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ISSUE No. 1697 || 11 - 17 January 2018 **COSTA BLANCA SOUTH » YOUR PAPER, YOUR VOICE, YOUR OPINION** WWW.EUROWEEKLYNEWS.COM

Guardia Civil officers have reportedly saved the life of a 65-year-old Swede in Torrevieja, who was found unconscious and bleeding in his own home.

According to Spanish media reports, the man was found bleeding from the mouth after a neighbour had expressed concerns about his welfare.

Having confirmed that he was not in hospital, police were authorised to enter the property.

Firefighters accessed the front of the building before the man was found lying on the floor in a worrying condition.

The neighbour who phoned police reported their concerns because they had not seen the man in three days, despite music playing and lights being on inside the house.

Police entered the Torrevieja property in the early hours of Monday morning, within two and a half hours of the initial report being made.

A Guardia Civil source

Lifesavers Police heroes hailed



SAVED: The man was rescued from his Torrevieja home by the Guardia Civil (inset).

told *Diario Informacion*: "it has been possible to save the life of a man of Swedish nationality who

lived in Spain, who was transferred urgently by the health services to the Hospital of Torrevieja."

No further details are known about the man's condition and his identity has not been disclosed.

Man 'faked' own car theft

A MAN who allegedly simulated the theft of his own car has been arrested, according to Spanish media reports.

National Police are accusing the 35-year-old of pretending to be a robbery victim, in order to hide the evidence of a drunken Elche crash he was responsible for.

The man appeared at the National Police station in Elche in early December to report the alleged robbery, but evidence subsequently came to light suggesting all was not as it seemed.

According to translated reports, the man claimed that the friend of a woman he had met had put a knife to his stomach and stolen his car, after allegedly arriving to buy cocaine.

Police reportedly said that the vehicle, which was later found parked, was badly damaged.

Coupled with 'inconsistencies' in the man's story, police became suspicious and began collecting reports of traffic incidents near the car's location and attempted to gather witness accounts.

A witness statement subsequently placed the alleged

theft victim at the scene of the Elche incident.

After crashing the car against a parked vehicle, the

witness allegedly saw the 35-year-old man running 'at great speed' and 'in apparent drunkenness' away from the scene.

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Go to page 37

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.

House fire

AN Aguilas house fire left a 30-year-old woman badly burned, according to reports. Firefighters rescued the lady from her Calle del Aire de Aguilas home on Tuesday morning, before being taken to hospital.

Divorce up

DIVORCE and separation among the over 65s are rising in Murcia, according to Spanish media data. The statistics, from 2016, are not compatible with 2015, but show a significant increase.

Red light

THE driver of a vehicle that hit two others at a Murcia red light tested positive for alcohol, according to Spanish media. Police said the 40-year-old man had a 0.32 reading. No one was injured.

By Harrison Jones

MARGO JENKINS is finally set to be reimbursed after being 'illegally' evicted from her El Galan home in mid-October.

The aggressive late night encounter - which allegedly occurred despite the 56-year-old Scot paying a month's rent in advance - made Mrs Jenkins feel "afraid and vulnerable" and that her "Spanish dream" was over.

She told *Euro Weekly News* that she was left "shaking with fear" after the landlord, who she did not know, turned up at her house demanding she leave, at 1.30am on October 15.

But this week, the agency is set to repay €325 worth of rent for October, as a 'gesture of goodwill.' The payment was delayed by the Christmas period.

"I'm glad it's over," she said.

However, it seems highly unlikely that the deposit will be returned.

The agency says the landlord is responsible for the deposit, that a sofa was left unclean and that there were holes in the wall. Mrs Jenkins - who has returned to Scotland following the incident - claims that given the rush to evict her she did not have time to use her steam cleaner on the sofa.

"The deposit annoys me as I deliberately keep places good, as you need the money for your next place.

'Glad it's over'

Evicted expat to finally be repaid

"I only had two hours to pack and leave - I didn't have a chance to leave it tidy so it was not my fault," she said.

A spokesperson for the agency added: "I don't hold the deposit, the owner does, (they) will not give it back due to the sofa being damaged and dirty. That's the last contact I've had with (them)."

The landlord has not replied to multiple requests for comment.

According to Mrs Jenkins, 56, her landlord arrived at the rented property unannounced three months ago



REPAID: Margo Jenkins is still unlikely to get her deposit back.

and began rattling the grate, demanding that she open the door and leave.

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

She labelled the incident "very frightening and intimidating, also bullying," and has since returned to Glasgow, where she feels safer.

The deposit was previously reported as €700, but is actually €325.

The agency involved said they had "no control over what the owner did" and were planning to take legal action against them.

Speaking about the owner's actions, the agency previously told *Euro Weekly News*: "The owner never once told me that (they) were coming in the early hours of the morning and that (they) would be needing to stay in the apartment, nor did (they) say (they) would be asking her to leave at this time."

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Murcia Burial of Sardine Saturday 7th April 13€			

TV GUIDE

Your weekly guide to the UK's best television



P42

TV COUCH CRITIC

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



P53

LETTERS

Readers' views on eclectic topics in print and online. P55

HOMES & GARDENS

INSPIRATION AND INFORMATION FOR INSIDE AND OUT P75



P75

Drunken disorderly

NATIONAL POLICE arrested a 72-year-old man after he allegedly threatened another driver with a rapier cane over a parking space, according to Spanish media. The elderly road-rager reportedly ploughed into a parked vehicle while fleeing, 'emanated an intense smell of alcohol' and 'babbled when speaking.'

Fire escape

NO-ONE was injured after a spectacular fifth-floor fire in an Alicante parking lot last weekend. The midnight rooftop blaze burnt out one car and partially damaged another, according to reports, but 10 fire-fighters extinguished the flames before they spread from Pablo Churches Street.

Drugs bar

POLICE seized 83 grams of cocaine and hashish when they arrested a 66-year-old Spanish man on suspicion of selling drugs in his Alicante bar, according to Spanish media. The majority of the drugs were found in the elderly man's home, alongside €380 in cash.

Disabled entries

ELCHE'S accessibility for disabled people is gradually improving - but still inadequate - according to an analysis by 'Diario Informacion.' The survey claims two out of every 10 shops are inaccessible for wheelchair users. Sixty-five per cent of 322 surveyed establishments had ground-level access or a ramp.

Tram track

THE TRAM d'Alacant put on around 155,500 services last year - running up an eye-opening total travel distance of 3,017,845 kilometres - according to a reported estimate. The data assumes an average of 425 circulations per day on the five FGV-run lines in the

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.

PLUS THE REGULARS

News
1 - 34

Finance
35

Leapy
41

Time Out
59 - 62

Health & Beauty
63 - 67

Social
68 - 71

Property
72 - 73

Services
77 - 81

Classifieds
82 - 84

Motoring
85

Sports
87 - 88

Alicante area.

Child saved

ELCHE firefighters have saved the life of a 13-year-old girl who was

locked in her house when a blaze started in the early hours of Saturday morning, according to reports in the Spanish press. The girl, who was home alone, reportedly suffered smoke inhalation.

188

The total number of news and features which appeared in Issue 1696 of the Euro Weekly News Costa Blanca South edition, including 69 local stories.

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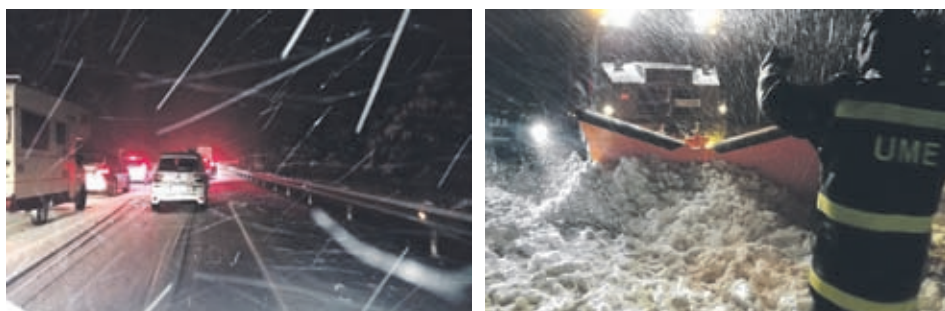


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Snow joke!



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

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No choke: Sweet policeman saves child

A HEROIC Local Policeman performed the Heimlich manoeuvre on an Elche child who was a little overenthusiastic about eating their Kings' Day sweets.

According to reports in the Spanish media, the eight-year-old was choking on a sweet during last Friday's parades, before the policeman intervened.

During Spain's Festival of the Three Kings, countless sweets are thrown to onlookers as parades go through the streets of the country.

Local Police say the officer abandoned his police car to save the child.

No further details are known about the youngster.

More than 90,000 people attended the Elche event, according to the police, who say the festivities otherwise passed without a hitch.

Car thief locked up

A MAN accused of a spate of nine robberies has been arrested in Guardamar del Segura, according to Spanish media reports.

Alicante's Guardia Civil reportedly apprehended the man on suspicion of nine thefts from inside cars and on one count of fraud.

The 41-year-old is alleged to have stolen documentation from one of the cars and used the details to sign a mobile phone contract on a phone worth €800, according to the translated report.

He is thought to have used a similar methodology in each of the robberies - smashing a window of the car with a sharp instrument at around noon and reaching inside to steal goods.

An owner surprised the man during one incident, and - though he was not caught at the time - the description allowed police to identify him.

Officers gained a search warrant for the man's home and found various stolen items inside, according to Spanish media.



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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.



TOGETHER AGAIN?: Gary and Julie-Ann.



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.

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/Instagram

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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Sweet herb haul

Huge hash stash in Lorca veg

NATIONAL POLICE have arrested a Lorca resident on suspicion of drug trafficking, after allegedly finding more than 600 kilos of hashish in their truck.

According to reports in the Spanish press, police intercepted the truck in Albacete - on its way to France - and discovered 640 kilos of the narcotic alongside the vegetables it was legally transporting.

Investigations reportedly began several months ago.

No details have been reported about the person, but they are thought to have a job transporting goods over long distances, often to France.



WEEDED OUT: Police found the drugs in a vegetable transport.

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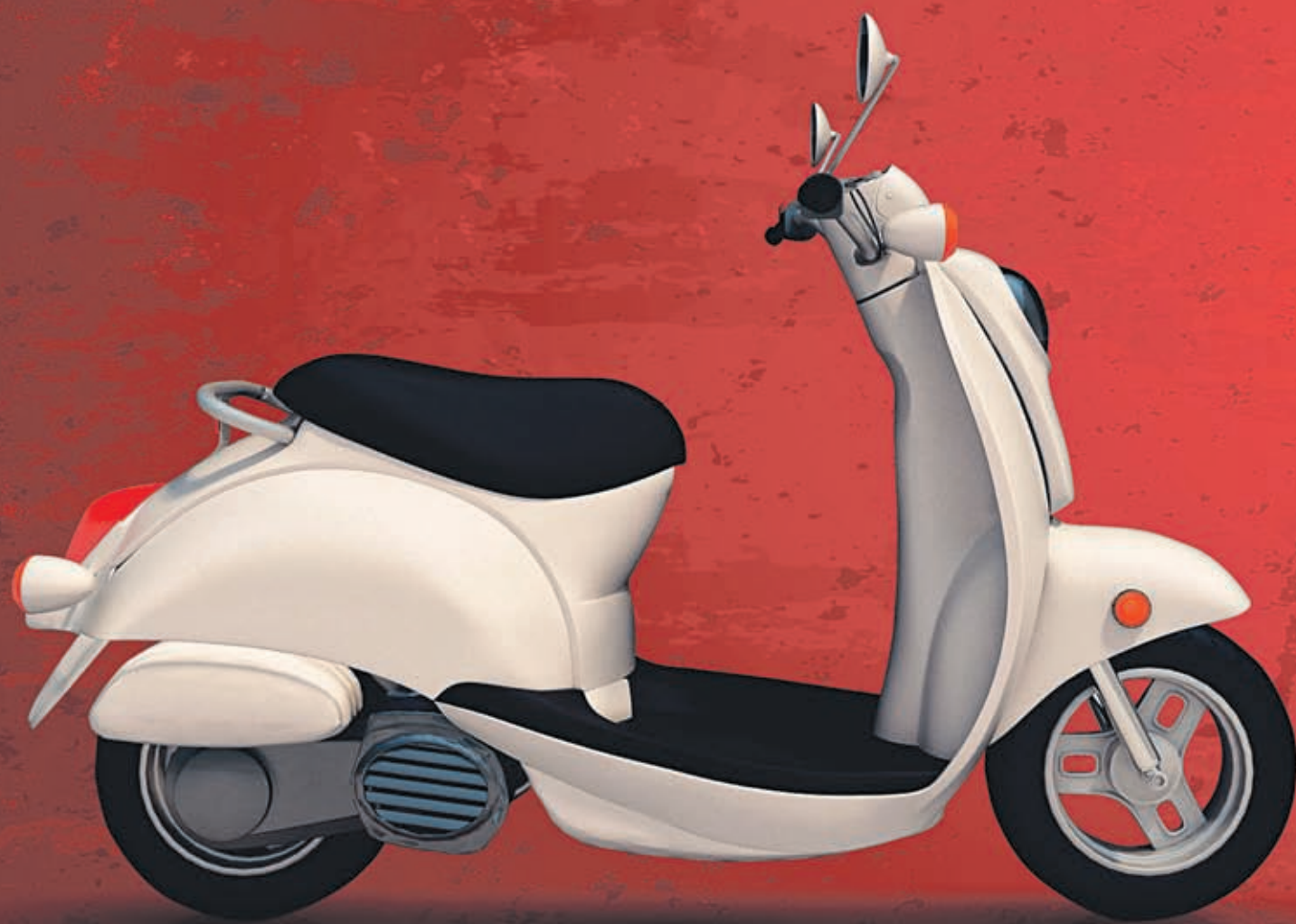
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OUR VIEW

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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Three Kings' celebrations sweeten up Costa Blanca

CITIES, towns and smallholdings across the Costa Blanca south region have been celebrating the traditional Spanish Festival of the Three Kings in style.

On the eve of the day local children are given their Christmas presents, Three Kings' Day parades flocked through the streets of virtually all towns - however small.

The January 5 event saw the Three Kings head up jolly and sometimes bizarre parades marching through the streets, though some revellers again attracted criticism for the practice of 'blacking up.'

Traditionally known as the epiphany, the festival celebrates the adoration of the baby Jesus by Melchior, Gaspar and Baltazar.

But to many children, the day could be seen as a sugar fest. Coupled with the sugary Roscon del Reyes cake, count-



GRAND: Cartagena's main square.

less sweets are thrown into the crowds as the processions pass through.

Fancy dress costumes included Nemo from the popular children's film 'Finding Nemo,' Spiderman, jellyfish and countless others.

In Alicante, a colourful parade saw the kings visit the pier,

bullring and main streets of the city. As is traditional, they distributed presents to numerous young children as well as mountains of sweets.

One of the Alicante Kings was controversially 'blacked up'; as were countless revellers across the region. The practice is considered traditional and in-

offensive by many Spaniards but has been heavily criticised as racist in more recent years.

Like in Alicante, the Kings arrived by boat to the port of Torrevieja, where hundreds of families greeted them.

The mayor of Murcia tweeted a video of 'ballet dancers' in elaborate gold costumes parading through the city, followed by golden angels with enormous fake wings.

The city's three kings also visited local hospitals and sang to sick children staying in the venue during the festival.

Cartagena's festival saw the Kings begin their journey earlier than most, as thousands turned out to look up at them on a balcony in the main square.

The Kings interacted with children and collected letters until around 2pm.

Meanwhile, in Elche, a policeman saved a young child from choking on a sweet.

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'Unethical' Alicante mayor 'taking advantage'

By Harrison Jones

ALICANTE'S mayor has been criticised after reportedly raising the salary of one of his advisors, who is accused of financial infringements.

Lalo Diez - who advises the socialist mayor Gabriel Echavarri - has seen his wage increase despite question marks over his involvement in controversial contracts in December 2016.

The mayor was also involved in the case.

Another local political group, Guanyar Alacant, has said the raise is "unethical" and "nonsense," according to translated reports.

The group were previously in coalition with the mayor's party.

"From Guanyar we consider that the provision of department heads and directors-managers of municipal boards must be done through the procedure of merit and not



Credit: gecharri/twitter

CRITICISED: Mayor Echavarri speaking at an event last month.

through the free designation," spokesman Miguel Angel Pavon said.

"Municipal sources" have reportedly told Spanish media that the justification for the increase in Diez's salary is that he now has more responsibilities and work.

A Popular Party (PP) representative, Luis Barcala, added: "Mayor Echavarri has taken advantage of his votes to get

the investiture and now does what he wants, going absolutely from the agreements to which he committed his former partners to get the stick of command.

"Now Pavon can say what (he) wants, but should also ask the citizens for forgiveness for allowing Echavarri, the head of a party list that was not even the most voted in Alicante, (to take) power."

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Seasonal employment boost

UNEMPLOYMENT in the Murcia region fell by 6.87 per cent in 2017, according to the Ministry of Employment and Social Security.

At the end of December, 108,599 people were reportedly registered with the Murcian Employment Service - a fall of 2.5 per cent compared with November.

Seasonal work over the festive period is

thought to be responsible for the encouraging figures.

However, the yearly fall in Murcia's unemployment rate is slightly down on the national average - which shows a 7.84 per cent drop over 12 months. The number of unemployed people in Spain has dropped for the last five years in a row.

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Aguilas opens up galleon for visitors

A REPLICA galleon of one of the Spanish ships that travelled to the Americas during the colonial era docked in Aguilas on Tuesday.

And the Galeon Andalucia is now open to visitors until Sunday.

A walking tour with an audio guide is available, alongside dozens of exhibits, videos, projections and historical documents. Current crew members - who live on board - are said to be available to chat to.

Reportedly 55 metres long, with a surface area of 930 metres squared, the impressive vessel has seven sails and five decks.

The Spanish 'treasure fleet' connected the nation with its territories in the Americas and the Caribbean, from the mid 1500s to late 1700s. They transported various goods, notably tobacco, silk, sugar, spices and valuable stones.

Having arrived from Malaga, the ship opened its decks to sightseers on Wednesday.

Built in 2009, the galleon has sailed thousands of miles across the world, though never



Credit: Twitter/AYUNTAGUILAS

PLAIN SAILING: It is the first time the ship has docked in Aguilas.

before to Aguilas.

As an 'authentic floating museum', it has been to countless countries, including Sri Lanka, Oman, Singapore, Malta, Puerto Rico, China and Turkey.

Tickets costs €6 for adults and €3 for children and can be purchased on the door.

Visiting hours at the Espigon del Puerto Pesquero de Aguilas are 10am - 7pm. Photography is allowed.

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MURCIA is facing a health crisis as medical services struggle to cope with the huge spike in flu cases, according to reports.

The number of cases in the Murcia region reportedly hit nearly 10 times the level officially required to be classed as an epidemic earlier this week.

The Director General of Health Assistance at the Murcian Health Service, Roque Martinez, reportedly said the service is "in a critical situation," due to the sudden influx of patients.

Extra staff have been brought in to deal with the additional flu cases, which have come at a bad time for staffing levels, especially over the festive season.

According to Spanish media, 1,027 cases were reported in Murcia between December 18 and 24, followed by some 3,765 diagnoses between December 25 and 31. And on Tuesday alone, 1,461 cases were reported by the regional health service.

Spain is hit by winter flu most years, but this year appears to be particularly bad. Last week, a national

Fighting flu

Health services facing 'critical situation'



JAB: Vaccines are available from pharmacies and are free for many.

epidemic was declared, with 55 cases being reported per 100,000 people.

During the worst week last year, 230 cases were reported per 100,000. Tuesday's figures account for 500 cases per 100,000.

Last week, the *Euro Weekly News* reported that the figures are expected to spike at the end of January.

More than a hundred extra personnel have been drafted into Virgen de la Arrixaca; Santa Lucia; Reina Sofia and Morales Meseguer hospitals.

Hospital emergency departments in the region have also recorded a huge spike in patient numbers, according to reports, which also suggest some operations have been cancelled.

Emergency departments handled over 50 per cent more patients than they would on an average day on Tuesday, though bank holidays will also have increased numbers.

Free vaccinations are available for all at risk groups. Those who are not eligible can purchase jabs cheaply over the counter at pharmacies.

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Lightning strikes twice for lucky lottery family

A BENIJOFAR family are once again celebrating an extraordinary lottery victory, after winning €750,000 at the weekend, according to reports.

Encouraged by an El Gordo Christmas raffle win in a local shop, the group bought an additional nine tickets for the draw on the Day of the Three Kings - and won €75,000 on each.

Over 20 members of the family, said to be of Romani ethnicity, celebrated their second lottery victory in a month outside the venue - following their December 22 raffle win of €6,000.

Held on Ramon y Cajal Street, their 'little party' featured Champagne, children and a baby - and was led by the matriarch.

The owner of the tobacconist shop where the tickets were bought, Fernando Pomares, told *Europa Press* of the "indescribable" feeling of bringing luck to



FIRST PLACE: The broadcast of the winning numbers, before the family's ticket came up.

the small town near Alicante.

The vending machine behind the family's victories is thought to be one of only two in Spain to distribute a winning number so widely.

Their lucky number, 18,422, was also bought in various other locations, including one in Alameda, Malaga.

The second place prize in the 'El Nino' lottery bettered the group's fifth place finish just before Christmas.

In the El Gordo lottery, their lucky number was 22,253.

The Three Kings' raffle was held at the Lienzo Norte de Ávila Exhibition and Congress, where €630 million was dis-

tributed in prizes, through hundreds of thousands of tickets, 35 per cent of which were prize winning.

An additional €70 million worth of takings is used by the Spanish government on social spending, according to El Gordo, the group responsible for the Spanish lottery.

War of words risks Cartagena political collapse

AN extraordinary war of words has reportedly broken out between political partners in Cartagena, leaving the administration in danger of collapse.

The former and current mayors, Jose Lopez Martinez and Ana Belen Castejon are in coalition.

But furious disagreements have now left the future of the city's local authority in doubt.

The PSOE mayor, Ms Castejon, said "insults and threats" aimed at her ended a 'political marriage' with Lopez Martinez's Ciudadano party, according to translated reports in the Spanish media.

Mr Lopez Martinez, who was mayor last year, is reported to have called Ms Castejon "abusive" and "incapable or corrupt," over an "irregular" agreement to reduce water bills by 8 per cent.

Appearing to call for her resignation, he added that she "does not know what she is doing" and had "placed herself at the feet of Hidrogea" (the company related to the bills).

Responding to the comments, Ms Castejon refused to rule out taking Mr Lopez to court.

"These last insults and threats of Lopez have not been the cause of the break of the pact, but one more drop that has filled the glass," she said.

She promised to maintain stability in the city.

The next steps for the Murcian local authority were unclear at the time of going to print.

Ms Castejon's term finishes next year.



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MODEL 720 : DECLARATION OF ASSETS AND OWNERSHIP OVERSEAS

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

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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€.**

Failure to meet this tax liability might be penalised by the Spanish tax.

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Tourism director praised with wage increase

COSTA BLANCA'S Tourism Board director has been reappointed with an increased wage, after passing a series of tests in front of two other candidates, according to a Spanish report.

Jose Francisco Mancebo's salary will increase by €10,000.

The president of the Provincial Council, Cesar Sanchez, agreed to the rise last November, which was approved by the board of directors virtually unanimously - with only one abstention - ac-

cording to the translated report.

The body's bylaws reportedly had to be changed to allow the increase.

The director reportedly passed a series of oral and written tests in front of two other candidates to be reappointed, after his role expired on New Year's Day.

The appointment is official-

ly signed by the vice president of the Provincial Council and Tourism Deputy, Eduardo Dolon.

The designation document includes a list of alleged merits, experience and knowledge of languages that have made Mancebo "the most suitable candidate for his knowledge of the tourism sector and English proficiency."



Photo Credit: Twitter/Anabelmateos

WORTH IT? Mancebo speaking earlier this year.

NEWS EXTRA

Cat cars

ELCHE police warned drivers to be wary of cats hiding under car bonnets. Tweeting an adorable picture of a kitten in a car engine, the force told residents to be particularly cautious on cold days.

Coastal aid

ORIHUELA Town Hall is reported to be spending €240,000 on repairing coastal walkways. Frequent landslides cause disruption to beaches but the local authority are using walls and mesh wiring to halt problems.

Record stays

MURCIA City Council expects the final figures for overnight stays in the region to exceed 700,000. Though December data remains unavailable, the local authority believes the tally will top 730,000.

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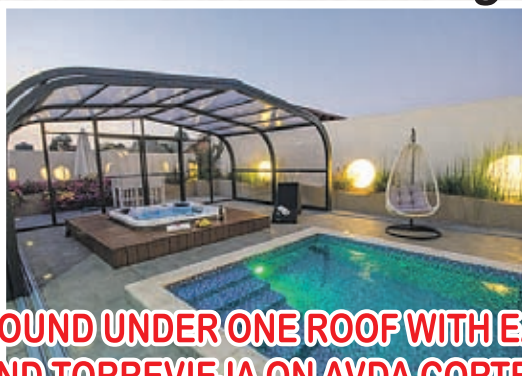
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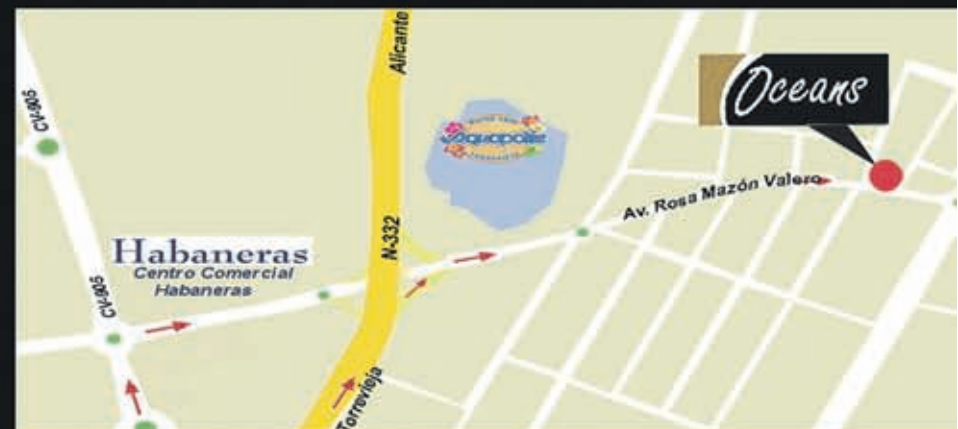
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PROGRESS: Demonstrators protest against unemployment in Valencia in 2011.

UNEMPLOYMENT fell by 8 per cent in the Valencian community in 2017, according to the Ministry of Employment and Social Security.

Around 385,000 people are still unemployed in the area, according to reports.

Roughly 225,000 are women and 160,000 are men, while 28,000 are under 25.

In Alicante, there was a reduction in unemployment of 6.9 per cent over the year, while in Valencia it hit 8.6 per cent.

Across the country, unemployment fell by 7.8 per cent, with Valencia seeing the fourth largest decline, beaten only by Andalucia, Cataluña and Madrid.

Enric Nomdedeu, the regional secretary of Em-

Ending the year on a high

ployment and Labour, labelled the data 'positive' and heralded job creation in the area.

"The region has closed the year with positive and hopeful employment figures," he said, arguing that "the behaviour of the labour market is better in the Valencian Community than in the rest

of Spain."

Others have offered more cautious responses.

The UGT union claimed that the fall in unemployment was "based on temporary and precarious jobs."

The CSIF union welcomed the news but called for measures to de-seasonalise employment, to avoid an increase in unemployment in January, after the Christmas season.

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GRAPE IMPORTANCE: The debate about Cava production in Valencia.

Advice bubbling away

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Environment, Climate Change and Rural Development has urged another government department to set aside 400 hectares of Valencian land for Cava vineyard developments.

The government published the statement, from one ministry to another - the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and the Environment - last week.

The regional secretary for Agriculture and Rural Development, Francisco Rodríguez Mulero, is reviewing the application.

An additional 200 hectares is reportedly being applied for, to go alongside the 700 hectares already registered for Cava production before October 2017.

The proposals also aim to protect the

rights of the Valencian farmers requesting the plantation.

Regional secretary Rodríguez Mulero is insisting on incorporating the areas included in vineyard restructuring plans, which are for a period of five years and conclude in June 2018.

He pointed out that this decision limits the growth of the Valencian Cava sector and asked the ministry to reconsider the liberalisation of the Cava market, as requested by pressure groups.

Rodríguez Mulero has reportedly offered to discuss the situation with the Ministry. The secretary believes it should be the Association of Manufacturers of Cava de Requena and the market which decides the future of Valencia's Cava.

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NEWS EXTRA**Wining buyers**

WINE lovers were upset to learn that the traditional weekly wine market in Lorca did not take place last Saturday. The town hall plonked the blame on the Day of the Three Kings.

Stall licences

MARKET STALL owners in Cartagena have until **February 28** to extend their licences, according to the town hall. The authority announced the opening of licence applications via Twitter.

Lorca run

THE New Year's Eve San Silvestre Lorca run reportedly raised €3,450 for ASLEP, an organisation dedicated to helping Parkinson's disease sufferers. The money will go towards high-tech equipment, according to Spanish media.

Funding divisions?

THE pro-unity Ciudadanos party has asked the Valencian Council to explain the reasons behind subsidising independent Catalan media.

According to reports, the party's education spokeswoman Merche Ventura said: "We want to study the documentation and we will be vigilant about any possible negligence."

Ms Ventura, a Valencian politician, claims this is an example of the "sectarian" policies of the regional government.

Speaking in the Corts Valencianes last week, she continued: "it is inconceivable that public money of all Valencians be allocated to Catalan-speaking entities, six of which, among those that had more than €120,000 in aid, had blocked the economic support of the Generalitat de Catalunya with the application of article 155."

Last month, Catalan separatists held on to their majority in regional elections, after declaring independence following an illegal referendum. There is an independence movement in Valencia, but it is far less vocal.

Ms Ventura added that "it is essen-

tial to promote the language of Valencians, but this has nothing to do with supporting platforms that only foster the confrontation between Spanish society and that in no way contribute to the Valencian Community.

"In addition, in this game, it has been left out or with a lower budget to Valencian means," she said, claiming that this had happened before.

She argued: "The PP, in its more than 20 years of government, already granted aid to this type of means, but, the situation has worsened considerably with the Botanist, which has tripled these subsidies."

Ventura claimed the money was being used for partisan purposes and could have been spent on other areas like education.

"What about the definitive elimination of barracks in schools or the reinforcement of the special education units?," she asked, accusing director Marza of being more concerned about appeasing pro-Catalan media than improving Valencian education.

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GOING OVERBOARD: The youngster had a lucky escape from Cartagena's waters.

Drunken youngster fished from harbour

A DRUNKEN 20-year-old was taken to hospital last week after falling into the water in Cartagena's port, according to reports.

The youngster was reportedly suffering from hypothermia, but further details are not known.

According to Spanish media, the youngster was rescued from the sea near the Yacht Club in the port in Cartagena at around 3.30am last Thursday.

They were taken to Santa Lucia hospital.

Police reportedly carried out a further search of the area but found no one else in the water.

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Port ignores government order

THE Port Authority of Alicante (APA) has ignored an order by the Environment Ministry to suspend activity, according to reports in the Spanish press.

In addition to the suspen-

sion, APA was also reportedly fined €70,000 for failing to adopt corrective measures.

According to the translated report, the APA ignored the order ahead of an ap-

peal it has filed to the Superior Court of Justice.

The 'Platform Against Toxic Port Discharges' allegedly called the Guardia Civil on Thursday to report that activity was continuing

despite the order.

One of the group's representatives, Jose Santamaria, told Spanish media that police told them "we had to prove that the order existed."

The groups were set to provide documentation last week.

The controversy surrounds a number of screens being erected which could protect local residents from polluting particles which are feared to be a health hazard.

The port are calling for an investigation to "demonstrate that the screens exceed the height of the bulk," according to media reports.

The original order, signed by Joan Piquer, the general director of Climate Change and Environmental Quality, will no longer be valid when the screens meet certain requirements.

Allegedly it is not the first time that APA has ignored such sanctions.

A previous order, from Miguel Angel Pavon, was ignored, with loading and unloading continuing in the port. The order was later annulled by a court.

NEWS EXTRA

Compost campaign

ALICANTE'S town hall is continuing an awareness campaign to get residents to dispose of waste in the correct containers. The initiative aims to separate organic material for composting from ordinary rubbish.

Jobs boast

CREVILLENT Town Hall has announced the largest public employment offer in recent years, according to Spanish media. However, only 24 roles are up for grabs, half with the police.

Party police

ELCHE's Local Police are congratulating themselves for stopping 16 'illegal' New Year parties. Four took place on New Year's Eve and 12 in the days before, they said.

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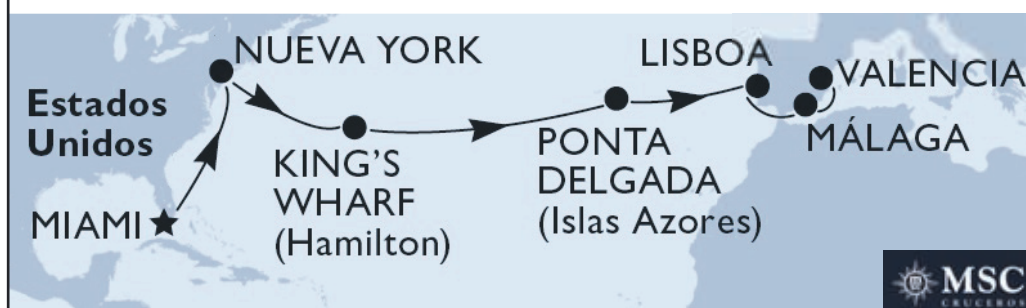
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15.03.2018	King's Wharf, Bermuda		18:00
20.03.2018	Ponta Delgada, Portugal	08:00	
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23.03.2018	Lisbon	09:00	23:59
24.03.2018	Lisbon	00:01	06:00
25.03.2018	Malaga	07:00	14:00
26.03.2018	Valencia	09:00	



Black spots still grey area

A REGIONAL representative in Les Corts Valencianes has called for the elimination of black spots on Alicante's roads, according to reports in the Spanish media.

The parliamentary group Ciudadanos is calling for the change to local highways after another year with a high number of injuries and fatalities on the roads.

Maria Jose Garcia said the region needed change because it included "16 of the most dangerous stretches in Spain, especially on the N-332 and N-340," according to the translated report.

She added that the province of Alicante "is the fourth in the country with the largest number of accidents," and stressed that "although prudence and respect for road safety on the part of drivers is vital, it is essential that public administrations put efforts in improving the deficiencies of our roads as a demonstration of sensitivity to the citizens that circulate every day and are exposed to a risk."

Museum attracts 100,000 in six months

NEARLY 100,000 people visited an international exhibition at the Archaeological Museum of Alicante, according to Spanish media reports.

The Mayan-themed exhibition was reportedly receiving up to 1,000 visitors a day last week, before it closed on Sunday.

The exhibition - which housed almost 200 objects, mainly from Guatemala - has been open since last May.

The museum opened its doors for a week over the festive season, allowing visitors to learn about one of the most ancient civilisations on earth.

The Mayans were an indigenous civilisation from the Americas, who are believed to have been around from prehistory to the Middle Ages, before being wiped out by Spanish invaders, infighting and European diseases.

There are a number of stun-



Photo credit: senlacblade/Twitter

EDUCATIONAL: The Alicante museum.

ning Mayan remains in central and South America.

Jose Alberto Cortes, the museum's managing director, told Spanish media sources that the high footfall when the exhibition ended "shows that Alicante and visitors are looking for a place to come to visit them between (Christmas) and (the fes-

tival of the Three Kings)."

Rooms featured exhibits on the origins of the Mayan civilisation, a Mayan temple reproducing Mayan culture in ancient cities like Tikal and Calakmul and various stone ornaments and monuments.

Meanwhile, the Alicante museum has been collecting for an

Alicante Food Bank. Workshops were being held for children from five to 12 years old, related to Christmas and the Mayan exhibition. The collection closed last week.

The museum is also preparing to celebrate the European Year of Cultural Heritage in 2018.

NEWS EXTRA

Food not wasted

STAFF from a cleaning and waste collection service firm have donated 1,000kg worth of products to a Food Bank in Segura, according to Murcia Town Hall.

First time

AN international show which has toured 23 countries from across all five continents came to Murcia for the first time, according to Murcia Town Hall. The Sails and winds stage show combined lights, pyrotechnics and theatre last week.

Reform aid

PUBLIC offices near Alicante will be given a €100,000 overhaul, according to the city's town hall. Projects include Albufera's medical centre and reform of a primary care centre in San Juan beach.

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RENFE has launched a promotion offering heavily discounted rail fares to travellers across Spain, including those coming from and to the Alicante region.

One hundred and seventy five thousand discounted tickets have become available for rail travel, according to reports in the Spanish media.

The promotion is available for trips until February 26.

The campaign includes high speed travel from Madrid and Barcelona to Alicante, which are available for €19.70 and €15.80.

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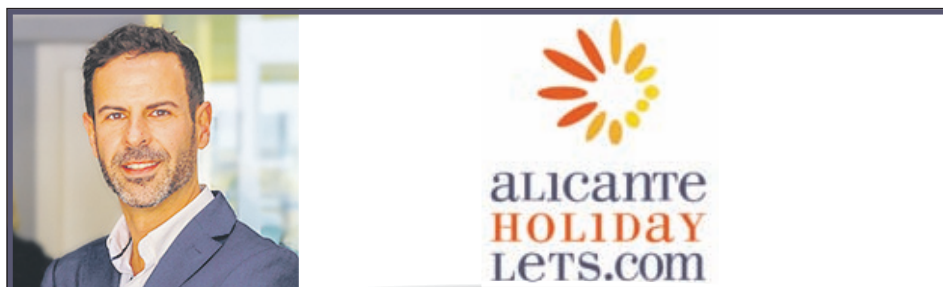
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Photo credit: Facebook

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



Killer wave strikes

Storm Eleanor claims two lives

By Matt Ford

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 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 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.



Photo by @platonchaca/Twitter

ACCESS POINT: Many migrants have attempted to jump the fences at Mellila 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.

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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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Crowning glory

FORMER King of Spain Juan Carlos made a rare public appearance with the current King and son, Felipe VI, at the annual Three Kings and Epiphany Day

celebrations.

The former King, who turned 80 on Friday, has reportedly complained about feeling side-lined by the royal family in recent

weeks, but appeared in full military uniform alongside his wife Sofia, son Felipe and Queen Letizia at Madrid's Royal Palace.

King Felipe VI praised his father during a ceremony held at the palace, thanking him for his "many years of loyal service to Spain."

Juan Carlos abdicated in favour of his son in 2014 and was given the title of 'King Emeritus' after nearly 40 years on the throne.

The former king is credited with leading Spain to democracy after Franco's dictatorship but reportedly abdicated after a series of scandals damaged his public image.



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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happens

AT least 24 people have been arrested after fighting broke out between two sets of radical fans in Sevilla.

The small groups of fans, also known as 'ultras,' of La Liga teams Real Betis and Sevilla clashed ahead of their teams' match at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan

Football fans clash

stadium this evening.

According to reports, the fight, which occurred close to the Barqueta de Sevilla bridge, was allegedly organised between the two

groups on WhatsApp beforehand. One person was left needing hospital treatment in the aftermath of the fight.

During the arrests, police

reportedly seized a number of various objects including sticks, knives and axes.

All of those arrested are males between 20 and 30-years-old.

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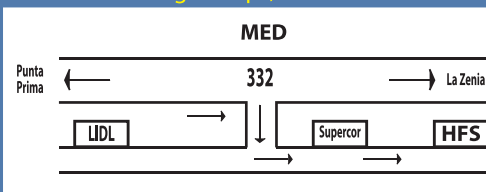
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ICICLES: Fireman have been working to clear roof tops.

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.

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 be-

ing 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.

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HELP Vega Baja Xmas appeal success

A MONTH ago, HELP Vega Baja launched a Christmas Appeal for gifts for local elderly people who may be alone over the festive season and also for non-perishable food to give local families

who are struggling something a little special at Christmas.

Various businesses contacted the charity and offered their services to act as 'drop off' points for the donations.

Michele Masson, President

of the charity said "we launched this, our first Christmas Appeal, early December and have been absolutely overjoyed at the fantastic response we received. Local businesses and individuals have been truly amazing with their generosity. We would like to thank everyone who has supported the appeal and to say that their kindness has made a huge difference to so many people.

"We would like to offer particular thanks to those businesses and their customers that offered to act as drop off points for the appeal including: Hamiltons Bake House (Benijofar), Witherspoons (Villa Martin), Wella Hair by Samantha (ChicasBonitas, Algorfa), Casaverde (Rojales/Guardamar/Almoradi), Fonefix (San Luis) and Roger Taylor Garage (Montesinos)."

Thank you to the Cruz Roja and social service departments for their help in ensuring that the gifts reached those people in most need.

The HELP Vega Baja Committee would like to thank



SUCCESS: Michele Masson from HELP Vega Baja donates gifts to the Cruz Roja.

everyone who has supported the charity throughout 2017 and they look forward to pro-

viding advice and support to those who need them throughout 2018.

It's all for a good cause

WORSHIPFUL Brother Gordon Ramsey, of Dama de Elche Lodge, recently visited two local charities to present cheques to help them support children in need.

The first visit was to DEBRA (The Butterfly Children). These are children born with a genetic disorder which causes their skin to be as fragile as a butterfly's wing. This creates enormous problems and needs very careful treatment. The €1,000 donated will be a great help in continuing the treatment.

The second visit was to the Elche Children's Home where a further cheque for €760 was presented to buy 1,000 litres of fuel oil to help keep the children warm through the winter.

Should you wish to support these charities or for information please contact the following email address: prensa@glpvalencia.com.

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Sweet melody

THE annual musical extravaganza mounted by leading local popular chorus Melody Makers International will be held on Saturday January 27 at the Orihuela Costa Resort Hotel at La Zenia.

This year, however, audiences are in for a 'Double-Delight' for, as well as Melody Makers International, there will be the 30 strong Orihuela Costa Male Voice Choir sharing the stage, with a total of nearly 80 singers entertaining during the two shows at 2pm and at 8pm.

The shows are entitled 'A Choral Spectacular' and that is exactly what is promised by conductor Nigel Hopkins. As well as each choir performing individually, they will come together on four occasions bringing their vocal power to such numbers as the *Battle Hymn of the Republic* and the *Easter Hymn* from 'Cavalleria Rusticana,' amongst other sur-

prises. Considering the programme will include popular numbers as *Bohemian Rhapsody*, *Fix You*, *We Will Rock You* and more - plus the men performing rousing numbers culminating in *Nessun Dorma* - the programme can definitely be described as both diverse and spectacular.

Soloists include Verity Hall, Rebecca Holt, Graham Cooke and Bill Nicholson. Their comedy duet team will be well represented as ever.

The concerts will this year be supporting the most worthwhile children's charity, DEBRA - the Butterfly Children, and tickets are available from La Ponderosa Gift Shop at La Zenia, also from the Card Place shops at both Punta Prima and Benimar. The Debra charity shops at Urb. La Marina, San Fulgencio and Pueblo Bravo, Rojales also have tickets.

Let the bells ring

EVERY year Campoverde Church, with the Rusty Nail, organises Community Carol Singing for the whole village of Campoverde to help everyone get into the true spirit of Christmas.

This year was the biggest and best year ever with over 200 people gathering on the terrace of the Rusty Nail on the evening of December 20 to sing carols and thank God for the birth of His Son.

The evening included local children acting out the nativity scene and Father Richard blessing the Campoverde Memory Tree.

There were many highlights of the evening but probably the most memorable was the singing of the Twelve Days of Christmas with everyone doing the actions.

At the end of the carol singing everyone enjoyed mince pies and mulled wine supplied by the Rusty Nail.

Maggie Dew from Campoverde Church said, "It is so easy to get caught up in the commerciality of Christmas and forget what it is we are actually celebrating. We are celebrating the greatest gift of all time, when God



HOLY NIGHT: A sign in the church garden to remind everyone that Mary wrapped the first Christmas present and laid Him in a manger.

sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world as a human to provide us with a way back to Him."

To find out more about Campoverde

Church and their activities and services visit: www.facebook.com/campoverdechurch or email: maggie.ruthdew@hotmail.com.



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The first noel

THE Almoradi Scrabble Club enjoyed the Christmas spirit one week earlier than normal.

'Noel' was the key word for this month's play. The player that laid the first word with an 'N' in it, won a prize; the second with an 'O' in it, then using an 'E' and lastly the 'L'. A bonus prize went to Di who laid the word 'noel' right at the beginning.

Four brave members then tried their hand at playing 'Super Scrabble.' This is a very different game to the normal board with more tiles, more double words, triple words and even quadruple squares. Phil had the highest score for that game.

Meanwhile Christine showed three other players a game using scrabble cards; altogether different and really requiring a much bigger table. Russ won through on this foursome. In the draw Russ triumphed and won himself a bottle of wine.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday January 30 starting at 3.30pm at Cafe Almoradi (opposite the health centre).

Ali Baba and the forty thieves

DO go along to this excellent show; take a child - preferably one you know! Or just be a child yourself for the evening and let the Rojas Pantomime Group transport you to the world of the Arabian Nights to meet Ali Baba and a host of magical characters, including a dancing camel and Yousless from YMCA.

Ali Baba is a traditional pantomime for children of all ages with lots of fun for the family. When our Hero Ali Baba and his faithful friend Margarina discover a cave full of treasure they think they are going to be rich. Unfortunately the treasure belongs to the notorious and evil Desert Fox and his forty thieves.

There are lots of goodies in the show, the cast throw sweets 'a good selling point that predates health and safety regulations,' they sing songs and crack jokes.

There are even some real children in the cast from Essence Dance and Fitness who do a confident job with their dance numbers.

Ali Baba would not be complete without magic and the Genie will be characterised by Norman Love with the Dame played by Dave Allen.



ARABIAN NIGHTS: Meet Ali Baba and a host of other characters at the Rojas Pantomime Group's show.

Cheer the heroes, boo the bad guys, chuckle at the jokes and sing along with the songs at the Escala de Musica, Los Montesinos today (Thursday) and tomorrow (Friday),

as well as the evening performance, with a matinee at 2.30pm, on Saturday.

Money raised will go to local charities.

For enquiries and ticket reservations call Christine on 678 212 034, email shimserv@gmail.com, or take a look at the website: www.rojalespantomimegroup.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.



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.



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

Köln, 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.



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.



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 Romelu 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.



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.



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.

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.



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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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DOW JONES

CLOSING PRICES JANUARY 8

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE%	CHANGE	VOLUME(M)
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

.....

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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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



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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<div>BBCone</div>		<div>BBC TWO</div>		<div>BBCFOUR</div>		<div>CHANNEL 4</div>		<div>CHANNEL 5</div>		<div>4</div>		<div>sky sports main event</div>	
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	The Big Bang Theory	12:00am	SKY Sports News
12:45am	This Week							12:05am	Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side	12:35am	The Big Bang Theory	1:00am	Live PGA Tour Golf
												4:30am	Eurasia Cup
<div>itv</div>		<div>itv2</div>		<div>itv3</div>		<div>itv4</div>		<div>sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE</div>		<div>sky CINEMA PREMIERE</div>		<div>sky sports football</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 Games
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		<i>The latest news and weather from London and the South East.</i>	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		<i>Reality series.</i>	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				

Advertising feature

Exploring Spain & Portugal

ZARAGOZA:

Day of travel starts with a short stop in Teruel. Centred around the Plaza de Torico, Teruel is the smallest provincial capital in Spain. Street cafes line the sides of the square. It is only a short walk to the cathedral and the Mausoleum of the lovers of Teruel whose actual remains can be seen in the church of San Pedro.

Arriving in Zaragoza, this city, by comparison is much larger and sits on the banks of the River Ebro. On the banks of the river the towers and domes of the Basilica de Pilar rise majestically above the city.

A low cost hop on, hop off tourist bus is available. The ticket also gives free entry to many museums. Mini cruises on the river are generally also available. With so much to see and do, you have a free day in which to enjoy everything it has to offer.

A day away from the city takes us to Monasteria de Piedra. The main church and cloisters still stand in an area of outstanding natural beauty. Caves, the 'mirror lake,' the 50 foot high 'horsetail waterfall,' streams, and rivers make for some very beautiful surroundings. Lunch in a local restaurant with panoramic views of the lake add to the pleasure of the experience and is included in the price.



Logroño.



Basilica del Pilar, Zaragoza.



Monasterio de Piedra, Zaragoza.

Day

4: Excursion to Lisbon with time to explore the old quarter, shops and maybe hop on a tourist bus/boat.

Day 5: Excursion to Porto, visit the Cathedral, a local bodega or just enjoy this town on foot.

Day 6: Excursion to Sintra, stopping near to the National Palace, classified by UNESCO as a cultural

landscape and heritage site.

Day 7: Travelling towards our 3* Hotel Alcazar in Sevilla, with a short stop in Evora. Free evening to explore Sevilla.

Day 8: Leave after breakfast and travel back towards your original destination.

Using 3 & 4* Hotels this excursion from David's Coachtrips gives you the perfect opportunity to explore the best of Portugal.

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Reservations can be made by phone on (0034) 966 785 910 or online at www.coachtripsonline.com.

Finally.

There is no need, when it comes to wine, to introduce you to the famous Rioja name. Logroño, the capital of the Logroño region is also home to some of the finest bodegas in the area. This pleasant little town offers a notable Cathedral and is particularly famous for its tapas bars. The highlight of this day though has to be a visit to one of the largest and best known Bodegas in the country. After the guided tour relax for a moment sipping a glass of the finest Rioja whilst surrounding by the vineyards which produced the grapes.

This excursion from David's Coachtrips ticks all the boxes, all excursions are included as are entries to the Monastery and Bodega.

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PORTUGAL & EXCURSIONS:

Brand new for 2017 this excursion offers fantastic value for money. With overnight stops in Toledo on the outward journey, and Sevilla on the return journey, with a relaxing five nights in Portugal, this excursion highlights the best of Moorish history on our overnight stops and the best of Portugal on our day excursions.

Day 1: Travelling to Toledo with overnight stop in the 3* Hotel Real you will have a free afternoon/evening to explore the Alcazar.

Day 2: Travel to Coimbra to stay in the 4* Hotel Vila Gale, with a short stop in Plasencia.

Day 3: Free day in Coimbra, the fourth largest town after Lisbon, Porto and Braga.



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BBC one

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

**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?

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



| Air, sea or land, the world is covered by Worldwide Horizons Travel Agency.

and Bar Sonía on the Avda Federico García 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 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).

GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



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

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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

5:00pm	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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GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



BBC one

11:00am	Homes Under the Hammer
12:00pm	Wanted Down Under
12:45pm	Close Calls: On Camera
1:15pm	Bargain Hunt
2:00pm	BBC News
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

Advertising feature

Residents and visitors can benefit from easy internet access

WHETHER you are renting out your property or staying in rented accommodation, pay as you go internet may be a great option.

There is nothing more irritating than reconnection charges, minimum yearly usage limits and the inability to allow tenants to pay for the internet directly, so PN TV's pay as you go internet package offers an ideal solution.

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tion in some areas includes internet connection.

PN TV Services which is owned and run by Nicky and Peter Savage, can offer advice on what is best for your particular situation. For television, they offer free-to-air TV and more, through a minimum 1.37m satellite dish or IPTV boxes which allow television to be viewed through the Internet.

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tive with calls to the UK, Spain and other European destinations costing just cents per minute.

PN TV Services pride themselves on their efficient service and are able to offer combination packages of TV, Internet and phone or you can pick and choose what you need.

Peter is fully qualified, trained and certified by Sky as well as being recognised by Ubiquiti which provides all of the Internet equipment, so customers know they are in safe and professional hands.

Their office is based in Pinar De Campoverde and their coverage is from there to Pilar De La Horadada, to Playa Flamenca, La Zenia, Villa Martin, Torre Vieja, and most areas in between.



Photo by Thamaporn Shutterstock

COMMUNICATION: High speed internet connection is a must.

Feel free to visit the store in Avenida de las Especies, Pinar de Campoverde which is open from Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm and Saturday 10am to 2pm in order to discuss your particular needs.

Alternatively, email them on pandntvservices@hotmail.com, call them on 965 064 350 or 622 448 381 or check out their helpful and informative website at www.pntvservices.com.

By Matthew Elliott

WITH the sunny days almost guaranteed, a popular day out for Costa del Sol readers at this time of year is the gorgeous town of Ronda.

A beautiful drive from the coast that takes roughly an hour, Ronda is easily one of the most popular locations in Malaga for seaside daytrippers.

The town itself is the very definition of picturesque. But there is one major attraction that stands heads and tails above all the rest. Ronda is surrounded by an incredibly deep gorge that has a monumental bridge crossing it, one of the finest architectural feats you'll see in southern Spain.

Standing on the large sandstone hill that holds Ronda, visitors can peer down over 100 metres through the El Tajo gorge and take in some magnificent sights of the surrounding countryside. The high altitude also makes Ronda the perfect location to get some refuge from the sweltering Spanish heat in the height of summer.

Ronda has some of the best preserved history of any town

Travel

Ronda: Mountain magic



MAGICAL: Ronda is the perfect place for a day out.

in Spain. The old bridge itself was built in the 18th century

and guests can also explore the medieval Arab baths,

which are over seven centuries old. The bullring, built

in 1785, is the oldest in Spain and decorated with memoirs

from hundreds of years of history.

Hiking and walking around the old town and surrounding areas are fantastic options for those with energy. But be warned. It is incredibly hilly and the shortest walk can quickly become exhausting. As a remedy there is an abundance of terrific local cafes and restaurants with delicious Malaga fare and at decent, non-touristy prices.

Shopping is also an excellent experience. Ronda has been spared much of the tacky souvenir shops that sell useless trinkets and instead has a thriving scene of local businesses offering hand-made craftworks, clothing, oils and food.

To get to Ronda from Marbella take the A-397 all the way and directly inland. It's a windy, hilly road that requires caution but is a wonderful ride once you've got the hang of it. An alternative route from Malaga takes the A-357 deep inland and then the A-367 down to Ronda. It takes slightly longer at almost an hour and a half but is handy if coming from the eastern Costa del Sol.

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
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	EastEnders
9:00pm	Holby City
10:00pm	Silent Witness
11:00pm	BBC News
11:30pm	Regional News
11:40pm	Weather
11:45pm	Love and Hate Crime
12:45am	Stacey Dooley Investigates
1:40am	Weather for the
1:45am	BBC News

BBC TWO

5:00am	This is BBC Two
7:00am	Flog It! Trade Secrets
7:30am	The Farmers' Country Showdown
8:15am	Antiques Road Trip
9:00am	Celebrity Antiques Road Trip
10:00am	Victoria Derbyshire
12:00pm	BBC Newsroom Live
1:00pm	The Daily Politics
2:00pm	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	Inside the Factory
10:00pm	House of Saud: A Family at War
11:00pm	Inside No 9
11:30pm	Newsnight
12:10am	Weather
12:15am	NFL
1:05am	Masters Snooker Highlights
1:55am	Masters Snooker Extra
3:55am	The Real Marigold on Tour

BBC FOUR

8:00pm	Beyond 100 Days
8:30pm	Great Continental Railway Journeys
9:00pm	Andrew Marr's The Making of Modern Britain
10:00pm	Art, Passion and Power: The Story of the Royal Collection
11:00pm	The Stuarts 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.
12:00am	Catching History's Criminals: The Forensics Story
1:00am	Info not available
2:00am	Top of the Pops: 1981
2:40am	Top of the Pops: 1981
3:25am	Andrew Marr's The Making of Modern Britain

CHANNEL 4

6:10am	How to Stay Well
6:35am	Countdown
7:20am	3rd Rock from the Sun
8:10am	Everybody Loves Raymond
9:30am	Frasier
11:05am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
12:00pm	Sun, Sea and Selling Houses
1:00pm	Channel 4 News
1:05pm	Couples Come Dine with Me
2:05pm	Posh Pawn
3:10pm	Countdown
4:00pm	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	The Secret Life of the Zoo
10:00pm	24 Hours in A and E
11:00pm	Working Class White Men
12:00am	Before We Die
1:15am	Naked Attraction
2:10am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA

CHANNEL 5

5:45am	House Doctor
6:10am	Wildlife SOS
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	The Wrong Mother
6:00pm	5 News
6:30pm	Neighbours
7:00pm	Home and Away
7:30pm	5 News
8:00pm	Secrets of the National Trust
9:00pm	Diet Secrets and How to Lose Weight
10:00pm	Celebrity Big Brother
11:00pm	One Night with My Ex
12:05am	Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side
1:05am	Celebrity Big Brother
2:00am	Super Casino

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 Big Bang Theory
9:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
10:00pm	Tattoo Fixers
11:00pm	8 Out of 10 Cats
11:50pm	The Big Bang Theory
12:20am	The Big Bang Theory
12:50am	Gogglebox
1:50am	Tattoo Fixers

sky sports main event

5:15am	Cricket New Zealand face Pakistan in the fourth ODI in their series in Hamilton.
7:00am	Cricket
10:00am	Cricket
4:45pm	Best of Sky Cricket
5:00pm	SKY Sports News All the news from the Premier League and beyond.
6:00pm	SKY Sports News
7:00pm	SKY Sports News
8:00pm	Info not available
8:30pm	Info not available
11:00pm	The Debate - Live Catch up on all the latest news and talking points from around the Premier League.
12:00am	SKY Sports News
1:00am	SKY Sports News
2:00am	Live WWE Late Night Smackdown
4:00am	Cricket Tom Phillips, Corey Graves and Byron Saxton present Smackdown, featuring all your favourite WWE stars.

itv

4:50am	ITV Nightscreen
6:05am	The Jeremy Kyle Show
7:00am	Good Morning Britain
9:30am	Lorraine
10:25am	The Jeremy Kyle Show
11:30am	This Morning
1:30pm	Loose Women
2:30pm	ITV 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	Britain's Favourite Dogs: Top 100
11:00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather
11:40pm	Regional Programmes
12:10am	Girlfriends
1:10am	Info not available
1:30am	Jackpot247
4:00am	Loose Women
4:50am	ITV Nightscreen

itv2

6:45am	ITV2 Nightscreen
7:00am	Totally Bonkers
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
2:45pm	The Ellen DeGeneres Show
3:40pm	The Jeremy Kyle Show
4:45pm	The Jeremy Kyle Show
5:55pm	The Jeremy Kyle Show
7:00pm	Take Me Out
8:00pm	You've Been Framed! Gold
8:30pm	You've Been Framed! Gold
9:00pm	Two and a Half Men
9:30pm	Superstore
10:00pm	Paul
11:05pm	FYI Daily
11:10pm	Paul
12:10am	Family Guy
12:40am	Family Guy

itv3

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

itv4

4:00am	Teleshopping
7:00am	The Chase
7:50am	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
5:00pm	The Sweeney
6:05pm	The Professionals
7:05pm	The Car Chasers
8:00pm	Pawn Stars
8:30pm	Pawn Stars
9:00pm	The Chase: Celebrity Special
10:00pm	Britain's Busiest Airport - Heathrow
11:00pm	Payback
12:00am	FYI Daily
12:05am	Payback
1:05am	Hard Target
2:05am	FYI Daily
2:10am	Hard Target
3:10am	The Americans
3:50am	ITV4 Nightscreen
4:00am	Teleshopping

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

10:40am	Logan
1:00pm	Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them
3:15pm	Avengers
	Confidential: Black Widow and Punisher
4:40pm	Superman 2
6:50pm	Batman
9:00pm	Logan

sky CINEMA COMEDY

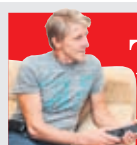
8:10am	Special
8:40am	The Joshua Tree
10:20am	Get a Job
11:50am	The Naked Gun 33 1/3: The Final Insult
1:25pm	Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie
3:10pm	Bridesmaids
5:20pm	Big Daddy
7:00pm	Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous
9:00pm	Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie
10:40pm	Bridesmaids
12:50am	Another 48 Hrs
2:35am	The Night is Young
4:10am	Brüno

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

6:00am	Must See Movies 2018
7:00am	Top Ten Show, the 2018
7:15am	Pele: Birth of a Legend
9:05am	Yu-Gi-Oh! The Dark Side of Dimensions
11:15am	Being Charlie
1:00pm	Get Out
2:55pm	Pele: Birth of a Legend
4:50pm	In Dubious Battle
6:50pm	Yu-Gi-Oh! The Dark Side of Dimensions
9:00pm	Get Out
10:50pm	Being Charlie
12:35am	This is Your Death
2:25am	Lowriders LA-set drama about a young street artist whose life is complicated by his lowrider-loving dad and ex-con brother.
4:10am	Tumbledown Brash biographer Andrew crosses paths with grieving Hannah when he agrees to write about her famous,folk-singing husband.

sky sports football

9:30am	Football's Greatest Teams
10:00am	Revista de la Liga
10:30am	La Liga Greatest Games
10:45am	La Liga Greatest Games
11:00am	Football Countdowns
11:30am	Soccer A.M.
12:00pm	One2eleven
12:30pm	SPFL Greatest Games
1:00pm	Revista de la Liga
1:30pm	Soccer A.M.
2:00pm	La Liga Icons
3:00pm	Revista de la Liga
3:30pm	Soccer A.M.
4:00pm	Football's Greatest
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	Soccer A.M.
8:00pm	Football's Greatest
8:30pm	Gillette Soccer Special
11:00pm	Revista de la Liga
11:30pm	La Liga World
12:00am	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.

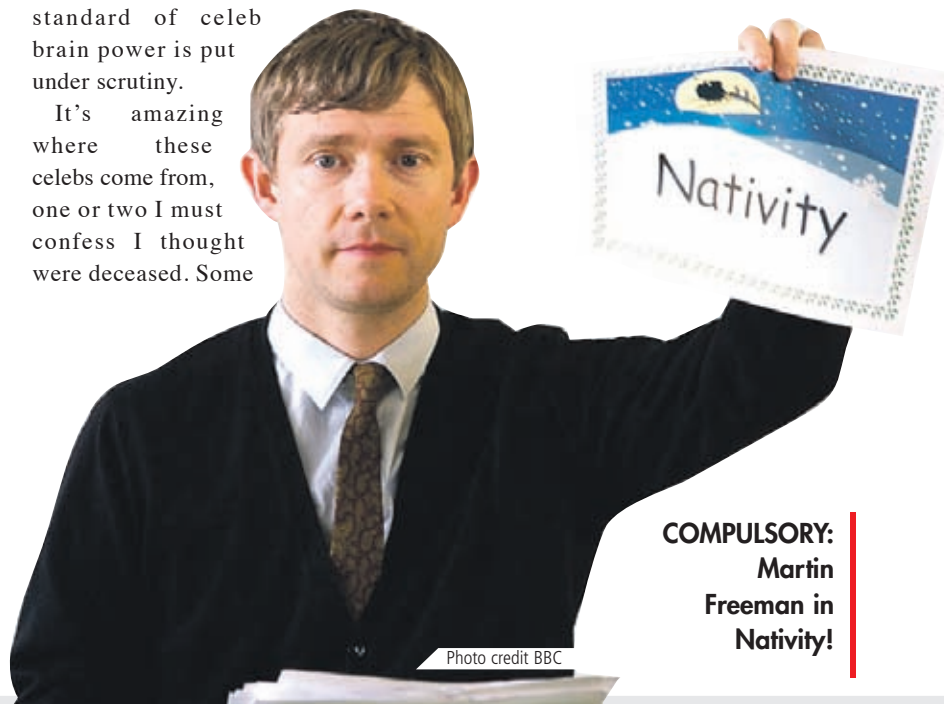
Storage Hunters on Dave TV is a rip off from the American series of the same name. It features a motley crew of punters bidding for the contents of storage containers presumably left by their owners. The original American version is slick, smart and full of brilliant one liners from

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

YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

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

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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.

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*

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@euroweeklynews.com

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

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.euroweeklynews.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: turmeric

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 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) available from Amazon in paperback/eBook (€0.99; £0.99) and iBookstore. All profits to Costa del Sol Cudeca cancer charity.

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

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



Credit: lottielondonau/instagram

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03189 Orihuela Costa

Tel: 965 327 714

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The office is open Monday to Friday from 9.30am until 2pm and Monday and Wednesday 3pm to 6pm.

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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 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, or call 952 667 090.

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MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



'MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION - I INTEND TO GET OUT AND ABOUT MORE!'

Trivia from around the world

*** The words 'kosher' and 'hummus' were recently added to the official Spanish language dictionary.

*** Iceland has an official book-buying season – Jolabokaflö. It runs from September to December and over half of all books sold in Iceland are sold in the month before Christmas.

*** Hawaiian Airlines never had a fatal accident or a hull loss throughout its 88 year history, making it the longest-running carrier in the US.

*** Flamingos can sleep while on one leg. The balancing act requires less muscular effort, allowing the birds to stay perfectly still.

*** Finland is the only country in the developed world where fathers of primary school age children spend more time with their children than mothers.



FLAMINGO: Perfectly balanced.

*** In France it is illegal to publish photographs of handcuffed suspects, as they are not to appear guilty until proven so.

DID YOU KNOW?

The second officer of the Titanic, who survived by swimming from the sinking ship to a capsized raft, later in life sailed his civilian craft to Dunkirk during World War 2, helping to evacuate over 130 men.

Women's wit

'A woman is like a teabag, you can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water.'

Eleanor Roosevelt



Famous quote

'I hope that in this year to come you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world.'

Neil Gaiman, English author

World of English

'Calque: word or expression introduced into a language by literally translating it.'

YOUR STARS FOR NEXT 7 DAYS



AQUARIUS
(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 listen 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.

LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY



Saturday January 06

(18) (28)
(31) (32)
(44) (51)

BONUS BALL

(50)

IRISH LOTTO



Saturday January 06

(6) (8)
(19) (20)
(38) (46)

BONUS BALL

(23)

EURO MILLIONS



Tuesday January 02

(10) (20)
(21) (28)
(48)

LUCKY STARS

(01) (08)

Friday January 05

(2) (5)
(20) (38)
(41)

LUCKY STARS

(4) (8)

EL MILLON: VSX56204

LA PRIMITIVA



Thursday January 04

(6) (9)
(13) (24)
(35) (42)

REINTEGRO

(16) (3)

JOKER: 5 207 129

Saturday January 06

(19) (28)
(33) (40)
(42) (48)

REINTEGRO

(38) (0)

JOKER: 263 047

EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA



Sunday January 07

(5) (25)
(29) (37)
(52)

REINTEGRO

(2)

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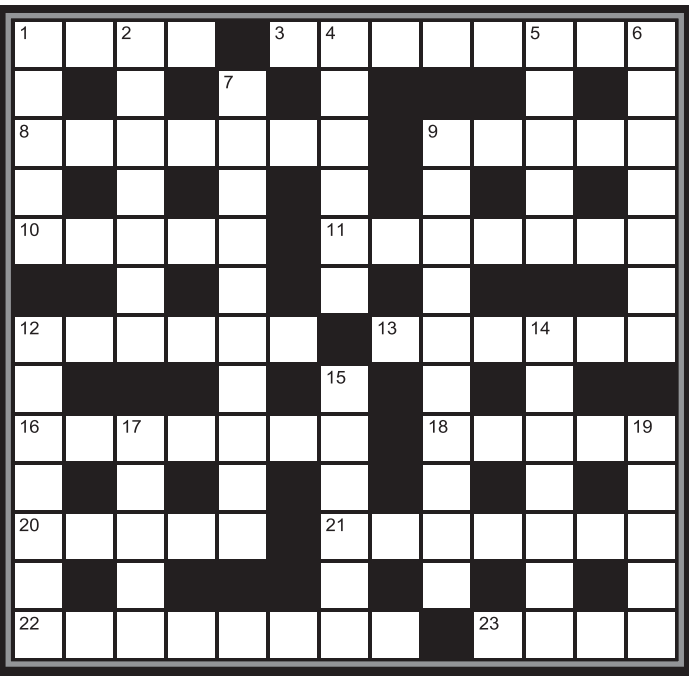


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TIME

Cryptic

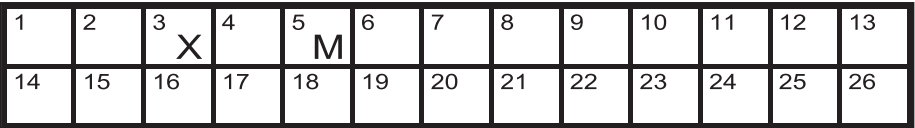
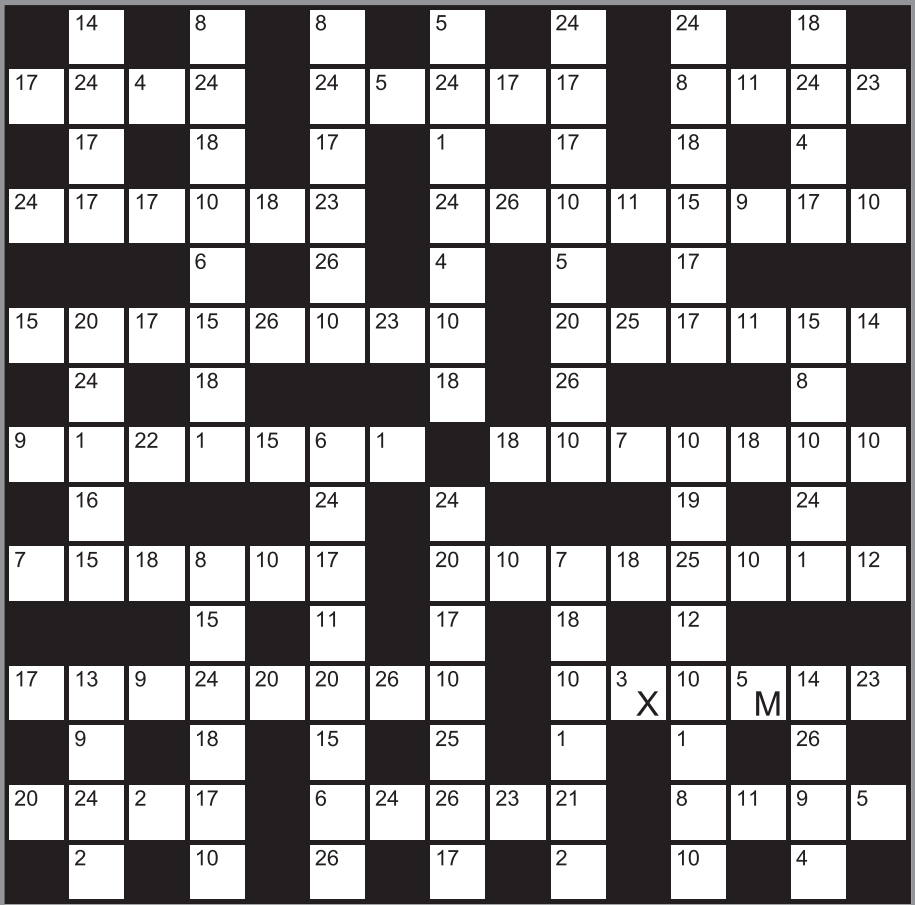
- Across**
- 1 Alternative in church's centre (4)
 - 3 West Indian songs about plays in Greek island (8)
 - 8 Communication from dining room takes a long time (7)
 - 9 Bring tea round in porcelain (5)
 - 10 The first ceremony is ordinary (5)
 - 11 Socialist leader in fitting decline (7)
 - 12 Reading, 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)



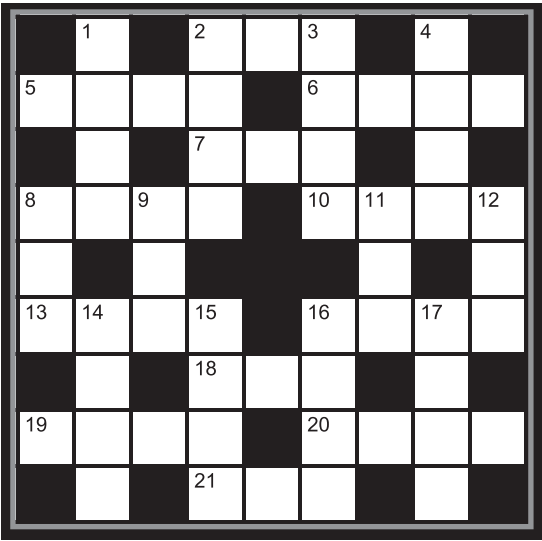
- Down**
- 1 Arrive Tuesday for the space traveller (5)
 - 2 Daring knight returning with a monarch (7)
 - 4 Schedule for a general prosecutor (6)
 - 5 Southern tittle given to pigs (5)
 - 6 Rearrange car test and flee (7)
 - 7 Stuntmen did several reconstructions (10)
 - 9 Informal neckwear injured 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.



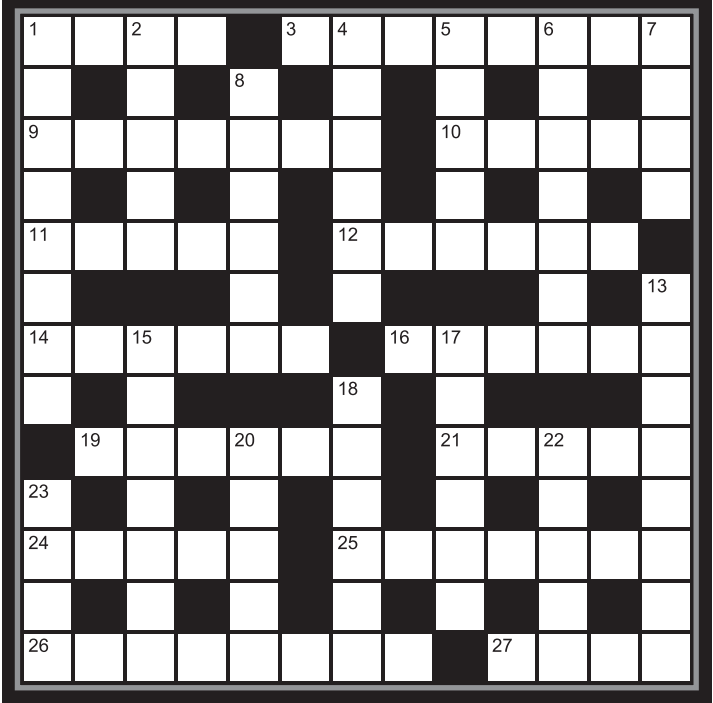
Quick



- 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.



- 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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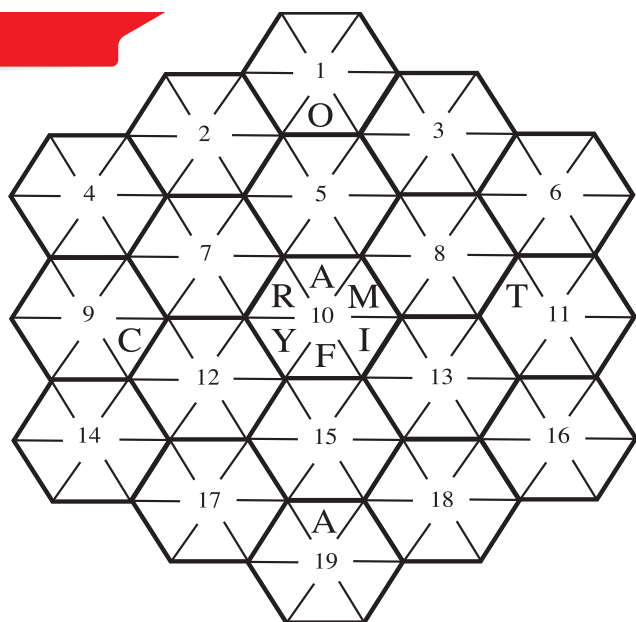
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Hexagram

BLANCH
BRONCO
CANTON
COSMOS
COYOTE
CRUSTY
DHARMA
FIASCO
HEROES
MODIFY
PATHOS
PATRON
PAYOFF
POISON
POLICE
RAMIFY (10)
TAMPON
TARPON
VESTAL



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

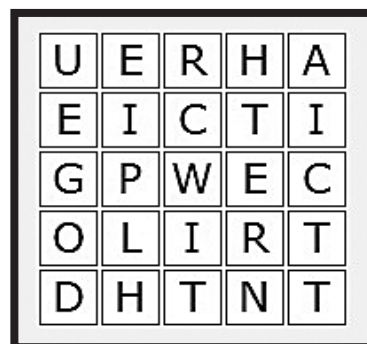
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

1 Beaten 2 Dreamt 3 Teller 4 Sweaty
5 Lambda 6 Selves 7 Barber 8 Verbal
9 Bonnet 10 Embark 11 Eyelet
12 Workup 13 Votary 14 Worsen
15 Fourth 16 Shelve 17 Poncho
18 Behold 19 Infect.

Boggled

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

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



TARGET:

- Average: 20
- Very good: 40
- Good: 28
- Excellent: 51

SCORING:

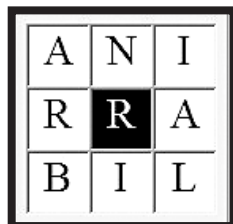
4 letters: 1 point 7 letters: 5 points
5 letters: 2 points 8 or more letters: 11 points
6 letters: 3 points

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

arsine aril arils ails airs aims sari sail saint
slim silo simoon simon sine sinew sinner sinh
loom looms loon liar liars lira limo limn limner
line liner lino lint lints rail rails rain rims inner
mooli moon mills milo mine miner mint minty
mont month ohms aioli ahoy wine wino
winner were nils nims ninth nine nominee
hols holism holm hoyo yonis yahoo queer
queen wholism whom whoa renin brew

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:

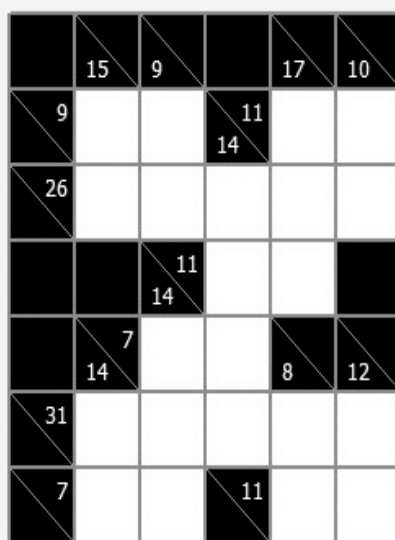
- Average: 5
- Good: 7
- Very good: 10
- Excellent: 12

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

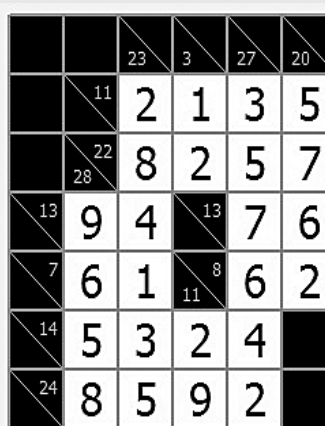
ache arch char chat chit each echo echt etch hack hair hake hare
hark hart hate hear heat heck heir hero hick hike hire hoar hock
hoer hoke itch kith oath rhea rich tach tech tich aitch chair chart
cheat chert chirk choir choke chore earth ethic hake hater heart
hiker hoick ichor ketch ocher ochre orach other ratch reach retch
roach teach their thick throe torch achier choker chorea cohair
hacker hector heriot heroic hokier orache thicko thrice troche
chariot haricot hotcake thicker ARTICHOKE

Kakuro

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



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

QUICK

Across:

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

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.

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 Naipe, 19 Peace, 20 Rusty.

App of the week



Clarity money (free)

This is a free personal finance app that helps you manage your budget and save money through a variety of methods. Link your bank and card accounts to the app, and Clarity then analyses your spending behaviour and helps you build a budget to track your spending.

Answers:

- 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'

- KIBBUTZ, 2. HECTOR BERLIOZ, 3. CHRIS MONTEZ, 4. MODERN JAZZ, 5. HUGO CHAVEZ (full name Hugo Rafael Chávez Frías), 6. BUCK'S FIZZ, 7. CHARLES SCHULZ, 8. FEZ, 9. VADUZ, 10. CHINTZ

QUIZ: ENDS IN Z

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TIME OUT

BOOKS



Wrong side of the law

NAIMH and Ruairidh are lovers and business partners.

They are owners of a small, but internationally recognised Hebridean tweed company.

As they prepare for an important fabric fair in Paris, Niamh accuses Ruairidh of having an affair with a Russian fashion designer they work with. He insists this is a lie and storms off.

Moments later, the car containing Ruairidh and the fashion designer explodes in a ball of flames.

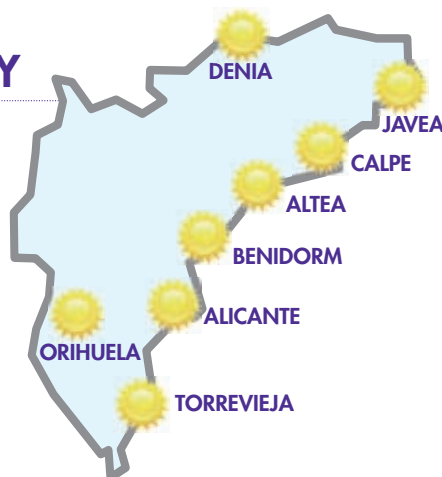
With Niamh a prime suspect in the murder, the Parisian police hound her even after she returns home.

She begins to suspect that things are not what they seem and when there is an attempt on her life, she becomes convinced that what seemed like a terrorist attack on her lover might be something far more personal.

books@euroweeklynnews.com

Costa Blanca

TODAY



Malaga

TODAY: MAX 15, MIN 6 - S
Fri - 16 8 - S
Sat - 16 9 - C
Sun - 15 8 - C
Mon - 16 10 - Sh
Tues - 16 9 - Sh
Wed - 16 9 - S

Almeria

TODAY: MAX 16, MIN 6 - S
Fri - 15 8 - S
Sat - 16 9 - C
Sun - 16 9 - S
Mon - 16 9 - Sh
Tues - 16 9 - Sh
Wed - 16 9 - S

Bilbao

TODAY: MAX 9, MIN 6 - Sh
Fri - 12 7 - C
Sat - 10 6 - Sh
Sun - 11 8 - C
Mon - 11 7 - Sh
Tues - 10 7 - Sh
Wed - 12 8 - Sh

Madrid

TODAY: MAX 8, MIN -2 - C
Fri - 9 1 - S
Sat - 7 1 - C
Sun - 8 4 - Sh
Mon - 9 4 - C
Tues - 10 3 - C
Wed - 11 3 - C

Alicante

TODAY: MAX 16, MIN 7 - S
Fri - 17 7 - S
Sat - 17 9 - Cl
Sun - 16 9 - S
Mon - 17 10 - C
Tues - 18 10 - C
Wed - 19 10 - S

Benidorm

TODAY: MAX 16, MIN 7 - S
Fri - 17 8 - S
Sat - 17 9 - C
Sun - 17 8 - S
Mon - 16 10 - Sh
Tues - 17 10 - Sh
Wed - 18 11 - S

Mallorca

TODAY: MAX 13, MIN 5 - Sh
Fri - 14 7 - C
Sat - 16 9 - C
Sun - 15 9 - C
Mon - 15 8 - Sh
Tues - 15 9 - C
Wed - 15 10 - C

Barcelona

TODAY: MAX 13, MIN 5 - Sh
Fri - 14 4 - S
Sat - 13 5 - C
Sun - 13 6 - Sh
Mon - 13 5 - C
Tues - 14 6 - C
Wed - 15 7 - S

S: Sun



Cl: Clear



C: Cloudy



Sh: Showers



Th: Thunder



Sn: Snow



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

BIRTHDAYS

• Jamie Vardy, Footballer, January 11, 31

In the 2015-16 Premier League season, Vardy scored in 11 consecutive Premier League matches and was voted the Premier League Player of the Season and as outsiders Leicester won the title.

• Zayn Malik, Pop singer, January 12, 25

Former member of multi-million selling boyband One Direction. He left the band in 2015 and released his debut album



Jamie Vardy.

featuring the single *Pillowtalk*, in March 2016.

• Liam Hemsworth, Actor, January 13, 28

Australian actor who stars as Gale Hawthorne in the Hunger Games film series. He also played Josh Taylor on the Australian soap opera Neighbours.

• Dave Grohl, Rock singer, January 14, 49

Rock drummer, vocalist, and guitarist who first rose to prominence as the drummer of Nirvana, then went on to

become founder and lead singer of the Foo Fighters in 1994.

• Kate Moss, Model, January 16, 44

Global fashion model who popularised the heroin chic fashion trend of the 1990s. *TIME* magazine named her one of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2012.

• Michelle Obama, Former first Lady of the US, January 17, 54

Married Barack Obama, the 44th President of the US, in 1992. Has been a strong advocate for the rights of veterans and the LGBT community.

Sierra Nevada SNOW REPORT



After heavy snowfall last week, 91 of Sierra Nevada's 125 slopes are now open. However there is no snow expected to fall this weekend or the following week. Temperatures will stay below freezing until next Wednesday, where temperatures will creep up to two degrees.

Sudoku

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

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.

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		

Word Ladder

SURF

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

DOWN

Solution
SURF
TURN
TORN
TOWN
DOWN

1128 - Pope recognises Knights Templar

Pope Honorius II grants a papal sanction to the military order known as the Knights Templar, declaring it to be an army of God.

1559 - Elizabeth crowned Queen of England

Two months after the death of her half-sister Queen Mary I of England, 25-year-old Elizabeth Tudor is crowned Queen Elizabeth I at Westminster Abbey in London.

1904 - Henry Ford sets speed record

Driving a four-wheel vehicle dubbed the '999,' Henry Ford sets a land speed record of 91.37 mph on the frozen surface of Michigan's Lake St Clair.

1908 - US President honours the Grand Canyon

Theodore Roosevelt declares the massive Grand Canyon in northwestern Arizona a national monument. The site now attracts more than four million visitors a year.

1919 - Prohibition enforced in the US

The 18th Amendment to the US Constitution, prohibiting the 'manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes,' is ratified and becomes the law of the land.

1950 - Boston thieves pull off historic robbery

Eleven men steal more than \$2 million from the Brinks Armoured Car depot in Boston, Massachusetts. The culprits weren't caught until January 1956, just days before the statute of limitations for the theft expired.

1967 - Packers face Chiefs in first ever Super Bowl

In this historic first World Championship game of American football, the Green Bay Packers beat the Kansas City Chiefs 35-10.

DVD

The man with the iron heart



REINHARD HEYDRICH has risen to the top of the Nazi Party as head of the SS, and is the architect of the 'Final Solution.' His brutal rule of occupied Czechoslovakia leads to Hitler dubbing him 'the man with the iron heart.'

However, a small group of Czech Resistance fighters led by Jan Kubiš and Jozef Gabčík, plan to assassinate Heydrich.

This film tells the incredible true story of how the brave men and women of the Resistance sacrificed everything in the name of freedom.

This week in history

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 ingredi-

ents. 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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Hospital Quirónsalud Torrevieja has been recognised as the best hospital in the Alicante Province and the best private hospital in the Valencian Community

ACCORDING to the Index of Hospital Excellence, the Quirónsalud hospital group offers the best quality of private healthcare in Spain.

Torrevieja, January 3, 2018. Hospital Quirónsalud Torrevieja has been recognised as the best hospital - in both the public and private sphere - in Valencia Province, according to the Index of Hospital Excellence from the Coordinadas Institute; which named the University Hospital Jimenez Diaz Foundation, from the Quirónsalud group, as the best Hospital in Spain.

Beside Jimenez Diaz, included in the list of the 10 best hospitals in Spain are three other Quirónsalud centres: Hospital Quirónsalud Barcelona, Hospital Quirónsalud Madrid and Teknon Medical Centre.

The Index analyses both public and private hospitals and measures the level of excellence based on findings and insights of 1,750 professionals who work in the centres or for the centres. The results transcend the total number of services each centre offers and focus on the quality and assessment of each one.

Hospital excellence implies the sum of healthcare quality, hospital service, patient well-being and satisfaction, innovation, personalised attention, and resource efficiency.

In the words of the executive vice-president from the Coorde-

nadas Institute and director of the IEH project 2017, Jesus Sanchez Lambas, "Spain as a whole has a nationally and internationally recognised network of hospitals and healthcare professionals. When looking at each region, the Index of Hospital Excellence strives to recognise the excellence, healthcare quality, service, and innovation that guide hospitals in each region."

This recognition consolidates Quirónsalud not only as the biggest private healthcare group, but also the group that offers the highest quality healthcare in Spain, by being classed as 'excellent.' This positive evaluation of Quirónsalud hospitals, which we are grateful for, is new motivation to continue improving the treatment that our healthcare professionals give our patients.

About Quirónsalud

Quirónsalud is the most important hospital group in Spain, and the third largest in Europe. It can be found in 13 regions in Spain, has state-of-the-art technology and offers over 6,500 beds in more than 100 healthcare centres, such as Fundación Jimenez Diaz, Hospital Universitario Quirónsalud Madrid, Hospital Universitario Dexeus, Ruber, Centro Medico Teknon, Hospital La Luz, Policlínica de Guipuzcoa, Hospital Quirónsalud Valencia,

etc, as well as a huge team of highly qualified professionals recognised by their international prestige.

We promote teaching (seven of our centres are university hospitals) and medical and scientific research (we run the Jimenez Diaz Foundation and the Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria [Healthcare Research Institute]; the only private research centre licensed by the Secretaria de Estado de Investigación, Desarrollo e Innovación [Ministry for Research, Development and Innovation]).

Likewise, our healthcare service is organised into specific units and interconnected networks that allow us to take advantage of a range of accumulated experience at difference centres, and put our research into practice.

Currently, Quirónsalud is developing many research projects across Spain, and many of its healthcare centres carry out cutting edge work in this field, as pioneers in different areas such as radiology, cardiology, endocrinology, gynaecology, neurology, oncology and sports medicine, among others.

Further information:

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rosa.ruiz@quironsalud.es



TEE TOTAL: Cutting down on the amount you drink could prevent a variety of health problems.

Why not drinking could be a good thing

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 plausible 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."

Professor Linda Bauld, cancer prevention expert at Cancer Research UK, added, "this thought-provoking research highlights the damage alcohol can do to our cells - costing some people more than just a hangover. Alcohol contributes to over 12,000 cancer cases in the UK each year so it's a good idea to think about cutting down on the amount you drink."

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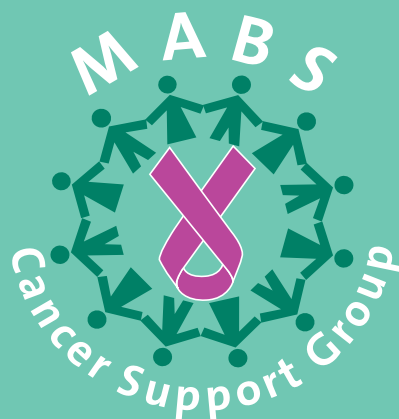
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Beware the dreaded lurgy

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), half of whom were given a placebo and half of whom were given a drug which temporarily mimics illness.

Sixty other participants



QUICK GIVEAWAY: Pale lips and drooping eyelids are among the early signs of a cold.

were then shown photos of the group and asked to point out who looked ill and who looked well.

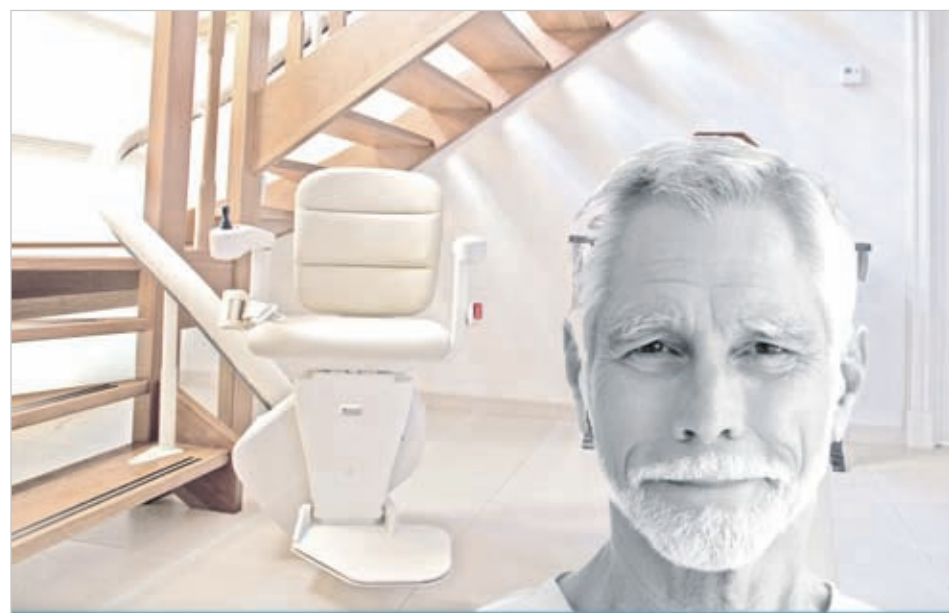
Of the 16 photos they were shown, the 60 observers were able to correctly identify whether a person was ill or not in 13 cases.

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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NICE SPICE: Turmeric has a range of health benefits.

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 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."

Are you still dry this January?

HOW are you doing now we are nearly midway through Dry January? Have you given up already, is there really any benefit to giving up alcohol for the month?

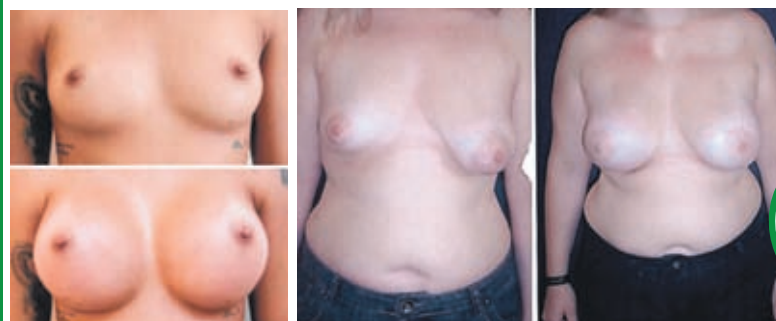
Many people go dry in January in an attempt to make up for the excesses of Christmas with many medical professionals encouraging the move. It comes as a recent report by Public Health England reports that more than 10 million Britons are drinking to harmful levels and are regularly exceeding the recommended maximum of 14 units a week.

Alcohol not only is high in calories but it can contribute to high blood pressure and cholesterol and in severe cases of excess drinking it can lead to liver damage. This is such a concern that the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) in the UK, recently proposed that all heavy drinkers should have a scan to screen for liver disease. These 'heavy drinkers' were classed as women who drank more than 35 units a week and 50 units for men.

By having a month off it helps the liver recover and detox. Many see it as a good kick start to promoting a general overall healthier eating and lifestyle programme as well as saving cash during the month.

According to UK charity Alcohol Concern, which promotes Dry January, of those who took part last year, almost half (49 per cent) reported they had lost weight and 62 per cent were sleeping better and 65 per cent of participants said they carried on drinking much less than normal for the next six months.

Last year, the charity reported that 14,000 downloaded the Dry January app to help them give up drinking.



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STAY SAFE: Taking painkillers while pregnant could harm the unborn child’s fertility.

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.

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

Classical music in Alicante

FOUNDED in 1834 and attracting visiting conductors such as Richard Wagner, the orchestra of the Zurich Opera was renamed the Philharmonia Zurich in 2012.

It is currently on tour in Spain under the baton of the award-winning conductor Fabio Luisi and will be performing at the Auditorio Diputacion Alicante on Thursday January 18.

The orchestra, featuring pianist Helene Grimaud, will be presenting three pieces, the Weber Obertura Oberón, J306, Beethoven's, Concierto para piano N° 4 and Tchaikovsky, Symphony N° 5.

One of the aims of the orchestra is to help classical musicians to learn their trade and its Academy therefore recruits promising young artists and educates them for two years, encouraging them to learn many of the pieces of music performed by the orchestra as well as appearing in chamber concerts themselves.

Many of these aspiring musicians have found their way into this orchestra as well as other respected Symphony Orchestras around Europe.

The Philharmonia Zurich will appear in the Symphony Hall at 8pm and more information may be found at www.diputacionalicante.es.



Photo by Lefalher Wikimedia

ON TOUR: French pianist Helene Grimaud.

Local singer returns home to perform

LOCALLY born singer and composer Vanessa Soul will be appearing at the Auditorio y Centro de Congresos Victor Villegas in Murcia on Friday January 26. She started her career as a singer in a number of different orchestras and as she learned her trade decided to branch out and become a solo artist who performs soul, R & B, pop and dance, but is particularly fond of English music from the 70's and 80's.

She will be promoting her new EP at this concert because her affiliation with Murcia is very close to her heart and she promises a few surprises for those who attend.

Tickets for the show which starts at 9.30pm cost just €10 and can be purchased online at www.bacantix.com.

**Vanessa Soul**

Living in Africa exhibition

A VERY unusual display opened yesterday (Wednesday) at the Cultural Centre Virgen del Carmen in Torrevieja which will run for one month. Four local NGOs (Non-Governmental Organi-

sations), New Fraternity, ORIDA, Gifts of Love and FANS are presenting displays explaining what life is like for many disadvantaged people in different parts of Africa.



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The National Ballet of Spain has two performances in Alicante

PRIOR to setting off on a tour of the USA and South America, the National Ballet of Spain will visit Alicante on Friday January 19 and the following Saturday.

To be chosen to dance with this exceptional troupe is considered to be one of the pinnacles of a dancer's career and this tour sees the group performing some of the most inspired fusions of classic flamenco and modern trends in both music and dance.

There are four dances within the programme which are taken from the extensive catalogue of the National Ballet.

Farruca is a popular piece for three dancers and some of the most experienced and respected male dancers in the ballet corps will perform a sober yet elegant interpretation of the choreography of Juan Quintero to a style of music first performed in the 19th century.

Soleá del Mantón has been choreographed by Blanca del Rey, one of the most celebrated dancers of recent years to the music of Jesús



Photo by National Ballet of Spain

EXCEPTIONAL TROUPE: A scene from Suite Sevilla.

Torres and it was her gift to the National Ballet of Spain to be performed regularly in the future as a tribute to her.

Bolero is the world renowned piece of music which was one of the last compositions by Frenchman Maurice Ravel which was original-

ly commissioned for a ballet and is based upon the Spanish dance of the same name.

The choreographer for this production is Rafael Aguilar who brings a new life to an old piece which the National Ballet believe make it a more personal reading of the soul of the composer and the heart of flamenco.

Suite Sevilla is based on an original concept by Antonio Najarro with music by Rafael Riqueni, Miguel Rivera and Diego Losada with words by Gerardo Diego.

The choreographer Najarro believes that this is the perfect fusion of classical Spanish dance and music with the addition of more modern and avant garde trends.

Tickets for both performances cost €20, €30 and €40 from the Teatro Principal de Alicante box office with the Friday show starting at 8.30pm and half an hour earlier at 8pm on Saturday.

Visit www.teatroprincipaldealicante.com for more information and to book seats.

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.

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See the flamingos and Salt Museum in Santa Pola

THE Tourist office in Santa Pola has organised a rather unusual guided tour for minimum groups of four people.

On Sundays January 14 and 28 and Wednesday January 24, starting at 11am and running until 1pm, a knowledgeable guide will conduct tours of the Salt Museum and the adjacent lagoons in the Natural Park.

It is absolutely necessary to make a booking in advance by contacting the tourist centre by calling 966 696 052 or 966 692 276.

This is a great opportunity to learn more about the salt industry and its importance to the area in the past and to obtain the chance to see flamingos in their natural habitat and to learn more about them.

Classic Fairy Tales presented in English

ALTHOUGH perhaps better aimed at those who are learning English, there will be two presentations of classic stories for children at the Teatro Romeo in Murcia.

Next Saturday January 13

in the Hall of Mirrors, the Arena Teatro Company will present the story of Tom Thumb, the first fairy tale ever to be printed in English nearly 400 years ago.

Following this presentation on the following Saturday, the same company will enact the story of the Pied Piper of Hamelin which was made famous by the Brothers Grimm although the story itself dates back to medieval times.

Both performances aimed at parents and their children start at 12 noon and entry costs €5 per person for unreserved seats.



Photo by Sweet California Facebook

SWEET STUFF: The girls in the band.

Pop sensations will be in Cartagena this weekend on the Ladies Tour

THERE might just be a few tickets left to see Spanish girl band Sweet California at the Auditorio El Batel in Cartagena this coming Saturday January 13.

Although only in existence since 2013 and having lost one of the original band members, the trio consisting of Sonia Gómez, Alba Reig and Tamy Nsue has been on tour for the last six months promoting their latest album.

Entitled 3, it's not just because it their third recording but because the record is divided into three parts, the first featuring current sounds, the second featuring harmonies on older material and third being sung in Spanish.

A special edition of the album including a DVD and an extra song were released especially to coincide with their successful Ladies Tour which is now coming to an end.

Unlike some 'one hit wonders' Sweet California look to have built a good following not just in Spain but across Latin America and the USA where some of the songs have been produced and recorded.

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Bumper 2018 projected

The future's bright



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 almost 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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Credit: Unsplash

PRICEY PADS: Homes in Barcelona are some of the most expensive in the country.

New house smell

NEW home prices rose by 5 per cent in 2017, the highest annual increase since 2007.

The timely jump comes as Spain prepares to build tens of thousands of new homes this year after a decade of construction decline. During that period almost all buyers opted for second-hand homes.

But a study from the Appraisal Society of 400 municipalities suggests that might soon change. Prices of new homes rose by 1.7 per cent in the first half of 2017, and 3.3 per cent in the second. The average price now stands at €2,227 per square metre.

New homes in Barcelona now cost €3,865 per square metre, compared to €4,500 in 2007. Prices are similar in Madrid and the luxury seaside destination of San Sebastian.

They are lowest in Ciudad Real where a new home fetches just €1,160 per square metre.

Cataluña is well ahead as the most expensive region in Spain for new housing. But it is also the only region where the real estate confidence index fell, plummeting by two points

at the tail end of 2017. The political crisis is the obvi-

ous cause, with buyer confidence in every other

Spanish region remaining high.

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Wage worry

RISING property prices are good news for investors but problematic for Spaniards on average wages trying to get on the property ladder.

New research found that a Spanish resident earning an average wage would need to devote 13.7 years of their salary to buy an average-priced house, which costs €141,200.

The figures disguise major differences across regions.

The average Basque resident would have to save for 22.7 years to buy a home in their region. Balearic Island residents would need 21.4 years.

By contrast, those in Murcia need 10.2 years and La Rioja residents less than five years. The situation is toughest for Balearic residents.

Someone on an average salary would have to pay 95.5 per cent of it each month to afford an average mortgage at €707 per month. But average monthly rents represent 134 per cent of the average monthly salary.



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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@euroweeklynews.com

Travel



TARIFA: Beach paradise right on your doorstep.

By Matthew Elliott

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

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

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

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



Tarifa: Paradise found

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

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

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

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

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

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 Andalucia.

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.

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 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



TIDY: A clean home helps bring a clear mind.

Spring cleaning

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.

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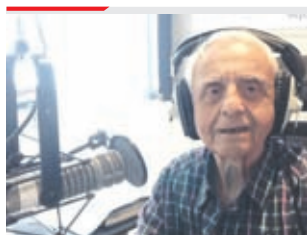


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IF you give your dog a command - even a simple one like 'sit' - then the reward of good dog is given as the dog's bottom hits the ground. Just a verbal praise given in a light happy voice can be enough for most dogs.

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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Mediumship on Tuesday 23rd January, will also be taken by Matt and Kirsty Grogan (UK Mediums). The Divine Service on Sunday, 23rd January will be taken by The Divine Service on Sunday, 28th January will be taken by David Darnbrough. Contact Wendy on 965323028. www.spiritualistcentre-benijofar.com New email is phoenix church23@gmail.com or info@spiritualistcentre-benijofar.com Identificacion Fiscal G54713789.

LA SIESTA EVANGELICAL CHURCH on Urbanisation La Siesta, Torrevieja is a friendly, English speaking Church. We hold services each Sunday and everyone is welcome. Our 11.00 am Services are held every 2nd and 4th Sunday in the month (and 11.00 am on the 5th Sunday, if this applies.) On the 1st and 3rd Sunday's our Services are at 9.30 am. Our choir sings at our 11.00 am Services and there is also a Sunday School, called Stepping Stones, on these Sundays. We welcome residents, visitors and children. For more information see our website www.lasies taevangelicalchurch.org or telephone Pastor Keith on 666 180 108.

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH, La Fustera. For more info: contact Frank Bentley on 966 495 188. (95461)

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IS ALCOHOL COSTING YOU MORE THAN MONEY? Drinking to excess not only affects your health it can spill over into every other aspect of your life – damaging everything that is important to you. English-speaking AA meetings are held throughout the Costa Blanca from Valencia City to Murcia. Anyone wishing to attend a meeting or discuss a possible drinking problem contact Costa Blanca North: ***648 169 045*** or Costa Blanca South: ***625 912 078*** or Costa Calida ***679 385 105***. All calls are treated in the strictest confidence. AA in German: 645 456 075; Spanish: 679 212 535; Flemish: 635 047 053; and Scandinavian: 659 779 222. www.aa-costablanca.org (93323)

ROUNDAABOUT CHARITY SHOP. We are now into summer and very soon we will be

feeling the heat! It is time therefore for another visit to the shop where you might find a bargain or two. Choose from the clothing selection, jewellery, household goods, books or bric a brac. There is usually something there for everyone - but not always. Charitable donations have recently been made to The Alzheimers Centre, Cancer Research and The Amigos Ambulance Service. We still need your help with donations etc. Please keep them coming in! We are situated on Avenida Del Furs close to the Fountain Roundabout and immediate left by Don Colchon bed shop. (93325)

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION, Torrevieja Branch, meet at 17.00 on the first Wednesday of each month at the Restaurante El Paraiso, Urb. Jardin del Mar 3 (behind Carrefour), Torrevieja. Contact Paul Edwards, Chairman 618 644 934 or Margaret Forshaw, Secretary 966 921 996. (95455)

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Orihuela Costa - covering from Punta Prima to San Javier. The branch meets at Olympia restaurant, Mil Palmeras on 3rd Thursday of each month at 19.00 - 19.30pm. More info can be found on branch website www.orihuelacostarbl.co.uk (95457)

HELP VEGA BAJA. We are a non-profit making organisation that helps and supports anyone, without prejudice, in times of need or crisis within the Vega Baja area. Our offices are based in San Miguel at Calle Lope de Vega 46 (Tel 966 723 733), Torrevieja at Rambla Juan Mateo Garcia 4 (Tel 965 704 282). Both offices are open Monday to Friday from 10 am to 1.30 pm and the Helpdesk at La Marina is open every Thursday (10 am to 1.30 pm) at the Hope Fellowship Church (opposite the Thursday Market site) at Avda de Justo Antonio Quesada, Urb. La Marina (Tel 615770145). We are online at www.helpvegabaja.com and also on Facebook. You can email the San Miguel Centre at office@helpvegabaja.com. **We also have a 24 hour Emergency help-line which is available to both members and non-members on 966 723 733** (95456)

THE BAKER FOUNDATION SPIRITUALIST CENTRE. Find us on the Saturday market road opposite the Chinese Restaurant. Playa Flamenca. Different International and local mediums every Sunday and Tuesday. Sunday, divine service with clairvoyance 11 am start. Tuesday, evening of clairvoyance doors open 7 o'clock for 7.30 start. Spiritual Healing is available on Sundays after service and on

Thursday mornings from 10.30 until 12. We have a development group on Tuesdays 5 until 6.30 for those interested in meditation and advancing your knowledge of spirit. Private readings are available on request. Please join us and make new friends, a warm welcome awaits you all. Tea, coffee and soft drinks are available. You can join us on Facebook at, The Baker Foundation spiritual centre. Hall is available for hire. For more information please contact Linda on 606 990 665. Email, schugy54@gmail.com (95458)

THE PHILIP SCOTT LODGE No 10671 of the RAOB meets every Friday in the Bar Catorce, Benijofar. Please call the secretary, Colin Bird on 693 287 614 for further information. (95459)

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CANCER SUPPORT GROUP (MABS) MURCIA/MAR MENOR Help and support is just a phone call away, Avda Rio Nalón, Tel: 693 275 779 (95462)

PILAR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH, Calle Canalejas, 3. Pilar de la Horadada. Sunday Service at 11am & Thursday at 5pm for Prayer and Praise and Worship. Home groups meet during the week. All welcome from any church background or none. For further information, www.pilarchurch.org Reg No: 2009-SG/A (95463)

TORREVIEJA Christian Fellowship (TCF) is an English speaking lively church located at Avenida de las Valencianas 68, Torrevieja 03183. Residents and holidaymakers are welcome to attend our services with communion and 'kids church' each Sunday at 10.30am. We have a Fellowship Meeting (Bible Study) each Wednesday at 6.00pm. For further information see our website www.tcf-spain.org or tel 966 700 391. (95464)

THE AIRCREW ASSOCIATION COSTA BLANCA BRANCH. Former & serving aircrews of the UK or Allied Armed Forces are welcome to join this convivial & friendly organisation, now in its 21st year. www.aca-costablanca.org or call the Secretary on: 966 495 042 (95465)

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION JAVEA BRANCH meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each

month @ Scallops Rest on the Arenal at 11.00am. Everyone is welcome to attend as a visitor and join the branch if they wish. Anyone needing any help or advice on welfare, or any information regarding the branch can contact either Sheila on 965 791 270 or Roger on 965 790 123 (95472)

STROKE ASSOCIATION Spain (formally known as Torrevieja stroke support) meet every Wednesday and Friday 2.30pm until 5.00pm. Our new address is Casa de Cultura, Calle Francisco Ribera Perez Benijofar. Our aim is to help and support stroke survivors and their carers. With rehabilitation, speech therapy, OC therapy and a very active social group. For info please contact 654 801 260 or email strokesupportgroup@hotmail.com, website: torreviejastroke support.org. We are always looking for volunteers who have the skills and knowledge to support our groups and activities. (95474)

CAMPELLO CONTRA CANCER in conjunction with AECC Association Español Contra Cancer has opened a charity shop at C/Virgen de los Desamparados No 13 (next door to Mas y mas) El Campello. The shop is open Mon-Fri 10 - 2pm and is run by unpaid volunteers and all monies raised goes to the AECC. We urgently need donations of clothes, books, large and small furniture etc, and we will arrange collection of large items. We need volunteers to help out in the shop and also clothes rails, shelves etc. for display. Please support your local Cancer charity and if you wish to obtain literature or simply talk to someone. Please stop by at the shop. Contact Mina or Trisha. Tel 650 071 278 or 610 921 413 e-mail aecc_campello@hotmail.com (95475)

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY, TORREVIEJA Calle Urbano Arregui, 23, Torrevieja 03185, Alicante Evangelical non-denominational church. All nationalities welcome. Sunday service 11.00 a.m.; Sunday school; Prayer meetings; craft and computer clubs. Ladies Bible Study: Thursday 11.00 a.m. Church Bible Study: Thursday 1.30 p.m. House groups in Torre-

vieja, La Siesta, La Zenia - Contact 966 752 543 / 617 215 463. For other church matters Phone: 966 799 273 / 966 752 543 / 617 215 463 www.icatorrevieja.org

ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION (Costa Blanca) The aim of the Association is to bring together not just ex Royal Marines, but ex Service personnel with an affinity to the Royal Marines. We meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 5.30. For further details Hon Sec 692 938 664

FREEMASONRY. Are you aware that Freemasonry is thriving on the Costa Blanca? There are various lodges meeting up throughout the Valencia region. If you already are a Mason or simply wish to know more about Freemasonry in Spain please contact Harry Palmer Membership Committee. Tel: 966 712 326 or email: palmers.quesada@yahoo.co.uk (95477)

ROYAL AIR FORCES Association Branch #1359 Costa Blanca. The Branch meets on the third Tuesday of the month at the El Paraiso Restaurant located close to the Carrefour Supermarket in Torrevieja. The meeting starts at 1430 hrs. You do not have to be an ex-member of the RAF to join this friendly Association, which supports the welfare of the RAF family and provides a social hub for ex RAF members and their friends. For further information about the Association and its activities please contact the Chairman on 692 508 916 or the Welfare Officer on 615 048 892 or visit our website: www.rafa.org.uk/costa-blanca

THE PATIENCE LODGE No 2177 of the R.A.O.B meets every Sunday morning at the Sacko's Bar, El Limonar near Las Siesta at 10am. We are always looking for new and lapsed members to join us. Please call Secretary Dave Tonge on 688 704 091 for further information. (253807)

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Northern light Norway goes green

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 of its richest citizens, who could drive an expensive Tesla



TOP UP: Teslas rule the roost in Norway.

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 ex-

periment will be watched keenly by other European nations.

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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.

"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 con-



UKSPORTSCENE

with Andrew Atkinson

tracts 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; Newcastle 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.



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.

Spain Europe Global World of SPORT

with Andrew Atkinson

ANDY MURRAY'S hopes that 2018 would be a better year than his injury plagued 2017 is in tatters with the former world number one's hip injury woes continuing.

"I want to be fit and healthy. It isn't about winning every match or winning more slams," said Murray, who missed almost five months with hip issues in 2017.

Murray, who underwent an intensive programme of rehabilitation in preparation for 2018, withdrew from the Brisbane International and the Australian Open this month, due to his long-term hip injury.

"I had every intention of making a strong start to the year," rued Murray, who rose to world number one in 2016, now ranked 16th.

Murray, who spent off-season in Miami, returning to the UK in December, could be suffering a torn labrum. A hip labral tear involves the ring of cartilage - labrum.

The Australian Open starts in Melbourne on January 15 and Murray said: "Sadly I won't be playing in Melbourne. I am not yet ready to compete."

If Murray is suffering a torn labrum surgery would be fraught with uncertainty. A hip labral tear may predispose osteoarthritis in the future.

Three-time Grand Slam champion Murray - who has not played a competitive match since Wimbledon - considering surgery, said: "I just want to enjoy playing again."

SPORTSCENE SPAIN

with Andrew Atkinson

EVERTON striker Las Palmas born Sandro Ramirez could be set to depart Goodison Park, just seven months after arriving from Malaga last summer in a £5.2m move.

Toffees boss Sam Allardyce continues to trawl the January transfer window to bring in more firepower after signing striker Cenk Tosun, 26, from Besiktas for £27m.

"Securing the player is most important as the club's biggest area of concern is the number of goals we're capable of getting," said Big Sam.

Sandro, 22, whose future is unclear on Merseyside, eyed Champions League football this season, citing sacked manager Ronald Koeman as one of the reasons he joined Everton.

On Sandro, Allardyce, who replaced Koeman in November, said: "There's never a guarantee when a top player comes from abroad that he will settle in his first year.

"And certainly not settle when the team isn't doing very well. Every new player that came from abroad would find it difficult to

Ex-Malaga star, Barca prodigy Sandro set for Spain return?



STRUGGLES: Sandro (centre) has failed to make an impact at Everton.

perform to his best level when the team struggles."

Everton were in dire straights under Koeman - sacked after the 5-2 home defeat against Arsenal in October - that left them in the Premier League relegation zone.

Sandro has been linked with a loan move to Valencia in the January window, with a view to a permanent move.

Sandro started his career at Barcelona where he was a member of the youth academy, aged 14, and went on to make 17 first team appearances in La Liga, during 2014-16.

Released by Barca, Sandro joined Malaga on a three year deal in July 2016. A year later he moved to Everton on a four year deal after triggering a £5.2m release clause.

With just 15 appearances in all competitions Sandro has netted a sole goal, having featured in Europa League football, the Premier League and the EFL Cup.

Spurs host Everton in the Premier League on Saturday, with Newcastle hosting Swansea and Chelsea hosting Leicester. Sunday January 14: Bournemouth v Arsenal; Liverpool v Manchester City. January 15: Manchester United v Stoke.



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

SMGS welcomes in the New Year

THE first SMGS outing of 2018 saw 32 members and four guests start an hour later than expected due to an administrative mix-up.

As usual, the greens were very pacy and the tees positioned well back.

Adding in the wind factor, scores were below par for everyone. Best score of the day was 34 points, set by Brian Mulligan and Dave Blackburn.

Similar to the greens, the fairways were slick, dry and sparse in places, giving plenty of run.

A strong crosswind caused havoc at the dreaded 17th which recorded just five pars.

Nearly a third of the field returned no score mostly due to long putts not making the top tier.

Nearest the pins - Ivan Hanak (Hole 6), Ralph Tilbrook (Holes 9 and 17), and Darren Hancock (Hole 13).

Best Guest - Liz Sully (28).

BRONZE - 4th Chris Hamblett (30 c/b), 3rd Ian Parkinson (30), 2nd Ralph Tilbrook (32), 1st Brian Butler (33).

SILVER - 4th Ken Flaherty (30 c/b), 3rd Phil de Lacy (32), 2nd Brian Mulligan (34 c/b), 1st Dave Blackburn (34).

GOLD - 4th John 'Ozzy' Osborne (31), 3rd Kenny McPherson (32), 2nd Eva Pettersson (33 c/b), 1st Ivan Hanak (33).

The 'Abacus' bottle of fine red wine was taken away by Mike Greator.

Next week the society will be playing at La Marquesa.

Keep up to date with all SMGS matters by logging on to the website: www.smgs.org or give Tony Smale a call on: 628 227 687 to find out more about the society and its weekly golf get-togethers.

Eurogolf/Toffs match report

THE first game of the New Year saw 52 players take part in a Yellow Peril Team.

The weather was very warm and pleasant which resulted in some excellent scores.

1st P Gartside, A Lawson, J Fairhurst, J Cross 151 pts.

2nd P Perito, R Richards, R Porter, M Reeve 145pts.

3rd T Forbes, I Pegg, G Manning, C Daye Gretton 142pts.

NTP's: 5th S Forbes, 11th T Forbes, 12th (in two) P Gartside, 15th S Forbes, 17th J Cross.

Football Draw: A Crammon 9, S Horne 12, P Manning 46, D Nicholls 60, G Grierson 90.

There was also another good turnout for the Toffs game of 2018. Well done to all prize winners, especially Arty Crammon, the overall winner this week.

Results were as follows:

Overall Winner: A Crammon 40pts.

• **Cat. 1:** 1st A Crammon 40pts, 2nd F Mallon 35pts, 3rd A Cowley 34pts.

• **Cat. 2:** 1st S Sayers 39pts, 2nd C Horne 36pts, 3rd J Fairhurst 34pts.

• **Cat. 3:** 1st J Lynch 33pts (c/b), 2nd M Reeve 33pts (c/b), 3rd P Venables 32pts.

• **Cat. 4:** 1st B Jones 40pts, 2nd S Pegg 39pts, P Sanderson 30pts.

• **NTP's:** 5th F Mallon, 11th S Sayers, 12th (in two) D Nicholls, 15th T Forbes, 17th P Manning. CBA: 0

• **Best Front 9:** J Kirkwood 17pts. Best Back 9: M Welsh 18pts.

• **Football Draw:** L Lynch 3, F Reeve 90, A Crammon 9, R Richards 46, T Forbes 89.

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