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ISSUE No. 1696 || 4 - 10 January 2018

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€84m green light Motorway project approved



ROAD WORKS: The project will extend parts of the A7.

ROAD WORKS: The project will extend parts of the A7.

A project with a budget of €84.3 million has been approved to extend the third lane of the A-7 between Orihuela and Monteaiguado.

The majority of the works will reportedly extend the road between kilometres 545 and 559 of the A-7, located in the districts of Orihuela, Santomera and Murcia.

Approximately 14.4 kilometres of the

stretch will be extended.

Currently, a reported 47,000 vehicles use the stretch of the dual-lane highway every day, with 20 per cent of those classed as heavy vehicles.

The expansion of the third lane will reportedly help alleviate traffic levels, as well as improve the level of service and safety to road users.

A fourth lane between the Santomera and Abanilla link has also been planned as part of the project.

A number of environmental measures will also be added to the roads, including anti-noise screens, sound-absorbing asphalt pavement, and replacement of livestock trails, all valued at an estimated €4.5 million.

Winter follows records

WINTER will come to the Costa Blanca South this weekend as polar air and rainfall hits the region just in time for the Festival of the Three Kings.

The wintry weather comes after an unseasonably dry spell.

The last quarter of 2017 was the driest on record - and therefore in 77 years.

Between the beginning of October and end of December just 17 litres fell per square metre, according to the State Meteorological Agency.

The month of December was the third driest this century.

In the northwest of the region and in the Alt-

plano there was more rainfall, but nowhere near enough to compensate for months of low rainfall.

December reportedly saw average regional temperatures of 9.3 degrees, with eight days of strong winds.

'Moderate amounts' of rain will arrive on Friday night as temperatures plummet, according to

Jorge Olcina, professor of Geographical Analysis and director of the Institute of Climatology of the

University of Alicante.

However, other forecasts suggest rain may not fall.

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NEWS EXTRA

Drugs stash unearthed

TWO people were arrested after a car attempted to evade a routine check-point in Orihuela. Local Police chased the vehicle and found it contained over 550 marihuana plants in the boot.

Trendy force

LOCAL POLICE in Benejúzar will be looking even smarter than usual as they begin to wear their new uniforms. The force has also acquired a number of bullet-proof vests.

A long wait

THIRTY unemployed people have begun to refurbish the only building that remained unrepaired since the 1829 earthquake experienced in Almoradi. The project will last for around 12 months.

N-332 crash

FOUR people were injured in a traffic accident involving two cars in Torrevieja on the busy N-332. All were taken to the Torrevieja Hospital suffering from a variety of non-life threatening injuries.

Thief breaks in to Guardia Civil officer's home

A BURGLAR got more than he was looking for when he tried to rob a house in the early hours in a neighbourhood of Murcia. The owner of the property was an officer of the Guardia Civil.

The officer woke up when he thought he heard some strange noises coming from downstairs where he lived and got out of bed to investigate. The man had gained access to the house by forcing open the door of the small workshop of the house in the El Esparragal area of the city.

Before the burglar had the chance to leave the building with the ill-gotten gains of his break in, he was surprised by the Guardia Civil officer who had crept up on him.

The thief then realised that there was no means of escape close by, so he gave himself up and remained in the property until uniformed police arrived on the scene after being called. Other members of the officer's



INTRUDER: Man caught robbing officer's house is led away.

family were in the house at the time and slept through the entire incident.

The arrested man - a 44-year-old Spaniard living in the neighbourhood of Las Lumbreras - was known to the authorities and already possesses a bulky criminal record.

The items that he attempted to steal have already been returned to their rightful owner, and the investigation now continues as it's believed that the detained man may be linked with a series of similar crimes in the same area of the municipality.

Building materials scammers arrested

FOUR MEN have been arrested by the Guardia Civil in connection with the fraudulent purchase of building materials.

The detained are all of Spanish nationality aged between 25 and 41-years-old, two of them from Beniel, one from Novelda and the fourth from Elche. It's understood that their scam brought them more than €100,000 from various

amount scammed is more than double.

Those detained were the four members of a criminal group exclusively dedicated to committing such scams within the construction industry and carried out their crimes in Alicante, Orihuela, Elche and Novelda.

As the investigation proceeded, it was discovered that their modus

operandi was to

arrange meetings with representatives of various companies (the eventual victims of the fraud) and, using their newly ac-

quired identity, scammed these businesses based in the Vinalopó area.

The four arrested men have been charged with five crimes of fraud, one of falsifying documents, one of misappropriation of civil status and for belonging to a criminal group.

The Guardia Civil learned at the end of November 2017 that several people were using the identity of the manager of a major company based in

Novelda. They then produced fake paperwork and had a rubber stamp made up with the business name so they could pass themselves off to buy construction materials - worth €45,000 - that they never paid for, although there is evidence to suggest that the total

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TIME OUT
WEEKLY LEISURE INCLUDING PUZZLES, STARS AND MADDOCK'S VIEW ON LIFE



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MOTORING
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Friday feeling

THANKS to November's 'Black Friday,' sales in the Murcia region rose by 3.4 per cent during last month and employment grew by 3 per cent. The latter figure was double the national average. Only the Canary Islands and Asturias achieved higher employment figures for the same period.

Demand rises

THE demand for natural gas has continued to rise in Spain in 2017 - by 9 per cent overall - with Murcia recording an increase of 32 per cent... the second largest in the country. According to the data from Enagás, 351 terawatt hours has been used across Spain this year.

Abortion down

FIGURES for the numbers of abortions have decreased across Spain but Murcia is among a handful of communities that have shown rises above the national rate of 1.2 per cent. The total number of abortions in 2016 was 93,131; 1,057 less than the previous year.

Alps death

A YOUNG woman from Crevillente is among those killed during a number of avalanches in the Swiss Alps. Paloma Friedrich, aged 29, was with her sister and another young man when the avalanche happened in the canton of Valais in Switzerland. Her companions were rescued unscathed.

Fiesta thieves

OFFICERS of the National Police in Alicante have begun a campaign of visits to a number of different companies throughout the province to talk to employees about preventative measures. These include online delivery companies that have been regular targets of thieves, especially with Christmas and the Three Kings fiesta this weekend.

SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE... 44

January 6 sees the arrival of the best-loved Christmas tradition in Spain, as the Three Kings bring presents for children and huge parades take place, Joe Gerrard reports.

SANTA VS THE KINGS

DEBATE rages as to who is preferred in Spain, Santa Claus or the Three Kings. In a 2015 survey of Spanish children the kings came out on top, 67 per cent to Santa's 27 per cent.

ANDALUCIAN KINGS?

THE previous Pope, Benedict XVI, claimed in his book on the nativity the three kings were from the ancient kingdom of Tarsis (Tartessos). Historians place this kingdom somewhere near Huelva, Cadiz and Sevilla, in modern day Andalusia.

PAGAN ORIGINS

THE origin of the celebration goes back further than Christianity. In pagan times celebrations were held on January 6 to welcome the longer days that followed the winter solstice on December 21.

CONTROVERSY

DURING parades Balthazar has traditionally been played by a white actor in 'blackface' make-up. Critics have branded this racist and Madrid's council employed a black actor for the first time last year in response.

We three kings

JANUARY in Britain sees families pack away their Christmas decorations and get back to business as usual.

In Spain however Christmas festivities continue until January 6, when the country celebrates the annual Three King's Day holiday, also known as Epiphany Day.

The day (El Dia de los Reyes in Spanish) marks the moment in the nativity story when the three kings or wise men visited the baby Jesus to give gifts.

The three kings in the modern-day festival, Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar, are now said to give out presents to Spanish children, similar to Santa Claus in Britain and elsewhere.

Spanish children polish their shoes and leave them outside for the kings to put presents in on the night of January 5.

These presents only go to well behaved children however, and Balthazar is tasked with giving coal or wood to those children on the naughty list.

The night of January 5 also sees the annual parades (the Cabalgata de Reyes), beginning at dusk.

The three kings appear here too, standing on floats and trailers that go through Spanish towns and cities throwing sweets to excited children.

Some of these parades involve hundreds of actors and are broadcast live on Spanish TV.

On January 6 the Spanish traditionally enjoy a round bread cake called Roscon. The cakes are baked with a figurine of the baby Jesus and a dry flava bean.

The person who finds the figurine is crowned king or queen of that day's festivities. The one who finds the bean has to prepare next year's Roscons.

January 6 is marked by a bank holiday in Spain and children don't return to school until after the festival.



CROWNING GLORY: The kings in a Cabalgata de Reyes parade.

Region's best

FOR the third year in succession, the Arrixaca University Hospital in Murcia leads the region's rankings

for the best hospital. The other two major medical centres in the area - Morales Meseguer Hospital and the Reina Sofia - have swapped places for second and third spots in the 2017 Hospital Excellence Index.

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The total number of news and features which appeared in Issue 1695 of the Euro Weekly News Costa Blanca South edition, including 52 local stories.

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Shell shock!



Photo by Ibenze #Enfarinats/A. Guillem/Danza Invisible/Twitter



NO YOLK: Revellers hurl eggs at each other as Carles Puigdemont (bottom right) prepares to take his punishment.

INHABITANTS of Ibi, Alicante have staged their annual mock battle to mark the biblical Massacre of the Innocents by King Herod.

Known locally as Els Enfarinats - the floured ones - revellers hurl smoke bombs, flour and eggs at each other in one of the world's greatest food fights.

Clad in military gear and wearing goggles to protect their eyes, some participants also brandish firecrackers as

the flour and egg artillery whizzes by.

The fake coup d'état dates back around 200 years and sees Els Enfarinats take control of the village as they stage a revolution against the authorities.

A new mayor is elected and a series of ridiculous new laws are announced, with citizens who break them fined and the money later donated to charity.

Meanwhile, a second group called La Oposicio - the opposition - attempts to restore or-

der before both sides storm the streets armed with 12,000 eggs, 8,000 kilos of flour and 6,000 firecrackers.

Taking place on Innocents' Day (December 28), there was a political edge to this year's event, as one plucky participant dressed as ex-Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont.

He was set on by a gang of battle-hardened soldiers wielding fire extinguishers filled with flour before being locked in an imitation prison cell.

POLL OF THE WEEK

Should Spain follow Mexico's example and legalise marihuana-based products?

LAST WEEK'S POLL:
 Do you make New Year's resolutions?
Yes 19% **No** 81%

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Top 5 stories



BUNNY LANE: Barry Lane Hickey.

- 7,279** views **Legendary Costa del Sol entertainer Bunny Lane dies**
- 7,235** views **Two earthquakes shake Spain's Costa del Sol**
- 6,472** views **Severe weather alerts as Spain set to be lashed by storm Bruno**
- 4,594** views **Storm Bruno arrives in Spain bringing rain, snow and strong winds**
- 4,495** views **Outrage as Spain bans fish and chips to support 'more sustainable' fishing**

**For week 25 December 2017- 1 January 2018*

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Charities together help rough sleepers

NUMBERS of people that have found themselves sleeping rough on the streets in the Orihuela Costa benefited from the kindness and hard work of charitable organisations.

A combination of the International Christian Assembly based in Torrevieja and the Help at Home Costa Blanca worked together to distribute large numbers of essential supplies mixed in with some extra items to bring some good cheer at this time of the year.

Food and drinks and toiletries were purchased from the funds raised for the charity and blankets and clothing were given to those most in need from the vast amount of items donated by

generous members of the public. The bedding was particularly welcomed by those whose home is nothing other than a piece of waste ground.

Eileen Mayes, a former president of the Help at Home charity and also a member of the church, came up with the

idea of distributing the items over Christmas.

“Back in Britain, the Salvation Army do a huge amount of work at this time of the year looking after the homeless and rough sleepers and I thought it appropriate to try to help such people living in this part of Spain too,” said Eileen. “I am extremely grateful that the charity and church responded.”

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Friends reunited

REAL MADRID star Isco took advantage of Spanish football's winter break by visiting former teammate Alvaro Morata in London.

The 25-year-old midfielder from Benalmadena on the Costa del Sol and his stunning girlfriend Sara Salamo, 25, shared a number of pictures on social media as they took in the sights.

After checking out Camden Town the loved-up pair met with Alvaro, 25, and his newly-pregnant wife Alice Campello, 22, with the Chelsea striker captioning a photo of the quartet: 'What a joy to be able to share a while with you two. We hope to do it again soon!'

Isco and Sara made their relationship official at the end of October following months of speculation.

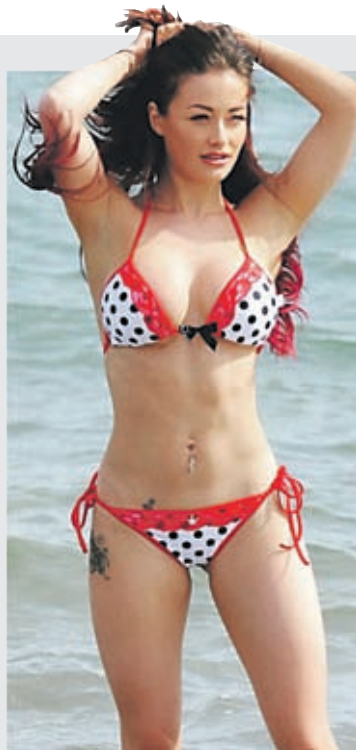
He has a young son from a previous relationship and was earlier this year linked with actress and model Carmen Muñoz before being pictured with a bikini-clad beauty at a Las Vegas hotel swimming pool.



Alvaro Morata/Instagram

ALL SMILES: Isco (second right) Alvaro Morata and their partners.

EYE POPPING: Jess Impiazzi.



Back on the beach

SHE'S rumoured to be joining the next edition of *Celebrity Big Brother*.

And former *Ex On The Beach* star Jess Impiazzi was spotted topping up her tan in Tenerife as she prepares for her next appearance on reality TV.

The 28-year-old beauty flaunted her ample curves in a tiny black-and-white bikini as she frolicked in the shallows during her winter break.

Photo credit Jess Impiazzi/Instagram

What a gem

FORMER *The Only Way Is Essex* (TOWIE) stars James 'Arg' Argent, 30, and Gemma Collins, 36, have set tongues wagging again.

It comes as the on-off couple teamed up for a rendition of Andy Williams' 'You're Just Too Good To Be True' during a New Year's party at TOWIE pal Elliot Wright's restaurant Olivia's in La Cala de Mijas on the Costa del Sol.

Lady in red

SHE recently claimed she has no time for romance.

But actress, model, and bikini designer Elizabeth Hurley, 52, was snapped dancing the night away with a mystery man on New Year's Eve.

And the ageless stunner donned a Spanish flamenco-style outfit, complete with acoustic guitar and black wig, for the occasion.

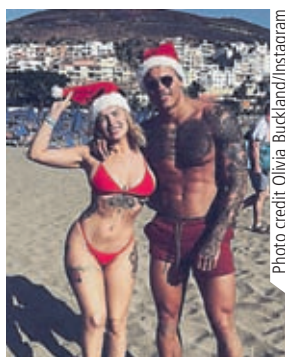


Photo credit Olivia Buckland/Instagram

FESTIVE FROLICS: Olivia and Alex.

A whole lotta love (island)

THEY shot to fame after finishing second on reality dating show *Love Island* in 2016.

But Olivia Buckland, 24, and Alex Bowen, 26, showed they are still going strong after jetting to Ibiza for a Christmas break.

The ITV2 stars got engaged a year ago and sent temperatures soaring again after posting a series of sizzling swimwear shots on social media.

While Olivia slipped into a barely-there red bikini which highlighted her many tattoos, Alex donned an equally skimpy pair of maroon trunks as he showed off his rippling form.

The couple admitted it was "hard work" to continue their relationship after leaving the popular show, but say their love has lasted as they made an effort to see each other daily despite their busy schedules.

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OUR VIEW

New Year, old problems

THE New Year brings plenty of excitement and new challenges.

Spanish families will be excited for the festival of the Three Kings - and all the festivities that Friday and Saturday brings with it.

But the end of the Christmas period also heralds the lead up to carnival season - meaning the partying will only continue. But, perhaps most pressingly, the New Year brings with it the fall out from 2017.

A full-blown drought appears increasingly likely - even if there is significant rainfall this month.

That will have implications for farming, water usage, wildlife and the environment, as climate change continues to take its toll on southern Spain.

Information is still scarce on the impact Brexit will have. British Prime Minister Theresa May has promised to look after the rights of expatriates, but the detail of any deal - if there is one - remains unclear.

Meanwhile, the impact of the Catalan election and independence crisis is still difficult to predict - and the threat of Spain being separated remains real, if unlikely.

The migration crisis, drug problems, corruption and crime will continue to be big news, as expatriates get set for the coming summer season, with tourists arriving en masse in the next few months.

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Even more opportunities for languages

THE Valencian Community will open seven new Official Language Schools ready for the 2018-19 academic year.

Four are to be located in Valencia, two in Castellon and one in San Vicente, providing another 4,000 places, of which 2,030 will be for English lessons and 530 for Valenciano for teachers.

The two new schools in Valencia City will include Dutch, Finnish and Polish, announced Education chief, Vicent Marza, while Alicante City's existing school will now teach Basque and Japanese.

The Elche school will also be offering Japanese.

These additions bring the total number of language schools to 24 and are part of the regional government's plans to encourage the population to learn languages by providing more opportunities, Marza said.

There are also plans to extend the offer with an online Official Language School.

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RESTRAINED: Unnamed British drunk stopped by airport check-in staff.

Drunk British woman fined for airport violence

A BRITISH woman that was denied the right to fly back to the UK because she was drunk and then ended up hitting two paramedics, who tried to help her, has been fined.

At a court hearing that took place recently, the woman - whose identity wasn't released - was instructed to pay €400 to the members of the medical team she assaulted as well as a further fine of €180.

The incident took place in November after check-in staff at the Murcia-San Javier Airport refused to let the drunken woman fly. As she left the airport building, she fell over and suffered a nasty head injury. Fortunately, for her, there were two members of the SAMUR medical

team on the scene very quickly, but they were greeted with the woman lashing out at them with her hands and feet as they tried to give her first aid. She also spat at some of the team.

Such was the strength of the woman; the decision was taken to put her in the kind of restraining gear normally used on people with severe psychiatric issues.

Officers of the Guardia Civil and members of the airport security staff helped the paramedics control the violent woman who was eventually taken to the Los Arcos Hospital in nearby San Javier. However, her violent behaviour continued on arrival and it took eight members of staff to regain control over her.

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Photo credit: Twitter

RECORD BREAKING: Alicante-Elche Airport simply flying higher and higher.

Airport tops league

ALICANTE-ELCHE Airport has closed 2017 with a number of records.

Not only has it broken its own passenger numbers with close to 14,000,000 - the full and final figures will be released in the early weeks of January - the airport can now claim the title of the most efficient airport in Spain.

During the year, the airport handled 90,000 flights and only 305 were delayed and representing just 0.3 per cent of the traffic. However, those delays affected some 34,000 passengers and cost €11,000,000 (€323 per person on average) according to a report from the AirHelp organisation... a world leader in airport claims management.

According to AirHelp, more than 700,000 passengers suffered delays and cancellations this year with Monarch (who went into administration three months ago) and Ryanair the worst rated. The company estimates that passengers entitled to compensation for delays could cost around €250,000,000.

Lowest of the low

Pensioner robbed through fence

EXCLUSIVE

By Matt Ford

A BRITISH expatriate has described how she was robbed through her garden fence.

"I sustained horrible scratches to my chest and the whole incident worsened my arthritis terribly," Janet Sims, 76, told the *Euro Weekly News*.

A Torrevieja resident for 23 years after leaving her home in Reading, Berkshire, the ex-police officer was at home when her doorbell rang.

"I walked down to the gate, which is never opened to anyone unknown," she said.

"It was a Spanish-speaking man asking if I was selling my

car, to which I said no, but he was most insistent and waving some paperwork while demanding I open the gate.

"I moved to the side of the gate behind the balustrade, which is about 6 foot 4 inches high and asked him to leave, then I sensed a presence on the pavement below.

"Before I knew it a woman sprang up and grabbed my neck and clothes with such force she must have been a gymnast!

"Then she asked me for a kiss in Spanish before we had quite the tussle during which she grabbed my 50-year-old gold chain, which eventually broke.

"She ran off with some of it - the rest dropped into my clothing - and the pair ran to a

waiting car.

"They were Romanians and my neighbour saw the end of the incident before calling the Guardia Civil."

Janet has since identified the woman but she has not been charged, with a court case pending in the New Year.

"It could have been much worse as there was a large rockery with plant pots behind me," added Janet. "I hope my experience will be of some use to others."

It comes weeks after expatriate Tony Locke, 71, was robbed at his front gate in Campoverde, and police have warned the elderly to be particularly careful about who they open their doors to.

NEWS EXTRA

Death plunge

AN employee has died in Alicante after falling from a crane in the Las Atalayas industrial zone. He fell between eight and 10 metres and the circumstances of his death are being investigated.

Street life

ALICANTE City Council has unanimously agreed at a recent plenary session to change the names of up to 40 streets that are related to Spain's previous dictator General Franco.

Flu shock

FLU has hit the people of Orihuela and has stretched the hospitals to the limit. Figures show 327 cases of flu per 100,000 residents in the last week of 2017.

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NEWS EXTRA

Road rain solution

FLOODING that affected parts of the N-332 in La Mata last winter should not return following a programme of works that created two new collecting areas for the excess rain.

Tuning in

SANTA POLA Council will allocate part of the 2018 municipal budget to the installation of a dedicated community radio station that can be used by associations, organisations and political groups.

Gas attack

THREE women - including a five-year-old girl - were poisoned by a butane gas leak in the village of La Marina. They were taken to the Vinalopo Hospital in nearby Elche.

Dog dies after being found in a lamentable state

OFFICERS from the Guardia Civil have arrested a man on charges of alleged animal abuse.

He was detained after his dog had died after being found tied to a tree on farmland on his property. The dog was discovered to be without food and water and was in a severe state of dehydration, as well as being kept in deplorable sanitary and hygienic conditions.

The arrested man was a 32-year-old and a local to Crevillente, and had a total of four dogs of different breeds on his farm. Guardia Civil officers visited the premises in the company of two members of the municipality animal protectorate where they found one of the dogs 'in a lamentable state' - according to an



Photo credit: Guardia Civil

ABANDONED: Final picture of chained-up dog left to die.

official report - chained to a tree and suffering from a bloody swelling around his rectum. The dog was rushed to a local vet but died a few hours later from his condition.

It is understood that the health of the dog was so bad that it would have died anyway; such was the advanced stage of dehydration and hy-

pothemia.

Investigations revealed that none of the four dogs had any documentation, nor had they been monitored by any veterinary service, and this was also a contributing factor to the man's arrest.

The other three dogs have been allowed to remain with the arrested owner.

Kidnap suspects arrested

A SIGNIFICANT number of young people have been arrested in the Mar Menor suspected of drug trafficking and being behind at least 30 robberies in the area. Eight children are among those that have been detained.

The 'gang' - based in San Pedro del Pinatar - were detained by officers from the Guardia Civil as part of 'Operation Infantera' after five properties were raided. A number of stolen objects were discovered alongside a quantity of hashish.

The operation was launched after a larger than usual number of robberies to local homes caused great concern to residents of San Pedro.

It did not take long for them to realise that they were probably dealing with the same people involved in all the robberies due to their similarity.

During last November, two people were caught in the act when attempting to break in to a school in San Pedro; and just a few days later the Guardia

Civil caught a third inside a house during a robbery. These arrests led them to more members of the criminal gang and their subsequent detention.

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New rubbish trucks join the ageing fleet

RESIDENTS and visitors to Orihuela will be noticing some new municipal vehicles on their streets following the leasing of four rubbish collection lorries. The modern vehicles will take the place of some of the old fleet that have been patrolling the area for some time.

The four new lorries comprise of two side-loading and two rear-access compacting vehicles. The cost of the five-year contract is just short of €2 million and includes the costs of maintenance which for 2017 amounted to €314,000.

Residents of the Orihuela Costa, with its regular influx of tourists, have often complained about the state of their locality so will benefit from the extra trucks.

Councillor Damaso Aparicio, with responsibilities for road cleaning, said: "The proposal is going through the appropriate channels as we speak, and as soon as it is approved, we will get the new vehicles."

The current fleet of 17 dustcarts already operating are ageing less than gracefully and need more and more repairs and maintenance. Also, they use large quantities of fuel which only adds to the costs of supplying the service.

Prime Minister Rajoy announces major investments

SPANISH Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy took the opportunity of a visit to Murcia to announce a series of infrastructure investments that include the local region.

The overall plan for the country will see a total of €5 billion spent over 2,000 kilometres of roads and lead to the creation of 189,000 jobs.

Mariano Rajoy said: "Following four years of strong economic growth and job creation we are in a position to add new momentum to investment in infrastructures."

"The Extraordinary Highways Investment Plan will play a crucial role in the new efforts we are proposing."



PLANS: Murcia region to benefit from major spending plans announced by Spain's Prime Minister.

He went on to say that the 'starting pistol' would be the publication of a feasibility study for a new north to south road for Murcia. This will be the construc-

tion for a 33-kilometre bypass on the A-30 and will see an investment of €279 million. "Over one million people will benefit from the new road," said Rajoy, "by bringing increased safety, greater capacity and mobility for users and decreased disturbance for the adjacent towns and companies."

Murcia's road network won't be the only beneficiaries of the central government spending as it was announced that the city will see the AVE high-speed train arriving during 2018, and see travel times between Murcia and Madrid reduced by 90 minutes.

Prime Minister Rajoy also said that work is under way on the plans aimed at bringing the high-speed railway network to Cartagena and Lorca.

NEWS EXTRA

Change flight

UP to 70 workers currently based at Murcia-San Javier Airport have asked to be transferred to Alicante-Elche rather than move to the new Corvera Airport when it opens.

Tram crash

ONE of the local tram trains on the route between Alicante and Playa San Juan collided with a bus on Avenida Costa Blanca at the junction of Plaza A Coruña.

Price of fish

STORM BRUNO, which affected parts of the country recently, has also caused the price of shellfish - popular around this time of the year - to increase by 100 per cent.

539 People drowned in Spain last year according to official figures, with 72 per cent of fatal accidents occurring in the sea.

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New year financial planning review

Here we are at the start of another year, when we tend to reflect on the previous 12 months and look ahead to what the coming year may bring. It is a good time to reflect on your financial planning and ensure it is up-to-date and designed to protect your long-term wealth for you and your family.

Brexit

If you have not yet registered as tax resident in Spain, the clock is ticking. You need look at obtaining official permanent residence ahead of the UK's withdrawal date, scheduled for March 2019. Take specialist advice on how to benefit from the local tax rules to ensure you are in the best position to enjoy life in Spain. If you are still at the planning stages of moving here, you may wish to accelerate your plans.

Tax planning

It is always a good idea to review



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

your tax planning from time to time to confirm it is up-to-date. Take advice to ensure you are taking advantage of the tax planning opportunities available in Spain. The right tax-efficient arrangements can keep most of your investments in one place and help you legitimately avoid paying too much tax.

The new global automatic exchange of information regime, implemented through the

Common Reporting Standard, is well underway. 50 jurisdictions made the first exchange by September 2017; another 50 jurisdictions will start sharing by September 2018.

Cross-border tax planning is complex, especially if you earn income in one country and live in another. Are you sure you are paying tax in the right place? Specialist advice can give you peace of mind as well as potentially save you tax.

Savings and investments

Successful investing is about managing risk versus return and having a well-thought out strategy specifically based on your personal circumstances, needs, aims and risk tolerance. You should obtain a clear assessment of your appetite for risk, then match your profile to the optimum portfolio. Ensure you have adequate diversification, so you are not over-exposed to any given asset type, country, sector or

company.

You should then review your portfolio around once a year, because as asset prices rise and fall it can become unbalanced, and your circumstances may have changed.

Pensions

There are more choices than ever for your UK pension funds, but care must be taken to ensure you make the right decision for your objectives and to protect your retirement savings. Weigh up all your options, as well as the tax implications in Spain, to establish the best course of action for you.

Estate planning

It is important to review your estate planning after moving to Spain, as both succession law and tax work very differently to the UK.

How much succession and gift tax your heirs will pay depends on the degree of relationship to you, their pre-existing wealth, the local

rules in your region and whether the local or state rules will apply. There may be steps you can take to lower their tax liability.

Spain imposes forced heirship, which may prevent you dividing your estate as you wish. You can however use the EU succession regulation 'Brussels IV' to opt for the succession law of your country of nationality to apply, but must state this in your will. Take advice first to confirm if this is the right course of action for your family.

Reviewing your wealth management arrangement once a year should prove profitable and provide peace of mind. You should look at all the above areas together, as changes in one could affect the other, and establish holistic solutions that work for your personal situation.

Keep up to date on the financial issues that may affect you on the Blevins Franks news page at www.blevinsfranks.com

New year. New financial strategy?

With Brexit on the way, President Trump and his tweets, and tax changes in the UK and across Europe, these are uncertain times for expatriates. Investment diversification is more important than ever, as is specialist cross-border tax advice, especially with automatic exchange of information now taking place. Are your tax, pension, investment and estate planning strategies up-to-date and in good shape to protect yourself and your family? Contact us to review your strategy for 2018 and beyond.

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Sniffer dog unit catches another drugs passenger

THE Canine Unit of the Local Police in based in Alicante has arrested a man for possession of drugs.

Almost 300 grams of hashish as well as a 10-centimetre flick knife was discovered in the backpack of a man that was travelling on the bus between Barcelona and Algeciras as it stopped for a break at Alicante bus station.

The events that led to the arrest took place when the bus arrived just after 9am, when two Local Police officers, accompanied by their specially trained dogs, carried out a routine combing of the platforms solely with the aim of finding narcotics.

Police reports said that they went to inspect the recently arrived bus from Algeciras and as it went along the corridor, one of the dogs stopped by one of the



Photo credit: Policia Local Alicante

HIDDEN: Drugs and dangerous weapons found during routine search.

passengers seated in the back row - a 29-year-old Moroccan - and bound for Barcelona. The dog showed particular interest in his backpack that was next to him on the seat.

On being asked if he was carrying any drugs, the man

answered in the affirmative and was then immediately taken off the bus for questioning. He was arrested for possession of narcotics.

The 298 grams of hashish found hidden in his backpack was already prepared into three tablets.

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- When buying a property in Spain, the process can be very different. Make sure that you know what costs are involved, the taxes that you need to pay and the problems that could occur.

- When an offer has been accepted, appoint your INDEPENDENT solicitor to perform all of the due diligences.

- Sign a contract “contra-to de compra-venta”, once your solicitor has checked the details on this.

- Pay the deposit to reserve the property in your name. NEVER pay this

unless your solicitor has checked the contract and NEVER pay this directly to a seller or without both parties signing a contract.

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

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Photo credit: Ayuntamiento de Orihuela

HIGH TECH: Councillor Alvarez demonstrating the new info points.

Touchscreen information points unveiled

ORIHUELA Costa has moved into the 21st century when it comes to information technology by unveiling two touchscreen points that can be used by tourists.

Introduced by the Tourism Department, one of the new information points is located in the shopping centre at Zenia Boulevard whereas the other is inside the tourist office found in the Playa Flamenca Town Hall.

Announcing the initiative, Councillor Sofia Alvarez said:

“These two interactive showcases will offer tourist information services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and are absolutely necessary for visitors to the area, especially at the Zenia Boulevard which receives an average of 14 million visitors per year, and where tourist information must be available at all times.”

Information on the screens will be available in many languages and are connected to the Orihuela Turistica website. Users will be asked to complete a survey from time to time to assess the quality of the new service on offer, the responses being used to enhance for the future.

plete a survey from time to time to assess the quality of the new service on offer, the responses being used to enhance for the future.

The screens have been purchased thanks to 50 per cent of the money being provided by way of a grant from the Valencian Tourist Board, and will keep environmentalists happy as the digital information points will decrease the amount of paper required for producing pamphlets and flyers.

Moore, Ernest Henry

FOR 40 years, a resident of El Campello, and one of the oldest Englishmen at 108 years and 10 weeks, dearest Ernie passed peacefully on December 22 amongst his adoring family in the UK, after a late night enjoying a TV concert at the Albert Hall.

He was the beloved husband of Vera until her passing in Spain 30 years ago, devoted father of David, father-in-law to Kelly, and grandfather to Jake and Sam. A legend to many, he introduced several generations to the Spain he loved, and he will be sorely missed.



RIP: Ernest Moore.

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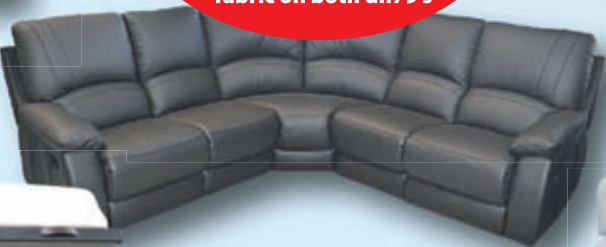


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Busy end to the for the 112 ser

NEW YEAR'S EVE, going into the first day of 2018, proved to be a busy one for the emergency services of the Murcia region.

The 112 number received a total of 1,451 calls and they began early on in the evening when they were called to a house fire in San José de la Montaña close to the Puerto de Garruchal.

Firefighters responded to the alarm raised by someone living in the house that a fire had broken out on the first floor of the property. At that stage, all the occupants had been able to leave, although paramedics needed to treat four people from the same family that were suffering from the effects of smoke inhalation. They were aged between 23 and 62-years-old but none of them needed to be transferred to any medical centres or



OCCUPIED: Murcia's emergency services working hard into 2018 (file image).

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Year Service

on to hospital. The circumstances that led up to the fire starting are presently unknown.

Figures already released by the Emergency Co-ordination Centre said that the total of just under 1,500 calls related to 806 different incidents that took place between 10pm on New Year's Eve and 9am on New Year's Day; a result of which required an increase in the number of telephone operators on duty to cope with the bulk of the calls.

Municipalities registering the most calls were Murcia with 416 calls; Cartagena 110; Lorca 51; Molina de Segura 39; Alguazas 37; San Javier 35; and Torre Pacheco 35 calls.

Health issues topped the list of reasons for the 112 number being called with 555 calls made. Serious alcohol poisoning only accounted for 40.

Two more years for suffering N-332 drivers

DRIVERS that have suffered from regular traffic jams on the N-332 for a number of years face waiting in line for a few more yet before work might commence on the section of road that bypasses Torrevieja.

The latest delay is due to the Ministry of Development in Madrid stating that they will now be commissioning a study into the impact on the local environment; the results of which will decide the feasibility of the project.

A consequence is that it's not likely to see any construction beginning before the year 2020 on the stretch of the N-332 that is currently single lane only and wasn't turned into a dual carriageway when the rest of the highway was completed in 2011.

It's estimated that during the busiest times of the year, around 50,000 vehicles use the stretch of road in each direction, and one of the busiest in the Alicante Province.

Its links to some of the biggest shopping centres in the area - Habaneras and Zenia Boulevard - and as well as being close to the Torrevieja Hospital add to the popularity of the road.

As well as the frustrations experienced by drivers that have endured close to 10 years of hold-ups and nose to tail driving along that part of the N-332, the road is a notorious accident blackspot that is recognised by the Spanish Directorate of Traffic and therefore seen as a priority project.



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NEWS EXTRA

Winter warmer

ACCORDING to the State Meteorology Agency (AEMET) local regions are expected to record winter temperatures that will be between one and three degrees above average from January to March.

New roads

MURCIA Council has approved the renovation of 225 streets and major roads in the region during 2018. This is an increase on the 105 originally planned due to low tenders received.

Sword rage

A DRIVER in Elche was arrested for threatening another driver with a sword during an argument over a parking space. The man who tried to flee the scene was 72-years-old.

Satisfaction ratings for beaches up nine points

ORIHUELA has reported a significant increase in visitor numbers to the municipality for 2017 when compared to the previous year. Tourism councillor Sofia Alvarez announced the growth of 20 per cent.

"Special importance has been attached by the Council to the poet Miguel Hernandez in the year in which we have commemorated the 75th anniversary of his death," she said, "publicising his life and his works throughout Spain."

Councillor Alvarez also re-

ferred to the Moors and Christians' events that bring people from all around and a massive boost to the local economy.

Such is the importance of the festivities that it's been promoted across Spain and has been declared as being of international tourist interest.

Food and drink is playing an increasing role in a number of different events during the year, with the 'Tapas Runs' among the most popular. The 2018 holding is already being looked-forward to and hosts

hope to beat the 20,000 tapas sold during the weekend in 2017.

The coast of Orihuela is also proud to have been awarded nine of the prestigious blue flags earlier last year and now stands at second on the list for quality of beaches.

As well as quality, the beaches have seen a rise of nine points in the satisfaction index of users following a study that took place during the summer months between June and September.



Photo by Ayuntamiento de Torrevieja

INCREASES: Luisa Bone (left) and Sofia Alvarez.

In the latest beach satisfaction study, conducted in the summer season from June to September 2017, the results - announced by Councillor Luisa

Bone - reflect a rise of up to nine points in the satisfaction index of the users surveyed regarding the data collected the previous summer.

VICTOR FERRANDEZ, the Torrevieja councillor for Employment and Local Development, gave a number of people an early New Year present.

A total of 23 people were given a contract with the local municipality as part of the EMCORP and EMCORD-207 employment pro-

Employment boost

grammes. Those lucky enough to be given this opportunity will now embark on a six-month full-time contract after previously being registered unemployed.

The positions being filled include labourers, administrators, assistants, social worker, journalist, a sports instructor and a caretaker, and to enable this initiative

to take place the council has been given subsidies worth €416,575 from SERVEF.

The 23 were among those classed as long-term unemployed which means they were registered jobseekers for a minimum of 360 days in a 540 day period. They also had to be at least 30-years-old.

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NEWS EXTRA**Cheer
for beer**

PEOPLE in Murcia spent an average of €206.63 on alcohol during 2016. Across Spain as a whole, €82.62 goes on wine, €76.55 on beer and €30.10 on spirits.

Paper cost

MADRID'S Ministry of Health has allocated €700,000 to supply paper for photocopiers and printers used by the Murcia Health Service (SMS). The contract includes recycled and specially bleached A4 paper.

Local choice

RESIDENTS of Pilar de la Horadada have presented more than 40 suggestions to be included in the 2018 municipality budget. A total of €600,000 has been allocated to the successful ideas.

Sixty new CCTV cameras head security measures

SECURITY is the watch word for the municipality of Almoradí and the priority as they go into a new year.

A series of initiatives were announced by the mayor of Almoradí María Gómez after an event that saw eight Local Police officers being recognised for a number of outstanding actions.

They were commended for their work in special operations that resulted in a string of arrests of people involved in serious crimes, especially drugs related.

One of the first plans will be for 60 CCTV cameras to be installed in public buildings to increase levels of security, and this comes with the recognition from the mayor that the past year has not been one of the best from a crime perspective.

The cost of the security cameras will come to



Photo credit: Activa Orihuela

RECOGNISED: Local officers awarded for their special achievements.

€50,000 and will cover not only popular public buildings, but also crowded areas that will be monitored by the Local police.

This will enable quicker and more effective responses by the Guardia Civil who will be working in collaboration with the scheme.

Another of the security priorities will be to imple-

ment the protocol on terrorism, especially at the weekly market in the municipality which has already been made more secure in the light of events in Spain during last year.

Mayor Gómez acknowledged the help and support of all the traders and members of the Civil Protection forces in carrying out these neces-

sary security measures.

Further schemes announced included the addition of another police patrol car to support the current 29 officers employed in Almoradí. Work will also be done to control and monitor gender violence and on improving school absenteeism and behaviour issues by working closer with schools.

Top of the hospital pops

THE Hospital Quirónsalud de Torrevieja has ended the year at the top of a number of charts.

According to the Hospital Excellence Index (IEH), the Hospital Quirónsalud de Torrevieja has been recognised as the best in both the public and private network in the Alicante Province and the best private hospital in the Valencian Community.

In addition, one of the Quirónsalud Group, the University Hospital Foundation Jiménez Díaz, has been rated as the best in Spain.

Three others - the Hospital Quirónsalud Barcelona, the Hospital Quirónsalud Madrid and the Teknon Medical Centre - have also made the top 10 hospitals in the country.

The Hospital Excellence Index analyses public and private hospitals, and measures excellence based on the results and opinions of 1,750 professionals working in the medical centres.

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NATIONAL POLICE officers based in Alicante have seized a significant number of marihuana plants and batches of the drug ready for sale.

Seven people have been arrested - four men and three women - in the operation that dismantled an organisation that was believed to be supplying the substances to a number of selling points in Alicante.

The 764 plants discovered were in various stages of growth and a further 29 kilos of prepared marihuana already perfectly packaged in bundles was also found on the premises.

According to the provincial police, the arrests - just before Christmas but only now being made public - were



Photo credit: Policia Nacional

GROWING: A total of 764 marihuana plants in various stages discovered.

made as part of an anti-drug operation led by the specialist squad.

Investigators quickly realised the importance of the organisation of the drug chain and discovered they were supplying some well-known 'black spots.'

Once the National Police officers knew where the operation was being controlled from, they raided the property where they found the major indoor marihuana plantation.

In addition, another room

had been converted into a warm storage facility and 75 electric lights, 53 transformers, 33 fans and air conditioning units were discovered. It was later found the gang had gained illegal access to the building's electricity supply to carry out their operation.

Those arrested were between 27 and 63-years-old and were charged with drugs offences, belonging to a criminal organisation and fraud by defrauding the electricity company.

NEWS EXTRA

Strike a light

PUBLIC lighting maintenance workers in Murcia are worried about future contract specifications, and will strike today (Thursday), tomorrow (Friday) and January 11 and 12 if assurances aren't given by Mayor José Ballesta.

Biker crash

A 17-YEAR-OLD motorcyclist was seriously injured and found unconscious - despite wearing a helmet - when he crashed into a wall in the town of Puerto Lumbreras, Murcia.

Lane error

AN 85-year-old man was involved in an accident on the A-7 motorway after driving on the wrong side of the road. It's understood that everything points to it being a mistake.

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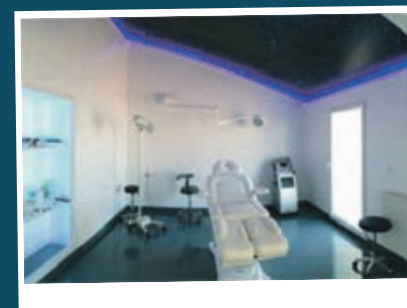
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Peak death

A SECOND climber in two weeks has died after suffering a fall on the Mulhacén peak of the Sierra Nevada in the province of Granada, Andalucía.

In the latest accident a climber died while scaling the north face of Mulhacén, at 3,479m (11,414 ft) the highest mountain in mainland Spain.

The 112 Andalucía emergency control centre was alerted by the climber's companion.

Mountain rescue teams and the Guardia Civil's air unit recovered the deceased's body from a steep slope in the area of the Laguna de la Mosca in the municipality of Güéjar Sierra.

Fatal fall

A MAN has died in a fall from a balcony while trying to enter the 10th-floor apartment of his ex-partner in Sabadell, Cataluña.

The Mossos d'Esquadra police force is investigating the fall which appears to be accidental.

It is understood that the 38-year-old man had a restraining order on him preventing him approaching his ex-partner.

Local reports suggest that when the woman denied entry to the man via the front door he got impatient and tried to access her flat from the roof.

Stabbing horror

A WOMAN has been stabbed to death by her husband in front of their three children.

After killing his partner the alleged attacker attempted to kill himself.

The 112 emergency control centre in Castilla-La Mancha said the crime took place in Azuqueca de Henares (Guadalajara).

The three children, who were at home at the time of the murder of their mother, are being counselled by a specialist Red Cross team.

Boy loses ears in dog attack

A THREE-YEAR-OLD boy has lost both ears and suffered bites to his face and left thigh after being attacked by a dog in Madrid.

The child is in a 'serious but stable' condition in Madrid's La Paz hospital after suffering the attack by a bull terrier

on a farm in the town of El Molar, north of the capital.

It is reported that the boy's family was visiting a friend's house and he had been playing with the dogs at the farm.

Later they found him unconscious and wounded and rushed him to the

Emergency Medical Centre in the town.

The child was stabilised at the centre and then transferred to the intensive care unit at the Hospital de La Paz where his condition is described as 'serious but stable.'

The Guardia Civil is now investigat-

ing the incident.

The bull terrier is not included in the list of potentially dangerous dogs in the Community of Madrid.

In April a woman died in El Molar after suffering bites at her house where she was breeding pitbulls.

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We cover all the Costa Blanca



GAME OF GROANS: The Royal Post Office will not become a GOT set.



Photo by Guardia Civil/Shutterstock

FAIR COP: The Guardia Civil's fake Ferrari.

GOTCHA?: Our story last week.



ON the day of the Innocents - Spain's take on April Fool's Day - a few of you fell for our fishy online prank hook, line and sinker.

Here are a selection of Spain's best attempts at fooling the 'innocents.'

The Guardia Civil were on good form on social media, telling followers they had fined a ghost pedestrian for not wearing a reflective jacket and mocking up a picture of a new police Ferrari Enzo supercar which 'exceeds 350km per hour.'

The Community of Madrid announced in a press release that the eighth series of the popular HBO show Game of Thrones would be set in the capital's Royal Mail House, where the regional presidency is based. They added that

Innocents' Day: Best of the rest

the dragons might 'fly over or climb the clock tower of Puerta del Sol.'

No one appears to have fallen for it.

Football fans will have chuckled at Sports World's story that Cristiano Ronaldo is set to return the World Player of the Year Award after losing in El Clasico against Barcelona. Ronaldo is quoted as saying he must return the Ballon D'or to Lionel Messi, since "the whole planet witnessed once again" that the Argentine forward is the world's best.

Despite the chances of Ronaldo returning an individual award likely being around the square root of ze-

ro - he recently put on a gala in his own name - another site was fooled into republishing the unlikely story.

Staying with football, and La Liga outfit Eibar made the strange announcement on Twitter that their captain's dog was the club's third win-

ter signing. The pooch supposedly signed a three year deal, sparking the hashtag #WelcomeManolito.

Meanwhile, a special television show dedicated to the day raised over €2 million for children suffering with cancer.

By Harrison Jones
OVER 1,000 lucky festive shoppers are set for a golden reward, after a supermarket group decided to hide gold worth thousands of euros in Spanish cakes.

Three one ounce golden pieces - worth around €1,100 each - and 1,000 one gram pieces have been placed in Roscon de Reyes, the traditional Three

Golden tickets hidden in cake

Kings' Day cake. The surprise treats can be found in Supercor, Supercor Express, Hipercor and El Corte Ingles supermarkets

throughout Spain. The El Corte Ingles group worked in collaboration with the precious metal company Degussa to undertake the initiative. With 600,000 cakes reportedly being produced by the supermarket for Spain's traditional January 6 festival, buyers have a roughly one in 600 chance of striking gold.

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'EASILY €1 BILLION': The cost of the Catalan crisis to date according to Spain's economy minister Luis de Guindos (inset).

Catalan crisis 'cost €1 billion'

SPAIN'S economy minister believes the Catalan crisis has cost the country €1 billion already.

Luis de Guindos told Spanish radio that a slowdown in the region's growth - following the illegal independence referendum - has hit the country's economy.

"Cataluña used to have growth above that of Spain, it was one of the drivers of the Spanish economy," Mr de Guindos said.

He blamed the previous regional government for generating 'enormous uncertainty, concern and a loss of confidence.' Growth was reduced from 0.9 per cent to 0.4 per cent in the last quarter, he claimed.

Last month's election failed to provide a decisive result, with separatists retaining a slim major-

ity in parliament, but not taking over 50 per cent of the result. Pro-unity party Ciudadanos, led by Ines Arrimadas, won the most seats.

According to reports, 3,100 companies have moved their headquarters out of the region as a result of the ongoing crisis.

The Spanish government dissolved the regional parliament and called snap elections after an unauthorised independence referendum prompted the government to declare independence.

Various politicians were arrested, and some - including the former president Carles Puigdemont - fled. So far a government has not been formed.

Deposed Catalan leader Puigdemont, whose party came second in the elections, is still in self-imposed exile in Belgium.

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All for a good cause

AN amazing €192 was raised for the Huntington's Disease Association, Costa Blanca during their Christmas competition.

The idea of a Christmas themed competition, consisting of 50 questions - including two tie-breakers that could not be looked up on the internet - was circulated around the area, generating some extra cash this

Christmas for local charity Huntington's Disease Association.

Winner, Pat Farrow was absolutely delighted to receive a hamper for winning the competition.

The Huntington's Disease would like to thank all those for taking part and wish everyone a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.



WINNER: Pat Farrow receiving her Christmas hamper from HDA Treasurer Christine Watkins.

The next fundraising event will be a fun quiz and pie supper to be held on January 17 at Bar Catorce, in Benijofar. Tables of up to six can be booked by telephoning: 634 905 249 or by emailing: marion.smith@hda.org.es.

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 website: www.crescendochoir.com.

New Year, new arrival

IT took just 33 minutes into 2018 for the arrival of the first new born baby in the Murcia region.

Proud mother and father, Carmen Maria Cervantes and Laureano Garcia, were just about to enjoy their traditional 12 grapes as the chimes of contractions joined the New Year bells at the Santa Lucia Hospital. Daughter, Carmen Maria appeared just half an hour later after a natural birth and mother and baby are doing fine.

The first boy to be born in the region - in La Arrixaca - was Nassim who arrived in the world at 12.50am and weighed 2.8 kilos.

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Shoe box success

ONCE again, several expatriate came up trumps and filled 100 shoe boxes with an assortment of Christmas gifts for the needy children in the Torrevieja area.

These boxes will be distributed by the Caritas Charity to those children known to them.

The boxes were given by an assortment of people including members of the San Fulgencio, La Siesta, Los Balcones and Lago Jardin Anglican churches, the 1359 Branch of the Royal Air Forces Association, Los Montesinos Crib Club and several other friends.



FESTIVE TREAT: Some of the Christmas boxes that were handed to Caritas.



Off-beat band

TORREVIEJA'S only Oompah band will be missing a beat as it re-assembles for the new season in January.

Drummer Norman Page has decided that the time is ripe to return to the UK with his wife Janet after 25 years living in Spain.

Norman has been driving the Oompah band for some seven years and will be as difficult to replace as are other musicians/instrumentalists that are desperately needed.

However we wish both he and his wife 'Bon Voyage' as they recommence their life in the UK.

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GENEROUS GIFT: Ian Gibson and Ian Bullock presenting the donation to Rojales Town Hall.

Making a difference

THE Brethren of Caledonia lodge continue to play a vital part in the local community by donating around €1,000 worth of food and other essential items to Rojales Town Hall's social services department for local families who live in poverty.

The Rojales Town Hall Social Services director asked to inform the Worshipful Master, and all the Brethren of Caledonia Lodge Number 68, that they were very grateful for this much-needed food and other essential items as the demand for their services increases all the time. It is always much busier in the winter and especially around Christmas when the lack of food is even more noticeable.

The Rojales Town Hall food bank is part of Caledonia Lodge's continued commitment to the local community and they regularly make donations of food and other items to charities in the local area. Early that day a similar donation of food was made to the Red Cross in Torrevieja.

If you could help these charities, they are always in need of food and clothing and many other things. Please free to contact social services directly who will be extremely grateful for any items you may care to donate.

If you would like to learn more about Freemasonry in general, please contact the following email address: prensa@glpvalencia.com.

A very generous audience

THE Velvetones entertained the Quesada Masons Caledonian Lodge following their festive

lunch at The Clubhouse in Rojales. The audience joined in the singing and fun and when a

bin was passed around for donations to their charity, ALPE School for special needs children, they were overwhelmed by their generosity. They received more than €210 for this worthy cause and have been invited back next year to do it all again. They would like to thank the group for a great afternoon and for their generous donation.

The Velvetones have some time off before rehearsals begin again on January 10 so if you would like to sing with them why not come along. For further details see their website: www.velvetonesharmonytorrevieja.com.

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We hope the information provided in this article is of interest.

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PS Thanks

YOU have many requests, I am sure, but you are so good to us and we do so much appreciate it. I read your papers avidly every week and cannot compliment you all enough for such splendid work. My best wishes to you all.

Anita Humphreys,
La Cala de Mijas Lions,
Costa del Sol

MERRY Christmas and Happy New Year to you and all the staff and huge thanks for the support you've given us - keep it up next year!

Bill White,
Indalo Players, Almeria

I AM convinced that without the local English newspapers many British residents would be totally lost. At Cabopino we regularly see residents distributing copies around the site, with many handed on after being read. So, many thanks for the excellent service this past year and going forward. Have a great Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Rod Manuell, USA,
Costa del Sol



BIKE BEAUTY: Raffle raised nearly €2000 for the appeal.

'On yer bike'

THE Royal British Legion's electric GTech bike raffle raised a whopping amount for the Poppy Appeal.

The bike was donated by keen cyclist Sharron Mather and her husband Ken, and the final amount donated was €1,890. The RBL would like to thank all those who participated.

The winning ticket was drawn by Sharron at the Clubhouse Restaurant, Vistabella Golf, with proprietor Robin Parkes acting as the adjudicator.

The winner of the bike was Doug House from Bar UK in Torre de la Horadada, with the consolation prize, of four Vistabella green fees and buggies, won by Simon Lee from The Plaza Golf Society based at

The Ale House in Villamartin Plaza.

Unfortunately, Doug couldn't attend the prize-giving so Lynn accepted the bike outside the Bar UK last week.

Congratulations to the Orihuela Costa and District Branch for once again surpassing all expectations with their Poppy Appeal and collecting the incredible sum of €50,000.

The amount has increased year on year since the branch was first formed nine years ago thanks to the hard work and dedication of its enthusiastic members.

When announcing the final total, Poppy Appeal co-ordinator Eddie Coleman thanked the many individuals who had provided their support for this amazing cause.

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DENMARK

Princess lonely

THE Australian wife of Denmark's heir to the throne has spoken about her loneliness upon moving to the country in 2004. Princess Mary met Prince Frederik in a Sydney bar.



LONELY?: Princess Mary revealed she struggled to settle in Denmark.

Joint operation

A DOPEY man carrying over a thousand joints mistook a police car for a taxi, according to Copenhagen Police. He could face jail and a fine.

the Danish government, according to reports. The public service channel will be funded by television licences.

'Danflix'

A NATIONAL streaming service to rival Netflix is being planned by

Tax cut

PRIME MINISTER Lars Lokke Rasmussen chose to talk about tax in his New Year's Day speech. He

hopes to implement plans to cut taxes for low and medium earners this year.

GERMANY

Cruise crash

AT least 25 people were injured when a 100-metre long Swiss cruise ship hit a motorway bridge on the Rhine. Four were hospitalised, but most only suffered minor injuries in the incident, near Duisberg.

tured on CCTV in Berlin. A man-hunt is underway for the four men, who broke a concrete pillar and jumped a fence.

called for advertising restrictions on sweets, junk food and beer.

Paid to go home

REFUGEES are being offered money by the German government to go back to their homeland, according to reports. The amount of €1,000 per person and €6,000 per family is available until February.

Fat alert

A WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION expert has warned that increasing numbers of German children are overweight. The WHO

Prison break

A DARING prison escape was cap-

FRANCE

Car burn

FRANCE'S annual New Year's Eve torching of cars continued on Sunday, as the total number of burned vehicles hit 1,031, according to the government. Two police officers were also attacked in Paris.

World of oysters

NEARLY a tonne of oysters has been stolen from an oyster farm near Ile De Re in western France, disappointing diners who were hoping to eat the luxury shellfish on New Year's Eve.

No fly zone

A HALF-CENTURY old anti-airport activist camp is thought to be under threat. President Macron is due to make a 'final decision' on the future of La Zad - a utopian hippy community - imminently.

Apple bitten

APPLE are reportedly facing a lawsuit in France - adding to others around the world - after allegations emerged that the company were deliberately slowing down iPhones, supposedly to save battery life.

BELGIUM

Telegrams STOP

BELGIANS sent their final telegrams last month as the service - which had been running in the country since 1846 - ended. Eight thousand telegrams went sent between January and November 2017.

Baby box

ANTWERP'S heart-wrenching 'baby box' has had a record year, according to reports. The facility provides a safe place for desperate mothers to anonymously leave babies for adoption or fostering.

Becoming Dutch

AN area the size of 23 football pitches has become Dutch. The changed status of an uninhabited peninsula on the River Meuse eases legal issues with an investigation into a headless body's discovery.

Private jets

BELGIUM'S Finance Minister has requested data from Eurocontrol on private jets in tax havens, following the 'Paradise Papers' leak. The revelations suggested industrial scale tax avoidance across Europe.

NETHERLANDS

Bizarre interview

THE US Ambassador has apologised after an embarrassing interview went viral. Confronted with previous remarks - saying the Netherlands had "no-go zones" - Pete Hoekstra cried "fake news," only to be shown the footage and then claim he had not said "fake news."

Wind power

A VAST island surrounded by wind turbines could send electricity to the Netherlands and the UK. Plans by the Dutch power grid, to build the farm off the East Yorkshire coast, could save billions of euros.

Snack ban

FEYENOORD have suspended a player for one match and two training sessions after he was caught eating a white bread roll and croquette at half time. Michiel Kraer was also fined.

Inequality

DUTCH CEOs earn 171 times more than their average employees, according to an analysis by Bloomberg. The study shames the country as fifth worst in the world for wage inequality.

SWEDEN

Not Maddie

A SWEDISH woman who sparked a media frenzy in Italy after being mistaken for missing Maddie McCann has reportedly returned home. Embla Jauharvi was discovered speaking English on the streets of Rome in 2016.

Stunning survival

THE Swedish town of Gavle is celebrating after its 13-metre high Christmas goat survived for more than three weeks. The festive straw decoration has traditionally fallen victim to fire-wielding pranksters, since 1966.

Gender-neutral God

THE Church of Sweden has told its clergy to use gender-neutral terms when referring to God. They are encouraged to sacrifice phrases like 'The Lord' and 'He' in favour of the simple 'God.'

Wolf hunt

CAMPAIGNERS' attempts to stop a wolf hunt reportedly failed earlier this week, when a cull of the animals was set to go ahead. The licensed hunt permits 22 killings. Around 350 wolves live in Sweden.

NORWAY

PM Trumps

ERNA SOLBERG, the Norwegian Prime Minister, is set to be the first world leader to visit US President Donald Trump this year. Miss Solberg is visiting the White House on January 10.

Auto-dim

A FIVE-MILE stretch of road will reportedly be home to auto-dimming street lights to save energy. Thousands of kilowatt hours will be saved by the lights, which brighten from 20 per cent to 100 per cent when detecting movement.

Sex scandal

THE Deputy Leader of Norway's opposition party has temporarily stood down in the wake of sexual harassment allegations. Trond Giske, from the country's Labour Party, apologised for 'unsuitable' behaviour but rejected several more severe allegations.

Gas high

NORWAY'S pipeline gas exports to Europe hit a record high last year, according to gas company Gassco. This year's total was a 7 per cent increase on 2016.

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OIL PAINTING: Tough priests defy stereotypes.

Biker priests

■ ORTHODOX biker priests have released a 2018 calendar showing them posing in black and white next to their motorcycles. Entitled 'Thy Ways,' the album will show the clergy in a different light, hopes the orthodox biker community. In 2015 a similar calendar featuring priests with their cats was a huge hit.

Animal rights

■ SENATORS voted to reject a law against animal cruelty while using hunting dogs and birds. Senator Sergei Kalashnikov said it was a slippery slope towards following other 'western fads.' These included political correctness and the rights of sexual minorities, he said to applause.

Bomb terror

■ AN explosive device rigged with shrapnel blew up at a St Petersburg supermarket, injuring 10 people. Authorities are working on the assumption that it was a terrorist attack but no group has claimed responsibility. Last April 16 people were killed in a suicide attack on the city's metro.

Ticket touts

■ TOUTS reselling World Cup tickets face increased fines of up to 1.5 million rubles (€22,000) as Russia cracks down on the trade. Dozens of incidents of fake tickets being sold have also been recorded. More than 700,000 tickets for games in 11 cities have been sold so far.

Tensions rise

■ ALEXEI NAVALNY has called for a boycott of Russia's 2018 presidential election after being banned from standing as a candidate. The anti-corruption crusader was ruled ineligible to stand due to a previous conviction for fraud, but says that President Putin is running scared of free competition.

Cash amnesty

■ WEALTHY Russians with undeclared funds held abroad have been offered treasury bonds in exchange for bringing their assets back home. An amnesty exempting them from any prosecution related to undeclared assets will also be extended to encourage the rich to keep their money in Russia.

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BANNED: Kadyrov kicked out of Instagram account.

■ CHECHEN leader Ramzan Kadyrov woke up to find his Facebook and Instagram accounts blocked. Russia has demanded an explanation from the American social media giants. Kadyrov famously uses Instagram to post videos of himself wrestling crocodiles and threatening dissidents. He has three million followers on the site.

ECB approves takeover of BMN

AGREEMENT has been received from the European Central Bank (ECB) to allow Bankia to formally take over BMN.

The Banco Mare Nostrum (BMN) which was set up just seven years ago received a massive cash injection from the Spanish government due to its instability and now the merger will make the new group the fourth largest bank in Spain.

Once the merger goes through, the government expects to be able to recoup some of the funds invested in both banks.

Spain's military spend

THE Spanish government has said that it will increase its military to approximately €18 billion by 2024 in order to meet a benchmark set by NATO in 2014.

At a 2014 summit, members of each of the 28 countries that comprise NATO reportedly promised to move towards contributing 2 per cent of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to defence spending within a decade.

According to reports, the rise will lift the defence budget by 80 per cent by 2024, but that increase still

By John Smith

equates to a figure that is below the 2 per cent of GDP benchmark set by NATO.

Depending on GDP growth, this increase could see Spain's spending equate to between 1.5 and 1.6 per cent, with the earliest that Spain could possibly reach the 2 per cent goal reportedly being 2028.

Spain is currently one of the lowest spending NATO countries on defences, forecast to spend just

0.92 per cent in 2017.

It is however a major supplier of military hardware around the world as it produces naval vessels as well as aircraft with the UK as one of its largest customers followed by other European countries and Saudi Arabia which is its major purchaser of ammunition and shells.

Time will tell whether Brexit will have a serious negative affect on Spain's arms industry which could then inhibit the planned NATO spend.

Credit rating group S&P rate India

ACCORDING to credit rating organisation, Standard and Poor's (S&P), the Indian banking sector is now on the same level as Spain in category 5 BBB-.

These two countries share a slot with Ireland, Italy, Panama, Bermuda, Poland, Peru, Qatar, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates and the decision has been made due to the rate of bad loans that have been granted over the years.

This rating is just positive and the countries in that category are 'considered lowest investment-grade by market participants.'

The company considers that those classed as BBB- do have the potential to grow their economies and to be considered a safer investment option in the future.

Quote of the Week

"We don't want anyone to be left behind and that's why we're going to improve wages, starting with the lowest." Mariano Rajoy on the decision to raise the national minimum wage by 4 per cent.

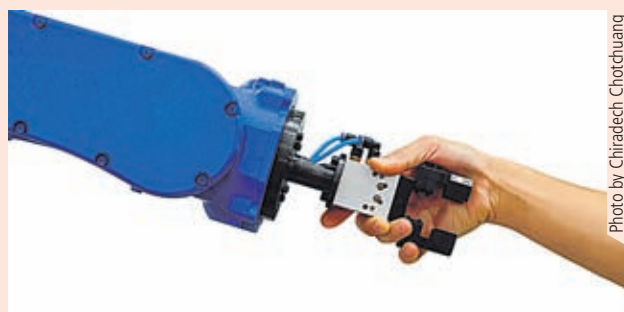


Photo by Chiradech Chotchuang

AUTOMATION: When man meets machine.

Robots might hurt humans

A BRITISH thinktank The Institute for Public Policy Research has published a paper concerning the introduction of robots which if correct could have meaning for Spain.

Whilst it sees the benefits of such automation within the workplace, it also believes that government needs to be aware of the possible changes in social mobility which could adversely affect the economy.

Whilst much has been said about Artificial Intelligence, the

area that is most likely to be affected is those which require little skill.

It is posited therefore that lower-skilled jobs could well be phased out, meaning that only those with higher-skills would be able to find work and then obtain higher wages.

With the high unemployment in Spain, the economy could become even more burdened by the increasing number of people unable to find work and claiming social security.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Another move

ENDESA is one of the latest of 3,160 companies to have moved headquarters out of Barcelona. In this case its electrical distribution group formally registered its new office in Madrid, but has not confirmed the reason for the move.

Large fine

A FINE of €500,000 has been levied on investment company Renta 4 Banco by the National Securities Market Commission. Whilst the Commission refers to a very serious infringement concerning lack of clear data, Renta has confirmed that it intends to appeal.

Cross over

MARÍA GARAÑA, vice president of the business solutions division of Microsoft for EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa) is moving to the UK. Not only is she crossing the channel, but is crossing from Microsoft to Google as general director of professional services.



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Apple to reduce costs

AS reported in the Finance pages in last week's edition of EWN, Apple confirmed that it has been slowing down some older iPhone models. It has now announced that by way of apology it

will be reducing the cost of replacement batteries from \$79 (€66) to \$29 (€24) and plans to issue new software so customers can monitor battery health.

LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES JANUARY 2

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Anglo American	1,548.50	-6.55	-0.42	21,595.93
Associated British Foods	3,200.00	380.00	13.48	22,428.13
Admiral Group	2,032.00	30.00	1.50	5,626.53
Ashtead Group	1,899.00	-93.00	-4.67	9,818.93
Antofagasta	982.50	-22.50	-2.24	9,784.63
Aviva	500.75	-5.75	-1.14	20,096.48
AstraZeneca	5,119.50	0.00	0.00	63,280.09
BAE Systems	567.50	-5.50	-0.96	18,112.05
Barclays	203.13	-0.70	-0.35	34,692.11
British American Tobacco	5,013.00	-21.04	-0.42	113,660.42
Barratt Developments	648.75	-2.08	-0.32	6,565.59
Berkeley Group Holdings (The)	4,201.00	25.48	0.61	5,734.84
British Land Co	689.00	-2.50	-0.36	6,862.07
BHP Billiton	1,522.25	-10.53	-0.69	31,670.52
Bunzl	2,051.00	-21.00	-1.01	6,913.44
BP	522.40	-2.82	-0.54	102,782.14
Burberry Group	1,787.50	-4.50	-0.25	7,605.21
BT Group	271.55	-3.15	-1.16	26,515.19
Coca-Cola HBC	2,490.00	70.00	2.89	8,840.64
Carnival	5,046.00	154.00	3.15	10,268.69
Centrica	138.00	0.70	0.51	7,727.92
Compass Group	1,550.00	-50.00	-3.13	24,965.43
Croda International	4,423.50	-0.50	-0.01	5,787.85
CRH	2,728.50	71.50	2.69	22,339.15
DCC	7,242.50	-222.50	-2.98	6,654.39
Diageo	2,722.75	-37.86	-1.39	67,063.95
Direct Line Insurance Group	410.80	29.10	7.62	5,171.38
Experian	1,610.00	-26.00	-1.59	14,891.32
easyJet	1,437.50	-26.50	-1.81	5,723.77
Ferguson	5,410.00	80.00	1.50	13,337.26
Fresnillo	1,380.00	-49.00	-3.43	10,242.82
G4S	290.00	23.00	8.61	4,041.90
GKN	310.00	-9.40	-2.94	5,446.12
Glencore	389.43	-0.16	-0.04	55,484.53
GlaxoSmithKline	1,320.25	0.00	0.00	64,948.48
Hargreaves Lansdown	1,777.50	-24.50	-1.36	8,466.59
Halma	1,250.00	-10.00	-0.79	4,768.30
Hammerson	556.00	9.00	1.65	4,308.68
HSBC Holdings	766.50	-1.81	-0.24	152,439.40
International Consoltd Air Gr	637.00	-14.00	-2.15	13,271.35
InterContinental Hotels Grp	3,885.00	-834.00	-17.67	8,958.04
3i Group	951.00	37.50	4.11	8,828.86
Imperial Brands	3,168.00	0.00	0.00	29,885.35
Informa	721.75	1.71	0.24	5,978.16
Intertek Group	5,192.50	12.45	0.24	8,303.54
ITV	166.00	0.50	0.30	6,617.77
Just Eat	690.25	-90.75	-11.62	5,167.43
Johnson Matthey	3,270.00	195.00	6.34	5,982.12
Kingfisher	336.00	-1.70	-0.50	7,455.63
Land Securities Group	1,015.00	7.00	0.69	7,466.32

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Legal & General Group	271.25	-2.05	-0.75	16,147.20
Lloyds Banking Group ORD	67.94	0.00	0.00	48,628.35
London Stock Exchange Grp	3,789.50	0.00	0.00	12,995.69
Micro Focus International	2,446.50	-76.50	-3.03	10,765.02
Mediclinic International	662.75	13.25	2.04	4,744.16
Marks & Spencer Group	327.00	12.20	3.88	5,139.06
Mondi	1,975.50	44.50	2.30	9,288.64
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	216.00	-3.90	-1.77	5,162.93
National Grid	874.80	-2.19	-0.25	29,370.23
NMC Health	2,890.50	0.00	0.00	5,803.59
Next	4,626.50	101.50	2.24	6,633.33
Old Mutual Group	221.50	-10.20	-4.40	11,093.68
Paddy Power Betfair	8,800.00	-25.00	-0.28	7,439.60
Prudential	1,904.25	0.00	0.00	48,678.79
Persimmon	2,499.00	-239.00	-8.73	8,453.37
Pearson	730.00	-6.00	-0.82	5,886.50
Reckitt Benckiser Group	6,918.50	-30.72	-0.44	47,961.43
Royal Bank of Scotland Grp	266.50	-11.50	-4.14	33,039.86
Royal Dutch Shell	2,479.00	-7.97	-0.32	113,135.52
RELX	1,727.50	-11.50	-0.66	18,453.48
Rio Tinto	3,941.00	-45.55	-1.16	52,145.06
Rolls-Royce Group	858.00	11.00	1.30	15,580.64
Randgold Resources	7,210.00	-200.00	-2.70	6,829.72
RSA Insurance Group	650.75	18.25	2.89	6,392.62
Rentokil Initial	319.00	1.00	0.31	5,756.36
Sainsbury (J)	240.00	-1.40	-0.58	5,298.11
Schroders	3,519.00	0.00	0.00	7,955.99
Sage Group (The)	785.00	-13.00	-1.63	8,542.29
Segro	588.00	0.00	0.00	5,827.00
Shire	3,895.25	-11.05	-0.28	35,291.79
Smurfit Kappa Group	2,506.00	0.00	0.00	5,864.30
Sky	1,031.00	19.00	1.88	17,241.74
Standard Life Aberdeen	445.70	9.10	2.08	12,838.92
Smith (DS)	517.75	-3.42	-0.66	5,467.65
Smiths Group	1,492.50	1.50	0.10	5,908.25
Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust	444.50	-4.50	-1.00	6,272.23
Smith & Nephew	1,300.00	12.00	0.93	11,231.14
SSE	1,303.00	-17.00	-1.29	13,186.72
Standard Chartered	780.05	-5.43	-0.70	25,506.95
St James's Place	1,225.50	-6.43	-0.52	6,433.54
Severn Trent	2,111.00	-51.00	-2.36	5,086.81
Tesco	209.28	0.02	0.01	17,070.43
TUI AG	1,565.00	25.00	1.62	8,987.02
Taylor Wimpey	209.70	3.30	1.60	6,776.07
Unilever	4,124.75	-7.93	-0.19	50,807.47
United Utilities Group	815.50	-14.00	-1.69	5,601.71
Vodafone Group	234.93	-0.05	-0.02	62,497.41
Worldpay Group	459.20	33.20	7.79	8,456.00
WPP Group	1,357.50	16.50	1.23	17,156.79
Whitbread	3,923.50	-76.50	-1.91	7,267.37

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COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE%	CHANGE	VOLUME(M)
3M	235.370	-0.15%	-0.350	140,521,82
AMERICAN EXPRESS	99,3100	-0.39%	-0.3900	86,547,04
APPLE	169,230	-1.08%	-1,850	872,628,18
BOEING CO	294,910	-0.49%	-1,440	176,094,70
CATERPILLAR	157,580	-0.53%	-0,840	94,159,42
CHEVRON	125,19	-0.31%	-0,39	238,169,71
CISCO SYSTEMS	38,300	-0.75%	-0,290	192,302,08
COCA-COLA	45,88	+0.35%	0,16	196,033,30
DOWDUPONT	71,22	-0.41%	-0,29	167,016,80
EXXON MOBIL	83,64	-0.45%	-0,38	355,582,18
GENERAL ELECTRIC	17,4500	+0.52%	0,0900	151,205,61
GOLDMAN SACHS	254,76	-0.68%	-1,74	96,314,63
HOME DEPOT	189,5300	-0.13%	-0,2500	222,374,37
IBM	153,42	-0.40%	-0,62	142,450,59
INTEL CORP	46,1600	-0.13%	-0,0600	217,704,67
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	106,9400	-0.79%	-0,8500	373,064,89
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	139,7200	-0.60%	-0,8400	377,026,22
MC DONALD'S CORP	172,1200	-0.57%	-0,9800	137,378,99
MERCK AND CO. NEW	56,27	-0.58%	-0,33	153,699,10
MICROSOFT	85,540	-0.21%	-0,180	662,046,38
NIKE	62,55	-0.64%	-0,40	82,043,18
PFIZER	36,2200	-0.41%	-0,1500	216,612,10
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	91,880	-0.21%	-0,190	233,848,93
TRAVELERS CIES	135,64	-0.01%	-0,02	37,148,74
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	127,57	-0.43%	-0,55	102,105,15
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	220,46	-1.04%	-2,31	214,725,97
VERIZON COMMS	52,93	-0.94%	-0,50	216,883,47
VISA	114,02	-0.29%	-0,33	207,324,56
WAL-MART STORES	98,7500	-0.65%	-0,6500	293,646,06
WALT DISNEY CO	107,5100	-0.24%	-0,2600	162,605,57

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NASDAQ

CLOSING PRICES JANUARY 2

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
Presbia PLC	\$ 3.78	0.66 ▲ 21.15%
Atara Biotherapeutics, Inc.	\$ 18.10	2.85 ▲ 18.69%
Merus N.V.	\$ 19.40	2.75 ▲ 16.52%
QIWI plc	\$ 17.33	2.11 ▲ 13.86%
Casa Systems, Inc.	\$ 17.76	2.02 ▲ 12.83%
Insys Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 9.62	1 ▲ 11.60%
TiVo Corporation	\$ 15.60	1.60 ▲ 11.43%
CRISPR Therapeutics AG	\$ 23.48	2.23 ▲ 10.49%
Flex Pharma, Inc.	\$ 3.49	0.33 ▲ 10.44%
ProQR Therapeutics N.V.	\$ 3.225	0.30 ▲ 10.26%
LexinFintech Holdings Ltd.	\$ 13.90	1.27 ▲ 10.06%
Most Declined		
Forward Pharma A/S	\$ 3.68	0.62 ▼ 14.42%
ADTRAN, Inc.	\$ 19.35	2.90 ▼ 13.03%
Zion Oil & Gas Inc	\$ 2.16	0.24 ▼ 10.00%
Infinity Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 2.03	0.20 ▼ 8.97%
Papa Murphy's Holdings, Inc.	\$ 5.38	0.52 ▼ 8.81%
Medallion Financial Corp.	\$ 3.53	0.34 ▼ 8.79%
Synlogic, Inc.	\$ 9.70	0.93 ▼ 8.75%
Future FinTech Group Inc.	\$ 4.17	0.37 ▼ 8.15%
China Finance Online Co. Limited	\$ 2.68	0.22 ▼ 7.59%
Arrowhead Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 3.68	0.29 ▼ 7.30%
Mersana Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 16.43	1.24 ▼ 7.02%

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DEALING PRICE

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PRICE MOVEMENT

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£1.0803

£0.0025

£1.3338

£0.0044

£1.2267

£0.0041

£1.4921

£0.0052

£1.3794

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costablanca@currenciesdirect.com

La Marina

Avenida de Londres 1ª
Local 6, Urb La Marina San Fulgencio
Alicante, 03177
+34 965 994 830
costablanca@currenciesdirect.com

Mazarrón

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.
+34 965 994 830
costablanca@currenciesdirect.com

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GBP set to end the year weaker, EUR/USD up 16 cents

Ask the expert

Peter Loveday

Contact me at euroweekly@currenciesdirect.com



THIS year was another dramatic year for the major currencies. Read our summary of the year's biggest news, and find out what you should be looking out for in the year ahead.

Latest currency news

Over the last 12 months the GBP/EUR exchange rate has fallen from €1.17 to €1.13, EUR/GBP has risen from £0.85 to £0.88 and EUR/USD has advanced from \$1.04 to \$1.20.

What's been happening?

Brexit continued to dog the pound in 2017. Slow progress in negotiations kept Sterling under pressure throughout the year, but it was political news that inspired the most significant GBP movements.

Prime Minister, Theresa May's decision to call a snap election back in April initially drove the pound to its best levels of the year, but an ill-judged campaign saw the Conservatives lose their majority and Sterling lose its strength.

The pound's been battling its way back over the last few months, despite concerns that the Bank of England (BoE) will leave interest rates on hold next



UNCERTAIN TIMES: An eventful year ahead.

year after raising borrowing costs for the first time in over a decade in November.

However, while the British government finally concluded the first stage of Brexit negotiations, concerns that the second stage could prove just as protracted prevented the pound from seeing much benefit.

In terms of euro movement, the early half of the year was dominated by fears of a rise of populism, with the common currency unsettled by speculation that elections in the Netherlands and France could result in victory for Eurosceptic parties.

These fears proved unfounded, and the euro

gained after Emmanuel Macron secured victory in France. However, a surprising result in September's German elections left the common currency on less stable ground during the last quarter of the year.

Although the Eurozone's economic recovery continues apace, stagnant Eurozone inflation, and the expectation that the European Central Bank (ECB) will choose to leave monetary policy accommodative for the foreseeable future have conspired to limit the euro's gains against the pound.

EUR/USD has surged by around 16 cents this year, however, despite the Federal Reserve increasing interest rates three times.

What do you need to look out for?

The currency market in 2017 has certainly been a volatile one and 2018 looks set to be equally eventful.

The outlook for pound exchange rates is highly dependent on the second phase of Brexit negotiations. Progress would be Sterling supportive, while delayed or fractious trade discussions could send GBP lower.

The BoE interest rate hike outlook will also be key to how GBP performs in the months ahead. Sterling will benefit if wage growth rises, inflation remains persistently high, and the odds of a rate hike in 2018 improve.

Meanwhile, the euro could be boosted if the political situation in Germany stabilises and Eurozone data continues outperforming forecasts.

However, as it would take a notable uptick in consumer price pressures to significantly alter the ECB's stance on monetary policy, EUR exchange rates may be restrained by inaction from the central bank.

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A vital bid has been received for Niki More flights to Spain

IT would seem that the New Year may bring some positive news for Austrian and German travellers to Spain as IAG hopes to purchase Niki Airline for €20 million.

Originally founded by former racing driver, Niki Lauda, the Austrian holiday airline suffered from its association with Air Berlin which was declared insolvent in August after main shareholder Etihad Airlines (of the United Arab Emirates) withdrew its support.

Whilst Air Berlin cancelled its flights at that time, Niki continued, with support, in the hope and expectation that it would be rescued by Lufthansa, but when the European Commission expressed its concern over the possible takeover by the German company of both Air Berlin and Niki, the 'plug was pulled' and Niki ceased trading.

With flights to seven Spanish destinations including Malaga and Palma de Mallorca, the Austrian airline was an important link for Austrian



Photo by Oliver Holzbauer/Wikimedia

GOOD NEWS: Niki flight from Palma arriving at Frankfurt.

and German holidaymakers and its closure alongside Air Berlin was not helpful to the Spanish tourist economy.

Niki Lauda had himself indicated that he would be interested in taking back the airline, but the liquidators appear to prefer the concept of IAG (owner of Aer Lingus, BA, Iberia and Vueling) injecting funds into the failed airline and relaunching as an

arm of Vueling.

In addition to the initial purchase price of €20 million, IAG has indicated that it will keep on some 740 staff and will spend a further €16.5 million on assimilating the airline into the group.

The acquisition which still has to be approved by the EU will bring with it 15 aircraft and a number of important landing rights in Austria, Germany, Spain and Switzerland.

Approval has already been given for easyJet to take over Air Berlin's base at Tegel Airport in Berlin and it will operate internal German flights, but also regular flights from the German capital to Palma de Mallorca, having taken over a number of routes from the bankrupt airline.

Although fairly vocal in its criticism of the support given by the German government to Lufthansa in its bid to obtain ownership of Air Berlin, Irish based airline, Ryanair has currently missed out on the opportunity to add to its fleet.

Future car production looking positive

THE Spanish automobile industry is forecast to produce three million vehicles in 2018 according to Spain's Association of Car Manufacturers (ANFAC).

This would bring production back to the same level as 10 years ago when the world financial crisis struck.

In 2017 production was broadly the same as 2016 with an estimated 2.8 million vehicles being produced, but the future forecast is positive because of the need to increase the number of alternative energy vehicles for the internal market.

With the value of the automobile industry representing nearly 10 per cent of Spain's GDP, any significant movement in production and sales will be good for the economy.

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online

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Photo Credit: Eqtec Iberia

EQTEC IBERIA: A gasification plant in Croatia.

Irish company take-over Spain

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FOLLOWING a suspension in trading in its shares, Irish company EQTEC has returned to the UK AIM market following a €16 million take-over of a Spanish company. This was a somewhat complicated arrangement as the deal was technically a reverse take-over of a fellow subsidiary of its Spanish parent Ebioss energy.

The all share arrangement saw it gain ownership of Eqtec Iberia which specialises in the design, construction, operation and maintenance of power plants.

EQTEC which produces energy from waste products believes that

the Spanish company's EGT gasification technology will help the Irish company to extend its involvement with energy projects in the UK.

Coinciding with the acquisition, EQTEC issued a further 246.5 million shares at a heavily discounted price to raise £1.6 million (€1.8 million) of working capital and installed a new board of directors.

The new Irish company with access to both the British and European market believes that it is now ideally placed to become a leading player in the creation of electricity by converting waste into synthetic gas.

Disney to expand its coverage through pay TV

THE Disney Company has its eyes firmly fixed on expansion of its services within Spain and has entered into two deals with major telecoms suppliers.

On December 22, it launched Movistar Disney, as part of the Movistar+ pay TV offer which is a 24-hour a day service broadcasting a whole range of different Disney-owned properties.

In addition to cartoons and children's programmes, it will also be supplying the latest and classic movies from both Walt Disney Studio and Pixar which includes the Pirates of the Caribbean franchise and a whole selection of animated films such as Toy Story.

Existing subscribers to Movistar+ will receive this new channel at no addition-

al cost.

To add to its coverage in Spain, the company which had an estimated worldwide turnover of \$55 billion (€46 billion) has also signed a new deal with Vodafone's Videoclub which supplies video-on-demand through set-top boxes and Vodafone TV Online.

Some of the Disney channels are already available to view with Vodafone TV Online contracts, but the video-on-demand option is a new pay service which not only gives access to the studio's movie selections (including some Star Wars products) but also allows subscribers to see pay-TV channels, Disney Channel, Disney XD and Disney Junior seven days before other suppliers.

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British heritage is disappearing

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT

OTHERS THINK IT



THE Ghosts of Christmas Past. That, I'm afraid is all that London (and according to colleagues, most of our other great cities) had to offer this Yuletide. This was my first Christmas visit to the great Metropolis in over 30 years, which is about the time I began voicing my concerns over the future of our British heritage and democratic freedom.

Well I'm afraid 'Leapy's Rants' of yesteryear are now manifesting in harsh and terribly sad reality. I truly did feel like a stranger in the country of my birth. Whole areas, that in days of yore, glistened and danced with lights and decorations marking the most important event in the Christian calendar, now show no signs of special celebration or joyful occasion whatsoever.

Indeed, in many places, whole rows of shops bore no Christmas decorations at all, not even stuck on bits of cotton wool graced the bare windows that prevailed on a number of high streets I visited. Where were the wonderful Salvation Army Bands that once regaled us with joyful carols and uplifting seasonal music on the street corners of our main shopping areas?

When I rang the Sally Army offices to enquire



LONDON: Still festive in places including Regent Street as seen here.

as to their conspicuous absence, I was informed that these appearances were local decisions and I needed to contact the area offices for more information, (no joy with that at the time of writing!). Not one carol singer presented themselves at the portals of our fairly suburban semi, or in any other street as far as I could make out.

Frankly I'm not angry anymore (I'm not allowed to be!), merely saddened by the manifestation of all my worst predictions. As I prophesied all those years ago, there is no need for violent confrontation, or indeed any stomach for it among the diverse cultures now rapidly becoming more and more glaringly apparent.

The outcome of the present cultural revolution is being decided by sheer weight of numbers alone. All too late you see, should have restricted the borders years ago. Ah well, hate to say I told you so but.....!

Anyway, before I close this subject, although Christmas tinsel was also missing from a considerable number of its larger stores, the centre of London still regaled all with the breathtaking overhead street decorations that are just about unsurpassed in any other city in the world. Shame it was all restricted to about a square mile. Ah well, make the most of it. To my reckoning, their days are probably numbered as well.

And so, another 12 have snuck up on us. To all my readers, friends, dissenters and those who would like to see me in the stocks, I wish you a healthy, happy and peaceful New Year.

Keep that mail coming in. Remember the pen is a mighty therapeutic sword (feels great to get it off yer chest dunnit?). Don't forget my trio of books on Amazon. Delighted to report 560 sales to date. Must be doing something right. It's all a game folks. Hang in there.

Keep the faith

Love Leapy

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

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

1:45am	BBC News
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	EastEnders
9:00pm	DIY SOS The Big Build
10:00pm	Death in Paradise
11:00pm	BBC News at Ten

BBC TWO

8:15am	Antiques Road Trip
9:00am	MasterChef: The Professionals
10:00am	BBC Newsroom Live
12:00pm	Westminster Abbey
1:00pm	Coast
1:10pm	Lucky Jim
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	Hairy Bikers' Mediterranean Adventure
10:00pm	A House Through Time
11:00pm	Live at the Apollo
11:30pm	Newsnight

BBC FOUR

4:15am	This is BBC Four
8:00pm	Beyond 100 Days <i>The latest national and international news, exploring the day's events from a global perspective. series 1.</i>
8:30pm	Great Continental Railway Journeys
9:00pm	Walt Disney
10:00pm	Walt Disney
11:00pm	The Secret Life of Sue Townsend (Aged 68 3/4)
12:00am	Natural World <i>Documentary. In what turns out to be an explosive year, witness Iceland through the eyes of the animals and people that have made this wild island home.</i>
1:00am	Great Barrier Reef
2:00am	Walt Disney
3:00am	Walt Disney

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 Includes sport and weather.
9:00pm	Food Unwrapped
	Diet Special
10:00pm	Hunted

CHANNEL 5

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
10:45am	The Unbeatables
12:00pm	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:25pm	Access
12:30pm	GPs: Behind Closed Doors
1:30pm	5 News Lunchtime
1:35pm	The Hotel Inspector
2:30pm	The 19th Wife
4:20pm	Deadly Stage Fright
6:00pm	5 News at 5
6:35pm	Bargain Loving Celebs
7:30pm	5 News Tonight
8:00pm	Baby Ballroom
9:00pm	Big Family Values: More Kids Than Cash
10:00pm	Celebrity Big Brother
11:00pm	Celebrity 100% Hotter!

4

8:00am	Charmed
9:00am	Charmed
10:00am	Animals United
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 Goldbergs
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

sky sports main event

6:00am	SKY Sports News
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	Info not available
12:30pm	Sky Sports Daily
1:00pm	SKY Sports News
2:00pm	SKY Sports News
3:00pm	SKY Sports News
4:00pm	Info not available
4:30pm	SKY Sports News
5:00pm	SKY Sports News
6:00pm	SKY Sports News
7:00pm	SKY Sports News
8:00pm	Info not available
8:30pm	Football
11:30pm	Harry Kane's 2017
12:00am	Live PGA Tour Golf
4:00am	SKY Sports News

itv

4:25am	ITV Nightscreen
6:05am	The Jeremy Kyle Show
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
8:00pm	Emmerdale
8:30pm	Tonight
9:00pm	Emmerdale
9:30pm	Coronation Street
10:00pm	Piers Morgan's Life Stories
11:00pm	ITV News
11:30pm	ITV News London
11:45pm	Great Art
12:45am	Joanna Lumley's Postcards
1:10am	Jackpot247
4:00am	Tonight
4:25am	ITV Nightscreen

itv2

7:55am	Dress to Impress
8:45am	Emmerdale
9:20am	Coronation Street
9:50am	Coronation Street
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	Coronation Street
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!
8:30pm	You've Been Framed!
9:00pm	Two and a Half Men
9:30pm	Superstore
10:00pm	22 Jump Street
11:05pm	FYI Daily
11:10pm	22 Jump Street
12:15am	Family Guy
12:45am	Family Guy
1:15am	American Dad!

itv3

3:30am	Teleshopping
7:00am	Classic Coronation Street
7:25am	Classic Coronation Street
7:50am	Judge Judy
8:15am	Heartbeat
9:15am	The Royal
10:20am	Judge Judy
10:45am	Judge Judy
11:15am	Judge Judy
11:40am	The Pure Hell of St. Trinian's
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	Agatha Christie's Marple
11:00pm	Foyle's War
1:00am	Inspector Morse
3:05am	ITV3 Nightscreen
3:30am	Teleshopping

itv4

4:00am	Teleshopping
7:00am	The Chase
7:45am	Pawn Stars
8:10am	Pawn Stars
8:30am	Ironsides
9:30am	Quincy, M.E.
10:35am	Minder
11:40am	The Sweeney
12:45pm	The Professionals
1:50pm	Ironsides
2:50pm	Quincy, M.E.
3:55pm	Minder
5:00pm	The Sweeney
6:05pm	The Professionals
7:05pm	Storage Wars Texas
7:35pm	Storage Wars Texas
8:00pm	Pawn Stars
8:30pm	Pawn Stars
9:00pm	The Chase
10:00pm	Dr. No
11:05pm	FYI Daily
11:10pm	Dr. No
12:15am	Sudden Death
1:15am	FYI Daily
1:20am	Sudden Death
2:30am	Minder
3:25am	Tommy Cooper
3:50am	ITV4 Nightscreen
4:00am	Teleshopping

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

9:15am	12 Rounds 3: Lockdown
10:50am	Warcraft
1:00pm	John Wick: Chapter Two
3:05pm	The A-TeamZ
5:05pm	Rocky III
6:50pm	Warcraft
9:00pm	John Wick: Chapter Two
11:05pm	The A-Team
1:10am	The 13th Warrior

sky CINEMA COMEDY

8:25am	Airheads
10:05am	Big Daddy
11:45am	Dad's Army
1:30pm	The Top Ten Show 2017
1:50pm	Fist Fight
3:30pm	Music and Lyrics
5:20pm	Hot Tub Time Machine
7:10pm	Three Amigos!
9:00pm	Fist FightZ
10:40pm	Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story
12:20am	Hot Tub Time Machine
2:10am	Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

4:55am	Table 19
6:30am	Pitch Perfect 3: Special
7:00am	Olaf's Frozen Adventure <i>Olaf the snowman (voiced by Josh Gad) is on the hunt for the perfect Christmas tradition in this brand new mini-sequel to Oscar-winning smash-hit Frozen. Animated short.</i>
7:30am	The Boss Baby
9:15am	The Ottoman Lieutenant
11:15am	Wolves at the Door
12:40pm	Kong: Skull Island
2:45pm	The Zookeeper's Wife
4:55pm	The Boss Baby
6:40pm	Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2
9:00pm	Kong: Skull Island
11:10pm	Wolves at the Door
12:35am	Table 19
2:15am	Hunter's Prayer
4:00am	Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2

sky sports football

1:00pm	Football's Greatest Teams
1:30pm	Football's Greatest Teams
2:00pm	La Liga Icons
3:00pm	EFL Midweek Goals: Championship
3:30pm	EFL Midweek Goals: Leagues 1 & 2
4:00pm	Football's Greatest Teams
4:30pm	Football's Greatest Teams
5:00pm	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
5:30pm	La Liga Greatest Games
6:00pm	Football Years
6:30pm	Football Countdowns
7:00pm	La Liga Icons
8:00pm	La Liga World
8:30pm	EFL Midweek Goals: Championship
9:00pm	EFL Midweek Goals: Leagues 1 & 2
9:30pm	EFL Greatest Games
9:45pm	EFL Greatest Games
10:00pm	EFL Midweek Goals: Championship
10:30pm	EFL Midweek Goals: Leagues 1 & 2
11:00pm	20 Years of El Clasico
11:45pm	Clasico - The Movie
12:00am	La Liga Icons

Advertising feature

It's time to celebrate with Siesta Group

WELL we think so at Siesta Group as we go into 2018 following our most successful year to date ready for another busy season.

As a company we have been trading now for over 15 years and we have become the local No 1 choice for both quality garden furniture and accessories and also for customer service as we take pride in all areas of the operation.

The company started with a small shop in Ciudad Quesada and has continued to grow from strength to strength and we now have four superstores along the Costa Blanca in Los Montesinos, Cabo Roig, San Javier and Gata De Gorgos, together with a very successful website www.siestagroup.com where you can peruse our products in the comfort of your own home.

What makes us stand out above

the crowd is that we are actively involved in designing our garden furniture directly with the factories so we know we have an exclusive range and can also be competitive on price and be one step ahead of the market.

Our products are carefully hand-picked by our buying team to ensure we offer unique value for money items which will enhance your garden and patio areas.

The distribution team has increased considerably in size to cope with demand and we offer free delivery together with assembly of all items, either on site or beforehand where practical, saving you time and stress.

We do realise without you, our customers, none of the success would have been possible and we would therefore, like to take this opportunity

to thank all of our clients and invite you to help us celebrate our continued growth by offering you the chance to purchase our full range at discounted prices.

You can enjoy discounts of 50 per cent and a guaranteed 15 per cent off everything in store so why not treat yourself ready for the spring and be confident in the knowledge that you are buying from a reputable company who always puts the customer first.

Our stores can be found at Avda Del Mar, Los Montesinos and on the N332 at Cabo Roig, San Javier and Gata De Gorgos. The majority of our products can also be viewed at www.siestagroup.com or telephone 966 726 891 with any questions.

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GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



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	Match of the Day Live
11:00pm	BBC News at Ten
11:25pm	BBC London News
11:35pm	Graham Norton's Good Guest Guide
12:25am	Enterprice
12:50am	Shanghai Noon

BBC TWO

7:00am	Flog it! Trade Secrets
7:30am	The Farmers' Country Showdown
8:15am	Antiques Road Trip
9:00am	MasterChef: The Professionals
10:00am	BBC Newsroom Live
12:00pm	Westminster in Review
1:00pm	Coast
1:10pm	The Triple Cross
3:15pm	Dolphins: Spy in the Pod
4:15pm	Dolphins: Spy in the Pod
5:15pm	Planet Earth II
6:15pm	Antiques Road Trip
7:00pm	Eggheads
7:30pm	Great British Railway Journeys
8:00pm	Natural World
9:00pm	Mastermind
9:30pm	Christmas University Challenge 2017
10:00pm	Rome Unpacked
11:00pm	QI
11:30pm	Newsnight
12:05am	Deep Water
1:00am	Deep Water

BBC FOUR

8:00pm	World News Today <i>The latest national and international news, exploring the day's events from a global perspective.</i>
8:30pm	Great Continental Railway Journeys
9:00pm	Only Yesterday: The Carpenters Story
10:00pm	Top of the Pops
11:00pm	Top of the Pops
12:00am	Radio 2 in Concert
1:00am	TOTP 2
2:00am	Top of the Pops
3:00am	Top of the Pops
4:00am	Only Yesterday: The Carpenters Story
5:00am	This is BBC Four <i>BBC Four is the BBC channel for people who want more.</i>

CHANNEL 4

8:10am	3rd Rock from the Sun
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	Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast
10:00pm	The Beatles
12:10am	The Bourne Legacy
2:40am	Piranha 3DD

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	Igor
12:15pm	Animals Make You Laugh Out Loud
12:45pm	GP's: Behind Closed Doors
1:40pm	5 News Lunchtime
1:45pm	The Hotel Inspector
2:35pm	Family Secrets
4:20pm	Deadly Paradise
6:00pm	5 News at 5
6:35pm	Barging Loving Celebs
7:30pm	5 News Tonight
8:00pm	Greatest Celebrity
9:00pm	Costa Del Celebrity
10:00pm	Celebrity Big Brother
11:00pm	Will and Grace
11:30pm	Celebrity Big Brother

4

8:00am	Charmed
9:00am	Charmed
10:00am	Rugrats the Movie
11:35am	Rude(ish) Tube
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	Hollyoaks
9:00pm	The Crystal Maze
10:00pm	Fast and Furious 6
12:35am	The Big Bang Theory
1:00am	The Big Bang Theory
1:30am	Gogglebox
2:25am	Rude Tube
3:25am	Tattoo Fixers

sky sports main event

7:00am	Good Morning
7:30am	Good Morning
8:00am	Good Morning
9:00am	Good Morning
9:30am	Cricket <i>Day one of the first Test between South Africa and India at Newlands in Cape Town.</i>
4:45pm	Best of Sky Cricket
5:00pm	SKY Sports News
6:00pm	SKY Sports News
7:00pm	SKY Sports News
8:00pm	Info not available
8:30pm	Sky Sports Tonight
9:00pm	Sky Sports Tonight
10:00pm	Sky Sports Tonight
11:00pm	The Debate - Live
12:00am	Cricket <i>New Zealand take on Pakistan at the Basin Reserve in Wellington in the first ODI in their series.</i>

itv

6:05am	The Jeremy Kyle Show
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
8:00pm	Emmerdale
8:30pm	Coronation Street
9:00pm	River Monsters
9:30pm	Coronation Street
10:00pm	The Big Soap Quiz: Coronation Street v Emmerdale
11:00pm	ITV News
11:30pm	ITV News London
11:40pm	Guess the Star
12:40am	Take Me Out
1:30am	Jackpot247
4:00am	Alphabetical
4:50am	ITV Nightscreen

itv2

7:55am	Dress to Impress
8:45am	Emmerdale
9:20am	Emmerdale
9:50am	Coronation Street
10:25am	The Ellen DeGeneres Show
11:10am	Who's Doing the Dishes?
12:10pm	Dress to Impress
1:10pm	Emmerdale
1:45pm	Emmerdale
2:15pm	Coronation Street
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!
9:00pm	Two and a Half Men
9:30pm	Superstore
10:00pm	Bridesmaids
11:00pm	FYI Daily
11:05pm	Bridesmaids
12:35am	Family Guy
1:05am	Family Guy

itv3

7:00am	Classic Coronation Street
7:25am	Classic Coronation Street
7:55am	Judge Judy
8:20am	Heartbeat
9:20am	The Royal
10:25am	Judge Judy
10:55am	Judge Judy
11:25am	Judge Judy
11:50am	Blue Murder at St. Trinian's
1:35pm	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	Rosemary and Thyme
10:00pm	Rosemary and Thyme
11:00pm	Foyle's War
1:05am	Inspector Morse
3:10am	Love and Marriage

itv4

7:00am	The Chase
7:50am	Pawn Stars
8:10am	Pawn Stars
8:35am	Ironside
9:35am	Quincy, M.E.
10:40am	Minder
11:45am	The Sweeney
12:50pm	The Professionals
1:55pm	Ironside
2:55pm	Quincy, M.E.
4:00pm	Minder
5:05pm	The Sweeney
6:10pm	The Professionals
7:10pm	Sporting Funnies
7:20pm	Storage Wars Texas
7:50pm	Pawn Stars
8:15pm	Pawn Stars
8:45pm	Hornblower
11:00pm	Goodfellas
12:05am	FYI Daily <i>Latest news from the world of entertainment.</i>
12:10am	Goodfellas
1:55am	The Sweeney
3:00am	Fifth Gear <i>The motor magazine show.</i>
3:45am	ITV4 Nightscreen
4:00am	Teleshopping

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

8:20am	Days of Thunder
10:20am	Independence Day
12:55pm	Independence Day: Resurgence
2:55pm	Robin Hood
5:20pm	Rocky IV
6:55pm	Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: Special
7:25pm	Independence Day
10:00pm	Independence Day: Resurgence

sky CINEMA COMEDY

7:45am	1941
9:50am	Miss Congeniality
11:50am	Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous
1:50pm	Bad Neighbours 2
3:30pm	Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates
5:15pm	Splash
7:15pm	50 First Dates
9:00pm	Bad Neighbours 2
10:40pm	Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates
12:25am	Paul

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

6:30am	Olaf's Frozen Adventure <i>Olaf the snowman (voiced by Josh Gad) is on the hunt for the perfect Christmas tradition in this brand new mini-sequel to Oscar-winning smash-hit Frozen. Animated short.</i>
7:00am	The Ottoman Lieutenant
9:00am	Rules Don't Apply
11:10am	The Boss Baby
12:50pm	Logan
3:10pm	Kong: Skull Island
5:10pm	The Zookeeper's Wife
7:20pm	The Boss Baby
9:00pm	Logan
11:20pm	Kong: Skull Island
1:25am	Wolves at the Door
2:45am	Hunter's Prayer
4:30am	President Under Siege

sky sports football

2:00pm	La Liga Icons
2:45pm	La Liga Icons
3:00pm	La Liga Show
3:30pm	EFL Midweek Goals: Championship
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	La Liga Preview 2017/18
7:00pm	La Liga Show
7:30pm	EFL Midweek Goals: Championship
8:00pm	La Liga Icons
8:15pm	La Liga Icons
8:30pm	Ronaldo
9:00pm	Magical Messi
10:00pm	20 Years of El Clasico
10:45pm	Clasico - The Movie
11:00pm	La Liga Preview 2017/18

TECH FOR THE TIMID

A word in your eye

Since starting to word-process Terence Kennedy no longer has terrible handwriting; now he just calls it his 'own font.'

NOVELIST Lee Child recently confessed his difficulty when writing a new book: he can't figure out Word's automatic page numbering. Can you?

Decades after the nostalgic clacking of typewriters gave way to the magic of the word-processor, at best, we sit in the driver's seat and can just about steer the thing. It's surprising how few of us can manage to even switch on the wipers, as it were.

With most people using less than 10 per cent of what these programs can do, say the experts, Lee Child's dilemma sounds familiar. (He gets around it, incidentally, by simply writing his next book over the previous one).

Microsoft certainly didn't help back in the day when it managed to infuriate pretty much everyone with Clippy the dancing paperclip to 'help' us find our way around Word. If that's not when the Oxford Dictionary admitted 'computer rage' as a real term, it should have been.

I graduated years ago from PC-Write with the screeds of keystroke cheat-sheets needed to work it, to the



WORD PROCESSING anno 1982: €7,500 in today's money.

much-lamented WordStar and then the doyen of them all, WordPerfect. Which wasn't, but it tried.

'Also-rans' apart, today we're down to just two main alternative word-processors of note against Microsoft's steamroller.

WordPerfect staggers on, still cherished particularly by lawyers who love its ability to sort all their 'whereas and inasmuch as the party of the first part' convolutions into very pretty sub-sub-sub-para-

graphs. Then there's the excellent though slightly-dated and astonishingly free complete office suite, LibreOffice. Did I mention that it's

free? It's free. Amazing.

As a self-confessed computer nerd I can happily fossick among the esoteric delights of obscure software manuals, or get my smart TV to play files from my tablet which got them from my computer which got them from my router which got them from dark web programs which fell off the back of the internet.

But I still have to admit defeat with even the simplest things in Word occasionally:

Where the hell is my euros symbol?

Why must my shopping lists automatically have bullet points?

Why do I keep having to scroll all the way past Albanian, Burmese, Corsican and Dzonghka (what?) to specify English for each and every document I create? Thank heavens my native language isn't Wolof or Yoruba.

How do I start page numbering after the title pages?

How do I place photos on the page where I want them, not where Word decides they should be?

And most exasperatingly of all: exactly where has Word automatically decided to save my precious document this time? I want it back, dammit!

Should you 'RTFM'?

YOU don't have to buy a Dummies book just to put words on a screen, despite how patronisingly-amusing they can sometimes be.

There are plenty of free tutorials online not just for Word in its various three-yearly iterations, but for the whole Office shebang, including excellent guides at <https://www.gcflernfree.org/subjects/office/> or <http://www.free-training-tutorial.com/microsoft-word-online.html>.

There's a popular smartphone app called Tutorials for Word - Free, or you can download a free starter guide to use offline: <https://www.computer-pdf.com/office/word/472-tutorial-introduction-to-word-2016.html>. A Google search will reveal these and fleets of other free and paid options.

Whatever you do though, don't ever admit that you need a manual to anyone below 40, for whom the well-known acronym RTFM is a despicable admission of defeat. RTFM? Read The (er, Flaming...) Manual.

GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



BBC one

2:40am	BBC News
7:00am	Breakfast
11:00am	Saturday Kitchen Live
12:30pm	Mary Berry Everyday
1:00pm	BBC News
1:15pm	Football Focus
1:45pm	Match of the Day
4:00pm	Money for Nothing
5:00pm	Final Score
6:10pm	Celebrity Mastermind
6:40pm	BBC News
6:50pm	BBC London News
7:00pm	And They're Off... for Sport Relief
7:40pm	Pointless
8:25pm	Wedding Day Winners
9:30pm	Casualty
10:20pm	BBC News
10:35pm	Hard Sun)
11:30pm	Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights
1:05am	The NFL Show
1:35am	The Resident
3:00am	Weather for the Week Ahead
3:05am	BBC News

BBC TWO

9:00am	The Dengineers
9:30am	Deadly Top 10
10:00am	World's Sneakiest Animals
11:00am	Homes Under the Hammer
12:00pm	Pets: Wild at Heart
1:00pm	Hairy Bikers' Mediterranean Adventure
2:00pm	Back to the Land with Kate Humble
3:00pm	Rome Unpacked
4:00pm	The Letter
5:30pm	Natural World
6:15pm	Trust Me, I'm a Doctor
6:45pm	Tom Kerridge's Lose Weight for Good
7:15pm	Hugh's Wild West
8:15pm	A House Through Time
9:15pm	Dad's Army
9:45pm	Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs
10:15pm	Feud: Bette and Joan
11:00pm	Feud: Bette and Joan
12:00am	Live at the Apollo
12:45am	QI XL

BBC FOUR

5:00am	This is BBC Four
8:00pm	Shipwrecks: Britain's Sunken History
9:00pm	Alaska: Earth's Frozen Kingdom <i>Three-part series following pioneering Alaskans</i>
10:00pm	Spiral French crime drama serial
11:00pm	Spiral
12:05am	The Vietnam War <i>Ten years in the making, this immersive series tells the epic story of the Vietnam War</i>
1:00am	The Bee Gees at the BBC... And Beyond
2:00am	Disco at the BBC <i>Classic Bee Gees studio performances from the BBC and beyond including all the big hits</i>
3:00am	Alaska: Earth's Frozen Kingdom
4:00am	Shipwrecks: Britain's Sunken History
5:00am	This is BBC Four

CHANNEL 4

5:50am	Location, Location, Location
6:45am	Kirstie's Vintage Gems
7:05am	Triathlon
8:00am	Everybody Loves Raymond
8:25am	Everybody Loves Raymond
8:50am	Frasier
9:20am	Frasier
9:55am	Frasier
10:25am	The Big Bang Theory
10:50am	The Big Bang Theory
11:20am	The Big Bang Theory
11:50am	The Simpsons
12:15pm	The Simpsons
12:45pm	Sun, Sea and Selling Houses
1:45pm	Darts
6:30pm	A Place in the Sun
7:30pm	Channel 4 News
8:00pm	Spying on the Royals
9:00pm	Princess Diana's Mockingjay - Part 2
10:00pm	The Hunger Games: The Transporter
2:25am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
3:15am	Hollyoaks Omnibus

CHANNEL 5

9:35am	Noddy: Toyland Detective
9:50am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
10:05am	Shimmer and Shine
10:25am	Digby Dragon
10:35am	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
11:10am	Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud
11:40am	Christmas Cruising with Jane McDonald
12:40pm	West Side Story
3:30pm	The Hundred-Foot Journey
4:30pm	5 News
4:35pm	The Hundred-Foot Journey
5:55pm	5 News Weekend
6:00pm	Playful Pups Make You Laugh Out Loud
7:00pm	The Wonderful World of Puppies
8:00pm	Greatest Celebrity Wind-Ups Ever!
9:00pm	Blind Date
10:00pm	Celebrity Big Brother
11:00pm	Worst Celebrity Pop Songs Ever
12:45am	Lip Sync Battle UK

4

5:40am	Charmed
7:00am	Rude(ish) Tube
7:25am	How I Met Your Mother
7:50am	How I Met Your Mother
8:20am	Melissa and Joey
8:50am	Melissa and Joey
9:20am	Big Miracle
11:25am	Couples Come Dine with Me
12:30pm	Couples Come Dine with Me
1:30pm	Don't Tell the Bride
2:35pm	The Goldbergs
3:00pm	The Goldbergs
3:30pm	The Goldbergs
4:00pm	The Goldbergs
4:30pm	The Goldbergs
5:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
5:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
6:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
6:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
7:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
7:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
8:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
8:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
9:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
9:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
10:00pm	Red
12:10am	Gogglebox

sky sports main event

7:00am	SKY Sports News
8:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
9:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
9:30am	Cricket
4:00pm	Rugby Union
6:30pm	Rugby Union <i>Leinster meet Ulster in the Guinness Pro14.</i>
8:45pm	My Icon <i>In the next episode of this special series, Wakefield Trinity prop Keegan Hirst discusses the individuals that have inspired him during his life and career.</i>
9:00pm	Sky Sports Tonight
10:00pm	Live NFL: Wild Card Round Game <i>A wild card play-off match from the NFL as teams look to book a spot in the divisional round.</i>
2:00am	Live NFL: Wild Card Round Game

itv

8:00am	Share a Story
8:05am	Ultimate Spider-Man v the Sinister Six
8:30am	Scrambled!
8:35am	The Tom and Jerry Show
8:55am	Fangbone
9:10am	The Powerpuff Girls
9:30am	Be Cool, Scooby-Doo
10:05am	Wishfart
10:25am	ITV News
10:30am	Saturday Morning with James Martin
12:30pm	The Hungry Sailors
1:30pm	ITV News
1:40pm	Endeavour
3:40pm	The Greatest TV Moments of All Time
5:35pm	ITV News London
5:45pm	ITV News
5:55pm	The Chase
7:00pm	Celebrity Catchphrase
8:00pm	Take Me Out
9:00pm	The Voice UK
10:35pm	ITV News
10:50pm	Spectre
1:30am	Jackpot247

itv2

7:00am	Emmerdale Omnibus
10:00am	Coronation Street Omnibus
1:00pm	The Big Soap Quiz: Coronation Street v Emmerdale
2:00pm	Who Shot Simon Cowell?
2:30pm	You've Been Framed!
3:30pm	You've Been Framed!
4:05pm	Legally Blonde
5:05pm	FYI Daily
5:10pm	Legally Blonde
5:55pm	Hotel Transylvania
6:55pm	FYI Daily
7:00pm	Hotel Transylvania
7:40pm	The Mummy
8:40pm	FYI Daily
8:45pm	The Mummy
10:00pm	The Hangover
11:00pm	FYI Daily
11:05pm	The Hangover
12:10am	Family Guy
12:35am	Family Guy
1:10am	American Dad!
1:35am	American Dad!
2:05am	Paranoia

itv3

5:45am	Richard Wilson on the Road
6:10am	Judge Judy
6:35am	ITV3 Nightscreen
7:00am	Judge Judy
7:20am	Murder, She Wrote
8:20am	Murder, She Wrote
9:25am	Death on the Nile
12:05pm	Foyle's War
2:10pm	Columbo: Suitable for Framing
3:55pm	Midsomer Murders
5:55pm	Midsomer Murders
7:55pm	Midsomer Murders
10:00pm	Midsomer Murders
12:00am	The Suspicions of Mr Whicher
2:00am	On the Buses
2:30am	On the Buses
3:00am	ITV3 Nightscreen
3:30am	Teleshopping

itv4

7:00am	Barcelona's European Glory
7:10am	The Protectors
7:35am	The Professionals
8:30am	The Professionals
9:30am	The Professionals
10:30am	The Opening Show
11:30am	Barcelona's European Glory
11:40am	Pawn Stars
12:10pm	Pawn Stars
12:35pm	Pawn Stars
1:05pm	Pawn Stars
1:30pm	Pawn Stars
2:00pm	Pawn Stars
2:30pm	Horse Racing Live
5:05pm	Khartoum
6:10pm	FYI Daily
6:15pm	Khartoum
7:45pm	Dr. No
8:50pm	FYI Daily
8:55pm	Dr. No
10:00pm	The Enforcer
11:00pm	FYI Daily
11:05pm	The Enforcer
12:05am	Platoon
1:10am	FYI Daily
1:15am	Platoon
2:25am	Car Crash Global

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

6:00am	Rocky IV
7:35am	Last Action Hero
9:50am	The Mask of Zorro
12:10pm	Tarzan
2:10pm	Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them
4:25pm	Conan the Barbarian
6:40pm	The Mask of Zorro
9:00pm	Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them
11:15pm	Tarzan
1:10am	300

sky CINEMA COMEDY

5:30am	Police Academy 7: Mission to Moscow
7:00am	Get a Job
8:30am	Dumb and Dumber
10:25am	Did You Hear About the Morgans?
12:15pm	48 Hrs
2:00pm	Mean Girls
3:45pm	The Boss
5:30pm	Zoolander
7:10pm	Zoolander 2
9:00pm	The Boss
10:45pm	48 Hrs
12:30am	Another 48 Hrs

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

6:30am	The Greatest <i>Sky Movies takes a special look at the show-stopping PT Barnum biopic starring Hugh Jackman, Zac Efron and Michelle Williams.</i>
7:00am	The Ottoman Lieutenant
9:00am	The Boss Baby
10:45am	Olaf's Frozen Adventure
11:15am	The Book of Henry
1:05pm	Logan
3:25pm	Kong: Skull Island
5:25pm	The Boss Baby
7:10pm	The Book of Henry <i>Heartstring-tugging drama starring Naomi Watts</i>
9:00pm	Logan
11:20pm	Kong: Skull Island
1:25am	Table 19
3:00am	The Zookeeper's Wife
5:10am	Wolves at the Door

sky sports football

6:00am	Football's Greatest
6:30am	Football's Greatest Teams
7:00am	Football's Greatest
7:30am	La Liga Icons
7:45am	La Liga Icons
8:00am	La Liga Files
8:45am	La Liga Files
9:30am	Ronaldo
10:00am	Football Countdowns
10:30am	Football Years
11:00am	Soccer A.M.
12:30pm	La Liga Icons
12:45pm	La Liga Greatest Games
12:55pm	Football
3:00pm	Gillette Soccer Saturday
6:15pm	La Liga Greatest Games
6:25pm	Football
8:30pm	La Liga Greatest Games
8:40pm	Football
10:45pm	Magical Messi
11:45pm	La Liga Greatest Games
12:00am	La Liga Icons
12:15am	La Liga Icons

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GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



BBC one

7:00am	Breakfast
8:30am	Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights
10:00am	The Andrew Marr Show
11:00am	The Big Questions
12:00pm	Homes Under the Hammer
1:00pm	Bargain Hunt
2:00pm	BBC News
2:15pm	Wallace and Gromit: A Grand Day Out
2:40pm	Match of the Day Live
5:00pm	Escape to the Country
5:30pm	Songs of Praise
6:05pm	Antiques Roadshow
7:05pm	BBC News
7:20pm	BBC London News
7:30pm	Countryfile
8:30pm	Still Open All Hours
9:00pm	Attenborough and the Sea Dragon
10:00pm	McMafia
11:00pm	BBC News
11:20pm	BBC London News
11:30pm	Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights
12:30am	The Women's Football Show

BBC TWO

7:20am	Coast
8:20am	The Instant Gardener
9:05am	Gardeners' World
9:35am	Greatest Gardens
10:05am	Countryfile
11:00am	Saturday Kitchen
12:30pm	Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well
1:00pm	Food and Drink
1:30pm	The A to Z of TV Cooking
1:40pm	Natural World
2:40pm	Money for Nothing
3:10pm	Talking Pictures
3:50pm	Ladies in Lavender
5:30pm	Flog It!
6:15pm	Ski Sunday
7:00pm	The Real T rex with Chris Packham
8:00pm	Robot Wars Special
9:00pm	Dragons' Den
10:00pm	Michael Palin: A Life on Screen
11:00pm	And Now for Something Completely Different
12:25am	Strictly Ballroom
2:00am	Countryfile
2:55am	Holby City

BBC FOUR

8:00pm	Only Connect
8:30pm	Britain on Film
9:00pm	Dan Snow on Lloyd George: My Great-Grandfather
10:00pm	Engineering Giants
11:00pm	The Bridge: Fifty Years across the Forth
12:00am	Stations of the Cross
1:45am	Dan Snow on Lloyd George: My Great-Grandfather
2:45am	Engineering Giants
3:45am	The Bridge: Fifty Years across the Forth
4:45am	This is BBC Four <i>BBC Four is the BBC channel for people who want more.</i>

CHANNEL 4

6:50am	Four in a Bed
7:15am	King of Queens
7:40am	King of Queens
8:05am	King of Queens
8:30am	Everybody Loves Raymond
8:55am	Everybody Loves Raymond
9:25am	Frasier
10:00am	Frasier
10:30am	Sunday Brunch
1:30pm	Darts
6:30pm	The Great Festive Bake Off
7:45pm	Channel 4 News
8:00pm	The World's Wildest Weather
9:00pm	The Biggest Little Railway in the World
10:00pm	SAS: Who Dares Wins
11:00pm	The Sweeney
1:10am	Moonrise Kingdom
2:55am	Grand Designs
3:50am	Location, Location, Location
4:45am	KOTV Boxing Weekly
5:15am	Coast v Country

CHANNEL 5

9:05am	Paw Patrol
9:25am	Nella the Princess Knight
9:40am	Noddy: Toyland Detective
9:55am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
10:10am	Shimmer and Shine
10:25am	Digby Dragon
10:40am	Peppa Pig
10:45am	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
11:20am	Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud
11:40am	Groundhog Day
1:40pm	Practical Magic
3:40pm	Will and Grace
4:10pm	Blind Date
5:15pm	The Love Punch
7:00pm	The Two Ronnies
9:00pm	Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights
9:55pm	5 News Weekend
10:00pm	Celebrity Big Brother
11:00pm	Hot Pursuit
12:00am	5 News
12:05am	Hot Pursuit
12:50am	One Night with My Ex

4

7:00am	Hollyoaks Omnibus
9:00am	Melissa and Joey
9:30am	Melissa and Joey
10:00am	Melissa and Joey
10:30am	Melissa and Joey
11:00am	Melissa and Joey
11:30am	The Goldbergs
12:00pm	The Goldbergs
12:30pm	The Goldbergs
1:00pm	The Borrowers
2:40pm	Rude(ish) Tube Shorts
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
11:50pm	American Pie: Reunion
2:05am	Gogglebox
3:10am	First Dates
4:15am	Rude Tube
4:40am	Hollyoaks Omnibus

sky sports main event

6:00am	SKY Sports News
7:00am	SKY Sports News
8:00am	Total Goals
9:00am	Total Goals
9:30am	Cricket
	<i>Day three of the first Test between South Africa and India at Newlands in Cape Town.</i>
4:15pm	Football
	<i>Barcelona host Levante at the Nou Camp in La Liga.</i>
6:15pm	My Icon
6:30pm	Live NFL: Wild Card Round Game
10:00pm	Live NFL: Wild Card Round Game
2:00am	SKY Sports News
3:00am	SKY Sports News
4:00am	SKY Sports News
5:00am	SKY Sports News

itv

8:05am	Ultimate Spider-Man v the Sinister Six
8:30am	Scrambled!
8:35am	The Tom and Jerry Show
8:55am	Ben 10
9:10am	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series
9:30am	Spy School
10:05am	Wishart
10:25am	ITV News
	<i>The latest ITV News.</i>
10:30am	River Monsters
10:55am	The Voice UK
12:30pm	Tipping Point
1:30pm	ITV News
1:40pm	A Right Royal Quiz
2:40pm	The Big Soap Quiz: Coronation Street v Emmerdale
3:45pm	Celebrity Catchphrase
4:45pm	ITV News London
5:00pm	ITV News
5:10pm	Happy Feet Two
7:00pm	Dancing on Ice
9:00pm	Vera
11:00pm	ITV News
11:10pm	Captain Phillips
1:35am	Great Art

itv2

7:50am	Emmerdale Omnibus
10:40am	Coronation Street Omnibus
1:35pm	Take Me Out
2:40pm	The Voice UK
4:20pm	The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor
5:50pm	FYI Daily
5:55pm	The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor
6:25pm	The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring
7:25pm	FYI Daily
7:30pm	The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring
10:00pm	Ibiza Weekender
11:00pm	Family Guy
11:30pm	Family Guy
12:00am	Family Guy
12:30am	American Dad!
1:00am	American Dad!
1:30am	Delivery Man
2:35am	FYI Daily
2:40am	Delivery Man
3:30am	Teleshopping

itv3

7:00am	Murder, She Wrote
7:50am	Murder, She Wrote
8:50am	Heartbeat
9:50am	Heartbeat
10:55am	Columbo: Suitable for Framing
12:35pm	Foyle's War
2:40pm	Foyle's War
4:45pm	Foyle's War
6:50pm	Endeavour
	<i>DC Endeavour Morse investigates the disappearance of a missing Oxford schoolgirl.</i>
9:00pm	Les Dawson: An Audience with That Never Was
	<i>Special marking the twentieth anniversary of the death of Les Dawson.</i>
10:00pm	Tonight at the London Palladium
11:00pm	Agatha Christie's Marple
1:00am	Midsomer Murders
2:50am	Executed
3:45am	Road to Avonlea

itv4

7:00am	World Cup Rivalries: England v Argentina
7:20am	Minder
8:10am	The Sweeney
9:00am	Storage Wars Texas
9:30am	Storage Wars Texas
10:00am	Storage Wars Texas
10:30am	Storage Wars Texas
11:00am	Storage Wars Texas
11:30am	Storage Wars Texas
11:55am	Storage Wars Texas
12:25pm	Pawn Stars
12:55pm	Pawn Stars
1:20pm	Pawn Stars
1:50pm	Pawn Stars
2:15pm	Pawn Stars
2:45pm	The Sea Wolves
3:50pm	FYI Daily
3:55pm	The Sea Wolves
5:10pm	Khartoum
6:10pm	FYI Daily
6:15pm	Khartoum
7:50pm	Hornblower
10:00pm	Ransom
11:05pm	FYI Daily
11:10pm	Ransom
12:30am	RoboCop 3
1:30am	FYI Daily
1:35am	RoboCop 3

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

7:10am	The Legend of Zorro
9:25am	Xxx: Return of Xander Cage
11:15am	The Dark Knight
1:50pm	Independence Day
4:25pm	Power Rangers
6:05pm	Turbo: A Power Rangers Movie
7:45pm	The Legend of Zorro
10:00pm	The Dark Knight
12:35am	Xxx: Return of Xander Cage

sky CINEMA COMEDY

7:45am	Special
8:15am	Three Amigos!
10:05am	Liar Liar
11:40am	Calendar Girls
1:35pm	How to be a Latin Lover
3:35pm	The Nutty Professor
5:15pm	Nutty Professor II: The Klumps
7:10pm	Big
9:00pm	Meet the Parents
11:00pm	The Nutty Professor
12:40am	Nutty Professor II: The Klumps

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

7:00am	Top Ten Show, the 2018
	<i>Which movies are doing the best business at home and across the pond? Clips from the UK and US Top Ten show you the best of what's on offer on the big screen.</i>
7:15am	The Boss Baby
8:55am	Kong: Skull Island
11:00am	Logan
1:20pm	Blind
3:15pm	The Boss Baby
5:00pm	The Book of Henry
6:50pm	Kong: Skull Island
9:00pm	Logan
11:20pm	Blind
1:15am	The Zookeeper's Wife
3:25am	Wolves at the Door
4:45am	Table 19

sky sports football

9:00am	Football's Greatest
9:30am	Football's Greatest Teams
10:00am	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
10:15am	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
10:30am	Sunday Supplement
12:00pm	Football
2:00pm	La Liga Greatest Games
2:15pm	La Liga Icons
2:45pm	La Liga Icons
3:00pm	EFL Rivalries
3:30pm	EFL Rivalries
4:00pm	La Liga Greatest Games
4:10pm	Football
6:15pm	La Liga Greatest Games
6:25pm	Football
8:30pm	La Liga Greatest Games
8:40pm	Football
10:45pm	La Liga Highlights: Barcelona
11:00pm	EFL Rivalries
11:30pm	EFL Rivalries
12:00am	La Liga Highlights: Barcelona

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GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



BBC one

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	The One Show
8:30pm	An Inside Out Special
9:00pm	EastEnders
9:30pm	Panorama
10:00pm	Silent Witness
11:00pm	BBC News at Ten
11:30pm	BBC London News
11:45pm	Have I Got Old News for You
12:15am	Miriam's Big American Adventure

BBC TWO

7:00am	Flog it! Trade Secrets
7:30am	The Farmers' Country Showdown
8:15am	Antiques Road Trip
9:00am	Antiques Roadshow
10:00am	Victoria Derbyshire
12:00pm	BBC Newsroom Live
1:00pm	The Daily Politics
2:00pm	Coast
2:15pm	Brazil with Michael Palin
3:15pm	Himalaya with Michael Palin
4:15pm	The Great British Winter
5:15pm	Planet Earth II
6:15pm	Flog It!
7:00pm	Eggheads
7:30pm	Great British Railway Journeys
8:00pm	Match of the Day
8:30pm	Kate Humble: Off the Beaten Track
9:00pm	Only Connect
9:30pm	University Challenge
10:00pm	Surgeons
11:00pm	Insert Name Here
11:30pm	Newsnight
12:15am	Robot Wars Special
1:15am	Natural World

BBC FOUR

8:00pm	Beyond 100 Days
8:30pm	Great Continental Railway Journeys
9:00pm	Highlands - Scotland's Wild Heart
10:00pm	My Astonishing Self
11:00pm	Workers or Shirkers? Ian Hislop's Victorian Benefits
12:00am	The Victorians
1:00am	Top of the Pops: 1981
1:40am	Top of the Pops: 1981
2:20am	Highlands - Scotland's Wild Heart
3:20am	Ewan McGregor narrates a series about the wildlife of the Scottish Highlands.
4:20am	My Astonishing Self

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

CHANNEL 4

6:10am	Four in a Bed
6:35am	Countdown
7:20am	3rd Rock from the Sun
7:40am	3rd Rock from the Sun
8:05am	Everybody Loves Raymond
8:30am	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	Darts
6:00pm	Come Dine with Me
7:00pm	The Simpsons
7:30pm	Hollyoaks
8:00pm	Channel 4 News
9:00pm	How to Lose Weight Well
10:00pm	The Undateables
11:00pm	First Dates Hotel
12:05am	Derry Girls
12:40am	Hunted

CHANNEL 5

8:35am	Peppa Pig
8:45am	Peppa Pig
8:50am	Floogals
9:05am	Digby Dragon
9:20am	Rusty Rivets
9:35am	Shimmer and Shine
9:55am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
10:05am	Mofy
10:15am	The Wright Stuff
12:15pm	GP's: Behind Closed Doors
1:10pm	5 News Lunchtime
1:15pm	The Hotel Inspector
2:15pm	Home and Away
2:45pm	Neighbours
3:15pm	NCIS
4:15pm	Killer Mom
6:00pm	5 News at 5
6:30pm	Neighbours
7:00pm	Home and Away
7:30pm	5 News Tonight
8:00pm	Car Crash TV
9:00pm	Police Interceptors
10:00pm	Celebrity Big Brother
11:00pm	Not So Sweet Sixteen
12:05am	Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side

4

7:00am	Hollyoaks
7:30am	Hollyoaks
8:00am	Couples Come Dine with Me
9:00am	Charmed
10:00am	Melissa and Joey
10:30am	Melissa and Joey
11:00am	Baby Daddy
11:30am	Baby Daddy
12:00pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
12:30pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
1:00pm	The Goldbergs
1:30pm	The Goldbergs
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	Coach Trip
9:00pm	Life of Pi
11:35pm	Gogglebox
12:40am	The Big Bang Theory
1:10am	The Big Bang Theory

sky sports main event

7:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
7:30am	Good Morning Sports Fans
8:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
9:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
9:30am	Cricket
4:45pm	Best of Sky Cricket
5:00pm	SKY Sports News
6:00pm	SKY Sports News
7:00pm	SKY Sports News
8:00pm	To be Announced
8:30pm	La Liga Greatest Games
8:40pm	La Liga Greatest Games
8:55pm	Football
11:00pm	Cricket

Day four of the first Test between South Africa and India at Newlands in Cape Town.

A look at some of the best moments from the world of cricket.

A match from Spain's La Liga.

itv

7:00am	Good Morning Britain
9:30am	Lorraine
10:25am	The Jeremy Kyle Show
11:30am	This Morning
1:30pm	Loose Women
2:30pm	ITV News
2:55pm	ITV News London
3:00pm	Judge Rinder
4:00pm	Dickinson's Real Deal
5:00pm	Tipping Point
6:00pm	The Chase
7:00pm	ITV News London
7:30pm	ITV News
8:00pm	Emmerdale
8:30pm	Coronation Street
9:00pm	Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury
9:30pm	Coronation Street
10:00pm	Next of Kin
11:00pm	ITV News
11:30pm	ITV News London
11:40pm	Piers Morgan's Life Stories
12:40am	Killer Women with Piers Morgan
1:35am	Jackpot247

itv2

9:20am	Coronation Street
9:50am	Coronation Street
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	Coronation Street
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!
8:30pm	You've Been Framed!
9:00pm	Two and a Half Men
9:30pm	Superstore
10:00pm	Family Guy
10:30pm	Family Guy
11:00pm	American Dad!
11:30pm	American Dad!
12:00am	Family Guy

itv3

7:00am	Classic Coronation Street
7:25am	Classic Coronation Street
7:55am	Heartbeat
8:55am	The Royal
10:00am	Judge Judy
10:25am	Judge Judy
10:55am	Judge Judy
11:20am	Love Your Garden
12:25pm	The Darling Buds of May
1:35pm	The Royal
2:40pm	Heartbeat
3:40pm	Classic Coronation Street
4:15pm	Classic Coronation Street
5:20pm	On the Buses
5:55pm	Rising Damp
6:25pm	George and Mildred
7:00pm	Heartbeat
8:00pm	Murder, She Wrote
9:00pm	Lewis
11:00pm	Foyle's War
1:15am	Inspector Morse
3:10am	ITV3 Nightscreen
3:30am	Teleshopping

itv4

7:00am	The Chase
7:50am	Pawn Stars
8:10am	Pawn Stars
8:35am	Ironsides
9:35am	Quincy, M.E.
10:40am	Minder
11:40am	The Sweeney
12:45pm	The Professionals
1:50pm	Ironsides
2:55pm	Quincy, M.E.
3:55pm	Minder
5:00pm	The Sweeney
7:05pm	Storage Wars Texas
7:35pm	Storage Wars Texas
8:00pm	Pawn Stars
8:30pm	Pawn Stars
9:00pm	Parking Wars
10:00pm	River Monsters
11:05pm	Wanted
12:05am	FYI Daily
12:10am	Wanted
1:15am	The Book of Eli
2:15am	FYI Daily
2:20am	The Book of Eli
3:30am	The Protectors
3:55am	ITV4 Nightscreen
4:00am	Teleshopping

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

10:25am	Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice
1:00pm	Doctor Strange
3:00pm	Superman 2
5:10pm	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows
7:10pm	X-Men Origins: Wolverine
9:00pm	Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice
11:35pm	Doctor Strange

sky CINEMA COMEDY

7:20am	The Benchwarmers
8:50am	Love of My Life
10:40am	Non-Transferable
12:25pm	Bridget Jones's Baby
2:35pm	Shallow Hal
4:35pm	Bridesmaids
6:45pm	Love Actually
9:00pm	Shallow Hal
11:00pm	Bridget Jones's Baby
1:10am	Bridesmaids
3:20am	Brüno
4:55am	Borat

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

7:00am	The Ottoman Lieutenant
9:00am	Rules Don't Apply
11:10am	Lowriders
1:00pm	Logan
3:20pm	The Book of Henry
5:15pm	The Boss Baby
7:00pm	Blind
9:00pm	Logan
11:20pm	Lowriders
1:05am	Kong: Skull Island
3:10am	Wolves at the Door
4:30am	President Under Siege

The Belgian prime minister is kidnapped and told that he must assassinate the US president if he ever wants to see his family again. Foreign language with subtitles.

sky sports football

11:00am	Football
1:05pm	Football
3:10pm	Football
5:15pm	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
5:30pm	La Liga Greatest Games
5:45pm	La Liga Greatest Games
6:00pm	La Liga Highlights: Real Madrid
6:15pm	La Liga Highlights: Barcelona
6:30pm	Football Countdowns
7:00pm	20 Years of El Clasico
7:45pm	La Liga Icons
8:00pm	Soccer A.M.
8:30pm	La Liga Greatest Games
8:40pm	La Liga Greatest Games
8:55pm	Football
11:00pm	La Liga Highlights: Real Madrid
11:15pm	La Liga Highlights: Barcelona
11:30pm	Soccer A.M.
12:00am	La Liga Icons
12:15am	La Liga Icons

Advertising feature

Easy-Legals, there to explain the law and act for you

THE Spanish way of undertaking a number of legal actions is quite different from the UK and it is a wise person who takes legal advice before making any commitments.

This is particularly true when you are considering purchasing a Spanish property, where there are a number of pitfalls which can be avoided if you use a qualified legal practitioner to guide you through the maze.

You will need to have an NIE number, be able to prove the source of your funds, be assured that the property has been built on legally approved ground and that there are no legal charges over the property.

This is where Easy-Legals can be invaluable and once all of the investigations have been completed, they will also take you through to a notary who will complete and seal all of the documentation.

It is not just property law which differs from the UK and the qualified legal team at Easy-Legals are solicitors, conveyors and barristers registered at the Bar of Lawyers of Orihuela N° 1089 can help you with wills, tax declarations, inheritance tax, residency, work permits and probate.

With Brexit just around the corner, there is still considerable uncertainty about what the status of British citizens in Spain will be



EASY-LEGALS: An international law bureau.

and the advice of a friendly English-speaking lawyer could well be invaluable as the next 16 months unfold.

There is little to criticise about the Spanish legal system, but there is no doubt that it can be bureaucratic and therefore the use of a legal advisor from the outset might save a great deal of expense and upset in the long run.

The Easy-Legals motto is Your Protection - Our Interest, so find out more about the practice which is based at Commercial Centre Los Dolses, Unit M-130, Golf Course Villamartin, 03189 Orihuela Costa by calling 966 765 024 or emailing: info@easylegals.com.

THURSDAY THOUGHTS

By Graham Braben, Albox

A messy ending!

WELL, that's it, two reports I saw recently prove beyond doubt that life as we know it is spiralling to a crashing, messy end! First of all, just at the beginning of November, someone was caught cheating at Scrabble! Really! That's tantamount to pinching someone else's Squeezy bottle so you can make your Blue Peter replica of the Leaning Tower of Pisa, without putting in the hard yards before you start.

When I read that there was this - alleged - cheating in a tournament by a well respected Scrabblist, I just had to pinch myself, what could possibly motivate the person in question do this? I'm sure that, in Scrabble circles, whatever the tournament was is very important, but to the rest of the world, it probably matters as much as the results of the forthcoming games in the Birkenhead Sunday League Division 3 fixtures.

Then there is the strange case of McGruff the Crime Dog. You may not know McGruff but it was actually an actor dressed as a private eye dog to be part of a campaign in America to increase personal safety and crime awareness.

One of the actors who played McGruff was stopped in his car by the police for a minor offence - driving whilst under the influence of Lassie perhaps? To cut a long story short, they found drugs in his car then, when they went to search his house they found more drugs and, amongst other things, a grenade launcher! The positive side though is that now this man gets to raise crime awareness in prison as he got a 16 year sentence.

Thankfully it wasn't all bad news for him, he was put on a free course of worming medication!

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

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

Playing the name game: what your name says about you...

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

WHAT will fashionable babies be called in 2018? Will slebs carry on giving kids daft names (Apple, Moon Unit etc) or follow the example of George and Amal Clooney with more traditional ones (Ella and Alexander)?

Whilst I'm all in favour of the Clooneys' choice of names, let's hope their kids don't grow like their parents telling the rest of us what we should be doing, whilst they themselves live a life of wealth and privilege far away from the effects of the policies they espouse. You know how it usually goes: lots of trips to Africa, visiting broken-down schools and orphanages. Great photo opportunities all round!



TRADITIONAL CHOICE: George and Amal Clooney.

When I was a girl, we were given girls' names rather than the names of fruits, continents or the place where we were conceived. The world has changed and will doubtless change again before long.

Things have certainly changed in France where a baby was named 'Jihad' ('holy war'). The chief prosecutor in France (which suffered Europe's worst Islamist terror attacks in recent years) had to rule on the case after the couple's name for their

son was referred by authorities in Toulouse.

As for the UK, I've always had a weakness for great name combinations. Sue, for instance, who married a Mr Flay and Annette, a Mr Curtain (think about it!). I know someone who went to a school with a girl called Justine Bardon. So far, so good. Her mother remarried, taking the husband's name: Case. She was known by all as Justine Case.

One morning, the headmistress announced to the whole

school at assembly that Justine had won a prize. She declared, "And first prize goes to Justine ... Bardon-Case". She was never forgiven for making the kids miss the opportunity they'd all been waiting for...

Finally, there used to be a well-known printing firm in Belfast NI called 'Reid and Wright' and in Sligo a firm of solicitors called 'Argue and Phibbs.' Not to be outdone, there was also a policeman in the Bedfordshire force of the 1980's called Robin Banks...

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

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 The One Show
 8:30pm EastEnders
 9:00pm Holby City
 10:00pm Silent Witness
 11:00pm BBC News at Ten
 11:30pm BBC London News
 11:45pm Canvey: The Promised Island
 12:25am An Inside Out Special

BBC TWO

3:35am This is BBC Two
 7:00am Flog it! Trade Secrets
 7:30am The Farmers' Country Showdown
 8:15am Antiques Road Trip
 9:00am Celebrity Antiques Road Trip
 10:00am Victoria Derbyshire
 12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live
 1:00pm The Daily Politics
 2:00pm Coast
 2:15pm Brazil with Michael Palin
 3:15pm Himalaya with Michael Palin
 4:15pm The Great British Winter
 5:15pm Planet Earth II
 6:15pm Flog It!
 7:00pm Eggheads
 7:30pm Great British Railway Journeys
 8:00pm Rick Stein's Road to Mexico
 9:00pm Inside the Factory
 10:00pm House of Saud: A Family at War
 11:00pm Inside No 9
 11:30pm Newsnight
 12:15am NFL
 1:05am Surgeons

BBC FOUR

8:00pm Beyond 100 Days
 8:30pm Great Continental Railway Journeys
 9:00pm Andrew Marr's The Making of Modern Britain
 10:00pm England's Forgotten Queen: The Life and Death of Lady Jane Grey
 11:00pm Fit to Rule: How Royal Illness Changed History
 12:00am Catching History's Criminals: The Forensics Story
 1:00am Top of the Pops: 1981
 1:40am Top of the Pops: 1981
 2:20am England's Forgotten Queen: The Life and Death of Lady Jane Grey
 3:20am Andrew Marr's The Making of Modern Britain
 4:20am This is BBC Four
BBC Four is the BBC channel for people who want more.

CHANNEL 4

7:10am Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free
 7:20am 3rd Rock from the Sun
 7:45am 3rd Rock from the Sun
 8:10am Everybody Loves Raymond
 8:35am Everybody Loves Raymond
 9:00am Everybody Loves Raymond
 9:35am Frasier
 10:05am 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 Darts
 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 Working Class White Men
 12:00am Naked Attraction
 1:05am How to Lose Weight Well

CHANNEL 5

8:35am Peppa Pig
 8:50am Floogals
 9:05am Digby Dragon
 9:20am Rusty Rivets
 9:35am Shimmer and Shine
 9:55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
 10:05am Mofy
 10:15am The Wright Stuff
 12:15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
 1:10pm 5 News Lunchtime
 1:15pm The Hotel Inspector
 2:15pm Home and Away
 2:45pm Neighbours
 3:15pm NCIS
 4:15pm Eyewitness
 6:00pm 5 News at 5
 6:30pm Neighbours
 7:00pm Home and Away
 7:30pm 5 News Tonight
 8:00pm Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh
 9:00pm Greatest Diets: Fact or Fiction?
 10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother
 11:35pm One Night with My Ex
 12:35am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side

4

7:00am Hollyoaks
 7:30am Hollyoaks
 8:00am Coach Trip
 8:30am Streetmate
 9:00am Charmed
 10:00am Melissa and Joey
 10:30am Melissa and Joey
 11:00am Baby Daddy
 11:30am Baby Daddy
 12:00pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine
 12:30pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine
 1:00pm The Goldbergs
 1:30pm The Goldbergs
 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 Coach Trip
 9:00pm The Big Bang Theory
 9:30pm The Big Bang Theory
 10:00pm Tattoo Fixers
 11:00pm 8 Out of 10 Cats
 11:55pm The Big Bang Theory
 12:25am The Big Bang Theory

sky sports main event

11:00pm Cricket
New Zealand take on Pakistan at the Saxton Oval in Nelson in the second ODI in their series. This is the second ODI in a series of five between the sides.
 7:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
 7:30am Good Morning Sports Fans
 8:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
 9:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
 9:30am Cricket
 4:45pm Best of Sky Cricket
 5:00pm SKY Sports News
 6:00pm SKY Sports News
 7:00pm SKY Sports News
 8:00pm Info not available
 8:30pm Live Carabao Cup
 11:00pm The Debate - Live
 12:00am SKY Sports News
 1:00am SKY Sports News
 2:00am Live WWE Late Night Smackdown
 4:00am SKY Sports News
 5:00am SKY Sports News

itv

7:00am 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 Judge Rinder
 4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal
 5:00pm Tipping Point
 6:00pm The Chase
 7:00pm ITV News London
 7:30pm ITV News
 8:00pm Emmerdale
 8:30pm Save Money: Good Food
 9:00pm The Martin Lewis Money Show Live
 10:00pm School for Stammerers
 11:30pm ITV News
 12:00am ITV News London
 12:15am Girlfriends
 1:15am Tonight at the London Palladium
 2:05am Jackpot247
 4:00am Loose Women
 4:45am ITV Nightscreen

itv2

7:55am Dress to Impress
 8:45am Emmerdale
 9:20am Coronation Street
 9:50am Coronation Street
 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 Coronation Street
 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!
 8:30pm You've Been Framed!
 9:00pm Two and a Half Men
 9:30pm Superstore
 10:00pm Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows
 11:05pm FYI Daily
 11:10pm Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows
 12:40am Family Guy

itv3

7:00am Classic Coronation Street
 7:25am Classic Coronation Street
 7:50am Heartbeat
 8:55am The Royal
 10:00am Judge Judy
 10:25am Judge Judy
 10:55am Judge Judy
 11:20am The Darling Buds of May
 12:30pm The Darling Buds of May
 1:35pm The Royal
 2:40pm Heartbeat
 3:40pm Classic Coronation Street
 4:15pm Classic Coronation Street
 5:20pm On the Buses
 5:55pm Rising Damp
 6:25pm George and Mildred
 6:55pm Heartbeat
 8:00pm Murder, She Wrote
 9:00pm Midsomer Murders
 11:00pm Foyle's War
 1:15am Inspector Morse
 3:10am ITV3 Nightscreen
 3:30am Teleshopping

itv4

7:00am The Chase
 7:50am Pawn Stars
 8:10am Pawn Stars
 8:35am Ironside
 9:30am Quincy, M.E.
 10:35am Minder
 11:40am The Sweeney
 12:50pm The Professionals
 1:50pm Ironside
 2:55pm Quincy, M.E.
 3:55pm Minder
 5:00pm The Sweeney
 6:05pm The Professionals
 7:05pm The Car Chasers
 8:05pm Pawn Stars
 8:30pm Pawn Stars
 9:00pm The Chase
 10:00pm Britain's Busiest Airport - Heathrow
 11:00pm Inside Man
 12:05am FYI Daily
 12:10am Inside Man
 1:40am Dawn of the Dead
 2:40am FYI Daily
 2:45am Dawn of the Dead
 3:40am Football Rivalries
 3:50am ITV4 Nightscreen
 4:00am Teleshopping

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

10:45am Conan the Barbarian
 1:00pm Spider-Man 2
 3:15pm Avengers
 Confidential: Black Widow and Punisher
 4:40pm Superman III
 6:45pm Conan the Barbarian
 9:00pm Spider-Man 2
 11:15pm Wanted

sky CINEMA COMEDY

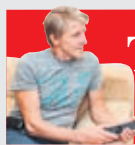
6:30am Special
 7:00am Me, Myself and Irene
 9:05am All Roads Lead to Rome
 10:45am Planes, Trains and Automobiles
 12:25pm The Love Guru
 2:05pm You Don't Mess with the Zohan
 4:05pm This is Spinal Tap
 5:35pm Mean Girls
 7:20pm Happy Gilmore
 9:00pm You Don't Mess with the Zohan
 11:00pm This is Spinal Tap
 12:30am Don Verdean

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

7:00am The Ottoman Lieutenant
A strong-willed American nurse travels to Turkey on the cusp of WWI, soon falling for a dashing Ottoman army lieutenant.
 9:00am Blind
Alec Baldwin stars as a blind novelist who begins a passionate affair with the neglected wife of a corrupt businessman.
 10:50am Tumbledown
 12:40pm Logan
 3:00pm The Book of Henry
 4:50pm Kong: Skull Island
 7:00pm Tumbledown
 9:00pm Logan
 11:20pm Kong: Skull Island
 1:20am Lowriders
 3:05am The Zookeeper's Wife
 5:15am Wolves at the Door

sky sports football

12:00pm One2eleven
 12:15pm One2eleven
 12:30pm SPFL Greatest Games
 12:45pm SPFL Greatest Games
 1:00pm Football's Greatest
 1:30pm Soccer A.M.
 2:00pm La Liga Icons
 2:45pm La Liga Icons
 3:00pm Football Years
 3:30pm Soccer A.M.
 4:00pm Football's Greatest
 4:30pm Football's Greatest Teams
 5:00pm Scottish Cup
 Greatest Games
 5:15pm Scottish Cup
 Greatest Games
 5:30pm La Liga Greatest Games
 5:45pm La Liga Greatest Games
 6:00pm Football Years
 6:30pm Football Countdowns
 7:00pm Football's Greatest
 7:30pm Soccer A.M.
 8:00pm La Liga Icons
 8:15pm La Liga Icons
 8:30pm Live Carabao Cup
 11:00pm The Debate - Live
 12:00am Revista de la Liga
 12:30am La Liga World



TV Couch Critic

The Street is currently a 'must see'

CORONATION STREET (ITVI, weekdays) fans are reportedly shocked by recent events focusing on Alya. Apparently the producers suffered a backlash from vocal viewers when they introduced a pre-watershed storyline with offensive language and racial abuse, but before Christmas I asked for something chunky from soap writers and *The Street* has delivered.

Recently, Alya was in the throes of closing a business deal with Aidan Connor, played brilliantly by Shayne Ward, and was joined by new clients Dale and Justin Parker at The Bistro.

You need to suspend belief that Bistros anywhere actually look like the one used in *The Street* - what is with those lights and the freaky Father Christmas on the bar - but having got over that, Dale and Justin racially abused Alya and threw some disgusting language at her.

This made uncomfortable viewing and I was genuinely shocked by what was said, but judging by the chatter on social media, the storyline got people talking. It will be interesting to see where the writers take this next.



Photo by ITV

DO NOT MISS: Coronation Street.

Fans of the show no doubt share my own bewilderment around why residents have deserted Roy's Milky for Costa Coffee. That isn't a con leche on the sand, but the high street brand. Where have Costa opened a branch in Weatherfield?

New Year's Eve television limped us into 2018 with a predictable offering of *Graham Norton* (BBC1), *Jools Holland* (BBC2) and the ITV News.

I worry about Graham, does he ever sleep? It seems to me that the only person who gets more air time than Mr N is Paul O'Grady and Paul has to share with miscellaneous pooches on ITVI, so it's not all about him.

The BBC had Ed Sheeran on both main channels, *Top of the Pops* on BBC1 and with *Jools* on BBC2, so clearly someone somewhere in Broadcasting House is a fan. I'm not and

was pleased to have a small party to head off to in my local Plaza.

New Year's Day was altogether a better TV offering. Two shows from BBC1 stood out for me. Firstly, *Grandpa's Great Escape* starring Sir Tom Courtenay was an early evening delight. If I'm honest, I am not usually a big fan of anything David Walliams but I really enjoyed this. Jennifer Saunders was brilliantly cast as up to

no good Miss Dandy; not sure if this one has made it to Catch Up, but if you missed it, try and search it out.

Mrs Brown's Boys was a welcome burst of humour later on New Year's Day. I loved Agnes being part of the neighbourhood watch scheme. Fans of the show will be pleased a new series of *All Round to Mrs Brown's* is scheduled for later in 2018 - I don't see the attraction myself but, for me the original format of the show shouldn't have been messed around with.

I am also really enjoying the latest BBC1 drama *McMafia* (next episode Jan 7 at 10.00pm). A little like Ed Sheeran, the star of this crime, honour and family masterpiece is everywhere but unlike Ed, James Norton is brilliant. This is an eight part burst of thrilling action which sees James playing an ethical banker (don't Google that, will you) forced to enter a world he is trying to leave behind.

If you liked James in *Granchester* and what wasn't to like, you will enjoy this one too.

Happy New Year everyone.
Critique - AWL, Casares, Costa del Sol



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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 The One Show
9:00pm The Truth About Looking Good
10:00pm Miriam's Big American Adventure
11:00pm BBC News at Ten
11:30pm BBC London News
11:45pm A Question of Sport

BBC TWO

8:15am Antiques Road Trip
9:00am Fern Britton Meets...
10:00am Victoria Derbyshire
12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live
12:30pm The Daily Politics
2:00pm Coast
2:15pm Brazil with Michael Palin
3:15pm Himalaya with Michael Palin
4:15pm The Great British Winter
5:15pm Great Barrier Reef with David Attenborough
6:15pm Flog It!
7:00pm Eggheads
7:30pm Great British Railway Journeys
8:00pm Rick Stein's Road to Mexico
9:00pm Tom Kerridge's Lose Weight for Good
9:30pm Trust Me, I'm a Doctor
10:00pm Fighting for Air
11:00pm Mock the Week
11:30pm Newsnight
12:15am Inside the Factory

BBC FOUR

4:20am This is BBC Four
8:00pm Beyond 100 Days
8:30pm Great Continental Railway Journeys
9:00pm Handmade: By Royal Appointment
9:30pm A Stitch in Time
10:00pm England's Forgotten Queen: The Life and Death of Lady Jane Grey
11:00pm Fit to Rule: How Royal Illness Changed History
12:00am The Wonderful World of Blood with Michael Mosley
1:00am Top of the Pops: 1981
1:40am Top of the Pops: 1981
2:20am England's Forgotten Queen: The Life and Death of Lady Jane Grey
3:20am Workers or Shirkers? Ian Hislop's Victorian Benefits
4:20am This is BBC Four

CHANNEL 4

8:10am Everybody Loves Raymond
8:35am Everybody Loves Raymond
9:05am Everybody Loves Raymond
9:35am Frasier
10:05am 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 Darts
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 Kiri
11:00pm 999: What's Your Emergency?
12:05am 24 Hours in A and E
1:05am Pokerstars
1:10am Championship Cash Challenge
2:10am The Social Network

CHANNEL 5

9:05am Digby Dragon
9:20am Rusty Rivets
9:35am Shimmer and Shine
9:55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
10:05am Mofy
10:15am The Wright Stuff
12:15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
1:10pm 5 News Lunchtime
1:15pm The Hotel Inspector
2:15pm Home and Away
2:45pm Neighbours
3:15pm NCIS
4:15pm The Wrong Babysitter
6:00pm 5 News at 5
6:30pm Neighbours
7:00pm Home and Away
7:30pm 5 News Tonight
8:00pm Starting Up, Starting Over
9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother
11:05pm Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side

4

8:00am Coach Trip
8:30am Streetmate
9:00am Charmed
10:00am Melissa and Joey
10:30am Melissa and Joey
11:00am Baby Daddy
11:30am Baby Daddy
12:00pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine
12:30pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine
1:00pm The Goldbergs
1:30pm The Goldbergs
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 Coach Trip
9:00pm The Goldbergs
9:30pm The Goldbergs
10:00pm Don't Tell the Bride
11:00pm Body Fixers

sky sports main event

6:00am SKY Sports News
7:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
7:30am Good Morning Sports Fans
8:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
8:30am Good Morning Sports Fans
10:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
11:00am Premier League Daily
12:00pm Info not available
12:30pm Sky Sports Daily
1:00pm SKY Sports News
2:00pm SKY Sports News
3:00pm SKY Sports News
4:00pm To be Announced
4:30pm SKY Sports News
5:00pm SKY Sports News
6:00pm SKY Sports News
7:00pm SKY Sports News
8:00pm Info not available
8:30pm Live Carabao Cup
11:00pm The Debate - Live
12:00am SKY Sports News
2:00am 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 Judge Rinder
4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal
5:00pm Tipping Point
6:00pm The Chase
7:00pm ITV News London
7:25pm Party Political Broadcast by the Conservative Party
7:30pm ITV Evening News
8:00pm Emmerdale
8:30pm Coronation Street
9:00pm Britain's Brightest Family
9:30pm Coronation Street
10:00pm Girlfriends
11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
11:30pm ITV News London
11:40pm Britain's Busiest Airport - Heathrow
12:40am Holiday Horrors: Caught on Camera
1:35am Jackpot247
4:00am Tenable

itv2

7:55am Dress to Impress
8:45am Emmerdale
9:20am The Cube
10:25am The Ellen DeGeneres Show
11:10am Who's Doing the Dishes?
12:10pm Dress to Impress
1:10pm Emmerdale
1:40pm The Big Soap Quiz: Coronation Street v Emmerdale
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!
8:30pm You've Been Framed!
9:00pm Two and a Half Men
9:30pm Superstore
10:00pm 22 Jump Street
11:05pm FYI Daily
11:10pm 22 Jump Street
12:15am Family Guy
12:45am Family Guy
1:15am American Dad!

itv3

7:00am Classic Coronation Street
7:25am Classic Coronation Street
7:50am Heartbeat
8:55am The Royal
10:00am Judge Judy
10:25am Judge Judy
10:55am Judge Judy
11:15am The Darling Buds of May
12:30pm The Darling Buds of May
1:35pm The Royal
2:40pm Heartbeat
3:40pm Classic Coronation Street
4:15pm Classic Coronation Street
5:20pm On the Buses
5:55pm Rising Damp
6:25pm George and Mildred
7:00pm Heartbeat
8:00pm Murder, She Wrote
9:00pm Endeavour
11:00pm Foyle's War
1:15am Inspector Morse
3:10am ITV Nightscreen
3:30am Teleshopping

itv4

4:00am Teleshopping
7:00am The Chase
7:50am Pawn Stars
8:10am Pawn Stars
8:30am Ironside
9:35am Quincy, M.E.
10:35am Minder
11:40am The Sweeney
12:45pm The Professionals
1:50pm Ironside
2:50pm Quincy, M.E.
3:55pm Minder
5:00pm The Sweeney
6:00pm The Professionals
7:05pm The Car Chasers
8:00pm Pawn Stars
8:30pm Pawn Stars
8:55pm River Monsters
10:00pm The Enforcer
11:00pm FYI Daily
11:05pm The Enforcer
12:00am Hard Target
1:05am FYI Daily
1:10am Hard Target
1:55am The Americans
3:00am The Sweeney
3:50am ITV4 Nightscreen
4:00am Teleshopping

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

7:40am Robin Hood
10:05am Captain America: Civil War
12:35pm The Matrix
2:55pm 300
4:55pm Superman IV: The Quest for Peace
6:30pm Captain America: Civil War
9:00pm The Matrix
11:25pm Watchmen
12:15am 300

sky CINEMA COMEDY

5:50am Dragnet
7:45am Special
8:15am The Blues Brothers
10:35am Drillbit Taylor
12:20pm Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story
2:05pm Little Man
3:50pm Popstar: Never Stop
5:25pm Never Stopping
7:15pm All About Steve
9:00pm Little Man
10:45pm Popstar: Never Stop
12:20am Never Stopping
2:10am Zoolander 2
The Sweetest Thing

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

5:15am Wolves at the Door
6:30am The Greatest Showman: Special
7:00am Tumbledown
8:50am Kong: Skull Island
10:55am Logan
1:15pm The Book of Henry
3:05pm Blind
Alec Baldwin stars as a blind novelist who begins a passionate affair with the neglected wife of a corrupt businessman.
5:00pm Tumbledown
6:50pm Kong: Skull Island
9:00pm Logan
11:20pm Raw
1:05am Rules Don't Apply
3:20am Lowriders
5:05am Wolves at the Door

sky sports football

9:00am Carabao Cup Highlights
9:30am Football's Greatest Teams
10:00am Revista de la Liga
10:30am La Liga World
11:00am Carabao Cup
1:30pm Revista de la Liga
2:00pm La Liga World
2:30pm La Liga Icons
2:45pm La Liga Icons
3:00pm Revista de la Liga
3:30pm La Liga World
4:00pm Carabao Cup Highlights
4:30pm Football's Greatest Teams
5:00pm Scottish Cup
5:30pm Greatest Games
5:30pm La Liga Greatest Games
6:00pm Football Years
6:30pm Carabao Cup Highlights
7:00pm Revista de la Liga
7:30pm La Liga World
8:00pm Carabao Cup Highlights
8:30pm Live Carabao Cup
11:00pm The Debate - Live
12:00am Revista de la Liga
12:30am La Liga World

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Big thanks to Good Samaritans

SIR,
I would like to say a big THANK YOU to a very kindly couple who came to our help at Velez-Malaga Supermarket on Saturday December 23.

My wife and I were on our way to Mijas Costa for Christmas when we decided to stop at this supermarket for some shopping. My wife managed to turn over her mobile scooter and was badly injured.

This very nice couple came to our rescue and were a big help, and with their help and the help of the security forces there we managed to get her to hospital.

Unfortunately with all that was going on we did not get the names of this couple, so I am hoping that they read your wonderful paper as we very much appreciated their help.

*Mr and Mrs Frost,
location undisclosed*

Gender issue

LEAPY LEE'S latest comment brings me to write to a newspaper for the first time in my life.

He says of Joshua Sutcliffe that he is

Hunters not a wildlife threat

YOUR recent feature clearly heads with 'The two sides of the Spanish hunting story.'

I have hunted in many countries in the course of my career as a field exploration geologist, often being required to feed many workers, necessitating the taking of several large antelope a week while in Central and East Africa.

Modern day ethical hunting is a field sport meriting praise. Those participating become truly conversant with ecology and all of nature. They know that in order to have game to hunt, the most important aspect is that natural habitat must be preserved and all wildlife respected. That way there is sustainable use of land and habitat so that there will



| SUSTAINABLE AND ETHICAL?: Hunting is a controversial subject.

be game to hunt in future years.

Greens and animal rightists are vociferous against hunting, yet they contribute little in terms of actual payment towards habitat preservation. The more habitat lost to agriculture and housing development the less wildlife there will be. Only when game becomes a contributor

to economics is its existence guaranteed. In Africa, indeed in most countries nowadays where there are wildlife reservations, most game reserves receive more funding from highly controlled 'unpopular' hunting, often as controlled culling, than from other visitors and tourists' fees.

Hector Kleinot, Estepona

an unfortunate and caring teacher who faces suspension because he said "well done girls" to a group which included a transgender boy. In fact, he persistently and deliberately misgendered the child and the parents only became involved as a result of his persecution.

Leapy then goes on to say: "Chromosomes identify a person's gender at birth OK? Problem solved?"

Well, problem not solved for the millions of transgendered people in the world for whom life is made so miserable that 42 per cent of them commit suicide!

Transgender people have always existed. This is not a new thing. Excellent treatments are now available, but transitioning is still a long, hard road.

All the rest of us need to do is be kind and understanding and accept diversity. Problem solved!

Angela, Mijas Costa, Malaga

Dear Angela,

I HAVE nothing whatsoever against transgender or any other sexual preference of our fellow human beings. You have totally missed the point of my article. I was simply pointing out the absurdity and confusion which resulted in this unfortunate teacher in danger of losing his job for addressing a group of girls as 'girls.'

What was he supposed to say? "Well done girls and er.....?" That attitude to my mind reeks of discrimination. Those who are indecisive should be given every sympathy and encouragement to follow whatever course their hearts and minds tell them, but for sheer convenience and uncomplicated order those born with male genitalia should to my mind be referred to as boys and those with the female equivalent girls. Hope this clears up any misunderstanding and thanking you for your interest. I leave you with the kindest of regards.

Lee (Leapy) Graham

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.

Toll road charges go up in Andalucia

I avoid them now and will definitely avoid in the future. Counter productive. If they lowered the toll then more people would use them.
Stella Scott

Can't ever recall paying a toll and have no intention of ever doing so. I will stop driving this November on my 80th, so can't see that that is going to be difficult.
Ted Milsom

What idiots are responsible for making these stupid decisions?
Andy Funnell

Boy, aged three, savaged in dog attack

So sorry for the boy, bless him but it is the parents that are to blame when it comes to being in a situation with dogs and even more so with other people's. It is NOT the dogs that are at fault and society keeps discriminating between what is a good breed and bad breed dog! There is no such thing, just bad owners that take these animals on with zero knowledge on animals. People have so much to answer for.
Deb Morgan

What where the parents and dog owners think-

Comments from EWN online

ing??? My god! Three-year-old toddler playing with a friend's dogs??? You just don't allow it!! It's common sense! Hope the poor child is ok.
Julie Jones Peel

Road traffic deaths up in Spain

Too many pedestrians wander across the roads wherever they fancy, no zebra, no traffic lights. They also expect drivers to stop, and give them a dirty look if they don't. So many step on to zebra crossings without looking first, and assume cars will stop. People seem to go about in a trance these days and it makes driving quite worrisome.
Jenny Dodd

So so many drive too close, and seem to lack the ability of complete over all awareness, coupled with the lack of forward planning and use

of indicators.
David Starkey

Let me tell you why, Every day I'm out in my van I see, bus drivers, van drivers, HGV drivers, coach drivers, Kids on motos, even people sitting up my a**e doing 120 on the motorway, all on their mobile phones and the police do nothing about it. Start banning these people instead of giving them stupid fines.
Matt Coy

Legendary Costa del Sol entertainer dies

Shocked to hear this... was honoured to have him perform one of his last shows before he retired. He was a pleasure to work with.. a true genuine gentleman. RIP BUNNY X
Andrea Galacher

So sad, was only talking to him the other week and wished him a Happy Christmas!! Many a good night I had in his bar over the years!! May he Rest In Peace x
Berni Hickey

What a shame. He was a Genuine Legend. R. I. P.
Tomas Kirken

What a waste

THERE is supposed to be a national water shortage, especially in Murcia and Almeria provinces. This morning, in Mojaca, I saw guys from Ferrovial (paid by our rates) watering the cycle track and the cactuses on the beach!!!!

Roger Page, Mojaca

Sunny smiles

HAVING spent part of New Year's Day in glorious sunshine on the beach I can only say that while climate change is of course a terrible thing, sometimes I don't mind it at all!

*Margaret Freeman,
Alhaurin de la Torre*

Five courses or nothing!

Mike Senker

In my opinion

Views of a Grumpy Old Man



WELL that's that lot over for another year. Christmas and New Year's Eve done. I went to the UK for Christmas. Was it uneventful? What do you think? The BA flight out was absolutely fine. They put a big label on my wheelchair saying, 'return to aircraft door on arrival.' Did they? Of course not and it finished up going to the baggage reclaim. I had a bit of a moan but there's no point. It's nothing to do with BA - it's the ground staff and they do as they wish.

We then went to the 4-star quaint pub/hotel I had booked. Well, the only four stars I saw were through the hole in the roof! I walked in the room and knew instantly we had a problem. The girl that was checking us in didn't know anything about the rooms as I'd asked for a room with disabled access.

She was just the barmaid and was helping out as the manageress wasn't there. So in steps my daughter, who has become very protective of her 'rents in recent years, and demands to see the manageress. When the boss finally appears Dr S explains the room is totally unsuitable for a disabled person and, on top

of that, the room is really shabby. The boss, who was nice and polite, agreed and said, 'I suggest you find somewhere else to stay!'

So there we were - Christmas Eve and there's no room at the inn! Sound like a familiar story? There was nothing else to do but go last-minute shopping for food, pressies and now a hotel room.

As luck would have it, the extraordinarily expensive, beautiful hotel just down the road we had originally discounted due to the horrendous price, had had a cancellation. So our budget trip turned into an expensive but luxurious outing and a good time was had by all.

One thing I did find strange was that on Christmas Eve the only food choice at this fabulous hotel was either a £75 per head five-course dinner or nothing! No room service - literally nothing - which I thought was a bit out of order. Anyway I'm not one to complain, as you know, plus it was the season of goodwill or maybe it was Mrs S dragging me out of reception that stopped me screaming the place down. How can anyone think a five-course dinner or nothing is acceptable?

So here we are in 2018. My New Year resolution suggested by Mrs S is to moan less. Yeah right 'o let's see how we go with that one!

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

Email: *mikesenker@gmail.com*.

LEGALLY SPEAKING

Time to check your lights again

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



ESSENTIAL: Working lights.

ALTHOUGH we are getting closer to the time when the evenings start to get lighter, the lights on our vehicles have possibly been in use more than ever, and so it's a good time to check that all of the lights on our vehicles are fully working.

Until quite recently, all vehicles had to carry a spare set of bulbs, this is no longer the case. The Spanish government recognised that changing a bulb is no longer a simple task, and in many cases can only be done by qualified mechanics, and so carrying a spare set was pointless, if the ability to change the bulbs had been removed.

However, it is still important to check all of the lights on a regular basis, even those not used too often, such as fog lights.

It is better to have an assistant to help you do this so that one of you can be in the car operating the switches, the other on the outside monitoring the results.

Remember, check every light, headlights (including full beam), indicators and hazard lights (front and back), rear lights and brake lights, reversing and fog lights, and the lights that illuminate the number plate at the rear.

If your vehicle is a modern one you might also have Daytime Running Lights installed. Although these lights are often more reliable than traditional lights, on account of them being LEDs, they should also be checked on a regular basis.

If you don't have anybody to help you can still carry out the checks by using reflective surfaces such as shop windows or other parked vehicles. Make sure you do this in an isolated location though as you don't want to confuse other motorists.

If any of the lights have failed make sure you get them replaced immediately as it is an offence to drive with defective lights.

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

Can their plan work?

Q. My partner and I reside in Mallorca. We are both residents. I started a Death Benefit Policy with her as beneficiary some years ago. My teenage daughters live in South Africa with their mother. They will move to Europe and study at universities when they finish school. They both have Netherlands passports as I have. My partner has a German passport. The insurance policy will pay out a substantial amount on my death. What is your opinion of the following plan?

My partner could purchase two apartments in the names of my daughters to avoid inheritance tax on them when she herself dies. She would establish an usufruct enabling her to rent out the flats until she dies. After that my daughters will be in full possession of them. Can we do this?

H L (Balears)

A. Yes, you can do it. It might be a good idea for you and your partner to register in Mallorca as a 'pareja de hecho,' which is a

David Searl
You and the Law
in Spain



common-law couple and gives you many husband and wife benefits, such as lower inheritance tax. You need a good lawyer to see you through this.

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



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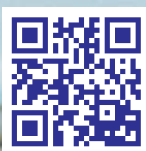
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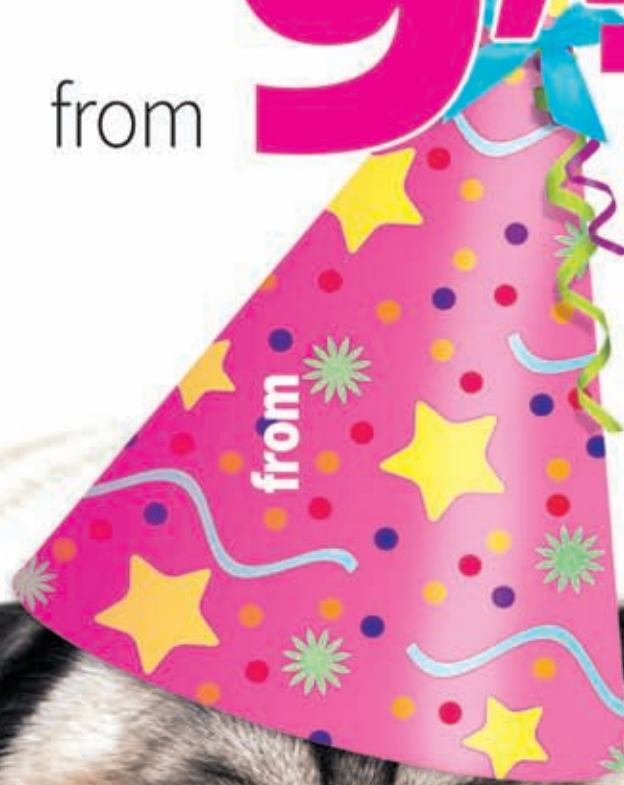


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MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



' YOU TWO DELIVER THE GIFTS - I'M OFF TO SEE HARRY AND MEGHAN! '

Trivia from around the world

*** There is a giant Coca Cola logo in Chile that can be seen from space. It was made using 70,000 glass bottles and constructed to celebrate the soft drink brand's 100th anniversary.



FIZZ FACT: The giant Coca Cola logo.

*** There are secret poems written on sidewalks in Boston, United States, that can only be seen when it rains or when liquid is poured on the lettering.

*** New Zealand was the first country in the world to allow women to vote in 1893, 25 years before the UK and 38 years before Spain.

*** In Tokyo, Japan, you can see the head of Godzilla on top of the Toho Building in the Shinjuku neighbourhood.

The head towers over the city at 40-feet tall, with glowing red eyes and claws, and roars every few minutes.

*** The world's longest fence is 5,614 km long and can be found in Australia. It was originally built to keep wild dogs away from fertile land.

DID YOU KNOW?

THE sunrise in parts of China can be as late as 10am because the country operates on a single clock despite spanning five geographical time zones.

Women's wit

Beauty is when you can appreciate yourself. When you love yourself, that's when you're most beautiful."

Zoe Kravitz, Actress



Famous quote

Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."

Thomas Edison, Inventor

World of English

Polyptoton - repetition of word in same sentence with multiple inflectional endings "The signora at every grimace and at every bow smiled a little smile and bowed a little bow..."

YOUR STARS

FOR NEXT 7 DAYS

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)

Eager Mars meets affluent Jupiter and enriches your financial forecast. It might show a foretaste of money to come, or on-stream benefits. If you intend to make alterations to your personal and home interests, you'll undoubtedly cope with both offbeat and upbeat activities.

PISCES (February 20 - March 20)

One thing is certain, when you come through this week's restless planetary antics, you won't be totally the same Piscean who walked in. Whether you're figuring out numbers, analysing your dreams, or getting into a playfully social mood, there'll be much to enjoy and put to the test.

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

Education, media, creative and social connections are given star merit. The solar eclipse in your own sign bursts with vitality and success, more so for an array of bold moves, replacements and makeovers covering your personal affairs.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

Stand by for a week of whoosh and whirl. More importantly, try to avoid getting tongue-tied or dogmatic on Tuesday and Friday. Promising potentials appear, especially if you spruce up your competitive streak.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Throughout this fortunate week, whatever else you decide, refuse to discard your hopes and wishes. As a Gemini, you like to have two strings to your bow of life, which gives you an alternative option, especially if the going gets tough.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

A vivid star pattern portends a frantic personal and social diary. Ensure that any tight planning is carefully handled, especially if you hope to fit in everything you would like to say. Don't allow Monday or Wednesday's tensions to spoil opportunities for settling something important.

LEO (July 24 - August 23)

Pave the way for any ambitious schemes you may have, rather than actually starting them. With

your ruler the Sun eclipsing your kindred fire sign, determined Aries, you are now more likely to get the support and affection you need from the powers that be or someone who thinks the world of you.

VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)

Even if the opposite to what you want happens, it could prove useful. One clue to this week's planetary crossword puzzle is 'What word could also mean success?' Check it out, and make it work for you. Never forget that important ideas and developments can stem from seemingly trivial discussions.

LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)

The solar eclipse in your opposite sign of Aries intensifies your willpower. Before you say 'go', find out where you stand. It might pay you to leave things be for a little longer to see if anything begins to change. Some of the consequences of your actions will become obvious as your charming ruler Venus begins to have an effect.

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)

The planets mobilise your streak of Scorpio daring, but don't stretch your limits. Your most effective weapon against personal and work-related pitfalls is your ability to be objective. Your desire to make specific situations and conversations work needs to be combined with your faith that they will work. Even if a different approach is required, try it and see.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)

The main gist of the solar eclipse in fiery Aries and the link between plucky Mars and your ruler friendly Jupiter will stir surprises. Whether you create the right atmosphere all round depends on how you interpret other people's views. Stick to crisp, simple but sensitively tuned answers, then no one can accuse you of not trying.

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)

Hard-working, enterprising and self-sacrificing are just some of the words that describe your zodiac sign. It will be these qualities that count. Friday will boost your powers of persuasion, but you won't have too much to complain about if you follow this lucky trend into next week's encouraging tide.

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY	IRISH LOTTO	EURO MILLIONS		LA PRIMITIVA		EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA
Saturday December 30	Saturday December 30	Tuesday December 26	Friday December 29	Thursday December 28	Saturday December 30	Sunday December 31
(33) (37)	(2) (8)	(4) (17)	(4) (8)	(3) (5)	(8) (9)	(10) (12)
(42) (47)	(14) (18)	(30) (43)	(22) (23)	(21) (26)	(11) (21)	(26) (31)
(55) (58)	(39) (44)	(44)	(48)	(28) (34)	(42) (44)	(52)
BONUS BALL	BONUS BALL	LUCKY STARS	LUCKY STARS	REINTEGRO	REINTEGRO	REINTEGRO
(34)	(16)	(2) (10)	(1) (12)	(42) (2)	(22) (8)	(2)
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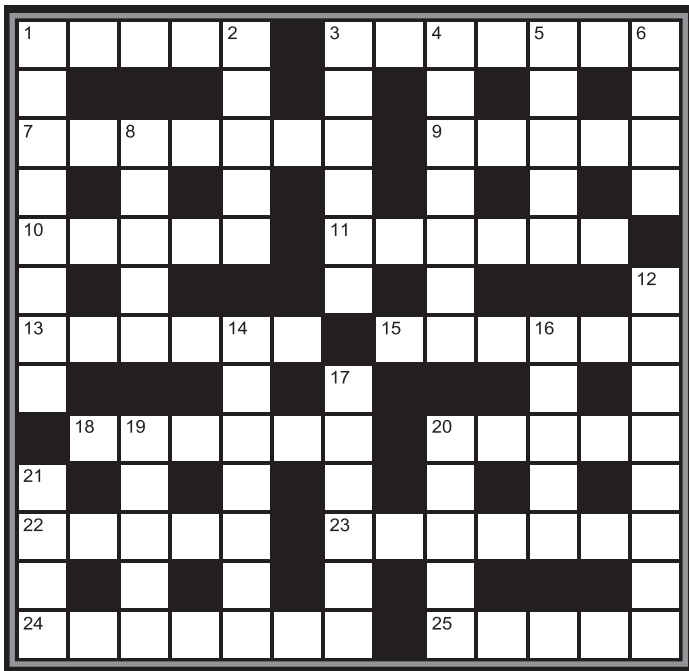
Cryptic

Across

- 1 It's dead easy when commander-in-chief gets to hospital (5)
- 3 Use Band-Aids without a split (7)
- 7 Retsina cocktail is not so nice (7)
- 9 Flies the deer back north in (5)
- 10 Order some sudden action (5)
- 11 He's after lamplblack to feel better (6)
- 13 Notice cut in playground equipment (6)
- 15 English flower festival (6)
- 18 Prisoners of a cleric and leading light (6)
- 20 Once a sort of river craft (5)
- 22 As a refugee you are forbidden to enter the city area (5)
- 23 Liberal in vicious scrap (7)
- 24 The varied uses of a classical hero (7)
- 25 Inspect German car factory's centre (5)

Down

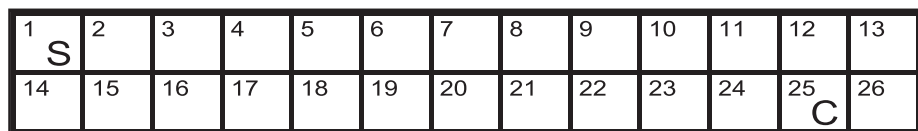
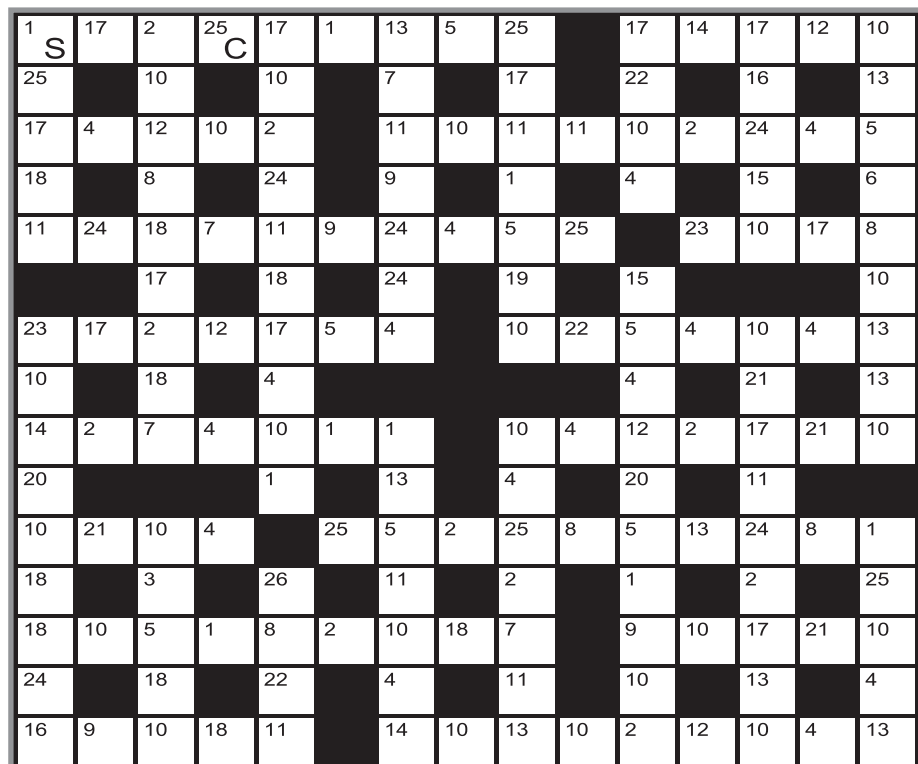
- 1 Reduce cones, end problem (8)
- 2 Lift one in many (5)
- 3 Engineers in some French ship providing force (6)
- 4 Leo, perhaps, or a foreign lady (7)
- 5 Part of Ottawa's harbour is flooded (5)
- 6 Be in a hurry to use a punctuation mark (4)



- 8 A quiet street to cut off (5)
- 12 Minimal French cheese celebration? (8)
- 14 Musical direction by an Italian poet (7)
- 16 Tango danced in Friendly Islands (5)
- 17 Against poetry on the radio (6)
- 19 Mabel arranged a leisurely walk (5)
- 20 A girl from the Channel Islands taking everything back (5)
- 21 Only fair (4)

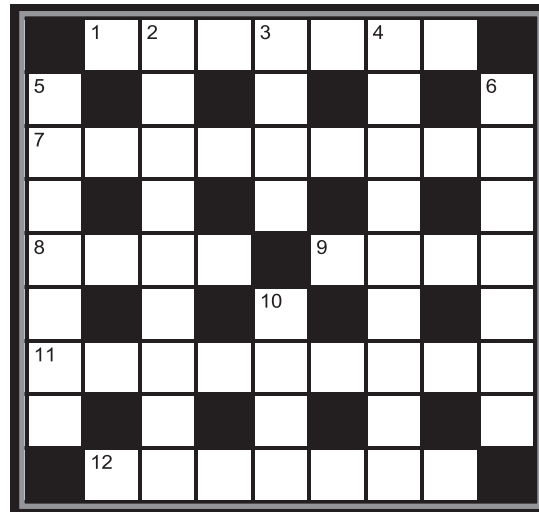
Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 1 represents S and 25 represents C, so fill in S every time the figure 1 appears and C every time the figure 25 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the control grid.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION FACING PAGE

Quick



Across

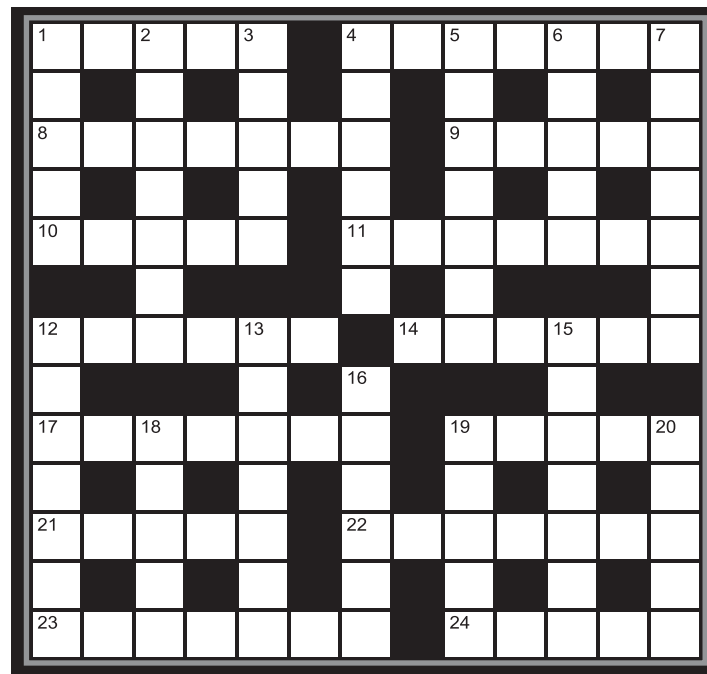
- 1 Brings in from abroad (7)
- 7 Having full belief (9)
- 8 Relating to the mouth (4)
- 9 Can do (4)
- 11 Light silvery-grey metal (9)
- 12 Communication (7)

Down

- 2 Being on a very small scale (9)
- 3 Leave out (4)
- 4 Quivering (9)
- 5 Entertainer who performs spectacular gymnastic feats (7)
- 6 Small, narrow rivers (7)
- 10 Triumphs (4)

English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Raw (uncooked) (5)
- 4 Spoon (7)
- 8 Biscuit (7)
- 9 Nidos (5)
- 10 Gust of wind (5)
- 11 Dummy (for baby) (7)
- 12 Día libre (3,3)
- 14 Ruidos (6)
- 17 Path (7)
- 19 To put (5)
- 21 Hedgehog (5)

- 22 Oraciones (7)
- 23 Uña de pie (7)
- 24 Temprano (5)

Down

- 1 Puro (5)
- 2 Desafortunado (7)
- 3 Sheep (5)
- 4 Puddle (6)
- 5 Kangaroo (7)
- 6 Nave (de iglesia) (5)
- 7 Respuestas (a

- preguntas, en examen, test) (7)
- 12 Postre (7)
- 13 Mop (for floor) (7)
- 15 To smile (7)
- 16 Evangelio (6)
- 18 Playing card (5)
- 19 Paz (tranquilidad, no guerra) (5)
- 20 Oxidado (5)

CROSSWORD PAGE

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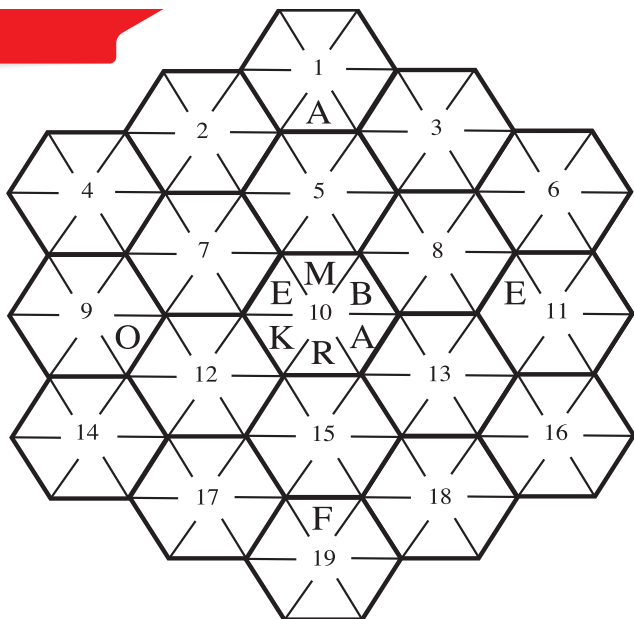
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Hexagram

- BARBER
- BEATEN
- BEHOLD
- BONNET
- DREAMT
- EMBARK (10)
- EYELET
- FOURTH
- INFECT
- LAMBDA
- PONCHO
- SELVES
- SHELVE
- SWEATY
- TELLER
- VERBAL
- VOTARY
- WORKUP
- WORSEN



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

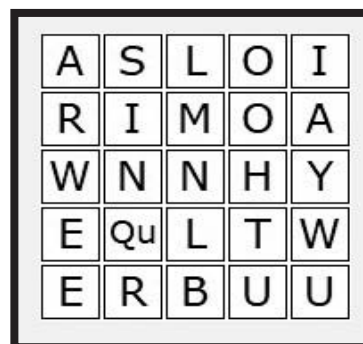
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

- 1 Knives 2 Aching 3 Awaken 4 Shanty
- 5 Nation 6 Facial 7 Govern 8 Twinge
- 9 Result 10 Viewer 11 Paunch
- 12 Cheery 13 Guffaw 14 Bushel
- 15 Earthy 16 Facade 17 Choice
- 18 Curfew 19 Rotund

Boggled

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

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



TARGET:

- Average: 18
- Good: 26
- Very good: 37
- Excellent: 47

SCORING:

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

sorer sorel songs droll drone dorks doric donee rodeo redone reeds order oreos lords kerned kernel kerns kefir kroner kroner erode eerie nerds needs jerks jello cered cello ironed irons ferns freer fired firer groks green greens grief snore snored snorer sneer snell scene

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



TARGET:

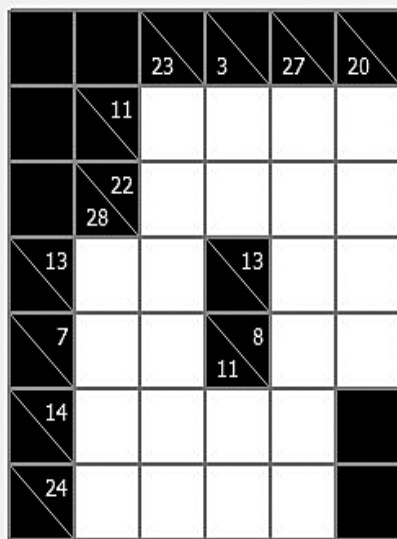
- Average: 17
- Good: 23
- Very good: 34
- Excellent: 44

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

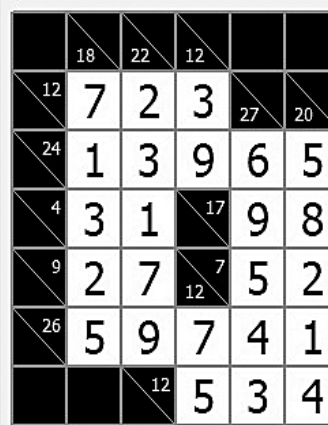
file filo fire fled flew floe flow foil fold folk ford fore fork fowl frow kerf lief life rife wife wolf field filed filer fiord fired flier fried kefir lifer rifle florid flowed flower foiled folder forked fowled fowler refold rifled wolfed lifework **FIELDWORK**

Kakuro

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



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

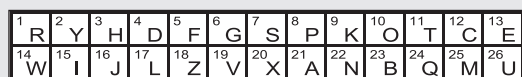


LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

QUICK

- Across:** 1 Hopes, 4 Son, 6 Let, 7 Piano, 8 Apt, 9 Year, 11 Yell, 14 Ant, 15 Robin, 17 Era, 18 Ear, 19 Bonus.
- Down:** 1 Happy, 2 Pea, 3 Slow, 4 Stare, 5 Net, 10 After, 12 Lends, 13 Grab, 14 Ate, 16 Ban.

CODE BREAKER



CRYPTIC

- Across:** 1 Ladders, 5 Slice, 8 Abode, 9 Actress, 10 Acetate, 11 Scale, 12 Easier, 14 Septic, 18 Loads, 20 Repaper, 22 Contact, 23 Evade, 24 Merit, 25 Restore.
- Down:** 1 Leakage, 2 Drone, 3 Elevate, 4 Scales, 5 Sates, 6 Inexact, 7 Ensue, 13 Spanner, 15 Express, 16 Cortège, 17 Crater, 18 Locum, 19 Scant, 21 Plato.

ENGLISH-SPANISH

- Across:** 1 Saleros, 5 Menos, 8 Torre, 9 Anciano, 10 Iron, 11 Cojinete, 13 Grillo, 15 Waiter, 18 Cucumber, 19 Plug, 22 Alumnos, 23 Nogal, 24 Ovens, 25 Suegras.
- Down:** 1 Sitting, 2 Largo, 3 Reed, 4 Season, 5 Mochilas, 6 Nearest, 7 Smoke, 12 Alemanes, 14 Include, 16 Regalos, 17 Feasts, 18 Clavo, 20 Lugar, 21 Knee.

App of the week



Rolly Vortex

In this game, players must roll quickly, be alert and manage their way through obstacles to score the highest result possible.

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BOOKS



Beware of the quiet ones

TWELVE YEARS after they took part in their first bank heist, Carl Fisher celebrates his 40th birthday, but just hours later his body is discovered in his hot tub with a single gunshot to his head in what is believed to be an execution style killing.

Talented detective, Grace Dalton, is called to find the killer but struggles to mentor her new partner, rogue DS Ryan Nash.

With the suspect list ever-growing and prime suspect murdered, Dalton soon finds herself plunged into a maze which leads her to the highly controversial and dangerous Ringfield Estate.

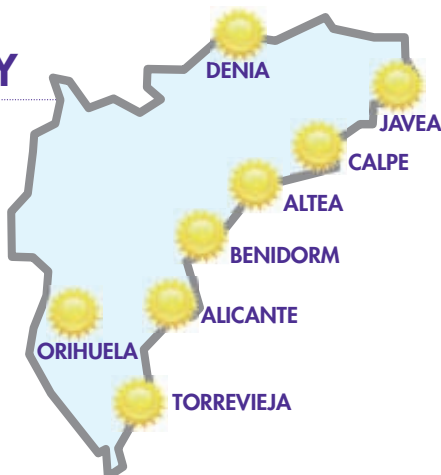
Ruled by a vicious gang who call themselves 'The Ringfield Crew,' Dalton must face media scrutiny and public criticism in order to pursue her line of enquiry.

With her career in jeopardy, and leads turning into dead ends, she juggles increasing pressure from her superiors with her own personal demons, but will her intuition guide her to the killer?

books@euroweeklynews.com

Costa Blanca

TODAY



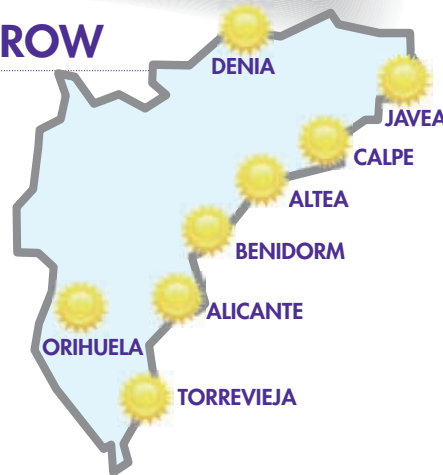
Malaga TODAY: MAX 22, MIN 11-S Fri - 18 7 - Sh Sat - 13 5 - C Sun - 12 5 - C Mon - 14 5 - S Tues - 15 9 - S Wed - 15 8 - C	Almeria TODAY: MAX 20, MIN 10-S Fri - 20 8 - S Sat - 14 6 - C Sun - 12 6 - C Mon - 14 7 - S Tues - 14 9 - S Wed - 15 8 - S	Bilbao TODAY: MAX 19, MIN 12-CL Fri - 13 6 - Sh Sat - 9 5 - Sh Sun - 8 4 - Sh Mon - 8 2 - Sh Tues - 10 4 - Sh Wed - 11 5 - C	Madrid TODAY: MAX 14, MIN 7-C Fri - 10 1 - Sh Sat - 8 0 - Sh Sun - 8 -1 - C Mon - 8 -3 - C Tues - 8 0 - C Wed - 9 1 - C
Alicante TODAY: MAX 23, MIN 11-S Fri - 20 9 - S Sat - 15 6 - Sh Sun - 14 6 - Sh Mon - 15 7 - C Tues - 15 8 - Cl Wed - 16 8 - Cl	Benidorm TODAY: MAX 24, MIN 8-S Fri - 20 9 - S Sat - 15 6 - Sh Sun - 14 6 - Sh Mon - 14 8 - C Tues - 15 7 - Cl Wed - 16 8 - C	Mallorca TODAY: MAX 20, MIN 8-S Fri - 17 9 - S Sat - 15 7 - Sh Sun - 14 6 - Sh Mon - 14 7 - Sh Tues - 14 7 - Sh Wed - 14 8 - C	Barcelona TODAY: MAX 20, MIN 10-S Fri - 17 8 - S Sat - 13 5 - Sh Sun - 12 5 - Sh Mon - 13 4 - Sh Tues - 12 4 - C Wed - 13 4 - S

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

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

weather

TOMORROW



SATURDAY



BIRTHDAYS

- **Labrith, Music Producer, January 4, 29**
Hip-hop producer Labrith shot to fame after co-writing and producing Tinie Tempah's hit single Pass Out in 2010 and has gone on to have hits including Earthquake, Beneath Your Beautiful and Jealous.
- **Marilyn Manson, Rock Singer, January 5, 49**
Born Brian Hugh Warner, the shock rocker first made it big with his cover of Sweet Dreams are Made of These, and is



Nicolas Cage.

known for his disturbing, horror-inspired fashion sense.

- **Eddie Redmayne, Actor, January 6, 36**
The British actor won an Academy Award for his portrayal of Stephen Hawking in the 2014 film The Theory of Everything and has also starred in critically acclaimed films My Week with Marilyn, Les Misérables and Harry Potter spin-off Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them.
- **Nicolas Cage, Actor, January 7, 54**
Cage is known for starring in a number of

Hollywood movies and won the academy Award for Best actor in 1995 for his role in Leaving Las Vegas, going on to also star in Gone in 60 seconds, National Treasure and Kick-Ass.

- **Stephen Hawking, Physicist, January 8, 76**
Legendary physicist who became renowned for creating a cosmology that relied on the unification of the theory of reality and quantum mechanics. His book, A Brief History of Time stayed on the Sunday Times' list of best-sellers for a record 237 weeks.

Sierra Nevada SNOW REPORT



Snow is forecast to fall tomorrow (Friday) evening and throughout the weekend as temperatures plummet below zero. Monday will see lows down to -14 degrees, with snowfall and sub-zero temperatures expected to persist over the remainder of the week.

1066 - Harold II crowned King of England

Following the death of Edward the Confessor, Harold Godwinson, head of the most powerful noble family in England, is crowned King Harold II.

1768 - First modern circus staged
Englishman Philip Astley stages the first modern circus in London, including acts such as trick riders, acrobats, clowns and trained animals.

1789 - First US presidential election

America's first presidential election is held with voters casting ballots to choose state electors. Only white men who owned property were allowed to vote.

1838 - Morse demonstrates the telegraph

Samuel Morse's telegraph system is demonstrated for the first time at the Speedwell Iron Works in Morristown, New Jersey.

1933 - Golden Gate Bridge is born

Construction begins on the Golden Gate Bridge as workers begin excavating 3.25 million cubic feet of dirt for huge anchorages.

1972 - Fire breaks out on Queen Elizabeth

The ship, Seawise University, formerly known as the RMS Queen Elizabeth, sinks in Hong Kong Harbour despite a huge firefighting effort over two days.

1996 - GM announce electric car

At the 1996 Greater Los Angeles Auto Show, General Motors announces it will build an electric car, dubbed the EV1.

1999 - The Euro debuts

For the first time since Charlemagne's reign in the ninth century, Europe is united by a common currency when the euro debuts as a financial unit. Eleven EU nations launch the currency.

This week in history

Sudoku

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

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

Word Ladder

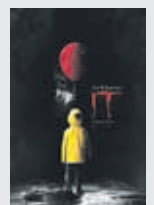
HAIR
FILM

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

- FILM
 - FILL
 - HILL
 - HALL
 - HAIL
 - HAIR
- Solution**

DVD

Stay away from the drains



A SMALL group of neighbourhood children are terrorised by a demonic clown, Pennywise.

Pennywise, who lives in the underground sewer system, is able to see the fears of the children and turns their ultimate nightmares into a reality.

In order to fight the clown the group band together to figure out just who Pennywise is, why he has invaded their small town and where he will strike next.

When one of the group's families is torn apart by the clown, they must fight back and battle their deepest fears.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

Advertising feature

Well Man and Well Woman health checks - Special New Year offer price

THE last thing that you want to do is to miss out on quality healthcare when you are ill in Spain. At Medcare, the team of doctors, nurses and clinicians are committed to providing a total healthcare service for the whole family in English and which is based on UK Department of Health guidelines, so you don't have to forgo a quality British-led service.

It is an oft used expression, but at Medcare we believe that prevention is better than any cure, and that regular health checks can detect the early signs of cancers, diabetes and heart disease. With this in mind, Medcare's service includes Well Man and Well Woman health checks.

Why have a Medcare Well Man / Well Woman Health Check?

If you are a man you have a one in 14 lifetime risk of developing prostate cancer, the most common cancer in men in the UK. Cancer is rare in men under 50, but if diagnosed early, treatment can be successful; therefore it is important to have routine checks. Being male means you are also more

susceptible to heart disease and high blood pressure.

If you are a woman, it is important to be regularly screened for early detection of cervical cancer, particularly if you are aged between 25 and 65. A Well Woman check includes having a smear test along with a breast examination, advice on lifestyle, contraception, HRT and weight management

Regardless of your gender, you may be one of the one million people from the UK who have diabetes and are unaware. Did you know that on average it is nine years before someone is diagnosed with diabetes?

With Medcare's Health Check you benefit from a full review of your medical history and a lifestyle questionnaire as well as extensive blood tests and checks. You will also benefit from a full medical examination with a clinician resulting in an action plan and practical advice for medication, lifestyle and nutrition.

In both men and women a simple blood test can detect liver and kidney disease, anaemia, infection, high cholesterol and dia-

betes to name a few. The latter two, especially when in combination with high blood pressure, are major risk factors for heart attacks and stroke. An ECG can tell us a lot about the heart, including potentially dangerous abnormal rhythms. It can even detect heart problems.

Medcare is the leading choice for medical, dental and cosmetic treatments on the Costa Blanca and can assist with all aspects of your health care in Spain, including hospital referrals to give you total peace of mind.

Usually Medcare's extensive Health Check for men or women costs €310. However, our New Year offer for January will be at the amazing low price of just €210! That's a whopping 33 per cent discount!

Book now to make an appointment for January on 966 860 258 or email doctors@medcarespain.com. You can visit the website at www.medcarespain.com.



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Advertising feature

The Royal Aesthetic Clinic could help you with cosmetic procedures

THE Royal Aesthetic Clinic in Albir (Alfaz del Pi) Alicante provides a wide range of plastic surgery procedures and cosmetic and aesthetic medicine.

It is also the first clinic to have an advanced Obesity Unit, a leading reference in obesity treatments with the most advanced techniques and medical protocols for losing weight.

With more than two decades of experience, the Royal Aesthetic Clinic operates with a fully equipped surgical facility and experienced staff members, providing a complete quality service to all their patients, taking care of them since the moment they come in to their clinic until they reach their goals.

Plastic surgery can change a patient's life, as it is not just

about creating a new appearance, but making them feel better about their bodies, from functional problems, accidental physical damage, obesity health, and of course, maintaining their youthful appearance, restoring it, or just improving it to feel better with themselves.

With this said, the Royal Aesthetic Clinic provides facial surgeries such as facelifts, rhinoplasty, eyelid surgery, otoplasty, etc and body surgeries such as liposuctions, tummy tucks, breast surgery, buttock surgery, etc.

They also provide effective treatments without surgery, such as skin fillers, medical peeling, varicose veins, buttock lift thread, dermabrasion, chin surgery, Dracula treatment (platelet rich plasma (PRP) therapy), or even one of the greatest

revolutions in aesthetic medicine; the facelift without surgery, of which the Royal Aesthetic Clinic have been pioneers in implementing the procedure in Spain.

Also, the Royal Aesthetic Clinic wants to provide a special offer in eyelid surgery from €1,600 as during 2017 they have performed more than 100 eyelid surgeries on their patients and for this they want to thank them all for their trust, and want 2018 to be even better.

With the upper eyelid surgery, they manage to eliminate part of the skin that hangs over the eye lashes, and with the lower eyelid surgery, they manage to eliminate the bags under the ruts of the pouches, rejuvenating the



THE TEAM: Provide a wide range of cosmetic and aesthetic medicine.

look, and allowing both men and women to have a clearer, rested and younger look.

This surgery is performed under local anesthesia with no need to remain in hospital. This allows the patient to return home and to a normal life the same day and in approximately just one-week stitches are removed.

The aftercare is very effective following the doctor's indica-

tions, this being one of the main reasons that the patients choose Royal Aesthetic clinic for this treatment.

So, if you feel you have a tired look or have an excess of skin in the upper or lower eyelid, the Royal Aesthetic Clinic staff member will be waiting for you in a totally FREE consultation, to help you enhance your look, mak-

ing you feel comfortable during all of the procedure until you reach your goals.

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<https://www.royalaesthetic.com/>



OILY FISH:
Good for the brain.

Brain food

IT has often been said oily fish is good for us.

But scientists at the University of Pennsylvania have found eating fish just once a week can have a dramatic effect on IQ and sleep quality of children.

In a study of more than 500 children aged nine to 11 in China, the study showed children who ate oily fish weekly scored an average of 4.8 IQ points higher than children who rarely ate the food. Children who 'sometimes' did still scored 3.3 points higher than those who 'never' did.

Professor Adrian Raine, the study's lead author, explained fish was also shown to have a positive impact on

sleep and behaviour, saying, "lack of sleep is associated with antisocial behaviour and poor cognition is associated with antisocial behaviour. We have found that omega-3 supplements reduce antisocial behaviour, so it's not too surprising that fish is behind this."

He added, "doing that could be a lot easier than nudging children about going to bed," concluding, "if the fish improves sleep, great. If it also improves cognitive performance - like we've seen here - even better. It's a double hit."

Scientists encourage parents to introduce children to eating oily fish from around 10 months old.

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Burn fat with a winter workout

FOR those of us not blessed with the metabolism of Kate Moss, the effort to lose the pounds accrued over Christmas can seem like a Herculean task.

But if you are embarking on a fitness regime this January, there may be a way to boost the effectiveness of your workout without breaking any more sweat.

According to one personal trainer, working out in the

cold really does help you burn more fat by taking advantage of your body's natural shivers.

Max Zeumer from the 13th Street New York Health and Racquet Club has told one publication his tips for burning off calories using the winter's naturally cooler temperatures without having to put any extra effort in.

He explained: "Your body will work really hard to stay warm and burn a ton of calories to do it, but that really only starts when you're shivering."

The trainer said the good news is the workout does not have to be too strenuous, ex-

plaining: "If you want to burn a couple of extra calories, just walk outside. It sounds funny, but it will add up."

There are added health benefits too, "indoors, you're not exposed to sunlight, which means you're not getting enough vitamin D. When you're not getting enough vitamin D, your simple carb cravings are increased," explains Zeumer.

He concludes, "outside, you get vitamin D, which you really need since you have a deficit in the winter. It will reduce those sweet cravings, plus improve your serotonin, which both makes you happier and will boost your immunity."

OUTDOOR EXERCISE:
Recommended in winter.





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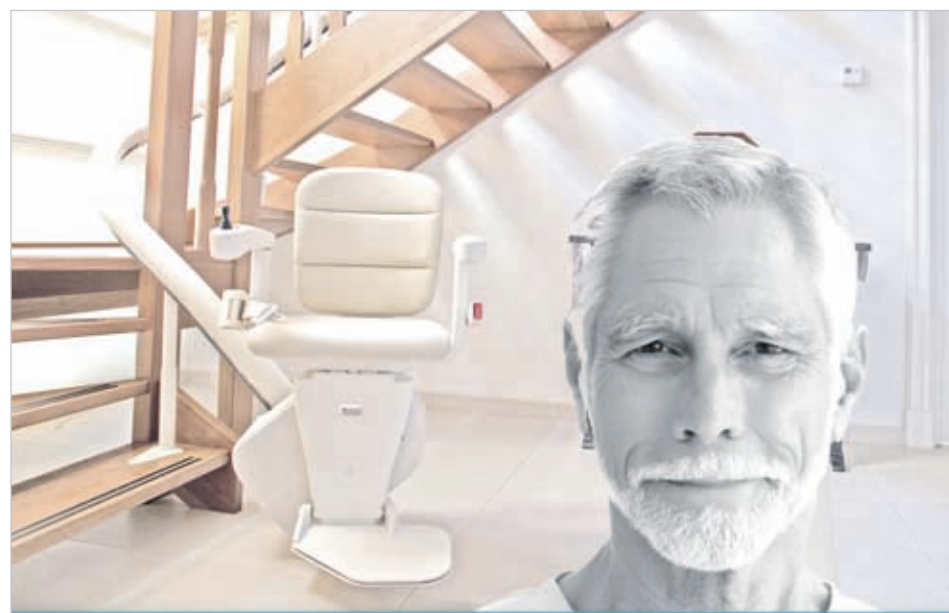
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IT might sound like a disease from a by-gone era, but cases of scarlet fever increased by 55 per cent in the UK last week.

In total, 544 people were struck down with the illness in just one week, bringing the year's figure to 17,350 cases, the highest it has been since 1967.

The infection - which mainly affects children under 10 - can cause a fever, rash and sore throat, with severe cases sometimes

Scarlet fever on the rise

leading to pneumonia. Although the illness is more commonplace in winter and spring months, experts are also blaming declining living standards for the rise in cases.

In the late 19th century and early 20th century the infection was widespread, main-

ly due to poor hygiene, and was deadly for large numbers of children.

The illness is on the rise again though, with cases rising dramatically since 2014, although experts are unable to explain why.

Since July this year 5,743 cases have

been reported, a sharp rise from the 4,292 in the same period in 2016.

Symptoms of the illness include a blotchy rash which is pink or red in colour and often located on the chest or abdomen, followed by a sore throat, fever and headache within a week.

Those infected should seek medical treatment which may include antibiotics and rest.



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Start the New Year right

WITH the New Year comes the inevitable slew of new health crazes. And 2018 is no different with several foods promising to improve your wellness for the year ahead.

So if you are on a health kick one Sydney-based dietician has given her tips for the foods to watch out for next year. Belinda Reynolds says medicinal mushrooms are set to feature heavily, explaining, "more and more are recognised for the multiple benefits they provide for supporting health," adding, "mushrooms such as reishii, shitaki, cordyceps, tramete and maitake have been used for thousands of years in traditional forms of medicine." She adds the fungi are good for your "gut, lungs and kidneys."

Belinda said the next craze will be DNA diets, "we're becoming more aware there is no one-size-fits-all approach to health, as we have variations in our genes, diets, environments and lifestyles



MUSHROOMS: Many have medicinal properties.

which can impact how we respond to certain things."

She adds, "next year, more and more practitioners will be looking towards genetic testing, which will help them to design a personalised health plan for their patients."

Finally, Reynolds explains diet has been linked to dementia and brain deterioration, saying, "these factors

suppress what is known as neuroplasticity," adding, "this is the process of brain cell renewal, and also compromises protection and survival of neurons in the brain - which means brain health and its functions are compromised." To counteract this she suggests upping your intake of resveratrol, found in red wine, as well as Vitamin D, Zinc and curcumin.




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Advertising feature

Symptoms of hearing loss

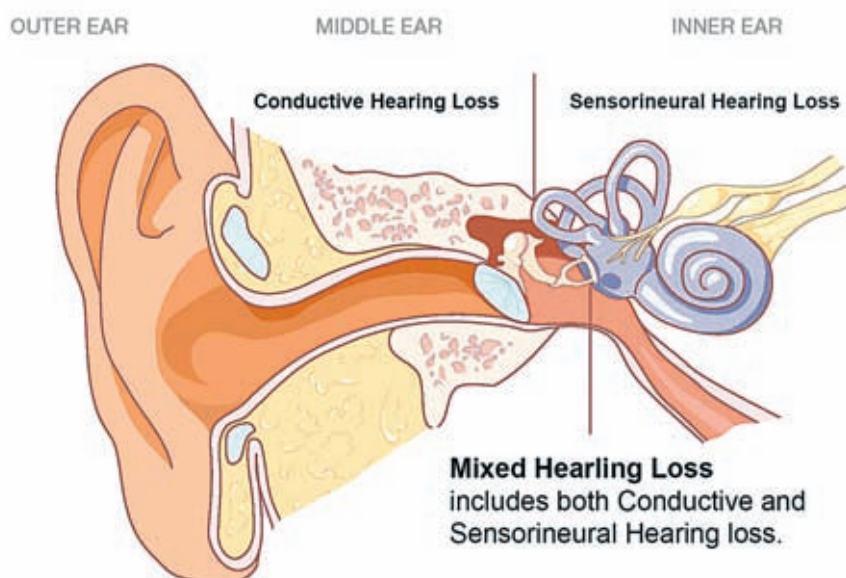
HEARING loss can manifest itself in different ways in different people to different degrees in any of the following ways:

1. Social situations - It's hard to follow the conversation when in a group, at a party or in a restaurant: background noise makes it hard to hear, and you may find yourself starting to avoid social situations. The worst situation is being surrounded by people yet feeling totally alone.

2. People seem to be mumbling - You miss some words, especially at the beginning of a sentence. Quite often you do not realise it is you they are talking to until the first few words have been spoken and then you spend the rest of the conversation trying to catch up.

3. Pretending to understand - You pretend you heard what has been said - shaking or nodding your head and saying 'yes' or 'no' and just hoping for the best.

4. Mis-hearing - You mis-hear what has been said or make a comment or introduce a topic that the group has just been discussing.



HEARING LOSS: Can affect different people in different ways.

5. Television - You turn the TV up louder than others feel comfortable with and this can cause tension between family members.

6. Soft sounds - You may find women's

voices more difficult to hear and also children, who may seem to be talking very quickly.

7. Telephone - You may find hearing or understanding on the phone difficult, espe-

cially different accents, and prefer other family members to deal with calls.

8. Tinnitus - You may experience continuous or intermittent noises, either in one or both ears.

9. Noise intolerance - You may find that you are less tolerant of surrounding noise levels or that some sounds have become really annoying to you.

10. People say you talk too loudly

11. In the car - You may find difficulty carrying on a conversation with someone whilst driving, especially if the radio is on or the window is open and even more so if the person you are talking to is in the back seat (or you are in the back seat trying to talk to the driver).

12. The world generally seems to be a lot quieter - Did you hear the cicadas last summer? Do you hear the birds in the morning?

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

Symphonic Queen on tour

EACH year sees different rock stars fall by the wayside due to their extravagant lifestyles or simply because old age catches up with them.

It is now no longer possible to see so many famous bands from the 1970s but many live on through high quality tributes and one of those will be playing in Costa Blanca in March of this year.

The Symphonic Queen show has been seen by nearly 500,000 people and its seventh tour will see the musical extravaganza arrive at the Theatre Romea in Murcia on Thursday March 1 with tickets costing €42 to €48 for the spectacular performance which starts at 9pm.

Three days later on Sunday March 4, it moves on to Sala A at the Auditorio El Batel in Cartagena with tickets costing from €32 to €38 and with an earlier 7.30pm start.



| A Killer Queen performance.

For those who love the music of one of the greatest bands of all time, these will be the only show presented by the One World Symphonic Orchestra in Costa Blanca during this tour and tickets may be purchased online.

The orchestra and a huge cast of rock musicians and singers from a range of Scandinavian and other European will once again present this highly praised show which covers the entire catalogue of Queen in a way which is quite unique.

This promises to be an exceptional show which combines the talents of professional rock musicians and a symphony orchestra in a two hour show.

Visit <https://www.queensymphonicrhapsody.com/> to find out more about the show and to view videos of past performances.

Ballet returns to Murcia

LOVERS of ballet by Tchaikovsky are in for a treat when the St Petersburg Ballet visits Murcia on Wednesday January 17 and the following day.

The first performance sees the corps de ballet performing the beautiful and moving Sleeping Beauty, the music for which was composed by the Russian master at the request of Ivan Vsevolozhsky, then director of the Imperial Theatre in St Petersburg.

The ballet which continues to delight theatre goers worldwide was premiered in 1890 and actually received greater critical acclaim than Swan Lake.

Following Sleeping Beauty, the next night sees the presentation of the much-loved and highly popular Nutcracker which is a magical journey full of Christmas cheer.

Dancing with snowflakes, dolls, clowns and flowers led by the beautiful Sugar Plum Fairy and her Knight to the realm of sweet dreams.

Both performances start at 8pm at the Auditorio y Centro de Congresos Victor Villegas in Murcia with tickets costing from €16.30 to €24.50 online via <http://www.bacantix.com>.

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Photo Credit: Ruben Ortega Wikimedia

ROCK BAND: The Sidecars on stage.

Sidecars take to the road

MADRID rock band Sidecars who have been performing for 11 years are embarking on a 21-date tour which sees them appearing in both Murcia and Elche.

The Murcia gig will take place at the Sala Rem on Friday January 12 with tickets costing €20 plus booking fees although there may be some cheaper 'early bird' tickets available at www.ticketetea.com. Doors open at 10.30pm and the band will appear on stage at 11pm.

Then on Saturday January 20 they will travel to the Sala La Llotja in Elche with doors opening at

9pm and the band appearing on stage at 10pm but on this occasion, tickets will cost €22 although again there may be some 'early bird' tickets available online at www.ticketetea.com.

Minimum age for admission for both events has been set at 18.

Apart from the promotion of their latest album Question of Seriousness which was produced by British engineer Nigel Walker, Sidecar who credit the Rolling Stones and a number of Spanish bands as influences, will also be unveiling their new single Your Best Nightmare.

Classical guitarist plays Alicante

BORN in Glasgow but living in Spain since the age of five, award-winning classical guitarist David Russell will be appearing at the Auditorio Diputacion Alicante on Saturday January 13.

He has been winner of numerous international competitions including the Alicante guitar contest as well a Grammy for his CD Aire Latino as best instrumental soloist in classical music.

Russell is world renowned for his musical expertise and inspired artistic ability with even the late great Andrés Segovia saying after hearing him in London "My congratulations for your musicality and your guitar technique."

The performance of a number of classical pieces



Photo Credit: davidrussellguitar.com

David Russell with his Grammy.

by Weiss, Grieg and Bach starts at 8pm with tickets costing €15 online through www.entradas.instantticket.es/ with discounts for younger and older residents

at €10.50.

There will be a break during the performance and at the end he will also play a number of traditional Celtic pieces.

A happy wine



LAMBRUSCO: An alternative to Spanish wine.

WHILE Lambrusco is not among Italy's best wines it is one of the leaders in export sales and can be found in wine shops and supermarkets throughout Spain.

Lambrusco is the name of an Italian red grape and the wine from Emilia Romagna and Lombardy has a history dating to Etruscan's times.

Most Lambrusco is made from more than one variety and often blended to a maximum 15 per cent with other grapes, including Ancellotta, Marzemino, Malbo Gentile and Cabernet Sauvignon.

Mostly frizzante (slightly sparkling), Lambrusco can be secco (dry), amabile (semi-sweet) and dolce (sweet).

It is typically made using the Charmat process with a second fermentation conducted in a pressurised tank. While the grape is not particularly sweet, most commercial Lambrusco is sweetened with the addition of grape must.

Lambrusco denominations are:

Grasparossa di Castelvetro: From the smallest producing region, typically dry, full bodied, tannic with a deep purplish-red colour.

Mantovano: The only Lambrusco from Lombardy, either dry or semi-dry.

Reggiano: The most exported and made from up to four types of Lambrusco grapes: Maestri, Marani, Monzericco, and Salamino with up to 15 per cent Ancellotta.

Salamino di Santa Croce: Consists of at least 90 per cent of Salamino grapes; frizzante, light in colour and body and semi-sweet or dry.

Di Sorbara: Regarded as the highest quality; fragrant, with high acidity and berry flavours with deep ruby colour.

Generally inexpensive with little complexity and easy to drink, unfortunately the quality of exported Lambrusco rarely equals that found in its native region.

Salute and happy tasting.

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by Lorenzo Barbareschi



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I saw Three Kings, four times

IF you can't get enough of the Three Kings parade tomorrow then the Torre Pacheco area sees no less than four parades for the price of one.

The parade will be making its way around four municipalities in the area and if you miss the first ones or just want some more sweets, the timetable will be as follows;

Balsicas - 4pm

Torre Pacheco - 6pm

San Cayetano - 7pm

Roldan - 8.30pm

Naturally almost every town and a few villages will be sending their own Three Kings on to the streets, but there aren't many 'serial parades' like this anywhere on the Costas.

THE 72-year-old comic James Mulgrew, better known as Jimmy Cricket will be making two guest appearances in Costa Blanca next week.

On the evening of next Tuesday he will be presenting a one-hour show at the Coopers Arms in Ciudad Quesada with tickets costing €20 per person to include a two-course meal.

The meal will be served at 7.30pm and the man himself is due on stage at 9.30pm supported by popular drag artist Stevie Spit (although he is putting drag aside for the next few months as he prepares to launch the musical *Bad Habits*).

The following evening, the pair move to The Emerald Isle, not across the water but the superb value restaurant and entertainment centre on the Orihuela Costa where tickets are on sale for €17 to include a choice of three main courses.

The meal commences at 7.30pm with the performance starting at 9pm but for those who don't want to eat, it will be possible to purchase show only tickets at €12.

Now living in Rochdale, the comedian achieved fame after

Jimmy Cricket and there's more



Photo Credit: Jimmy Cricket Twitter

Jimmy Cricket with fans at his latest pantomime.

winning the TV Talent Show *Search for a Star* and became a regular on radio and TV both as a guest artist but also with his own shows which led to regular appearances in pantomime (of which he has appeared in 27).

With four CDs and three plays written, he recently appeared in his first ever movie and has shown his affection for Spain by writing Maloney's *Big Moment*, a musical about an Irishman Paddy Maloney who lives in an expatriate community in the south of Spain.

When the local Spanish mayor gets thrown out due to corruption, Paddy steps up to the plate and becomes mayor without being able to speak a word of Spanish.

A man of many talents who still wears his wellington boots on the wrong feet even though they are labelled L and R, these two appearances promise a gentle and hilarious evening with a comedian who knows how to make people laugh.

For further information on the shows visit the Facebook pages of the two venues.

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Photo Credit: Film Symphony Orchestra

STAR WARS: The full orchestra performing on stage.

May the force of the orchestra be with you

A NATIONWIDE tour by the Film Symphony Orchestra playing music from Star Wars is coming to an end soon after a performance in Cartagena on Sunday January 14.

There is an earlier concert in Alicante on the previous Friday but that is already sold out, so if you are a classical music and Star Wars fan then you need to think about booking for the performance at the Auditorio El Batel which

has a few tickets left.

There are three different seating options with prices at €35, €40 and €50 and reservations may be made online at <http://www.filmsymphony.es> or through El Corte Ingles, but demand has been high for the Cartagena show which starts at 7pm.

This tour is entitled The Music of the Galaxies and the full orchestra under the direction of Constantino Martínez-Orts

will only play music from the Star Wars saga, specifically Star Wars IV: A New Hope, The Empire Strikes Back, The Return of the Jedi, Phantom Menace, Attack of the Clones and The Force Awakens.

The tour commenced in 2017 in honour of composer of the music for the films, John Williams who was 85 on February 8 last year and finishes with a last performance in Tenerife at the end of January.

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The Russians are coming



Photo Credit: Russian Army of St. Petersburg

BOUNDLESS ENERGY: The captivating performers on stage.

THE choir, ballet and orchestra of the Russian Army of St Petersburg will be appearing at the Teatro Principal in Alicante next Sunday.

Uniting more than 100 singers, dancers and musicians, the Russian Army Ensemble of St Petersburg brings an amalgamation of spectacular dancing and rousing traditional music to the stage.

With colourful costumes, vivid choreography and boundless energy, the 40 talented dancers dazzle the audience with their acrobatics and striking dance sequences in a show that has been seen by 30 million people worldwide over the years.

This Russian Army Ensemble of St Petersburg has been called the first army of peace, because of the powerful use of their voices and bodies instead of weapons. Almost 100 different artists perform Russian folk songs and show spectacular choreographies on the stage.

Under the watchful eye of the ensemble direc-

tor, the ballet group will excite in their dazzling costumes, original choreographies and their dancing skills, incorporating traditional Russian dance and music.

Some of the best voices in Russia are present in the group with a good mix of baritones and tenors who are happy to perform some of the best loved opera from across Europe, but they are most happy and best known for their presentation of Russian folk songs.

Founded in the early years of the 20th century, the choir, ballet and orchestra gave support and encouragement to troops on the battle fronts and in hospitals during both world wars with songs of love and hope, before their subsequent peacetime tours, broadcasts and recordings brought them international acclaim.

Tickets for the performance which will be on stage at 6pm start at €14 and can be purchased online.

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Live a healthy happy life

Every month I write about how the Astrology, Numerology, and Tarot for the month ahead affects you. Below is your forecast for January 2018:

Sally Trotman

www.sallytrotman.com

Sally Trotman is a qualified Counsellor who works with Astrology, Numerology and the Tarot. Each month she will deliver the forecast as an intuitive tool to aid increased self awareness.



ASTROLOGY: MAKE A PLAN

Sun in Capricorn : Until January 21, the sun is ruled by the earthy sign of Capricorn. The influence of this sign will enable you to make a practical plan for the year ahead. This no nonsense sign is helping you to overcome procrastination and to think big.

Create goals which excite you and motivate you to get up in the morning! Where would you like to be by the end of the year?

Get in tune with the moon: This month on the January 2 and 31, the moon is full. The first full moon is ruled by the sensitive sign of Cancer, bringing the focus to your home and asking you to look at how you nurture yourself. The second full moon of the month is ruled by the fiery sign of Leo,



MAKE A PLAN: Create goals which excite you and motivate you to get up in the morning.

helping you to become a self confident and generous leader, in all areas of your life.

This blue moon month is a powerful way to start the year, so make the most of this positive energy by finding a balance between meeting your own needs and helping others. Listen to your intu-

ition, and each day act on what you know to be right for you.

NUMEROLOGY: FOCUS ON WHAT YOU WANT

Number 1: In numerology, numbers are seen as symbols that carry energy. The number one indicates a time building new foundations, initiating projects

and using your creativity. Is there anything new you wish to begin this year? Or is there perhaps a hobby or talent you would like to develop? January is the perfect time to start something new, so consider your natural gifts in order to develop a new skill this year, which you are passionate about.

The Magician: make it happen!

In the Tarot deck The Magician is the first card in the Major Arcana deck. Depicted as a man with many tools at his disposal, this card reminds you that you have all the necessary skills to create the life you desire and deserve. Become clear about what you want and set an intention for the month ahead.

Take action everyday towards fulfilling your goal. Consider where you might be creating blocks to success through self doubt or fear, and repeat a positive affirmation to help you with this. Living a healthy and happy life is your birthright, so take steps today towards this in whatever way you feel inspired.

YOUR 2018 FORECAST

Sally Trotman is an Astrologer, Numerologist, Reiki Master and Counsellor. To book in for a one hour Astrology, Numerology and Tarot Forecast via Skype, Facetime or email visit her website www.sallytrotman.com or email at sally.trotman@btinternet.com.

Outsider coming along nicely

Cassandra Nash

A weekly look

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

THE Partido Popular has a problem on two fronts. One, as the governing party in Spain it has lost credibility in Cataluña where it nominally governs after suspending the region's autonomous status.

Following the regional elections it now has only four MPs in the regional parliament, on level pegging with the anti-system CUP party.

The second problem that the PP must contend with is the Ciudadanos party, the most-voted in the Catalan elections. Ines Arrimadas, Cs leader in Cataluña, didn't put a foot wrong there, compared with the clumsy

footwork executed by the PP's Xavier Garcia Albiol.

But the problem posed by Cs is not confined to Cataluña. Rajoy and his closest advisers see the party snapping at the party's vulnerable flanks nationwide and stealing votes in the same way that Podemos has poached PSOE supporters.

And unfortunately for Rajoy, there is not even a whiff of corruption attached to Cs, unlike the PP which despite all its efforts cannot exorcise the

spectre of corruption that still haunts the party.

Agreeing to agree

WHEN Francisco Franco died in 1975, wounds from the Civil War still afflicted and influenced Spaniards who had fought or lived through the 1936-1939 conflict, regardless of which side they or their families fought on.

Lingering or inherited rancour did not prevent the apparently impossible from happening and despite hiccups - the Atocha massacre of left-wing lawyers, the attempted military coup of February 1981 - the Spanish took the road to democracy.

They reached their destination because Adolfo Suarez's government obtained consensus from communists and the right wing alike. It was feasible because everyone at the time wanted consensus without believing this demonstrated weakness.

The pro-independence parties and the national government headed by Mariano Rajoy hope for consensus in Cataluña, but neither will cede a cen-

timetre for fear of appearing to waver.

And unfortunately for Spain and Cataluña they are the weaker for it.

Move along, please

MADRID mayor Manuela Carmena had already earned the enmity of thousands of citizens with driving restrictions in the centre of the city.

As Christmas approached, the former Supreme Court judge and a lawyer who by chance escaped the Atocha massacre in 1977, went one step too far.

Calle Preciados and Calle Carmen were made one-way for pedestrians with others due to follow.

Anyone who has ever tried to shop in Madrid over the holiday season would agree with the wisdom of this move. Apart from anything else it has prevented head-on collisions between people absorbed in their mobiles.

Play the game

FIFA recently warned the government not to meddle in the election process of a new president for Spain's Football Federation (RFEF).

This is temporarily headed by Juan Luis Larrea after former president Angel Maria Villar, now bailed, had to step down following corruption charges.

Failure to comply could bar Spain's national side from all international competitions including the next World Cup in Russia FIFA warned.

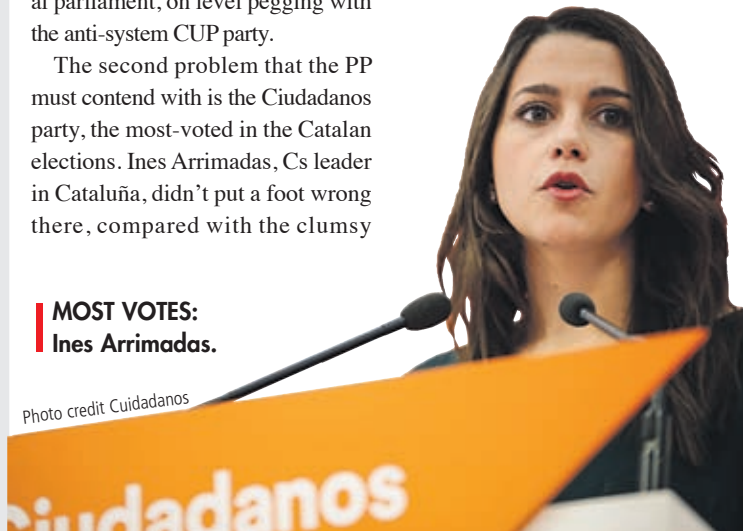
As though Spain didn't have enough to cope with over Cataluña, it's facing a crisis with far-reaching effects on the nation's happiness and well-being.

Tinker with laws if you have to Sr Rajoy. But leave the footie alone.

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

MOST VOTES: Ines Arrimadas.

Photo credit Ciudadanos



Prices enjoy quality quarter

HOUSE prices shot up by 2 per cent in the final quarter of 2017. The average cost per square metre now stands at €1,228.

Also in the final quarter, 117,068 sales were made, bringing the total for 2017 to 491,005 sales, slightly less than the most optimistic projections last January of a half million sales.

A report from the Gesvalt housing consultancy describes the October to December results as indicating that 2017 was a year of consolidation for Spain's property market.

"The market is growing more slowly but more in line with the wider economy," said general director, Sandra Daza. "This is a sign that prices are starting to reflect anticipated growth, that construction will become more economically viable, and both home prices and rents will continue to rise."

Gesvalt also noted that there have been wide variations in Spain's different regions when it comes to prices. The company says that tourism is the main indicator of how high prices will rise, or how low they will fall.

While the national average was a 2 per cent increase in the final quarter, in Madrid, Galicia, Murcia and Andalucia the increase surpassed 5 per cent. In places like Cantabria and La Rioja, prices fell.



SOARING: Home prices in Andalucia continue to rise.

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BOOMING: The Spanish property market is on the rise.

NEW data from the Ministry of Development reveals that almost €54 billion worth of transactions took place in Spain's real estate market between January and September.

During the same period in

2016 the amount was closer to €44 billion and the total for the year was €60 bil-

Casa cash flowing

lion. The record high remains 2010 when more than €80 billion of capital shifted in 12 months.

With the data in for most of 2017, it shows that Madrid, Cataluña and Andalucía together accounted for more than half of the total value of Spain's real estate market. The €54 billion spent relates to 374,027 properties sold during the period, an 18.5 per cent rise on 2016.

Second-hand homes ac-

counted for roughly €48 billion, while new homes lagged behind, reaping just €6 billion. In 2018, new homes are expected to account for a larger share of the market.

Also this year the total number of sales is expected to surpass 550,000 as the property market continues its successful recovery. A study from Servihabitat projects sales to increase at a faster rate this year than they did in 2017.

€500,000 payout Bank loses legal battle



CALA ROMANTICA: Site of the failed development.

FORMER bank Sabadell Solbank - part of Banco Sabadell since 2014 - must return almost €500,000 to buyers who bought properties in Mallorca.

The decision by a Marbella court comes after the

developer of the Cala Romantica, off-plan project in Manacor filed for bankruptcy in 2011, with houses paid for but never built.

The development should have been completed by 2008 and buyers who paid deposits have been fighting to get their money back ever since.

But the bank has since argued that it has no legal relationship with the claimants since it was not involved in drawing up their contracts with the developer.

They also pointed out that it is not mentioned in any of the paperwork and that money paid to the developer before it went bust was not paid into its Sabadell Solbank accounts.

The judge presiding over the case rejected these claims out of hand, stating that the developer signed a number of guarantees with the bank in July 2006 and ruling that it must also reimburse the claimants' legal costs, plus interest amounting to an additional €200,000.

This is the 43rd case won this year using the so-called 'Keith Rule strategy,' so-named after British expatriate Keith Rule, who in 2006 discovered a Spanish law making banks responsible for guaranteeing deposits paid on off-plan properties.



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The easy way to grow your own fresh and tasty potatoes even in a small space

GRAEME TYRRELL

IF you have even had the privilege of eating home grown potatoes from an organic garden you will probably always be disappointed with commercially grown potatoes.

The difference in taste is dramatic as the additional micronutrients give a flavour and vigour to the potatoes that is hard to find from most potatoes in the market place.

The problem with growing your own potatoes though is the hard work to harvest them from the soil and the damage that can occur when digging with ordinary home garden tools.

There is an easy way however to make the growing and harvesting much more enjoyable and productive without the hard work. Some potatoes can even be grown in containers on your balcony or terrace with good results from following a few simple steps.

If you have a vegetable garden this procedure has been well proven to work in northern Europe with less weeding and the ability to selectively harvest the best potatoes and let the rest continue to grow and mature.

The procedure is quite simple and just requires straw and a nutrient rich compost with plenty of manure included to provide ample nitrogen and other essential growth elements.



SEED POTATOES: Ready to plant.

In the garden you need to have a way of containing the potato bed. You can dig a trench in the soil, just get some hay bales to act as a wall to surround the area you

want to grow the potatoes in or use blocks, bricks or wood planks to make raised bed on the soil surface to the size you want.

Add the straw and compost

in layers or mixed together to fill the trench, raised bed or container about 15cm deep. Place seed potatoes at about 30cm apart in all directions in the garden for the largest potatoes, but they can be 20cm apart in containers for smaller but a more plentiful harvest.

Next, cover the seed potatoes with layers of straw and compost another 15cm deep. The straw/compost mixture will settle and the growing potatoes will need to be covered, so more mixture will need to be added.

It is important to keep covering the emerging potato plants around the base of the plant to ensure that the expanding potatoes growing from the roots are not ex-

posed to the light as they will turn green and will not be suitable for eating.

This method requires regular watering but as the mixture holds the water so well it requires less watering than soil based culture. Weeds are much less of a problem and are much easier to remove from the mixture.

Harvest is easy as you can just lift the straw to check the progress of the potatoes and remove the potatoes that you consider ready and leave the rest to keep growing until needed. Just make sure you press back the mixture to exclude the light from the roots and remaining potatoes.

It's a great way to enjoy delicious potatoes without the hard work.

Furniture fashions

A WEBSITE has revealed the UK's top furniture trends of 2017.

And as trends tend to come to Spain a few months later, it's a safe bet to say some of these pieces will be featuring heavily in shops in the year ahead.

So if you want to stay on-trend in your interior design why not take a look at the list below?

According to website Homewings, one of last year's major crazes was velvet sofas, particularly in midnight blue. These comfy pieces are hard-wearing and hide stains better than other colours so this look could be around for a while.

The velvet trend also extends to pouffes and ottomans. Perhaps a cheaper and simpler way to include this trend into your existing space, this fashion works particularly well if you choose a piece in a complementary colour to your existing furniture to make it really stand out.

Benefiting from the trend for mixed-material furniture - and particularly the use of copper-marble-topped tables were the

website's biggest seller last year. This simple look manages to combine luxury with the rising industrial chic look gaining popularity.

Dark wood - which has been unpopular for years in the UK - is

making a comeback, particularly in the form of furniture inspired by the 1950s, 1960s or 1970s. So if you have any hand-me-down or inherited pieces from the 20th century now would be a great time to display them.



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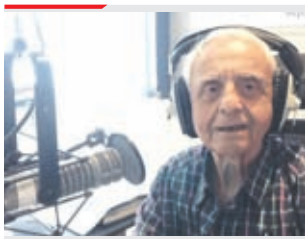
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Your dog and new baby



POOCH PALS: Only introduce your dog to your baby when he is calm.

GRADUALLY introduce changes in your dog's routine as soon as you know baby is on the way - if he does not connect them with the baby's arrival he has less reason to be jealous.

- Your dog should not be the centre of attention at all times, and should not sit on your lap (if at all) only when invited by you.

- Get him used to being away from you sometimes in another room, or indoor kennel ('crate'), and ban him from the nursery.

- Take a refresher course at a training school, and think about practice walks with the pram - it can be trickier than it sounds!

- Check with your vet about canine hygiene and worming.

When your baby is born your dog may be left for hours while you are in hospital, or upset by the excitement if

you are at home. Arrange for someone he knows to look after/walk him. It is an old wife's tale (letting your dog drink breast milk or play with dirty nappies) this will not help your dog

and baby to become friends, but sending home a blanket that the baby has slept on may help your dog to get used to her scent.

When you come home let someone

else hold your baby while you greet your dog; introduce them later when he is calm. Do not try to keep your dog and baby completely apart, you won't be able to keep it up!

Teach them both to interact calmly and gently, no licking by the dog or grabbing by the child.

Never ever leave dogs alone with babies or young children; shut your dog out of the room or pop the baby in a secure play-pen. This applies every time you use the bathroom, answer the door/phone or get a meal. It is not a matter of 'trust.'

Toddlers can accidentally injure or alarm dogs (eg by falling on them) and startled dogs may react impulsively, lashing out or biting.

The most tolerant dog needs peace and quiet sometimes; allow him a place (eg his bed) he can escape to without being followed. Allow the child to go there at other times to prevent it becoming an exclusive area which he feels entitled to defend.

When your baby starts to crawl and walk teach your dog to step back out of her way in doorways and on stairs.

Make it a mini one!

THERE'S a new farmyard pet trend ready to descend on households in 2018. Chickens and micro-pigs are old news; get ready to welcome micro cows.

While miniature cows are

yet to be found in most pet shops, there are now specialised breeders in the US giving people the chance to have their own tiny farmyard in the back garden.

Although the average cow

can grow to be more than six feet tall, micro cows grow to be the same size of the average pet dog and weigh less than a quarter of the average bull.

They are also cheaper to keep than most cows as they don't require expensive handling equipment.

Lovable Little Ones, a cattle breeder in Colorado, US, claims micro cows are "exceptional pets that demonstrate a great deal of affection, are very social, and are easy to take care of."

They are also apparently an inexpensive way to teach children about responsible farming and how to take care of animals.

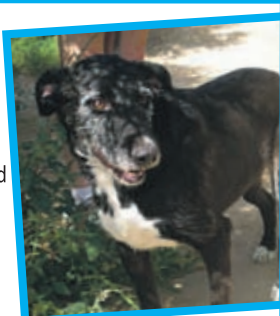
According to Dustin Pillard, who raises and sells mini cows in Iowa, US, micro cows have "personalities like a dog."

Pillard explains: "They run around like a dog, they like people and are calm and sociable. They also love attention. It is hard not to fall in love with a little mini calf that barely comes up to your knees."

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.

If you would be interested in adopting Cassandra, then call



600 84 54 20 www.k9club.es

Pets in Spain

Polly is a 13 week old kitten and would love to find a forever home before Christmas. She has been in a foster home since she was 5 weeks old, Polly is a confident kitten who loves cuddles and is very playful.

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IS it true you can cut out the cost of pet care when you go on holiday?

Yes it is! You can join a membership network like HouseSitMatch.com to find suitable pet-sitters and house-sitters securely online.

Many pet owners are completely shocked at the end of a holiday to find that their pet care costs have almost doubled the cost of their trip.

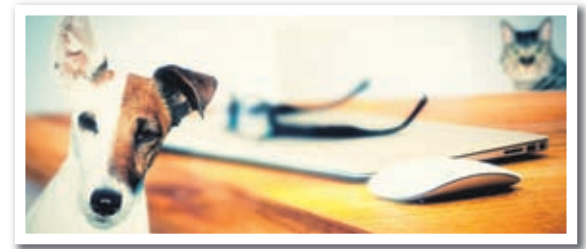
Are the petsitters and housesitters checked?

Yes! HouseSitMatch is a safe alternative that enables you to meet sitters with police and background checks in place, so you can go on holiday with peace of mind.

Aren't there any costs?

Yes there is a small membership fee each year which starts as low as £35 per year. By joining a house-sitting membership network for a moderate annual fee you can

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Most of the pet-sitters and house-sitters who join HouseSitMatch are looking to spend time in a new location and to exchange their experience as pet-sitters for free accommodation while they discover a new location.

Client testimonial - Susan, Pet owner

I have absolutely no reservations about using HouseSitMatch in looking after my pets and home. Lamia is always available and extremely flexible in ensuring the well-being of the animals and security of all. I would use HouseSitMatch always knowing I can leave home without any worries.

Do you need a house or pet-sitter? Get in touch. House-sitting can be a win-win for both parties, free house and pet-sitting and the experienced and checked sitters get free accommodation!

Register as either house-sitter or homeowner now with a 20 per cent off introductory offer using coupon code PERFECT20.

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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)

ROUNDAABOUT 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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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)

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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 torreviejastrokesupport.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 Association 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@yahoo.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)

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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ROAD TEST by Nick Fletcher

Subaru Outback SE Premium

THERE are plenty of four-wheel-drive models to tackle tough terrain and there are many SUV models which are great on the tarmac but less so off-road.

There are also many people who would like a combination of the two, and the Mitsubishi Outback is an outstanding example of a vehicle able to take on this dual role. It is a formidable off-roader which is also at home on city streets, an ideal blend for those who meld urban and rural lifestyles.

The Outback is quite refined to drive, very well equipped, looks stylish and classy and prices start at €37,197 (£32,995). There is a sporty 2.5 litre petrol model for those seeking sharper performance but for most, the well-proven 148 hp 2.0 litre diesel will be the choice, and this was the version I tested.

In SE Premium Lineartronic trim, with CVT auto transmission and all wheel drive, it costs €39,452 (£34,995) and is exceptionally well equipped. Standard kit includes alloy wheels, roof rails, auto LED lights and wipers, powered tailgate, leather

upholstery, powered and heated front seats, slide/tilt sunroof, privacy glass, seven-inch touchscreen infotainment system, Bluetooth, sat-nav, connectivity, adaptive cruise control, dual-zone climate control, reversing camera, hill start and hill descent assist, keyless entry and push-button start.

It also has plenty of safety features including multi-airbags, blind-spot warning, lane-change assist and rear cross-traffic assist. Top speed is 191 kph (119 mph) and the 0-100 kph time of 9.9 seconds is nippy for a vehicle of this size and weight. It is quite frugal too - fuel economy is 16.4 kpl (46.3 mpg).



The engine pulls smoothly and quietly and the CVT box changes with minimal fuss. The gears can be manually shifted with paddles if required. With nicely-weighted steering and a well balanced suspension set-up, everything combines to give a refined drive on smooth surfaces.

The Outback also feels quite nimble in town, quite easy to handle and park. On the open road, it corners well with reassuring grip.

The exterior of the Outback makes a strong visual statement, and while the cabin is laid out for functionality rather than style, it still looks smart.

There is plenty of room for five occupants, and the boot space of 559 litres (expanding to 1,848 litres) is substantial.

The Outback comes over as a robust yet refined contender, underpinned by Subaru's excellent reputation for dependability.

THE OUTBACK: Makes a strong visual statement.

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

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Chiron clearance!

ONE of the first Bugatti Chirons to be delivered last year is set to go up for auction next month.

RM Sotheby's will put the super car under the hammer on February 9 in Paris with a huge figure expected for the unique Bugatti.

The limited edition supercar has an eight litre quad-turbocharged W-16 engine, with 1,480 horsepower capable of doing 0-60 mph in less than 2.5 seconds.

Its top speed is limited to 261 mph reportedly due to the fact that no current tyre can handle the exceptional force produced by the Chiron past that point.

However, Bugatti are reportedly currently working on special tyres for the Chiron that could possibly raise the top speed past that point and to 285 mph.

The specific model up for sale, one of the first 20 delivered to customers, has been hardly used, driven less than 630 miles, and comes with a

number of special features including carbon-fibre steering wheel and maritime blue brake callipers.

Deliveries for the car only began in March last year, with

only 70 currently dispatched, and the car is expected to fetch between €3.2-3.6 million (\$3.8-4.3 million) when it goes under the hammer next month.

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Toffees' Big Sam chews over Giroud's wife's orders

LIVERPOOL host Everton in the FA Cup third round on Friday at Anfield with The Toffees backed with almost 8,000 fans for the tie.

Everton's ticket allocation of 7,946 tickets is the biggest travelling support they have taken across Stanley Park since the all-seater stadium was introduced in 1994.

Everton gaffer Sam Allardyce, looking to sign a new striker in the January transfer window, said: "Up front is an area we need to improve in January, a quality front man."

Everton's interest in Arsenal's Olivier Giroud has been given the cold shoulder by Allardyce - and Giroud's wife:

"As far as I know he doesn't want to move north of Wat-



UKSPORTSCENE

with Andrew Atkinson

ford - well his wife doesn't," said Big Sam.

"It's very important to the wives - believe you me - normally they are the bosses," said Allardyce.

FA Cup third round: Friday: Manchester United v Derby, Liverpool v Everton. Saturday: Ipswich v Sheffield United,

Watford v Bristol

City, Bir-

mingham v

Burton, As-

ton Villa v Peter-

borough.

Bournemouth v Wigan, Coventry v Stoke, Newport v Leeds, Bolton v Huddersfield, Yeovil v Bradford, Brentford v Notts County, QPR v MK Dons, Exeter v West Brom.

Doncaster v Rochdale, Middlesbrough v Sunderland, Fleetwood v Leicester, Blackburn v Hull, Cardiff v Mansfield, Manchester City v Burnley.

Wolves v Swansea, Stevenage v Reading, Newcastle v Luton, Millwall v Barnsley, Fulham v Southampton, Wycombe v Preston, Norwich v Chelsea, Carlisle v Sheffield

Wednesday.

Sunday: Nottingham Forest v Arsenal, Tottenham v AFC

Wimbledon, Shrewsbury

v West Ham. Monday:

Brighton v Crystal Palace.

Pep's Silva lining

DAVID SILVA has been heralded as one of the main keys that have unlocked Manchester City's door to win the Premier League.



STRIKER SOUGHT: By Sam Allardyce in the January transfer window.

"He has absolutely everything," said City boss Pep Guardiola as the Blues enter 2018 topping the table.

Valencia youth Silva was at Valencia CF for six years, winning one Copa del Rey in 2008, prior to joining City in 2010.

Silva, set to feature in City's FA Cup third round tie against Burnley on Saturday, in his eighth season at City, has won the FA Cup, two Football League Cups and two Premier League titles.

"I'm so happy for him," said Guardiola, who awarded Silva

the captain's armband at City in the absence of Vincent Kompany this term.

"He is a real leader - he never hides - and always wants the ball to make something," praised Guardiola, in the wake of Silva attracting interest from AC Milan and Las Palmas.

Silva, who won his first international call up aged 20, capped 118 times, a member of Spain's 2014 FIFA World Cup and UEFA Euro 2016, is set to be named in national coach Julen Lopetegui's 2018 World Cup squad.

Born in Arguineguín, Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, Silva departed Valencia CF to City in 2010, the club having been thwarted to sign Silva and Valencia teammate David Villa in 2008, in a £135m deal.

Silva, who celebrates his 32nd birthday this month, has been among the goals in City's table-topping campaign: "He has absolutely everything," said Guardiola.

"I think he is a star. At 31 years old he is enjoying to learn more - to score goals - that is so important," said Guardiola.

'HE HAS EVERYTHING': David Silva.



David Silva/Twitter

SPORTSCENE SPAIN

with Andrew Atkinson

Kane's Real deal

REAL MADRID and Manchester City are in a race to sign England's Spurs star, striker Harry Kane - described by Spurs boss Mauricio Pochettino as the world's best.

"Harry is world class - the number one striker in the world - who's better than him?" said Pochettino.

Kane, with a touted value of £170m, netted his eighth hat-trick of 2017 in Spurs' 5-2 win against Southampton on Boxing Day.

Kane bagged 39 Premier League goals in 2017, breaking Alan Shearer's record for goals scored in a year: "A massive achievement for Harry, and well deserved," said Pochettino.

Pochettino, desperate to keep Kane, said: "Harry is a talented player - that's the secret - we are so ambitious and looking forward.

"Hopefully the next year will bring us a lot of victories - we want to win every game - who knows what can happen?"

City gaffer Pep Guardiola also has Real Sociedad's defender Inigo Martinez on his radar.

Dutch courage

BARCELONA are linked with Manchester United defender Daley Blind who could be allowed to begin negotiating a pre-contract agreement with foreign clubs from January.

Barca, keeping tabs on the Dutch star's contract talks, are set to swoop for Blind - for free - if United don't trigger an extension on his contract. Blind, a £14m signing by ex-United boss Louis van Gaal in 2014, sees his current contract expire next summer.

United are set to trigger extension contract clauses with Ander Herrera, Luke Shaw and Ashley Young.

Real Madrid are targeting Inter Milan forward Mauro Icardi along with Arsenal's Alexis Sanchez.

Gareth to bale out

REAL star Gareth Bale is set to snub a move to Manchester United - to remain at the Bernabeu in the January transfer window - moving to Old Trafford in the summer.

United have reportedly agreed a deal with Wales international winger Bale, 28, valued by

Real at £79m, with United planning a £53m bid, to lure the ex-Spurs ace away from the Bernabeu.

Manchester United's Angel Gomes is a target for Borussia Dortmund. Stoke's Switzerland international Xherdan Shaqiri, 26, is eyed by West Ham. United host Derby County on Friday in the FA Cup third round.

Shanghai SIPG star striker Hulk, 31, linked with Chelsea and Manchester City, hasn't ruled out a move to the Premier League.

"I received contact from the Premier League which I admire very much, the best league in the world," said Hulk.

Luiz Real chance

DAVID LUIZ'S uncertain future at Chelsea - after a rift with Blues boss Antonio Conte - has alerted Real Madrid. Brazilian centre-back Luiz's spell at Stamford Bridge could be set to end with Zinedine Zidane set to bolster his defence in the January transfer window.

Luiz, wanting a regular slot on Conte's team-sheet, is in his second spell at Chelsea after re-joining the Blues in a £34m move from Paris Saint-Germain in 2016.

Chelsea travel to Carrow Road on Saturday to

play Championship club Norwich City in the FA Cup third round.

Valverde's targets

ARSENAL duo, Barca target Mesut Özil and Real Madrid and Manchester City target Alexis Sanchez, are both out of contract in June.

Özil and Sanchez become free agents in the summer and are eligible to negotiate with clubs in January.

Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger, whose Gunners meet Nottingham Forest in the FA Cup third round on Sunday, signed Özil and Sanchez at a combined cost of £74m.

Liverpool and Brazilian star Philippe Coutinho remains Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde's transfer target. Barca are also eyeing Özil to play alongside midfielder Andres Iniesta. Barca trio Arda Turan, Alexis Vidal and Denis Suarez have uncertain futures.

Schalke midfielder Leon Goretzka, 22, is interesting Bayern, Real Madrid, Barca and Arsenal. Schalke midfielder Max Meyer, refusing to sign a new deal, is eyed by Liverpool.

Barcelona star and Argentine midfielder Javier Mascherano has been linked with a move to Liverpool.



TO READ MORE

Costa Blanca's best guide to local sport

Glorious weather for The Plaza Golf Society

TPGS ventured down to Roda where 32 players enjoyed a beautiful winter's day.

By far the best was Darren Hancock, who won the gold division with 40 pts off his 4 handicap.

Second place was Phil de Lacy with 35pts and Warren Harris clinching third with 33pts. Silver division was won by Russell Bailey 34pts, second was Bill Gillies 30 pts and third

came Captain in waiting Dickie McAllen with 29pts. There were two winners of the two's pot, the Captain Simon Lee and Phil de Lacy.

Nearest the pins, sponsored by The Ale House, were won by Matt Taylor, Joost Boelhouwer, Kenny McPherson, Richard Palmer and Billy 'hi ho' Lane who also won best guest with 33 pts. Lorraine Palmer was best lady and Gordy came bottom of the heap with 19 measly pts!

The society's next game is January 12 at Villamartin and is likely to sell out fast.

For those interested, register at www.theplazagolfsociety.com or pop into The Ale House pub.

SMGS host stableford and match against Elite Golf Society

DUE to SMGS playing member numbers being down at this time of year, a match against the La Finca residing Elite Golf Society was organised to be played alongside SMGS's normal stableford competition.

For once, guests (23) outnumbered members (22) as seven competition flights took to the course along with other members and their visitors.

An extremely strong wind made for a difficult playing environment, with relatively slow, badly pitch-marked greens, and a lot of back placed white flags did not help scoring.

Only SMGS's Tony Sims (37) and Kenny Reddington (39) conquered

the conditions with excellent rounds, but their efforts were not enough to stop Elite winning the match 5-2.

The day's stableford competition results, by category and in reverse order, were the following:

Silver Category: Fourth Ralph Tilbrook (26 on CB), third Brian Butler (26 on CB), second Norman Padmore (30), and first Keith Stevenson with 32 points.

Gold Category: Fourth Ken McPherson (28), third Matt Taylor (29), second Tony Sims (37), and first Kenny Reddington with 39 points.

Nearest the pins on the par 3's

(open to all) Roger Brierley (hole 3), Steve Fleet (6), Mike Greatorex (13) and Matt Taylor (16).

The Abacus was won once again by Norman McBride while the Best Guest prizes went to winner Paul Gambrill (30), runner-up Dave Bishop (28) and third placed Ryan Rogers (27).

Next week the society will be at Villamartin.

To keep up-to-date with all SMGS matters, log on to the website: www.smgs.org or simply give Tony Smale a call on 628 227 687 to find out more about the society and its weekly golf get-togethers.

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