International	4,340.00	9.00	0.21	5,638.07
CRH	2,680.50	148.50	5.86	21,223.45
ConvaTec Group	205.85	0.00	0.00	3,966.16
DCC	7,250.00	20.00	0.28	6,310.96
Diageo	2,620.00	-35.00	-1.32	65,584.12
Direct Line Insurance Group	402.80	37.00	10.11	5,009.13
Experian	1,546.50	-54.50	-3.40	14,587.79
easyJet	1,430.00	13.00	0.92	5,664.19
Ferguson	4,800.00	-470.00	-8.92	12,982.93
Fresnillo	1,399.00	63.00	4.72	9,616.46
G4S	290.00	38.00	15.08	3,906.92
GKN	310.00	12.00	4.03	5,102.63
Glencore	357.50	-5.25	-1.45	51,439.61
GlaxoSmithKline	1,300.00	5.00	0.39	63,475.74
Hargreaves Lansdown	1,704.50	-7.17	-0.42	8,106.11
Hammerson	528.00	-6.00	-1.12	4,216.00
HSBC Holdings	740.00	-11.50	-1.53	151,259.72
International Consoltd Airls Grp	646.50	13.00	2.05	12,964.02
InterContinental Hotels Grp	3,860.00	-721.00	-15.74	8,559.06
3i Group	900.50	9.00	1.01	8,668.28
Imperial Brands	3,110.00	25.00	0.81	29,088.98
Informa	693.25	-46.75	-6.32	6,081.16
Intertek Group	5,222.50	177.50	3.52	8,101.81
ITV	164.00	-1.70	-1.03	6,694.26
Johnson Matthey	3,130.00	91.00	2.99	5,840.84
Kingfisher	332.50	0.80	0.24	7,219.24
Land Securities Group	960.00	-24.00	-2.44	7,255.01

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Legal & General Group	271.00	2.80	1.04	15,849.29
Lloyds Banking Group ORD	66.33	-0.08	-0.12	47,721.56
London Stock Exchange Grp	3,839.50	59.50	1.57	13,172.53
Micro Focus International	2,409.00	-109.00	-4.33	10,834.67
Mediclinic International	716.50	107.50	17.65	4,581.97
Merlin Entertainments	360.85	0.04	0.01	3,695.95
Marks & Spencer Group	323.55	19.75	6.50	5,025.33
Mondi	1,869.00	51.00	2.81	8,618.58
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	215.45	-1.35	-0.63	5,026.32
National Grid	880.00	11.40	1.31	29,132.67
NMC Health	2,900.00	100.00	3.57	5,862.88
Next	4,168.50	-77.50	-1.83	6,344.22
Old Mutual Group	204.00	0.60	0.29	9,943.94
Paddy Power Betfair	7,767.50	-817.50	-9.52	7,211.60
Prudential	1,835.00	-12.50	-0.68	47,682.97
Persimmon	2,480.00	-146.00	-5.56	8,184.86
Pearson	709.25	-15.75	-2.17	5,938.05
Reckitt Benckiser Group	6,695.00	-36.00	-0.53	47,145.19
Royal Bank of Scotland Group	270.80	-5.50	-1.99	33,243.22
Royal Dutch Shell	2,375.00	-53.50	-2.20	110,101.41
Royal Dutch Shell	2,442.50	-10.00	-0.41	90,996.60
RELX	1,640.00	-89.00	-5.15	18,367.91
Rio Tinto	3,548.25	-76.25	-2.10	48,183.24
Rolls-Royce Group	851.00	20.00	2.41	15,148.10
Randgold Resources	6,495.00	-460.00	-6.61	6,509.87
RSA Insurance Group	638.75	31.25	5.14	6,157.37
Rentokil Initial	285.50	-23.90	-7.72	5,671.85
Sainsbury (J)	237.00	0.90	0.38	5,182.03
Schroders	3,542.50	70.50	2.03	7,845.24
Sage Group (The)	777.50	-4.00	-0.51	8,472.00
Segro	575.25	0.00	0.00	5,696.62
Shire	3,765.00	2.50	0.07	33,518.11
Smurfit Kappa Group	2,392.50	-13.50	-0.56	5,636.93
Sky	1,065.00	47.00	4.62	17,018.27
Standard Life Aberdeen	410.25	-7.75	-1.85	12,326.56
Smiths Group	1,490.00	46.00	3.19	5,718.30
Scottish Mortgage Invstmnt Trst	433.50	-3.50	-0.80	6,130.54
Smith & Nephew	1,297.50	15.50	1.21	11,266.13
SSE	1,322.50	7.50	0.57	13,278.01
Standard Chartered	731.00	-26.10	-3.45	25,032.27
St James's Place	1,166.00	-18.00	-1.52	6,200.75
Severn Trent	2,090.50	-10.38	-0.50	4,876.53
Tesco	205.75	-1.55	-0.75	16,951.57
TUI AG	1,531.50	69.50	4.75	8,417.25
Taylor Wimpey	203.35	1.45	0.72	6,592.75
Unilever	4,105.00	-91.00	-2.17	51,004.59
United Utilities Group	804.00	-12.00	-1.47	5,455.11
Vodafone Group	231.25	1.25	0.54	61,270.40
Worldpay Group	463.70	28.30	6.50	8,584.00
WPP Group	1,285.50	-103.50	-7.45	17,194.89
Whitbread	4,206.00	342.00	8.85	7,025.25

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COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE%	CHANGE	VOLUME(M)
3M	238,000	-0.03%	-0,080	142,201,44
AMERICAN EXPRESS	98,5200	+1.41%	1,3700	85,593,11
APPLE	173,970	+1.02%	1,750	891,544,01
BOEING CO	293,940	+0.02%	0,060	175,340,64
CATERPILLAR	146,690	+0.28%	0,410	87,252,96
CHEVRON	119,73	+0.17%	0,20	227,734,93
CISCO SYSTEMS	38,190	+0.77%	0,290	190,852,06
COCA-COLA	46,19	+0.35%	0,16	196,544,58
DOWDUPONT	70,00	-1.03%	-0,73	164,185,42
EXXON MOBIL	83,03	+0.16%	0,13	352,400,11
GENERAL ELECTRIC	17,8200	+1.02%	0,1800	154,102,95
GOLDMAN SACHS	257,17	+0.66%	1,69	97,329,30
HOME DEPOT	182,5800	+0.25%	0,4500	213,581,11
IBM	152,50	-0.97%	-1,50	141,312,80
INTEL CORP	44,5600	+3.01%	1,3000	209,457,93
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	106,1400	+1.41%	1,4800	368,693,04
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	142,4600	+0.57%	0,8100	381,647,04
MC DONALD'S CORP	174,0600	+0.53%	0,9200	138,989,31
MERCK AND CO. NEW	56,24	+1.21%	0,67	152,718,31
MICROSOFT	86,850	+2.55%	2,160	666,321,13
NIKE	64,79	+0.40%	0,26	84,530,52
PFIZER	37,2000	+2.03%	0,7400	221,380,67
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	91,890	+0.98%	0,890	232,537,58
TRAVELERS CIES	134,89	+1.74%	2,31	36,979,05
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	126,17	+1.95%	2,41	100,755,57
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	221,82	+0.26%	0,57	214,784,11
VERIZON COMMS	52,67	+0.63%	0,33	214,945,74
VISA	113,82	+0.80%	0,90	206,333,91
WAL-MART STORES	97,1100	-0.02%	-0,0200	291,782,39
WALT DISNEY CO	111,2700	+0.63%	0,7000	168,203,47

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NASDAQ

CLOSING PRICES DECEMBER 18

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
Educational Development Corporation	\$ 16.75	2.70 ▲ 19.22%
TiGenix	\$ 24.92	3.25 ▲ 15.00%
Crocs, Inc.	\$ 12.55	1.61 ▲ 14.72%
Surgery Partners, Inc.	\$ 11.15	1.40 ▲ 14.36%
Forterra, Inc.	\$ 10.83	1.35 ▲ 14.24%
Roku, Inc.	\$ 52.31	6.16 ▲ 13.35%
Compugen Ltd.	\$ 2.80	0.30 ▲ 12%
Presbia PLC	\$ 2.16	0.23 ▲ 11.92%
Diana Containerships Inc.	\$ 5.44	0.57 ▲ 11.70%
FormFactor, Inc.	\$ 16.60	1.70 ▲ 11.41%
Overstock.com, Inc.	\$ 68.35	6.85 ▲ 11.14%
Most Declined		
Marinus Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 7.89	1.44 ▼ 15.43%
Allena Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 10.50	1.88 ▼ 15.19%
Verastem, Inc.	\$ 3.14	0.51 ▼ 13.97%
Syndax Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 8.03	0.97 ▼ 10.78%
Frontier Communications Corporation	\$ 11.86	1.39 ▼ 10.49%
China Internet Nationwide Financial Services Inc.	\$ 42.95	4.87 ▼ 10.18%
Mountain Province Diamonds Inc.	\$ 2.45	0.275 ▼ 10.09%
Restoration Robotics, Inc.	\$ 4.86	0.54 ▼ 10%
ACM Research, Inc.	\$ 5	0.54 ▼ 9.75%
Xunlei Limited	\$ 15.77	1.68 ▼ 9.63%
Corvus Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 9.30	0.94 ▼ 9.18%

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Price Movement

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Accumulating Funds

Multi Asset Conservative B GBP

DEALING PRICE

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Price Movement

£0.0036

Multi Asset Conservative B EUR

€1.0786.....

€0.0031

Multi Asset Balanced B GBP

£1.3265.....

£0.0098

Multi Asset Balanced B EUR

€1.2213.....

€0.0086

Multi Asset Growth B GBP

£1.4813.....

£0.0156

Multi Asset Growth B EUR

€1.3709.....

€0.0140

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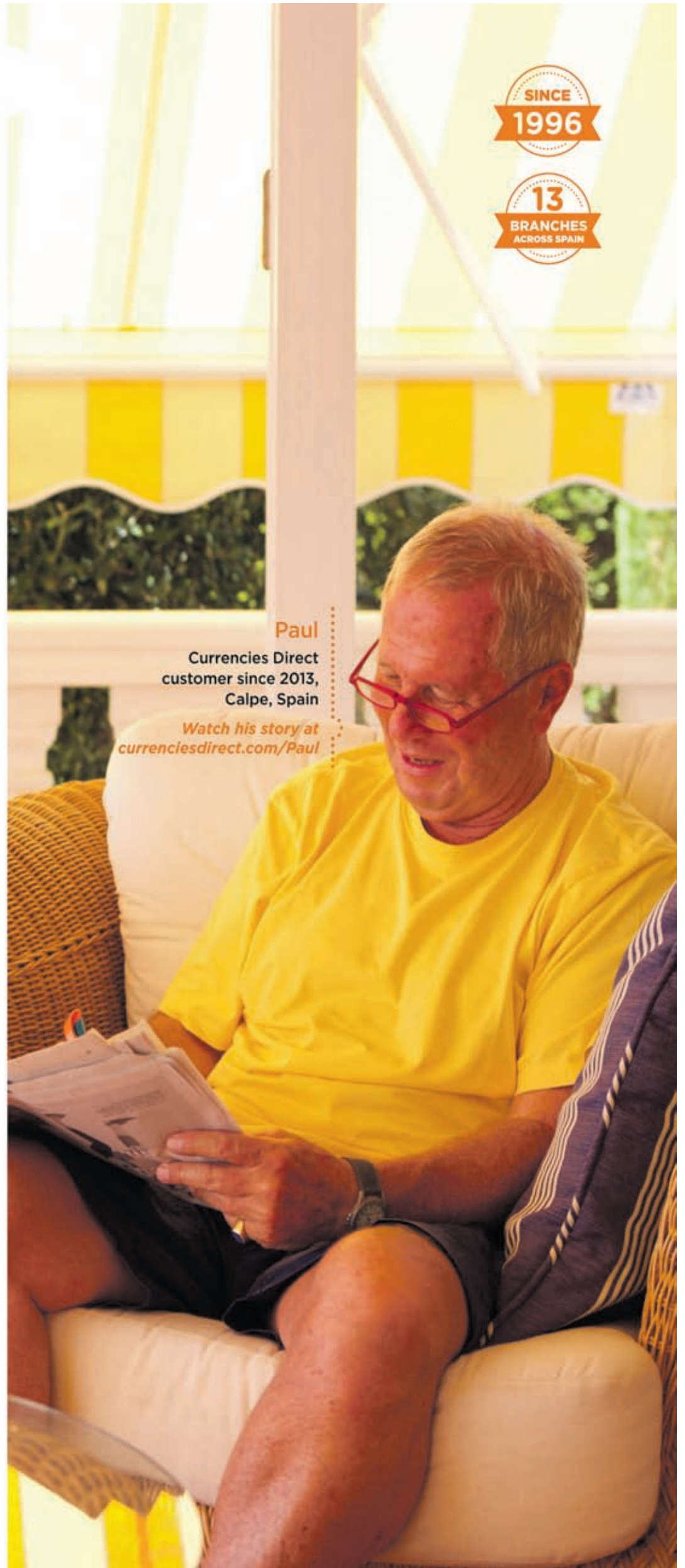
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Qatar works with Spain

Needs assistance to produce more food

THE Qatari government has been isolated as other Middle Eastern countries accuse it of supporting terrorism which has meant that it has expanded its economic relationships with Europe.

Having been awarded the FIFA World Cup Final for 2022 it has to ensure that it has a markedly improved infrastructure in order to guarantee that air conditioned stadiums are built, as well as accommodation and training camps which will be sufficiently cool for the huge number of visitors expected.

It has been steadily investing in Europe over a period of years and through a subsidiary in Luxembourg, Qatar Airways is the largest shareholder (with 20 per cent) in IAG which operates airlines Aer Lingus, BA, Iberia and Vueling.

Now, an alliance of Spanish agribusiness companies AgroQatar has signed a memorandum of understanding with Gulf Petroleum for the development of a system of high-tech greenhouse production of fresh fruit and vegetables.

According to a statement from the Spanish embassy in Qatar, this project intends to improve the self-sufficiency of Qatar in fresh food supply.

Gulf Petroleum president Abdul Aziz Hamad al-Dulaimi and AgroQatar general manager and chief operating officer Juan Carlos Santiago signed the memorandum in the presence of Spanish ambassador Ignacio Escobar.

According to the embassy, Gulf Petroleum was recently awarded the right to develop 100 hectares of greenhouse facilities by the Qatari government and AgroQatar is supported the Spanish Export Promotion Authority (ICEX) which includes the financing of its projects in Qatar.



Photo Credit: The Peninsula Qatar Twitter

Signing the memorandum of understanding.

“The objective is trifold: to contribute to the growth of the agricultural economy in the state of Qatar and guaranteeing its self-sufficiency, to increase the participation of the non-hydrocarbon sector in the national economy and, finally, to develop the private sector” its spokesman said.

The organisation was created specifically to facilitate the development of agribusiness adapted to the climatic conditions of Qatar.

INDITEX GROUP CONTINUES TO SEE PROFIT GROWTH

Third quarter figures up

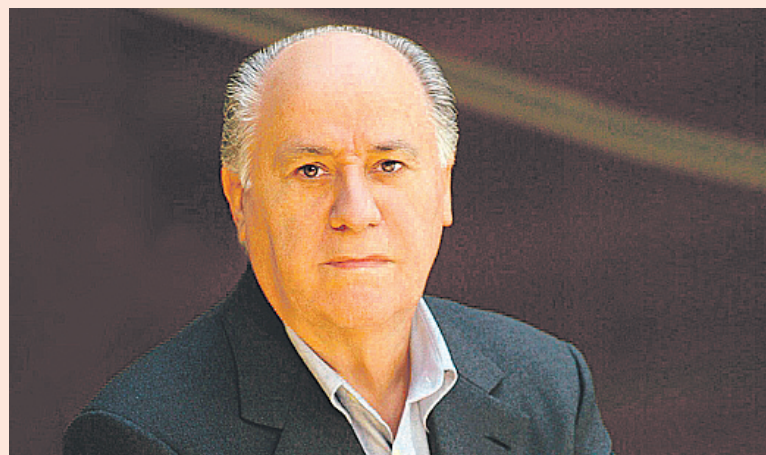
THE world's largest fashion retail group Inditex has reported continued growth and profits of €11.15 billion by the end of the third quarter of 2017.

Its turnover for the same period of €18 billion would rank it number 100 in the world alongside Latvia and Paraguay if it was a country.

The company which owns Zara, Bershka and a number of other brands just keeps expanding and during 2017 has opened 212 new stores across the world giving it a total of 7,504 in 94 countries with 162,000 employees.

Interestingly however it has been reported in foreign financial media that it is looking to sell 16 of its stores (14 in Spain and two in Portugal) in a sale and leaseback venture with an asking price of €400 million.

The reason for this decision is that the bulk of its stores around the world are operated on a leased basis and it has also seen a growth



AMANCIO ORTEGA: Founder of Inditex.

in internet sales within Spain which has been notoriously slow in embracing online shopping.

The group has invested a great deal of time and money in upgrading its internet presence and believes that the Spanish market is ready to see a definite move away from store purchases to online shopping which means that its stores may start to become redundant to some extent.

One of the properties that it is believed to be looking to dispose of is the Zara store in the upmarket Calle Preciados in Madrid, said to be the most expensive Spanish street in terms of retail rents.

One independent analyst has been quoted as saying that whilst pan-European internet purchase is expected to rise by 12 per cent per annum, Spain is likely to see a growth of 18 per cent up by 2021.

Profit margins for the company are in excess of 50 per cent over cost and this has been achieved by a policy of entering into arrangements with suppliers who will produce additional stock at very short notice, ensuring that the group does get left with an excess of previous season's clothing.

Still privately owned by Amancio Ortega who is currently listed as the world's fourth richest man, the Inditex Group has weathered all financial storms to become a true Spanish success story.

Jaime Botín accepts that he is tax evader

THE former Bankinter president Jaime Botín has accepted a sentence of nine months in prison and a fine of €506,134 for allegedly defrauding €1 million.

He has now accepted a ‘plea bargain’ with the prosecution agreeing that he pretended that a private plane which was actually based at Madrid Torrejon airport was actually located in Portugal where no taxes would have been paid.

As part of the agreement, he has accepted full responsibility for this matter meaning that charges against three of his former colleagues will be dropped.

There is however another charge pending against the millionaire member of the family which controls Santander Bank regarding the attempted sale of a painting by Picasso outside of Spain.

ECB confident for the future

AS the European Central Bank (ECB) has increased its growth forecast for members of the eurozone, the Bank of Spain has blamed Cataluña for an expected reduction.

Spain has been something of an economic powerhouse over the past few years so by dropping its forecast for 2018 to 2.4 per cent, it aligns itself with the increased expectation of the ECB for 2.4 per cent by the end of 2017.

Whilst the ECB president Mario Draghi has indicated that the bank is much more confident than it was a few months ago, the Spanish Bank is also dropping the 2019 forecast to 2.1 per cent.

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Photo by AngMoKio Wikimedia

NIKI LAUDA: Original founder of the stricken airline.

Niki airline goes bankrupt

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AFTER Lufthansa pulled out of a rescue attempt due to EU Commission opposition, Niki Airlines filed for bankruptcy.

All flights were suspended leaving an estimated 5,000 passengers stranded without flights, although the airline website told passengers who had booked with tour operators to contact them for assistance whilst listing five 'friendly' aircraft who may assist in returning passengers to Austria, Germany and Switzerland until the end of 2017.

The airline which was part of the Air Berlin group (also in liquidation) has 20 airlines and flew across much of Europe with seven destinations in Spain including Malaga and Palma de Mallorca.

The original founder of the low cost Austrian airline - which he sold in 2011 - former F1 racing driver Niki Lauda has reportedly shown an interest in making a bid for it.

This is the third European airline to fall into the hands of liquidators this year.

Bid to take over toll operator still dragging on

IT WAS IN May of this year that Italian company Atlantia bid €16.3 billion to take over Spanish toll road operator Abertis.

A few months later, that offer was topped by Hochtief the German subsidiary of Spanish construction group ACS who have indicated that they would pay €18.6 billion.

The matter is now being considered, but two Spanish ministers have joined in the discussions suggesting that the bid from the Italian group was not ideal as Abertis also owns Hispasat, which controls Spain's national satellite communications system.

The suggestion is that they would rather see ACS, whose chief executive Florentino Pérez is also President of Real Madrid

football club, take control of the company which relies upon the goodwill of the government which grants the rights to manage toll roads across Spain.

There is however a problem with the Hochtief bid as ACS is half the size of the Italian group which is controlled by the Benetton family and has less access to cheap funds which could cause shareholders in the Spanish operator to prefer a sale to Italy.

It has been suggested that the ACS/Hochtief bid will have to be supported in part by the issue of new shares and main shareholder in Abertis, CriteriaCaixa may not want to take stock in a construction company when it can take cash from the other party.

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What are they thinking?

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT
OTHERS THINK IT



DELIGHTED to have been invited to attend the Westminster Parliamentary Carol Service last week. Not quite so impressed with the almost unbelievable lack of security which surrounded the event.

Don't they ever learn anything? Just two minutes from the terrorist attack on Westminster Bridge, and with half the cabinet, including Jeremy Corbyn expected to be in attendance, we walked from our traffic-jammed Uber to the church, without observing even one member of the security forces - let alone an armed officer.

Our tickets could have been run up on anyone's PC and, although asked to bring our passports, they were not requested and we were allowed to pass unchallenged into the building, with no search, no metal detection and the briefest of ticket scrutiny. We took our seats among the MPs and peers of the realm, clutching an unchecked bag and umbrella, with yours truly wearing a long raincoat, which could have concealed a bomb or an AK47.

Frankly, I don't care if we were closely examined by a whole truck load of CCTV cameras, had I been a terrorist, I could have taken out half of those in attendance before any security force could



PEW FOR PEERS: Leapy takes a seat.

even have raised a small Glock. It was actually quite disturbing, and I truly did feel vulnerable in a situation which should have been sewed up tighter than the duck's proverbial. What are these people thinking?

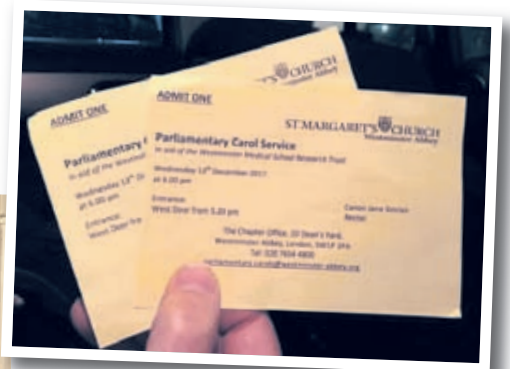
I was actually surprised to see Corbyn in attendance at all (May sent a representative, obviously Brexit negotiations more important than her catching a glimpse of Leapy!) I didn't think the Labour leader 'did' religion; I was therefore not surprised to see him leave before the prayer segment of the service. Speaker John Bercow smiled as he passed



STEEPED IN HISTORY: Winston Churchill married here.

my pew, he obviously doesn't read the column! All in all, apart from the feelings of vulnerability, a wholly interesting and enjoyable event in a church which is steeped in historical occurrences, including the marriage of Winston Churchill and Lord Louis Mountbatten.

The same building in 1555 AD, witnessed a priest attacked at the altar, after which the perpetrator, a William Flower was burnt at the stake outside the church. (Perhaps it is a good thing they haven't actually read Leapy's blurb!) The Westminster choir were of course superb and fair caused many a



TICKETS: The only thing that was checked.

droplet and lump. A truly unforgettable and wholly unique experience. This was the lesson read by the Speaker of the House, which made quite a pleasant change from 'Order Order.'

BC-AD

This was the moment when before turned into after, and the future's un-invented time keepers presented arms.

This was the moment when nothing happened. Only dull peace sprawled boringly over the earth.

This was the moment when even energetic Romans could find nothing better to do than counting heads in remote provinces.

And this was the moment when a few farm workers and three members of an obscure Persian sect walked haphazard by starlight, straight into the Kingdom of heaven.

Keep the faith

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Love Leapy. leapylee2002@gmail.com

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TECH FOR THE TIMID

UNTIL last month, where I live it was quicker to send out a messenger with a cleft stick than to use e-mail.

Then despite the hesitance of the town's largely-elderly inhabitants who still think the Interweb is the devil's spawn, we received a wonderful early Christmas present: fibre-optic broadband.

I wouldn't want to spoil the festive season for the rest of you living in seriously inferior settlements, but what a joy it is to send an e-mail and not have to brew up a cuppa while waiting for the progress bar to complete. How ecstatic it is to click a news-site video and not be treated to stop-motion puppetry.

It almost didn't happen, after the town fathers questioned the need for such new-fangled jig-gery-pokery. That it would cost each and every one of us a whole €3 more a month almost sank the deal.

Fortunately thieves came to our rescue (not a sentence I ever thought I would write). They stole the town's copper feeder cable, twice, and the service



BROADBAND: Spain the world's 22nd-fastest.

Strike up the broadband

With Spain now 22nd in global connectivity speed, Terence Kennedy is in a fever about his new fibre.

provider decided to give us fibre whether we wanted it or not. As indeed did Mr Kellogg all those breakfasts ago.

For the less fortunate, there are things you can do to improve your connectivity, other than lob-

bing your service provider and local authorities. Or moving. Or indeed stealing the copper cable.

If you're still on prehistoric ADSL as we were (1.5 Mbps on a really good day, courtesy of that excellent site for testing your broadband

speed, www.speedtest.net), you may have two other options: mobile, or satellite.

Satellite is the ultimate and perhaps only choice for those far out 'en medio de la nada'; but it's expensive and prone to crippling traffic jams, especially when the kids get home for a happy evening of slaughtering people online.

If you're lucky enough to be in range of a cellular tower, you could 'go mobile,' especially now that mobile data packages are dropping in price.

Unless you're contemplating watching Game of Thrones online instead of on telly like the rest of us, 10 or 20 GB of data a month should do nicely thank you, at an affordable price.

You don't even have to buy a special modem to do it; just turn on your smartphone's hotspot and bingo, you've got your own new WiFi source in the house, driven from your SIMcard.

So go on: if you're still limping along on snail-paced broadband but you've got a reasonable 4G or even 3G signal within reach, why not? All you need is a smartphone with data and Roberto's your tio.

Selling cellular

ACCESSING mobile data is not just the preserve of phones and tablets.

You can buy a MiFi gadget for home and mobile use for €100 or less. Insert a data-enabled SIM card, plug it in or use its battery, and you've got a 3G/4G WiFi 'router.'

The cheaper solution is firing up your smartphone's WiFi hotspot, activated in your phone's settings. Do be aware though that leaving it on continuously will hammer your phone's battery, so keep it on charge.

You can continue using your phone throughout. But perhaps you have an old smartphone lurking in a drawer which you could dedicate to hotspotting?

Or just bite the bullet, buy an €80 second smartphone and away you go. Because you're worth it.

THURSDAY THOUGHTS

By Graham Braben, Almería

Chocolate treats

MY daughter Alice and I were wandering through a local shopping centre a few weeks ago and came across a new chocolate shop. We ventured in with visions of leaving laden with scrumptious chocolate treats. That was until we saw the price. I paid less for my first ever car! But nevertheless, I have a weak spot for chocolate, and 'I'll save it for later,' isn't a phrase that springs immediately to mind!

This makes the story of a man in Pwllheli, North Wales even odder. I know Pwllheli very well and although you risk damage to your tongue trying to pronounce it properly - though not a patch on Llanfairpwllgwyngllgogerychwyndrobwillantysillioogogoch - it's somewhere I have spent a great deal of time in for many years, so I can say quite categorically, that apart from Funland and a few nice cafes, there's not a lot to do in the town. Perhaps this explains it.

For the last 25 years this particular chap has been collecting chocolate bars hoping they'll become worth more money than he paid for them. I think there's a flaw in that premise don't you? Would anyone really pay over the odds for a bar of chocolate that cruised by the sell by date decades ago? No, I don't think so either!

Apart from taking over huge swathes of this Pwllheli resident's home, chocolate, as The Beach Boys may have said, does get around. Apparently, in China, for Valentine's Day, a VW Beetle was smothered in chocolate and displayed at a Volkswagen dealer.

I'm not tempted to horde my chocolate or smother my car in it, I'm going to be boring and just eat the stuff. While I eat it I'll feel sorry for poor old Will Shakespeare, they didn't have chocolate in England until the 1650's, over 30 years after he died. No wonder he wrote so many tragedies!

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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.

Opening the door to advent calendars with a festive difference

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

IT must be Christmas - with the advent of all the usual political correctness! First off, there's Father Desmond O'Donnell, an Irish Catholic priest, urging Christians to abandon the word 'Christmas' because, for him, the words 'Christmas' and 'Easter' have lost all sacred meaning. Then there's the vicar who banned 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' from Christmas services.

Speaking of 'advent,' what about all the advent calendars around now? For starters, the erotic calendars from Selfridges. Next Asda's cheese-filled ones, while the Master of Malt website had a small bottle of rare whisky behind each window - provided you were happy with the £1,000 price tag. Then, Greggs the bak-



Photo by The Church Sofa / Twitter

ROLL IN THE HAY: Greggs' sausage roll nativity scene caused uproar in some religious circles.

ery chain was, er, roasted for replacing Jesus with a sausage roll in its nativity scene advert for its calendar.

Which reminds me of the latest Christmas cracker joke: "Why don't Southern Rail train guards share advent calendars?" Because they want to open the doors themselves...

But please can we stop calling these things 'Advent' calendars? (There were just pictures behind doors in the ones of my childhood.) They have nothing to do

with Advent - 'Countdown' calendars possibly, although 'Rip-off' (in every sense of the word) might be more accurate.

Christmas seems to be not only more and more politically correct, but more commercial each year. Starting way before Halloween, punctuated by ghastly, sentimental, elaborate advertisements and topped by Black Friday.

Ah, with all this talk of political correctness, it's already beginning to feel like Christmas. And a

sure sign Santa's sleigh's already having its annual checkup at Kwik Fit. As for me, not exactly a hard 'BrXmas' here, but again no free movement of loads of relatives - I'm too busy writing my latest thriller!

And another year comes to a close - eight years of this column every single week and over 400 articles later! Many thanks to all you readers out there for all the great comments here and to my website. Great to be appreciated and pleased the odd (yes!) joke cheers you up in these troubled times. HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

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

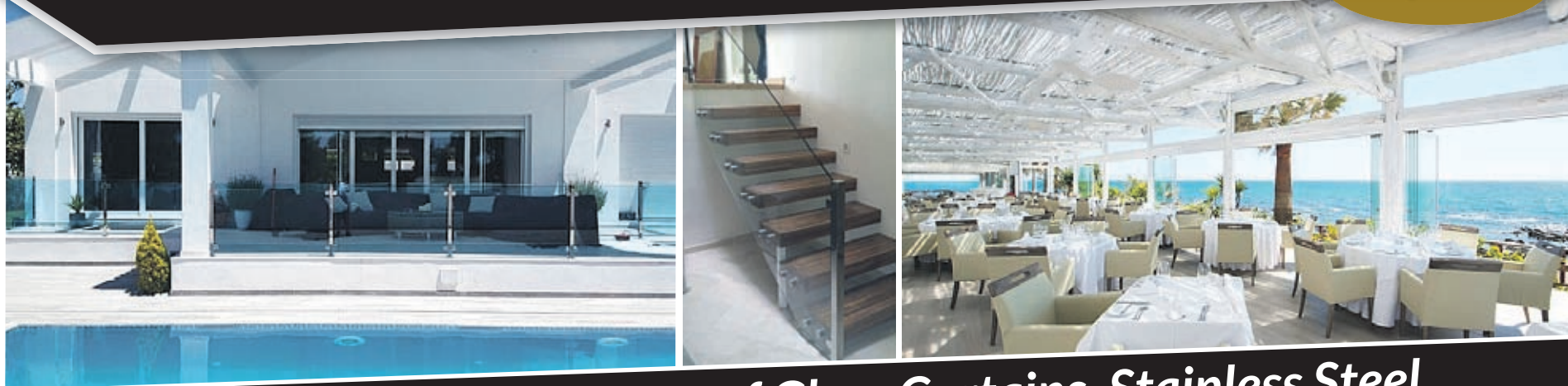
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So at last a merry Xmas!

Mike Senker

In my opinion

Views of a Grumpy Old Man



'TIS the season to be merry! I don't think so! Certainly not if you are trying to deal with multi-nationals. I'm going to the UK in January. I found a flight with Ryanair for €39 return which is a great price.

Then I go to hire a car. I might have mentioned this before but I have dealt with Hertz since the mid '90s. The best they could offer was £160. I thought that seemed a bit expensive.

I then recalled that Ryanair did car rental so I had a look at their prices and lo and behold they were offering the same car, from the same Hertz location for £55 so I booked it. Everything was the same - insurance, mileage etc.

Done deal you might think. Nah, not Mr Grumpy. I got to thinking that's not right so I tweeted Hertz and asked them how this could be. That's when the fun started. They replied that third parties are cheaper but they often sell cars Hertz don't have in stock.

'Not a good answer,' I replied, and simply said that you should never be able to get

something cheaper from a third party than going direct. I pointed out that most hotels have a price match policy otherwise what's the point joining their loyalty programmes.

Anyway, we to-and-froed for two days and they just kept sprouting some company policy BS saying that I wouldn't get loyalty points and gold member service. I replied, 'stuff your points and I'll wait in line for 10 minutes to save a £100.' I gave up with them and found a live chat option in their contact details so I went there.

Even less joy! They said, 'if you don't like the price, book it somewhere else! It's supply and demand.' They finished with, 'have a nice day and a Merry Christmas.'

Now I was steaming! I'm pretty relentless so I found a number in Oklahoma, called it and spoke to a lady called Terri. I explained the situation and two minutes later she says, 'I can match that - sorry for the inconvenience.' What? It's as simple as that? 'Yes,' she said, 'I don't know why nobody told you to call us in the first place.'

I asked to speak to her supervisor and told her how Terri had kept Hertz a customer so for once there was a happy ending. Oh and Ryanair cancelled my booking no problem so at last a Merry Xmas!

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

Email:mikesenker@gmail.com

LEGALLY SPEAKING

Staying safe this festive season – part one

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

ALTHOUGH no specific threats have been received and the threat level in Spain remains the same as it has done for some time, it is inevitable that security measures will be increased to ensure that the festive period passes as safely as possible.

Guardia Civil and police checkpoints will be in place in various locations.

Although many of these will be traffic related, there will also be many others which are checking vehicles for security reasons. Once

again we remind everyone of the importance of not sharing the locations of these checkpoints should you see them, such as through social media, as this often gives those who may be intent on criminal activity the opportunity to avoid detection.

If you are stopped at a checkpoint the advice remains the same too. Stay calm and act on the instructions of the officers involved. If you have nothing to hide, you have nothing to fear and you will be on your way in a very short space of time.

It's not only on the roads where danger lurks at Christmas time, which is why the police also offer a wealth of advice on how to stay safe, with the hope of making shoppers and traders aware of potential risks, thus hoping to reduce the number of scams, thefts and robberies that often occur in areas where large crowds gather.

A greater presence of police officers will be



FESTIVE SAFETY: Take care out there.

noticeable in key areas, as more officers are being deployed, not only on foot, but on horseback and supported by their canine colleagues as well.

A guide book was previously produced, and is still available, warning of the dangers, and current information can always be obtained through the three Twitter accounts, @policia, @interior gob and @polprvalencia, which are the National Police, Interior Ministry and Valencia Police respectively.

One of the most frequent incidents the police have to deal with is lost children.

The police recommend the obvious, keeping a close eye on children at all times, but also the less obvious, such as ensuring the child knows their name and a telephone number to contact in emergencies. They also recommend a wrist band or bracelet with the name and contact number of the parents printed or engraved on it.

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

Has he got an unpaid traffic fine?

Q. You once wrote that traffic and parking fine violations expire if the authorities do not notify you within three months. I hired a car in Malaga and four months later the car hire company took 40 euros from my account. It took them a month to tell me that this was for 'administration' then two further emails to get them to tell me that this related to a parking violation. Six months later, I have had no notification from Trafico, and searching the Internet with my NIE number and the car registration number reveals no outstanding fines. Does the three-month rule apply to me? Will there be a big fine accumulating somewhere?

A S (Costa del Sol)

A. Relax. Here is what probably happened. You got a parking ticket. The ticket was charged to the car hire company and they paid it. Standardly, park-

David Searl

You and the Law in Spain



ing tickets are €60 or half that if paid in 20

days. So the company charged you €30 for the ticket plus a €10 fee for administration. No further action required and no big unpaid fine is accumulating.

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

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We're all mad hatters at heart



Photo by David Toms Facebook

David Toms before the accident

Marbella Moments

by Nicole King



MOULIN ROUGE is a perfect movie for me because I tend to live that way; things happen and songs pop into my head.

Reach Out and Touch (somebody's hand) the Diana Ross hit from the 70's is the one that came to mind when attending an event to support a local expat who'd been in a serious accident and left paralysed from the waist down: renowned photographer David Toms.

I saw so many people joining forces and supporting each other in such a bonded and genuine way when I got to the Mad Hatters Tea party, organised by Jackie Stone, Antony Wolfson and The Terrace with Lou Lou Jane in Estepona that no other song could have been more fitting.

People that had taken time out of their busy day to give encouragement to someone who has not lost his way but who does have to find a new one, everyone sharing a problem that wasn't their own and everyone believing that we can change things if we start giving; which they did.

Helena Paul, Johnny Baker, Nathan Dean and of course Antony Wolfson himself completed the afternoon's entertainment, all volunteering their time and talent to help a friend.

There were prizes, raffles amidst a truly themed Mad Hatters tea party with unknown concoctions in tiny, labelled bottles on the beautifully creative tables laden with tasty delights. The atmosphere was

electric particularly when we found out that David was going to be picked up by another volunteer and brought to the party.

Hannah Murray of Talk Radio hosted the event and topped off a really heart-warming afternoon. I'm sure David had a great time, happy and relieved to be back amongst his friends and to see how truly loved and missed he is.

I'm sure he was also more than a little relieved to know that the whopping amount of €5,145 was raised which will certainly help him have a more relaxing Christmas in the knowledge that a couple of months' living expenses had just been covered.

It is going to take a lot of love, time and money to get David back on track, but if we all continue to pull our strengths, we can also undoubtedly help him speed up and alleviate the process.

David's main money earner was as wedding photographer, famous for his very original and creative style with back-to-back bookings year round. He was also a fantastic food photographer, insightful enough however to appreciate a photo of a messy empty plate with a serviette carelessly tossed on top as an anecdote.

Unfortunately David's family are not in a position to support him and he's not able to work at the moment so he is going to continue to need our help.

Let's keep the party going:

1. Qualified physiotherapists to volunteer their services
2. Donate - gofundme.com/2s7mrahs
3. Contribute to monthly living costs: fundmonthly.com/fund/david-toms/
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Courtesy of: Hunt Trip Spain/ Facebook

FAMILY AFFAIR: Hunting is often marketed as a family holiday.

A PROUD father kneels beside his three sons, each broadly smiling while squinting as the sun lights up the picturesque Spanish countryside.

Beneath the smiles lies a Southeastern Ibex, slain so that it can play its part in this uncomfortably joyous photograph.

In truth, it is a portrait that most families won't have in their photo albums.

However, when trawling through the 'Trophy Album' on one of Spain's most popular hunting tourism websites (Hunt Trip Spain) it is an image repeated time and again.

Be it fathers proudly standing between their kill and smiling sons or husbands embracing grinning wives while their guns rest against a defeated Red Stag, the frequency of the family kill portrait says a lot about the nation's obsession with hunting.

A favoured Spanish hobby (or sport,

if that is the appropriate term), hunting has long been a tradition from the north to the south of the country.

After France, Spain has the largest number of hunters in Europe, according to a recent report published by the Círculo Fortuny.

In total, there are an estimated 850,000 official hunting licences in Spain. That represents a slight drop since 2010, when the number exceeded one million.

However, the fact that 2 per cent of the population still retains a hunting licence, proves its lasting popularity.

To put that into context, those figures equate to one in every 54 Spanish residents owning a hunting licence.

Outside of the Nordic countries that is the highest percentage in Europe.

And it is a nationwide fascination. Andalucía, Castilla-La Mancha and Castilla y León register the highest number of licences, with Cataluña and Navarra also generating plenty of interest.

But why, with another New Year about to be rung in, does hunting still garner so much interest?

On hunting tourism website, the Stalker Group, Spain's geographical beauty combined with its colourful history is used as a

2% of Spaniards have a hunting licence, the biggest percentage in Europe

way of portraying hunting as part of the nation's culture, drawing on its architecture and artists as parallels.

The website says: 'Geographically, Spain's diversity is immense. There are endless tracts of wild and crinkled sierra to explore, as well as some spectacularly rugged stretches of coast between the beaches. Culturally, the country is littered with superb old buildings, from Roman aqueducts and Islamic palaces to Gothic cathedrals. Almost every second village has a medieval castle. Spain has been the home of some of the world's great artists: El Greco, Velazquez, Goya, Dali, Picasso, and has

With animal rights groups and hunters Noon takes a deeper look into Spain

museums and galleries to match.

The country vibrates with music of every kind, from the drama of Flamenco to the melancholy lyricism of the Celtic music and gaitas (bagpipes) of the northwest."

It continues: "This is great chance to bring your family with you and enjoy both hunting and Spanish culture. Come and bag your magnificent Red Deer, Fallow Deer, Roe Deer, Mouflon, four species of Ibex and Chamois here. Traditional 'Monteria,' the royal hunting, is also available in Spain."

Again, hunting is dressed up as a family day out. Coupled with immersing yourself in the country's culture and

brehtaking landscape, it all sounds pretty idyllic.

But for everyone who supports or partakes in hunting, there is an equal number against it.

One British expat who has seen the negative impact of hunting first hand is the president of dog rescue centre Adana.

Based on the Costa del Sol, Mary Page has had to tend countless hunting dogs beaten and then abandoned by their owners.

"Some of the hunters who use dogs are 100 per cent hijos de -----," Page told the EWN. "They can be extremely aggressive. I have called the police about it several times.

"We have experienced countless injured dogs, dogs cruelly disposed of - be it hanging, drowning or clubbing to death - or left to starve to death.

5% of the world's trophy kills are imported to Spain

85,000 signatories called for King Juan Carlos to be removed from WWF position after hunting scandal

ROYAL SHAME: King Juan Carlos on hunting trip



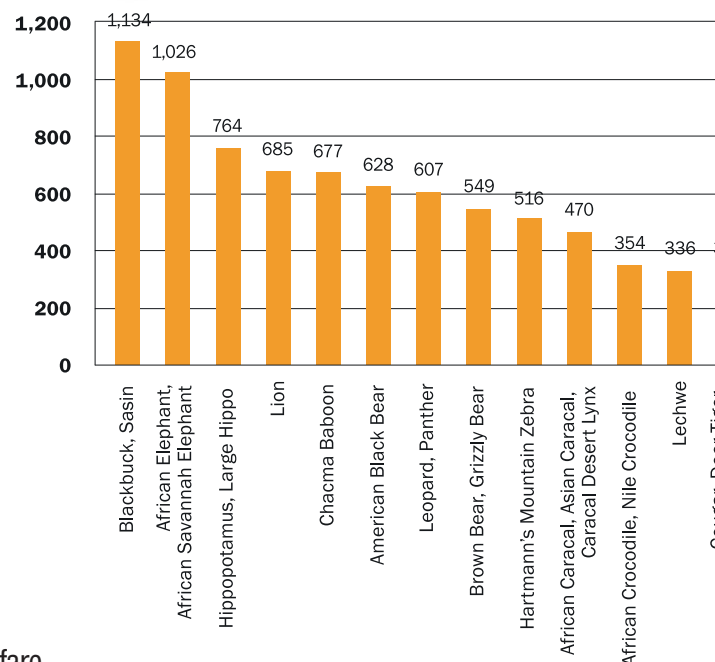
Trophy obsession

SPAIN is Europe's biggest importer of trophy kills, accounting for 5 per cent of all global imports. Here are the 'trophies' making their way to Spanish homes from overseas.

HUNTING TROPHIES: The groups that are threatened.

Source International Fund for Animal Welfare

Top 20 threatened taxa for imported (2004 to 2014) to Spain



Man's hunting story Trophy tragedy

Constantly at loggerheads, David
in's controversial pastime

10,334 endangered trophy kills were nationally imported from 2004 to 2014

"We have even had hunters on our land firing at rabbits or boars."

She added: "Personally I detest anyone who kills animals for sport, but what these hunters do to their own dogs is especially repulsive."

And the numbers speak for themselves. According to a *National Geographic* report, around 10,000 hunting dogs - galgos - are massacred each year.

Deemed unfit to hunt, the dogs are either destroyed en masse or abandoned and left to starve to death.

And yet, despite the tremendous number of hunts that take place, the animals on offer in Spain are seemingly not always exotic enough to satisfy all hunters.

Spain is the highest European importer of 'trophy kills,' accounting for 5 per cent of all imports around the world, according to the International Fund for

Animal Welfare report *Killing for Trophies: An Analysis of Global Trophy Hunting Trade*.

Of that number some 10,334 imports between 2004 and 2014 were from threatened species.

Only the US accounts for more imports of trophy kills, with a staggering 71 per cent of all overseas kills being shipped to the US.

The most popular imports into Spain were blackbuck (Sasin), African elephant, hippopotamus, lion, and chacma baboon (see graph). Some 87 polar bears were also imported into Spain during the decade-long study.

Equally worrying is the number of trophy kills going the other way. The Aoudad (or Barbary sheep), a North African species that also inhabits the Iberian Peninsula, is the most exported threatened species heading out of Spain.

And it is not just the trophy kills that get the Spanish reaching for their shotguns.

Game and migratory Mediterranean birds face an unpleasant welcome when they choose to touch down.

Yet much like bullfighting, hunting has found itself in the spotlight as animal activists mount pressure on the government to put an end to what

many consider a family pastime.

It is true that in recent years the process (and cost) of obtaining a hunting licence has become less appealing.

To obtain and maintain a hunting licence in Spain, it is mandatory to have a gun permit, which costs around €20 a year, a hunting permit for about €80 a year, plus civil liability insurance which is around €40 per year.

In addition there is the €150 fee that the psycho-technical exam costs.

However, Spain's government has done little to appease the protests. In fact, it has seemingly done everything in its power to irritate them further.

In 2014, the ruling PP government angered animal rights groups after the Senate steamrollered through an amendment to Spain's National Parks Law to extend a moratorium on a ban on hunting in these specially protected areas.

The law as it stood said that hunt-

€140 annual cost of hunting licence



KILL OR BE KILLED: Hunting dogs

When a disagreement goes too far

WHETHER for or against hunting, the tragic death of Melania Capitan earlier this year was a horrendous result of bitter quibbling between hunters and animal activists.

A female hunter aged just 27, Capitan took her own life in July after she was reportedly threatened by animal rights activists on social media.

Capitan, from Cataluña, regularly posted detailed personal hunting methods on her blog, with these attracting thousands of followers.

These posts attracted much controversy and she had been subjected to threats online.

And while several animal rights spokespeople condemned the online bullying of Capitan, the bullies couldn't resist one last dig.

As the news of her death spread, many took to her



TRAGEDY: Melania Capitan.

Facebook page, which has more than 32,000 likes, to leave comments apparently welcoming the news.

"You have done a favour to humanity! Bye bye," one comment read.

"She was so bitter that she had to pay for her hate killing innocent animals, thank God she killed herself, the only good thing she did lately," another comment said.

Whatever you think of hunting or thought of Capitan, celebrating somebody's suicide is a low that cannot be allowed to happen again.

ing on private estates which fall within one of Spain's 15 national parks must end by 2017.

However, they have since extended that to 2020 to the frustration and bewilderment of environmentalists.

Slammed by the likes of the WWF, Ecologists in Action and BirdLife, the PP was accused of taking backhanders and wilting to the monetary powers of the hunting communities.

And it is not just the government that has had its fair share of hunting critics.

The former King Juan Carlos was no stranger to hunting scandals himself. In 2006, it was alleged that he had shot a Russian bear that had been given honey laced with vodka.

Six years later, he was again facing a backlash when news broke that he needed hip replacement surgery after falling during a 2012 elephant trophy hunting trip in Botswana.

Photos then emerged of the monarch posing with dead elephants and African buffaloes, as the media turned on the

74-year-old monarch, who - by the way - had the audacity to be an associated member of Spain's branch of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

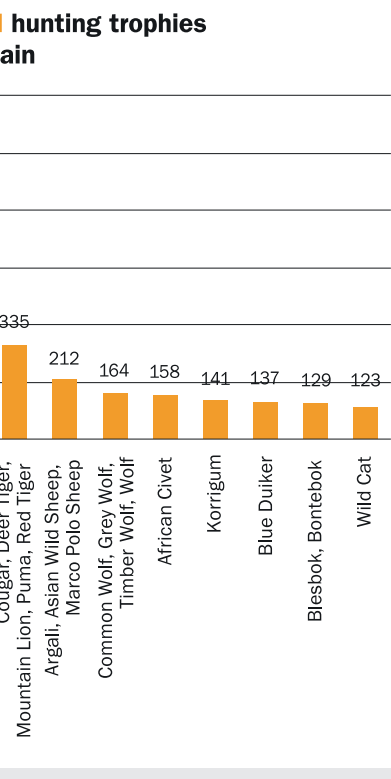
This was a double-blow for the King, who was slammed for his expansive lifestyle during the economic crisis.

More damning however, was the backlash from WWF. Around 85,000 signatures called for Juan Carlos' resignation as honorary president of WWF Spain.

A public apology followed, but failed to persuade those at WWF as 94 per cent of general meeting members voted to remove him from his honorary position.

With a government that refuses to stamp it out and a former recent monarch who actively revelled in it, the popularity of hunting is unlikely to diminish anytime soon.

Those against it can - and will - continue to make noise, in the hope that someone will hear their calls one day.



'They hunt anything'

HUNTERS are making life hell for expatriates in the Jalon Valley, Alicante.

"We are terrified here," said a 70-year-old grandmother formerly from Leicestershire in the UK who did not wish to be named. "I had a cat killed, lead shot come through the window and if you don't like it you just have to shut up."

Having moved to the scenic area five years ago after 15 years near the coast, she says that hunting dogs often jump the fence and run amok in her garden.

"My neighbour has built a huge fence to keep them out.

"The noise from July to February is ridiculous... they begin at dawn and we can't sleep!

"They hunt anything and the dogs are destroying the environment.

"Once I shouted at them from the roof, but one just put his finger up, then they spent hours parked at the end of my drive trying to intimidate me."

BBC one

7:00am	Breakfast
10:15am	Let's Get a Good Thing Going
11:00am	Homes Under the Hammer
12:00pm	Street Auction
12:45pm	Fake Britain
1:15pm	Bargain Hunt
2:00pm	BBC News at One
2:30pm	BBC London News
2:45pm	Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom
4:35pm	Wallace and Gromit in the Curse of the Were-Rabbit
5:50pm	Merry Madagascar
6:15pm	Pointless
7:00pm	BBC News at Six
7:30pm	BBC London News
8:00pm	The One Show
8:30pm	EastEnders
9:00pm	DIY SOS The Big Build
10:00pm	Love, Lies and Records
11:00pm	BBC News at Ten
11:30pm	BBC London News
11:45pm	Darcey Bussell
12:45am	New Tricks
1:45am	Weather for the Week Ahead
1:50am	BBC News

BBC TWO

7:30am	Flog it! Trade Secrets
8:00am	MasterChef: The Professionals
9:00am	David Suchet: In the Footsteps of St Peter
10:00am	Victoria Derbyshire
12:00pm	BBC Newsroom Live
1:00pm	The Daily Politics
2:00pm	Snow Babies
3:00pm	Natural World
4:00pm	Victorian Bakers at Christmas
5:00pm	Back in Time for Christmas
6:00pm	The Lake District: A Wild Year
7:00pm	Sacred Rivers with Simon Reeve
8:00pm	Inside the Christmas Factory
9:00pm	MasterChef
10:00pm	Joanna and Jennifer: Absolutely Changers
11:00pm	Absolutely Fabulous
11:35pm	Insert Name Here
12:05am	QI
12:35am	Dara and Ed's Road to Mandalay
1:35am	The Alternativity
2:35am	The Apprentice
3:35am	The Apprentice: You're Hired

BBC FOUR

8:00pm	Beyond 100 Days
8:30pm	Christmas University Challenge 2016
9:00pm	BBC Proms 2017 <i>The BBC Proms celebrates the 85th birthday of the world's favourite film composer, John Williams.</i>
11:00pm	The Galaxy Britain Built
12:00am	Hollywood's Master of Myth: Joseph Campbell - The Force Behind Star Wars
12:40am	Alexander Armstrong's Real Ripping Yarns
1:40am	Bought with Love: The Secret History of British Art Collections
2:40am	The Story Of...
3:40am	Peaky Blinders <i>Period crime drama set in Birmingham.</i>
4:40am	This is BBC Four <i>BBC Four is the BBC channel for people who want more.</i>

CHANNEL 4

9:05am	Everybody Loves Raymond
9:35am	Everybody Loves Raymond
10:05am	Frasier
10:35am	Frasier
11:05am	The Big Bang Theory
11:35am	The Big Bang Theory
12:00pm	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
1:00pm	Channel 4 News
1:05pm	Jamie's Cracking Christmas
1:15pm	Jamie's Comfort Food Bites
1:25pm	Carry on Constable
3:10pm	Countdown
4:00pm	Lost and Found
5:00pm	A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun
6:00pm	Kirstie's Handmade Christmas
7:00pm	The Simpsons
7:30pm	Hollyoaks
8:00pm	Channel 4 News
9:00pm	The Supervet at Christmas
10:00pm	The Undateables at Christmas
11:00pm	The World's Most Expensive Toys
12:05am	Father Ted

CHANNEL 5

8:05am	Paw Patrol
8:20am	Rusty Rivets
8:30am	Peppa Pig
8:40am	Peppa Pig
8:50am	Floogals
9:05am	Digby Dragon
9:20am	Noddy: Toyland Detective
9:35am	Shimmer and Shine
9:50am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
10:10am	Mofy
10:15am	Snow Queen
11:50am	Open Season 3
1:15pm	Loch Ness
3:15pm	Christmas with the Andersons
4:55pm	Mrs Miracle 2: Miracle in Manhattan
6:40pm	A Royal Christmas
8:00pm	World's Strongest Man 2017
9:00pm	Britain's Craziest Christmas Lights
10:00pm	Donny Osmond's Easy Listening Christmas
11:30pm	An Audience with Donny and Marie
12:30am	Lip Sync Battle UK Xmas Special

4

11:00am	Rules of Engagement
11:30am	Rules of Engagement
12:00pm	How I Met Your Mother
12:30pm	How I Met Your Mother
1:00pm	New Girl
1:30pm	New Girl
2:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
2:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
3:00pm	Kevin Can Wait
3:30pm	Kevin Can Wait
4:00pm	How I Met Your Mother
4:30pm	How I Met Your Mother
5:00pm	New Girl
5:30pm	New Girl
6:00pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
6:30pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
7:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
7:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
8:00pm	Hollyoaks
9:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
9:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
10:00pm	2 Broke Girls
10:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
11:00pm	The Inbetweeners
11:30pm	The Inbetweeners
12:05am	The Big Bang Theory
12:35am	The Big Bang Theory
1:05am	Gogglebox

sky sports main event

7:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize
7:30am	Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize
8:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
9:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
10:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
11:00am	Premier League Daily
12:00pm	Sky Sports Daily
1:00pm	SKY Sports News
2:00pm	SKY Sports News
3:00pm	SKY Sports News
4:00pm	SKY Sports News
5:00pm	SKY Sports News
6:00pm	SKY Sports News
7:00pm	SKY Sports News
8:00pm	Live World Championship Darts
12:00am	SKY Sports News
1:00am	SKY Sports News
2:00am	SKY Sports News
3:00am	SKY Sports News
4:00am	SKY Sports News
5:00am	SKY Sports News

itv

7:00am	Good Morning Britain
9:30am	Lorraine
10:25am	The Jeremy Kyle Show
11:30am	This Morning
1:30pm	Loose Women
2:30pm	ITV Lunchtime News <i>Lucrezia Millarini presents the latest headlines from around the world.</i>
2:55pm	ITV News London
3:00pm	Judge Rinder
4:00pm	Dickinson's Real Deal
5:00pm	Tipping Point
6:00pm	The Chase
7:00pm	ITV News London
7:30pm	ITV Evening News
8:00pm	Emmerdale
8:30pm	Tonight
9:00pm	Emmerdale
9:30pm	Coronation Street
10:00pm	Gordon, Gino and Fred's Great Christmas Roast
11:15pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather
11:45pm	ITV News London
11:55pm	The Royal Variety Performance 2017
2:20am	Jackpot247

itv2

7:00am	The Cube
7:45am	Britain's Got Talent
8:35am	Emmerdale
9:00am	Coronation Street
9:30am	Coronation Street
10:00am	The Ellen DeGeneres Show
10:50am	Mr. Bean
11:20am	Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records
11:30am	Planet 51
12:35pm	FYI Daily
12:40pm	Planet 51
1:20pm	Emmerdale
1:50pm	Coronation Street
2:20pm	Coronation Street
2:50pm	The Ellen DeGeneres Show
3:40pm	The Jeremy Kyle Show
4:50pm	The Jeremy Kyle Show
5:55pm	The Jeremy Kyle Show
7:00pm	Take Me Out
8:15pm	You've Been Framed!
9:00pm	Two and a Half Men
9:30pm	Two and a Half Men
10:00pm	The Great Xmas Rant
11:30pm	Celebrity Juice
12:30am	Family Guy

itv3

7:00am	Classic Coronation Street
7:25am	Classic Coronation Street
7:55am	Heartbeat
8:55am	The Royal
9:55am	Judge Judy
10:25am	Judge Judy
10:50am	Judge Judy
11:20am	A Touch of Frost
1:30pm	The Royal <i>Nostalgic medical drama spin-off from Heartbeat.</i>
2:35pm	Heartbeat
3:40pm	Classic Coronation Street <i>Alan is surprised to find it is Rita's birthday as she had not told him.</i>
4:15pm	Classic Coronation Street
4:50pm	A Touch of Frost
6:55pm	Heartbeat
7:55pm	Murder, She Wrote
9:00pm	Midsomer Murders
11:00pm	The Suspicions of Mr Whicher
1:05am	Agatha Christie's Marple
3:00am	The Knock

itv4

7:00am	Hat-Trick Heroes
7:15am	The Chase
8:05am	The Chase
8:55am	Storage Wars Texas
9:20am	Storage Wars Texas
9:45am	Pawn Stars
10:15am	Pawn Stars
10:40am	Ironsides
11:50am	Quincy, M.E.
12:50pm	The Sweeney
1:50pm	The Professionals
2:55pm	Ironsides
3:55pm	Quincy, M.E.
5:00pm	Minder
6:00pm	The Professionals
7:00pm	Storage Wars Texas
7:30pm	Storage Wars Texas
8:00pm	Pawn Stars
8:30pm	Pawn Stars
9:00pm	River Monsters
10:05pm	Lethal Weapon 3
11:05pm	FYI Daily
11:10pm	Lethal Weapon 3
12:25am	Jaws
1:25am	FYI Daily
1:30am	Jaws
2:55am	River Monsters
4:00am	Bear Grylls: Mission Survive
4:50am	ITV4 Nightscreen
4:55am	It's Not Rocket Science

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

7:25am	Rocky III
9:10am	In the Heart of the Sea
11:15am	Behind Enemy Lines
1:05pm	The Great Wall
2:55pm	The Goonies
4:55pm	Twister
6:55pm	In the Heart of the Sea
9:00pm	The Great Wall
11:00pm	The 13th Warrior
12:50am	Kill Zone 2
sky CINEMA COMEDY	
8:15am	Our Brand is Crisis
10:10am	Liar Liar
11:45am	Mean Girls
1:30pm	Miss Congeniality
3:25pm	The Top Ten Show 2017
3:45pm	Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie
5:25pm	Justice League: Special
5:55pm	Liar Liar
7:30pm	Sisters
9:30pm	Miss Congeniality
11:30pm	Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie
1:10am	Beverly Hills Cop

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

7:00am	Don't Think Twice <i>Turmoil strikes a New York improv troupe when one member leaves to star in a SNL-like TV show. Smart comedy.</i>
8:45am	Justice League: Special
9:15am	Smurfs: The Lost Village
10:50am	Sharing Christmas
12:25pm	Don't Think Twice
2:10pm	Come and Find Me
4:10pm	Fist Fight
5:45pm	Smurfs: The Lost Village
7:20pm	Final Recall
9:00pm	Come and Find Me
11:00pm	Fist Fight
12:35am	How to be a Latin Lover
2:35am	Battle for Moscow
4:40am	Final Recall <i>Sci-fi actioner about a no-nonsense survivalist who tools up and takes the fight to invading extra-terrestrial hordes.</i>

sky sports football

7:00am	EFL Greatest Games
7:15am	EFL Greatest Games
7:30am	SPFL Greatest Games
7:45am	SPFL Greatest Games
8:00am	Carabao Cup Highlights
8:30am	Football Countdowns
9:00am	Football's Greatest Teams
9:30am	Football's Greatest Teams
10:00am	Football
1:00pm	Eredivisie
2:00pm	Carabao Cup Highlights
2:30pm	La Liga Icons
2:45pm	La Liga Icons
3:00pm	Football
6:00pm	The Dark Side of Football
6:55pm	EFL Matters
7:25pm	Football
9:25pm	Football
11:30pm	La Liga Files
12:15am	La Liga Files
1:00am	La Liga Show
1:30am	EFL Matters
2:00am	Carabao Cup Highlights
2:30am	Carabao Cup Highlights
3:00am	La Liga Show

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BBC one

10:15am	Let's Get a Good Thing Going
11:00am	Homes Under the Hammer
12:00pm	Street Auction
12:45pm	Fake Britain
1:15pm	Bargain Hunt
2:00pm	BBC News at One
2:30pm	BBC London News
2:45pm	Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade
4:40pm	Puss in Boots
6:00pm	Puss in Boots: The Three Diablos
6:15pm	Pointless
7:00pm	BBC News at Six
7:30pm	BBC London News
8:00pm	The One Show
8:30pm	A Question of Sport
9:00pm	EastEnders
9:30pm	Miranda
10:00pm	Have I Got 2017 News for You
10:30pm	Mrs Brown's Boys Christmas Special 2014
11:00pm	BBC News at Ten
11:30pm	BBC London News
11:40pm	The Graham Norton Show
12:30am	Would I Lie to You?

BBC TWO

7:05am	MasterChef: The Professionals
8:05am	An Island Parish
8:35am	Holiday Affair
10:00am	The Big Family Cooking Showdown
11:00am	Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines
1:05pm	Tom Kerridge Cooks Christmas
1:35pm	Best Christmas Bakes Ever
2:20pm	An Ideal Husband
3:50pm	The Toys That Made Christmas
5:15pm	Back in Time for Christmas
6:15pm	Nativity 2: Danger in the Manger!
8:00pm	Inside the Christmas Factory
9:00pm	Mastermind
9:30pm	Only Connect
10:00pm	Saturday Night Fever - The Ultimate Disco Movie
11:10pm	The Joy of the Bee Gees
12:10am	Boogie Fever: A TOTP2 Disco Special

BBC FOUR

8:00pm	World News Today
8:30pm	TOTP2 Xmas 2017
10:00pm	Frank Skinner on George Formby
11:00pm	Tom Jones's 1950s: The Decade That Made Me
12:00am	West Side Stories - The Making of a Classic
1:00am	Michael Grade's Stars of the Musical Theatre
2:00am	Rock 'N' Roll America
3:00am	Frank Skinner on George Formby <i>George Formby was a huge star of stage and film.</i>
4:00am	West Side Stories - The Making of a Classic <i>Documentary about West Side Story, one of the best-loved musicals of all time.</i>
5:00am	This is BBC Four <i>BBC Four is the BBC channel for people who want more.</i>

CHANNEL 4

8:40am	Everybody Loves Raymond
9:05am	Everybody Loves Raymond
9:35am	Frasier
10:05am	Frasier
10:35am	Frasier
11:05am	The Big Bang Theory
11:35am	The Big Bang Theory
12:00pm	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
1:00pm	Channel 4 News
1:05pm	Jamie's Cracking Christmas
1:15pm	Jamie's Comfort Food
1:25pm	Carry on Spying
3:10pm	Countdown
4:00pm	Lost and Found
5:00pm	A Place in the Sun
5:30pm	Kirstie's Handmade Christmas
6:30pm	The Simpsons
7:00pm	Hollyoaks
8:00pm	Channel 4 News
9:00pm	Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast
10:00pm	The Last Leg
11:00pm	Christmas Special
11:00pm	The Inbetweeners 2
1:00am	Kick-Ass 2

CHANNEL 5

8:05am	Paw Patrol
8:20am	Thomas and Friends
8:30am	Peppa Pig
8:40am	Peppa Pig
8:50am	Floogals
9:05am	Digby Dragon
9:20am	Noddy: Toyland Detective
9:35am	Shimmer and Shine
9:50am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
10:05am	Abominable Christmas
10:55am	Saving Santa
12:30pm	Cats and Dogs
2:10pm	A Puppy for Christmas
3:55pm	Mariah Carey's a Christmas Melody
4:55pm	5 News
5:00pm	Mariah Carey's a Christmas Melody
5:45pm	Mrs. Miracle
7:30pm	The Gadget Show
8:30pm	Christmas with the Dog Rescuers
9:30pm	Celebrity 5 Go in Search of Santa
11:00pm	In His Own Words
1:00am	Super Casino
4:10am	Gone

4

9:10am	12 Wishes of Christmas
11:00am	Rules of Engagement
11:30am	Rules of Engagement
12:00pm	How I Met Your Mother
12:30pm	How I Met Your Mother
1:00pm	New Girl
1:30pm	New Girl
2:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
2:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
3:00pm	Kevin Can Wait
3:30pm	Kevin Can Wait
4:00pm	How I Met Your Mother
4:30pm	How I Met Your Mother
5:00pm	New Girl
5:30pm	New Girl
6:00pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
6:30pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
7:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
7:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
8:00pm	Hollyoaks
8:30pm	The Goldbergs
9:00pm	The Hunger Games
11:50pm	The Big Bang Theory
12:20am	The Big Bang Theory
12:45am	Gogglebox
1:50am	Gogglebox

sky sports main event

7:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize
7:30am	Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize
8:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
9:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
10:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
11:00am	Premier League Daily
12:00pm	Sky Sports Daily
1:00pm	SKY Sports News
1:30pm	Live World Championship Darts
5:30pm	SKY Sports News
6:00pm	SKY Sports News
7:00pm	SKY Sports News
7:30pm	Carling in Off the Bar Pre-Match
8:00pm	Football
11:30pm	SPFL Matters: Old Firm Special
12:00am	Cricket

itv

7:00am	Good Morning Britain
9:30am	Lorraine
10:25am	The Jeremy Kyle Show
11:30am	This Morning
1:30pm	Loose Women
2:30pm	ITV Lunchtime News
2:55pm	ITV News London
3:00pm	Judge Rinder
4:00pm	Dickinson's Real Deal
5:00pm	Tipping Point
6:00pm	The Chase
7:00pm	ITV News London
7:30pm	ITV Evening News
8:00pm	Emmerdale
8:30pm	Coronation Street
9:00pm	You've Been Framed!
9:30pm	Coronation Street
10:00pm	Al Murray's Make Christmas Great Again
11:00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather
11:30pm	ITV News London
11:40pm	Bridget Jones's Diary
1:30am	Gordon, Gino and Fred's Great Christmas Roast

itv2

9:30am	Coronation Street
10:00am	The Ellen DeGeneres Show
10:50am	Mr. Bean
11:25am	Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records
11:35am	Space Chimps
12:35pm	FYI Daily
12:40pm	Space Chimps
1:20pm	Emmerdale
1:50pm	Emmerdale
2:20pm	Coronation Street
2:50pm	All Star Family Fortunes
3:40pm	The Jeremy Kyle Show
4:50pm	The Jeremy Kyle Show
5:55pm	The Jeremy Kyle Show
7:00pm	Catchphrase
8:00pm	You've Been Framed!
8:30pm	You've Been Framed!
9:00pm	The Amazing Spider-Man 2
11:40pm	Family Guy
12:10am	Family Guy
12:35am	Family Guy
1:05am	Family Guy

itv3

7:00am	Judge Judy
7:20am	Classic Coronation Street
7:45am	Classic Coronation Street
8:10am	Heartbeat
9:15am	The Royal
10:15am	Judge Judy
10:40am	Judge Judy
11:05am	Judge Judy
11:35am	A Touch of Frost
1:35pm	The Royal
2:40pm	Heartbeat
3:40pm	Classic Coronation Street
4:15pm	Classic Coronation Street
4:50pm	Sparkling Cyanide
6:55pm	Heartbeat
7:55pm	Murder, She Wrote
9:00pm	Tonight at the London Palladium
10:00pm	Undeniable
11:00pm	Undeniable
12:00am	The Suspicions of Mr Whicher
2:00am	Agatha Christie's Marple
3:45am	The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes

itv4

7:00am	Judge Judy
7:20am	Classic Coronation Street
7:45am	Classic Coronation Street
8:10am	Heartbeat
9:15am	The Royal
10:15am	Judge Judy
10:40am	Judge Judy
11:05am	Judge Judy
11:35am	A Touch of Frost
1:35pm	The Royal
2:40pm	Heartbeat
3:40pm	Classic Coronation Street
4:15pm	Classic Coronation Street
4:50pm	Sparkling Cyanide
6:55pm	Heartbeat
7:55pm	Murder, She Wrote
9:00pm	Tonight at the London Palladium
10:00pm	Undeniable
11:00pm	Undeniable
12:00am	The Suspicions of Mr Whicher
2:00am	Agatha Christie's Marple
3:45am	The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

7:00am	Rocky IV
8:40am	Avengers
10:10am	The A-Team
12:10pm	Robin Hood
2:35pm	Rocky Balboa
4:45pm	Batman
7:00pm	Tarzan
9:00pm	Robin Hood
11:25pm	The A-Team
1:30am	Uncommon Valor

sky CINEMA COMEDY

8:00am	Fred Claus
10:00am	My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2
11:45am	Splash
1:45pm	Bad Neighbours 2
3:25pm	Ride Along 2
5:15pm	My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2
7:00pm	Splash
9:00pm	Bad Neighbours 2
10:40pm	Ride Along 2
12:30am	Central Intelligence
2:25am	Airplane!

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

7:00am	Sharing Christmas
8:35am	Fist Fight
10:10am	How to be a Latin Lover
12:10pm	Smurfs: The Lost Village
1:45pm	John Wick: Chapter Two
3:50pm	Come and Find Me
5:45pm	Fist Fight
7:20pm	Smurfs: The Lost Village
9:00pm	John Wick: Chapter Two
11:10pm	Come and Find Me
1:10am	Final Recall
2:45am	Don't Think Twice <i>Turmoil strikes a New York improv troupe when one member leaves to star in a SNL-like TV show.</i>
4:20am	Battle for Moscow

sky sports football

1:30pm	La Liga Highlights: Real Madrid
1:45pm	La Liga Highlights: Barcelona
2:00pm	La Liga Highlights: Real Madrid
2:15pm	La Liga Highlights: Barcelona
2:30pm	La Liga Highlights: Real Madrid
2:45pm	La Liga Highlights: Barcelona
3:00pm	La Liga Icons
3:45pm	La Liga Icons
4:00pm	20 Years of El Clasico
4:45pm	La Liga Icons
5:00pm	La Liga Show
5:30pm	EFL Matters
6:00pm	La Liga Preview 2017/18
6:55pm	SPFL Matters: Old Firm Special
7:25pm	Football
9:25pm	Football
11:30pm	SPFL Matters: Old Firm Special
12:00am	The Story of Las Palmas



TV Couch Critic

Mince pies, Crowns and the odd disaster

THE CROWN (Netflix) has returned with all the drama, excitement, and Royal insight we were drawn to in Season One. Claire Foy continues to play a wonderful Elizabeth II, knocking the socks off a couple of Dames who have gone before her, but what has happened to her accent? I was reaching for the subtitles at one point.

Surely if anyone should speak the Queen's English, it's Claire playing The Monarch? Stick with the accent though, Season Two doesn't disappoint.

If you enjoyed *The Real Marigold Hotel* series, check out *The Real Marigold on Tour* (BBC1 and 2 and *Catchup*). The original gang are split into two groups of four this time around, exploring what it is like to grow older in countries around the world.

The series started in China, followed by Cuba, Iceland (where it was cold, who knew...) and will conclude in Thailand. Don't be put off that the BBC didn't venture to Spain, *Marigold* is just as good in Global Tour format.

I'm not sure that any of the celebrities will be persuaded to uproot and move home though. It's a good job



GREAT WATCH: *The Real Marigold on Tour*.



WONDERFUL: Claire Foy in *The Crown*.

too, where would the lovely Miriam Margolyes get her clothes and I'm not sure anyone but the Brits would understand Wayne Sleep, but it is an interesting way to sample life, albeit with a walking stick. I just hope our celebrities were able to fly First Class between filming.

With no spoilers over the mince pies, what is happening in Soap Land as we head for Christmas?

For the *EastEnders* (BBC1, nightly) we know there is trouble when Sharon Mitchell (still played by Letitia Dean) announces 'Good knees up at The Vic, that's what Christmas is all about.' Well, not in my house Sharon, not even if Peggy was serving the drinks around the pool.

We already know that Max Branning (Jake Wood) is consumed by revenge and wants to get back at every-

one who has wronged him. There is also a catastrophic event coming up for the Branning family. Feliz Navidad Albert Square.

It looks as though life risks turning into a wild west show for the residents of *Coronation Street* (ITV1, nightly). Billy Mayhew is set to ride down the street guns blazing as Peter Barlow drives Todd Grimshaw and Summer out of Wakefield before taking revenge on

the vicar for being part of Susan's death. All that's needed are saloon doors on *The Rovers* and a stage coach rattling down the cobbles. Ken Barlow in a stetson anyone?

Meanwhile on the farm, the cast of *Emmerdale* (ITV1, nightly) aren't going to be fooled by Charity Dingle's personal life apparently settling down. She deserves it given recent story lines, but has an explosive New Year coming up, rocking the all too short Christmas calm. I hope she has a Merry, but quiet Christmas.

To finish this week, my Christmas Eve and Christmas Day recommendations include *Dad's Army* (BBC2, Christmas Eve) is pure genius for those of us old enough; *The Queen's Speech* (BBC & ITV, Christmas Day) isn't Jungle winner Toff eating bugs, but the annual message from Her Majesty and finally the Christmas episode of *Victoria* (ITV1, Christmas Day).

This episode of *Victoria* has been in development for over a year now. Expect snow, Prince Albert enjoying too much Christmas spirit and watch out for the number of Christmas trees, the Royal children had one each apparently.

Happy viewing and Merry Christmas everyone.



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GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



BBC one

7:00am	Breakfast
10:30am	Saturday Kitchen
12:00pm	Mary Berry's Christmas Party
1:00pm	Football Focus
2:00pm	BBC News
2:15pm	Cool Runnings
3:50pm	Frozen
5:20pm	Final Score
6:30pm	Len Goodman's Partners in Rhyme Christmas Special
7:00pm	BBC News
7:10pm	BBC London News
7:15pm	Pointless Celebrities Christmas Special
8:10pm	Even Better Than the Real Thing - Christmas Special
9:05pm	Casualty
9:55pm	Miranda
10:30pm	Our Friend Victoria at Christmas
11:10pm	BBC News
11:30pm	Match of the Day
1:10am	The NFL Show
1:40am	Disconnect
3:30am	Weather for the Week Ahead
3:35am	BBC News

BBC TWO

7:15am	An Island Parish
7:45am	The Bishop's Wife
9:30am	The Big Family Cooking Showdown
10:30am	The Muppets
12:10pm	Natural World
1:10pm	Mary Berry's Absolute Christmas Favourites
1:40pm	Nigella's Christmas Table
2:40pm	The Millionaire's Gift Guide
3:40pm	Talking Pictures
4:10pm	Mildred Pierce
6:00pm	Natural World
7:00pm	Bill
8:30pm	Lenny Henry: A Life on Screen
9:30pm	Dad's Army
10:00pm	Feud: Bette and Joan
10:50pm	Feud: Bette and Joan
11:35pm	What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?
1:45am	Absolutely Fashion
2:45am	Mary Berry's Christmas Party
3:45am	This is BBC Two Highlights of programmes on BBC Two.

BBC FOUR

8:00pm	Stuffed: The Great British Christmas Dinner
9:00pm	James May's Toy Stories
10:00pm	James May: My Sisters' Top Toys
11:00pm	Top of the Pops Welcome to this celebration of big hits performed at Top of the Pops on or close to the Christmas show on suitably seasonal sets.
12:00am	Prince: A Purple Reign
1:00am	TOTP2 Xmas 2017
2:00am	Sacred Music at Christmas
3:00am	Stuffed: The Great British Christmas Dinner
4:00am	James May: My Sisters' Top Toys
4:55am	This is BBC Four BBC Four is the BBC channel for people who want more.

CHANNEL 4

7:15am	Frasier
7:40am	Olive, the Other Reindeer
8:30am	Rugrats the Movie
10:00am	The Boxtrolls
11:55am	Toy Story That Time Forgot
12:20pm	Toy Story Toons
12:55pm	Toy Story of Terror
1:20pm	Father Christmas
1:50pm	Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas
2:20pm	The Simpsons
2:55pm	The Simpsons
3:25pm	The Simpsons
4:00pm	The World's Most Expensive Christmas
5:00pm	Kirstie's Handmade Christmas
6:00pm	Channel 4 News
6:10pm	Gogglesprogs Christmas Special
7:10pm	Crocodile Dundee
9:00pm	The World's Best Christmas Lights: From Liverpool to Bethlehem
10:00pm	The Wolverine
12:20am	Gladiator
3:10am	Hollyoaks Omnibus

CHANNEL 5

10:05am	Shimmer and Shine
10:15am	Digby Dragon
10:30am	Peppa Pig
10:40am	Peppa Pig
10:50am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
11:05am	Olly the Little White Van
11:15am	The Gadget Show
12:05pm	A Christmas Story
1:55pm	A Heavenly Christmas
3:40pm	Scrooge
4:40pm	5 News
4:45pm	Scrooge
6:00pm	Elf: The Musical
9:00pm	Blind Date
10:00pm	Christmas Cruising with Jane McDonald
11:00pm	Jane and Friends at Christmas
11:50pm	Chas and Dave's Christmas Knees-Up
12:45am	Football on 5
1:45am	Football on 5
2:15am	Super Casino
4:10am	Our Dream Hotel
5:00am	GPs: Behind Closed Doors
5:50am	Access
5:55am	House Doctor

4

7:00am	Black-Ish
7:30am	Black-Ish
7:55am	Hollyoaks Omnibus
10:50am	Made in Chelsea
11:55am	Don't Tell the Bride
1:00pm	Catch That Kid
2:50pm	Frozen at Christmas
3:50pm	Rude(Ish) Tube Shorts
4:00pm	The Goldbergs
4:30pm	The Goldbergs
5:00pm	The Goldbergs
5:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
9:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
10:00pm	The Hunger Games: Catching Fire
12:45am	The Inbetweeners
1:20am	The Inbetweeners Will, Simon, Jay and Neil bunk off school.
1:55am	The Inbetweeners
2:30am	The Inbetweeners
3:00am	The Inbetweeners
3:30am	The Inbetweeners
4:00am	The Inbetweeners
4:55am	Kevin Can Wait
5:15am	Kevin Can Wait
5:40am	Kevin Can Wait

sky sports main event

7:00am	SKY Sports News
8:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
9:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
10:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
11:00am	Soccer Saturday Pre-Match
12:00pm	Soccer Saturday Pre-Match
12:30pm	Football
3:30pm	Live World Championship Darts
6:00pm	My Icon
6:15pm	Football
8:30pm	Football
11:00pm	Live World Championship Darts
12:00am	Live NFL Indianapolis @ Baltimore
2:00am	Live NFL: Minnesota @ Green Bay
5:30am	My Icon
5:45am	My Icon

itv

9:10am	Horrid Henry
9:25am	The Aquabats! Super Show!
9:55am	Scrambled! Sketch Show
10:25am	ITV News
10:30am	Saturday Morning with James Martin at Christmas
12:25pm	Gino's Italian Coastal Escape
12:55pm	Countrywise
1:25pm	ITV News
1:35pm	Tipping Point
2:35pm	Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone
5:30pm	Despicable Me
7:30pm	ITV News London
7:40pm	ITV News
8:00pm	You've Been Framed!
8:30pm	Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
9:00pm	The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies
11:35pm	ITV News
11:55pm	Miranda: Morecambe and Wise and Me

itv2

10:35am	Coronation Street Omnibus
2:00pm	Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule
2:25pm	Mr. Bean
3:00pm	Mr. Bean
3:35pm	You've Been Framed!
4:35pm	Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium
5:35pm	Fyi Daily 2017
5:40pm	Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium
6:30pm	Liar Liar
7:30pm	Fyi Daily 2017
7:35pm	Liar Liar
8:10pm	Gravity
9:15pm	Fyi Daily 2017
9:20pm	Gravity
10:00pm	The Holiday
11:00pm	FYI Daily
11:05pm	The Holiday
12:40am	Family Guy
1:15am	Family Guy
1:40am	American Dad!
2:10am	American Dad!
2:40am	The Great Xmas Rant
3:55am	The Keith Lemon Sketch Show
4:20am	Through the Keyhole

itv3

7:00am	Judge Judy
7:20am	Judge Judy
7:40am	You're Only Young Twice
8:05am	You're Only Young Twice
8:35am	Sparkling Cyanide
10:30am	Columbo
12:05pm	Columbo
2:05pm	Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory
3:05pm	Fyi Daily 2017
3:10pm	Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory
4:10pm	Carry on Up the Khyber
5:15pm	Fyi Daily 2017
5:20pm	Carry on Up the Khyber
6:00pm	Midsomer Murders
8:00pm	Midsomer Murders
10:00pm	Grantchester
11:00pm	Grantchester
12:00am	Agatha Christie's Marple
2:05am	The Darling Buds of May
3:10am	Wycliffe

itv4

7:20am	Isle of Man TT
8:05am	Pawn Stars
8:35am	Pawn Stars
9:05am	Pawn Stars
9:35am	Pawn Stars
10:00am	Pawn Stars
10:30am	ITV Racing: The Opening Show
11:30am	Nijinsky's Triple Crown
11:35am	Storage Wars Texas
12:05pm	Storage Wars Texas
12:35pm	Bend of the River
1:45pm	Fyi Daily 2017
1:50pm	Bend of the River
2:30pm	ITV Racing: Live From Ascot
5:00pm	Red River
6:10pm	Fyi Daily 2017
6:15pm	Red River
7:45pm	Every Which Way But Loose
8:45pm	Fyi Daily 2017
8:50pm	Every Which Way But Loose
10:00pm	The Fugitive
11:05pm	FYI Daily
11:10pm	The Fugitive
12:40am	Rambo: First Blood Part II

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

7:00am	Rocky V
8:45am	Rocky II
10:50am	Independence Day: Resurgence
1:00pm	Suicide Squad
3:05pm	Underworld: Blood Wars
4:40pm	Batman Returns
6:50pm	Independence Day: Resurgence
9:00pm	Suicide Squad

sky CINEMA COMEDY

8:30am	My Best Friend's Wedding
10:20am	Brewster's Millions
12:10pm	A Street Cat Named Bob
2:00pm	The Boss
3:45pm	The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy
5:40pm	Sausage Party
7:15pm	A Street Cat Named Bob
9:00pm	The Boss
10:45pm	How to be Single
12:40am	Sausage Party

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

7:00am	The Top Ten Show 2017
7:15am	Don't Think Twice
8:55am	The Greatest Showman: Special
9:25am	Smurfs: The Lost Village
11:00am	Come and Find Me
1:00pm	Hidden Figures
3:10pm	John Wick: Chapter Two
5:15pm	Smurfs: The Lost Village
6:50pm	Hidden Figures
9:00pm	John Wick: Chapter Two
11:10pm	Fist Fight
12:45am	Come and Find Me
2:50am	Final Recall
4:30am	How to be a Latin Lover

sky sports football

7:00am	The Story of Las Palmas
8:15am	The Dark Side of Football
9:15am	Ronaldo
9:45am	La Liga Icons
10:00am	La Liga Icons
10:15am	20 Years of El Clasico
11:00am	Soccer A.M.
12:30pm	Football
3:30pm	Gillette Soccer Saturday
4:15pm	Gillette Soccer Saturday
6:15pm	Football
9:00pm	Football
12:00am	20 Years of El Clasico
12:45am	La Liga Files
1:30am	La Liga Files
2:15am	Magical Messi
3:15am	Magical Messi
4:15am	La Liga Icons
4:30am	Football Years
5:00am	Football Countdowns
5:30am	SPFL Greatest Games
5:45am	SPFL Greatest Games

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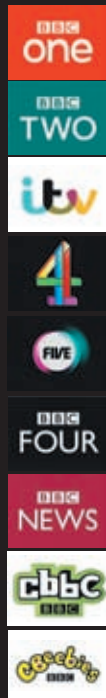
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BBC one

7:00am	Breakfast
8:25am	Match of the Day
10:05am	Planes
11:30am	The Santa Clause
1:00pm	Life in the Snow
2:00pm	BBC News
2:15pm	Songs of Praise
2:45pm	The Farmer's Llamas
3:15pm	Hammy's Boomerang Adventure
3:20pm	Monsters University
4:55pm	Doodlebugs
5:10pm	Home
6:35pm	BBC News
6:50pm	BBC London News
7:00pm	Countryfile
8:00pm	Mary, Mel and Sue's Big Christmas Thank You
9:00pm	EastEnders
9:30pm	Michael McIntyre's Big Christmas Show
10:35pm	Not Going Out
11:15pm	BBC News
11:30pm	The Vicar of Dibley
12:15am	The Two Ronnies Sketchbook
12:45am	Midnight Mass From Leeds Cathedral
2:00am	Great Expectations

BBC TWO

7:15am	Nature's Weirdest Events
8:00am	An Island Parish
8:30am	The Prince and Me
10:15am	The Big Family Cooking Showdown
11:15am	Saturday Kitchen Best Bites
12:45pm	Mary Berry's Absolute Christmas Favourites
1:20pm	The Hairy Bikers Home for Christmas
2:20pm	Alex Polizzi's Christmas Fix
3:20pm	Natural World
4:20pm	Guys and Dolls
6:45pm	Carols from King's
8:00pm	Dad's Army
9:00pm	Christmas University Challenge 2017
9:30pm	Winter's Weirdest Events
10:30pm	The Great Gatsby
12:55am	Christmas TOTP2 Special
2:25am	Whitney: Can I Be Me
4:05am	Holby City
5:05am	This is BBC Two

BBC FOUR

8:00pm	James May: The Christmas Reassembler
8:30pm	Top of the Pops
9:15pm	Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads?
10:00pm	MR James: Ghost Writer
11:00pm	The Tractate Middoth
11:40pm	No.13: A Ghost Story
12:20am	The Signalman
1:00am	Christopher Lee's Ghost Stories for Christmas
1:30am	Christopher Lee's Ghost Stories for Christmas
2:00am	A View From a Hill
2:40am	Top of the Pops
3:25am	James May: The Christmas Reassembler
3:55am	No.13: A Ghost Story
4:35am	This is BBC Four

BBC Four is the BBC channel for people who want more.

CHANNEL 4

8:00am	Rugrats in Paris: The Movie
9:15am	The Big Bang Theory
9:40am	The Big Bang Theory
10:05am	Jamie's Quick and Easy Food
10:40am	Christmas Brunch
1:40pm	Paul Hollywood
2:10pm	Jamie's Italian Christmas
3:10pm	The Simpsons
3:40pm	The Simpsons
4:05pm	The Simpsons
4:35pm	The Borrowers
6:20pm	The Snowman
6:55pm	The Snowman and the Snowdog
7:20pm	Channel 4 News
7:30pm	The Muppet Christmas Carol
9:00pm	Child Genius v Celebrities Christmas Special
10:00pm	Gogglebox 2017
12:05am	The Inbetweeners
12:35am	The Inbetweeners
1:10am	The Inbetweeners
1:40am	The Inbetweeners
2:05am	The Inbetweeners
2:35am	Man Down

CHANNEL 5

7:40am	Milkshake Monkey
7:45am	Milkshake! Bopping About
7:50am	Simon
7:55am	Peppa Pig
8:00am	Peppa Pig
8:10am	Bob the Builder
8:25am	Blaze and the Monster Machines
8:55am	Fireman Sam
9:00am	Paw Patrol
9:20am	Noddy: Toyland Detective
9:35am	Nella the Princess Knight
9:55am	Digby Dragon
10:05am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
10:20am	Gone with the Wind
2:35pm	Oklahoma!
5:15pm	Scrooge
7:00pm	Agatha Christie's Crooked House
8:00pm	5 News
8:05pm	Agatha Christie's Crooked House
9:00pm	The Yorkshire Vet
10:00pm	Andre Rieu: My Life in Music
11:20pm	Andre Rieu: Christmas in London

4

7:00am	Prep and Landing
7:25am	Prep and Landing
7:50am	Made in Chelsea
8:50am	Don't Tell the Bride
9:55am	All About Christmas Eve
11:40am	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules
1:45pm	Doctor Dolittle
3:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
4:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
4:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
5:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
5:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
6:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
6:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
7:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
7:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
8:00pm	The Secret Life of Children at Christmas
9:00pm	Miracle on 34th Street
11:20pm	The Big Bang Theory
11:50pm	The Big Bang Theory
12:20am	The Big Bang Theory
12:50am	The Big Bang Theory
1:20am	The Big Bang Theory
1:50am	Gogglebox
2:50am	Tattoo Fixers at Christmas

sky sports main event

7:00am	SKY Sports News
8:00am	Christmas Eve Total Goals
9:00am	Christmas Eve Total Goals
10:00am	Christmas Eve Total Goals
11:00am	SKY Sports News
	<i>All the news from the Premier League and beyond. Plus, a comprehensive round-up of the day's other sports news.</i>
12:00pm	SKY Sports News
1:00pm	SKY Sports News
2:00pm	SKY Sports News
2:30pm	Cricket
6:00pm	SKY Sports News
6:30pm	Live NFL
10:00pm	Live NFL
2:00am	SKY Sports News
3:00am	SKY Sports News
4:00am	SKY Sports News
5:00am	SKY Sports News

itv

8:45am	Mr. Bean
9:00am	Mr. Bean
9:10am	Horrid Henry
9:25am	Make it Pop
9:55am	Scrambled!
10:25am	Save Money: Good Food
10:55am	Jack Frost
12:50pm	Catchphrase
1:45pm	ITV News
1:55pm	Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets
5:00pm	Cannonball Christmas Special
6:00pm	You've Been Framed!
6:30pm	ITV News London
6:35pm	ITV News
6:50pm	A Christmas Chase: Celebrity Special
7:40pm	All Star Musicals
9:30pm	Maigret in Montmartre
11:25pm	ITV News
11:45pm	A Night for the Emergency Services
12:45am	Christmas Carols on ITV
1:45am	Casino Royale

itv2

7:00am	Totally Bonkers
	Guinness World Records
7:25am	Emmerdale Omnibus
9:55am	Coronation Street Omnibus
1:15pm	Mr. Bean
1:50pm	Merry Christmas Mr Bean
2:25pm	The Smurfs: A Christmas Carol
2:50pm	Beethoven's Christmas Adventure
3:50pm	FYI Daily
3:55pm	Beethoven's Christmas Adventure
4:40pm	You've Been Framed!
5:10pm	You've Been Framed!
5:40pm	Happy Feet
6:40pm	FYI Daily
6:45pm	Happy Feet
7:50pm	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
8:50pm	FYI Daily
8:55pm	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
10:00pm	Casino Royale
11:00pm	FYI Daily
11:05pm	Casino Royale
12:55am	Family Guy

itv3

7:00am	On the Buses
7:25am	Agatha Christie's Marple
9:00am	Agatha Christie's Marple
11:05am	Housewife 49
1:05pm	Bugsy Malone
2:05pm	FYI Daily
2:10pm	Bugsy Malone
3:05pm	Carry on Matron
4:10pm	FYI Daily
4:15pm	Carry on Matron
4:55pm	Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs
5:55pm	Midsomer Murders
7:55pm	Midsomer Murders
10:00pm	It'll be Alright on the Night
11:00pm	It'll be Alright on the Night
12:00am	Christmas Epic Fails
1:00am	The Knock
2:40am	The Knock
4:10am	Carry on Behind
5:15am	FYI Daily
5:20am	Carry on Behind
5:40am	You're Only Young Twice

itv4

8:15am	British Superbike Championship Review 2017
10:15am	Silverstone Classic
11:20am	Goodwood Festival of Speed First Glance
12:20pm	Pawn Stars
12:45pm	Pawn Stars
1:15pm	Pawn Stars
1:40pm	Pawn Stars
2:35pm	Tobruk
3:35pm	FYI Daily
3:40pm	Tobruk
4:50pm	Dunkirk
5:50pm	FYI Daily
5:55pm	Dunkirk
7:40pm	Escape to Victory
8:40pm	FYI Daily
8:45pm	Escape to Victory
10:00pm	Rambo III
11:00pm	FYI Daily
11:05pm	Rambo III
12:10am	Demolition Man
1:10am	FYI Daily
1:15am	Demolition Man
2:30am	When Football Changed Forever
3:30am	The Professionals
4:20am	ITV4 Nightscreen

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

9:35am	Deadpool
11:35am	Jason Bourne
1:50pm	Rocky
4:00pm	Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice
6:40pm	Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children
9:00pm	Jason Bourne
11:10pm	Deadpool
1:00am	Face/Off

sky CINEMA COMEDY

8:15am	Robin Hood: Men in Tights
10:10am	Liar Liar
11:40am	Bridget Jones's Baby
1:50pm	Ghostbusters
3:40pm	Ghostbusters II
5:50pm	Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie
7:30pm	Liar Liar
9:00pm	Bridget Jones's Baby
11:10pm	Mrs. Brown's Boys D'Movie
12:50am	Paul
2:40am	Little Man

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

7:00am	Fist Fight
8:35am	Smurfs: The Lost Village
10:10am	Hidden Figures
12:20pm	John Wick: Chapter Two
2:25pm	The LEGO Batman Movie
4:15pm	Smurfs: The Lost Village
5:50pm	Hidden Figures
8:00pm	The LEGO Batman Movie
10:00pm	John Wick: Chapter Two
	<i>When a scheming Italian crime lord holds him to a blood oath reluctant hitman John Wick is back to doing what he does best.</i>
12:10am	Fist Fight
1:45am	Come and Find Me
3:45am	Final Recall
5:25am	Sharing Christmas

sky sports football

10:30am	Sunday Supplement
12:00pm	Revista de la Liga
12:30pm	La Liga Icons
12:45pm	La Liga Icons
1:00pm	EFL Goals: Championship
1:30pm	EFL Goals: League 1 and 2
2:00pm	La Liga Greatest Games
2:10pm	La Liga Greatest Games
2:20pm	Football
4:30pm	MLS Greatest Games
4:35pm	Football
6:45pm	Revista de la Liga
7:15pm	The Story of Las Palmas
8:30pm	La Liga Files
9:15pm	La Liga Files
10:00pm	The Dark Side of Football
11:00pm	Revista de la Liga
11:30pm	EFL Goals: Championship
12:00am	EFL Goals: League 1 and 2
12:30am	La Liga Icons

YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

Letters should be emailed to yoursay@euroweeklynews.com or make your comments on our website: www.euroweeklynews.com

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A word of warning for expat drivers

SIR,

Two weeks into December I received a renewal notice from my car insurance company. The cost had gone up by €45. After experiencing yearly price increases, I decided to change to a cheaper firm.

The call centre said: "You should have done this before December 1: we shall renew your annual insurance on December 31 and we deny your request to cancel."

I said they had only informed me of the hike in a letter dated December 1, received on December 14! The operative cut across me and said loudly: "That is not our problem: you are wrong because you didn't give a month's notice."

I decided to explore this issue and quickly discovered my legal rights, as explained on the CAB Spain website (citizensadvice.org.es), where the wording of a 2015 law change states that a price rise should have been communicated two months before renewal!

I called back and told them what I had found, and they instantly said they would send me a form to sign and my insurance would be cancelled.

Eating in the fifties

PASTA had not been invented. It was macaroni or spaghetti.

Curry was a surname.

Taco? Never saw one till I was 15.

Pizza? Sounds like a leaning tower somewhere.

Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas time.

All chips were plain.

Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking.

Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.

Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.

Chickens didn't have fingers in those days.

None of us had ever heard of yo-



THE 1950'S: Tea was made in a teapot.

ghurt.

Healthy food consisted of anything edible!

Cooking outside was called camping.

Seaweed was not a recognised food.

Kebab was not even a word, never mind a food.

Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days, and was regarded as being white gold.

Prunes were medicinal and stewed.

Surprisingly muesli was readily available. It was called cattle feed.

Pineapples came in chunks or were round with a hole in the middle, in a tin; we had only seen a picture of a real one.

Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it, they would have become a laughing stock.

There were three things that we never ever had on the table in the fifties - elbows, hats and mobile phones!

... and there were always two choices for each meal...

'Take it!' or 'Leave it!'

Anne Edwards, Mallorca

Clearly, they had been aware but tried to force me into renewing. This is disgraceful and I am making a complaint to the insurance industry regulator in Spain.

Gareth Thomas, Finestrat

Way to save

I HAVE lived in Spain for the last 12 years, and each Christmas have bought tickets to the El Gordo Lottery.

Normally I have bought these while shopping in Malaga City, or from street vendors in various locations nearby.

Each ticket has cost me around €23, which I thought was the official price, but this week I bought a ticket from my local tobacco shop in La Cala de Mijas, and was charged €20.

I do not begrudge individuals providing a service making a profit, but I wonder how many others might be like me... paying more in ignorance without realising that by calling at the local tobacco shop a saving of more than 14 per cent is possible.

M Gormley, El Faro

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.

Pet goat mutilated in 'savage attack'

I hate the evil that permeates through the human race. Absolutely gutted for the poor goat and his owners. *Jim McClure*

Omg why would anyone do such a horrendous thing I hope they serve a long time when they catch them. *Tricia Hawkins*

How absolutely cruel poor little thing. *Pat Ward*

Ryanair and Vueling rated worst short haul airlines

If I leave Malaga and arrive in one piece in Glasgow three hours later and it costs me between 25 and 50 quid, I really don't care how they are rated. *John Grieve*

Fly with them both every three weeks, from Malaga to Manchester and back the day after, cheap fares, so no complaints as they make it possible for us to live in Spain. *Chris O'Hare*

I have flown Ryanair many times to Jerez (my nearest airport) from Stansted as they are the only direct route from the UK, but so much uncertainty over the last flight (which didn't get cancelled) that now I fly to Sevilla with easyJet - more of a drive in Spain but a bit more reliable... *Rob James*

Comments from EWN online

Well that's not much of a surprise as they both cancel flights whenever they feel like and with no bloody notice. Will never ever fly with any of them again especially Ryanair.

They cancelled my flight from Malaga to Edinburgh in October and I only found out through text message in the afternoon and my flight was early the next morning and it cost me hundreds of pounds and an overnight in Prague before eventually getting to Edinburgh later the next day.

Absolute shocking experience considering my flight had been booked months in advance. *Beverley Walker*

Once checked a flight starting at 24.99 with Ryanair that ended up almost 100 quid and that didn't include bags, just a carry on. Need to book seats as I am a nervous flyer. Extras were for carry on bag, seat selection and paying with credit card. It's the extras that always put me off. Have a friend who used Vueling and was treated very well indeed. Good and bad in all really. *Moirá Armitage*

Costa Blanca parade accused of racism

Why can they not leave children's traditions alone. First in Holland. Zwarte Piet. Translated is Black Piet. He helps Sinterklaas to bring the presents for the children December 5 and throws sweets for them. The troubles every year recently because he is black is unbelievable. It is Dutch tradition through the generations and suddenly some people try to stop it. Very sad! *Edith Farminer*

I think I'm right in saying that the reason he's black is because he came down the chimney and got covered in soot isn't it?? Nothing racist about that, people need to just leave things be, totally agree with you on this Edith Farminer. *Sarah Aldeguer*

Raiders loot death crash lorry

I do not see anything even remotely disrespectful in taking the tomatoes out of the truck. They would be disposed of anyway. As long as people take them for their own use I find it totally acceptable. *Peter Sauer*

This is just so disrespectful to the poor man who lost his life... Are people really hard up for a couple of tomatoes in La Cala? *Stéphanie Maire*

Disgusting! The driver died in that lorry! Not much surprises me any more. *Tessa Green*

Could be worse

I WAS interested to read on your website that Ryanair has been voted the worst short-haul airline. What short memories people have! Thirty years ago these no-frills carriers didn't exist meaning flights to Spain were way more expensive. Cheap flights are surely one of the backbones of expatriates' lives here!

Margaret Robins, Alfaz del Pi

Festive cheer

WHAT a wonderful place Spain is at this time of year. A heady mix of sun, sea and family values that we would never see the likes of in the UK! I for one cannot wait to tuck into my turkey on the terrace while friends and family shiver back home!

T Maidland, Torrevieja

Festive tear

THE way Spain has embraced Christmas over the last few years is truly depressing.

This over-commercialised spend-fest appears to have overtaken traditional celebrations like the Three Kings in many ways, and how confusing and expensive it must be for some Spanish families to buy two lots of presents, although presumably the kids love it!

Grumpy, Albox



GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



BBC one

7:00am	Breakfast
10:00am	Cbeebies' the Snow Queen
10:45am	Go Letters
11:00am	Christmas Morning From All Saints Fulham
12:00pm	The Madagascar Penguins in a Christmas Caper
12:10pm	Snow Chick: A Penguin's Tale
1:10pm	BBC News
1:20pm	Top of the Pops
2:20pm	Toy Story 3
4:00pm	The Queen's Christmas Broadcast
4:10pm	Cinderella
5:45pm	The Highway Rat
6:15pm	BBC News
6:30pm	Doctor Who
7:30pm	Strictly Come Dancing
8:40pm	Call the Midwife
10:00pm	EastEnders
11:00pm	Mrs. Brown's Boys
11:35pm	300 Years of French and Saunders
12:25am	BBC News
12:40am	On Christmas Night
1:30am	Darcey Bussell

BBC TWO

7:10am	The Hairy Bikers Home for Christmas
8:10am	An Island Parish
8:40am	Bee Movie
10:00am	The Big Family Cooking Showdown
11:00am	Harry Potter: A History of Magic
12:00pm	Carols from King's
1:15pm	The Importance of Being Earnest
2:40pm	BBC Proms 2017
5:30pm	Dame Vera Lynn: Happy 100th Birthday
6:30pm	The Queen's Christmas Broadcast
6:35pm	The Morecambe and Wise Christmas Show 1977
7:45pm	Winter's Weirdest Events
8:45pm	Dad's Army
9:25pm	Upstart Crow
10:00pm	Tom Jones and Beverley Knight's Gospel Christmas
11:00pm	Judi Dench: All the World's Her Stage
12:05am	Mrs. Henderson Presents

BBC FOUR

8:00pm	The Royal Opera: Puccini's La Boheme
10:00pm	Christmas Night with the Stars 1972 <i>Ronnie Corbett and Ronnie Barker host a seasonal variety programme, first broadcast on 25 December 1972. With stars including Lulu and Cilla Black, comedy sketches from The Goodies, The Liver Birds, Mike Yarwood and Dad's Army.</i>
11:15pm	Christmas with Val Doonican
12:00am	Swingin' Christmas
1:10am	The Christmas No.1 Story
2:05am	Christmas Night with the Stars 1972
3:20am	Christmas with Val Doonican
4:10am	This is BBC Four

CHANNEL 4

7:00am	Rugrats Go Wild
8:20am	The Bear
8:45am	Prep and Landing
9:10am	Prep and Landing
9:40am	Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas
10:05am	The Simpsons
12:05pm	Dr. Seuss' the Lorax
1:45pm	The Snowman
2:20pm	The Snowman and the Snowdog
2:55pm	Father Christmas
3:25pm	Channel 4 News
3:30pm	The Alternative Christmas Message
3:35pm	Scrooged
5:30pm	Dumbo
6:50pm	Home Alone
8:40pm	The Great Christmas Bake Off
10:00pm	First Dates at Christmas
11:00pm	Alan Carr's Christmas Chatty Man
1:00am	George Michael
2:40am	George Michael
3:45am	The Crystal Maze
4:40am	Location, Location, Location
5:35am	Four in a Bed

CHANNEL 5

7:00am	Puffin Rock
7:05am	Poppy Cat
7:20am	Simon
7:25am	Bob the Builder
7:35am	Fireman Sam
7:50am	Thomas and Friends
8:00am	Milkshake Monkey
8:05am	Paw Patrol
8:20am	Noddy: Toyland Detective
8:30am	Peppa Pig
8:40am	Peppa Pig
8:45am	Floogals
9:00am	Digby Dragon
9:15am	Shimmer and Shine
9:30am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
9:50am	Mofy
9:55am	Scrooge
12:05pm	Seven Brides for Seven Brothers
2:05pm	Singin' in the Rain
4:10pm	Oliver!
7:00pm	Elf: The Musical
10:00pm	The Morecambe and Wise Story: Look Back in Laughter
11:55pm	Britain's Best Loved Double Acts
12:55am	Steptoe and Son
2:45am	Super Casino

4

7:00am	Father Christmas
7:30am	Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas
7:55am	The Secret Life of Children at Christmas
8:55am	Rude(ish) Tube Shorts
9:10am	12 Dates of Christmas
11:00am	The Big Bang Theory
1:30pm	Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas
2:00pm	Toy Story Toons
2:15pm	Doctor Dolittle 2
4:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
4:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
5:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
5:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
5:55pm	Gogglesprogs Christmas Special
7:00pm	We're Going on a Bear Hunt
7:30pm	The Snowman
8:00pm	The Snowman and the Snowdog
8:30pm	Snow White and the Huntsman
11:00pm	Made in Chelsea's Christmas Ding Dong
12:05am	The Inbetweeners

sky sports main event

7:00am	SKY Sports News
10:30am	Goals Express Xmas Special
11:00am	Best PL Goals: Season So Far
11:30am	Best of Nissan Match Zone
12:00pm	Katie Taylor: The Story So Far
12:30pm	Rory: A Decade on Tour
1:00pm	Harry Kane's 2017
1:30pm	Jimmy Anderson: 500 Wickets
2:30pm	To be Announced
3:00pm	Hamilton: My 4th World Title
3:30pm	Best of Moeen Ali
4:00pm	Phil Taylor the Greatest
5:00pm	Sky F1 Christmas Special
6:00pm	Info not available
7:30pm	AJ - The Knockouts
8:00pm	Boxing's Best of 2017
10:00pm	Live NFL: Pittsburgh @ Houston
2:00am	Live NFL: Oakland @ Philadelphia
5:45am	My Icon

itv

7:15am	Om Nom Stories
7:20am	Share a Story
7:25am	Almost Naked Animals
7:35am	Horrid Henry
8:30am	Scrambled!
8:35am	The Tom and Jerry Show
8:50am	The Bagel and Becky Show
9:10am	Teen Titans Go!
9:30am	Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! Scary Christmas
10:05am	Wishfart
10:25am	National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation
12:10pm	Mr Bean's Holiday
1:50pm	Santa Claus
4:00pm	HM the Queen
4:10pm	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban
6:50pm	Emmerdale
7:50pm	ITV Evening News
8:00pm	Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs
9:00pm	Coronation Street
10:00pm	Victoria
12:00am	ITV News
12:15am	The Holiday

itv2

7:50am	Emmerdale
8:10am	Coronation Street
9:05am	The Smurfs: A Christmas Carol
9:30am	Beethoven's Christmas Adventure
10:30am	FYI Daily
10:35am	Beethoven's Christmas Adventure
11:20am	You've Been Framed!
12:25pm	Peter Pan
1:25pm	FYI Daily
1:30pm	Peter Pan
2:35pm	Catchphrase
3:35pm	You've Been Framed!
4:10pm	Merry Christmas Mr Bean
4:45pm	Clash of the Titans
5:45pm	FYI Daily
5:50pm	Clash of the Titans
6:50pm	Happy Feet Two
7:50pm	FYI Daily
7:55pm	Happy Feet Two
8:45pm	Skyfall
9:45pm	FYI Daily
9:50pm	Skyfall
11:30pm	Family Guy
12:00am	Family Guy
12:30am	Family Guy
1:00am	Family Guy

itv3

11:10am	Carry on Don't Lose Your Head
11:45am	Carry on Follow That Camel
12:45pm	FYI Daily
12:50pm	Carry on Follow That Camel
1:40pm	Carry on Doctor
2:45pm	FYI Daily
2:50pm	Carry on Doctor
3:40pm	Carry on Up the Khyber
4:40pm	FYI Daily
4:45pm	Carry on Up the Khyber
5:30pm	Carry on Camping
6:30pm	FYI Daily
6:35pm	Carry on Camping
7:20pm	Carry on Again, Doctor
8:25pm	FYI Daily
8:30pm	Carry on Again, Doctor
9:05pm	Carry on Up the Jungle
10:15pm	FYI Daily
10:20pm	Carry on Up the Jungle
11:00pm	Carry on Loving
12:00am	FYI Daily

itv4

7:00am	Football's Greatest: George Best
7:15am	The Chase
8:00am	The Chase
9:00am	Goodwood Revival
10:05am	Pawn Stars
11:00am	Storage Wars Christmas Special
11:55am	River Monsters
1:00pm	Minder
2:05pm	Jeremiah Johnson
3:10pm	FYI Daily
3:15pm	Jeremiah Johnson
4:25pm	The Green Berets
5:25pm	FYI Daily
5:30pm	The Green Berets
7:15pm	Dunkirk
8:15pm	FYI Daily
8:20pm	Dunkirk
10:00pm	The Dirty Dozen
11:00pm	FYI Daily
11:05pm	The Dirty Dozen
1:05am	Everything or Nothing: The Untold Stories of 007
2:10am	FYI Daily
2:15am	Everything or Nothing: The Untold Stories of 007
3:00am	The Big Fish Off

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

9:30am	Independence Day
12:15pm	Jurassic Park
2:30pm	The Great Wall
4:20pm	The Magnificent Seven
6:30pm	Robin Hood
9:00pm	Jurassic Park
11:15pm	The Great Wall
1:10am	300
3:10am	The Terminator
5:00am	The Magnificent Seven

sky CINEMA COMEDY

7:40am	Big
9:25am	Meet the Parents
11:20am	Runaway Bride
1:20pm	Central Intelligence
3:10pm	Keeping up with the Joneses
5:00pm	Big
6:50pm	Bridesmaids
9:00pm	Central Intelligence
11:00pm	Keeping up with the Joneses
12:50am	Bridesmaids
3:00am	Superbad
5:00am	Special

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

7:00am	Olaf's Frozen Adventure
7:30am	Smurfs: The Lost Village
9:05am	Olaf's Frozen Adventure
9:35am	Beauty and the Beast
11:45am	The LEGO Batman Movie
1:30pm	Olaf's Frozen Adventure
2:00pm	Hidden Figures
4:10pm	Beauty and the Beast
6:30pm	The LEGO Batman Movie
8:30pm	Olaf's Frozen Adventure
9:00pm	Beauty and the Beast
11:15pm	John Wick: Chapter Two
1:20am	Come and Find Me
3:20am	John Wick: Chapter Two
5:25am	Smurfs: The Lost Village

sky sports football

8:45am	Revista de la Liga
9:15am	La Liga Icons
9:30am	SPFL Matters: Old Firm Special
10:00am	The Next Jamie Vardy
11:00am	The Next Jamie Vardy
12:00pm	The Next Jamie Vardy
1:00pm	The Next Jamie Vardy
2:00pm	The Next Jamie Vardy
3:00pm	The Next Jamie Vardy
4:00pm	EFL Rivalries
4:30pm	EFL Greatest Games
4:45pm	EFL Greatest Games
5:00pm	EFL Rivalries
5:30pm	EFL Greatest Games
5:45pm	EFL Greatest Games
6:00pm	EFL Rivalries
6:30pm	SPFL Matters: Old Firm Special
7:00pm	Celtics Invincibles Soccer A.M.
8:00pm	Ronaldo
9:00pm	Magical Messi
10:00pm	20 Years of El Clasico
10:45pm	Revista de la Liga
11:15pm	SPFL Round Up 2017/18
11:30pm	Soccer A.M.
12:00am	La Liga Files

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BBC one

7:00am	Breakfast
10:00am	Tinker Bell and the Legend of the Neverbeast
11:10am	Planes: Fire and Rescue
12:25pm	Mary, Mel and Sue's Big Christmas Thank You
1:25pm	BBC News
1:35pm	BBC London News
1:45pm	Judi Dench: My Passion for Trees
2:45pm	Stick Man
3:10pm	Shaun the Sheep Movie
4:30pm	Doodlebugs
4:45pm	Mary Poppins
7:00pm	BBC News
7:20pm	BBC London News
7:30pm	Snow Bears
8:30pm	EastEnders
9:00pm	Little Women
10:00pm	The Miniaturist
11:30pm	BBC News
11:45pm	Match of the Day
1:15am	Stacey Dooley in the USA
2:15am	Weather for the Week Ahead
2:20am	BBC News

BBC TWO

7:15am	Celebrity Antiques Road Trip
8:15am	An Island Parish
8:45am	Chimpanzee
9:55am	The Big Family Cooking Showdown
10:55am	Nadiya's British Food Adventure
11:25am	Nadiya's British Food Adventure
11:55am	The Sweet Makers: A Tudor Treat
12:55pm	A Hard Day's Night
2:20pm	The Eagle Has Landed
4:30pm	The Repair Shop at Christmas
5:30pm	Final Score
6:35pm	Matthew Bourne's Cinderella
8:30pm	Christmas University Challenge 2017
9:00pm	Reindeer Family and Me
10:00pm	Dragons' Den
11:00pm	QI
11:30pm	Two Doors Down - Christmas Special
12:00am	Joanna and Jennifer: Absolutely Changers
1:00am	Saturday Night Fever - The Ultimate Disco Movie

BBC FOUR

8:00pm	Sound of Musicals with Neil Brand
9:00pm	Royal Institution Christmas Lectures 2017: The Language of Life
10:00pm	Tim Rice - A Life in Song
11:30pm	Norman Wisdom: His Story
12:30am	British Sitcom: 60 Years of Laughing at Ourselves
1:30am	Some Santas with Jokes
2:00am	Sound of Musicals with Neil Brand
3:00am	Royal Institution Christmas Lectures 2017: The Language of Life
4:00am	Norman Wisdom: His Story
5:00am	This is BBC Four <i>BBC Four is the BBC channel for people who want more.</i>

CHANNEL 4

7:40am	Song of the Sea
9:25am	Short Circuit
11:25am	The Simpsons
11:50am	The Simpsons
12:15pm	The Simpsons
12:40pm	The Simpsons
1:10pm	Alvin and the Chipmunks
2:55pm	Channel 4 News
3:00pm	Child Genius v Celebrities Christmas Special
4:05pm	The Great Christmas Bake Off
5:20pm	The Little Mermaid
7:00pm	Back to the Future
9:00pm	Travel Man
10:00pm	Big Fat Quiz of the Year
12:10am	Four Weddings and a Funeral
2:20am	The Inbetweeners
2:50am	The Inbetweeners
3:15am	The Inbetweeners
3:45am	The Inbetweeners
4:10am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
5:00am	Location, Location, Location
5:55am	Kirstie's Handmade Christmas

CHANNEL 5

8:00am	The Secret Life of Puppies
8:05am	Paw Patrol
8:20am	Noddy: Toyland Detective
8:30am	Peppa Pig
8:40am	Peppa Pig
8:50am	Floogals
9:05am	Digby Dragon
9:20am	Rusty Rivets
9:35am	Shimmer and Shine
9:50am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
10:10am	Mofy
10:15am	Access
10:25am	Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud
11:00am	Titanic
12:50pm	Matinee: chariots of Fire
3:10pm	Balmoral: A Hidden History
5:10pm	Sandringham: The Queen at Christmas
6:15pm	A Royal Night Out
8:00pm	The Strictly Story: Fake Tan, Tangos and a Ten From Len
9:30pm	Dirty Dancing: Making Movie Magic
11:00pm	Dirty Dancing
1:00am	Football on 5

4

7:00am	Olive, the Other Reindeer
7:55am	The Goldbergs
8:30am	New Girl
8:55am	Rude(ish) Tube Shorts
9:10am	Holiday in Handcuffs
11:00am	Doctor Dolittle 3
12:50pm	Toy Story Toons
1:00pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
1:30pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
2:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
2:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
2:55pm	The Snowman
3:30pm	The Snowman and the Snowdog
4:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
4:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
5:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
5:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
6:00pm	Toy Story Toons
6:10pm	Miracle on 34th Street
8:30pm	The Snowman and the Snowdog
9:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
9:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
10:00pm	Tattoo Fixers
11:00pm	Naked Attraction
12:05am	Rude Tube
1:10am	The Big Bang Theory
1:40am	The Big Bang Theory
2:05am	Tattoo Fixers

sky sports main event

7:00am	SKY Sports News
8:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
9:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
10:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
11:00am	Soccer Special Pre-Match
12:00pm	Soccer Special Pre-Match
1:00pm	Football
4:00pm	Football
6:15pm	Football
8:30pm	Football
10:45pm	My Icon
11:00pm	Sky Sports News at Ten
12:00am	SKY Sports News
1:00am	SKY Sports News
2:00am	Live WWE Late Night Smackdown
4:00am	SKY Sports News
5:00am	SKY Sports News

itv

7:20am	Share a Story
7:25am	Almost Naked Animals
7:35am	Nerds and Monsters. Molting Day
7:50am	Nerds and Monsters
8:05am	Horrid Henry
8:20am	Wishfart
8:30am	Scrambled!
8:35am	The Tom and Jerry Show
8:50am	The Bagel and Becky Show
9:10am	The Powerpuff Girls
9:30am	Scooby-Doo! Haunted Holidays
10:05am	Horrid Henry
10:25am	Ferris Bueller's Day Off
12:25pm	Cats and Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore
2:00pm	ITV Racing: Live from Kempton
4:30pm	E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial
6:50pm	ITV Evening News
7:10pm	Emmerdale
7:40pm	Jurassic World
10:00pm	Coronation Street
11:00pm	ITV News
11:15pm	Birds of a Feather

itv2

7:00am	Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records
7:15am	Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records
7:40am	Emmerdale
8:30am	Coronation Street
9:20am	Mr. Bean
9:55am	Mr. Bean
10:25am	You've Been Framed! Gold
11:25am	Emmerdale
12:30pm	Coronation Street
1:30pm	Nanny McPhee
2:30pm	FYI Daily
2:35pm	Nanny McPhee
3:35pm	A Bug's Life
4:35pm	FYI Daily
4:40pm	A Bug's Life
5:40pm	Despicable Me
6:40pm	FYI Daily
6:45pm	Despicable Me
7:30pm	Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
8:00pm	Uncle Buck
9:05pm	FYI Daily
9:10pm	Uncle Buck
10:00pm	Sherlock Holmes
11:00pm	FYI Daily
11:05pm	Sherlock Holmes
12:35am	Family Guy

itv3

7:00am	On the Buses
7:25am	The Darling Buds of May
8:25am	Agatha Christie's Marple
10:30am	Carry on at Your Convenience
11:40am	FYI Daily
11:45am	Carry on at Your Convenience
12:25pm	Carry on Matron
1:30pm	FYI Daily
1:35pm	Carry on Matron
2:15pm	Carry on Abroad
3:20pm	FYI Daily
3:25pm	Carry on Abroad
4:05pm	Carry on Girls
5:10pm	FYI Daily
5:15pm	Carry on Girls
5:55pm	Carry On Forever
6:55pm	Carry On Forever
8:00pm	Carry On Forever
9:00pm	Endeavour
11:00pm	Lewis
1:00am	The Booze Cruise 2
3:00am	Housewife 49
4:40am	The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes <i>A feature-length case for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's celebrated cerebral sleuth.</i>

itv4

7:00am	Snooker v Darts Sports short film.
7:05am	The Chase
7:55am	The Chase
8:45am	Cash Cowboys
9:50am	British Touring Car Championship Season Review
11:45am	The Professionals
12:45pm	Minder
1:50pm	The Protectors
2:25pm	Tobruk
3:30pm	FYI Daily
3:35pm	Tobruk
4:35pm	Escape to Victory
5:35pm	FYI Daily
5:40pm	Escape to Victory
6:55pm	633 Squadron
7:55pm	FYI Daily
8:00pm	633 Squadron
9:00pm	A Christmas Chase: Celebrity Special
10:00pm	Lethal Weapon 3
11:00pm	FYI Daily
11:05pm	Lethal Weapon 3
12:20am	Swordfish
1:20am	FYI Daily
1:25am	Swordfish
2:25am	The Professionals
3:20am	Bear Grylls: Mission Survive
4:10am	The Big Fish Off
5:00am	Fishing Allstars

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

9:20am	Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol
11:20am	Jack Reacher
1:40pm	Jack Reacher: Never Go Back
3:40pm	Independence Day: Resurgence
5:45pm	The Bourne Identity
7:45pm	Jack Reacher
10:00pm	Jack Reacher: Never Go Back
12:00am	The Dark Knight

sky CINEMA COMEDY

7:45am	Special
8:15am	Groundhog Day
10:00am	Trading Places
12:00pm	Dumb and Dumber
1:55pm	Almost Christmas
3:55pm	Bad Neighbours 2
5:35pm	Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates
7:20pm	Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story
9:00pm	Bad Neighbours 2
10:40pm	Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates
12:30am	Knocked Up
2:45am	Planes, Trains and Automobiles
4:30am	Miss Congeniality

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

7:00am	Olaf's Frozen Adventure
7:30am	The LEGO Batman Movie
9:20am	Olaf's Frozen Adventure
9:50am	John Wick: Chapter Two
11:55am	Beauty and the Beast
2:10pm	Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2
4:30pm	Olaf's Frozen Adventure
5:00pm	The LEGO Batman Movie
6:50pm	Beauty and the Beast
9:00pm	Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2
11:20pm	John Wick: Chapter Two
1:25am	Hidden Figures
3:35am	Olaf's Frozen Adventure
4:05am	Come and Find Me

sky sports football

10:00am	Revista de la Liga
10:30am	La Liga Icons
10:45am	La Liga Icons
11:00am	La Liga Icons
11:15am	La Liga Icons
11:30am	La Liga Highlights: Real Madrid
11:45am	La Liga Highlights: Barcelona
12:00pm	La Liga Highlights: Real Madrid
12:15pm	La Liga Highlights: Barcelona
12:30pm	La Liga Highlights: Real Madrid
12:45pm	La Liga Highlights: Barcelona
1:00pm	Live Gillette Soccer Special
3:45pm	Football
6:15pm	Live Gillette Soccer Special
8:00pm	Football
10:45pm	EFL Goals: Championship
11:15pm	Revista de la Liga
11:45pm	La Liga World
12:15am	EFL Goals: Championship
12:45am	La Liga Icons
1:00am	Football
3:45am	EFL Goals: Championship



Legal hemp

■ FOLLOWING the publication of new government regulations, it is now legal to purchase medical hemp products which contain Cannabidiol and less than 0.3 per cent of THC. It is generally considered possible that these products can assist in alleviating anxiety, psychosis and pain.

Not guilty

■ THREE men, one of whom is Spanish were charged with conspiring to defraud the Ministry of Defence in 2015. As the case was due to come to trial, the prosecution advised the judge that there was insufficient evidence to proceed and all charges were dropped.

Dr Yes

■ IN order to cope with the expected increase in winter illnesses, the Gibraltar Health Authority will be using more locum GPs in order to cope with the demand. In addition, an additional part-time GP has been recruited who will be on duty all through the year.

Gibraltar could stall Brexit negotiations

THERE appears to be considerable confusion over the situation of Gibraltar once the terms of Brexit are agreed as far as Britain and Spain are concerned.

It was understood from the beginning that all agreements which were struck prior to Brexit would also apply to Gibraltar, but the EU made it a term of agreement that any subsequent arrangement between the UK and the 27 states would have to be agreed by Spain if Gibraltar was to be included.

The previous Spanish foreign minister José Margallo



■ The Prime Minister addressing the House of Commons.

was an old style reactionary who demanded that Spain

over Gibraltar, but Alfonso Dastis his successor has been much more careful in

his words, suggesting that Gibraltar should not be a pawn in negotiations.

Now Theresa May has said in Parliament that any implementation period following Brexit should also apply as far as Gibraltar is concerned, but this may well be disputed by Spain who could encourage the other 26 remaining members to back it, so that it may have a right of veto during the transitional period.

The majority of Gibraltarians as well as the estimated 10,000 Spaniards who work on the Rock support Mrs May's declaration.

Australian Diplomat's visit reinforces friendship

THE High Commissioner of Australia to the United Kingdom visited the Rock on a fact-finding visit following a meeting with Dr Garcia in London.

During that meeting, the Deputy Chief Minister invited High Commissioner Alexander Downer to travel to Gibraltar to see for himself the thriving community which is looking to form new friendships in view of the impending Brexit.

Following a number of meetings during his visit, the High Commissioner was invited to an official dinner where other guests included the Chief Justice, Ministers, Opposition

Members, representatives of the Financial Services and Online Gaming sectors as well as Australian expatriates.

Dr Garcia spoke about the recent history of Gibraltar, the challenges faced with Brexit and the wish of the government to forge new links with fellow Commonwealth members.

In a subsequent interview for local TV, Mr Downer confirmed that the Australian government supports the rights of the people of Gibraltar to self-determination and would be happy for any free trade agreements with the UK post-Brexit, to apply to Gibraltar.



■ Dr Garcia presents Mr Downer with a souvenir of his visit.

First fine

THE Data Protection Commissioner has brought its first case under the Data Protection Act as Oxford Learning College has been fined £1,000 at the Magistrates Court. After the college failed to provide an individual with the information that was being held about him, it was found to have deleted the details placing it in breach of the act.

Extra help

THANKS to the generous financial assistance of Isaac and Rachel Levy the Gibraltar Health Authority has announced the opening of a Lymphoedema Clinic. This illness is a swelling with fluid retention in areas of the body caused by damage or a blockage of the body's natural lymph fluid drainage system.

New addition

THE Chief Minister will be on parental leave until January 8, following the birth of daughter Valentina Grace, sister to Sebastian and Oliver. All at the *Euro Weekly News* family wish the Picardo family all happiness for the future.

Care home

OUTLINE planning permission has been given to convert the old King George V hospital into a new residential care home and assisted living accommodation. This will include the provision of 78 rooms in the main building and nine studios in the adjacent Healy House.

Fresh idea

THE new Commissioner of the Royal Gibraltar Police (RGP) designate, Ian McGrail has said that his top priorities will be national security, the fight against drugs and improving public perception of the RGP. He has also indicated that he intends to lead from the front but cover the backs of his staff.

BBC one

7:00am	Breakfast
8:45am	Match of the Day
10:15am	Turbo
11:45am	The Princess and the Frog
1:15pm	Snow Bears
2:15pm	BBC News
2:25pm	BBC London News
2:35pm	Father Brown
3:20pm	Shrek 2
4:45pm	The Gruffalo
5:10pm	Big Hero 6
6:45pm	Pointless
7:30pm	BBC News
7:50pm	BBC London News
8:00pm	Celebrity Mastermind
8:30pm	A Question of Sport
9:00pm	Little Women
10:00pm	The Miniaturist
11:00pm	BBC News
11:20pm	BBC London News
11:30pm	Mrs. Brown's Boys
12:00am	Not Going Out
12:40am	Comic Relief 2017: A look at some of the projects helped by Comic Relief 2017.
1:40am	Weather for the Week Ahead
1:45am	BBC News

BBC TWO

7:25am	Mary Berry's Country House Secrets
8:25am	An Island Parish
8:55am	Bears
10:10am	The Big Family Cooking Showdown
11:10am	Nadiya's British Food Adventure
11:40am	Nadiya's British Food Adventure
12:10pm	The Sweet Makers: A Georgian Treat
1:10pm	The Red Shoes
3:20pm	World's Most Extraordinary Homes
4:20pm	Inside the Factory
5:20pm	The Man Who Never Was
7:00pm	Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise
8:00pm	Dad's Army
8:30pm	Christmas University Challenge 2017
9:00pm	Six Robots and Us
10:00pm	Alan Partridge
11:00pm	Oasis
12:55am	NFL
1:45am	Britpop at the BBC
2:45am	Blur at Glastonbury

BBC FOUR

8:00pm	Sound of Musicals with Neil Brand
9:00pm	Royal Institution Christmas Lectures 2017: The Language of Life
10:00pm	Turtle, Eagle, Cheetah: A Slow Odyssey
11:30pm	Concorde
12:30am	Bridging the Gap
1:30am	Engineering Giants
2:30am	Turtle, Eagle, Cheetah: A Slow Odyssey
4:00am	Royal Institution Christmas Lectures 2017: The Language of Life
5:00am	This is BBC Four <i>BBC Four is the BBC channel for people who want more.</i>

CHANNEL 4

7:40am	Short Circuit 2
9:40am	Lego Masters
10:40am	The Simpsons
11:10am	The Simpsons
11:35am	The Simpsons
12:05pm	Small Soldiers
2:15pm	Sunshine on Leith
4:10pm	Four Rooms with Sarah Beeny
5:15pm	Channel 4 News
5:30pm	Back to the Future Part II
7:30pm	Hollyoaks
8:00pm	The Supervet at Christmas
9:00pm	Supershoppers Sales Special
10:00pm	Miranda Does Christmas
11:00pm	First Dates at Christmas
12:05am	East is East
1:50am	Very British Problems at Christmas
2:45am	That's So Last Century
3:35am	Britain's Favourite Superhero
5:00am	Location, Location, Location
5:55am	Four in a Bed

CHANNEL 5

7:00am	Puffin Rock
7:10am	Poppy Cat
7:20am	Simon
7:25am	Bob the Builder
7:35am	Fireman Sam
7:50am	Thomas and Friends
8:00am	The Secret Life of Puppies
8:05am	Paw Patrol
8:20am	Noddy: Toyland Detective
8:30am	Peppa Pig
8:40am	Peppa Pig
8:50am	Floogals
9:05am	Digby Dragon
9:20am	Rusty Rivets
9:35am	Shimmer and Shine
9:50am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
10:10am	Mofy
10:15am	Cruising with Jane McDonald
10:30am	World's Strongest Man 2017
11:30am	North Sea Hijack
1:25pm	Operation Crossbow
3:40pm	Operation Daybreak
5:55pm	The Guns of Navarone
9:00pm	World's Strongest Man 2017
10:00pm	Most Shocking
1:00am	Blind Date

4

7:00am	Hollyoaks
8:00am	New Girl
8:30am	New Girl
9:00am	Rude(Ish) Tube Shorts
9:10am	A Monster in Paris
11:00am	Space Chimps 2: Zartog Strikes Back
12:35pm	Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas
1:00pm	Toy Story of Terror
1:30pm	Toy Story That Time Forgot
2:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
2:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
3:00pm	How I Met Your Mother
3:30pm	How I Met Your Mother
4:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
4:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
5:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
5:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
6:00pm	The Goldbergs
6:30pm	The Goldbergs
7:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
7:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
8:00pm	Hollyoaks
8:30pm	I, Robot
10:40pm	8 Out of 10 Cats
11:30pm	Naked Attraction
12:35am	The Big Bang Theory
1:10am	The Big Bang Theory

sky sports main event

7:00am	Total Goals
8:00am	Total Goals
9:00am	Total Goals
10:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
11:00am	Premier League Daily
12:00pm	Christmas Transfer Centre
12:30pm	Sky Sports Daily
1:00pm	SKY Sports News
1:30pm	Live World Championship Darts
5:30pm	SKY Sports News
6:00pm	SKY Sports News
7:00pm	SKY Sports News
8:00pm	Sky Sports Tonight
8:30pm	Football
11:00pm	Live World Championship Darts
12:00am	SKY Sports News
1:00am	SKY Sports News
2:00am	SKY Sports News
3:00am	SKY Sports News
4:00am	SKY Sports News
5:00am	SKY Sports News

itv

7:00am	Sooty
7:10am	Oddbods
7:15am	Om Nom Stories
7:20am	Super 4
7:35am	Super 4
7:45am	Mr. Bean
8:00am	Mr. Bean
8:10am	Horrid Henry
8:25am	K-9
10:25am	Twins
12:25pm	Cannonball Christmas Special
1:25pm	You've Been Framed!
1:55pm	ITV Lunchtime News
2:00pm	Midsomer Murders
4:00pm	Tenable
5:00pm	Tipping Point
6:00pm	The Chase
7:00pm	Paul O'Grady: For The Love of Dogs
7:30pm	ITV News London
7:45pm	ITV Evening News
8:00pm	Emmerdale
8:30pm	Coronation Street
9:00pm	Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire
11:50pm	ITV News
12:05am	Tina and Bobby
1:05am	Get Shirty
1:55am	Jackpot247
4:00am	May the Best House Win
4:50am	ITV Nightscreen

itv2

7:50am	Mr. Bean
8:15am	Mr. Bean
8:45am	Britain's Got Talent
9:35am	Planet's Got Talent
10:05am	Emmerdale
10:35am	Coronation Street
11:45am	Planet 51
12:45pm	FYI Daily
12:50pm	Planet 51
1:30pm	Catchphrase
2:35pm	Emmerdale
3:00pm	Coronation Street
4:05pm	Beethovens 2nd
5:10pm	FYI Daily
5:15pm	Beethovens 2nd
5:50pm	Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium
6:55pm	FYI Daily
7:00pm	Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium
7:45pm	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
8:50pm	FYI Daily
8:55pm	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
10:00pm	White House Down
11:00pm	FYI Daily
11:05pm	White House Down
12:40am	Family Guy
1:10am	Family Guy
1:35am	Family Guy
2:00am	Family Guy
2:30am	American Dad!

itv3

7:00am	Jane Eyre
8:55am	Agatha Christie's Marple
11:00am	Goodnight Mister Tom
1:05pm	Agatha Christie's Marple
3:15pm	Carry on Up the Jungle <i>Bawdy British comedy.</i>
4:20pm	FYI Daily <i>The latest entertainment news.</i>
4:25pm	Carry on Up the Jungle <i>Bawdy British comedy. T</i>
5:10pm	Carry on Dick
6:10pm	FYI Daily <i>The latest entertainment news.</i>
6:15pm	Carry on Dick
7:00pm	Agatha Christie's Marple
9:00pm	Endeavour
11:00pm	Lewis
1:00am	The Booze Cruise III
3:00am	Goodnight Mister Tom
4:40am	Jane Eyre

itv4

7:00am	Football's Greatest
7:15am	The Chase
8:00am	The Protectors
8:25am	The Saint
9:30am	The Professionals
10:35am	Ironsides
11:35am	Quincy, M.E.
12:40pm	Minder
1:45pm	ITV Racing: Live from Kempton
4:30pm	Aces High
5:30pm	FYI Daily
5:35pm	Aces High
6:45pm	Storage Wars Texas
7:10pm	Cash Cowboys
8:05pm	Pawn Stars
8:35pm	Pawn Stars
9:00pm	The Chase: The Bloopers
10:00pm	Al Murray's Make Christmas Great Again
11:05pm	Jaws
12:10am	FYI Daily
12:15am	Jaws
1:35am	Jaws 2
2:45am	FYI Daily
2:50am	Jaws 2
4:00am	Bear Grylls: Mission Survive
4:40am	ITV4 Nightscreen
4:55am	Ax Men
5:40am	The Professionals

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

11:40am	Rogue One: A Star Wars Story
2:00pm	The Dark Knight
4:40pm	The Bourne Supremacy
6:30pm	Captain America: Civil War
9:00pm	Rogue One: A Star Wars Story
11:20pm	Warcraft
1:30am	The Bourne Supremacy

sky CINEMA COMEDY

7:00am	How to be Single
9:00am	Zoolander
10:35am	Zoolander 2
12:25pm	Bridget Jones's Baby
2:35pm	Bridesmaids
4:50pm	Fist Fight
6:35pm	Jerry Maguire
9:00pm	Bridget Jones's Baby
11:10pm	Fist Fight
12:50am	Bridesmaids
3:05am	Our Brand is Crisis
5:00am	Dragnet

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

4:05am	Come and Find Me
6:10am	The Top Ten Show 2017
6:30am	Olaf's Frozen Adventure
7:00am	John Wick: Chapter Two
9:05am	Olaf's Frozen Adventure
9:35am	The LEGO Batman Movie
11:30am	Beauty and the Beast
1:45pm	Olaf's Frozen Adventure
2:15pm	Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2
4:35pm	Olaf's Frozen Adventure
5:05pm	The Ottoman Lieutenant
7:10pm	The LEGO Batman Movie
9:00pm	Beauty and the Beast
11:15pm	Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2
1:35am	John Wick: Chapter Two
3:50am	Olaf's Frozen Adventure
4:20am	The Ottoman Lieutenant

sky sports football

2:45pm	EFL Greatest Games
3:00pm	SPFL Round Up Show
3:45pm	SPFL Round Up Show
4:00pm	SPFL Greatest Games
4:15pm	SPFL Greatest Games
4:30pm	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
4:45pm	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
5:00pm	SPFL Round Up Show
5:45pm	SPFL Round Up Show
6:00pm	SPFL Greatest Games
6:15pm	SPFL Greatest Games
6:30pm	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
6:45pm	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
7:00pm	SPFL Round Up Show
7:45pm	SPFL Round Up Show
8:00pm	SPFL Matters: Old Firm Special
8:30pm	Football
11:00pm	Celtics Invincibles

MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



' IT'S SO BRIGHT THAT STAR COULD BE ANOTHER WORLD! '

Trivia from around the world

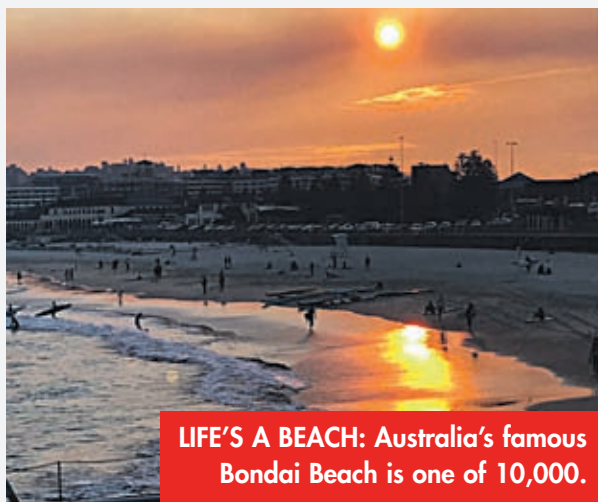
***Australia has over 10,000 beaches, enough to visit a new beach every day for over 27 years.

***China used more cement in three years, between 2011 and 2013, than the United States used in the entire 20th century, according to experts.

*** In 2001/2002 Argentina had five different presidents in the space of two weeks.

***Measuring at 1,896 kilometres (1,178 miles), Yonge Street in Canada is the longest street in the world.

***Indonesia has the world's shortest people,



LIFE'S A BEACH: Australia's famous Bondai Beach is one of 10,000.

with an average height of just 1.58m, according to the website Average Height.

***In the UK, you can never be more than 70 miles from the sea.

DID YOU KNOW?

Bluetooth got its name from the second king of Denmark, King Harald Bluetooth.

Women's wit

Think like a queen. A Queen is not afraid to fail. Failure is another stepping stone to greatness."
Oprah Winfrey, TV host



Famous quote

The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination."
Albert Einstein

World of English

Amplification - repeats a word or expression for emphasis - Love, real love, takes time

YOUR STARS FOR NEXT 7 DAYS

AQUARIUS
(January 21 - February 19)

It is difficult to avoid repeating mistakes made in the past. Your approach to certain situations has not changed and therein lies the problem. Someone who blames you for a mistake shows ignorance but that does not make it less upsetting.

PISCES
(February 20 - March 20)

Who is trying to push you into a corner? Maybe it is being done so subtly that you have not even noticed. Who wants a decision from you? Appear to take pressure lightly and not give in to an irritation. There is some jealousy this week but refuse to be drawn into petty matters..

ARIES
(March 21 - April 20)

A rather slow start to the week leads you to feel bored but be assured that the weekend will be far from dull. A recent conversation or correspondence with an old friend leads to unexpected contact.

TAURUS
(April 21 - May 21)

Everything on the home front is emphasised and there will be a flurry of activity. Get others involved in any changes. Work in the garden or painting is much more enjoyable and half the work if you enlist the help of someone you get on well with.

GEMINI
(May 22 - June 21)

When discussing a holiday with others, be aware that agreement is not always easily met. Although you are not inclined to compromise, it is necessary to go with the majority decision.

CANCER
(June 22 - July 23)

After the 22nd it is much easier to see the path ahead. This is particularly true of a financial situation, so there's no sense in fussing until you understand what needs to be done. Someone who has in the past been unco-operative is more flexible. You wonder at this and try to see an ulterior motive, but it is most likely that they have seen the error of their past actions. Is it possible for you to take them on trust?

LEO
(July 24 - August 23)

Your attention is needed on more than one front, and some decisions are at odds with your personal thoughts and attitudes. Being reminded that 'business is business' does nothing to relieve your conscience.

VIRGO
(August 24 - September 23)

Are you willing to take a risk on someone who has let you down before? Looking into their recent past is likely to tip the balance. What you find shows clearly if there has been a change of heart on their part or if they are trying to pull the wool over your eyes.

LIBRA
(September 24 - October 23)

A disagreement with a friend upsets you but is short-lived. To avoid such a situation in the future, look at how you should have dealt with it. There is always something to know that guides us to a better position. It will make you smile that someone has taken you for a fool because you have the last laugh.

SCORPIO
(October 24 - November 22)

A great feeling of joy comes over you more than once in the week ahead. Your inner child has been set free, and this is likely to be because of recent restrictions, which are now lifted. Do not feel guilty about this because it is a choice that will serve you well in the future. Right now, things may seem like a bit of an effort for small reward.

SAGITTARIUS
(November 23 - December 21)

Travel arrangements may have to be changed at the last minute. Do not fret, however, because success is more likely later in the month. During a dream, or when reading a book, an idea comes to you. Can this really make a difference to your future? You may need to act quickly to start a new project but progress will require patience.

CAPRICORN
(December 22 - January 20)

The need to plan ahead is frustrating when you know exactly what ought to be going on. Patience is something that you need to cultivate, or you risk upsetting someone close. Spending time with a colleague makes you realise how good things could be, but a lot of effort is involved.

LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY	IRISH LOTTO	EURO MILLIONS		LA PRIMITIVA		EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA
Saturday December 16	Saturday December 16	Tuesday December 12	Friday December 15	Thursday December 14	Saturday December 16	Sunday December 17
(22) (25) (35) (45) (46) (57)	(1) (21) (33) (37) (38) (40)	(20) (37) (39) (44) (50)	(25) (30) (31) (42) (50)	(25) (28) (31) (35) (44) (48)	(16) (19) (28) (45) (48) (49)	(2) (8) (20) (28) (48)
BONUS BALL (14)	BONUS BALL (8)	LUCKY STARS (4) (8)	LUCKY STARS (2) (11)	REINTEGRO (47) (6)	REINTEGRO (17) (8)	REINTEGRO (4)
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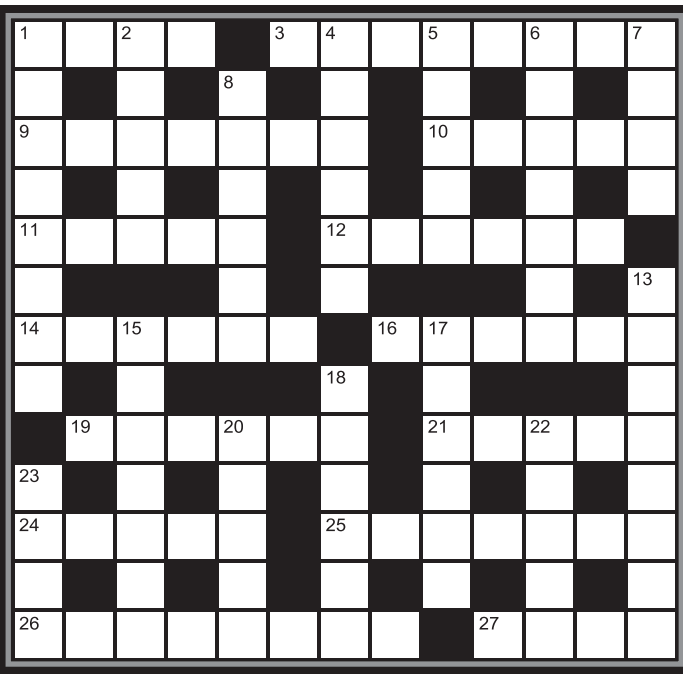
Cryptic

Across

- 1 Performs on stage, appearing after John (4)
- 3 Accepts devious beer scam (8)
- 9 Around lake there's poor cover (7)
- 10 Girl from German-Italian background (5)
- 11 Boy gets the French serving spoon (5)
- 12 Point to prime kind of silly smile (6)
- 14 Dehydration results from a scruffy T-shirt (6)
- 16 A predicament caused by disorderly capers (6)
- 19 Engineers model for peace of mind (6)
- 21 Jolly pirate emblem (5)
- 24 Old Testament character, New Testament incident (5)
- 25 Repeat some of the composite rates (7)
- 26 Late drink that goes to your head? (8)
- 27 Early historian's sleeping place on boat (4)

Down

- 1 A sailor, Spanish sun, mid-January, end of August and June, it's perfect (8)
- 2 Dainty daughter making cloth (5)
- 4 Gloomy doctor got up (6)
- 5 Kingdom in actual miles (5)
- 6 Throw me a rich fire-breathing

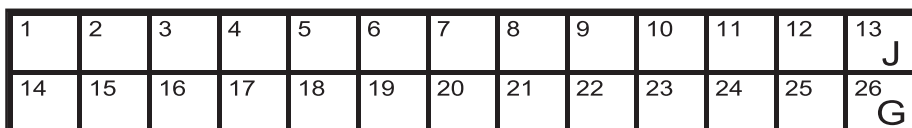
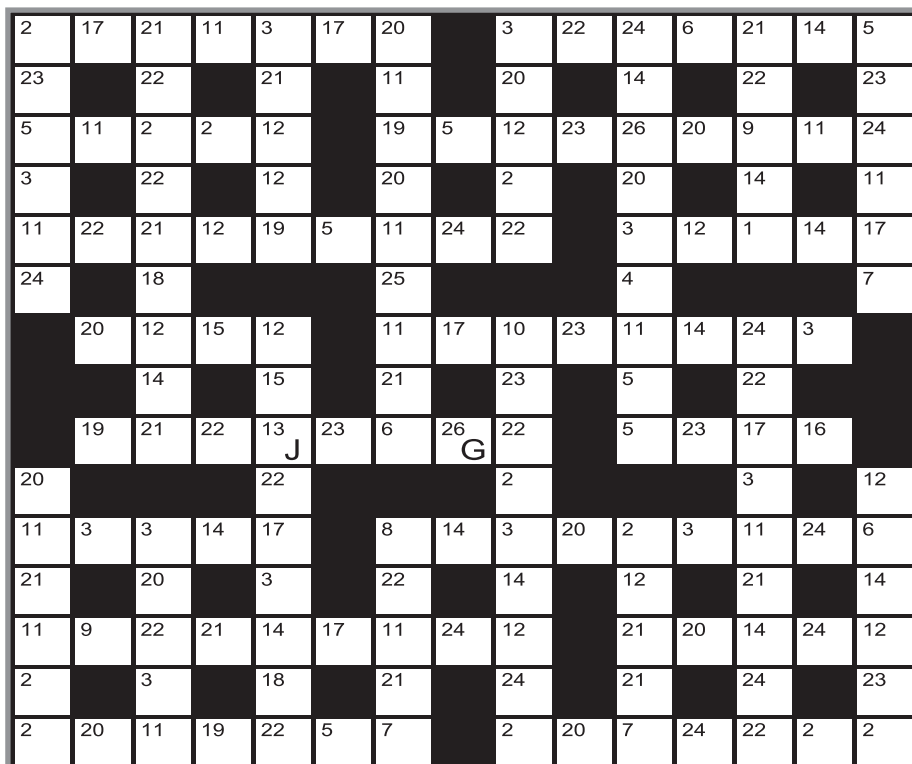


- Greek (7)
- 7 Hit one's friends back (4)
- 8 The rest from the Isley Brothers (6)
- 13 Dog with no tail - get back! (8)
- 15 Some nice Bergen sandwiches contain lettuce (7)
- 17 Floor covering from Oscar

- Peterson's house (6)
- 18 About end product in a light-sensitive area (6)
- 20 A group of eight musicians etc to reform (5)
- 22 Amazing girl? (5)
- 23 An average sort of name (4)

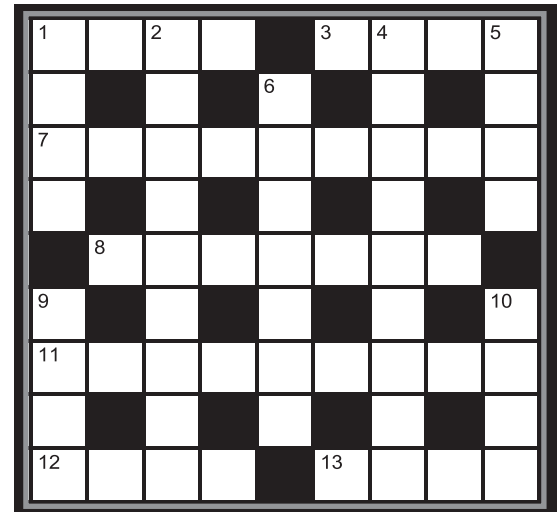
Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 13 represents J and 26 represents G, so fill in J every time the figure 13 appears and G every time the figure 26 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the control grid.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION FACING PAGE

Quick



Across

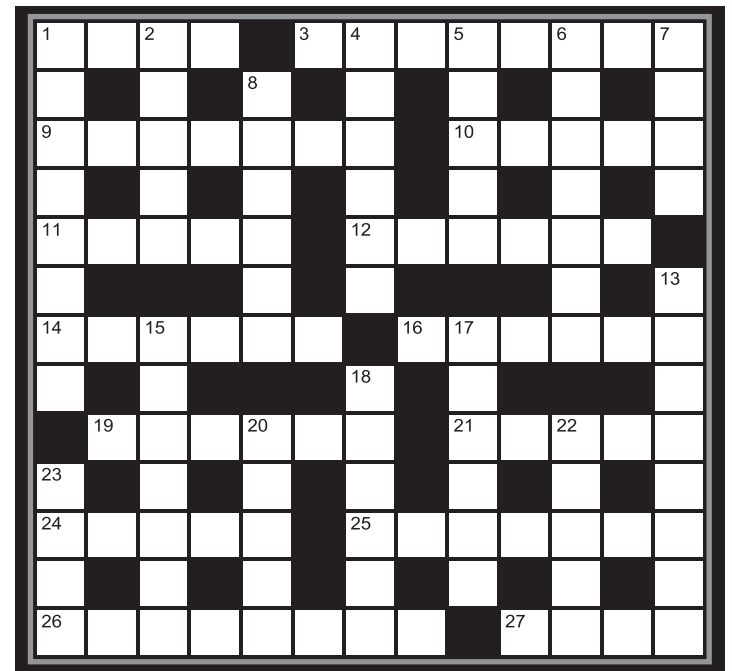
- 1 Neat and tidy (4)
- 3 Overdue (4)
- 7 Allured or enticed (9)
- 8 Mother of your father or mother (7)
- 11 Kept from happening or arising (9)
- 12 Digits of the foot (4)
- 13 Boundary of a surface (4)

Down

- 1 Snare (4)
- 2 Intervene (9)
- 4 Tried (9)
- 5 Finishes (4)
- 6 Frequented by a ghost (7)
- 9 Dot (4)
- 10 Not in action or at work (4)

English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Simpático (4)
- 3 Té de especias (5,3)
- 9 Pavos (7)
- 10 Mary (5)
- 11 Visita (5)
- 12 Uno de los renos de Santa (6)
- 14 Caramelo (6)
- 16 Hug (6)
- 19 Ivy (6)
- 21 Cometa (5)

- 24 Reindeer (5)
- 25 Happiness (cheerfulness) (7)
- 26 Shepherds (8)
- 27 Himno (4)

Down

- 1 Natividad (8)
- 2 Corchos (5)
- 4 Inn (6)
- 5 Beds (5)
- 6 Card (greetings) (7)

- 7 To roast (4)
- 8 Sofá (6)
- 13 Tren de juguete (3,5)
- 15 Amigos (7)
- 17 Reñir (6)
- 18 Desfile (6)
- 20 Wish (5)
- 22 Alegre (5)
- 23 Envolver (con papel) (4)

CROSSWORD PAGE

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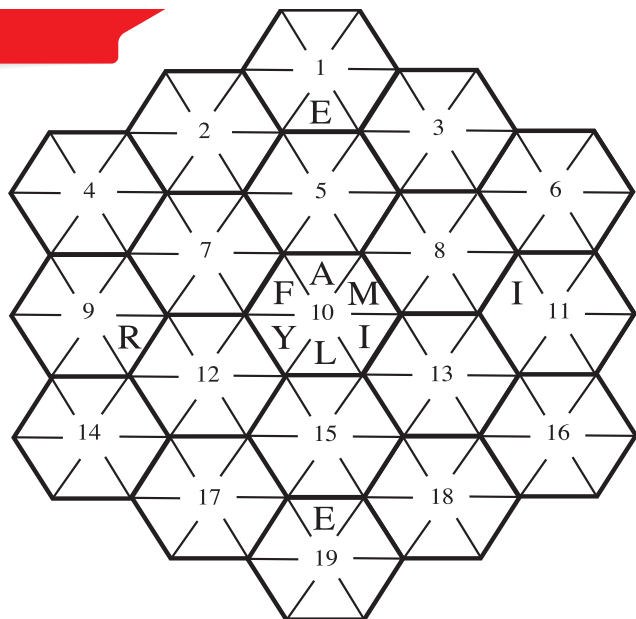
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Hexagram

- ABLATE
- BLURRY
- CREAKY
- DIFFER
- EFFACE
- EUREKA
- FAMILY (10)
- FILTER
- FORCED
- FOURTH
- FRUGAL
- FUNGAL
- HAIRDO
- INFIRM
- LATTER
- LAUREL
- MEDIAL
- REMAND
- SEAMAN



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

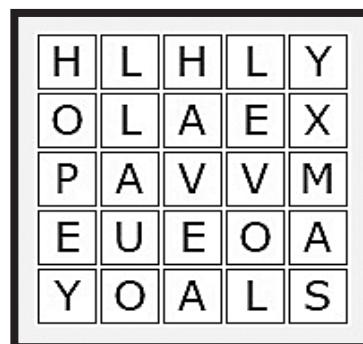
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

- 1 Letter 2 Advent 3 Theory 4 Gather
- 5 Dainty 6 Beyond 7 Ticket 8 Sundry
- 9 Hectic 10 Canopy 11 Assent
- 12 Stocky 13 Blouse 14 Toilet
- 15 Splash 16 Spread 17 Dither
- 18 Abrupt 19 Bestow.

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: 17
- Good: 24
- Very good: 34
- Excellent: 44

SCORING:

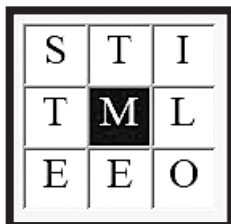
- 4 letters: 1 point
- 5 letters: 2 points
- 6 letters: 3 points
- 7 letters: 5 points
- 8 or more letters: 11 points

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

hoed toed tutti taut tact taco tacos auto
aced acedia dhoti doth dojo dine decaf deco
dens coho cotta coda code coin coined cedi
cone coned conjoin conjoined conn conned
cons fact factoid face faced aide iota inject
inns enjoy join joined jihad wadi wade
wain wahine width wide widen widens wine
wined whin whine whined when hide hied
hens neoncon neocons soft sofa

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



TARGET:

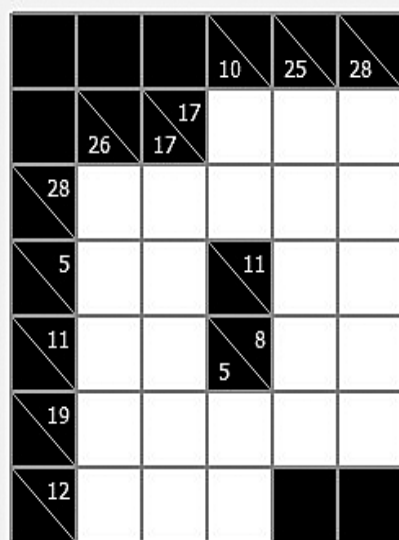
- Average: 15
- Good: 20
- Very good: 29
- Excellent: 38

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

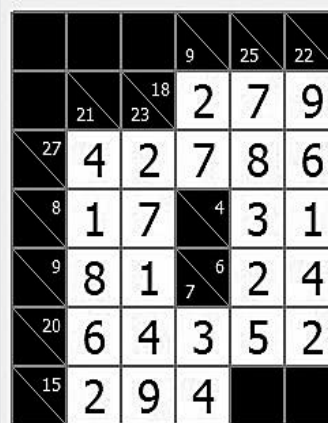
able ably alee ally bald bale ball bell belt blat bled dale deal dele
dell eely lade lady late lead leal tael tale tall teal tell yell alley
badly baldy baled bally belay belle belly betel blade bleat bleed
dally dealt delay delta elate label ladle lated table tally telly
baldy ballet beadle belted belted elated lately tabled yelled
belated belayed bleated eyeball labeled elatedly BELATEDLY

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 Spud, 4 Ache, 7 Miss, 8 Taps, 9 Sue, 10 Wish, 11 Roam, 12 Ohm, 13 Peru, 14 Ajar, 15/6 Set off, 16 Cede, 17 Hide.
- Down:** 2 Privilege, 3 Dosshouse, 4 Aftermath, 5 Haphazard.

CODE BREAKER

1	I	X	W	M	T	C	J	O	U	G	E	P	D
14	L	N	Q	V	Y	H	R	K	Z	A	B	S	F

CRYPTIC

- Across:** 1 Steward, 5 Topic, 8 Reach, 9 Arizona, 10 Pale ale, 11 Upset, 12 Retire, 14 Tender, 17 Valet, 19 Ironing, 21 Scourge, 22 Hedge, 23 Doses, 24 Solvent.
- Down:** 1 Strip, 2 Epaulet, 3 Ash, 4 Drapes, 5 Tribune, 6 Plots, 7 Chatter, 12 Revised, 13 Retorts, 15 Dwindle, 16 Misers, 18 Lions, 20 Guest, 22 Hal.

ENGLISH-SPANISH

- Across:** 1 Taste, 4 Screw, 10 Enter, 11 Miracle, 12 Opciones, 13 Cups, 15 Driest, 17 Museum, 19 Crew, 20 Patinaje, 23 Charlar, 24 Event, 25 Odiar, 26 Estar.
- Down:** 2 Attic, 3 Tortoise, 5 Caro, 6 Enchufe, 7 Reloj de cuco, 8 Amber, 9 Pensamiento, 14 Business, 16 Iceland, 18 Carry, 21 Arena, 22 Alba.

App of the week

Sudoku - Classic Logic Puzzle Game

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THINK you are teaching your children responsible drinking by giving them a glass of wine with that meal?

It might be time to think again after researchers claimed allowing youngsters to drink before 14 could harm their development.

The technique employed by many parents to slowly introduce their children to alcohol in a controlled environment was previously thought to encourage healthier attitudes towards alcohol later in life, preventing binge drinking. Proponents often point out that the French, who are known to have more liberal attitudes towards giving children alcohol, have fewer problems with anti-social street drinking.

Researchers at University College London have found this argument does not stand, however. Professor Jennifer Maggs, the study's lead author, explained, "that is a myth," adding, "street drinking is more of a problem in the UK than Europe, but heavy drinking at home is



STAY SOBER: Giving them alcohol at a young age could harm children's development.

still a problem."

The Katherine Brown, chief executive of the Institute of Alcohol Studies, Katherine Brown, agreed with the findings, saying, "the Chief Medical Officer recommends that an alcohol-free childhood is best, with children not drinking any alcohol before the age of 15." She added, "this is important guidance because alcohol can harm children given their bodies and brains are not yet fully developed. It is worrying to see that this advice may not be getting across to parents, who are trying to do their best to teach their children about alcohol."

The study showed middle-class parents were most likely to give their child alcohol. Parents with "routine" or "semi-routine" jobs were 43 per cent more likely to give their children alcohol than unemployed parents, while those in "managerial" or "professional" jobs were 66 per cent more likely, and those who are self-employed 82 per cent more likely.

Off the bottle

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WE ALL know we're meant to wash our hands regularly throughout the day.

But even the most fastidious of us can fall down when it comes to ensuring we have washed them thoroughly.

Luckily, a microbiologist from the University of Oregon has given one publication tips on making sure you get rid of as many germs as possible.

Michelle Sconce explained there are two approaches we can take. She says the first is to help bacteria slip off our hands as we wash them by using enough soap and working up a good amount of lather. The second is to actually kill the bacteria with antibacterial soaps.

There may be a problem with the second approach, however, with long-term

Squeaky clean



GERM FREE: Make sure you scrub your hands thoroughly when you wash them.

use of certain anti-bacterial agents possibly harmful to your health. There is also a risk the soap will not kill resistant bacteria, allowing

them free reign to spread when all the other bacteria has been killed.

The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention in-

stead suggests using familiar song Happy Birthday to ensure we wash out hands for long enough. The body recommends singing the song twice, totally around 20 or 30 seconds, while applying soap lather to every parts of your hands before rinsing them well with clean running water. It is then important to dry hands with a "clean paper towel" or allow them to air dry.

The authority also explains an alcohol-based hand sanitiser will make an appropriate substitute if soap and water are not available. Look for a make that contains at least 60 per cent ethanol.

Sunscreen still matters

AS THE Baz Lurhmann song goes, we all know we should wear sunscreen.

And even though it's not nearly as sunny in Spain as in the summer months, harmful UV rays still pierce clouds, reaching our skin with potentially harmful consequences.

But it's not just enough to remember to wear sun lotion, it also matters how you apply it according to dermatologist Dr Natasha Cook.

Speaking to one publication, Dr Cook explained there are several cardinal sins most of us are guilty of when apply sunscreen, beginning with not applying enough. She explained, "There is an exponential dose-protection level relation, which means if you under-apply by half, you are effectively getting only a quarter of the correct SPF protection," clarifying, "If it's a teaspoon per face and one for each limb - let alone your back - a 100mL bottle will only last you a couple of applications." She also explains we should wait at least 20 minutes after applying before going in the sun.

Next, the dermatologist says we should be applying lotion more frequently, aiming for twice every two hours as these creams are not sweat and water proof even if they

are resistant. Dr Cook also warns we should not make the mistake of believing a tan will give us any sun protection, explaining this skin colouration is instead a sign of damage. She explained, "it's a warning your DNA is being damaged and not the signs of a healthy glow."

Lastly, she explains using aerosol sprays or covering up with a t-shirt will probably not give us enough protection, explaining UV rays get

through white fabrics while aerosols leave us with a too-thin layer of sunscreen.

KEEP SAFE: It's still important to wear sunscreen in winter months.



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Appendicitis - symptoms vary



SPECIALIST: Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.

What is the appendix for?

The appendix is an elongated structure found in the large intestine. Although not a vital structure, it has functions that relate to the immune system and defensive capacity of the body.

What is appendicitis?

Appendicitis is an inflammation of the structure which causes it to increase significantly in size and cause a potentially dangerous infection.

When does it usually happen?

This is variable and there is no fixed rule. In general, appendicitis occurs when the appendix is obstructed by faecal debris, which is the main reason it becomes inflamed and infected.

How do you know if someone has appendicitis?

Appendicitis normally causes acute abdominal pain below the navel on the right-hand side of the

body, alongside discomfort, fever and diarrhoea, although this can vary with symptoms emerging slowly over time.

It can sometimes cause an infection that is transmitted to other parts of the abdomen - known as peritonitis - or even pass to the rest of the body via the blood. The latter scenario is potentially deadly.

Surgery to remove the infected appendix and a course of intravenous antibiotics may then be necessary.

When should I get medical help?

If you have pain in the lower right abdomen coupled with some of the above symptoms you should go to the hospital urgently. If appendicitis is suspected they will run a series of blood tests, ultrasound, or even x-rays.

Is there any way to prevent appendicitis?

No, there is no clear evidence of any measure which stops appendicitis.

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

Combined brewery and restaurant

BACK in the year 2,000, Heineken Breweries took over the Spanish brewers Cruzcampo and have been growing the brand across different markets in Spain.

The company has now decided to open a brewery with its own restaurant in the trendy area of Malaga known as Soho.

Known as La Fábrica, Cervecería del Soho will open in Calle Trinidad Grund at the end of January and hopes to become a popular venue especially as the brewers will be working with the Premium Group which will be in charge of the gastronomy side of the operation.

Premium currently runs a number of hotels in Malaga as well as the chain of Batik and Bendito restaurants so has a wide experience of hospitality in the capital city.

The new operation will occupy 1,100 square metres divided between the bar/restaurant covering 800 square metres and 300 square metres for the brewery which is due to produce 95,000 litres per annum

Sting due to return to Costa del Sol next summer

DESPITE the fact that there were considerable problems earlier this year with the then ruling council in Marbella, the Starlite festival has announced its first four acts for 2018 including Sting.

Tickets for the Sting concert to be held on Thursday July 19 went on sale yesterday (Wednesday) alongside those for David Bisbal who plays the next day as well as Pablo Alboran on August 1 as part of his Prometto tour where he will promote his fourth album.

Also confirmed is flamenco dancer Sara Baras who will present her new show Sombras (Shadows) a journey through light and dark with many shades on August 11.

Also announced but with dates to be confirmed, the very popular Cantajuego children's show will be returning to entertain the entire family with songs, dance and audience participation.

Fans of Sting will remember that he last appeared on the Costa del Sol in July at a sold out show by the Castle Sohail in Fuengirola when he was promoting his latest album 57th & 9th.

At that time he told *Euro Weekly News* "I'm very much looking forward to performing in Fuengirola. I appreciate the fans' loyalty and support in Spain. I

love touring and I still get a buzz from being on stage. There's no way to describe the feeling of playing for thousands of people who are pleased to see you. That's something you can't be blasé about."

Clearly, he must have enjoyed

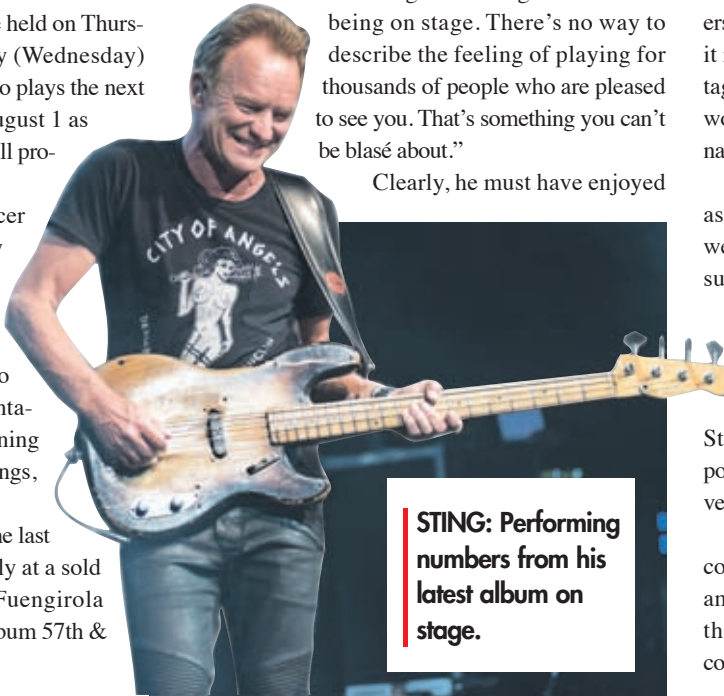
the response he received from the admiring audience as he was quick to agree to return to Costa del Sol.

The current Marbella council leader Mayor Angeles Muñoz made a point of meeting with the organisers of the festival soon after she regained power and it is generally believed that she sees many advantages to the running of the festival which generates work for hundreds of local people and promotes the name of Marbella on the international stage.

There are however a number of problems to face as the Junta de Andalucía and the Local Police as well as opposition politicians and businesses have suggested that there are breaches of local bylaws concerning the venue and after event parties as well as the fact that the site is in a protected area.

These problems have resulted in the organisers currently stating that although there will be a Starlite, probably in Marbella they are not yet in a position to confirm that it will take place in the usual venue in Nagueles.

With tickets going on sale already, it is a brave concert goer who will commit to spend quite large amounts of money on purchasing tickets for a site that may be in Nagueles, may be in Marbella or could be somewhere completely different.



STING: Performing numbers from his latest album on stage.

Bing

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The Russians are coming

THE choir, ballet and orchestra of the Russian Army of St Petersburg will be appearing at the Cervantes Theatre on Boxing Day (next Tuesday).

Uniting more than 100 singers, dancers and musicians, the Russian Army Ensemble of St Petersburg brings an amalgamation of spectacular dancing and rousing traditional music to the stage.

With colourful costumes, vivid choreography and boundless energy, the 40 talented dancers dazzle the audience with their acrobatics and striking dance sequences in a show seen by 30 million people worldwide over the years.

This Russian Army Ensemble of St Petersburg has been called the first army of peace, because of the powerful use of their voices and bodies instead of weapons. Almost 100 different artists perform Russian folk songs and show spectacular



Photo Credit: Russian Army of St. Petersburg

ON STAGE: The captivating performers.

choreographies on the stage.

Under the watchful eye of the ensemble director, the ballet group will excite in their dazzling costumes, original choreographies and their dancing skills, incorporating traditional Russian dance and music.

Some of the best voices in Russia are present in the group who are happy to perform some of the best loved opera from Europe but they are most happy and best known for their presentation of Russian folk songs.

Founded in the early years of the 20th century, the choir, ballet and orchestra gave support and encouragement to troops on the battle fronts and in hospitals during both world wars with songs of love and hope, before their subsequent peacetime tours, broadcasts and recordings brought them international acclaim.

Tickets for the performance which starts at 5.30pm cost between €25 and €56 and can be purchased online.

RIOJA may be the most famous national wine region, but Ribera del Duero is no slouch.

A Spanish Denominacion de Origen (DO) located within Castile and León, Ribera del Duero is one of several wine-producing regions along the Duero river where the mainly flat and rocky terrain undulates between 750 and 911 metres above sea level.

The rainfall is moderate with long dry summers and temperatures of up to 40c, followed by harsh winters.

Viticulture arrived in the region with Benedictine monks in the 12th century although wine was produced locally 2,000 years ago.

Ribera del Duero DO wine is derived almost exclusively from red grapes, in particular Tinto Fino (local name for Tempranillo), and often complemented with Cabernet Sauvignon, Mal-



RIBERA DEL DUERO: Intense, long-lived wines.

Serious fame seeker

bec and Merlot.

These well-ageing, full-bodied and deep ruby colour wines with aromas of strawberries, fresh tobacco, leather and often highly oaked are excellent with grilled vegetables and red meats.

Whereas Rioja and Ribera del Duero are distinctive as a result of the different terrains, both regions produce wines selected for long ageing with complex vinification procedures.

These lead to intense, ex-

tremely long-lived wines.


The ageing requirements for Ribera del Duero are the same used in Rioja. Wines labelled as Crianza must age two years with 12 months in oak; Reserva for at least three years with at least 12 months in oak while Gran Reserva must spend five years ageing prior to release, including two in oak.

Famous regional producers are Viña Sastre, Vega Sicilia, Bodegas Arzuaga Navarra and Dominio de Pingus, with the British Royal family among customers.

Happy tasting!

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by Lorenzo Barbareschi

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Charities remember those who have gone

CANCER is not a selective disease but strikes on an arbitrary basis, killing some and allowing others to live but early detection can increase chances of survival dramatically.

Lorraine Palmer and her husband John who own El Oceano Hotel in La Cala de Mijas have spent more than 10 years tirelessly raising money to fund first the Positively Pink charity and then Positively Blue.

Positively Pink arranges for checks for Breast Cancer mainly (but not totally) in women whilst Positively Blue concentrates on Prostate Cancer and whilst many of those tested are saved, sadly there are always fatalities.

For this reason, each year, at about this time, the charities invite those who have survived either the cancer or who have lost loved ones to purchase balloons to release in the grounds of the hotel and to add notes to a virtual album in memory of those who have passed.

Lorraine and the Balloon Man Spain released 400 environmentally friendly pink and blue balloons and those present took a moment to think of their loved ones, especially those still battling the disease, as they floated away.

During the day, an artisan



Photo Credit: Positively Pink and Blue

PINK AND BLUE: Getting ready to release the balloons.

fair was held in the hotel with proceeds from the rental of the stands together with the balloon sales going to the charity and the Costa Soul Singers performed a selection of Christmas and contemporary songs despite the sunny weather, with all of the male singers given free Prostrate Screening vouchers as a thank you.

The day was sponsored by JJs Bar at Riviera, Eye Print at Cabopino, the Balloon Man Spain and El Oceano Hotel and

raised a total of €2,300 which will go directly for Prostate Cancer screening.

For those who want to continue to help raise funds, there will be a Positively Blue dinner costing €50 at the El Olivo Restaurant in La Cala on January 5 and reservations may be made at the El Oceano reception desk or by calling Jan on 616 507 629.

Anyone who would like to be screened for either type of cancer please visit Facebook

Positively Pink Costa del Sol in order to find out details of the next session.

A small donation is requested to help with the costs of arranging these screenings, but the cost is negligible when compared to the peace of mind in discovering that you are not in danger and for those who test positively, an early diagnosis with support from Lorraine and her volunteer team will hopefully lead to a satisfactory outcome.



Taking bookings for Xmas Office Parties, during December for groups of 10 or more - lunchtime or Evening options - ask for details.

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Gonna be a good night

CHRISTMAS EVE in Manilva is going to be very special for those who enjoy a good party with loud music and a few drinks.

Supported by the local council and organised by the Manilva-based events company Espectáculos Muled Sound, the party will take place at the local football hall with two top DJs, Alejandro Ocaña and DJ Pájaro.

Entry which includes a drink is €10 in advance or €13 on the night, although there is a VIP zone which allows entry for four people and gives them a bottle to



Photo Credit: Alejandro Ocaña Facebook

The crowd at one of Alejandro Ocaña's gigs.

share at €100.

If this is your idea of a good evening (and already

around 700 people have indicated that they are looking to attend, call the organisers on

692 415 936 for more information or to reserve your ticket.

State Philharmonic Orchestra of Chisinau

MOLDOVA is one of the poorer former Russian states and its capital of Chisinau is a strange mixture of Communist utilitarianism and fine old Tsarist buildings.

The State Philharmonic Orchestra of the Chisinau Opera was created in 2002

and is made up of musicians from the Opera orchestra which itself traces its history back to 1920.

Each year the orchestra undertakes a major world tour and on Saturday December 30, the entire orchestra will perform a range of waltzes, polkas and

marches composed by some of the great names in classical music as part of their Estepona Christmas concert.

The performance starts at 9pm at the Auditorio Felipe VI with tickets costing from €18.50 to €24.50 from the box office.

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A glorious concert

By Morris Bishop

ALWAYS one of the most anticipated 'musical highlights of the year' on the Costa del Sol are the biannual concerts given by Collegium Musicum.

The performances, at the Hotel IPV Palace and Spa Beatriz in Fuengirola and the magnificent Iglesia de la Encarnacion in Marbella were received by a standing room only audience with rapturous ovations to every one of the 14 pieces played.

The eclectic Christmas programme, with works written over a period of four centuries by composers from many countries including George Frideric Handel whose Harp concerto was to be the major work of the evening. Born in Germany, he became a naturalised Briton living in London for most of his life and this work is the only surviving Harp Concerto from the Baroque era.

Telemann's Ein Fest Burg was chosen to open the programme in memory of the 250th anniversary of this prolific contemporary of Handel. Benjamin Britten and Ralph Vaughan Williams who composed *Little Babe* and *Greensleeves* respectively were in the programme as well as pieces from Humperdinck whose *Weihnachten* was performed acapella with only harp accompaniment, even works from the Ukraine, Mexico and France were included.

It always amazes me the absolute professionalism that both Choir and Orchestra perform to, and the musical arrangements that Delyth Bressington achieves belies the fact that they have little control over the mix of instrumentalists that form the Orchestra.



Photo Credit: Morris Bishop

STANDING OVATION: At the end of the performance.

“ Every one of the 14 pieces played received rapturous ovations.

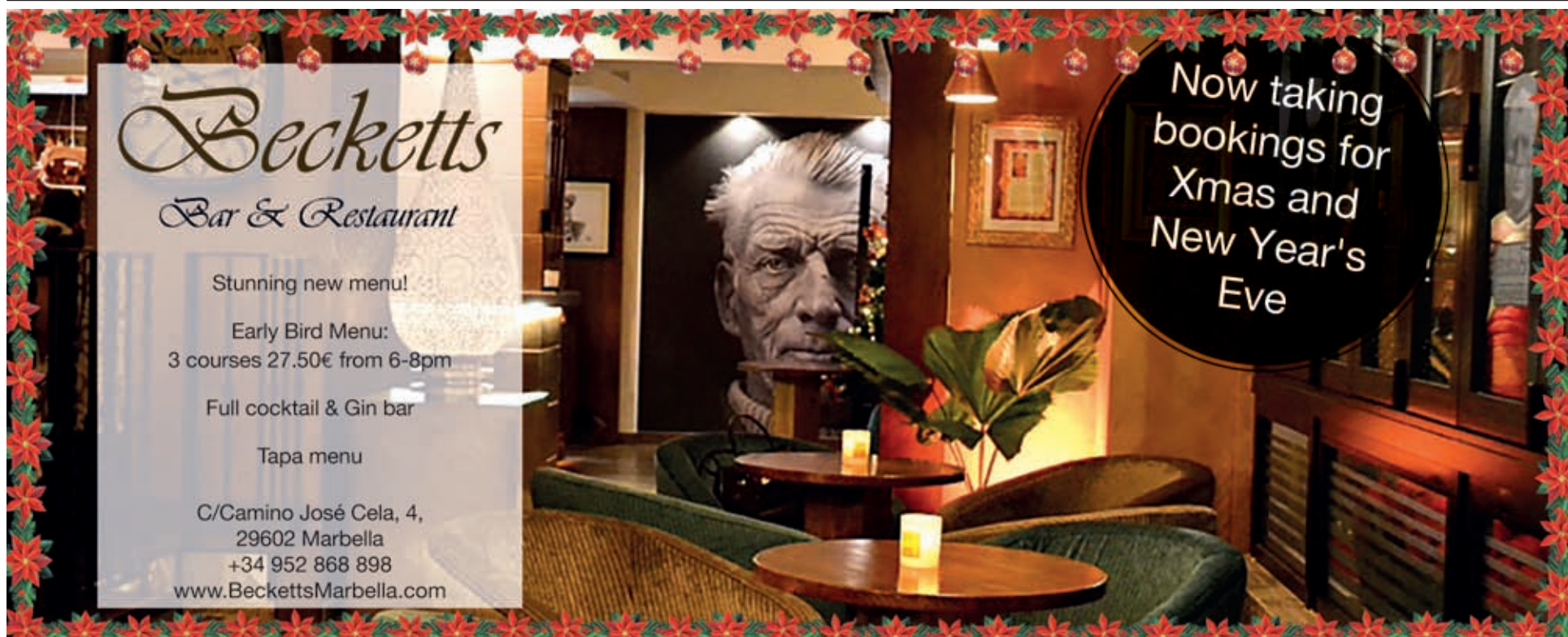
Charlotte Nyborg was the solo harpist whose faultless performance with this most gentle of instruments was made the more difficult by the sheer volume of the church that she had to fill and only in parts the Larghetto of the Handel did I strain to hear some of the subtlety of her playing.

As for the ever-ebullient Annemarie Philipps, Musical Director of the Collegium Musicum, I am sure that one can

hear the enthusiasm that she displays and the sound that instrumentalist and choir achieve through the many hours of her mentoring.

And finally to the audience, it is quite wonderful to be part of a band of people that get joy out of watching and listening to other people making music, and what better way to show this than by closing the programme with the whole of the audience enthusiastically giving voice to 10 of the most popular carols and a very well deserved standing ovation

Collegium Musicum are always looking for new voices and instrumentalists. So if you have the qualities to join this exceptional group, email secretaria@colmus.org call Driekje on 696 620 872 or Annemarie on 952 775 492.



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Now taking bookings for Xmas and New Year's Eve

A day to enjoy and help a young boy

THIS Saturday, the Plaza de Iglesia in San Pedro will be packed with people anxious to help one little boy, Pablo who has a rare blood condition called Mastocytosis.

The day will be used to try to explain the problems of the disease that affects his bones, skin and organs and causes so much distress to young people and their families around the world.

From midday until 4pm, family and children's entertainment will be the centre of attraction around the square's band stand, with market stalls, fun, music, a children's entertainer, wonderful food and beverages and a warm up for the evening to follow.

There will then be song and dance before the mayor and other dignitaries introduce Pablo and his parents, Jose and Silvia to the stage where there will be a brief but heartfelt explanation of the problems of the illness and the lack of research into a cure.

After this, Sotheby's will undertake a celebrity auction to raise funds and there are expected to be a number of exceptional items and experiences as well as a raffle of unusual and sought after prizes.



Photo Credit: Zak Black Twitter

INTERNATIONAL SHOWMAN: The many faces of Zak Black.

The evening's entertainment will then begin, hosted by international showman, Zak Black and his entertainment company, Verve Culture. Expect comedy, salsa, live music, big band songs, dance, flamenco, excellent up and coming local talent and much more for an evening to remember.

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THE Galeón Andalucía, a replica of one of the Spanish galleons that transported gold, silver and trade goods across the Atlantic will be in Malaga until Sunday January 7.

This floating museum which has been on tour in the Caribbean and USA all of this year, brings its cruise to an end, tethered at Pier One in Malaga for just two weeks. The painstaking reproduction of one of the famous galleons that crossed the 'Spanish Main' is 55 metres long and carries more than 900 metres of sail.

Open from 10am to 7pm every day, tickets which cost €6 for those over 10 years of age and €3 for those aged between five and 10 (those under five will be admitted free of charge) can be obtained in advance at www.fundacionnaovictoria.org/es/tickets/el-galeon-en-malaga.

What's on!

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Advertising feature

Biddy Mulligan's reopened and ready for the festive season

BIDDY MULLIGAN'S in the heart of La Cala de Mijas is the place to go for sport on the coast, particularly if you enjoy a bit of banter and craic. Biddy's was recently closed for two weeks to refurbish the main bar and is now better than ever.

They have 17 big screens and show all the weekly sporting events with a huge terrace and a comfortable interior and a kitchen that is open from 10am to 9.45pm with the best pub grub being served quickly and at reasonable prices. Biddy's also has live music every Thursday to Monday and the occasional traditional Irish music night (Trad Session) thrown in for good measure.

Located opposite the town hall and beside the taxi rank it is impossible to miss. With a large terrace which catches the sun from morning until late it's a great place to relax and watch the world go by in what is becoming one of the

busiest bars on the coast.

To keep up-to-date with their planned live music, you should check out Biddy's Facebook page.

Biddy Mulligan's La Cala Golf Society

Biddy's have set-up a new golf society to help bring affordable and fun golf to La Cala. Catherine Shiels is the captain of the Marbella Golf and Country Club and is the person in charge of running the society.

Golfers of all handicaps are invited to come and join in for a round of golf on some of the best courses the coast has to offer.

After the round everyone heads back to Biddy's where a pint and some food will be waiting for them before the prizes are awarded. The aim of the society is to get locals and tourists to come along and have a bit of craic. Anybody interested in playing can contact Biddy Mulligan's La Cala



BIDDY'S SPONSOR: Club Atletismo, Mijas.

BIDDY'S: A busy terrace. |

Golf Society on Facebook.

Celta Malaga GAA

With such strong roots and affiliation with Ireland, Biddy's has become the sponsor for Celta Malaga, the newest Gaelic Football team to join the Andalusian Irish Football league.

Anybody interested in joining can get more information on their Facebook page Celta Malaga GAA Club and if based closer to Marbella then contact the Costa Gaels on their Facebook page.

Club Atletismo Mijas

Biddy's also decided to get involved with the local athletics club after being invited to attend one of their training sessions by Karen Murray. They were so impressed that they decided to sponsor the club and 'The Green Wave' is going from strength to strength! For more information



check out the www.clubatletismomijas.com.

Malaga FC Match Tickets

Football is not overlooked and Biddy's often arranges for coaches to be organised to take fans to watch Malaga Football Club play at home, subject to demand whilst prices will vary depending upon the visiting team.

Information on matches can be obtained from the bar, so that's a good excuse to call in and have a drink as well.

For more information regarding events at Biddys or if you have any queries you can contact them on their Facebook page Biddy Mulligan's La Cala or please call 952 494 877.

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 20:00 World Darts
 20:45 Arsenal v Liverpool
 20:45 Norwich v Brentford
21:30 LIVE MUSIC "CHICAGO JIM & MANDOLIN MICK"

Saturday 23rd December
 13:00 Real Madrid v Barcelona
 13:30 Everton v Chelsea
 16:00 Brighton & Hove Albion v Watford
 16:00 Manchester City v Bournemouth
 16:00 Southampton v Huddersfield
 16:00 Stoke City v West Bromwich Albion
 16:00 Swansea v Crystal Palace

16:00 West Ham United v Newcastle United
 16:00 Celtic v Aberdeen
 18:30 Burnley v Tottenham
 19:00 World Darts
 20:35 Connacht v Ulster
 20:45 Leicester City v Manchester United
21:30 LIVE MUSIC "LAYLA"

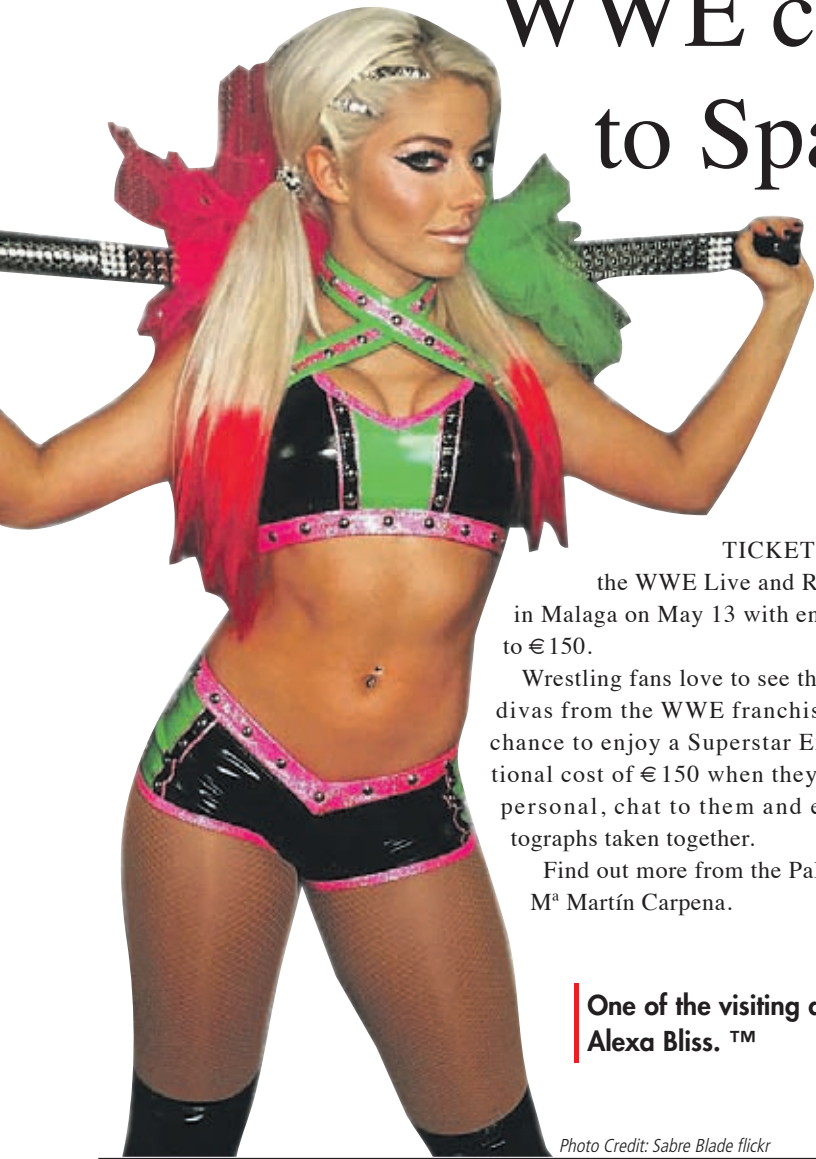
Sunday 24th December
 16:00 Leicester v Saracens
 18:00 NFL
21:30 LIVE MUSIC "SEAN MURRAY"

Monday 25th December - Closed

Tuesday 26th December
 13:30 Tottenham v Southampton
 13:30 Dundee FC v Celtic
 14:00 Racing from Kempton
 16:00 Bournemouth v West Ham United
 16:00 Chelsea v Brighton & Hove Albion
 16:00 Huddersfield v Stoke City
 16:00 Manchester Utd v Burnley
 16:00 Watford v Leicester City
 16:00 West Bromwich Albion v Everton
 16:00 The King George Chase from Kempton
 16:15 Munster v Leinster
 18:30 Liverpool v Swansea City

Wednesday 27th December
 20:45 Newcastle Utd v Manchester City
 20:45 Hearts v Hibernian

Check out our Facebook page for more information on all our events and sports fixtures



WWE comes to Spain

TICKETS are now on sale for the WWE Live and Raw tour which arrives in Malaga on May 13 with entry ranging from €20 to €150.

Wrestling fans love to see their favourite stars and divas from the WWE franchise and there is even a chance to enjoy a Superstar Experience at an additional cost of €150 when they can get up close and personal, chat to them and even have their photographs taken together.

Find out more from the Palacio de Deportes José M^a Martín Carpena.

One of the visiting divas
Alexa Bliss.™

Photo Credit: Sabre Blade flickr

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+

Foie gras of the house with caramelized apple and mango vinaigrette

MAIN COURSE
Fillet of beef in cream sauce with a scent of Sherry wine served with stir-fried rice with mushrooms, pine nuts and grapes.
Sole in shellfish sauce served with fresh vegetables.
Shoulder of baby lamb (Chef's specialty) in its own juice with herbs served with sautéed potatoes, peppers and tomatoes.

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Pineapple carpaccio with coconut ice cream.
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Christmas Lunch Menu

Live Music with Frankie Valentine
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Roast duck with orange sauce
English roast beef with Yorkshire pudding & horseradish sauce
Served with all the trimmings:
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DESSERT
Christmas pudding with brandy sauce, fresh cream & ice cream
Christmas Log

Merry Christmas

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La Despensa Cabopino

Special Feature

Emergency passports: A statement from the Foreign Office

MUCH has been made in the British press about the possibility of those who lose their UK passport running the risk of missing return flights due to a new trial.

It has been suggested that because applications have to be vetted at British consulates in Malaga or Warsaw, delays could occur which might result in flights being missed and additional costs incurred.

In order to obtain more information, *Euro Weekly News* contacted both the British Consulate in Malaga and the British Embassy in Madrid asking for comments and it was confirmed

that such information would need to be supplied by the Foreign Office in London.

They were kindly asked for formal statements to be supplied for this newspaper and then forwarded quite detailed and lengthy observations about the situation.

We questioned whether the extra workload would be too heavy for the Malaga consulate and if they would need to take on additional staff, but the response was quite illuminating.


A spokesperson said: "We are running the pilot in Warsaw and Malaga. In the pilot, both Warsaw and Malaga are managing all the data entry, processing and ap-

proval of an emergency travel document on behalf of the consulates involved in the pilots.

"The consulates involved are then printing and issuing the emergency travel document locally to the customer. In a later phase of the pilot we will test couriering the emergency travel document directly to the customer so most will no longer have to travel to a consulate.

"The Malaga hub processes on behalf of our consulates in Tenerife and Las Palmas (who also cover Fuerteventura and Lanzarote).

"The Warsaw hub current-



DOCUMENT?

Have you lost your passport, had it stolen, has it expired or is it unavailable to allow you to travel urgently?

- If you are a British Citizen and have held a British passport, you must apply and pay online for an Emergency Travel Document (ETD) using our on-line service
- Just visit: <https://www.gov.uk/emergency-travel-document>

You should also visit this website for details on how to apply if you are not a British Citizen but have held another type of British Nationality passport.

PILOT SCHEME: British emergency travel document/passport.

ly processes the emergency travel document on behalf of our embassies and consulates in Berne, Vienna, Tallinn, Munich, Dusseldorf and Helsinki. Bratislava and Luxembourg will join the pilot in a few weeks' time and Berlin, Vilnius, Riga in early 2018.

"We currently have no plans in place to roll this out globally. We will undertake a full evaluation of the pilots before deciding on next steps. If the pilot is successful we will consider

whether we can implement similar models more widely in the network, with the impact on customers being an important consideration."

A separate statement explained "These trials, in a small number of countries are not designed to cut costs, but to ensure we can continue to provide British Nationals with efficient and helpful consular support, prioritising those who are most vulnerable.

"They will also mean that

we will be able to make decisions about a person's eligibility for an emergency travel document in fewer places, safeguarding a secure UK border. We have continued to meet our public commitments during these trials, and will be monitoring these closely as they continue."

The British Consul in Malaga added that there had been little additional work for her staff so far during the trial period.

Cassandra Nash

A weekly look

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

TODAY's the big day! Roll up! Roll up to the greatest show on earth: politics in action! The Catalan elections!

According to some sources Carles Puigdemont, the exiled self-styled 'legitimate president of Catalunya,' nearly called elections instead of proclaiming the republic at the end of October.

Would Puigdemont and the separatists have had a victory if he hadn't chickened out and allowed himself to be bullied into action by his sidekicks Esquerra Republicana (ERC) and CUP?

According to some polls, pro-independence Catalans still prefer Carles Puigdemont as president even though most polls tend to be wise after the event, not before it.

What's more his Junts per Catalunya is unlikely to be the most-voted party when the ballot papers are counted up tonight. So good luck with that one, Carles.

Whose faces will wear smiles late tonight and early tomorrow morning? Who knows? But what we shall know by late tonight, Thursday December 21, is whether Catalans want independence as much as some of their politicians do.

Crunch time



BIG DAY: Will it be boom or bust for Catalan independence supporters and deposed leader Carles Puigdemont (inset).

Tomorrow's brainteaser

UNLESS one party manages to secure an overall majority, Ada Colau, mayor of Barcelona, could have the last say in today's Catalan elections.

The Catalunya en Comun coalition, with Podemos hanging onto its shirrtails, is nominally headed by Xavier Domenech and coordinated by

Colau but she has the last word as a rule.

She has been accused by separatists and constitutionalists of ambiguity and ambivalence regarding independence, waiting to see how best to use her influence to her own advantage.

She is likely to do this tonight, tomorrow and in the foreseeable future until a government can be formed. It's all going to be much easier for her than the independence parties, for the PSOE socialists, the Partido Popular and above all for Ines Arrimadas and Cs who are likely to give ERC a run for their money.

Owing to inter-party vetoes and vendettas the post-election argy-bargy will resemble those brainteasers where A will sit with D but not beside B who likes C and detests E. It might be complex, but not for Colau because she has the crib.

A contagious ailment

PSYCHOLOGISTS who collaborated following the August 17 terrorist attacks in Barcelona and Cambrils that killed 16 people have offered assistance for those affected by the Catalan crisis.

Experts and doctors in Catalunya have noticed an increase in patients with acute stress, depression, anxiety and dejection.

Vote-catcher

THAT Miguel Iceta, socialist leader in Catalunya, is homosexual came as news to many, the majority of whom shrugged and got on with their own lives.

This emerged following Twitter insults from pro-independence academic Jordi Borrell, director of the Institute of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, who apparently objects to Iceta's sexual preferences as well as his politics.

Not that the attack will harm Iceta who can now expect not opprobrium but, almost certainly, a few more votes.

Thoughtful of the experts, but they could spare a thought for those of us outside the region with the same symptoms.

Easy come, easy go

IN a pre-election debate the Partido Popular leader Xavier Garcia Albiol pointed out that more than 1,000 companies had left Catalunya as a result of the process towards independence.

Roger Torrent from ERC retorted that this happened because the national government had made it so easy for companies to change their fiscal residence. That's undeniable, but it doesn't explain why they wanted to go in the first place.

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Advertising feature

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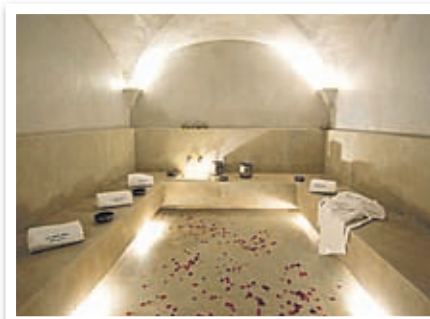
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Remember: Sauna, a source of health.

GRAEME TYRRELL

IT is always a challenge to prepare for the festive season with all the available decorations in the market place to complement the way you wish to celebrate the Christmas/New Year season.

If you have pot plants on your balcony, terrace or indoors, you have the opportunity to infuse the festive spirit into your home simply by adding decorations to the plants and pots that you already have.

Just adding some ribbons or decorative paper around the pots gives a new perspective and interest in the plants that you may have been caring for all year.

A sprinkle of glitter and some interesting objects to dangle from the plants that suit your preferences can inspire a new admiration for your plants and provide a festive environment for the home.

Larger plants can have Christmas lights added in proportion to the size of the tree or plant. There are so many different forms of coloured lights available, both solar and

Celebrating the festive season with your own decorated garden plants

mains power, to suit the location of the plants.

If you have a larger tree in your garden, adding lights really does change the ambience of the long, cold, dark winter nights into a brighter display to add the cheer that the festive season can bring.

The traditional Christmas tree is not always suitable for everyone's lifestyle. The type of Christmas tree used to celebrate the festive season varies in different countries according to the species of trees that are available in the region.

The most popular traditional trees are conifer plants such as fir, spruce and pine but concern for harvesting any of the trees for only a few weeks use has an environmental impact that is well worth considering.

If space in your home is an issue then such large species of Christmas trees can be difficult to accommodate in a flat or apartment. It makes sense to look at local traditions.

In the Mediterranean the nativity scenes with miniature landscapes and figures has a stronger tradition than the

Christmas trees which is a tradition that evolved in the more northern regions of Europe.

If you have the time and

plants it can be an interesting occupation to create your own miniature landscape no matter how small or large.

To make use of the plants that you have and perhaps obtaining a few additional, traditional plants, such as the poinsettia or other favourites for the creation of a decorative zone on the balcony, terrace or in the garden, will not only spruce up your green spaces but also add cheer and goodwill to your neighbourhood.



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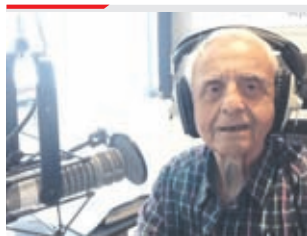
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DOG foods do vary in quality. So do the companies that make the foods. To some companies quality is only a word. To others, it's a way of life.

Ultimately, the quality of a dog food is best measured by your dog. How your dog performs on the food, how he looks, feels and acts are the best measures of the quality of any food. At least 80 per cent of my clients that report behavioural problems find that a change of food changes the unwanted behaviour.

No matter what a food company claims, unless your dog has bright eyes, silky hair and supple skin, and is not overweight, then the food is not



HUNGRY HOUND: What you feed your dog could impact his behaviour.

right for him.

Not all dogs do well on a particular brand of food some dogs simply do better than others.

Most foods are categorised as economy, regular, premium, super premium and performance. Regular and premi-

um foods are not formulated like a super premium or performance food.

Dogs have simple stomachs and short digestive tracts for digesting meat. They also lack the saliva enzyme amylase, which is necessary for pre-digesting starch. Dogs have adapted to

foods with high vegetable protein levels, however they perform better when fed foods high in meat protein and animal fats.

Checking the label of a super premium or performance food, an animal protein will be listed as the first or sec-

ond major ingredient. These should include chicken, turkey meat, or poultry.

A least two sources of fat or oil should be included for adequate energy, as well as carbohydrates. Simple carbohydrates in dog food come from quality sources like rice, oatmeal, corn or wheat. These are easily digested when properly cooked.

Fibre, a complex carbohydrate is essential for proper digestion and stool formation. Beetroot and tomatoes are both high in fibre.

Vitamin and mineral fortification is an absolute necessity in nutritionally balancing any food for dogs. While the vitamins and minerals generally make up less than 2 per cent of the total food by weight, they provide some of the most crucial nutrients. These include 12 to 16 vitamins and 15 to 25 minerals. Super premium usually features more than one source for each vitamin and mineral. The ingredient list will be longer compared to non-premium foods.

It is not recommended that you add anything by way of a food supplement or vitamin to super premium foods.

Festive ideas for furry ones

WHILE your pets may not understand why a big tree appears in the living room every December or why the same cheesy songs play on repeat for days on end, they can still get swept up in the excitement of Christmas nonetheless.

There's no better way to get animals involved than treating them like any other member of the family and spoiling them rotten.

The popularity of Christmas presents for pets has increased tenfold in recent years. From

dog cologne to advent calendars for animals, the list is seemingly endless.

Perhaps the most unusual new offering on the shelves, however, is Pawsecco, prosecco especially for cats and dogs.

While the fizz is non-alcoholic, it would certainly add an extra sparkle to festivities.

The special bubbly is made with elderflower, linden blossom and ginseng and can be poured over their food, or in a bowl on its own.

If your pet isn't really into wine, Woof and Brew (the company behind Pawsecco) also has a 'beer' for dogs on offer called Bottom Sniffer.

Some other good gift ideas for pets include special seat harnesses so your dog can travel safely in the car, an animal selfie stick or even an elf costume, which may not be much fun for your pooch but will provide you with hours of entertainment.

Whatever you choose, make sure the toy is suited to the size of your dog or cat and doesn't contain any parts that could cause harm if swallowed.



HOUSEITMATCH: Enjoy the festivities.

Happy holidays from Housesitmatch!

FROM all of us at HouseSitMatch to all of you, we wish you a very merry holiday season!

At this time of year, we love to reflect on all the wonderful friends we have made through our special relationship with the *Euro*

Weekly News and David the Dogman (our hero and inspiration!).

We especially want to send a huge thank you to all of the readers of this column, and our customers in Spain who have helped to make this a very

special year for us.

We look forward to helping you again in 2018!

Our very best wishes of the season from Lamia, Wendy, David, Alex and Deborah the HouseSitMatch team.

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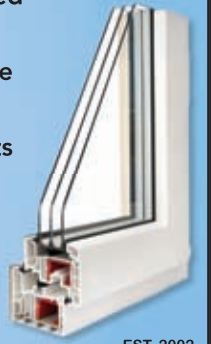
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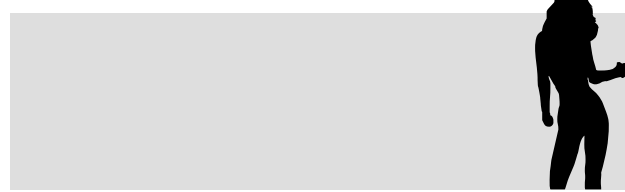
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Clarkson
Quote of the Week

“You can't have this car with diesel. It's like saying 'I won't go to Stringfellows tonight, I'll get my mum to give me a lap dance instead'.”
Some might say...



Swede
success

JAPAN has declared the Volvo XC60 its official 2018 Car of the Year. It is the first time in the 38 year history of the contest that the Swedish brand has scooped one of the most prestigious awards in the Far East.

In a tight decision from 60 motoring experts, Volvo edged the BMW 5 Series and Toyota Camry into second and third place respectively.

Toyota performed well in other awards, with the Prius PHEV winning Best Innovation, and the Prius being celebrated for selling its 10 millionth model.

Other cars in the Japanese top 10 included the Suzuki Swift, Honda N-Box, and Lexus LC. The Volvo XC60 is also in the running for the 2018 World Car of the Year award.

Hall of Fame

Choose your racing icon

TWELVE motorcycle legends have been shortlisted for inclusion in the Motor Sport Hall of Fame. Voting is now open to the general public which one among them is next to be immortalised in motoring lore.

It is the seventh year the Hall of Fame has been running a public vote on inductees. The 2018 winner will join the likes of Valentino Rossi, John Surtees, and Barry Sheene.

The nominees include Casey Stoner, the Australian racer with two world titles to his name with Ducati and Honda.

Icon from the 1960's and 1970's Mike Hailwood MBE is in the running. He won nine Grand Prix championships.

Fellow Brit Geoff Duke who won six Isle of Man TT races and was famed for his one-piece race suits is up in 2018, as is Honda founder and Japanese icon Soichiro Honda.

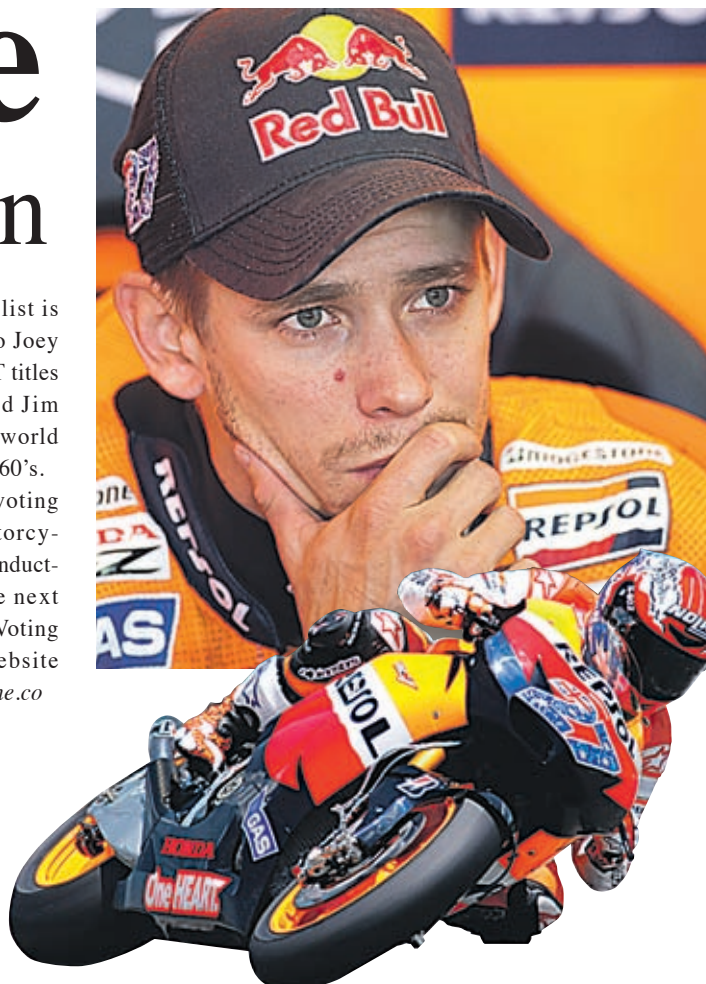
Americans, 500cc champion Kevin Schwantz, triple winner Wayne Rainey, Kenny Roberts, and Fast Freddie Spencer who made by history by winning both the 250cc and 500cc races in 1985 are on the list. They are joined by fellow American Eddie Lawson, who has four world championships in the 500cc category to his name.

He is bettered by Australian Mick Doohan, who won five consecutive titles in the

1990s. The rest of the list is made up by British duo Joey Dunlop, who won 26 TT titles in a historic reign, and Jim Redman, who won six world championships in the 1960's.


Those interested in voting for which of their motorcycling heroes should be inducted to the Hall of Fame next year can do so online. Voting is open through the website www.motorsportmagazine.com.

VOTE: Stoner is most recent racer of Hall of Fame list.




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POLE POSITION: The event was a treat for petrol heads.



NEW MEMBER: Driver Emma Kimiläinen tests out the new car.

EXCLUSIVE

By Matt Ford

SPV RACING is aiming to start the new season at full throttle.

The local motorsports outfit introduced a new driver and launched an exciting sports car in a glittering event at its Alhaurin el Grande headquarters.

It comes after the team were invited to compete in the world's first Tesla Electric GT series, leading them to sign up

Race night

Local team hit top gear

professional Finnish racer Emma Kimiläinen as test and development driver for the stunning Tesla Model S P100DL.

She told the *Euro Weekly*

News: "The feeling (of driving the car) is amazing.

"There is no engine noise so it is different from motor cars. The feeling in your body when you break down and ac-

celerate, you feel completely numb."

Emma will return to Spain in February when the team head to Barcelona for the official unveiling of the first Tesla

GT car, which will then be tested on the nearby Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya, which hosts the Spanish Formula One Grand Prix.

The team will also enter its Ligier JS LMP3 car in the 2018 Michelin Le Mans Cup, and is aiming to compete in the European Le Mans Series with an LMP2 car in order to qualify for the 24 Hours of Le Mans.

To round off the evening, SPV unveiled the brand-new Indigo 3000R at the event, with the team acting as a sales agent for the VB

Automotive-built car.

Only 35 more of the exclusive vehicles - which retail at around €140,000 including extras - will be built after the first 10 limited-edition models sold out.

The Indigo has a six-cylinder, three-litre engine capable of 0-100 km/h in 4.8 seconds.

Team manager Lars GV Linberg said: "The Indigo is one of the most unique and exclusive sports cars in the world and we expect it to be a success here in southern Spain."



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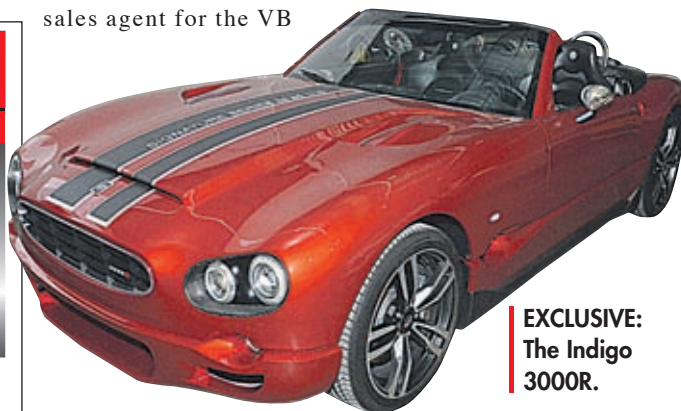
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PREMIER LEAGUE run-away leaders Manchester City are looking to pick up another three points against The Cherries of Bournemouth this weekend.

"People say the way we played in Barcelona, it is not possible in England," said City gaffer Pep Guardiola, in charge at Barcelona during 2008-12.

"It is possible. Always it is possible to play football, to keep the ball and to have the courage to play in England," said Guardiola.

On Saturday Everton meet Chelsea, Burnley host Spurs, Manchester United travel to Leicester, Brighton host Watford, Southampton host Huddersfield, Stoke host West Brom and Crystal Palace travel to Swansea.

Arsenal host Liverpool tomorrow (Friday) at The Emirates Stadium.

Burnley to KO United on Boxing Day

BURNLEY are out to KO Manchester United at Old Trafford on Boxing Day - with the minnows punching above their weight - in the Premier League.

"It's not easy to win games in

Pep's Cherry pick



UK SPORTSCENE

with Andrew Atkinson

the Premier League," said Clarets manager Sean Dyche, who took Burnley into fourth place this month.

"We're written off every year - we're used to that - so when you do have such a strong start people will find surprise in that," said Dyche.

Dyche, 46, who took charge at Turf Moor in 2012, led Burnley to the Premier League in 2013, and after relegation, returned to the top flight in the 2015-16 season.

"I think we're in a very healthy position, probably more so than I thought," said Dyche.

Underfire Mark Hughes takes his Stoke side to Huddersfield, in what can be described as a 'six-pointer': "When teams get beat a manager will come under pressure," said Hughes.

"When you win, the pressure goes away. That's the reality," said

ex-Wales, Blackburn, Manchester City, Fulham and QPR boss Hughes, 54, at Stoke since 2013.

Cold turkey is on the menu this Christmas for Manchester United players and staff, after boss Jose Mourinho told them of a training session on Christmas Day!

With games against Leicester on December 23; Burnley on December 26 and Southampton on December 30, Mourinho doesn't think the festive schedule is fair.

Mourinho points the finger at Arsenal's fixture list, saying: "I wish them a Happy Christmas - they are going to have a Christmas - while others play December 23-26."

Arsenal play Liverpool on December 22 and Crystal Palace on December 28. Manchester City play Bournemouth on December 23 and Newcastle on December 27.

Boxing Day fixtures: Spurs



ON THE MARCH: Pep Guardiola and Manchester City.

v Southampton, Watford v Leicester, Manchester United v Burnley, Huddersfield v Stoke, West Brom v Everton, Chelsea v Brighton, Bournemouth v West Ham and Liverpool v Swansea. Newcastle v Manchester City (December 27).

Party poopers

CHRISTMAS parties have hit the headlines, one being Spurs when managed by Harry Redknapp, who banned players from having a Christmas party in 2009.

Spurs players drummed up a Christmas party collection, allegedly paying £2,000 each, and hired a private jet for an all-day Christmas booze-filled 'bender' in Dublin.

Sir Alex Ferguson was left fuming, after his Manchester United players arranged a Christmas party in a hotel, with an alleged plethora of women invited in a 15-hour drinking binge.

Football stocking fillers

IN 1957 a full schedule of 38 matches were played on December 25. The final English league match played on Christmas Day was Blackpool against Blackburn Rovers in 1965.

Champions League

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE draw last 16: Juventus v Tottenham;

Basel v Manchester City; FC Porto v Liverpool; Sevilla v Manchester United; Real Madrid v PSG; Shakhtar Donetsk v Roma; Chelsea v Barcelona; Bayern Munich v Besiktas.

RACING: King George VI Christmas cracker

MIGHT BITE, Thistlecrack and Sizing John are set to go head-to-head in the King George VI chase over three miles ½ furlong at Kempton on Boxing Day.

"We'll try and win the King George," said Might Bite trainer Nicky Henderson.

Thistlecrack, winner of the King George in 2016, returned at Newbury this month after suffering a tendon injury.

"Before the race at Newbury he did look as though he was burly. He's a big, heavy horse and needed the run," said trainer Colin Tizzard.

Sizing John's options remain open, with the March Cheltenham Festival in mind, having been backed down to 4-1 in the King George, with Might Bite best priced at 7-4.

"Sizing John has all the qualities for the King George - loads of speed, stays and gears - stamina in abundance," said jockey Robbie Power.

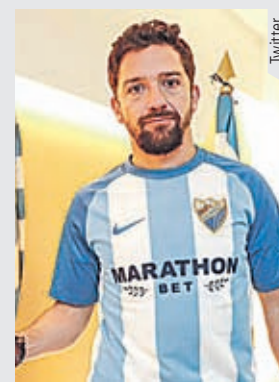
Malaga re-sign midfielder Iturra

By Benjamin Park

MALAGA C.F have re-signed Chilean midfielder Manuel Iturra on a deal until the end of the 2018/19 season.

The 33-year-old will officially join the club when the transfer window opens in January, meaning he will not be able to make his debut for the club until January 8.

Iturra returns to Los Boquerones after enjoying a season with the club during the 2012/13 season, one of the most successful in the club's re-



CHILEAN MIDFIELDER: Iturra returns to La Rosaleda in January transfer window.


cent history.

During the 2012/13 season, Malaga reached the

quarter-finals of the Copa del Rey and the Champions League, as well as securing a sixth placed finish in La Liga.

While playing as a Malaguista, Iturra also featured alongside stars including Willy Caballero, Isco, Nach Monreal, Julio Baptista, Joaquin and Jeremy Toulalan.

The Chilean has enjoyed spells with Granada, Rayo Vallecano, Udinese and most recently Mexican club Necaxa, and has played 34 times for his country.




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Rafa awaits transfer purse as Newcastle takeover talks continue

SPORTSCENE SPAIN

with Andrew Atkinson

MADRID-born Rafa Benitez is facing Christmas as manager of struggling Newcastle United as takeover talks with Magpies' owner Mike Ashley continue.

"I need to know how much money we will have for January as soon as possible, we have to improve the team," said Benitez, ahead of the January transfer window.

Benitez, the only manager in history to have won the UEFA Europa League, UEFA Super Cup, UEFA Champions League and the FIFA Club World Cup, was always cautious about results this season.

Former Liverpool and Real Madrid manager Benitez, 57, bounced straight back into the Premier League following relegation last season.

Newcastle are facing relegation again after a woeful season, and Benitez rued: "I said it could be like this."



Photo by Newcastle United/Twitter

WAITING GAME: Rafa Benitez.

Ex-Real Valladolid, Osasuna, Valencia, Inter Milan, Chelsea and Napoli boss Benitez, who left Napoli to coach Real Madrid in 2015, joined Newcastle United in 2016.

Having failed in his attempt to save Newcastle from relegation, Benitez remained loyal, taking the club back into the Premier League, when winning the Championship last season.

Ashley who invested £134.4m in buying Newcastle a decade ago and has since put £129m into the club, reportedly turned down Amanda Staveley and PCP Capital Partners Ltd's initial formal offer of nearly £300m.

PCP Capital Partners has access to around £28bn of Middle Eastern wealth.

A facilitator of football takeovers Staveley helped broker the agreement, which saw Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al-Nahyan take control of Manchester City in 2009.

Benitez who has met Newcastle managing director Lee Charnley to discuss the transfer budget, said: "We're monitoring and talking to players."

Newcastle play West Ham on December 23; Manchester City on December 27; Brighton on December 30 and Stoke on New Year's Day, fixtures deemed crucial.

"I can only concentrate on preparing the team. We know what we need, can we get that? I don't know," said Benitez, linked to signing Liverpool's Danny Ings and Manchester United's Luke Shaw on loan.

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with
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With its sea front location, close to the Sailing Club and the Marina of Fuengirola, Malaga, the 180 well-equipped rooms are air-conditioned, have satellite TV and a minibar with free water on arrival.

Rooms are distributed over 15 floors, some of which have terraces with outstanding views of the Mediterranean Sea and the Los Boliches beach. Rooms are very spacious, with a simple and elegant design.

Hotel Ilunion Fuengirola boasts a wide range of services, seasonal outdoor pool with panoramic Mediterranean views, modern restaurant and snack bar, sea front cafeteria with incomparable sea views, own



PERFECT LOCATION: Plus golf too!

parking for guests and free premium Wi-Fi throughout. This perfectly located hotel is surrounded by numerous bars and restaurants and with several golf courses, such as Mijas Golf, Torrequebrada, Parador and Santana Golf located only a short transfer time away, this is the perfect place to stay on your next golf holiday.

CostaLessGolf special offer: Three nights bed and breakfast, two rounds of golf at Mijas Lagos and Mijas Olivros including shared buggies for only €222 per person. This offer is valid from the January 1 - January 31, 2018 based on two persons sharing a twin room. To book call 952 661 849 or email: enquiries@costalessgolf.com today.

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FORMER Real Madrid star Kaka has announced his retirement from football. Over an illustrious career, the Brazilian won the World Cup, Champions League, La Liga, Serie A titles and he is also the last person other than Cristiano Ronaldo or Lionel Messi, to win the Ballon d'Or in 2007.

The Costa Del Sol's best guide to local sport

TO READ MORE

Walking Football Spain finish 2017 with tenfold increase in players

WALKING FOOTBALL SPAIN began life on May 18 this year with just five players, playing every Thursday morning in Elviria, Marbella but will finish 2017 with almost 50 registered players.

They have also expanded their sessions to Benalmadena on Monday nights and to San Pedro on Tuesday nights, as well as their usual Thursday mornings in Elviria.

The clubs also now have two competitive teams ready to play tournaments, as they have just signed a kit sponsor, Fluent Finance Abroad, for the San Pedro team.

The sponsorship means that there will now be two competitive teams, the San Pedro team along-

side the already established Marbella side.

Marc Elliot de Lama, owner of Fluent Finance Abroad, said: "I already sponsor a regular football team in the UK and love my football, so when Walking Football Spain approached me for sponsorship, I was thrilled to get involved."

"Walking Football is something interesting and unusual and really gives older people the chance to play football again, when they thought they never would."

Adam Chandler, founder of Walking Football Spain, said: "Walking Football is a great way for men and women to get back into football, to meet new friends, to have a laugh and some banter and



ALL SMILES: Fluent Finance Abroad owner, Marc Elliot de Lama with Walking Football in Spain founder, Adam Chandler.

to keep fit and healthy."

Walking Football is football played without running and with minimal contact, making it ideal for men and women to play well into their senior years.

Walking Football Spain organise weekly Walking Football sessions along the Costa del Sol. They play every Monday from 7.30pm at the El Retamar pitch by the Butterfly Park in Benalmadena, every Tuesday from 8pm on the five-a-side pitches at the San Pedro Football Stadium and every Thursday from 10.30am at the Estadio Santa Maria in Elviria.

For more information, visit www.walkingfootballspain.com or email adam@walkingfootballspain.com.

Malaga set for crucial relegation clash

MALAGA will look to bounce back from their defeat to Real Betis earlier in the week and finish the year on a high as they face a crucial game tonight (Thursday) against relegation rivals Alaves.

Los Boquerones' struggles this season continued on Monday, as they missed a golden opportunity to move one point from safety with a 2-0 loss to struggling Real

Betis on Monday.

Betis had been on a seven-game winless run in La Liga prior to Monday night's game, but goals from Sergio Leon and Camarasa were enough to see off the home side at La Rosaldea, who struggled to create any real chances of note.

A win would have seen Malaga leapfrog tonight's opponents into 18th position in the table,

but the result leaves the Andalucian side in a daunting position ahead of the New Year and in desperate need of all three points this evening.

Alaves will prove tough opponents however, and come into the game having won three of their last four games, the only hiccup coming in a narrow 1-0 defeat to second-placed Atletico Madrid.

Striker, Ibai Gomez has been in scintillat-

ing form for the Babazorros in recent weeks, with four goals in his last three games, and will be a real threat to Malaga's defence.

Los Boquerones will also be without Adrian for the trip to the Mendizorrotza Stadium after the midfielder was bizarrely sent off against Betis for an off-the-field incident despite being an unused substitute.

Kick-off is at 9.30pm.

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