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Diver dies

A PROFESSIONAL diver has died while working in a cage on a fish farm off the coast of Alicante.

The Union Confederation of Workers Commissions (CCOO) confirmed to Spanish media that the fatal incident had occurred during routine tasks while inside the diver was recovering a tube inside the cage.

The incident occurred on a farm located several miles off the coast of Alicante town, Guardamar del Segura.

After offering their support to family and friends of the deceased individual, the CCOO went on to tell the media that the incident "once again highlights the deterioration of prevention in the sector and the need to review safety regulations in underwater activities."

It has also been reported that the majority of divers made the decision not to dive the day after the death, in both protest of the accident, and in memory of the deceased individual.

Following the incident, the CCOO have now made an appeal to the Spanish association of aquaculture businesses (APROMAR) to follow an agreement signed which aims to improve the safety and health conditions of divers.

'Frightening'

Late night eviction sends expat home



Photo credit: Facebook

'DREAM OVER': Margo Jenkins has returned home after the incident.

By Harrison Jones

EXCLUSIVE

A Scottish woman in her 50s says she was left "shaking with fear" after being "illegally" evicted from her El Galan home by a landlord she did not know, at 1.30am.

The aggressive late night encounter - which allegedly occurred despite Margo Jenkins paying a month's rent in advance - left her feeling "afraid and vulnerable" and that her "Spanish dream" was over.

According to Mrs Jenkins, 56, her landlord arrived at the rented property unannounced and began rattling the grate, de-

manding that she open the door and leave.

Despite living at the Costa Blanca address for a year, she left the apartment and stayed with her sister - who arrived at the property after a phone call. The landlord then gave Mrs Jenkins, a carer, two hours the next day to pack her things and leave - despite the rental contract requiring a month's notice.

She has now returned to Glasgow following the incident, which occurred on Sunday October 15.

"This was very frightening and intimidating, also bullying", Mrs Jenkins said. "(The owner has) shown no remorse, no apology and is blaming the agent as (they) said (they) made it clear (they) wanted me out on October 14.

"I feel upset at the injustice and lack of interest from both agent and landlord."

The agency involved says it will offer to reimburse the advanced rent payment and €700 deposit "as a gesture of goodwill," but blames the landlord for the incident.

They say they had "no control over what the owner did" and will be taking legal action against them. The landlord has not replied to requests for comment.

The agency added: "The owner never once told me that (they) were coming in the early hours of the morning and that (they) would be needing to stay in the apartment, nor did (they) say (they) would be asking her to leave at this time."

Council is parking mad

OPPOSITION political parties in Orihuela are to demand a municipal crane service for the town's beaches.

It comes amid claims that the area has become "a lawless territory," according to one official, where "golf buggies have become the owners of the roads, parking wherever they want."

The socialist PSOE group is up in arms, saying the current service is "practically non-existent," adding that although

the town hall has a contract with a company to remove illegally parked or abandoned vehicles "in practice the service does not work" on the coast.

"There are even places where individuals have set up unofficial private car parks on public land," said spokesperson Maria Garcia.

BEST OF THE YEAR PAGES 08 - 32



See page 8

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The secret is revealed on page 35

NEWS EXTRA

Teen trauma

A 14-YEAR-OLD suffered multiple injuries in Elche after being hit by a car. After being stabilised at the scene, he was taken to the University General Hospital of Elche.

Policing deal

MUNICIPALITIES of Cox and Granja de Rocamora have become pioneers in becoming the first ever joint Local Police force in the Alicante Province, which covers shift spaces and reduces costs.

Cheap class

COSTS to attend infant schools across Murcia will again be reduced between 10 and 35 per cent. Last year's rate of €123 will drop by €18 to €105.

Coke choke

TWO Spaniards have been held and five kilos of cocaine seized in a crackdown on drug smuggling in Alicante and Murcia, following a two year probe by investigators.

Cloud nine

CATRAL residents were on top of the world after hundreds of families celebrated winning third prize, worth €27.5m, in Spain's El Gordo Xmas lottery.

Steals on wheels

Man held for theft of 98 bikes

By Darren James

A 23-YEAR-OLD Moroccan man who allegedly stole around 100 bicycles from roadsides in Murcia has been arrested by the National Police.

The man was able to rob the bikes by cutting through their security chain locks with a pair of shears, according to police.

Police began their search for the man after 98 bikes were stolen in the city. They were able to identify the alleged thief after monitoring the areas where they were stolen from.

The man was seen walking up to the bikes and looking around to make sure he wasn't being watched.

He then cut through the chain locks with shears he hid under his clothes, climbed on and rode away, according to police.

The man was arrested once police felt certain he was behind the spate of thefts.

Police reportedly took several pictures which allegedly showed the man stealing the bikes.

He said in the statement taken after he was detained



ON YER BIKE: Parking for bicycles in Murcia and (inset) the tool used in the robberies.

that the stolen bikes were resold well below market prices, fetching between €50-100 depending on the model.

"The detainee did not hesitate to break through and cut the chains with a specific type of shear," police said.

The operation was carried out by officers from the El Carmen District Police Station and the San Andres District Police Station of the National Police of the region of Murcia.

Centre will open in 2019

RESIDENTS of Orihuela Costa were given a most welcome early Christmas present with the news they will be getting their dedicated emergency centre in 2019.

Construction of the building - located behind the Consum Supermarket and in the Molino Blanco Urbanisation - started in 2010 and €985,000 had already been spent on the project before the construction company went bankrupt and work stopped in 2012.

Now, the Valencian government has stepped in to contribute an additional €2.2 million with which to complete the project with the aim of the centre to be fully operational from 2019.

The modern facilities will accommodate the National Police, Guardia Civil, Local Police, Fire Service, Civil Protection and forestry brigades and will act as the nerve centre to coordinate operations throughout southern Alicante Province.

The building will cover 4,700m2 with a basement car park, gymnasium and cells. There will be a customer service area, changing facilities, bedrooms and a dining room. A heliport will also be included.

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**CELEB FOCUS**

Who is doing what and who with, often in front of the cameras!

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ALL THE LATEST NEWS, TIPS AND TRENDS

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**BACCHUS CELLAR**

The best wines for the holiday season



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THE BEST IN SPORT

SPAIN, UK, EUROPE AND GLOBAL SPORTS SCENE



P79

Broken pipe fracture

A 55-YEAR-OLD woman suffered a fracture to her right leg when she was hit by a hose that had come from a street cleaning van in Torrevieja. The incident happened in Calle Gumersindo de Torrevieja when the moving truck released the water pipe and hit the passing pedestrian.

Plans soaring

AIRPORT managers AENA have announced that they expect to reach the one million passenger mark by 2019 and reach four million by the end of the 25 year concession for the Corvera Airport. The aim comes within days of AENA being formally awarded the contract to run the airport.

Safer drugs

THE Vega Baja Hospital is the first hospital in the Alicante Province to implement a centralised method for the preparation and handling of dangerous drugs after installing two dedicated safety booths that can operate if required for 24 hours a day, reducing the risk of infections to staff.

Cooler students

MURCIA's City Council has installed a number of new shaded areas in five of the region's schools. The project used a combination of natural and artificial shading that will reduce the effects of the summer heat in the school playgrounds, and features new pergolas and large umbrellas.

Happy sailors

THE Real Club de Regatas de Alicante is the first yacht club in Spain to be granted an extension of a Port concession. The extra years - from 2027 to 2039 - were approved on the promise that the Club will continue with its commitment to im-

SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE... 43

As more and more people crack open the cava worldwide, the Spanish sparkling wine continues to take the country by storm, writes Harrison Jones.

What a corker!

CATALONIA'S take on Champagne is a sparkling white (or rosé) wine that everyone knows by name. The increasingly popular Cava - a word which means cave or cellar in Catalan - used to be aged in caves.

Over 200 years - and some industrial-scale reforms later - the tippie is still going strong, particularly at this time of year.

Indeed, Spaniards reportedly drink six times as much Cava during December as they do at any other time of the year.

Often seen as the cheap cousin to its French rival, under European law, the drink can no longer be referred to as the 'Spanish Champagne,' because the French Champagne region has Protected Geographical Status.

The name Cava itself was in fact only adopted in 1970, when Catalan winemakers tried to distinguish it from their rivals.

But the only differences between the two wines are the regions in which they are grown and the grapes



Cyclone Bill/Flickr

LOVELY BUBBLY: Cava is important in Spanish celebrations.

used. Meanwhile, Prosecco - another similar drink, from Italy - appears to be increasingly visible in Spanish shops.

Cava, though, is enjoying something of a resurgence at the higher end of the market, with some paying hundreds of euros for a single bottle.

Wine with a sparkle

THERE are numerous types of Cava, which tend to be sorted by sweetness and ageing.

Those distinguished by age are labelled as Joven (nine to 15 months), Reserva (15 to 30 months) and the most expensive Gran Reserva (at least 30 months).

But whilst quality appears to be increasing, there is no let up in quantity, with Spain producing roughly 250 million bottles of the stuff every single year. Around 90 per cent of it is Joven.

Great Britain was the third largest importer in 2014, narrowly trailing Bel-



Andrew Thomson/Flickr

CAVING: The wine used to be aged in caves.

gium and Germany, who buy some 30.5 million bottles of the standard product. In total, 130 countries import the wine: even Sierra Leone take a lowly 60 bottles.

Back in Spain, the drink is important in many traditional celebrations, including baptisms, marriages and dinners.

Yet for all the hype, Cava is not without its problems. In the aftermath of the Catalan referendum, there have been more calls for a boycott of Cava, in an attempt to hurt the political movement for independence.

Of course, there seems to be little ap-



Teddy Sipaseuth/Flickr

GROWTH: Cava vineyards produce 250 million bottles a year.

petite to part company with the drink just yet - so don't be surprised to see Cataluña's version of Champagne becoming the posh sparkling wine of choice in years to come.

prove productivity.

Fab facelift

THE future is more than bright for the public car park based on the Plaza

Santa Isabel in Murcia as it unveils its new look after a programme of improvements was completed, that included new toilets and drainage systems and repairs to the entrance and exit ramps.

163

The total number of news and features which appeared in Issue 1694 of the Euro Weekly News Costa Blanca South edition, including 51 local stories.

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In numbers: Road to independence?

THE Spanish government's decision to call a snap election spectacularly backfired last week, when pro-independence parties won an overall majority.

The regional parliament result, however, only added further confusion to the ongoing drama over Catalan independence.

Pro-independence parties failed to win a majority of the votes - gaining 47 per cent of support, despite winning most seats. The result fuels controversy about what should happen next.

Though separatist groups retained their absolute majority, it was reduced to two. They have 70 of 135 seats.

Turnout was a record high of over 80 per cent as Catalans flooded to the polls following a divisive and bitter campaign.

Though the pro-Spanish unity Ciudadanos party won most seats (37), three independence parties working together would have a majority.

But the separatist parties are split on policy.

Deposed president Carles Puigdemont's centrist party came second with 34 seats, followed by his former vice-president's leftist party on 32. The support of four anti-capitalist politicians - who stood on a



CELEBRATING: Separatists toast last week's results.

platform of declaring independence, regardless of Madrid's response - is needed to hold the separatist majority together.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's ruling PP party lost eight seats to finish a dismal last, on three.

Rajoy dissolved the regional parliament in an attempt to weaken calls for independence. Separatists had declared independence following an illegal referendum, which saw 90 per cent support for independence.

However, less than half of eligible voters turned out amid violent clashes with police.

After the declaration, Rajoy used emergency powers to sack the Catalan government and call fresh elections.

Meanwhile, numerous prominent Catalan politicians were charged and arrested. Some were put in custody while others, including Puigdemont, went into self-imposed exile.

The Catalan cause has had support for decades. The region is one of the richest in Spain, accounting for 26 per cent of the country's exports and 19 per cent of GDP.

Confusion now reigns over how the next phase unfolds.

POLL OF THE WEEK
 Do you make New Year's resolutions?
LAST WEEK'S POLL:
 Are there too many repeats on TV during Christmas?
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CATALUÑA CRISIS: Puigdemont: "Republic of Cataluña has won... the Spanish state was defeated"

- BRUSSELS:** Carles Puigdemont declares victory for pro-independence parties.
- 9,155 views** Cataluña crisis: Puigdemont: "Republic of Cataluña won... the Spanish state was defeated"
 - 7,580 views** UK Foreign Office 'doesn't know' number of Brits in Spain
 - 4,300 views** Disease carrying mosquitoes found in Spain
 - 4,235 views** Ryanair's German pilots stage 'warning' strike
 - 3,498 views** Drought reveals grisly find in Spanish reservoir

**For week 18 - 25 December*

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Muchas thanks for hablando English

THE Torrevieja Town Hall has given its public thanks to a number of British volunteers who have spent the past five years offering English conversation at the local youth centre (CIAJ).

Councillor Víctor Ferrández presented all the participants with a diploma to recognise the value the council has placed on the scheme and the way these volunteer chatters have put on this popular weekly service.

Extra special thanks were given to Crystal East who is the coordinator of all the volunteers, and she was given a special commemorative plaque.

They were joined at the presentation at the CIAJ by Rosa María Lázaro Alfaro and Gustavo García Silva, the two technicians who

work at the centre.

On behalf of the municipality, Councillor Ferrández thanked all the volunteers for what he described as their "totally altruistic" commitment to their work over the past five years.

He noted that more than 300 residents had benefited from the project and that this recognition is more than deserved.

On accepting her award,

Crystal East thanked the town hall on behalf of all the volunteers and said that she's not only very happy to provide such a service, she also hopes to carry on doing so for many years to come.

She made a point of saying that the students, as well as learning English, are learning a great deal about the British culture and that some close friendships have been made.

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NEW YEAR

Seeing double

THEY are the proud parents of baby twins. And Spanish pop superstar Enrique Iglesias, 42, and former tennis player Anna Kournikova, 36, who are notoriously secretive about their relationship, also kept her pregnancy under wraps.

The boy and girl, born in Miami where the couple live, have been named Nicholas and Lucy.

The pair have reportedly splashed out around €500,000 on improving security and baby-proofing their €22 million mansion, including a 16-foot perimeter wall and child barrier around the swimming pool.

Enrique and Moscow-born Anna have been dating since 2001 but are not married, and were last seen in public together over a year ago.

He has previously suggested they have no plans to tie the knot, saying in an interview: "I've never really thought marriage would make a difference. Maybe it's because I come from divorced parents, but I don't think you love someone more because of a piece of paper."

SIZZLING: Hailey Baldwin's Elle Spain shoot.

Photo by Gala Twitter



IT'S TWINS: Enrique Iglesias and Anna Kournikova.



Photo by Hailey Baldwin/Instagram

Picture perfect

SHE'S one of the hottest models of the moment.

And Hailey Baldwin, 21, is set to send temperatures soaring again as she sizzles on the January cover of lifestyle magazine *Elle Spain*.

The budding supermodel and daughter of American actor Stephen Baldwin has fronted campaigns for heavyweight fashion brands including Guess, H&M, UGG, Tommy Hilfiger, and Ralph Lauren.



Celeb focus

Holiday treat!

SHE'S the younger sister of Hollywood actress Penelope Cruz. But Madrid-born actress and dancer Monica Cruz, 40, proved she's more than a match for her star sibling after posting a racy lingerie photo on social media.

The mother-of-one smouldered in a black lace bra top, captioning the snap: "Now I have my perfect lingerie look for the Christmas holidays, I love it!!"



RAUNCHY: Monica Cruz.

Monica Cruz/Instagram

Curvy Katie flashes the flesh



Photo by Katie Salmon/Instagram

CHEEKY: Katie Salmon.

SHE found fame after flashing her breasts at the Cheltenham races before appearing on reality show *Love Island*. And Katie Salmon, 22, made waves again after slipping into a neon fuchsia swimsuit during a pre-Christmas jaunt to Tenerife. The Liverpool-born beauty sizzled in the low cut one-piece - which also featured a thong back - drawing full attention to her famous assets.

Pictured lounging by the pool with equal-

ly curvaceous pal India Jennings, Katie appeared to be in holiday heaven. It comes after the stunner recently jetted to Thailand with new squeeze Jonny Toomey, during which the pair posted a series of snaps on social media.

She also posted an image of her dad covering the personal trainer's mouth as he tried to kiss her, captioned: "No matter how old I get my dad still c**k blocks me and my bf. so much love for these 2."

No sex please

BRAZILIAN 'human Ken Doll' Rodrigo Alves says he is asexual.

The cosmetic surgery addict, who owns a property in Marbella, says he is too selfish for sex.

He told UK media: "I don't really like to be touched, and I am too selfish really for sexual contact.

"I don't like to touch other people too much either."

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OUR VIEW

Happy New Year

WHAT a stunning year it has been for news, as 2017 brought us flooding chaos, airport strikes and wild fires. And who can forget little Leo the Lion?

The expatriate community remains stronger and more diverse than ever, with some inspirational tales of charity groups raising hundreds of thousands of Euros for worthy causes.

Hopefully, next year will continue in the same vein, although few of Spain's larger problems - be that the migration crisis, climate change, drugs, corruption, crime or Catalan independence - seem likely to be resolved quickly.

In the south, drought could be a particularly big issue in the coming year as dam levels have failed to recover during what has been an unusually dry winter so far.

And for expatriates, 2018 will likely see further information emerge about what Brexit will bring, while forecasters are suggesting Spain could see a new upswing in tourism.

This week's paper is a 'Best of the Year' retrospective edition, featuring the best and most important stories from 2017 and an opportunity to reflect on the year that was.

And whether you are glum after all the festive excitement, delighted about an El Gordo victory or excited for the Three Kings' Day parades, we'll be back next week with our usual package of local news, views and features.

Until then, from everyone at ç, we wish you a very happy and healthy new year.

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Port predicts increases

THE Port of Alicante has received its last cruise ship of the year, and despite one of the major cruise companies pulling out of the city for 2018, the number of passengers is still expected to go from strength-to-strength.

The Norwegian Spirit arrived with around 2,000 passengers on board and spent all day in Alicante to enable visitors to enjoy some pre-Christmas shopping and give a boost to the local business community. It's not the first time this ship has been in Alicante this year as it has made seven visits... three of them in the month of December alone. In total, the terminal has received 56 ships with 105,000 passengers and improves on the 2016 numbers of 54 ships and 89,000 visitors.

Alicante's numbers are still some way behind that of Cartagena which, up until October this year had already welcomed 134 ships and 207,000 cruise passengers.

Looking into 2018, Alicante is predicting an 11.4 per cent increase and expects 117,000 passengers in total.

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Paradise in

Mar Menor on the brink of ecological disaster

By Matt Ford

"A DESERT of mud." That is the description of Mar Menor, Europe's largest coastal lagoon that was once a haven for wildlife. Now it is almost lifeless.

Despite being protected under national and international law local councils have not heeded the environmental regulations and no-one is being held to account. The area has been blighted by rampant pollution and a level of urbanisation it cannot sustain.

Juan Manuel Ruiz, lead investigator from the Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO), has been studying marine vegetation in the lagoon.

Two years ago he and his team managed to produce a



January
Issue 1644

DISASTER: Mar Menor has been blighted by rampant pollution

map showing areas where the impact of human activity was being resisted by marine life.

A year later the waters began to transform and go green. That indicates the el-

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on and unchecked urbanisation.

evated presence of algae, miniscule plants that disrupt and destroy the lagoon's delicate eco-system, potentially killing off rare species such as the long-snouted seahorse.

The vegetation that could have reversed this process, thick beds of seagrass, is now dying too.

They are being killed off by pollutants and a lack of sunlight, which is unable to penetrate the soup-like water. During dives conducted between September and October 2016, researchers made new measurements and found that 85 per cent of the seagrass has been lost in just two years, suggesting that the damage may be irreversible.

Ruiz is despondent about the situation describing the decline of the area as a new and unfamiliar situation facing his team saying: "We have no information on what we can do."

He added they would "have to go look outside, to other parts of the world that have gone through similar situations.

"In some of these places, the situation has reversed in a few months, but here we have already endured this ecological disaster for a year."

Issue 1646

LOCAL green activists are hoping to see the Salinas wetlands officially protected as an environmental hotspot.

Friends of the Wetlands of southern Alicante have requested the beautiful area be included in Valencia's official green coastal zone.

Saving the spectacular

The move would include one of the southern Costa Blanca's most iconic natural reserves in a broader plan to protect the threatened Mediterranean coastline.

Regional officials hope to preserve almost 2,340 hectares

of virgin coastline, protecting it from construction and climatic damage.

The lighthouse of Santa Pola is already secured in the proposed green zone, but local experts are disappointed that the Salinas hasn't been automati-

cally included.

Part of the problem is that the Salinas, stretching from Elche to Santa Pola, are so diverse as to already be considered part of the urban landscape in some definitions. That exposes them to construction

and the ravages of urbanisation.

The wetlands harbour an incredible array of wildlife and are particularly important for birds. Protecting them is immensely important to sustaining the southern Costa Blanca as one of Spain's most naturally spectacular regions according to the activists.

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THE cold wet winter months of December and January have brought about a spectacular blossoming of the remaining almond trees in Vega Baja.

Issue 1650 Bloom is off the almonds

Although back in the days before the Tajo-Segura water diversion the area boasted many more almond trees than it does now, those that remain still make a sight worth seeing at this time of year.

Ninety per cent of those left are spread between Orihuela, Pilar de la Horadada and San Miguel de las

Salinas, according to the latest agricultural department census. There are currently just over 2,600 hectares of almonds in the area, compared to 4,000 a decade ago.

Of the total, 1,565 hectares are in Orihuela, with Torremendo the only place to still have cooperatives dedicated exclusively to almonds.

Elsewhere, citrus fruit and vegetables gradually took over and replaced almonds on most of the cultivated land.

Could mystery structure help save Cala Mosca?

SPECULATION surrounds a mystery structure that has been found on Cala Mosca, Orihuela Costa.

Discovered on the last green area along the coast where a developer plans to build 1,500 new houses, the CLARO party said this structure must be declared and properly looked at. The party, which has continually fought against the development plans, said: "The owner of the land, has an obligation to declare what this is and have it properly investigated. CLARO will insist that this is done. It could be of some archaeological importance and be protected by regional or local laws. The developer has no excuse for not having declared it already. It is his obligation.

"He has owned the land for decades and applied for building permission 10 years ago. The infrastructure of streets and pavements has been in place for several years. He and his employees must know every inch of the land. Of course, if the structure



MYSTERY STRUCTURE: Gradient leads to what appears to be a tunnel.

is of significance and is protected by law, his interest in remaining silent is obvious since it could complicate and delay the final building permission which he is desperately seeking."

The structure found is made of bricks and stones. It descends 10-15 metres at a gradient of 45 degrees leading to what appears to be a tunnel or cave. The person who discovered the structure did not enter and to do so would require authorisation, lights and proper protection. There is speculation that it could be a storage facility used during the Spanish



Civil War or the remains of an old irrigation system.

CLARO has for years led a campaign to save Cala Mosca. Currently a public consultation is in process where the degree of protection of two endangered species present on Cala Mosca, a rare flower and a snail, is one of the key issues.

If, after official investigation, it is decided that this new find is of public interest this could affect the planned building project.

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Murcia is heading across the Atlantic

February
Issue 1650

CANADA is being seen as a strong business opportunity for the Murcia Region.

President of the Region, Pedro Antonio Sanchez, welcomed the Canadian ambassador, Matthew Levin this week as Murcia was the first Spanish community to take advantage of the future free trade agreement between the country and the European Union which comes into force in March.

Murcia is already eyeing up the potential business opportunities and wants to be one of the first regions to benefit from the liberalisation of economic relations between the two sides of the Atlantic.

Plans are also in place for President Sanchez to go to Canada at the end of April, or early May, to learn more about the coun-



NEW OPPORTUNITIES: Pedro Antonio Sanchez is set to visit Canada.

try's new business opportunities and commercial activity.

Murcia currently has around 200 companies that export to Canada, with a value of around €35 million, a figure that is hoped will increase in the near future.

The ambassador of Canada called the agreement reached between his country and the European Union 'historic' saying it was the "most ambitious" because it "covers all sectors of interest" and marks the start of a "new model of doing international trade."

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Spanish shoes grace red carpet at Oscars

By John Smith

MANY famous actresses wore shows produced by Stuart Weitzman, an American based in Elda, as they walked down the red carpet for the 89th Oscar presentations.

Some of the world's most respected actresses such as Nicole Kidman, Jessica Biel, Chrissy Teigen, Karlie Kloss, Viola Davis and Octavia Spencer all wore shoes from the Stuart Weitzman range, partnered with their designer dresses and expensive jewellery.

Now 76, the American became an Adoptive Son of Elda in 2007 after 15 of his factories employed 3,000 local people and he has put his heart and 'sole' into promoting the manufacture of high



class footwear in Medio Vinalopó and the surrounding area.

This incredibly successful manufacturer has sold his creations in 68 countries around the world and he famously supplied singer Alison Krauss with a pair of stiletto sandals which had dazzling heels made of 565 Kwiat diamonds set in platinum and said to be worth €2 million.

Two years earlier, actress Laura Harring wore a pair of Weitzman's €1 million heels made from 464 diamonds.

NICOLE KIDMAN: A Stuart Weitzman customer.

Issue 1654

Leading the fight against climate change in Murcia

THE Murcia region will lead the European project 'Life Adaptate' against climate change.

The project is about designing and developing a common methodology to develop sustainable energy and climate action plans. The initiative is led by the region, through the Institute of Development and represents a substantial leap in coordination between mayors working on climate and energy, as the results obtained in Murcia will be transferred to the rest of the European Union.

The Minister of Economic Development, Tourism and Employment, Juan Hernandez, commented on the importance of municipalities involved in reducing their

environmental footprint: "The municipalities are responsible for 80 per cent of the emissions of gaseous pollutants into the atmosphere, which gives us an idea of the importance that all European municipalities have."

He added: "Along with other projects, the region stands as a European reference in the protection of the environment and in the design and implementation of energy efficiency measures."

The 'Life Adaptate' project has a total budget of €3,240,571, of which almost €1.8 million is destined for the region. Portugal and Latvia are also working on projects, all aiming to be pioneers in developing and putting in place more sustainable practices.

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2018

Costa's Welsh hero

Seafaring legend honoured during ceremony



By Matthew Elliott

A WELSHMAN considered a hero among the people of Alicante was honoured as the Costa Blanca city paid tribute to the 15,000 Republicans trapped during the fascist blockade of the port during the Civil War.

Captain Archibald Dickson is credited with personally saving the lives of 2,683 refugees desperately fleeing the advancing fascist army in the spring of 1939. The young Cardiff-born

captain disobeyed direct orders to help load thousands of civilians onto British coal ship the SS Stanbrook.

Leaving behind his intended cargo of saffron and oranges, Dickson risked his own life commanding the ship through a perilous U-boat blockade of Italian destroyers. The 230-foot vessel only had accommodation for 24 crew but despite tremendously overcrowded conditions and Italian attacks, all 2,683 made it safely to Oran

**April
Issue 1657**

on the North African coast.

Many were interned in brutal French colonial concentration camps for months but survivors and their descendants have always kept Captain Dickson in their hearts.

Senior politicians and local leaders paid tribute to Dickson at a ceremony on Friday March 31. There are now plans to twin Alicante with Cardiff.

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Businessman's health boost of €30 million

April
 Issue 1658

SPAIN's richest man is set to help put the Costa Blanca at the forefront of cancer treatment and research; the Amancio Ortega Foundation is to contribute €30 million for doctors, oncological research and equipment in an unprecedented collaboration between the charity and public sector.

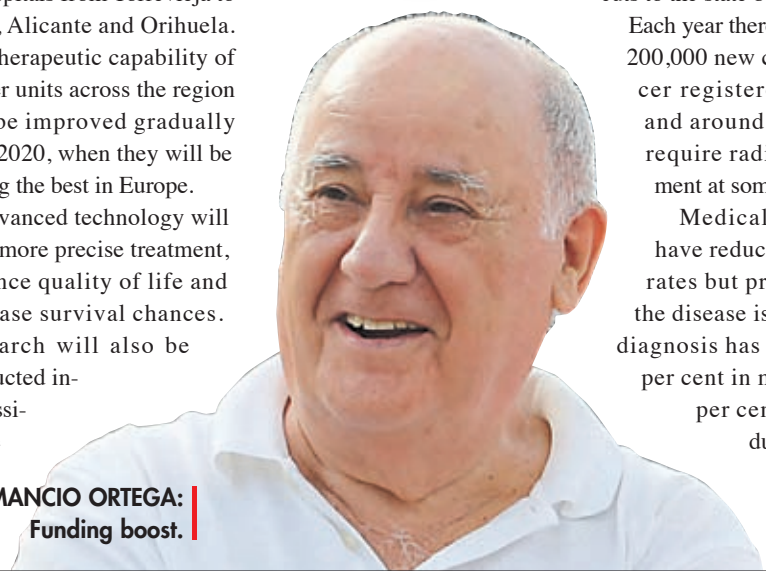
Amancio Ortega is a reclusive billionaire, once fleetingly the richest man in the world

ahead of Bill Gates, he began his business empire with clothing giant Zara and is a renowned philanthropist.

The Foundation's agreement with the Valencian Health Service will dramatically improve radiology units in hospitals from Torrevieja to Eche, Alicante and Orihuela. The therapeutic capability of cancer units across the region will be improved gradually until 2020, when they will be among the best in Europe.

Advanced technology will offer more precise treatment, enhance quality of life and increase survival chances. Research will also be conducted in-

AMANCIO ORTEGA: Funding boost.



cures and prevention strategies.

"It is a great day for the Valencian public health," said the President of the Valencian Government, Ximo Puig. He noted that Ortega's donation was especially timely given cuts to the state budget.

Each year there are roughly 200,000 new cases of cancer registered in Spain and around 60 per cent require radiation treatment at some point.

Medical advances have reduced mortality rates but prevalence of the disease is increasing; diagnosis has gone up 1.6 per cent in men, and 2.3 per cent in women during the past 30 years.

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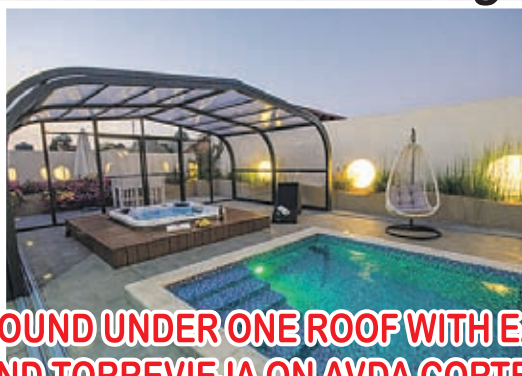
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Airport set to triple tourism

IT has been claimed that the new Murcia International Airport will generate €500 million per year for the local economy and bring three times as many tourists to the region.

Francisco Bernabe, national congressional delegate for the Popular Party of Murcia, has applauded the regional council's investment in the widely-panned facility which should have become operational in 2013.

However, constructors chose to build it in a no-fly zone, meaning it cannot open until the nearby Murcia-San Javier airport is shut down.

Formerly known as the Murcia-Corvera airport, it was to be managed by a consortium of seven private companies, but the regional council assumed control last year, and Bernabe says that



MURCIA AIRPORT:
Will bring many tourists to the area.

May
Issue 1662

“three multinationals have already presented offers to invest.”

He also claimed that market research suggests a medium-term volume of 3.5 mil-

lion passengers per year, with a turnover of half a billion Euros.

The council is currently awaiting the result of an appeal submitted to state airport operator AENA, for which an answer is expected in May.

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Issue 1663

Air turns blue

BLUE FLAGS are flying high along the beaches of Orihuela after it received the most awards in Alicante, nine for its beaches and two for marinas.

The Comunidad Valenciana has the most of any autonomous community in Spain with 129, and Alicante boasts 78 making it the best-ranked province in the country.

Councillor for Beaches for Orihuela, Luisa Bone called a press conference to celebrate the local authority's delight at being recognised by the international jury for 2017.

She said: "Orihuela can celebrate for several reasons, but mainly because we are the city that has received the most awards in the province and we have received another Blue Flag this year; so the number for our beaches has increased from eight to nine."

Blue Flags are a recognised international benchmark and illustrate the care given to the sea, the environment

and sustainable services for people using the coast.

The councillor said: "These are international quality labels that recognise the high water quality of our beaches and the excellent services available to the visitors; from beach bars, to lifeguards, from foot showers to accessibility."

Orihuela was awarded Blue Flags for the beaches of Punta Prima, Cala Mosca, Cala Estaca, Cala Bosque, Cala Capitán, La Caleta, Cala de Aguamarina, La Glea and Barranco Rubio. In addition, the marinas Cabo Roig and C.N. Dehesa de Campoamor also received the flags.

Ms Bone thanked all the staff responsible for the beaches, infrastructure, tourism and cleaning. "They have made Orihuela an international reference point in the field of good management, for outstanding quality and performance standards,

both in terms of the environmental conditions and the services provided."



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Test crash landing

ALICANTE-ELCHE Airport has been selected to stage a simulated air disaster this November to test the response of Valencia's emergency services.

It is planned a plane carrying 100 passengers will crash land and 'split in two' near El Altet allowing coordinators to assess the effectiveness of teams of professionals.

The simulation will recreate a serious crash of a commercial airliner with multiple casualties within the vicinity of the airport. Last year's mock-up was based on a metro accident at Paterna.

It is envisaged the fictional scenario will involve a plane coming into land at Alicante with 100 passengers plus the crew on board. It will crash about 4km short of the runway.

One part of the wreckage will be in Santa Pola and the second in Elche; there will be large



ALICANTE-ELCHE AIRPORT: The fictional scenario will involve a plane coming into land.



numbers of dead and injured to deal with, as well as numerous relatives waiting in the airport terminal.

Once the alarm is sounded, the airport will mobilise its own firemen and organise a help centre for relatives; the Emergency Coordination Centre for Valencia will first assess the situation before activating the Generalitat Valenciana's own emergency plan; including establishing command posts.

Volunteers will act as the wounded and relatives; 40 dummies will be used to simulate the dead.

Because of the high number of holidaymakers using the airport, the British and Swiss consulates will be invited to take part; this will recreate implementation of protocols used to identify the dead, wounded, and help for waiting families. Representatives from Murcia are to be asked to witness the simulation.

Jose Maria Angel, part of the organising team, said the objective was to "test the safety and emergency protocols in order to detect faults, deficiencies, and rectify any on the basis of the experiences of the simulation."

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No end to road rage

THE row over the future expansion of the N-332, which has been a major political issue in Torrevieja for the past 10 years, continues.

The situation was highlighted once again during last weekend which saw massive tailbacks on sections of the road that aren't dual-carriageway - particularly the Torrevieja by-pass between the exit to Carrefour and the Torrevieja Hospital.

Even when there are no tailbacks, the traffic is always very slow on that particular stretch, with some 40,000 vehicles using the road on a daily basis, a number that increases during the busier summer months.

That number is much larger than the A7 toll road which has double the capacity and no



traffic issues. Figures as low as 5,000 per day have been recorded at the Los Montesinos toll booths, and not many more at La Zenia which is the exit closest to the major N-332 congestion points.

Measures have been introduced to ensure safety on the N-332 but these have made the traffic move even slower.

There is now a strict no overtaking policy with the introduction of double white lines in the centre of the carriageway and a series of signs informing motorists of the dangers.

Accidents in this area have been reduced significantly but at the expense of making the journey more difficult and frustrating for many.



TAILBACKS: A safer but still frustrating N-332.

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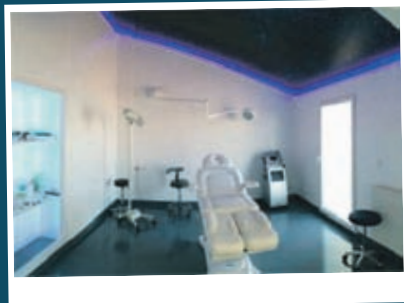
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ALICANTE PROVINCE: More housing is being sold to foreigners.

House sales on the rise Hot property!

A REPORT by the Valencia Notary College on the sale of housing to foreign investors in the province of Alicante has revealed that during the first quarter of this year, 15 per cent more housing was sold to foreigners than in the same period of 2016.

The largest increase year-on-year by nationalities is by Belgians, with 46.3 per cent, followed by Germans on 41.6 per cent. Nevertheless, the British continue to lead investments

with over 1,000 homes bought in the first quarter of 2017, despite having registered a decrease of more than 10 per cent compared to 2016, which has taken account of the result of the EU Referendum and the resulting uncertainties.

Data from the same report shows that foreigners investing in a home in Spain still show their priorities as looking for the sun, a nearby beach and an overall excellent location. Mala-

ga and Mallorca still lead the way in terms of buying and selling homes with Alicante Province coming in a close third.

A sign of the latest boom in property construction is shown by a third phase of construction close to the beach at Punta Prima in Torrevieja which is promising an extension to the 58 homes already there due to be completed by December 2018.

GREENPEACE has called for immediate protection of the coastline after identifying 53 overdeveloped areas along the Costa del Sol.

The association has been campaigning to expose environmental issues since 1971. Recently, they embarked on a voyage to see how far real estate had expanded along the coastline.

The report, named 'Protection

Issue 1671

Crowded coastline

at all costs,' highlighted 53 points which have become overcrowded

with buildings. In Malaga 71.3 per cent of the coastal strip is now occupied by urban developments.

One of these hotspots is Aguilas, where the study declares that new developments have become "very attached to the coastline."

Greenpeace points out that the residential complexes are "sandwiching between protected areas in Cape Cope and against the Murcia-Almeria provincial boundary.

"In the future, continuous lines of urbanised areas along the coast should be avoided at all costs," the report added.

Between 1987 and 2011, the urbanisation grew along the coast of Murcia by a "significant" 55 per cent, mainly in Cartagena and Mar Menor.

Despite these figures, Murcia is still the sixth best protected autonomous community along the coast, with 26.3 per cent preserved. Huelva holds first place with 61 per cent, followed closely by Tenerife (59 per cent), Las Palmas (51 per cent), The Balearic Islands (48 per cent) and Gerona (42 per cent).

"We cannot afford to weigh economic gain against environmental law," said Greenpeace campaigner Pilar Marcos, who highlighted the case of the Hotel El Agarobico eyesore in Almeria.

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Let it bee

A BEEKEEPER has removed between 60,000 and 70,000 bees from a nest that was discovered on the roof of a private house in El Campello, Alicante.

The work to remove the hive began at 7.30pm, and continued for almost six hours until around 1.00am, at which time bees are less mobile. Removal work continued during the following morning.

To access the hive, the wall of the house had to be slightly knocked away and an estimated 60,000 to 70,000 bees have been removed, as well as large pieces of the honeycomb itself and some freshly made honey.

Bees are a protected species and therefore a beekeeper had to be involved at every stage of the removal procedure which used a safe suction system that enabled the captured bees to be re-



Ayuntamiento El Campello

BUZZ OFF: A specialist removes the nest.



ly as possible as soon as it can be found to encourage the other bees to leave.

This is the second time that the beekeepers have needed to intervene at this particular property. An offending hive was removed only in April that has now returned and reproduced at the same spot.

homed in other hives. It was also necessary to try to remove the queen bee as quick-

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Saved from that sinking feeling

SIX people, including two children, were rescued from the sea in Torrevieja as the boat they were in began to sink.

They were in a rented zodiac-type inflatable dinghy on the los Naufragos beach and asked for help from a passing sailboat as they realised they were getting into difficulties.

On board were a 46-year-old man, a woman of 33, two young men aged 18 and two under 10 and 12 years old.

The boat began to sink due to unknown causes.

When the alarm was raised, another dinghy from the Real Club Nautico de Torrevieja was launched to reach the passengers and begin the operation of towing the half-submerged vessel back into the marina.

Two medical teams were on hand to attend to the six people



Photo credit: Facebook Real Club Náutico de Torrevieja



RESCUED: By Real Club Náutico de Torrevieja.

once they arrived back on shore; all of them were later transferred to Torrevieja Hospital believed to be suffering from cuts and bruises and back injuries. Some were seen to have neck collars fitted by the paramedics before being moved into the awaiting ambulances.

The type of dinghy at the heart of the events can be driven by anyone and without any type of formal qualification. They have a 15-horsepower engine and have a capacity for eight people.

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MORE BEDS: Alicante to get six more hotels.

City hotel boost

DUE to the increasing boom in tourism to Alicante, several companies want to open more hotels in the city centre.

Tourism is one of the sectors that has endured the problems of the decade of crisis, and the proof of that is reflected in the number of large plans on the table to open new hotels and self-catering apartments in both the short and medium term.

The plans are for six new hotels and an expansion to an existing establishment in the area.

The first of the new hotels is due to open shortly, called Pala-



cio de Die, and located in the building next to the San Nicolás Cathedral which dates back to the 18th century. The hotel should have opened earlier but suffered several delays due to licensing issues. It will have four rooms on each of its four floors. Close by, in the building next

to the town hall in Calle Rafael Altamira, work is currently being carried out to open a large hotel, and the same owners have also purchased another building overlooking the Calle Mayor. A demolition licence has been applied for.

Plans are also in process to convert Casa Alberola into a four-star hotel with 45 rooms.

Currently, the city of Alicante has approximately 8,000 hotel beds although even in the peak summer months of July and August 100 per cent hotel occupancy are never achieved.

Issue 1680

Another tourism success in Elche

ELCHE has joined an ever increasing number of municipalities reporting increasing numbers of tourists both internationally and from within Spain.

Announcing details of hotel occupancy for the summer, Councillor Mireia Mollà said: "We are very satisfied with the figures for 2017 so far.

We are consolidating our presence as a tourist destination with the increase in these hotel occupancy numbers, which are a reflection that Elche is fast becoming an attractive tourist destination."

During the period August 7 to 17 - which coincided with the annual fiestas - hotel occupancy was 95.2 per cent and an increase of 3.5 per cent compared to the same period in 2016.

For the first fortnight in August, it was at 92.2 per cent and 3.3 per cent higher than last year.

Overall figures for the first seven months of 2017 returned 68.3 per cent and almost 10 per cent up on 12 months ago.



ELCHE TOURIST OFFICE: Ever more visitors.

Councillor Mollà also commented on the success of the internet in the promotion of the city.

"We have improved our website and made more use of social media platforms and the activity has been nothing short of frantic. The website itself has attracted more than 35 million hits."

Spanish flag sales soar

THE Catalan independence referendum debate that resulted in violence during last Sunday has given an unexpected boost to the makers of the Spanish national flag.

One of the firms based in the Elche Industrial Park - Bizeralia of Italy - has seen a massive increase in patriotism within Spain that has resulted in more and more people wanting to display their feelings by means of displaying the country's flag.

During the weeks leading up to the controversial vote last Sunday, the sewing machines were working overtime and the company reported making 15 per cent more flags than usual.

According to the local manager of the firm, Antonio Rodríguez, such displays of patriotism are not usual in Spain and the population aren't so accustomed to purchasing national symbols as they would be in the United



October
Issue 1683

PATRIOTIC: Spaniards flying the national flag in record numbers.

States where the perception is that every family has a flag proudly flying in their garden.

However, the Catalan issue has awakened the national spirit and it's now quite usual to see more and more balconies and windows in local cities, including Alicante and Elche, hanging and displaying the Spanish flag.

The Elche-based branch of the business has pointed out that they haven't received any large orders for Catalan flags because, while they manufacture all kinds of products, they only make national rather than regional ones which are sold in high numbers throughout the Vega Baja.

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TOURIST boards representing the Costa Blanca in general and Alicante in particular have held a seminar in Frankfurt to promote the areas as tourist destinations.

They were joined by eight representatives from APHA (Alicante Hotels Association) who were there on behalf of some of the most prestigious hotels in Alicante.

Tourism councillor Eva Montesinos said that the main objective is to show potential German tourists what the city has to offer

and to give that market a boost.

Presentations were made during the series of meetings in which emphasis was given to Alicante's fame as a gastronomic centre and offered tastings of many local products... especially the rice. Head Chef at the famous Brunch de Alicante Restaurant Carlos Tomás gave a

cooking demonstration and the event concluded with a big raffle which offered prizes of staying at the participating hotels in the Alicante Province.

In 2016, German passengers accounted for 877,137 of the arrivals at Alicante-Elche Airport which was 135,000 more than the previous year. Behind the

November
Issue 1687

A lovi

By Karl Smallman
and Matt Ford

BRAVE brain cancer fighter, Leo the Lion may have gone, but he will never be forgotten.

Hundreds of friends, family and supporters of the inspirational four-year-old gathered on Palomares beach in Almeria to pay tribute in a moving ceremony which saw 250 helium-filled balloons - many carrying hand-written messages - released into the sky.

The *Euro Weekly News* team performed a simultaneous release of balloons outside their head office on the Costa del Sol, as did campaign support groups and individuals in other parts of Spain, the UK and beyond.

An invitation-only funeral and cremation saw family and close friends pay their own respects on Tuesday, after many sent flowers or paid a visit to Leo as he lay in the chapel of rest over the weekend.

A hearse carried him around Palomares prior to the service, al-



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ng farewell



December
Issue 1692



EMOTIONAL: Family, friends and supporters gather on Palomares beach.

allowing people to pay their respects and friends to wave goodbye.

In the UK, thousands of Manchester City supporters honoured Leo with a minute's applause during their home Premier League match against West Ham last Sunday.

Days short of his fifth birthday, which would have been yesterday (Wednesday) the courageous four-year-old passed away peacefully in his mother Karen's arms last Friday as dad Jorge and sister Sofia stood by.

His last words were, to Sofia,

a very clear "I love you."

On September 2, 2015 Leo was diagnosed with a rare form of brain cancer.

Since then he underwent surgery at Alder Hey Children's Hospital in the UK and, thanks to a fund launched late last year, which the *Euro Weekly News* supported, travelled to Oklahoma in the United States for cutting-edge proton beam therapy.

But sadly, it was all in vain.

Karen recently told the *Euro*



SOLIDARITY: The EWN team release balloons.

Weekly News: "I want people to remember Leo for the happy little boy that he once was, that cheeky little boy, the one who smiled no matter what..."

"I want to thank everyone for their continuous support during this journey to give Leo the best chance for a life."

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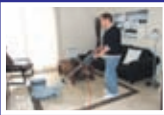


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NIGHT PATROL: The Red Cross team at work.



Photo by Cruz Roja Region de Murcia

Homeless care patrols now 24h

December
Issue 1693

A SCHEME organised jointly between a number of local charitable organisations has begun nightly projects to take care of the homeless people in parts of Cartagena.

The Cruz Roja and popular charity Cáritas are working alongside the Santa Teresa organisation - and with the support of social services Councillor Carmen Martín del Amor - to patrol the streets.

Around 20 volunteers man three vans every night to come to the aid of street sleepers in the city centre and in the poorest parts of the municipality.

The patrols begin every night between 7pm and 8pm

and the vans are full of groceries, toiletries, warm clothes and not forgetting people full of human warmth and compassion. This year is the first time that such patrols have taken place every night and have become more vital in recent weeks as low temperatures have arrived. It's known that there are 12 people without any form of shelter that take refuge in doorways of buildings and in

particular those that contain ATM machines. They are currently joined by another dozen or so who, even though they have somewhere to stay, they are helped because they live in dilapidated shacks.

The Spanish Red Cross (Cruz Roja) take care of this service on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, Cáritas on Thursdays and Sundays and the Santa Teresa

Organisation on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

The route is always the same, as it wends its way from the old town of Ensanch through the urban areas.

They are backed by members of the Local Police who not only report anyone to the charities that many be in need, but also provide the patrols with protection should any of the homeless people become aggressive.

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Issue 1693

Airport managers AENA invest more millions

WITHIN days of Alicante-Elche Airport announcing that it has welcomed passenger 13 million in 2017, the airport managers AENA have made a significant investment.

An injection of €48 million will be pumped into the increasingly busier airport over the next four years until 2021, with much of that budget being focused on safety and security measures. Existing facilities will be adapted to take account of new security regulations connected with the checking of luggage, as well as improving

the technology available that monitors the perimeter fence.

The most significant actions in improving the quality of the terminal are the construction of new public toilet facilities in the check-in area and in the baggage collection area.

There will also be a new ramp in the luggage pick-up area that will shorten the walking distance for those newly arrived passengers.

A total of €13 million will be spent on improvements and extensions to

the aircraft parking areas close to the runway, and €1.2 million invested in more energy efficient lighting and air-conditioning systems.

Alicante-Elche Airport has already beaten the passenger records that were expected by AENA during the five year period until 2021. The figure forecasted for 2016 was 12.3 million and well beaten, while the hoped-for passenger numbers for 2021 were expected to be 13,740,000... an amount that will be surpassed at the end of this year instead.

Second largest marine crane in port

OVER the next three months, Cartagena will be the home of the second largest marine crane in the world.

With a tower measuring 135 metres high and with the capacity to move up to 14,000 tons, the Saipem 7000 marine crane will be based in the port for around three months to undergo a programme of maintenance.

The port authorities have said that this crane is only beaten in size by the SSCV Thialf. There is no formal date for the arrival of the Saipem 7000 in Cartagena but it will be at the beginning of 2018 when it will be anchored a few metres from the port waiting for the authorities to assign a formal docking point to begin the work.

The structure was designed in 1987 as a semi-submersible boat with a built-in crane (Micooperi 7000) and is capable of hoisting and placing structures of up to 14,000 tons. Twelve



Photo credit: Pinterest

REPAIRS: The Saipem 7000 (pictured) due in Cartagena soon.

years later, in 1999, the ship was rebuilt and a new 'J-Lay' type tower and a deep-water pipe placement system were installed.

It has also achieved a number of marine records, such as lifting 12,150 tons on the Mediterranean Sea and the pipeline installation depth record when it reached 2,500 metres during works for Medgaz as it laid a natural gas pipeline between Algeria and Spain.



It contains ballast pumps with a capacity to pump 24,000 tons per hour, while its ballast tanks have a capacity of 83,000 cubic metres; an additional 14 tanks can hold up to a further 26,000 cubic metres.

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2017 a phenomenal year for the EWN Media Group



The best free publication 2017.



THIS year has been a particularly good year for *Euro Weekly News (EWN)*, gathering awards and expanding to such an extent that it is part of the new EWN Media Group (EWNMG).

Having been published for 21 years and becoming the largest circulating English language newspaper in Spain, *EWN* was named Best Free Publication at the 2017 Spanish Periodical Association (AEEPP) Awards on Tuesday February 28.

It was a real honour for owners Michel and Steven Euesden and indeed the entire proud *EWN* family to see that their hard work had seen an English language newspaper be voted the best by a large group of Spanish publications.

The British Ambassador to Spain, Simon Manley took time out of his busy calendar to comment "I was delighted to see that *Euro Weekly News* won the Best Free Publication award at the AEEPP awards.

"It's an impressive achievement for an English-language newspaper to beat off the Spanish language competition and a tribute, I think, to the important role that the English-language press in general plays across Spain."

Just a few days earlier, it was revealed that the Euesdens had come to an arrangement with the owner of the respected *RTN* in Costa Blanca to take over the *RTN* brand and assimilate those titles into the group.

Not only was this done successfully, but a brand new *RTN* Costa del Sol paper was born which has a different team of writers to *EWN* and concentrates on what is going on within local communities so that each of the two papers has a distinctive identity and view of the local news.

Always alert to the need to ensure readers and advertisers of *EWN* are offered exactly what they want to see in a newspaper, a survey was run over a period of weeks with the added bonus that one lucky respondent would be picked from a free draw to win a car valued at €15,000.

Needless to say, this fantastic prize attracted thousands of responses and the lucky winner was speechless when she received the news that her name had been selected at a public ceremony by an independent source.

The results of the survey allowed the group to hone the contents of the newspapers after analysing the detailed results.

Not satisfied with the *RTN* acquisition, EWNMG then further expanded its portfolio of newspapers in Spain by taking over the *Sol Times* publications.

Originally launched in the Almeria area in 2005 the *Sol Times* title has been restructured, so that a number of its most popular contributors continue to work with it along with new writers.

With all of this expansion, the company simply outgrew its former headquarters and therefore moved from a quiet area in Arroyo de la Miel, Benalmadena to a busy street in Fuengirola in order to cope with the weekly publication of 10 different newspapers.

The head office staff has been increased significantly including a fresh intake of journalists who have recently received their degrees from top universities and the introduction of two much respected names in the field to take both the newspapers and very popular website to the next level.

So well respected is the reporting in the newspapers that EWNMG is the first port of call for a number of foreign radio and TV stations who don't have their own correspondents in Spain and during 2017, writers have appeared on Indian and South African media as well as in a documentary filmed for Belgian TV.

With offices in Almeria, across Costa Blanca, Costa del Sol and Mallorca the group continues to move from strength to strength but always keeps in mind that it is the readers and the advertisers who come first at all times.

The EWNMG family would like to take this opportunity to wish all of its friends throughout Spain a Happy and Prosperous 2018, safe in the knowledge that the newspapers continue to be produced to the highest standard 52 weeks each year.



The readers' poll (left) and the prize car winner (right).



Sweet moments in store

EL CORTE INGLES has come to an arrangement with Mars, famous for confectionary, to open M&M units in three of their stores.

The two companies have decided to take advantage of the Christmas and Three Kings trade and these units which will offer a range of M&M products which have been made in Alicante, Castellana and Callao in Madrid.

Barcelona tackles Uber

TAXI drivers in Spain will have been delighted by a European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruling that Uber is a transport company and not a digital service.

The matter was brought to the court due to a decision in Barcelona that the company had to obey local taxi rules and Spain has seen a rash of taxi strikes over the activities of Uber.

According to the company, its defence was that it is an information service helping to put drivers and passengers in contact with each other

By John Smith

er rather than a taxi firm.

The company which has grown enormously since it was first set up just 10 years ago in the USA has experienced difficulties in various European countries and even lost its rights to operate in London which is under appeal.

Uber, like AirBnB - also at odds with the Barcelona council - is known as belonging to the gig economy which is defined as 'a labour market characterised by the preva-

lence of short-term contracts or freelance work as opposed to permanent jobs.'

Whilst the decision may not affect Uber in all of the countries in which it operates, it may well have to change its policies in Spain and consider whether it should be treating its drivers as employees throughout the EU.

Certainly once the Catalan election and the New Year are past, it is more than likely that Barcelona will once again crack down on the company.

Barcelo sells stake in GBT Spain

SPANISH hotel group Barcelo has sold its 35 per cent holding in GBT Spain, a business travel company, to American Express for an undisclosed sum.

This means that the travel management company will become a 100 per cent subsidiary of American Express Global Business Travel which was the majority shareholder in the operation.

The joint venture between the two companies has been a success over the nine years since it was set up.

Quote of the Week

This transaction is consistent with Sareb's divestment strategy and continues to show the continued confidence in the Spanish market" confirmed Alfredo Guitart of Sareb after transferring loans valued at €375 million to Deutsche Bank.



Olive shortage due to low rainfall.

Olive oil prices go up again

MAJOR supermarkets in the UK have upped the price of olive oil in their stores for the second time this year.

Suppliers are blaming poor harvests following a lack of rain in Spain and the weakening of the pound for the increase in the price of 'liquid gold.'

Sainsbury's has increased the prices on 21 types of olive oil, from own label to popular brands.

Spain produces on average

about 44 per cent of the world's supply of olive oil each year, twice as much as Italy and four times as much as Greece.

About 70 per cent of all Spanish olive oil comes from the province of Jaén which claims to produce more olive oil than the whole of Italy.

Producers may find that the increase in price will go in some way to mitigate the recent imposition of punitive import duties to the USA.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Share prices

AS soon as the results of the Catalan election were announced, share prices of large concerns either based or having major investments in the region fell. Whilst this may be a short term problem, investors will be following the situation closely.

Take over

CAIXABANK is underwriting the €800 million bond issue proposed by real estate company Colonial to fund its bid to take over Axiare, of which it is already a minority shareholder. If successful the new group will be worth €10 billion.

More cost

TELEFONICA is to increase the subscription rate to customers signed up for Movistar Fusion by €5 a month from February. The service supplies a mix of broadband, mobile services and TV which the company says will be expanded once the new price is charged.

Many workers claim low earnings

A SPANISH trade union has revealed that only 2 per cent of those who are self-employed declared earnings of more than €1,000 per month in 2016.

Of the 965,161 sole traders recorded as being autonomo (self-employed), after deducting expenses and social security costs 942,418 said their annual income was less than €12,000 per annum.

This finding was released by Gestha, the trade union representing officials at the Spanish Ministry of Finance and Tax Agency.

The union has inferred that these declarations of earning may not be wholly accurate and the government doesn't properly police the situation which could allow for false returns to be made.



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LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES DECEMBER 22

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Anglo American	1,510.50	3.50	0.23	20,928.74
Associated British Foods	2,819.00	23.00	0.82	22,151.04
Admiral Group	1,936.00	3.00	0.16	5,534.62
Ashtead Group	1,962.00	-15.00	-0.76	9,823.26
Antofagasta	967.25	-0.75	-0.08	9,395.21
Aviva	499.65	-0.85	-0.17	20,020.27
AstraZeneca	4,923.50	1.00	0.02	61,526.70
BAE Systems	570.25	1.75	0.31	18,127.98
Barclays	202.73	-1.82	-0.89	34,717.69
British American Tobacco	5,041.50	28.50	0.57	112,846.19
Barratt Developments	643.75	1.75	0.27	6,509.90
Berkeley Group Holdings (The)	4,203.00	33.00	0.79	5,700.99
British Land Co	673.25	-1.75	-0.26	6,765.71
BHP Billiton	1,466.00	-3.00	-0.20	30,297.67
Bunzl	2,059.50	1.50	0.07	6,920.16
BP	517.65	-1.85	-0.36	100,552.63
Burberry Group	1,758.50	4.50	0.26	7,476.92
BT Group	273.80	-0.20	-0.07	26,792.89
Coca-Cola HBC	2,378.00	17.00	0.72	8,617.25
Carnival	4,889.00	11.00	0.23	10,433.61
Centrica	138.50	0.80	0.58	7,744.72
Compass Group	1,577.50	3.50	0.22	24,585.49
Croda International	4,356.50	-6.50	-0.15	5,715.59
CRH	2,653.50	7.50	0.28	21,819.05
DCC	7,360.00	10.00	0.14	6,583.02
Diageo	2,692.75	8.25	0.31	66,143.87
Direct Line Insurance Group	371.30	0.00	0.00	5,069.63
Experian	1,609.50	2.50	0.16	14,661.38
easyJet	1,434.00	7.00	0.49	5,664.19
Ferguson	5,457.50	72.50	1.35	13,449.34
Fresnillo	1,352.00	-5.00	-0.37	9,911.22
G4S	264.00	-0.30	-0.11	4,001.56
GKN	312.25	0.75	0.24	5,228.00
Glencore	375.05	-1.05	-0.28	53,332.52
GlaxoSmithKline	1,314.25	-5.75	-0.44	64,948.48
Hargreaves Lansdown	1,755.00	-3.00	-0.17	8,295.83
Halma	1,261.00	0.00	0.00	4,749.31
Hammerson	533.75	-0.75	-0.14	4,200.13
HSBC Holdings	764.55	-1.25	-0.16	151,619.62
International Consoltd Airs Gr	645.25	-5.25	-0.81	13,240.63
InterContinental Hotels Group	4,709.00	6.00	0.13	8,750.95
3i Group	901.50	0.50	0.06	8,673.20
Imperial Brands	3,168.75	20.75	0.66	29,909.19
Informa	726.50	3.50	0.48	5,965.80
Intertek Group	5,192.50	17.50	0.34	8,287.40
ITV	165.80	0.70	0.42	6,641.93
Just Eat	764.25	-0.75	-0.10	5,187.83
Johnson Matthey	3,070.00	1.00	0.03	5,949.22
Kingfisher	340.15	0.05	0.01	7,342.29
Land Securities Group	988.25	-3.25	-0.33	7,321.74

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Legal & General Group	270.60	0.60	0.22	16,028.04
Lloyds Banking Group ORD	67.11	-0.20	-0.30	47,908.67
London Stock Exchange Grp	3,713.00	-27.00	-0.72	13,002.63
Micro Focus International	2,494.00	-1.00	-0.04	10,817.26
Mediclinic International	609.75	-20.25	-3.21	4,327.62
Marks & Spencer Group	314.75	2.25	0.72	5,044.82
Mondi	1,871.50	-13.50	-0.72	9,099.28
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	215.65	1.45	0.68	4,998.06
National Grid	867.05	-0.05	-0.01	29,397.70
NMC Health	2,808.00	-9.00	-0.32	5,597.13
Next	4,505.50	90.50	2.05	6,268.30
Old Mutual Group	224.20	0.10	0.04	10,915.64
Paddy Power Betfair	8,745.00	-15.00	-0.17	7,414.27
Prudential	1,888.50	8.50	0.45	48,135.62
Persimmon	2,713.50	12.50	0.46	8,400.90
Pearson	732.75	2.25	0.31	5,839.79
Reckitt Benckiser Group	6,781.50	61.50	0.92	46,328.94
Royal Bank of Scotland Group	274.50	-2.00	-0.72	32,860.43
Royal Dutch Shell	2,450.75	-4.25	-0.17	110,813.96
RELX	2,467.75	-2.25	-0.09	91,090.24
Rio Tinto	1,732.00	2.00	0.12	18,378.54
Rio Tinto	3,760.00	-13.00	-0.34	50,156.16
Rolls-Royce Group	848.75	-4.25	-0.50	15,718.69
Randgold Resources	7,142.50	37.50	0.53	6,702.72
RSA Insurance Group	617.75	2.75	0.45	6,264.77
Rentokil Initial	311.35	0.45	0.14	5,754.53
Sainsbury (J)	238.35	1.35	0.57	5,182.03
Schroders	3,518.50	-8.50	-0.24	7,933.39
Sage Group (The)	788.25	-0.25	-0.03	8,531.48
Segro	576.75	-0.75	-0.13	5,781.87
Shire	3,945.25	29.25	0.75	35,141.71
Smurfit Kappa Group	2,459.00	-11.00	-0.45	5,743.51
Sky	1,017.50	0.50	0.05	17,482.41
Standard Life Aberdeen	426.95	-1.75	-0.41	12,454.65
Smith (DS)	516.75	-1.25	-0.24	5,526.38
Smiths Group	1,487.50	-2.50	-0.17	5,860.77
Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust	444.10	-0.20	-0.05	6,165.61
Smith & Nephew	1,284.50	5.50	0.43	11,196.15
SSE	1,300.50	-0.50	-0.04	13,125.86
Standard Chartered	769.70	-3.40	-0.44	25,328.94
St James's Place	1,203.00	2.00	0.17	6,301.28
Severn Trent	2,122.50	12.50	0.59	4,978.12
Tesco	207.50	-0.10	-0.05	16,886.13
TUI AG	1,526.50	-5.50	-0.36	8,922.41
Taylor Wimpey	206.65	1.25	0.61	6,743.33
Unilever	4,142.00	2.00	0.05	50,825.95
United Utilities Group	815.00	-0.50	-0.06	5,632.40
Vodafone Group	235.13	-0.32	-0.14	61,883.90
Worldpay Group	426.35	-3.75	-0.87	8,584.00
WPP Group	1,358.50	16.50	1.23	17,182.19
Whitbread	3,903.00	3.00	0.08	7,098.62

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

DOW JONES

CLOSING PRICES DECEMBER 22

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE%	CHANGE	VOLUME(M)
3M	234,780	-0.90%	-2,140	140,176.37
AMERICAN EXPRESS	98,5000	-0.01%	-0,0100	85,792.75
APPLE	175,010	+0.38%	0,660	900,712.35
BOEING CO	295,030	-0.96%	-2,870	176,201.91
CATERPILLAR	154,640	+1.39%	2,120	92,009.45
CHEVRON	124,82	+3.25%	3,93	237,402.75
CISCO SYSTEMS	38,530	-0.54%	-0,210	193,177.09
COCA-COLA	45,60	-1.04%	-0,48	194,797.71
DOWDUPONT	71,64	+0.52%	0,37	167,882.60
EXXON MOBIL	83,85	+1.18%	0,98	356,383.42
GENERAL ELECTRIC	17,4700	+0.11%	0,0200	151,630.54
GOLDMAN SACHS	261,01	+2.28%	5,83	98,434.50
HOME DEPOT	188,0800	+0.41%	0,7700	219,653.52
IBM	151,50	-0.95%	-1,45	140,929.15
INTEL CORP	46,7600	-1.68%	-0,8000	220,077.67
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	107,8300	+1.59%	1,6900	374,366.04
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	141,0600	-0.07%	-0,1000	379,561.76
MC DONALD'S CORP	171,8500	-0.19%	-0,3200	137,195.64
MERCK AND CO. NEW	56,60	+0.87%	0,49	154,679.90
MICROSOFT	85,500	-0.02%	-0,020	659,851.24
NIKE	64,77	+1.86%	1,18	84,335.18
PFIZER	36,2400	-0.60%	-0,2200	216,373.68
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	91,670	+0.15%	0,140	233,146.45
TRAVELERS CIES	134,44	-0.61%	-0,82	36,880.52
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	127,31	+0.24%	0,31	101,681.91
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	221,69	-0.31%	-0,69	214,725.97
VERIZON COMMS	53,01	+0.45%	0,24	216,716.21
VISA	112,41	+0.26%	0,29	203,739.07
WAL-MART STORES	98,0600	-0.70%	-0,6900	290,876.23
WALT DISNEY CO	109,5700	-0.11%	-0,1200	165,996.96

M - MILLION DOLLARS

NASDAQ

CLOSING PRICES DECEMBER 22

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
Nova Lifestyle, Inc	\$ 2.87	0.44 ▲ 18.11%
Apellis Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 16.58	2.31 ▲ 16.19%
CSP Inc.	\$ 13	1.61 ▲ 14.14%
Telenav, Inc.	\$ 5.45	0.65 ▲ 13.54%
The Finish Line, Inc.	\$ 13.20	1.51 ▲ 12.92%
YogaWorks, Inc.	\$ 2.72	0.31 ▲ 12.86%
Fate Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 5.07	0.56 ▲ 12.42%
Atlantic American Corporation	\$ 3.85	0.40 ▲ 11.59%
MannKind Corporation	\$ 2.52	0.24 ▲ 10.53%
ChinaCache International Holdings Ltd.	\$ 2.14	0.20 ▲ 10.31%
Legacy Reserves LP	\$ 4.18	0.37 ▲ 9.71%
Most Declined		
Future FinTech Group Inc.	\$ 3.25	1.09 ▼ 25.12%
Apogee Enterprises, Inc.	\$ 42.32	8.56 ▼ 16.82%
China Finance Online Co. Limited	\$ 2.83	0.45 ▼ 13.72%
Presbia PLC	\$ 3.75	0.59 ▼ 13.59%
Advaxis, Inc.	\$ 2.96	0.44 ▼ 12.94%
Bed Bath & Beyond Inc.	\$ 21.505	3.065 ▼ 12.47%
Bravo Brio Restaurant Group, Inc.	\$ 2.55	0.30 ▼ 10.53%
Sienna Biopharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 22.99	1.86 ▼ 7.48%
Denali Therapeutics Inc.	\$ 16.45	1.25 ▼ 7.06%
Atlantius Holdings Corporation	\$ 2.28	0.17 ▼ 6.94%
The Trade Desk, Inc.	\$ 46.16	3.43 ▼ 6.92%

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Distributing Funds

Sterling Fixed Income B

DEALING PRICE

£0.9297

Price Movement

£0.0008

Accumulating Funds

Multi Asset Conservative B GBP

DEALING PRICE

£1.1601

£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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Local 6, Urb La Marina San Fulgencio
Alicante, 03177
+34 965 994 830
costablanca@currenciesdirect.com

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Avenida los Covachos,
Camposol B, Mazarrón,
Murcia, 30875
+34 968 976 383
murcia@currenciesdirect.com

Quesada

Calle Azul, Local 7,
Ciudad Quesada,
Rojales, 03170, Alicante.
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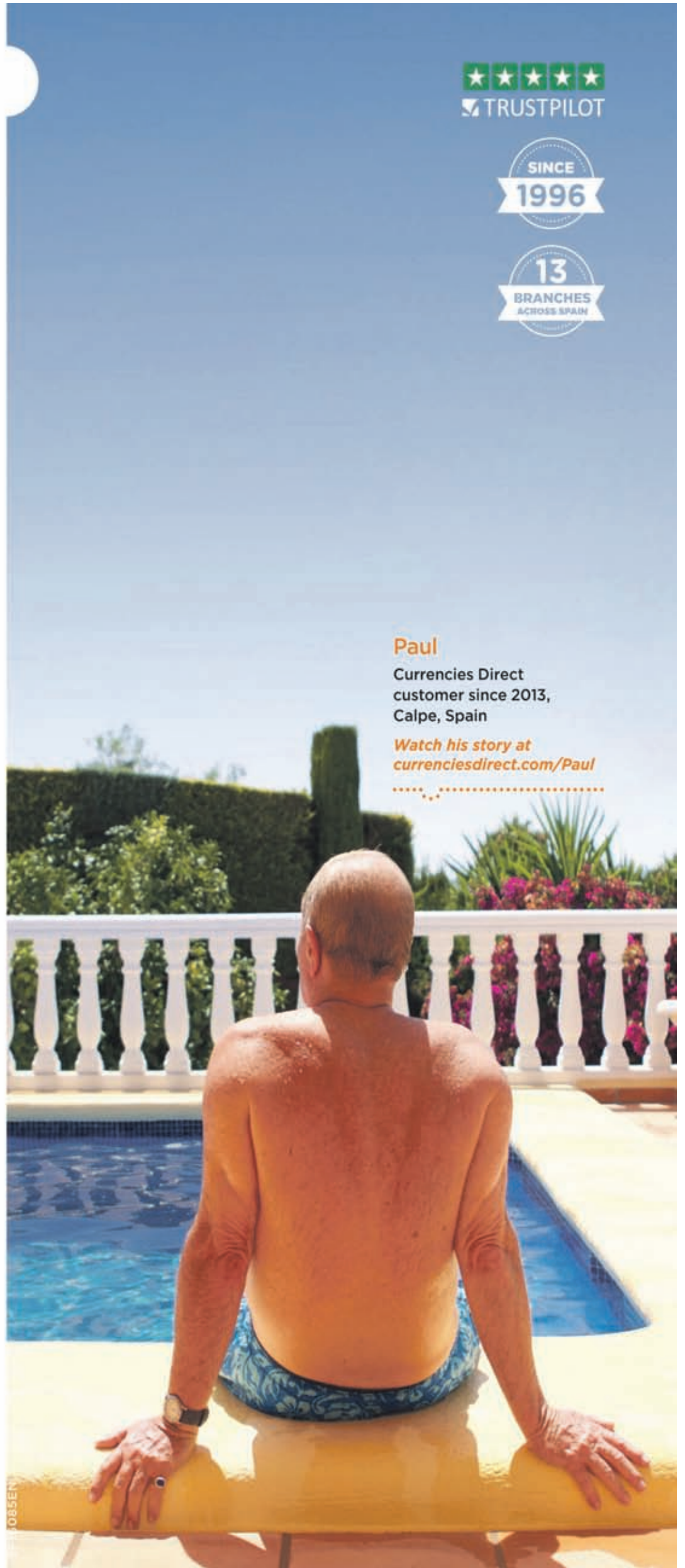
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Bitcoin value is erratic

Price almost halved in just one week

FORWARDS markets in Chicago started trading in Bitcoins the cryptocurrency in mid-December and saw tremendous rises with a single 'pretend' coin breaking the \$20,000 (€16,870) barrier.

In a matter of days, Bitcoins lost 40 per cent of its value as a whole slew of different securities organisations around the world warned investors about the volatility of the unsupported internet currency.

Some people have made huge profits, taking advantage of the rise and fall in the value of the currency but at the end of the day, any legitimate investor will still need to buy and sell their Bitcoins by trading in a legitimate currency.

Euros, dollars, pounds and all other major currencies around the world are issued by and underwritten by governments, so there is legitimacy to their banknotes and it is possible to use them to transact business in all manner of different situations.

A cryptocurrency (and Bitcoin is just the best known) is created by an individual or company and has no legitimacy other than the interest that others have in purchasing it. To some extent, investing in Bitcoins can be compared to the Tulip Mania of the 17th century or indeed a Ponsi (Pyramid) investment scheme where early investors who sold quickly made money and those at the end of the chain simply lost everything.

Arguably the main long term support for Bitcoins is the dark web where drug and arms dealers as well as terrorists can buy and sell whatever they need without being properly policed and this is no doubt what may keep the currency in existence.

The other appeal is that those who understand the internet can produce their own Bitcoins (known as mining) by harnessing large numbers of computers to solve complicated puzzles and apart from the cost



Photo by Marco Krohn Wikimedia

Mining for Bitcoins in Iceland.

of electricity, using existing computers (sometimes hacking into innocent parties' machines) they can create new coins for next to nothing.

The success of this cryptocurrency has encouraged other organisations to produce their own, although investors might be better served to go to a casino and bet everything on red or black as at least then they would either make their profit or go bust.

IT'S A FACT: OLDER IPHONES ARE BEING SLOWED DOWN

Apple says it helps users

IF you think that your aging iPhone is less efficient, then you might be correct as Apple has admitted that it is slowing down some models.

For some time now, there have been suggestions that the company was surreptitiously making some of the earlier versions slow down in order to encourage customers to purchase new models.

Now after one user compared the speed of his iPhone 6 against his brother's, an in-depth review of iPhones led to a US technology website Geekbench confirming its view that some phones were markedly slower than others.

In response, Apple issued a statement confirming the fact that it was deliberately slowing down some phones, not as a marketing tool but to try to make owners' phones have a longer life as the lithium battery in the phone starts to age.

"Our goal is to deliver the best experience for customers, which includes overall performance and



Photo by iFixit

CHANGING the battery on an iPhone 6.

prolonging the life of their devices. Lithium-ion batteries become less capable of supplying peak current demands when in cold conditions, have a low battery charge or as they age over time, which can result in the device unexpectedly shutting down to protect its electronic components.

"Last year we released a feature for iPhone 6, iPhone 6s and iPhone SE to smooth out the instantaneous

peaks only when needed to prevent the device from unexpectedly shutting down during these conditions. We've now extended that feature to iPhone 7 with iOS 11.2, and plan to add support for other products in the future," said a spokesman.

Social media comment has been significant in as much as whilst many accept that there was probably no nefarious intent behind Apple's silence, at best, the normally open company has shot itself in the foot by not advising customers in advance of its intention.

It is also argued that if the problem is resolved by a new replacement battery which would cost about €90, the company should not have adapted the design of the iPhone in order to make the exchange of battery so difficult with minute screws and the potential to wipe the phone if a mistake is made.

Alternatively, a professional can undertake the work but at additional cost.

ECJ rules in favour of appeal against EU

THE European Court of Justice (ECJ) has overturned a decision made by the European Commission to instruct Spain to recover aid granted to television operators.

Following a complaint from Luxembourg-based satellite operator SES Astra, the Commission decided that the Spanish government had acted improperly in granting subsidies to broadcasters to assist in the transition from analogue to digital transmission.

The actual policy of digitalisation has been encouraged by the Commission as early as 2002 and in its ruling the ECJ indicated that the actions taken by Spain were reasonable and that there was no justification in demanding that those who had received financial support should have to refund it.

Spain leads orange sales

SPAIN was the leading orange exporter in the EU in 2016, selling fruit worth more than €1 billion overseas according to figures released by Eurostat.

The data showed that Spain was by far the highest exporter of oranges last year, exporting 1.6 million tonnes, totalling 57 per cent of the total EU Member States' exports.

Greece was the second highest exporting EU state, exporting 462,000 tonnes.

Last year, over 2.7 million tonnes of oranges, worth approximately €1.8 billion, were exported by the European Union's Member States, with almost 90 per cent remaining in the EU.

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT FUNDS INNOVATION

More jobs and research

MEPS have approved a €500 billion expanded European Fund for Strategic Investments known as the 'Juncker plan.'

The intention is to finance a wide range of different and innovative projects across the European Union and will run until 2020 or longer if further agreement is reached in the European Parliament.

So far since the fund was set up in 2015, Spain has received more than €5 billion in support for new business development and it is forecast that this will help to generate almost €31 billion of additional income for the country.

This fund however which deals with infrastructure, research and innovation, education, health, information and communication technologies is allowing many new entrepreneurs to develop their business ideas, keeping them in Spain with the subsequent tax and employment benefits.

Soon after the approval was given to expand the Fund, the European Investment Bank (EIB) signed off five con-



Photo Credit: European Parliament

Voting in favour of expansion.

tracts with existing large groups in Spain which has seen the investment of €151 million which will be used to encourage the creation of jobs in low employment areas and to convert buildings to become more environmentally friendly.

Axiare has received a €16 million loan from the EIB in a first for Spain as it looks to develop plans to improve emergency efficiency in commercial buildings with which it is involved.

A subsidiary of the Mondragón Corporation, Batz has received €25 million in order to allow it to increase design

staff and to develop new and innovative technologies with the aim of manufacturing lighter and more aerodynamically efficient vehicles on both land and in the air to cut CO2 emissions.

Talgo is to receive €30 million to develop new prototypes for the electric trains to be used by commuters on short and medium-length journeys, as well as enhancing high speed performance with the expectation of increasing exports.

Thirty-five million euros has been made available to Incarlopsa famous for its ham and cured meats to increase staffing by up to 1,000 and upgrade its production facilities.

The largest loan being made by the EIB is €45 billion to Laboratorios Farmacéuticos Rovi to finance its research and development programme focusing on technologies for the administration and extended release of medication, including pre-clinical development and clinical trials that could help develop future treatments to fight cancer and nervous system diseases.



Medieval bible sold to museum

PRODUCED in the 14th century, one of just a handful of known examples of a Hebrew Tanakh produced in Castile has been sold for a sum thought to be close to €5 million.

Originally to be auctioned by Sotheby's with an estimated price of \$3.5 million to \$5 million it was eventually sold to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York for an undisclosed sum.

The Tanakh is known as the Jewish Bible and contains the writings in the Old Testament which was eventually adopted by Christianity.

This particular illustrated bible - which is in exquisite condition - is the earliest known complete illuminated Hebrew Bible from Spain ever to be auctioned and was one of six recorded as existing in private hands.

Losing mental capacity whilst living abroad

by Stone King

Charlotte Macdonald

Contact me at international@stoneking.co.uk



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

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

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



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

What is an LPA?

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

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

Your attorney can be a professional,

such as a solicitor or a family member or friend.

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

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

Why should you get an LPA?

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

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

Will my LPA be recognised in Spain?

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

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



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Police always on the side of the prosecution

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT
OTHERS THINK IT



IT'S the nature of the beast. Their whole careers and promotions are based, almost without exception, on their numbers of arrests and successful conclusions, ie, verdicts of guilty as charged.

Consequently, any evidence or possibilities of innocence, are continually being swept under the carpet or disregarded altogether. It's often only after a long fight and independent investigation they are caught out and verdicts subsequently amended, or reversed altogether. This can take years and many an innocent man has been released after a long sentence, only to find that no action or recourse can be instigated against any officers who were involved in his or her wrongful conviction, because they have either died or retired.

Over the last few years dozens of cases have collapsed because of serious police failings over the way they handle evidence. This latest investigative debacle is nothing short of a criminal disgrace. Incredibly, although Liam Allen, the young man put on trial for rape and subsequently released when it was discovered that the police had withheld evidence, the officer in charge of his case, DC Mark Azariah, is still working at Scotland Yard's sexual offences unit despite the fact



DIRTY HALF-DOZEN: Brussels sprouts.

that he is now under investigation for his involvement in yet another sexual abuse case that this week collapsed due to an 'evidence blunder.'

It's high time the Director of Public Prosecutions, Alison Saunders, who it appears would consider a musical conga line some form of chain rape, got her house in order and started weeding

out this rotten core of Old Bill, before she is suspected of being a collaborator in their disgraceful and utterly criminal behaviour.

Meanwhile the PC madness goes on. This week's trans-gendering gem truly deserved to be placed in a Tower tiara. Joshua Sutcliffe, a secondary school teacher, faces suspension for say-

ing 'well done girls' to a group who apparently contained a transgender individual who identified as a boy. Despite apologising immediately, after a complaint from the 'person's' parents this unfortunate and caring teacher has been accused of 'bringing the name of the school into disrepute.'

You really couldn't make it up. The sane, rational thinking majorities of society really need to make a stand against all this time-wasting nonsense. It's all really quite simple, if you have a willy you're addressed as a boy, if you haven't your addressed as a girl. If you need to make decisions as to which gender you belong to you should be utterly free to do so without any bias or recrimination from any quarter. Chromosomes identify a person's gender at birth OK? Problem solved.

Oh, and finally what about Leicester County Council who sent out a directive on how many Brussels sprouts you should be allowed to eat for each meal? Six sprouts = one portion. Ok? Don't over buy and create waste! These people, funded by the tax payer, actually sit around tables discussing how many Brussels sprouts we should eat! The mind truly does boggle. Have a great Christmas.

Keep the faith.

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

Love Leapy leapylee2002@gmail.com

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

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BBC one

7:00am Breakfast
10:00am The Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists!
11:20am Kung Fu Panda
12:45pm Bargain Hunt
1:45pm BBC News
2:00pm BBC London News
2:05pm Father Brown
2:50pm Revolting Rhymes
3:20pm Shrek The Third
4:45pm The Gruffalo's Child
5:10pm How to Train Your Dragon 2
6:45pm Pointless
7:30pm BBC News
7:45pm BBC London News
8:00pm Celebrity Mastermind
8:30pm Still Open All Hours
9:00pm EastEnders
9:30pm Little Women
10:30pm EastEnders
11:00pm BBC News
11:15pm BBC London News
11:25pm Bruno Mars
12:10am U2 at the BBC

BBC TWO

7:45am MasterChef: The Professionals
8:45am Ray Harryhausen: Special Effects Titan
10:15am The Big Family Cooking Showdown
11:15am Nadiya's British Food Adventure
11:45am Nadiya's British Food Adventure
12:15pm The Sweet Makers: A Victorian Treat
1:15pm Love is a Many Splendored Thing
2:55pm Natural World
3:55pm World's Most Extraordinary Homes
4:55pm Inside the Factory
5:55pm The Heroes of Telemark
8:00pm Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise
9:00pm Christmas University Challenge 2017
9:30pm Six Robots and Us
10:30pm Natural World
11:30pm Romesh Ranganathan

BBC FOUR

8:00pm Sound of Musicals with Neil Brand
9:00pm Royal Institution Christmas Lectures 2017: The Language of Life
10:00pm Francis Bacon: A Brush with Violence
11:20pm Jonas Kaufmann: Tenor for the Ages
12:50pm The World's Most Expensive Stolen Paintings
1:50am Sound of Musicals with Neil Brand
2:50am Royal Institution Christmas Lectures 2017: The Language of Life
3:50am Peaky Blinders
4:50am This is BBC Four
BBC Four is the BBC channel for people who want more.

CHANNEL 4

8:20am The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie
9:55am Lego Masters
11:00am The Simpsons
11:30am The Simpsons
12:00pm Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World
1:45pm The Net
4:00pm Four Rooms with Sarah Beeny
5:00pm Channel 4 News
5:20pm Back to the Future Part III
7:30pm Hollyoaks
8:00pm We're Going on a Bear Hunt
8:30pm The Secret Life of the Zoo at Christmas
9:30pm The Secret Life of 5 Year Olds on Holiday
10:00pm What Britain Bought in 2017
11:00pm The Undateables at Christmas
12:05am About a Boy
1:55am Alan Carr's Christmas Chatty Man

CHANNEL 5

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 The Gadget Show
11:25am The Seventh Voyage of Sinbad
1:15pm The Vikings
3:30pm Jason and the Argonauts
5:30pm Andre Rieu: My Life in Music
7:00pm Andre Rieu: Christmas in London
8:00pm Alaska: A Year in the Wild
9:00pm World's Strongest Man 2017
10:00pm Flight
11:05pm 5 News
11:10pm Flight

4

9:15am Postman Pat: The Movie
11:00am Animals United
1:00pm The Big Bang Theory
1:30pm The Big Bang Theory
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
9:00pm The Big Bang Theory
9:30pm The Big Bang Theory
10:00pm 2 Broke Girls
10:30pm 2 Broke Girls
11:00pm The Inbetweeners
11:30pm The Inbetweeners
12:05am The Big Bang Theory

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 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 Cricket

itv

7:00am Good Morning Britain
9:30am Lorraine
10:25am Babe
12:05pm Black Beauty
1:45pm ITV News
1:55pm ITV News London
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 News
8:00pm Emmerdale
8:30pm Emmerdale
9:00pm Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix
11:35pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
11:55pm Tina and Bobby
12:55am Stuck on You: The Football Sticker Story
1:45am Jackpot247
4:00am Tenable
4:50am ITV Nightscreen
Text-based information service.

itv2

8:10am Mr. Bean
8:40am Mr. Bean
9:15am Britain's Got Talent: Top 10 Child Stars
10:15am Planet's Got Talent
10:45am Emmerdale
11:15am Coronation Street
11:45am Space Chimps
12:45pm FYI Daily
12:50pm Space Chimps
1:25pm You've Been Framed!
2:10pm Emmerdale
2:40pm Coronation Street
3:10pm Ella Enchanted
4:10pm FYI Daily
4:15pm Ella Enchanted
5:15pm Clash of the Titans
6:15pm FYI Daily
6:20pm Clash of the Titans
7:20pm The Amazing Spider-Man 2
8:20pm FYI Daily
8:25pm The Amazing Spider-Man 2
10:00pm Casino Royale
11:00pm FYI Daily
11:05pm Casino Royale
12:50am Family Guy
1:25am Family Guy
1:50am Family Guy
2:20am Family Guy
2:45am American Dad!
3:10am American Dad!

itv3

7:00am You're Only Young Twice
7:25am Agatha Christie's Marple
9:15am Bertie and Elizabeth
11:20am Goodbye, Mr. Chips
1:25pm Carry on Don't Lose Your Head
2:30pm FYI Daily
2:35pm Carry on Don't Lose Your Head
3:15pm Carry on Loving
4:20pm FYI Daily
4:25pm Carry on Loving
5:10pm Carry on Behind
6:10pm FYI Daily
6:15pm Carry on Behind
7:00pm Agatha Christie's Marple
9:00pm Endeavour
11:00pm Lewis
1:05am Carry on Cowboy
2:10am FYI Daily
Latest news from the world of entertainment.
2:15am Carry on Cowboy
3:05am Goodbye, Mr. Chips
4:50am Bertie and Elizabeth

itv4

7:00am The Protectors
7:25am The Chase
8:15am The Chase
9:00am Cash Cowboys
9:50am Minder
10:55am Ironside
12:55pm Quincy, M.E.
2:00pm The Professionals
3:00pm Ironside
4:00pm Quincy, M.E.
5:05pm Minder
6:10pm The Professionals
7:10pm Storage Wars Texas
7:40pm Storage Wars Texas
8:05pm Pawn Stars
8:35pm Pawn Stars
9:00pm River Monsters
10:05pm The Fugitive
11:05pm FYI Daily
11:10pm The Fugitive
12:45am Species III
1:45am FYI Daily
1:50am Species III
3:05am The Big Fish Off
4:00am Fishing Impossible
4:50am Minder
5:40am Ironside
Detective drama series.

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

10:20am Robin Hood
12:45pm Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them
3:00pm Xxx: Return of Xander Cage
4:50pm The Bourne Ultimatum
6:50pm Jason Bourne
9:00pm Robin Hood
11:25pm 300

sky CINEMA COMEDY

7:00am Dude, Where's My Car?
8:30am Uncle Buck
10:15am Date Night
11:50am The Bounty Hunter
1:50pm Why Him?
3:50pm The Nutty Professor
5:35pm Nutty Professor II: The Klumps
7:25pm Date Night
9:00pm The Bounty Hunter
11:00pm Why Him?
1:00am The Nutty Professor
2:40am Nutty Professor II: The Klumps
4:30am National Lampoon's Animal House

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

7:00am Olaf's Frozen Adventure
7:30am The LEGO Batman Movie
9:20am Olaf's Frozen Adventure
9:50am Beauty and the Beast
12:00pm Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2
2:20pm Hidden Figures
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 Hunter's Prayer
12:55am John Wick: Chapter Two
3:10am Final Recall
4:50am Hunter's Prayer

sky sports football

8:00am Championship Season Review
9:00am EFL Greatest Games
9:15am EFL Greatest Games
9:30am EFL Greatest Games
9:45am EFL Greatest Games
10:00am Eredivisie
11:00am Scottish Premiership
1:30pm EFL Greatest Games
1:45pm EFL Greatest Games
2:00pm Eredivisie
3:00pm EFL Greatest Games
3:15pm EFL Greatest Games
3:30pm EFL Greatest Games
3:45pm EFL Greatest Games
4:00pm Championship Season Review
5:00pm EFL Greatest Games
5:15pm EFL Greatest Games
5:30pm EFL Greatest Games
5:45pm EFL Greatest Games
6:00pm Championship Season Review
7:00pm Eredivisie
8:00pm EFL Rivalries
8:30pm EFL Greatest Games
8:45pm EFL Greatest Games
9:00pm Celtic Invincibles
10:00pm Eredivisie
11:00pm EFL Rivalries
11:30pm EFL Greatest Games
11:45pm EFL Greatest Games
12:00am La Liga Icons

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GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



BBC one

7:00am	Breakfast
10:00am	Monsters vs Aliens
11:25am	The Farmer's Llamas
11:55am	Kung Fu Panda: The Kaboom of Doom
1:15pm	Bargain Hunt
1:45pm	BBC News
2:00pm	BBC London News
2:10pm	Father Brown
2:55pm	Revoluting Rhymes
3:25pm	Up
4:50pm	Room on the Broom
5:20pm	Brave
6:45pm	Pointless
7:30pm	BBC News
7:45pm	BBC London News
8:00pm	Celebrity Mastermind
8:30pm	Tim Vine Travels
9:00pm	EastEnders
9:30pm	Would I Lie to You?
10:00pm	BBC News
10:10pm	BBC London News
10:15pm	Gone Girl
12:40am	Michael McIntyre's Big Christmas Show
1:45am	Weather for the Week Ahead
1:50am	BBC News

BBC TWO

9:55am	The Big Family
10:55am	Cooking Showdown
11:55am	Nadiya's British Food Adventure
12:55pm	Nadiya's British Food Adventure
2:35pm	Natural World
3:05pm	Three Coins in the Fountain
4:05pm	Nature's Weirdest Events
5:05pm	World's Most Extraordinary Homes
6:30pm	Inside the Factory
7:30pm	The Desert Fox: The Story of Rommel
8:00pm	Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise
9:00pm	Christmas University Challenge 2017
10:00pm	Morecambe and Wise in Pieces
10:30pm	Eric and Ernie's Home Movies
11:00pm	Vic and Bobs Big Night Out
11:30pm	Live at the Apollo
12:15am	Frankie Boyle's 2017 New World Order
	QI XL
	The Great Gatsby

BBC FOUR

8:00pm	Lucy Worsley: Mozart's London Odyssey
9:00pm	Top of the Pops Lenny Henry presents a review of all of the hits from 1984, first broadcast on 27 December 1984.
10:00pm	Eric, Ernie and Me
11:00pm	Elvis: The Rebirth of the King
12:00am	...Sings Elvis
1:00am	Top of the Pops
2:00am	Top of the Pops Celebrating the big hits from a big year in British pop.
3:00am	Top of the Pops 1984 sees Top of the Pops at the height of its 80s pomp - the year of big hair and big tunes.
4:00am	Elvis: The Rebirth of the King
5:00am	This is BBC Four

CHANNEL 4

8:05am	Black Nativity
9:50am	Lego Masters
10:50am	The Simpsons
11:20am	The Simpsons
11:50am	The Simpsons
12:15pm	Hotel for Dogs
2:20pm	Cutthroat Island
4:40pm	Four Rooms with Sarah Beeny
5:45pm	Channel 4 News
6:00pm	The Simpsons
6:30pm	The Simpsons
7:00pm	Hollyoaks
8:00pm	Travel Man
9:00pm	Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast
10:00pm	8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown
11:00pm	Gogglebox 2017
1:05am	I Give it a Year
2:55am	The River Wild
4:50am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
5:35am	Four in a Bed

CHANNEL 5

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
8:50am	Floogals
9:05am	Digby Dragon
9:20am	Shimmer and Shine
9:35am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
9:50am	Mofy
10:00am	Arthur 2: On the Rocks
12:10pm	Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
2:20pm	Labyrinth
4:20pm	Look Who's Talking
6:10pm	Footloose
8:00pm	Yorkshire: A Year in the Wild
9:00pm	World's Strongest Man 2017
10:00pm	Victoria Wood by Her Friends
11:00pm	Victoria Wood Live
1:00am	Super Casino

4

7:00am	Hollyoaks
7:30am	Charmed
8:25am	Prep and Landing
8:55am	Prep and Landing
9:25am	Rugrats the Movie
11:00am	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules
1:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
1:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
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	We're Going on a Bear Hunt
9:00pm	The Crystal Maze
10:00pm	The Hunger Games: Catching Fire
12:50am	The Big Bang Theory
1:25am	The Big Bang Theory

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	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	Live World Championship Darts
12:00am	SKY Sports News
1:00am	SKY Sports News
2:00am	SKY Sports News
3:00am	SKY Sports News
	A comprehensive review of all the night's football news, plus a look ahead to the morning headlines.

itv

9:30am	Lorraine
10:25am	Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury
10:50am	Everything or Nothing
12:45pm	Bond Girls are Forever
1:45pm	ITV News
1:55pm	ITV News London
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 News
8:00pm	Emmerdale
	The Dingles get ready, Bernice arranges a date, and Jimmy is nervous.
8:30pm	Coronation Street
9:00pm	Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince
11:50pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather
12:10am	Tina and Bobby

itv2

7:00am	Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records
7:25am	Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records
7:50am	Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records
8:15am	Mr. Bean
8:40am	Mr. Bean
9:10am	Britain's Got Talent: Stephen's Top 10
10:10am	Planet's Got Talent
10:45am	Emmerdale
11:50am	Hairspray Live
2:15pm	You've Been Framed!
2:45pm	Emmerdale
3:50pm	Catchphrase
4:50pm	Peter Pan
5:50pm	FYI Daily
5:55pm	Peter Pan
6:55pm	A Bug's Life
7:55pm	FYI Daily
8:00pm	A Bug's Life
9:00pm	Skyfall
10:00pm	FYI Daily
10:05pm	Skyfall
11:50pm	Family Guy
12:20am	Family Guy

itv3

7:25am	On the Buses
7:50am	Agatha Christie's Marple
9:40am	Carry on Abroadx
10:40am	FYI Daily
10:45am	Carry on Abroad
11:25am	Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory
12:25pm	FYI Daily
12:30pm	Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory
1:30pm	The History of Mr Polly
3:25pm	Carry on Follow That Camel
4:25pm	FYI Daily
4:30pm	Carry on Follow That Camel
5:20pm	Up Pompeii
6:20pm	FYI Daily
6:25pm	Up Pompeii
7:00pm	Agatha Christie's Marple
9:00pm	Endeavour
11:00pm	Lewis
1:00am	Lewis
3:05am	The History of Mr Polly
4:40am	Sherlock Holmes: The Last Vampyre

itv4

7:00am	The Chase
7:50am	The Chase
8:35am	Storage Wars Texas
9:00am	Storage Wars Texas
9:25am	Pawn Stars
9:55am	Pawn Stars
10:25am	Ironsides
11:25am	Quincy, M.E.
12:30pm	Minder
1:35pm	The Professionals
2:35pm	Ironsides
3:40pm	Quincy, M.E.
4:40pm	Minder
5:45pm	The Professionals
6:45pm	Pawn Stars
7:15pm	Pawn Stars
7:45pm	Every Which Way But Loose
8:45pm	FYI Daily
8:50pm	Every Which Way But Loose
10:00pm	Demolition Man
11:00pm	FYI Daily
11:05pm	Demolition Man
12:20am	Total Recall
1:20am	FYI Daily
1:25am	Total Recall
2:35am	Bond Girls are Forever
3:35am	The Big Fish Off

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

7:20am	Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer
8:55am	Doctor Strange
11:00am	The Magnificent Seven
1:20pm	Suicide Squad
3:30pm	Independence Day
6:10pm	The Magnificent Seven
8:30pm	Doctor Strange
10:30pm	Suicide Squad
12:35am	Independence Day
	sky CINEMA COMEDY
8:05am	27 Dresses
10:05am	Liar Liar
11:45am	Love Actually
2:05pm	Keanu
3:50pm	Grimsby
5:20pm	Sausage Party
6:55pm	Love Actually
9:15pm	Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie
11:00pm	T2: Trainspotting
1:05am	Sausage Party
2:40am	Grimsby
4:15am	T2: Trainspotting

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

8:50am	Beauty and the Beast
11:00am	Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2
1:20pm	Table 19
2:50pm	The LEGO Batman Movie
4:40pm	Beauty and the Beast
6:55pm	John Wick: Chapter Two
9:00pm	Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2
11:20pm	Table 19
12:50am	Hunter's Prayer
2:25am	John Wick: Chapter Two
4:30am	Come and Find Me

sky sports football

10:00am	SPFL Greatest Games
12:00pm	Old Firm Derby 2016/17
12:30pm	Old Firm Derby 2016/17
1:00pm	Celtics Invincibles
2:00pm	SPFL Matters: Old Firm Special
2:30pm	Football's Greatest Teams
3:00pm	SPFL Greatest Games
5:00pm	Old Firm Derby 2016/17
5:30pm	Old Firm Derby 2016/17
6:00pm	Football's Greatest Teams
6:30pm	SPFL Matters: Old Firm Special
7:00pm	SPFL Matters: Old Firm Special
7:30pm	Championship Season Review
8:30pm	Football
11:00pm	SPFL Matters: Old Firm Special
11:30pm	SPFL Greatest Games
11:45pm	SPFL Greatest Games
12:00am	SPFL Matters: Old Firm Special

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GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



BBC one

7:00am Breakfast
 11:00am Saturday Kitchen
 12:30pm Nigel Slater's New Year Suppers
 1:00pm Football Focus
 2:00pm BBC News
 2:15pm 102 Dalmatians
 3:50pm The Penguins of Madagascar
 5:10pm Final Score
 6:30pm BBC News
 6:40pm BBC London News
 6:50pm Celebrity Mastermind
 7:20pm Pointless
 8:10pm A Christmas Carol Goes Wrong
 9:00pm Avengers: Age of Ultron
 11:10pm BBC News
 11:30pm Match of the Day
 12:55am The NFL Show
 1:25am Dinner for Schmucks
 3:15am Weather for the Week Ahead
 3:20am BBC News

BBC TWO

7:35am Birds of Paradise
 8:35am Pirate Fairy
 9:45am The Big Family Cooking Showdown
 10:45am Natural World
 11:35am Behind Closed Doors
 12:35pm Mansfield Park
 2:20pm World's Most Extraordinary Homes
 3:20pm Six Robots and Us
 4:20pm All About Eve
 6:35pm Talking Pictures
 7:20pm Alice in Wonderland
 9:00pm Dad's Army
 9:30pm Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs
 10:00pm Feud: Bette and Joan
 10:45pm Feud: Bette and Joan
 11:30pm Hush...Hush, Sweet Charlotte
 1:40am Absolutely Fashion
 2:40am Mary, Mel and Sue's Big Christmas Thank You
 3:40am Rick Stein's Road to Mexico
 4:40am This is BBC Two Highlights of programmes on BBC Two.

BBC FOUR

8:00pm Tutankhamun: The Truth Uncovered
 9:00pm Planet Earth II
 10:00pm Spiral
 11:00pm Spiral
 12:05am 2017: A Year in the Life of a Year
 12:35am Glen Campbell: The Rhinestone Cowboy
 1:35am Chuck Berry in Concert
 2:35am Tutankhamun: The Truth Uncovered Documentary looking into what killed King Tutankhamun.
 3:35am Planet Earth II A compilation from the wildlife
 4:35am This is BBC Four

CHANNEL 4

9:50am Lego Masters
 10:55am The Simpsons
 11:25am The Simpsons
 11:50am The Simpsons
 12:20pm The Simpsons
 12:50pm We're Going on a Bear Hunt
 1:25pm Born Silly
 1:50pm Ever After
 4:15pm Pride and Prejudice
 6:40pm Channel 4 News
 6:55pm Crocodile Dundee II
 9:00pm The Price is Right
 10:00pm The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1
 12:20am Speed Keanu Reeves, Dennis Hopper and Sandra Bullock star in Jan de Bont's action thriller.
 2:25am Speed with Guy Martin
 3:20am Hollyoaks Omnibus
 5:05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA Gordon Ramsay visits Italian restaurant Campana in Fair Lawn, New Jersey.

CHANNEL 5

10:00am Noddy: Toyland Detective
 10:20am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
 10:35am Shimmer and Shine
 10:55am Digby Dragon
 11:05am Peppa Pig
 11:15am Peppa Pig
 11:20am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
 11:40am Olly the Little White Van
 11:50am The African Queen
 1:55pm Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes
 4:30pm Live Premiership Rugby
 7:05pm World's Strongest Man 2017
 8:00pm Blind Date
 9:00pm Greatest Celebrity Wind-Ups Ever!
 10:00pm 5 News Weekend
 10:05pm Football on 5
 11:15pm Football on 5
 11:45pm How Magic Changed TV
 1:15am Super Casino
 4:10am Our Dream Hotel
 5:00am Our Dream Hotel

4

7:00am Couples Come Dine with Me
 8:00am Hollyoaks Omnibus
 10:10am Big Miracle
 12:15pm Doctor Dolittle
 2:00pm Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas
 2:30pm Toy Story of Terror
 3:00pm Toy Story That Time Forgot
 3:30pm Toy Story Toons
 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 Snow White and the Huntsman
 10:00pm Fast and Furious 6
 12:35am Naked Attraction
 1:40am Naked Attraction
 2:45am The Big Bang Theory
 3:15am The Big Bang Theory
 3:45am Made in Chelsea's Christmas Ding Dong
 4:40am In Bed with Jamie at Christmas
 5:10am The Crystal Maze

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 A.M.
 12:30pm Football
 3:30pm Gillette Soccer Saturday
 4:00pm Live Pro 14 Rugby Union
 6:15pm Football
 8:30pm Live World Championship Darts
 11:30pm Sky Sports News at Ten
 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

9:00am Mr. Bean: The Animated Series
 9:15am Horrid Henry
 9:30am The Aquabats! Super Show!
 9:55am Scrambled!'s Shiniest Showdown Ever
 10:25am ITV News
 10:30am Saturday Morning with James Martin
 12:25pm Endeavour
 2:15pm ITV News
 2:30pm The Chase
 3:30pm 3 Men and a Baby
 5:25pm Despicable Me 2
 7:10pm ITV News London
 7:20pm ITV News
 7:30pm Who Shot Simon Cowell?
 8:00pm Guess the Star
 9:00pm Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1
 11:40pm ITV News
 12:00am The Mask
 1:50am Jackpot247
 4:00am Babushka
 4:50am ITV Nightscreen

itv2

7:00am Zawesome
 8:25am Emmerdale Omnibus
 11:50am Coronation Street
 2:50pm You've Been Framed!
 3:20pm Mr. Bean
 3:50pm Mr. Bean
 4:20pm Bean
 5:25pm FYI Daily
 5:30pm Bean
 6:10pm Ella Enchanted
 7:15pm FYI Daily
 7:20pm Ella Enchanted
 8:00pm Legally Blonde
 9:00pm FYI Daily
 9:05pm Legally Blonde
 10:00pm Bridesmaids
 11:00pm FYI Daily
 11:05pm Bridesmaids
 12:35am Family Guy
 1:05am Family Guy
 1:30am American Dad!
 1:55am American Dad!
 2:25am Celebrity Juice
 3:25am Celebrity Juice
 4:15am Through the Keyhole
 5:10am Educating Joey Essex
 5:55am Totally Bonkers

itv3

7:00am Wycliffe
 7:55am Carry on Henry
 8:55am FYI Daily
 9:00am Carry on Henry
 9:40am Carry on Camping
 10:45am FYI Daily
 10:50am Carry on Camping
 11:30am The Sound of Music Live
 2:10pm The Making of the Sound of Music Live
 2:40pm Buggy Malone
 3:40pm FYI Daily
 3:45pm Buggy Malone
 4:45pm The Wizard of Oz
 5:45pm FYI Daily
 5:50pm The Wizard of Oz
 6:50pm Prince Harry and Meghan: Truly, Madly, Deeply
 7:55pm Kate
 8:55pm Princess Diana: A Life After Death
 10:00pm Midsomer Murders
 12:00am Lewis
 2:00am Housewife 49
 3:55am Agatha Christie's Marple
 5:35am Wycliffe

itv4

7:00am Sporting Funnies
 7:05am The Protectors
 7:30am The Professionals
 8:25am Dirtquake
 9:25am Fishing Impossible
 10:30am ITV Racing: The Opening Show
 11:30am Pawn Stars
 11:55am Pawn Stars
 12:20pm Ironside
 2:30pm ITV Racing: Live from Newbury
 5:00pm 633 Squadron
 6:05pm FYI Daily
 6:10pm 633 Squadron
 6:55pm Aces High
 8:00pm FYI Daily
 8:05pm Aces High
 9:15pm Jackie Chan's First Strike
 10:15pm FYI Daily
 10:20pm Jackie Chan's First Strike
 11:00pm Swordfish
 12:00am FYI Daily
 12:05am Swordfish
 1:05am The Dirty Dozen
 2:05am FYI Daily
 2:10am The Dirty Dozen

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

7:00am Babylon A.D.
 8:35am Cast Away
 11:00am Death Race
 1:00pm Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows
 3:00pm 2018 Preview Show
 4:00pm X-Men: Apocalypse
 6:30pm Cast Away
 9:00pm The A-Team
 11:00pm Hanna
 12:55am The Matrix

sky CINEMA COMEDY

9:50am Ghostbusters
 11:40am Ghostbusters II
 1:50pm Keeping up with the Joneses
 3:40pm Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates
 5:20pm You Don't Mess with the Zohan
 7:20pm Fist Fight
 9:00pm Keeping up with the Joneses
 11:00pm Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates
 12:45am Fist Fight

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

7:00am Table 19
 8:30am Olaf's Frozen Adventure
 9:00am The LEGO Batman Movie
 10:50am Beauty and the Beast
 1:00pm Olaf's Frozen Adventure
 1:30pm The Boss Baby
 3:10pm Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2
 5:30pm The LEGO Batman Movie
 7:20pm The Boss Baby
 9:00pm Beauty and the Beast
 11:15pm Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2
 1:35am Table 19
 3:05am Hunter's Prayer
 4:50am Hidden Figures

sky sports football

7:00am Football
 9:30am Young Lions: Weight of Expectation
 9:45am EFL Greatest Games
 10:00am SPFL Matters: Old Firm Special
 10:30am SPFL Matters: Old Firm Special
 11:00am Soccer A.M.
 12:30pm Football
 3:30pm Gillette Soccer Saturday
 4:00pm Gillette Soccer Saturday
 6:15pm Football
 9:00pm Football
 9:15pm Magical Messi
 10:15pm Ronaldo
 10:45pm Football
 11:00pm EFL Goals: Championship
 11:30pm Football
 11:45pm SPFL Greatest Games
 12:00am EFL Goals: Championship
 12:30am Football
 12:45am SPFL Greatest Games
 1:00am Football
 3:45am EFL Goals: Championship

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GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



BBC one

10:25am	Bolt
11:55am	The Croods
1:25pm	BBC News
1:40pm	Comic Relief 2017: 'Twas the Thanks After Red Nose Day
2:40pm	Bedknobs and Broomsticks
4:35pm	Songs of Praise
5:05pm	Top of the Pops
6:05pm	Attenborough and the Giant Elephant
7:05pm	BBC News
7:20pm	BBC London News
7:30pm	Celebrity Mastermind
8:00pm	Countryfile
9:00pm	Antiques Roadshow
10:00pm	The Real Marigold on Tour
11:00pm	BBC News
11:20pm	The Graham Norton Show
12:20am	Nile Rodgers and Chic: Good Times 2017
12:55am	New Year's Eve Fireworks 2017
1:10am	Nile Rodgers and Chic: Good Times 2018

BBC TWO

7:35am	Birds of Paradise
8:35am	Mars Needs Moms
10:00am	The Big Family Cooking Showdown
11:00am	Saturday Kitchen Best Bites
12:30pm	The A to Z of TV Cooking
1:15pm	Shall We Dance?
2:55pm	Six Robots and Us
3:55pm	Talking Pictures
4:40pm	84 Charing Cross Road
6:15pm	Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time
8:00pm	Robot Wars Special
9:00pm	Into the Woods: Stage to Screen
11:00pm	Match of the Day 2
11:50pm	Live at the Apollo
12:20am	Jools's Annual
2:20am	Hootenanny 2017
2:20am	Best of Glastonbury 2017
4:25am	Countryfile
5:20am	This is BBC Two Highlights of programmes on BBC Two.

BBC FOUR

8:00pm	Dancing the Nutcracker - Inside the Royal Ballet
9:30pm	Victoria Wood: Seen on TV
11:00pm	Detectorists <i>Comedy series about two metal-detecting friends.</i>
11:30pm	Detectorists
12:00am	Detectorists
12:30am	Detectorists
1:00am	Detectorists
1:30am	Detectorists
2:00am	Victoria Wood: Seen on TV <i>A look back at Victoria Wood's hugely successful television career.</i>
3:30am	David Attenborough's Zoo Quest in Colour
5:00am	This is BBC Four <i>BBC Four is the BBC channel for people who want more. More depth, more range, more to stimulate the mind.</i>

CHANNEL 4

8:35am	Frasier
9:00am	Frasier
9:25am	F1: Grand Prix
10:30am	Sunday Brunch
1:30pm	The Simpsons
1:55pm	The Simpsons
2:25pm	The Simpsons
2:55pm	We Bought a Zoo
5:20pm	Channel 4 News
5:25pm	Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast
6:25pm	Britain's Wildest Weather 2017
8:00pm	Amazing Spaces Snow and Ice Special
9:00pm	The Crystal Maze
10:00pm	Alan Carr's New Year Spectacular 2017
12:00am	Big Fat Quiz of the Year
2:00am	Gogglebox 2017
3:55am	The Crystal Maze
4:50am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
5:40am	Location, Location, Location

CHANNEL 5

9:40am	Noddy: Toyland Detective
9:55am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
10:15am	Shimmer and Shine
10:30am	Digby Dragon
10:40am	Peppa Pig
10:45am	Peppa Pig
10:50am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
11:05am	Olly the Little White Van
11:20am	Football on 5
12:25pm	Football on 5
1:00pm	Alaska: A Year in the Wild
1:55pm	3 Men and a Little Lady
3:55pm	Groundhog Day
4:55pm	5 News
5:00pm	Groundhog Day
6:00pm	The Lego Movie
8:00pm	Brick by Brick: The Lego Story
9:00pm	World's Strongest Man 2017
9:50pm	5 News Weekend
10:00pm	When TV Goes Horribly Wrong
12:55am	Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights

4

7:00am	Lost and Found
7:25am	New Girl
7:50am	New Girl
8:25am	New Girl
8:55am	How I Met Your Mother
9:25am	Couples Come Dine with Me
10:30am	Couples Come Dine with Me
11:30am	Rude(ish) Tube Shorts
11:45am	Doctor Dolittle 2
1:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
2:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
2:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
3:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
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	I, Robot
10:00pm	Red
12:15am	The Inbetweeners
12:50am	The Inbetweeners
1:25am	The Inbetweeners

sky sports main event

7:00am	SKY Sports News
8:00am	Total Goals
9:00am	Total Goals
10:00am	Total Goals
11:00am	Goals on Sunday
12:30pm	The Sunday Supplement
2:00pm	SKY Sports News
3:00pm	SKY Sports News
4:00pm	SKY Sports News <i>All the news from the Premier League and beyond.</i>
5:00pm	Live Nissan Super Sunday <i>West Brom entertain Arsenal at The Hawthorns in the Premier League.</i>
8:00pm	Live NFL: Game A match from the NFL.
10:00pm	Live NFL: Sunday Game <i>A match from the NFL.</i>
2:00am	Live NFL: Sunday Game3 <i>A match from the NFL.</i>

itv

8:30am	The Tom and Jerry Show
8:45am	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series
9:00am	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series
9:15am	Horrid Henry
9:30am	A Grizzly New Year's Tale
9:55am	Scrambled!
10:25am	Countrywise
10:50am	Casino Royale
1:25pm	ITV News The latest ITV News.
1:30pm	All Star Musicals
3:20pm	A Very Royal Wedding
4:30pm	A Right Royal Quiz
5:30pm	Victoria
7:25pm	ITV News London
7:35pm	ITV News The latest ITV News.
7:50pm	Cannonball Splash Hits
8:50pm	Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1
11:15pm	The Real Full Monty
12:45am	ITV News
1:10am	Parenthood
3:15am	Take Me Out

itv2

7:00am	Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records
7:25am	Emmerdale Omnibus
10:25am	Coronation Street Omnibus
1:25pm	You've Been Framed!
2:30pm	Mr. Bean
3:00pm	Mr. Bean
3:30pm	Happy Feet Two
4:30pm	FYI Daily
4:35pm	Happy Feet Two
5:35pm	Nanny McPhee
6:35pm	FYI Daily
6:40pm	Nanny McPhee
7:40pm	New Year's Eve
8:40pm	FYI Daily
8:45pm	New Year's Eve
10:00pm	Sherlock Holmes
11:00pm	FYI Daily
11:05pm	Sherlock Holmes
12:35am	Family Guy
1:10am	Family Guy
1:35am	Family Guy
2:10am	Family Guy
2:35am	Family Guy
3:00am	American Dad!
3:30am	American Dad!
3:55am	Celebrity Juice: Bestest Bits 2017

itv3

7:00am	On the Buses
7:25am	On the Buses
7:50am	George and Mildred
8:20am	Up Pompeii
9:20am	FYI Daily
9:25am	Up Pompeii
10:00am	Carry on at Your Convenience
11:00am	FYI Daily
11:05am	Carry on at Your Convenience
11:50am	Carry on Doctor
12:55pm	FYI Daily
1:00pm	Carry on Doctor
1:50pm	Carry on Again, Doctor
2:55pm	FYI Daily
3:00pm	Carry on Again, Doctor
3:35pm	The Likely Lads
4:35pm	FYI Daily
4:40pm	The Likely Lads
5:25pm	Lewis
7:25pm	Diana, Our Mother: Her Life and Legacy
9:00pm	Midsomer Murders
11:00pm	My Boy Jack
1:00am	Christmas Epic Fails
2:00am	The Knock
3:35am	The Knock

itv4

7:00am	World Cup Rivalries: Brazil v Italy
7:15am	The Chase
8:05am	The Protectors
8:30am	The Professionals
9:25am	The Professionals
10:25am	The Professionals
11:25am	Minder
12:35pm	Minder
1:45pm	Minder
2:55pm	Lawman
3:55pm	FYI Daily
4:00pm	Lawman
5:00pm	The Train Robbers
6:05pm	FYI Daily
6:10pm	The Train Robbers
6:50pm	Jeremiah Johnson
7:55pm	FYI Daily
8:00pm	Jeremiah Johnson
9:05pm	Jaws 4: The Revenge
10:10pm	FYI Daily
10:15pm	Jaws 4: The Revenge
11:00pm	Total Recall
12:00am	FYI Daily
12:05am	Total Recall 1:10am
2:10am	Species III
2:15am	Species III
3:30am	Now Pay Attention 007

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

8:55am	Deadpool
10:55am	Rogue One: A Star Wars Story
1:15pm	Braveheart
4:15pm	Captain America: Civil War
6:45pm	Jack Reacher
9:00pm	Rogue One: A Star Wars Story
11:20pm	Deadpool
1:15am	Top Gun
3:10am	Rocky V

sky CINEMA COMEDY

7:50am	As Good as It Gets
10:15am	Jerry Maguire
12:40pm	The Boss
2:25pm	Bridget Jones's Baby
4:35pm	Hot Tub Time Machine
6:20pm	Why Him?
8:15pm	The Boss
10:00pm	Bridget Jones's Baby
12:10am	Why Him?
2:05am	Hot Tub Time Machine
3:50am	Coming to America
5:50am	Music and Lyrics

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

7:00am	The LEGO Batman Movie
8:50am	The Boss Baby
10:30am	The Zookeeper's Wife
12:40pm	Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2
3:00pm	Beauty and the Beast
5:10pm	The Boss Baby
6:50pm	The Zookeeper's Wife
9:00pm	Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2
11:20pm	Table 19
12:50am	John Wick: Chapter Two
2:55am	Beauty and the Beast
5:10am	The LEGO Batman Movie

sky sports football

8:00am	EFL Goals: League 1 and 2
8:30am	Football
8:45am	SPFL Greatest Games
9:00am	Football's Greatest
9:30am	EFL Goals: Championship
10:00am	EFL Goals: League 1 and 2
10:30am	Football
10:45am	SPFL Greatest Games
11:00am	The Next Jamie Vardy
12:00pm	EFL Goals: League 1 and 2
12:30pm	Sunday Supplement
2:00pm	EFL Rivalries
3:00pm	The Next Jamie Vardy
4:00pm	EFL Rivalries
5:00pm	The Next Jamie Vardy
6:00pm	Revista: El Clasico Special
6:30pm	Ronaldo
7:00pm	The Next Jamie Vardy
8:00pm	Celtics Invincibles
9:00pm	The Next Jamie Vardy
10:00pm	Magical Messi
11:00pm	The Next Jamie Vardy
12:00am	Celtics Invincibles
1:00am	EFL Goals: Championship

Advertising feature

Christina Sharp

GLOBELINK INTERNATIONAL
christina@globelink.co.uk



Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas with our festive security & travel guide

MILLIONS of us travel over Christmas, or host family and friends at home, so stay safe and keep that festive feeling throughout the holidays with our Home Security and Travel Tips, because it's not just Santa Claus who's Coming to Town...

Home alone?

Leaving your home unattended for hours, or days over Christmas? The sad fact is burglaries increase by 30 per cent during the holidays, as unoccupied homes full of gifts and goodies make rich pickings for unscrupulous burglars on the prowl.

The best Christmas gift you can buy yourself is an automatic timer for lights. It deters casual observers and opportunists. Don't close curtains or blinds to make your home look less tempting. It could do the opposite and send a clear message that you are away.

Move car and door keys out of sight and don't store them anywhere near a door.

If going away, arrange for local postal services to keep your mail, or ask a neighbour to pop in and collect it daily thus avoiding tell-tale piles of post, or bulging mailboxes, which is a sure sign that nobody's home.

Get neighbours or friends to open and close curtains and park on your drive for that 'I'm home' impression. Neighbours can also raise the alarm if they spot unexpected or suspicious behaviour.

Don't leave a spare key in that clever outdoor hiding place that only you know about! You can be sure that if you have thought of it - so will devils burglars.

Avoid the temptation of announcing your plans on social media; or tagging your location on Facebook etc.

Escape unwanted Christmas surprises like burst pipes by keeping heating on for a while and insulate exposed outside pipes.

Make a list and check it twice if you are travelling over Christmas.

Make your check-list and review it



Don't make it easy for the Christmas burglar.

thoroughly to ensure you are good to go before you travel. Keep essential documents accessible and don't carry liquids over 100ml in your hand luggage so you can breeze through security.

Driving home for Christmas? (... or flying)

Plan your route well ahead and check traffic reports on the day for unexpected events that might scupper plans, like accidents, maintenance

work, or even strike action.

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire?

Your Egg Nog, or Christmas pudding may be legendary family favourites, but check restrictions on foodstuffs before you pack, if traveling by plane, or crossing country borders.

Jack Frost nibbling at your nose?

The UK is set for the warmest UK Christmas on record, but we've seen

temperatures of minus 13 this month! Weather is changeable, so double check your chosen destination and pack (and dress) accordingly.

Don't go crackers

Crackers are a great Christmas tradition, but many airlines don't allow them in your luggage, nor party poppers, fireworks, or sparklers. Also avoid pre-wrapping presents in case you're selected for a security check.

Blue Christmas

Finally, unexpected accidents and mishaps happen and nothing will dampen your Christmas spirit like exorbitant Medical Expenses while you are away. So be a savvy traveller and ensure you're covered by a decent travel insurance policy before leaving home.

Have a wonderful Christmas and travel safe. Travel Insurance for essential peace of mind from www.globelink.co.uk, or call (UK) +44 1353 699 082 or our Spanish link line 966 265 000.

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Costa Blanca
Avenida de las Brisas 5, Villamartin
Orihuela Costa 03189 Alicante
+34 966 764 934
www.hifx.co.uk/villamartin

Costa del Sol
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GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



BBC one

7:00am	Breakfast
10:00am	Cars 2
11:40am	How to Train Your Dragon: Legend of the Boneknapper Dragon
11:55am	Bedtime Stories
1:25pm	The Highway Rat
1:55pm	The Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year Message
2:00pm	BBC News
2:15pm	A Christmas Carol Goes Wrong
3:05pm	Shrek Forever After
4:30pm	Blue Planet II
6:00pm	Maleficent
7:30pm	BBC News
7:45pm	BBC London News
7:55pm	Grandpa's Great Escape
9:00pm	EastEnders
10:00pm	McMafia
11:00pm	Mrs. Brown's Boys
11:30pm	BBC News
11:50pm	BBC London News
12:00am	Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull
1:55am	The Graham Norton Show

BBC TWO

7:25am	Stick Man
7:55am	Frankenweenie
9:15am	The Big Family Cooking Showdown
10:15am	The Big Family Cooking Showdown
11:15am	New Year's Day Concert Live From Vienna 2018
1:45pm	Natural World
2:35pm	Dances with Wolves
5:25pm	The Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year Message
5:30pm	Final Score
6:30pm	The Perfect Morecambe and Wise
7:00pm	Eric and Ernie's Home Movies
8:00pm	Reindeer Family and Me
9:00pm	Only Connect
9:30pm	Christmas University Challenge 2017
10:00pm	Sue Perkins and the Chimp Sanctuary
11:00pm	Noah
1:10am	Frankie Boyle's 2017 New World Order

BBC FOUR

8:00pm	New Year's Day Concert From Vienna 2018
10:00pm	The Story Of...
11:00pm	Queen: Rock the World
12:00am	Queen: The Legendary 1975 Concert
1:05am	The Clash: New Year's Day '77
2:20am	The Story Of...
3:20am	Queen: Rock the World <i>Behind-the-scenes archive documentary following Queen as they record their sixth album News of the World and embark on a groundbreaking tour of North America.</i>
4:20am	This is BBC Four <i>BBC Four is the BBC channel for people who want more.</i>

CHANNEL 4

7:05am	Jamie's Cracking Christmas
7:15am	Flash Gordon
9:15am	Thunderbirds
11:05am	The Simpsons
11:35am	The Simpsons
12:05pm	The Simpsons
12:35pm	The Cat in the Hat
2:10pm	Hugo
4:35pm	Ice Age: The Meltdown
6:20pm	Channel 4 News
6:30pm	Mrs. Doubtfire
8:40pm	The Great British Bake Off
10:00pm	Pitch Perfect 2
12:15am	First Dates
1:20am	The Price is Right
2:15am	Speed 2: Cruise Control
4:20am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
5:10am	Location, Location, Location

CHANNEL 5

7:00am	Puffin Rock
7:05am	Poppy Cat
7:20am	Simon
7:25am	Peppa Pig
7:30am	Digby Dragon
7:40am	Fireman Sam
7:55am	Noddy: Toyland Detective
8:05am	Peppa Pig
8:10am	Floogals
8:20am	Shimmer and Shine
8:40am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
8:55am	Thomas and Friends
10:25am	On the Town
12:25pm	Oliver!
3:10pm	Mrs Caldicot's Cabbage War
5:20pm	The Hundred-Foot Journey
7:30pm	World's Strongest Man 2017
9:00pm	The Two Ronnies
11:00pm	Britain's Greatest Ever Double Acts
1:50am	Football on 5
2:40am	Super Casino
4:10am	World's Strongest Man 2017
5:00am	Cruising with Jane McDonald

4

7:00am	Rude(ish) Tube
7:25am	Streetmate
7:55am	Charmed
8:55am	Charmed
10:00am	Postman Pat: The Movie
11:45am	Doctor Dolittle 3
1:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
2:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
2:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
3:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
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	Titanic
12:00am	Gogglebox 2017
2:10am	The Big Bang Theory
2:40am	The Big Bang Theory
3:10am	Rude Tube
4:10am	First Dates
5:05am	The Crystal Maze

sky sports main event

7:00am	Cricket
10:15am	Best of Sky Cricket
10:30am	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
9:00pm	Live World Ch'ship Darts Final
12:00am	SKY Sports News
1:00am	SKY Sports News
2:00am	Live WWE Late Night Raw
5:15am	Sporting Triumphs
5:30am	Football <i>Everton host Manchester United at Goodison Park in the Premier League.</i>

itv

8:25am	Horrid Henry
8:40am	Horrid Henry
8:55am	Horrid Henry
9:10am	Horrid Henry
9:25am	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series
9:40am	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series
9:55am	Scrambled! Sketch Show
10:25am	Cannonball Splash Hits
11:55am	50 Greatest Harry Potter Moments
1:45pm	ITV News
2:00pm	ITV Racing: Live From Cheltenham and Mussleburgh
4:30pm	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
6:45pm	Paul O'Grady: For The Love of Dogs
7:40pm	ITV News
8:00pm	Emmerdale
8:30pm	Coronation Street
9:00pm	Spectre
11:45pm	ITV News
12:05am	The Keith and Paddy Picture Show

itv2

9:40am	Who Shot Simon Cowell?
10:10am	You've Been Framed! Special
11:10am	Bean
12:10pm	FYI Daily
12:15pm	Bean
1:00pm	Emmerdale
1:30pm	Coronation Street
2:00pm	Beethovens 2nd
3:10pm	FYI Daily
3:15pm	Beethovens 2nd
3:50pm	The Mummy
4:50pm	FYI Daily
4:55pm	The Mummy
6:05pm	Despicable Me
7:05pm	FYI Daily
7:10pm	Despicable Me
8:00pm	Uncle Buck
9:00pm	FYI Daily
9:05pm	Uncle Buck
10:00pm	The Hangover
11:00pm	FYI Daily
11:05pm	The Hangover
12:05am	Family Guy
12:35am	Family Guy
1:05am	Family Guy
1:30am	American Dad!
1:55am	American Dad!
2:25am	Celebrity Juice

itv3

7:00am	The History of Mr Polly
8:45am	Goodbye, Mr. Chips
10:50am	Carry on Girls
12:30pm	The Likely Lads
2:15pm	The Wizard of Oz
4:20pm	The Royal Variety Performance 2017
7:00pm	Lewis <i>A rape case appears to be solved when the chief suspect is murdered.</i>
9:00pm	Midsomer Murders
11:00pm	Tommy Cooper: Not Like That, Like This <i>Drama telling the story of comedian Tommy Cooper and the two women he loved.</i>
1:05am	Inspector Morse
3:20am	ITV3 Nightscreen <i>Text-based information service.</i>
3:30am	Teleshopping <i>Shopping from home.</i>

itv4

7:00am	The Protectors
7:30am	The Chase
8:20am	Ironsides
9:20am	Quincy, M.E.
10:25am	Minder
11:35am	The Sweeney
12:40pm	The Professionals
1:45pm	The Sea Wolves
2:50pm	FYI Daily
2:55pm	The Sea Wolves
4:10pm	The Train Robbers
5:10pm	FYI Daily
5:15pm	The Train Robbers
6:15pm	Lawman
7:15pm	FYI Daily
7:20pm	Lawman
8:20pm	Pawn Stars
8:45pm	Pawn Stars
9:15pm	Jackie Chan's First Strike
10:15pm	FYI Daily
10:20pm	Jackie Chan's First Strike
11:00pm	Sudden Death
12:00am	FYI Daily
12:05am	Sudden Death
1:10am	Car Crash Global
2:10am	Fifth Gear
3:05am	Fierce

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

9:00am	Jack Reacher: Never Go Back
11:00am	Doctor Strange
1:00pm	Robin Hood
3:25pm	Twister
5:25pm	Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice
8:00pm	Jack Reacher: Never Go Back
10:00pm	Doctor Strange
12:00am	Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice

sky CINEMA COMEDY

7:40am	Special
8:10am	Liar Liar
9:50am	Splash
11:50am	The Nutty Professor
1:35pm	Nutty Professor II: The Klumps
3:25pm	The Bounty Hunter
5:25pm	Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates
7:10pm	Keeping up with the Joneses
9:00pm	The Bounty Hunter
11:00pm	Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

7:00am	Beauty and the Beast
9:10am	The Boss Baby
10:50am	Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2
1:10pm	Kong: Skull Island
3:15pm	The LEGO Batman Movie
5:05pm	Beauty and the Beast
7:20pm	The Boss Baby
9:00pm	Kong: Skull Island
11:10pm	Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2
1:35am	The Zookeeper's Wife
3:50am	Hidden Figures <i>Oscar-nominated biopic about a trio of African-American women who overcame prejudice to play a crucial role in the US space race.</i>

sky sports football

10:00am	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
10:15am	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
10:30am	La Liga Greatest Games
10:45am	La Liga Greatest Games
11:00am	Football Years
11:30am	Football Countdowns
12:00pm	One2eleven
12:15pm	One2eleven
12:30pm	SPFL Greatest Games
12:45pm	SPFL Greatest Games
1:00pm	Gillette Soccer Special
3:30pm	Football
6:30pm	Football's Greatest Teams
7:00pm	To be Announced
8:00pm	Soccer A.M.
8:30pm	Football Years
9:00pm	Magical Messi
10:00pm	Championship Season Review
11:00pm	Football Years
11:30pm	Soccer A.M.
12:00am	La Liga Icons
12:15am	La Liga Icons
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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Spanish food? Give me beans on toast

SIR,
What do the Spanish actually eat? I'm sick of their knock off paella and half pints of average lager! Why don't the supermarkets stock some proper food for god's sake? I can't get any decent crisps or cream anywhere and don't get me started on their rancid 'tapas' and Indian restaurants. The cheese is rubbish, ditto the instant coffee and no one ever likes seafood anyway. At least the ham's good I suppose. But give me beans on toast any day.

Hungry, Benalmadena

EL Gor-don't

I HAVE recently moved to Spain and decided to invest €20 on an El Gordo ticket. What a waste of time and money, I didn't quite understand what was happening on TV, the whole thing seemed very confusing. I don't think that I will be partaking again.

Wallace, Nerja

Party over?

WHERE'S all the fun gone!? Fuengirola

Celebs page has X Factor

I WAS somewhat amused by the recent letter from David Baird in which he makes disparaging comments about your celebrity page.

He seems to know nothing about Nicki Minaj, Nicole Scherzinger and Gorka Marquez who have been on our TV screens every week during the last few years. While Nicki Minaj may be better known for her anatomy rather than her voice, Nicole Scherzinger has spent the last few years as a judge on the X Factor and Gorka Marquez has been seen by millions on Strictly Come



STRICTLY FAMOUS? Nicole Scherzinger and Gorka Marquez.

Dancing every Saturday night. With five million people watching X Factor and 12 million unable to miss Strictly, Mr Baird

should either get out a bit more or spend more time watching TV!

Peter Sanderson, Estepona

used to be full of late night antics, drinking and people having a laugh, but now everyone seems to be in bed at midnight. I know it's down season and some of us are getting a bit older, but we all seem to be a bit boring these days! What we need is some all-inclusive boat parties to get the kids on board. Back in my day it was all happening, but now the town's gone to the dogs.

Deidre, Los Boliches, Fuengirola

At least try

I AM sick and tired of expats living abroad and not attempting to learn the language of the country they are living in. I can't speak fluent Spanish by any means, but if I go to a restaurant or become involved in a conversation with a Spaniard I will at least attempt to try and speak some Spanish, it's just rude not to even try.

Barbara Pearce, San Pedro del Pinatar

Dogman query

JUST a quick note about your recent article in this week's EWN.

You state 'please do not buy a harness,' but I must disagree with you on this statement.

I have two Chinese Crested hairless dogs. It is dangerous for them to wear collars and leads of any sort, as it is for any other hairless breeds (Mexican Hairless, Peruvian Inca Orchid, American Hairless Terrier, Abyssinian Sand Terrier and Bolivian Kula).

Collars, whether leather, chain or webbing, run the risk of severing their windpipes if used, and a harness is therefore a necessity with these particular breeds. They are all hairless, so have no 'buffer' of fur around their necks to prevent damage by a collar!

Could you please amend your article to inform owners of this information? I would hate to hear of a hairless dog's demise due to your somewhat incorrect statement.

Nicola Price, Arboleas

I do not think for one moment that any dog will demise as a result of my article.

Common sense would prevail that owners obviously advise the person they are buying from if a harness is suitable for breeds such as Chinese Crested hairless dogs or Mexican Hairless, Peruvian Inca Orchid, American Hairless Terrier, Abyssinian Sand Terrier and Bolivian Kula.

I write generally and maintain that harnesses are not suitable for 'most' breeds and can harm a dog.

David The Dogman

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.

British passports ditching EU burgundy

Having just renewed this year, mine will still be red for another 10 years with European Citizen still proudly displayed. *Ian Scottie Dunbar*

It doesn't matter what colour it is. There are more important issues to deal with. *Susan Rogers*

I am just wondering if it will mean that visitors coming to Spain from the UK will then need a Visa to enter Spain. I once had to apply at this end for a Visa to enter Spain for my grandson who then had a South African passport. It involved a lot of paperwork (typically Spanish) and was very expensive. *Irene Harvey*

I am proud to be British, and proud to say I'm a REMAINDER, and think to change the colour of our passports is of no consequence to its use, the colour looks good and stands out. We should keep it. *George R Carman*

The extra security will be great but manufactured and printed in Germany, huge scale buttering up to improve a deal or what? *Thelma Dance*

Puigdemont: "Republic of Cataluña has won"

Come back and face the music instead of hid-

Comments from EWN online

ing away in Belgium, it's ok stirring up the country but not prepared to stay here for his beliefs, shame on him. *Colin Carter*

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

So many British live here under the radar, avoiding paying tax, avoiding legal responsibilities, claiming UK benefits etc etc, no good blaming the Spanish. Maybe Brexit will put a stop to it if passports have to be stamped. *Gill Reynolds*

Just think the tax the Spanish government is missing out on as they keep themselves registered in the UK. *Edith Farminer*

Well that ain't a surprise is it. Is there anything they do know? *Beverley Walker*

Dog owners warned of sausages laced with nails

Must be some sick individual that spends time buying sausages and individually push nails into each sausage and then go lay them outside for dogs to eat. Sick sick sick! Hope they find the evil piece of pondlife and lock him/her up for a very long time! *Julie Jones Peel*

Use muzzles for now, or watch 100 per cent. Shocking! *Sally Hodgson*

Disgusting monsters you're sick. *Karen Howett*

Hotel blamed for Legionnaire's outbreak

When we got back we got an email from Thomson saying it might be wise to have a check up at the doctor due to Legionnaire's disease in our area but many at our hotel were ill, the ambulance was there a number of times. Sympathy to the family of this man very sad. *England Kath*

Yes i think you should also name and shame this hotel as it ruined a lot of people's holidays. *Alison Graham*

BBC one

7:00am	Breakfast
10:15am	Rip Off Britain
11:00am	Homes Under the Hammer
12:00pm	Wanted Down Under
12:45pm	Close Calls: On Camera
1:15pm	Bargain Hunt
2:00pm	BBC News at One
2:30pm	BBC London News
2:45pm	Doctors
3:15pm	Father Brown
4:00pm	I Escaped to the Country
4:45pm	The Farmers' Country Showdown
5:30pm	Antiques Road Trip
6:15pm	Pointless
7:00pm	BBC News at Six
7:30pm	BBC London News
8:00pm	EastEnders
9:00pm	Holby City
10:00pm	McMafia
11:00pm	BBC News at Ten
11:30pm	BBC London 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

7:00am	Flog It! Trade Secrets
7:30am	Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman
8:15am	The A to Z of TV Cooking
9:00am	Celebrity Antiques Road Trip
10:00am	BBC Newsroom Live
12:00pm	Westminster Abbey
1:00pm	Coast
1:05pm	The Wooden Horse
2:45pm	The Wonder of Animals
3:15pm	Operation Wild
4:15pm	Penguins - Spy in the Huddle
5:15pm	Planet Earth II
6:15pm	Flog It!
7:00pm	Eggheads
7:30pm	Great British Railway Journeys
8:00pm	Kate Humble: Off the Beaten Track
8:30pm	Christmas University Challenge 2017
9:00pm	Inside the Factory
10:00pm	The Real T rex with Chris Packham
11:00pm	Inside No 9
11:30pm	Newsnight
12:15am	Sue Perkins and the Chimp Sanctuary

BBC FOUR

8:00pm	Beyond 100 Days <i>The latest national and international news, exploring the day's events from a global perspective.</i>
8:30pm	Great Continental Railway Journeys
9:00pm	Andrew Marr's The Making of Modern Britain <i>In the first of a six-part series, Andrew Marr revisits Britain at the dawn of the 20th century.</i>
10:00pm	Victoria: A Royal Love Story
11:00pm	The World's Most Photographed
11:30pm	2017: A Year in the Life of a Year
12:00am	Tales of Winter: The Art of Snow and Ice
1:30am	Great Barrier Reef
2:30am	Andrew Marr's The Making of Modern Britain
3:30am	Tales from the Royal Wardrobe with Lucy Worsley
4:30am	This is BBC Four

CHANNEL 4

8:35am	Everybody Loves Raymond
9:30am	Frasier
11:05am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
12:00pm	Sun, Sea and Selling Houses
1:00pm	Channel 4 News
1:05pm	Couples Come Dine with Me
2:05pm	Posh Pawn
3:10pm	Countdown
4:00pm	The Secret Life of the Zoo
5:00pm	A Place in the Sun
6:00pm	Come Dine with Me
7:00pm	The Simpsons
7:30pm	Hollyoaks
8:00pm	Channel 4 News
9:00pm	The Secret Life of the Zoo
10:00pm	24 Hours in A and E
11:00pm	Prince
12:00am	Naked Attraction
1:05am	What Britain Bought in 2017
2:05am	The World's Best Christmas Lights: From Liverpool to Bethlehem
3:00am	The Secret Life of the Zoo

CHANNEL 5

8:55am	Floogals
9:05am	Digby Dragon
9:20am	Rusty Rivets
9:35am	Shimmer and Shine
9:55am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
10:05am	Mofy
10:15am	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
10:40am	Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud
11:05am	Legends of Oz: Dorothy's Return
12:45pm	GPS: Behind Closed Doors
1:40pm	5 News Lunchtime
1:45pm	The Hotel Inspector
2:40pm	10.0 Earthquake
4:15pm	A Date to Die for
6:00pm	5 News at 5
6:35pm	Celebrity Carry on Barging
7:30pm	5 News Tonight
8:00pm	Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh
9:00pm	Diet Secrets and How to Lose Weight
10:00pm	Celebrity Big Brother One Night with My Ex
11:30pm	Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side

4

7:00am	Hollyoaks
8:00am	Charmed
8:55am	Charmed
10:00am	A Monster in Paris
11:50am	Rude(ish) Tube Shorts
12:00pm	The Goldbergs
12:30pm	How I Met Your Mother
1:00pm	How I Met Your Mother
1:30pm	How I Met Your Mother
2:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
2:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
3:00pm	Melissa and Joey
3:30pm	Melissa and Joey
4:00pm	Baby Daddy
4:30pm	Baby Daddy
5:00pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
5:30pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
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	The Big Bang Theory
9:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
9:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
10:00pm	Tattoo Fixers
11:00pm	8 Out of 10 Cats
11:50pm	The Big Bang Theory
12:20am	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	Info not Available
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	Soccer Special Pre-Match
8:30pm	Football
11:00pm	Info not Available
11:30pm	Football
12:00am	Football
12:30am	Football
1:00am	Football
1:30am	Harry Kane's 2017
2:00am	SKY Sports News
3:00am	SKY Sports News
4:00am	SKY Sports News
5:00am	SKY Sports News
5:00am	Round-up of the sports news with live analysis and comment plus extended interviews with the headlines.

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 News
2:55pm	ITV News London
3:00pm	Midsomer Murders
5:00pm	Tipping Point
6:00pm	The Chase
7:00pm	ITV News London
7:30pm	ITV News <i>The latest ITV News.</i>
8:00pm	Emmerdale
8:30pm	Emmerdale
9:00pm	The Greatest TV Moments of All Time
11:00pm	ITV News <i>The latest ITV News.</i>
11:30pm	ITV News London
11:40pm	The Keith and Paddy Picture Show
12:10am	Clueless
1:50am	Jackpot247
4:00am	Loose Women
4:45am	ITV Nightscreen <i>Text-based information service.</i>

itv2

7:00am	Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records
7:25am	Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records
7:55am	Who's Doing the Dishes?
8:45am	Emmerdale
9:20am	Coronation Street
9:50am	You've Been Framed!
10:25am	The Ellen DeGeneres Show
11:10am	Who's Doing the Dishes?
12:10pm	Dress to Impress
1:10pm	Emmerdale
1:45pm	Coronation Street
2:15pm	You've Been Framed!
2:45pm	The Ellen DeGeneres Show
3:40pm	The Jeremy Kyle Show
7:00pm	Take Me Out
8:00pm	You've Been Framed!
8:30pm	You've Been Framed!
9:00pm	Two and a Half Men
9:30pm	Superstore
10:00pm	White House Down
11:00pm	FYI Daily
11:05pm	White House Down
12:40am	Family Guy
1:10am	Family Guy

itv3

7:00am	George and Mildred
7:25am	Wycliffe
8:55am	Goodnight Mister Tom
11:00am	Judge Judy
11:25am	Judge Judy
11:55am	Carry on Dick
1:40pm	The Royal
2:40pm	Heartbeat
3:40pm	Classic Coronation Street
4:15pm	Classic Coronation Street
4:50pm	Agatha Christie's Marple
6:55pm	Heartbeat
7:55pm	Murder, She Wrote
9:00pm	Midsomer Murders
11:00pm	Foyle's War
1:05am	Inspector Morse
3:10am	ITV3 Nightscreen <i>Text-based information service.</i>
3:30am	Teleshopping
4:00am	Teleshopping <i>Innovative, value-for-money products brought directly to you at home.</i>

itv4

7:00am	The Chase
7:50am	The Chase
8:35am	Ironsides
9:35am	Quincy, M.E.
10:40am	Minder
11:40am	The Sweeney
12:50pm	The Professionals
1:50pm	Ironsides
2:55pm	Quincy, M.E.
3:55pm	Minder
5:00pm	The Sweeney
6:05pm	The Professionals
7:05pm	Storage Wars Texas
7:35pm	Storage Wars Texas
8:05pm	Pawn Stars
8:35pm	Pawn Stars
9:00pm	Bear's Mission with Anthony Joshua
10:00pm	The Book of Eli
11:05pm	FYI Daily
11:10pm	The Book of Eli
12:20am	Wanted
1:20am	FYI Daily
1:25am	Wanted
2:30am	The Americans
3:30am	The Protectors
3:55am	ITV4 Nightscreen
4:00am	Teleshopping
5:00am	Teleshopping <i>Innovative, value-for-money products brought directly to you at home.</i>

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

11:40am	Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: Special
12:10pm	Rogue One: A Star Wars Story
2:30pm	Assassin's Creed
4:30pm	Rocky
6:35pm	True Lies
9:00pm	Rogue One: A Star Wars Story
11:15pm	Assassin's Creed
1:15am	Walking Tall

sky CINEMA COMEDY

7:25am	Tora! Tora! Tora!
9:50am	Terminal Velocity
11:40am	Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: Special
12:10pm	Rogue One: A Star Wars Story
2:30pm	Assassin's Creed
4:30pm	Rocky
6:35pm	True Lies
9:00pm	Rogue One: A Star Wars Story
11:15pm	Assassin's Creed
1:15am	Walking Tall
2:45am	Hanna
4:50am	Rocky

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

7:00am	The Ottoman Lieutenant
9:00am	The Boss Baby <i>Animated comedy about a youngster concerned that his baby brother is actually a power-hungry tycoon sent to destroy his perfect family life. With the voice of Alec Baldwin.</i>
10:40am	Rules Don't Apply
12:50pm	Kong: Skull Island
2:50pm	Beauty and the Beast
5:05pm	The Boss Baby
6:50pm	Rules Don't Apply
9:00pm	Kong: Skull Island
11:00pm	Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2
1:15am	Table 19
2:45am	The Zookeeper's Wife
4:55am	Hunter's Prayer

sky sports football

2:00pm	La Liga Icons
3:00pm	SPFL Greatest Games
3:30pm	Soccer A.M.
4:00pm	Football's Greatest Teams
4:30pm	Football's Greatest Teams
5:00pm	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
5:15pm	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
5:30pm	La Liga Greatest Games
5:45pm	La Liga Greatest Games
6:00pm	Football Years
6:30pm	Football Countdowns
7:00pm	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
7:15pm	SPFL Greatest Games
7:30pm	Soccer A.M.
8:00pm	Championship Season Review
9:00pm	La Liga Icons
9:15pm	La Liga Icons
9:30pm	Soccer A.M.
10:00pm	Championship Season Review
11:00pm	La Liga World
11:30pm	La Liga Icons
11:45pm	La Liga Icons
12:00am	La Liga Icons



TV Couch Critic

Sporting shambles takes the biscuit

SARAH LYNN and James White managed a first for the *Apprentice (Final, BBC1)* and became joint winners, sharing half £500,000 between them for their future business plans. I'm unsure whether it was an inspired twist or anticlimax to a steady series. Although the format is slick, the tasks tend to get a little repetitive at times as do Lord Sugar's one liners. Ultimately though, the winner is chosen by a subjective final task which enabled the resulting stalemate. Viewing figures for the final were down 500,000 this year, but a new series is still planned for next year.

As a long standing viewer of *Coronation Street (ITVI)* I have no problem with juicy storylines. What I am struggling with is the current trend for personality changes. Vicar, Billy Mayhew, Anna Windass and Chesney Brown have undergone 'Mr Hyde like' switches. Evil old Phelan doesn't seem quite so sinister any more, or does he?

Has *BBC Sports Personality of the Year* had its day? A chaotic finale laced with technical hitches and controversy left winner Mo Farah high and dry after his video link all the way from London embarrassingly broke down.



TIME FOR A RETHINK: The Sports Personality of the Year.

The *BBC* has little live sport to speak of, relying on borrowed video clips to pad out the show. Mo Farah, our greatest ever athlete and 50/1 outsider won when he should have won in any of the five previous years was a final let-down with the live link crashing as the trophy was presented.

With Chris Froome, our greatest road cyclist under a cloud of a failed

drugs test, heavyweight boxer Anthony Joshua surprisingly not making the podium and both golf and rugby union ignored, it seemed the *BBC* were determined to represent their two last remaining live sports. Including a tennis player whose biggest achievement was a heavy defeat in the Wimbledon semi-final appeared desperate. As a yearly review of sport it's a pleasant



ORGASMIC EXPERIENCE: Vanessa Feltz and a Trio.

evening's viewing, but voting figures were vastly down on previous years.

'*Britain's Favourite Biscuit?*' (C5, 10pm, Tuesday) presented the information we all needed to know. Really? The result of a national survey, the show even had a 'dunk test' to show which biscuits fared the best in a cuppa. I've got to admit I'm not a big fan of biscuits, so perhaps am not best

placed to comment. As incisive, entertaining TV it was a biscuit lover's paradise, but I found it one long yawn.

Vanessa Feltz discussing having an orgasmic experience while enjoying a Trio was possibly a step too far but the biggest omission was any mention of the greatest biscuit advert of all time. For the Breakaway advert in the 1970's featuring Monty Python's Eric Idle and his 'nudge nudge, wink wink, say no more' character to be left out just about put the tin lid on it for me.

Would I Lie to You? At Christmas (BBC1, Monday). The funniest panel show and probably most rib-tickling experience on TV at the moment rarely fails to deliver. Star of the Christmas special was Henry 'Blowers' Blowfeld, sadly retired from cricket commentary this year showed no loss of humour as he recounted the time he phoned a female friend to invite her on holiday thinking she was someone else (he'd had a glass of wine or two at the time).

She accepted and what happened when they met at the airport was comedy gold. Was he lying? It's worth watching on catch up to find out.

Enjoy your festive TV, best wishes.

Critique: S C, Torreveja, Costa Blanca



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BBC one

7:00am Breakfast
10:15am Rip Off Britain
11:00am Homes Under the Hammer
12:00pm Wanted Down Under
12:45pm Close Calls: On Camera
1:15pm Bargain Hunt
2:00pm BBC News at One
2:30pm BBC London News
2:45pm Doctors
3:15pm Father Brown
4:00pm I Escaped to the Country
4:45pm The Farmers' Country Showdown
5:30pm Antiques Road Trip
6:15pm Pointless
7:00pm BBC News at Six
7:30pm BBC London News
8:00pm Celebrity Mastermind
8:30pm A Question of Sport
9:00pm EastEnders
9:30pm Would I Lie to You?
10:00pm Miriam's Big American Adventure
11:00pm BBC News at Ten
11:30pm BBC London News
11:45pm Pretty Woman

BBC TWO

8:15am Antiques Road Trip
9:00am Fern Britton Meets...
10:00am BBC Newsroom Live
12:00pm Westminster Abbey
1:00pm Coast
1:10pm School for Scoundrels
2:45pm The Wonder of Animals
3:15pm Operation Wild
4:15pm Penguins - Spy in the Huddle
5:15pm Planet Earth II
6:15pm Flog It!
7:00pm Eggheads
7:30pm Great British Railway Journeys
8:00pm Kate Humble: Off the Beaten Track
8:30pm Christmas University Challenge 2017
9:00pm Tom Kerridge's Lose Weight for Good
9:30pm Trust Me, I'm a Doctor
10:00pm Rick Stein's Road to Mexico
11:00pm Mock the Week
11:30pm Newsnight

BBC FOUR

8:00pm Beyond 100 Days
8:30pm Tales from the Royal Wardrobe with Lucy Worsley
9:30pm A Stitch in Time *Fusing biography, art and the history of fashion, Amber Butchart explores the lives of historical figures through the clothes they wore. She begins by looking at Charles II.*
10:00pm Made in Dagenham
11:45pm Ford's Dagenham Dream
12:45am Caravans: A British Love Affair
1:45am Great Barrier Reef
2:45am A Stitch in Time
3:15am Ford's Dagenham Dream
4:15am This is BBC Four *BBC Four is the BBC channel for people who want more.*

CHANNEL 4

8:35am Everybody Loves Raymond
9:00am Everybody Loves Raymond
9:30am Frasier
10:00am Frasier
10:35am Frasier
11:05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
12:00pm Sun, Sea and Selling Houses
1:00pm Channel 4 News
1:05pm Couples Come Dine with Me
2:05pm Posh Pawn
3:10pm Countdown
4:00pm The Secret Life of the Zoo
5:00pm A Place in the Sun
6:00pm Come Dine with Me
7:00pm The Simpsons
7:30pm Hollyoaks
8:00pm Channel 4 News
9:00pm Kirstie and Phil's Love it or List it
10:00pm 20 Kids and Counting
11:00pm 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown

CHANNEL 5

8:55am Floogals
9:05am Digby Dragon
9:20am Rusty Rivets
9:35am Shimmer and Shine
9:55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
10:05am Mofy
10:15am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
10:40am Primates of the Caribbean
12:10pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
1:00pm 5 News Lunchtime
1:05pm The Hotel Inspector
2:00pm Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud
2:30pm A Father's Denial
4:20pm Drew Peterson: Untouchable
6:00pm 5 News at 5
6:35pm Celebrity Carry on Barging
7:30pm 5 News Tonight
8:00pm Starting Up, Starting Over
9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother

4

10:00am Space Chimps 2: Zartog Strikes Back
11:35am Rude(ish) Tube Shorts
12:00pm The Goldbergs
12:30pm The Goldbergs
1:00pm How I Met Your Mother
1:30pm How I Met Your Mother
2:00pm The Big Bang Theory
2:30pm The Big Bang Theory
3:00pm Melissa and Joey
3:30pm Melissa and Joey
4:00pm Baby Daddy
4:30pm Baby Daddy
5:00pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine
5:30pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine
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 The Big Bang Theory
9:00pm The Goldbergs
9:30pm The Goldbergs
10:00pm Don't Tell the Bride
11:00pm Body Fixers
12:05am The Big Bang Theory

sky sports main event

7:00am Cricket *The third and final T20 in the series between New Zealand and the Windies from the Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui.*
10:15am My Icon
10:30am Good Morning Sports Fans
11:00am Info not available
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 Football
11:15pm PL Greatest Games
11:30pm Info not available
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
2:55pm ITV News London
3:00pm Midsomer Murders
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 Tonight
9:30pm Coronation Street
10:00pm Girlfriends
11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
11:30pm ITV News London
11:45pm Car Crash Britain
Caught on Camera
12:40am Britain's Busiest Airport - Heathrow
1:30am Jackpot247
4:00am Tonight
4:25am ITV Nightscreen

itv2

7:55am Dress to Impress
8:45am Emmerdale
9:50am You've Been Framed! Gold
10:25am The Ellen DeGeneres Show
11:10am Who's Doing the Dishes?
12:10pm Dress to Impress
1:10pm Emmerdale
2:15pm You've Been Framed! Gold
2:45pm The Ellen DeGeneres Show
3:35pm The Jeremy Kyle Show
4:40pm The Jeremy Kyle Show
5:45pm The Jeremy Kyle Show
6:50pm Take Me Out
8:00pm You've Been Framed! Gold
8:30pm You've Been Framed! Gold
9:00pm Two and a Half Men
9:30pm Superstore
10:00pm Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows
11:00pm FYI Daily
11:05pm Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows
12:45am Family Guy

itv3

7:00am Coronation Street
7:25am Coronation Street
7:55am Judge Judy
8:20am Heartbeat
9:20am The Royal
10:25am Judge Judy
10:50am Judge Judy
11:15am Judge Judy
11:45am Blue Murder at St. Trinian's
1:30pm The Royal
2:35pm Heartbeat
3:40pm Coronation Street
4:15pm Coronation Street
4:50pm Agatha Christie's Marple
6:55pm Heartbeat *A cat burglar is on the prowl, targeting the wealthiest homes in the district.*
8:00pm Murder, She Wrote
9:00pm Endeavour
11:05pm Foyle's War
1:05am Inspector Morse
3:10am ITV3 Nightscreen *Text-based information service.*
3:30am Teleshopping *Shopping from home.*

itv4

7:00am The Chase
7:50am Pawn Stars
8:10am Pawn Stars
8:35am Ironside
9:40am Quincy, M.E.
10:40am Minder
11:50am The Sweeney
12:55pm The Professionals
1:55pm Ironside
2:55pm Quincy, M.E.
4:00pm Minder
5:05pm The Sweeney
6:10pm The Professionals
7:10pm Storage Wars Texas
7:40pm Storage Wars Texas
8:10pm Pawn Stars
8:40pm Pawn Stars
9:05pm Jaws 4: The Revenge
10:10pm FYI Daily
10:15pm Jaws 4: The Revenge *Fourth in the series of action adventures about a malevolent great white shark.*
11:00pm Ransom
12:00am FYI Daily *The latest entertainment news.*
12:05am Ransom
1:20am RoboCop 3
2:20am FYI Daily *The latest entertainment news.*

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

7:00am Stealth
9:05am Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World
11:35am 2012
2:15pm Top Gun
4:15pm Rocky II
6:15pm Troy
9:00pm 2012
11:40pm Top Gun
1:35am Stealth
7:15am Special
7:45am Bad News Bears
9:45am The Tiger Hunter
11:25am The Naked Gun 3 1/3: The Final Insult
1:00pm Knocked Up
3:15pm Stuck on You
5:20pm Sausage Party
7:00pm 27 Dresses
9:00pm Stuck on You
11:00pm Knocked Up
1:20am Sausage Party
3:00am Brúno
4:30am Ali G Indahouse

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

7:00am Table 19
8:35am The Boss Baby
10:20am Kong: Skull Island
12:25pm Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2
2:45pm Rules Don't Apply
5:00pm Beauty and the Beast
7:15pm The Boss Baby *Animated comedy about a youngster concerned that his baby brother is actually a power-hungry tycoon sent to destroy his perfect family life. With the voice of Alec Baldwin.*
9:00pm Kong: Skull Island
11:00pm President Under Siege
1:00am Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2
3:20am Hunter's Prayer
4:55am Table 19

sky sports football

3:00pm La Liga World
3:30pm La Liga Icons
3:45pm La Liga Icons
4:00pm Football's Greatest Teams
4:30pm Football's Greatest Teams
5:00pm Scottish Cup Greatest Games
5:15pm Scottish Cup Greatest Games
5:30pm La Liga Greatest Games
5:45pm La Liga Greatest Games
6:00pm Football Years
6:30pm Football Countdowns
7:00pm La Liga World
7:30pm La Liga Icons
7:45pm La Liga Icons
8:00pm EFL Midweek Goals: Championship
8:30pm EFL Midweek Goals
9:00pm La Liga World
9:30pm La Liga Icons
9:45pm La Liga Icons
10:00pm EFL Midweek Goals: Championship
10:30pm EFL Midweek Goals
11:00pm La Liga World
11:30pm Ronaldo
12:00am EFL Midweek Goals: Championship

TECH FOR THE TIMID

The charge of the tight brigade

These days 'living dangerously' is when your phone only has a 5 per cent charge, says LBA-sufferer Terence Kennedy.



PHONE-CHARGING: Less than €5 a year.

NINETY PER CENT of people leave their phone chargers plugged in day and night. The other 10 per cent are either obsessive compulsives (guilty as charged m'lud) or planet-savers.

Depending on whose statistics you believe, a permanently-plugged phone charger consumes less than €5 of electricity a year. No, that's not a misprint. Tell that to the coffee-bar owner who refused to let me charge my phone for a couple of hours there while I did other business, 'unless you pay for the electricity.' Will one cent do nicely?

LBA is now an acknowledged modern syndrome: Low Battery Anxiety. Typically that's when it's barely lunchtime and you're down to 20 per cent and panicked. Manufacturer LG says nine out of 10 people suffer from LBA, while the rest of us just get on with our lives.

In our 'always-on' society, a dead battery is today's best excuse, or genuine reason, for missing calls, not responding to messages or turning up late for appointments ('I had to wait for my phone to charge.')

An American survey revealed that in a low-power scenario and having to choose between hitting

the gym and charging their smartphone fully, a third of those asked opted for the charging.

We have become so seriously charger-dependent. Most people charge their phones twice a day

now, where my wife's old Nokia happily used to chug along for a week or more.

It's also surprising just how uninformed we are when it comes to the way we treat our batteries.

Gone, for instance, are the days when you should religiously charge a new phone for 24 hours before use, and then regularly run it down before recharging.

That worked with prehistoric nickel-cadmium batteries, but today's lithium-ion packs don't like being fully recharged and discharged; experts say it's better to keep trickle-charging them more often, at between 40 and 80 per cent of capacity, and never leave them near-empty for long.

It's also a myth that keeping your phone on charge all night will degrade the battery. Modern technology turns off the phone's appetite, just like ours, when it's full.

When you think about it, it is of course iniquitous as fewer and fewer phones now have replaceable batteries, that when the battery is finished so is the phone. Or could that be a plot by those now selling all those portable power banks by the zillions?

But underlying it all, here's how you know you're an LBA sufferer: if you're asked to list your favourite position in bed, and you answer "Near the wall so I can use my phone while it's charging."

Power struggle

THE world is waiting, and waiting, for new battery technologies like lithium-sulphur and magnesium-sulphur, which promise 40 per cent longer use.

Oddball ideas also include phones which will charge from our body movement, solar cells in our clothing or fast-charges from building or road surfaces as we pass.

Until that happy day, when low-power strikes there are several options for eking out those last few millivolts:

Turn off your location finder (GPS), a notorious power-hog.

Turn down screen brightness to the lowest you can still use.

Log-off from any social media.

Close any apps you aren't actually using.

Turn on power-saving mode if your phone has it.

Don't take photos.

Tell callers you'll call them back later.

Or just use someone else's phone...

THURSDAY THOUGHTS

By Jeremy Snodgrass, Estepona

Gone to the dogs

HAVING grown up and spent much of my life in South London, I certainly subscribed to the idea that Britain is a nation of dog lovers.

Since buying a property in the Costa del Sol 16 years ago I have noticed a huge growth in dog ownership here in Spain which far exceeds anything I ever noticed in the UK.

In our little strip of nine houses there are three Alsations, two Yorkshire-ish Terriers, three short hairy things of mixed parentage who are ankle biters and a handful of yapping Chihuahuas all owned by Spaniards.

In addition, our immediate neighbour who lives in Madrid always brought her vicious black bitch Lola whenever she came for a holiday, causing upset with another neighbour who thought that the dog (now deceased) was named after her.

There are quite a few other dogs in the area including a French Bulldog who regularly escapes from his garden, but is so stupid that he doesn't remember where he lives and waits for someone to take him home.

There is also another Yorkie, who looks like one of the ones in our little estate and he quite often gets taken back to our neighbour and then has to be released when he starts fighting with the real occupant of the house.

We don't own a dog but certainly hear them regularly and get involved in shepherding them home when they get out.

Generally the animals are well-cared for and happily more people are carrying little black bags with them when they are out, cutting down on the number of 'gifts' laying outside our house.

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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.

A few of my unfavourite things ... in 2017



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

LOOKING back over 2017, I can't recall a year so full of odd clothes trends. For instance, mismatched earrings and shoes, underwear intended as outerwear: slippers, pyjamas, you name it. Likewise playsuits - which shouldn't be worn by anyone over three - let alone such grotesque footwear as 'flat-forms.' Even the bloody name makes me retch. And it's hard to find an intact pair of jeans these days - the less denim there is, the more it costs. History will not judge any of these trends kindly.

And what about male fashion? Men in shorts in public: great on young, fit men with tanned legs and decent sandals. But totally yucky when paraded by paunchy, middle-aged individuals with pallid, white legs who invariably accessorise their creased baggy shorts with



Credit: RompHim / Facebook

STYLE FAIL: Men in playsuits - one of the worst fashion trends of 2017?

leather shoes and woolly socks. Still in the same category as reversed baseball caps for me.

Wasn't it Coco Chanel who said that any man over 40 should always wear trousers and a jacket in public? Judging by the untidy hordes pouring into Waterloo station every morning, very good advice.

Also, check out Philip Green to confirm the wisdom of al-

ways wearing a well-tailored jacket in public. And whilst I'm at it, an aunt said you should never trust a man with buckles on his shoes. Sound advice? Err, not so sure...

And annoying words? Take: 'nice.' Why? Well, obviously, because it means everything and nothing: nice day, nice cup of tea, nice weather, nice person, nice sofa, nice new shoes, nice bunch of flowers... I could

go on and on, and will. And my address isn't 'Memory Lane.' Nice one!?

Now, I'm not a violent person but when someone uses the word 'selfie,' I see red mist. Never mind the burkini, ban the moronic selfie-stick and its users!

And finally, why stop at mismatched earrings? Here are some other genius ideas, free and well ahead of the curve. Wellingtons with the foot bit cut off and the leg bit stitched to sandals (called 'Sellingtons'). Plus trendy one-lens sunglasses, one-sleeve shirts. Rant over! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

Advertising feature

Feliz Navidad to all our Spanish clients

I LOVE Spain at this time of year, temperate climate, everyone friendly and how great to actually have a nice phrase to use. So much better than that dreadful word all too often used over the past year, Brexit!

As a debt collector, I have always tried to avoid anything political when speaking with clients and debtors alike, but whether in Spain, the UK or other countries it has been impossible to avoid the word Brexit and the worry and insecurity it has conjured up in the minds of most I talk to. Well, hopefully I can put it in to a little more perspective today.

Will Brexit affect the ability to collect debts in the UK, if incurred in Spain or other EU countries. The simple answer is no it will not.

Before the whole Brexit saga started, on EU debt we had always been able to use EU legislation, now enshrined in UK law. On a debt incurred in one EU country debtor assets are at risk in any other EU country in which they principally reside.

The above statement really means that any debtor can be sued on a personal ba-



BREXIT: It's not bad news for cross-border debt collection.

sis in the UK, for example, with their assets at risk on a debt incurred in Spain.

In essence this is a legal principle for any debt incurred in any country and sued cross-border. It just means that the process is simpler when it is defined under the EU rules embedded in all EU countries. If the UK exits the EU these

rules are still now embedded in UK legislation and there will be no good reason to change them.

Even if there was a move to look again at all debt related EU legislation embedded in UK law there still remains legal conventions between most world countries, allowing for reciprocal legal actions

and enforcement. The UK in particular has had legal conventions with many other countries going back to the 1920's.

From a debt collection perspective there has been a lot of rumour about a more difficult legal scenario outside of Spain.

Whilst there may be a little more paper work the previous legal conventions between most countries remain. It may increase costs a little but I am confident that the EU legislation currently in use will remain so.

Brexit has, unfortunately, done much to reduce confidence in cross-border dealings in all sorts of ways but LPL's principles have not changed one bit. If money is owed and the debtor resides outside of Spain let's get on with the business of collection. Brexit has been an unwelcome side issue and will unfortunately remain so for some time.

At the moment there is absolutely no change in any procedures, so if there are debt problems in your community there is no need, for any reason, to delay action.

In general I really think it should be 'business as usual!'

For more information, visit www.lplgroup.com or speak with the head of Spanish operations, Greg Bryan, who is based in Spain and can be contacted on +34 689 408 412. Tel: UK +44 (0) 208 551 4019.



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I've never understood it

Mike Senker

In my opinion

Views of a Grumpy Old Man



I'M writing this before Christmas but you are reading it after Christmas, so I hope you all had a good one. I'll let you know how mine was next week because I'm going back to the UK to see my daughter.

I'm sure it will go without a hitch. I mean, 'planes, hotels, restaurants over the Christmas period - what could possibly go wrong? Talking about restaurants they spend fortunes on opening the place, make them look nice; get decent chefs, good menus and hopefully good food.

So why, oh why, do they all have so many wobbly tables? Admittedly some now have tables that have little screw things on each leg which can be adjusted but most don't. So we finish up with either me, the waiter or both, bending serviettes or beer mats and trying to wedge them under the offending table.

Then there's the chairs. I was in a place the other day and all their chairs had arms and guess what, they were also loose and wobbly. It's just a basic requirement. If something isn't right fix it please.

Here's a question for you. What do you do when something's not right in a restaurant? Food wise - maybe it's not hot enough or too salty or just isn't what you expected like a tough steak. Do you just leave it or do you send it back? I always tell them the problem and see how they deal with it but I'll never just leave it. I've been with friends who say, 'it's ok' just leave it' and I tell them it's best to say something, as if you don't they are not doing anyone any favours because it depends on the restaurant's reaction as to whether you return again.

I still have a few things to do and sort out over Christmas but they will not get done. It's not because I don't want to do them, but for some absurd reason come December 20 everything stops. Hospital appointments, lawyers, accountants are all telling me to come back the second week of January.

It's not only here; it's the same if not worse in the UK. I've never understood it and I never will.

Well I hope you have all had a great Christmas and I will have more grumps for you in the New Year.

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

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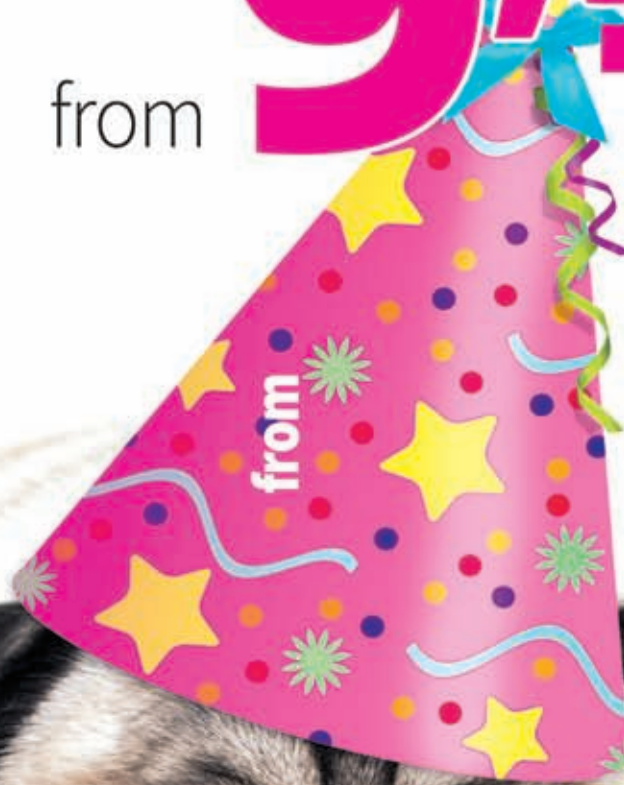


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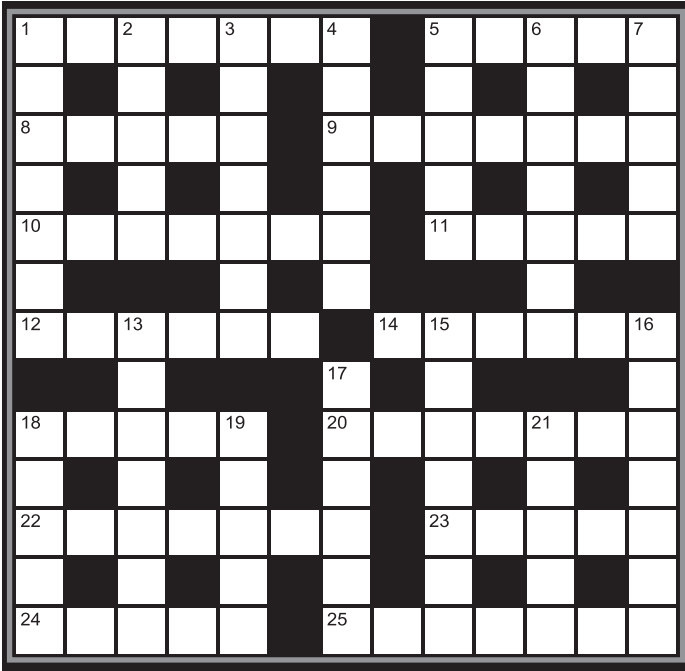
Cryptic

Across

- 1 Steps that make holes in stockings (7)
- 5 A bad shot with the wedge (5)
- 8 Jack takes poem home (5)
- 9 Current, very French, society produces a performer (7)
- 10 One tenant ate cellulose (7)
- 11 Climb over a range (5)
- 12 Not as hard as Eire, correct (6)
- 14 Getting caught on piste is bad (6)
- 18 Plenty of boys retaining nothing (5)
- 20 Smarten up the walls, whichever way you like (7)
- 22 Trick diplomacy is touching (7)
- 23 Dodge lady about now (5)
- 24 Advantage of changing timer (5)
- 25 Bring back from rest or energetic exercise (7)

Down

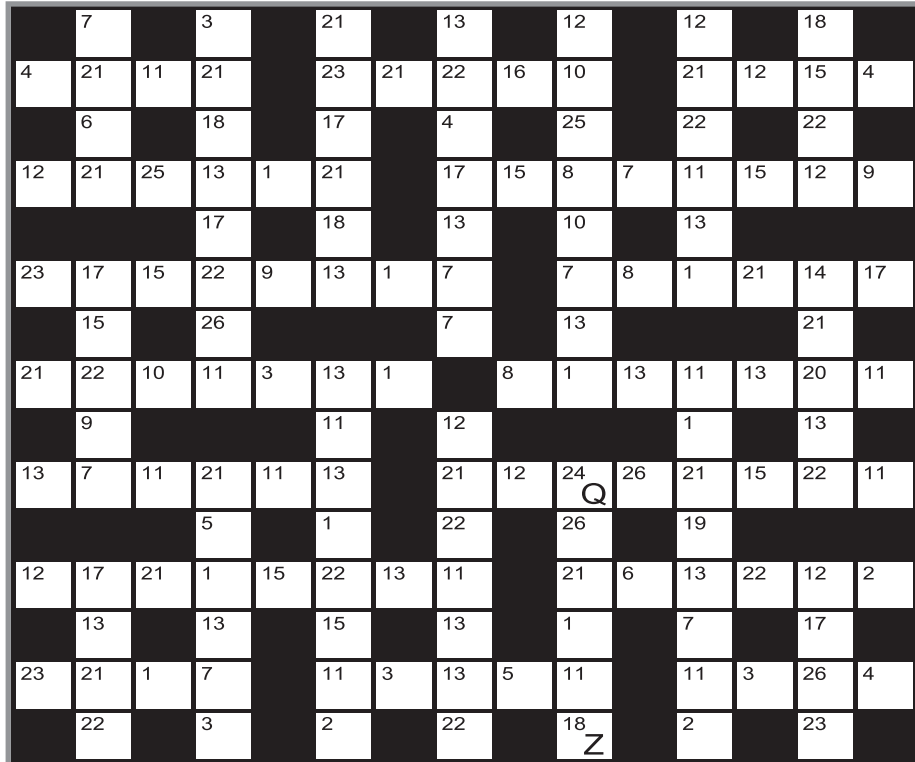
- 1 Outflow from newly formed lake takes time (7)
- 2 Monotonous sounding insect (5)
- 3 Brew tea leaves, but not as boost (7)
- 4 Parts of a fish used for balance (6)
- 5 First staff at the Esso station fills up (5)
- 6 Nice tax break is incorrect (7)



- 7 Follow headless queens around (5)
- 13 You'll turn nuts if you use it (7)
- 15 Quick to declare (7)
- 16 Get core rebuilt for the procession (7)
- 17 Dip in Eurocrat error rate (6)
- 18 Deputy at clock centre sounds hesitant (5)
- 19 Hardly any can be seen in the street (5)
- 21 Philosopher who started philosophising late and too obscurely (5)

Code Breaker

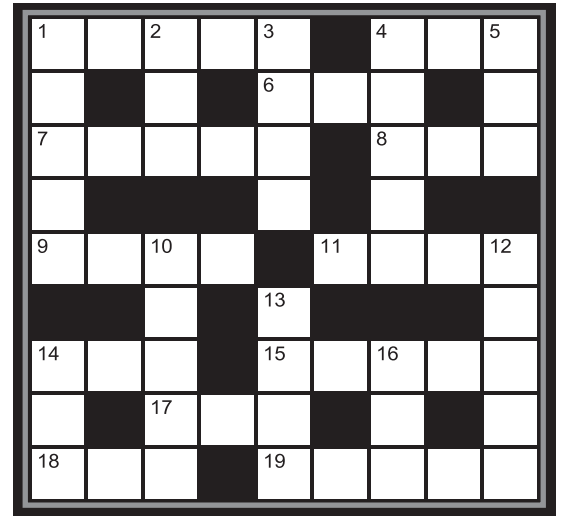
Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 18 represents Z and 24 represents Q, so fill in Z every time the figure 18 appears and Q every time the figure 24 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the control grid.



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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION FACING PAGE

Quick



Across

- 1 Promises (5)
- 4 Male child (3)
- 6 Permit (3)
- 7 Keyboard instrument (5)
- 8 Relevant (3)
- 9 Twelve-month period (4)
- 11 Utter sudden loud cry (4)
- 14 Small insect (3)

Down

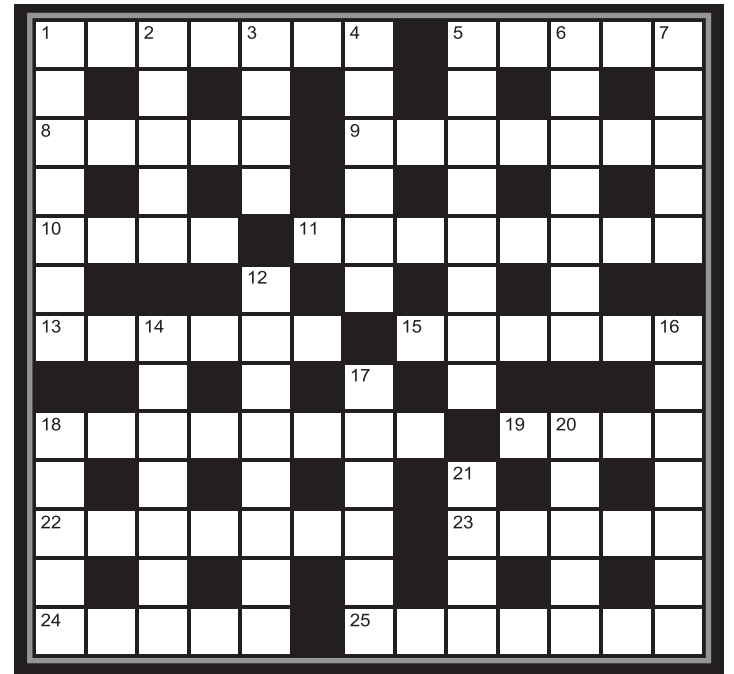
- 1 Joyful (5)
- 2 Small green vegetable (3)
- 3 Leisurely (4)

Across

- 4 Look at with fixed eyes (5)
- 5 Remaining after all deductions (3)
- 10 Following later (5)
- 12 Loans (5)
- 13 Snatch suddenly (4)
- 14 Consumed (3)
- 16 Forbid (3)

English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Salt-cellars (7)
- 5 Less (5)
- 8 Tower (5)
- 9 Elderly old man (7)
- 10 Plancha (utensilio) (4)
- 11 Small cushion (8)
- 13 Cricket (insect) (6)
- 15 Camarero (6)
- 18 Pepino (8)
- 19 Enchufe (eléctrico) (4)

Down

- 22 Pupils (school) (7)
- 23 Walnut tree (5)
- 24 Hornos (5)
- 25 Mothers-in-law (7)
- 1 Sentado (7)
- 2 Long (dress, hair) (5)
- 3 Junco (4)
- 4 Estación (parte del año) (6)

- 5 Rucksacks (8)
- 6 El más cercano (7)
- 7 Humo (5)
- 12 Germans (8)
- 14 Incluir (7)
- 16 Presents (gifts) (7)
- 17 Banquetes (6)
- 18 Nail (metal) (5)
- 20 Place (5)
- 21 Rodilla (4)

CROSSWORD PAGE

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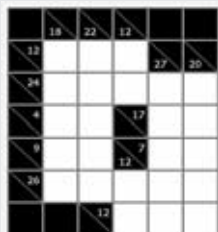
MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



'READ THAT BIT TO ME AGAIN ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING'

Kakuro

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



Nonagram

How many English words of four letters or more can you make from the nine letters in our Nonagram puzzle? Each letter may be used only once (unless the letter appears twice). Each word **MUST CONTAIN THE CENTRE LETTER** (in this case **F**) and there must be **AT LEAST ONE NINE LETTER WORD**. Plurals, vulgarities or proper nouns are not allowed.



TARGET:

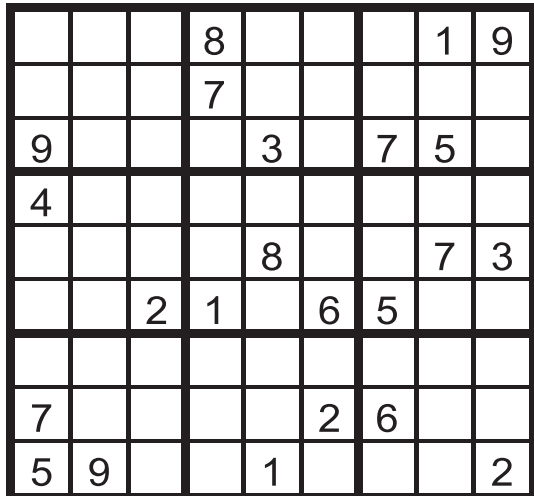
- Average: 10
- Very good: 19
- Good: 13
- Excellent: 25

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

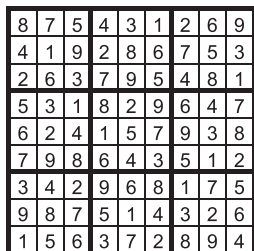
elms emit item lime limo meet melt mete mile milo mils milt mise miso mist mite mitt moll mole molt mote omit seem semi slim some stem team time toms toms elemi emits emote items limes limos meets melts metes miles milos mites mitts moils moist moles molts motel motes motet omits slime smelt smile smite smolt smote teens times toms totem motes mettle molest molies motels motets motile mottle omelet totems elmiest mettles motiles mottles omelets motliest **MISTLETOE**

Sudoku

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3X3 box contains the digits 1-9. There's no maths involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



LOTTERY

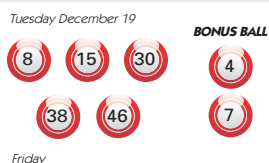
UK NATIONAL LOTTERY

Due to deadline changes over the festive period, this lottery had not been drawn as the EWN went to print.

IRISH LOTTO

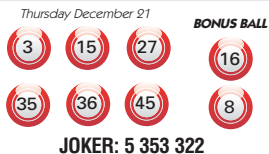
Due to deadline changes over the festive period, this lottery had not been drawn as the EWN went to print.

EURO MILLIONS



Due to deadline changes over the festive period, this lottery had not been drawn as the EWN went to print.

LA PRIMITIVA



Due to deadline changes over the festive period, this lottery had not been drawn as the EWN went to print.

EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA

Due to deadline changes over the festive period, this lottery had not been drawn as the EWN went to print.

YOUR STARS FOR NEXT 7 DAYS

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)

This being a family oriented week, much of it may be spent getting together with relatives and going over old times. Perhaps you are compiling a photo album for older members of the family or vice versa.

PISCES (February 20 - March 20)

An exciting invitation may set tongues wagging and make a loved one jealous. You, meanwhile, are quite bemused by the whole thing. What comes out of this week is that you are of considerable value to others. The mere thought of you not being around sends ripples through your social circle.

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

Being asked to take on a new and demanding task this week may see you wishing that you had been less visible. However, don't think of the hard work involved but rather the brilliant outcome. You will be popular.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

An interest in technology is not something new to you. What is great, though, is that the penny has suddenly dropped. This week sees you understanding more and wanting to know more.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

An urge to get moving must mean that spring is round the corner. Certainly, you are questioning where you want to be in the months ahead. A house move or work placement may be on your mind.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Be aware that not everyone is willing to work as hard as you. When approached by someone wanting you to trust them, be sure of their motives. Do what you feel is right but remain firmly in control, especially financially. It may not be the time to make a particular move, although others think that it is. There's no problem with discussing things and talking them through. Keep up your healthy habits because you need lots of energy, especially at the weekend.

LEO (July 24 - August 23)

Social demands are made, but try to shuffle them to the weekend. Be diplomatic or someone close could become irritated. Keep an eye on the small print because something fundamental may have changed in a long-standing arrangement. Suddenly, at the weekend, you are thrust into the limelight.

VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)

Be aware that leopards do not change their spots, they merely hide them. Those who demand your trust need a cool checking out and don't be afraid to say 'no' as and when necessary. Finances are well aspected this week with a new idea proving both worthwhile in terms of your time and profitable.

LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)

Career and home are in disharmony but a bit of compromise soon sorts things out. You don't like playing the 'bad guy', but honesty is also important to you. Speaking your mind can be liberating although, initially, you may see it as a nuisance and embarrassing. A meeting at the weekend is both confusing and disarming.

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 23)

Someone with a larger-than-life imagination makes you smile but that was not their intention. Try to be diplomatic and steer them in a different direction. Some feelings of loneliness will not be assuaged by working more. Perhaps it is time to consider taking on a pet or giving a current pet more attention.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)

Sometimes, you find it hard to do things just for the pure enjoyment of it. Realise that not everything has to have a purpose or a profit. Look round this week and seek out something that will please your senses and bring a smile to your lips. Make this a week when you live for the moment and give full rein to your imagination.

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)

Contact with a less than ideal situation makes you realise just how lucky you are. It has been clear that the weeks are changeable and your situation at the moment far from settled.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

ENGLISH-SPANISH

Across:

- 1 Nice, 3 Spice tea, 9 Turkeys, 10 Maria, 11 Visit, 12 Dasher, 14 Toffee, 16 Abrazo, 19 Hiedra, 21 Comet, 24 Renos, 25 Alegria, 26 Pastores, 27 Hymn.

Down:

- 1 Nativity, 2 Corks, 4 Posada, 5 Camas, 6 Tarjeta, 7 Asar, 8 Settee, 13 Toy train, 15 Friends, 17 Bicker, 18 Parade, 20 Deseo, 22 Merry, 23 Wrap.

CRYPTIC

Across:

- 1 Acts, 3 Embraces, 9 Shelter, 10 Anita, 11 Ladle, 12 Simper, 14 Thirst, 16 Scrape, 19 Repose, 21 Roger, 24 Event, 25 Iterate, 26 Nightcap, 27 Bede.

Down:

- 1 Absolute, 2 Tweed, 4 Morose, 5 Realm, 6 Chimera, 7 Slap, 8 Others, 13 Retrieve, 15 Iceberg, 17 Carpet, 18 Retina, 20 Octet, 22 Grace, 23 Mean.

QUICK

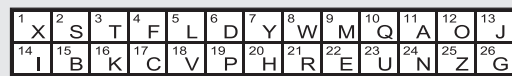
Across:

- 1 Trim, 3 Late, 7 Attracted, 8 Grandma, 11 Prevented, 12 Toes, 13 Edge.

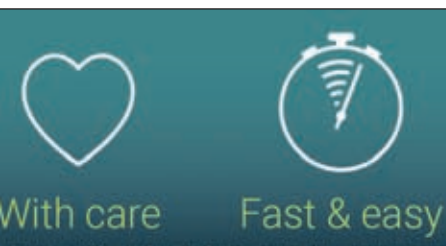
Down:

- 1 Trap, 2 Interfere, 4 Attempted, 5 Ends, 6 Haunted, 9 Spot, 10 Idle.

CODE BREAKER



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Reverse the signs of ageing

MANY a company has promised miracles when it comes to turning back the clock, but a scientist has claimed it might be much easier than we thought.

A gerontology expert, Dr Rozalyn Anderson, said it is an "amazing fact" that wrinkles do not have to appear, claiming fasting may help slow ageing.

The scientist explained a study earlier this year showed adults age 0.6 years slower if they reduce calorie intake by 25 per cent to around 1,900 a day for men and 1,500 for women.

Dr Anderson said, "remarkably, caloric restriction (CR) has been shown to be effective in delaying ageing in multiple species and the results in humans look equally promising," she added, "indeed for many studies, CR is used as the gold-standard for enhanced longevity against which new drugs and anti-ageing strategies are measured."

The expert added, "ultimately what these studies show is that what you eat influences how you age, and it's not all bad news." She continued, "one of the things that people sometimes miss is the amazing fact that ageing can be altered; caloric restriction research proves this."

Dr Anderson concluded, "cutting your calories delays ageing, probably because the body uses energy from food differently to become more resilient," adding, "by targeting ageing itself we could, instead of fighting cancer or cardiovascular disease individually, target the full spectrum of disease simultaneously."

A previous study showed monkeys given 20 per cent fewer calories a day lived around nine years longer, giving hope to humans that a life of dieting could preserve our looks and give us a few more years.



GOLDEN AGE: Could eating less really replace wrinkle cream?

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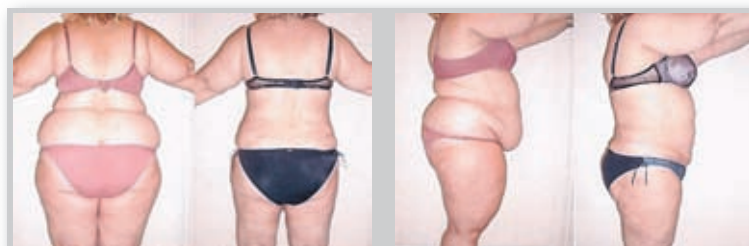
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FESTIVE FOOD: The healthiest meal of the year?

Why turkey is good for you

WE often associate Christmas with giant lunches, endless chocolate and an ever-full glass of wine.

But experts from King's College London have revealed our festive blowouts may not be as bad for us as we think.

The group has listed the six common foods with surprising health benefits. According to Professor Kevin Whelan, head of department of nutritional sciences, "Christmas is a time to enjoy yourself and for many that includes indulging in festive treats," adding, "you might be surprised to find that lots of foods we typically enjoy sharing with our families at Christmas have actually been shown to have nutritional benefits."

The expert says nut roast - a Christmas favourite among vegetarians and vegans - can

lower the risk of heart disease, while Brussels sprouts could lower our risk of cancer and are a good source of iron.

For those worried about their blood pressure, they may be relieved to hear red wine, cranberries, Champagne and dark chocolate may all lower blood pressure. Additionally, root vegetables including beetroot have also been shown to lower levels.

A favourite in stockings, tangerines are a good source

of vitamins A and C as well as fibre, according to the expert, while turkey is an excellent source of protein and is leaner than other meats like pork.

Finally, a serving of Christmas pudding may be good for us by increasing levels of good bacteria in our stomachs. So while it is never advisable to overeat, rest assured at least some of our festive treats may be better for us than previously thought.

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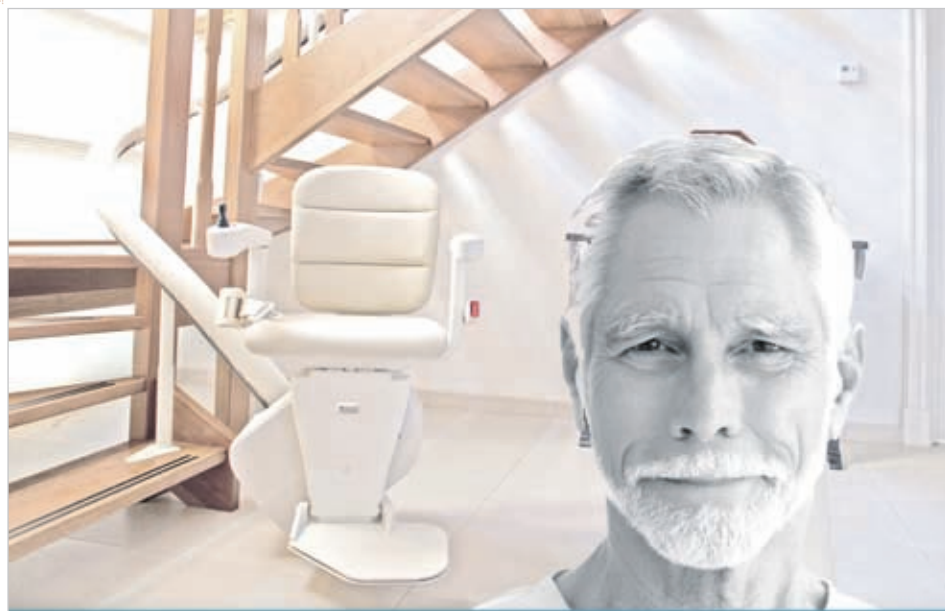
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An apple (or three) a day

EXPERTS have claimed three apples or two tomatoes a day could reverse lung damage caused by smoking.

The scientists from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health said the fruits could also slow down the natural ageing of lungs.

The group made the discovery that fresh versions of the fruit - as opposed to canned varieties - saw the decline in lung function in smokers of 10 years slow. They believe this news could prevent smokers developing Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder, an incurable condition.

The potentially fatal condition is thought to affect around 1.2 million adults in the UK and around 11 million adults in the United States. The umbrella term covers dis-

eases ranging from bronchitis to emphysema.

Dr Vanessa Garcia-Larsen, the report's lead author, said, "this study shows that diet might help repair lung damage in people

who have stopped smoking," adding, "it also suggests that

a diet rich in fruits can slow down the lung's natural ageing process even if

you have never smoked." The expert went on, "the findings support the need for dietary recommendations, especially for people at risk of developing respiratory diseases such as COPD."

She concluded, "lung function starts to decline at around age 30 at variable speed depending on the general and specific health of individuals," adding, "our study suggests that eating

more fruits on a regular basis can help attenuate the decline as people age, and might even help repair damage caused by smoking."

She finished, "diet could become one way of combating rising diagnosis of COPD around the world."



GOOD GRUB: An apple a day keeps the doctor away!

WITH more than 6,000 people expected to attend A&E in the UK this Christmas, it may be worth taking time to think about how to avoid injuries over the festive season.

Emma Hammett, an English nurse and first-aid trainer, has given one publication tips on keeping your Christmas injury-free.

Hammett says safety should start in the kitchen with only the cook being present while water boils or other hot substances cook. She also recommends mopping up spills as soon as they happen to avoid slipping.

The expert also suggests checking or re-

Stay safe this Christmas

placing old fairy lights to avoid electric shock, while she also advises stairs can be a hazard if not well-lit.

To avoid choking hazards or accidents involving glass, Hammett suggests placing any glass baubles, or novelty ones which may look like toys, out of the reach of children. She also recommends placing any tealights in containers to avoid them burn-

ing anything they have been placed on and never leaving a candle unattended.

To avoid poisoning, Hammett suggests keeping mistletoe out of reach of children as it is toxic if swallowed, as well as ensuring your turkey is thoroughly cooked to reduce the risk of food poisoning.

Finally, the expert says alcohol should be consumed responsibly, with cooks waiting until food preparation is finished to consume, as well as urging others to take extra care on stairs when they have had a drink. She suggests tipping away any half-drunk glasses before bed to avoid children drinking them.

Ask The

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High triglycerides



SPECIALIST: Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.

This week a reader has asked the doctor about his blood test results:

DEAR Doctor,

For some years I've been under treatment for high blood pressure and recently I've been having trouble keeping it under control.

My GP sent me for blood tests and the results said my triglycerides were very high, twice as much as they should be, but he didn't explain what that means, just said that could be what's sending my blood pressure up and told me to go on a diet and get some exercise.

Could you please explain what they are, what they do and why I need to lower them? I'd also appreciate some detailed advice on 'diet and exercise.'

The doctor replied

- High blood pressure is a chronic complaint which usually shows no symptoms to begin with but can cause problems in various internal organs such as the heart and kidneys over time.

Treatment consists of an adequate, balanced, low in salt diet, regular moderate exercise (a 50-minute walk

five days per week or 50-60 minutes swimming three or four days per week) and medication.

This is often enough to keep blood pressure under control but sometimes it can remain a problem. If this is the case, you should see a specialist in Internal Medicine to rule out certain causes which may need more specific treatment.

In your case, your triglycerides are high which has nothing to do with your high blood pressure levels but can usually be controlled with a low-fat diet and by avoiding alcohol. High triglyceride levels are dangerous as they are a cardiovascular risk and can increase the chance of suffering a heart attack.

Diet is the most important thing to change. Follow a diet low in fat and sugar, rich in vegetables, fruit and fish. Red meat should be avoided and swapped for white meat. Food should be boiled or grilled. You should avoid drinking too much alcohol and fizzy drinks.

If you have any questions for Dr Perez Belmonte, please send them to:
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Heart disease hope

GOT MILK:
Consuming dairy products could reduce the risk of heart disease.

EXPERTS have found one or two portions of some of our favourite foods each day may lower the risk of heart disease.

Scientists from St Michael's Hospital in Toronto, Canada, said meat and dairy - previously thought to be bad for our hearts - could in fact lower risks by 5 per cent.

Dr John Sievenpiper said there could be benefits to introducing more animal-based proteins into our diet rather than plant-based ones.

He explained the statistic, "may not sound like much, but because people in North America eat very little plant protein, there is a real opportunity here to make some small changes to our diets and realise the health benefits."

He added, "we are seeing a major interest in

plant-based diets from Mediterranean to vegetarian diets in the supermarket and the clinic, and this comprehensive analysis of the highest level of evidence from randomised trials provides us with more confidence that these diets are heart healthy.

Rob Hobson, a London-based nutritionist, further backed up the case against cutting out dairy, telling one publication, "the problem is that milk and dairy products are an important source of several key nutrients." He added, "cutting out on the foods reduces the intake of calcium and iodine - raising the risk of deficiencies."

The expert concluded, "dairy products are also a useful source of iodine - a micronutrient important for women during pregnancy and young children that contributes to growth and brain development," adding, "our bones continue to grow until we reach our mid 30's and during this time it's important to make sure diets contain enough calcium."

Food frenzy

AFTER a year of cauliflower rice, Chia seeds and using coconut oil for absolutely everything, people are already hungry for the new food trends 2018 will bring.

With 21 per cent of Spaniards admitting they like to experiment with new ingredients, according to new research from Mintel, it seems the country has a strong appetite for the next big food trends.

The chaga mushroom could be 2018's foodie craze, as they are packed full of antioxidants, beta-glucans and certain B vitamins.

The mushroom is traditionally ground down into a fine powder and used to make a kind of tea, but nowadays people are also using it as a food supplement.

As 48 per cent of Spanish consumers use food or drink products containing anti-oxidants, chaga mushrooms could start flying off the shelves next year.



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Update on food, drink, entertainments, what's on and weekly happenings

Watch the parade again, and again... and again!

TORRE PACHECO is proud to present a full programme that now features the very popular Three Kings Parade that is making its way around a number of municipalities on the afternoon and evening of Thursday January 5, so if you miss one -- or want to see the parade again and pick up a few more sweets that are thrown from the floats - you have plenty of opportunities to catch up.

The timetable is:

- 4pm - Balsicas
- 6pm - Torre Pacheco
- 7pm - San Cayetano
- 8.30pm - Roldan

Agost celebrates their 'orange' king and queen

EVERY year in Agost in the Alicante Province, they present the Danses del Rei Moro. It's a unique fiesta that is currently underway and continues until January 1.

It's a selection of traditional dancing and music and a spectacular costume performed by teenagers, and tells the story of the Moorish King and Queen, with the history evolving over a number of days.

The full fiesta programme is on until January 1 and the remaining day's events are as follows:

Today (Thursday):

5.30pm - The Moorish King, accompanied by his Queen and other participants, makes his triumphant entry into the square.

As he dances, the spectators shower them with bags of sweets full of sugar coat-



UNIQUE: A scene from 2016 Danses del Rei Moro fiestas.

ed almonds and attempt to remove the king's turban, forcing him to flee the scene. The king's entourage defend him from his 'attackers' and a 'battle' ensues!

Tomorrow (Friday):

5.30pm - Traditional Dancing Saturday:

5.30pm - Traditional Dancing Monday:

5.30pm - The last day of the fiestas, which features the traditional climbing of trees and the untying of strings full of oranges. The most successful are the ones that earn their places in next year's fiestas.



TRADITION: Elche's 'Belen' features real animals. It's all 'live' at the Elche nativity display

THE 37th 'Living Nativity' Scene will take place in Elche City this Christmas.

Until December 31 and again on January 6 you will be able to visit the Nativity Scene. The animals are real and the characters will be acted by members of the Pobladores, local actors.

The scene, with the manager as the main focus, will occupy an area of 3,000m2 in the Palacio de Altamira, which is located between the tourist office, the municipal

palm park and the cathedral.

Over 40 people will be involved in creating a first century Bethlehem including; Roman legionaries, kings, concubines, notaries, shopkeepers, innkeepers, preachers and thieves.

Opening hours are:
Friday 29 and Saturday December 30 - 11am to 2pm and 6pm to 9pm
Sunday December 31 - 11am to 2pm
Saturday January 6 - 11am to 2pm.

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The magic touch

THE Christmas Market at the Glorieta Gabriel Miro Park brought a touch of magic to Orihuela this festive season.

The market opened last Wednesday with a bang, as magicians and fire breathers entertained crowds who flocked to check out the range of goods the stalls had to offer.

There were 25 different vendors in total, selling everything from leather goods to spices, nutcrackers to jewellery from 10am to 9pm each day in the run up to Christmas.

Children were also able to enjoy a variety of different activities, including a class teaching how to make balloon animals, a storyteller, a 'Make your own Santa Claus' workshop and a kite-making workshop.

Miguel Angel Fernandez, the local councillor for trade said "We hope this market will boost Orihuela's retail sectors" so residents would be



Credit: Ayro Orihuela/Twitter

LIT UP: Fire breathers at the Orihuela Christmas Market.

encouraged to buy their gifts from local vendors.

Fernandez added that the council were "committed, once again, to providing initiatives that promote the town's local businesses, especially during the Christmas period."

The little ones were also treated to seeing the man in red before his official visit on Christmas Eve during the town's Santa parade on December 23, as he made his way from the town hall through Orihuela's main streets.

Children will also be able

to see out 2017 in style at the Kids Novelty End of Year Party at the Glorieta Gabriel Miro Park's roundabout on December 30 at 10.30am with 12 lucky jellybeans instead of 12 grapes, as well as workshops, fancy dress and theatre performances.

Riding high

THE Crescendo International Choir raised almost €350 at their concert in the Parroquia de Santiago in Benijofar to support the Benijofar community.

Music was sung in both Spanish and English. Spanish pieces included *Amapola*, *El Vito*, *Fum, fum, fum*, *Campana sobre Campana* and *Feliz Navidad*. Some of the English songs were *Imagine*, *Angels*, *We Have Heard on High* and an original song called *Christmas Time is Here*, with lyrics by Margot Gay and music composed by Antonio Guillen, the choir's accompanist. In addition, the choir sang *White Christmas* in both English and Spanish.

Crescendo Choir singers are from many European countries, such as England, Ireland, the Netherlands, Germany, Finland and Denmark, among other nationalities. The choir's conductor is Irene Oliva, a Spanish native, who also works as a music teacher. She is accompanied by Antonio (Toni) Guillen on the keyboard. He also teaches piano and music theory.

The money raised by the concert was given to the Benijofar town council social services agency. A large basket of chocolate and sweet treats was also donated by the choir for Christmas hampers for needy families.

Crescendo Choir - made up of soprano, mezzo, alto, tenor and bass - sings a wide variety of songs ranging from musicals to spirituals, from pop to classical and all types in between. They give several concerts a year, raising funds for a variety of causes.

The choir practises Fridays from 9.30am to 12pm at the Bar El Paraiso, Urbanizacion Jardin del Mar (close to Carrefour), in Torrevieja. Rehearsals begin in 2018 on Friday, January 12. For more information, see the web site: www.crescendo-choir.com.

An emerging hope



GODELLO: Drink lightly chilled but not icy cold.

GODELLO, described by critics as "a sleeping giant of a variety waiting to be properly discovered," is a Spanish white variety of grapes.

Produced in the north-west particularly in Valdeorras, Ribeira Sacra, Monterrey in Galicia and Bierzo in Castilla y León, its 19th century origins are from Godella in Valencia where this variety was first planted, only being transported to Galicia later by a trader.

After decades of decline, plantations have increased since the mid-80s as Godello has grown steadily more popular due to a small group of dedicated growers and producers. The wines are sometimes made solely of Godello, though can additionally be blended with local grapes including Treixadura and Albariño, thus providing similarities with Chardonnay.

The Godello grape is versatile and somewhat neutral, greatly reflecting in its aro-

mas and flavours the methods and techniques of the winemaker. Producers in Bierzo favour ageing Godello in oak barrels, making richer, fuller wines; those from Valdeorras tend to be aged in steel tanks, giving them a fresher, livelier quality.

BACCHUS CELLAR

by Lorenzo Barbareschi



Overall Godello wines are clean and fresh with deep rich mineral and fruit flavours that are ripe and savoury. Ageing well, some last up to a decade, gaining complexity and depth with time.

Seafood is an obvious choice of food to match with Godello, especially heartier choices including lobster, scallops, crab, and halibut, though salads and lighter chicken dishes also pair well.

Known producers in the area are Santa Maria, Vina Godeval, Soto del Vicario, Castro de Lobarzan and Pazos del Rey.

As always with white wines, drink lightly chilled but not icy cold.

Happy tasting!

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Festive celebrations still on in Murcia city centre

CHRISTMAS DAY itself may well be over for another year, but there's still plenty of festive fun to be had in Murcia in the final days of 2017, and around the Three Kings' holiday at the start of January.

Giant Christmas Tree

This is found in the Plaza Circular and features a number of activities for children every day (except Sunday January 1) between 11.30am to 2pm and again from 5pm to

7.30pm. There is also a special 10-minute audio-visual display taking place at 8pm and 9.30pm every day until January 6.

Municipal Nativity Scene

The Murcia 'Belen' is in the Palacio Episcopal in the main Cathedral Square and open until January 6. The opening hours are:

Monday to Friday - 9am to 1.30pm and 5pm to 10pm
Saturdays, Sundays and Fi-

estas - 10am to 1.30pm and 5pm to 10pm
New Year's Eve - 9am to 1pm

Santa's Grotto, Toboggan run and Ice Skating

These extra special features for the Christmas season will be open on the Plaza del Cuartel de Artilleria until January 6. There's a 40-metre long toboggan course, a 500m² ice skating rink and, not forgetting Santa's Grotto and the last chance for the Spanish children to ask for their presents for January 6.

The cost is €6 for one hour of ice skating and €4 for the toboggan, and all the attractions will be open at the following times:



Photo credit: Jose Ballester/Twitter



PLAZA CIRCULAR: The giant Christmas tree.

Hall

6pm - Three Kings Parade. The route will be: Avda. San Juan de la Cruz, Torre de Romo, Alameda de Colón, Gran Vía Salzillo, Pza. Circular, Alfonso X el Sabio finishing on Avda. Gutiérrez Mellado. The parade finishes at the nativity scene where they make a symbolic offering of their gifts as well as collecting the present cards which have been written by the children and previously placed in the post box in the Plaza Santo Domingo.

CROWNING GLORY: The Three Kings Parade.

Monday to Friday - 4pm to 10pm
Saturday and Sunday - 10am to 2pm and 4pm to 10pm
New Year's Eve - 10am to 2pm and 4pm to 7.30pm

party and ringing of the Cathedral bells in the Plaza Santa Domingo

Friday January 5:

10am - Roscons (3,000 traditional cakes) plus presents and prizes will be given out in the Glorieta de Espana

12.30pm - Welcoming of the Three Kings at the Town

Other events for Murcia

Sunday December 31:

11.30pm - New Year's Eve

What's on!

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Post-Christmas and New Year events round-up near you

CITIES and municipalities right across the southern Costa Blanca are continuing with their post Christmas and New Year festivities.

Perhaps you've arrived in the area for a Christmas break and fancy experiencing some of the Spanish traditions at this time of the year... or perhaps you've forgotten where you've left your list?

The *Euro Weekly News* has listed some of the major events going on in your area below that we have previously featured...

San Pedro del Pinatar

Today (Thursday):

8.30pm - Christmas Concert by the Banda Municipal in the Carpa Municipal in the Car Park on Avda. Emilio Castelar.

Friday January 5:

6pm - Three Kings Parade arriving by boat across the Mar Menor onto the Explanada at Lo Pagan, then along Avda. Romeria de la Virgen y Emilio Castelar finishing at the Carpa Municipal.

Murcia

The 33rd Artisans Christmas Market will take place in the city of Murcia until January 5. The market will be located on Paseo Alfonso X El Sabio and features around 70 stalls representing more than 30 types of crafts, with lots of great products which will make ideal Christmas gifts for your friends and family... or why not treat yourself?

The stalls will be offering ceramics, jewellery, natural honey products, lace items, meats, cheeses, presentation boxes, cane and bamboo furniture, natural cosmetics, hand-bound books, candles, soaps and of course nativity figures and scenes.

Opening times are every day until Friday, January 5, apart from the dates listed below: 11am to 2.30pm and from 5pm to 9.30pm.

The market will be closed on the afternoons of Sunday December 31 and closed all day on New Year's Day.

Elche

Sunday December 31:

11.30pm - New Year's Eve Party in the Placa de Baix



FESTIVE: Placa de Baix in Elche.

Friday January 5:

7pm - Three Kings Parade leaving from Calle Renia Victoria and following a route along Plaza de Baix, Corredora, Pont dels Ortussos, Porta d'Alacant, Mestre Albeniz finishing at the Diagonal del Palau, where the Kings will greet the Baby Jesus.

Guardamar

The City Council have put together a number of events that are already underway and carry on until the Three Kings festival.

Sunday December 31:

11.30pm - New Year's Eve Party beside the town hall with live music.

Friday January 5:

6pm - Three Kings Parade, known as the Cabalgata de Reyes Magos from the Plaça Jaume II, along Avenida País Valencià and Calle Mayor finishing at the town hall where the children receive their gifts.

Cartagena

In the Parque Heroes de Cavite, there'll be an Inflatable Play Park for children to enjoy with a number of giant rides. They will be open until Thursday January 4 between 11am and 2pm and again from 5pm to 9pm, with the exception of Sunday December 31 when there are no evening openings.

Other events include:

Today (Thursday):

6.30pm - Annual Magic Gala in the Plaza de San Francisco

Friday January 5:

11.30am - Arrival of the Three Kings by boat into the Port

12.30pm to 2pm - Three Kings greet the children in the Plaza Ayuntamiento

6.30pm - Three Kings Parade along Alameda de San Antón, Plaza de España, Paseo Alfonso XIII, Juan Fernández, Juan XXIII, Santa Florentina, Carmen, Tolosa Latour, Sagasta, Puerta de Murcia, Mayor finishing in the Plaza Ayuntamiento.

Santa Pola

Sunday December 31:

11.30pm - Mobile Disco at the Castle

Wednesday January 3:

7pm - Trons Parade. The route leaves from the Glorieta along C/ Cruz, C/ Alicante, C/ San Antonio, C/ Zorrilla, C/ Victoria, and C/ Elche finishing at the Glorieta.

Thursday January 4:

7pm - Royal Embassy: The official postmen for the Three Kings collect the letters from the children before going on a parade leaving from the Palmeral, along calles Elche y Glorieta.

Friday January 5:

7pm - Three Kings Parade: Leaving from the Palmeral,

along Calle Elche, finishing at the Glorieta, where the presents will be given out.

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Desserts
Homemade Apple Crumble with Custard, Strawberry Cheesecake, Peach Gateaux with fresh cream

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Zero energy panic

SPAIN'S property sector is facing a race against time to comply with European energy consumption regulations. New energy efficiency standards take effect across the community in 2020.

The goal is 'near zero energy buildings.' This means that the renewable energy generated by the building meets, or almost meets, total energy expenditure.

At a recent real estate conference held in Madrid, architects and developers heard that Spain is woefully unprepared for zero energy. The country's lost years during the crisis shouldered much of the responsibility.

Real Estate Innovation Solvia director Anna Guanter quipped: "Our experience is that the sector is zero prepared."

Her company is building Innova Torrejon, a project



ZERO ENERGY: EU plans for efficient homes from 2020.

of 92 energy efficient homes near Madrid slated for completion in 2019.

Part of the problem is securing financing and convincing a skeptical Spanish public that energy efficiency is the future, says research director of Construcciones Domeño, Emilio Linzoain.

He recalls how the firm built 72 low energy apartments back in 2014 but had

trouble selling them. Explaining the zero energy concept to people more interested in the basics was an uphill struggle, but there is growing public awareness that such buildings are now a valuable investment.

Examples from northern Europe show that, not only will people save money on bills, but purchasing zero energy homes is also a safe bet as a future investment.

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Time to plant bulbs for spring flowers

GRAEME TYRRELL

ABUNDANT bright colourful flowers are a hallmark of the Mediterranean garden.

New Year is the perfect time to prepare for a wonderful flower display in spring with minimal preparation and years of regrowth with minimal additional input to obtain heavenly scents and delightful flower displays.

Bulbs, tubers and corms can be planted now in containers, pots and the garden while still dormant to quickly sprout and grow in time for spring as they are so easy to grow and so versatile.

In containers they can be displayed in entrances, on window sills, balconies, patios and terraces to provide attractive blooms and allow the perfumed scents to add a natural fresh ambiance and



A field of freesias in bloom.

uplifting appeal to any zone around the home where there is sufficient light and fresh air.

A number of bulbs are native to the Mediterranean region, including daffodils, but have been distributed and developed into various

different cultivar around the world so that their origins have been obscured.

Many fit into the Mediterranean garden perfectly as they emerge in winter when the soil is normally moist and die back over summer after flaunting their spring-

time flowers to wait for the next winter rains before starting the cycle again. This can mean that garden bulbs will often not need any watering year round unless the spring weather is very dry.

Containers with bulbs

may need supplemental watering as containers can dry out faster and may not catch sufficient natural rainfall. Bulbs in containers also have a limited period to be on display as they can die down over summer. I solve this by adding the bulbs to containers with single trunk container plants that stay green over summer.

The bulbs highlight the container plant in spring but as the bulbs die back the container plant becomes the new focus and the dried leaves from the bulbs are removed. In this way I don't have to put the containers away during the bulbs dormancy.

A good selection of bulbs, tubers and corms to select for planting at this time include: daffodils, jonquils, grape hyacinth, tulips, Madonna lilies, gladiolus, iris, freesia, cyclamen, crocus, anemone, scilla and snowdrops.

My personal favourite is freesias. I have grown them in a pot with a weeping fig for over 15 years and they come up every year, look lovely while filling the terrace with their delightful scent and then disappear in summer as if never there. I just add a little compost every other year (biannually).

There are also many iris of various colours scattered around the garden and in the orchard giving annual displays while daffodils our children planted when only young still come up at the base of a hackberry tree in the vegetable garden.

If you have good soil in the garden you can just dig a hole about three times deeper than the size of the bulb, pop them in and cover them over with the soil. Add compost to the soil surface rather than in the hole and you can have years of flower displays with little more work than some weeding.

Reet petite in 2018

WHILE some of us may be lucky enough to live in palatial homes, others of us often have more modest properties.

And while this can often create a cosy effect, it can also sometimes cause problems when it comes to fitting in all of our furniture.

Luckily, IKEA has come up with a modular range to fit small spaces, telling one publication: "Here at IKEA, we are really excited to be collaborating with Tom Dixon. Modular furniture is becoming ever-important in today's homes and we wanted to create a range that could reflect people's living needs and at the same time bring style to people's homes." Adding, "Delaktig is an adaptable product that can cater to all different tastes and respond to those who desire flexible and fluid living throughout their home."

The clever range is made from aluminium and includes adaptable sofas, clip on side tables and lamps which can



DELAKTIG: Modular genius.

be used on the floor or in a frame.

The range, which will be available from February 2018, "can be combined in multiple ways to suit different looks, activities and lifestyles," meaning you can update your room's look and

layout simply by changing one or two pieces of the Delaktig rather than whole pieces of furniture.

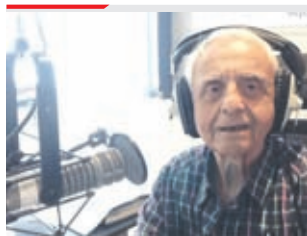
Explaining why the company chose to work with aluminium for the range, Ikea explained, "in contrast to traditional upholstery produc-

tion and design, the Delaktig frame is made in an industrial manner. That is one of the reasons why IKEA and Tom chose to work with aluminium. It's great for the industrial process, and its raw aesthetics makes for a durable, lightweight frame."



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Never send your dog away to be trained



GOOD BOY: Both dogs and owners benefit from training.

DOGS want to be trained and there is so much proof that trained dogs are invariably happier than an untrained dog.

All trained dogs have happy owners. Great satisfaction can be derived from training a dog. It is not time consuming and most training can be done whilst exercising the dog. If you do not have the time to exercise your dog then you should not keep a dog.

Training classes undoubtedly contribute to better training of dogs. One great advantage of classes is that they accustom the puppy or young dog to meeting other dogs and the owners get an opportunity to meet people with a common interest and often the same or

similar problems.

Many people are regarded as experts when they have trained a dog of one

breed to a very high standard. Faced with a difficult dog they would not know where to start. Training methods

vary just as much as dogs and their owners do. There are however, many accepted exercises that form a useful

basis for most dogs and most owners.

Owners must not regard dogs as almost human; this is an insult to our canine friend. In this day and age we still do not know how dogs do some of these things, such as detecting mines and drugs. Intelligence is not an important factor in a dog's make up.

Dogs and indeed all animals learn by association of ideas. Animals do not reason at all, they simply react to what is happening and do not think what has happened or is about to happen. It is believed that they do sometimes work out a problem for themselves.

For training purposes we try to create associations we want and avoid those we do not want, by what is known as correction and reward. Correction does not mean beating the dog or jerking him on a choke chain it means any act, which forces the dog to obey, like pushing him into the sit position.

Many dog owners will never know or have any idea of the pleasure they are losing in not having a dog that is trained to be a faithful companion and partner.

A dog will accept a human as a substitute for a canine leader and this willingness to accept a human makes him easier to train than most other animals.

Homeless hounds

UK animal charity Dogs Trust has revealed some of the reasons people give when they hand over their pets.

Although a new pet is for life, not just for Christmas, it would seem many people don't

realise quite what they have let themselves in for when they welcome a new furry family member into the home.

Some of the more outlandish excuses given to Dogs Trust apparently include:

• "I won a free holiday and I couldn't take my dogs with me"

• "I'm a vegetarian but he always wanted to eat meat"

• "I got him as a secret Santa present"

• "He was panting too much"

• "He didn't like it when we played dress up"

Adrian Burder, Chief Executive for Dogs Trust, said "We really hope this Christmas we don't see dogs discarded because their owners have not considered the lifetime commitment of dog ownership."

Before you make a life-changing commitment this festive season, make sure you've spent a considerable amount of time thinking about it.

Make sure you have enough free time to dedicate to your four-legged friend, especially if you get a puppy or a kitten, and that it will fit into your lifestyle.

It's also a good idea to talk to a vet beforehand, who can be a great source of information to help you choose the best pet to suit your needs.

Cats really do enjoy their home comforts

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As James Herriot, the well loved vet, said: 'Cats are the connoisseurs of comfort.'

Like many animals, and indeed humans, cats are indeed creatures of habit and enjoy the comforts of their own home.

As we celebrate the holidays, wherever we happen to be, it is a consideration that our pets should also be happy and comfortable wherever they spend their holidays.

At HouseSitMatch we can help you find house and pet-sitters to keep your property and pets safe and sound in your absence. If you are not



SNUGGLED UP: Enjoying home comforts.

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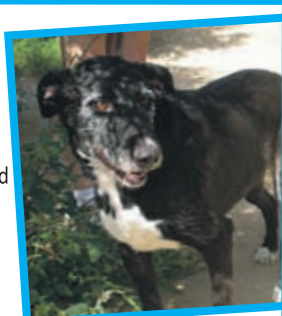
erences online to see what our verified customers say about us too. So if you have holiday plans firming up for the New Year, it is best to pin down your house-sitter now.

Get ahead and start early.

Cassandra

Cassandra is a beautiful black and white Schnauzer cross who loves people and other dogs. She is very lively and enjoys playing with people. She is about 6 years old, DOB March 2009, and spayed. She is used to living as an outside dog and would benefit from a home with a large garden.

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THE SPIRITUALIST Centre, Benijofar meets at Hamilton's Bake House, 62 Calle Vicente, Blasco Ibañez, Benijofar 03178. We hold a Sunday Service at 11.30 a.m., a Tuesday Evening of Mediumship at 7 p.m. Spiritual healing is available every Sunday and Tuesday after the service. We are closed until Tuesday, 9th January 2018 with the service taken by Len Cox. Contact Wendy on 965 323 028. www.spiritualistcentre-benijofar.com New email is phoenix church23@gmail.com or info@spiritualistcentre-benijofar.com Identificacion Fiscal G54713789.

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LA SIESTA EVANGELICAL CHURCH on Urbanisation La Siesta, Torrevieja is a friendly, English speaking Church. We hold services each Sunday and everyone is welcome. Our 11.00 am Services are held every 2nd and 4th Sunday in the month (and 11.00 am on the 5th Sunday, if this applies.) On the 1st and 3rd Sunday's our Services are at 9.30 am. Our choir sings at our 11.00 am Services and there is also a Sunday School, called Stepping Stones, on these Sundays. We welcome residents, visitors and children. For more information see our website www.lasies-taevangelicalchurch.org or telephone Pastor Keith on 666 180 108.

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH, La Fustera. For more info: contact Frank Bentley on 966 495 188. (95461)

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IS ALCOHOL COSTING YOU MORE THAN MONEY? Drinking to excess not only affects your health it can spill over into every other aspect of your life - damaging everything that is important to you. English-speaking AA meetings are held throughout the Costa Blanca from Valencia City to Murcia. Anyone wishing to attend a meeting or discuss a possible drinking problem contact Costa Blanca North: *648 169 045* or Costa Blanca South: *625 912 078* or Costa Calida *679 385 105*. All calls are treated in the strictest confidence. AA in German: 645 456 075; Spanish: 679 212 535; Flemish: 635 047 053; and Scandinavian: 659 779 222. www.aacostablanca.org (93323)

ROUNDOABOUT CHARITY SHOP. We are now into summer and very soon we will be feeling the heat! It is time therefore for another visit to the shop where you might find a bargain or two. Choose from the clothing selection, jewellery, household goods, books or bric a brac. There is usually something there for everyone - but not always. Charitable donations have recently been made to The Alzheimers Centre, Cancer Research and The Amigos Ambulance Service. We still need your help with donations etc. Please keep them coming in! We are situated on Avenida

Del Furs close to the Fountain Roundabout and immediate left by Don Colchon bed shop. (93325)

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION, Torrevieja Branch, meet at 17.00 on the first Wednesday of each month at the Restaurante El Paraiso, Urb. Jardin del Mar 3 (behind Carrefour), Torrevieja. Contact Paul Edwards, Chairman 618 644 934 or Margaret Forshaw, Secretary 966 921 996. (95455)

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Orihuela Costa - covering from Punta Prima to San Javier. The branch meets at Olympia restaurant, Mil Palmeras on 3rd Thursday of each month at 19.00 - 19.30pm. More info can be found on branch website www.orihuelacostarbl.co.uk (95457)

HELP VEGA BAJA. We are a non-profit making organisation that helps and supports anyone, without prejudice, in times of need or crisis within the Vega Baja area. Our offices are based in San Miguel at Calle Lope de Vega 46 (Tel 966 723 733), Torrevieja at Rambla Juan Mateo Garcia 4 (Tel 965 704 282). Both offices are open Monday to Friday from 10 am to 1.30 pm and the Helpdesk at La Marina is open every Thursday (10 am to 1.30 pm) at the Hope Fellowship Church (opposite the Thursday Market site) at Avda de Justo Antonio Quesada, Urb. La Marina (Tel 615770145). We are online at www.helpvegabaja.com and also on Facebook. You can email the San Miguel Centre at office@helpvegabaja.com **We also have a 24 hour Emergency help-line which is available to both members and non-members on 966 723 733** (95456)

THE BAKER FOUNDATION SPIRITUALIST CENTRE. Find us on the Saturday market road opposite the Chinese Restaurant. Playa Flamenca. Different International and local mediums every Sunday and Tuesday. Sunday, divine service with clairvoyance 11 am start. Tuesday, evening of clairvoyance doors open 7'o'clock for 7.30 start. Spiritual Healing is available on Sundays after service and on Thursday mornings from 10.

30 until 12. We have a development group on Tuesdays 5 until 6.30 for those interested in meditation and advancing your knowledge of spirit. Private readings are available on request. Please join us and make new friends, a warm welcome awaits you all. Tea, coffee and soft drinks are available. You can join us on Facebook at, The Baker Foundation spiritual centre. Hall is available for hire. For more information please contact Linda on 606 990 665. Email, schugy54@gmail.com (95458)

THE PHILIP SCOTT LODGE No 10671 of the RAOB meets every Friday in the Bar Catorce, Benijofar. Please call the secretary, Colin Bird on 693 287 614 for further information. (95459)

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CANCER SUPPORT GROUP (MABS) MURCIA/MAR MENOR Help and support is just a phone call away, Avda Rio Nalón, Tel: 693 275 779 (95462)

PILAR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH, Calle Canalejas, 3. Pilar de la Horadada. Sunday Service at 11am & Thursday at 5pm for Prayer and Praise and Worship. Home groups meet during the week. All welcome from any church background or none. For further information www.pilarchurch.org Reg No: 2009-SG/A (95463)

TORREVIEJA Christian Fellowship (TCF) is an English speaking lively church located at Avenida de las Valencianas 68, Torrevieja 03183. Residents and holidaymakers are welcome to attend our services with communion and 'kids church' each Sunday at 10.30am. We have a Fellowship Meeting (Bible Study) each Wednesday at 6.00pm. For further information see our website www.tcf-spain.org or tel 966 700 391. (95464)

THE AIRCREW ASSOCIATION COSTA BLANCA BRANCH. Former & serving aircrews of the UK or Allied Armed Forces are welcome to join this convivial & friendly organisation, now in its 21st year. www.aca-costablanca.org or call the Secretary on: 966 495 042 (95465)

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION JAVEA BRANCH meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month @ Scallops Rest on the Arenal at 11.00am. Everyone is welcome to attend as a visitor and join the branch if they wish. Anyone needing any help or advice on welfare, or any information regarding the branch can contact either Sheila on 965 791 270 or Roger on 965 790 123 (95472)

STROKE ASSOCIATION Spain (formally known as Torrevieja stroke support) meet every Wednesday and Friday 2.30pm until 5.00pm. Our new address is Casa de Cultura, calle Francisco Ribera Perez Benijofar. Our aim is to help and support stroke survivors and their carers. With rehabilitation, speech therapy, OC therapy and a very active social group. For info please contact 654 801 260 or email strokesupportgroup@hotmail.com, website torreviejastroke.support.org. We are always looking for volunteers who have the skills and knowledge to support our groups and activities. (95474)

CAMPELLO CONTRA CANCER in conjunction with AECC Asocacion Español Contra Cancer has opened a charity shop at C/Virgen de los Desamparados No 13 (next door to Mas y mas) El Campello. The shop is open Mon-Fri 10 - 2pm and is run by unpaid volunteers and all monies raised goes to the AECC. We urgently need donations of clothes, books, large and small furniture etc, and we will arrange collection of large items. We need volunteers to help out in the shop and also clothes rails, shelves etc. for display. Please support your local Cancer charity and if you wish to obtain literature or simply talk to someone. Please stop by at the shop. Contact Mina or Trisha. Tel 650 071 278 or 610 921 413 e-mail aecc_campello@hotmail.com (95475)

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY, TORREVIEJA Calle Urbano Arregui, 23, Torrevieja 03185, Alicante Evangelical non-denominational church. All nationalities welcome. Sunday service 11.0 a.m.; Sunday school; Prayer meetings; craft and computer clubs. Ladies Bible Study: Thursday 11.0 a.m. Church Bible Study: Thursday 1.30 p.m. House groups in Torrevieja, La Siesta, La Zenia - Contact 966 752 543 / 617 215 463. For other church matters Phone: 966 799 273 / 966 752 543 / 617 215 463 www.icatorrevieja.org (95476)

ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION (Costa Blanca) The aim of the Association is to bring together not just ex Royal Marines, but ex Service personnel with an affinity to the Royal Marines. We meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 5.30. For further details Hon Sec 692 938 664

FREEMASONRY Are you aware that Freemasonry is thriving on the Costa Blanca? There are various lodges meeting up throughout the Valencia region. If you already are a Mason or simply wish to know more about Freemasonry in Spain please contact Harry Palmer Membership Committee Tel: 966 712 326 or email: palmers.quesada@ya.hoo.co.uk (95477)

ROYAL AIR FORCES Association Branch #1359 Costa Blanca The Branch meets on the third Tuesday of the month at the El Paraiso Restaurant located close to the Carrefour Supermarket in Torrevieja. The meeting starts at 1430 hrs. You do not have to be an ex-member of the RAF to join this friendly Association which supports the welfare of the RAF family and provides a social hub for ex RAF members and their friends. For further information about the Association and its activities please contact the Chairman on 692 508 916 or the Welfare Officer on 615 048 892 or visit our website: www.rafa.org.uk/costa-blanca (238593)

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THE PATIENCE LODGE No 2177 of the R.A.O.B meets every Sunday morning at the Sacko's Bar, El Limonar near Las Siesta at 10am. We are always looking for new and lapsed members to join us. Please call Secretary Dave Tonge on 688 704 091 for further information. (253807)

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PRODUCTION of the new Nissan Leaf for the European market has begun in the firm's huge Sunderland plant in the UK.

The first customers are expected to receive their new wheels in February. Deliveries will be made right across Europe with thousands of vehicles rolling off the production line in the coming months.

Nissan describes its new Leaf as "the next generation of the world's best-selling electric car."

It has an expanded range of 378km on a single charge. There is an 'e-Pedal' which allows drivers to start, stop, accelerate and decelerate simply by applying different levels of pressure to the accelerator.

The ProPILOT advanced driving assistance program keeps the Leaf in the centre of the lane and can automatically control the distance between the car and the vehicle in front to ensure safety.

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LEAF 2.0: Next generation Leaf out in February.

that uses four high resolution cameras and 12 ultrasonic sensors to park the car accurately at the push of a button. Nissan Europe vice presi-

dent for manufacturing, Kevin Fitzpatrick said: "Nissan led the way in introducing electric vehicles to Europe in 2011, and every year since then it's been clear that more and more customers share our vision for the future of driving."

Having shifted more than 85,000 units across the continent the Nissan Leaf has been a huge success. The next generation is one of the most eagerly awaited releases of 2018 in the green car market and couldn't come at a better time for the brand as diesel's reputation continues to slide.

Nissan's Sunderland plant has built nine million vehicles since 1986 and also produces the Nissan Qashqai, Juke, and Infiniti Q30.

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ROAD TEST by Nick Fletcher

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Priced from just €10,366 (£9,135), available in three and five-door format, and with an economical petrol engine, the Up! has a lot to offer, including the VW brand's outstanding build quality.

The Up! is sturdy, yet lightweight, helping the 1.0 litre 59 hp engine deliver over 21 kpl (60 mpg), and the car has an agility which makes it perfect for urban driving.

The entry level model has limited kit but does have features such as remote locking, power steering and electric front windows. The mid-range Move Up! model - the one I tested - adds extra kit such as alloy wheels, air-conditioning

and variable-height boot floor. In five-door form, it costs €11,552 (£10,180). Boot space is 251 litres, among the largest in the class, and folding rear seats boost it to 959 litres.

Re-vamped in 2016, the Up! now has deeper front bumper, black trim inserts and LED running lights which help give it a more elegant, more upmarket look. The cabin is surprisingly roomy, with decent headroom in the rear even for taller passengers.

You can connect a smart phone to provide sat-nav and

other features, and VW has also added some customisation upgrades, allowing buyers to personalise the interior.

Out and about, the Up! shows it has no down-side. The small engine is not noisy, the steering is light and accurate, the five-speed gearshift slick, the ride quality very comfortable. For a car in this sector, the Up! comes over as quite refined. There are no diesel versions but the 1.0 petrol units are available with differing power outputs and there is also an electric version.

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That was the year that was!

by **Tony Matthews**

So much has happened in the sporting world in 2017 that it would take a few pages to cover all the highs, lows, winners and losers. So here are details of the headline-makers, good or bad!

ESSEX became County Champions for the first time since 1992... England won 15 of their 23 competitive matches but lost the Ashes! England's women won the World Cup... Pakistan lifted the Champions Trophy... England's Jimmy Anderson

Cricket

took his 500th Test wicket... Two Bens, Stokes and Duckett, were suspended by

the ECB... Chris Gayle smashed a record 18 sixes in his 146 not out off 69 balls for Rangpur v Dhaka in Bangladesh's T20 final... and the Cayman Islands, Germany, Guernsey, Italy and Jersey became international cricketing countries.



LONG TIME COMING: Essex celebrated their first county championship since 1992

Football

ANDERLECHT, Basel, Bayern Munich, Benfica, Celtic, Chelsea, Copenhagen, Feyenoord, Juventus, Real Madrid, Red Star Belgrade and Spartak Moscow won their respective League titles... Arsenal (FAC), Celtic (SC), Manchester United (EL/FLC), Real Madrid (CL) and England's U17, U19 and U20 teams, all triumphed in major Cup finals... Barcelona's Lionel Messi (37 goals) captured Europe's Golden Boot... Cristiano Ronaldo won the Ballon d'Or for a fifth time and became the first player to score in every Champions League Group game... Chelsea's N'Golo Kante was PFA Footballer of the Year; Celtic's Scott Sinclair won Scotland's award... Manchester City set a new PL record for successive wins from the start of a season and ended Manchester United's 40-match unbeaten home record... Forest Green Rovers entered the League for the first time... and just before Christmas, Bristol City knocked holders Manchester United out of the League Cup.



NUMBER FIVE: Cristiano Ronaldo equalled Lionel Messi's five Ballon d'Or trophies.

Tennis

ROGER FEDERER won seven titles in 2017 including the Australian, USA and Wimbledon singles... Rafael Nadal gained seven victories, two in Spain (Barcelona and Madrid)... Venus Williams lost two major finals against Spain's Garbine Muguruza at Wimbledon and sister Serena in Australia... Caroline Wozniacki won the WTA end-of-season final... Jamie Murray and Martina Hingis became Wimbledon mixed doubles champions... Russian Maria Sharapova returned to action after a drugs ban... France beat Belgium 3-2 in the Davis Cup final... and Nadal's winnings in 2017 were €13.4m/\$15.8m.

Round up

GB/MERCEDES star Lewis Hamilton won his fourth F1 world title and claimed race victories in Belgium, Canada, China, GB, Singapore, Spain and the USA, and Alfa Romeo announced they'll have a car racing in F1 in 2018... Spain's Marc Marquez was the MotoGP champion... Houston Astros beat LA Dodgers 4-3 to win their first baseball World series... GB cyclist Chris Froome completed the Tour de France and Vuelta a España double... Olympic gold medallist Jade Jones added another Taekwondo title to her CV as did Bianca Walkden... Michael van Gerwen (PDC), retiring Phil Taylor (World Matchplay) and Glen Durrant (BDO) won darts tournaments... boxers George Groves, Anthony Joshua, Lee Selby and Michael Conlon all retained their respective IBF/WBA titles, but James DeGale lost his while Tyson Fury was given his licence back... Birmingham was chosen to stage the 2022 Commonwealth Games... and athlete Sir Mo Farah was voted BBC Sports Personality of the Year for 2017.

Golf

'Golfer of the Year' Justin Thomas won the PGA Championship and earned most money: €8.3m/\$9.9m. Other 'big' tournament winners were Sergio Garcia (Masters), Brooks Koepka (US Open), Jordan Speith (British Open), Justin Rose (WGC/HSBC and Indonesian Masters) and Bernard Langer (Senior Open). USA won the Solheim and Walker Cups and Tiger Woods returned to action after injury.

Horse Racing

The 2017 'Classic' horses were outstanding with Enable, winner of the Oaks and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, the best.

Other big race winners were: Winter (GB 1,000 Guineas, Irish 1,000 Guineas, Coronation Stakes and Nassau Stakes)... Churchill (2,000 Guineas)... Wings of Eagles (Derby)... Capri (St Leger and Irish Derby)... Always Dreaming (Kentucky Derby)... One For Arthur (Grand National)... Sizing John (trained by Jessica Harrington,

Cheltenham Gold Cup)...and Buvier D'Air (Champion Hurdle). Champion jockeys were Silvestre De Souza (flat) and Richard Johnson NH) and trainer Aiden O'Brien saddled a record 27th Grade 1 winner.

Rugby

Australia beat England 6-0 in Rugby League's World Cup final and Wigan Warriors won the World Club Challenge Cup. In the Union code, England (Six Nations); Stade Français (European Challenge Cup), Saracens (European Champions Cup) and Scarlets (Pro12) all gained titles.

Snooker

Ronnie O'Sullivan won the Masters and UK Championships, the latter for a joint record sixth time. Barry Hawkins (World Grand Prix), Judd Trump (Player's Championship), Ding Junhui (World Open), Shaun Murphy (Champion of Champions), Mark Selby (World Championship) and Neil Robertson (Scottish Open) also won top events.

ATLETICO MADRID have allegedly reported Barcelona to FIFA over their continued approach of their striker, Antoine Griezmann. Representatives of the French forward, who has a €100 million release clause in his contract, have reportedly held discussions with the Catalan club in recent weeks.

Costa Blanca's best guide to local sport

TO READ MORE



L to R: Brian Edwards, Lawrence Wanty, Lyn Young, Mike Davies, John Burke, Gary Needham, Maggie Edwards, Dave Boswell, Rod Loveday and John O'Brien.

Everyone's a winner at Turkey Trot

EL PLANTIO Two's most recent competition was the 'Turkey Trot' - the game where everyone is a winner.

Ten players each donated a prize and the winner claimed first pick of what was on offer

down to the player finishing last.

Recent new member John Burke had a superb 'Medal-ford' finishing six points clear of the nearest competition.

Christmas nearest the Pins:
Hole 2 - Rod Loveday,
Hole 3 - Maggie Edwards,
Hole 5 - John O'Brien, Hole
7 - Mike Davies.

3rd Place, Lyn Young,
Handicap 13 - 13 points.

2nd Place, Gary Needham,
Handicap 14 - 10 points

1st Place, John Burke,
Handicap 9 - four points.

If anyone would like to join the Society, they play at El Plantio Golf Club every Tuesday, Friday and Sunday. They use both courses - the Par 3 nine-hole course and the main 18-hole course, so they cater for all abilities.

The membership rates are very competitive, so call for more details.

Anyone who wishes to play in the Society as a guest or join as a new member, should contact Ian Henderson either on 966 716 616 or 636 116 230.

Samm autumn race series winners announced

THE SAMM Autumn Series of handicap races was a great success.

With no days lost due to the weather or other events held at CTD causing cancellations, the eight days of the handicap series saw 16 races completed between September and November, all well supported by the competitors.

The results are determined using the 'low points' system with each boat able to drop the scores of their six worst races leaving 10 scores to count for the series.

The clear winner with 8.75 points was the Topaz Duo sailed by Julian Singleton with the scores for nine firsts and one second place counting.

Second was the Laser 2000, Shoestring Tres with 17.5 points with two firsts and eight second places counting. She was sailed by Tug Wilson alone for six of the races but he was joined by



THE WINNERS: Julian Singleton and Dianne Hardwick.

Jack Moss for two and John Down for two.

Third was the Gamba, Shoestring Uno with 21 points, with four firsts, two seconds, two thirds and two fourth places counting. Uno was skippered by Dianne Hardwick for most of the races but her crew varied from race to race, depending on who else from the Shoestring Group was able to compete each day.

The trophies were presented at

the SAMM meeting on December 13. This is the first time an individual, in his own boat, has won a SAMM series, well done Julian. With more members sailing their own boats this could be a future trend. Unfortunately Tug Wilson had returned to the UK for Christmas so could not collect his trophy.

The Spring 2018 Series is scheduled to commence on March 11.

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