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**CONFESSED:** The man has been remanded in custody.

## Car kill bid

### Sex workers attacked

A sex worker remains in a serious condition after being run over by an angry Costa Blanca client.

It comes as a 25-year-old man was charged with attempted murder held by investigators including Guardia Civil officers

from Gandia and Oliva.

And a probe revealed that the same man had allegedly attacked another prostitute earlier the same day.

A police official said that the attacks came after the accused had a fight with his partner, who recently gave birth.

He first drove to Catarroja, where he called the first woman, who met him on an industrial estate.

But when she arrived he beat her and stole her handbag.

He then travelled to Favara where he picked up a second girl, who chose to leave his car after a brief conversation.

As she stepped onto the road he rammed her with the car before reversing over her stricken body.

She was seriously hurt and is still in hospital, while the man confessed and has been remanded in custody.

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**NEWS EXTRA****Wheelie bags axed**

RYANAIR'S new baggage rules come into effect next Monday, forcing travellers to book priority boarding to bring wheelie bags into the cabin and pay €5-6 if they want to take two items of hand luggage on board.

**Nasty sideline**

AN alleged jihadist recruiter, arrested in Sagunto (Castellon) last November and released on charges, was remanded after investigators obtained proof he was distributing child pornography.

**High rise**

THE Fire Consortium helicopter airlifted a runner from the Cabeço d'Or mountain in Busot. One of a group, he fell and injured his leg 100 metres from the top of the 1,210 metre peak.

**City makes its point**

By Linda Hall

UNDETERRED by accusations of racism, blacked-up pages distribute presents during Alcoy's Three Kings parade this year.

Alcoy residents demonstrated their support by adding pages to the Father Christmas and Three Kings figures that many apartment-dwellers attach to their balconies.

Sales of the figures shot up this year, local shopkeepers agreed, as well as mugs, pins, stickers featuring the black-face pages. "People just want to make their point," said one business owner who stressed that it was all done in good humour "not anger."

Earlier the pages were criticised in the online magazine, Afrofeminas, which maintained that they "stereotyped, ridiculed, excluded and falsified our image."

This censure was backed up by Rita Boshao, an MP for



Photo by Raia Rufino Valor

**CONTROVERSIAL: Blacked-up pages give out presents during the Three Kings parade in Alcoy.**

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the Podemos party who represents Alicante in the national parliament.

The majority of Alcoy residents rushed to the defence of the pages who have delivered presents on the night of January 5 since the parade was first held in 1885.

City hall also approved a motion supporting the tradition which councillors agreed was not based on racism as it was the very pages who brought "magic and illusion" to local children.

**Firemen to the rescue**

THE Marina Alta fire brigade was called out to assist a woman who fell in Les Rotes in Denia.

The 49-year-old, accompanied by her husband, was trying to reach the Gerro tower but lost her footing and fell two metres, losing consciousness after hitting her head. She also appeared to have a dislocated arm and her companion contacted the emergency services who mobilised the fire brigade's rescue unit.

She regained consciousness as they carried her the 300 metres to a waiting ambulance, although she was found to need neither hospital treatment nor medical attention.

**Pensioner killed in dog attack**

A MAN of 70 died in Vall d'Uixo (Castellon) after being set on by four dogs.

His family, worried when they could not contact him, went to look for their father and found him seriously injured amongst his olive trees.

He was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit at the La Plana hospital in a critical condition with wounds that doctors said were "compatible with dog bites." He died of his injuries two days later.

Guardia Civil officers scouring the area soon located a pack of 11 'very aggressive' dogs on a 450 square metre plot of land not far from where the victim was found. None

were micro chipped.

The animals could easily have jumped a makeshift fence of pallets and oil drums at the rear of the plot, investigators found.

The owner has been traced, revealed the national government's Delegate to the Valencian Community, Juan Carlos Moragues, and interviewed under caution.

According to sources close to the investigation, the dogs were involved in an incident last April when one person was injured and their owner held responsible. He was also warned that the plot was not licensed to house a large number of animals.

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P45

## LETTERS

Readers' views on eclectic topics in print and online. P60

## HOMES & GARDENS

INSPIRATION AND INFORMATION FOR INSIDE AND OUT P72



P72

# Smoked out

THE Fire Brigade was called out to deal with a malfunctioning fireplace in a country property in Villajoyosa's Planes district. The interior had filled with smoke and the flue collapsed as it overheated, although the firefighters' principal task was to clear the dense smoke.

## Go elsewhere

ALCOY'S Animal Shelter rejected plans to use the installation when distributing gunpowder for the muzzle-loading guns used during the Moors and Christians' mock battles. This would entail risks for the Shelter staff and above all for the cats and dogs housed there, a spokesman said.

## Off-track

AN Alicante court suspended the provincial council's €800,000 grant for Busot's new sports stadium after ruling that this was a direct allocation that did not comply with regulations. Similar Diputacion funding for sports facilities in Muchamiel, La Nucia and Calpe is also under scrutiny.

## Price is right

THE Council of Ministers reviewed Cadastre values in 11 Marina Alta municipalities last week. Cadastre values will increase in Denia, Els Poblets, El Verger, l'Atzúvia, Orba, Senija and Teulada and decrease in Murla, Pedreguer, Vall d'Alcala and Vall de Laguar.

## Burned out

A HELICOPTER and two fire engines worked to extinguish a forest fire in Benissa last week. The fire burned 2,000 square metres of trees off Calle Joan de Joans and was caused by sparks from a 20,000-volt overhead power line.

## SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE...45

With the festive season now a distant memory, Spain is gearing up to wash away the January blues with its famous carnivals, writes Harrison Jones.



**COUNTRYWIDE:** Revellers in Barcelona.



**GRAN CANARIA:** A feather in Spain's cap.



**SONG AND DANCE:** Cadiz is famous for satirical music.

# Carnival season

SPAIN'S fiestas are famous the world over. But the action really heats up in the early months of the year, with carnival season sweeping in while most tourists are away.

During late January and early February, processions, costumes, songs, dancing and drink fill the streets as Spaniards party into the morning.

There are countless public celebrations across the country, though all the regional variations - particularly on theme and costume - are impossible to list.

The festivals take place across various dates but

all in the run up to lent - which some believe is the origin of carnival season: the excess before restraint.

The party season tends to take place in Christian countries and has Catholic origins. While Spanish carnivals may not have the swagger of Brazil or charm of Venice, they certainly have charm.

The public celebrations stretch across all the social divides - disregarding age, politics and class.

Social satire, mockery and plain ridiculousness tend to account for the majority of costumes.

## ■ SOUTHERN SOFTIES? NOT QUITE

THE most intensely celebrated events arguably take place in southern Spain. Cadiz, Andalucia, Tenerife and the Canary Islands are particular favourites with partygoers.

## ■ THE BIGGEST AND BEST?

FROM Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, the Santa Cruz carnival is broadcast on national television. Spain's largest event attracts around a million people every February. Frivolities reportedly date back to the 16th century and there is apparently even a drag queen gala. In 1987, 250,000 people attended a concert by Cuban singer Celia Cruz - setting a Guinness World Record.

## ■ SARKY CADIZ

IN Cadiz, cutting costumes take a sarcastic dig at current affairs. Likewise, satirical songs highlight society's problems. But even amid the criticism, there is a playful atmosphere and party feel.

## ■ CARNIVAL QUEEN

IN Tenerife, a carnival queen is crowned - as is the case elsewhere - amid much glamour. Spectacular costumes and vibrant parades attract revellers from around the world.

## Safety pact

EIGHT towns and villages have now joined the Marina Alta pact for local security. The initiative aims to

coordinate the municipalities across the region to improve security, especially in case of emergency. Benissa, Benitachell, Denia, El Verger, Javea, Lliber, Ondara and Pedreguer are part of the pact

191

The total number of news and features which appeared in Issue 1696 of the Euro Weekly News Costa Blanca North edition, including 80 local stories.

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# Snow joke!



Photo credit UME/Twitter



**COLD SNAP:** Spain shivers in the freezing conditions as police and soldiers battle to free thousands of cars.

SPAIN was gripped by freezing weather as snowstorms swept the country.

The icy blast sparked chaos after more than 3,000 vehicles were stranded on the AP-6 motorway between Galicia and Madrid as they returned from the weekend's Epiphany celebrations.

Many motorists were trapped for more than 18 hours leading authorities to call in the army, deploying 240 soldiers from the military emergency unit to help Guardia Civil and police officers battle snow

drifts and reach them.

Some drivers took to social media to complain about the slow response by emergency services.

Sara Ramos told Spanish TV: "I'm with my family, there are two children: one two years old, the other six years old. The adults haven't eaten since mid-day yesterday. The children ate the small amount of food we brought with us, but since then they haven't eaten anything."

But while opposition politicians called for Public Works Minister Íñigo de la Serna to

appear in parliament and explain how the debacle came about, the Spanish government is probing Iberpistas, the operator of the toll road.

Mr de la Serna said that although the government owns the motorway, Iberpistas has "management responsibility," and is contractually obliged to have the means to deal with emergencies.

The icy weather was caused by a large and cold low-pressure system that formed before hanging over the Iberian Peninsula.

## POLL OF THE WEEK

Will you be shopping in the January sales?

**LAST WEEK'S POLL:**  
 Should Spain follow Mexico's example and legalise marihuana-based products?

**Yes** 54% **No** 46%

# EWN online this week 117,065 Page views

## Top 5 stories



**HARD AT WORK:** The couple in their Irish bar.

**7,810** Engaged couple 'apprehensive' to be on Channel 4 show  
 views

**6,924** Wintry weather to hit Costa Blanca after record dry spell  
 views

**6,023** Spain slides to a halt as snow grips country  
 views

**5,923** Bunny Lanes' life honoured in emotional Costa del Sol funeral service  
 views

**5,336** Two dead in 'massive' pitched battle in southern Spain  
 views

*\*For week 1-8 January*

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**NEWS EXTRA****Flu gripe**

THE SATSE nurses' union called for more emergency department staff at the Marina Baja hospital in Villajoyosa. Elderly flu patients and the chronically ill, including tourists, were saturating collapsing facilities, the union said.

**Cut free**

A LATERAL collision between two cars on the Madrid/Alicante motorway near Petrer held up traffic for 30 minutes. A passenger in one vehicle was cut free by firemen and taken to Elda hospital.

**A change**

A WOMAN played Melchor, one of the kings in Denia's recent Three Kings' parade. This was a first for the town, although women have previously replaced men in parades in Valencia, Sevilla and Madrid.

**Beach fix**

ALTEA has been granted €280,000 by the Spanish Department of Environment to repair the beaches in Cap Negret that were damaged by storms a year ago.

# Big outlay for Line 1

RAIL operator FGV will spend €3 million on the Barranco d'Aigues bridge in Campello.

The existing metal structure will be replaced with another that incorporates cement sleepers, with further work carried out on the supports and substructure. Safety and signalling will also be brought up to date, FGV said.

The viaduct crosses the deep Aigues gully on the TRAM's Line 1 between Alicante City and Benidorm. Replacing it, which is due to start next May,

will take seven months to complete and is likely to entail cuts to the Line 1 service that will be detailed nearer the time.

The project enters into the operator's programme of safety and quality improvements throughout the TRAM network, FGV said.

The metal viaduct was built between 1912 and 1914 during the first phase of the 92.7 kilometre narrow gauge line between Alicante and Denia.

The initial Alicante/Altea section was inaugurated in Oc-



Photo by Werner Wilmes

**BARRANCO D'AIGUES: Built between 1912 and 1914.**

tober 1914 and the Altea/Denia section opened in June 1915.

The new viaduct will be vi-

sually 'respectful', said sources at Campello Town Hall, with an impact no different from the ex-

isting structure's.

Repairs totalling €105,802 are also scheduled for the tunnel through the Lloma de Reixes hill that adjoins the viaduct and which, like much of Alicante Province's infrastructure, was affected by the January 2017 storms.

The slopes of the bluff will be stabilised and covered with protective netting to prevent landslips and a wall added, while studies will be carried out on installing a mechanised ventilation system inside the tunnel.

## Early onslaught on gender violence

THE municipal Psychology section attached to Finestrat's Education department has been holding workshops for 10 to 12-year-olds.

The talks for pupils from the Puig Campana and Balco de Finestrat primary schools are aimed at preventing gender violence in relationships amongst the young.

As well as sex education there was another workshop on what girls can expect with the onset of puberty. This was also attended by the boys in their classes to normalise what is an everyday experience in family and social surroundings, explained Finestrat's Education councillor M<sup>a</sup> Dolores Viudes.



Photo by Finestrat town hall

**FINESTRAT WORKSHOPS: Counteracting taboos and preconceptions.**

"The municipal Psychology department is working with important values like respect and tenderness, because when young people begin their first relationships, emotions are running high," Viudes said.

Her department is establishing areas of communication where they can clear up pupils' doubts and counteract their lack of knowledge, taboos and preconceptions, the councillor said.

"At the same time, these workshops have an important preventive component because we discuss empathy, tolerance, prejudices and machismo and can help them to detect these so that they can be eradicated."

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## Whine and dine

SHE'S an ex-Royal Shakespeare Company thespian who has carved out a career in TV acting and writing.

But Tracy-Ann Oberman, 51, was unable to conceal her confusion after husband Rob Cowan tried to eat a napkin in a Spanish restaurant.

The couple were visiting an unnamed eatery owned by acclaimed chef Martin Berasategui, who has eight Michelin stars to his name.

And the pair were puzzled by the presentation of their gourmet meal-for-two, culminating in music producer Rob biting into a cylindrical white item served in a block of stone, which turned out to be a napkin.

Tracy-Ann, who has starred in Eastenders, took to Twitter to complain, as she wrote: "This is what happens when you apply a Michelin star or two or three. Honestly."

She added: "Delicious food served by acolytes of nonsense on receptacles of pure folly. #minireview."

**TIME'S UP:** Penelope Cruz hits the red carpet.

TracyAnnO/Twitter



**BAFFLED:** Tracy-Ann Oberman and (inset) the offending napkin.



The Fashion Court/Twitter

## Hollywood backlash!

SHE was invited to present an award at this year's 75th Golden Globes awards in Los Angeles.

And Spanish star Penelope Cruz, 43, chose to don a glittering black dress in support of the Time's Up movement, which aims to tackle sexual harassment and gender inequality in the movie industry.

She was joined on the red carpet by many other celebrities wearing all black in a pre-arranged show of solidarity.



**TOGETHER AGAIN?:** Gary and Julie-Ann.

## Hatchet buried on Bang Bang trip

THE Duchess of Cambridge's uncle is back with his estranged wife.

It comes after Gary Goldsmith, 52, recently hit the headlines after hitting spouse Julie-Ann, 48, to the floor with a 'left hook' in October, leading her to kick him out of their London penthouse.

He was banned from seeing to or talking to her while on bail, and was fined €5,650 in the wake of the attack, with a magistrate calling him a "mean, nasty drunk."

But now the couple's relationship appears to be back on after she spent Christmas and New Year with her husband of five years at his luxury Ibiza villa.

Dubbed Maison Bang Bang, the property has previously hosted Prince William.

And before leaving the party island the millionaire tweeted: "When two people really care about each other they will always look for a way to make it work, no matter how hard it is."



## Sheer joy

SHE'S famed for her New Year's Eve fashion choices.

And actress and model Cristina Pedroche, 29, set tongues wagging once again after donning a see-through bridal jumpsuit to present this year's live TV coverage on national channel Antena 3.

Designed by luxury Spanish wedding designer Pronovias, the nude bodysuit is adorned with 200 Swarovski crystals.



Pedroche and her New Year outfit.

## Plumb job

BRITAIN'S best-known - and wealthiest - plumber Charlie Mullins is searching for a third Costa del Sol property.

The Pimlico Plumbers entrepreneur and TV personality already owns a pair of million-euro villas in Marbella, and was joined by Katherine Ryan and a TV crew from Channel 4 show A Place In The Sun in his bid to increase his portfolio.

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Photo by Mine

**VILLAJOYOSA HOSPITAL: More space needed.**

## New unit will help A & E

THE A & E department at the Marina Baja hospital will soon have a 10-bed Pre-Admissions Unit.

This will help to alleviate the saturation that periodically affects the Emergencies department and has been especially noticeable during the present flu outbreak.

Nevertheless, the decision to open the new unit was not prompted by the flu cases, hospital sources explained, as work began several weeks ago and it is now 'practically finished.'

The unit is housed in what was once a store and a restroom for A & E doctors, the

hospital management said. It had been necessary to sacrifice both in order to gain space for patients who after receiving attention in A & E are waiting for admission to the wards.

Extensions to Villajoyosa Hospital are due to begin this year, but lack of space has been an ongoing problem and is always accentuated during holiday periods.

A & E cases shot up from between 170 and 180 a day to 250 over Christmas, an "impossible" number for the existing installation, the hospital said.

## Nobody gets left out

VILLAJOYOSA is promoting non-discriminatory terms as well as the use of Valenciano.

The Equality and Linguistic Standardisation departments are aimed at the public in general but the town hall staff in particular, explained Equality councillor Pilar Baigorri.

This involves using specific terms in Valenciano - and Spanish - for women and girls instead of the general, masculine-gender words habitually used in the past.

The equality message will be put across with 2018 calendars that feature important feminist dates like International Woman's Day (March 8), International Day of Rural Women

(September 23) and International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (November 25).

The calendars also include a list of recommendations to make women more visible in the everyday use of Valenciano.

"Language is a very powerful instrument for describing thoughts, culture and society," Baigorri said. "Society changes and so does language, and what is not named does not exist. That has happened to women with the use of generic masculine terms."

From now on, all municipal employees will be using inclusive language when addressing the public, the councillor added.

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# €260m real estate blowout Home improvement

AN Alicante-based construction firm is taking a 'strategic bet' on Benidorm.

Headquartered in Torrevieja, the TM Real Estate Group is to invest €260 million in the coastal resort town, with around 1,200 new homes to be built over the coming decade.

The news comes after the company acquired 165,000 square metres of terrain from rival Bahía Alicante.

Stretching from the In-



**PRIME LOCATION:** Over 1,000 new homes will be built.

Tempo building to the Poseidon Playa Hotel, the plot covers the area between avenidas Vicente Perez Devesa and Armada Española.

TM Real Estate becomes a major player in Benidorm with the purchase, and intends to begin construction of 275 homes on a 33,500 square metre plot behind the Poseidon Playa 'shortly.'

A company official said these should be complete by Semana Santa in 2020, after which a series of two-year plans, each set to create around 800 jobs, will see the remaining space filled.

At least 15,000 square metres has been earmarked for public facilities, with around 2,700 square metres set aside for commercial use.

Around 50 per cent of the new properties will be sold to international buyers.

## OUR VIEW

### Drought concern must be addressed

SPAIN was ravaged by a freezing cold snap days after unseasonal wild fires broke out in several parts of the country. These are signs of the times, as climate change continues to hurtle the planet towards an uncertain future. And while snow has blanketed large swathes of the Iberian Peninsula in recent days, it is unlikely to be enough to lessen the effects of Spain's worst drought in decades, as national water reserves sit at just over 40 per cent of capacity.

A recent report by the national Higher Centre for Scientific Investigations showed that rising temperatures have 'increased the severity of droughts despite it raining more now than in previous dry periods.' Water for irrigation accounts for around 80 per cent of consumption, and demand has increased by 20 per cent over the last 30 years, during which construction has rocketed by 75 per cent and the Spanish population shot up by 20 per cent. But the Spanish government seems to have its fingers in its ears when it comes to water.

There are no water saving campaigns to be seen anywhere in the national or local media, the use of inefficient irrigation methods remains widespread, while desalination plants produce nowhere near the amount of clean water promised or remain unfinished following years of legal wrangling. Some towns even continue to dump raw human sewage into rivers or the sea as they have no means to process it. And with experts agreeing that 75 per cent of the country is susceptible to becoming a desert, Spain needs to wake up to its water woe before it is too late.

*Pick up next week's Euro Weekly News for a special feature on the water crisis facing Spain.*

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**NEWS EXTRA****Switched on**

GAS NATURAL rejected Gata Town Hall proposals that would prevent it cutting off needy families' electricity. "We are not here to keep multinationals happy but to protect citizens," the Contracts councillor said.

**Easy access**

IBI'S Biodiversity museum now has a lift so that it can be seen by all, including those with mobility problems, Tourism councillor Ruben Barea announced. Access difficulties have discouraged visitors in the past.

**King's gone**

CONSORCIO VALENCIA 2007, which runs the Juan Carlos I Marina in Valencia City, asked rail operator FGV to remove the king's name from the TRAM stop.

# Rehab for ancient water system

A €200,000 SUBSIDY will enable Muchamiel to develop and protect the town's historic water system.

The grant from the provincial council, the Diputacion, will be used to rehabilitate the Fontetes dam and to build an interpretative centre dedicated to the town's water and irrigation installations at the La Sabateta recreation area.

The sluice house will be restored as well as the house where generations of azuteros who were in charge of the network lived with their families. This building, neglected for many years, has no roof and is practically in ruins, but will be rehabilitated and converted into an exhibition room detailing the area's traditional irrigation system.

The parking area at La Sabateta will have an interpretive centre - an informal museum - where visitors first enter the complex.

"They will give a brief introduction to the system, the River Monnegre, River Seco, the dams and the irriga-



Photo credit: Muchamiel town hall

**CENTURIES OLD: Muchamiel's hydraulic treasure.**

tion channels before continuing to Muchamiel dam," explained Culture councillor Rafael Garcia.

The town hall plans to 'museumise' the town's hydraulic heritage with information panels, Garcia continued.

"We are going to create a route from the San Juan dam to Muchamiel and vice versa," he said. "We want it to be very instructive and easy to understand so that the youngest visitors can respect and know about the past."

## A little bit of everything

SNOW came early to Alicante Province this year, with a dusting on high ground in Sierra Algueña, Biar and Petrer.

A day earlier, the Alto and Medio Vinalopo and other inland areas were hit by torrential rain accompanied by lightning that caused temporary power cuts and two minor fires in Alcoy.

The downpour was so intense in some districts that motorists had to stop driving and pull over and in Elda, the Avenida del Mediterraneo was closed to traffic when rain turned to hail.

Novelda was also affected and the same storm temporarily turned Alcoy white within an hour but in each case the hailstones were small and did little damage despite the storm's intensity.

The Asaja young farmers' association confirmed that according to initial reports, grape growing districts had suffered little harm although it was possible that artichokes and winter vegetables could have been damaged.

"There has been hail but the stones were not big and in some areas they fell with rain, lessening the impact," a spokesman said.

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# Surprise packets in shipping containers

VALENCIA has become Europe's principal entry port for cocaine with four shipments worth €58 million intercepted there in December.

These accounted for 1.7 of the six tons impounded last year in 26 operations by the UAR (Risk Analysis Unit), a group of Tax Authority officials and Guardia Civil officers from the Odaifi (Analysis and Fiscal Investigation Office).

All of the cocaine reached Spain in legal shipping containers without the knowledge of importers or exporters. This is now the favourite method of drugs' rings that no longer use phantom companies to send cocaine to Europe.

Instead, the drugs are loaded into backpacks, introduced into a container at some point along the route and removed at its destination. This requires only the connivance of port employ-

ees, although even this relatively foolproof method occasionally goes wrong.

This happened in Altea last September when workers at an almond processing plant found eight backpacks close to the doors of a container newly-arrived from California.

They contacted the Guardia Civil who took away the backpacks which contained 226.5 kilos of cocaine. The port contact had either failed to locate them in Valencia or was interrupted while trying to, Guardia Civil sources said afterwards.

On average, more than 13,000 containers are unloaded in Valencia each day and UAR rule out 40 containers each day using scanners. They also use computer programmes that analyse the documentation accompanying the merchandise and pinpoint those likely to contain drugs.



Photo credit: Benissa town hall

**N332 : One of Spain's busiest main roads crosses Benissa.**

# Bypass no longer bypassed

WORK is at last in progress on the Benissa bypass.

The company contracted to build the road halted the project in May 2009 when the economic crisis was at its height and the company ran into financial difficulties.

Benissa is bisected by the N332, one of the busiest main roads in Spain, and around 12,000 vehicles, including heavy lorries, cross the town each day.

Successive governments have promised to provide funds to finish the bypass but last April the Ministry of Public Works finally awarded the €21.8 million contract to OHL.

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## NEWS EXTRA

### Snowed in

ALICANTE resident Oscar Marinas, one of the motorists immobilised by blizzards on the AP-6 between Segovia and Madrid, was trapped for 16 hours before he was rescued by the Army's UME emergencies unit.

### Road sense

ALTHOUGH three people lost their lives on Valencian Community roads over Xmas, the number of deaths throughout the year was the lowest ever, with 99 fatalities compared with 131 in 2016.

### Now sacked

A COCENTAINA Town Hall employee who stole €60,500 escaped prison with a two-year suspended sentence after repaying the money plus interest, but lost his job and is barred from working in the public sector.



**NEWS EXTRA****Snowed in**

ALICANTE resident Oscar Marinas, one of the motorists immobilised by blizzards on the AP-6 between Segovia and Madrid, was trapped for 16 hours before he was rescued by the Army's emergencies unit.

**No info**

HALF of the General Directorate of Traffic's information panels on Alicante Province roads do not function owing to lack of maintenance, the civil service's CSIF union complained. Control cameras were also affected.

**With the flow**

THE Rodrigoillo water-course once again resembled a river, after its bed and banks were cleared by eight municipal workers engaged for six months on a €58,000 Servef employment subsidy.

# New beginning for halted storm project

WORK on storm drains in Villajoyosa, interrupted by archaeological finds a year ago, has recommenced.

Installing the new system in Calle Doctor Esquerdo, better known as Calle Llimons, was halted after soundings in Plaza de la Generalitat revealed the remains of two 15th and 17th century buildings.

Now that the site has been explored and documented, Hidraqua, La Vila's water and drainage concessionary, can go ahead with the project which entails repaving the street. This will cost a total of €1.213 million and includes €120,000 that was

spent on the excavations.

Storm drains are badly needed in this part of the town where some homes are affected by damp and flooding during periods of heavy rain, said Pedro Alemany, councillor responsible for water.

"This has been pending and much requested by residents for years. Now it can finally go ahead after the halt caused by the archaeological discoveries," Alemany said.

Work is expected to take approximately 11 months, during which Calle Doctor Esquerdo and part of the Plaza de la Generalitat will remain closed to traffic.

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## Gypsy clans clashed

EIGHT people were arrested in Valencia City after two gypsy clans clashed when two love-struck 15-year-olds ran away together.

Members of a Sagunto (Valencia) clan, related to the girl and opposed to the relationship, descended on the boy's family who live in Valencia City's Malvarrosa district.

Police intercepted two vehicles described by the woman who raised the alarm. They recovered three long ham knives and other sharp weapons from the other.

Police officers located the lovers and are trying to defuse the situation between the clans, hoping the families will settle their differences.

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# Postman let letters pile up

AN Alcoy postman received a two-year suspended prison term for failing to deliver 3,272 letters between 2004 and 2015.

The sentence was one year less than the Public Prosecution department's recommendation owing to the man's confession and reparation of the harm he caused. He must also pay a fine of €1,800.

The Alicante High Court heard that the postman, now aged 44, was taken on by postal service Correos in 2002 and was made a member of the permanent staff in 2007.

He delivered mail in Alcoy, Alicante City, Ibi and

Onteniente but instead making deliveries in these last two towns he kept these in a box room at his Alcoy home.

He was dismissed from Correos in April 2015 when the irregularities came to light and was arrested later that year.

According to provincial media sources, the judge's summing up made no allusion to the man's motives

although police investigators concluded that the postman had not acted out of personal gain. They were able to recover all the letters and many had contained cheques, sources said later.

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**SOLAR PANELS:** Province's best bet for energy production.

## Sun, sea and solar panels

By Linda Hall

ALICANTE province lags behind Valencia and Castellon in generating electricity.

Unlike the region's two other provinces, Alicante has no power stations for generating convention energy and solar energy is its best short-term option, said public entity, the Valencian Institute of Business Competitiveness (IVACE).

With the exception of a few cogeneration plants, practically

all of the energy generated in Alicante province is renewable solar energy or biogas produced at landfill site or waste treatment and sewage plants, an IVACE report pointed out.

"Alicante could transform its electricity generating problem by developing its renewable resources," said IVACE director general Julia Company.

"Renewable power should and should play a leading part in our territory's energy structure. Only that way will we be

able to meet the EU's energy and environmental targets," Company stressed. Because of this IVACE is committed to helping businesses that incorporate renewables in their industrial processes, installations and buildings, the director general said.

"IVACE subsidises up to 45 per cent of the cost of these projects, with a 10percentage point increase for medium-sized concerns and 20 for smaller businesses."

### NEWS EXTRA

#### More work

MORE people found jobs in Gandia and La Safor last month, with 455 fewer out of work than in November. The area currently has 13,578 jobless, a 4.7 per cent improvement on 2016.

#### On tap

**APPROXIMATELY €6,200 will be spent on renewing water pipes in the neighbourhood adjoining Villajoyosa's Carmen church, where residents have increasingly complained about leaks and frequent cuts in the domestic supply.**

#### Growing up

*WITH its 57,175 inhabitants San Vicente grew faster than any other Alicante Province town last year, adding 873 new registrations to the town hall Padron. It is now the province's seventh-largest municipality.*



## Is leaving money in the bank all that safe?

By Tracy Storer, Senior Partner, Chorus Financial



Time flies, and seems to get faster as you get older! How often do you reminisce about the past and then realise it was 10/20/30 years ago!

Let's take 1997 for example; the year the world mourned the death of Diana, the Princess of Wales, and the UK saw a landslide general election victory for the Labour Party under Tony Blair. Katrina and the Waves won the Eurovision Song Contest with Love Shine a Light and the year that Channel 5 was launched. The average price of a house was £68k and a litre of petrol?... 61p.

It's crazy how life evolves, the people and memories we pick up along the way, the mistakes we make and lessons we learn. Whilst technology is constantly changing and the way we do things is different, there is always one thing that stays the same – inflation.

I cannot tell you how many times I have sat down with clients who haven't taken inflation seriously. It was only last week that a client walked into the office and during his financial review it was revealed that before moving to Spain, 20 years ago, he sold his UK property and bought a Spanish property and had £70k surplus.

Not knowing what to do with it, he decided to leave it safe and secure in a UK

bank account. The years have passed and my client has settled into Spanish life and has never looked back. The £70k he originally put in his UK bank was still there and overall he was happy with his life decisions.

That was until I calculated the effect of inflation on his £70k, in today's terms his £70k is worth the equivalent of £46k meaning he'd lost £24k in spending power – and people think the bank is the safest place to keep your money!

Over that same period, if my client had placed his money into a cautious investment, returning 4% after fees, that £70k would now be worth £153k beating inflation by £33k.

As a truly independent advisory, Chorus has access to the whole of the market, however two providers who have proved incredibly popular with our clients here in Spain are The Prudential & Old Mutual. These FTSE 100 companies have a combined 40 million clients worldwide

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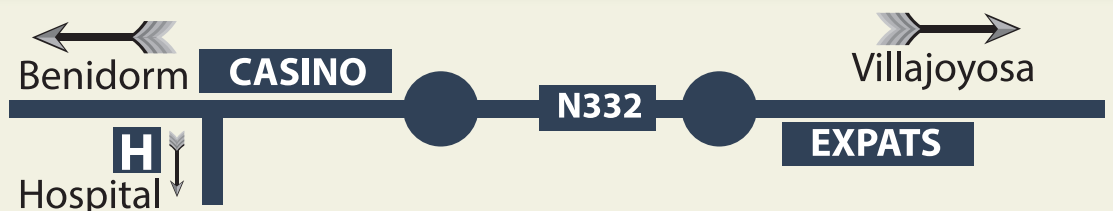
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## Padron campaign unsuccessful

A MUNICIPAL campaign to encourage citizens to register on the Padron was unsuccessful, meaning the city will receive less funding from the government this year.

Benidorm launched a campaign last September to encourage citizens to register on the Padron, reporting resident figures to have dropped by over 7,000 in just four years.

According to the National Institute of Statistics (INE), Benidorm had 73,768 officially registered residents on January 1, 2013 and 66,642 on January 1, 2016.

The city was hoping to



Photo by Pixabay

for many personal administrative and bureaucratic processes, the more people that are registered on the Padron, the more a city receives to maintain and improve public services.

Mayor Toni Perez explained that 75 per cent of the nation's taxes are distributed according to population - funds totalling €15 million were received in 2015, with €11.5 million being directly linked to the Padron that, at that time, showed just over 69,000 registered residents.

With only 66,831 official registered residents, the city will receive less funding from government this year.

**MONEY MANAGED: 75 per cent of the nation's taxes are distributed according to population.**

have 70,000 officially registered residents by January 1 this year, but the campaign only encouraged a mere 189 citizens to register, bumping resident figures up to 66,831.

Aside from being needed

## Low Festival on a roll

SIX new artists have been confirmed for Benidorm's Low Festival 2018, taking place July 27 - 29.

Spanish acts Izal, La Bien Querida, Perro, Amatria and La Plata will be gracing the stage, along with Javiera Mena all the way from Chile.

One of the biggest names in the country, Madrid-based indie band Izal regularly sell out venues weeks and even months before they perform.

Their performance at Low Festival will be the only debut of their highly anticipated new album 'Autoterapia' in the Alicante Province.

Chilean indie electro-pop musician Javiera Mena started her musical career in 2001 and achieved wider success after the release of her first album in 2006.

Low Festival organisers have promised the 10th edition of the event will be the "biggest and best yet," after this year's festival gathered 83,000 people.

For more information and tickets, check out [www.lowfestival.es](http://www.lowfestival.es).

## Help is at hand

WOULD all HELP members note the Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday February 8 at the Jose Lorca Llinares Social Centre, Benidorm (their usual meeting place). Please register your arrival from 10.30am as the meeting will start at 11am. If you have any items for the agenda or any other business, please notify them at least a week before the meeting.

All members attending must have fully paid up membership and their membership cards in order to attend. If you are unable to attend, please can you ensure that you let them know by email or phone (see contacts page on their website: [www.help-benidorm.com](http://www.help-benidorm.com)).

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NOT playing in a home match against Hospitalet Bellsport will cost Denia Futsal €2,100.

Denia's five-a-side football team carried out threat their not to play unless a solution were found for current economic problems re-

sulting in no pay for the players, referees and travel expenses for away matches.

The club have now had to reimburse the Catalan side with the cost of a wasted

journey and overheads, together with a €500 fine for the no-show imposed by the

disciplinary committee of Spain's Royal Football Federation (RFEF).

There could be worse to come unless the financial situation is solved and Denia Futsal starts playing again, as there will be a fine for each missed match and the team would eventually lose its place in the Second Division B.

# Off the ball

BUSES and lorries are affecting the foundations of buildings in San Juan's Old Town.

The issue of traffic in the Old Town is not new and in 2011 the town hall had to repave Calle Mayor to eliminate the ruts caused by buses and lorries. A report by the municipal architect concluded that heavy vehicles are still a problem in the town's oldest streets, particularly Calle San Jose and Calle Mayor.

Vibrations from passing traffic produce minute cracks in the rendering on the façades of the houses and also inside, the town hall architect found.

She also pointed out that pollution from traffic dispersed more slowly in this part of town than in areas with wider streets.



Photo by San Juan town hall

**SAN JUAN:** Old Town 'not somewhere to drive through.'

Noise pollution also came under scrutiny in the report originally commissioned by

Sergio Agueitos, at that time the councillor responsible for Town Planning. Noise pro-

duced by heavy traffic exceeded the permitted level for a residential zone, the report continued, 'deteriorating an urban space precisely where it most needs protecting.'

The report ended by recommending a ban on traffic in the area, with access only for residents and medium-sized delivery vehicles supplying existing shops.

Above-ground parking should be discouraged, the architect said, and there should be more room for pedestrians with wider pavements so that the area could be used 'and not regarded as somewhere to drive through.'

## Traffic takes its toll

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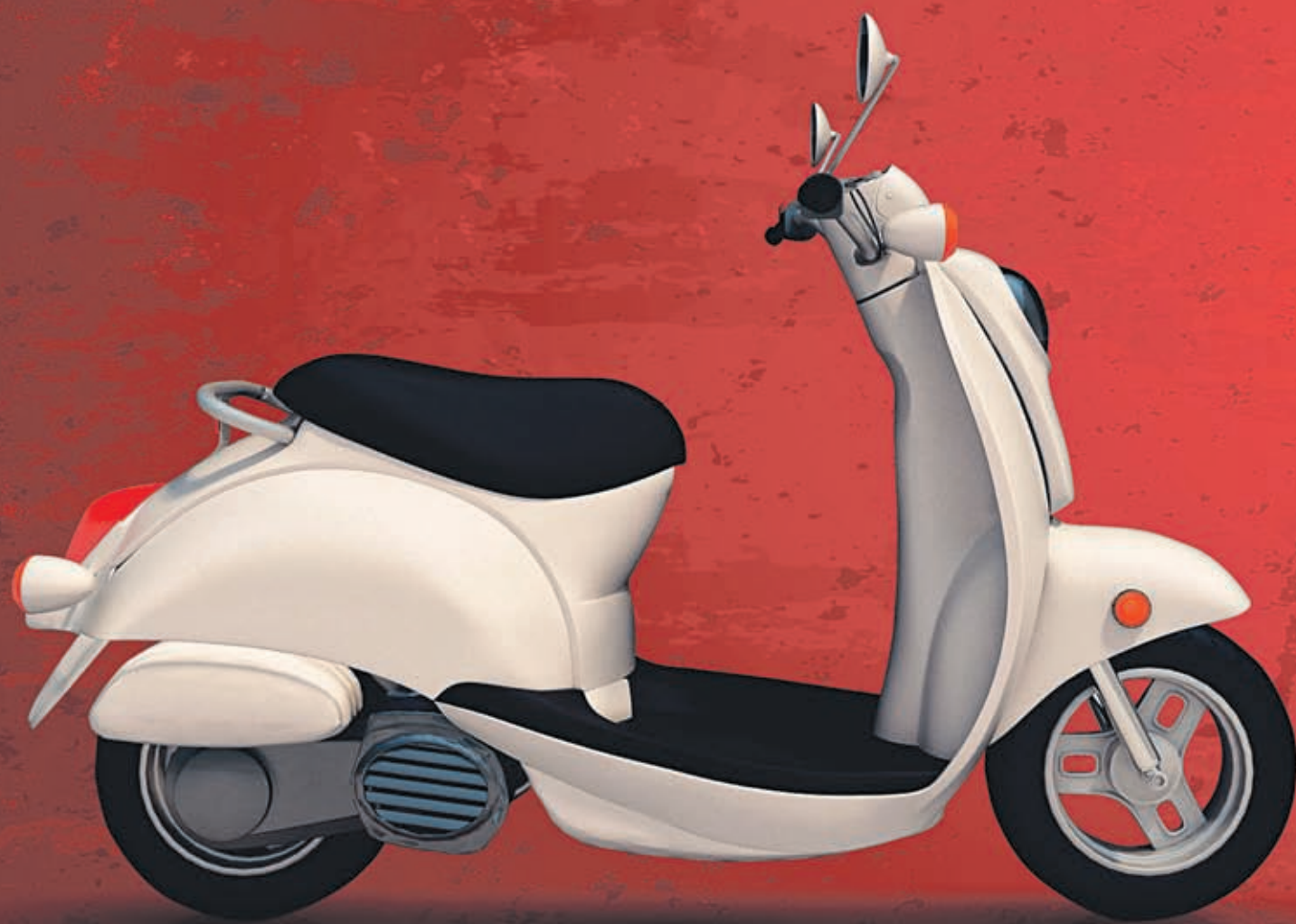


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## TRAM strike called off

EIGHTY per cent of rail operator FGV employees have accepted a preliminary agreement with the management.

Employees, who have carried out intermittent strikes on all TRAMS out of Alicante City and on the Line 9 trenet since last September, have now called off the stoppage announced for

tomorrow, Friday.

According to the preliminary agreement negotiations on working conditions were due to begin this month with a fixed timetable for fortnightly talks. FGV also stated its "firm commitment" to provide workers with legal protection similar to that given to Renfe and track operator Adif.

## End of the beginning for beach development

BLAY BEACH residents asked Denia Town Hall to clarify whether developers received permission to cut down trees in the area.

From the outset they have been opposed to plans to build 19 front line luxury apartments and the Protejamos la Playa (Protect the Beach) association suspects that demolishing two properties and felling 10 trees are preliminaries to construction.

Last November the association appealed against planning permission. "Lamentably, there has been no reply so far," a spokesman said. In the appeal, the association highlighted various technical and legal defects in the way the application was handled and the licence granted.

Protejamos la Playa also warned of the environmental problems that the five storey



Photo BY Denia Town Hall

**BLAY BEACH:** Action always needed after a storm.

complex and subterranean garage would bring to Blay Beach.

The association drew attention to the Black Flag that the environmentalist group Ecologistas en Accion 'awarded' Blay Beach in 2017, a year when Denia's coastline was badly eroded by storms and high winds.

It also pointed out that Josep Crespo, Denia's Environment councillor, ac-

knowledgeed in public that the frontline apartment block would harm the beach still further.

"It's ironic that the town hall, which warned that the project would have serious environmental consequences and which takes such a firm line on town planning issues should be so generous in granting planning permission," association members complained.

## NEWS EXTRA

### Law and order

TWENTY-EIGHT small Alcoia, Comtat and Marina Alta municipalities called for more Autonomous Police officers for the area to compensate reductions in the number of Guardia Civil officers in the area.

### Land grab

VILLENA Town Hall asked the Diputacion regional council to return the fire brigade's San Francisco premises once the station relocates to Prado de la Villa. This building can then be put to municipal use.

### Straight run

DENIA'S Avenida Joan Fuster, which is now a one-way down to the port, is to have three roundabouts which once Line 9 reopens will be crossed by the TRAM.

### Drain delay

INSTALLING storm drains in northern San Vicente cannot start until the end of 2018, the town hall confirmed. Although the Generalitat has allocated €40,000, this only covers drafting the €8 million project.

### Fast work

LA NUCIA resident, 16-year-old Carlos Saval Martin signed a contract to compete in 12 national and international go-kart races as FA Racing Spain's principal driver this year.

### Boat people

'PATERAS' brought 386 immigrants to the Alicante coast from North Africa last year, compared with 120 in 2016. Of these, 357 came from Algeria and included 49 minors.

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**NEWS EXTRA**

**Paper chase**

TWO years after San Vicente's municipal archive was built it remains empty, as the town hall cannot staff it and must rent premises to store documents, manuscripts and papers.

**Good looker**

JOSE ABEL GARCIA FRUTOS, a 23-year-old male model from Sax, won the Adolescents category in the national Modells Belleza competition and will represent Spain in the same category during the finals in Brazil next November.

**Debts paid**

GANDIA has reduced its municipal debt by 97 per cent since the current local government took over in 2015, when there was €16.9m owing compared to €488,000 at end 2017.



**CONSUMER ORIENTATION:** Eva Naranja and Miguel Angel Ivorra visit the OMIC office.

# Help for the consumer

LANUCIA'S OMIC (Consumer Advice Office) is now up and running in the Urbanismo building.

It will be open each Wednesday from 10am until 2pm where residents will be able to consult an expert from the Union de Consumidores' Alicante delegation. A prior appointment is not necessary and the free service is available to all residents registered on the municipal Padron.

OMIC's principal function is to inform, orientate and help consumers and users to settle the conflicts that can arise with companies and service providers in an amicable and voluntary manner.

The office will help with issues arising from all types of consumer goods as well as utility companies and service providers.

"The office assists consumers and associations to make claims but also

aims to inform them," explained Commerce councillor Eva Naranjo who, accompanied by Town Planning councillor Miguel Angel Ivorra, visited the office on its first day.

The OMIC office is also there to protect the consumer and where necessary it will present claims to the Consumers' Arbitration Board if agreement cannot be reached through mediation.

## Bank shakeup for Alicante Province

THE Bankia Banco Mare Nostrum (BMN) merger will close 26 branches in Alicante province on February 3.

Eighteen offices, the majority, belong to BMN which despite the merger seven years back is still identified and referred to as Cajamurcia.

According to union sources quoted in the local media, four Alicante City branches will close, including the principal office in Maisonnave, leaving only one in Avenida de la Condomina.

Cajamurcia closures will affect branches in Altea, Benidorm, Calpe, Campello, Crevillente, Denia, San Juan, Santa Pola, Villajoyosa and Villena as well as Elche, which will lose four.

BMN branches are closing to avoid duplication in towns where Bankia already have offices, although the changes will be less noticeable in the Vega Baja, where BMN has a greater presence.

Of the eight Bankia branches due to close, one is in Alicante City, and the remainder in Almoradi, Aspe, Callosa de Segura, Elche, Guardamar, Ibi and Orihuela.

Bankia and BMN employees affected by the merger will be relocated meantime.

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# Killer wave strikes

By Matt Ford

## Storm Eleanor claims two lives

A DEADLY wave has killed two people in Mutriku, Basque Country.

Diego Verdejo Lopez, 67, and Loli Kintana Martinez, 65, had ventured onto a breakwater to look at the impressive five-metre breakers sweeping in off the Bay of Biscay when they were swallowed by what onlookers described as "a huge wave."

Visiting the coast from the inland town of Vitoria, they had been romantically involved for around a year after earlier losing their long-term partners.

According to eyewitness accounts, the pair were seen parking their car and walking onto the breakwater - which was not cordoned off and forms part of a wave energy converter - when a larger wave engulfed them and swept them into the raging sea.

Three people who were on the beach at the time rushed to their aid.

Mr Lopez was already dead, having drowned before they reached



**TRAGIC:** This shocking sequence of images from social media captures the moment that the victims were swept off the breakwater.

him, but Ms Martinez managed to briefly grab a rope they threw towards her.

But the force of the water caused it to snap and she was killed after being repeatedly dashed against the



Photo credit: Facebook



brick structure.

One of the would-be rescuers even dived into the water to try and help her and had to be rescued by firefighters after they arrived at the scene.

Mr Lopez' body had by this point already washed up on the beach, while that of his partner was eventually pulled from the sea.

A fire brigade official later said: "When we saw that the woman was already dead we decided not to enter the water as the conditions were so difficult."

A distraught family member told Spanish media he could not believe how they "failed to see the danger."

The town council has in the wake of the incident announced that the breakwater will in future be closed whenever a dangerous weather warning is in place.

The deaths came as Storm Eleanor battered northern Spain, bringing rain, snow, high winds and dangerous sea swells after orange warnings for dangerous conditions were put in place by national weather office AEMET.

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Photo by @platonchaca/Twitter

**ACCESS POINT:** Many migrants have attempted to jump the fences at Melilla in the past.

## Migrants storm border

MORE than 200 African migrants have entered Spain after storming over a double fence between Morocco and Melilla.

In total, 209 people reportedly forced their way over the two six-metre (20 feet) high double fences between Morocco and the Spanish enclave.

Several people were reportedly injured during the violent barrage, including four of the migrants and a Guardia Civil officer.

Footage captured by journalist Helena

Maleno Garzon shows a large group of migrants running through the streets of the city.

Migrants often use Melilla and Cueta, nearly 400 kilometres away, as access points into Europe as they are the only two land borders between Africa and the European Union.

A record number of migrants reached Spain in 2017, with almost 22,900 people accessing the country from Africa according to EU border agency Frontex.

## US couple avoid prison

Pair 'lived with body of dead son for a month'

AN American couple living in Spain have avoided being sent to prison after they lived with the body of their dead son in their home for more than a month.

Bruce and Schrell Darlene Hopkins, 41 and 40, reportedly refused to release the body of their youngest son Caleb to Spanish authorities several weeks after he died of an asthma attack in their rented apartment in Girona.

They were arrested after police discovered his body in January 2016 and were facing at least three years in prison, amid claims that they were guilty of homicide with serious imprudence.

However, a Girona court ruled that while it agreed that the child had needed hospital care that his parents did not provide, there were aggravated circumstances and fined

the couple €990 for a crime of homicide for 'less serious imprudence' with aggravating kingship.

The Hopkins, along with their three children, reportedly moved to Girona seeking a safer and quieter life than they had in America.

Police found the body when visiting the couple's flat and reportedly described the apartment as having 'a nauseated stench.'

According to reports, rather

than call the authorities following his death, the family kept a vigil next to his body, which was wrapped in a sheet.

Caleb is believed to have suffered the fatal asthma attack between the end of November and the beginning of December 2015, though the specific date of his death has not been confirmed.

The sentence is subject to an appeal within 10 days.

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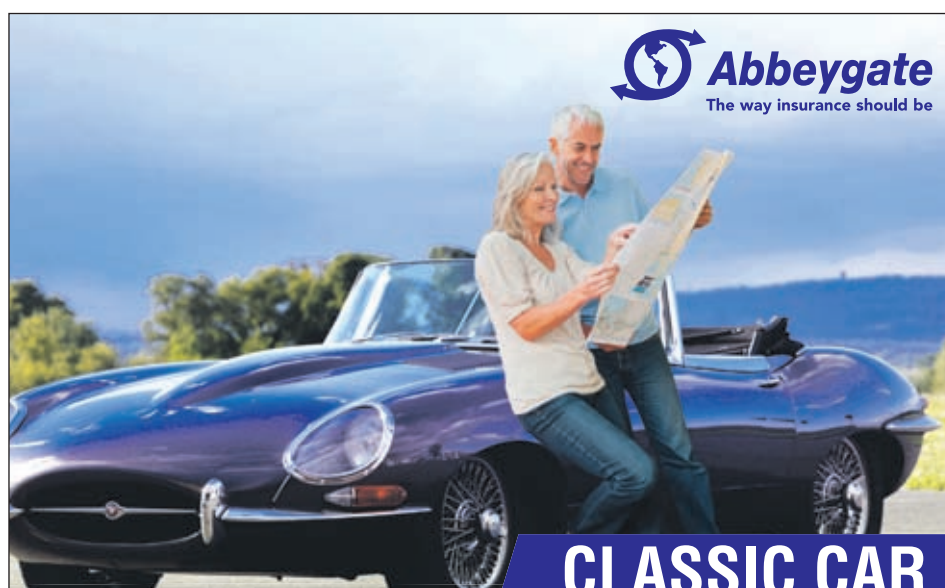
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Photo credit: Wikimedia

**BACK TO LIFE:** A prisoner pronounced dead in Villabona Prison scared the life out of forensic scientists.

# ‘Certified dead’

## Prisoner wakes up in body bag

By Matt Ford

A PROBE has been launched after a prisoner declared dead by a trio of doctors woke up inside a mortuary in northern Spain.

It comes after an inmate named as Gonzalo Montoya Jimenez was found sitting unconscious in a chair at the Villabona prison, Asturias

Prison medics were unable to find a pulse leading two of them to pronounce him dead, before a third doctor sent by a court confirmed their diagno-

sis. The man's loved ones were even informed of his death. His body was sent to a hospital mortuary in Oviedo and reportedly marked in preparation for a post-mortem examination before forensic scientists heard noises coming from his body bag.

He was transferred to the Central University Hospital of Asturias where he remains in intensive care under watch by the Guardia Civil.

Hospital officials told Spanish media that they suspect the bizarre incident to be a case of catalepsy, a condition which causes a person's vital signs to slow down and their posture to become rigid.

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by Piscinas Escribano

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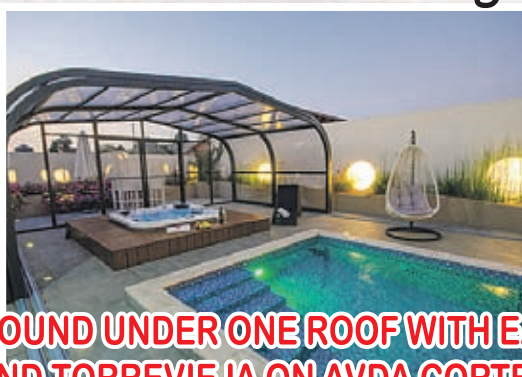
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For those who are fiscal resident, please find below a reminder, in case you need to complete the 720 form this year.

### When does it apply?

The period for presenting the model 720: declaration of assets and rights located abroad (for the year 2017) is from 1 January to 31 March 2018.

### What information is needed?

Three distinct groups define this declaration:

- 1) **Bank accounts**
- 2) **All types of financial assets**
- 3) **Real estate**

### Who is obliged to submit the Model 720?

Those who have overseas assets that fit into any of these three groups and amount to or exceed 50,000€, and only for the group in which this amount is exceeded

If you require further legal advice on any tax, legal or administrative matters please contact us



### Do I need to submit it every year?

Once you have made the 720 declaration, regarding your assets overseas, you then only need to declare your overseas assets in subsequent years, when:

- 1) **Any of the above 3 distinct sectors experiences an increase in value greater than 20,000€.**
- 2) **You are no longer the owner of the aforementioned assets (sale, transfer, etc... even if you made a loss).**
- 3) **In any of the 3 sectors, you did not previously have to declare that you had assets to the value of 50,000€, if you NOW do have assets to the value of, or exceeding 50,000€.**

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## New ruling in favour of a client finds a multi-currency Swiss franc loan mis-sold by Banco de Valencia and is declared null and void

**Carlos Baos**  
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IN today's article we want to highlight a new judicial success that White Baos Abogados has achieved for Mr G and Ms R, clients of our law firm.

These two expatriates were very badly advised by the office of the Banco de Valencia in Moraira, (today CaixaBank) in 2007 and the bank mis-sold them a multi-currency mortgage loan in Swiss francs without explaining the really high risks and the numerous expenses of the product.

Recently, the Provincial Court of Alicante, (specifically its Section 8, in its judgement number 459/2017), confirmed our petition and ruled that this multi-currency mortgage loan was not transparent, specially the clauses relating to foreign currencies, exchange rate, interest to be applied, which were un-

clear even from the grammatical point of view.

For all these reasons, the court of appeal upheld our claim and accepted as we proposed in our court claim before Denia courts, that the bank did not properly inform my clients about the risks and expenses of this loan that was granted in Swiss francs (a foreign currency which has nothing to do with my clients as they do not hold or have any income in this currency).

In addition, the clauses within it were not clear or transparent, in such a way that it was not possible for an average consumer to understand really how the product works, its risks, potential expenses, or the arbitrary way in which the bank fixed the exchange rate between the chosen currency: Swiss francs and the currency used by the clients for the payment of the monthly instalments of the loan: euros.

Thus, the Provincial Court of Alicante, as petitioned by ourselves, declared null and void the

parts of the loan that refer to any other currency than the euro, noting that the loan should be understood as being granted only in euros, instructing the bank to return what was paid in excess by my clients and recalculate the outstanding capital in euros, which meant a reduction of the amount of capital pending to be paid, and a refund of almost €200,000 of what was overpaid.

The important element of this court decision is that the Alicante Province Appeal Court, does not partially cancel the loan for a mistake on the consent, that is, because the product was consented or accepted by consumers unreasonably due to a lack of clear information on the part of the bank.

The court stated that the clauses of the loan were obscure, not clear, nor understandable and therefore declared them directly null, which we hope can help many other affected consumers by this type of mortgages in currencies different from the euro, which were marketed in Spain incorrectly and not transparently, to achieve what our clients have obtained.

If you or someone you know has a problem with a loan in currency different from the Euro, either in Francs, Yen, etc **contact us and we will help you.**

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

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# Catalan leader to remain in prison

FORMER Catalan deputy Prime Minister Oriol Junqueras will remain in pre-trial custody, after Spain's Supreme Court unanimously rejected his appeal.

Junqueras, the prominent separatist leader who has an outside chance of becoming president when the regional parliament is sworn in later this month, has been in prison since early November.

He is accused of rebellion, sedition and misuse of public funds following his role in the declaration of Catalan independence, following an illegal referendum.

Despite some of his colleagues being released on bail, Junqueras was kept in Estremera prison, outside Madrid.

The court has now upheld the decision despite Junqueras' appeal, citing fears he would commit the same crimes for which he is being investigated.

He was number two in the regional parliament before Spain dissolved the government.

His Esquerra Republicana (ERC) party came third in last month's elections and will be crucial to forming a new, pro-independence government.

Junqueras is now likely to be prevented from being sworn in at the opening session of the new Parliament on January 17.

That complicates the process of forming a government, since his party make up the second largest grouping of pro-independence representatives.

The largest party was Ines Arrimadas' Ciudadanos - a pro-unity group - with deposed president Carles Puigdemont's Junts per Catalunya (JPC) party coming second.

Junqueras' ERC were a few seats behind.

Both men were fired from their previous positions when the Spanish government dissolved the Catalan administration.

With Puigdemont still in Brussels - where he fled to following a warrant for his arrest - Junqueras could, theoretically, become president if Puigdemont does not return to Catalunya.

But Junqueras may now be unable to return, if he is still in prison.

ERC and JPC have still not agreed on forming a coalition, according to Reuters. The separatist block would have a slim majority if they work with four anti-capitalist representatives.

## Fatal plunge

A MAN fell to his death while removing icicles from his fourth-floor home in northern Spain.

The 60-year-old man died on Calle Cruz Roja in Avila.

Emergency services were unable to revive him.

Police are investigating the exact circumstances of the fall.

Firefighters have been working non-stop to clear icicles and dangerous accumulations of snow from eaves and roof tops in the area.

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## Pensioners help out

MEMBERS of Alfaz's third age group, Hogar del Pensionista, made a €500 collection for Integra, a Marina Baja association for the parents of children with autism spectrum disorders, pervasive developmental disorder and other special needs. The donation will be used for the different programmes and activities organised by Integra.

## ALFAZ DEL PI / ALBIR NEWS

# MEMBA awards a triumph

LOCAL chiropractor Sharon Nilsson has received an award for Excellence in Business for Women in the Marina Baixa.

These awards are given in recognition of talent, excellence in business, creativity and innovation for the business women of the community.

The event was organised by the Association for Business Women of the Marina Baixa (MEMBA), with the support of the councillor for Equality, Commerce and Development of Alfaz del Pi and took place in the Casa de Cultura.

The mayor of Alfaz, Vicente Arqués, and his counterpart for Benidorm, Toni Pérez were present at the gala, where five prizes were



**ALL SMILES:** The winners and officials take to the stage and (inset) Sharon Nilsson with her award.

given out: Young Business Woman went to Lucía San Román, Excellence in Business to Sharon Nilsson; Creativity and Innovation to Crina Gravila; Career Path to Amparo Díaz Lopez, and Social Responsibility to the association

Mujeres con Voz (Women with a Voice), dedicated to victims of domestic violence.

The MEMBA prizes are a public recognition of budding careers plus the service and knowledge of local commerce and

business. In total, €2,000 was shared between the five winners. The aim of the awards ceremony is to honour business women and entrepreneurs, whether for their career path, excellence in their area, or for their innovation and positioning within the market place.

This was the first awards ceremony of its kind, and it is hoped to repeat it again. Many people turned up to watch, including councillors from other towns, business owners, and MEMBA board members.

*For more information regarding Sharon Nilsson, see Nilsson Chiropractic Centre's advert on page 61*

## Full of spirit

ALFAZ Spiritual Foundation opens its doors to all, today (Thursday), service starts at 6.30pm at the Forum Mare Nostrum Alfaz del Pi.

They hold an open circle on Tuesdays at 6.15pm where you are encouraged to explore and practise your spiritual gifts within a safe and non-judgemental environment. They also hold informational workshops the first and third Thursday of the month.

Service Mediums:

January 11: Helen Grady

January 18: Phil Griggs (new UK medium)

January 25: Jim McArthur

February 1: David Darnborough

February 8: Pauline Kernick

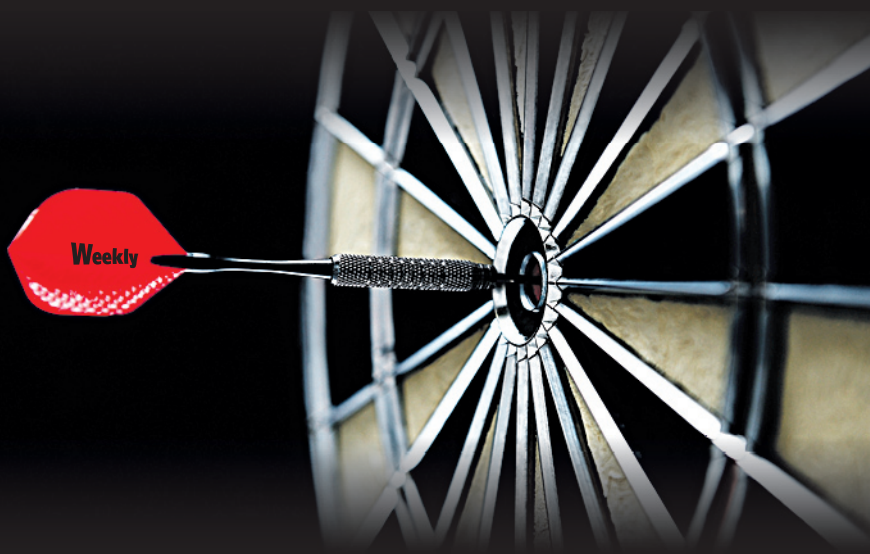
February 15: Sammy Fitzsimmonds

February 22: Kenny Corris

You can find more information of these events by visiting the website events page:

[www.alfazspiritualfoundation.com](http://www.alfazspiritualfoundation.com)

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## Where has everyone gone?

ALFAZ will lose at least €1 million if figures from the INE national statistics office are correct.

According to INE 18,394 residents were registered on Alfaz's municipal Padron last year, compared with 21,494 in 2016. Practically all were non-Spanish residents.

This is the lowest figure for 10 years even though Alfaz's population has gradually increased during this period, often at times when other Costa Blanca towns were losing residents.

The reduction will slash at least €1 million from the town's population-based allocation from the national govern-



Photo credit: SteHLiverpool

### ALFAZ: 'Inexplicable' population loss.

ment. With a population below 20,000, Alfaz would also be entitled to only 17 councillors instead of the present 21.

The town hall immediately challenged the INE figures with an appeal to the national government's Alicante delegation.

With between 50 and 100 new Padron registrations each year, the sudden drop was inexplicable, Alfaz argued. What was more, residents that INE excluded from the Padron had all complied with regulations.

Water consumption and rubbish collection all bore out the true size of the population, the town hall continued.

The Alicante delegation accepted 90 per cent of Alfaz Town Hall's objections, but these were later disregarded when passed on to Madrid.

The town hall is now putting together more documents and preparing more arguments to restore Alfaz's 'lost' population, municipal sources said.

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# Teulada Moraira

**NEWS**

## Investigation continues...

THE investigation continues to find the driver of an abandoned car found on Christmas Day off the N-332 between Benissa and Teulada. Police believe that the driver did a runner to avoid testing positive for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

## New year, new staff

THANKS to the help of EMCORD and EMCORP, the council has recently employed five people to work in its maintenance department.

The EMCORD programme helps people who have been unemployed for over a year back into the workplace, whilst the EM-

CORP programme concentrates on the employment of those over the age of 30.

Through EMCORD programme, a maintenance worker has been employed for seven months and through EMCORP, the municipality has employed two foresters and two painters for six months.

## Standing ovation

THE Teulada-Moraira auditorium was filled with lovers of ballet recently as the famous Moscow Ballet performed 'Don Quixote.' The ballet company received a standing ovation for their take on what is considered the most influential work of literature from the Spanish Golden Age and the entire Spanish literary canon.

## Chelsea winner on the Marina Alta

THE Marina Alta Floral Club proudly start 2018 with an open demonstration from celebrated UK Floral and Garden Designer and 2015 winner of the 'Great Chelsea Garden Challenge' Sean Murray on Tuesday January 23 at the Salon de Actos, La Senieta, Moraira.

Spaces are filling fast with Chelsea Flower Show lovers, gardeners and floral artists alike all looking forward to an afternoon with the artist.

Doors open at 2.15pm and close at 2.50pm before Sean takes centre stage at 3pm.

Entrance costs €8.

The club expresses its



Photo by The Belvoir Flower and Garden Festival/ Facebook

**ALL SMILES: Shaun Murray.**

greatest thanks to the Paichi Garden Centre in Moraira for sponsoring the raffle prizes for this exciting afternoon.

Sean will also lead the monthly demonstration for the club two days later on Thursday January 25, again at

the Salon de Actos, entitled 'Hortus Expositus.'

Doors open at 2.00pm and close at 2.50pm.

Flowers are supplied again by the Paichi Garden Centre and all exhibits will be raffled at the end of the afternoon.

As always, members and non-members alike are very much welcomed - entrance costs €5 for members and €8 for visitors.

For further information contact Pat on 622 921 812 or Tina on 965 833 197 or visit the club's website [www.marinaltafloralclub.com](http://www.marinaltafloralclub.com). You can also follow Marina Alta Costa Blanca Floral Club on Facebook.

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<p><b>REF 00499 Moraira</b>          Nice villa situated in a very quiet area, cul de sac and close to amenities. On 2 levels: Upper level is the main living area  <b>€395,000</b></p>	<div style="background-color: #2e8b57; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"><b>New build</b></div> <p><b>REF 00603 Moraira</b>          New Construction in Moraira Large newly built House  <b>€460,000</b></p>	<div style="background-color: #e67e22; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"><b>Offer of the month</b></div> <p><b>REF 00813 Orba</b>          Luxury Villa in Orba overlooking the valley, located near the village of Orba and all kinds of services  <b>€670,000</b></p>

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# JAVEA - XABIA

## NEWS

### Final farewell

ARGENTINE-SPANISH rock band Tequila's surviving members Ariel Rot, Alejo Stivel and Felipe Lipe will get together some 40 years after the group was first formed for a final farewell tour, stopping at Javea's MontgoRock Festival in May. Javea residents can enjoy a discount of €5 when purchasing festival tickets via the municipal tourist office.

# Four women linked by a postcode

YOU'RE in for a treat when professional actress Alison Skilbeck takes to the stage. Although a one-woman show, Alison portrays several well-observed characters and what starts as a monologue about each, somehow becomes unexpectedly intertwined. They do all live in Battersea SW11 so are practically neighbours.

There's Claire, a diplomat's former wife struggling to come to terms with her husband's desertion for a younger woman; Sofia an Italian cafe owner trying to move up in the world but somewhat hampered by la mama; Sara, a new-Age therapist who needs to try some of her own 'medicine' and finally Sam, a hard-nosed business woman, who al-



**TALENTED:** Alison Skilbeck is bringing her one-woman show to the Javea Players' Studio Theatre.

ways goes home alone.

Alison has worked with Ayckbourn, teaches at RADA and has a finely-tuned eye. What could be one-dimensional fleshes out under her careful guidance into rounded characters that live and breathe, each with their own demons and a determination to overcome them. You'll be spellbound by her powers of characterisation.

Wearing a simple black dress, Skilbeck only has to alter her hair, change footwear and an extra outer garment to immediately lead the audience into a new character, at which point her words and movement complete the picture.

Despite some pathos, the piece is frequently laugh-out-loud funny.

'Are There More of You?' will be performed by Alison at Javea Players' Studio Theatre from January 22 to 27 at 8pm with an interaction session with the audience at the end.

Tickets are €12, available on [www.javeaplayers.com](http://www.javeaplayers.com). If you have a problem, please email: [boxoffice@javeaplayers.com](mailto:boxoffice@javeaplayers.com) or call 865 528 551.

La Cocina will open specially from 6pm to offer a pre-theatre dinner each night. The two-course menu costs €16 or €19 for three courses plus half a bottle of wine per person for both options.

See the menu at: [www.lacocinajavea.com](http://www.lacocinajavea.com) and click Javea Players.

For dinner bookings, call: 965 795 140.

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Photo by xxxxxx Guardia Civil

**HARD EVIDENCE:** Nearly seven kilograms of cocaine were seized.

## Heavyweight dealer sent straight to prison

POLICE arrested a 'heavyweight' drug dealer in Javea and seized nearly seven kilograms of cocaine from his house.

The 29-year-old Spaniard was first stopped by officers just off the Arenal.

He was searched on the spot and police found 25 grams of coke, enveloped in 'wraps' ready for sale.

Officers then raided the dealer's house where they

found a further 697 grams of cocaine, distributed in doses of one gram and 0.5 grams, materials for distribution (scales, bags and wire) and €200 in cash.

He was sent straight to prison where he will remain in custody awaiting trial.

Police say the dealer was a 'heavyweight' on the Marina Alta and his imprisonment will seriously affect the trade of narcotics across the region.

## And then there were three

BENITACHELL resident Monica Garcia Bolufer turned 100 last Tuesday and became the municipality's third centenarian.

Benitachell mayor Josep Femenia visited Monica together with councillors Manolo Segarra and Nathalie Coning and presented her with a beautiful bouquet of flowers to mark the occasion.

He said:

"We would like to congratulate one of the oldest neighbours of the municipality Monica Garcia Bolufer, who turned 100 on January 2.

She becomes the third centenarian of Benitachell behind Maria Colomer who turned 100 on July 29, 2017 and Pepa Garcia Buigues, who will turn 101 on February 5, 2018."

Happy belated birthday, Monica!





## Blow to the head

A 71-YEAR-OLD German driver had to be released from his vintage Peugeot 203 after crashing into a wall near El Rancho on the Cabo La Nao road last weekend. He was taken to Denia Hospital disoriented due to a blow to the head and is thought to have fractured both of his legs.

## Party time for Javea U3A

A NUMBER of Javea U3A members have been celebrating Christmas with parties and get-togethers over the last few weeks.

The biggest turnout was the Dine & Dance group's party night at the Parador, with more than 60 members enjoying a feast of food, fun and frolicking on the dance floor to the sounds of singer Matt Mason.

The function was organised by group leaders Pat and Eric Johnson, who unfortunately due to illness were unable to attend themselves. However, fellow members came to the rescue to ensure that a good time was had by all. Many thanks go to Julie and Duncan Robson for helping out and to Anne and David Watts for hosting the event.

Anne and David have now officially taken over as group leaders from Pat and Eric, who decided to take a well-earned rest after being in charge for the last 10 years. They



**! PARTY TIME: Javea U3A's Dine & Dance Christmas party at the Parador.**

will be announcing details of the next Dine & Dance event in the new year.

Another group which lifted a glass or two in recognition of the festive season was the Wine Appreciation group - affectionately known as WAGs! So popular is the pastime that the group has two monthly meetings, WAGs and WAGs Too, which meet at La

Cocina restaurant on consecutive days. It meant that there were two Christmas parties and group leaders Trevor and Sally Rush had to do their duty and attend both!

If you would like to be part of the U3A action, don't miss the monthly meeting at the Parador from 9.30am on January 31. Or visit website at: [www.u3ajavea.org](http://www.u3ajavea.org).

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## A great end to the year

GIVING4GIVING made two donations to local charities, the first to the Red Cross in Altea for children at Xmas where Gary and Ray, G4G volunteers, presented them with €1,500 of new toys.

The second donation was €1,750 of vouchers from Sprinter and toys for the children in the Emmaus homes making it a total of €2,000.

With other donations they donated €6,500 in December, making a grand total of €92,000 to charity.



**WHAT A TREAT:** Gary and Ray presenting toys to a Red Cross volunteer.

Gary would like to thank all the loyal volunteers and the public for shopping with Giving4giving who make all this pos-

sible.

G4G always needs volunteers and donations so please call Gary on: 603 137 697.

## Art Treasures of Madrid

AFTER the Christmas and New Year festivities, the Arts Society Marina Alta is now fully prepared for their second year of society presentations.

The Chairman and committee are pleased to confirm that the first AGM will be held at the Salones Canor Teulada on February 1.

The registration of members starts at

9.45am and the AGM starts at 10.15am, followed by the first presentation 'Art Treasures of Madrid' - presented by Harry Fletcher - at 11am.

Doors open for visitors at 10.45am for an 11am start.

Visitors are welcome by prior arrangement at: [secretary@marinaaltaarts.com](mailto:secretary@marinaaltaarts.com).



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# A visit to remember

IN keeping with a long established tradition, last Tuesday, the volunteers of the Original Charity Shop and Library were more than pleased to help Santa deliver Christmas presents to the children at the Raquel Paya School for children with special needs in Denia.

This was an exciting day for the youngsters who awaited Santa's arrival with great anticipation.

The excitement reached fever pitch when Santa arrived, weighed down by his heavy bag with all those presents.

To start the show, the volunteers were entertained with a medley of Christmas carols including a solo, sung by Andreu. Then it was time for Santa to open his bag and the children were overjoyed to receive a very special gift of their choice.

This year the Raquel Paya School is celebrating its 30th anniversary. The Original Charity Shop and Library have been supporting the school for 25 years.

During this time the Charity Shop has helped provide air-conditioning, a hydrotherapy pool, a special sensory room, special bicycles, lap-tops, tables and numerous other essential items of equipment which help make life easier for these special needs children and their carers.

Every year the school also receives a



**HAPPY FACES:** The children with Santa, school staff and volunteers of The Original Charity Shop and Library.

generous contribution towards the cost of sending the youngsters on a spa or snow trip.

This year president Georgina Harvey was delighted to present them with a cheque for €1,000 for this purpose.

The Christmas raffle was a huge success and we would like to sincerely thank everyone who made this possible: our gen-

erous sponsors, clients and customers who bought raffle tickets, staff who collected prizes, sold raffle tickets and helped wrap the presents for 65 children.

A list of winning tickets is on display in the window of The Original Charity Shop on Carrer de Nancy 1, Javea. Don't forget to check your tickets - you could be one of the lucky winners!

## It's panto time!

CARELINE THEATRE'S 'Robin Hood - The Panto,' directed by Marian Carter, has all the traditional ingredients of a classic panto, and with Careline's trademark professional touch, it is sure to be a hit with all the family.

Opening night is 'Party at the Panto,' with a free glass of cava plus nibbles. Donations from this production will be going to Help of Denia and Marina Alta, MABS, and Jalon Valley Help, and will help to increase Careline's remarkable record of donating over €57,000 to local charities since 2006.

Performance dates at the Careline Theatre in Alcalali are Thursday January 18 to Sunday January 21 at 8pm, with matinees on Saturday January 20 and Sunday January 21 at 3pm.

Tickets are €12, with children under 10 years: €8. Pre-paid groups of 10 or more adults: €11.

Tickets are selling fast. To reserve yours, contact the box office now on the new number: 605 181 726 and at: [carelineboxoffice@gmail.com](mailto:carelineboxoffice@gmail.com).

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**DENMARK****Pricey pinch**

A VODKA bottle said to be worth over €1 million - which is made from 13 pounds of gold and silver, with a diamond-studded cap - was stolen during a night-time robbery on a bar in Copenhagen.

**Staying away**

DENMARK received less than 3,500 asylum applications in 2017, which marked an 84 per cent decrease over the last two years, which the government has attributed to the new anti-immigrant regulations that have been passed.

**Record stretch**

A RECORD seven million vehicles



Photo by Sean Knight Radio/Facebook

crossed the Oresund Bridge connecting Denmark and Sweden in 2017, the highest number ever recorded in the bridge's history, with cross-border Christmas shopping allegedly helping to boost the figures.

**Costly cab**

A DRUNK man was forced to pay

**HOT SHOT:** This €1 million vodka bottle was stolen from a bar in Copenhagen.

€1,850 after taking a taxi from Copenhagen to Oslo on New Year's Eve and trying to skip out on the fare, causing the Danish cab driver to alert the police.

**GERMANY****All wrapped up**

LOCALS in the German city of Stuttgart have taken to wrapping poorly-parked cars in cling film to deter them from blocking pedestrian areas and pavements.

**Doner deal**

THE former World Cup football star Lukas Podolski, who currently plays for Japanese club Vissel

Kobe, is set to open up a doner kebab shop in Cologne, the city where he grew up.

**Flood fright**

STORM 'BURGLIND' forced dozens of people to leave their homes in south Germany due to flooding and landslides, which caused hundreds of millions of

euros worth of damage to property.

**Modern motors**

GERMAN carmaker Volkswagen has announced it will work with Silicon Valley firm Aurora to create self-driving cars, with the hope of putting autonomous taxis on city streets by 2021.

**FRANCE****Making peace**

TURKEY'S president Recep Tayyip Erdogan travelled to Paris for talks with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron as the country aims to improve its ties with Europe following a stormy relationship during 2017.

**Ligue of its own**

FOREIGN students now view France as a more attractive place to study than the United States or the UK, according to a poll of 14,000 scholars who have either studied, are studying, or are planning to study there in the future.

**Un-brie-lievable**

ONE of the country's smelliest cheeses is under threat from marauding wild boar, farmers have warned, claiming that the rampaging swine are destroying pastures for cows that produce milk for the famously pungent Munster.

**Big screen boom**

THE country topped the European ranking of cinema-goers in 2017, with 209.2 million tickets sold, the third-highest number in the last 50 years according to the National Film Board.

**BELGIUM****Purr-fect sendoff?**

POLITICIANS are considering a law change that would allow animal owners to be laid to rest alongside their pets provided that they are cremated, with ashes to be placed in the same urn if the bill is passed.

**Naked shun**

AN online gambling firm has been told to remove 1,000 billboards from metro stations and bus stops in Brussels after the city's public transport operator received a string of complaints over an advert featuring a naked woman covered in bank notes.

**Premier prizes**

CHELSEA footballer Eden Hazard has bagged the national player of the year award, with Manchester City's Kevin de Bruyne and Manchester United's Romelo Lukaku completing a clean sweep of the top three for the UK Premier League.

**Skating horror**

A RUSSIAN tourist died in Bruges after she fell on an ice-skating rink, with the 43-year-old landing heavily on her head and passing away in hospital the following day.

**NETHERLANDS****House rules**

OFFICIALS in Amsterdam plan to crack down on the city's estimated 6,000 Airbnb rentals that allegedly violate local rules, such as renting to more than four tourists at a time or for more than 60 days per year.

**Storm trauma**

A RECENT storm that ravaged the Netherlands, with winds reaching up to 141 kilometres per hour, caused around €10 million in damage to homes and vehicles, according to the insurance association Verbond van Verzekeraars.

**Border swap**

THE Netherlands and Belgium have adjusted their borders by swapping a large amount of land, roughly the size of 27 football fields, after a headless body was found in the area and caused jurisdiction problems for police.

**Under pressure**

A DUTCH parliamentarian has called for an internal investigation into sexual harassment in politics in order to investigate how safe employees feel working in the Dutch Senate and lower house of parliament.

**SWEDEN****Road kill**

THE highest ever number of wildlife road accidents was reported last year in Sweden, with more than 61,000 incidents reported, an increase of more than 2,600 from 2016.

**Game of clones**

THE city of Västerås welcomed in the New Year with a stunning video clip which apes hit HBO series Game of Thrones, replacing key locations from the show with local landmarks including the cathedral and municipal swimming pool.

**Fake news**

SWEDEN'S security service chief, Anders Thornberg, has told UK media that his agency is not only handling an increased number of terrorism-related incidents, but is concerned about the threat of disinformation and fake news.

**Meat free spree**

FAST food giant McDonalds has introduced a McVegan burger in restaurants throughout the country in the wake of a clamour from diners, including a soy patty.

**NORWAY****Oil toil**

THE country has seen off a lawsuit by environmental groups to block oil drilling in the Arctic after Oslo's district court ruled that the exploration does not contravene the national constitution.

**Switched on**

THE Norwegian Road Federation has announced that 52 per cent of new cars sold in 2017 were electric or hybrid, up from 40 per cent the previous year, as the country races to become the first to end the sale of new gas and diesel vehicles.

**Fare cop**

A DRUNK New Year's Eve reveller took a taxi ride from Denmark to Norway via Sweden before fleeing without paying the €1,850 fare, but police were able to catch him as he lay passed out on his bed in a nearby house.

**Seekers shrink**

THE number of asylum applications received by the government in the latter half of 2017 was the lowest since 1995, with the overall total dropping from 30,000 in 2015 to 3,500 last year.



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**I SPY:** Drones will patrol Moscow's Luzhniki stadium in summer.

# Spy cameras

■ VIDEO drones will be used to identify troublemakers at the World Cup this summer. Russia's National Guard will fly the drones in and outside stadiums to both help prevent fights kicking off, and track down hooligans when they do. England fans have been advised to stick to just one beer.

## Pyramid planes

■ FLIGHTS from Russia to Cairo were restored two years after a bomb exploded on a St Petersburg-bound plane over the Sinai desert. All 224 passengers were killed. Last week President Putin signed a decree exempting Cairo from the Egypt flights ban. But trips to Sharm el-Sheikh are still banned.

## War zone

■ TWO helicopter pilots were killed and seven fighter planes destroyed by Islamist rebels in a bloody week for Russia's military in Syria. The pilots crashed in one of the few remaining rebel-held areas of the war-torn country. The deaths come one month after President Putin declared victory over Daesh.

## Baby benefits

■ WITH 2018 well underway it is now illegal to send text messages anonymously, including on WhatsApp, which must collect and show all numbers. Poor families get extra benefits for their first born babies, shops outside Moscow will be banned from hiring foreigners, and the minimum wage shot up.

## Factory fire

■ SEVEN Chinese migrant workers were killed in a huge shoe factory fire in Novosibirsk. A Russian and two Kyrgyzstanis also perished in the blaze. All the victims died of carbon monoxide poisoning while trying to extinguish the flames. Police suspect the factory was in violation of fire safety laws.

## Tax back

■ WEALTHY foreigners arriving from outside the Eurasian Economic Union can now claim the tax back on some of their purchases. Department stores offering the 18 per cent rebate can be found in Moscow, St Petersburg and Sochi. A minimum of 10,000 rubles (€145) must be spent.

## Deadly accuracy

■ RUSSIAN gunsmiths have built the first sniper rifle that can accurately hit a target four kilometres away. A private factory in Tarusa, two hours from Moscow, created the SVLK-14S Sumrak. It was made piece-by-piece and fires 408 CheyTac bullets which exit the barrel at 900 metres-per-second.



**LONG RANGE:** Sniper rifle can hit a bull's-eye 4km away.

Tanzania Updates/Twitter



## Junqueras has appeal case in court

A SPANISH court is considering an appeal by former Catalan Vice President Oriol Junqueras against his detention during the recent political crisis.

If he is granted bail, Junqueras may run to become the new Catalan leader. However, he faces being potentially charged for rebellion, sedition and embezzlement which could see him incarcerated for decades. Junqueras has already had two court appeals dismissed.

His legal team hopes that the separatists' victory in the elections to the Catalan parliament will help his cause.

# Services industry grows

By John Smith

IN the wake of easing tensions in Cataluña, the service industry in Spain ended 2017 in an upbeat way, reporting an increase in the rate of activity. After two months of declines in the rate of growth, HIS Markit's index of purchasing managers rose to 54.6 in December, up by 0.2 from November.

"Although the final quarter of 2017 saw a weaker expansion in activity than the other three quarters of the year, the economy continued to grow at a healthy pace," Andrew

Harker, an associate director at HIS Markit said.

"Overall, 2017 has been a positive year for the Spanish economy, leaving it well placed heading into 2018." The marked increase in activity at the end of 2017 extends the current sequence of expansion to 50 months.

The strengthening of economic conditions was deemed to be behind rises in both activity and new business. According to a survey of more

than 350 companies, new business, orders and job creation all grew in December.

There had been fears that Spain's economy would be hit hard by the political fallout over Cataluña's vote for independence last year, when thousands of companies moved their headquarters out of the region.

However, these concerns have not been borne out and another reason for Spain's upturn can be attributed to the economic strength of the eurozone.

## IT sector in need of reboot

THE IT and telecommunications sectors are most in demand by companies, and yet are the professions that receive the least applications, according to a study by the employment site Infojobs.

The survey revealed that job vacancies increase by up to 20 per cent in January, as a result of many people seeking a change at the start of the year. Openings within computing and telecommunications are the most numerous, making up 16.4 per cent of all the job offers published in Infojobs.

Despite the fact these industries offer above-average salaries, there are far fewer applications per vacancy than other sectors. Companies are desperate to address this, particularly in relation to cybersecurity.

### Quote of the Week

"God has taken her but she has not gone, she will be forever in my heart," says grandson Luis Alfonso de Borbon about the death of Maria del Carmen Franco y Polo, the only daughter of General Franco.



**LOWEST EARNERS:** To receive a welcome salary rise.

## Minimum wage boost

SPAIN'S lowest earners will receive a welcome 4 per cent salary rise in 2018, in a new pledge made by the Spanish government.

In addition, if specific economic growth and employment targets are met, the figure could increase to as much as €850 a month by 2020.

In an agreement reached with trade unions and company executives, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy will implement the in-

crease which will see the country's lowest earners receive €28.4 more a month this year.

"This is a boost to rebuild the salaries of people who lost most in the economic crisis," says Unai Sordo, leader of the Worker's Commissions, Spain's largest union. The unions will consider the measure a triumph for their work, having long demanded wages to mirror Spain's speedy recovery from the 2013 recession.

### » BUSINESS EXTRA

## Jobless down

UNEMPLOYMENT in Spain shrank by 7.8 per cent last year as the numbers continue to recede from the record highs of 2013. The Labour Ministry said 3.4 million people were registered as out of work in 2017, representing 290,000 fewer than in 2016.

## Ortega stays

BUSINESS tycoon Amancio Ortega will retain control of his Pontegadea empire until 2029, when he will be 93 years old. The parent company of Zara and other fashion brands holds the most valuable block of shares in Spain.

## Diesel injection

THE price of diesel has seen a second consecutive rise, to climb to €1.146 per litre. This is a level that has not been seen since July 2015. In turn, the average price of petrol has also increased this week by 0.56 per cent to reach €1.242.



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## Santander axes 1,100

BANCO SANTANDER, the biggest lender in the Eurozone, will be cutting 1,100 jobs following its takeover of Banco Popular, unions have said. Santander bought Popular last June for the

nominal fee of one euro, which helped avert its imminent collapse.

At the time, Santander calculated that the cost of restructuring following the purchase would be €1.3 billion.



LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES JANUARY 8									
COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL	COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Anglo American	1,609.50	6.10	0.38	22,521.57	Legal & General Group	272.00	0.30	0.11	16,189.08
Associated British Foods	2,880.50	-1.50	-0.05	22,816.05	Lloyds Banking Group ORD	68.12	0.05	0.07	48,991.99
Admiral Group	1,875.25	3.25	0.17	5,376.65	London Stock Exchange Grp	3,753.00	-5.00	-0.13	13,030.37
Ashtead Group	2,024.50	9.50	0.47	10,048.32	Micro Focus International	2,336.50	-245.50	-9.51	11,244.25
Antofagasta	985.30	3.50	0.36	9,679.14	Mediclinic International	629.10	3.10	0.50	4,615.15
Aviva	507.50	0.90	0.18	20,328.22	Marks & Spencer Group	312.00	-1.70	-0.54	5,096.82
AstraZeneca	5,206.50	2.50	0.05	65,894.17	Mondi	1,926.75	-1.75	-0.09	9,363.91
BAE Systems	578.60	6.60	1.15	18,225.11	Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	226.10	0.90	0.40	5,305.07
Barclays	199.37	0.19	0.10	33,980.90	National Grid	867.00	-1.40	-0.16	29,267.83
British American Tobacco	4,943.50	-26.50	-0.53	113,993.55	NMC Health	3,131.00	-7.00	-0.22	6,414.82
Barratt Developments	652.20	-5.60	-0.85	6,660.19	Next	4,868.00	14.00	0.29	7,087.43
Berkeley Group Holdings	4,227.50	2.50	0.06	5,721.30	Old Mutual Group	225.05	-0.45	-0.20	11,123.27
British Land Co	677.90	3.10	0.46	6,745.84	Paddy Power Betfair	8,660.00	-210.00	-2.37	7,501.74
BHP Billiton	1,575.20	13.60	0.87	32,982.11	Prudential	1,921.75	1.25	0.07	49,686.70
Bunzl	2,064.50	1.50	0.07	6,930.27	Persimmon	2,748.00	-30.00	-1.08	8,580.03
BP	527.85	-1.75	-0.33	105,168.07	Pearson	735.50	0.30	0.04	5,893.27
Burberry Group	1,790.25	7.75	0.43	7,565.37	Reckitt Benckiser Group	6,818.00	-23.00	-0.34	48,147.27
BT Group	271.15	0.15	0.06	26,888.15	Royal Bank of Scotland Group (The)	277.60	1.30	0.47	33,058.09
Coca-Cola HBC	2,370.00	-13.00	-0.55	8,753.19	Royal Dutch Shell	2,525.25	-4.75	-0.19	116,307.54
Carnival	4,853.00	1.00	0.02	10,181.61	Royal Dutch Shell	2,556.25	-6.75	-0.26	95,996.83
Centrica	146.03	-0.12	-0.08	8,184.81	RELX	1,710.75	-2.75	-0.16	18,219.82
Compass Group	1,564.00	-4.00	-0.26	24,826.74	Rio Tinto	3,967.50	8.00	0.20	53,491.83
Croda International	4,475.00	-4.00	-0.09	5,885.08	Rolls-Royce Group	868.00	4.00	0.46	15,902.76
CRH	2,738.50	-23.50	-0.85	23,170.55	Randgold Resources	7,230.00	-38.00	-0.52	6,837.49
DCC	7,562.50	12.50	0.17	6,734.67	RSA Insurance Group	623.40	-2.20	-0.35	6,398.86
Diageo	2,668.75	-3.25	-0.12	66,480.47	Rentokil Initial	312.55	1.65	0.53	5,712.27
Direct Line Insurance Group	368.50	-1.30	-0.35	5,084.75	Sainsbury (J)	242.05	1.05	0.44	5,278.44
Experian	1,668.75	19.75	1.20	15,167.57	Schroders	3,578.00	16.00	0.45	8,050.92
easyJet	1,526.50	15.00	0.99	6,003.80	Sage Group (The)	805.00	-2.00	-0.25	8,726.43
Ferguson	5,449.00	19.00	0.35	13,515.63	Segro	586.60	-0.10	-0.02	5,883.17
Fresnillo	1,395.00	0.50	0.04	10,275.98	Shire	3,842.50	-32.50	-0.84	35,254.08
G4S	282.80	7.60	2.76	4,269.99	Smurfit Kappa Group	2,456.00	-8.00	-0.32	5,836.01
GKN	327.15	0.85	0.26	5,604.13	Sky	1,012.25	2.75	0.27	17,353.48
Glencore	389.95	1.35	0.35	55,937.96	Standard Life Aberdeen	433.20	5.50	1.29	12,740.91
GlaxoSmithKline	1,380.10	19.10	1.40	67,477.67	Smith (DS)	514.20	-3.80	-0.73	5,531.74
Hargreaves Lansdown	1,801.00	-23.00	-1.26	8,651.57	Smiths Group	1,542.50	-2.50	-0.16	6,114.14
Halma	1,286.50	-3.50	-0.27	4,897.37	Scottish Mortgage Invst Trust	466.10	4.10	0.89	6,484.26
Hammerson	536.60	0.60	0.11	4,257.05	Smith & Nephew	1,286.75	1.25	0.10	11,250.94
HSBC Holdings	759.65	-3.85	-0.50	152,665.21	SSE	1,322.00	-2.00	-0.15	13,431.40
International Consoldtd Air Grp	665.20	1.20	0.18	13,599.04	Standard Chartered	797.40	3.40	0.43	26,172.80
InterContinental Hotels Group	4,690.50	-0.50	-0.01	8,912.44	St James's Place	1,246.50	-4.50	-0.36	6,618.76
3i Group	937.20	-6.60	-0.70	9,182.01	Severn Trent	2,145.50	5.50	0.26	5,056.14
Imperial Brands	3,171.50	1.50	0.05	30,233.46	Tesco	210.55	0.85	0.41	17,177.22
Informa	721.20	-0.80	-0.11	5,949.32	TUI AG	1,556.00	1.50	0.10	9,130.93
Intertek Group	5,326.00	8.00	0.15	8,582.75	Taylor Wimpey	209.60	-1.60	-0.76	6,917.68
ITV	170.08	-0.82	-0.48	6,879.42	Unilever	4,093.50	1.00	0.02	50,410.07
Just Eat	807.70	-3.30	-0.41	5,514.43	United Utilities Group	819.80	2.00	0.24	5,576.48
Johnson Matthey	3,186.50	-12.50	-0.39	6,191.13	Vodafone Group	236.65	-0.15	-0.06	63,164.82
Kingfisher	337.50	-2.10	-0.62	7,353.84	Worldpay Group	437.95	2.95	0.68	8,700.00
Land Securities Group	990.25	4.65	0.47	7,307.73	WPP Group	1,343.00	3.50	0.26	17,010.75
					Whitbread	3,972.00	-22.00	-0.55	7,326.08

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3M	240,570	+0.78%	1,860	142,534.98
AMERICAN EXPRESS	101,0800	+0.23%	0,2300	87,554.78
APPLE	175,000	+1.14%	1,970	889,471.74
BOEING CO	308,840	+4.10%	12,170	182,645.77
CATERPILLAR	161,960	+1.58%	2,520	96,194.81
CHEVRON	127.90	-0.16%	-0.21	242,284.14
CISCO SYSTEMS	39,530	+1.38%	0,540	195,100.04
COCA-COLA	46.07	-0.02%	-0.01	195,415.51
DOWDUPONT	75.42	+1.30%	0.97	176,194.25
EXXON MOBIL	86.75	-0.08%	-0.07	366,107.15
GENERAL ELECTRIC	18,5400	+0.05%	0,0100	160,520.29
GOLDMAN SACHS	255.52	-0.51%	-1.31	96,209.01
HOME DEPOT	192,5000	+1.04%	1,9900	223,839.89
IBM	162.49	+0.49%	0.79	149,963.21
INTEL CORP	44,7400	+0.70%	0,3100	208,470.60
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	108,3400	-0.64%	-0.7000	375,226.88
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	141,7100	+0.83%	1,1600	379,014.25
MC DONALD'S CORP	174,0500	+0.20%	0,3500	138,511.00
MERCK AND CO. NEW	56.99	-0.11%	-0.06	154,925.10
MICROSOFT	88,190	+1.24%	1,080	679,501.86
NIKE	63.98	+0.85%	0.54	83,592.88
PFIZER	36,8600	+0.19%	0,0700	219,115.60
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	91,240	+0.07%	0,060	230,774.39
TRAVELERS CIES	132.16	-0.18%	-0.24	36,053.96
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	131.57	+0.86%	1.12	104,782.91
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	228.73	+1.91%	4.28	220,806.86
VERIZON COMMS	52.48	-0.23%	-0.12	214,089.06
VISA	118.86	+2.39%	2.78	213,671.60
WAL-MART STORES	100,1300	+0.59%	0,5900	295,675.29
WALT DISNEY CO	111,6200	-0.54%	-0,6100	168,077.01

M - MILLION DOLLARS

Distributing Funds

Sterling Fixed Income B

DEALING PRICE

£0.9314 .....

PRICE MOVEMENT

-£0.0002

Accumulating Funds

Multi Asset Conservative B GBP

Multi Asset Conservative B EUR

Multi Asset Balanced B GBP

Multi Asset Balanced B EUR

Multi Asset Growth B GBP

Multi Asset Growth B EUR

DEALING PRICE

£1.1624 .....

£1.0790 .....

£1.3354 .....

£1.2275 .....

£1.4958 .....

£1.3821 .....

PRICE MOVEMENT

-£0.0009

-€0.0013

£0.0016

€0.0008

£0.0037

€0.0027

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Remaining Elite Fund prices available on request

Prices correct as at 03/01/2018

NASDAQ

CLOSING PRICES JANUARY 8

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE	NET / %
Most Advanced			
TiGenix	\$ 40.73	17.05 ▲	72.00%
Cellular Biomedicine Group, Inc.	\$ 18	3.50 ▲	24.14%
Everspin Technologies, Inc.	\$ 9.47	1.56 ▲	19.72%
Momenta Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 17.55	2.80 ▲	18.98%
ChinaCache International Holdings Ltd.	\$ 2.72	0.33 ▲	13.81%
Atlantic American Corporation	\$ 3.65	0.40 ▲	12.31%
CRISPR Therapeutics AG	\$ 26.81	2.90 ▲	12.13%
Acorda Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 23.55	2.50 ▲	11.88%
ABAXIS, Inc.	\$ 55.06	5.55 ▲	11.21%
TESSCO Technologies Incorporated	\$ 20.10	1.75 ▲	9.54%
Syndax Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 9.53	0.82 ▲	9.41%
Most Declined			
Kala Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 12.255	5.075 ▼	29.28%
Core-Mark Holding Company, Inc.	\$ 24.18	7.23 ▼	23.02%
REGENXBIO Inc.	\$ 27.85	7.35 ▼	20.88%
Novan, Inc.	\$ 3.36	0.88 ▼	20.75%
Francesca's Holdings Corporation	\$ 5.95	1.55 ▼	20.67%
Shiloh Industries, Inc.	\$ 7.41	1.60 ▼	17.76%
Synergy Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 2.18	0.26 ▼	10.66%
NewLink Genetics Corporation	\$ 9	1.06 ▼	10.54%
Dogness (International) Corporation	\$ 4.81	0.563 ▼	10.48%
Audentes Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 36.625	4.185 ▼	10.25%
Future FinTech Group Inc.	\$ 4.66	0.53 ▼	10.21%



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\*Fees and exchange rate data for banks taken from the International Money Transfer Index™ (IMTI™).

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# Investment in roads

## Costs are lowest for three decades

SPENDING on Spain's road network under all of its administrations is down to 0.4 per cent of GDP, a level not seen since 1986. On top of this a new cut of €600 million in the funding of the Ministry of Development was announced last April.

The majority of that reduction in investment is due to be sustained by the road network, for several reasons. The railways are likely to be protected in order to keep the European funds that are attached. Indeed trains are wrapped up in political commitments that the government will be reluctant to break. It is also seen to be faster and generally easier to cut funding from roads. "It draws attention to the way the authorities try to protect the railways from the cuts," explains Matilde Mas, an Ivie Professor of Economic Analysis.

As a result, spending on roads will regress to the levels of the mid-90's, when €4,500 million a year was allocated for road maintenance. Compared to 2008, at the end of 2015 investment in this area by the Central Administration fell by 85 per cent in construction, and 59 per cent in repairs.

Of course once a road network is built, far less funds are required to maintain them, which the OECD has fixed at 2 per cent of the cost of the infrastructure. However, according to a study by the Spanish Road Association, the state of conservation of the State Highway Network on the autonomous regions is 'deficient.' The survey showed that as many as 325,000 road signs need replacing, and 50,000 km of road markings require repainting.

However, conserving roads has no political glamour and does not require set piece speeches and photo-friendly presentations for politicians. Governments therefore prefer to cut investment here than more public-



**REDUCED OUTLAY:**  
Spending on roads is at its lowest since 1986.

ly sensitive areas like health and pensions.

Jacob Diaz, General Director of the Spanish Association of Certera, warns, "When roads are not conserved, damage does not increase linearly but exponentially, until there comes a time when you do not have to maintain but rebuild." Although there is no study linking the maintenance for roads and accidents, it is clear that repairs are essential to ensure public safety.

# ONLINE GIANT WILL LAUNCH LABOUR PROGRAMME

## Amazon to 'Flex' its muscles

DELIVERY giant Amazon is leading the way in showing that digital business models can revolutionise labour regulations.

Moreover, it plans to launch its 'Flex' programme in Spain. This is a scheme where the company hires drivers in countries to deliver its packages. It is already up and running in the US, where people can earn \$18 to \$25 an hour and all they require is a car and a smartphone.

The 'flex' moniker is justified as drivers tell Amazon where they want to work and how many hours they want to do. During the shift, packages are picked up at the nearest Amazon location and delivered to people in the local area.

Rafael Chelala, a professor at Duesto Business School, comments, "The new model of Amazon is channelled into this so-called collaborative economy, which replaces the traditional model of assets with digital platforms."

There is even talk of a 'platformisation' of labour relations and Amazon is just one example of a growing trend in



**'COLLABORATIVE ECONOMY': But are Flex staff self-employed?**

which online commerce and collaborative economy platforms converge.

As the Uber court case has shown, questions arise in such systems as to whether each professional is simply self-employed, or a self-employed worker. This is clearly important when it comes to accountability and worker's rights.

As a result there are calls for the establishment of comprehensive reforms to labour regulations to make them fit

for this new digital world. In Spain there is only one legal precept that regulates teleworking and there is no reference to flexible days.

However, some companies have taken progressive steps and Axa has become the first company in Spain to include the rights of its workers not to respond to mobile phones outside of working hours.

Even the environment in normal working offices is evolving. "Before, it was going to the offices and a schedule was imposed because the means to work were there.

This has changed with increasing flexibility, and face to face meetings are only required when absolutely necessary," explains Chelala. Digital platforms and the 'gig' economy has become a popular route for students to earn money in hours that they can choose.

There may be a risk of exploitation and socioeconomic effects for the foreseeable future, but it is a brave new world.

## Property firm to float shares

REAL ESTATE firm Metrovacesa has announced plans to sell off 25-40 per cent of the company via the stock market.

Scheduled to take place in February, the move is likely to set a new record as the largest listing by a European residential property developer.

The current record holder is Neinor Homes, which last year listed with a market capitalisation of €1.3bn, but Metrovacesa has a net asset value of €2.6bn.

It comes as the residential property sector in Spain continues to recover, with house prices rising steadily over the last two years.

Metrovacesa was responsible for the biggest property deal in British history when it acquired a tower in London's Canary Wharf for €1.6bn in 2007.

## Rental prices rise again

RENTAL property prices in Spain continue to rise, with last year seeing an increase of 18.4 per cent. According to a survey produced by property portal *Idealista.com*, the average price now stands at nearly €900 a month for an average house of 90 square metres.

Barcelona and Caceres are the only cities in Spain where prices have reduced in 2017, although Barcelona unsurprisingly remains the most expensive place to rent in.

The provincial capitals of Santa Cruz de Tenerife and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria have seen the highest price rises, increasing by 22.7 per cent and 22.5 per cent respectively.

The biggest rise has happened in the Canary Islands, where owners asked for 27.8 per cent more for leasing their properties than in 2016.

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# SPANISH BRANDS HOPING TO BOUNCE BACK

## Bargain boom begins

SPAIN'S traditional sales campaign, the day after many Spanish children receive their presents from the Three Kings on January 6, has lost ground in the face of year-round discounts and a huge increase in online shopping. Nowhere is this growing trend more visible than during Black Friday, when nearly a third of all Christmas shopping gets done, according to a study by Deloitte.

All the main fashion brands, including Mango, H&M, Cortefiel, and Women's Secret, large department stores such as El Corte Ingles, and the online retail giant Amazon are already offering early sales with discounts of up to 70 per cent in some cases.

This change of emphasis towards year-round sales is having a negative impact on small and medium firms in the textile industry, as reduced prices eat into their profit margins. The Spanish Commerce Confederation (CEC) has again insisted on the need to establish a well-defined sales period.

"Early sales by many commercial brands have forced small and medium



**JANUARY SALES:** Already started for many brands.

stores to do the same, as a way to get rid of their excess stock," said the CEC in a statement. The surplus is the result of a slow autumn-winter sales season."

Despite the general tendency to get ahead of the pack on sales season, Inditex - the parent company of Zara and other major fashion brands, continues to wait until after January 6 before slashing its prices. Meanwhile, El Corte Ingles has taken a balanced approach: some items are already 40 per cent off their regular

price, but the bulk of the offers will come after the January 6 Three Kings.

At the other end of the spectrum, fashion brands are already offering large discounts for online and physical shopping. "Consumers take advantage of these offers to do their Christmas shopping, and businesses are offering more promotional prices in order to adapt and defend their sales," explains Emilio Gonzalez, who teaches economics at the Madrid-based business school Icade.

Despite the endless discounts, businesses remain hopeful that the Christmas and official sales season will yield positive numbers, even if profit margins suffer. "This is our key campaign, it is still out great sales bastion," says an El Corte Ingles spokesperson.

The textile business association Acotex said it is expecting to see sales growth of between 5 and 10 per cent but described it as a bad thing. "There are going to be very good sales with a lot of products available, which is bad because it's going to eat into companies' profit margins," said Acotex president Eduardo Zamacola.

## Brent oil price at high level

OIL has been one of the great boons to the Spanish economy in recent years and during the past year led to a saving of €2.3 billion via crude imports.

The steep drop in oil prices between 2014 and 2016 left more disposable income in the pockets of households and companies.

As a result, the rise in the oil price in the second half of 2017 is a slight concern for the economic outlook. The Brent oil price, a notable benchmark in Europe, has begun 2018 at its highest level since early 2015, exceeding 65 dollars. This represents a rise of 50 per cent in the last six months.

The reasons for this spike are varied but involve policies restricting the supply in oil producing countries, as well as geopolitical conflicts.



# Losing mental capacity whilst living abroad

**by Stone King**

Charlotte Macdonald

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



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

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

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



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

**What is an LPA?**

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

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

Your attorney can be a professional,

such as a solicitor or a family member or friend.

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

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

**Why should you get an LPA?**

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

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

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

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

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





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# Locals don't know what's hit them

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT

OTHERS THINK IT



ONE thing I did learn on my recent London trip was not to engage an Uber driver in any political discussion.

In the main, most Uber employees are immigrants. True to any London taxi drivers form, they are, (or consider themselves to be!) experts on just about any subject you care to mention - with current affairs undoubtedly a favourite. The problem is, once they start they are difficult to stop.

In around a dozen journeys I found out more about Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and their opinions of Saddam Hussein than any 'Arab Spring' discussions I've had since the criminal acts of Blair and Bush got us into it all. The open attitude of these cabbies rather sums up the feeling I got from most of London's ethnic immigrant population. The majority are extremely upbeat (well they would be wouldn't they?).

From shop assistants to museum guides, I found them generally polite, enthusiastic, confident and certainly not backward in coming forward. In fact, while shopping in a local chemist, I remarked to my companion that we needed candles. Her light-hearted suggestion of buying 'four candles,' ala the Two Ronnie's, bought a roar of laughter from



**LONDON:** British sense of humour sadly lacking.

the Pakistani assistant, who then proceeded to regale us with jokes from his favourite TV show, which happened to be Fawlty Towers - 'I come from Barcelona' he said 'I know nothing'!

Unfortunately, this light-hearted attitude doesn't extend to the Brits. Personally, I think the locals simply don't know what's hit them. To me, most of them appeared to be living under a cloud of doomy acceptance. And who can blame them? They have been battered by Brexit, paralysed by

the politically correct brigade, fleeced of free speech, overwhelmed by immigration, ill-advised, and deprived of political leadership to the point of utter submission. They also appear to have relinquished to my mind one of their most endearing and strongest weapons, the wonderful British sense of humour.

Any attempt at a merry quip, particularly at shop assistants, is met by an icy glare of suspicion while they apparently try and work out whether

you are being sexist or in some way abusive. The look I got when, purely by force of habit, I said thanks 'love' to a checkout girl (person!) had me looking back over my shoulder to see if she was dialling 999! Just how long can anyone go on living under these circumstances without something snapping?

Oddly enough, I actually do believe it could all still work, but not under this bunch of indecisive political pussies and certainly not under Corbyn's fascist bunch. What they need is a Winnie or Thatcher. Strong decisive leadership. Someone to give the British a degree of optimism. A leader who can instil a national ambition to somehow succeed in this unprecedented diversity of existence they have been conned into by the incompetent self-centered politicians and luvvie brigade.

All in all I actually left the old country with a certain degree of sadness. The only thing that hadn't changed was the weather! One thing I will miss however is the politeness. 'Excuse me,' 'oops I'm sorry,' 'my fault' and 'after you's' were expressions one doesn't hear quite as often as one should in the country of our choice!

*Keep the faith*

*Love Leapy*

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

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tion, and said, "Nothing was too much trouble, you were patient and gave sensible, honest advice. The fitters worked tirelessly, were polite and considerate and tidied and cleaned up afterwards. We won't hesitate in recommending LUX-AL to anyone."

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10:15am	Rip Off Britain	9:00am	MasterChef: The Professionals	8:00pm	Beyond 100 Days	8:10am	Everybody Loves Raymond	9:05am	Digby Dragon	8:30am	Streetmate	7:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
11:00am	Homes Under the Hammer	10:00am	Victoria Derbyshire	8:30pm	Great Continental Railway Journeys	8:35am	Everybody Loves Raymond	9:20am	Rusty Rivets	9:00am	Charmed	7:30am	Good Morning Sports Fans
12:00pm	Wanted Down Under	12:00pm	BBC Newsroom Live	9:00pm	Bloody Queens: Elizabeth and Mary	9:00am	Everybody Loves Raymond	9:35am	Shimmer and Shine	10:00am	Melissa and Joey	8:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
12:45pm	Close Calls: On Camera	1:00pm	The Daily Politics		<i>Drama revealing the intimate and ultimately deadly relationship between Queen Elizabeth I and Mary.</i>	9:30am	Frasier	9:55am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom	11:00am	Baby Daddy	8:30am	Good Morning Sports Fans
1:15pm	Bargain Hunt	2:00pm	Coast	10:00pm	England's Forgotten Queen: The Life and Death of Lady Jane Grey	10:05am	Frasier	10:05am	Mofy	12:00pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine	8:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
2:00pm	BBC News at One	2:15pm	Brazil with Michael Palin			10:35am	Frasier	10:15am	The Wright Stuff	1:00pm	The Goldbergs	8:30am	Good Morning Sports Fans
2:30pm	BBC London News	3:15pm	Himalaya with Michael Palin	11:00pm	Fit to Rule: How Royal Illness Changed History	11:05am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	12:15pm	GP's: Behind Closed Doors	2:00pm	The Big Bang Theory	9:00am	Live European Tour Golf
2:45pm	Doctors	4:15pm	The Great British Winter		<i>Dr Lucy Worsley explores the medical histories and fraught family dynamics.</i>	12:00pm	Sun, Sea and Selling Houses			3:00pm	Melissa and Joey	11:00am	Premier League Daily
3:15pm	Father Brown	6:15pm	Flog It!	12:00am	Lost Land of the Volcano	1:00pm	Channel 4 News	1:10pm	5 News Lunchtime	4:00pm	Baby Daddy	12:00pm	Info not available
4:00pm	I Escaped to the Country	7:00pm	Eggheads	1:00am	Top of the Pops: 1981	1:05pm	Darts	1:15pm	The Hotel Inspector	5:00pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine	12:30pm	Sky Sports Daily
4:45pm	The Farmers' Country Showdown	7:30pm	Great British Railway Journeys			6:00pm	Come Dine with Me	2:15pm	Home and Away	6:00pm	The Goldbergs	1:00pm	Live European Tour Golf
5:30pm	Antiques Road Trip	8:00pm	Rick Stein's Road to Mexico			7:00pm	The Simpsons	2:45pm	Neighbours	6:30pm	The Big Bang Theory	4:00pm	Info not available
6:15pm	Pointless	9:00pm	Hairy Bikers' Mediterranean Adventure			7:30pm	Hollyoaks	3:15pm	NCIS	7:00pm	The Big Bang Theory	4:30pm	SKY Sports News
7:00pm	BBC News at Six	10:00pm	A House Through Time			8:00pm	Channel 4 News	4:15pm	Dear Diary, I Died	8:00pm	Hollyoaks	5:00pm	SKY Sports News
7:30pm	BBC London News	11:00pm	Live at the Apollo			9:00pm	George Clarke's Amazing Spaces	6:00pm	5 News at 5	8:30pm	Coach Trip	6:00pm	SKY Sports News
8:00pm	The One Show	11:30pm	Newsnight			10:00pm	Hunted	7:00pm	Home and Away	9:00pm	The Big Bang Theory	7:00pm	SKY Sports News
8:30pm	EastEnders	12:15am	Michael Palin: A Life on Screen			11:00pm	Derry Girls	7:30pm	5 News Tonight	10:00pm	2 Broke Girls	8:00pm	Info not available
9:00pm	Big Cats					11:35pm	The Undateables	8:00pm	Baby Ballroom	10:30pm	2 Broke Girls	8:30pm	Live European Rugby
10:00pm	Death in Paradise					12:35am	Working Class White Men	9:00pm	Big Family Values: Celebrity Big Brother	11:00pm	The Inbetweeners	11:00pm	Info not available
11:00pm	BBC News at Ten							10:00pm	Celebrity Big Brother		<i>Simon is about to sit his first driving test, and Will, Jay and Neil are very excited.</i>	11:30pm	Info not available
11:30pm	BBC London News							11:00pm	Celebrity 100% Hotter!	11:30pm	The Inbetweeners	11:30pm	Info not available
11:45pm	Question Time							12:05am	Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side	12:05am	The Big Bang Theory	12:00am	SKY Sports News
12:45am	This Week									12:35am	The Big Bang Theory	1:00am	Live PGA Tour Golf
												4:30am	Eurasia Cup
<div><div>itv</div></div>		<div><div>itv2</div></div>		<div><div>itv3</div></div>		<div><div>itv4</div></div>		<div><div>sky CINEMA ACTION &amp; ADVENTURE</div></div>		<div><div>sky CINEMA PREMIERE</div></div>		<div><div>sky sports football</div></div>	
7:00am	Good Morning Britain	7:00am	Good Morning Britain	7:25am	Classic Coronation Street	7:00am	The Chase	9:30am	Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2	7:00am	The Book of Henry	8:00am	Football Years
9:30am	Lorraine	9:30am	Lorraine	7:55am	Heartbeat	7:50am	Pawn Stars	11:55am	Charlie's Angels	8:50am	Blind	8:30am	Football Countdowns
10:25am	The Jeremy Kyle Show	10:25am	The Jeremy Kyle Show	8:55am	The Royal	8:10am	Pawn Stars	1:50pm	Superman Returns	10:40am	Rules Don't Apply	9:00am	Carabao Cup Highlights
11:30am	This Morning	11:30am	This Morning	10:00am	Judge Judy	8:35am	Ironsides	4:25pm	The Magnificent Seven	12:55pm	Logan	10:00am	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
	Morning magazine programme.	1:30pm	Loose Women	10:25am	Judge Judy	9:35am	Quincy, M.E.	6:40pm	The Matrix Reloaded		<i>A troubled, reclusive Wolverine must protect an ailing Professor X and a mysterious young mutant.</i>	10:30am	La Liga Greatest Games
1:30pm	Loose Women	2:30pm	ITV News	10:55am	Judge Judy	10:40am	Minder	9:00pm	Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2	3:15pm	Tumbledown	11:00am	Carabao Cup
2:30pm	ITV News		The latest ITV News.	11:25am	The Darling Buds of May	11:45am	The Sweeney	11:20pm	Assassin's Creed	5:15pm	The Book of Henry	1:30pm	Football Years
2:55pm	ITV News London	2:55pm	ITV News London	12:30pm	The Darling Buds of May	12:50pm	The Professionals				<i>Heartstring-tugging drama starring Naomi Watts as a single mum out to rescue an abused girl.</i>	2:00pm	La Liga Icons
3:00pm	Judge Rinder	3:00pm	Judge Rinder	1:35pm	The Royal	1:50pm	Ironsides					3:00pm	Carabao Cup Highlights
4:00pm	Dickinson's Real Deal	4:00pm	Dickinson's Real Deal	2:40pm	Heartbeat	2:55pm	Quincy, M.E.					4:00pm	Football's Greatest
5:00pm	Tipping Point	5:00pm	Tipping Point	3:40pm	Classic Coronation Street	3:55pm	Minder					5:00pm	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
6:00pm	The Chase	6:00pm	The Chase		<i>Sally makes Kevin see that they need to have a place of their own.</i>		<i>Drama series about the shady dealings of a loveable rogue and his reluctant sidekick.</i>					5:30pm	La Liga Greatest Games
7:00pm	ITV News London	7:00pm	ITV News London	4:15pm	Classic Coronation Street	5:00pm	The Sweeney	6:00am	Fred Claus	7:10pm	Lowriders	6:00pm	Football Years
7:30pm	ITV News		The latest news and weather from London and the South East.	5:20pm	On the Buses	6:05pm	The Professionals	8:00am	Tyler Perry's Boo! a Madea Halloween	9:00pm	Logan	6:30pm	Football Countdowns
8:00pm	Emmerdale	7:30pm	ITV News	5:55pm	Rising Damp	7:05pm	The Car Chasers	9:50am	Bowfinger	11:20pm	This is Your Death	7:00pm	Carabao Cup Highlights
8:30pm	Tonight	8:00pm	Emmerdale	6:25pm	George and Mildred	8:05pm	Pawn Stars	11:30am	Top Ten Show, the 2018		<i>Josh Duhamel stars as the host of a game show where contestants kill themselves live on air.</i>	8:00pm	EFL Matters
9:00pm	Emmerdale	8:30pm	Tonight	7:00pm	Heartbeat	8:30pm	Pawn Stars	11:50am	Stuck on You	1:10am	Raw	8:30pm	One2eleven
9:30pm	The Cruise	9:00pm	Emmerdale	8:00pm	Murder, She Wrote		Reality series.	1:55pm	The Boss	2:55am	Blind	9:00pm	Carabao Cup Highlights
10:00pm	Transformation Street	9:30pm	The Cruise	9:00pm	Agatha Christie's Marple	10:00pm	The Chase	3:40pm	Table 19	4:45am	Lowriders	10:00pm	EFL Matters
11:00pm	ITV News	10:00pm	Transformation Street	11:00pm	Foyle's War	11:00pm	From Russia with Love	5:15pm	Splash			10:30pm	Ronaldo: A Sensational Season
	The latest ITV News.	11:00pm	ITV News	1:15am	Inspector Morse	11:05pm	From Russia with Love	7:15pm	The Boss			11:00pm	La Liga Show
11:30pm	ITV News London	11:30pm	ITV News London	3:10am	ITV3 Nightscreen	12:25am	Goodfellas	9:00pm	Stuck on You			11:30pm	EFL Matters
11:45pm	Great Art	11:45pm	Great Art			1:25am	FYI Daily	11:00pm	Table 19			12:00am	La Liga Icons
12:45am	Joanna Lumley's Postcards	12:45am	Joanna Lumley's Postcards				<i>Latest news from the world of entertainment.</i>	12:35am	The Waterboy			1:00am	La Liga Show
								2:15am	5 to 7				



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GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



BBCone

7:00am	Breakfast
10:15am	Rip Off Britain
11:00am	Homes Under the Hammer
12:00pm	Wanted Down Under
12:45pm	Close Calls: On Camera
1:15pm	Bargain Hunt
2:00pm	BBC News at One
2:30pm	BBC London News
2:45pm	Doctors
3:15pm	Father Brown
4:00pm	I Escaped to the Country
4:45pm	The Farmers' Country Showdown
5:30pm	Antiques Road Trip
6:15pm	Pointless
7:00pm	BBC News at Six
7:30pm	BBC London News
8:00pm	The One Show
8:30pm	A Question of Sport
9:00pm	EastEnders
9:30pm	Room 101
10:00pm	Would I Lie to You?
10:30pm	Mrs. Brown's Boys
11:00pm	BBC News at Ten
11:25pm	BBC London News
11:35pm	The Graham Norton Show
12:25am	Witless

BBC TWO

7:00am	Flog It! Trade Secrets
7:30am	The Farmers' Country Showdown
8:15am	Antiques Road Trip
9:00am	MasterChef: The Professionals
10:00am	Victoria Derbyshire
12:00pm	BBC Newsroom Live
1:00pm	The Daily Politics
2:00pm	Coast
2:15pm	Himalaya with Michael Palin
3:15pm	Himalaya with Michael Palin
4:15pm	The Great British Winter
5:15pm	Great Barrier Reef with David Attenborough
6:15pm	Flog It!
7:00pm	Eggheads
7:30pm	Great British Railway Journeys
8:00pm	Rick Stein's Road to Mexico
9:00pm	Mastermind
9:30pm	A Vicar's Life
10:00pm	Rome Unpacked
11:00pm	QI
11:30pm	Newsnight
12:05am	Deep Water

BBC FOUR

8:00pm	World News Today <i>The latest national and international news, exploring the day's events from a global perspective.</i>
8:30pm	Top of the Pops <i>John Peel and Richard Skinner present the pop chart programme, first broadcast on 03 January 1985.</i>
9:10pm	The Good Old Days
10:00pm	David Bowie: Five Years
11:30pm	David Bowie and the Story of Ziggy Stardust
12:30am	Glam Rock at the BBC
1:30am	Top of the Pops
2:15am	Northern Soul
3:15am	David Bowie and the Story of Ziggy Stardust
4:15am	This is BBC Four <i>BBC Four is the BBC channel for people who want more.</i>

CHANNEL 4

7:15am	Kirstie's Vintage Gems
7:20am	3rd Rock from the Sun
7:45am	3rd Rock from the Sun
8:10am	Everybody Loves Raymond
8:35am	Everybody Loves Raymond
9:05am	Everybody Loves Raymond
9:35am	Frasier
10:05am	Frasier
10:35am	Frasier
11:05am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
12:00pm	Sun, Sea and Selling Houses
1:00pm	Channel 4 News
1:05pm	Darts
6:00pm	Come Dine with Me
7:00pm	The Simpsons
7:30pm	Hollyoaks
8:00pm	Channel 4 News
9:00pm	Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast
10:00pm	The Big Fat Quiz of Everything
12:05am	First Dates Hotel
1:10am	Amy

CHANNEL 5

8:35am	Peppa Pig
8:45am	Peppa Pig
8:50am	Floogals
9:05am	Digby Dragon
9:20am	Rusty Rivets
9:35am	Shimmer and Shine
9:55am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
10:05am	Mofy
10:15am	The Wright Stuff
12:15pm	GP's: Behind Closed Doors
1:10pm	5 News Lunchtime
1:15pm	The Hotel Inspector
2:15pm	Home and Away
2:45pm	Neighbours
3:15pm	NCIS
4:15pm	The Perfect Stalker
6:00pm	5 News at 5
6:30pm	Neighbours
7:00pm	Home and Away
7:30pm	5 News Tonight
8:00pm	The Wine Show
9:00pm	Costa Del Celebrity
10:00pm	Celebrity Big Brother
11:00pm	Will and Grace
11:35pm	Celebrity Big Brother
12:05am	Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side
1:00am	Super Casino

4

7:00am	Hollyoaks
7:30am	Hollyoaks
8:00am	Coach Trip
8:30am	Streetmate
9:00am	Charmed
10:00am	Melissa and Joey
10:30am	Melissa and Joey
11:00am	Baby Daddy
11:30am	Baby Daddy
12:00pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
12:30pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
1:00pm	The Goldbergs
1:30pm	The Goldbergs
2:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
2:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
3:00pm	Melissa and Joey
3:30pm	Melissa and Joey
4:00pm	Baby Daddy
4:30pm	Baby Daddy
5:00pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
5:30pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
6:00pm	The Goldbergs
6:30pm	The Goldbergs
7:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
7:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
8:00pm	Hollyoaks
8:30pm	Coach Trip
9:00pm	The Crystal Maze
10:00pm	American Pie: Reunion
12:15am	The Big Bang Theory

sky sports main event

7:00am	Eurasia Cup
8:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
8:30am	Good Morning Sports Fans
9:00am	Live European Tour Golf
11:00am	Premier League Daily
12:00pm	Info not Available
12:30pm	Sky Sports Daily
1:00pm	Live European Tour Golf
4:00p	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	Football
11:00pm	The Debate - Live
12:00am	Cricket <i>New Zealand take on Pakistan in Dunedin in the third ODI in their series.</i>

itv

7:00am	Good Morning Britain
9:30am	Lorraine
10:25am	The Jeremy Kyle Show
11:30am	This Morning
1:30pm	Loose Women
2:30pm	ITV News
2:55pm	ITV News London
3:00pm	Judge Rinder
4:00pm	Dickinson's Real Deal
5:00pm	Tipping Point
6:00pm	The Chase
7:00pm	ITV News London
7:30pm	ITV News
8:00pm	Emmerdale
8:30pm	Coronation Street
9:00pm	River Monsters
9:30pm	Coronation Street
10:00pm	Lethal Weapon
11:00pm	ITV News <i>The latest ITV News.</i>
11:30pm	ITV News London
11:40pm	Take Me Out
12:40am	Through the Keyhole
1:35am	Jackpot247
4:00am	Alphabetical
4:50am	ITV Nightscreen

itv2

7:55am	Dress to Impress
8:45am	Emmerdale
9:20am	Emmerdale
9:50am	You've Been Framed!
10:25am	The Ellen DeGeneres Show
11:10am	Who's Doing the Dishes?
12:10pm	Dress to Impress
1:10pm	Emmerdale
1:45pm	Emmerdale
2:15pm	You've Been Framed!
2:45pm	The Ellen DeGeneres Show
3:30pm	The Jeremy Kyle Show
4:40pm	The Jeremy Kyle Show
5:45pm	The Jeremy Kyle Show
6:50pm	Take Me Out
8:00pm	You've Been Framed! Gold
9:00pm	Two and a Half Men
9:30pm	Superstore
10:00pm	Paul
11:05pm	FYI Daily
11:10pm	Paul
12:10am	Family Guy
12:40am	Family Guy

itv3

7:00am	Classic Coronation Street
7:25am	Classic Coronation Street
7:55am	Heartbeat
8:55am	The Royal
10:00am	Judge Judy
10:25am	Judge Judy
10:55am	Judge Judy
11:25am	The Darling Buds of May
12:30pm	The Darling Buds of May
1:35pm	The Royal
2:40pm	Heartbeat
3:40pm	Classic Coronation Street
4:15pm	Classic Coronation Street
5:20pm	On the Buses
5:55pm	Rising Damp
6:25pm	George and Mildred
6:55pm	Heartbeat
8:00pm	Murder, She Wrote
9:00pm	Rosemary and Thyme
10:00pm	Rosemary and Thyme
11:00pm	Foyle's War
1:10am	Inspector Morse
3:05am	Love and Marriage
3:55am	Death on the Nile

itv4

7:00am	The Chase
7:50am	Pawn Stars
8:10am	Pawn Stars
8:30am	Ironsides
9:35am	Quincy, M.E.
10:35am	Minder
11:45am	The Sweeney
12:50pm	The Professionals
1:50pm	Ironsides
2:55pm	Quincy, M.E.
3:55pm	Minder
5:00pm	The Sweeney
6:05pm	The Professionals
7:05pm	The Car Chasers
8:00pm	Pawn Stars
8:30pm	Pawn Stars
9:00pm	Hornblower
11:05pm	Platoon
12:15am	FYI Daily
12:20am	Platoon
1:35am	Dawn of the Dead
2:35am	FYI Daily
2:40am	Dawn of the Dead
3:30am	The Protectors
4:00am	Teleshopping <i>Shopping from home.</i>

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

11:25am	Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle
1:15pm	The LEGO Batman Movie
3:05pm	Deadpool
4:55pm	Ghost Rider
6:50pm	The Matrix Revolutions
9:00pm	The LEGO Batman Movie
10:50pm	Deadpool
12:40am	Army of Darkness

sky CINEMA COMEDY

7:00am	Planes, Trains and Automobiles
8:40am	Brewster's Millions
10:30am	Nine to Five
12:25pm	Liar Liar
2:00pm	Keeping up with the Joneses
3:50pm	Fist Fight
5:30pm	Sausage Party
7:05pm	Nine to Five
9:00pm	Keeping up with the Joneses
11:00pm	Fist Fight
12:40am	Sausage Party

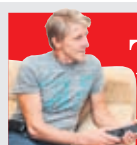
sky CINEMA PREMIERE

7:00am	Rules Don't Apply
9:10am	The Book of Henry
11:00am	Logan <i>A troubled, reclusive Wolverine must protect an ailing Professor X and a mysterious young mutant from dark forces.</i>
1:20pm	Get Out
3:05pm	Blind
4:55pm	Tumbledown
6:40pm	Logan <i>A troubled, reclusive Wolverine must protect an ailing Professor X and a mysterious young mutant from dark forces.</i>
9:00pm	Get Out
11:00pm	This is Your Death
12:50am	Lowriders
2:35am	Raw
4:30am	Blind

sky sports football

10:30am	La Liga Greatest Games
11:00am	La Liga Show
11:30am	EFL Matters
12:00pm	One2eleven
12:30pm	SPFL Greatest Games
12:45pm	SPFL Greatest Games
1:00pm	La Liga Show
1:30pm	EFL Matters
2:00pm	La Liga Icons
2:45pm	La Liga Icons
3:00pm	La Liga Show
3:30pm	EFL Matters
4:00pm	Football's Greatest Teams
4:30pm	Football's Greatest Teams
5:00pm	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
5:30pm	La Liga Greatest Games
6:00pm	La Liga Preview 2017/18
7:00pm	EFL Greatest Games
7:30pm	EFL Matters
8:00pm	Football
11:15pm	EFL Greatest Games
11:30pm	EFL Greatest Games
11:45pm	EFL Greatest Games
12:00am	La Liga Icons
12:15am	La Liga Icons





**TV Couch Critic**

## Soap yawns, festive laughs and cracking drama

MURDERS, thefts, assault, drug overdoses, lying, fraud and much more are all served up in the most popular soap operas nowadays.

*Coronation Street*, *EastEnders* and *Emmerdale* are very dangerous places to live at present. I realise the script writers are competing for ratings but come on guys, get real. These repeated hospital scenes being shown, really are beginning to grate with the British public. I also think the writers are missing a trick, let's have some groundbreaking rating busters.

How about a plague of locusts, or Noah's Ark anchored in Albert Square? Being a policeman on any of these soaps virtually guarantees employment.

A yearly compulsory watch over Christmas for us is *Nativity!*; a children's film on BBC about a primary school teacher Mr Madden (Martin Freeman) tasked with putting on the school Nativity with the headmistress's loony nephew, a classroom assistant called Mr Poppy wonderfully played by Marc Wooton. It's a hilarious and touching comedy come musical that plays with the heart strings, and watch out for cameos from Ricky Tomlinson and Alan Carr.

*Pointless*, the BBC's nightly quiz show

presented by Alexandra Armstrong but overseen and directed by the irrepressible Richard Osman seems to be still going strong after what feels like a million shows. The two presenters' professionalism keeps the programme fresh, unlike many that went before. I particularly like the celebrity editions, usually shown over the holidays, in which the standard of celeb brain power is put under scrutiny.

It's amazing where these celebs come from, one or two I must confess I thought were deceased. Some

stars should clearly change their agent.

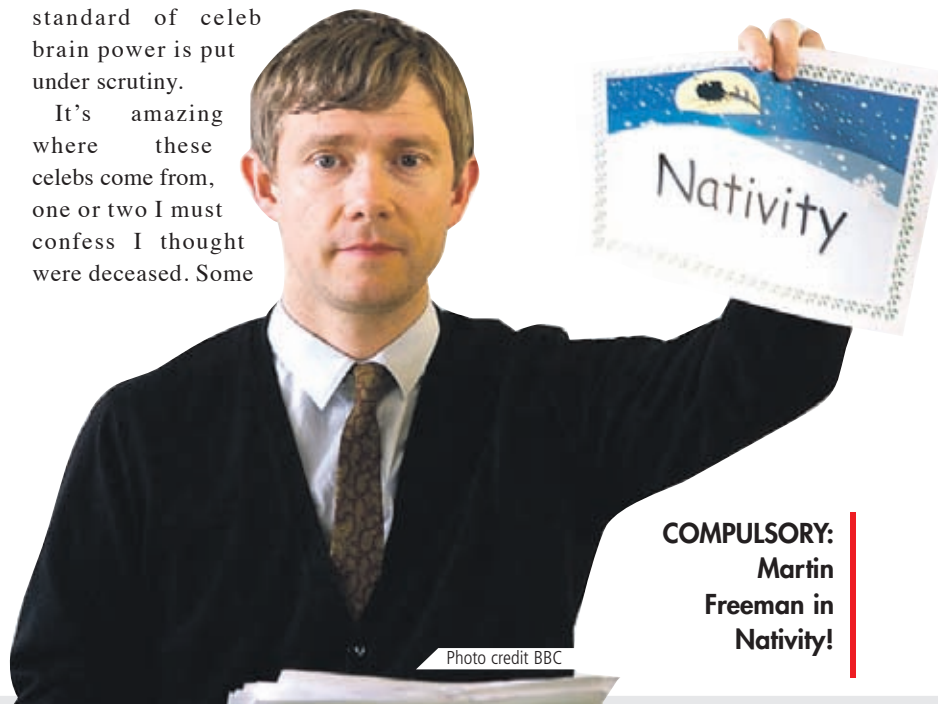
*Storage Hunters* on Dave TV is a rip off from the American series of the same name. It features a motley crew of punters bidding for the contents of storage containers presumably left by their owners. The original American version is slick, smart and full of brilliant one liners from

the punters. The English version is dim, dull and full of false people buying garbage.

Against my better judgement but in the line of duty I watched *Doctors Behind Closed Doors* on My 5 and found myself enjoying it to the degree of taking in a few more episodes which were running continuously. There's something quite bizarre about being in a doctor's treatment room 'spying' on seemingly unsuspecting patients. It's really interesting to see what the diagnosis is and what treatment is prescribed, but also very scary at times. Different doctors featured with different patients and my conclusion was what a great job they do.

*McMafia* is both stunning and confusing but highly watchable. Maybe my brain's incapable of absorbing this fast moving plot. It's an everyday tale of a Russian oligarch (!) and his family, conflicting with the shadowy criminal past activities of the ageing father. Violence and huge finance abound as Alex Goodman (James Norton), son of the tortured father tries to unravel the exact cause of his father's grief. The quality of the filming is stunning and it's a class watch.

*Critique: PM, San Fulgencio*



**COMPULSORY:**  
**Martin Freeman in Nativity!**

Photo credit BBC

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BBC one

7:00am	Breakfast
11:00am	Saturday Kitchen Live
12:30pm	Mary Berry Everyday
1:00pm	Football Focus.
2:00pm	BBC News
2:10pm	Weather
2:15pm	Athletics
4:15pm	Money for Nothing
5:00pm	Final Score
6:10pm	Celebrity Mastermind
6:40pm	BBC News
6:50pm	Regional News
6:55pm	Weather
7:00pm	And They're Off...For Sport Relief
7:40pm	Pointless
8:25pm	Wedding Day Winners
9:25pm	Casualty <i>More realistic medical drama with love, life and emergency operations.</i>
10:15pm	BBC News
10:30pm	Weather
10:35pm	Hard Sun
11:30pm	Match of the Day
1:00am	The NFL Show

BBC TWO

8:10am	The Pets Factor
8:30am	Matilda and the Ramsay Bunch
9:00am	The Dengineers
9:30am	Deadly Top 10
10:00am	Robot Wars
11:00am	Natural Born Winners
12:00pm	Pets: Wild at Heart
1:00pm	Hairy Bikers
2:00pm	A Vicar's Life
2:30pm	Back to the Land with Kate Humble
3:30pm	Rome Unpacked
4:30pm	Brendan Foster: A Life in Athletics
5:15pm	Flog It!
6:00pm	Trust Me, I'm a Doctor
6:30pm	Tom Kerridge's Lose Weight for Good
7:00pm	Hugh's Wild West
8:00pm	A House Through Time
9:00pm	Dad's Army
9:30pm	Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs
10:00pm	Live at the Apollo
10:45pm	QI XL
11:30pm	Madonna Rebel Heart Tour

BBC FOUR

9:00pm	Alaska: Earth's Frozen Kingdom <i>Three-part series following pioneering Alaskans, both animal and human.</i>
10:00pm	Spiral <i>Crime drama following criminal investigations in Paris from all the different points of view.</i>
11:05pm	Spiral
12:10am	The Vietnam War
1:05am	Top of the Pops <i>John Peel and Richard Skinner present the pop chart programme, first broadcast on 03 January 1985.</i>
1:45am	Great Guitar Riffs at the BBC
2:45am	Alaska: Earth's Frozen Kingdom
3:45am	Shipwrecks: Britain's Sunken History

CHANNEL 4

7:05am	Kirstie's Vintage Gems
7:25am	King of Queens
7:50am	King of Queens
8:15am	King of Queens
8:40am	Everybody Loves Raymond
9:05am	Everybody Loves Raymond
9:35am	Frasier.
10:05am	Frasier
10:35am	Frasier
11:05am	The Big Bang Theory
11:35am	The Big Bang Theory
12:05pm	The Big Bang Theory
12:30pm	The Simpsons
1:00pm	The Simpsons
1:30pm	The Simpsons
2:00pm	Come Dine with Me
3:00pm	Darts
7:00pm	A Place in the Sun
7:30pm	Channel 4 News
8:00pm	Spying on the Royals
9:00pm	Queen Victoria's Last Love
10:00pm	Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation
12:30am	Transporter 2
2:10am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA

CHANNEL 5

7:00am	Milkshake!
10:50am	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
11:25am	Make You Laugh Out Loud
11:50am	Police Interceptors <i>Documentary series profiling the work of a high-speed police interception unit in Essex.</i>
12:55pm	Police Interceptors
1:55pm	The A-Team
2:55pm	The A-Team
4:00pm	FIA Formula E: Preview Show
4:30pm	FIA Formula E Race: Marrakech
6:15pm	Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud
7:15pm	The Secret Life of Puppies
8:05pm	Greatest Ever Celebrity Wind Ups
9:00pm	Blind Date
9:55pm	5 News
11:00pm	Football on 5 Goal Rush.
11:30pm	Celebrity Big Brother
12:30am	Lip Sync Battle UK
1:00am	Super Casino

4

7:00am	Rude(Ish) Tube
7:30am	Baby Daddy
8:00am	Baby Daddy
8:30am	The Goldbergs
9:00am	The Goldbergs
9:30am	Melissa and Joey
10:00am	Melissa and Joey
10:30am	Melissa and Joey
11:00am	Melissa and Joey
11:30am	Melissa and Joey
12:00pm	Don't Tell the Bride
1:00pm	Info not available
3:00pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
3:30pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
4:00pm	The Goldbergs
4:30pm	The Goldbergs
5:00pm	The Goldbergs
5:30pm	The Goldbergs
6:00pm	The Goldbergs
6:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
7:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
7:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
8:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
8:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
9:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
9:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
10:00pm	Info not available
12:05am	Gogglebox
1:05am	Gogglebox
2:05am	Rude Tube

sky sports main event

8:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans <i>Round-up of the sports news with live analysis and comment plus extended interviews with the headline makers.</i>
9:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
9:30am	Cricket <i>Day one of the second Test between South Africa and India from SuperSport Park in Centurion.</i>
1:00pm	Football
3:30pm	Info not available
4:00pm	Live European Rugby
6:15pm	Football
8:40pm	My Icon
9:00pm	Sky Sports Tonight
10:00pm	Live NFL: Divisional Round Game
2:00am	Live NFL: Divisional Round Game

itv

7:00am	CITV
10:25am	ITV News
10:30am	Saturday Morning with James Martin
12:25pm	Info not available
12:55pm	Info not available
1:25pm	ITV News and Weather
1:35pm	Dancing on Ice
3:30pm	Free Willy 2: The Adventure Home
5:20pm	The Chase: Celebrity Special
6:20pm	Local News and Weather
6:30pm	ITV News and Weather
6:45pm	The BRITS are Coming
7:45pm	Take Me Out
9:00pm	The Voice UK
10:30pm	Through the Keyhole
11:25pm	ITV News and Weather
11:45pm	Jaws 2
1:45am	Jackpot247 <i>Join the presenters live and play roulette on your telly.</i>
4:00am	Babushka

itv2

7:00am	Emmerdale Omnibus
9:40am	Coronation Street Omnibus
12:30pm	Take Me Out
1:35pm	Totally You've Been Framed! Gold
2:40pm	The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor
3:40pm	FYI Daily
3:45pm	The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor
4:45pm	Hotel Transylvania
5:45pm	FYI Daily
5:50pm	Hotel Transylvania
6:25pm	The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring
7:25pm	FYI Daily
7:30pm	The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring
10:00pm	2 Fast 2 Furious
11:05pm	FYI Daily
11:10pm	2 Fast 2 Furious
12:10am	Family Guy <i>Animated comedy series about the trials of family life.</i>

itv3

7:00am	Murder, She Wrote
7:50am	Murder, She Wrote
8:50am	Lewis
10:50am	Foyle's War
1:00pm	Foyle's War
3:15pm	Rosemary and Thyme <i>Light-hearted drama series about a pair of gardening enthusiasts turned amateur sleuths.</i>
4:20pm	Columbo
5:55pm	Midsomer Murders
8:00pm	Midsomer Murders
10:00pm	Midsomer Murders <i>Mysterious lights are seen in the sky over famous UFO hot-spot Cooper Hill.</i>
12:00am	Lewis
2:00am	On the Buses <i>This bold, bawdy and brash sitcom hit British screens in 1969.</i>
2:30am	On the Buses
3:00am	ITV3 Nightscreen
3:30am	Teleshopping

itv4

7:00am	The Protectors.
7:25am	The Professionals
8:20am	The Professionals <i>Action-packed drama series about two criminal-intelligence agents.</i>
9:25am	The Professionals
10:30am	ITV Racing: The Opening Show
11:30am	Snooker v Darts
11:35am	Pawn Stars
2:30pm	ITV Racing: Live from Kempton
5:00pm	From Russia with Love
6:10pm	FYI Daily
6:15pm	From Russia with Love
7:20pm	Kelly's Heroes
8:20pm	FYI Daily
8:25pm	Kelly's Heroes
10:25pm	Payback
11:25pm	FYI Daily
11:30pm	Payback
12:30am	Maximum Conviction
1:30am	FYI Daily
1:35am	Maximum Conviction
2:35am	Car Crash Global

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

12:05pm	The Dark Knight
2:35pm	Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2
4:55pm	The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen
6:50pm	Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children
9:00pm	The Dark Knight
11:35pm	Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2

sky CINEMA COMEDY

8:00am	Dragnet
9:50am	Any Which Way You Can
11:50am	Bridget Jones's Baby
2:00pm	Why Him?
4:00pm	Juno
5:45pm	Don't Think Twice
7:30pm	This is Spinal Tap
9:00pm	Bridget Jones's Baby
11:05pm	Why Him?
1:00am	This is Spinal Tap
2:30am	Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

7:00am	The Book of Henry
8:50am	Tumbledown
10:45am	Yu-Gi-Oh! The Dark
12:55pm	Get Out
2:45pm	Lowriders <i>LA-set drama about a young street artist whose life is complicated.</i>
4:30pm	Logan <i>A troubled, reclusive Wolverine must protect an ailing Professor X and a mysterious young mutant.</i>
6:50pm	Yu-Gi-Oh! The Dark Side of Dimensions
9:00pm	Get Out
10:50pm	Logan
1:10am	This is Your Death <i>Josh Duhamel stars as the host of a game show where contestants kill themselves live on air.</i>
3:00am	Blind

sky sports football

7:00am	Football
10:15am	EFL Greatest Games
10:30am	EFL Greatest Games
10:45am	EFL Greatest Games
11:00am	Soccer A.M.
12:30pm	La Liga Icons <i>Remember some of the best goals from La Liga's greatest players.</i>
12:45pm	La Liga Icons
1:00pm	Football
3:30pm	Info not available
4:00pm	Info not available
6:15pm	Football
8:40pm	Football <i>Deportivo face Valencia at Estadio Riazor in Spain's La Liga.</i>
10:45pm	EFL Goals: Championship
11:15pm	La Liga Highlights: Real Madrid
11:30pm	EFL Greatest Games
11:45pm	EFL Greatest Games
12:00am	La Liga Icons
12:15am	La Liga Icons
12:30am	EFL Goals: Championship

|| The schedules for the television programme pages are provided by an external company: we regret that any changes or errors are not the responsibility of Euro Weekly News.



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# 6

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GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



BBC one

8:35am	Match of the Day
10:00am	The Andrew Marr Show
11:00am	The Big Questions
12:00pm	Sunday Politics
1:15pm	Bargain Hunt
2:00pm	BBC News
2:10pm	Weather for the Week Ahead
2:15pm	Money for Nothing
3:00pm	Escape to the Country
3:30pm	The Truth About Looking Good
4:30pm	Big Cats
5:30pm	Songs of Praise
6:05pm	Attenborough and the Sea Dragon
7:05pm	BBC News
7:20pm	Regional News
7:25pm	Weather
7:30pm	Countryfile
8:30pm	Still Open All Hours
9:00pm	Info not available
10:00pm	Mcmafia
11:00pm	BBC News
11:20pm	Regional News
11:25pm	Weather
11:30pm	Match of the Day 2
12:30am	Man Like Mobeen
12:50am	Man Like Mobeen

BBC TWO

7:00am	Coast
8:00am	The Instant Gardener
8:45am	Gardeners World
9:15am	Greatest Gardens
9:50am	Countryfile
	<i>News and stories concerning the heart of the British countryside.</i>
10:45am	Saturday Kitchen Best Bites
12:15pm	Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well
12:45pm	Food and Drink
1:15pm	MOTD2 Extra
2:00pm	Masters Snooker
	<i>Coverage of the Masters snooker tournament.</i>
6:35pm	Ski Sunday
7:20pm	Mr Holmes
9:00pm	Yellowstone
10:00pm	Dragons' Den
11:00pm	The Water Diviner
	<i>An Australian farmer travels to Turkey in search of his three missing sons.</i>
12:40am	Masters Snooker Highlights

BBC FOUR

8:00pm	Only Connect
	<i>A show in which connections must be made between seemingly unconnected things.</i>
8:30pm	University Challenge
9:00pm	Voyager: To the Final Frontier
10:00pm	Neil Armstrong - First Man on the Moon
11:00pm	The Sky at Night
	<i>A look at the world of astronomy.</i>
11:30pm	Churchill's First World War
1:00am	The Story of Maths
	<i>Series about the history of mathematics, presented by Professor Marcus du Sautoy.</i>
2:00am	The Story of Maths
3:00am	Neil Armstrong - First Man on the Moon
4:00am	Voyager: To the Final Frontier

CHANNEL 4

7:00am	King of Queens
7:30am	King of Queens
8:00am	Everybody Loves Raymond
8:30am	Everybody Loves Raymond
9:00am	Frasier
9:30am	Frasier
10:00am	Frasier
10:30am	Sunday Brunch
1:30pm	Jamie's Quick and Easy Food
2:00pm	The Simpsons
2:50pm	Two by Two
4:50pm	Channel 4 News
	<i>Includes sport and weather.</i>
5:15pm	Darts
9:00pm	The Biggest Little Railway in the World
10:00pm	SAS: Who Dares Wins
11:00pm	The Big Fat Quiz of Everything
1:00am	Killing Them Softly
	<i>Brad Pitt, Ray Liotta and James Gandolfini star in writer-director Andrew Dominik's violent thriller.</i>

CHANNEL 5

7:00am	Milkshake!
10:40am	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
11:15am	Football on 5
	<i>The Championship</i>
12:15pm	Football on 5
	<i>Goal Rush</i>
12:45pm	Are We There Yet?
2:30pm	Dennis Strikes Again
4:05pm	Will and Grace
4:35pm	Blind Date
5:35pm	Garfield
	<i>Jon Arbuckle buys a second pet, a dog named Odie.</i>
7:10pm	Pixel
9:00pm	Badass Brides
9:55pm	5 News
	<i>The latest news coverage.</i>
10:00pm	Celebrity Big Brother
	<i>A group of celebrities move into a secure house, under the watchful eye of Big Brother</i>
11:00pm	The Boy Next Door
1:00am	One Night with My Ex

4

5:55am	Rude(Ish) Tube
7:00am	Rude(Ish) Tube
7:25am	Hollyoaks Omnibus
9:25am	Coach Trip
10:00am	Coach Trip
10:30am	Coach Trip
11:00am	Coach Trip
11:35am	Coach Trip
12:00pm	Melissa and Joey
12:30pm	Melissa and Joey
1:00pm	Melissa and Joey
1:30pm	Melissa and Joey
2:00pm	Melissa and Joey
2:30pm	The Goldbergs
3:00pm	The Goldbergs
3:30pm	The Goldbergs
4:00pm	The Goldbergs
4:30pm	The Goldbergs
5:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
5:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
6:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
6:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
7:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
7:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
8:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
8:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
9:00pm	Life of Pi
12:00am	The Big Bang Theory
12:30am	Gogglebox
1:30am	Gogglebox

sky sports main event

7:00am	Eurasia Cup
10:00am	Cricket
	<i>Day two of the second Test between South Africa and India from SuperSport Park in Centurion</i>
1:30pm	Live Nissan Super Sunday
	<i>Bournemouth host Arsenal at the Vitality Stadium in the Premier League</i>
4:30pm	Live Nissan Super Sunday
	<i>Liverpool host Manchester City at Anfield in the Premier League.</i>
8:00pm	Live NFL: Divisional Round Game
10:00pm	Live NFL: Divisional Round Game
2:00am	SKY Sports News
3:00am	SKY Sports News
4:00am	SKY Sports News
5:00am	SKY Sports News

itv

7:00am	CITV
10:25am	ITV News
10:30am	River Monsters
11:00am	Peston on Sunday
12:00pm	The Martin Lewis Money Show Live
1:00pm	The Voice UK
2:30pm	ITV News and Weather
2:45pm	Tipping Point
3:45pm	Britain's Brightest Family
4:10pm	The Cruise
4:45pm	Local News and Weather
4:55pm	ITV News and Weather
5:10pm	Death Becomes Her
7:00pm	Dancing on Ice
9:00pm	Vera
	<i>Detective drama based on characters created by crime writer Ann Cleeves.</i>
11:00pm	ITV News and Weather
11:15pm	Peston on Sunday
12:10am	Next of Kin
1:05am	Great Art

itv2

7:00am	Totally Bonkers
	<i>Guinness World Records</i>
7:25am	You've Been Framed! Gold
7:50am	Emmerdale
10:35am	Coronation Street
	<i>Omnibus</i>
1:35pm	Take Me Out
2:50pm	The Voice UK
4:20pm	Smurfs 2
5:20pm	FYI Daily
5:25pm	Smurfs 2
6:25pm	The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers
7:25pm	FYI Daily
7:30pm	The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers
10:00pm	Ibiza Weekender
11:00pm	Family Guy
11:30pm	Family Guy
12:00am	Family Guy
12:30am	American Dad!
1:00am	American Dad!
1:30am	That Awkward Moment
2:30am	FYI Daily

itv3

7:50am	Murder, She Wrote
	<i>Drama series about a sleuthing writer who solves murder mysteries.</i>
8:40am	Heartbeat
9:45am	Heartbeat
10:50am	Columbo
12:25pm	Foyle's War
	<i>Feature-length drama about an enigmatic detective working on the south coast during World War II.</i>
2:40pm	Foyle's War
4:55pm	Foyle's War
	<i>Drama about an enigmatic detective working on the south coast during World War II.</i>
7:00pm	Agatha Christie's Marple
9:00pm	The Secret Life of Dogs
10:00pm	Tonight at the London Palladium
11:00pm	Chicago
1:15am	Lewis

itv4

7:00am	World Cup Rivalries
	<i>England v Argentina</i>
7:20am	The Sweeney
8:15am	The Sweeney
9:15am	Minder
10:20am	Minder
	<i>Modern-day re-imagining on the classic comedy-drama.</i>
11:25am	Storage Wars Texas
11:55am	Storage Wars Texas
12:20pm	Storage Wars Texas
12:50pm	Pawn Stars
2:40pm	Hornblower
4:50pm	Kelly's Heroes
5:50pm	FYI Daily
5:55pm	Kelly's Heroes
7:55pm	The Adjustment Bureau
8:55pm	FYI Daily
9:00pm	The Adjustment Bureau
10:00pm	Unknown
11:05pm	FYI Daily
11:10pm	Unknown
12:15am	Inside Man
1:15am	FYI Daily
1:20am	Inside Man

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

8:55am	The Incredibles
11:00am	Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief
1:00pm	Ghostbusters
3:00pm	Doctor Strange
5:00pm	The Incredibles
7:00pm	Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief
9:00pm	Doctor Strange
11:00pm	Ghostbusters

sky CINEMA COMEDY

7:15am	Aeon Flux
8:55am	The Incredibles
11:00am	Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief
1:00pm	Ghostbusters
3:00pm	Doctor Strange
5:00pm	The Incredibles
7:00pm	Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief
9:00pm	Doctor Strange
11:00pm	Ghostbusters

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

8:10am	Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging
9:55am	Top Ten Show, the 2018
10:15am	Uncle Buck
12:00pm	Date Night
1:35pm	The Bounty Hunter
	<i>After a minor traffic accident, journalist Nicole jumps bail to follow up a lead.</i>
3:35pm	Ride Along 2
5:25pm	Shallow Hal
	<i>After a meeting with a self-help guru, superficial Hal begins seeing people's inner beauty.</i>
7:25pm	Date Night
9:00pm	The Bounty Hunter
11:00pm	Shallow Hal
1:00am	Ride Along 2
	<i>A pair of odd-couple crime fighters head to Miami to take down a drug dealer.</i>

sky sports football

7:00am	Lowriders
8:50am	Yu-Gi-Oh! The Dark
11:00am	Pele: Birth of a Legend
12:50pm	Logan
3:10pm	Get Out
	<i>Young black photographer Daniel Kaluuya (Skins) is anxious about meeting his white girlfriend's.</i>
5:00pm	Yu-Gi-Oh! The Dark Side of Dimensions
7:10pm	Pele: Birth of a Legend
	<i>Sports biopic charting the meteoric rise of Brazilian football great Pele</i>
9:00pm	Get Out
10:50pm	Logan
1:10am	This is Your Death
	<i>Josh Duhamel stars as the host of a game show where contestants kill themselves live on air.</i>



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**BBC one**

11:00am	Homes Under the Hammer
12:00pm	Wanted Down Under
12:45pm	Close Calls: On Camera
1:15pm	Bargain Hunt
2:00pm	BBC News
2:30pm	Regional News
2:45pm	Doctors
3:15pm	Father Brown
4:00pm	Escape to the Country
4:45pm	The Farmers' Country Showdown
5:30pm	Antiques Road Trip
6:15pm	Pointless
7:00pm	BBC News
7:30pm	Regional News
8:00pm	The One Show
8:30pm	Inside Out London
9:00pm	EastEnders
9:30pm	Panorama
10:00pm	Silent Witness
11:00pm	BBC News
11:30pm	Regional News
11:40pm	Weather
11:45pm	Have I Got Old News for You
12:15am	Miriam's Big American Adventure

**BBC TWO**

7:30am	The Farmers' Country Showdown
8:15am	Antiques Road Trip
9:00am	Antiques Roadshow
10:00am	Victoria Derbyshire
12:00pm	BBC Newsroom Live
1:00pm	The Daily Politics
2:00pm	Masters Snooker
5:45pm	More Creatures Great and Small
6:15pm	Flog It!
7:00pm	Eggheads
7:30pm	Great British Railway Journeys
8:00pm	Rick Stein's Road to Mexico
9:00pm	Only Connect
9:30pm	University Challenge
10:00pm	Surgeons
11:00pm	Insert Name Here
11:30pm	Newsnight
12:10am	Weather
12:15am	Masters Snooker Highlights
1:05am	Masters Snooker Extra
3:05am	Countryfile
4:00am	Rick Stein's Road to Mexico
5:00am	This is BBC Two

**BBC FOUR**

8:00pm	Beyond 100 Days
8:30pm	Great Continental Railway Journeys
9:00pm	Highlands - Scotland's Wild Heart
	<i>Documentary looking at the wildlife of the Scottish Highlands.</i>
10:00pm	Anjelica Huston on James Joyce: A Shout in the Street
11:00pm	Ireland's Treasures Uncovered
12:00am	The Victorians
1:00am	Top of the Pops: 1981
1:40am	Top of the Pops: 1981
2:20am	Highlands - Scotland's Wild Heart
3:20am	Anjelica Huston on James Joyce: A Shout in the Street

**CHANNEL 4**

8:10am	Everybody Loves Raymond
8:35am	Everybody Loves Raymond
9:00am	Everybody Loves Raymond
9:30am	Frasier
10:00am	Frasier
10:35am	Frasier
11:05am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
12:00pm	Sun, Sea and Selling Houses
1:00pm	Channel 4 News
1:05pm	Couples Come Dine with Me
2:05pm	Posh Pawn
3:10pm	Countdown
4:00pm	Village of the Year
5:00pm	A Place in the Sun
6:00pm	Four in a Bed
6:30pm	Extreme Cake Makers
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
12:00am	Derry Girls

**CHANNEL 5**

7:00am	Milkshake!
10:15am	The Wright Stuff
12:15pm	GPs: Behind Closed Doors
1:10pm	5 News
1:15pm	The Hotel Inspector
2:05pm	Access
2:15pm	Home and Away
2:45pm	Neighbours
3:15pm	NCIS
4:15pm	Her Dark Past
6:00pm	5 News
6:30pm	Neighbours
7:00pm	Home and Away
7:30pm	5 News
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
1:05am	Celebrity Botched
2:00am	Up Bodies
2:00am	Super Casino
4:10am	Secrets of the National Trust
5:00am	Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink

**4**

9:00am	Charmed
10:00am	Melissa and Joey
10:30am	Melissa and Joey
11:00am	Baby Daddy
11:30am	Baby Daddy
12:00pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
12:30pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
1:00pm	The Goldbergs
1:30pm	The Goldbergs
2:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
2:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
3:00pm	Melissa and Joey
3:30pm	Melissa and Joey
4:00pm	Baby Daddy
4:30pm	Baby Daddy
5:00pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
5:30pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
6:00pm	The Goldbergs
6:30pm	The Goldbergs
7:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
7:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
8:00pm	Hollyoaks
8:30pm	Coach Trip
9:00pm	Info not available
11:40pm	Gogglebox
12:40am	The Big Bang Theory
1:10am	The Big Bang Theory
1:40am	Tattoo Fixers
2:40am	First Dates
3:40am	First Dates Abroad
4:10am	Celebs Go Dating

**sky sports main event**

7:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
	<i>Round-up of the sports news with live analysis and comment plus extended interviews with the headline makers.</i>
7:30am	Good Morning Sports Fans
8:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
8:30am	Good Morning Sports Fans
9:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
9:30am	Cricket
	<i>Day three of the second Test between South Africa and India from SuperSport Park in Centurion</i>
4:45pm	Best of Sky Cricket
5:00pm	SKY Sports News
6:00pm	SKY Sports News
7:00pm	SKY Sports News
8:00pm	Football
12:00am	SKY Sports News
1:00am	SKY Sports News

**itv**

7:00am	Good Morning Britain
9:30am	Lorraine
10:25am	The Jeremy Kyle Show
11:30am	This Morning
1:30pm	Loose Women
2:30pm	ITV Lunchtime News
3:00pm	Judge Rinder
4:00pm	Dickinson's Real Deal
5:00pm	Tipping Point
6:00pm	The Chase
7:00pm	Local News and Weather
7:30pm	ITV Evening News
8:00pm	Emmerdale
8:30pm	Coronation Street
9:00pm	The Martin Lewis Money Show
9:30pm	Coronation Street
10:00pm	Next of Kin
11:00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather
11:40pm	Killer Women with Piers Morgan
12:45am	Info not available
1:10am	Jackpot247
4:00am	The Jeremy Kyle Show

**itv2**

7:55am	Dress to Impress
8:45am	Emmerdale
9:20am	Coronation Street
9:50am	Coronation Street
10:25am	The Ellen DeGeneres Show
11:10am	Who's Doing the Dishes?
12:10pm	Dress to Impress
1:10pm	Emmerdale
1:45pm	Coronation Street
2:15pm	Coronation Street
2:45pm	The Ellen DeGeneres Show
3:40pm	The Jeremy Kyle Show
5:55pm	The Jeremy Kyle Show
7:00pm	Take Me Out
8:30pm	You've Been Framed! Gold
9:00pm	Two and a Half Men
9:30pm	Superstore
10:00pm	Family Guy
10:30pm	Family Guy
11:00pm	American Dad!
11:30pm	American Dad!
12:00am	Family Guy
12:30am	The Cleveland Show
12:55am	The Cleveland Show

**itv3**

7:00am	Coronation Street
7:25am	Coronation Street
7:50am	Heartbeat
8:55am	The Royal
9:55am	Judge Judy
10:25am	Judge Judy
10:50am	Judge Judy
11:20am	The Darling Buds of May
12:25pm	The Darling Buds of May
1:35pm	The Royal
2:40pm	Heartbeat
3:40pm	Classic Coronation Street
4:15pm	Classic Coronation Street
4:50pm	On the Buses
5:20pm	On the Buses
5:55pm	Rising Damp
6:25pm	George and Mildred
6:55pm	Heartbeat
8:00pm	Murder, She Wrote
9:00pm	Lewis
11:00pm	Foyle's War
1:10am	Inspector Morse
3:05am	ITV3 Nightscreen
3:30am	Teleshopping

**itv4**

7:00am	The Chase
7:50am	Pawn Stars
8:10am	Pawn Stars
8:35am	Ironsides
9:35am	Quincy, M.E.
10:40am	Minder
11:45am	Minder
12:50pm	The Professionals
1:55pm	Ironsides
2:55pm	Quincy, M.E.
3:55pm	Minder
5:00pm	The Sweeney
6:05pm	The Professionals
7:05pm	The Car Chasers
8:05pm	Pawn Stars
8:35pm	Pawn Stars
9:00pm	Parking Wars
10:00pm	River Monsters
11:00pm	Scarface
12:05am	FYI Daily
12:10am	Scarface
2:25am	Car Crash Global
3:20am	The Car Chasers
3:45am	ITV4 Nightscreen
4:00am	Teleshopping

**sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE**

8:25am	Batman
10:25am	Xxx: Return of Xander Cage
12:25pm	Robin Hood
2:50pm	The A-Team
4:50pm	The Magnificent Seven
7:00pm	Xxx: Return of Xander Cage
9:00pm	Robin Hood
11:25pm	The A-Team
1:25am	Wanted

**sky CINEMA COMEDY**

8:00am	Police Academy
9:45am	Mean Girls
11:30am	The Naked Gun 2 1/2: The Smell of Fear
1:05pm	Our Man Flint
3:00pm	Stuck on You
5:05pm	Zoolander 2
7:00pm	Miss Congeniality
9:00pm	Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story
10:40pm	Stuck on You
12:45am	48 Hrs
2:30am	Year One

**sky CINEMA PREMIERE**

7:00am	Yu-Gi-Oh! The Dark Side of Dimensions
9:10am	Pele: Birth of a Legend
11:00am	In Dubious Battle
1:00pm	Get Out
2:50pm	Tumbledown
4:45pm	Yu-Gi-Oh! The Dark Side of Dimensions
7:00pm	In Dubious Battle
9:00pm	Get Out
	<i>Young black photographer Daniel Kaluuya (Skins) is anxious about meeting his white girlfriend's parents... he should be</i>
10:50pm	Pele: Birth of a Legend
12:40am	Lowriders
	<i>LA-set drama about a young street artist whose life is complicated by his lowrider-loving dad and ex-con brother.</i>
2:20am	Tumbledown
4:10am	Blind

**sky sports football**

10:00am	La Liga Highlights: Barcelona
10:15am	La Liga Highlights: Real Madrid
10:30am	La Liga Greatest Games
10:45am	La Liga Greatest Games
11:00am	Football
1:05pm	Football
3:10pm	Football
5:15pm	La Liga Icons
5:30pm	La Liga Greatest Games
5:45pm	La Liga Greatest Games
6:00pm	Football Years
6:30pm	Football Countdowns
7:00pm	Magical Messi
8:00pm	Soccer A.M.
8:30pm	Info not available
8:40pm	Info not available
8:55pm	Football
11:00pm	La Liga Highlights: Barcelona
11:15pm	La Liga Highlights: Real Madrid
11:30pm	Soccer A.M.
12:00am	La Liga Icons

|| The schedules for the television programme pages are provided by an external company: we regret that any changes or errors are not the responsibility of Euro Weekly News.



Advertising feature

# Buy, sell or construct with Moraira Build

WITH 25 years of experience in the construction and reform of buildings, Steven Longstaff, founder of Moraira Build offers a first class service to home owners.

He set up the company in Spain 14 years ago and with a dedicated staff of highly trained builders can offer a full construction service as well as the building of extensions, bathrooms, kitchens, swimming pools and external terraces.

The company employs six full time builders, but contracts trusted electricians and plumbers who are managed by Moraira Build during all stages of the work.

It's not always easy for expatriates to understand the multitude of rules and regulations surrounding building work in Spain and this is where a well-established and knowledgeable company such as Moraira Build can be indispensable.

Steven is happy to work with clients from the outset, advising on each step of the process and will even be able to recommend



**MORAIRA BUILD: Meet the team outside their new office.**

interior designers or landscape gardeners depending upon the scope of the project.

As a natural extension of this service, the company has also set up an estate agency offering a

range of fine homes in the area including a selection of new builds and previously owned property at a range of different prices.

This arm of the company also offers a number of plots for sale

so that clients who wish to have complete control over their new home can purchase a suitable piece of land and then commission Moraira Build to construct the property to their exact speci-

fications.

A specialist real estate agent, Laura who is fluent in English and Spanish has spent 25 years in the property sales industry and working closely with Steven and colleague Krissie can organise everything that a buyer or seller may require.

They work out of a newly opened office in Moraira and are on hand from Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm although they can also meet clients by pre-arrangement on Saturdays.

Visit their detailed website at <http://www.morairabuild.com/> to see a full explanation of the services offered as well as all of the properties currently offered for sale and read what many of their satisfied clients say about the service they have received.

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<div>11:00am</div> <div>Homes Under the Hammer</div>		<div>5:00am</div> <div>This is BBC Two</div>		<div>8:00pm</div> <div>Beyond 100 Days</div>		<div>6:35am</div> <div>Countdown</div>		<div>5:45am</div> <div>House Doctor</div>		<div>9:00am</div> <div>Charmed</div>		<div>5:15am</div> <div>Cricket</div>	
<div>12:00pm</div> <div>Wanted Down Under</div>		<div>7:00am</div> <div>Flog it! Trade Secrets</div>		<div>8:30pm</div> <div>Great Continental Railway Journeys</div>		<div>7:20am</div> <div>3rd Rock from the Sun</div>		<div>6:10am</div> <div>Wildlife SOS</div>		<div>10:00am</div> <div>Melissa and Joey</div>		<div></div> <div><i>New Zealand face Pakistan in the fourth ODI in their series in Hamilton.</i></div>	
<div>12:45pm</div> <div>Close Calls: On Camera</div>		<div>7:30am</div> <div>The Farmers' Country Showdown</div>		<div>9:00pm</div> <div>Andrew Marr's The Making of Modern Britain</div>		<div>8:10am</div> <div>Everybody Loves Raymond</div>		<div>6:35am</div> <div>Divine Designs</div>		<div>10:30am</div> <div>Melissa and Joey</div>		<div></div> <div></div>	
<div>1:15pm</div> <div>Bargain Hunt</div>		<div>8:15am</div> <div>Antiques Road Trip</div>		<div>10:00pm</div> <div>Art, Passion and Power: The Story of the Royal Collection</div>		<div>9:30am</div> <div>Frasier</div>		<div>7:00am</div> <div>Milkshake!</div>		<div>11:00am</div> <div>Baby Daddy</div>		<div>7:00am</div> <div>Cricket</div>	
<div>2:00pm</div> <div>BBC News</div>		<div>9:00am</div> <div>Celebrity Antiques Road Trip</div>		<div>11:00pm</div> <div>The Stuarts <i>Presented by Dr Clare Jackson of Cambridge University, this new three-part series argues that the Stuarts, more than any other, were Britain's defining royal family.</i></div>		<div>11:05am</div> <div>Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA</div>		<div>10:15am</div> <div>The Wright Stuff</div>		<div>11:30am</div> <div>Baby Daddy</div>		<div>10:00am</div> <div>Cricket</div>	
<div>2:30pm</div> <div>Regional News</div>		<div>10:00am</div> <div>Victoria Derbyshire</div>		<div>12:00pm</div> <div>Info not available</div>		<div>12:00pm</div> <div>Sun, Sea and Selling Houses</div>		<div>12:15pm</div> <div>GPs: Behind Closed Doors</div>		<div>12:00pm</div> <div>Brooklyn Nine-Nine</div>		<div>4:45pm</div> <div>Best of Sky Cricket</div>	
<div>2:45pm</div> <div>Doctors</div>		<div>12:00pm</div> <div>BBC Newsroom Live</div>		<div>2:00am</div> <div>Top of the Pops: 1981</div>		<div>1:00pm</div> <div>Channel 4 News</div>		<div>1:10pm</div> <div>5 News</div>		<div>12:30pm</div> <div>Brooklyn Nine-Nine</div>		<div>5:00pm</div> <div>SKY Sports News</div>	
<div>3:15pm</div> <div>Father Brown</div>		<div>1:00pm</div> <div>The Daily Politics</div>		<div>2:40am</div> <div>Top of the Pops: 1981</div>		<div>1:05pm</div> <div>Couples Come Dine with Me</div>		<div>1:15pm</div> <div>The Hotel Inspector</div>		<div>1:00pm</div> <div>The Goldbergs</div>		<div></div> <div><i>All the news from the Premier League and beyond.</i></div>	
<div>4:00pm</div> <div>Escape to the Country</div>		<div>2:00pm</div> <div>Masters Snooker</div>				<div>2:05pm</div> <div>Posh Pawn</div>		<div>2:05pm</div> <div>Access</div>		<div>1:30pm</div> <div>The Goldbergs</div>			
<div>4:45pm</div> <div>The Farmers' Country Showdown</div>		<div>5:45pm</div> <div>More Creatures Great and Small</div>				<div>2:05pm</div> <div>Countdown</div>		<div>2:15pm</div> <div>Home and Away</div>		<div>2:00pm</div> <div>The Big Bang Theory</div>			
<div>5:30pm</div> <div>Antiques Road Trip</div>		<div>6:15pm</div> <div>Flog It!</div>				<div>3:10pm</div> <div>Countdown</div>		<div>2:45pm</div> <div>Neighbours</div>		<div>2:30pm</div> <div>The Big Bang Theory</div>			
<div>6:15pm</div> <div>Pointless</div>		<div>7:00pm</div> <div>Eggheads</div>				<div>4:00pm</div> <div>Village of the Year</div>		<div>3:15pm</div> <div>NCIS</div>		<div>3:00pm</div> <div>Melissa and Joey</div>			
<div>7:00pm</div> <div>BBC News</div>		<div>7:30pm</div> <div>Great British Railway Journeys</div>				<div>5:00pm</div> <div>A Place in the Sun</div>		<div>4:15pm</div> <div>The Wrong Mother</div>		<div>3:30pm</div> <div>Melissa and Joey</div>			
<div>7:30pm</div> <div>Regional News</div>		<div>8:00pm</div> <div>Rick Stein's Road to Mexico</div>				<div>6:00pm</div> <div>Four in a Bed</div>		<div>6:00pm</div> <div>5 News</div>		<div>4:00pm</div> <div>Baby Daddy</div>			
<div>8:00pm</div> <div>The One Show</div>		<div>9:00pm</div> <div>Inside the Factory</div>				<div>6:30pm</div> <div>Extreme Cake Makers</div>		<div>6:30pm</div> <div>Neighbours</div>		<div>4:30pm</div> <div>Baby Daddy</div>			
<div>8:30pm</div> <div>EastEnders</div>		<div>10:00pm</div> <div>House of Saud: A Family at War</div>				<div>7:00pm</div> <div>The Simpsons</div>		<div>7:00pm</div> <div>Home and Away</div>		<div>5:00pm</div> <div>Brooklyn Nine-Nine</div>			
<div>9:00pm</div> <div>Holby City</div>		<div>11:00pm</div> <div>Inside No 9</div>				<div>7:30pm</div> <div>Hollyoaks</div>		<div>7:30pm</div> <div>5 News</div>		<div>5:30pm</div> <div>Brooklyn Nine-Nine</div>			
<div>10:00pm</div> <div>Silent Witness</div>		<div>11:30pm</div> <div>Newsnight</div>				<div>8:00pm</div> <div>Channel 4 News</div>		<div>8:00pm</div> <div>Secrets of the National Trust</div>		<div>6:00pm</div> <div>The Goldbergs</div>			
<div>11:00pm</div> <div>BBC News</div>		<div>12:10am</div> <div>Weather</div>				<div>9:00pm</div> <div>The Secret Life of the Zoo</div>		<div>9:00pm</div> <div>Diet Secrets and How to Lose Weight</div>		<div>6:30pm</div> <div>The Goldbergs</div>			
<div>11:30pm</div> <div>Regional News</div>		<div>12:15am</div> <div>NFL</div>				<div>10:00pm</div> <div>24 Hours in A and E</div>		<div>10:00pm</div> <div>Celebrity Big Brother</div>		<div>7:00pm</div> <div>The Big Bang Theory</div>			
<div>11:40pm</div> <div>Weather</div>		<div>1:05am</div> <div>Masters Snooker Highlights</div>				<div>11:00pm</div> <div>Working Class White Men</div>		<div>11:00pm</div> <div>One Night with My Ex</div>		<div>7:30pm</div> <div>The Big Bang Theory</div>			
<div>11:45pm</div> <div>Love and Hate Crime</div>						<div>12:00am</div> <div>Before We Die</div>		<div>12:05am</div> <div>Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side</div>		<div>8:00pm</div> <div>Hollyoaks</div>			
<div>12:45am</div> <div>Stacey Dooley Investigates</div>										<div>8:30pm</div> <div>Coach Trip</div>			
										<div>9:00pm</div> <div>The Big Bang Theory</div>			
										<div>9:30pm</div> <div>The Big Bang Theory</div>			
										<div>10:00pm</div> <div>Tattoo Fixers</div>			
										<div>11:00pm</div> <div>8 Out of 10 Cats</div>			
										<div>11:50pm</div> <div>The Big Bang Theory</div>			
										<div>12:20am</div> <div>The Big Bang Theory</div>			



**TECH FOR  
THE TIMID**

WOULD you buy a car programmed to kill someone? No, me neither. Except that soon, we will.

Consider the self-driving car which is steadily motoring its way towards acceptance. Behind the scenes, engineers are wrestling with the notorious 'Trolley Problem' and its variants.

In short, its ethical puzzle is whether you would divert a runaway trolley (or train) onto a track where it will kill four people, or to the only other track to kill just one.

So what happens when your driverless car has to decide between flattening a pedestrian, or killing you by swerving into a lamppost? Whether they admit it or not it's a no-brainer: the pedestrian is toast. Wiping out customers is certainly not a good business strategy for Tesla's Elon Musk and his fellow autonomous vehicle innovators.

Remakes of Stephen King's awful killer-car movie aside, we need to step back and realise that the driverless cars the majority of us will be driving by 2030 will not be safe. They will be safer...

It takes the average driver an estimated 160-million kilometres to

# The rise of the robocar: give me a brake!

Could the ever-popular bumper sticker eventually read 'My other car doesn't drive itself,' asks Terence Kennedy?



**RUNAWAY TROLLEY: Kill one person or four?**

wipe someone out. But put that in the context of the globe's 1.5 billion vehicles, killing someone every 25 seconds. Taking out the fallible human factor by removing driver fatigue, intoxication and texting has to be an improvement.

Like those late 19th-century legislators who insisted horseless carriages had to be preceded by a man with a red flag, some of the knee-jerk measures now under considera-

tion make little sense. Logic says the car which drives itself fully is as inevitable as tomorrow's sunrise (Kim Jong-un permitting).

Yes, some states may insist we keep our eyes on the road while the car drives us. Or my favourite futile gesture of all not just for self-driving cars, but for electric cars in general: the demand that they make a loud noise, however artificially - thus negating the huge benefit of re-

ducing today's deafening traffic noise.

Media interest being what it is, it's inevitable that every time an autonomous car has an accident we'll read about it in huge headlines, with the resulting rage against the machine.

But don't let that put us off. See it instead in light of that old newspaper adage: when did you last read a headline that 'Thousands of aircraft landed safely yesterday'?

Oh and for the record, 90 per cent of ethics students would consistently let their trolley run down one person rather than four. Although quite a few would instead turn the four to strawberry jam - if the person on the other track happened to be their 'romantic partner.'

## Self-driving us crazy

IT certainly doesn't help the cause of self-driving cars to read about the 'Darwin Award' for stupidity won by the owner of a brand-new mobile home in the States several years ago. He collected the vehicle from the factory, hit the interstate highway, engaged Cruise Control, then went into the back to make coffee. His Darwin Award was posthumous.

A self-driving bus recently made headlines in an accident on its first day out. But the culprit was a trucker who backed into it without looking. A semi-autonomous car hit the news, and a truck, when its driver was watching Angry Birds instead of the road.

We can at least look forward to a whole new slew of self-driving vehicle humour. How about a country song where the guy's truck leaves him too?

## THURSDAY THOUGHTS

By Julius Sweeting, San Pedro

### Rose tinted specs

IT seems that many British expatriates in Spain are particularly worried about the effects that Brexit will have on their medical treatment.

At the moment, little is set in stone and it is quite possible that nothing will change with UK citizens resident in Spain or visitors with EHIC cards being eligible for free medical treatment as they are now. Those who have been in Spain for some time may be looking back to the UK and the National Health Service (NHS) with rose tinted glasses as it surely isn't what it used to be.

In the past week, the Minister of Health Jeremy Hunt publicly apologised for having to cancel all non-urgent operations until the end of January and admitted that waiting times in A&E continued to get longer.

The following day, Prime Minister May effectively contradicted him, suggesting that things weren't so bad as the government had increased funding in the NHS.

In an almost unheard of turnaround however, the next day she had to backtrack and apologised herself for the thousands of operations that had been cancelled as new figures were released showing that 16,900 people had been stuck in ambulances for more than the proscribed 15 minutes before admission to A&E.

By contrast, I had to attend an emergency clinic in Marbella the other evening with a burst vein in my nose and although it was a bit third worldy, I was checked in immediately by a charming receptionist and seen within 20 minutes of arrival.

I wonder if that would have happened this winter in the UK where even GP appointments normally run late.

columnists@euroweeklynnews.com

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

# Looking back at some of 2017's daftest food trends

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.euroweeklynnews.com/3.0.15/nora-johnson](http://www.euroweeklynnews.com/3.0.15/nora-johnson)

WHAT'S the 2017 food trend you'd most like to see the back of? For some, it's sharing plates that come out in the order that suits the kitchen, and waiters taking orders without notepads. Plus: communal seating, no bookings, no getting in. Except for making you stand in a line outside in the rain, driving hipsters into a frenzy to get in because of the long, long queue way down the street.

For others, it's plates filled with cloud eggs, Yorkshire pudding wraps or 'unicorn' food - ie anything dressed in rainbow pastels with a shedload of sprinkles. (A side of 'unicorn sprinkle,' anyone? Hmm, must be a Leave Voter's invention!). Plus: turner-

ic lattes and edible 'glitter' (made from sugar and food colouring) on everything from coffee to crisps and even chickens. But hey, as long as it's on Instagram, looking way better than it tastes...

We generally eat what we're familiar with; but different cultures are used to different things. Intestines, insects and other nutritious foods are repellent to many in the West, but commonplace elsewhere.

Milky turmeric drinks, for instance, seen as a fad in Britain, are not unusual in India. Asian families in the UK drink turmeric milk but not as a fancy drink but when you have a cold. You'd simply be laughed at if it was served to guests as a delicacy.

It's weird how something can become hip and pricey if it's sold to a different demographic.

And what about food trends for 2018? As far as weddings are concerned, couples apparently still want 'Instagram moments' - and cakes with moving parts. Like a recently created four-tier cake with a spinning unicorn in the second tier. Really!

All this plus



Credit: lottielondonau/instagram

doughnut walls, DIY biscuit-decorating stations and displays of confectionery. Sounds more like food aimed at toddlers. Are these people old enough to get married if they need to be stuffed with all this childish nonsense?

Heck after all that, they'll all look as though they've been out on the razz with Keith Richards night after night after night...

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

columnists@euroweeklynnews.com

**GLITTER FEVER:** Has the 'unicorn food' trend gone too far?



**BBC one**

7:00am	Breakfast
10:15am	Rip Off Britain
11:00am	Homes Under the Hammer
12:00pm	Wanted Down Under
12:45pm	Close Calls: On Camera
1:15pm	Bargain Hunt
2:00pm	BBC News
2:30pm	Regional News
2:45pm	Doctors
3:15pm	Father Brown
4:00pm	Escape to the Country
4:45pm	The Farmers' Country Showdown
5:30pm	Antiques Road Trip
6:15pm	Pointless
7:00pm	BBC News
7:30pm	Regional News
8:00pm	The One Show
8:30pm	Match of the Day Live
11:00pm	BBC News
11:30pm	Regional News
11:40pm	Weather
11:45pm	A Question of Sport
12:15am	And They're Off...For Sport Relief
1:00am	Weather for the Week Ahead
1:05am	BBC News

**BBC TWO**

7:00am	Flog It! Trade Secrets
7:30am	The Farmers' Country Showdown
8:15am	Antiques Road Trip
9:00am	Fern Britton Meets...
10:00am	Victoria Derbyshire
12:00pm	BBC Newsroom Live
12:30pm	The Daily Politics
2:00pm	Masters Snooker
5:45pm	More Creatures Great and Small
6:15pm	Flog It!
7:00pm	Eggheads
7:30pm	Great British Railway Journeys
8:00pm	Rick Stein's Road to Mexico
9:00pm	Tom Kerridge's Lose Weight for Good
9:30pm	Trust Me, I'm a Doctor
10:00pm	Millionaires' Ex-Wives Club
11:00pm	Mock the Week
11:30pm	Newsnight
12:10am	Weather
12:15am	Masters Snooker Highlights
1:05am	Masters Snooker Extra

**BBC FOUR**

8:00pm	Beyond 100 Days
8:30pm	Great Continental Railway Journeys
9:00pm	Handmade: By Royal Appointment
9:30pm	A Stitch in Time
10:00pm	Six Wives with Lucy Worsley <i>History documentary bearing witness to some of the most important moments in the lives of King Henry...</i>
11:00pm	Info not available
12:00am	Info not available
1:00am	Info not available
2:00am	Top of the Pops: 1981
2:40am	Top of the Pops: 1981
3:20am	Six Wives with Lucy Worsley <i>History documentary bearing witness to some of the most important moments in the lives of King Henry VIII's wives.</i>

**CHANNEL 4**

9:00am	Everybody Loves Raymond
9:30am	Frasier
10:00am	Frasier
10:35am	Frasier
11:05am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
12:00pm	Sun, Sea and Selling Houses
1:00pm	Channel 4 News
1:05pm	Couples Come Dine with Me
2:05pm	Posh Pawn
3:10pm	Countdown
4:00pm	Village of the Year
5:00pm	A Place in the Sun
6:00pm	Four in a Bed
6:30pm	Extreme Cake Makers
7:00pm	The Simpsons
7:30pm	Hollyoaks
8:00pm	Channel 4 News
9:00pm	Kirstie and Phil's Love it or List it
10:00pm	Kiri
11:00pm	999: What's Your Emergency?
12:05am	24 Hours in A and E
1:00am	Pokerstars Championship Cash Challenge

**CHANNEL 5**

6:35am	Divine Designs
7:00am	Milkshake!
10:15am	The Wright Stuff
12:15pm	GP's: Behind Closed Doors
1:10pm	5 News
1:15pm	The Hotel Inspector
2:05pm	Access
2:15pm	Home and Away
2:45pm	Neighbours
3:15pm	NCIS
4:15pm	False Pretences
6:00pm	5 News
6:30pm	Neighbours
7:00pm	Home and Away
7:30pm	5 News
8:00pm	Starting Up Starting Over
9:00pm	GP's: Behind Closed Doors
10:00pm	Celebrity Big Brother
11:00pm	Celebrities in Therapy
12:05am	Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side
1:05am	Body Freaks: Make Me a Perfect 10
2:00am	Super Casino
4:10am	GP's: Behind Closed Doors

**4**

9:00am	Charmed
10:00am	Melissa and Joey
10:30am	Melissa and Joey
11:00am	Baby Daddy
11:30am	Baby Daddy
12:00pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
12:30pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
1:00pm	The Goldbergs
1:30pm	The Goldbergs
2:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
2:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
3:00pm	Melissa and Joey
3:30pm	Melissa and Joey
4:00pm	Baby Daddy
4:30pm	Baby Daddy
5:00pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
5:30pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
6:00pm	The Goldbergs
6:30pm	The Goldbergs
7:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
7:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
8:00pm	Hollyoaks
8:30pm	Coach Trip
9:00pm	The Goldbergs
9:30pm	The Goldbergs
10:00pm	Don't Tell the Bride
11:00pm	Body Fixers
12:00am	The Big Bang Theory

**sky sports main event**

7:00am	Cricket <i>The Windies take on South Africa at the Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui in the ICC Under-19 World Cup.</i>
8:50am	Lord's Pavilion Portraits <i>Former England star Michael Atherton takes a look around the Lord's Pavilion to take a look at some of the cricketing luminaries immortalised on its walls.</i>
8:55am	Cricket
4:45pm	Best of Sky Cricket
5:00pm	SKY Sports News <i>All the news from the Premier League and beyond. Plus, a comprehensive round-up of the day's other sports news.</i>
6:00pm	SKY Sports News
7:00pm	SKY Sports News
8:00pm	Info not available
8:30pm	Info not available
11:00pm	Cricket

**itv**

7:00am	Good Morning Britain
9:30am	Lorraine
10:25am	The Jeremy Kyle Show
11:30am	This Morning
1:30pm	Loose Women
2:30pm	ITV Lunchtime News
3:00pm	Judge Rinder
4:00pm	Dickinson's Real Deal
5:00pm	Tipping Point
6:00pm	The Chase
7:00pm	Local News and Weather
7:30pm	ITV Evening News
8:00pm	Emmerdale
8:30pm	Coronation Street
9:00pm	Britain's Brightest Family
9:30pm	Coronation Street
10:00pm	Girlfriends
11:00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather
11:40pm	Transformation Street
12:40am	Britain's Busiest Airport - Heathrow
1:35am	Jackpot247
4:00am	Tenable
4:50am	ITV Nightscreen

**itv2**

8:45am	Emmerdale
9:20am	The Cube
10:25am	The Ellen DeGeneres Show
11:10am	Who's Doing the Dishes?
12:10pm	Dress to Impress
1:10pm	Emmerdale
1:45pm	You've Been Framed
2:45pm	A-Z! Gold
3:35pm	The Ellen DeGeneres Show
3:35pm	The Jeremy Kyle Show
6:50pm	Take Me Out
8:00pm	You've Been Framed! Gold
9:00pm	Two and a Half Men
9:30pm	Superstore
10:00pm	2 Fast 2 Furious
11:00pm	FYI Daily
11:05pm	2 Fast 2 Furious
12:10am	Family Guy
12:40am	Family Guy
1:10am	American Dad!
1:40am	American Dad!
2:10am	Two and a Half Men
2:35am	Superstore

**itv3**

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

**itv4**

7:00am	The Chase
7:50am	Pawn Stars
8:10am	Pawn Stars
8:35am	Ironsides
9:35am	Quincy, M.E.
10:40am	Minder
11:45am	The Sweeney
12:50pm	The Professionals
1:50pm	Ironsides
2:55pm	Quincy, M.E.
3:55pm	Minder
4:55pm	The Sweeney
6:00pm	The Professionals
7:05pm	The Car Chasers
7:35pm	The Car Chasers
8:00pm	Pawn Stars
8:30pm	Pawn Stars
9:00pm	River Monsters
10:00pm	Unknown
11:00pm	FYI Daily
11:05pm	Unknown
12:20am	Lethal Weapon
1:20am	Maximum Conviction
2:25am	FYI Daily
2:30am	Maximum Conviction
3:20am	The Car Chasers
3:45am	ITV4 Nightscreen
4:00am	Teleshopping

**sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE**

8:10am	Superman III
10:15am	Batman Returns
12:25pm	Spider-Man
2:30pm	X-Men: Apocalypse
4:55pm	The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen
6:50pm	Batman Returns
9:00pm	Spider-Man
11:05pm	X-Men: Apocalypse

**sky CINEMA COMEDY**

7:15am	Tenacious D in the Pick of Destiny
9:00am	Dad's Army
10:45am	The Cable Guy
12:25pm	Fun with Dick and Jane
2:00pm	Liar Liar
3:35pm	Dumb and Dumber
5:25pm	Me, Myself and Irene
7:25pm	Fun with Dick and Jane
9:00pm	Liar Liar
10:35pm	Dumb and Dumber
12:30am	The Cable Guy
2:10am	Monty Python's The Meaning of Life

**sky CINEMA PREMIERE**

6:00am	Must See Movies 2018
7:00am	Being Charlie <i>Forced into rehab by his parents, rebellious 18-year-old Charlie encounters another troubled youth, the beautiful Eva</i>
8:45am	Yu-Gi-Oh! The Dark Side of Dimensions <i>The stakes have never been higher and the rivalries never as fierce as Yugi Muto and rival Seto Kaib return for another epic adventure</i>
10:55am	Pele: Birth of a Legend
12:55pm	Get Out
2:50pm	In Dubious Battle
4:50pm	Yu-Gi-Oh! The Dark Side of Dimensions
7:00pm	Pele: Birth of a Legend
9:00pm	Get Out
11:00pm	Aloys
12:45am	Being Charlie
2:40am	This is Your Death
4:35am	In Dubious Battle

**sky sports football**

10:00am	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
10:30am	La Liga Greatest Games
11:00am	Revista de la Liga
11:30am	La Liga World
12:00pm	One2eleven
12:30pm	SPFL Greatest Games
1:00pm	Revista de la Liga
1:30pm	La Liga World
2:00pm	La Liga Icons
2:45pm	La Liga Icons
3:00pm	Revista de la Liga
3:30pm	La Liga World
4:00pm	Football's Greatest Teams
4:30pm	Football's Greatest Teams
5:00pm	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
5:30pm	La Liga Greatest Games
6:00pm	Football Years
6:30pm	Football Countdowns
7:00pm	Revista de la Liga
7:30pm	La Liga World
8:00pm	Football's Greatest Teams
8:30pm	Gillette Soccer Special
11:00pm	Magical Messi
12:00am	La Liga Icons
12:30am	La Liga Icons



**Advertising feature**

BREXIT HEALTH CARE has been set up in order to assist British nationals living in Spain to cope with growing concerns over health care following Brexit.

With so many matters to negotiate with the European Union, many expatriates in Spain worry that they may be overlooked by the British government, so in order to feel secure for the future, health care is a number one priority.

The company offers expert advice, information and solutions, for British people residing on the Costa Blanca and all of their services are supplied by a native English speaker, so there will be no language barrier which often makes things worse.

The main concern that seems to be in the minds of expatriates, especially those living on the Costa Blanca, is with regards to health care in Spain after Brexit, so this firm of brokers has created an efficient, secure and cost effective way of resolving this in order to guarantee complete peace of mind.

PoliFani is an insurance broker which has been in business since 1979 and is very well-known and used within the Spanish community, although it is still relatively new to the British one.

It has been praised for excellent customer care and the quality of the services it provides. As an insurance broker, it has access to over 24 insurance companies and

# Many worry about health care as Brexit approaches



**HEALTH CARE:** The PoliFani office in Benidorm.

can chose the cover and insurance types that suit its clients best and the expert team is constantly updating the pool of in-

surances available to make sure that customers receive the

best offers on the market.

Additionally, it is dedicated to helping every one of their clients in a more personal way, ranging from a face-to-face customer approach, all the way to mediating between the client and the insurance company should the need arise, which for non-Spanish speakers is ideal.

The company website [www.brexithealthcare.com](http://www.brexithealthcare.com) is regularly updated to give the latest Brexit news and you can even subscribe to the newsletter for Expats Health-care in Spain by completing a short request on the website.

If you have any questions or queries regarding Brexit Health Care, please do not hesitate to contact them, using the information in their accompanying advertisement and by doing this, you will be connected to an English speaker who can help you resolve any issues you may have.



**PoliFani Insurance Brokers**  
Av. Alfonso Puchades 18,  
local 2  
03501 Benidorm Alicante  
Call 966 831 250  
Email  
[info@brexithealthcare.com](mailto:info@brexithealthcare.com)

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## Travel



**ROOM WITH A VIEW:** Torrevieja on the Costa Blanca.

## Alicante's underrated tourist base

TORREVIEJA is not the destination at the top of many travellers' lists in Spain.

However, the city makes for an ideal base from which to see a number of quaint, charming villages and popular beach spots.

The waterfront promenade, lined with palm trees and Spaniards out for a stroll, comes alive in the evenings. Buskers and merchandise sellers add spirit to a number of endearing bench-based monuments, while the lively restaurants culture adds to the homely feel.

The real draw, though, is the sea view - particularly at sunset - and the ice cream vendors who serve all manner of flavours, from the exotic to the traditional.

Another tourist favourite is the Go-karting just outside of town.

Though the city is not particularly authentic - or much different to other tourist-filled seaside towns - what is impressive is the number of nearby locations that you can day trip to.

With relatively cheap accommodation on offer, tourists can see the delights of countless local beaches. Try the quiet Lomas de Cabo-Roig or Punta Prima, wave-filled Guardamar, or popular sand and sun-filled La Zenia.

Nearby Spanish towns are also worth a visit for travellers after a more authentic experience.

## LEGALLY SPEAKING

### Are dash cams legal in Spain?

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



**DASH CAMS:** Legal and even useful in Spain.

A FREQUENTLY reoccurring question searched for is 'are dash cams legal in Spain?'

Although there are data protection issues, when referring to traffic law the simple answer is yes. One point that must be considered is that under data protection legislation you can run into problems if you share the footage on social media showing faces or number plates without permission, for example.

That said, not only are dash cams legal in Spain, they can also be extremely useful, especially in providing evidence in the event of an incident, or worse, and can be used by the authorities to help prosecute offenders, such as was the case when a lorry driver embarked on an extremely dangerous overtaking move, the footage was used to track down and prosecute the driver.

What we must take notice of is that the installation of the dash cam must not interfere

with our primary field of vision. The optimum position will depend on the style of camera and vehicle, but if the camera can be hidden behind the rear view mirror, then it will not impede your view of the road ahead, and will not create an additional distraction.

Like all devices, such as GPS and mobile phones, they must also be secured and you must not touch them whilst you are driving.

In terms of them being useful, dash cams have been in use in many countries for many years, serving not only as a means of providing evidence in the event of an incident, but also protecting vehicle owners against false claims.

Russia is one of the countries where dash cams have been in use for many years and in America, a move to make them mandatory gained support in recent years, on account of the value they provide.

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

### Are they exempt from fees?

**Q.** I have been led to believe that, if your house is immediately facing the main road, then you are exempt from Community fees. Our housing estate is not fully enclosed. Can you explain?

*D S (Costa Blanca)*

**A.** Not true. If you are a member of a Community of Property Owners, you must pay the fees, whether you are an apartment, a terraced house or a free-standing villa on its own plot. Only properties which are on a street in a town or a farm in the country and which do not belong to a

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



Community are free of Community fees. Instead, they pay taxes to the town hall to maintain the street and the services. Confusion may arise because some housing

developments where city streets or roads are used wind up paying both municipal taxes and Community fees to maintain streets and lighting. These complex legal situations, which grew from rapid property development, are gradually being sorted out along the Spanish coastal areas.

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



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Cryptic

- Across**
- 1 Alternative in church's centre (4)
  - 3 West Indian songs about plays in Greek island (8)
  - 8 Communication from dining room takes a long time (7)
  - 9 Bring tea round in porcelain (5)
  - 10 The first ceremony is ordinary (5)
  - 11 Socialist leader in fitting decline (7)
  - 12 Reading, for example, about Tory leader's shame (6)
  - 13 Troubled waters for this reprobate (6)
  - 16 Trace singlet one returned for example (7)
  - 18 A society role model is buried in Austria (5)
  - 20 Goes round for some bread (5)
  - 21 Nice tax break is incorrect (7)
  - 22 Raised tax in East Leeds endlessly (8)
  - 23 Small county in which flowers are grown (4)

- Down**
- 1 Arrive Tuesday for the space traveller (5)
  - 2 Daring knight returning with a monarch (7)
  - 4 Schedule for a general prosecutor (6)
  - 5 Southern tippie given to pigs (5)
  - 6 Rearrange car test and flee (7)
  - 7 Stuntmen did several reconstructions (10)
  - 9 Informal neckwear injured people (10)
  - 12 Cancel religious education and poetry (7)
  - 14 Outdoor area where a caterer served up (7)
  - 15 Speak in ceremony outside city (6)
  - 17 Crack only found outside civic centre (5)
  - 19 Louts destroyed a plant (5)

Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 3 represents X and 5 represents M, so fill in X every time the figure 3 appears and M every time the figure 5 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.

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

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

Quick

	1		2		3		4
5					6		
			7				
8		9			10	11	12
13	14		15		16		17
			18				
19					20		
			21				

- Across**
- 2/18 Exploit, cheat or overcharge (3,3)
  - 5 Small river fish (4)
  - 6 Show the way by going first (4)
  - 7 Beer (3)
  - 8 Small wooded hollow (4)
  - 10 Largest continent (4)
  - 13 Bucket (4)
  - 16 Assists (4)
  - 18 See 2
  - 19 Excludes (4)
  - 20 Highest point (4)
  - 21 Sense organ for hearing (3)
  - 8 Immerse for a time (3)
  - 9 Hawaiian flower necklace (3)
  - 11 Glide over snow (3)
  - 12 Donkey (3)
  - 14 Slightly open (4)
  - 15 Fail to win (4)
  - 16 A long way off (4)
  - 17 Profound (4)
- Down**
- 1 Completely unclothed (4)
  - 2 Authentic (4)
  - 3 Defendant's answer to a charge (4)
  - 4 Asian garment (4)

English - Spanish

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

1		2		3	4		5		6		7
				8							
9								10			
11					12						
											13
14		15					16	17			
						18					
	19			20				21		22	
23											
24						25					
26										27	

- Across**
- 1 Este (zona, área) (4)
  - 3 Predicador (8)
  - 9 Technician (7)
  - 10 Cart (wagon) (5)
  - 11 Now (at this time, immediately) (5)
  - 12 Más fácil (6)
  - 14 Nails (metal) (6)
  - 16 Estatua (6)
  - 19 Cartera (6)
  - 21 Cervezas (5)
  - 24 Flecha (5)
  - 25 Enemy (7)
  - 26 Guapo (8)
  - 27 Mediodía (4)
  - 1 Entrada (lugar de acceso) (8)
  - 2 Sacred (art, musical) (5)
  - 4 Reabrir (6)
  - 5 Arches (5)
  - 6 Cosecha (7)
  - 7 Tejado (4)
  - 8 Liver (anatomical) (6)
  - 13 Cucharilla (8)
  - 15 Saffron (7)
  - 17 Mesas (muebles) (6)
  - 18 Arroyo (riachuelo) (6)
  - 20 Céspedes (5)
  - 22 Hedgehog (5)
  - 23 Baño (4)



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AND ABOUT MORE! '

## Kakuro

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



## Nonagram

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



## TARGET:

- Average: 5
- Very good: 10
- Good: 7
- Excellent: 12

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

ache arch char chat chit each echo echt etch hack hair hake hare hark hart hate hear heat  
heck heir hero hick hike hire hoar hock hoer hoke itch kith oath rhea rich tach tech tich aitch  
chair chart cheat chert chirch choir choke chore earth ethic hakec hater heart hiker hoick ichor  
ketch ochre ochre orach other ratch reach retch roach teach their thick throe torch achier  
choker chorea coher hacker hector heriot heroic hokier orache thicko thrice troche chariot  
haricot hotcake thicker ARTICHOKE

## Sudoku

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

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

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

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

## ENGLISH-SPANISH

## Across:

1 Crudo, 4 Cuchara, 8 Galleta, 9 Nests,  
10 Racha, 11 Chupete, 12 Day off,  
14 Noises, 17 Sendero, 19 Poner,  
21 Erizo, 22 Prayers, 23 Toenail,  
24 Early.

## Down:

1 Cigar, 2 Unlucky, 3 Oveja, 4 Charco,  
5 Canguro, 6 Aisle, 7 Answers,  
12 Dessert, 13 Fregona, 15 Sonreir,  
16 Gospel, 18 Naípe, 19 Peace,  
20 Rusty.

## CRYPTIC

## Across:

1 Cinch, 3 Disband, 7 Nastier, 9 Gnats,  
10 Enact, 11 Soothe, 13 Seesaw,  
15 Easter, 18 Candle, 20 Canoe,  
22 Urban, 23 Salvage, 24 Theseus,  
25 Audit.

## Down:

1 Condense, 2 Hoist, 3 Duress, 4 Signora,  
5 Awash, 6 Dash, 8 Shave, 12 Briefest,  
14 Andante, 16 Tonga, 17 Versus,  
19 Amble, 20 Cilla, 21 Just.

## QUICK

## Across:

1 Imports, 7 Confident,  
8 Oral, 9 Able, 11 Aluminium, 12 Message.

## Down:

2 Miniature, 3 Omit, 4 Trembling,  
5 Acrobat, 6 Streams, 10 Wins.

## CODE BREAKER

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

## KAKURO



## LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL  
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Saturday January 06



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Saturday January 06



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Tuesday January 02



Friday January 05



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Thursday January 04



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LA PRIMITIVA

Sunday January 07

YOUR STARS  
FOR NEXT 7 DAYSAQUARIUS  
(January 21 - February 19)

Spirituality seeps right through the week. As you are feeling particularly sensuous, invite someone special to dinner or on a trip. Visit garden centres and plan ahead. The colours and perfumes will be particularly pleasing.

LEO  
(July 24 - August 23)

This is a week when progress is fast and plans run ahead. Try new ideas and seek information to hone your knowledge. An organisation that is new to you offers insight and social involvement. An offer that thrusts you into the limelight might be avoided at first but would be to your advantage.

PISCES  
(February 20 - March 20)

Satisfaction with your love life is paramount this week, and the opinion of others seems important to you. Perhaps you are looking for an excuse to make a change. It is possible, however, that a change is not required so much as a different approach. It is not essential to put all your eggs in one basket.

VIRGO  
(August 24 - September 23)

Although you have perhaps been looking to money-making ideas to progress finances, think also of alternatives. Perhaps there are areas of your lifestyle where money could be saved. Items that are not used could be sold for a profit and rid you of clutter.

ARIES  
(March 21 - April 20)

A conversation with a colleague brings insights into how others live and it is quite an eye-opener. Friendships are particularly important this week. You have been dashing around and maybe not enough thought has gone into how you spend your leisure time.

LIBRA  
(September 24 - October 23)

Having suffered a bit of a setback last week, you may be feeling less confident. Revving up your social life will certainly help to bring spirits up again. Be with people who live or inspire you in some way and avoid boring or moaning folk.

TAURUS  
(April 21 - May 21)

There is something in you that needs a creative outlet. Perhaps you would like to write a book: memoirs, for instance, take up a craft or paint. Learning a new language would also be satisfying. Certainly, food for the brain and soul are what you should be seeking now.

SCORPIO  
(October 24 - November 22)

Thoughts come to you, perhaps in dreams, that are creative and energy boosting. Someone who recently moved out of your sphere is sadly missed but is in some ways still a part of you. A person at work who has been causing you concern needs investigation, but the facts may be less alarming than you suspect.

GEMINI  
(May 22 - June 21)

Being very much in demand for your talents this week means less time to spend socially, so it's important to make time for loved ones at the weekend. Someone seeking your advice may simply be seeking your approval for an action they are going to take, anyway.

SAGITTARIUS  
(November 23 - December 21)

A strong and exciting romantic feeling flows through the week, which is fitting as Valentine's Day comes round again next month. Someone returning from a trip makes you smile and boosts your spirit. People who have been a little bossy of late finally realise that you will not rise to the bait.

CANCER  
(June 22 - July 23)

There may be some opposition to your ideas as Pluto turns this week. Perhaps your natural charm just doesn't seem to be working. As you have helped others in the past, make it clear that you expect a bit of co-operation. It is not through lack of will that some people do not offer help.

CAPRICORN  
(December 22 - January 20)

It's a better week for travel with less likelihood of delays. Should you be feeling a little lethargic and sorry about recent events, just count your blessings. Consider raising some money and having fun at the same time by indulging in a garage or car boot sale. Doing something entirely different can boost your mind and activity levels, which can't be bad.

## QUIZ: ENDS IN Z

- Derived from the Hebrew for 'to gather', what name is given to a collective farm or settlement owned by its members in modern Israel?
- Les Troyens, Symphonie fantastique and La Damnation de Faust were all works written by which 19th century French composer?
- Let's Dance (1962) and The More I See You (1966) were both UK hit singles by which American singer?
- The US musicians John Lewis, Milt Jackson, Percy Heath and Connie Kay were collectively known as the ----- Quartet?
- What was the name of the politician and revolutionary who served as the president of Venezuela from 1999 until his death in 2013?

- Which alcoholic cocktail is made of two parts Champagne to one part orange juice?
  - Which American cartoonist is best remembered as the creator of the Peanuts comic strip that features a range of characters including the boy Charlie Brown and the dog Snoopy?
  - Which city in northern Morocco gives its name to a flat-topped conical red hat with a black tassel on top, worn by men in some Muslim countries?
  - Which city is the capital of Liechtenstein?
  - Which printed multicoloured cotton fabric with a glazed finish is used for curtains and upholstery?
- Not a lot of people know that... according to the Oxford English Dictionary (Third Edition) the first attested use of the word 'quiz' is from 1781 and means 'an odd person'

## Answers:

- KIBBUTZ, 2. HECTOR BERLIOZ, 3. CHRIS MONTEZ, 4. MODERN JAZZ, 5. HUGO CHÁVEZ (full name Hugo Rafael Chávez Frías), 6. BUCK'S FIZZ, 7. CHARLES SCHULZ, 8. FEZ, 9. VADUZ, 10. CHINTZ



# YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

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## Animal charities have no power

SIR,

On Christmas Day, ADANA - the Estepona dog rehoming centre - welcomed many volunteers to help clean the pens, walk the dogs and give them their Christmas Dinner, donated by an anonymous benefactor.

How sad, then, that amid this goodwill we received messages from disgruntled members of the public asking why we had not taken action over a case of serious dog abuse in the El Padron neighbourhood.

First of all, it has to be said that ADANA was only made aware of this abuse after people had seen the dogs at first hand. Nobody contacted ADANA to tell us about it.

Second, people need to be aware that ADANA is not a Spanish version of the RSPCA. We have no more influence with the authorities than any concerned member of the public.

So why did none of these people who had witnessed the abuse not make a formal complaint? Until this is done no police action can be taken.

But instead of doing the right thing, people criticised ADANA. We are a

### A fitting tribute

WE arrived outside the former Bunny's Bar around 12.15pm and there were already at least 100 people there.

Phil was busy with guests so we stood to one side but he noticed us and came straight over which was a teary moment.

We decided to go to the church near Bonanza Square and watch the coffin arrive.

Everybody on the terrace gave a rapturous applaud for well over a minute on the cortège 50 feet below - this truly hit both Phil and his family as it was totally unexpected and out of the blue.

The church is vast - probably 500 seats - and was at least half full which is incredible for a guy



Photo credit Matt Ford/EWN Media Group.

**HUGE TURNOUT: Hundreds attended Bunny Lane's funeral.**

of 75. The service was delivered in a humanist manner which was very apt considering Barry's life and paid great respect and tribute to his career in theatre.

With no prayers and no hymns, the finale was awesome and can never be repeated by another English person still alive on this

coast with a rendition of 'I Am What I Am.' Everybody stood and clapped like old times in Bunny's.

Totally brilliant day the perfect tribute to a very funny and much-loved guy.

*Trevor and Annette Whitehouse, Costa del Sol*

small charity which cares for for over a hundred unwanted dogs at any given time. We are run by volunteers and totally reliant on public funding. We wish we could do more to intervene in cases of cruelty and neglect but we simply don't have the power.

My New Year's wish is that every one of us becomes more aware of our personal responsibility to act in the face of evil and not pass by on the other side and leave it to others.

*Mary Page, President ADANA Estepona*

### Rental trap

I HAVE rented apartments and houses for some years in Spain and while many private owners are honest, some are not. The problem is that the owner, by law, holds the deposit. For example in my previous rental, they held €400. And when it came to handing the deposit back - after first deducting water and electric bills for two months - that they would keep the other €348 for cleaning expenses.

When I complained to the owners, who were both out of work, they refused to reply to my emails. After some advice from the Citizen's Advice Bureau in Malaga, it gave me the information I needed. Owners should leave the deposit with the AVRA (the Agencia de Vivienda y Rehabilitación Andalucía). If they have not done so, it is probably because they do not want to pay taxes on the rental income.

I sent a letter to the owners saying I would contact the AVRA and then the local tax offices to see if they had paid taxes on their rental income if I did not get my money back. Paying me was cheaper than paying the taxes, so my money was returned.

Surely the law should be changed so the money automatically goes to the AVRA to help stop any such problems?

*Michael Hill, Torre del Mar, Malaga*

### Leapy woe

I FOLLOW your column most weeks and agree with a lot of what you say in your articles.

But to say that the whole careers and promotions of the UK police is based entirely on arrests and convictions is absolute rubbish! Am I a cop? No. But a retired one yes. Indeed I was promoted from Constable to Chief Superintendent, and at one time served as Head of the Career Development Department. I therefore believe that I have a very good understanding of the system. Clearly, you do not!!

Keep the faith.

*Derek Lynch, Altea, Costa Blanca North*

### 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.euroweeklynnews.com](http://www.euroweeklynnews.com).

## IN PICTURES: Spain slides to a halt as snow grips country

Yesterday in the morning it was rain but soon started snowing heavily lasting throughout the day. Today the mountains (Fuensanta) are still covered and cold temperature, more snow threatened... On the day of the Kings I did not appreciate snow as my present from them... chocolate next year please...gracias. *Tim McMahon*

We need the water this is good. *Angela Mansfield*

Sunny and dry in Mojacar! *Anita Oakes*

Sun and clouds Coin campo, Malaga, with snow on the Sierra de las Nieves, bit chilly. *Ruud Faber*

What! No snow? I'm not going to La Manga then. Gonna stay in North Wales. *Davejune Higgins*

### 38 starving dogs rescued

Wouldn't it be great if we could now stick them in a cage and let them starve to death! *Jean Gray*

I wonder what punishment these scum will get? How can anybody do this to these poor dogs? Absolutely heartbreaking. I hope they will rot in hell. *Doris Teasdale*

### Comments from EWN online

Could the Animal Shelter not put down the animal that lead to these poor dogs suffering the way they did? *Andrew*

### Passenger leaves plane by emergency exit

Good on him! There is never enough information given.... No drinks, no food and continual lies!! Why stay on board!! *Rob Whaley*

He was probably thinking he was going to die whilst having an asthma attack and needed air but was being ignored, so he let himself out. *Stephen Richards*

You're all too quick to criticise Ryanair. That plane was on the ground and on its stand. It

then becomes the airport's designated ground handling service, not the airline. If they failed to service the flight with stairs, the agent service are to blame. *Will Murphy*

### Catalan crisis 'cost Spain €1 billion'

The damage these people have done is incalculable. Which is why it would have been a good idea for Rajoy to put a stop to it a lot sooner. Even now, he's just pussyfooting around the problem. *Peter Harvey*

### Two dead in 'massive' pitched battle in southern Spain

How is it that no arrests were made in the four hours that this lasted? *Jace T Adams*

What an awful situation leaving two dead, it must have been pretty frightening for people in the area. *Necie Russell*



## Painkillers 'could reduce fertility'

MANY women experience various pains during pregnancy and may turn to painkillers for help.

But this could damage your unborn child's fertility, according to scientists.

The study, carried out at the University of Edinburgh, found taking paracetamol or ibuprofen during pregnancy reduced the number of eggs in a female foetus by up to 40 per cent. And while the research was carried out on rats, scientists say the same could be true for humans.

The news could affect the fertility of unborn males too as scientists found the number of sperm cells in foetuses reduced by up to 20 per cent. The group was less concerned by this, however, as men can produce sperm all their lives but women only have a limited egg supply.

# Every little helps

HAVE you ever splashed out on an expensive new face cream only to find the whole tube is gone in a couple of weeks?

The disappointment at investing in a 'miracle' cream which comes in microscopic proportions can be high. But the good news is we may be using far too much of our favourite products, according to one beautician, and can get away with using less.

Dr Natasha Cook, an Australian dermatologist, has told one publication one of the most expensive products - facial serum - can be used in tiny proportions because it is so concentrated.

She explained, "for serum, all you need is a pea-sized amount over the entire face," adding, "these products are, in theory, concentrated with a high percentage of active ingredients. This means you

shouldn't need too much."

Sticking to the same theme she says moisturiser should be used in an "almond-sized amount," adding, "two pumps if it is a pump applicator or an almond-sized amount over the entire face."

Foundation, which can be expensive if used several times throughout the day, can also be used in pea-sized quantities. Dr Cook explained, "if you've got a larger face, you may need slightly more," adding, "I recommend applying it to the back of your hand, before getting a 'kakubi' make up brush and evenly buffing it all over your face."

Lastly, for improving dark circles and puffiness use a "sunflower seed equivalent," of eye cream as, "these creams tend to be rich so you only need a small amount."



**JUST A DROP:**  
Experts recommend using serum in small amounts because of its high potency.

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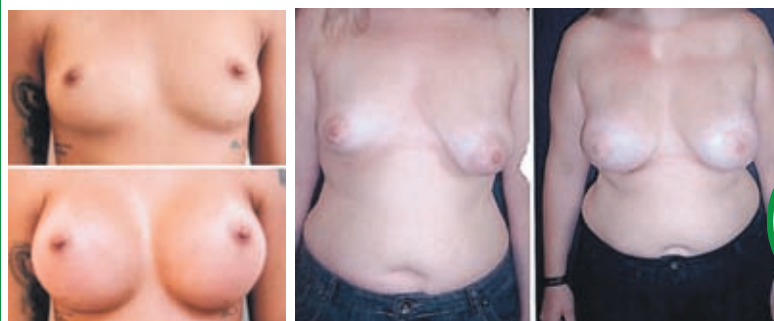
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WE all know drinking to excess can cause a raft of health problems.

From heart disease to liver failure, alcohol in large quantities has consistently been shown to cause our bodies damage. But until now researchers had never fully understood the connection between excessive intake and cancer.

A group from the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge has now come up with 'a simple plau-

## Why not drinking could be a good thing

sible explanation.'

They say alcohol in large quantities may damage our DNA, allowing cancerous cells to form. According to the group, the process of breaking down alcohol produces a harmful chemical called acetaldehyde which in small doses can be removed from the body but in large quantities

damages our stem cells. These cells are the ones which regenerate and when damaged can instead form tumours.

The study's lead author Professor Ketan Patel explained, "some cancers develop due to DNA damage in stem cells," adding, "while some damage occurs by chance, our findings suggest

that drinking alcohol can increase the risk of this damage."

He went on, "our study highlights that not being able to process alcohol effectively can lead to an even higher risk of alcohol-related DNA damage and therefore certain cancers," adding, "but it's important to remember alcohol clearance and DNA repair systems are not perfect and alcohol can still cause cancer in different ways - even in people whose defence mechanisms are intact."

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# Beware the dreaded lurgy

ARE you ever surprised by how your friends often notice you are under the weather before you've even mentioned it?

Well according to scientists from the United States, Sweden and Germany, humans are able to tell if a person is displaying signs of illness even in the very early stages.

The group found people were able to distinguish a healthy person from an unhealthy one just by looking at very subtle differences in the faces. These included pale skin and lips and drooping eyes.

Twenty-two volunteers took part in a trial led by scientists from Stockholm University and New York University (NYU),



**QUICK GIVEAWAY:** Pale lips and drooping eyelids are among the early signs of a cold.

half of whom were given a placebo and half of whom were given a drug which temporarily mimics illness.

Sixty other participants were

then shown photos of the group and asked to point out who looked ill and who looked well.

Of the 16 photos they were shown, the 60 observers were

able to correctly identify whether a person was ill or not in 13 cases.

Three main signs of illness were identified, including looking pale. The study's authors explained, "redness signals a healthy and attractive appearance in both humans and animals and that appearing tired is strongly related to appearing healthy." The researchers also said drooping eyelids on ill people were a sign of tiredness from fighting off infection.

Finally, the scientists noted the most obvious clue was pale lips on those who were ill, explaining it is a good place to look if you are trying to work out if someone is ill or not.

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## A spicy start to the new year

WITH the New Year comes a new health kick and it turns out 2018's will be all about spices.

But unlike other over-hyped trends, it seems there may be evidence to back up the health benefits of several spices you may already have in your kitchen cupboard.

According to nutritionist Kim Pearson, turmeric could help us with aches and pains. She explained, "turmeric has many proven health benefits and among these the ability to reduce inflammation is key," says nutritionist Kim Pearson.

She added, "low level inflammation can speed up ageing processes and contribute to disease progression, so keeping our inflammatory responses in check can help keep us healthy. Studies also show that turmeric could be useful for digestive and liver health, for our skin health and helping to prevent post-exercise aches." She explained the best way to



**NICE SPICE:** Turmeric has a range of health benefits.

take the spice so it is properly absorbed in your stomach may be in an oral spray.

Cinnamon may be another beneficial

spice, helping to regulate our blood sugar levels. Rick Hay, a lecturer in weight management at the College of Naturopathic Medicine in London, explained, "from an insomnia perspective, if you find yourself waking up in the small hours, it could be down to blood sugar spikes that subsequently wake you up as your blood sugar drops."

Rick Hay also claimed ginger, another spice cupboard staple, is good for settling our stomachs and "relaxes the system generally and is also a good circulatory tonic."

Finally, he claimed black cumin could be beneficial, explaining, "black cumin contains thymol which is great for the digestive function and has also been used to treat respiratory problems and skin conditions."



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**Cassandra Nash**

*A weekly look*

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

SPAIN'S president Mariano Rajoy had the nerve to urge Ines Arrimadas to try to form a government in Cataluña.

**TOUGH CHOICE:**  
Rajoy is putting  
pressure  
on Ines  
Arrimadas.



Ines Arrimadas/ Facebook

As Ciudadanos was the most-voted constitutionalist party, this was her obligation, he maintained, although Arrimadas knows she cannot compete with the combined seats of the pro-independence parties.

Yet after the December 2015 general election when the Partido Popular lost its overall majority in the national parliament, Rajoy immediately refused to try to form a government despite heading the most-voted party.

Rajoy wants to see a constitutionalist party in Cataluña but he also hopes to undermine Arrimadas now that Cs is inching its way up the national polls, overtaking Podemos and nudging the PSOE.

Meanwhile, the Cs leader will wait to see who turns up for a pro-independence investiture attempt.

Remanded ERC leader Oriol Junqueras, PDeCat's former Interior chief Joaquim Forn and ANC leader Jordi Sanchez all

won seats, as did ex-regional president Carles Puigdemont and the four members of his former government self-exiled in Brussels.

They are sure to be remanded if they appear, but the separatist parties will be eight MPs short with no room to manoeuvre if they don't. And that's when Arrimadas will start manoeuvring.

## Promises to keep

MARIANO RAJOY has committed Spain to increasing its NATO contribution by 80 per cent over the next seven years.

He could have taken the trouble to inform the public first but, wanting to avoid answering awkward questions, Rajoy buried the announcement while Spain was captive in the clutches of Christmas.

He admitted he promised to step up the country's contribution during the 2014 summit meeting in Wales but so did everybody else. And like everybody else, it was assumed - or at home, certainly - that Spain was

not going to cough up when the time came.

So who does Rajoy want to curry favour with? Trump, who frequently trumpets about those who shirk their NATO dues?

The pledge definitely won't go down well at home, where millions are still out of work and where spending has been cut on more important things than international defence.

## Lingering aftertaste

THE last of the cruise ships chartered to house police and Guardia Civil officers drafted in to prevent the October 1 referendum have left Barcelona.

The Ministry of the Interior sent between 5,000-6,000 officers to the region and the outside world's view of Catalan independence is based on footage of Spain's forces of law and order using an inordinate amount of muscle to prevent Catalans from voting in an unauthorised ballot.

Neither did the images go down well in the rest of Spain, although censure from the constitutionalist parties who recognised that the Catalan government was acting illegally, was muted.

But what should have been kid-glove treatment was iron-fisted and later that day in Cataluña, media coverage pushed people into voting who would otherwise have stayed at home.

## Daughterly devotion

FRANCISCO FRANCO's daughter Carmencita has died, aged 91.

Referring to her late father she said, "I don't deny it when they say he was a dictator, but neither do I like it because it's usually said as an insult. Nevertheless it doesn't sound too bad to me."

Exactly, Carmencita. Dictators are largely unloved except by their families.

columnists@euroweeklynnews.com

### Advertising feature

# See the planet with Worldwide Horizons

A NEW YEAR is as good a time as any to ring in the changes, and so it is with Worldwide Horizons Travel Agency.

Long-time residents of La Zenia, next to Paddy's Point and Gogarty's bars, this popular travel agency has upped sticks and moved to new, purpose built offices facing onto the N332.

With new neighbours Easy Cover Insurance, Mapfre and Inmo Investments, this is certainly a move in the right direction for this travel agency.

"Of course we will be sorry to leave our good neighbours of the last six years," says Yvonne Hollywood, owner of the travel agency. "But this change is for a positive, more modern office space, much larger than our inadequate shop space from before."

"At times our customers have had to queue outside given the inability to hold more than six persons at a time in the old offices. These new offices offer plenty of light and space, a perfect environment for planning summer and winter getaways!"

At the same time, they have decided to launch a second office, in the main street of Benijofar, close to Car Broker Spain



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and Bar Sonía on the Avda Federico Garcia Lorca. Opening just on January 8, this office is in a great location to sell holidays to the expat communities of Ciudad Que-

sada, Rojales and Benijofar.

And that's exactly what they are focusing on, now that the majority of the office relocations have been completed. "It's

been a frantic few weeks, with opening one office and moving another, however the opportunity came along and it could not be missed," says Yvonne. "Now we are looking forward to our more normal daily activities of holidays, Cruises and Long Haul destinations."

As usual, this travel agency offers some more unique cruises, with some of the highlights this year being a 15-night cruise round Japan in April and also an all-inclusive Beatles Themed Cruise in October.

To keep ahead of tourism trends in Spain and around the world, Yvonne and Katie, from the La Zenia office, will be heading to Madrid next week to visit Fitur, Spain's largest trade fair dedicated to tourism. "We will be speaking with the tour operators, checking out new and upcoming destinations as well as getting some good deals to pass on to our clients!"

You can find out details of what's on offer by contacting the team on email: [travel@whtravel.es](mailto:travel@whtravel.es) or sign up to receive their frequent mailshots, via their Facebook page, Worldwide Horizons Travel Agency. Tel 966 761 492 (La Zenia) or 865 752 227 (Benijofar).



TO READ MORE

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

# Celebrations come to a conclusion



Photo Credit: Ayuntamiento de Altea

**PROUD:** Councillor Zaragoza announcing the closing events.

FOLLOWING a full year of celebrations of the Poble de Altea Charter, the town is launching its last events from today (Thursday) until Saturday.

Today, the department of the environment will be formally launching the new publication Mediterranean Heritage which reviews the origin and evolution of food in the area combined with Mediterranean history and has been compiled by Juan V Martin Devesa and Ana Zaragoza Marti.

The book which is published in Spanish and Valencian with illustrations by local artist Miquel Zaragoza will be

presented to the public at 7.30pm at the Casa de Cultura.

Friday sees a double celebration firstly with the unveiling of the book *Materia d'Altea* by local teacher and historian Jaume A Martinez Garcia which will also be presented at the Casa de Cultura at 8pm

At the same time, an exhibit *The Papers of Altea* based on a 17th century document will be opened to the public by Pere Soler, the municipal archivist and will consist of a collection of exhibition panels where related documents will be reproduced alongside the Poble de Altea Charter.

Saturday sees a rousing gala

concert at the Palau Altea starting at 8pm with free admission subject to seating capacity.

The audience will be able to attend the premier of a brand new musical piece *La Casa de la Mar* composed especially for the closing ceremony by Jaime F Ripoll Martins with the piece performed by the Symphonic Band of the Altea-nense Philharmonic Society with guests treated to a glass of wine to celebrate the event.

When announcing these events, the councillor for Culture Diego Zaragoza thanked the residents of Altea for their support in making this such a successful and special year.



**TALENTED:** The star of the new series Paz Vega.

Photo Credit: Ruben Ortega Wikimedia

# Extras wanted for new TV series

EXTRAS are being sought for a new TV series starring Paz Vega and much of the action will be filmed in Benidorm.

The company 'A Primera Figuración' has been charged with finding a number of 18 to 30 year olds who have Nordic features.

The selection process will be open until mid-March and it appears that this will be a non-contact casting and candidates must register at [www.aprimerafiguración.com](http://www.aprimerafiguración.com).

Fugitive will begin shooting once the production team completes the locations. In principle it is expected that the personnel in charge of this task will move shortly to Benidorm.

This new series, produced by RTVE in collaboration with Grupo Ganga Producciones, is expected to be on La 1 and that shooting in Benidorm will last for about a month. The rest of the recordings will be developed in Madrid and other points of the Levantine coast.

# The strains of the Waltz come to Denia

THE German language organisation Konzertfreunde which is devoted to bring-

ing quality music to the Costa Blanca is bringing the classics to Denia.

On Saturday and Sunday January 20 and 21, the Russian Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra of St Petersburg will perform a special classical music show entitled *Vienna a Waltz Dream* and is intended to provide a moving welcome to the New Year.

Founded in 1990 by

graduates of the St Petersburg State Conservatory, this critically acclaimed orchestra will appear under the baton of lead conductor Juri Gilbo who has been at the heart of the orchestra since the late 1990s.

The orchestra will be performing at the Denia Social Centre at 5pm each day with tickets costing €30 and can be reserved by calling 965 788 840.

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**GREGORIAN MUSIC:** Is almost 1,300 years old.

IT is remarkable that Gregorian music still appeals to the imagination given that it is nearly 1,300 years old.

Yet Gregorian music is the basis of all western music from classical to modern!

Nevertheless, new records still appear regularly which often reach a larger audience.

On February 8 a series of four lessons to learn the ba-

## A unique singing project

sic technique of Gregorian chant will start under the professional guidance of

well-known choir conductor Guy Verhelst.

The lessons will take place in either Altea or Calpe, with the venue still to be confirmed.

They will be on February 8, 10, 13 and 15 from 11am to 1pm.

Gentlemen of all nationalities who love to sing are welcome (sorry ladies, men only for the time being!).

Interested parties should contact Guy on: 606 251 983.

## Third in world rating

### BACCHUS CELLAR

by Lorenzo Barbareschi



AIRÉN, an old Iberian white grape, represents about 30 per cent of all Spanish varieties and is the world's third most grown.

Unknown to many and predominantly grown in the south, central and western regions of Spain, its production is now declining and being replaced with red varieties including Tempranillo.

The grapes - late to bud and ripen and very resistant to drought and diseases - are perfectly adapted to the harsh arid climate of La Mancha with its calcareous soils and vineyards 700m above sea level.

Airén is also known under the many synonyms, including Aidén, Blancon, Forcallada, Forcallat blanca, Forcayat, Laeren del Rey, Layren, Manchega, Mantuo Laeren and Valdepenera blanca.



**AIRÉN:** In decline but well worth a try.

A relatively neutral taste and flavour and high acidity has made Airén the production choice for alcohol used as the base for Brandy, thus limiting its use to develop blended or varietal wines.

Additionally due to processes used including fermentation in terracotta vats, Airén wines do not always receive favourable publicity.

In general, Airén wines are characterised by a pallid colour with yellow iridescences and an alcoholic content of about 12

- 14 per cent making it quite pleasant and easy to drink, with mature fruit scents including banana, pineapple or grapefruit.

To get the best out of it, pair Airén wine with grilled sardines with green pepper, garlic prawns or something spicy.

Better label Airén wines including Castillo del Moro; Sendas del Rey by Felix Solis and Don Octavio by Bodegas Villarrobledo are priced €4 - €6, though some can be found for just over €1.

*Happy tasting.*

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**New!**

**Tower burger**

**Nacho burger**



**Blue cheeseburger**

**Bacon burger**

**Mega tower burger**





Photo Credit: OPERA 2001

**HIGH NOTES:** In the Gypsy Camp.

# The magic of Opera

LOVERS of Opera will be delighted to learn that the Il Traviata classic by Verdi will be performed at Auditori Teulada Moraira on Saturday February 10.

The organisation OPERA 2001 was originally formed in 1991 when Marie-Ange and Luis Miguel Lainz decided that their future lay with the passion of musicals and opera.

The company now organises and produces lyrical performances in Spain and France to keep alive the most famous plays in the operatic repertoire, so that younger generations can learn to love them live on

stage in theatres at an affordable price.

This performance which will be in Italian with Spanish subtitles is an extravagant look back to the past and is performed in four acts.

A Gypsy being burned at the stake is the beginning of a terrible revenge. Accused of bewitching the younger son of the old Count of Luna, she is condemned and devoured by the flames despite her innocence.

In her agony she demands revenge to her daughter Azucena who kidnaps the second son of the Count of Luna, Manrico with instruc-

tions to burn him alive, but due to her grief, she throws her own child into the flames.

Having lost her own son, Manrico is raised by Azucena and years later the Count of Luna, son of the old Count of Luna and brother of Manrico, falls in love with Leonora, maid to the Princess of Aragon, but ironically, she is in love with Manrico.

The two exist in fatal rivalry that can only be resolved with a death.

Tickets for this performance which starts at 7pm cost €45 from the Auditorium box office.

# Holy Week poster competition

CALPE Council is now running its annual competition for the production of the Holy Week poster.

As is the norm, the poster is to feature one of the brotherhoods that take part in the celebration of Easter and this year, the Gypsy Brotherhood of the Gospel 'The Powerful' has been chosen to be represented.

Artists may present three different designs which must be original and previ-

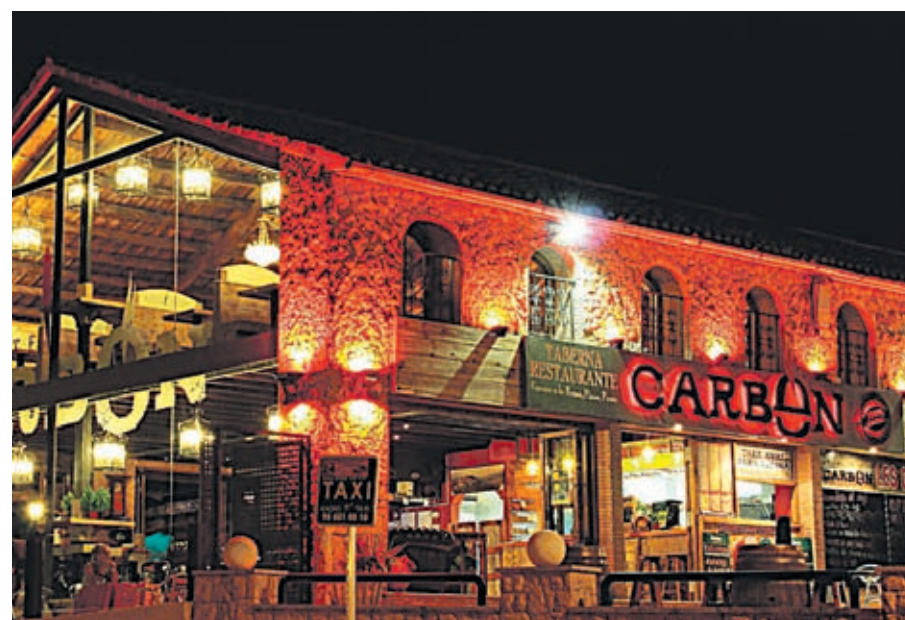
ously unpublished and each should bear the words Cuaresma y Semana Santa, Calp 2018.

The winning poster will be used throughout the town to promote this important cultural and religious event and the designer will receive a prize of €1,000.

Designs need to be presented at the Calpe Citizen Attention Office by 3pm on Friday January 26.

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# Bumper 2018 projected

The future's bright for the property market



**BOOM:** 2018 is expected to be an excellent year for Spain.

FORECASTS for Spain's 2018 property market are now in place. Barring an expected crisis, higher prices, more sales, more construction and higher rewards on investments are all on the cards.

The sale of new homes is expected to continue growing, after increasing for the first time since 2006 last year.

ServiHabitat expects that

total sales of new and second-hand homes will reach 560,000, up from 472,000 in 2017, but still shy of the high water mark of 775,000 in 2007.

New homes will account for almost 120,000 of those sales, more than a quarter, as construction booms across the country.

Permits to construct new properties are expected to swell by 18 per cent to al-

most 140,000 this year. Developers are expected to be the dominant figures of the 2018 marketplace as buyers renew their faith in newly built properties.

The number of mortgages taken out is projected to increase from the 320,000 in 2017 and interest rates expected to stay low after falling below 3 per cent in October. Investors who snapped up properties to let

out long term, or to tourists, can expect a profitable year. The Bank of Spain is projecting long term returns of more than 10 per cent. After rising 4.5 per cent in 2017, prices are expected to increase by a minimum of 4.7 per cent this year.

More optimistic figures project a rise of between 6 and 8 per cent. Moody's is confident of an 8.6 per cent rise over the next three years.



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# Your garden in January

By Dick Handscombe

APOLOGIES that my column disappeared for a couple of months but software problems, delays in obtaining a compatible hard disk and becoming acquainted with significant changes in user friendliness caused my first major problem since Google appeared in 1998.

This was the same time when gardening problems multiplied with a drying climate, the use of an increasing number and variety of plants from outside Spain, wide variations in the sources and qualities of composts and the occurrence of unwanted plant pests, from the ever increasing number attacking fruit trees to feral cats.

Most expat January gardening needs are common along the Mediterranean coast from north to south, but what is feasible from day to day are influenced by the tremendous gales, continued droughts on the Costa Blanca and widespread rain in Andalucía.

Fortunately mild temperatures so



## PRUNING ROSES: Recommended for January.

far have allowed continuing good harvests of a diverse mix of tasty salad leaves and flowers. Chemical free salads with up to 20 ingredients continue from my raised beds and line of builders buckets surrounding the boule court.

One very useful job for a dry day is to clean up roses and prepare them for the 2018 flowering season. First prune to an appropriate shape leaving two strong budding points on each pruned stem. Spray with a strong garlic spray and plant two

garlic seed segments under each plant before placing a deep manure mulch, preferably horse, under each plants.

Climbing plants now need pruning to manageable heights and prevent them from becoming straggly

when spring growth commences.

To achieve a healthy garden environment for humans, pets and beneficial insects and ensure that all possible vegetables and fruit can be eaten safely, only spray when essential and try to restrict your spraying to ecological sprays such as garlic and neem as insecticides and propolis for a general fungicide.

Inexpensive spring bulbs are now appearing so it is a good time to plant some extra ones. But do water and improve the soil first. It is also not too late to sow sweet peas for early spring displays.

When we had our large henegada allotment we always had a 20-metre row that supplied bunches of flowers and seeds to passing village ladies for whom sweet peas were a novelty.

If you have an area of bare vegetable growing soil top it up with a layer of animal and vegetative compost to renew and improve the fertility and moisture retaining properties.




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**Before**

**After**



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WHILE it may be a little early for an official spring clean, the new year can certainly be a good time to look to the future and declutter anything you don't need from your past.

And while many of our objects hold sentimental value and we would not want to lose them, many of us accumulate plenty of other possessions we neither want nor need.

According to website *becomingminimalist.com* 'Many begin to feel overwhelmed, anxious, and defeated around

# Spring cleaning

the idea of decluttering their homes,' but 'the decluttering journey doesn't need to be as painful as some make it out to be.'

To make the idea less daunting, the site suggests giving away one item each day. It explained, 'Colleen Madsen at 365 Less Things gives away one item each

day. Over the past several years, she has experienced quite a transformation simply reducing her stuff one day at a time.'

Next you could try picking up a large rubbish bag and seeing how quickly you can fill it with unwanted goods. The website suggests anything collected in

the bag can be given to charity.

Next, if you are struggling to part with clothes you may not have worn for years, a technique adopted by Oprah Winfrey could help. The website says 'hang all your clothes with the hangers in the reverse direction. After you wear an

item, return it to the closet with the hanger facing the correct direction. After six months, you'll have a clear picture of which clothes you can easily discard.'

Finally, you could try the 'four-box method.' Use four boxes in each room, labelling them, 'trash, give away, keep, or relocate.' Go through each item carefully until you only have things you either need or want and which are in their correct place.



Photo by Unsplash

**TIDY:** A clean home helps bring a clear mind.

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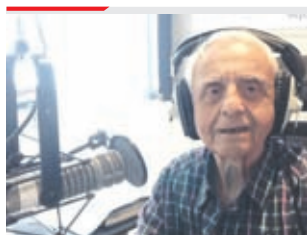
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IF you give your dog a command - even a simple one like 'sit' - then the reward of good dog is given as the dog's bottom hits the ground. Just a verbal praise given in a light happy voice can be enough for most dogs.

Sometimes people will use food or a motivator for this reward system. I believe if you have used treats for a couple of months, a dog will now be content with the bright happy voice which should be sufficient for such a simple command.

As your commands become more difficult for the dog to



Credit: Unsplash

**GOOD BOY: Rewarding your dog is important, but only when he deserves it.**

achieve you can always up the reward, especially if you are doing scent work. A motivator that the dog really loves can now be used such as that special ball or toy.

Most professional working dogs are rewarded in this manner as soon as they have found something. This reward for work well done is a must.

Whatever you use, you only have a split second to give it on completion of an exercise. Personally I like to use my voice and a quick touch under the chin as my

rewards. I always have my voice with me, so it is always on hand, where a different type of reward may not be with me at that crucial time.

Think about the dolphin which performs in a show. He is being taught to jump out of the water. If he jumps about two metres, he gets a small whistle to call him back, and when he returns to the edge of the pool he is in, he gets a small fish.

As his training increases, and he jumps about six metres or more out of the pool, he gets a huge instant whistle while he's at the top of the jump, which brings him swiftly back to the pool edge where he gets a bucket of fish as his reward.

The timing of any reward is important. (If your timing is out, you may be rewarding for the wrong action.) Watch the height he jumps from there on. The reward is always there for him immediately and will he give his best every time.



Credit: Unsplash

**HAPPY FAMILY:**  
Spending time with your new pet is important.

AN increasing number of businesses have started to offer time off for employees who have just welcomed a new furry friend into the home.

**Progress made on 'pawternity leave'**

As any pet owner knows, those first few days are incredibly important for establishing ground rules and forming a bond with the animal, which helps in their training later on.

According to the Kennel Club, the first 16 weeks of a puppy's life has major impact on how balanced and sociable a dog turns out to be, and suggests that taking time off would be "extremely beneficial" for both the owner and the puppy, as they can use this time for some intensive training and one-on-one time.

It's not just dogs that benefit from some personal attention during the early days; research has shown that cats also need a lot of reassurance and bonding time when they're brought to a new home.

However, Battersea Dogs and Cats Home has advised that it's important owners limit their 'pawternity leave' to just a few days as otherwise their pet may get used to having you around.

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**What do you need to do?**

• If you have pets and need house-sitters - Register on our site as a 'homeowner' and provide photos and general information about your location

**PETS: Organise care.**

and what needs to be done in your assignment. If you register as a Premium Homeowner for £75 per year we help you at every step.

• If you have experience with home and pet care and want to house-sit in Spain or abroad - Register as a 'house-sitter,' build a profile with photos and describe how you think you can help homeowners with pets. Choose a Premium plan for £75 per year, you can build a large profile with more prominence online.

**Save**

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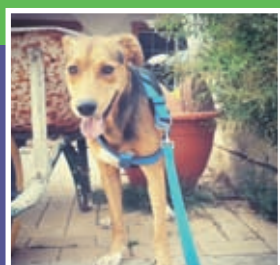
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Quote of the Week***Driving a Reliant Robin is about as dangerous as inviting your mum over for an evening on ChatRoulette."**Some might say...*

MORE than half of all new cars sold in Norway in 2017 were electric or hybrid models.

Zero-emission cars made up a fifth, while hybrids accounted for a third of all sales, said the Norwegian Road Federation.

The stats put Norway firmly at the front of the electric revolution.

The Scandinavian nation is planning to ensure that all new cars sold are entirely electric by 2025.

Meanwhile the UK plans to ban petrol and diesel by 2040. Norwegians are buying green cars in record numbers for several reasons.

Drivers of electric vehicles enjoy lower road taxes, free use of ferries and tolls, and free parking.

They can recharge their cars freely and can use bus lanes alongside taxis.

One of the world's wealthiest countries, critics attacked Norway for giving tax cuts to some

# Northern light Norway goes green



**TOP UP:** Teslas rule the roost in Norway.

of its richest citizens, who could drive an expensive Tesla Model X on the bus lane while paying almost no tax.

A controversial Tesla tax was introduced on electric vehicles weighing over 2,000 kilos, but quickly scrapped.

Norway is the biggest oil producer in Western Europe but also produces 98 per cent of its electricity from hydropower, making electric cars clean and reliable.

The only hurdle in the way of achieving the 2025 goal is manufacturing might.

It takes longer to produce electric cars and, while demand might be rising, sceptics wonder whether car makers can keep up.

There are now long waiting lists for electric cars and delivery schedules are notoriously lengthy.

But the Norwegian experiment will be watched keenly by other European nations.

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**SLEEK:** New Renault Koleos a hot addition to SUV market.

## Stylish SUVs hit market

### Sleek and affordable

THE luxury division in the SUV market has been heating up with Bentley, Jaguar, Range Rover and Audi vying for supremacy. But more affordable options are now on the market with the release of Renault's latest five-seater Koleos and the new look seven-seater Sorento from Kia.

The Koleos is by no means cheap, with a starting price of £27,500 (€30,900). Renault offers drivers a lot of bang for their buck with ample space compensating for less seats than the average SUV. The boot can be expanded to 1,690 litres.

For those keen on their gadgets, Renault offers an upgrade on the Koleos, the Initiale Paris line, which begins at £36,700 (€41,200).

For the extra 10 grand drivers get heated Nappa leather seats, an infotainment system with Apple CarPlay, TomTom satellite navigation, LED headlights, a panoramic

sunroof which opens and a 13-speaker Bose stereo. There's a spare wheel, automatic parking sensors and even cup holders which can be heated and chilled.

The Initiale Paris comes powered by a 2.0 litre dCi 175 turbodiesel engine with an all-wheel drive and automatic gearbox. Deliveries start in spring.

Kia's popular Sorento has been given a sporty GT-Line Series for 2018. This large SUV boasts all-black leather seats, LED headlamps, twin exhausts and an eight-speed automatic gearbox, with a six-speed manual alternative available.

There is a 2.2 litre CRDi turbodiesel engine. Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are available on all models and the SUV retains Kia's trademark ice cube fog lights. Prices range from £28,995 (€32,600) to £41,995 (€47,200) for the GT-Line S automatic.

## German efficiency

WHILE British production took a hit with lower domestic demand in 2017, German manufacturers are reaping a bumper harvest.

Volkswagen revealed that it has shaken off the emissions scandal, producing a record-breaking six million vehicles last year alone. They were built in 50 factories worldwide.

Last year brought Volkswagen's total production since the first post-war civilian Beetle debuted in 1946 to 150 million vehicles. The figures don't include production from other brands under the VK umbrella,

including Audi, Seat and Skoda.

Meanwhile in Munich, BMW celebrated the production of its 100,000th electric car

in 2017 by lighting up its 100-metre-tall headquarters. Electric cars now account for 7 per cent of all BMW sales in Western Europe and the United States.

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## British favourites

BRITAIN'S biggest used car website Auto Trader has revealed its most searched for used cars of 2017.

The BMW 3 Series was the most searched for car for the seventh year running as the British public's love affair with the German classic. It beat stiff competition from the Volkswagen Golf, which is also one of the UK's most popular new cars.

The mid-size Mercedes Benz C-Class scooped third spot, making an all-German top three. The Ford Focus came in fourth, proving more popular second-hand than the Fiesta, which leads Britain's new car sales.

Fifth spot was another BMW, this time the 1 Series. The rest of the top 10 was made up by the BMW 5 Series, Ford Fiesta, Audi A3, Mercedes Benz E-Class, and the evergreen Vauxhall Astra.

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Automatic, Petrol  
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**WINNERS:** The Bronze category champions.

## Campoamor welcomes TMGS into 2018

ALMOST 50 members and guests turned up for TMGS' usual early start only to be greeted with strong winds very similar to the previous week's visit to Alenda.

However, due to Campoamor being closer to the coast, the golf course was playable. Members found that the course was playing at almost its full length and that after a long absence; the sixth green was now back in play.

The course was in good condition and what you saw as green was actually grass and not paint! The greens were extremely fast causing a few putting problems for some but all-in-all provided a good challenge.

The two's pot has rolled over and now contains €175. This

was a belated Christmas present to our German member Hermes Woerdemann, it was his first competition with the society since last spring and he was the only player to make a two.

### Results:

#### NTP's

Hole 4 C Kinnerfeldt, hole 6 T Norris, Hole 10 J Dean, hole 15 NADA, hole 17 B Gillies.

#### Best Visitors

2nd PLars 28 pts.

1st Mrs C. Kinnerfeldt 30 pts.

**Bronze cat:** 3rd A Goslan 28 pts, 2nd Mrs K Alm 28 pts. L/H, 1st J Hillier 32 pts.

**Silver cat:** 3rd A Rickers 26 pts, 2nd J Hettrick 31 pts. 1st A Kilnes 36 pts.

**Gold cat:** 3rd K Winton 28 pts, 2nd C Landaas 33 pts. 1st B Gillies 34 pts.

## Carp-R-us frustrated in round five

DUE to the poor state of the Rio Segura at Eden stretch the club fished round five of the Winter Series on the canal near Mercadona on the N332.

Again, despite near perfect weather conditions (24° and light wind), the fishing was hard.

First was Steve Fell with 4.42 kg of carp and mullet caught on bread, second was Roy Butress with 2.94 kg of carp on corn, third Tom Marshall with 1.10 kg and fourth Jeremy Fardoe with 0.84 kg.

The club is always keen to get new members. For anyone interested in joining the club, contact the secretary, Steve Fell, on 634 379 081.

Further information about the club can be found on its website: [www.carp-r-us.weebly.com](http://www.carp-r-us.weebly.com), or on the Facebook page: Carp-R-Us Fishing Costa Blanca.

## Schalke train in Benidorm

THE German football team FC Schalke 04 have been relaxing in Benidorm for their winter break.

The Bundesliga high-flyers have been doing warm winter training in the town.

Schalke boast various international players, including former Tottenham midfielder Nabil Bentaleb and loanee winger Marko Pjaca.

Former Belgium manager Marc Wilmots also used to play for the club, who have regularly featured in the Champions League and Europa League competitions in recent years.

They are currently second in the German League, but remain 11 points behind leaders Bayern.

The Bundesliga takes a winter break to allow players to recuperate during the season. This year's break will end tomorrow (Friday).



Twitter/FC Schalke 04

**BANISHING THE BLUES:** Schalke doing warm weather training in Benidorm.

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PHILIPPE COUTINHO has officially signed for Barcelona for a fee that could reportedly total €160 million. The Brazilian was officially presented at a ceremony held at the Camp Nou on Monday after passing a medical.

Costa Blanca's best guide to local sport

TO READ MORE

## Rock 'n' Roll for Jose

MANCHESTER UNITED'S Premier League's fixture against struggling Stoke City at Old Trafford will be just another 'rock 'n' roll' day for Red's gaffer Jose Mourinho.

"The king of the rock and roll said I was underperforming," said Mourinho.

Ex-Real Madrid boss Mourinho, who enters the final 12 months of his existing annual £12m deal this summer, has pointed the finger at Oasis star Noel Gallagher, fan of arch rivals Manchester City.

Gallagher aired his views after City's 2-1 win against United in December: "It's payback time. Respect to the United fans who clapped Pep Guardiola.



### UKSPORTSCENE

with Andrew Atkinson

"They know they've seen something special. The hypocrisy of the man (Mourinho) is staggering," said Gallagher, referring to Mourinho's post-match comments, which

took issue with the nature of City's win.

United, who host Stoke on Monday, have invoked options to extend the contracts

**WILL HE STAY?:**  
Mourinho has said he wants to extend his stay at Manchester United.



## 'Rocket Ronnie' still potting balls, not plants

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN who won a record seventh Masters title in 2017 when defeating Joe Perry 10-7 in the final at London's Alexandra Palace, says: "It's just a job.

"I still like playing, but for me it's just a job," said O'Sullivan, in his 26th year on the green baize, who plays Marco Fu on January 16.

O'Sullivan, who has earned his nickname as 'The Rocket' with 31 ranking tournament wins, won the UK Snooker Championship in December, potting another £450,000 first prize.

"It's not always about the money," said Sullivan, edging towards a milestone £10m career winnings, following his bow on the green baize in 1992. World Champion in 2001, 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2013, Sullivan pocketed the £200,000

first prize, when successfully defending his 2016 Masters title, superseding Stephen Hendry's six Masters wins.

"It is great to get some records. To win seven, someone up there is looking after me," said O'Sullivan, who once told me he'd rather be potting plants, than balls.

All Masters matches, up to and including the Semi Finals, will be best of 11 frames. The Final is best of 19 frames. Draw: January 14: Mark Allen v Luca Brecel; Mark Selby v Mark Williams. January 15: Ding Junhui v Ryan Day; Judd Trump v Liang Wenbo. January 16: Ronnie O'Sullivan v Marco Fu; Barry Hawkins v Kyren Wilson. January 17: Shaun Murphy v Ali Carter; John Higgins v Anthony McGill.

of Juan Mata, Ander Herrera, Ashley Young and Daley Blind until the end of next season.

Bestikas are linked with Marouane Fellaini, 30, out of contract at the end of the season. Fellaini, who joined United in 2013 in a £27.5m move from Everton, has rejected a

new contract.

United executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward and Mourinho's advisers are set for talks over extending his stay: "My commitment is total and I want to stay," said Mourinho.

Premier League fixtures: Saturday: Spurs v Everton; New-

castle v Swansea; Chelsea v Leicester; Crystal Palace v Burnley; Huddersfield v WHU; WBA v Brighton; Watford v Southampton. Sunday: Bournemouth v Arsenal; Liverpool v Manchester City. Monday: Manchester United v Stoke.

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