

## €200m budget revealed

A BUDGET of €203.8 million has been proposed for Almeria Province in 2018. It represents an increase of €6 million on 2017's budget.

This year's budget was proposed by president of the provincial council, Gabriel Amat, who said infrastructure, social services and job growth were the three main priorities.

Almost €50 million will be spent on social services, some €33 million on infrastructure, and another €33 on creating new jobs.

Tourism and the agribusiness sector will be the biggest beneficiaries of the jobs drive. Amat is keen to strengthen the Costa de Almeria brand's international reputation and also boost 'Sabores Almeria,' which promotes the province's cuisine across Spain.

Another €11 million will be spent on promoting sports and culture, and a sizeable amount allocating to reducing the province's debt. It reached a high of €201 million in 2011, which Amat claims to have since reduced by €103 million.

Amat, who is also mayor of Roquetas de Mar, also pledged to allocate more funding to municipalities with populations of less than 5,000 people.

## Hospital attack

A 57-YEAR-OLD man has been arrested after allegedly attacking a police officer and threatening two nurses.

Police were reportedly called to Torrecardenas hospital after receiving information from security staff that a person was threatening two nurses in the hospital.

When officers arrived at the scene, they were reportedly met with a barrage of abuse from the individual, before he allegedly punched one of the officers in the arm.

He has now reportedly been charged with crimes of assault and threats.



**LOVE BIRDS:** The calendar will feature rare birds from the park including the trumpeter finch (inset).

## Flying off the shelves

A calendar featuring images of birds found at the Cabo de Gata Nijar Natural Park is to be released.

It comes as the iconic park prepares to celebrate its 30th anniversary.

The park was officially given its name on January 26, 1988 and became the first Spanish natural park to combine marine and terrestrial habitats.

Created by the Mediterranean Ecologist Group

(GEM), the calendar will feature pictures of a number of bird species found in the park.

Jose Rivera, of GEM, ex-

plained to Spanish media that birds were chosen because "they are the living indicator that shows a place is doing well ecologically."

## Festive feast

SOLDIERS in Iraq were treated to a Christmas hamper of Almeria speciality products. The King Alfonso XIII Brigade brought over the festive food to almost 400 Spanish soldiers helping train the Iraqi army.

The serving men and women are based in a newly developed city just south of Baghdad. They are on a six-month tour of the struggling country.

To help stave off the Christmas blues as they are separated from their families in Spain, Almeria's provincial council donated 120 kilos worth of sausages, hams, and cheeses and from the Almazora region. Soldiers were able to wash down the feast with 180 bottles of Almerian wine.

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**Football park plan**

SPAIN'S top flight football organisation La Liga plans to open a 'La Liga football theme park' on land owned by Almería football club as a tourist attraction and youth tournament centre.

**Car smash**

**FOUR** people were injured in a three-car collision on the AL-12. They included three women and one man, aged between 32 and 55, who were all taken to Torrecardenas hospital for treatment.

**Fire escape**

**FIREFIGHTERS** rescued five people, including three children, who took refuge on their Roquetas balcony when a fire suddenly tore through their home in the early hours.

# Festive snub slammed

## 'Missed opportunity' say critics

CITY politicians in Almería have come under fire for concentrating Christmas in La Plaza and leaving the rest of the city bereft of festive cheer.

PSOE councillor Adriana Valverde accused the Popular Party leadership of doing nothing to help small businesses and struggling communities.

Instead, she argued, the city had thrown all its eggs in one basket. All the decorations, and €225,000 of Christmas lights were cobbled together in the city centre while areas like Los Angeles and El Quemadero had nothing, she said.

"It was a missed opportunity to revitalise these commercial spaces just at the time of year when more people are out to buy fresh produce," Valverde said. "The image is de-



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**SLAMMED:** Almería's Christmas effort has been panned by opposition politician Adriana Valverde (inset).

pressing considering the time of year."

She has the support of her fellow PSOE councillors. The local branch of the Socialist party has accused the council leadership of betraying small business owners, who pay their taxes and could do with some festive fortune.

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# Water bias slammed

THE Water Board of Almería has accused Spain's Ministry of Agriculture of discrimination against the province. They are outraged that the central government has approved an €8.3 million subsidy for irrigators based in Murcia and Alicante Province.

A similar request from Almería's irrigators had no response whatsoever from Madrid, claim the Water Board. The money was requested to help lower the price of desalinated water, essential aid at times of drought.

"For the second year in a row the government has lowered the price of desalinated water in other provinces, once again causing significant grievances among Almería's irrigators, who continue to suffer while the ministry turns a blind eye," said Water Board spokesman Jose Antonio Fernandez.

Reducing the cost of desalinated water could have huge benefits for Almería Province, he said, given the abandonment of the Villaricos desalination plant.

The Water Board, an alliance of irrigators, farmers, businessmen and politicians, said it understood that different provinces have different needs.

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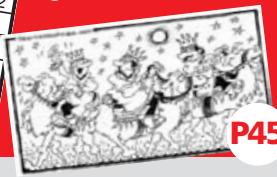
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# Babies on board

THIAGO was the first baby born in Almeria Province in 2018. Weighing eight and a half pounds he was born in Huerca-Overa hospital at 1.25am. His parents reside in Albox. The first baby girl was Emma, who was born at Torrecardenas at 2.08am.

## Victorian era

BY the end of the year Almeria City's iconic old train station will be converted into a cultural and shopping centre. The new space will have a concert hall, restaurants, shops, and conference facilities. Considered an architectural masterpiece, the old building was built in 1893.

## Drive by diddy

A LOCAL man, aged 28, was arrested after allegedly driving around Dalias threatening people with a shotgun and even firing live rounds, forcing some people to dodge bullets. He has a chequered history filled with violent offences and was found hiding in his mother's house.

## Health tourism

A HEALTHCARE bill of €3 million was invoiced by public medical centres in Almeria who attended foreigners using European health insurance cards. The vast majority come from the UK, Germany, and France. Politicians have rejected the notion that Almeria is being subjected to 'healthcare tourism.'

## Tax bonus

COASTAL towns in Almeria Province, including Vera and Roquetas de Mar, are among the few across Spain which will see properties revised downwards so that the IBI property tax decreases. Almost 2,000 Spanish municipalities saw IBI revisions take ef-

## 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.

fect on Monday.

## Super safe

ALMERIA airport attained its European air safety certificate just before the New Year, the last Andalusian airport to do so. This puts the airport at the top international level for safety and also confirms that it is financially solvent and well-managed.

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The total number of news and features which appeared in Issue 1695 of the Euro Weekly News Costa de Almería edition, including 55 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?**

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

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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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# Saucy snails

SNAILS from Turre are Almeria Province's latest gourmet product. Local company Meson Meko has been serving freshly made snails in sauce to Turre residents for more than 30 years.

But now the owner's son has sights set on selling his father's snails to every corner of Spain. The first batch of several hundred tinned snails with sauce is now on the market.

They can be purchased online and the family soon hope to see their snails on the shelves of gourmet shops in Almeria and beyond.

The new product is faithful to the original recipe but has a longer shelf life. If their snails are a hit, the family plans to sell more of their traditional home-made dishes online.

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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.

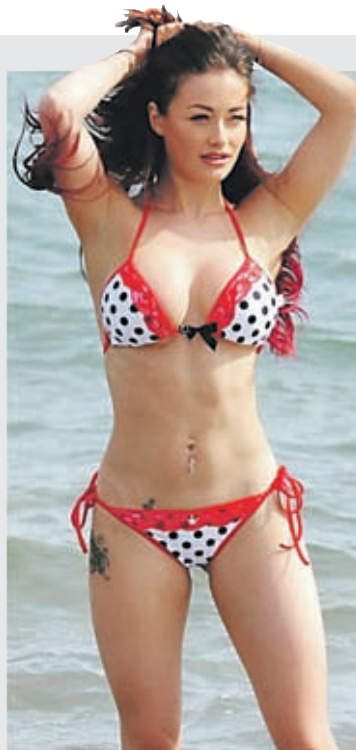
He has a young son from a previous relationship and was earlier this year linked with actress and model Carmen Muñoz before being pictured with a bikini-clad beauty at a Las Vegas hotel swimming pool.



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



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.

## 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.



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# Lights out over solar squabble

RESEARCH centre the Plataforma Solar de Almería (PSA) faces an uncertain year ahead. The giant Tabernas desert-based solar energy lab has lost €2.7 in funding from its biggest benefactor.

The Centre for Energy, Environmental and Technological Research (Ciemat) will be spending the money elsewhere.

Europe's largest solar energy research, development and testing centre is now enduring a severe lack of personnel and has seen several high profile resignations.

At the end of 2017 director Sixto Mato quit over the funding issue. Last week he said he saw "no light at the end of the tunnel" for the PSA due to obstacles set up by government bureaucracy.

The PSA is in an odd situation. Funding is being affected by austerity measures imposed on public research bodies in 2016.



Photo by Heba Hashem/Twitter

**LIGHTS OUT:** Solar centre faces funding disaster.

The centre itself has funds locked away and lots of projects waiting on the green light, but is forbidden by Madrid from hiring any new staff or buying proper equipment. This makes undertaking any major projects impossible, says Mato, and threat-

ens the centre's future.

The PSA was established in the 1980s and has a speciality focus on solar desalination and treatment of water. It boasts 20,000 square metres of solar panels at a huge 103 hectare site in the desert.

CLIMATE change poses a major threat to the province's agricultural industry, warned Almería's Association of Farmers and Ranchers (Asaja). Association president Francisco Vargas is particularly concerned about wild variations between minimum and maximum temperatures.

He claimed that the autumn harvest was down by 10 per cent across the province as a direct result of climate change.

## Yo-yo weather fears

"Not only was autumn hotter than usual," he said, "it also produced large temperature differences between highs and lows, more akin to a continental climate."

He cited November as an example. Minimum temperatures were lower than usual but the overall average was higher. This pattern continued

in December and, said Vargas, considerably lowers production. Compound the problem was the severe lack of rainfall in autumn, 59 per cent less than is typical for the season.

Overall 2017 was one of the three driest years on record since 1965.

Vargas called for a contingency plan to prepare the

province for the inevitability that the climate continues to change, with damaging consequences for the sector.

He asked all irrigators across the province to prepare proposals that would help meet the water demands of their local communities. These ideas should then be presented to the central government to ensure that water scarcity is 'prioritised in the 2018 political and social agenda.'

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**NEWS EXTRA**

**Nicked motor**

A DUTCHMAN driving a car stolen in France was arrested at Almeria port as he tried to sneak his way to North Africa. The luxury car was registered in Germany.

**Hold up**

A BURGLAR was caught red-handed by National Police officers whilst wearing a balaclava and trying to force open the door of an Almeria City shop with a crowbar.

**Bus pest**

A MAN, aged 36 and from El Ejido, was jailed for eight months for sexually abusing a woman who fell asleep next to him on a bus travelling from Madrid to Almeria.



Photo by Policia Nacional

**ARMED:** Both real and replica guns were seized.

# Casino royale

POLICE smashed an armed gang who conducted at least 13 robberies of casinos and gaming halls in Almeria and Granada provinces. All of the gang members, including the suspected ringleader, are now in custody.

The five men, who made up the gang, were of different nationalities. They used both real and replica

firearms to terrify staff at gaming halls, before making off with substantial sums of cash.

Due to witness accounts and the evidence compiled, police believe that, with the arrests, they have solved at least 13 serious crimes.

After tracking the gang for months, National Police officers

fy the leader. They began a surveillance operation and arrested him and several others who identified vulnerable targets while he and another individual committed the robberies.

The other man, a Moroccan national aged 22, was the last to be arrested. With the other members of the gang in custody police knew his plans and caught him red-handed ploughing into a games room in Granada with a shotgun.

**34** Endangered Iberian Lynxes were killed last year, almost 10 per cent of the 475 estimated to be left in the wild. At least 21 of them were run over by cars.

were soon able to identify

## Posing for charity

SOCIAL services funding has fallen by more than a quarter since 2010. New figures show a steady decline in the budget devoted to protecting the most vulnerable residents of Almeria City.

In 2017 just €66.89 was allocated per inhabitant. This is down from €77 in 2015 and represents a 27.5 per cent drop since 2010.

In response to the statistics, the Municipal Socialist Group (GMS) has accused mayor Ramon Fernandez-Pacheco of abusing his responsibilities by posing for charity photos instead of making serious investments in helping the city's poorest residents. Socialist PSOE party are urging the city to up expenditure on social services to at least €100 per inhabitant, which would require an increase of more than a third. The €100 figure is advised by social policy experts and has been attained in both Baza and Granada.

Socialist councillor Manuel Vallejo claims that four in 10 Almeria residents are at risk of social exclusion and more than 20,000 are unemployed. This is at a time, he noted, when the city spent more than €250,000 on Christmas lights, an increase of 31 per cent on last year, while social services spending collapses.

He urged the city council to stop using charity events as an 'electoral weapon' and instead to implement serious plans to help the needy.

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**NEWS EXTRA**

**Elite squad recruitment**

THERE is tough competition in Carboneras with 146 applicants vying for one of three Local Police officer positions. Physical exams take place on Wednesday January 17 at the Las Marincas football pitch.

**Wet and wild**

THE Spanish windsurf championships were held at Almerimar this week with 60 top athletes arriving to compete in the wave and slalom events.

**Thief nabbed**

A SERIAL thief from Ukraine, aged 26, suspected of dozens of burglaries of homes, shops and cars around El Ejido and Aguadulce was arrested by National Police officers.

**Naked lunch**

NUDISTS were provided with their own festive space in Roquetas de Mar last Friday after the Naturalist Association of Poniente requested permission to celebrate Christmas stark naked.



SCOOBY SNACKS: Animal centre gets Christmas bonus.

**She sells sanctuary**

SEVEN companies are vying to expand Almeria's Zoosanitary Centre. A budget of €80,000 has been approved to help improve the animal rescue facility.

The funding will help add an extra 340 square metres to the premises. There will also be better security, a pressing issue following a series of

thefts and break-ins in 2017.

Enhanced security will see nine surveillance cameras set up. They will be installed around the perimeter and the cameras will be directly connected to the Local Police station nearby. A state-of-the-art alarm system will also be installed.

Extra space means extra

room for the animals. The number of dog kennels will be expanded from 50 to 80 and a separate section for dangerous dogs will also be built.

There will also be a quarantine area for animals with contagious health problems and an improved plumbing system.

WHILE Cuevas del Almanzora won plaudits for its animal-friendly nativity scene, Vera went a step further. The town has an environmentally-friendly crib that expresses the importance of recycling.

It can be visited until Sunday and has proven popular for school trips and guided tours. Located in the botanical

**Manger magic**

gardens it features all the usual nativity scene characters but with each designed with respect for the environment.

Both the Virgin Mary and Joseph are made from waste that was initially destined for the dump. The manger itself is

comprised of bottles, plates, CDs, pipes, newspapers, cans, tins, glass, wheels, and broken toys.

Council elves began working on the crib in September, gathering materials after the town hall decided it wanted an original idea. It was built by volunteers who brought a range of creative ideas to the process.

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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](http://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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## NEWS EXTRA

## Better late than never

PULPI, Adra, Chirivel, Huercal-Overa, Tabernas, Las Tres Villas and Adra will receive a combined €318,000 to help fix infrastructure damaged in the storms of autumn 2015.

## Nice shot

HUNDREDS of petanque players with learning difficulties gathered in Pulpi to play festive competitions in four different categories. There were also teams from Albox, Vera, Macael and Tijola.

## Power out

SOCIALIST politicians have taken up the cause of six Seron families who have been without a mainframe electricity connection for almost four years despite promises from Almeria's provincial council.

## Pesky ex

A JILTED lover who harassed the Almeria woman who dumped him was jailed for one year for phoning her up to 48 times a day and threatening to track her down.

# Lights, camera, action



EASY NOW: Three new cameras will monitor Almeria's roads.

THE location of three new speed cameras in Almeria Province has been confirmed. All three will be operational within months and bring the total number of fixed cameras to 14.

The installation of the first has already been completed at kilometre nine of the AL-3111 near the exit to Campohermoso.

The second camera is planned for

kilometre 0.5 of the AL-14, a short highway which accesses the port. Speed here will be limited to 90kph.

The third will be found at kilometre five of the A-358 connecting El Ejido with Berja. This stretch is a notorious traffic blackspot, which clocked up one fatality as recently as November.

Excepting the New Year's weekend, the data on road fatalities is

now for 2017. Twenty two people were killed on Almeria's roads. A further 79 were hospitalised and 973 sustained minor injuries.

The vast majority of crashes resulting in death or serious injury occurred on secondary roads around the province. Almost all involved speeding or distraction at the wheel, typically due to the use of mobile phones.

Speeding was by far the most

common traffic offence. There were 13,610 speeding fines issued in 2017. Fixed speed cameras caught 7,681 drivers, while Guardia Civil officers with mobile cameras nabbed 5,929.

Almost eight in 10 drivers fined were exceeding the speed limit by at least 20kph. Four out of 10 were aged under 34. Men were eight times more likely to speed than women.

## Centuries of celebration

HUNDREDS of people gathered in Almeria's Plaza Viejo to mark the 528th anniversary of the expulsion of the Moors from the city.

The flag of Castile was first waved on top of the Alcazaba when Almeria was taken under the umbrella of the Catholic Kings in December 1489.

The Day of the Banner is a long tradition that was celebrated with aplomb in Almeria this year, with a symbolic march and the firing of 21 salutary shots in honour of the Spanish flag.

All the city's political factions were out in force for the event, except councillors from the United Left, who oppose



HONOUR: Carlos Sanchez leads patriotic parade.

the Spanish monarchy.

Following tradition, the youngest member of the council was invited to carry the banner of Castile through the city streets. For the seventh year running that was Popular Party member Carlos Sanchez. "More than 500 years of history are celebrated here today," he said in a speech to the crowd. "This is beyond politics and ideology and about knowing and respecting the history of our city," he said.

Members of the crowd were dressed in clothes adorned with St George's Cross. They shouted "To Spain, Andalucia. To the Catholic Monarchs and the unity of our country".

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## Mortality stats

DISEASES and ailments affecting the cardiovascular system are responsible for around seven out of 10 deaths in Almería Province.

Mortality data recently released from the Andalucía Institute of Statistics also found that Almería has the lowest mortality rate in Andalucía.

The last full year of mortality statistics relates to 2016. That year 4,929 Almería residents died, 2,631 men and 2,338 women.

Seven out of 10 died from either a heart attack, stroke, myocardial infection, respiratory failure, or a tumour which affected the cardiovascular system. Cancers of the bronchi, trachea and lungs were most common among men, killing 209. Eighty six women and one man died of breast cancer.

One striking statistic was the doubling of Alzheimer's deaths in men.

In 2016 a total of 225 Almerians died from the disease, of which 146 were women.

# Child football prodigy

## Local boy signed by Barcelona

A FOOTBALL prodigy from Almería is being hailed as the new Lionel Messi. Like the Argentine superstar, 12-year-old Cristobal Muñoz has signed with Barcelona.

Several of the world's best clubs were after 'Cristo's' signature. He chose Barcelona ahead of arch-rivals Real Madrid and has lit up the club's youth team since joining from Almería-based UD Palvia.

Over Christmas he was announced player of the tournament at the 'La Liga Promises' competition, which pitted some of the brightest young stars in Spain against one another in a series of friendlies.

He was the top scorer with five goals. Several of them were feats of individual brilliance, driving through helpless defences just like his hero.

In the Catalan capital football journalists and the Barcelona hierarchy have made glowing comparisons between Muñoz and Messi, who is considered one of the finest players in history.

Scouts have hailed his left wing



**WHIZZ KID:** Muñoz being hailed the new Messi.

wizardry, dribbling technique, fearlessness in front of goal and ability to score with two feet.

At exhibition matches in Barcelona's La Nou stadium, journalists noted his 'technique, speed, skill and determination to win.'

After joining Barcelona in 2017,

Muñoz looks set to play for the club's youth team, progressively moving through the ranks of one of the world's most acclaimed football academies.

He still harbours dreams of playing professionally for UD Almería, who play in Spain's second division, but his future may be even brighter than that.

## NEWS EXTRA

### Bungling muggers

TWO muggers were caught when police tracked the GPS signal from a phone they'd stolen on the streets of Almería after threatening their victim with a knife.

### Team work

A TURRE man, aged 40, who went missing on Friday was found alive and well less than 24 hours later thanks to a coordinated effort from police and volunteers.

### Good deed

PLAYERS from Almería football club lent their faces to a photoshoot for a calendar created by the Altea Association, which provides help to parents with children with autism.

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**SUMMER'S NEAR:** Costa chiringuitos dotting their 'i's.

# Beach bar perfection

JUST 10 of the 65 chiringuitos dotted around the Costa de Almería have all their paperwork in order. New data shows there are also plans for another 24 beach bars to be set up along the coast.

The fully compliant chiringuitos are in Vera, Garrucha, Roquetas and Adra. Three new chiringuitos in Pulpi, Vera and

Carboneras are close to finalising deals with local councils.

Sorting out their paperwork fully means getting a favourable report from the Andalucian Delegation of Environment and Land Management.

All but nine of Almería's 65 chiringuitos have put in their applications and are awaiting inspections.

A favourable report cemented their right to sell food and drink at some of the best locations on the coast.

Among the 24 proposed new chiringuitos to be set up this summer, eight are in Carboneras, three in Vera, three in Mojacar, and the rest spread between Nijar, Roquetas, Cuevas, and Almería City.



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UP AND DOWN: Yoyo demographics for places like Mojacar.

## Population rise and fall

SPAIN'S demographic crisis won't affect Almeria Province for some time. A new report has projected population figures for Andalucia between 2016 and 2070.

It comes from the Institute of Statistics and Cartography of Andalucia (IECA). The headline news is that the population of Almeria Province is expected to increase until 2030.

Though the study covers up to the year 2070, that is only for Andalucia as a whole. For respective provinces, including Almeria,

the projections stop at 2040.

The worst case scenario is that Almeria's population grows until 2030. But by 2040 it will barely be 25,000 people more than in 2016.

A high growth scenario sees the population rise to more than 820,000 in 2040, roughly 125,000 more inhabitants than there are today.

Either way Almeria Province ranks alongside Malaga Province as among the top Andalucian provinces for population growth. Cadiz, Cordoba, Granada, and Jaen will

see populations fall by 2040.

Almeria's biggest problem isn't demographic decline, concludes the report, but an ageing population. By 2040 more than 187,000 people will be aged 66 or older, while 587,000 will be below retirement age.

Extending towards 2070, the forecast for Andalucia is for the population to drop from around 8.4 million people in 2040 to 7.6 million 30 years later. By that time almost 30 per cent of the population will be aged over 65, and around 8.4 per cent aged over 80.

### NEWS EXTRA

#### New Year pitch party

A €200,000 GRANT will help renovate the Andres Soler Guerrero municipal football pitch in Cuevas del Almanzora, helping to build new stands, changing rooms, and toilets.

#### Mystery fire

A BURNING car was found on the A-7 near the Almeria port exit on Saturday afternoon. It created a severe traffic jam and the cause, and driver's identity, are as yet unknown.

#### Crop ruined

POLICE arrested a man they suspect of smashing his way through an El Ejido greenhouse in order to steal wiring and ruining a huge crop of peppers worth more than €40,000 in the process.

#### No excuse

TEN thousand hygienic packs for picking up dog poo were distributed by Almeria City Council to kick start the new year. The packs include refillable water scooshers among other items.

#### Look out

THREE women in their 60's and a young man were hospitalised when their cars smashed into one another in Almeria City late on Sunday afternoon.

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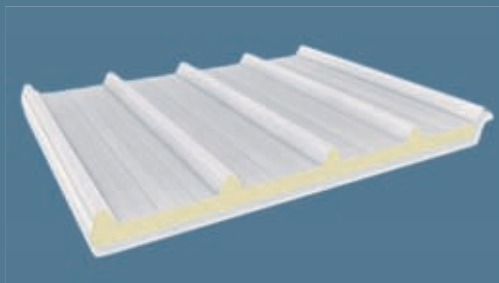
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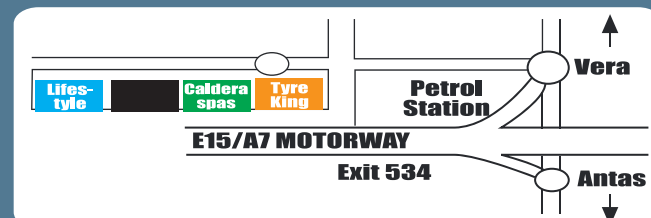
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**SOARING:** Mojacar prices defy drop across province.

## In a league of its own

RESIDENTS of Almería Province pay a far lower mortgage than the Spanish average. But the proportion of their salaries used to pay the mortgage is almost exactly the same, reflecting the province's lower wages.

The average monthly mortgage payment in Almería is €385, compared to €530 across Spain. Total mortgage amounts average €82,480

in the province, and €114,000 nationwide. People fork out 16 per cent of their salaries to pay the mortgage, compared to 16.7 per cent in Spain.

Property owners in Almería also spend the most time in Andalucía trying to sell their home, taking an average of just over 10 months.

Yet Almería was the fifth best performing province in Spain when it came to

the number of sales per capita, surpassed only by Málaga, Alicante, Madrid and the Canary and Balearic Islands.

Prices have bucked the national trend by falling slightly to an average of €941 per square metre. The Spanish average is €1,264. Yet in Almería's coastal hotspots prices continue to rise, with Mojacar registering some of the fastest increases in Spain.

## Selling like hotcakes



**HEALTHY TREAT:** Spain's avocados in hot demand over Europe.

AVOCADO exports from Almería Province were up by €1 million after the last campaign. Roughly 772 tons of the fatty fruit worth €2.5 million were exported, compared to the 517 tons and €1.6 million of the 2016 campaign.

The bonus is not a consequence of a bumper harvest. Production remained roundly the same but food companies based in Almería are now sourcing fresh avocados from Granada and then exporting them abroad.

These include Agroponiente, which is expanding its new tropical range of avocados, papayas and mangos.

Although Almería is among the biggest fruit and veg producers in Andalucía, it accounts for

only a tiny fraction of avocado exports.

In the last campaign more than €250 million worth of avocados were exported to Europe from the region. Eighty per cent of Andalucía's almost 90,000 tons of avocados are grown in Málaga and Granada provinces.

The UK, France, Germany and the Netherlands buy the bulk of avocados, with demand rising by 150 per cent as their health benefits become better known.

Almería has plans to start growing avocado en masse in specialised greenhouses. The fruit requires a particular microclimate to grow optimally. Scientists are trying to develop a type of avocado that will thrive in the fields of Níjar and El Ejido.

### NEWS EXTRA

#### Seven nations

RUGBY is being promoted at schools across the province. Competitions for the under 18 age group began before Christmas and are set to continue throughout 2018 after proving popular.

#### Pep talk

AFTER the club's poor first half of season, Mayor Ramon Fernandez-Pacheco stepped in to support UD Almería chairman Alfonso Garcia and called for the players to unite on the pitch.

#### Local snaps

PHOTOGRAPHERS have been urged to send their snaps of themes affecting Almería Province, such as migration or drought, to the Andalucian Center of Photography for its 2018 focus on local issues.

#### Sneak thief

A MAN suspected of stealing a valuable set of World War Two bayonets from a storage facility in El Ejido was arrested. Drills, tools, and a welding machine were also taken.

#### Dawn blaze

TWELVE people were evacuated from two houses next to a fertiliser warehouse in Canjajar which caught fire at dawn on New Year's Day. No injuries were reported.

#### Chill alert

AFTER a sunny start to the New Year, temperatures are expected to dip over the weekend with highs of around 12 degrees and possibly rain early next week.

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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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# Innocents' Day: Best of the rest

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 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 zero - he recently put on a gala in his own name - another



**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.

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 winter 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.

**Outrage as Spain bans fish and chips to support 'more sustainable' fishing**  
 BRITISH expatriates have reacted with outrage to the news that Spain is banning fish and chips.  
 The furious British Twitter has been given the look by Spanish authorities and fears that the country's cost crisis are being irresponsibly managed by fringe diets.  
 The waters are murkier about the reason behind the ban on chips.  
 Nicole Picasso, a fish and chips fanatic from Scotland, said: "This is absolute pathetic just because we are helping the recovery of fish at a truly alarming rate does not mean we shouldn't be able to cover them in batter, deep fry them and eat them every evening with a massive portion of chips."  
 "This sick new law will rob our diners of their side. We won't be present in the government's silly environmental games."  
 "What a load of coddles," added Nicolas Rougier.  
 But some locals have shown support for the ban, and found a worrying chip on their shoulder about the British diet.  
 Maria Puletti, a local fisherman, said: "This is coming over here, stealing our fish, saving our costs and spoiling our Patatas Bravas. If they must ruin everything with salt, vinegar and tomato ketchup, we have our own - Spanish fish products they can stuff themselves with."

**GOTCHA?:** Our story last week.

According to Spanish media, the prank programme featured a fake meteorite falling next to one victim's house, before a 'government scientist' arrived to say there might be alien life within. The Atletico Madrid president was met with a herd of sheep and a 'permit' allowing them to enter into his stadium, while a world champion figure skater was told he had discovered a Picasso behind another painting in an art gallery.

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# Golden tickets hidden in cake

*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 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.



**FUNDRAISERS:** Walk for Life and ACRAA committee members.

## A fayre-ly good effort!

THE ACRAA Christmas Fayre raised €1,700 for Walk for Life.

A cheque was presented to Walk for Life representatives Val Dix, Irene Barber and Trudy Sailes by ACRAA committee members Ray Walsh, Colin Richardson and Christine and Bernt Axelsen.

ACRAA is a registered

charity helping deserving causes across the region. In the past it has raised funds for Asprodalba, Vera Orphanage, Age Concern, Arboleas School and various animal charities.

This generous donation will enable Walk for Life to help more people affected by cancer, particularly at this time of

year, helping bring a little festive cheer to families with no other financial resource by providing translators, covering travel costs and offering a friendly hand and a listening ear to people with cancer and their nearest and dearest.

Walk for Life would like to thank the ACRAA team for all their hard work, the stall holders and Smooth FM for supporting the day and all the visitors who made the event a success.

**77.8 million**

Tourists arrived to Spain from January to November last year, 2.3% more than during the whole of 2016.



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OEM parts if no other parts are available. After-market parts are parts made by a company other than your vehicle's manufacturer. They are new and the spec should be very close to the original specs. However, some minor fitting adjustments may be required by the body shop. Used parts come from the scrap yard. Cars involved in accidents, engine trouble or age, mean that scrapped cars will have some working parts, which can be resold. The used parts are usually OEM parts.

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

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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.

### Prison break

A DARING prison escape was cap-

### Fat alert

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

### 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.

## 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."

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.'

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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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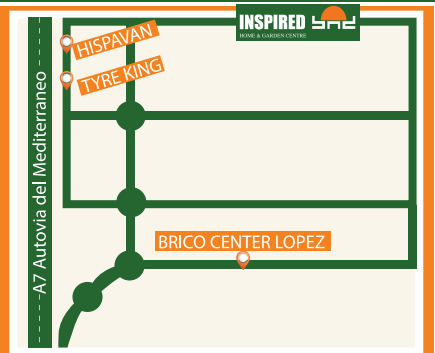


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South facing 3 bed, 2 bath, penthouse apartment of 98m<sup>2</sup>. Large terrace. Mountain & sea views. Community pool & parking. Excellent location.

A1313 170,000€

Mojácar Playa



3 bed, 2 bath, 1st floor golf apartment of 70 m<sup>2</sup> + 14m<sup>2</sup> terrace. Uninterrupted sea views. Utility terrace. Fly screens & A/C. 2 community pools.

A1316 125,000€

Mojácar Playa



Superb south facing 2 bed, 2 bath, golf penthouse of 95m<sup>2</sup> built. Golf & sea views. A/C. Terraces & Solarium. 2 x underground parking. Community pools & gymnasium

A1320 245,000€

Los Gallardos



Ground floor 2 bed, 2 bath, apartment of 77m<sup>2</sup> on a corner plot of 440m<sup>2</sup>. C/H, A/C. Parking. Community pool. Quiet residential location. Short drive to beaches.

A1321 89,995€

Antas



Spacious 4 bed, 2 bath, family home of 169m<sup>2</sup> on a plot of 365m<sup>2</sup>. Part furnished. Front & rear garden, terraces, small pool & garage. Mountain views.

LV742 199,900€

Mojácar Playa



South facing 2 bed, 2 bath, townhouse of 89m<sup>2</sup> + garden & terraces on a highly sought after front-line urbanisation. A/C. Community pool and gardens.

LV744 172,500€

Mojácar Playa



South-facing 3 bed, 2 bath, townhouse of 80m<sup>2</sup> on a plot of 98m<sup>2</sup> in a quiet residential area. Private pool & solarium. Sea & village views.

LV745 160,000€

Villaricos



Superb 4 bed, 4 bath, townhouse on 3 levels of 138m<sup>2</sup> & 44m<sup>2</sup> of terraces & solarium. Beautiful gated community with pools & gardens. Fabulous views.

LV746 229,350€

Mojácar Playa



Top quality 3 bed, 2 bath, villa with 2 x 1 bed, 1 bath apartments of 287m<sup>2</sup> on a plot of 500m<sup>2</sup>. In walking distance of the beach. Many extras.

DV1443 495,000€

Los Gallardos



Very spacious 4 bed, 4 bath, detached villa of 195m<sup>2</sup> on a plot of 10,000m<sup>2</sup> in a tranquil location. Pool, garage & carport. Sea & mountain views.

DV1441 395,000€

Huercal Overa



Beautiful 4 bed, 4 bath, country residence of 344m<sup>2</sup> on a level plot of 20,000m<sup>2</sup> with exceptional views to the sea. C/H, A/C, garage & pool. Highly recommended.

DV1442 399,950€

Cortijo Grande



3 bed, 3 bath, detached villa of 120m<sup>2</sup> on a plot of 1,600m<sup>2</sup>. Beautiful golf & mountain views. A/C & store-room. Private pool, terraces & gardens.

DV1399 199,950€

Mojácar Playa



Beautiful 3 bed, 3 bath detached villa of 198m<sup>2</sup> on a plot of 4,912m<sup>2</sup>. Outstanding sea & mountain views in a quiet location. Many features included.

DV1446 420,000€

Vera



Superb south-facing 3 bed, 3 bath, detached villa of 220m<sup>2</sup> on a fenced plot of 10,900m<sup>2</sup>. Good quality. Great views. 9x4 pool, A/C, carport & much more.

DV1447 380,000€

Mojácar Playa



Independent 3 bed, 2 bath villa of 135m<sup>2</sup> in need of some modernisation but in a great location. Sea & mountain views. Adjacent plot of 1,000m<sup>2</sup> also available. POA.

DV1448 380,000€

Mojácar Playa



3 bed, 2 bath detached villa + a 1 bed, 1 bath, annex of 135m<sup>2</sup> on a plot of 400m<sup>2</sup>. Large garage. Ample terraces & solarium. Great location.

DV1449 360,000€

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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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.



**BANNED:** Kadyrov kicked out of Instagram account.

## Video games

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.

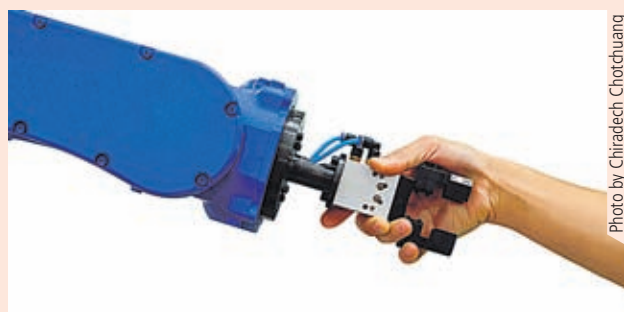


Photo by Chiradech Chotchuang

**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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# DOW JONES

CLOSING PRICES JANUARY 2

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 / %
<b>Most Advanced</b>		
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%
<b>Most Declined</b>		
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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SP16085EN

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

## Ask the expert

Peter Loveday

Contact me at [euroweekly@currenciesdirect.com](mailto: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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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](mailto:columnists@euroweeklynews.com)

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

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## INLAND PROPERTIES

### Ref: A857 • Arboleas • 182,000€

#### VILLA CLOSE TO ALL AMENITIES

This attractive detached 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom villa comes with the additional bonus of having lovely landscaped gardens and a bespoke swimming pool, outside shower and hot tub. Private covered parking and extra storage. A must see property! EPC rating E 229 - 45



Ref: A866 Located - P/Lumbreras  
349,950€ EPC E-D



Stunning villa with 3 beds, 3 baths, swimming pool with american enclosure.

Ref: A706 Located in Arboleas  
159,500€ EPC D



Beautiful 3 bed, 2 bath villa located on an elevated plot with stunning mountain views.

Ref: A810 Located P/Lumbreras  
359,000€ EPC E



Lovely 3 bed, 2 bath villa with a private swimming pool and roof solarium. 35 mins to beach.

Ref: A361 Located in Alfoquia  
324,950€ EPC G



Wonderful 5 bed, 6 bath luxury villa with bespoke swimming pool, walking distance to village.

Ref: A660 Located in Cucador  
179,999€ EPC E



3 bed, 3 bath cortijo, located in a small hamlet. Private pool and easy access to the motorway.

### Ref: A861 • Huercal Overa • 224,950€

#### DETACHED VILLA WITH APARTMENT

This is an impeccable, single-storey, detached villa with a separate apartment and private swimming pool, located within walking distance of the village of Urcal. 4 beds, 3 baths. Located 35 minutes to the beach. Priced to sell. EPC rating E154 - 31



Ref: B874 Located in Lorca  
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Ref: A569 Located in Arboleas  
167,750€ EPC G



If you are looking for a villa that stands out from the rest take a look at this colourful 3 bed.

Ref: A875 Located in L/Gallardos  
249,950€ EPC F-E



This is a great 3 bed, 3 bath villa with stunning views, private pool & mature gardens.

Ref: A876 Located in Alfoquia  
199,000€ EPC E



Characterful large property with 4 beds, 2 baths, 12.5 metre pool and stables, animal housing.

Ref: A869 Located in Cantoria  
199,950€ EPC E



A beautiful 3 bed, 2 bath villa with pool & breathtaking views of the mountains.



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## COASTAL PROPERTIES

### Ref: B1009 • Sierra Cabrera • 475,000€

#### REDUCED TO AID A QUICK SALE

This beautiful 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom luxury villa occupies one of the best positions on the mountainside and has spectacular views. Central heating, air conditioning, private swimming pool, garage, lots of terraces with awe inspiring sea & mountain views. EPC E



Ref: B948 Located on V/D/ Este  
 129,995€ EPC E



3 bed, 2 bath apartment located on Valle Del Este golf resort. Lift access.

Ref: B934 Located on Valle del Este  
 95,000€ EPC E



This is a lovely 2 bed, 2 bath penthouse with roof solarium. Communal swimming pool.

Ref: B1174 Located in Cabuzana  
 158,000€ EPC G-F



A compact villa with a very large garden and private pool. 3 beds, 2 baths. 5 min drive to the beach.

Ref: B1034 Located in Plomares  
 129,999€ EPC E



Beautiful townhouse within walking distance of the village and beach. 3 beds, 2 baths.

Ref: B1114 Located in Vera  
 315,000€ EPC E



Superb 5 bed, 3 bath villa with pool, garage, central heating and air conditioning.

### Ref: B992 • Mojacar • 160,000€

#### GREAT RENTAL POTENTIAL

This is a 3 bed, 2 bath end position townhouse with communal swimming pool, air conditioning, central heating, private parking, located 10 minutes to the beach and only 5 minutes to the local shops and all amenities. EPC F 119 - F 29



Ref: B1099 Located in Garrucha  
 119,999€ EPC F-E



A 3 bed, 2 bath Penthouse with sea views, communal roof solarium and underground parking.

Ref: B1005 Located in S/Cabrera  
 149,950€ EPC F-E



Villa in a stunning location with spectacular views. Communal pool and parking.

Ref: B1063 Located in Vera  
 695,000€ EPC D



This is a beautiful luxury villa with 5 beds, 5 baths, superb pool, garage, C/H and air con.

Ref: B1178 Located in Mojacar  
 355,000€ EPC E



A larger than average villa with 3 beds, 3 baths and only a 2 minute walk to the beach. A Gem!

Ref: B1105 Located in San Juan  
 249,950€ EPC F-E



Large 3 bed, 3 bath townhouse located on 3 floors and with Private swimming pool.

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## TECH FOR THE TIMID

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.

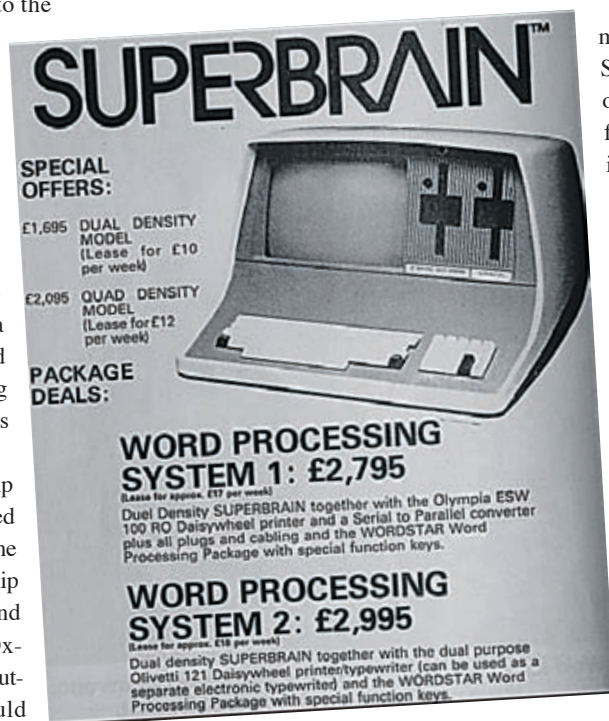
With most people using less than 10 per cent of what these programs can do, say the experts, Lee Child's dilemma sounds familiar. (He gets around it, incidentally, by simply writing his next book over the previous one).

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

## 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.'



**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 euro 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.gcfllearnfree.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.**

## 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!

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Readers interested in submitting articles for this guest column should send articles of around 250 words on topics felt to be of interest to the cosmopolitan EWN readership to [editorial@euroweeklynews.com](mailto: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](http://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.*

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# YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

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

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## 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 Mojacar, I saw guys from Ferroviario (paid by our rates) watering the cycle track and the cactuses on the beach!!!!

*Roger Page, Mojacar*

### 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*

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THURSDAY	BBC one	BBC TWO	itv	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky sports main event
<b>04 JANUARY</b>	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	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	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	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	4:20pm Deadly Stage Fright 6:00pm 5 News at 5 6:35pm Barging 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! 12:05am Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side	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
<b>FRIDAY</b>	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	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	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	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	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 Wind-Ups Ever! 9:00pm Costa Del Celebrity 10:00pm Celebrity Big Brother 11:00pm Will and Grace 11:30pm Celebrity Big Brother	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
<b>SATURDAY</b>	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	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	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	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 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2 10:00pm The Transporter 12:40am	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	9:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 9:30am Cricket 4:00pm Rugby Union 6:30pm Rugby Union 8:45pm My Icon 9:00pm Sky Sports Tonight 10:00pm Live NFL: Wild Card Round Game 2:00am Live NFL: Wild Card Round Game
<b>SUNDAY</b>	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	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	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	1:30pm 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	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	9:30am Cricket 4:15pm Football 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 3:00pm SKY Sports News 4:00pm SKY Sports News 5:00pm SKY Sports News
<b>MONDAY</b>	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	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	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	12:00pm Sun, Sea and Selling Houses 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	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	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
<b>TUESDAY</b>	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	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	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	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	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	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
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	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	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	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	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	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	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 Live Carabao Cup 11:00pm The Debate - Live 12:00am SKY Sports News 1:00am SKY Sports News 2:00am SKY Sports News



# 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**

**Travel**



**TARIFA: Beach paradise right on your doorstep.**



By Matthew Elliott

# Tarifa: Paradise found

GHOST town in winter and a surfing paradise in summer, nowhere in Spain is the seasonal swing more emphatic than in Tarifa. Boasting some of the best beaches, not in Spain or Europe, but in the world, the seaside town comes alive in spring, making it a hugely popular day out for Costa del Sol families at this time of year.

A trip to Tarifa takes you out of Malaga Province and into Cadiz and Spain's southern Atlantic coastline. But it is surprisingly close to the Costa del Sol, just 45 minutes along the A-7 from Marbella, or 90 minutes from Malaga. Those times depend on the traffic but, with it being a

straight road almost all the way, Tarifa is easily the wildest destination right on the doorstep.

Beaches, surfing and other adventure sports are the main reasons people come to Tarifa. A wander around the historic old town is an enjoyable treat by itself, with plenty of Moroccan inspired restaurants to choose from. Of course many also come to take the short ferry from Tarifa port to Tangier. North Africa is so close you can see it on a clear day.

The easiest to reach and most popular beach is Los Lances which is almost 8km long and very rarely crowded. A walk along the beach and back would easily be a day's work itself. Beyond Los Lances is Valdevaqueros which is even long and, being on the Atlantic, much windier. Both are kitesurfing havens where world championships are often held.

If the beaches are a little too vast for your taste, or the weather doesn't permit sunbathing, Tarifa has plenty of cultural

options up its sleeve. There is the Guzman Castle which is more than 1,000 years old and considered one of the best preserved medieval castles in Spain.

Likewise the gothic San Mateo church is a terrific place to explore, as are the Roman ruins of Bolonia, a small fishing village just a few kilometres away.

Animal lovers can take up horse riding on the beach for the afternoon, or even whale watching as part of special guided tours from May to September.

# 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](http://www.sallytrotman.com) or email at [sally.trotman@btinternet.com](mailto:sally.trotman@btinternet.com).

## Travel

# Natural waterfalls to take your breath away

WITH temperatures still soaring along the costas, why not head inland slightly to the cooling waters of the Fuentes del Algar.

Situated in Callosa d'en Sarria, just 15km from Benidorm, the waterfalls are a picturesque nature reserve offering crystal clear waters and cooling waterfalls which are a world away from the bars and beaches just a short drive away from the coast.

Upon entering the waterfalls you can weave your way against the current along the waters and little streams, cooling off in the natural pools as you go. The sun shines through the welcoming shade of the trees, speckling the rocks and waters like shiny crystals glistening from the water's edge.

Such is their beauty it is no surprise that they caught the attention of TV producers and it was here that the famous Timotei shampoo advert was filmed with many trying to recreate those moments in the Cascada Principal, which is the first

main waterfall you arrive at.

Keep pushing up along the wooden pathways to the Estret de Sacos and the waters seeping through the mountains are perfect for a cooling dip; and they are cooling, if not positively freezing, so be prepared for the Algar waterfalls to take your breath away in more ways than one.

Whilst a protected nature reserve, the waterfalls are manned by lifeguards watching from the diving points and there are toilets and a restaurant within the waterfalls.

Entry is €5 for adults in the high season and €4 in the low season. Taking your own picnic inside is prohibited with checks being carried out at the gates. However, just outside the waterfalls there is a picnic and park area, ideal to spend another few lazy hours. From the numerous parking areas on the way to the waterfalls just outside of the village of Callosa d'en Sarria there are a number of restaurants offering snacks and menu del dias, many with their own pools also which are free to those eating.

Just a few minutes away there is the popular Dino Park introducing visitors to the mysterious world of the dinosaurs with moving and static models in life-size form set amongst natural surroundings. Dino Park is suitable for youngsters of all ages and has a 3D cinema, playgrounds, parking and Dino shop. Dino Park is open from 10am-8pm during August and until 6pm in September and October with tickets costing €15 for adults and €10 for children aged from four to 12.

Whilst the waterfalls seem like a blissful hidden retreat, sadly they are no longer a secret delight for a few in the know, and can be busy in summer months but they make a lovely day out for those on the Costa Blanca. Also remember to take swim shoes with you as the pebbles and rocks under foot can be extremely slippery and brace yourself for the cold!

For opening times and directions visit [www.lesfontsdelalgar.es](http://www.lesfontsdelalgar.es).



**NATURAL AREAS:** The Algar Waterfalls literally take your breath away.

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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 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.

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

### 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.

## LOTTERY

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)
<b>BONUS BALL</b>	<b>BONUS BALL</b>	<b>LUCKY STARS</b>	<b>LUCKY STARS</b>	<b>REINTEGRO</b>	<b>REINTEGRO</b>	<b>REINTEGRO</b>
(34)	(16)	(2) (10)	(1) (12)	(42) (2)	(22) (8)	(2)
		EL MILLON: VLD65841		JOKER: 347 442	JOKER: 2 084 066	

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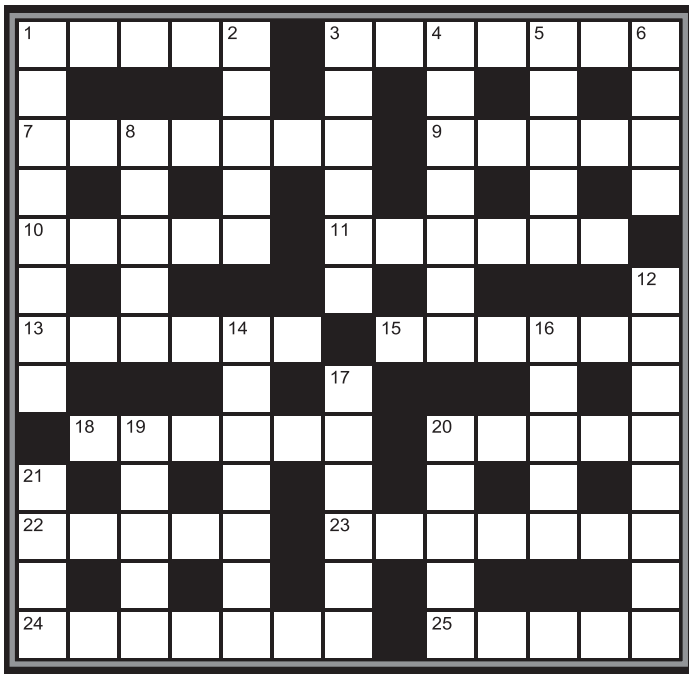
Cryptic

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

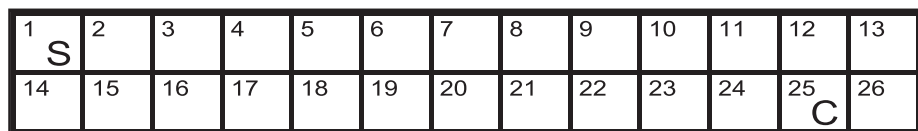
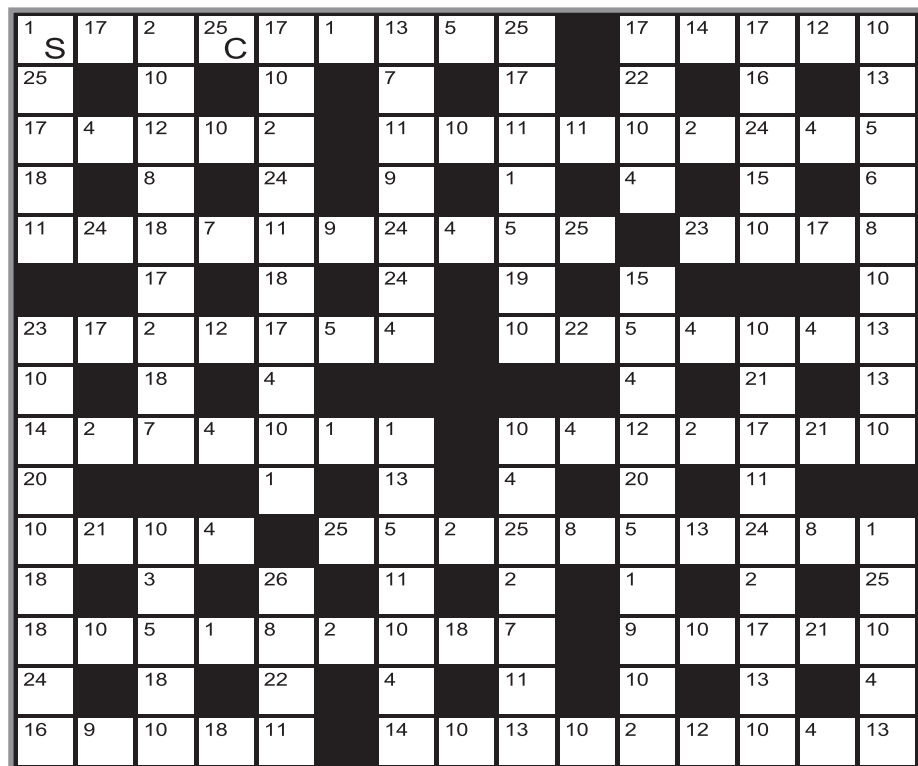
- 1 Reduce cones, end problem (8)
- 2 Lift one in many (5)
- 3 Engineers in some French ship providing force (6)
- 4 Leo, perhaps, or a foreign lady (7)
- 5 Part of Ottawa's harbour is flooded (5)
- 6 Be in a hurry to use a punctuation mark (4)



- 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)

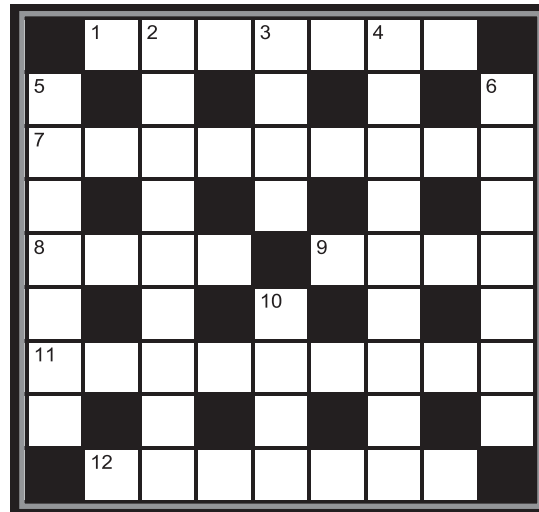
Code Breaker

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

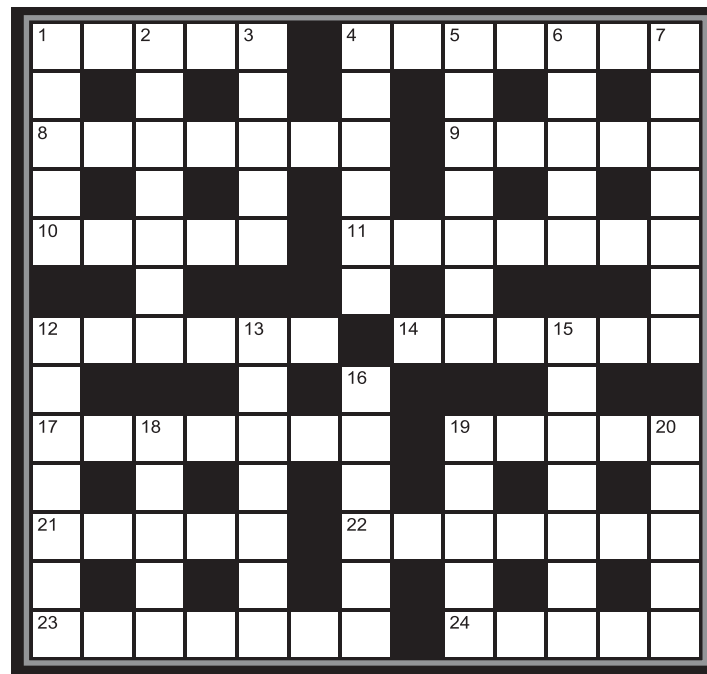
- 1 Brings in from abroad (7)
- 7 Having full belief (9)
- 8 Relating to the mouth (4)
- 9 Can do (4)
- 11 Light silvery-grey metal (9)
- 12 Communication (7)

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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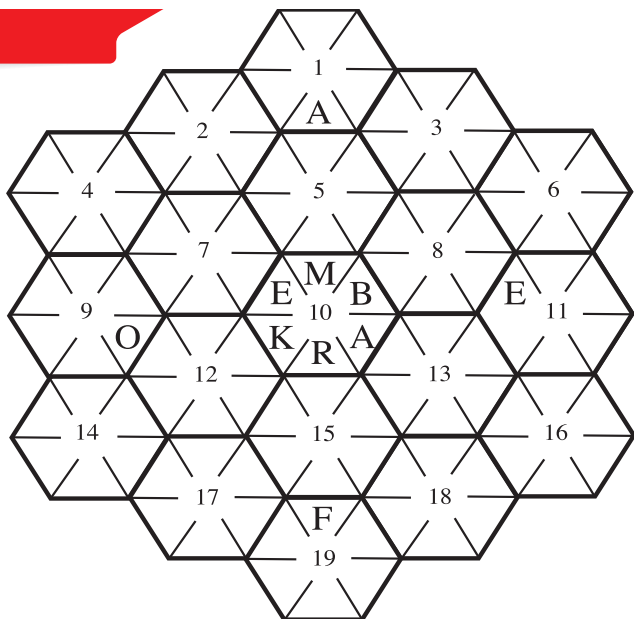
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## Hexagram

- 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.

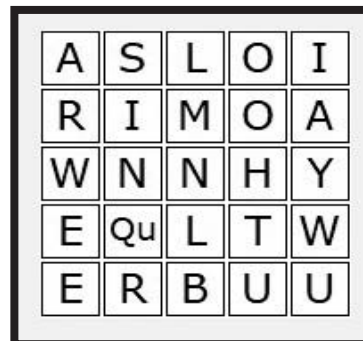
### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

- 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 kerner 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:

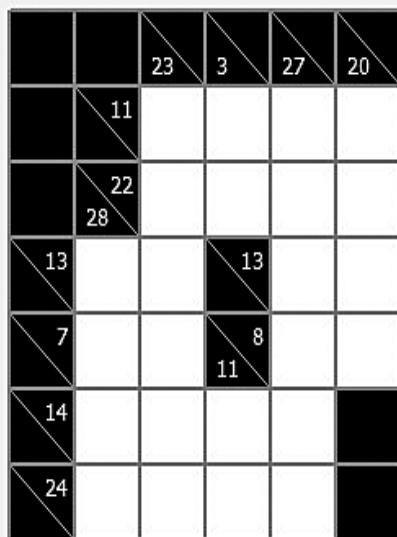
- Average: 17
- Good: 23
- Very good: 34
- Excellent: 44

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

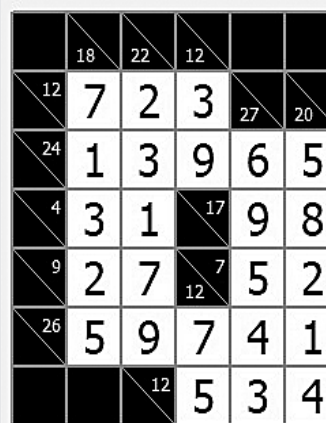
file filo fire fled flew floe flow foil fold folk ford fore fork fowl frow kerf lief life rife wife wolf field filed filer fiord fired flier fried kefir lifer rifle florid flowed flower foiled folder forked fowled fowler refold rifled wolfed lifework **FIELDWORK**

## 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

1	R	2	Y	3	H	4	D	5	F	6	G	7	S	8	P	9	K	10	O	11	T	12	C	13	E
14	W	15	I	16	J	17	L	18	Z	19	V	20	X	21	A	22	N	23	B	24	Q	25	M	26	U

### 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 Ensur, 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.

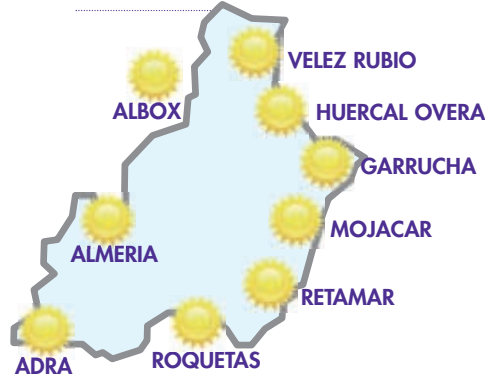
With her career in jeopardy, and leads turning into dead ends, she juggles increasing pressure from her superiors with her own personal demons, but will her intuition guide her to the killer?

books@euroweeklynews.com

**Costa de Almería**

**weather**

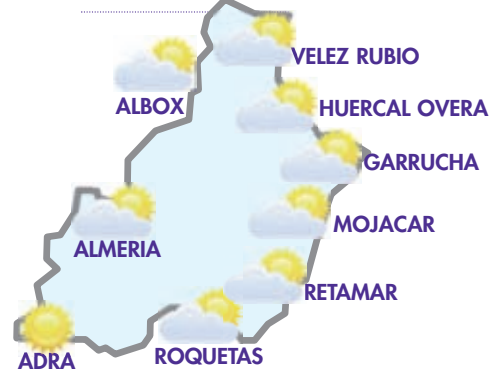
**TODAY**



**TOMORROW**



**SATURDAY**



<b>Malaga</b> 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	<b>Almeria</b> 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	<b>Bilbao</b> 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	<b>Madrid</b> 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
<b>Alicante</b> 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	<b>Benidorm</b> 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	<b>Mallorca</b> 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	<b>Barcelona</b> 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

**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.

**Word Ladder**

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.

**HAIR**

**FILM**

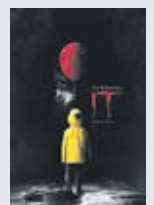
FILM  
FILL  
HILL  
HALL  
HAIR  
**Solution**

**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

	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			

**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.



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# 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

centimetre 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.

## Footnote

TO put the lid on it, Barça beat Real Madrid on their home ground in the Bernabeu stadium 0-3 two days after the elections. And Rajoy a Madrid fan, too.

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

# New Year's resolutions: as easy to break as to make

**Ric Polansky**



Ric Polansky moved to Mojacar in 1969 as a pioneer developer. He reads extensively and has travelled in South America panning gold and looking for El Dorado.

THE road to hell is paved with fine resolutions and good wishes. Yet, change is as inevitable as death. It's good that each year we seem to give ourselves that opportunity to resolutely make changes that are totally necessary.

Unfortunately our blurred and fuzzy psychic, still well confused from New Year's revelries often indistinguishable from mature thought and progressive utilitarian improvement easily falls into whimsical fantasies that wouldn't be implemented in a millennium of attempted new starts.

Soon the drudgery of rhythmic attempts wears thin and unperceived problems appear that alter our scheduling for 'me time' and all the best of intentions slowly fizzle or fret themselves away. Lost in a busy day of frenzied activity leading to being busier, but what was accomplished could rarely be written down.

Nevertheless, our yearning heart



**DON'T OVERDO THE RESOLUTIONS: There's always next year.**

and beseeching soul begs for more. Yes, but make it better still sweet Lord. We want it bestowed upon us as a gift from high, if effort is involved, possibly what we desired wasn't meant for us.

I look at this time of the year as the 'trade-offs.' What has to be given up to accomplish what we think we desire most? So it goes, the constant inner struggle, at least for the first two-three weeks of the

New Year. Until the consciousness grows weary of the struggle or the entire affair is conveniently forgotten.

After all, it was the American school of transcendentalism that

purported 'a foolish consistency is but the hobgoblin of little minds.' The underlying statement was to caution taking oneself too seriously. Giving up on resolutions then is likewise taken with less attitude.

After all, let's not be cruel about this thing. First there is always next year, another list, shorter if possible and less exaggerated on what you seek. The propensity of the situation is lifted and you can sincerely enjoy the next 11 months.

Remember, drink the good wines first. Life isn't for looking at but rather chocking the neck of the bottle and filling the glasses amongst your friends yet once again. Let the bon humour flow and the wine even more so.

Reconsider lowering your desires. Spend more time with the dog. Take your wife for lunch with no apparent excuse. Meet new Spanish friends and learn a few more conversational arguments.

(You will never win, as they have perfected the art of bar room banter to an art form). Then again, you don't need to win either, that's not the point... it's showing up and being heard and sharing in the laughter.

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## 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 Torreveija, 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](http://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

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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, explaining: "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

# Burn fat with a winter workout



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.

# Scarlet fever on the rise

IT might sound like a disease from a bygone 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 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, mainly 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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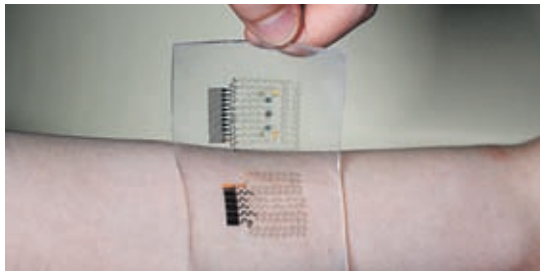
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## No more jabs



### MICRONEEDLE PATCHES: The future for diabetes sufferers?

FOR diabetes sufferers daily insulin injections can be a stressful and painful experience.

But now scientists have discovered a new skin patch could replace jabs altogether by stimulating the body's own insulin production.

Dr Richard Leapman, scientific director of the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering in Maryland, United States, explained the development could be good news for those with type 2 diabetes as they are still producing insulin.

He added: "A weekly microneedle patch application would also be less complicated and painful than routines that require frequent blood testing."

Senior investigator Dr Xiaoyuan Chen, explained: "Most current approaches involve constant release. Our approach creates a wave of fast release when needed and then slows or

even stops the release when the glucose level is stable," adding, "that's why we call it responsive, or smart, release." He concluded: "Diabetes is a very serious disease and affects a lot of people," adding, "everyone is looking for a long-acting formula."

The pancreas converts sugar from carbohydrates using insulin by moving glucose from the blood into cells where the sugar is converted to be used as energy or stored.

Those with type 2 diabetes struggle to make or use insulin and generally require insulin therapy through injections which use different amounts of insulin depending on how much is present in a diabetes patient's blood.

Researchers have found insulin therapy was not managed correctly in around half of cases, however, leading to studies into more effective, less painful alternative methods.

## 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 reishi, 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 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



### MUSHROOMS: Many have medicinal properties.

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.

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

## Brain food



### OILY FISH: Good for the brain.

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 cogni-

tion 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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The current touring band.

## Jarabe de Palo celebrate 20 years

IF you want to explore Spanish rock music which isn't heavy metal then Jarabe de Palo are just about to return from a sold out US and Latin American tour.

Celebrating 20 years as a band and the new 50 Palos album (their 11th) the band will be appearing at the Teatro Auditorio in Roquetas de Mar on Saturday February 3 with tickets costing between €21 and

€31. After two years away from live playing, the new album is a double accompanied by a book which is a retrospective of the band's most popular songs played in a jazzy style with piano backing.

With 70 gigs in this current tour, founder member and leader Pau Donés is celebrating his 50th birthday in style and a promise that every gig will be special.

# Rock en Familia brings Queen to the Teatro Cervantes

ROCK EN FAMILIA is an organisation which is aimed at children and adults helping to educate children about the pleasures of rock music.

Parents and their children have the opportunity to see a whole range of tribute bands playing live accompanied by stories explaining the history of some of the most important and influential bands that have ever played live and in many cases inviting the children to join in.

On Sunday January 21, the Queen tribute will perform at the Teatro Cervantes in Almeria City with the performance starting at 11.30am and tickets costing just €12 with a promise that the music will be loud enough to rock, but quiet enough to protect young ears.

Through their storytellers and the best tribute bands in the country, Rock en Familia introduces the next generation to such bands as The Beatles, Bon Jovi, Ramones, Mecano, AC/DC, Kiss, U2, Metallica, Michael Jackson, Led



ROCK MUSIC: Scenes from an earlier show.

Zeppelin, Nirvana, Aerosmith, Iron Maiden and Queen.

It's a novel approach and has been very successful which is why the organisation is able to put so many different shows on the road.

A word to the future as those who like their music loud, Queenie, the World Queen Tribute Band which has been touring the world since 2006, will be at the same venue on Thursday March 15 with tickets costing €30.

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A CLASSIC: The Chorus of Swans.

# Swan Lake arrives from Russia

THE Moscow State Ballet with stars from the Bolshoi will bring this classic piece from its repertoire to the stage of the Teatro Cervantes in Almería City.

Swan Lake is the first of the three ballets composed by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and is one of the most famous and well-loved of his ballets.

The work, based on a German legend, moves between love and magic, linking the eternal struggle of good against evil as it tells the story of Prince Siegfried and love for Odette, a young woman turned into a swan by an evil

spell and Odile, the black swan and daughter of a wizard.

Swan Lake is undoubtedly the most popular ballet of all and with lead dancer Chinara Alizade, showing the eventual victory of love, the evening promises to bring a feeling of inspiration and magical performance to Almería.

This is just one of the many Romantic ballets that sprang from the genius of 19th century composers which still manage to captivate audiences around the world.

First presented in 1877 at the Moscow Bolshoi Theatre with the choreography of Julius Reisinger, it was not very well received, but when reworked by choreographers Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov in 1895 it was acclaimed as the classic it is today.

The music will be supplied by the Russian State Symphony Orchestra as more than 40 dancers appear on stage.

The performance will take place on Thursday January 18 at the Teatro Cervantes commencing at 9pm with tickets costing €30.

## Some great young chefs with music



Photo Credit: Ayuntamiento de Albox

Expect great music from Por un Puñado de Tercios.

THE finals of a mini Masterchef competition will take place at the Francisco Torrecillas Pavilion in Albox tonight at 8pm.

Young people aged between 8 and 13 have won through the qualifying round with a selection of first class dishes and they can be viewed on a giant screen as they battle it out for the title. There will be an appearance from local band Por un Puñado de Tercios.

## The Wizard of Oz

THERE is a special award-winning version of the musical Wizard of Oz based on the classic movie showing this Sunday in Adra.

Aimed at children, the story of Dorothy and her adventures with the Scarecrow, Tin Man and Cowardly Lion is presented with six musical numbers which range from country to rock to funk and pop together with a number

of spectacular magic tricks.

The musical which lasts one hour and 20 minutes takes place at the Adra Cultural Centre in the Plaza del Mar starting at 5pm and tickets which cost €8 and €10 can be purchased online from [www.redentradas.com](http://www.redentradas.com).

The show has been produced and directed by Javier de Pascual and is presented by Mundiartistas for one day only.

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# 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 Almeria in the New 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 Teatro Auditorio in Roquetas de Mar on Saturday March 3 with tickets costing €28 to €31 for the spectacular performance starting at 9.30pm.

For those who love the music of one of the greatest bands of all time, this will be the on-

ly show presented by the One World Symphonic Orchestra in Almeria 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.



**A Killer Queen performance.**

Visit

<https://www.queensymphonicrhapsody.com/> to find out more about the show and to view videos of past performances.

## 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:

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by Lorenzo Barbareschi



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, Montericco, 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.

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APPEAL: Scandal hit Trabalon (centre) unhappy with guilty verdict.

## Disgraced mayor launches appeal

EIGHT of the politicians and civil servants convicted in the notorious Costurero corruption case have appealed against their sentences. They include former Zurgena mayor Candido Trabalon, who illegally granted licences for the construction of 1,500 homes between 2003 and 2007.

He was sentenced to six and a half years in prison and banned from holding public

office for 18 years for his part in the scandal, which affected hundreds of British buyers of the illegal homes.

His co-conspirator and former councillor, Manuel Tijeras, received a 30-month prison sentence and a 14 year ban from politics. He is also appealing against the judgement to the Supreme Court.

All of the defendants had pled their innocence before

being convicted in July and claim their trial by Almeria's provincial court was unfair.

In the summer ruling judges said Trabalon's plans for 1,500 'defied the rational use of natural resources and put the local community at risk' by almost tripling the population overnight.

Trabalon was also convicted of enriching his family and other close contacts through the illegal scheme.

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# Fire delay fury

THREE children and one woman were rescued from a fire at an Albox property on Saturday night. The blaze broke out in the courtyard of a building on Calle San Leonardo.

There was serious smoke damage to the three-storey building. The mother and her three children stayed on the first floor and had to spend the night at their relatives.

There was immediate criticism levelled at Albox mayor Francisco Torrecillas. One of his first actions after taking power was to close

the local fire station. Popular Party spokesman, Juan Perez Quiles, said that the promised savings from the closure had not materialised.

"Instead we have lost the €150,000 subsidy provided by the provincial council and the fire engine provided by the council," he said, warning that Albox residents will pay for the mistake.

Quiles also noted that firefighters from Turre had taken 45 minutes to arrive and that it was sheer luck that there were no serious injuries.

# Smart cookies

DOZENS of young people aged between 14 and 30 took part in a free English language course in Albox. They took advantage of 25 teaching hours offered by the Training for Youth programme, which operates across Almeria.

The courses are offered in municipalities with populations of less than 20,000. The Albox youngsters were given face-to-face training by qualified teachers. They studied up to the B1 level, where learners can understand the key themes of long texts and write simple ones of their own.




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TRAIN CREW: New Year's Eve protesters kept tradition alive.

# Bring her back

A CROWD gathered on New Year's Eve to call for the re-opening of the old Guadix-Baza-Almanzora-Lorca railway line.

It closed on December 31, 1984 and each winter for 33 years local residents have held a rally at the old Baza station at noon on New Year's Eve.

The line used to pass right through the Almanzora Valley, taking in Purchena, Olula

del Rio, Cantoria, Arboleas, and Zurgena, as part of a wider Granada-Murcia connection.

It was up and running in the late 19th century and is sorely missed by residents across the region.

In the three decades since its closure it has been widely recognised that the move was a mistake. Now groups, including the Association of

Friends of the Railway Region of Baza, are seizing on recent railway developments in Almeria and Granada to demand it reopens.

They are urging the government to consider pumping money into the project, while a high-speed connection is established between Almeria and Granada, and Almeria and Murcia in the early 2020s.



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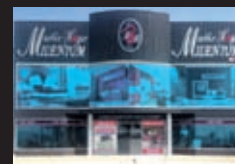
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**SOARING:** Home prices in Andalucía continue to rise.



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 enjoy quality quarter

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 Andalucía the increase surpassed 5 per cent. In places like Cantabria and La Rioja, prices fell.

## €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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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 billion. 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 accounted for

## Casa cash flowing



**BOOMING:** The Spanish property market is on the rise.

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.

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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



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 exposed 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.

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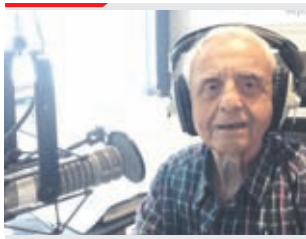


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## Your dog and new baby



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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 an-

other 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.



**POOCH PALS:**  
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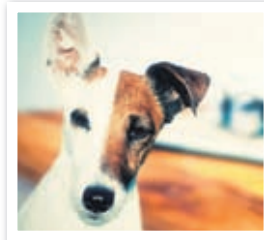
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### Clarkson Quote of the Week



On the Chrysler PT Cruiser. "The front looks like a face, a friendly face from the land that gave us friendly fire."

Some might say...



By Matthew Elliott

VOLKSWAGEN is attempting to undo the damage done by the diesel scandal and return to its hippie routes.

The German giant has revealed plans for 30 new electric models to be released by 2025, including a green-friendly remake of its legendary microbus.

Named the Buzz, the electric hippie wagon is slated for release in 2022 and appeared for a test run in the fitting location of Venice Beach, California.

Other electric concept cars unveiled include a hatchback and crossover SUV, which should both be in production by 2020. Most of the buzz will be about the Buzz, which is suitably colourful in a two-tone yellow and has spin around front seats that can face backwards.

Back in the realm of reality, Volkswagen is enjoying rave reviews for its new T-Roc SUV. It has now debuted in the UK and

# Hippie bus is back Plus T-Roc acclaim



**GAME CHANGERS:**  
VK'S T-Roc and electric Buzz (inset) part of image makeover.



across Europe, with the 114hp 1.0 litre TSI model with front-wheel drive and a manual gearbox expected to be the top seller.

Though with a slightly less

powerful engine than other SUVs in a packed market, the T-Roc is advertised as perfect for nipping around town and is 225kg lighter than previous models. It is simi-

lar to Audi's Q2 and smaller than Volkswagen's own Tiguan.

It is mechanically basic but practical and modern, with no elaborate 4Motion all-wheel dri-

ve but an eight-inch infotainment system, two-climate control system, and optional LED headlights.

It is comfortable, agile and comes with a three-year, 60,000 mile warranty. There are no electric or hybrid options, aiming at the petrol market. UK prices begin at around £20,000 (€22,500).

## Built in Britain

BREXIT and diesel concerns have seen British drivers lose their appetite for British-built cars. Domestic demand for cars built in the UK crashed by almost 30 per cent at the tail end of 2017.

Exports rose but couldn't make up for the drop in domestic sales. Now 85 per cent of all cars built in Britain are sold abroad. Overall in 2017 domestic demand dropped by 9 per cent, leading to an overall decline of 2 per cent.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT), cites Brexit uncertainty and diesel tax confusion as reasons for the demand drop.

Chief executive Mike Hawes said the figures show the importance of negotiations with the EU over Britain's future car trade with the bloc.

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**ROAD TEST** by Nick Fletcher

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 touch-screen 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 re-

quired. 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.

# Subaru Outback SE Premium

## Stats panel

**Model:** Subaru Outback SE  
**Engine:** 2.0 litre diesel  
**Transmission:** CVT Auto  
**Performance:** 0-100 kph 9.9 seconds, top speed 191 (119 mph)  
**Economy:** 16.4 kpl (46.3 mpg)  
**Emissions:** 159 g/km

**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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# Real life Transformer

The €59,000 car able to turn into a robot

JAPANESE firm Four Link Systems has unveiled its brand new electric car that can transform into an upright robot.

Designed by famous Videogame designer Kuno Okawara, the Earth-1 is capable of shifting from a normal car to an upright robot which

can be moved with a joystick.

The car, which has a large cockpit that opens up for the driver to step into, has everything that would be normally expected, steering wheel, brakes and large fins at the back for brake lights, until it transforms upright into a robot which can be manoeuvred by a joystick at the front.

It has not yet had a trial on public roads and is awaiting permission to do so ahead of actual sales.

*The Earth-1 is expected to cost eight million yen (€59,426) when it eventually goes on sale.*



Credit: Twitter

**STUNNING:** The Bugatti Chiron set to go up for sale in February.

# Chiron clearance!

## Prized Bugatti to go up for auction

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 calipers.

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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# A Focus on Ford

IMAGES of the new Ford Focus 2018 have been revealed ahead of the car's expected launch next year.

In the images, the car is heavily camouflaged in bright colours with the slogan #TimeToFocus in plain sight, but several new features seem to have been added, including a new grille.

While much of information about the new Ford Focus remains under wraps, the British carmakers have confirmed that an estate version of the car will be produced.



Credit: Twitter

**COLOURFUL:** Images of the Ford Focus 2018 have been revealed.

Details of the estate's specs are yet to be announced, but it is widely expected that the new Focus will be an upgraded version of the MK3, with features like the Active Park Assist Traffic Sign

Recognition and Adaptive Front lighting likely to be a part of the new model.

The new generation of the popular family hatchback will be officially launched in spring 2018.

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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 Pe-

terborough.

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.

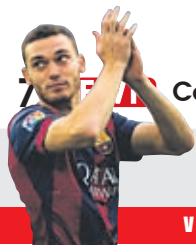
Özil and Sanchez become free agents in the summer and are eligible to negotiate with clubs in January.

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.



BARCELONA have never lost a La Liga game that defender Thomas Vermaelen has started. The former Arsenal centre-back has featured just 16 times since moving to the club in 2014 but has won 13 times and drawn the other three.

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SPANISH snowboarder Regino Hernandez has admitted his focus is now fully on competing at this year's Winter Olympic games after retaining his Snowboard Cross World Cup title last month.

Regino Hernandez, along with partner Lucas Eguibar, retained their titles at the International Ski Federation (FIS) Snowboard Cross World Cup in Montafon, Austria, last month.

They beat Italian pair Omar Visintin and Emanuel Perathoner in a nail-biting finale to secure the victory and after the event, Hernandez told the *Euro Weekly News*:

# Going for gold

## Spanish 'boarder aiming for PyeongChang

**OLYMPIC DREAM:** Hernandez in Sochi 2014 (inset).



"To win a race is always something incredible, but to retain the title is amazing.

"I had a really good start section. Lucas (my partner) is really patient and waited to pass the rivals then I managed to get into first."

Now that the title is back in Spain, Hernandez admits that his focus is solely on obtaining Olympic glory at the games in Korea that begin next month.

"Of course this season the Olympics are the most important event," he continued.

"We will be working continuously to be in the best shape for February.

"I want to be the top rider and I'll always give 100 per cent to achieve that."

The Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, Korea officially begin on February 9, with Hernandez expected to be one of Spain's medal hopes.

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